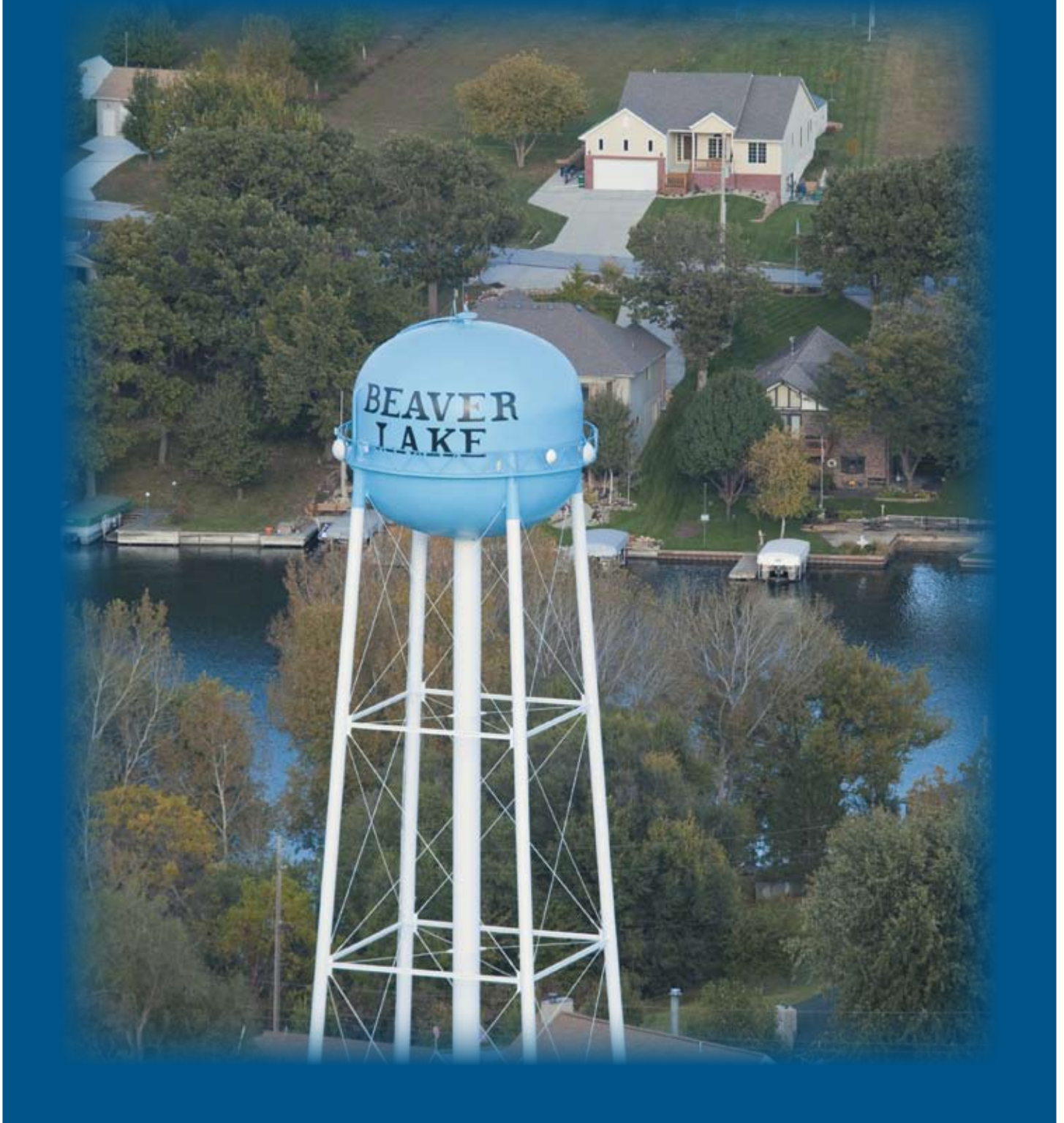


Issue 1/2010

# Nebraska Rural Water Association



## **NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS**



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# Nebraska Good Water News

# Issue 1/2010

*“Keeping Our Water Safe”*

*Board of Directors*

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*“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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Charles Bausch, Training Specialist  
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Johnny Thorton, ARRA Circuit Rider  
Mike Lucas, Source Water Specialist

Website: [www.nerwa.org](http://www.nerwa.org)

### **On the cover:**

**Water tower for Beaver Lake Association.**

**Beaver Lake water tower. Photo submitted by Premier Aerial Imaging, [www.premieraerialimaging.com](http://www.premieraerialimaging.com).**



# How'd We Do and Letters From...

## VILLAGE OF THEDFORD

403 Maple Street  
PO Box 147  
Thedford, NE 69166  
Phone (308) 645-2411 Clerk  
Phone (308) 645-2201 Maintenance Bldg.  
Fax (308) 645-0459

November 24, 2009

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for filming our sewer lines and for the helpful information you provided. Please accept this donation to your equipment fund as a token of our appreciation. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Cordially,  
  
Ronda Haumann, Clerk

Village of Thedford

Alma  
is for  
YOU!

City Of Alma

December 16, 2009

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Street  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Re: Donation

The City of Alma employees and Council would like to thank Nebraska Rural Water Association for always being willing to help the City when we have asked for assistance.

Enclosed you will find a donation to the Equipment Fund to show our appreciation for the excellent services your association provides.

Thanks again



Steve Waring  
Alma City Administrator

## City of Osceola

Phone: (402)747-3411 • 451 N. Main P.O. Box 701 Osceola, NE 68651 • Fax: (402)747-8191

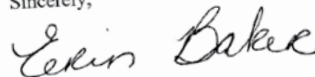
December 16, 2009

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association,

Thank you so much for the extra work you do. We really appreciate all of your hard work and dedication. The repair work done at the Flower Cottage here in Osceola is greatly appreciated. Keep up the great work!

Sincerely,



The City of Osceola

## Village of Doniphan

P.O. Box 189  
Doniphan, Nebraska 68832-0189  
402-845-6609

November 12, 2009

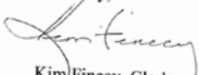
Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA:

The Village of Doniphan would like to take this opportunity to once again say "thank you" for all your help over the years and most recently to Russ who brought out a nitrate tester for us to use.

Enclosed is a donation for your equipment fund. We appreciate all you do and are very grateful that you are always there when we need you!

Sincerely,



Kim Finecy, Clerk  
Village of Doniphan



December 8, 2009

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Re: Donation

Dear Rural Water Association:

On behalf of the Mayor, City Council and all employees of the City of Springfield, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of the services that you offer to Nebraska communities and for the valuable assistance and support that you provide.

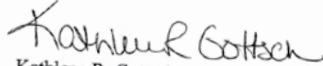
A special note of thanks to Randy Hellbusch, Mike Stanzel and Barney Whatley for all of the advice and assistance they have provided to our city employees.

