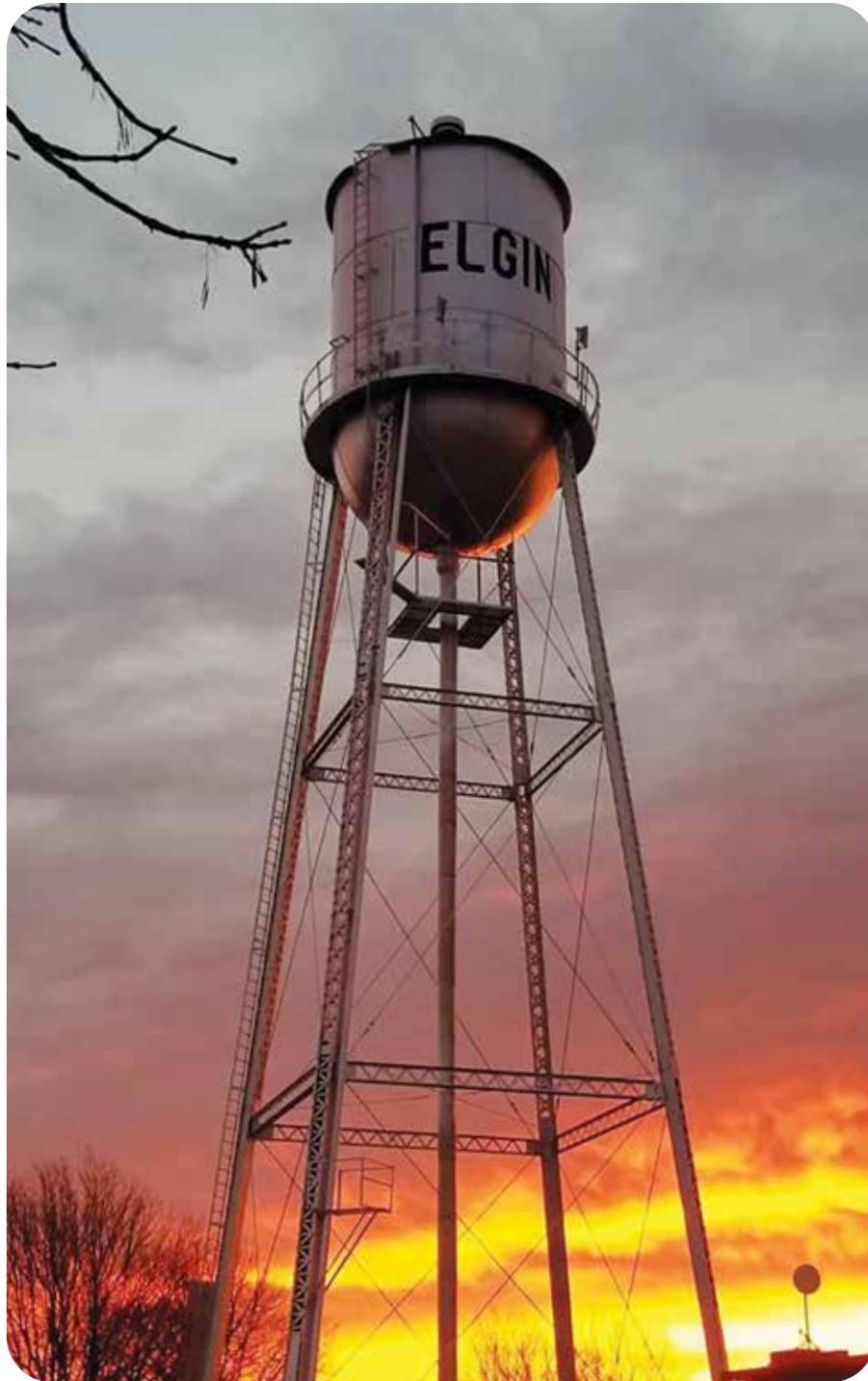


Nebraska Good Water News

ISSUE 1/2022



Nebraska Rural Water Association

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Nebraska Good Water News

Issue 1/2022

“Keeping Our Water Safe”

Board of Directors

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Adam German, Source Water Technician
Charles Buckley, Wastewater Technician
Pat Petersen, Training Specialist
David Shroeter, Source Water Specialist

Website: www.nerwa.org

“Nebraska Good Water News” is a quarterly publication of the NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION, 3390 Ponderosa, Wahoo, Nebraska 68066. Phone 1-800-849-8039 or (402) 443-5216 or FAX (402) 443-5274. Copies are mailed to all member rural and municipal water operators, Federal and State Legislators, associates and individual members.

The NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION is dedicated to the improvement and assistance of all public water systems in the State of Nebraska.

NOTICE: Nebraska Rural Water Association does not endorse any particular product or company in this publication. Membership and advertising should not be taken as an endorsement.

On the cover:

Elgin, Nebraska, water tower.

"This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer."

2022 TRAINING

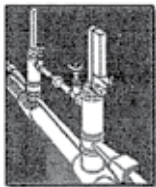
Operator Training

January 20	Wahoo
April 5	Mitchell
May 18	Macy
June 15	Sutton
July 12	Chadron
July 13	Valentine
August 17	Atkinson
October 12	McCook
November 16	Mullen
December 14	Wahoo

Wastewater Training

January 26	Wahoo
February 23	Wood River
March 23	Wayne
April 27	Auburn
May 25	Chadron
July 27	Kearney
August 24	Bridgeport
October 5	Louisville
November 16	Duncan
December 14	Wahoo

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Annual Conference

Kearney
Younes Conference Center
March 14-16

TRENCH & EXCAVATION SAFETY
AUGUST 3

CONFINED SPACE SAFETY
AUGUST 4
NeRWA Office
Wahoo

Fall Conference

Gering
Gering Civic Center
September 13-15

ANNUAL WATER TASTING CONTEST

As most of you already know, NeRWA has the Best Tasting Water contest at the Annual Conference each year.

The City of Franklin won in 2020 (no contest in 2021) and will be sending their water to the national water tasting contest that is being held at the Water Rally in Washington, DC, in March. It is possible for any of your systems to win the National Contest. Remember to submit your water at the conference in March.

The water contest is to be held at the Annual Conference in Kearney. A panel of distinguished taste testers will judge all samples. The winner will be announced at the banquet on Tuesday, March 15. The winning system will compete against finalists from the other 49 states in the National Contest at the National Rural Water Association Water Rally in Washington, DC.



Contest Rules:

1. Must be a member of Nebraska Rural Water Association
2. Sample must be from a Nebraska public water supply system
3. One entry per water system
4. Water must come before any point-of-use treatment
5. Water must come from the distribution system
6. Water should be in clean, unmarked gallon container
7. Entry form must accompany sample

Water must be received by 3:00 P.M. on Monday, March 14, at the conference registration table.

