

Nebraska Good Water News

ISSUE 2/2022



Nebraska Rural Water Association

CLOGGED PUMPS?

Tackle wipes and large debris with these solutions from USABlueBook!

FOR SMALLER APPLICATIONS AND LIFT STATIONS

Goulds GFK and GFV Series Sewage Pumps

- Non-clog impellers handle wipes and 2" solids

FlowRake Rag Catchers

- Catch and retain flushables



OPERATOR
DESIGNED



USABlueBook
EXCLUSIVE

FOR LARGE MUNICIPAL LIFT STATIONS

Deming Demersible Chopper Pumps

- Slice the most troublesome solids into small pieces

StationGuard Manual Bar Screens

- Capture damaging wipes and debris

DEMING®



OPERATOR
DESIGNED



USABlueBook®
GET THE BEST TREATMENT™

GET PRODUCT DETAILS AT
usabluebook.com/NoMoreClogs

800.548.1234 • usabluebook.com

Nebraska Good Water News

Issue 2/2022

“Keeping Our Water Safe”

Board of Directors

Table of Contents

2022 Training	2
Fall Conference Changes.....	3
USDA News Release.....	4
Conference Evaluations Results.....	5 & 7
Annual Conference Rundown.....	6-7
What Do I Do?	8
Scholarship Winners	9
Mother Nature	10-11
Wage Survey	13
Having a Drought Plan	14
Witching Locates	15
Contaminants and Trends	16
Fall Conference Time	17
Employment Opportunity Announcement	18
Guidelines for Continuing Education Hours	19
Backflow Classes on Hold.....	19
NeRWA Contact Information & New Web Page Announcement	20
Word Search.....	Inside Back

President:

Tom Goulette, National Director
444 S. Main St.
West Point, Nebraska 68788
(402) 372-2466

Vice-President:

Greg Bouc
Box 353
Valparaiso, Nebraska 68065
(402) 784-2313

Secretary/Treasurer:

Larry Wennekamp
124 E. 11th Street
Schuyler, Nebraska 68661
(402) 352-5444

George Wagner
P.O. Box 226
Hooper, NE 68031
(402) 654-3649

Tom Grovijohn
226 N. Elm
Dodge, NE 68633
(402) 693-2239

Jordon Bang
P.O. Box 98
Bennet, NE 68317
(402) 782-3495

Cope Clark
P.O. Box 518
Hartington, NE 68739
(402) 254-6758

Staff:

Amy Kemerling, Office Assistant
Salli Kemerling, Office Manager
Samantha Rodgers, Accounting
Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider
Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider
Scott Finke, Circuit Rider
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:

Jansen, Nebraska, water tower.

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

2022 TRAINING

Water Operator Training

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

May 25	Chadron
July 27	Kearney
August 24	Bridgeport
October 5	Louisville
November 16	Duncan
December 14	Wahoo

Fall Conference

Gering
Gering Civic Center
September 13-15

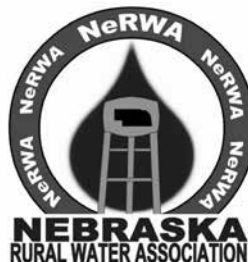
TRENCH & EXCAVATION SAFETY
AUGUST 3

CONFINED SPACE SAFETY
AUGUST 4
NeRWA Office
Wahoo

We will be adding a few
1-day backflow classes
across the state.

Watch for flyers and emails
or check the website.

**NOTE: THE OFFICE AND FIELD STAFF WILL BE AT IN-SERVICE TRAINING OUT OF STATE
FROM MONDAY, JUNE 6, THROUGH FRIDAY, JUNE 10.**



Nebraska Rural Water Association - 3390 Ponderosa Drive - Wahoo, NE 68066
Home | Office | Membership Info | Training | Annual Conference | Fall Conference

FALL CONFERENCE CHANGES

The Nebraska Rural Water will once again host its Western Conference in Gering, Nebraska. The Pre-Conference will be held on Tuesday, September 13th, and the actual conference on the 14th and 15th.

In order to accommodate some scheduling conflicts with both the conference center and the NeRWA, the conference will have a different look. Our preliminary plan will be a normal pre-conference. The change will be on Wednesday. Instead of starting at 1 P.M., we will start at 8 A.M. and conclude at 4 P.M. Wednesday will also look different in the fact that three breakout sessions will be held instead the basic general session (all in one room). Thursday will then look like a general session starting at 8 A.M. and concluding at 12:15 P.M. This will give the operators and staff a chance to get on the road at a better time.

These changes are not permanent and if operators and staff do not like it, we can always go back to the way it was. It will be interesting to see how it goes. As long as we all work together it should go great!



Miller & Associates
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, P.C.

308.234.6456

www.miller-engineers.com

ENGINEERING

•

ARCHITECTURE

•

SURVEYING

•

COMMUNITY PLANNING

•

GRANT WRITING



USDA Rural Development Celebrates Earth Week Highlighting Investments that Combat Climate Change and Support Stewardship of Resources

LINCOLN, Neb. – Today, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development State Director for Nebraska Kate Bolz hosted a virtual media engagement with seven partners who are helping USDA RD make climate-smart investments in the state.

Joining Bolz at the event were: Utility Superintendent for the Village of Edison Kent Tidyman, Nebraska Rural Water Association Circuit Rider Randy Hellbusch, Director of Petroleum for Bosselman Enterprises Zac Griess, Nebraska Ethanol Board Administrator Reid Wagner, Lincoln Earth Day Coalition Committee Member Amanda Gangwish, USDA RD Community Programs Director Kelley Messenger, and USDA RD Energy Coordinator Jeff Carpenter.

“USDA’s number one priority is combating climate change to support America’s working lands, natural resources, and communities,” said Bolz. “We are implementing solutions by investing in climate smart projects that improve quality of life while reducing energy consumption and ensuring clean water for Nebraskans. Part of the purpose of today’s event is to illustrate and demonstrate the success of such projects statewide and invite others to join us.”

From the Village of Edison, Kent Tidyman explained the use of USDA RD funding to switch the village’s wastewater from a mechanical system to a full retention lagoon system to prevent discharge of sewage into freshwater. He went on to say this is an ideal way to manage wastewater and protect Nebraska.

“This will positively impact our residents by reducing operating costs, protecting the environment, and we won’t need to worry about chemicals and other unhealthy substances entering our water ways,” said Tidyman.

Randy Hellbusch, with the Nebraska Rural Water Association praised utility workers like Tidyman and said clean, working utilities are often taken for granted.

“The true heroes are the guys that do it every day,” said Hellbusch. “They keep our water safe to drink. They clean our wastewater. They improve our water. If everything is working the way it should they don’t hear anything from anyone, and that’s a good day.”

Hellbusch travels extensively around the state consulting with rural communities about their water systems and water needs. He conducts rate studies, locates equipment and lines, and prides himself on the association’s technical assistance to keep communities in compliance.

“Water is a critical resource for every community, especially in times of natural disaster,” added Kelly Messenger. “USDA supports the responsible stewardship and development of rural water resources through Rural Development’s Water and Environmental Program via the Community Programs Division. This assistance can mitigate health risks and increase access to safe reliable drinking water and sanitary waste disposal.”

USDA RD is not only investing in water projects to protect the environment but is focused on increasing renewable and clean energy as well. One program available is the Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentive Program.