Please accept the enclosed donation to your equipment fund as an expression of our sincere appreciation for everything that your organization and staff does for us.

We hope that the organization continues to receive funding from the State of Nebraska, so that it can continue to assist Nebraska communities.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

  
Kathleen R. Gottsch  
City Clerk/Treasurer

## Village of Madrid

P.O. Box 171  
Madrid, NE. 69150  
308-326-4263

Nebraska Rural Water Association

I'm writing this letter to say that Jim Heyen has helped me and the Village of Madrid immensely with his insights and years of experience in Waste Water. We have an old Imhoff tank system for a Waste Water facility that has been in use since 1949. When the proposal of an Ethanol Plant in Madrid in 2004 came about the Village was informed that something would have to be done to our Waste Water facility. Jim has shown me how to complete DMR's, given advice on sampling procedures, helped figure out problems with the trickle filter, and has given assistance many other times. He has also smoked our collection system and when time allows I'm going to have him camera a couple of spots. His help and advice has been very valuable and I don't know what we would have done without it.

Sincerely,

Village of Madrid Board

And

David Steinwart

Utilities Super



## Village of Paxton

108 North Oak  
PO Box 338  
Paxton NE 69155

December 14, 2009

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Rural Water Association,

The Village of Paxton Board of Trustees would like to express their appreciation for the assistance you have provided our Water Superintendent. You have answered many questions and shared valuable knowledge. Enclosed please find a donation to your equipment fund.

Again, our thanks,



Richard A Colson  
Paxton Village Board Chair

## Village of DeWitt Utility Office



December 22, 2009

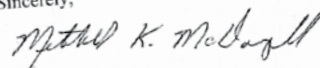
Nebraska Rural Water Asso.  
3390 Ponderosa Dr.  
Wahoo, NE. 68066

Dear Randy & Russ:

On behalf of the Village of DeWitt, I would like to thank you both and the rest of the NeRWA staff for your help in locating the leak in our water main. Your help prevented us from removing almost 20 yards of concrete, saving our community a large amount of money. It is our hope that we can continue to enjoy your services for many years to come.

Please accept the enclosed donation to your equipment fund and accept our thanks for all your help.

Sincerely,



Mitchell K. McDougall  
Utility Supt.  
Village of DeWitt

VILLAGE OF TRENTON  
P O BOX 68  
TRENTON, NE 69044-0068

PHONE 308-334-5488  
FAX 308-334-5678  
Email: vtrenton@gpcom.net

December 9, 2009

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Street  
Wahoo, NE 68066

RE: Donation to equipment fund


The Village of Trenton's Chairman, Board of Trustees and employees want to take this opportunity to thank you very much for all your efficient help.

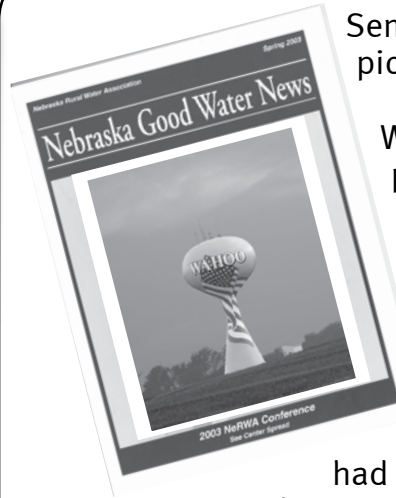
From working with us on rate study surveys to help with our wellhead protection plan, your expertise and knowledge has been gratefully appreciated.

Please accept the enclosed donation for your equipment fund.

Merry Christmas to all.

Sincerely,

  
Angie Bowman  
Village Clerk



Send us your pictures!!!

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 RWD1, Louisville, Bloomfield, Litchfield, Columbus, Logan East RW, Papio-MO Dakota County, Wahoo, Hickman and Arnold.

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



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<b><u>Water Operator Training</u></b>	
January 20	Hickman
January 21	Wayne
February 9	Ainsworth
February 10	Broken Bow
April 13	Gering
April 14	North Platte
May 4	Cambridge
May 5	Blue Hill
June 4	Sutton
June 9	South Sioux City
July 6	Chadron
July 7	Thedford
July 8	Albion
August 10	O'Neill
August 11	Madison
October 26	Henderson
October 27	Fairbury
October 28	Plattsmouth
November 9	Grant
December 8	Bancroft
December 9	Wahoo
December 14	Falls City

<b><u>Backflow Re-Certification Training</u></b>	
January 5	Holdrege
January 6	Broken Bow
February 9	Nebraska City
February 11	Norfolk-Nucor Steel
April 6	Sidney
April 7	Crawford
May 4	Atkinson
May 5	Valentine
September 14	Falls City
September 15	York
October 12	Wayne
October 13	Papillion
November 9	Wahoo
November 16	Cairo
November 17	Bloomfield
December 7	Mitchell
December 8	Imperial
December 9	Cambridge
December 14	Wahoo

<b><u>Wastewater Training</u></b>	
January 6	Neligh
January 20	Wahoo
February 24	Loup City
April 14	Ogallala
April 15	Gering
April 21	Cambridge
May 6	Wahoo
May 12	Newcastle
June 23	Wahoo
October 7	Wahoo
October 14	Hickman
November 16	Bridgeport
November 18	Creighton
December 7	Wahoo



Nebraska Rural Water Association  
 3390 Ponderosa  
 Wahoo, NE 68066  
[www.nerwa.org](http://www.nerwa.org)

# 2010 TRAINING

<b><u>Grade 6 Backflow Prevention Cross-Connection Control Course - 5 Day</u></b>	
January 11-15	Wahoo
April 19-23	Wahoo
October 18-22	Wahoo

<b>March 22-24</b>	<b>Annual Conference</b>
	New World Inn Columbus, Nebraska
<b>August 31-Sept. 2</b>	<b>Fall Conference</b>
	Gering Civic Center Gering, Nebraska
<b>October 5</b>	<b>UTILITY EXPO</b>
	Christensen Field Fremont, Nebraska

<b>September 8</b>	Confined Space Entry	Wahoo
<b>September 9</b>	Trenching & Excavation Safety	Wahoo

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**Nathan Jacobson, Manager**