Water System: _____ Submitted by: _____

If at all possible, please call our office in advance at 800-842-8039 or 402-443-5216 or email to salli@nerwa.org to let us know you are entering. Thank you.



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GRANT WRITING

NOTES *of* THANKS



November 4, 2021

Nebraska Rural Water Association:


On behalf of the water department and the City of Bloomfield, we would like to thank you. The services that you provide are greatly appreciated. I sign us up to exercise half of our main valves every year. It is a big help knowing that when I need to shut off the valves that it is easier and they work.

Mike has also made the trip up to Bloomfield to do leak detection for me, it saved me time to have a better idea of where the leak was and if there was a leak to begin with.

It is great knowing that if we have a problem or a question, I can make a call to rural water and get help or an answer.

Sincerely,

Bret Gieselman
City of Bloomfield
Water Operator

Julie A. Deepe
Mayor

Julie A. Buescher
City Clerk

THE CITY OF DESHLER
305 E. BRYSON / DESHLER, NE. 68340 / 402-365-4260


November 3, 2021

Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association


On behalf of the City of Deshler and all employees, I would like to take this time to say thank you for the services you provide. It seems year after year you guys are always assisting us in some way or another. This year it was valve exercising.

The training classes and conferences that you provide are priceless.

Thanks Again



Steve Oakman
City Superintendent
City of Deshler



Village of Elba
Elba, Nebraska

November 4, 2021

To: Nebraska Rural Water Association

RE: Letter of Appreciation for the Assistance Provided by NE Rural Water Association

The Village of Elba, population 215, supports the programs provided by the Nebraska Rural Water Association through funding.

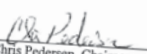
Nebraska Rural Water Association has provided assistance to our community in many ways. In 2008, USDA-RD provided a loan and grant funds to upgrade our 1936 WPA Water system with a new well, storage tank, meters, and 6- and 8-inch mains, replacing 2-inch mains. NeRWA more recently provided assistance in the following ways:

- (1) NeRWA Circuit Rider Scott Finke provided the equipment and expertise to exercise all but a few of the water main valves in the Village, including a valve that hadn't been dug up for about 40 years. It worked so we put an extension in and raised it to grade.
- (2) NeRWA provides equipment, manpower, pamphlets and other printable forms without a cost to us, and Randy Hellbusch has provided expertise in locating leaks, curb stops, and provided forms of financial assistance and help with establishing rates.
- (3) Adam German and Pat Petersen of NeRWA conducted training for Water Operators, educating them on maintaining a water system, backflow prevention, record keeping, reporting requirements, regulation updates, and troubleshooting problems.
- (4) NeRWA provided face masks and Covid 19 information to keep us safe and well.


The Nebraska Rural Water Association is essential to the well-being and development of rural communities. They are a resource we depend on for all of the above.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We are confident that you will do everything possible to continue programs like these that are essential to Nebraska communities.


Sincerely,



Chris Pedersen, Chairperson
VILLAGE OF ELBA



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VILLAGE OF CERESCO
217 S 2ND STREET PO BOX 160 CERESCO, NE 68017
PHONE: 402-665-2391 FAX: 402-665-2393

November 5, 2021

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association,

The Village of Ceresco would like to thank the Nebraska Rural Water staff for assisting our community.

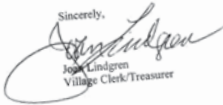
Pat Peterson came to our rescue to locate a shut off valve for a water main break. Randy Hellbusch helped us locate blow off valves. Randy also prepared a rate study that helped establish our water and sewer rates.

Our water operator recently attended a class that Nebraska Rural Water offered.

Nebraska Rural Water has been a constant resource for the Village of Ceresco, and helps the Village work within its budget.

Please accept the enclosed donation for your equipment fund as an expression of our appreciation.

Sincerely,


Jon Lindgren
Village Clerk/Treasurer


FARNAM

Village of Farnam
310 Main St
PO Box 7
Farnam, NE 69029
(308) 569-2355
www.farnamne.com

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa St
Wahoo, NE 68006

November 4, 2021

On behalf of the Village of Farnam, our Board of Trustees and our residents, please accept this heartfelt thank you for your help with our water and sewer systems this year. We would specifically like to thank Randy Hellbusch for meeting with myself, the Village Clerk, and Rod Klein, the Utility Superintendent, to develop a rate study and help us set up a plan for financial stability and growth. We would also like to acknowledge Mike Stanzel for coming to the Village to exercise valves and assist Rod with associated tasks.

We would also like to express our gratitude for all of the information, seminars and classes offered by the Nebraska Rural Water Association. The NeRWA has had a significant and immeasurable impact on our utility systems.

Respectfully,


Darcy Gurule, Village Clerk

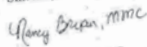

City of
STROMSBURG
THE DEER CAPITAL OF NEBRASKA

November 5, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

The City of Stromsburg has been a member of the Nebraska Rural Water Association for 39 years. The Association has provided technical assistance and rate studies for the City numerous times. Some of the assistance received over the years were rate studies, smoke testing, training, and locating leaks. Most recently the City had an emergency at the water treatment plant and Nebraska Rural Water was able to assist the City in getting valves such off that employees were unable to do on their own. The Nebraska Rural Water Association is vitally important to municipalities across Nebraska!

Sincerely,


Nancy Bryan, MMC
City Clerk/Treasurer

P.O. BOX 407 - 123 EAST 7TH STREET
STROMSBURG, NE 68081-0407
PH: 402 754 2347 FAX: 402 754 2348

Alma
is for
YOU!

City of Alma

November 4, 2021

Nebraska Rural Water Association

I am writing to let you know how much I appreciate the outstanding assistance and service that your Circuit Riders, Wastewater Techs, and Source Water Specialist have provided to the City of Alma.

I am new to the City Administrator position and have reached out to your Circuit Rider, Randy Hellbusch, for assistance with some Drinking Water Well questions and Wellhead Protection questions. We had a serious concern about a new well being installed in our area recently. Randy is always quick to return my calls and answer my questions.

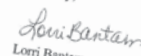
Randy Hellbusch and David Schroeter, Source Water Specialist, also spent time with me recently to begin developing a Wellhead Protection Plan for the City of Alma. After discovering a Wellhead Protection map was established but a formal plan was never adopted, I needed their assistance to develop a plan. They are currently working on this.

Both our Water Superintendent and Wastewater Superintendent have called upon the Circuit Riders and Wastewater Technicians to assist with detecting leaks and updating our Operating and Maintenance Plan. Their knowledge is very valuable to our staff.