Designed to significantly increase the sale and availability of higher blends of ethanol, USDA RD has made up to \$100 million in competitive grants available for activities designed to expand the availability of renewable fuels. In Nebraska, Bosselman Enterprises was awarded one of these grants in the amount of \$1 million to upgrade 11 Pump & Pantry retail fuel stations to offer higher blended fuels such as E15, E30, and E85.

“We feel it is better fuel,” said Director of Petroleum Zac Griess, Bosselman Enterprises. “It’s more cost effective for our customers and to be more climate friendly and reduce negative impacts on the Earth, we are hoping to add more and sell more higher blended fuel.”

“Ethanol has a lot to offer, it can lower the price at the pump, it cleans our air, and it’s good for our rural communities,” said Ethanol Board Administrator Reid Wagner. “Farmers and ranchers know, and since we’re celebrating Earth Day this Friday, I’d like to hone in on the second point with cleaning our air. Ethanol has a lot of widely proven benefits to the environment. It is a very clean burning fuel, saving on average about 46 percent of carbon particulate matter and greenhouse gas emissions when compared to regular gasoline. Ethanol not only reduces emissions from the tailpipe of your car, but through the process of creating fuel itself. Of course, I’m talking about very plentiful and expansive crop fields featuring corn, wheat, sorghum, and soybeans, if you capture the value of the energy stored in those fields and the way they capture carbon dioxide emissions. From that renewable source it creates a really nice cyclic environment reducing emissions by about 50 percent when compared to creating gasoline itself.”

Amanda Gangwish, a volunteer with the Lincoln Earth Day Coalition Committee, thanked the speakers for their climate conscience work and invited the audience to attend Lincoln Earth Day at Innovation Campus in Lincoln this Saturday from 10 am to 2pm.

“Earth Day brings people together to celebrate and featured in this year’s event will be live music from Chris Lager and a panelist discussion focused on ways to live sustainably at home. We’ll have an interactive kids’ corner and food trucks. Rain or shine, indoors or outdoors, we hope to see you this Saturday to celebrate Earth Day. For more information on this free event, check out our website at Lincoln.earthday.org or visit. Our Facebook page at Lincoln Earth Day,” said Gangwish.

Bolz confirmed she will be at the Lincoln Earth Day event and said, “We are so please to partner with organizations all across the state to implement climate smart strategies. North Platte to Broken Bow to O’Neill to right here in Lincoln to connect with us as we partner with you to invest in climate smart solutions. Under the leadership of President Biden, Vice President Harris, and Secretary Vilsack, USDA is putting rural America at the heart of climate smart solutions.”

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs, and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov/ne.

Summary of Evaluations

NeRWA Kearney Conference • March 14-16, 2022

TOTAL EVALUATIONS RECEIVED – 129

QUESTION #1 – Please circle which best describes your position:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| a. Operator/Manager | 112 |
| b. Administrative | 1 |
| c. Board Member | 4 |
| d. Plumber | 1 |
| e. Lawn Service | 1 |
| f. State/Federal Rep. | 6 |
| g. Clerk | 0 |
| h. Other: (no explanation) | 6 |
- Well tech.
 - Public works director
 - Retired backup operator
 - New hire
 - Carpenter
 - Water & Wastewater maintenance

QUESTION #2 – Why do you attend the NeRWA conference?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| a. The training classes | 27 |
| b. The prizes/entertainment | 2 |
| c. The vendors | 13 |
| d. Chance to meet with operators | 13 |
| e. All of the above | 101 |

QUESTION #3 – Things you liked and why?

- Location, vendors, classes are good
- Location, venue, set-up
- The conference was set up very well
- Training, vendors
- The atmosphere was awesome, anyone you spoke to had great knowledge
- Sessions were very helpful
- Everything in one area
- Plenty of information, answered many questions
- Training and different subjects from year to year
- Training classes gives us operators new knowledge-new equipment and regulations
- Informational
- All the information from the classes
- Well planned, good food, good presentations
- Everything is right nearby, food is fast and good
- Fun night, socialization
- Everything and meeting new people
- Always enjoy this conference, you all do a great job of hosting and entertaining and feeding us. Thank you.
- Being in a place for more than one day, so it gives time to visit with operators and state people.
- Food
- Backflow trivia class, backflow assembly installation was engaging
- The speakers were all informative, the food was good and the fellowship was great
- Food was really good, fun activities and pretty good instructors-Rich Koenig was great, made class interesting and gets you involved
- Training classes-learn new, review old
- All of it because NeRWA is top shelf
- All good
- Everything is good especially when you are trying to make 400 people happy-not an easy task-good job NeRWA
- Learn a few things and meet other operators

- The facility, food and service are excellent. It's good to get CEU's for multiple licenses at the same time. Variety of classes is good.
- Interaction with other operators and vendors is valuable
- Good material, well attended, great meals
- Everything
- Food and vendors
- Food was fantastic-like that the venue is connected to the hotels
- Social hour and fun night-great interacting with other operators
- NeRWA really puts on a fantastic conference
- Plenty of space, great speakers
- Information from vendors and sessions
- Venue is great, everything under one roof-food was excellent
- Food and facility are first class
- Location, venue, food
- Venue, glad to see wastewater hours
- Learn new things/People and visiting with others to discuss how they deal with problems at work
- Vendors, food, old friends
- Training, speakers, vendors
- Friendly vendors, helpful training sessions, helpful speakers
- Classes
- Social hour
- Informative sessions, knowledgeable speakers, vendors with new items to make our jobs easier, meals, motel
- Very good conference
- Liked everything, very good venue
- Food & training-all around good time
- Very informative
- Speakers were good, food and venue are excellent
- Location, time allotted for classes, amenities
- This was one of the best conferences I have been to
- Very well organized, good seminars, great food, professional yet laid back feeling
- Lots of backflow hours, vendors
- Learning from other operators-food
- Meeting new people, merchandise, supplies
- All of it-package deal
- Vendors, sessions, entertainment all great
- Updates on new rules and regs
- Kearney location
- Venue, everything runs smooth, delicious meals, entertainment
- Food and classes
- NeRWA always puts on best conference, great training, speakers and the meals
- Training classes
- The space in the classrooms, backflow hours
- Visiting with vendors and other operators-speakers and staff-getting hours and getting out of work for a few days
- The new vendor products, meeting other operators
- Very well coordinated-excellent food
- All of it, everyone was helpful, meals, entertainment-very good
- Everything is good here
- Great venue, good food, clean rooms-good to see lots of vendors-sessions and speakers were very good
- Food and classes

- Informative sessions
- Everything was awesome
- Sessions, speakers, meals
- Nice facility, good food, great accommodations, good people
- Meeting up with new and old friends-learning more, to manage our incredible water resource
- Great topics, entertainment and food
- The atmosphere and presentations
- Having everyone face to face again
- Really well organized
- Classes
- Venue seems perfect for this conference
- Sessions were short and plenty of breaks to help break up the day
- Venue is set up nicely-training is informative
- Well organized and ran on time
- Variety of sessions-able to speak with several different vendors
- Jessica Johnson's class, Ryan Hurst's class, Mary Boden's class, demo on how to take a routine sample-nice to see
- Venue, vendors, classes
- The variety is always nice
- Vendors, class topics
- Nice location and classrooms
- Most classes were good
- Good information
- Food was fantastic
- Always get updates and training on water and wastewater issues
- Everything ran smooth
- Very well organized, great venue-really enjoyed the conference
- Training classes-always learning something, excellent ink pens
- Speakers-very helpful, meals-very good, vendors
- Good vendors, good food
- Additional backflow hours, great updates on regulatory issues
- Classes are diverse and informative-getting water and wastewater hours

QUESTION #4 – Things you dislike and why?

