

Issue 1/2008

Nebraska Rural Water Association



NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS

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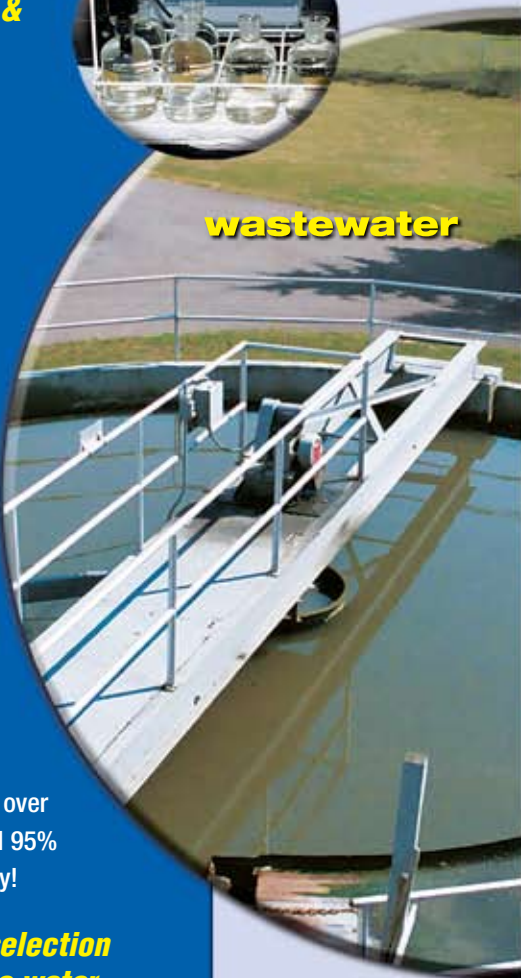
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President:

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

Vice-President:

Bob West
220 West “G” St.
Elmwood, Nebraska 68349
(402) 994-5385

Secretary/Treasurer:

Bob Lundeen
537 23rd Road
West Point, Nebraska 68788
(402) 685-5748

Gene Schroeder
88963 541 Avenue
Bloomfield, Nebraska 68718
(402) 254-6758

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

Lyle Juracek
801 K St.
Neligh, Nebraska 68756
(402) 887-4735

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

Staff:

Clancy Dempsey, Executive Director
Salli Kemerling, Office Manager
Carol Jasa, Secretary
Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider
Russell Topp, Circuit Rider
Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist
Jim Heyen, Wastewater Technician
Charles Bausch, Groundwater Technician

On the cover:

The water tower at Dunbar, Nebraska.

“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, mayors, Federal and State Legislators, associates and individual members. Individual memberships are available at \$25.00/year.

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...

CITY of MADISON

P.O. Box 527 - 211 S. Lincoln St.
Madison, NE 68748 - Ph. 402-454-3412

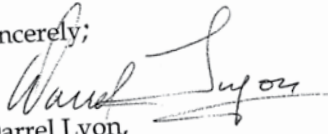
December 11, 2007

Nebraska Rural Water Assn
2290 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Rural Water Employees,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the excellent assistance you provide, such as training for our employees, consultations and troubleshooting water and sewer problems. The City of Madison has benefited tremendously from your knowledge and skill.

Sincerely;


Darrel Lyon,
Mayor

VILLAGE OF SHELBY

Donation to Equipment Fund -

I apologize for not including a more formal note.

Thank you to NeRWA for their invaluable assistance! You always seem to be just a phone call away. This is only a fraction of what your assistance means to us. Thank you!!!

VILLAGE OF PRAGUE

401 W. Center Ave.
P.O. Box 207
Prague, NE 68050

Office of Village Clerk
Phone: 402-663-5235
Fax: 402-663-5156

November 27, 2007

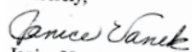
Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066

Nebraska Rural Water Association:

Enclosed is a donation as a "Thank You" to the Nebraska Rural Water Association crew for all the assistance you have given the Village of Prague throughout the year.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,


Janice Vanek
Village Clerk

Village of Leigh

P.O. Box 277
Leigh, Nebraska 68643
Phone (402) 487-3303
Fax (402) 487-3303

October 11, 2007

Nebraska Rural Water Assn.
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA,

The Village of Leigh would like to thank you for your past assistance that you have provided for us. Your prompt and courteous service is sincerely appreciated. We have enclosed a donation to your water/wastewater equipment fund. Thanks again for everything and keep up the great work.

