

Issue 1/2009

Nebraska Rural Water Association



NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS



FLOW METERS ✓



SAFETY GLASSES ✓



FLOW METERS ✓



PIPE FITTINGS ✓



SEWAGE PUMPS ✓



SWING CHECK VALVES ✓



MARKING PAINT ✓



LAB PLATES ✓



MOWERS ✓



GPS ✓



LAB WARE ✓



WORKWEAR ✓



GAS DETECTORS ✓



BALL VALVES ✓ FLOW TI



SEWAGE PUMPS ✓



BLOWERS ✓



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Table of Contents

How'd We Do & Letters From2-4

2009 Training 5

Constantly Striving to Provide More
Services to Our Members 7

Large Meter Accuracy 8

Department of Health Reimbursement 9

Conference Pre-Registration Form 10

NeRWA Offers GPS/GIS Mapping
for Utility Systems 11

NeRWA Conference Agenda 12-13

Winter Weather Safety 15

Scholarship Application 17-18

The Red Flag Rule and Your Water/
Wastewater Utility 19

Meet Jack Stevens 21-22

Asset Management 23

Water Contest 24

Contact Information 25

“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.

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Jim Heyen, Wastewater Technician
Charles Bausch, Groundwater Technician

Website: www.nerwa.org

On the cover:

Bancroft water tower was built in 1969. The village completed a lengthy water project in 2009. The tower was inspected, sandblasted and painted.



This is a replica of Bancroft's water tower. It was made by the husband of the clerk, Jennifer Carlson. It is being used for donations for their 125th celebration in July of this year.

How'd We Do and Letters From...

David Schulte
Chairperson

Village of Gresham
Box 164, 310 Elm St.
Gresham, Nebraska 68367
(402) 735-7385
FAX (402) 735-7385

Tina Courter
Village Clerk

December 3, 2008

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066


Dear Rural Water,

We would like to take the time to thank Rural Water and especially Barney Whatley, Russ Topp and Jim Heyen for all of the help they have given us, in the past year. Barney has come out and done a rate study for us, helped locate a water leak and presented information at meetings. Russ has helped locate leaks and curb stops and provided information for our Preliminary Engineering Report for our water improvement project. Jim performed sewer smoking tests in our Village.

We greatly appreciate all of the dedication and commitment that Rural Water has given us.

Please accept this check for the services we have received. Thank you for providing these much needed services.

Sincerely,


Tina Courter
Clerk/Treasurer

VILLAGE OF DAVENPORT

P O Box 119, 108 N Oak Avenue, Davenport, NE 68335 Phone 402.364.2292 Fax 402.364.2293

November 14, 2008

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066

Nebraska Rural Water Association,

The Village of Davenport would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help in locating our water leaks.

Please accept this donation to help fund and continue your services to the many communities like ours who value your help.

Sincerely,


Arlene Vorce
Village Clerk



Village of Clatonia PO Box 82 Clatonia, Nebraska 68328

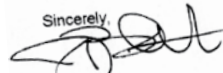
Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NRWA,

The Village of Clatonia Board of Trustees would like to thank you for all of your help in the past in regard to water rates and other issues, especially Randy & Russ. Your help and advice is invaluable.

Please accept the enclosed donation for your efforts.

Sincerely,



John W. Burkett
Chairman,
Village of Clatonia Board of Trustees

December 3, 2008

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Rural Water:

We would like to take this time to thank Rural Water and especially Jim Heyen for all the help they have given us. Jim came out and did some camera work on our sewer mains. We really appreciate the dedication and commitment Rural Water has for all of us.

Please accept our check for the equipment fund.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Tom Grovijohn
Tom Grovijohn
Utility Supervisor

Enclosure

CITY OF MADISON
P.O. Box 527 - 211 S. LINCOLN STREET
MADISON, NE 68748 - PHONE 402-454-3412

November 26, 2008

Nebraska Rural Water Assn
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Rural Water Assn,

Thank you for your expertise again this year with our water and sewer system issues. Your help is invaluable to us. In appreciation, we are making a donation to your equipment fund so you can continue to help water and sewer operators across the state.

Sincerely,

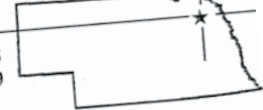
Darrel Lyon
Darrel Lyon,
Mayor

City of Wayne

306 Pearl • P.O. Box 8
Wayne, Nebraska 68787

(402) 375-1733
Fax (402) 375-1619

Incorporated - February 2, 1884



December 16, 2008

Nebraska Rural Water Association
Attn: Randy Hellbusch
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Randy:

Enclosed you will find a check in the amount of [redacted] made payable to the Nebraska Rural Water Association. This is just a token of our appreciation for all of the help you have given us over this past year.

Thanks again!!