- Need backflow hours on Monday
- Could be held on different days
- Some classes are repetitive
- Same vendors-bring in vendors who cater to operators and not just municipalities, forced to take the same classes as they cover hours needed
- Some speakers get off course
- Some sessions are boring
- Could not attend some classes because they offered credits for only one license and I have multiple licenses.
- Music too loud
- Speakers felt like sales reps
- Schedules are confusing-could use more information mailed out beforehand or put on the website
- Cell phones always ringing during sessions
- Rules and regulations
- Only 3 drink tickets
- Nobody used microphones-hard to hear
- Want steak at the banquet
- Late night driving home

Continued on Page 7



Annual Conference Rundown

By Pat Petersen, Training and Technical Assistance Specialist

The past three conferences have been adventures. A blizzard, a bomb cyclone (flood), and a relentless pandemic. As a team we didn't know what to expect this year but we did know we were going to do our best to have a normal and fun conference. It was every bit of that. Fun night, banquet, and of course buffets!! In the ten years I have been doing this, I can honestly say this one ranks at or near the top.

The agenda looked similar to previous conferences with the General Session on Monday, six hours of breakout sessions on Tuesday and four hours on Wednesday. The General Session was made up of several regulation issues including Field Services, Monitoring and Compliance, Lead and Copper, NeWARN update, and a very interesting and educational session about the Proper Sampling Techniques and Lab Procedures. The sampling techniques have become a hot topic due to the changes in the Total Coliform Rule and the level 1 and level 2 assessments. Sometimes a simple mistake when sampling can lead to several repeat samples and, of course, a visit from your field rep. It was a good refresher session for all.

At the conclusion of the General Session, attendees were treated to a delicious meal of smoked brisket, Tuscan chicken, and several side dishes. Following the Monday night meal, the shuttle bus ran every fifteen minutes to the Big Apple Fun Center and back for fun night. This event was canceled last year due to the pandemic and was very well attended this year. The fun night was once again very successful. Miller and Associates took the lead in this year's event and was assisted by Sargent Drilling, JEO, HOA, and the Nebraska Rural Water Association. It was so good to see everyone enjoying some person-to-person conversation. This interaction can be priceless to both new and older operators.

Tuesday morning started at 9 A.M. and lasted until 5:45 P.M. This is a very long day of learning, sharing, and of course, eating!! Sessions held Tuesday were some of the traditional water tank talk, sewer maintenance, Nebraska 811, and different types of meters. Several new presentations were also introduced, and I hope to fill the agenda with even more new faces and ideas. One thing we were able to do is add three more hours of backflow instead of the traditional five. As usual, we always take time to look at the evaluation that all attendees are asked to complete and several comments relate to backflow. It is a very specialized license and therefore is hard to find new things to present about it because, well, it is what it is. If any Grade 6 operators have any new ideas on how we can add some variety to the backflow sessions, feel free to reach out to me either through an email or give me a call. I am always open to new ideas for all sessions, not just backflow.

At the conclusion of Tuesday's sessions, operators were treated to a quick little social hour sponsored by Core and Main. This event always takes place in the exhibit hall. After a long day of learning, operators can share their "War Stories" or just decompress.

Following the social hour, the annual banquet and awards ceremony were held. A buffet containing pork loin, deep fried shrimp, and baked four cheese ravioli was rolled out for all to enjoy. The food is always amazing!

Two awards were given at the banquet—The Russ Topp, Doing it Right Award and Nebraska's Best Tasting Water Contest winner. This year's Russ Topp winner was Don Reves from the Village of Duncan. Don does a tremendous job in Duncan and is well respected for what he does. His loyalty to his community is noticed by all of us when we are able to assist him or even just visit with him. Congratulations, Don! The City of Loup City won the best tasting water contest. Loup City's water operator is Kevin Holcomb. This water will be entered into the Great American Water Taste Test in Washington, DC next February. Congratulations to both Don and Kevin!

The final stretch of Tuesday was some entertainment. Chad and Keith entertained all of those in attendance until nearly 10 P.M. It was relaxing fun and just an overall great night.

The annual board meeting and operator's breakfast was first thing Wednesday morning. The breakfast was delicious and the board meeting went off without a hitch.

Municipal Automation & Control
municipalautomation.com

Design, Build, Service

WATER / WASTEWATER CONTROL SYSTEMS

Bill Simmerman - Owner
Cell: (308) 233-4729
bill.s@municipalautomation.com

211 N. Tyler
PO Box 393
Elm Creek, NE 68836
Office/Fax: (308) 856-4730

Training sessions started at 8:30 A.M. A very special guest arrived at 9:30 A.M. to address the crowd. Governor Pete Ricketts took time out of his busy schedule to speak to our assembly. Some of the things he touched on were the possibility of a large canal of water in western Nebraska and a recreational body of water between Omaha and Lincoln. It is always nice to see support from one of the most influential people in our state! Thank you, Governor.

Lunch time rolled around and as usual the annual raffle was held. Winners this year were Kenneth Mace, Colin Haag, Scott Fix, Roger Anderson, Paul Nickolite, and Jeff Gress. Congratulations to all of the winners and thank you very much for your support!

After lunch, there was one more hour for the operators. The conference would then conclude at 2 P.M. This show was over!

As always, a conference of this size takes many special people and companies. First of all, thank you to all of the vendors who exhibited and donated to our special conference. Without your generosity our show would not be nearly as good as it is! Operators of Nebraska, you are the best around. Not only is it a pleasure for any of our staff to work with each and every one of you, your support of this conference is second to none. With the pandemic still hanging around, you operators weren't going to let us down, and you did not. It was so good to see all your faces again in this conference atmosphere!

To all the presenters, thank you. When I reach out to ask if you would like to be a part of our conference, it seems like none of you know the word "NO." We had several nice compliments for all of you who shared your knowledge with the operators. I look forward to working with you not only in the conference style, but one day training sessions as well.

What can I say about the Younes Center staff? Always there when you need them, always very helpful, and always very kind! Thank you!

Finally, the team that is the Nebraska Rural Water Association. Ten years ago, I never thought I would love doing what I am doing now. What makes my job better than anything is the people I get to call my co-workers! So, Salli, Amy, and Sam, thanks for keeping me grounded when things seem to be sliding sideways. Randy, Mike, Adam, Scott, Buck, and Dave, thank you for all of the manual labor and scanning in of operators. And to our board, Tom, Greg, Larry, Jordon, George, Tom, and Cope, thank you for supporting everything we do. It's pretty easy to do a job when you have the structural support you offer.

That's it for now! The planning has started for the fall conference in Gering. The dates for that are September 13-15, at the Gering Conference Center. Hopefully it is as great as this annual conference was! Have a great summer!

Summary of Evaluations

Continued from Page 5

- Overlapping presentations
- Entertainment, salty food
- Hard to hear in some classes
- Long sessions
- The drinking water
- Checking in to the motel
- Breaks are sometimes too long
- Food was a little salty, entertainment
- I wish the last class on Wednesday ended before lunch

QUESTION # 5 – Any suggestions for future conferences?