Within the last year, I also sat down with Scott Finke, Circuit Rider, and went over a system survey. As you can see, with the excellent service provided by your organization, the City of Alma has benefitted a great deal. You have an excellent team of technicians who are hard working.

In this time of tight budgets, I would like to thank the Nebraska Rural Water Association for the numerous services you provide, and we look forward to availing your services again.

Sincerely,


Lorri Bantam
City Administrator

614 Main Street
P.O. Box 469
Alma, NE 68020-0469

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FAX: (308) 928-2693

We appreciate your letters!

VILLAGE OF CORTLAND
100 S Sherman Ave, Cortland NE 68331
(402) 798-7395

November 17, 2021

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa St.
Wahoo, NE 68066

The Village of Cortland would like to offer a letter of appreciation to the following for their assistance during 2021.

Adam German, Wastewater Tech and Source Water Specialist, for assisting in multiple camera jobs, influent samplers, and help with DMRs.

Charles Buckley, Waster Water Tech, for assisting with camera work.

Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider, answering water questions and help with our water tower.

Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider, helped with locating water main.

Pat Peterson, Training Specialist, helped with locating water main.

Scott Finke, Circuit Rider, taking the rate survey.

NRWA overall is a great help with our community and we appreciate the assistance that we get from all of your field staff.

Sincerely,

Donelle Moormeier, Clerk
Ben Topp, Utility Superintendent
Village of Cortland

Clerk/Treasurer
June Moine
Utilities Superintendent

Police Chief
Jerry Carlson
Library Director
Lauree VanAckeren

Village of Mead
312 South Vine Street
PO Box 46
Mead, NE 68041-0046
(402) 624-2495
FAX: 402-624-2024
meadclerk1@hotmail.com

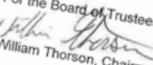
Board of Trustees
William Thorson, Chairman
Jason Feily, Trustee
Daniel Simon, Jr., Trustee
Richard Wielage, Trustee

November 9, 2021

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa St.
Wahoo, NE 68066

As Board Members of the Village of Mead, we would like to acknowledge our appreciation to Pat Petersen for helping locate water shut-offs within the village. We would also like to commend the association for sponsoring and organizing the annual conference that our Utilities/Maintenance Superintendent attends and finds very informative and fun, as well as training classes necessary to obtain certifications. We are thankful that these resources are available to the village and other small systems across the nation. Their services are invaluable.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
For the Board of Trustees

William Thorson, Chairman
jkm

*“Kindness is the language
which the deaf can hear
and the blind can see.”*

— MARK TWAIN

CITY of
YUTAN

November 8, 2021

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa St
Wahoo NE 68066

RE: Letter of Appreciation

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the City of Yutan, I would like to formally thank the Nebraska Rural Water Association and Training Specialist Pat Petersen for the assistance provided this year. We have recently hired two new public works employees and Pat has provided invaluable knowledge and training to both to ensure our water and wastewater systems are being properly maintained. Pat has spent many hours on-site with our operators and his effort is greatly appreciated.

Based on the extensive benefits provided by Pat to the City of Yutan, I recommend that NeRWA's training program continue to receive funding.

City of Yutan


Cole Bockelmann
City Administrator

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Here Comes Spring!

By Pat Petersen, Training and Technical Assistance Specialist

Now that I have your attention, that is if you read the title of my article, it's really not spring, it's cold as heck outside! What I wanted to say was "here comes the spring conference!" Two months from now we will be gathering again at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney for a three-day tour through the magical world of water, waste water, well driller, and backflow professionals' lives. The dates of this year's Nebraska Rural Water Annual Conference will be March 14-16, 2022. After six months of planning, it looks to be three days of learning, fun, and networking!

I hate to use the word *disappointing* but the conference last year was, let's just say, *different*. Different in the fact that food was served in "to go" bags, there was no fun night, and the banquet wasn't really a banquet. This year, all of that will be back! Yes, the Covid nightmare is still among us, but in this profession, we must improvise and adapt, and we/you have all done that very well.

The format this year will resemble that of the past years but not last year. Monday will consist of the exhibitors setting up in the morning with the general session to follow at 1:00 p.m. As we speak, Miller and Associates has taken the lead for the Monday night "fun night." Sponsors of this event in the past have been HOA, Sargent Drilling, JEO, Miller, and the Nebraska Rural Water Association. The event will take place at the Big Apple Fun Center—just a hop, skip, and jump away from conference headquarters. If everything goes as planned, a chartered trolley or bus will take those who want to attend, and also bring them back. We will have more details about this as we continue to inch closer to the conference.

Tuesday morning the learning sessions will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 5:45 p.m. Operators will have several choices of topics to learn about. Some new, some old, but all full of good information. There will be a social hour following the last class of the day and from there we will roll into the awards banquet. The menu has not been set yet and the entertainment will be confirmed soon, but expect a wonderful buffet and relaxing evening after a day of hard learning!

Wednesday will begin with a wonderful operator breakfast and annual board meeting. Whether you are a delegate or

not, plan on attending this meeting just to see and hear what is going on with our association. Classes will resume at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be served on Wednesday and we will also give away the raffle prizes at this time.

Some of you that were in attendance last year might remember that we used a separate classroom at the Holiday Inn so we could meet social distancing requirements. This year, yes my fingers are crossed, we will go back to using Ballrooms 4, 5, 9, and 10 all under the same roof! No more bag lunches. Amy and Samantha are working on the buffet menus and we will enjoy the Younes Center's amazing food sitting all together. Sometimes we learn the most from the operator sitting next to you or across from you at the supper table.

In conclusion, just by writing this little article, I am really looking forward to this year's conference. Not only will it give all of the operators a head start on your new certification, but we will all be able to enjoy the little things that make a conference more enjoyable.

Since we are beginning a new certification period, just a quick reminder for all operators. Any class you attend, whether it be a rural water class or any other entity that provides training and you are given a certificate, please make a copy of your certificate. It is always good practice to keep one certificate at work and one at your home.

Enjoy the rest of your wonderful winter and the staff here at NeRWA is really looking forward to seeing all of you in Kearney on March 14! Stay Safe!