South Highway 81

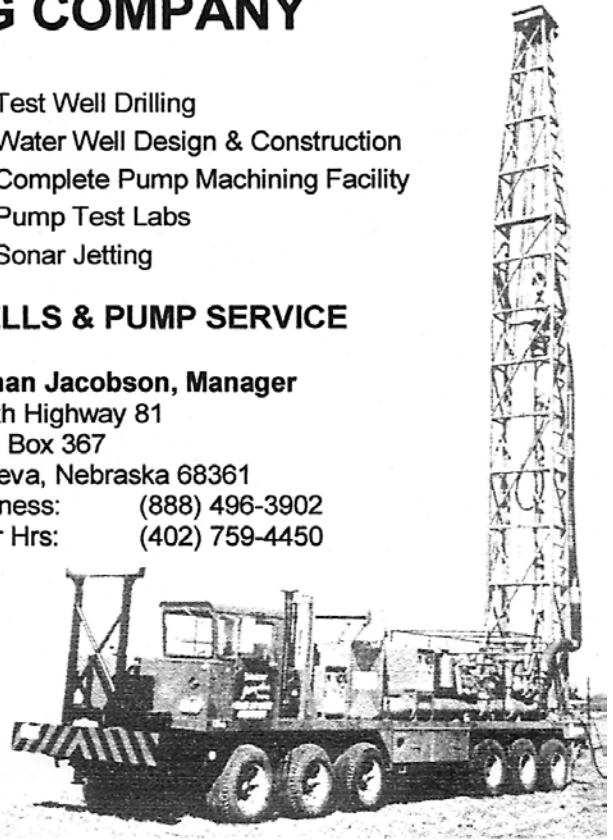
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# Winter - Great Time to Plan Your Mapping Needs

By Charles Bausch, GIS Specialist

Well, the weather outside is frightful, but the GIS/GPS planning is delightful, so let it snow, let it snow, let it snow. Yes, winter is definitely here to stay for awhile, but after you get all that snow moved you can switch your attention to gathering all that information you want to put in your new GIS/GPS map. Once we get all the features of your utility system GPSed, it's just the beginning of making this the best map you ever had. The key is to take all those old maps with tons of information that has been acquired over the years and put that into your GIS/GPS map. Winter is a great time to look at all that information that you have collected over the years. Now try to think of how can we categorize this information and add it to the features of your GIS/GPS map when we start the process. The goal is to get you the best map ever. All the information has to be inputted into your map and that will take some time but once you get that done all that information can be easily backed up, safely stored and easily updated. If you have any questions about how to categorize this information just give me a call. I'll be happy to help you out.

Now let's talk about some other features your GIS/GPS map has. We all know GPS is going to give you the location of your features but GIS is going to give you the critical information you need when utilizing this map. For example, you have a main break and the ground is completely covered with snow and you need to find specific valves to shut that main down for repairs. With a GIS/GPS map this can be done very simply. We all know that heat for the most part will uncover sewer manholes in your system. I know you're saying what do sewer manholes have to do with my

main break. Well, when you have your sewer and water on the same map you can use those manholes to pull measurements to the valve that shuts that main down. Same with fire hydrants if there is one close to that water valve you're looking for just pull a measurement right off the computer. I guess what I'm getting at is the more you have on your GIS/GPS map the more points you will have to pull measurements from to find your features. All that snow that made finding those valves in the past nearly impossible now is just another minor barrier that can be moved with a few shovel scoops instead of the many hours of looking and saying, "I thought it was right here." A GIS/GPS map will give you actual measurements that you can use in the real world. That's just one feature a GIS/GPS map gives you over other maps. Remember not only do you get a paper map from NeRWA when they produce your GIS/GPS map but you also get a map on the computer that can be zoomed in, queried for information and printed out to send along with locates and service calls. If you have any other questions on any of this just give me a call. I'll be happy to help in any way.

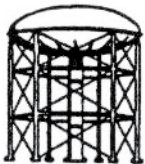
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The Nebraska Rural Water Association is accepting bids on this black and white copier. Includes: high capacity paper bin, collator, stapler, hole punch and extra toner cartridge. The copier has approximately 450,000 copies on it. The copier was still working fine when replaced. Bids start at \$10. The high bidder will be notified and will need to pick it up unless other arrangements have been made. A color picture is posted on our website, nerwa.org.

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Layne Christensen Company  
Water Resource Division

*NeRWA would like to thank everyone who made donations in 2009 to our equipment fund. Those donations will help our association continue to provide needed quality assistance to Nebraska's water and wastewater systems.*

Adams	Howells
Ainsworth	Hubbard
Allen	Indianola
Alma	Johnson
Arcadia	Johnson County RWD #1
Ashland	Juniata
Bancroft	Lawrence
Beatrice Board of Public Works	Loup City
Beaver Crossing	Malcolm
Bellwood	McCool Junction
Benedict	Milligan
Big Springs	Nehawka
Boyd County RWD #2	Nemaha County RWD #2
Bradshaw	Newcastle
Broken Bow	Osceola
Burwell	Page
Cairo	Palmer
Cambridge	Panama
Cass County RWD #1	Pawnee County RWD #1
Cedar Rapids	Paxton
Chappell	Prague
Creighton	Primrose
Dakota County RWS	Ravenna
Dalton	Rising City
Dawes County RWD #1	Russ Anderson
Decatur	Spaulding
Deshler	Springfield
Diller	Springview
Dodge County SID #3	Theftord
Doniphan	Trenton
Dunbar	Ulysses
Edgar	Utica
Emerson	Valentine resident
Fairbury	Virginia
Fairmont	Waco
Garland	Wilcox
Gretna	Winnetoona
Hampton	Wolbach
Hickman	Yutan



## Nature's Little Warning

*By Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist*

If you have ever wondered about the importance of having a realistic budget that includes cash reserves and contingency funds, this winter should be a good example of what can happen if you are not adequately prepared. The severe snow storms hitting the eastern part of the state one after another have put a strain on many municipal budgets. The City of Omaha reported that they had spent more than they budgeted for snow removal for the entire year by the first part of January, with more snow likely before winter is over. Some systems have had water towers freeze and controls stop working due to the extreme cold. Although these types of situations may be extreme and very rare, they do happen. Systems need to plan for and be prepared for these situations.

A realistic municipal budget should be based on past experience, not only for the municipality in question, but also looking at other municipalities and the challenges they have had to face. Some of these challenges, such as population or industrial growth or loss can be planned for in advance, and infrastructure needs can be scheduled in advance. Weather emergencies tend to “sneak up” on a system, and that is why they are called “emergencies”. Just because a system has never had losses due to ice storms or blizzards does not insure that this will not happen in the future, especially in a state with such severe climate changes.

Having open discussions with other municipalities that have suffered losses due to weather emergencies or other occurrences can assist a system in determining what the cost might be to them in a similar situation. Budgeting for these situations can alleviate the immediate financial effects on the community, but it is very important to include the public during this process so they understand the need for funding reserves. It is often hard for the average citizen to understand the need for a rate increase when the system has tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars in the bank. Being able to show your customers what different types of

emergencies can cost the system can often help them understand the need for having reserve funds.