- Ideas on how to get younger generation into the water industry
- More training on new regulations
- Safety training
- Operator tools for prizes
- Comedian
- Move to Columbus
- Different vendors, classes where you can get CEU's for all licenses at one time
- JBL Bluetooth speakers
- Start and end one hour earlier
- New operator help
- Poker night, customer communication through social media
- Record keeping
- Different class topics
- Classes on general plumbing(pipes/valves)
- New trucks or SUVs
- Seminar on the secrets of veteran operators
- Country music
- More locate classes
- Rural wells-personal water supply-how to maintain
- Depending on infrastructure bill and how it goes-may have class on how to deal with getting projects done with it
- How to make more money
- Hands-on backflow testing
- Speakers from EPA
- Singer- Justin Kane
- Fitness/health awareness class
- Actual job training, hands-on
- More presentations like Rich and Mary's-sampling and lab
- More wastewater hours on Monday

QUESTION # 6 – Any additional comments?

- If it wasn't for this team, a lot of small-town operators would be struggling
- Keep up the good work
- Rural Water guys are awesome, couldn't survive without them
- Thank you for the long hours of preparing for the conference
- Thanks for all you do
- Great job
- Thanks to Pat and all the NeRWA staff for putting on a great conference
- Keep allowing board members to attend for free
- Very well ran conference
- Thanks to everyone who makes this happen. Good time!
- Looking forward to next year
- Great job again
- Thank you
- Thanks for bringing up important topics
- Great job Pat
- Move the conference to Broken Bow
- Would a Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday schedule work?
- Love it

Wow, sure was a different conference than last year. We received 50 more evaluations this year and more positive comments. It was nice to be back and running normally. We were glad to see so many positive comments and the negative comments being way less than last year.

We appreciate all the people who attended the conference and we think it was the best one yet. Thank you for all your support.



What Do I Do?

By Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider

This is a question I get asked, and am sure you all do too—especially when meeting new people. Well, my job title is a Circuit Rider and when I tell people this, they always look at me like “Huh,” and I always end up explaining what I do. So, I decided to Google the definition of my job title.

Definition of Circuit Rider

noun

(formerly) a minister who rode horseback from place to place to preach and perform religious ceremonies.

someone, as a public official or a nurse, who travels throughout a given territory to provide services.

Well, the later part of the definition somewhat describes what I do, so I began to think about all I do for my job and the requirements I needed to attain this position. So, first off, here’s a basic resume:

I started in this industry in 1998. I got my Grade 4 license a few months after I started, and my Grades 3 and 2 in 1999, as well as my Grade 2 Wastewater.

I worked 10 years for PeopleService, where I operated numerous water systems from small pressure tanks to large towers, and treatment facilities for both water and wastewater. In 2008, I started with NeRWA as a State Deputy Circuit Rider for five years, a Source Water Specialist for one year, and then my current position as Circuit Rider for the past eight years.

I have had the opportunity to work in probably 90% of the small towns in this state and have built great working

relationships and friendships with operators all over Nebraska. One thing I’ve noticed the past few years is there are quite a few new operators that don’t know exactly what we do here at Rural Water, so I figured I would give it some thought and jot down some things I do and what assistance I can provide for you.

Here is what I came up with:

- **Leak Detection**
- **Line Locating**
- **Chlorination**
- **Hydrant Repair**
- **Hydrant Flow Testing**
- **Hydrant Flushing**
- **Well Drawdowns**
- **Treatment Process**
- **Sampling**
- **Onsite Training**
- **Pressure Regulation**
- **Record Keeping**
- **Respond to Emergencies**
- **All State Required Forms**
- **Repairs and Maintenance Assistance**
- **Water Line Installation Assistance**
- **Line Freezing**
- **Valve Exercising**
- **Troubleshooting**
- **And this is just to name a few!**

We are funded by USDA Rural Development, and are required to make 30 onsite visits per month—so please don’t ever think you are inconveniencing me by asking for assistance. Oh, and did I forget to mention, our services are FREE of charge, other than the valve turning machine which has a small fee for maintenance and upkeep.

I will be more than happy to come out and spend some time with you all, share some of my knowledge, and provide whatever assistance I can. So please give me a call at (402) 672-9084.

Water & Waste Water Solutions

Gurney

Relationships • Technology • Service

Chris Johnson
Lee Dunn
Matt Moul

Location:
4428 South 108th Street
Omaha, NE 68137

(402) 551-7995
(402) 553-5879 Fax

2022 Scholarship Winners

This year we were able to award four scholarships instead of our regular two. This was due to the generosity of Hawkins Inc. for their donation of two more. Not only would we like to thank them, but I think the two additional recipients are thankful, also.



The scholarship winners for the 2022-2023 school year are:

(1) Haley Schroedl – Ainsworth High School

Haley is the daughter of Lisa Schroedl, city administrator/ clerk from the city of Ainsworth.

(2) Gavin Pokorny – Wahoo Public High School

Gavin is the son of Melissa Sabatka, clerk/treasurer from the village of Weston.

(3) Hadeley Dowty – Fremont Senior High School

Hadeley is the daughter of John Dowty, water/sewer operator from the city of Fremont.

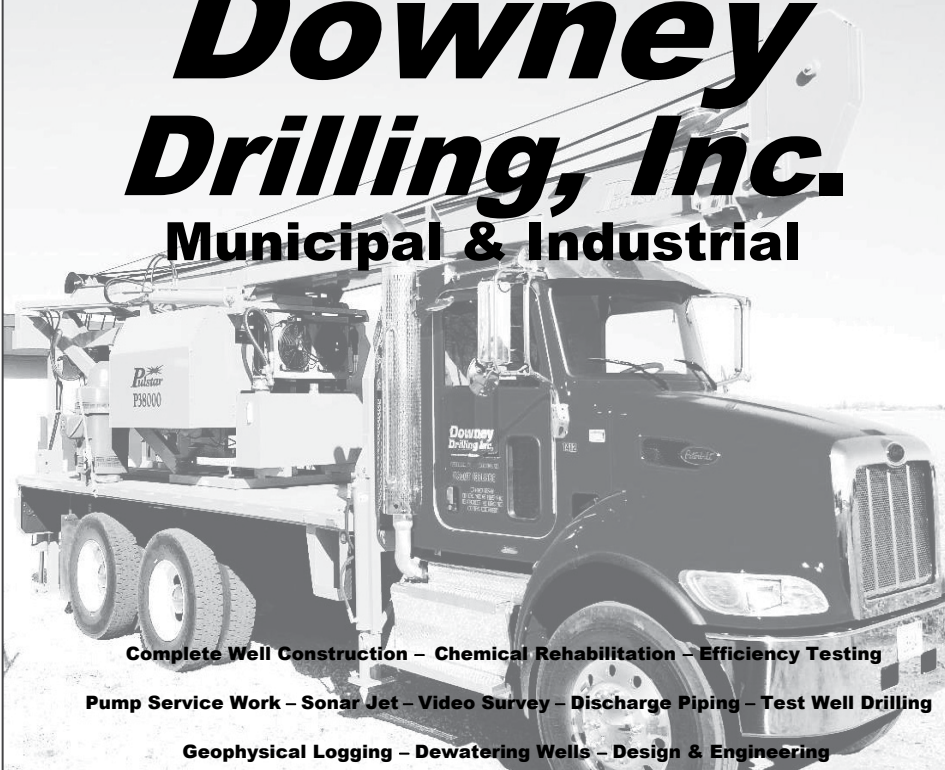
(4) Atlee Hansmeyer – Norris High School

Atlee is the daughter of David Hansmeyer, utilities superintendent from the village of Firth.