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Chris Johnson
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Omaha, NE 68137

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NeRWA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Nebraska Rural Water Association is again presenting scholarships for higher education for the school year 2022-2023 fall and spring semesters. This year we are pleased to offer not only two scholarships, but four. Hawkins Inc. has generously donated for the other two scholarships. The scholarship is available to children and stepchildren of member public water system employees. Employees of the Nebraska Rural Water Association Board of Directors and staff are not eligible. Interested persons should complete and submit the application. Applications are due March 4, 2022. Please type or print –

printing must be legible and papers must be clean. Winners of the

Scholarships will be announced at the Annual Conference in March. Send all information to the NeRWA address. **DO NOT FORGET TO EITHER SEND THE TRANSCRIPT AND GRADES OR HAVE THE SCHOOL SEND THEM.** Your application will not be valid unless everything is received. **Please see application on website.**

SCHOLARSHIP OFFICIAL RULES

This grant of \$1,000 will be made to a student to defray the cost of tuition, books, or room and board at an accredited institution of higher learning approved by the Nebraska Rural Water Association (NeRWA). Disbursement of the money will be made upon presentation of winner's college or university invoice as proof of full-time enrollment. The scholarship money will be paid directly to the student, \$500 per semester. The scholarship will be awarded to children or stepchildren of member utility system employees. In order to be eligible for scholarship, applicants must complete the application form in its entirety by filling in all blanks. If item is not applicable please place a N/A in the blank. Upon completion, return it to the NeRWA Scholarship Committee by the entry deadline, March 4, 2022. All applications will be first screened on the basis of leadership responsibilities in community and school activities as well as grade point average. Applicants will be evaluated on a comparative basis at the sole discretion of the committee. Decisions will be final. Application material and decisions of the committee shall be confidential. Acceptance of scholarship constitutes permission to use recipient's name and/or likeness for purpose of promotion.

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CONFERENCE AGENDA

TENTATIVE HOURS:

Monday: 4W, 1WW, 4WD
 Tuesday: 6W, 6WW, 6BF, 5WD
 Wednesday: 4W, 4WW, 3WD

14 Water
 11 Wastewater
 6 Backflow
 11 Well Driller

HOURS LISTED ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGES

Monday 14		Diamond Ballroom 4, 5, 9, and 10			
1:00	2:00	NDEE Division of Drinking Water Updates--Sue Dempsey, Andy Kahle, Justin Nelsen, NDEE 1W 1WD			
2:00		BREAK			
2:30	3:30	Lead and Copper Update--Lead and Copper Rule Manager, Jessica Johnson, NDEE 1W 1WD			
3:30		Break			
4:00	4:30	NeWARN Update--Ryan Hurst, City of Wahoo Utilities, 1W 1WW			
4:30	6:00	Lab Procedures and Proper Sampling Techniques--Mary Boden, DHHS Lab and Rich Koenig, NDEE Field Rep 1W 1WD			
Tuesday 15		Diamond Ballroom 4	Diamond Ballroom 5	Diamond Ballroom 9	Diamond Ballroom 10
9:00	10:00	--Becky Schuerman, UNL 1W 1WW	Trenchless Pipe Repair and Inspection--Monte Dakan, Johnson Service 1WW	TBA	Implementing an Effective Backflow Program--Rich Koenig, NDEE 1BF 1W 1WW
.50 break					
10:30	11:30	Finding the Right Metering Solution---Brian Lawson, UECO 1W 1WW	Nebraska 811 Update--Jill Geyer 1W 1WW 1 WD	Managing all Aspects of a Lagoon System--Larry Wennekamp, City of Schuyler 1WW	Good, Bad, and Ugly--Rich Koenig, NDEE 1W 1WW 1BF
1 hour lunch					
12:30	1:30	Managing Antennas on Your Water Tower--Jake Dugger, Maguire Iron 1W	When and how to "Pig" Water Lines--Brad Harris, Layne Christensen 1W 1WD	AMI Metering Technology--Paul Hurley, Core and Main 1W 1WW 1 WD	Doug Passmore, Mack McClain 1W 1WW 1BF
.50 Break					
2:00	3:00	Rescue the Rescuer--Brian Gongol, Gongol and Assoc. 1W 1WW 1WD	Generator Applications and Installations--Dustin Burmood, Nebraska Generator 1W 1WW 1WD	Electrical Safety in the Water & Wastewater Industry--Rob Pierce, LONM 1W 1WW 1WD	Testing and Reporting--Barney Whatley, Backflow Trainer 1W 1WW 1BF
.50 break					
3:30	4:30	School Kids Now, Customers Later--Brian Gongol, Gongol and Assoc. 1W 1WW 1WD	Cured in Place Pipe--Brian McCrary, AEGION 1WW	Water Tower and Tank Maintenance--Rick Penner, Viking Industrial 1W	Backflow Trivia--Rich Koenig, NDEE 1W 1WW 1BF
.25 break					
4:45 pm	5:45 pm	Cleaning The Tower? Wet or Dry, You Decide--Roger King, RFC Consultants 1W	Monitoring and Compliance Quiz--Justin Nelson and M&C Staff 1W 1WD	TBA	Aging Infrastructure/Impact on Cross Connection Control--Rich Koenig, NDEE 1W 1WW 1WD 1BF
Wednesday 16		Diamond Ballroom 4	Diamond Ballroom 5	Diamond Ballroom 9	
8:30	9:30	Proper Use and Care of your Peristaltic Pump--Greg Bouc, Village of Valparaiso 1W 1WW 1WD	Nebraska 811 Update--Jill Geyer 1W 1WW 1 WD	Tester Ethics--Tim Thares, NDEE 1W 1WW 1BF	
.25 break					
9:45	10:45	Locating Concepts--Brent Briley, Subsurface Solutions 1W 1WW 1WD	Electronic DMR's--Madison Feilmeier, NDEE 1WW	Tank Coating Revisions--Ross Sudbeck, Modern Coating Solutions 1W 1WW	
.25 break					
11:00	12:00	Water/Wastewater Operator Certification Update--Mike Wentink, Mike McBride 1W 1WW	Source Water Protection Planning--Dave Schroeter, NeRWA 1W 1WD	SCADA Technology--Mike Larson, Larson DATA 1W 1WW 1WD	
1.0 hour lunch					
1:00	2:00	Operator Knowledge--Mike Wentink, NDEE 1W 1WW	TBA	What Can NeRWA do for Your Community--NeRWA Staff 1W 1WW	



Mueller Fire Hydrant Repair

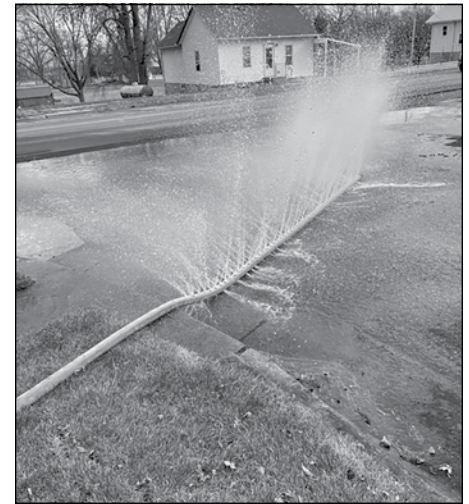
By Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider

There are quite a few fire hydrant manufacturers out there, but one of the most common we see in our neck of the woods is Mueller. They all serve the same purpose, and all require some routine maintenance, but when they get neglected over the years the end result is the same, they are very hard to open.

