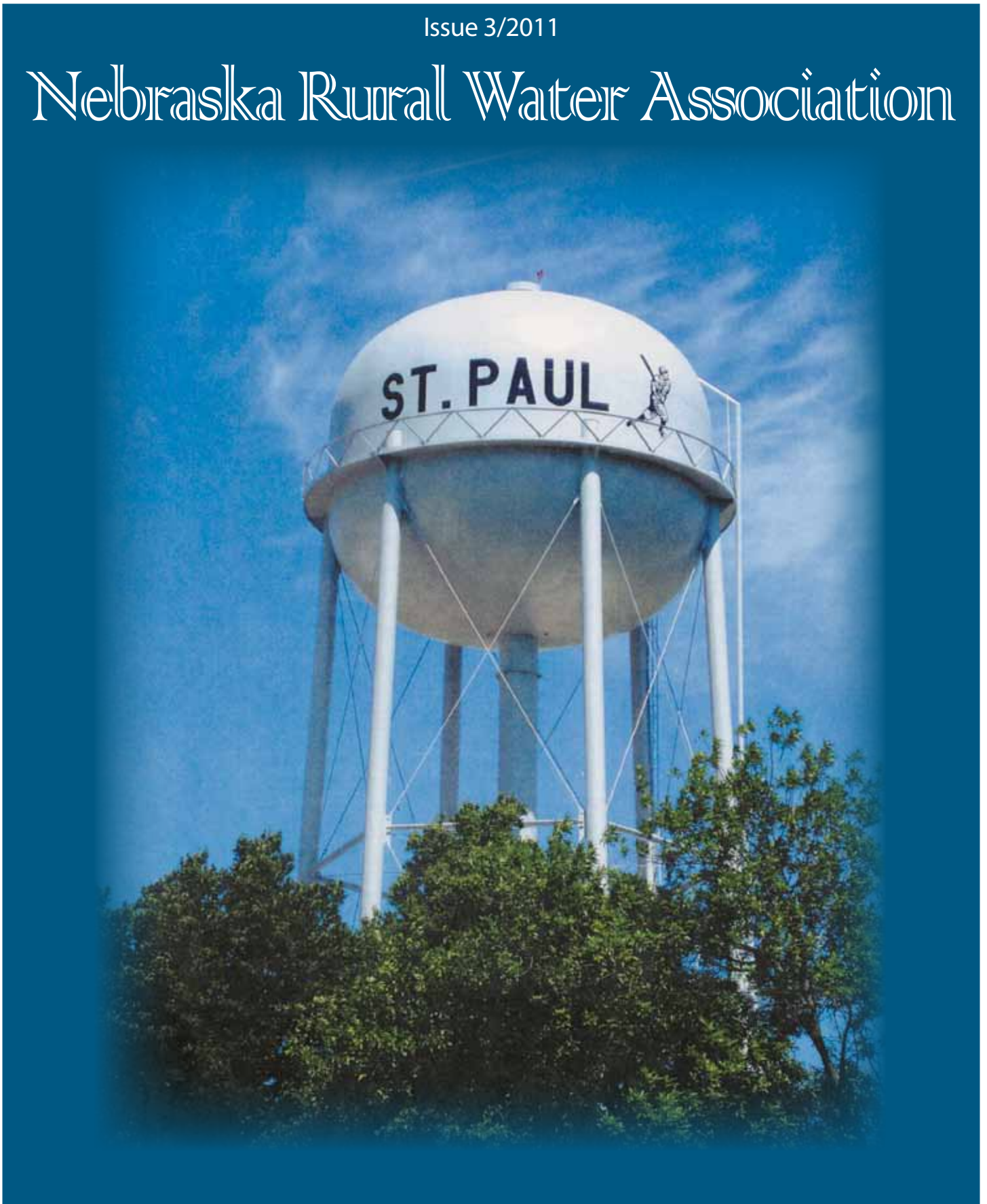


Issue 3/2011

Nebraska Rural Water Association



NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS

Why Aquastore® Tanks?

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THINK TANK

Nebraska Good Water News

Issue 3/2011

“Keeping Our Water Safe”

Board of Directors

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Charles Bausch, Training Specialist

Website: www.nerwa.org

On the cover:

The city of St. Paul water tower was constructed in 1959 with the capacity of 250,000 gallons. It was refurbished in the spring of 2009 by Maguire Iron with an approximate cost of \$244,000.00. A baseball player was added which depicts St. Paul as the Historic Baseball Capital of Nebraska. Each year the city of St. Paul celebrates Grover Cleveland Alexander Days the 2nd weekend in July.

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

“Nebraska Good Water News” is a quarterly publication of the NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION, 3390 Ponderosa, Wahoo, Nebraska 68066. Phone 1-800-842-8039 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.

How'd We Do and Letters From...



Naomi Grupe
Mayor

Julie A. Buescher
City Clerk

THE CITY OF DESHLER

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

May 10, 2011

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find enclosed a \$200 Donation for your assistance with locating a water leak and performing a leak assessment in our City. Your service is irreplaceable and your employees are very knowledgeable. We certainly appreciate everything you do for us.

Thanks again for all you do.

Sincerely,

Julie A Buescher
City Clerk/Treasurer

Village of Coleridge

P O Box 276

111 South Main

Coleridge NE 68727

Phone 402-283-4464
Fax 402-283-4063

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo NE 68066

May 10, 2011

NE Rural Water Personnel & Mike:

Village of Coleridge Board Members would like to Thank You for the assistance of checking for water leaks in our systems. Enclosed check for \$ 100.00 is the Village donation to Nebraska Rural Water Association. Your help was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Coleridge Village Board of Trustees

Nebraska Rural Water Assoc.

Thank you very much for the scholarship. It will help out a lot and will be very useful. Thank you

City of Ogallala

411 East 2nd Street
Ogallala, NE 69153
Phone 308-284-6001
City Fax 308-284-6565



May 11, 2011

Nebraska Rural Water Assn.
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA,

The City of Ogallala would like to thank Randy for doing a water rate study for us. He also was able to attend a City board meeting to explain the results of the study.