Systems that have strictly been budgeting based on last year's expenditures with a slight “cost of living” increase could easily find themselves in a financial bind in the event of an emergency. It would be wise to at least begin a reserve fund for emergencies based on a small percentage of the operation and maintenance costs of the system. The board or council should then determine a goal for a fully funded reserve, and make additions to this fund annually until that goal is reached. This would allow the system to implement a small increase in the event of an emergency with the intent of rebuilding the reserve fund rather than being forced to implement a large rate increase just to pay the bills.

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# SAVE IT – DON'T WASTE IT

*By Johnny Thornton, ARRA Circuit Rider*

Water is a valuable necessity. It is a life support for all living things. We cannot do without it. This is why we should try and preserve it as much as possible.

Recently I ran across some things that I felt were totally wasteful. In a town that I visited I happened to notice a birdbath in the backyard of a resident. In this birdbath there was a garden hose which apparently had been running for quite some time. There was a huge water hole in the yard and water was running out of the yard into the road ditch. I have also seen stock tanks running over for very long periods of time. There also have been lawn sprinklers left running in one place for as long as 16 hours when one or two hours is sufficient for a good watering.

Many people (including myself until recently) get a full glass of water and take, maybe, one or two swallows then pour the rest out. Little do they know that if they pour 4 ounces out of an 8 ounce glass along with everyone else in a town of 10,000 people that could equal 312 gallons of water wasted in a day.

In December of 2009 I was visiting a hospital. The person I was visiting and the nurses informed me that they had to run the water for 15 to 20 minutes to receive any warm water at all. There are six floors in this hospital with 24 rooms on each floor. This equals 48 hours of running water just to receive hot water. It seems to me there should be a way to reduce this waste of water such as an on-demand water heater for each floor.

Keep in mind that a 1/4 inch hole under average household pressure of 60 PSI over a three month period would result in the waste of 1,181,500 gallons of water. This is roughly a hole the size of the lead in a pencil. A hole 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch under the same pressure and over the same period of time would waste 74,000 gallons of water.

We all need to know and understand why we need to preserve this special commodity. Without it we would not be able to live. We are very fortunate in the United States. There are many countries that do not have the quality of water on tap that we enjoy. Please use it, but use it wisely! Remember that only 1% of the earth's water is available for drinking, 2% of the earth's water is frozen and the other 97% is salt water.

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# Storage Tower/Tank Cleaning

By Mike Stanzel, Deputy Circuit Rider

Cleaning of your storage tank, tower or vault is one part of your job that can easily be overlooked. The requirements of title 179 state that cleaning and inspection needs to be performed once every 5 years. Sometimes this can cause an inconvenience to operators, as well as, financial stress on systems. If it has been a while since your last inspection, now is the time to inform your board that they need to start budgeting for this expense. Here are some tips that will hopefully help your project go smoothly.

1. Before you start make sure you use a reputable contractor. There are several out there, so take some time and research their past work and call other operators to see if they were satisfied with their work. Some companies offer a maintenance agreement that they can come out and inspect on a regular basis for a yearly price.
2. Get a signed contract that states in writing what they are responsible for. For example --who is going to take the required bacti samples?
3. Make sure you have the equipment needed prior to the start of the project. This may include but not limited to: pressure gauges, pressure relief valves, chlorinators, chlorine residual testers, extra sample bottles.
4. Also check the weather forecast. You may not want to take a tower or tank out of service if adverse weather conditions may delay getting the system back online.
5. Check with the contractor first to determine whether they need to install a larger access way. This will obviously take longer to install and sometimes can be quite costly. But safety regulations require this to be done prior to accessing the tank.
6. Determine where you will place your pressure relief valves. Most systems will be pumping their wells directly into the system and the water not consumed will blow off at the hydrant. You want to make sure that this excess water has a place to flow and not cause any damage to property. Also you need to take into consideration, is it running across a street and will freezing temperatures cause icy roads?
7. Make sure you notify all your residents. This might encourage conservation during the project and might prevent a phone call in the middle of the night stating water is running down the street.
8. Most importantly notify your local and neighboring Fire Departments that there might not be sufficient amounts of water for fire fighting. This way they can have prior arrangements made with other departments to truck in water in case of fire.
9. Lastly keep in good contact with the Village Office or City Hall. They usually get quite a few phone calls from residents and they will be better prepared to answer questions if you keep them informed.

If you need assistance with preparing your system for cleaning please let us know. Also we have pressure relief valves and chlorinating equipment if needed.

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# Conference Agenda

## Monday and Tuesday

**MONDAY      Courtyard**

12:30    2:00    Water System Regulatory Update-Jack Daniel,  
DHHS 1.5 W

.50 break

2:30    3:15    USDA Rural Development Updates-Denise  
Meeks, USDA .75W, .75WW

.50 break

3:45    4:45    Using State Forms on the WEB-Kris Luebbe  
and NeWARN update 1W

.25 break

5:00    5:45    Source Water Protection and Water Shed  
Efforts-Mary Schroer & Ryan Chapman, NDEQ  
1W

**TUESDAY      Session A                      Session B                      Session C                      Session D                      Session E**

8:00	9:00	Handling Non-payment of Bills-Lash Chafin,LONM & Randy Hellbusch, NERWA 1W,1WW	Small System Roundtable-NeRWA Board 1W	Rural System Roundtable- NeRWA Board 1W	Emergency Reponse- Kris Luebbe, DHHS 1W,1WW
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.25 break

9:15	10:15	Grout Study-Sue Lackey,UNL 1W	Trouble Shooting Chlorine Pumps-Jeff Lafferty, Stenner Pump Company 1W,1WW	Diggers Hotline Updates- Susan Lynch 1W,1WW	Backflow Installation and Trouble Shooting-Bob Jedlicka, Mack McClain Associates 1W, 1BF
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.50 break

10:45	11:45	Coping with Contaminants New Facilities Projects-Ron Rappard, Layne Western 1W	Trouble Shooting Chlorine Pumps-Jeff Lafferty, Stenner Pump Company 1W,1WW	Pipe Bursting: A New Means to Replacing That Old Line-Jeff Goldsberry, Ditch Witch 1W,WW	New Products and Trends in the Backflow Industry-Bob Jedlicka Mack, McClain Associates 1W,1BF
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1.25 hour lunch

1:00	2:00	Chapter 7 Regulation Changes on Engineering-Chin Chew, DHHS 1W	Nitrates in Nebraska- Jason Gurdak, SFSU 1W	Horiznotal Direction Drilling-Jeff Goldsberry Ditch, Witch 1W,1WW	Effective CCC Program- Barney Whatley, NeRWA 1W,1BF
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.50 break

2:30	3:30	Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Hydrants-Craig Stephens, Mueller Co 1W	Proper Disinfection Practices-DHHS Reps 1W	Industry Trends in Wastewater Screening- Norm Jackman, Vulcan Industries 1WW	Testing and Repairing Backflow Devices-Rich Koeing, DHHS 1W,1BF
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.50 break