This was the case in Herman where the hydrant was over 40 years old and the operator was only able to open it 3-4 turns at best, so Keith asked if I could help him make the repairs and I gladly said yes. I had him contact the sales rep to order the new O-rings, gaskets, bolts, and oil—which should be replaced at time of repair.

Having done several of these repairs before, I knew what I was getting into, so I called in some reinforcements to assist with this daunting task: NeRWA's own Pat Petersen and Adam German. Little did they know how hard I was going to work them, but they both told me they wanted to learn how this is done, so we had a little onsite training day.

It took all the muscles and half the tools in Keith's shop to get the bonnet off, including pry bars, sledgehammers, hydraulic jacks, and some redneck ingenuity, and the top finally succumbed to our commands. This is basically the hardest part.



We then took the pieces back to the shop, attacked them with the wire wheel, brushes and heavy sandpaper, and within a short time they were polished up looking like new. The new O-rings, gaskets and oil were installed, the hydrant was reassembled, and much to Keith's disbelief, he was able to open and close the hydrant with minimal effort.

There is one more to do in Herman, and I sure hope Adam and Pat will return to help. Their assistance is invaluable! If not, maybe I can sucker a few other coworkers.

Stay warm and safe, and Happy 2022!





Capacity Development and Sanitary Surveys

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

States are supposed to address eight main elements when conducting a Sanitary Survey, according to EPA. These are the items that EPA feels are the main contributors to compliance issues. Let's take a look at how these eight elements line up with the Managerial, Technical and Financial aspects of Capacity development:

The eight main elements in a Sanitary Survey are:

- SOURCE**
- TREATMENT**
- DISTRIBUTION**
- STORAGE**
- PUMPS**
- MONITORING & REPORTING**
- MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS**
- OPERATOR CERTIFICATION**

Now let's take a look at the three areas of Capacity development and see how these eight items fit in to the components involved in water system viability

1. Managerial Capacity Components

- a. Ownership Accountability
 - MONITORING & REPORTING**
 - OPERATOR CERTIFICATION**
- b. Staffing and Organization
 - MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS**
 - OPERATOR CERTIFICATION**
- c. External Linkages
 - MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS**

2. Technical Capacity Components

- a. Source Protection and Adequacy
 - SOURCE**
- b. Infrastructure
 - SOURCE**
 - TREATMENT**
 - DISTRIBUTION**

STORAGE

PUMPS

- c. Technical Knowledge

DISTRIBUTION

STORAGE

PUMPS

MONITORING & REPORTING

MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS

TREATMENT OPERATIONS

OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

3. Financial capacity components:

- a. Revenue Sufficiency

SOURCE

DISTRIBUTION

STORAGE

PUMPS

MONITORING & REPORTING

MANAGEMENT & SOURCE

TREATMENT OPERATIONS

OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

- b. Fiscal Controls

MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS

- c. Credit Worthiness

MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS

As you can see, the sanitary survey goes hand-in-hand with Capacity Development guidelines. The goal behind all of this is to prevent tomorrow's water system violations today. It is getting more and more crucial that everyone from certified operators, to the office staff, to the board members, be in tune to what is going in the water system to be sure that all water systems are able to deliver safe, affordable drinking water. As new regulations come about, and believe me, there are plenty more on the way, it is going to take a team effort from everyone involved, right down to the consumer to make sure all of our small water systems remain able to serve clean affordable water to our friends and neighbors well into the future. If NeRWA can be of any help to keep your system in compliance and not considered one of EPA's "problem" systems, don't hesitate to give us a call.

Nebraska Rural Water Association Annual Conference Pre-Registration

March 14-16, 2022
Younes Conference Center
Kearney, Nebraska

Name (1 person per form) _____
 Water System/Company Name _____
 Billing Address _____
 Certificate Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Attendee's Email _____

**Pre-Registration
 Deadline is March 7.
 THERE IS A \$25 LATE FEE
 AFTER February 25**

I am the Voting Delegate _____

(Certificates will be emailed if an email address is provided)

License numbers MUST be on this form: WO: _____ BF _____ WW _____ WD _____

**REGISTRATION INCLUDES TRAINING MATERIALS, MEALS AND BREAKS.
 No registrations after March 7. Registration fees on-site will increase by \$50.**

IF YOU REPLACE AN ALREADY REGISTERED PERSON AFTER MARCH 2, THERE WILL BE AN EXTRA \$25 CHARGE.

**CANCELLATIONS AFTER MARCH 8 AND NO SHOWS THE DAYS OF THE CONFERENCE WILL BE CHARGED A \$25 FEE
 TO COVER MATERIALS THAT WERE PREPARED BEFORE THE CONFERENCE.**

FORM MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL OR YOU WILL NOT BE REGISTERED

The entire conference is free for all water system board members. I am a Board Member (no charge) _____

DAYS ATTENDING	Member	Member after February 25	Non-Member	Non-Member after February 25
FULL CONFERENCE (all meals)	____\$395.00	____420.00	____\$420.00	____\$445.00
MONDAY (evening meal)	____\$100.00	____125.00	____\$125.00	____\$150.00
TUESDAY (lunch & evening meal)	____\$175.00	____\$200.00	____\$200.00	____\$225.00
WEDNESDAY (breakfast & lunch)	____\$125.00	____\$150.00	____\$150.00	____\$175.00

Extra meal Tickets available	Guest Tickets	Cost	Total	Your Meals
Mon evening		\$25	\$	
Tues lunch		\$15	\$	
Tues Banquet		\$30	\$	
Wed lunch		\$15	\$	

All meals are included for each registration. Please indicate above if you will be staying for the evening meals. You will not be charged for them if you are registered—it's for a more accurate count. Guests need to purchase a ticket for every meal. The breakfast on Wednesday is complimentary for all registered for the conference.