I would like to thank all your staff for the prompt and courteous service they provide.

Please use the enclosed check for your equipment fund. Once again thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

John Sauer
Water Superintendent

June 10, 2011

Leak Detection

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

Dear Rural Water Staff,

I would like to thank Mike Stanzel and Russ Topp for their assistance again. We have been plagued with water loss and the leak would not surface. With the equipment and expertise that the Rural Water Staff offers we pinpointed a source and think we have solved the problem. This leak had followed the pipe to a creek crossing and was over the bank and nearly in the flow of the creek and impossible to detect visually. We are inclosing a check and hope this will help with future equipment purchases. Thanks so much again for your help..

Sincerely,


David Houghtelling
Utility Supervisor

Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association,
Thank you so very much for selecting me as the recipient of your Scholarship. I cannot thank you enough for your kindness. This scholarship will help me greatly in paying for my education. Once again, thank you so much.

Sincerely,
Shannon King

nebraska
cambridge
Life is good!

City of Cambridge
PO Box Q
722 Patterson Street
Cambridge, NE 69022
voice: (308) 697-3711
fax: (308) 697-3253
e-mail: kkinne@swnebr.net

Mark Harpst, Mayor
Council Members
Dee Bantam
Gary Benson
Derek Raburn
Jo Fuller
JP Trumble
Clint Wickizer
David Houghtelling,
Utility Supervisor
Kandra Kinne,
City Clerk/Treasurer

Village of Pleasanton

202 North Sycamore Street

PO Box 121

Pleasanton, NE 68866

pleasantonvillage@rcom-ne.com

Phone: (308) 388-2241

Fax: (308) 388-3041

May 16, 2011

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association,

The Village of Pleasanton would like to thank all your staff for coming to Pleasanton to help us in the past few years with the water meter project. Please accept this donation on behalf of the Village of Pleasanton for your valuable services.

Thank you again for your time and dedication.

Sincerely,



Angie Kucera
Village Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Pleasanton



CITY OF PONCA

PO Box 465
Ponca, Nebraska 68770

402-755-4165
Fax 402-755-2618

www.ci.ponca.ne.us

Nebraska Rural Water -
Thanks for your help
recently locating a water
main in Morse Bluff.

Enclosed is a check for
your equipment fund.

Joe Zeleny + Morse
Bluff Board of Trustees
Kathy Mensik
Village Clerk

May 5, 2011

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA,

Thank you to Jim Heyen for your assistance in locating sewer lines in our Schram Addition. We appreciate all the services you provide to us.

Please accept our enclosed donation.

Sincerely



Denise L. Peterson
City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer

...ever so much!
Thank you for your help in finding the leak. We really
appreciate it.
City of Pawnee City

2011 TRAINING

<u>Backflow Continuing Education Training</u>	<u>Wastewater Training</u>	<u>Water Operator Training</u>
September 21 Falls City	August 31 Sidney/NDEQ	August 16 Spencer
September 22 York	September 1 Chadron/NDEQ	August 17 Wakefield
September 27 Ord	October 19 Wahoo	October 25 Lyons
October 20 South Sioux City	October 20 Wymore	October 26 Giltner
November 10 Wayne	October 27 Lincoln/NDEQ	December 13 Imperial
November 16 North Platte	November 17 Creighton/NDEQ	December 14 Red Cloud
November 22 Wahoo	December 13 Wahoo	December 22 Wahoo
December 13 Mitchell		
December 14 Imperial		
December 15 Cambridge		
December 20 Wahoo		

Nebraska Rural Water Association
 3390 Ponderosa
 Wahoo, NE 68066
www.nerwa.org

<u>Grade 6 Backflow Prevention Cross-Connection Control Course - 5 Day</u>	
October 24-28	Wahoo

<u>Wastewater Certification Course</u>	
August 23-26	Wahoo
November 7-10	Wahoo

Western Conference Sept. 13-15
 Gering Civic Center
 Gering, Nebraska

September 21	Trenching & Shoring	Wahoo
September 22	Confined Space Entry	Wahoo



Any Leak is a Bad Leak

By Mike Stanzel, Deputy Circuit Rider

These past several months we have been quite busy doing leak detection surveys for numerous water systems ranging in size from 1800 people to small mobile parks and schools to nursing homes. Although we have the latest technology in our leak detection equipment, there are some leaks that we just can't pinpoint, especially on plastic mains and service lines as the sound velocity just doesn't travel well on plastic.

We can perform a leak survey on almost any water system as long as we have points to listen on. However systems that have meters and can track water loss according to their amount of water pumped as compared to the amount of water sold give us an idea if we're looking for a small or large leak.

Some of the places we have found leaks are not always on mains and service lines. Some of the "stranger" places we have found leaks have been on brand new fire hydrants, as well as, old fire hydrants. We have found some that were not completely shut off, and others we found to have a bad seal and water was spraying out the weep holes. We also have found leaks on yard hydrants in the city park as well as the cemetery. We even found leaking toilets in the rest rooms at the park. One of the largest leaks was located on the city golf course property on a main that was run beneath a creek. This particular leak after repairing, accounted for 25% of the town's water loss.



Although a lot of these leaks seem small, they can add up to a lot of lost water and revenue in a month's time. Here is something to think about. If you have a leak that is leaking at 1 gallon per minute, you're losing 1440 gallons per day, 10,000 gallons per week, and 524,000 gallons per year. And that's just a trickle of water. Also, think about how much money is wasted on electrical cost and treatment cost alone if you have a treatment plant.

If you do not have water meters, you can still track your water loss by researching past years pumping logs or well run times. If your numbers seem high, you might want to give us a call and we would be happy to come out and survey your water system.