Sincerely,

Village of Leigh
Board of Trustees and Staff

City of Elgin

P. O. Box 240
Elgin, Nebraska 68636
Telephone: 402-843-5822

November 7, 2007

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

RE: Equipment fund donation

The City of Elgin would like to thank Randy for coming out and doing a water and sewer rate study for us. We certainly appreciate all the help we receive from the NRWA.

Please use the enclosed check for your equipment fund or other needs you may have.

Once again thank you.

Sincerely,

Don Poulsen

Don Poulsen
Utilities Superintendent

11-9-07

Russ -
The City of Pawnee City
thanks you again for
helping us out with our
water problems! What a
great resource you are to
all of us smaller
municipalities!
With our appreciation
for a job well done

CITY OF PAWNEE CITY

**LOWER ELKHORN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
LOGAN EAST RURAL WATER SYSTEM**

The Lower Elkhorn NRD is accepting applications for the position of the Manager of the Logan East RWS. The Logan East RWS office is located in Oakland, Nebraska, and serves more than 4,000 customers in Burt, Washington, and Dodge counties.

Requirements include, but not limited to: Grade 3 or higher licensed water operator and Grade 6 backflow license; the ability to work with public, federal and state agencies; management skills and supervision of RWS staff. The Manager is required to live in Oakland or in the immediate area.

To request a packet of information or questions may be directed to Bob Lundeen, RWS Manager at Logan East RWS at 402.685.5220 or Stan Staab, General Manager at Lower Elkhorn NRD at 402.371.7313.

Applications will be accepted until Friday, February 15, 2008, at the Lower Elkhorn NRD, PO Box 1204, Norfolk NE 68702-1204.

As of December 31, 2007, we have received donations to our equipment fund from the following. Donations range anywhere from \$50 to \$1,000. Thanks.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Adams | Madison-2 |
| Ainsworth | Madrid |
| Allen | Malcolm |
| Alvo | McCool Junction |
| Arcadia-2 | Milligan |
| Arlington | Neligh |
| Atkinson | Nelson |
| Avoca | Nemaha County RWD2 |
| Belgrade-2 | North Loup |
| Bladen | Oakdale |
| Blue Hill-2 | Orleans |
| Blue Springs | Page |
| Bradshaw | Palmer |
| Broadwater | Panama-2 |
| Brock | Pawnee City-3 |
| Burwell | Pawnee County RWD1 |
| Cedar Rapids | Pleasanton |
| Chester | Plymouth |
| Denton | Prague-2 |
| Dobson Brothers | Primrose |
| Douglas | Republican City |
| Dunbar | Shelby |
| Elgin | Shickley |
| Emerson | Springfield |
| Ewing | Stromsburg |
| Fairmont | Talmage |
| Gilead | Trumbull |
| Guide Rock | Ulysses |
| Howells | Valparaiso |
| Indianola | Verdigre |
| Johnson | Waco |
| Johnson County RWD1 | Waterbury |
| Leigh | Wayne |
| Loup City | Winside |



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2008 TRAINING

Water Operator Training

January 15	Clarkson
January 17	Valley (NIMS)
January 24	Lynch
February 12	Giltner
February 20	Falls City (NIMS)
April 15	Ainsworth (NIMS)
April 16	Cairo
April 17	Franklin (NIMS)
May 13	Elwood
May 15	Gordon (NIMS)
June 6	Sutton
June 10	Oakland
June 12	Chambers
July 8	Crawford
July 9	Sutherland (NIMS)
July 10	Trenton (NIMS)
August 12	Greeley
August 14	Hallam
September 24	Papillion
October 21	Stapleton
October 23	Kimball
November 13	Oshkosh
November 19	Fairbury
December 9	Wakefield (NIMS)
December 10	Waterloo
December 11	Syracuse

NIMS Training will also be available at the Annual and Fall Conferences.

