

Issue 2/2011

# Nebraska Rural Water Association



**NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS**

# USABlueBook® has EVERYTHING YOU NEED for Water & Wastewater Operations

Featuring products in the following categories:

- Aeration
- Chart Recorders
- Chemical Feed
- Collection Systems
- Electrical
- Flow Metering
- Gauges
- Grounds Maintenance
- Hose
- Hydrants
- Lab Chemicals, Equipment & Testing
- Level & Pressure
- Locating & Leak Detection
- Maintenance
- Office Products
- Pipe
- Plugs
- Process Analyzers
- Pumps
- Reference
- Safety
- Sampling Equipment
- Security
- Stormwater
- Tanks
- Tools
- Valves
- Water/Wastewater Treatment
- Workwear

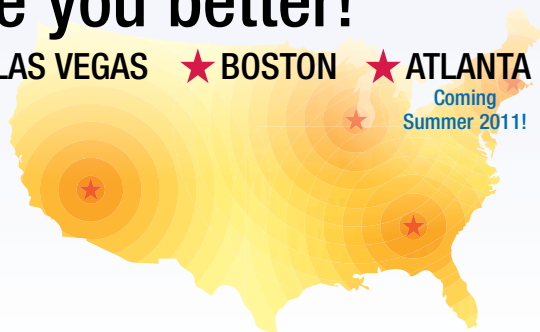
Unsurpassed personal customer service  
and expert technical support

Over 27,000 items in stock and  
95% of orders ship the same day

Nationwide distribution centers to  
**serve you better!**

★ WAUKEGAN, IL ★ LAS VEGAS ★ BOSTON ★ ATLANTA

Coming  
Summer 2011!



Call 1-800-548-1234 & request your  
**FREE MASTER CATALOG 122**

We're celebrating  
20 years of  
service!



**USABlueBook®**  
*Get the Best Treatment™*

800-548-1234 • [www.usabluebook.com](http://www.usabluebook.com)

# Nebraska Good Water News

# Issue 2/2011

*“Keeping Our Water Safe”*

*Board of Directors*

## Table of Contents

How'd We Do & Letters From .....	2-4
2011 Training Calendar .....	5
What Are Your Plans This Spring .....	6
Do I Have a Water Leak or a Revenue Leak .....	7
Association Update - Spring 2011 .....	9
Last Call For Chemical Feed Pump Training .....	11
2011 Conference Highlights .....	12-13
Help Wanted.....	14
It's a Small World.....	15
2011 Conference Highlights continued .....	16
Meter Accuracy.....	17
Spring Break .....	18
One Last Hurrah at Columbus	
2011 Annual Conference .....	19-20
Just a Reminder .....	21
The Village of Swanton is Our Wellhead	
Protection "Spotlight Community" .....	22
Trenton Water Department Brings Home	
Top Honors in Best Tasting Water Contest .....	23
And The Winners Are... ..	24
NeRWA Contact Information.....	25

### **President:**

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

### **Vice-President:**

Bob West  
220 West "G" St.  
Elmwood, Nebraska 68349  
(402) 432-0298

### **Secretary/Treasurer:**

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

Dennis Hoback  
317 Hoback Road  
Union, NE 68455  
(402) 235-3077

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

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

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

### **Staff:**

Salli Kemerling, Office Manager  
Carol Jasa, Secretary  
Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider  
Russell Topp, Circuit Rider  
Mike Stanzel, Deputy Circuit Rider  
Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist  
Jim Heyen, Wastewater Technician  
Charles Bausch, Training Specialist  
Doug Buresh, Training Assistant  
Mike Lucas, Source Water Specialist

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

### **On the cover:**

Water Tower For Culbertson.

*“Nebraska Good Water News” is a quarterly publication of the NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION, 3390 Ponderosa, Wahoo, Nebraska 68066. Phone 1-800-842-8039 or (402) 443-5216 or FAX (402) 443-5274. Copies are mailed to all member rural and municipal water operators, Federal and State Legislators, associates and individual members.*

*The NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION is dedicated to the improvement and assistance of all public water systems in the State of Nebraska.*

*NOTICE: Nebraska Rural Water Association does not endorse any particular product or company in this publication. Membership and advertising should not be taken as an endorsement.*

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

## VILLAGE OF WAUSA

P.O. BOX 219  
WAUSA, NEBR. 68786

February 28, 2011

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NE Rural Water Assoc.,

The Village of Wausa would like to thank your staff for coming to Wausa and assisting our water operators in locating water leaks. We also want to thank Randy Hellbusch for conducting the water and sewer rate studies through the years.

We have enclosed a donation for your assistance. Thank you so much for your valuable services.

Sincerely,



William J. Schumacher, Chairman  
Wausa, Nebraska



Nebraska's Hometown Hideaway

City of Ravenna 416 Grand Avenue P O Box 108 Ravenna, NE 68869

February 8, 2011

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association:

On behalf of the Mayor, City Council and Public Works Department of the City of Ravenna, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your assistance not only this past year, but over the past several years. The time, support and services you provide to the communities in Nebraska are invaluable.