Congratulations!

Downey Drilling, Inc.

Municipal & Industrial



Complete Well Construction – Chemical Rehabilitation – Efficiency Testing

Pump Service Work – Sonar Jet – Video Survey – Discharge Piping – Test Well Drilling

Geophysical Logging – Dewatering Wells – Design & Engineering

Lexington (Corporate Office)
75471 Road 435
PO Box 278
Lexington, NE 68850
308-324-2303

877-WELL-H2O

www.downeydrilling.com

Adam Messenger
Municipal/Industrial Manager
308-730-1267

Dan Freese
Salesman
308-325-6755



Mother Nature

By Adam German, Wastewater Technician

Mother Nature likes to bring out the green paint brush in the month of April, normally she'll even give us a few spring showers. She's been slacking as of late; things have been extremely dry leaving most of us in drought conditions. As of the creation of this article, several grass fires were active including a major one in southwest Nebraska. I would like to send my thoughts and prayers to the firefighters and communities battling these fires. The village of Elwood has tragically lost a fire chief in a motor vehicle accident. The Phelps County Emergency Manager also suffered life threatening injuries in the same crash that occurred on a highway with zero visibility due to the smoke. This hit close to home for all of us as many of Nebraska's operators are also volunteers for their local fire departments. I am very


hopeful, as I'm sure you are as well, that the spring showers arrive quickly, and somebody shuts off this wind.


With the lack of snow and ice and warmer temps right around the corner; lakes, ponds, and you guessed it...lagoons...will be 'turning over.' This phenomenon may be coming to your area earlier than expected. As an operator, what can you do to help stop the stink? Is the turnover inevitable or can something be done to stop this altogether? Let's do a little digging and find out...

What actually causes that foul odor emitting from your lagoon this time of year? An unmixed wastewater lagoon will settle into layers, with denser, cooler water at the bottom and lighter, warmer water at the top. This is known as thermal stratification. In spring and fall, the change in ambient temperatures causes the layers to mix and eventually create a uniform temperature. As they begin to destratify and mix, the settled solids become resuspended, and the odorous gases trapped at the bottom are released to the surface. In a healthy, functional lagoon, this process should take about a week. In a well-aerated and mixed lagoon, it won't happen at all.

Why does the lagoon have a little extra strength in the stench when spring arrives? Spring is usually the time of highest

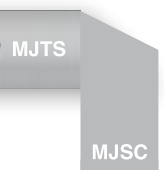
SIMPLY SEALS!






Rated to 305 psi


MJTS



MJSC



MJBE



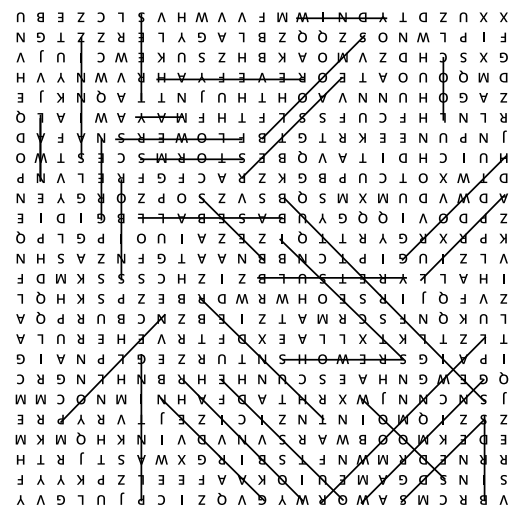
No field trimming required!

- Tapping Sleeves
- Couplings
- Bell Joint Encapsulators

260-563-3171
fordmeterbox.com

Fully encapsulated for the most challenging applications.

ANSWERS TO WORD PUZZLE FROM INSIDE BACK COVER.



BOD loads in a wastewater lagoon. You've got the BOD that's been stored over the winter, new influent BOD, and the BOD demands of the accumulated sludge at the bottom of the lagoon.

In the spring, increased sunlight warms the top layer of the lagoon, melting the surface ice and allowing sunlight to penetrate, creating convection currents. Gradually, with the sun's warmth and wind, the entire lagoon reaches a uniform temperature and circulation increases.

This increased circulation disturbs the accumulated sludge and solids that have been lurking at the bottom of the lagoon, a phenomenon known as lagoon turnover. The solids get pushed to the surface, releasing hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), the stinky gas that is generated by anaerobic digestion. The dislodging of the settled sludge and solids also results in benthal feedback or benthal release, which is when nutrients like nitrogen and inorganic materials like metals that have been trapped in the sludge get released back into the lagoon. Benthal feedback can cause ammonia levels in the lagoon to be higher than in the influent.

Once the temperature hits 50°F or so, bacterial action begins in earnest and starts to consume all the BOD that's been stored up over the winter. The problem is, aerobic BOD-eating bacteria need dissolved oxygen to work, and there just isn't enough. In the spring, a wastewater lagoon can need as much as triple the usual amount of DO—as much as 5–6 lbs. of O₂ per pound of influent BOD—to handle the increased load.

So, is there anything that can be done to help with the stink? People just got done wearing a mask, I'm betting folks may get a little grumpy if they have to walk around with clothes pins clamped on their little noses. Here are a few things you can try...

- **Increase circulation to prevent stratification:** By continually circulating the water, the lagoon layers will never be able to fully stratify. With both a homogeneous lagoon water temperature and environment, no spring lagoon turnover will occur.
- **Increase dissolved oxygen levels to combat low DO:** One of the easiest ways to do this is to add aeration to your lagoon. By maintaining an aerobic environment, you will limit the production of noxious H₂S gases.
- **Increase mixing to prevent sludge buildup on the bottom:** Proper lagoon mixing limits sludge accumulation by keeping it up into the water column where it can break down aerobically and odor-free.

All that sounds great, right? Unfortunately, most of our Nebraska systems really don't have the funds to go out and install fancy engineered aerator systems. Quite a few villages have installed windmills. They are relatively inexpensive and do provide results. If your lagoons are normally healthy and you just have an issue twice a year or so, you are most likely going to get by just fine. The 60 mph winds have been quite annoying, but the winds have definitely been keeping your lagoons moving. Be sure to keep the weeds down and remove any trees that may be blocking that wind from doing its job. You could always get creative. Maybe invite your senior citizens out to your lagoon and host a synchronized swimming class? That would surely keep things mixed up and moving. You may want to run that by your NDEE rep first, I have a feeling he/she may frown on that. If you have an idea that you are using or know of some other pointers feel free to share them with me; I will share those ideas with other operators.

Many of you attended the Spring conference. NeRWA's Pat Petersen knocked it out of the park again. What a well-run conference! Water and Wastewater classes are in full swing, things are getting busy. I hope by the time this article finds you, our first responders are home safe and sound. Stay safe out there.