CONFERENCES

March 17-19 Annual Conference
Columbus, Nebraska

September 16-17 Fall Conference
Gering, Nebraska

Wastewater Training

January 15	Franklin
February 20	Neligh
February 27	Loup City
March 25	Ogallala
April 8	Plymouth
April 23	Wahoo
October 21	Wahoo
November 5	Ewing

Backflow Re-Certification Training

March 26	Neligh
November 18	Seward
November 20	Tecumseh
November 25	Wahoo
December 16	Mitchell
December 17	Ogallala
December 18	Wahoo

Grade VI Backflow Prevention Cross-Connection Control Course - 5 Day

January 7-11	Wahoo
February 4-8	Wahoo
April 7-11	Wahoo
October 27-31	Wahoo

NeRWA UTILITY EXPO

October 1
Christensen Field
Fremont, Nebraska

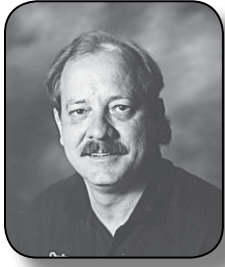
Trenching & Excavation

October 15 Wahoo

Confined Space Entry

October 16 Wahoo





NeWARN Update

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

A meeting of the NeWARN steering committee was held on December 4, 2007 at the Nebraska State Office Building in North Platte. Following is an abbreviation of the minutes of that meeting. At the previous meeting in Kearney, it was decided that to geographically represent the state an individual from each area of HHS field service would be appointed to serve on the steering committee. It was confirmed that all members previously nominated would be able and willing to serve. The steering committee members are as follows:

AWWA	Eric Melcher	City of Aurora
NeRWA	Randy Hellbusch	
WEF	Steve Crisler	City of Lincoln
LNM	Rob Pierce	
DHHS-PHS	Rich Koenig	
DEQ	Jackie Stumpff	
MAP	Harold Reynolds	
NEMA	Earl Imler	
Area 1	Ken Swanson	City of Auburn
Area 2	Larry Andreasen	City of Fremont
Area 3	Dennis Watts	City of Norfolk
Area 4	Jim Green	Village of McCool Junction
Area 5	Robert Smith	City of Seward
Area 6	Bruce Long	Village of Ewing
Area 7	Mike Lucas	City of Broken Bow
Area 8	Steve Boeselager	City of Chadron

Steering Committee Leadership was elected as follows:

- Chair Person: Steve Boeselager (Chadron)
- Vice Chair: Steve Crisler (Lincoln)
- Secretary: Rich Koenig (HHS)
- Treasurer: Rob Pierce (LoNM)

The next item of business was the task of developing a draft of a NeWARN mutual aid agreement that would be acceptable to all size water & wastewater systems statewide. A subcommittee was assigned the task of developing a draft agreement. Members of the subcommittee are as follows:

- Chair Person: Lash Chaffin (LoMN)
- Dennis Watts (Norfolk)
- Randy Hellbusch (NeRWA)
- Jim Green (McCool Junction)
- Eric Melcher (Aurora)

This committee was also given the responsibility of developing a Mission Statement. Rich Koenig, (HHS), Jackie Stumpff (DEQ), and Clancy Dempsey (NeRWA) were delegated the responsibility of developing a formal support document to show support from various organizations.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding current WARN websites being used by other states and the possible development of a NeWARN Website. Many ideas were discussed about the endless possibilities of what could be included on such a website that would be beneficial to water and wastewater systems. Some of the possibilities included system inventory, workforce, rate structure, chat room for questions & answers, etc. Lash Chaffin volunteered to research Website costs and possible funding sources.

All in attendance agreed that both long and short term funding sources would be needed. Rich Koenig will develop a draft letter requesting short term funding (mileage, meals, lodging etc.) for Steering Committee members. Lash Chaffin volunteered to research potential long term funding needs and possible sources. Chairman Steve Boeselager will be attending the WARN Chairs Forum Meeting in Denver, Colorado, January 17 and 18, 2008, if there are no conflicts in his schedule.

The next steering committee meeting will be held Tuesday, February 5, 2008, at the same location.

A statewide mutual aid agreement could prove to be very beneficial to all water and wastewater systems. Nebraska section AWWA is to be commended on their efforts to get this project off the ground here in our state. I am sure you will be hearing much more about NeWARN in the very near future. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact one of the Steering Committee members.

ANNUAL WATER TASTING CONTEST

March 2008

Sponsored by
Nebraska Rural Water Association

The water contest is to be held at the Annual Conference in Columbus. A panel of distinguished taste testers will judge all samples. The winner will be announced at the banquet on Tuesday, March 18. The winning System will compete against finalists from the other 49 states in the National Contest at the National Rural Water Association Water Rally in Washington D.C.