Sincerely,

Betty A. McGuire
Betty A. McGuire
City Clerk

SANITARY AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 3
OF MADISON COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Dec 2, 2008

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa,
Wahoo Neb, 68066

Dear Rural Water:

We would like to take this time to thank Rural Water
and especially Barry Whately for all the help they have
given us. Barry came out and done a rate study
for us and presented the information to the board at our
meeting. We really appreciate the dedication and
commitment Rural Water has for all of us.

Please accept our love for the Equipment fund.

Thanks again

Sincerely,
Don Jensen
Clerk SID #3
107 Morningside Drive
Norfolk, NE 68701



City of Clarkson

The City of Hospitality

120 West Second Street - P.O. Box 18
Clarkson, Nebraska 68629-0018
Phone: (402) 892-3100 Fax: (402) 892-3141



October 28, 2008

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA,

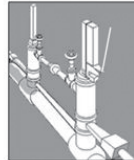
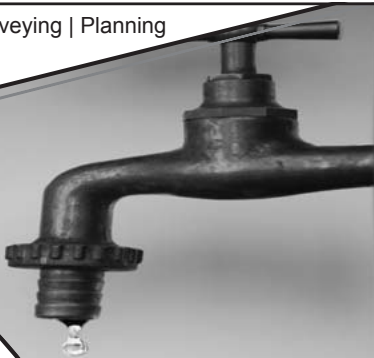
Thank you very much for all the work you do for all the cities and villages in the area. Please accept this
donation on behalf of the City of Clarkson.

Thanks again and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

Linda Coch
Linda Coch,
City Clerk-Treasurer

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TRAINING FOR 2009

<u>Water Operator Training</u>		<u>Wastewater Training</u>		<u>Backflow Re-Certification Training</u>	
January 20	Wahoo	January 7	Pawnee City	January 6	Wahoo
January 22	Howells	January 15	Wahoo	January 8	Minden
February 10	Long Pine	January 21	Hickman	February 10	Wayne
February 11	South Sioux	February 3	Atkinson	February 12	Nebraska City
April 14	Scottsbluff- Rule Managers	February 25	Loup City	April 7	Bridgeport
April 15	McCook- Rule Managers	April 2	Wahoo	April 9	Chadron
May 6	Sidney	April 7	Arapahoe	May 5	Atkinson
May 7	Kenesaw	April 16	Ogallala	May 7	Beatrice
June 5	Sutton	April 21	Gering	September 9	McCool Junction
June 10	Norfolk- Rule Managers	May 5	Newcastle	November 17	Broken Bow
July 7	Hay Springs	July 9	Wahoo	November 19	Valentine
July 8	Mullen	September 24	Denton	December 15	Mitchell
July 9	Spalding	October 14	Wahoo	December 16	Imperial
August 5	Kearney- Rule Managers	October 21	Alda	December 17	Cambridge
October 27	Eustis	November 18	Creighton		
October 28	Red Cloud	December 8	Wahoo		
October 29	Beatrice- Rule Managers				
December 8	Hartington				
December 9	Wahoo				
December 10	Johnson				

September 9	Trenching & Excavation Safety	Wahoo
September 10	Confined Space Entry	Wahoo

<u>Grade 6 Backflow Prevention Cross-Connection Control Course - 5 Day</u>	
January 26-30	Wahoo
April 27-May 1	Wahoo
October 19-23	Wahoo

March 16-18	Annual Conference	Columbus
Sept 1-3	Fall Conference	Gering
Sept 30	Utility EXPO	Fremont

Answer for the "Bath – 50 cents" photo in the last issue of the Good Water News:

It is located at the junction of highways 281 & 22. This is 3 miles west of Wolbach or approximately 25 miles north of Grand Island.

The first caller with the correct answer was Richard Ritterbush from Belgrade.

Congratulations, Richard!!

We are currently in the process of designing a new logo for NeRWA.

Think: Nebraska Rural Water Association.

What symbolizes Nebraska Rural Water to you? Please send any ideas to our office. You can mail, fax (402-443-5274) or email (salli@nerwa.org) them.

Clancy Dempsey resigned as Executive Director of the Nebraska Rural Water Association as of December 31, 2008. He has taken a position with the City of Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Dept.

We wish Clancy the best of luck with his new job.

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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 is eager to start helping systems get into a regular valve exercising program with the use of this new equipment. NeRWA field staff will stay on site and assist with the use of the valve exerciser at no cost 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.

The exerciser is available on a first come, first serve basis. If you have been wanting to exercise your system valves, but haven't had the time or the equipment, give us a call and we can help get the task accomplished.



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Large Meter Accuracy

By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider

In the last addition of the Good Water News I wrote about water loss through your large meters. I gave you some pointers on how to conduct a water audit and how to test a large meter for accuracy.