Please accept the enclosed donation for your equipment fund as an expression of our sincere appreciation. Thanks again!

Sincerely,



Kellie Crowell, CMC  
City Clerk/Treasurer  
City of Ravenna

## CITY OF BENKELMAN

126 7<sup>TH</sup> AVE EAST

P.O. BOX 347

BENKELMAN, NE 69021

PHONE (308)423-2540

FAX (308)423-2539

E-MAIL: [cityben@bwtelcom.net](mailto:cityben@bwtelcom.net)

Diane L. Rosenfelt  
City Clerk/Treasurer

Gary Clark  
Mayor

February 22, 2011

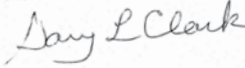
Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA:

At the regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council, Monday, February 21, 2011 it was voted on to give a donation to Nebraska Rural Water Association. This is in appreciation for the help that the City of Benkelman received December 14, 2010 in finding a water leak

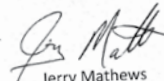
The City of Benkelman is a member of Nebraska Rural Water and this is a way to let you know how much your help has been appreciated.

Thank You,



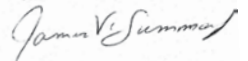
Gary L. Clark  
Mayor

Thank You,



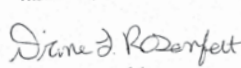
Jerry Mathews  
Water/Sewer Operator

Thank You,



James Summers  
City Superintendent

Thank You,



Diane L. Rosenfelt  
City Clerk/Treasurer

Thank You,



Bobbie Behlke  
Water Operator

# City of Oshkosh

Lawrence D. Gette, Mayor  
ocityhall@embarqmail.com



Office of City Clerk  
P.O. Box 166  
Oshkosh, Nebraska 69154  
(308) 772-3686

LeAnn Brown, City Clerk  
Bill Campbell, Administrator  
www.ci.oshkosh.ne.us

February 1, 2011

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Nebraska Rural Water:

The City of Oshkosh would like to thank Russ Topp for his time and equipment for assisting us in locating a broken water main. We are very fortunate to have the Nebraska Rural Water Association available to assist us with our needs. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Scott Smith  
Water Operator

## Village of Gresham

310 Elm Street, P. O. Box 164  
Gresham, Nebraska 68367

(402) 735-7385  
FAX (402) 735-7385

villageofgresham310@windstream.net

Office Hours  
Monday - Wednesday  
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Linda Eschenweck  
Village Clerk



David Schulte  
Chairperson

March 2, 2011

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Street  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NE Rural Water Association:

The Village of Gresham would like to thank you for your support this past year. I assumed the Village Clerk position a year ago, and being unfamiliar with the forms, deadlines, reports and other requirements was a little overwhelming. Your help and patience is very much appreciated, as well as the technical support and advice for the water system.

Please accept the enclosed check as our donation and thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda L. Eschenweck  
Village Clerk

## VILLAGE OF HOWELLS

P. O. BOX 351, 128 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street  
HOWELLS, NE. 68641  
402-986-1666 402-986-1058 (fax)  
hoclk@megavision.com

*"The Village of Howells is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer"*

March, 2011

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

Dear NeRWA,

Thank you very much for all the work you do for not only our community but also those throughout the area. Please accept this donation on behalf of the Village of Howells for the use of your mobile camera on October 13, 2010.

Thanks again for your time and dedication.

Sincerely,

Dawn Gall  
Village Clerk



VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON  
Washington County, Nebraska

**Tom Brown**  
Chairman, Board of Trustees  
245 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
P.O. Box 370  
Arlington, NE 68002-0370  
Phone/Fax (402) 478-4212  
Email: arlington@futuretk.com

February 18, 2011

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Street  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NE Rural Water Association,

On behalf of the Village of Arlington and the Arlington Village Board of Trustees, please accept the enclosed donation to the Nebraska Rural Water Association to help offset costs of on-site technical assistance to members and use of field equipment. We appreciate all of the assistance your organization has provided Arlington in the past.

Yours Truly,

Tom Brown  
Village Board Chairman

SECOND OLDEST SETTLEMENT  
VILLAGE OF DECATUR



913 So. Broadway PO Box 156  
Decatur, NE. 68020  
Web Site [www.ci.decaturne.us](http://www.ci.decaturne.us)  
E-mail address: [decaturrelerk@nntc.net](mailto:decaturrelerk@nntc.net)

402-349-5360  
Home of the Dry Land Bridge  
Fax: 402-349-5360

February 11, 2011

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA,  
The Village of Decatur would like to take this opportunity to Thank You for all your help with finding our water leaks. The leaks may never have been found without your help and equipment to locate them. Enclosed you will find a donation for the equipment fund.