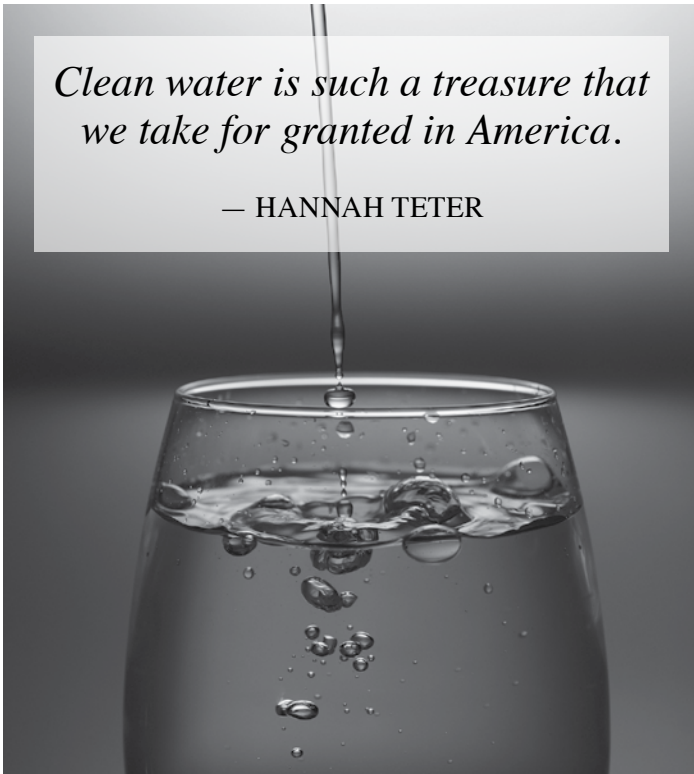


- Municipal Pipe Cleaning
- CCTV Pipe Inspection
- Foam Root Treatment
- Manhole Rehabilitation
- Trenchless Sewer Liners
- Point Repair Liners
- Pipe Bursting

Phone - (308) 237-6651
Fax - (308) 234-5390
PO Box 1065 Kearney, NE 68848
johnsonservicecompany.com

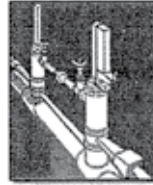
*Clean water is such a treasure that
we take for granted in America.*

— HANNAH TETER



REMINDER:
**THE OFFICE AND FIELD STAFF WILL BE
AT IN-SERVICE TRAINING OUT OF STATE FROM
MONDAY, JUNE 6, THROUGH FRIDAY, JUNE 10.**

MUNICIPAL PIPE SERVICES



- LINE STOPPING 3/4" - 60"
- LINE TAPPING 2" - 60"
- VALVE INSERTION 4' - 16"
- VALVE TURNING
- PIPE REPAIR

**FOR ALL YOUR POTABLE AND
WASTE WATER NEEDS**

Billy Laws
Sales Manager
1615 West J Street
Hastings, NE 68901

1-800-395-7473
Cell: 515-238-4693
Fax: 402-462-4408
Email: billylaws78@gmail.com
BILL@MUNICIPALPIPESERVICES.COM



WWW.MUNICIPALPIPESERVICES.COM



ADVANCED CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES

Civil Engineers • Surveyors

**133 W. Washington St. • P.O. Box 218
West Point, NE 68788
Phone: (402) 372-1923**



Wage Survey

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

NeRWA inserted a wage survey in the registration packets at our recent annual conference in Kearney. We strive to keep the data as anonymous as possible. There were 66 surveys returned and the following is a breakdown of the results according to water system population. We will do the same procedure at our western conference in Gering this fall and combine the results to get a better geographic picture of the entire State.

Our last survey was conducted in 2017 and it is good to see that wages in the water/wastewater industry have risen slightly since then.

0-400 population the average hourly rate has risen from \$18.44/hr. to \$19.87/hr.

400-600 population average has gone from \$20.42/hr. to \$21.86/hr.

600-800 population average has gone from \$20.74/hr. to \$22.33/hr.

800-1000 population average has gone from \$20.65/hr. to \$22.88/hr.

1000-2000 population average has gone from \$20.25/hr. to \$25.06/hr.

2000+ population average has gone from \$25.64/hr. to \$26.05/hr.

The following are the results showing age, years of service and wages.

Wage Survey 0-400 pop.		17 surveys (3 part-time, 14 full time)					
	AGE	YRS SVC	HOURLY WAGE	NO BENEFITS	BENEFITS	GRADE 4	GRADE 3
High	72	47	\$28.75	7	10	14	3
Low	59	1	\$14.38				
AVG	68	9	\$19.87				

Wage Survey 400-600 pop.		11 surveys (1 part-time, 10 full-time)					
	AGE	YRS SVC	HOURLY WAGE	NO BENEFITS	BENEFITS	GRADE 4	GRADE 3
High	65	39	\$29.37	1	10	11	0
Low	33	4	\$13.12				
AVG	55	18	\$22.33				

Wage Survey 600-800 pop.		7 surveys (7 full-time)					
	AGE	YRS SVC	HOURLY WAGE	NO BENEFITS	BENEFITS	GRADE 4	GRADE 3
High	63	28	\$26.00	0	7	7	0
Low	33	9	\$19.00				
AVG	50	15	\$21.86				

Wage Survey 800-1000 pop.		5 surveys (5 full-time)						
	AGE	YRS SVC	HOURLY WAGE	NO BENEFITS	BENEFITS	GRADE 4	GRADE 3	GRADE 2
High	53	28	\$27.50	0	5	2	2	1
Low	33	9	\$19.19					
AVG	50	15	\$22.88					

Wage Survey 1000-2000 pop.		11 surveys (11 full-time)						
	AGE	YRS SVC	HOURLY WAGE	NO BENEFITS	BENEFITS	GRADE 4	GRADE 3	GRADE 2
High	68	39	\$33.15	0	11	8	3	0
Low	31	1	\$17.48					
AVG	51	20	\$25.06					

Wage Survey 2000+ pop.		15 surveys (15 full-time)							
	AGE	YRS SVC	HOURLY WAGE	NO BENEFITS	BENEFITS	GRADE 4	GRADE 3	GRADE 2	GRADE 1
High	66	47	\$33.15	0	15	4	4	6	1
Low	31	1	\$17.48						
AVG	51	21	\$25.64						



Having A Drought Plan

By Scott Finke, Circuit Rider

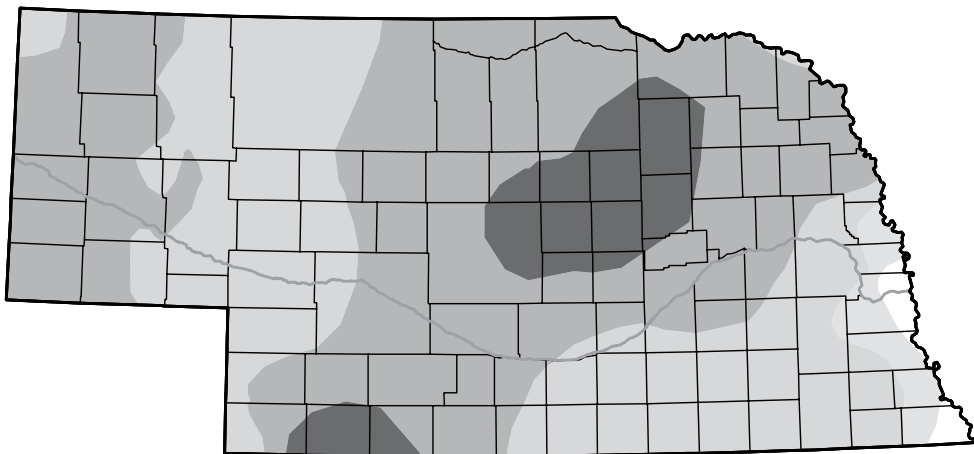
First, we have to give a shout out to Pat Peterson for putting on a great spring conference, for all the vendors, the great food that was served and the entertainment, I think we all had a great time. Now to the Drought at hand. Does your town have a plan in place if the drought happens to get worse?