Contest Rules:

1. Sample must be from a Nebraska public water supply system
2. One entry per water system
3. Water must come before any point-of-use treatment
4. Water must come from the distribution system
5. Bring sample in clean unmarked gallon container (preferably glass)
6. **Bring this entry form with sample**

Water must be received by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, March 17, at the Conference Registration Table.

Water System: _____

Submitted By: _____

Date Sample Taken: _____

If at all possible, please call our office in advance at 800-842-8039 or 402-443-5216 and let us know you are entering. Thank you.

Please bring completed form with your water!!!

Nebraska Rural Water Association Conference Pre-Registration Form

March 17-19, 2008

New World Inn—265 33rd Avenue, Columbus, Nebraska
For reservations call: 800-433-1492

Please use ONE FORM PER PERSON

Name _____ System _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

If different than above, address for certificate to be mailed to:

Are you the Voting Delegate for Your System: Yes___ No___

Registration includes packets, all meals, breaks, and banquet. Add \$25 if postmarked after March 3.
Registration fee may be reimbursable through NDHHS for systems under 3300.

Register early and save: \$50 per person added at the door.

FULL CONFERENCE:

_____ \$150 Member _____ \$180 Non-Member

**Postmarked
After March 3 add:**

_____ \$25.00

SINGLE DAY: (Indicate which day)

Monday: _____ \$60 Member _____ \$90 Non-Member _____ \$25.00

Tuesday: _____ \$60 Member _____ \$90 Non-Member _____ \$25.00

Wednesday: _____ \$60 Member _____ \$90 Non-Member _____ \$25.00

_____ **BOARD MEMBER MONDAY**—This day's activities are free for all Utility Board Members.

Please indicate below if you need additional tickets for the following meals for spouses or other guests. The Wednesday morning breakfast is complimentary.

Name of Spouse/Guest _____

Mon. evening \$10 _____ **Tues. lunch \$10** _____ **Tues. banquet \$20** _____ **Wed. lunch \$10** _____

Cancellation Policy: Full refund before February 25; half refund before March 3; NO refund after March 3.

Please mail entire form to:

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066

Call to Register: 800-842-8039 or 402-443-5216

Fax Registration: 402-443-5274

On-line Registration: nerwa.org

Registration	\$ _____
Tickets	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____
<p style="text-align: center;">Check enclosed _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Please bill _____</p>	

NeRWA Office use only:	
Date Registration Received _____	Certificate mailed _____
Date Check Received _____	Check # _____ Amt \$ _____
Hours: Gr 1 2 3 4# _____ hours _____	-- Gr 6 # _____ hours _____ — WW # _____ hours _____

Nebraska Rural Water Association 30th Annual Conference

**March 17-19, 2008
New World Inn
Columbus, Nebraska**

MONDAY

Courtyard

12:30	1:30	Water System Regulatory Update - Jack Daniel, DHHS
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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.

.50 break

2:00	3:00	Investigation for Uranium in Alluvial Aquifer: Clarks, NE - Wesley McCall, PG GeoProbe
------	------	--

GeoProbe coordinated with DHHS to perform a demonstration of direct push methods that can be used to investigate unconsolidated aquifers for the presence and distribution of natural or manmade contaminants.

.50 break

3:30	4:30	Regionalization: Challenges and Opportunities - Dorman Otte, Former Director USDA Rural Development Iowa
------	------	--

This session will provide insight of economic impacts, long term sustainability, developing early partnerships for a successful future, and how to effectively engage a diverse customer profile.

.25 break

Session A & B

Session C

4:45	5:45	WARN: Water/Wastewater Agency Response - Rich Koenig, DHHS
------	------	--

Board/Council Roundtable

The concept is simple: Utilities Helping Utilities. A Nebraska WARN system would provide a statewide mutual aid agreement for water/wastewater systems that could be activated in response to natural or manmade disasters.

Social hour and meal will follow

The complete agenda with hours will be in the February TAU.
There will be a Spouse Program again this year. Details will also be in the February TAU.