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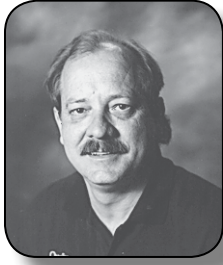
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Please see the website at www.epi-environmental.com



Reviewing Water Rates

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

Russ, Jim, and I recently attended our annual in-service training in Albuquerque N.M. We didn't realize it at the time, but it was our early indoctrination into the 100 degree temps that we have recently had to endure back here in Nebraska. We attended sessions on Water/Wastewater project planning, Leak Detection & Water Audits, Energy Conservation among others.

I almost always grab the local paper in the morning when we are away from home. The first morning I picked up the local Albuquerque paper, the front page headline was **WATER RATES TO INCREASE**. This of course grabbed my attention. The reason given for the rate increase was the recent decrease in the amount of gallons sold. I have encountered this in several systems over the past year or two and basically blamed it on the weather pattern.

Then recently, in an online newsletter that I receive, there was an article about the declining residential water usage patterns nationwide. A study by the Water Research Foundation concluded that from 1978 to 2008 the average household use has declined 13%. They cite several possible factors including energy efficient appliances, smaller numbers per household, weather patterns, etc. Water conservation can be a very important and valuable tool especially in metropolitan areas where water quantity is limited. The downside is that many small utilities have **fixed costs** that have

to be met regardless of the amount of water sold, i.e., debt service, insurance, administration, etc. Many of these costs continue to increase year to year.

If your system hasn't taken a close look at your rates recently, you may want to check to see that your water revenue isn't actually declining. It may not necessarily mean that you need a rate increase, but you may need to restructure your rates accordingly to make sure the revenue is sufficient to cover all costs today and into the future. If NeRWA can assist you with your rates or any other aspect of your water or wastewater system give us a call.

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Nebraska Rural Water Association

EARLY REGISTRATION

Western Nebraska Fall Pre-Conference and Conference

September 13—15, 2011

Gering Civic Center

1050 "M" Street

Gering, Nebraska

One name per form. Make sure to indicate all your licenses to insure proper credit hours:

Name _____

Certificate numbers must be included: Water # _____ Grade 6# _____ WW # _____

System/Company Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

DAYS ATTENDING	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
PRECONFERENCE—Sept 13— NO REGISTRATIONS AFTER AUGUST 26	___ \$35.00	___ \$50.00
FULL CONFERENCE WITH PRECONFERENCE	___ \$125.00	___ \$150.00
FULL CONFERENCE (includes all meal tickets)	___ \$100.00	___ \$125.00
WEDNESDAY ONLY—includes Banquet	___ \$60.00	___ \$85.00
THURSDAY ONLY—includes breakfast buffet and lunch	___ \$60.00	___ \$85.00
GUEST BANQUET TICKETS— \$15 x _____	TOTAL \$ _____	TOTAL \$ _____
GUEST LUNCH TICKETS—\$10 x _____	TOTAL \$ _____	TOTAL \$ _____
GOLF TOURNAMENT ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON	___ YES	___ YES
TRAP SHOOT ON WEDNESDAY MORNING	___ YES	___ YES

Meals are included with the conference registration. Tickets are available for guests. The Civic Center needs a count prior to the conference. PLEASE INDICATE WHICH MEALS YOU WILL BE STAYING FOR:

___ Wed night ___ Thurs lunch

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS AUG 26.
AFTER THIS DATE, YOU WILL HAVE TO
REGISTER AT THE CONFERENCE.
FEE AFTER THIS DATE INCREASES \$50.**

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

If you are not a NeRWA member, payment must accompany registration form. No credit hours will be submitted to the DHHS until payment is received.

PO # if applicable _____

BILL ME _____

CHECK ENCLOSED # _____

To Register:
 Call: 800-842-8039 or 402-443-5216
 Fax: 402-443-5274
 Online: nerwa.org

 Mail: Nebraska Rural Water Association
 3390 Ponderosa Street
 Wahoo, NE 68066

When making room reservations,
mention you are with NeRWA
 Monument Inn, 1130 "M" Street
308-436-1950

DATE REGISTRATION RECEIVED: _____

For NeRWA office use only:

Hours: Water _____ BF _____ Wastewater _____

Payment received _____

Check # _____

Certificate mailed _____



Tent for Sale

By Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist

Last winter, I wrote an article describing the camping experiences (and recent lack thereof) of my wife and I. This year we decided that we were going to go camping no matter what and decided in April that we would take a week in June and go visit our son and daughter-in-law who live in Pierre, South Dakota. Barb called Mike and asked him to check out campgrounds in the area so we could come visit them without inconveniencing them too much. Mike advised that there were two or three campgrounds on Oahe Lake right there by Pierre. We both scheduled our vacation times at work and were looking forward to a relaxing week camping out and enjoying nature.

Two weeks before our vacation was to start, we were informed that the campgrounds near Pierre had been closed due to the high water levels in the lake and the flooding and potential flooding just downstream of the dam. We were advised that there were some open campgrounds not too far away that we could probably find space in. We went online and looked at the two campgrounds that were mentioned, and one of them did not seem to have any shade near it at all, so we opted for the other one. This campground only had spaces with electricity, so we went ahead and reserved a camping space for five nights, with the plan on moving down to Kearney for a couple of nights of camping with another son at the end of the week.

When we arrived at our camp site on Sunday night, we discovered that “not too far” is South Dakota language for 40 miles. We quickly set up our camp as rain was threatening, and then we went to Pierre and ate lunch with the kids. By the time we returned to camp, it was getting dark and sprinkling. We had set up our tent and also a 10 x 10 first-up tent which has screen and solid walls on it. We also brought a dorm room sized refrigerator, which turned out to be a great decision. We hunkered down in the rain and shivered through the first night of camping.