While working in the southwestern portion of the State recently, I just happened to stop into Hayes Center to visit Chuck Pierce, the system's water operator. The first thing he said to me was he really liked my article in the Good Water News. It really took me by surprise. I didn't know anybody actually read my articles. After he refreshed my mind on what the article was about, he said he had checked one of his large meters and it wasn't registering low flows. This meter was located in the school. He conducted a simple test of flushing the urinal to see if it would move the meter. It didn't. He said he had no idea how long it had been that way. I would have to imagine, most, older large meters are in the same shape. Chuck informed me he had already ordered a new meter.

Just in case anyone else read this article and are thinking of replacing an old meter, it might be a good time to insure they are installed correctly.

It is imperative to follow the manufacturer's installation instructions when installing large meters. I got on the web sites of a couple of manufacturers just to get an idea. Both manufacturers highly recommend using a strainer before the meter. This will reduce the amount of straight pipe required before the meter. The strainer actually straightens out the flow before the water enters the meter. It also filters out debris that may enter the meter and interfere with the accuracy. Without the strainer, 10 to 25 times the pipe diameter of straight pipe is recommended before the meter. This means a 2 inch meter would need a minimum of 20 inches of straight pipe before the meter. With the strainer, 4 to 5 times the pipe diameter of straight pipe is recommended before the meter. This means a 2 inch meter would need a minimum of 8 inches of straight pipe before the

meter. 2 to 4 times the pipe diameter of straight pipe is recommended downstream of the meter.

Here are some other items that you may want to consider. One is a bypass. Some installations, such as a hospital, may require a bypass. This will allow you to test and repair the meter without interrupting their service. Full open shut off valves should be installed for future maintenance and repair. An expansion joint will make it much easier to install and maintain the meter in the future.

The best advice I can give is to read and follow the manufacturer's recommendations concerning installation for the most accurate meter possible.

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260-563-3171



Department of Health

Reimbursement Process

The NeRWA annual conference is March 16-18, 2009, at the New World Inn in Columbus. The following information explains the reimbursement process from the Dept. of Health. If your system fulfills the following, do not send payment with your registration. NeRWA will bill DHHS directly for your conference fee.

If you are a certified water operator of a community or non-transient non-community Public Water System in Nebraska serving a population of 3,300 or fewer, no submittal of payment for the NeRWA Fall Conference registration fee is necessary.

The Nebraska Rural Water Association and the Nebraska DHHS Office of Drinking Water and Environmental Health have arranged to make a direct payment of the Conference registration fees through use of the Water Operator Expense Reimbursement Grant.

To be eligible for this “no registration fee submittal” event, you must:

- Be a certified (Grades 1 – 4 or 6) water operator of a community or non-transient non-community Public Water System in Nebraska serving a population of 3,300 or less.
- Obtain continuing education hours by verified attendance at training sessions during Conferences applicable to the water operator grade level(s) for which you are certified.

Note – Reimbursement for reasonable mileage to and from the Conference is also a reimbursable cost. Since these amounts will vary and additional information (odometer readings and license plate #) is necessary, request for reimbursement for mileage must be applied for separately by the individual(s) **directly to DHHS**. Application forms for reimbursement of mileage will be available at the Conferences.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The following NeRWA board members will be running for re-election to the association Board of Directors at the annual conference in Columbus held March 16-18, 2009:

Lyle Juracek, City of Neligh
Larry Wennkamp, City of Schuyler

Both positions must be filled by a delegate from a municipality.

Requirements for the above position:

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

If you are interested in running for the board, please submit a letter and resume so indicating. The deadline is March 12, 2009. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Nebraska Rural Water Association Annual Conference

**March 16-18, 2009
New World Inn
Columbus, Nebraska**

Name (1 person per form) _____
 Certification #: **Water:** _____ **Grade (1,2,3,4)** _____ **BF** _____ **WW** _____
 Water System/Company Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____

Conference
Pre-Registration

Registration includes materials, all meals and breaks. Please complete in full. Registrations received after March 6 will be increased by \$25; on-site will be increased by \$50. Indicate below any extra meal tickets for guests. The Wednesday breakfast is complimentary for all attending the conference. Monday is free for all utility/rural water board members.

I am a Board Member attending Monday (no charge) _____ I am the Voting Delegate _____

DAYS ATTENDING	Member	Member after March 6	Non-Member	Non-Member after March 6
FULL CONFERENCE (all meals)	_____ \$150.00	_____ \$175.00	_____ \$180.00	_____ \$205.00
MONDAY (evening meal)	_____ \$60.00	_____ \$85.00	_____ \$90.00	_____ \$115.00
TUESDAY (lunch & banquet)	_____ \$60.00	_____ \$85.00	_____ \$90.00	_____ \$115.00
WEDNESDAY (breakfast & lunch)	_____ \$60.00	_____ \$85.00	_____ \$90.00	_____ \$115.00

Extra meals available	Ticket cost	Number of tickets	Total
Mon evening	\$10.00	_____	\$ _____
Tues lunch	\$10.00	_____	\$ _____
Tues banquet	\$20.00	_____	\$ _____
Wed lunch	\$10.00	_____	\$ _____

Name of Guest _____

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Operators serving water systems of 3,300 or less are eligible for reimbursement from DHHS. You do not have to be a member of NeRWA for eligibility. NeRWA will bill the DHHS directly for reimbursement so do not send payment.