TUESDAY		Session A	Session B
8:00	9:00	Trench Safety Part 1 - Bob Hessler, Safety Line Consultants	Small System Roundtable - NeRWA Board
.25 break			
9:15	10:15	Trench Safety Part 2 - Bob Hessler, Safety Line Consultants	Well Grout Study - Tom Christopherson, DHHS
.50 break			
10:45	11:45	Trench Safety Part 3 - Bob Hessler, Safety Line Consultants	DHHS Rule Managers Forum: Howard Isaacs - Manager; Sherry Wirth - Coliform; Elizabeth Esseks - SWTR, D/DBP; Andy Kahle - IOC, Asbestos; Kris Luebbe - CCR, Public Notification
1.25 hour lunch			
1:00	2:00	Land Based WW Treatment Alternatives - Daniel Burgard, Cascade Earth Sciences	Operator Safety Solutions - TBA
.50 break			
2:30	3:30	Land Based WW Treatment Alternatives - Daniel Burgard, CES (repeat)	Hydra Stop - Bob Hennig, Municipal Pipe Services
.50 break			
4:00	5:00	Operator Involvement in W & WW Projects - Eric Obert, JEO Consulting	Trenchless Technology - Johnson Service Co.
WEDNESDAY		Session A	Session B
8:30	9:30	Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Hydrants - Craig Stephens, Mueller Co	Building Your Utility Profile - TBA
.25 break			
9:45	10:45	Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Valves and Restraints - Craig Stephens, Mueller Co	Innovations in Repair of Existing Water Lines - Bryant Welch, InSituForm
.25 break			
11:00	12:00	Fire Flow Testing - Leo Baumgart, Hurco Co.	Water and Wastewater Instrumentation - Gordon Petersen, Hach Co
1.0 hour lunch			
1:00	2:00	Communicating with Customers - TBD, Lincoln Water System	Wastewater Roundtable - Jim Heyen, NeRWA
2:00	3:00	Operator Response to Coliform Hits - Russ Topp, NeRWA	GIS for Water/WW Mapping - TBA

Session C	Session D	Session E
Rural System Roundtable - NeRWA Board	Backflow 101 - Fred Spengler, Backflow Consultants	Microsoft Word for Beginners
Choosing the Best Chemicals For Your System - Jason Wilm, Hawkins	Backflow Devices and Assemblies - Fred Spengler, Backflow Consultants	Basic Excel
Locator Theory - Jim Grimes, MetroTech	Backflow Tester Accuracy and Calibration - Tim Merrick, NebTech	Intermediate Excel
Backup Power for Water & Wastewater - Bob Morton, NMC	BF Installation and Troubleshooting - Bob Jedlicka, Mack McClain	Computer Lab
Managing Water Quality in Storage Systems - John Snodgrass, Utility Service Co.	Backflow Quiz Bowl - Rich Koenig, DHHS; Barney Whatley, NeRWA	Computer Lab
Water Source Development - Luca DeAngelis, Layne Christensen	Asset Management for Water/Wastewater Systems - Scott Sprague, DHHS	Computer Lab

Session C	Session D	Session E
NIMS 100, 200, 700 - Randy Fischer, DHHS	Pressure Filter Water Treatment - Ron Rappard, Layne Christensen	Backflow Record Keeping Using Excel - Barney Whatley, NeRWA
NIMS continued - Randy Fischer, DHHS	DHHS Rule Managers Forum: Howard Isaacs - Manager; Ralph Pulte - Nitrate, SOC; Steve Drda - Lead/Copper, GWR; Mary Poe - D/DBP, Groundwater/Small Systems	Backflow Record Keeping Using Excel - Barney Whatley, NeRWA
NIMS continued - Randy Fischer, DHHS	Who, What, Why of Wellhead Protection in Nebraska - Panel Discussion	Water System Record Keeping Using Excel - Barney Whatley, NeRWA
NIMS continued - Randy Fischer, DHHS	When and How of Wellhead Protection in Nebraska - Panel Discussion	Water System Record Keeping Using Excel - Barney Whatley, NeRWA
NIMS Review, Test, Evaluations, and Wrap Up	Case Studies: Successful Wellhead Protection in Nebraska	No session



Our Aging Workforce

By Jim Heyen, Wastewater Technician

How many of you have thought about who will take your place when you retire? Do you have qualified prospects within your village/community? Will your town be able to offer a wage to encourage potential employees?

On a break, in one of my past classes, a list of numbers was written on the blackboard, while I was getting a cup of coffee. When I returned, I was asked if I knew what the numbers represented. It was the ages of the operators at the class. This led to a discussion on how the Wastewater workforce is growing older. Like wine we are just getting better, but we are still getting older! If you were wondering, the average age of the operators was 62 years old!!