The second day started out pretty nice. It was around 50 degrees out, the wind was around 20 mph, but it was not raining. We were able to enjoy a little bit of nature, but only what we could see when we peeked out of the flap of the first-up tent. That night, it rained 5 inches and the wind was blowing around 25 to 30 mph all night. The first-up tent had about two inches of standing water in it and the wind was blowing the rain in between the top and the side wall. Did I mention that our campsite was about 200 yards from the nearest restroom? All in all, it was a miserable night. The third day was a little warmer and it stopped raining, and we were able to walk around the campground and enjoy looking at the lake. Most of our supplies had gotten wet, so we made a quick trip to Wal-Mart to pick up some totes to replace our cardboard boxes. The kids came out and we cooked brats on the grill for supper. Because of the wind and the temperature that evening, we were confined to the first-up tent and it was dark. It turns out it is hard to tell if a brat is fully cooked in the dark. After the second go around on the grill, they seemed to be okay. My daughter-in-law was wearing a hoodie and gloves and was still freezing. Another lovely evening.

Wednesday was a nicer day, except that it was spitting rain all day. We mostly sat in the first-up tent and read or talked. I can begin to understand why a terrorist would be willing to blow himself up if he has to live in a cave, and our cave had a refrigerator and beer! On Thursday we went back to Pierre and toured the dam and the flooded areas around Fort Pierre. There were a lot of sandbags around buildings, in case the improvised levees failed, and it seemed that most of the people there were taking things in stride with a sense of humor. There were “No Swimming” and “Beware of Sharks” signs, and the dinosaur at the local Sinclair station had been fixed up with a life jacket.

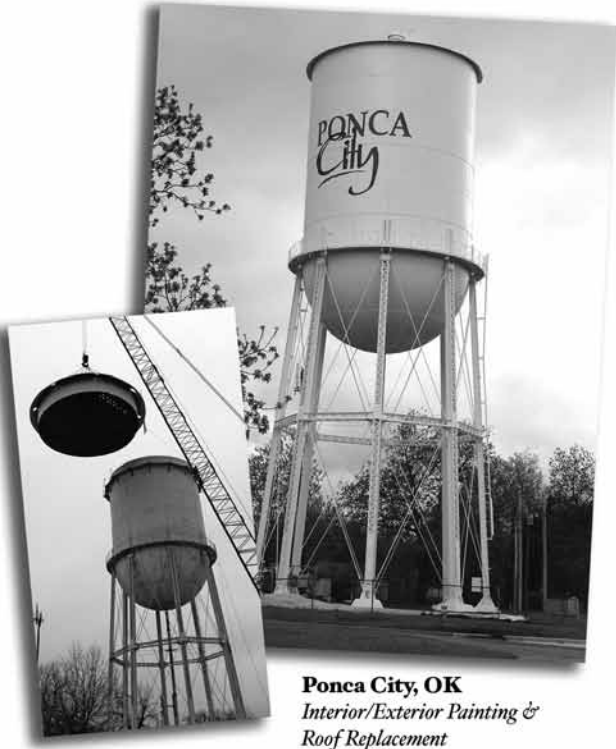
Continued on page 10

On Friday we quickly broke camp to beat the oncoming rain and met the kids in Pierre for breakfast. We then travelled to Fort Kearney where we got a campsite for two nights to camp with our son and grandson. Our son was unable to get off work until 10 pm, so we picked up our grandson and took him to camp with us on Friday night, with the plan that our son would join us on Saturday. That night we had a severe lightning and thunderstorm, and the wind was gusting to around 40 to 50 mph. It was so bad that the rain was being forced through the wind flap on the tent, and there was a fine mist falling inside the tent. Water started gathering on the floor of the tent, so we had our grandson join us up on the mattress where it was at least out of the puddle. It turns out he is a bed hog, and Barb and I were both hanging over the edge of the mattress for the rest of the night. Did I mention that our campsite was about 300 yards from the nearest restroom? Fun. Fun. Fun.

Saturday was a very nice day for camping. The sun

was out, the rain went away and the wind had died down to just a breeze. It almost made the trip worth it. We cooked up some breakfast and just enjoyed a day of camping. That evening we had supper and enjoyed a bottle of wine while we watched the sun set. It did not rain that night and we thought we would finish our trip in style! In the morning, it started raining as we were packing up our camp. The tent was wet, the first-up tent was wet, the tarp was wet, and we were wet. When we finally got home, it took several hours to unload and dry out all of our camping gear so it could be stored.

We are now in the process of negotiating with the State of Arizona, to see how much they will pay us to go camping there so they can get some rain. So far they have not made an offer, but we will keep the camping gear just in case they get desperate. Sunday night we had a good night's sleep in our own bed at home. Did I mention that our bed is only 10 steps from the bathroom?



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Fall Conference Agenda

Please note that NeRWA has applied for the following continuing education hours - water (W), wastewater (WW), backflow (BF), well drillers (WD). Session times and topics are tentative.

Tuesday, September 13: Pre Conference Sessions!!!

7:30 – 8:00	Pre Conference Registration
8:00 – 9:30	Excavation Safety 1W, 1WW, 1WD
	Jeremy Neill, United Rentals
	Soil analysis, review of shoring types, discussion of trench safety concerns, installation of hydraulic and pneumatic shoring.
9:30-10:30	Confined Space Safety 1W, 1BF, 1WW, 1WD
	Jeremy Neill, United Rentals
	This session will give some basic safety hints and techniques for operators who find themselves in situations where climbing or being in a confined space cannot be avoided. Although the session will not be comprehensive, the rules which must be followed will be touched on, as well as, the importance of following them.
10:30-10:45	Break
10:45– 11:45	Avoiding Personal Injuries 1W, 1BF, 1WW, 1WD
	Gerald Hemphill, Occupational Health and Safety Services
	Work related injury can happen at any time but fatigue and heat exhaustion can amplify these chances. Find out what you can do to avoid a work related injury.
11:45 – 12:15	Lock Out / Tag Out 1W, 1WW, 1BF
	TBA
	This session covers the importance of locking and tagging electrical and mechanical equipment prior to servicing it. Serious injury can result when equipment is accidentally energized while being worked on.
12:15-12:45	Lunch (provided)
12:45-1:45	Chemical Safety 1W, 1WW, 1WD
	TBA, Hawkins Water Treatment
	Water operators often need to use various chemicals in the process of providing safe drinking water. Chemicals ranging from chlorine, fluoride, sequestering agents and others will be covered in this session.
1:45- 2:00	Evaluations and Wrap Up