DHHS Eligible _____ PWS ID# NE _____

BILL ME (*NeRWA members only*) _____ PO # if applicable _____ CHECK ENCLOSED # _____

To Register:
 Call: 800-842-8039 or 402-443-5216
 Fax: 402-443-5274
 Mail: Nebraska Rural Water Association
 3390 Ponderosa Street
 Wahoo, NE 68066
 Website: www.nerwa.org

When making room reservations, mention you are with NeRWA

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

DATE REGISTRATION RECEIVED: _____

CANCELLATION POLICY: Full refund before March 6.

For NeRWA office use only: Payment received _____ Check # _____

Hours: **Water** _____ **BF** _____ **Wastewater** _____ Certificate mailed _____



NeRWA Offers GPS/GIS Mapping for Utility Systems

By Charles Bausch, GIS Specialist

Just in case you have not heard, Nebraska Rural Water Association now offers GIS/GPS mapping for utility systems in Nebraska. NeRWA has purchased the equipment necessary to collect GPS data, draw and print maps for utility systems.

What do you get when NeRWA performs this mapping service for you?

NeRWA is able to provide color maps of your utility system in the form of a large wall map and colored map books. But wait there's more, not only do you get paper maps we can set you up an interactive map on your computer by downloading Arc Reader (free software) so you are able to view your maps we produce.

What are the benefits to electronic map files?

Arc Reader gives utility systems another tool that paper maps do not. With Arc Reader you are able to zoom into specific areas of your map and get a detailed look at the specific features of that area of your utility system. Also, you are able to look at all your utilities at once or just one of them if you choose. This will help when you start your planning for upgrades to your system or when you need to do utility locates for diggers hotline. Arc Reader also gives you the ability to query the data in the map. This is like asking your map questions about your system. Example: You receive a recall notice on some fire hydrants that had a cast date of 2001. You can ask the map to find the fire hydrants with that cast date and it will give you a list and locations of those hydrants in your system. Arc Reader allows you to have all this information from your GIS/GPS maps right at your finger tips. With Arc Reader there is always a backup copy of your information just in case something happens to your paper copies and if the worst case scenario happens and you lose both your computer map and paper maps, NeRWA will also have a back up copy of your data if needed.

What is the cost of this service?

Many systems think this technology is out of their

price range. You will be surprised at how affordable this service is offered to you through NeRWA. We can provide you with a free estimate of the cost to complete the mapping process for your utility system. Once the estimate is accepted by your system, we can start the data collection. The data collection works best if collection features such as valves, curb stops, and manholes are located before our GIS/GPS Specialist comes to collect the data. If you have a problem finding these features give Russ Topp or Randy Hellbusch from our office a call and they will come out and help you locate these features at no cost. Once the data is collected our GIS/GPS Specialist begins drawing your new maps. We use information from your "as built" plans or information your Utility Superintendent has from the construction process to get these maps as accurate as possible. Once the maps are drawn we have the Utility Superintendent review and make any corrections to the map. Next, we print your final wall maps and map books. Finally, we set up your system with the Arc Reader software to view your maps on the computer.

If you would like more information about the mapping process or would like to see examples of utility maps that NeRWA has produced please contact **Charles** at **402-480-2982**.

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NATGUN CORPORATION • DAVE ORNDUFF, REGIONAL MANAGER
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FAX 913-681-6016 • E-MAIL: DORNDUFF@NATGUN.COM

NeRWA Annual Conference Agenda

New World Inn

Columbus, Nebraska

March 16-18, 2009

Monday sessions

The following sessions will be in the Courtyard

12:30	1:30	Water System Regulatory Update - Jack Daniel, DHHS; 1W
A "State of Nebraska Water Systems Report" from the drinking water primacy agency which will detail specific challenges and highlight the progress of water systems in meeting state and federal regulatory requirements, and providing the public with a safe and affordable supply of drinking water.		

30 minute break

2:00	3:00	Asset Management 101* (tentative)
------	------	--

30 minute break

3:30	4:30	Water/Wastewater Grants and Loans Program Denise Meeks, USDA; 1W, 1WW
Presentation will address USDA financing options for water and/or wastewater system improvements and expansion projects in rural areas and towns with a population not in excess of 10,000. Funds are available to public entities such as municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, and not-for-profit corporations.		