4:00	5:00	Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Valves and Restraints- Craig Stephens, Mueller Co 1W	Sanitary Survey Findings and Enforcement-Doug Woodbeck, DHHS 1W	Pump Maintenance and Repair-Chris Johnson, Burt Gurney 1W,1WW	Backflow Quiz Bowl-Rich Koenig, DHHS 1W,BF
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WEDNESDAY		Session A	Session B	Session C	Session D	Session E
8:30	9:30	Fall Protection and Confined Space Safety-Jeremy Neill, United Rentals 1W,1WW	Test Regulator Knowledge-DHHS Field Staff 1W	Point of Use vs. Large Treatment: Which Way to Go-Andy Kahle, DHHS/Broadwater Project-Jack Baker, Baker Associates 1W	LIMS and internet Tools-Mary Boden, DHHS Groundwater Rule-Steve Drda 1W	NIMS Certification For Water and Wastewater Operators 1W,1WW
.25 break						
9:45	10:45	Fall Protection and Confined Space Safety-Jeremy Neill, United Rentals 1W,1WW	Alternative Water Supplies & Operational Services for Small Communities-Dorman Otte 1W	Smart Metering Technology-Brad Cutler, Sensus Meter Company 1W	Wastewater Reporting - Dawn Martin, NDEQ 1WW	NIMS Certification For Water and Wastewater Operators 1W,1WW
.25 break						
11:00	12:00	Scada systems-Lincoln Williams, TMS 1W,1WW	Water Operator Ethics-Dorman Otte 1W	Smart Metering Technology-Brad Cutler, Sensus Meter Company 1W	Capacity and Development-Scott Sprague, DHHS 1W	NIMS Certification For Water and Wastewater Operators 1W,1WW
1.0 hour lunch						
1:00	2:00	NRD-Strategic Planning and Implementation of Shell Creek Project-Eric Smith, NRCS 1W	Project Preparation-Eric Obert, JEO 1W,1WW	Customer Communication: Getting Your Point Across-Dorman Otte 1W,1WW	SRF Funding-Steve McNolty 1 W,1WW	NIMS Certification For Water and Wastewater Operators 1W,1WW
2:00	3:00	Sampling Techniques and Procedures-Russ Topp and Mike Stanzel, NeRWA 1W	Wellhead Protection and Planning-Charles Bausch, NeRWA 1W	Ways to go Green-Groundwater Foundation 1W	No Session	NIMS Certification For Water and Wastewater Operators 1W,1WW

**Conference Registration begins: 10:00 am on Monday  
7:15 am on Tuesday & Wednesday**

**Monday:**

- All sessions & activities will be held in the main Courtyard
- No lunch provided
- Training sessions will begin at 12:30 pm
- Social begins at 5:45 pm with the meal at 6:30 pm, followed by fun night activities

**Tuesday:**

- Training sessions begin at 8:00 am with 4 concurrent classes
- Lunch is provided
- Social begins at 5:00 pm with the meal at 6:30 pm, followed by awards & entertainment

**Wednesday:**

- Training sessions begin at 8:30 am with 5 concurrent classes
- Breakfast and lunch are provided

The following CEUs have been applied for:

- Total hours: 14.25 water, 11.75 wastewater, 5 backflow
- Monday: 4.25 water, .75 wastewater
- Tuesday: 6 water, 6 wastewater, 5 backflow
- Wednesday: 5 water, 5 wastewater

**REMEMBER YOUR SCAN CARDS that contain your operator information.**

Don't forget the Water Contest – details on page 17.

## 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 on March 22-24, 2010.

Tom Goulette, City of West Point  
Eugene Schroeder, Cedar Knox RW

The positions must be filled by a delegate from one municipality and one rural water district.

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, 2010. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

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Minneapolis, MN	612-331-9100
Sioux Falls, SD	605-368-5793
Slater, IA	515-685-2250
Superior, WI	715-392-5121
Washburn, ND	701-462-8588
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# Nebraska Rural Water Association Annual Conference Pre-Registration

**March 22-24, 2010  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-Registration  
Deadline is  
March 12, 2010

**REGISTRATION INCLUDES TRAINING MATERIALS, MEALS AND BREAKS.** There is a breakfast on Wednesday that is complimentary for all operators attending the conference. Registrations received after March 12 will be increased by \$25; after March 17 and on-site will be increased by \$50. Monday is also 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 12	Non-Member	Non-Member after March 12
FULL CONFERENCE (all meals)	_____ \$175.00	_____ \$200.00	_____ \$200.00	_____ \$225.00
MONDAY (evening meal)	_____ \$60.00	_____ \$85.00	_____ \$85.00	_____ \$110.00
TUESDAY (lunch & evening meal)	_____ \$70.00	_____ \$95.00	_____ \$95.00	_____ \$120.00
WEDNESDAY (breakfast & lunch)	_____ \$70.00	_____ \$95.00	_____ \$95.00	_____ \$120.00

All meals are included for anyone registered. Please indicate below if you will be staying for the evening meals. You will not be charged for them. This will give us a better count for the hotel.  
 Guests need to purchase a ticket for every meal.

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

Total meal cost for guest \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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 17.**

**For NeRWA office use only:** Payment received \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Hours: **Water** \_\_\_\_\_ **BF** \_\_\_\_\_ **Wastewater** \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate mailed \_\_\_\_\_



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**ANNUAL  
WATER  
TASTING  
CONTEST  
MARCH 2010**

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Water  
Association**



The water contest is to be held at the Conference in Columbus. A panel of distinguished taste testers will judge all samples. The winner will be announced at the banquet on Tuesday, March 23. The winning system will compete against finalists from the other 49 states in the National Contest at the National Rural Water Association Water Rally in Washington DC.

Contest Rules:

1. 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. Water should be in clean, unmarked gallon container (preferably glass)
- 6. Entry form must accompany sample**

Water must be received by 3:00 pm on Monday, March 22, at the conference registration table.

**Water System:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

Remember—bring completed form with your water!!!



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# Assistance Available to Rural Communities from Rural Development

*By Doug Buresh, ARRA Circuit Rider*

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I have been working for the Nebraska Rural Water Association for nearly seven months now and have thoroughly enjoyed it. There are a great bunch of people working here. NeRWA is a non-profit, service-oriented organization that provides technical assistance and training programs for water and wastewater systems throughout the state of Nebraska. I have also thoroughly enjoyed meeting many of the fine folks who work to keep their water and wastewater systems operating 24/7. I apologize to those systems I have not been out to visit yet. I hope to meet many more of you in the coming months.

Let me remind you that ARRA funds through USDA Rural Development are still available through August 2010 or until funds are exhausted. The following is a Water and Waste Factsheet taken from the Nebraska USDA-RD website at [http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/water&waste\\_disposal\\_program.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/water&waste_disposal_program.htm).