Name of guest _____

When making room reservations, mention you are with NeRWA

To Register:
 Online: www.nerwa.org
 (If you register online, DO NOT mail one)
 Fax: 402-443-5274
 Mail: Nebraska Rural Water Association
 3390 Ponderosa Street
 Wahoo, NE 68066
NO PHONE REGISTRATIONS

Registration \$ _____
 Tickets \$ _____ Total \$ _____
 NeRWA member: Bill _____ Payment enclosed _____
**Non-members—Payment must accompany registration or
 pay when checking in.**
**CERTIFICATES WILL NOT BE ISSUED AND HOURS WILL
 NOT BE SUBMITTED TO STATE AGENCIES
 UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED.**

DATE REGISTRATION RECEIVED: _____

For NeRWA office use only: Payment received _____ Check # _____ Other _____
 Hours: WO _____ BF _____ WW _____ WD _____ Certificate mailed _____

**Nebraska Rural Water Association
42nd Annual Conference
March 14-16, 2022**

EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION

Younes Conference Center
416 Talmadge St
Kearney, Nebraska

Registration includes 2 reps (meal tickets included).
THERE WILL BE A \$25 FEE FOR REP SUBSTITUTIONS ON THE DAYS OF CONFERENCE

Company Name: _____

Representatives: (1) _____ (2) _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Member: One Booth-\$495, Two Booths-\$800, Three Booths-\$1200
Non-Member: One Booth-\$800, Two Booths-\$1200, Three Booths-\$1500

EACH ADDITIONAL BOOTH GETS 2 MORE REPS WITH IT

Number of Booths requested _____ Amount due \$ _____

Additional reps x \$100 (meals included) _____ Amount due \$ _____

Names: _____

All Reps must have a NeRWA Name Badge to be allowed in the Exhibit Hall

Please provide a brief description of your company for the conference program: _____

SET UP IS 8:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON ON MONDAY, MARCH 14

Exhibit space is 10x10 and includes an 8' table, 2 chairs, skirting, electricity and wireless internet.

Sponsorship/Donation: NeRWA appreciates contributions to offset costs. Sponsors will be published in the conference program and banners will be displayed in the exhibit hall. See attached sheet for explanations of each sponsorship.

Platinum Sponsor: \$2500

Diamond Sponsor: \$1000

Gold Sponsor: \$500

Silver Sponsor: \$300

Bronze Sponsor: \$250 & under

Meal tickets for 2 reps are included with each registration. Indicate additional tickets:

Mon Dinner-\$25 _____ Tues Banquet-\$30 _____

Tues Lunch-\$15 _____ Wed Lunch-\$15 _____

Wednesday breakfast is free for all registered for the conference.

Donation \$ _____

Total Registration cost \$ _____

Extra ticket cost \$ _____

Late fee \$ _____

Payment must accompany registration form. **\$100 LATE FEE AFTER MARCH 9**

Total Enclosed \$ _____

To be included in the conference program, registrations must be received by February 22.

No refunds if cancelled after March 9, 2022, or No Shows at the conference.

PAYMENT MUST BE INCLUDED WITH REGISTRATION.

Mail completed form to:

Nebraska Rural Water Association / 3390 Ponderosa / Wahoo, Nebraska 68066

402-443-5216 & 800-842-8039

OR Email to amy@nerwa.org

For NeRWA office use only: Date Received _____ Check # _____



Lagoons

By Adam German, Wastewater Technician

2021 left and took the unseasonably warm weather with it. 2022 has arrived with a bit of an attitude bringing wind, snow, and of course a lot colder temperatures. Now that Old Man Winter has shown up, are your wastewater lagoons ready for all the temperature changes? In this article we will look into what happens when your lagoons freeze over. We will also provide some pointers on a few things you can do to keep your plant running smoothly.

Winter temperatures have predictable effects on a wastewater lagoon. A freezing water temperature:

1. May damage structures and equipment. Icing over of liners, baffles, air and power lines, aerators and the like can cause significant damage. In addition, aeration equipment, especially surface aerators, can freeze and malfunction, leaving the lagoon without aeration and more prone to ice over.

2. Causes destratification. As temperatures drop in winter, the surface layer of the lagoon cools and becomes denser. The heavier water sinks, displacing the warmer water at the bottom of the lagoon. This process, known as densimetric mixing, causes the lagoon to destratify and distributes cold water throughout the entire lagoon.

3. Encourages short-circuiting. Warmer influent, if not properly mixed or if subject to wind, may short-circuit, or ride warmer thermoclines out with the effluent without being fully treated, especially if the lagoon surface is iced over.

4. Builds up BOD. Every 10-degree reduction in temperature reduces microbial activity by 50%. Bacteria and algae slow down their digestive processes in colder temperatures, allowing BOD to accumulate.

5. Reduces DO. Ice covering the lagoon surface prevents surface adsorption of oxygen from the atmosphere.

6. Creates sludge. Without sufficient DO, anaerobic conditions prevail and solids settle at the bottom of the lagoon.

7. Stops nitrification. Nitrifying bacteria prefer warm water, with an optimal range of 82–97°F. Lagoon ammonia removal virtually stops at the freezing point of 32°F.

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 E L O Y E I O N A R E P D R U
 R C I E K I J G D E T N A A
 L E R W R A G N S S W Z N P R
 A F I A N N T I N T H O B I Y
 N N L U I O C T O F O N U W
 D O A I A P J A W I B G V S S
 P R K D B I G K P R O Z O F E O
 L S E T I H W S O D O G D F L

8. Promotes conditions for spring lagoon turnover.

The ice cover seals in the gaseous byproducts of anaerobic digestion. In spring, warming water instigates a burst of biological activity as dissolved oxygen levels improve and the microbes feast on the backlog of BOD. Gases entrained in the sludge cause it to rise to the surface. As the ice cover melts, the built-up gases and sludge are released all at once—along with terrible sulfurous odors that can linger for over a week—making your neighbors very unhappy.

Preparing a wastewater lagoon for winter

The best defense against winter wastewater lagoon challenges is to be prepared:

- 1. Protect equipment.** Be sure surfaces around the lagoon are clear of road gravel, which can penetrate the lagoon liner with the freeze-thaw cycle. Cover or store unnecessary equipment.
- 2. Check and maintain outdoor equipment.** If you have any motors sitting outside all winter long, including blowers or surface aerators, change the oil and check any belts for wear and tear. By properly maintaining these motors now you can reduce the risk that they will fail during the cold winter months when it will be harder to access them.
- 3. Prevent short-circuiting and spring lagoon turnover.** Thorough mixing of the entire water column will ward off thermal stratification. Without thermoclines, warmer influent will incorporate into the overall mix and not flow out untreated. In addition, with a homogeneous water temperature and environment, no spring lagoon turnover can occur.
- 4. Increase DO to reduce BOD and sludge buildup.** Microbial populations require dissolved oxygen to digest BOD and keep it from building up as sludge. Provide sufficient oxygenation by adding aeration.

I was able to meet quite a few operators, old and new, as I drove throughout our beautiful state of Nebraska in 2021. Being on the road quite a bit makes a guy a little hungry. The water and wastewater operators are pretty honest about their local restaurants. I am here to tell you I have discovered several hidden gems in our state. I will finish off this article, and 2021, by sharing some of my favorites with you. (I'm sure I won't remember all of them...)

If I make a trip to central Nebraska out in the Greeley area, I try to arrange it so that I will end up in Greeley on a Friday. The special at Whistler's Pub in Greeley on Fridays is a rib-eye tip sandwich that has an unbelievable flavor. Let me know when you need that sampler again, Ron.