WHAT IS DROUGHT?

A drought is characterized by a lack of precipitation—such as rain, snow, or sleet—for a protracted period, resulting in a water shortage. While droughts occur naturally, human activity, such as water use and management, can exacerbate dry conditions. What is considered a drought varies from region to region and is based largely on an area’s specific weather patterns.

Below is a map of Nebraska showing the drought as of April 12, 2022. I know it is hard to see because of being in black and white but you can go to the internet and look up Drought Monitor Nebraska, and then go to U.S. Drought Monitor – University of Nebraska and then you can see it in color.

April 12, 2022
(Released Thursday, Apr. 14, 2022)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

As you can see, we have some extreme drought in fifteen counties in central Nebraska, and three counties in south-central Nebraska. The whole state is in some sort of drought except the southeast corner of Nebraska and a small area in eastern Nebraska along the Missouri River. If we do not get moderate rain soon this is only going to get worse. The weather pattern seems to be to the south and southeast of Nebraska where they are getting the rains and storms. Many of you probably have a plan in place but if you don’t, it would probably be a good idea to get your drought plan in place and have your board approve a plan before it gets any worse. An effective way to monitor your wells is to do static levels and drawdown levels on your wells at least once a month or more. Once irrigation season starts, and we do not get any moisture, your water levels are going to go down. If you are in need of any assistance, please give us a call at 402-443-5216.



Witching Locates

By Charles Buckley, Wastewater Technician

As an operator I worked in a town that had plastic and clay tile utilities with no tracer wire. So, I had to develop the knack for Witching, otherwise known as Dowsing, Divining and Doodlebugging. This practice goes back to the pioneer days when they were looking for the best place to dig a well. They would use a forked branch or a pair of bent rods to find the water source. The homesteader would walk their ground with the witching stick to find the area where the stick pointed heaviest to the earth. That was usually the best place to dig a well.

The act of witching by some is seen as demonic and the devil's way to lure people into his kingdom to gain access into their lives. They say this is because not everyone can do it and only people with supernatural powers have the ability. Maybe that's how it got the name. People also use witching to find graves. Some even believe you can tell the sex of the person buried. I'm told that if you balance the rod on the tip of your index finger over a grave it will start to turn clockwise for a female and counter clockwise for a male. I'd say try this at home but hopefully no one has a grave in their yard except maybe a multigeneration rancher, farmer, or serial killer.

Okay back to locating. You can make your own witching rods by taking locating flags or 18-inch metal rods and bending them at about six inches for a handle at 90 degrees. You can order a fail proof one from BlueBook for less than \$40 if you don't have supernatural powers or the knack. Now you're ready to start witching. Simply walk over the utility and if your rods cross you are over a utility. Well, that might be fine but you also have to figure out if it's your utility or someone else's. I would usually wait until the others had finished their locate. So good mapping and understanding what other utilities are in the area helps a lot. I have also found that mind over matter can play a role. If you think your utility is at a certain location it can affect the witching. I was sure a waterline was in a specific area and the rods crossed but it was not, so keeping an open mind when witching. I personally use only one rod at a time and have found that if I go from one side and flag it then the opposite and flag it, I can determine the size of the utility by measuring the

difference. I believe this is due to the electric field flowing around the utility. I also have heard that the rod will point in the direction of the flow, such as if it points to the house its water and away its sewer. Another trick I have found to work is that if your rod is parallel above a utility, you can stomp your foot to determine the depth. You just stomp your foot until the rod goes back and forth or gets squirrely, and the number of stomps determine the depth measured in a foot per stomp. With this being said it is not 100% accurate but is another useful tool to locate utilities.

Disclaimer: I am not responsible for bad locates, poking yourself in the eye, summoning the devil or evil spirits.





Contaminants and Trends

By David Schroeter, Source Water Specialist

I recently sat in on a 2-day nitrate workshop focusing on nitrates in drinking water sponsored by the EPA. It was in a webinar format with presenters from all over the country and from a variety of institutions and agencies. The end of each day was an interactive “round table” that offered a great chance for everyone attending an opportunity to get involved in the conversation. One of the repeated phrases of the seminar included the words “trends and trending.” When it comes to nitrates, it is becoming more of an issue



across the United States. Many states and communities are experiencing higher and higher numbers in the sample rates of nitrates. This trend is a concern to many of the agencies involved and the local water operators who are taking the samples.

What can be done? For now, there are ways to blend water from multiple wells or even drill a new well to lower the nitrate levels, or possibly a reverse osmosis system, all of which are costly. Another avenue is to look at “Best Management Practices.” These include cover crops, managing the reduction of Fall application of fertilizers, reducing the rate of fertilizers by using a crop consultant, and the use of buffer strips. A new trend at some of the bigger farm cooperatives and chemical applicator companies around the country is a “conservation agronomist” who recommends a more precise rate of fertilizer to reduce residual unused nitrogen left to carry over in the soil. These practices take place in your wellhead protection area in and around your wellhouse(s). Maybe look at that feedlot nearby that has grown over the years and consider it may be influencing the groundwater. Some of the agencies local farmers work with, such as the NRD and NRCS, may have funding available to apply towards some of these practices that we are asking them to consider thereby helping to reduce their input costs towards lowering nitrates in the drinking water. Other ways to reduce nitrates in drinking water include avoiding over-fertilizing lawns, avoiding over-watering, using cover crops, decommissioning old wells, and maintaining any septic systems.

As water operators, we sample the water we are delivering for a variety of contaminants on a regular basis. Some towns and villages in Nebraska sample for up to 160 different potential contaminants, including nitrates. Of course, this sampling does not occur all at once or in one year; but it is in a rotation and when the results come back are they reviewed by the operator? Are trends noticed? Or do the results just get stuck in a file? It is possible to lower the nitrate numbers, but it is going to be a monumental task. If we can watch the “trends” and start implementing better practices today, it will hopefully pay off in the future.

Sargent Drilling Co.

- **Test Well Drilling**
- **Water Well Design and Construction**
- **Complete Pump Machining Facility**
- **Pump Repair**
- **Loaner Motor Service**
- **Pump Test Labs**
- **Video Surveying**
- **Acidizing and Chemical Treatment**
- **Sonar Jetting**

Complete Municipal Water Well and Pump Service in Nebraska, Wyoming, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, & South Dakota

24 Hour Emergency Service

MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL DIVISION

<p>Broken Bow Office PO Box 627, 263 South 23rd Broken Bow, NE 68822</p> <p>Gary McCracken, Branch Manager Shad Yarrington, Salesman</p> <p>Office: (308) 872-5125 After Hours: (308) 870-0138</p>	<p>Geneva Office PO Box 367, 846 South 13th Geneva, NE 68361</p> <p>Doug Yantzie, Municipal Manager</p> <p>Office: (888) 496-3902 After Hours: (402) 759-2929</p>
---	--

FALL CONFERENCE TIME

It is time to be thinking about heading west to Gering for the NeRWA's Fall Conference. The conference will be held September 13-15 at the Gering Civic Center. It will once again mix fun and relaxation with a chance to learn new things and gather much needed CEUs to renew your operator licenses. And the construction work that was going on last year is done. I saw some pictures and it looks awesome.