**Water and Environmental Programs (WEP)** provides loans, grants and loan guarantees for drinking water, sanitary sewer, solid waste and storm drainage facilities in rural areas and cities and towns of 10,000 or less. Public bodies, non-profit organizations and recognized Indian tribes may qualify for assistance. WEP also makes grants to non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance and training to assist rural communities with their water, wastewater and solid waste problems.

**The purpose of the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program is...**to develop and repair drinking water and sanitary sewer systems, including solid waste disposal and storm drainage in rural areas. Funding covers water and waste development costs such as construction, improvements, equipment, facilities, land rights, engineering, fees, etc.

**Eligible applicants include...**public entities such as municipalities, counties, special-purpose districts, Indian tribes and nonprofit organizations.

## **Terms and Conditions...**

The term of the loan is for 40 years or for the useful life of the security.

Interest rates are comparable to current municipal bond rates and are based on the median household income of the service area.

A test of credit is required.

Grant assistance will be considered once the user costs exceed a certain level of the community's median household income.

Government owned bonds, revenue bonds, notes, mortgages, etc. will be used for security.

Eligible areas include unincorporated rural areas, cities and towns with populations of 10,000 and less.

Systems are generally expected to be self-sufficient.

Other assistance offered includes rural water circuit rider technical assistance, technical assistance and training grants, and solid waste management grants.

Potential applicants along with their consulting engineers are encouraged to utilize the Nebraska Water and Waste Common Pre-Application Process.

- Under the Nebraska Water and Waste Common Pre-Application Process, a simplified single pre-application is submitted and considered jointly by USDA Rural Development, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and the Nebraska Department of Health Regulation and Licensure to determine the best combination of funding for the proposed project.

*continued on page 19*



**Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants** assist rural communities that have had a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water and may be required to have a Presidential emergency designation.

The maximum amount of grant awarded is \$500,000 when a significant decline in quantity or quality of water has occurred within two years or \$75,000 to make emergency repairs and replacement of facilities on existing systems.

Grants may be made for 100 percent of project cost.

Grants can be made to rural areas, towns, and cities with a population of 10,000 or less and a median household income not in excess of 100 percent of the state's non-metropolitan median household income.

Historically, this program has not been funded by Congress each fiscal year. You should contact your local USDA Rural Development Office to check on the availability of funding.

## **Register Now for the Annual Conference**

**March 22-24, 2010**

**New World Inn**

**Columbus, NE**

**Registration Form on page 15**

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# Annual Conference

By Charles Bausch, Training Specialist

As I'm writing this article we are just starting to dig out from the second large snowstorm of this short winter season. Although with all this snow on the ground, it is hard to imagine that spring will be here before you know it and once again our 32nd Annual NeRWA Conference will be at the New World in Columbus, March 22-24, 2010. This is my first year doing all the planning for the conference and there are more loose ends to tie up than I could ever imagine.

This year we believe that everyone will find something new and interesting at this year's Annual NeRWA Conference. Like always, the first day will be our general session with representatives from DHHS, USDA, and NDEQ. With that many acronyms on the schedule you know it will be a very informative day. The second and third day will be where we have several concurrent sessions going on. Some of the sessions will cover backflow repair and maintenance, running a good cross-connection program while other sessions will include pump maintenance and repair and fire hydrant maintenance to name a few. Some of our new sessions will cover pipe bursting and Horizontal Directional Boring. There should be a full agenda in this magazine of the entire 2010 Annual Conference so we encourage you to take a look.

If the classes are not the draw for you then maybe our prizes will be. Yes, this year NeRWA has several items to giveaway thanks in part to our many Associate Members. This year prizes include a 2010 Arctic Cat Four Wheeler, a Nintendo Wii gaming console, a craftsman tool set, and a flat screen TV just to name a few.



Along with some great prizes we will have some excellent entertainment. The Vocal Jazz Choir from Concordia University in Seward will be performing at our banquet this year.

Remember the deadline for early registration is fast approaching so don't let another year go by without making it a year to remember by attending the 32nd Annual NeRWA Conference in Columbus at the New World Inn, March 22-24. We'll see you there.

## WINTER GETAWAYS

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

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LAKE PLACID  
LOS ANGELES  
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ORLANDO  
PUERTO RICO  
SAN DIEGO  
SUN VALLEY  
TAHOE  
TELLURIDE  
VAIL  
VANCOUVER  
WINTER PARK

solution on page 24

The Nebraska Rural Water Association is pleased to announce they will be presenting two \$500 scholarships for higher education purposes for the school year 2010-2011 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 15, 2010. Winners of the Scholarships will be announced at the Columbus Conference in March 2010. 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.



We would like to welcome Mike Lucas to the NeRWA staff. Mike has been hired for the Source Water Program. Mike was the utility superintendent at Broken Bow for the past 10 years. Be watching for him at our conference and stopping in at your systems.



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**NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION**

3390 Ponderosa Street  
Wahoo, NE 68066

**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  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 2-YEAR COMMUNITY/JUNIOR COLLEGE  
 \_\_\_\_\_ VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY \_\_\_\_\_  
*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.

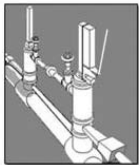
Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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, two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per semester. 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 filling in all blanks. If item is not applicable please place a N/A in the blank. Upon completion return it to the NeRWA Scholarship Committee by the entry deadline, March 15, 2010. 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.

**NOTE: DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO MARCH 15, 2010.**




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## CONFERENCE RAFFLE PRIZES

These are a few of our raffle prizes for this year's conference. Tickets will be available starting Monday at 1:00 pm through 11:00 am Wednesday. The drawings will be after lunch on Wednesday. There are some game activities planned for Monday after the meal, including basketball, Chinese horseshoes, Balloon bust, and a variety of Wii games. Winners of the games will be awarded tickets that can be exchanged for raffle tickets. The game tickets are only redeemable on Monday night. So stick around for the social, meal and fun.