I was called out to the village of Holbrook, which is more south-central Nebraska. In Holbrook they have a restaurant called Ho-Jo's. Goulash was the special the day I was there... sign me up! It was fantastic and it even came with a dessert.

If you need another excuse to come out to the fall conference in Gering, I have one for you. If you like a good hot beef sandwich, you will most likely enjoy the best one in the state at the Log Cabin in Gering. I'm not a picky eater, a hot beef sandwich is usually pretty easy but not anything to write home about. This particular hot beef sandwich has a very unique flavor, maybe in the gravy? I'm not sure; but it is wonderful.

Like I mentioned, I'm sure I'm missing a few that I'm going to kick myself for later. I have hit Burrito King's, Chinese Buffets (Columbus has a real good one), and several "mom and pop" shops. The best burger I have had yet, and the best lunch of 2021 took place up in Newman Grove. The Newman Grove City Café is mostly known for their pies. The day I was there the special was a Crab Rangoon Burger. I thought that sounded a little weird and opened the menu. But I am a guy that likes to try new things so I asked the waitress what this Crab Rangoon burger was all about. She told me that it is rarely on the special and when it is they stay pretty busy. The place was packed. I had to try it; I am so glad I did. It was absolutely unbelievable! Amazing. Incredible. If the Crab Rangoon Burger appears on the special board again, I expect a phone call from both of the operators in Newman Grove. I will see you in a couple of hours.

If you find yourself on the road in one of these areas, stop in. It will be worth it. I hope that 2022 finds all of you healthy and happy. I really hope that good things happen in 2022, a return to normalcy. Let 2022 be a true new year; not 2020 too. Stay safe out there.



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Eye-opening Facts About Water

By Scott Finke, Circuit Rider

Without water, we'd be nothing. Just dust. Water is one of the most common substances on earth, and one of the most vital resources; it's a tremendously valuable resource, yet one "wasteful squander and pollute prodigiously."

So Much Water, So Little Usable

Water is deceptive. For while it pours freely from the heavens and seems to flow endlessly in rivers, it's a finite resource; we only have what we have. And although there is about 332,500,000 cubic miles of it on earth – only one-hundredth of one percent of the world's water is readily available for human use. We really need to learn how to show it some respect. So, with this in mind, consider the following facts – some wondrous, some disconcerting, all eye-opening. Here are some facts about water that you can share with your customers.

- The average human body is made of 55 to 65 percent water.
- Newborn babies have even more, ringing in at 78 percent water.
- A gallon of water weighs 8.34 pounds; a cubic foot of water weighs 62.4 pounds.
- Ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons of water or more per day.
- Refilling a half-liter water bottle 1,740 times with tap water is the equivalent cost of a 99-cent water bottle at a convenience store.
- Producing a gallon of corn ethanol consumes 170 gallons of water in total, from irrigation to final processing. On the other hand, the water requirement to make a gallon of regular gasoline is just five gallons of water.
- An inch of water covering one acre (27,154 gallons) weighs 113 tons.
- Water covers 70.9 percent of the planet's surface.
- 97 percent of the water on Earth is found in the ocean; 2.5 percent is unavailable fresh water (trapped in glaciers, underground, etc.); and 0.5 percent is available freshwater.
- There is more water in the atmosphere than in all of our rivers combined.
- If all of the water vapor in our planet's atmosphere fell as water at once and spread out evenly, it would only cover the globe with about an inch of water.
- More than one-quarter of all bottled water comes from a municipal water supply—the same place that tap water comes from.
- Approximately 400 billion gallons of water is used each day in the United States.
- In a year, the average American residence uses over 100,000 gallons of water.
- Since the average faucet releases 2 gallons of water per minute, you can save up to 4 gallons of water every morning by turning off the tap while you brush your teeth.
- A running toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water each day.
- At one drip per second, a faucet can leak 3,000 gallons in a year.
- A bath uses up to 70 gallons of water, a five-minute shower uses 10 to 25 gallons.
- A new dishwasher uses 4 gallons of water total; compared to doing dishes in the sink uses 4 gallons every two minutes.
- The first water pipes in the U.S. were made from hollowed logs.
- There are around one million miles of water pipeline in the U.S., enough to circle the globe 40 times.
- On average, an American resident uses about 100 gallons of water per day.
- It takes .26 gallon of water to irrigate one calorie of food.
- It takes 2.6 gallons of water to make a sheet of paper.
- It takes 6.3 gallons of water to make 17 ounces of plastic.
- It takes 924 gallons of water to produce 2.2 pounds of rice.
- It takes 2,641 gallons of water to make a pair of jeans.
- It takes 3,962 gallons of water to produce 2.2 pounds of beef.
- It takes 39,090 gallons of water to manufacture a new car.
- It takes 1,008 gallons of water to make 1 gallon of wine.
- It takes 20 gallons of water to make 1 pint of beer.

Hope you have enjoyed these eye-opening facts about our water. If you need anything please contact our NeRWA office at 402-443-5216.



Wastewater Training

By Charles Buckley, Wastewater Technician

Hello Nebraska! One of my duties with Nebraska Rural Water Association is to set up classes for continuing education hours for wastewater. This is not part of my contract, but I feel it is very important to give operators a free opportunity to obtain continuing education hours. I start about six months in advance of the new year. A few things I consider are locations of classes. First, what area will be a good hub to draw operators from other towns. Second, what town would make a good host and have an accommodating class room. Third, what was the draw the previous year. I have been asked by some towns if they could host a class. Unfortunately, I have a host town that already works out close by their town or my schedule has already been filled. I am up for changing host towns if it works out. Just please let me know in the spring or early summer.

I am always looking for speakers for classes, if you know of any that would be willing to do so, please let me know. I would also ask that if you attend our classes, please fill out the assessment questionnaire. This assists us in determining a better focus on things we could do to better the experience. I did try to add some hands-on sessions last year, including plant tours, locating, and pump repair. One of the most requested classes I have had is safety. If any of you know of someone, please let me know.

Unfortunately, the speakers are not paid for one day sessions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank last years speakers: Jill Geyer with Nebraska 811; Monte Dakin and Bret Melson with Johnson Service Company; Brent Briley with Subsurface Solutions; Dustin Burmood and Gus Armenta with Nebraska Generator Service; Doug Donnelson with Nebraska State Fire Marshal Agency; David Morgan with Iowa Pump Works; Dave Fulton with the USDA; Madison Feilmeier and Daniel Kroll with the DEE; Brett Anderson formally with DEE; Pat Peterson and Randy Hellbusch with NERWA; and anyone I forgot to mention. Please let me know if you know of anyone that would be willing to speak at our future training classes.