2:45 – 5:15	Golf Tournament – Scottsbluff Country Club, 5014 Avenue I
-------------	--

2:45 pm Golf Tournament - 2 person scramble

Wednesday, September 14: Class Starts at 12:30 PM

8:30 – 12:00	Trap Shoot at Mitchell Valley Trap Club (3.25 miles south of Mitchell); Bring your shotgun and shells
10:00 – 12:30	Conference Registration
12:30 – 1:30	DHHS Regulatory Update 1W, 1WD Jack Daniel, Administrator – DHHS Public Water Supply Program A "State of Nebraska Water Systems Report" which will detail specific challenges and highlight the progress of water systems in meeting state and federal regulatory requirements and in providing the public with a safe and affordable supply of drinking water.
1:30- 2:00	NeWARN Update. .5W, .5WW Rick Melcher, City of Aurora This session will cover how to navigate the NeWARN website and how to locate equipment that is available from Nebraska communities.
2:00 – 2:30	Break: Tour Exhibits and Drawings for Prizes
2:30 – 3:30	USDA Update .5W, .5WW Marla Marx, USDA How a development district can assist you in your next project. .5W,.5WW Jerrod J. Haberman, NePADD
3:30 – 4:00	Break: Tour Exhibits and Drawings for Prizes
4:00 – 5:00	SRF Funding and Security Grant Funding .5W, .5WW Kris Luebbe and Steve McNulty, DHHS Dealing with Flooding Issues Within and Around Your System .5W,.5WW Kris Luebbe, DHHS
5:00 – 6:00	Social in Exhibit Area
6:00 – 7:00	Banquet and Awards

CONSTANTLY STRIVING TO PROVIDE MORE SERVICES TO OUR MEMBERS

NeRWA is always looking for new and better ways to serve our membership. In sticking with this philosophy, we recently purchased a HURCO SD800 Spin Doctor Hydraulic valve exerciser. It is something we have had many requests for over the past few years. Valve exercising is one of the most important maintenance procedures a system can perform, yet is often the most neglected. Face it, manually turning valves is a very strenuous, time consuming and difficult task. NeRWA field staff will stay on site and assist with the use of the valve exerciser just as we do with any other aspect of technical assistance. A nominal fee will however be required to insure that the equipment is kept properly maintained.

Thursday, September 15: Breakfast will be from 6:30 – 7:30 AM

	Session A – Oregon Trail	Session B – Platte/Pioneer	Session C – Fire Hall (across from Civic Center)
7:00 – 8:30			
7:30 – 8:30	Water Rate Study and Rate Book from NeRWA 1W	Rule Manager Public Notice, CCR and Disinfection and Disinfection Byproduct Rule 1W	DMR Question and Answer Session 1WW
	Randy Hellbusch, NeRWA	Becky Schuerman and Mary Poe, DHHS	Mike Lucas, NeRWA
	An appropriate water rate is necessary to cover current, as well as, future anticipated costs. This session will explain what information should be considered to arrive at the correct rate for your water system. The session will also cover critical aspects of water system budgeting and provide examples for operators to use.	<u>Public Notice and CCR</u> - will be on the basic requirements and distribution of Public Notices and Consumer Confidence Reports. <u>Disinfection and Disinfection Byproduct Rule</u> – will be on disinfectant use reporting, minimum/maximum disinfectant residuals requirements, DBP formation and the upcoming Stage 2 DBP Rule.	This session will cover filling out DMR’s, how to interpret your permit limits and how long you need to keep your permit paper work.
8:30 – 8:45	Break: Tour Exhibits and Drawings for Prizes		
8:45 – 9:45	The Danger Zone of Dead Ends 1W	Rule Manager Lead Copper Rule and Coliform Sampling 1W	Bad Backflow Installations 1BF, 1W, 1WW
	Steve Hoerr, Kupferle	Steve Drda and Sherry Wirth, DHHS	Bob Jedlicka, Mack McClain
	This presentation will explain problems associated with dead ends and the consequences of not implementing a regular flushing program. The presentation will show how by using a regular flushing program a water utility can keep their chlorine residuals up and make their drinking water safe.	<u>Lead and Copper</u> - sampling site determination, changes to lead copper rule, interpreting results and notifying public of the results. <u>Coliform Sampling</u> - Coliform Rule, sampling procedures, MCL determination, methodology and test results	This session will review pictures of actual installations of backflow preventers. Improper installations will be reviewed along with ways they could be rectified.
9:45 – 10:00	Break: Tour Exhibits and Drawings for Prizes		

10:00 – 11:00	Water Tower Maintenance Aspects of Inspections 1W	Energy Saving Tips for Your Water and Wastewater System 1W, 1WW	Backflow Quiz Bowl 1BF, 1WW
	John Snodgrass, Utility Service Co.	Joe Francis, UNL	Rich Koenig, DHHS
	We will review the necessary components of an effective water storage tank inspection. Topics covered will include: how to select an inspection firm, review the applicable industry standards, frequency of inspection and list what to inspect. The inspection process should evaluate the safety, sanitary, structural, security and coatings conditions of the storage tank. Routine, Periodic and Comprehensive inspections will be discussed and participants will develop in a workshop format their own routine inspection checklist to use for their tanks.	Boards are looking for ways to cut costs. This session will cover ways your system may help shore up your budget through energy audits for wastewater and water systems.	A competitive competition regarding Cross Connection Control Programs and regulations.
11:00 – 11:15	Break		
11:15 – 12:15	Water Tower Design and Upkeep 1W	Day to Day Wastewater Facility Operations and Upgrades 1WW	Key Elements Of An Effective CCCP – Why do we do it? 1BF, 1WW
	John Snodgrass, Utility Service Co.	Lynn Garton, Scottsbluff	Rich Koenig, DHHS
	This session will cover basic construction of a water tower and provide information on how to decide what tower size is best for your system along with how to get that tower online when the time comes.	Day to day operations are essential to keeping a plant up to date and running at an optimal level. Come find out what day to day maintenance is essential when running a treatment plant and how it can help you make decisions on needed future upgrades.	Group discussion on the purpose and reason why we do a Cross Connection Control Program. This discussion will ultimately lead the group to list the components of an effective Cross Connection Control Program.
12:15 – 1:15	Lunch		