Just when I started to feel better about my age, my wife brings home a list of the top 10 most needed jobs in the workforce in the next five to ten years, and #2 on that list was the need for water/wastewater professionals. Then on top of every thing else, our National Rural Water Association wrote an article on the aging workforce.

Kinda Scary!

Many cities and villages are facing challenges in the efforts to find and hire professional water and wastewater professionals.

“It’s estimated that more than 50 percent of the nation’s water/wastewater system operators will leave their jobs in the next five to ten years. System owners need to start recruiting now.” In my opinion train your replacement. Look within your own community. Too many of the young people are forced to move away to find work. Begin looking for those interested in

staying with the community and start training them for a career in water/wastewater management - maybe as early as a part-time summer job.

If training your replacement doesn’t seem to be an option, the community may have to look at raising the salary to attract qualified operators. When an individual has to make a move, the costs are higher than hiring someone already established in the community.

This financial increase may force you to educate the public about the costs to maintain and operate water/wastewater systems in smaller communities. Many communities have been blessed with an operator who has serviced their community for many years and has just taken care of the day-to-day responsibilities without notice. It is much easier for residents to pay more for services if they understand what they are paying for.

The bottom line is, when will the time come for your community to hire a new operator? Will you be ready?

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The Fight Against Drought By Being a Groundwater Guardian with Designated Groundwater Green Sites

By Charles Bausch, Groundwater Specialist

Recently, I attended The Groundwater Foundation conference in Lakewood Colorado. While there we talked about many issues everyone faces, not only in Nebraska but also all over the nation. The biggest issue that seems to keep coming up was the silent natural disaster we call drought. Drought is one of those disasters that can come on very quickly or can take years to occur. Drought is hard to measure and even harder to put a price tag on because destruction can be wide spread or it can hit a small area here and there. One-way that Nebraskans can fight drought is through education and conservation efforts. These efforts can be large scale to include farm ground and golf courses or on a smaller scale, such as a city park or ball field. There were many drought and conservation efforts discussed but the one I found the most useful in Nebraska at the community level was designating groundwater guardian green sites in your community.


The “who and how” of designating a groundwater green site: First, you have to have a site that you are managing to be eligible. Examples of these sites are golf courses, ball fields, and residential or recreational parks. Second, you have to document that you are having an environmental impact. This could be done by showing the pounds of fertilizer saved by soil sampling and/or by using lower input plants. Or if you have a ball field that you water and use moisture sensors to show when watering is needed and compare this water use to previous years to show the amount of water saved by using these sensors. Along with the better management aspect of designated green sites there is also an education component that should be included. By having a designated green site in your community, site managers have a tool that can be used to show other people how these projects work. This also gives managers a chance to get the kinks worked out before they try to implement these practices elsewhere or on a bigger scale in their respective communities. You don’t have to be a groundwater guardian to have a groundwater green site. But if you are already a groundwater guardian this gives you another tool to help promote protection of groundwater and further your teams impact by expanding your educational

campaign by setting an example of how these practices can help the conservation effort through designated green site practices.

If you are interested in participating in the green site program you can download the pilot program application by logging on to the groundwater web site at www.groundwater.org. These cold winter months are a great time to get the planning out of the way for green site locations. Then as soon as spring comes you will be ready to implement and get your designated green sites up and running. If communities want further information feel free to contact me and I will see what I can do to get you started on your green site location. This is one more tool that can help in the fight for protection and conservation of our source water.

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The Nebraska Rural Water Association is pleased to announce they will be presenting two \$500 scholarships for higher education purposes for the school year 2008-09 fall and spring semesters.

The scholarship is available to children and stepchildren of member system employees. Employees of the Nebraska Rural Water Association Board of Directors and staff are not eligible. Interested persons should complete and submit the application inserted in this quarterly.

Applications are due March 1, 2008. Winners of the Scholarships will be announced at the Columbus Conference in March 2008. Send all information to:

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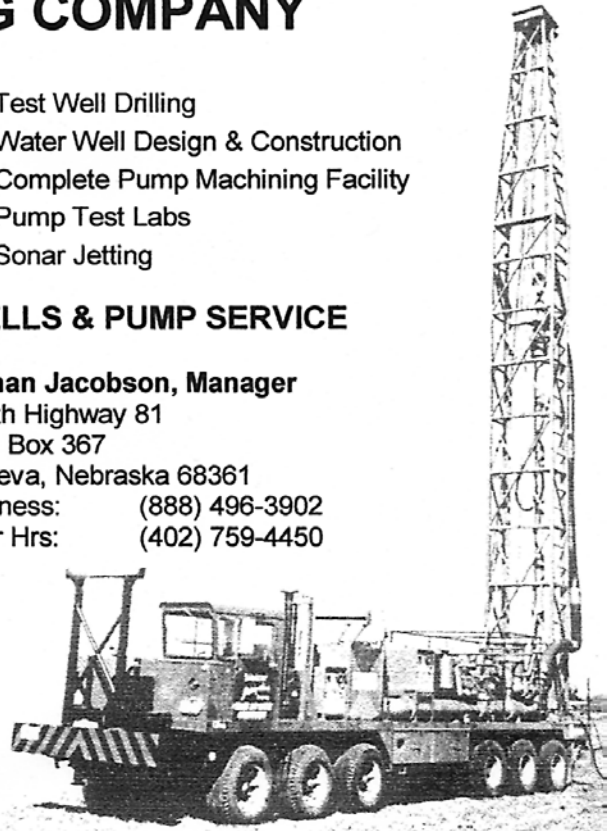
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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION (Application must be typed)

Personal Data

NAME _____
Last First Middle
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Eligible System Employee Data

NAME _____ TITLE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
MEMBER SYSTEM _____ TELEPHONE _____
RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT _____

High School Data

SCHOOL NAME _____ GRADUATION DATE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
YOUR CLASS RANK _____ NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN CLASS _____
YOUR GRADE POINT AVERAGE _____

(Transcript must be submitted with application if applying for the first time.)

LIST BELOW ANY ACADEMIC AWARDS, MEMBERSHIPS OR OTHER SPECIAL RECOGNITION YOU HAVE RECEIVED DATING BACK TO YOUR SOPHOMORE YEAR.

College/University Data

IS THIS YOUR FIRST YEAR OF HIGHER EDUCATION? YES _____ NO _____
IF "NO" INDICATE CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED _____
NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE _____
COLLEGE GRADE POINT AVERAGE _____
SCHOOL NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please indicate _____ 4-YEAR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY
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Priority will be given but not limited to water related studies.

Essay

ON A SEPARATE PAGE IN 250 WORDS OR LESS, WRITE A BRIEF MESSAGE ON YOUR GOALS AS THEY RELATE TO YOUR EDUCATION, CAREER AND FUTURE PLANS

Certification

IN SUBMITTING THIS APPLICATION, WE CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE. FALSE INFORMATION WILL RESULT IN THE REVOCATION OF ANY SCHOLARSHIP GRANTED.

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Official Rules

This grant of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) will be made to a student to defray the cost of tuition, books, or room and board at an accredited institution of higher learning approved by the Nebraska Rural Water Association (NeRWA). Disbursement of the money will be made upon presentation of winner's college or university invoice as proof of full-time enrollment. The scholarship money will be paid directly to the student, Five Hundred dollars (\$250) per semester or divided quarterly. The scholarship will be awarded to children or stepchildren of member system employees. In order to be eligible for scholarship, applicants must complete the application form in its entirety by completing all blanks. If item is not applicable please place a N/A in the blank. Upon completion return it to the NeRWA Scholarship Committee by the entry deadline, March 1, 2008. All applications will be first screened on the basis of leadership responsibilities in community and school activities as well as grade point average. Applicants will be evaluated on a comparative basis at the sole discretion of the committee. Decisions will be final. Application material and decisions of the committee shall be confidential. Acceptance of scholarship constitutes permission to use recipient's name and/or likeness for purpose of promotion.



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Preventative Well Maintenance

By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider

Once again it is winter time here in Nebraska. As I write this article the ground outside is covered in snow, and the weather man says we may get another storm this weekend. I guess we can use the moisture. I'm sure most of you are already getting sick of plowing it, and it's still early. In the past I have written articles about getting caught up on paper work when the weather is bad. That's still a good idea. You just never know when that state guy might show up. Preventative maintenance is something else that can be done in the winter when you're not pushing snow or scooping walks.