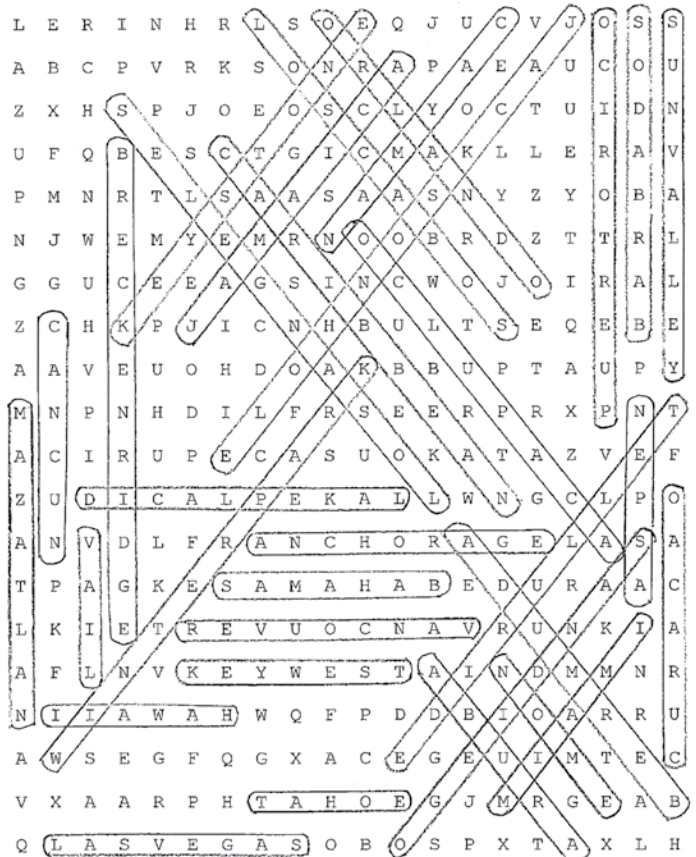
### FOR SALE:

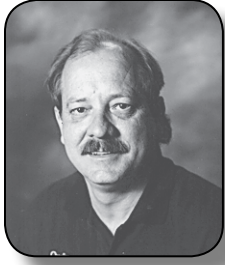
The City of Wakefield, Nebraska, is offering the following property for sale:

- a. 13 Joslyn elbow arrestors, 3 kv
- b. 12 Joslyn riser pole arrestors, MOV 3 kv
- c. 7 Kearney Fuselink fuses, 100T
- d. 10 Kearney Fuselink fuses, 80T
- e. 10 Kearney Fuselink fuses, 75T
- f. 7 S&C Fuselink fuses, 140T, Cat #279140
- g. 4 S&C Fuselink fuses, 200T, Cat #279200
- h. 6 Aluma-form Cluster Mount, Model 15M3-6
- i. 4 Krenz Transformer cooling fan, Mode A4P17NB3G
- j. 75+ Joslyn clamp type cross arm pins (saddle pins)
- k. 14 Cooper pin type insulators, 55-3 11.5 kv, 18 per box
- l. Assorted copper splices both crimp type and automatic
- m. Assorted insulated aluminum splices, crimp type

Interested parties may submit an offer to the city clerk at 405 Main Street, Wakefield, during normal business hours. Offers received will be submitted to the city council for acceptance of the highest and best offers received.

## WINTER GETAWAYS SOLUTION





## Educating the Public on Water Conservation

*By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider*

More water systems than ever are installing water line service meters on all of their users. There are many reasons, but mainly it is because there is currently money available for assistance with such projects.

Often times meters are not a real popular decision among users that are not used to being metered. The majority of citizens are against the idea of metering because they haven't been properly informed of the benefits of meters and the positive results metering can bring to a water system. Most users automatically just think of the immediate impact on their own wallet. All they see is that meters are going in and their monthly bill is going up! What many don't realize is that their bill is going to increase regardless of the meters, and many would possibly even see a larger increase if meters are not installed. This is where a good public education program can really help. For instance, most people find it hard to believe how much water a leaking toilet or faucet

can use in a day's time.

NeRWA has materials that can help to educate water users on conservation and water use. Just give us a call and we can get you some information that will help you educate the public on water use.

Another excellent resource for this type of assistance is the National Small Flows Clearinghouse based at the University of West Virginia. Their e-mail address is [www.nsfrc.wvu.edu](http://www.nsfrc.wvu.edu). They have some great educational items that can really assist you in making changes and improvements to your water system go much smoother.

If your water system is currently installing meters, contemplating meters or if you have any other issues that you would like some assistance with, give us a call at 1-800-842-8039.

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# Sampling Techniques for Coliform Bacteria

*By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider*

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Procedures for sampling coliform bacteria seems to be a subject that just never seems to go away. For new water operators it is imperative to develop and follow a technique to insure an accurate lab result of the quality of water in your system. Seasoned operators must remember to never get in a hurry or shortcut their technique for coliform sampling. Whether you are a new operator or have been in the business for a long time, if the technique is working, don't change! If the technique isn't working and you are experiencing positive samples, you may want to read on. I will try to explain a technique that works for me, as well as, many operators across the state.

1) Site selection: All routine sample sites must be approved by the Department of Health and Human Services. It is imperative to select sites that will reflect the true quality of the water you provide to your customers. Always avoid dead end water mains. The water can become stagnant in these areas. If you have a water main valve that is broken in the closed position you actually have two dead end mains. This condition may not be apparent so be aware. Always be sure you open valves after repairs and after exercising. Be very careful to check for any type of water filter. You may find them on the service line as it enters the building or under the sink. Try to select homes without old galvanized piping. Some of these pipes have a lot of deposits inside them that can be flushed into your sample. Never use a site that has any type of water treatment such as a water softener or a reverse osmosis unit.

2) The type of sample tap you use must be looked at very carefully. A smooth nosed sample tap plumbed in line, just as the water enters the building, is a very good sample tap. A single cold water faucet is next best, but hard to find. Try to avoid mixing and swivel faucets if at all possible. Never use faucets that can be extended. These faucets have a flexible hose on them that is impossible to get disinfected. Never use a yard hydrant. Avoid long neck faucets, these are very difficult to disinfect. Avoid outside hose bibs, the seat on these hose bibs are actually 16 or more inches inside the home and are very difficult to disinfect properly. Sample stations may be an option for you. If you decide to invest in these stations I would make sure your coliform bacteria, sample site plan, has been approved by the Department of Health and Human Services before installing them. Be aware that you will be sampling in the elements. You may want to get some type of small tent to get out of the wind or cold.

3) Flushing the service line is next. Before you begin to flush the service line be sure to unscrew the aerator making sure all gaskets have been removed from the faucet. Flush the service line thoroughly before collecting your sample. While flushing I will normally turn the water on and off a couple times very fast. I am hoping if any deposits are going to become dislodged it will happen then and not while I'm filling the sample bottle. The water should be flushed long enough to be collecting water that comes from the main. Usually five minutes is adequate, but the length of the service line dictates how long you must let the water flush. You can avoid in house plumbing problems by installing a smooth nosed sample tap just after the water enters the building.

4) Disinfect the sample tap. The best technique I have found to disinfect a sample tap is to fill a sandwich baggy (fold over type) half full with Clorox, place it around the neck of the faucet, twist the baggy tight around the faucet and push up on the baggy. This will displace the water in the faucet with Clorox. I will continue this for four to five minutes. Carefully remove the baggy. At this point you have everything disinfected, do not touch the faucet or move the neck. Run the faucet at a good pencil lead sized stream and be sure the water stream doesn't lap up around the faucet. Let the water run for a couple of minutes before filling the bottle.

