

## NeWARN Update

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

NeWARN is moving forward and picking up steam. The latest count of members was at 63 and growing. The NeWARN board of directors met in Bennet, Nebraska, at the Lancaster Co. RWD #1 office on June 23. The main topic discussed at the meeting was the development and operation of the website. With much discussion and an eventual conference call on June 29, a contract was signed with Jasmine Mach to begin the web site design. This is a very important aspect of the NeWARN program. Eventually every member system will list its inventory and manpower availability on the website. Each member will have a password to access the site. When and if the need arises each member system will be able to see where the equipment, tools, pipe, fittings and any other help needed can be obtained. Inventory listed by a system does not, however, obligate that system in any way to relinquish assets that they feel are too essential to the operation of their own system.

NeWARN is very unique in that it is its own entity. It is owned and controlled by the member systems themselves. The current board of directors are: Rick Melcher, Aurora (402-694-6992); Dennis Watts, Norfolk (402-844-2000); Robert Smith, Grand Island (308-385-8444 ext. 280); Chuck Schmid, St. Paul (308-754-5936); Ken Swanson, Auburn (402-274-4981); Mike Lucas, Broken Bow (308-872-2270); Pat Davison, Imperial (308-882-5151); Jim Green, McCool Junction (402-724-2525); and Doug Pollak, Seward (402-643-3433).

The mission of the Nebraska Water/Wastewater/Stormwater Agency Response Network (NeWARN) is to support and promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual assistance matters for public and private water and wastewater utilities.



### **The NeWARN Program provides its member utilities with:**

- A standard omnibus mutual assistance agreement and process for sharing emergency resources among members statewide.
- The resources to respond and recover more quickly from a disaster.
- A mutual assistance program consistent with other statewide mutual aid programs and the Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- A forum for developing and maintaining emergency contacts and relationships.
- New ideas from lessons learned in disasters.

If your system has not yet looked into becoming a part of NeWARN, I would strongly encourage you consider it. A copy of the NeWARN agreement can be found by clicking on the NeWARN logo at [www.nerwa.org](http://www.nerwa.org) or if you have any questions feel free to call any of the above board members or NeRWA at 1 (800) 842-8039