15 minute break

The following session will be in the Discovery/Santa Maria and Pinta/Nina combined		
4:45	5:45	WARN Panel Discussion - Rich Koenig, DHHS; Lash Chaffin, LONM; Jim Green, McCool Junction; Eric Melcher, Aurora 1W, 1WW
The concept is simple: Utilities Helping Utilities. Panel will discuss the new statewide mutual aid agreement for water/wastewater systems that could be activated in response to natural or manmade disasters. WARN is intended to fill the gap between the onset of the emergency and state and/or federal government response.		

Social hour, meal and activities will follow.

CEUs have not been applied for as of this printing. Keep watching our website for updated conference information and approved hours.

website: nerwa.org

TUESDAY SESSIONS

Session A - Discovery/Santa Maria		Session B - Pinta/Nina	Session C - Drake	Session D - Magellan	
8:00	9:00	Trench Safety - Jeremy Neill & Eric Juhl, United Rentals: 1W,1WW	Small System Roundtable - NeRWA Board: 1W	Rural System Roundtable - NeRWA Board: 1W	Backflow Testing Procedures Rich Koenig, DHHS: 1BF:1WW
15 minute break					
9:15	10:15	Trench Safety (Repeat) - Jeremy Neill & Eric Juhl, United Rentals: 1W, 1WW	Hydrogeologic Investigations - Luca Deangelis, Layne Christensen: 1W	Proper Sampling Procedures - Larry Wennekamp, City of Schuyler: 1W	Backflow Inspections and Proper/Improper Installations Rich Koenig, DHHS: 1BF, 1WW
30 minute break					
10:45	11:45	Locator Technology - Travis Beran, Subsurface Solutions: 1W, 1WW	CUPPS - Bob Dunlevy, EPA: 1W, 1WW	Disinfectants/Disinfection By Products - Mary Poe, DHHS: 1W	Troubleshooting BF Assemblies - Bob Jedlicka, Mack McClain: 1BF,1WW
1.25 hour lunch					
1:00	2:00	Locator Technology (repeat): 1W, 1WW	Advancements in Water Testing - Eric Lehmann, Hach Co: 1W, 1WW	Well Rehabilitation - Roger Miller, Layne Christenesen: 1W	Effective Cross Connection Control Program - TBD; 1BF, 1W, 1WW
30 minute break					
2:30	3:30	Leak Detection Equipment - Travis Beran, Subsurface Solutions: 1W	Title 179 NAC 7: Siting, Design, and Construction Standards - Chin Chew, DHHS: 1W	Fluoride Rule; Lead and Copper Rule: Andy Kahle, Steve Drda	Backflow Quiz Bowl - Rich Koenig, DHHS: 1BF, 1WW
30 minute break					
4:00	5:00	Panel Discussion: Water System Inspections - DHHS Staff: 1W	CUPPS - Bob Dunlevy, EPA: 1W, 1WW	Groundwater Rule (GWR) - Steve Drda, DHHS: 1W	Pumping System Efficiencies Greg Dekat, Bartlett & West: 1W

WEDNESDAY SESSIONS

Session A - Discovery/Santa Maria		Session B - Pinta/Nina	Session C - Drake	Session D - Magellan	
8:30	9:30	Developing A Department Budget - Randy Hellbusch, NeRWA: 1W, 1WW	Arsenic, Radium, Iron and Manganese Removal - Ron Rappard, Layne Western: 1W	Land Application of Wastewater - Daniel Burgard, Cascade Earth Sciences: 1WW	W & WW Operator Math Made Easy - Mike Wentink, DHHS: 1W, 1WW
15 minute break					
9:45	10:45	Financial Dashboard - Meghan Hemenway, Environmental Finance Center: 1W, 1WW	Lab Management and Method Performance - Eric Lehmann, Hach Co: 1W, 1WW	Land Application of Wastewater (Repeat) Daniel Burgard, Cascade Earth Services: 1WW	DHHS Lab Protocol (not yet finalized)
15 minute break					
11:00	12:00	Asset Management for Water/WW Utilities - Scott Sprague, DHHS; 1W, 1WW	COOP - Kris Luebbe, DHHS; 1w, 1WW	Chlorination Equipment - Jeff Shamburg, Bartlett and West; 1W	Hydrant Flow Testing - Mike Hurley, Hurco Tech Inc.: 1W
1 hour lunch					
1:00	2:00	GPS Utility Mapping - Charles Bausch, NeRWA: 1W, 1WW	Watershed Case Study: Shell Creek - Dave Rus, USGS: 1W	Working with Engineers on W/WW Projects - Eric Obert, JEO: 1W, 1WW	
2:00	3:00	GPS Utility Mapping (Repeat) - Charles Bausch, NeRWA: 1W, 1WW	Source Water Protection Funding - Mary Schroer, NDEQ: 1W	Proper WW Collection System Maintenance - Jim Heyen, NeRWA: 1WW	



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Winter Weather Safety

By Mike Stanzel

The holidays are over. The temperature reads -2 and you're considering looking for a new career in Florida. Then it happens. The dreaded phone call, "There's water bubbling up in the street. We have a water main break." Taking the proper precautions can help you beat Old Man Winter. Proper clothing is essential for protecting against frost bite and hypothermia. First of all, cover your head. Up to 40% of body heat can be lost when the head is exposed. Foot gear should be insulated to protect against cold and dampness. Gloves should be worn at all times. Also, dress in layers and avoid tight, restrictive clothing. Taking frequent breaks in a warm building or truck are necessary.