1:15 – 2:15	Asset Management 1W, 1WW	Question and Answer Session 1W	Backflow Exercise 1BF, 1WW
	Scott Sprague, DHHS This session will discuss asset management and how to start an asset management program in your town.	DHHS Field Reps If you have questions they'll have the answers. This session will cover any and all questions asked by you, the water operator.	Barney Whatley, NeRWA This session consists of participants drawing in plumbing and backflow protection in various establishments with an eye towards customer protection and cost.
2:15 – 2:30	Break		
2:30 – 3:30	Engineer and Operator Interaction During a Project. 1W, 1WW	Avoiding Work Related Injuries 1W	Backflow Incident Occurs. Now What? 1 BF, 1WW
	Glen Lussetto, MC Schaff An improvement project can be intense and time consuming, but it is nothing to shy away from. Operator involvement is essential for the desired outcome. Learn how to prepare for, be involved with, and most of all, be satisfied with that improvement or expansion project that you will be undertaking in the not too distant future.	Gerald Hemphill, NREMTP Work related injury can happen at any time. But fatigue and heat exhaustion can amplify these chances. Find out what you can do to avoid a work related injury.	Rich Koenig, DHHS Group discussion relating to a proper response for a backflow incident. The discussion will include the PWS Emergency Response Plan, key individuals who play a key role in the response, individuals who may be affected by the incident and proper notification of affected individuals.
3:30 – 3:45	Break		
3:45 – 4:45	Recordkeeping and Operations of Wastewater Facilities 1WW	Licensing, Grant and Enforcement Issues 1W	
	John Flint, NDEQ	Mike Wentink, DHHS	
	This session will cover Representative Sampling, Recordkeeping and Bypass, Recordkeeping and Upset, Noncompliance Report Records Retention and how to read and understand your permit.	This session will discuss water training grant, changes to licensing as a water operator and enforcement issues in the past year for Public Water systems.	



Annual Field Day

By Mike Lucas, Sourcewater Specialist



98 kids attended the annual Field Day in Falls City on April 29, 2011. They were from Falls City Public and Falls City Sacred Heart Schools. It took place at the Falls City Water Treatment Plant located at Rulo. In one picture Jerry Clark is explaining the SCADA system and the treatment process that is used to supply safe drinking water to Falls City, Rulo and the Richardson County Rural Water District. Barney Whatley, NeRWA, is in the picture with the groundwater display demonstrating to the students how groundwater can be contaminated and explaining the importance of keeping our drinking water safe. You can see the kids leaving after the presentation in the picture where they are walking down the walkway with their information and their water bottles.





Save That Well (It's Cheaper Than Drilling a New One)

By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider

Over the last 10+plus years working as a Circuit Rider here at Nebraska Rural Water Association, I have visited countless water systems across the state. Numerous times the topic of well maintenance comes up. As many of you know I am a firm believer of annual well maintenance. Most of the municipal well drillers offer an annual well maintenance and inspection program. During these inspections they will check your wire to water efficiency, drawdown, specific capacity, head pressure, meter accuracy, etc. If the motor or pump is starting to fail you may have a considerable amount of time to budget and schedule for the repairs. If you enter an annual contract, the inspection is relatively inexpensive and the savings can be unbelievable. I will give you a couple of examples that I have personally experienced over the years.

In a real but unnamed Village in Nebraska, the certified operator had been telling the Village Board about their main well, and how it had a terrible vibration in it. The response was we will fix it when it breaks. When that well finally broke, it broke in a big way. The shaft and the well column broke into three pieces and fell into the bottom of the well breaking the screen and permanently disabled the well. The operator tried to start the backup well only to find out it was not working either. The Village was out of water for three

days. The system didn't have water meters and a rate of around six dollars per month for all the water you could use. The Village had no money to drill a new well and needed to acquire funds from a government agency to drill a new one. When using government funds, water meters were required to be installed. A new well was drilled outside the Village and some water main work was done. The "fix it when it breaks" philosophy cost this Village hundreds of thousands of dollars not to mention much higher water rates.

In the second example this water system had contracted with a municipal well driller to have annual maintenance inspections done on all their wells every year. It was discovered during one of these inspections that there may be a problem with one of the wells. The well was pulled and the casing and screen were videoed with a down hole camera, which revealed a hole in the screen. The system decided to have the well relined with a new screen and casing. The well lost some capacity but is still running fine after five years. The second example cost the system 40,000 dollars.

With these two examples it is easy to see that annual well maintenance really pays. Save that well, it's cheaper than drilling a new one!



Second Annual Poker Run

There will be a poker run during the fall conference this year. Participants should meet at the Gering Civic Center on Wednesday, September 14. Registration is 7:30 to 7:55 am. There is a \$5 entry fee. Cards will be drawn during or at the end of the run, best hand wins. So tell all your water operator friends to grab their bikes and join the fun. The plan is to ride up to the Guernsey-Hartville area in Wyoming and back. Lunch will be on your own.



Farewell

By Jim Heyen

Thank You!

As many of you may know, I have accepted the Wastewater Superintendent position for Hastings Utilities in Hastings, Nebraska. My career path has taken many twists and turns over the past 30+ years and has allowed my family and me to experience several parts of the Country.

In 1978, I started working at the Gibbon wastewater treatment plant part-time, while still in high school and have grabbed a hold of as many opportunities as I could along my way.

The past 9 ½ years with Nebraska Rural Water has been especially rewarding. Though the traveling was the most difficult, it was easily forgotten once I reached my destination and began visiting with an old friend or making a new one.