5) Fill the sample bottle. Hold the bottle relatively close to the faucet. Unscrew the lid holding it in the downward position, fill the bottle to the 500 millimeter line and put the lid right back on. Do not put the lid in your pocket, do not put your thumb in the lid, do not sneeze, do not cough or even breathe heavily while you have the lid off of the sample bottle. Some operators go as far as to make sure the furnace isn't going to start while they are collecting the sample. If for any reason you suspect the sample bottle may have been compromised pitch it in the garbage and call the lab for a replacement.

6) Fill out the lab slip completely and accurately, attach shipping label and put the sample in the mail. Then hold your breath until the results return.

Mike Stanzel and I will be conducting a class at our Spring Conference in Columbus in March. We will be teaching sampling techniques and answering questions. Hope to see you there.



## 2008 CDC Fluoride Recognition

There are currently 65 public water systems in Nebraska that adjust the fluoride level in the water they deliver to their customers. Every year, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) receives reports from the States regarding the public water systems that fluoridate. These reports are reviewed by CDC and, based on the results of the evaluations, CDC officially recognizes those PWS that do an exemplary job of adjusting the fluoride level and keeping the average within the optimum range (0.8 to 1.5 mg/L) for 12 consecutive months. For calendar year 2008, CDC has provided Certificates of Recognition to the State of Nebraska for 41 public water systems that fluoridate. Those systems are:

Village of Adams	City of Albion	Village of Allen
Village of Arlington	City of Auburn	City of Bassett
Beatrice State Developmental Ctr.	City of Blair	City of Blue Hill
Cedar-Knox Rural Water Project	City of Columbus	Village of Emerson
City of Fairbury	City of Falls City	City of Fremont
City of Gering	City of Gordon	Village of Hallam
City of Hartington	City of Holdrege	City of Kearney
City of Laurel	City of Lincoln	City of Lyons
Metropolitan Utilities District	City of Nebraska City	City of Ogallala
City of Osmond	City of Papillion	Village of Pender
City of Plattsmouth	City of Red Cloud	City of Scribner
City of South Sioux City	City of Springfield	City of Syracuse
City of Tilden	Village of Valparaiso	Village of Wausa
City of Waverly	City of Wayne	

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health extends congratulations to the systems listed here, for their diligent efforts in maintaining fluoride at the optimum level for protection against tooth decay and protecting public health.

### ***Press Release Template - CDC Water Fluoridation Awards***

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health announced today that (Name of Community Public Water system) has been awarded a 2008 Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Fluoridation is the adjustment of fluoride in the water to a level that is optimal for preventing tooth decay. The award recognizes those communities that have maintained a consistent level of optimally fluoridated water for the calendar year.

Community water fluoridation has been recognized by CDC as one of 10 great public health achievements of the 20th Century. Currently, more than 184 million people, or 69.2 percent of the United States population served by public water supplies, drink water with optimal fluoride levels for preventing tooth decay. CDC recommends water fluoridation as a safe, effective, and inexpensive method of preventing tooth decay, and studies have shown that it is effective for preventing tooth decay in people of all ages. In addition, fluoridating a community's water supplies is one of the most effective public health measures-every \$1 invested in fluoridation saves approximately \$38 in costs for dental treatment.

“(Insert quote from State/Community Official. [Suggest a statement about fluoridation benefiting both children and adults, preventing tooth decay throughout the lifespan.]”

“Tooth decay continues to be an important public health problem that affects many Americans, particularly those of lower income and those of some racial and ethnic groups,” stated Dr. Kathleen Ethier, PhD, Acting Director of the CDC Division of Oral Health. “Fluoridating a community's water supplies is one of the most effective and equitable steps that a community can take to improve the health of all their citizens.”

(Insert “Boiler Plate” for your Health Department).



# pH Calibration

By Jim Heyen, Wastewater Technician

The purpose of a pH calibration is to set your meter to be able to obtain accurate measurements for sample pH levels.

pH meters may vary but most follow the same basic rules for set up. Most meters have an automatic temperature compensation built in to accurately measure no matter the buffer temperature. Also known as ATC, you will want to check your meter to see if it has this feature.

Steps to calibrating your meter:

- 1) You need to select the correct normal pH readings for your operation. Mechanical plants are normally between 7.0 to 8.0 and lagoons are from 7.0 to 10.0 or even 11.0 . The reason you want your range to be at these numbers is your permits fall within these parameters.
- 2) To begin calibration you will need to purchase liquid pH buffers to create your low and high end of calibration. Because of ease of packaging and cost, I purchase mine from Blue Book in a bundle which gives me pH 4.0, 7.0, 10.0, and bottle of electrode storage solution (which I refer to later). There are other distributors who offer buffers and can even be purchased in powder form to mix.
- 3) You will need to set your lower calibration by putting enough pH buffer (normally 7.0) in the bottom of a clean container to cover the probe. Remove cover from probe, rinse tip with distilled water and wipe off with tissue paper. (Paper towel is a little harsh on the glass.) Insert probe into buffer and follow calibration instructions for probe. In most cases you will push cal button, allow reading to stabilize, then press hold ent (or may ask for second calibration).
- 4) Remove probe from first solution, rinse and wipe clean, then place into second clean container with higher buffer solution (normally 10.0). Follow same steps as above, allowing time to stabilize

then hit the cal or measurement mode button. Again clean probe and now you are ready to measure your sample.

- 5) To store probe when you are finished, you will want to place a damp sponge or tissue paper (something that will soak up liquid) in the bottom of lid. You should keep the sponge damp at all times with electrode storage solution.
- 6) Just a reminder the pH buffers do have an expiration date, so they are no longer effective after that date. They can be washed down the drain with lots of water.

A simple chart (like the one below) is sufficient for recording your results.

DATE	pH4	pH7	pH10	Operator	Time
1/1/2010		6.9	9.9	JH	8:01 AM

Note:

sample location \_\_\_\_\_

Copy of manufacturer's pH calibration directions

Brand of pH meter \_\_\_\_\_

I would suggest you document your sample findings in a small notebook. The DEQ will request to see this information, so it is just easier to keep it all together.

# Nebraska Good Water News

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Nebraska Section, AWWA
AWWA Library Reference Listings
NeRWA Associate Members Page

## NeRWA Contact Information:

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 3390 Ponderosa Street  
 Wahoo, NE 68066

Office phone numbers:

800-842-8039  
 402-443-5216  
 Fax: 402-443-5274  
 Website: [www.nerwa.org](http://www.nerwa.org)  
 Email: [office@nerwa.org](mailto:office@nerwa.org)



	<u>Cell #</u>	<u>Email</u>
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