You need to know the signs of cold related injuries/illness. Frostbite occurs in deep layers of skin and tissues when areas have been exposed to the cold for too long. Generally fingers, toes and ears are most susceptible to frost bite. Skin will become hard and numb and a pale waxy-white color will appear. If this occurs, move to a warm area and remove any wet or tight clothing that may cut off blood flow to affected areas. DO NOT rub affected areas because this causes damage to the skin and tissue. Gently place the affected area in warm water bath and monitor water temperature to slowly warm the tissue. Do not pour warm water directly on the affected area because it will warm the tissue too fast causing tissue damage. Warming should take about 25-40 minutes.

After the affected area has been warmed it may become

puffy and blister or have a burning or numb feeling. When normal color and feeling has returned, the area should be dried and wrapped to keep warm. If the area gets cold again do not warm the skin as this will cause severe tissue damage. You should seek medical attention as soon as possible.

Hypothermia is another concern in freezing weather. This occurs when the normal body temperature (98.6) drops below 95. Common signs are fatigue or drowsiness; uncontrolled shivering; cool bluish skin; slurred speech; clumsy movements; irritability, irrational or confused behavior. If this occurs, call for emergency help (e.g. ambulance or 911) and move the person to a warm dry area. Don't leave the person alone. Remove any wet clothing and replace with warm dry clothing or wrap the person in blankets. Have the person move their arms and legs to create muscle heat. If they are unable to do this, place warm bottles or hot packs in the arm pits, groin, neck and head areas. Do not rub the person's body or place them in a warm water bath. This may stop their heart due to increasing the body temperature too quickly. Have the person drink warm sweet drinks, like sugar water or sports type drinks, if they are alert enough.

The key to preventing winter related injuries is safety and knowledge. Taking a few extra steps and being prepared will keep you safe and warm. In the meantime, think spring.



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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 2009-2010 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 2, 2009. Winners of the Scholarships will be announced at the Columbus Conference in March 2009. Send all information to:

NeRWA
3390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE 68066

If you have any questions, please give our office a call – 800.842.8039 or 402.443.5216.



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We would like to put the water towers of Nebraska on our cover. We want to feature a different tower on each issue.

So far we have had Cass County RWD 1, Louisville, Bloomfield, Litchfield, Columbus, Logan East RW, Papio-MO Dakota County, Wahoo, O'Neill, Dunbar, Amherst, Lyons and Western.

Let us add your name to our list and see how long it gets. Either send a photo to our office or email a picture to our website.

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SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

(Application must be typed)

Personal Data

NAME _____

Last

First

Middle

ADDRESS _____

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Eligible System Employee Data

NAME _____ TITLE _____

ADDRESS _____

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MEMBER SYSTEM _____ TELEPHONE _____

RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT _____

High School Data

SCHOOL NAME _____ GRADUATION DATE _____

ADDRESS _____

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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 _____

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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 _____

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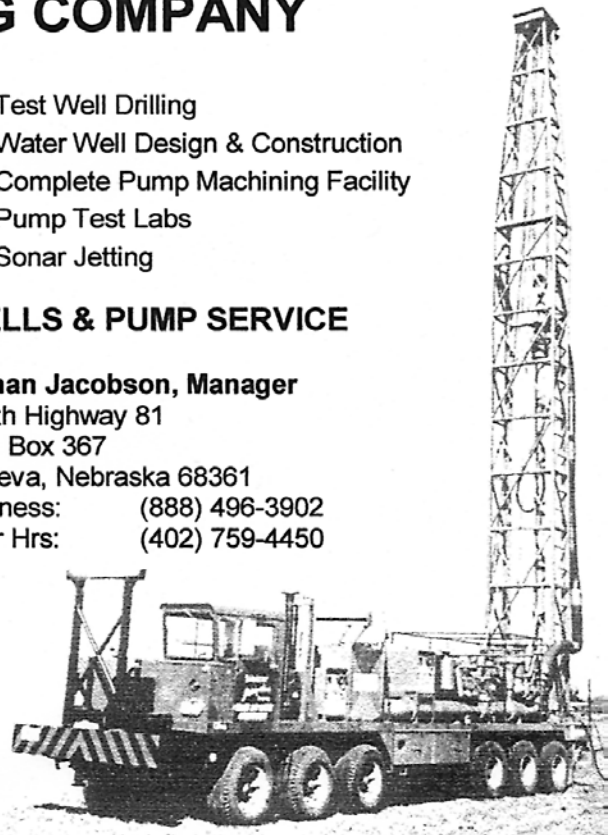
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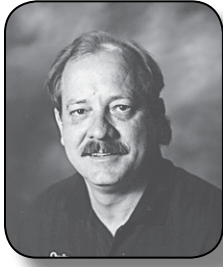
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The Red Flag Rule And Your Water/Wastewater Utility

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

What is the Red Flag Rule? I have had several water systems pose this question lately. It is actually the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FCRA).