My wife says I have grown over the years and not only in shirt sizes! She says I have shared more of my teddy bear side and I would have to agree. I was in the airport, not so long ago and an elderly woman just sat down beside me and started to talk about her day and her great grandkids. After she got up, to get on her plane, she looked back with a wonderful smile. You know the one that makes your whole body feel warm. I thought, "I have evolved!" For this gift of listening and compassion, I would like to thank you. Every time I make a stop at a town, I am greeted by an inviting smile from the city clerk, a firm hand shake from a city board member or a "friendly how you doing" from an operator.

Deb and I decided years ago to look to each new opportunity as an adventure and for the past 29 years it has been a great ride! Without her encouragement several adventures might have only been dreams. Thank you Deb for believing in me!

I would also like to thank the Rural Water Board and Staff for their support and friendships.

I look forward to meeting back up with you again at conferences, workshops or training in the future.

Thank You!

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Hot Summer, Cool Utility Maps

By Charles Bausch, GIS/GPS Specialist

With the heat wave rolling through Nebraska I hope everyone is finding a way to beat the heat when they can. Summer for me is the time to get all that data I collected this spring into a format that will be useful for the Utility Superintendents. This is when I sit down and take all those old and new maps you have and put them together for a complete utility map. There usually is a lot of good information on those old maps. For example, manhole depth or distance from a valve to tee. I try to add all this information to your map which takes time but in the end makes a more accurate map.

The biggest question I get is how long it will take to get my maps. This can vary from system to system. What

I tell you is it will take what it takes. Our goal is to get the most accurate map we can with the most detail. A lot of times we have to GPS features that were missed or not found the first time we GPSed a system. Other times if a system has improvements coming in the near future we try to get those improvements added before we do the finished product. This will save the system money and me the time it would take to redo and print another set of maps for the system.

The key to every map is trying to get all the old maps (that are still relevant) and putting all that information into a GIS map. This way you don't lose data that has been useful in the past, but now that data is not only on paper but in your computer system and can be easily stored and retrieved when needed. This makes GIS/GPS maps so cool! The amount of data you can store about each and every one of your map features makes your maps more useful. Of course, this slows your mapping process down a little, but will be worth it when you are working on that next big utility project.

During these hot summer days the way I stay cool is working on putting all the data into your GIS/GPS maps (inside where it is air-conditioned helps to!). If you are thinking about going digital with your maps give us a call and we can assist you with some cool GIS/GPS mapping that will keep your temperature down by having all that data in one place.

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Wellhead Protection Spotlight

By Mike Lucas, Sourcewater Specialist

This issue I would like to feature two neighboring communities in the “Wellhead Protection Spotlight.” They are 30 minutes apart on Highway #2 in western Nebraska and are both completing their wellhead protection area management programs.



The Village of Thedford, population 174, is the county seat of Thomas County and is located on the north bank of the Middle Loup River in the sandhills area of Nebraska. Thedford is near the Nebraska National Forest and Grasslands which contains the largest human-planted forest in the United States. It was created in 1902 by Charles E. Bessey as an experiment to see if forests could be created in the treeless areas of the Great Plains for use as a national timber reserve. The Bessey Ranger District including the tree nursery carries his name today.

The Thedford water system has three wells serving 127 services with the largest customer being the Thedford High School. Nitrate concentrations in the drinking water have been relatively low but have shown some increasing levels over the last 10 years. They are monitored closely.



The Village of Mullen, population 491, is the Hooker County seat and is also located in the sandhills cattle country of Nebraska. Land use in Mullen’s wellhead protection area is primarily native tall grass prairie with no cultivated cropland. Mullen is the home of two world class golf courses, the Dismal River Club designed by Jack Nicklaus and the Sandhills Golf Course designed by Ben Crenshaw and Bill Coore.

Mullen has 688 metered service connections served by four groundwater wells. There is 250,000 gallons of water storage in an elevated storage tank. An engineering study is currently investigating what distribution system upgrades are needed to improve system flows and pressures. The school is the single largest consumer.


NOTE: These two neighbors recently came even closer together during the time of need of one of the communities. The community of Thedford and the Nebraska Rural Water Association lost a member of our mutual work family when Anthony “Tony” Spreser, the water/wastewater operator for the Village of Thedford, passed away on May 12, 2011. He had

continued on page 21

begun faithfully serving his community on May 7, 1985. The Village of Mullen Utility Superintendent, Wes Skillings, had previously volunteered to be the back-up operator for his neighboring community. Wes and the Village of Mullen immediately and unselfishly stepped forward to provide assistance.

Over the years I've seen isolated islands of service become communities banding together to assist each other. No one community is more important than another regardless of population or geographic location. Communities jointly provide safety training for their employees and do joint purchasing. They share costs saving their citizens money. Some examples are communities joining the Nebraska Rural Water Association for technical support and training and the League of Nebraska Municipalities for a strong legislative voice, training and insurance. Communities have joined together to address solid waste needs along with electric power and natural gas energy supplies. Working together allows the communities to provide a higher level of service to their citizens while saving them money. Disasters, such as floods and severe storm damage, are addressed

with mutual aid agreements and statewide interlocal agreements, such as Nebraska WARN. In times of need the smallest are working hand in hand with the largest. Many times communities volunteer assistance before a request for help is even sent out. Everyone benefits when these unselfish, forward thinking communities work together. It's heartwarming to see it all come together.