There will be a pre-conference on Tuesday. Following the pre-conference is the golf tournament at the Riverview Golf and Country Club. This is set to begin at 2:30 and conclude around 6 P.M. This year the regular sessions will start Wednesday morning. A social hour, banquet and operator award presentation will complete Wednesday. Thursday will consist of morning sessions and conclude at noon.

More detailed information will be in the next issue of the magazine and also in a special conference mailing. We also send this information out by email. If you aren't getting our emails and would like to, send your email to salli@nerwa.org. If you have never attended the fall conference and you have the resources to do so, please try to make it to Gering. It is a mix of fun and learning. We hope to see you out west! *Please see page 3 for updated information!*



10707 S. 149th Street
Omaha, Nebraska

"Local Service, Nationwide"

Sensus Meters & AMR Equipment
Smith-Blair Clamps & Couplings
Ford Meter Box Company
Watts/Febcu Backflow Devices
Tyler Fittings & Valve Boxes
US Pipe Ductile Iron Pipe
AY McDonald Curb Boxes
Uni-Flange Adapter Flanges
Megalug Mechanical Joint Restraint
Star Pipe Products
McElroy Equipment Rental

American Flow Control Valves & Hydrants
JM Eagle PVC Pipe
PVC Round Meter Boxes
Hymax Couplings & EZ-Max Repair Clamps
Contech Construction Products
Cherne Testing Equipment
Live Tapping Services
Northern Pipe Products
Waterous Valves & Hydrants
ADS HDPE Corrugated Pipe
GPK Products

Phone (800) 247-6811

FAX (402) 896-6379

March 2022
Water Quality Action Specialist
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Nebraska Rural Water Association will be accepting applications for the new Water Quality Action Specialist Program.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Facilitate training sessions, provide on-site technical assistance to rural and small municipal wastewater systems, and manage program administrative affairs.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Position requires travel throughout state.
2. Provide classroom training sessions for small and rural wastewater systems across the state.
3. Provide the type of assistance that offers “training” rather than “fixing.”
4. Attend NRWA in-service training programs for the purpose of developing and maintaining an updated knowledge of new regulations and technology in the wastewater field.
5. Reads and distributes new technical standards set and proposed by public and private organizations.
6. Develop informational articles for distribution and circulation.
7. Responds to inquiries from facilities, consumers, governmental agencies, and others regarding technical matters.
8. Perform on-site technical assistance and training obligations as outlined in the NRWA/State affiliate sub award agreement.
9. Maintain a working relationship with state and federal agencies.
10. Completes and submits the required reporting as scheduled.

The State Association Board of Directors will determine to whom the Water Specialist reports. The Specialist works closely with all State Association personnel.

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

1. Multi-year employment in working or operating, maintaining, or managing a rural/community wastewater system.
2. Excellent organizational and communication skills.
3. Ability to promote services to systems and conduct training classes.
4. Willingness to travel extensively.
5. Knowledge of computers, including Microsoft Office.
6. Must possess at least a Grade 1 WW license.
7. Concurrence from the NRWA before employment.
8. GIS and mapping experience a plus.

Send resume and letter of intent to:

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive, Wahoo, NE 68066

Email: salli@nerwa.org

For further information call – 1-800-842-8039 – Fax 1-402-443-5274

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS WHEN FILLED
EEO



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 any certification or continuing education classes scheduled in 2022. However, we did have a class in Stanton in April. We would like to have a few throughout the year across the state. We will send out notices when one is scheduled. They will also be posted on our website.

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.



NEW WEB PAGE

As most of you probably know by now, we have a new website. It is still a work in progress, so be patient. If you are having issues finding everything, call our office and we will walk you through it. It still has the same information, just in a different format.

Nebraska Good Water News

Nebraska Rural Water Association - 3390 Ponderosa Drive - Wahoo, NE 68066

NeRWA Contact Information:

Nebraska Rural Water Association
 3390 Ponderosa Street
 Wahoo, NE 68066

Office phone numbers: (800) 849-8039
 (402) 443-5216
 Fax: (402) 443-5274
 Website: www.nerwa.org
 Email: office@nerwa.org



	<u>Cell #</u>
Charles Buckley	(402) 277-6632
Scott Finke	(402) 607-2249
Adam German	(402) 443-6157
Randy Hellbusch	(402) 443-8535
Pat Petersen	(402) 277-6699
David Shroeter	(402) 607-9082
Mike Stanzel	(402) 672-9084
Amy Kemerling	
Salli Kemerling	
Samantha Rodgers	

<u>Email</u>
buckley@nerwa.org
scott@nerwa.org
adam@nerwa.org
randy@nerwa.org
pat@nerwa.org
david@nerwa.org
mike@nerwa.org
amy@nerwa.org
salli@nerwa.org
sam@nerwa.org



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

Find the word in the puzzle.

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|----------|
| APRIL | BASEBALL | BEES |
| BIRDS | BLOOMS | BLUSTERY |
| BUTTERFLIES | COOL | EASTER |
| FLOWERS | GARDEN | GREEN |
| GROWTH | HAYFEVER | INSECTS |
| LAWN | LAWN MOWER | MAY |
| OUTSIDE | PLANTING | POLLEN |
| RAINBOW | ROBINS | SEEDS |
| SHOWERS | STORMS | THUNDER |
| TREES | WARMING | WINDY |
| WOODS | ZINNIA | |

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

RICK PENNER
 FIELD REPRESENTATIVE
 (316) 651-6164
 RICK@VIPTANKS.COM

JEO CONSULTING GROUP

Services

- Rate Studies & Flow Analysis
- System Mapping
- Booster Stations
- Rural Water Districts
- Storage
- Wells & Transmission Mains
- Distribution Mains
- Water Treatment

jeo.com
Engineering | Architecture | Surveying | Planning

Wahoo, Nebraska
Water Tower



Nebraska Rural Water Association

3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MAIL U.S.A.

THE FLOW CONTROL SOLUTIONS PROVIDER

Serving

Nebraska ▪ Iowa ▪ Missouri ▪ Kansas

✓ **EXPERIENCE**
Since 1962!



✓ **EQUIPMENT**
Best in class!

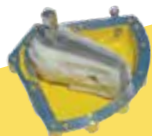


✓ **EXPERTISE**
Design & full service!

MA
Mellen & Associates Inc.

www.melleninc.com

IA & NE Office: 712-322-9333
MO & KS Office: 816-836-0202



CUSTOM CHEMICAL FEED SKIDS

Our expertise in building chemical feed skids offers you:



Reliability & Safety *built according to your specifications!*



Locally Built *right here in the Midwest!*



Service & Maintenance *by expert field technicians!*



Pre-Wired & Fully Tested *ready to increase productivity and reduce chemical cost!*

**CONTACT US TODAY TO DESIGN
YOUR CUSTOM SOLUTION!**

515.233.8599 • VESSCO.COM