What does my utility need to do to comply? The rule “requires any entity where there is a risk of identity theft to develop and implement an identity theft prevention program. The program must include reasonable policies and procedures for detecting, preventing, and mitigating identity theft. The rule was issued by the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Trade Commission, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, and the Office of Thrift Supervision. The original date of compliance was November 1, 2008 and includes all U.S. utilities. However, the FTC did issue the following press release: **“Given the confusion and uncertainty within major industries under the FTC’s jurisdiction about the applicability of the rule, and the fact that there is no longer sufficient time for members of those industries to develop their programs and meet the November 1 date, the Commission believes that immediate enforcement of the rule on November 1 would be neither equitable for the covered entities nor beneficial to the public. Delaying Commission enforcement of the rule as to the entities under it’s jurisdiction by six months, until May 1 2009, will allow these entities to take the appropriate care and consideration in developing and implementing their programs. It also will give the Commission time to conduct additional education and outreach regarding the rule.”**

The primary purpose of the Red Flag Rule is to protect against the establishment of false accounts and ensure existing accounts are not being manipulated. The regulation does not address or require utilities to adopt a measure that will protect consumer information and prevent unauthorized access. However, implementation of good management practices to protect personal

consumer data can prevent identity theft.

The National Rural Water Association, along with state affiliates, created an approved model program that can be used by utilities to assist in compliance with the rule. The model is available at our website (www.nerwa.org). Feel free to download and use the compliance model. The model will walk you through the required steps. Remember, all utilities are required to comply with the rule even if you only keep basic account information. For many small utilities, the risk assessment portion of the model will show that no changes are needed to current policies.

The rule does state, however, that the plan be updated on an annual basis. The update can be just a simple review of current policies, but must be approved by the governing body or senior management.

The Identity Theft Prevention Program of the Utility does not need to be submitted to or reviewed by the FTC. Also, there is no requirement of certification of the Program by the FTC.

If you have any questions regarding the Red Flag Rule and would like any assistance, give us a call.

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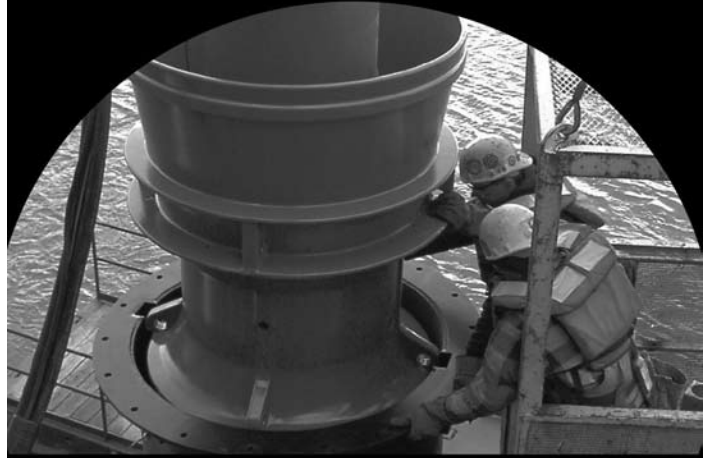
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Meet Jack Stevens

By Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist

In a continuing attempt to educate today's youth on the opportunities that are available in the water and wastewater industry at the local level, I sat down with part-time water operator Jack Stevens and discussed his thoughts on the profession. Jack was born in 1953 in Grant, Nebraska, and has remained in the area for his whole life. Jack graduated from Perkins County High School, and like many people just leaving high school; Jack was not sure where he was going in life. He attended night classes and took other higher education classes searching for his niche in life.

Jack has been running his own business for several years, providing complete grounds maintenance for several small cemeteries in the area. He had noticed that the Village of Elsie had been advertising for a water operator for six (6) to eight (8) months, and stopped at the Village Office one day to see what the job consisted of. The Village of Madrid had been covering as Elsie's water operator for a while, but they wanted to end the relationship due to concerns over liability issues. He learned that no one was willing to come work for the Village with a population of 139, and decided that he could help them out. Jack attended a Grade 4 water operator class in North Platte and became the system's certified water operator on June 1, 2008.