I have had requests for the good eating stops across Nebraska so here are a few:

- EuroBistro in Mead specializing in Pizza and Dumplings.
- Ponderosa in Weston specializing in Pizza and everything else on the menu.
- Copper Moon Steakhouse in Palmyra Specializing in Homemade Food and Sides.
- Branding Iron in Tilden specializing in great Burgers and an excellent Salad Bar.

- Ponderosa in Elk City specializing in Mexican Tuesday and Prime Rib Saturday.
- BW's Pub and Grill in Ashland specializing in Smoked Wings and Brussel Sprouts.
- We'll Smoke You BBQ in Gretna specializing in everything BBQ and Nachos.
- Wicked Hen Farmhouse in Springfield specializing in all day Breakfast.

Happy New Year and stay safe!

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Water Quantity and Quality

By David Schroeter, Source Water Specialist

A safe drinking water supply for our communities is extremely valuable. We now know that safe drinking water from groundwater can no longer be taken for granted. Groundwater and surface water supplies can be contaminated from many manmade causes or practices, such as landfills, waste lagoons, the use of pesticides and fertilizers, chemical spills, septic systems, leaking underground storage tanks, manure spreading, junkyards, improperly abandoned wells, pipelines, improperly constructed wells, mining activities, etc. The costs of dealing with contaminated drinking water can easily run into millions of dollars. It is said that one gallon of gasoline can cause one million gallons of water to be unusable for human consumption. Because groundwater generally moves slowly, contamination may not be discovered for years. Once the contaminant source is eliminated, the cleanup of the water supply can be extremely expensive, if not impossible.

We as water operators sample our drinking water supply on a regular basis for a variety of contaminants. Nitrates, glyphosate, arsenic, and petroleum products to name a few. We monitor

the results and look for trends to make sure the water we are delivering is safe to drink.

A very recent example of drinking water contamination occurred in Hawaii just this past Thanksgiving. A 14,000-gallon leak of jet fuel from underground storage tanks migrated into the local aquifer. The fuel was then pumped up with the drinking water and distributed to approximately 93,000 residents of the military community and their families. Flushing the system, repeated testing, and finding alternate sources of safe drinking water has been costly and it is not over yet. A quick Google search, "Hawaii Water Contamination," will give you more information. The headlines found here are not ones you want in your local newspaper involving your local water utility.

A Source Water Protection Plan may help prevent contamination of your water supply thereby helping you to deliver the Quantity and Quality your community needs for safe drinking water.



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GUIDELINES FOR CONTINUING ED HOURS

The current license period for water and backflow is 2022-2023. A wastewater license is renewed two years after the date your license was issued.

The hours required for renewal for each license are listed below:

1. Water and backflow – two-year renewal period requiring 10 continuing ed hours. The end of the renewal period is always December 31 of odd numbered years. An easy tip is to get five hours per year. Start early in the year to get your hours. **THE LAST THREE MONTHS OF THE RENEWAL YEAR GET VERY BUSY.**
2. Wastewater – A two-year renewal period with 20 continuing ed hours.

When you attend any class, you get a certificate. Keep that certificate in a place where you can easily find it. You may be asked to send a certificate to the state department as proof of attendance. If you lose the first certificate, you can request a second one. After that, each certificate will cost \$20.

Flyers for all training classes (unless they are full way in advance) are either mailed or emailed to all our members. The classes are listed in our quarterly magazine which is also mailed to our members. We publish a training calendar each year that is mailed to all operators we have listed. This calendar is available on our website also. A tip for all operators – bookmark our website or save it in your favorites. This way you can keep updated on class dates, addresses, and the agenda. Agendas are posted about a month before the class. Cancellations, and if a class is full, will also be noted there.

You can register for water and wastewater classes by fax, mail or online. If you register and do not attend it takes a spot away from someone else who may have needed hours, so please remember to cancel when you know you cannot attend.

BACKFLOW CLASSES ON HOLD

Due to our instructor retiring at the end of 2021, we do not have a Grade 6 backflow instructor. Therefore, we do not have any certification or continuing education classes scheduled in 2022.

We are currently looking for an instructor. If anyone is willing to become a backflow instructor on a part-time basis, please contact our office.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following NeRWA board members will be running for re-election to the association Board of Directors at the annual conference in Kearney held on March 14-16, 2022.

Tom Goulette, City of West Point
Jordon Bang, Lancaster County RWD 1

Two positions must be filled by a delegate from a utility system and the other by either a rural water system or a utility system.

Requirements for the above positions:

- Must be the voting delegate or alternate delegate from system
- Must attend monthly board meetings, held in Wahoo
- Attendance at the spring conference is required
- Attendance at the fall conference is encouraged
- Occasional out-of-state travel is possible

If you are interested in running for any of the above positions, please submit a letter and a resume so indicating. The deadline is March 1, 2022. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Email to: salli@nerwa.org Fax: 402-443-5274 Mail: 3390 Ponderosa St., Wahoo, NE 68066

Nebraska Good Water News

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Old Man Winter



Y S E T I H W S O D O G D F L
 P R K D B I G K P R Q Z O E Q
 D O A I A P J A W I B G V S S
 N N L U I O C T O F Q O N U W
 A F I A N N T I N T H O B I Y
 L E R W R A G N S S W Z N P R
 R C I E K I J G G D E T N A A
 E L O Y E I O N A R E P D R U
 D F R I Q Z I Y O R V D W K R
 N C O L D H I G L O V E S A B
 O P E M G W R N S O A T T O E
 W C Z I B W I S G C O E B V F
 I R E B M E C E D O A A B L P
 S L E D D I N G B B F R O S T
 S Y D R A Z Z I L B M N F L Y

Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|----------|
| BLIZZARD | BOOTS | COLD |
| DECEMBER | DRIFTS | FEBRUARY |
| FREEZING | FROST | GLOVES |
| ICE | JANUARY | PARKA |
| POLAR | SCARF | SHOVEL |
| SKATING | SKIING | SLEDDING |
| SLEIGHING | SNOW | SNOWDAY |
| SUBZERO | WHITE | WIND |
| WINTER | WONDERLAND | |

ANSWERS ON PAGE 14

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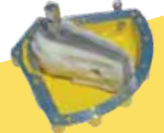
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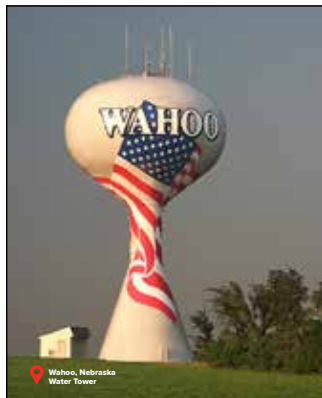
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PVC Round Meter Boxes
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