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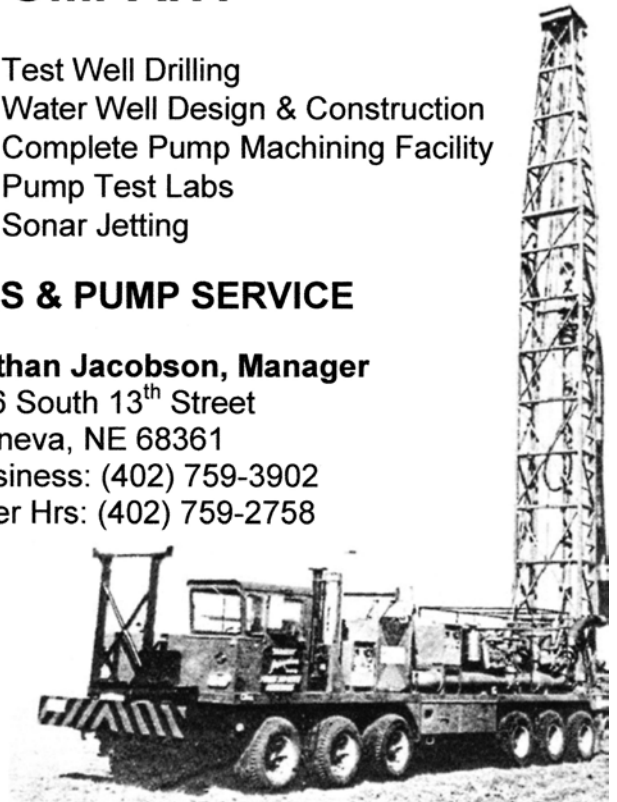
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Western Conference

By Charles Bausch, Training Specialist

This year the Western Conference is September 13, 14 and 15. The 13th, once again, is our preconference which is over work place safety. The first few sessions will cover confined space safety and trenching and shoring safety. The second part of the preconference covers personnel safety in the work place. This session will help you avoid work place hazards, tell you when and where the most workplace injuries happen and why. The next session will cover tag out lockout and why this is an important routine to follow and implement. This session will also explain all the ins and outs to running a good tag out lockout program. The final session will cover chemical safety for those chemicals that are most commonly found in water and wastewater treatment plants. This session will discuss how to handle chemicals, the proper way to dispose of those chemicals and when they are no longer needed or good.

The official start to the conference is September 14 at 12:30 pm with Jack Daniel and his DHHS Update. The rest of the day will cover SRF, Security, and USDA funding availability and all the projects these agents are funding. NEWARN will discuss their website and how to navigate around the site. This will come in handy when Kris Luebbe discusses the flooding issues that hit the state this year and how the systems were able to keep operating.

The final day, Thursday, September 15, will start with breakfast at 6:30 am with the first session starting at 7:30 am. Some sessions on Thursday include Rule Manager Update, water rate studies, water main flushing, water tower maintenance and several backflow classes. As always, we try to bring you new technology and sessions that will help you operate your system better on a day to day basis. For a complete look at all the sessions, turn to the conference agenda page with all the sessions and their descriptions. **Also, if you have a session that you would like to see at a future conference don't hesitate to contact me.**



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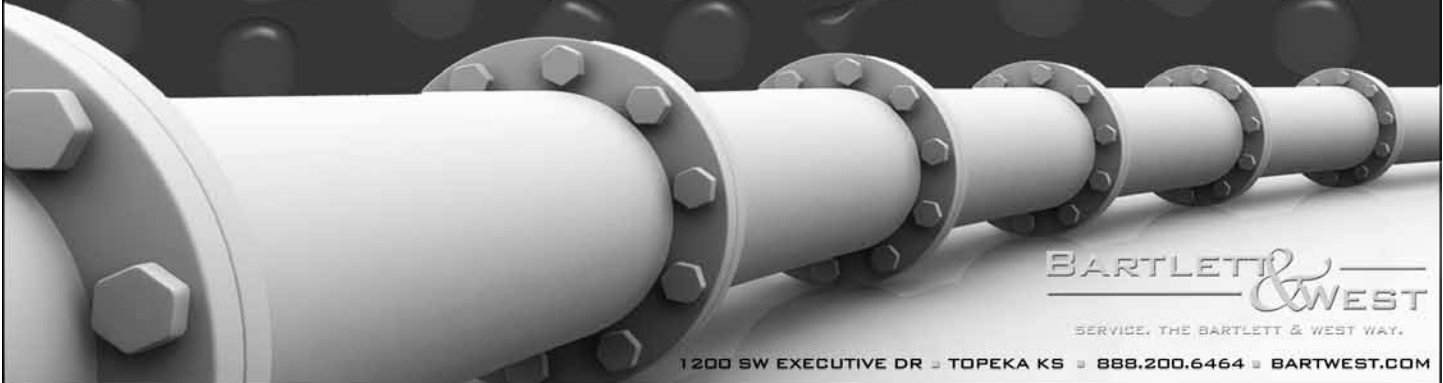
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Goodbye and good luck!!

It is with regret that NeRWA announces the resignation of Jim Heyen. Jim has been NeRWA's Wastewater Technician since April 2002. During that time he has done a great job for NeRWA and all the systems throughout the state that he has had a chance to work with. The NeRWA staff and Board wish Jim the best of luck in his new position as Hastings' Wastewater Superintendent and in all his future endeavors.

Mike Lucas, who is currently NeRWA's Source Water Specialist, will be the new Wastewater Technician.

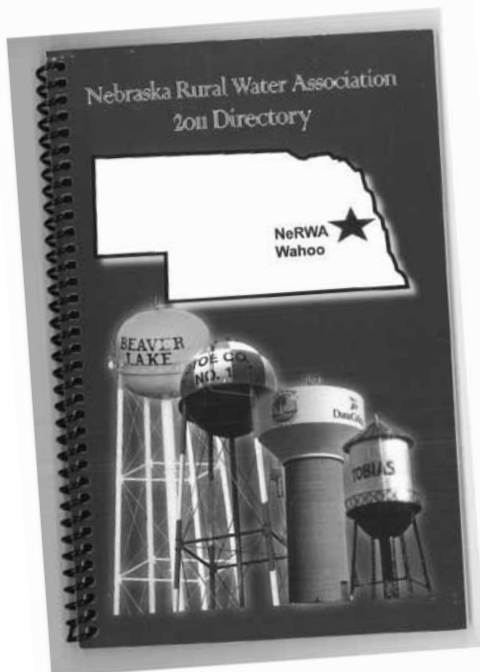
The 2011 directory is now available. If you would like one or more, contact the NeRWA office to get on the list.

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You can also email Salli or Carol:

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They will be either mailed or dropped off by one of the field staff if they are in your area.



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