

## **Certification Testing and Training**

*By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician*

As you have probably heard the ABC certification tests are being reviewed by the NDEE (formally the NDEQ). This is an effort to improve the statewide passing percentage. NeRWA has been provided a WEF (Water Environment Federation) training kit by Mike McBride with the NDEE. We will work closely with Mike McBride and will utilize ideas from the kit to modify our current certification training program to hopefully improve the passing percentage. Remember our goal is and has always been to provide information to assist everyone to complete the ABC certification test with a passing score. The State of Nebraska needs more qualified operators.

There is a mechanical course and a lagoon course. The mechanical course will be of interest to utility operators who want a Grade 1 license, a Grade 2 license or lagoon certification. The lagoon course will be of interest to utility operators who want only lagoon certification. It would be to your advantage to work a minimum of 6 months if you are a brand new wastewater operator. Also, the required manuals and study before taking the course. You will then be better prepared to understand and work with the material.

The fees are \$250.00 (mechanical) or \$200.00 (lagoon) for registration for members and \$300.00 (mechanical) or \$250.00 (lagoon) for non-members, \$139.00 for two required manuals and \$14.35 for shipping & handling of the manuals - payable to the Nebraska Rural Water Association. You can register online or by mail.

The wastewater certification tests are administered by NDEE. You need to contact NDEE to register to take the tests.

NDEE requires:

1. An application to be completed.
2. Proof of citizenship.
3. \$150.00 paid to NDEE for testing OR \$125.00 for a retake.
4. All of the above needs to be completed 30 days before the test date.

\*The following test dates are the ones that take place soon after the NeRWA wastewater certification courses.

| <u>Test Dates</u> | <u>Application Deadlines</u> | <u>Testing City</u> |
|-------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| February 20, 2020 | January 16, 2020             | Hastings            |
| April 16, 2020    | March 12, 2020               | North Platte        |
| July 17, 2020     | June 12, 2020                | Kearney             |
| October 15, 2020  | September 10, 2020           | Norfolk             |