Several of the municipal water well drillers offer an annual well maintenance program for a very reasonable price. I guess it keeps their technicians busy in the winter months when drilling slows down. In my opinion, this is a very valuable service. After the maintenance has been done they send you a report on their findings. I would highly recommend sharing this report with the village board. The technicians check things like wire to water efficiency. They can tell if the motor and pump are operating efficiently. This alone is very important information. There is no reason to be spending more on electricity than necessary. Unless you have the proper equipment this would be difficult to calculate. If the motor or pump is starting to go out, you definitely want to be saving some money back for that. They also check the accuracy of the master meter. This is important when figuring water loss. I have been to several systems that thought they had a high water loss, and after looking at the well maintenance report, we discovered the master meter was not accurate. Some

have been off as much as 20 percent. Draw downs are performed and tracked with this service. Over a period of years they will let you know if the screens are starting to plug. Acidizing the well screen may be necessary, especially if you have an iron and manganese problem. This service also includes things like changing the oil on the motor of a line shaft turbine well. They will also give you a heads up if the line shaft bearings are starting to wear.

What does all this add up to? Preventative well maintenance; it gives the system time to budget for a major repair. More importantly if repairs are needed you can schedule for a shut down. Many systems can't afford to shut down a large capacity well in the middle of August. Just as well get that well operating at peak performance for next summer this winter.



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Conducting Income Surveys

By Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist

Financing water system improvement projects in the State of Nebraska is a relatively simple process compared to some other states. The State of Nebraska utilizes a single loan and grant application that is reviewed by the Water and Wastewater Advisory Committee (WWAC). The application is reviewed by all of the funding agencies, and the committee advises on the best use of available dollars for funding as many projects as possible. The funding agencies represented at these meetings are USDA Rural Development, The Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund and the Department of Economic Development, which administers Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds. Each of these funding agencies has their own rules regarding eligibility for funding. The eligibility requirements are related to project contents, total project costs and system finances.

Financial eligibility requirements are an issue for systems wishing to receive funding from either USDA or the CDBG program. Each of these funding agencies has different requirements for funding, but in both cases the systems need to show a financial need. The most recent census data is generally used to determine eligibility for these funds, but in some cases changes in the population or economy of the system may make this data outdated. There is also the possibility that the project being considered benefits one section of the system more than others, and that the residents who are benefiting from the project may meet the income eligibility requirements. One way to determine this is to conduct an income survey of the system or portion of the system to be benefited to determine eligibility.

The first thing that must be accomplished prior to conducting an income survey is to inform the public of the need for the survey. A public information program should be conducted using the local media, posters, public meetings or any other method available to inform the public of the water system deficiencies and the need for funding to correct them. Since a large percentage of the survey forms must be returned for the survey to be considered adequate, it is important that the need for all surveys to be returned be stressed. While it is important that people understand the basics of the funding process, it is important the information be presented in a neutral manner. Any suggestion that the system is looking for incomes below a certain level

or that “high income” residents should not complete the survey could cause the survey results to be declared inaccurate and funding to be refused. All residents of the target area should be encouraged to fill out the survey form as accurately as possible.

The second object to be overcome in an income survey is the reluctance of people to divulge their financial information. Most people feel that this is very personal information that they do not wish to share with their neighbors. One way of overcoming this reluctance is to insure the confidentiality of the survey results. There are many different organizations, including NeRWA, that are willing to tabulate the survey data and insure the privacy of the information they receive. By having the survey forms accompanied by an envelope pre-addressed to the assisting organization, it assures the citizens of the community that the information they divulge will not be seen by system personnel. The tabulated results that are reported to the water system consist of summary data only, stating the number and percentage of households or persons who meet the eligibility requirements for the funding.

It is also important that the survey forms be delivered to the residents in the least threatening manner. A civic organization such as a chamber of commerce or local betterment group could be utilized to distribute the survey forms to all residents. By hand delivering the survey forms, it presents an opportunity to explain the purpose of the survey and the importance of having all surveys returned. The canvassing group should be trained to answer all questions carefully and neutrally, not giving any indication that certain incomes would be preferable to others. Just explaining that the income survey is a requirement of the funding agency should be adequate.

By notifying the public of the necessity of conducting an income survey, keeping the citizen’s financial information confidential and showing the importance of each survey by hand delivering them to the residents, the system should be able to complete a successful income survey. Even if the survey does not accomplish the desired results, it can be an opportunity to inform the community of the deficiencies in the system, prepare them for possible rate increases to correct the problem and show them that the governing body is doing all it can to lessen the financial impact of the project on its customers.

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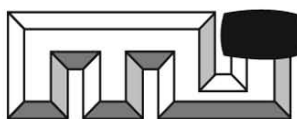
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