The original intent of the Village of Elsie was to have a water operator who worked twenty (20) hours per month. Shortly after taking the system over, Jack was confronted with the results of a sanitary survey of the system that contained three (3) pages of violations, many of them serious. Jack claimed he felt as though he was standing at the bottom of a large mountain watching an avalanche approaching. He felt overwhelmed and under prepared for the task he saw ahead of him. Jack met with Tony Martinez, his field representative from the state, and together they started working on correcting the deficiencies. He also contacted the Nebraska Rural Water Association (NeRWA), and received on-site assistance in completing required

plans and other paperwork for the system. During this initial employment period, lasting approximately six (6) months, the twenty (20) hour months became nearly full-time as the numerous deficiencies were corrected.

One of the major challenges that Jack has faced since becoming a certified water operator was trying to determine the cause of the system's continuing coliform problems and taking the needed corrective action. After much investigation, it was determined that the most likely cause of the problem was gaps where the lid of the water tower met the sides. Jack contacted a water tower contractor and had the tower inspected to determine the extent of the problem. It was determined that the seal needed to be welded, and that several other safety concerns needed to be addressed at the same time. The system was able to have the work completed, and the contractor agreed to bill the system over a three (3) year period. A lack of records and incomplete billing data were other problems that Jack faced, and with the assistance of his state field representative and personnel from NeRWA he was able to compile forms on which system records could be compiled and kept.

Now that the system is becoming more stable, the daily routine for Jack has also simplified. Jack generally starts his day by checking over the system to verify that everything is functioning properly. He then stops by the Village Office to check the Fax machine for digger's hotline reports and listen to any phone calls on the answering machine. He then goes to the post office to look through the Village mail to determine if there are any urgent or important letters needing attention. Following these tasks, Jack starts working on the areas of the system that still need attention, but are not a health hazard.

The rewards of the job come in the fact that most of the citizens of the village appreciate the work that he has done to improve the system and are understanding

continued on page 22

of the fact that much work still needs to be done and that it will take some time to get the system in tip-top condition. There is also a feeling of accomplishment in seeing the list of deficiencies shrinking to the point that they are no longer an avalanche, but only a trickle of sand down the mountain.

Looking into the future, Jack sees many other small systems having trouble hiring and keeping qualified water operators. With this in mind, he is considering the possibility of becoming the operator for other small systems in the area. This would need to be a gradual process, taking on smaller systems one at a time and determining if the workload is manageable. As the regulations governing water systems change, it seems to take more time for a system water operator to stay in compliance.

Jack recommends this type of work to anyone who is looking for a challenge and likes to work outdoors. Young people graduating from high school who want to stay in the area are encouraged to check out the local water and wastewater systems to see what opportunities are offered. Jack would be willing to take someone along on a routine day at work to see for themselves the variety of tasks and skills that are put into use in this field. New water operators are encouraged to become familiar with Word and Excel, as many state reports are in this format. It is also a good idea to find a mentor you can talk to and bounce ideas off of as you run into new situations.



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Asset Management

By Jim Heyen, Wastewater Technician

Many villages and cities are continuously working on rebuilding a pump, motor or maybe even replacing parts in equipment that is outdated and/or old for your system. I know with the economy the way it is today, buying new probably is not an option right now.

Asset Management is a more proactive approach to identifying the replacement of large ticket items and budgeting for them long term. You need to make a list of what you have and how long it has been in place in your system.

The second part is to keep a plan in place for councils/village boards. I understand, board members change on a term basis, but let yourself be heard. Give a report at meetings of status of equipment, updates on regulations etc. This way your board is not surprised when a big ticket item needs to be replaced. The other thing is not to expect grants to help your village or city out financially, because the money may not be there.

The following is a list of equipment life estimates I put together and used as an operator. I encourage you to make a side by side comparison of how long you have your system/equipment in place to the estimated life expectancy chart. How does your plant measure up? You are looking at some major problems in the near future and are you ready for the costs? I encourage you to share this with your boards/councils.

Expected Life Estimates

<u>Equipment</u>	<u>Life Expectancy (years)</u>
Chlorination Equipment	10-15
Aeration Equipment	5-10
Chemical Feed Equipment	5-10
Storage Tanks	30-60
Pumps	10-15
Motors	5 (continuous) 10 (intermittent)
Buildings	30-60
Electrical/Electronic Systems	7-10
Force Mains	35-40
Collection System (Plastic)	100
Manholes (brick)	10-30
Manholes (precast)	50-100
Valves	35-40
Lab Equipment	5-7
Tools & Shop Equipment	10-15
Office Furniture	10
Computers	5
Mobile Equipment	10
Electrical Generation Equipment	10-20
SCADA/Telemetry	7-10

NOTE: These are estimates of life expectancies from a wide variety of sources. Your individual experience and the conditions within a given plant, such as, degree or maintenance may produce different values. Your own judgement may be used but in the absence of any information, these values might be helpful.

As always if you have any questions about this article give me a call.

ANNUAL WATER TASTING CONTEST

March 2009

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 17. 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 16, at the
Conference Registration Table.

Water System: _____

Submitted By: _____

Date Sample Taken: _____

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