

What a Difference a Year Makes

By Scott Finke, Circuit Rider

Another spring conference has come and gone, and what a great job Pat did on the conference. To all the vendors, speakers, sponsors, to the venue for the food, a job well done.

Just think, last year we were going home to snow in the west and floods in the north and east. This year we all came home to the outbreak of Covid-19. I, along with all other NeRWA staff, hope everyone is staying safe and at home when possible. With the village offices being locked up, the water operators are still having to make sure everyone has water, and the NeRWA staff is still here to help if you need anything. I have been doing vulnerability assessments for the past few months to get caught up from 2019. If you have a USDA loan with the assessment due in 2020, I will most likely be getting in contact with you. You can also do them yourself. But remember, they are due every three years.

The warm weather is arriving so it is time for me to get out and start doing leak surveys. I will be getting in touch with operators who need surveys done. I will also be available for valve exercising. If you want a leak survey done or have your valves exercised, please let us know. We will be more than happy to help you out.

I was able to drive up to Boyd County RWD #2 to do a vulnerability assessment and I saw the devastation at the Spencer Dam from the floods last year. After that I crossed the river at Niobrara, and it was heartbreaking to see all the sand and destruction that the floods caused. It is amazing that Nebraskans have bounced back from such a horrible disaster. I hope everything, and everyone, is getting back to normal.

Here are some interesting facts you might not know: 1. In one year, the average American residence uses over 100,000 gallons of water (indoors and outdoors). 2. Americans drink more than 1 billion glasses of tap water per day. 3. Ten percent of homes leak at least 90 gallons of water per day. Those are just some of the many interesting facts about water.

Stay safe in these uncertain times and make sure to follow the guidelines put in place by our leaders on the local, state, and federal levels. We are all in this together. If you need to get in touch with me, my number is 402-607-2249.