

## The New Wastewater Tech

By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Tech

This is my first article as the Wastewater Tech for NeRWA. I accepted this position effective August 1, 2011. As regular readers you know that Jim Heyen has taken a position with the City of Hastings. He is both a wealth of knowledge and on my speed dial. Jim is always there when I need advice/counseling and I try desperately not to abuse it. I've gained a very real appreciation for just how busy he was and his total commitment to NeRWA and you as members. We here at NeRWA wish him nothing but the best now and in the future.

Training is continuing as scheduled by Jim and the upcoming 2012 schedule is nearly finalized. The goal is to provide training opportunities to all areas across the state. I truly appreciate the input that I've received regarding your areas of need. Also, the four day wastewater certification training course as initiated by Jim continues to be very popular as evidenced by the registration numbers. It will again be offered five times next year just prior to each of the State certification exam dates.

The technical support that has been provided in the past will continue including, but not limited to, the sewer camera, composite sampling, flow metering, sewer smoking and training.

Additionally EPA has a goal of coming out with a new energy conservation computer program by the first of the year for water/wastewater systems. My goal is to work with one or two systems as a test of the program. It could potentially become an additional service that I could provide for you as your energy costs escalate and continue to be a large portion of your budget. If you have an interest in participating at no cost to you please let me know.

If there are other areas of special need that you have in training or technical support by all means please make me aware of them. They are most likely shared by others. I truly enjoy traveling across the state meeting all of you and providing help in whatever areas that I can to the best of my ability. In my opinion we as an organization exist solely to serve you and I feel fortunate to be a very small part of this dream team.