Sincerely,  
The Decatur Village Board

*James A. Nuola*  
*Robert Richardson*  
*[Signature]*  
*Selle Kellogg*  
*Margaret L. Talbot*

# 2011 TRAINING

## Backflow Continuing Education Training

May 18	Atkinson
May 19	Broken Bow
September 21	Falls City
September 22	York
September 27	Ord
October 20	South Sioux City
November 10	Wayne
November 16	North Platte
November 22	Wahoo
December 13	Mitchell
December 14	Imperial
December 15	Cambridge
December 20	Wahoo

## Water Operator Training

May 10	Eustis
May 11	Newman Grove
June 10	Sutton
June 14	Pawnee City
July 12	Chadron
July 13	Mullen
July 14	Loup City
August 16	Spencer
August 17	Wakefield
October 25	Lyons
October 26	Giltner
December 13	Imperial
December 14	Red Cloud
December 22	Wahoo

## Wastewater Training

May 11	Newcastle
May 17	Grand Island/NDEQ
June 7	Ainsworth/NDEQ
June 8	O'Neill/NDEQ
June 29	Wahoo
July 13	Madison/NDEQ
August 31	Sidney/NDEQ
September 1	Chadron/NDEQ
October 19	Wahoo
October 20	Wymore
October 27	Lincoln/NDEQ
November 17	Creighton/NDEQ
December 13	Wahoo

## Grade 6 Backflow Prevention Cross-Connection Control Course - 5 Day

October 24-28      Wahoo

## Wastewater Certification Course

June 14-17	Wahoo
August 23-26	Wahoo
November 7-10	Wahoo

<b>September 21</b>	Trenching & Shoring	Wahoo
<b>September 22</b>	Confined Space Entry	Wahoo

Register by phone or online:

**800-842-8039**  
**402-443-5216**  
**www.nerwa.org**

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





## What Are Your Plans This Spring?

*By Mike Stanzel, Deputy Circuit Rider*

Now that the long winter is finally over, it's time to start thinking about what projects need to be done. I am sure a lot of you are going to be busy with getting the parks cleaned up and fixing street signs that got bent during snow removal. And there is probably a fire hydrant or two that got backed into or bent because it was hiding in a snow drift. Let's not forget about those of you that have a swimming pool that needs a tremendous amount of preparation to get ready for the summer season.

A few things that you might want to think about on your water system is find out when the last time your tank or tower has been cleaned and inspected. According to title 179 this needs to be done at least every 5 years. There are only a handful of companies that do this kind of work and they are busy getting everyone scheduled. So now is the time to get them called and get on their list.

Another thing to think about is when was the last time you did your Cross Connection Control Surveys. This is also required every 5 years and for larger communities this can be a time consuming task to assure every customer completes one.

Also your Emergency Response Plan of Operations can easily be overlooked. These need to be updated every three years to assure you have the correct information on the Mayor, Board Chairmen, County Sherriff. etc. I have a list of all ERPs that expire in 2011 and am willing to assist you on getting these updated.

Hydrant flushing is another thing that most systems do in the spring. Be sure to notify the customers in advance when this takes place to avoid complaints and calls to the city office.

You should also check your records to find out when the DHHS did your last Sanitary Survey. Community

systems get inspected every three years and if you plan ahead you can get the simple things done in order to avoid getting a violation. We would be happy to assist any system in getting prepared for your upcoming survey.

As for us, we are going to be busy this spring performing leak detection in numerous towns, as well as getting the hydraulic valve exerciser around to towns that had requested to borrow it.

If you would like to get on this list to have a leak survey done or borrow the valve exerciser, please let us know. We are here to assist at all times. In closing have a safe and happy spring!

**Water Treatment  
is our Business**

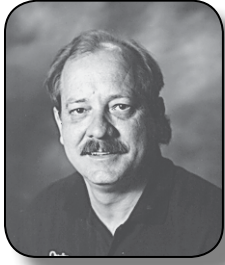
Hawkins Water Treatment Group has been meeting the requirements of commercial, industrial, municipal and institutional organizations since 1938.

Black Hawk, SD  
605-787-6881

Roca, NE  
402-420-0755

Sioux Falls, SD  
605-368-5793





## Do I Have A Water Leak Or A Revenue Leak

*By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider*

NeRWA conducts many water leak audits annually. Often times leaks are found that were not surfacing or were not detected for some reason. There are times when no leaks are found. Often times when the water system contacts us, they will explain that they are losing a large percentage of the water they are producing, pumping, buying etc. A good rule of thumb is to start looking for a leak when 15% or more of the water produced is unaccounted for.

This is where good recordkeeping is essential. A month or two of records may not tell the story. Even a year's worth of records may not be adequate. The past few years we have seen major changes in weather patterns. 5 or 6 years ago we were having drought issues and water consumption was quite high. The past couple of years have been quite the opposite. Many systems are seeing revenue short falls due to wet weather and low water consumption. If the water system has good records of water sold vs. water produced, it makes it much easier to determine what may be causing the leak or if there is a leak at all. Thus the question: Do I have a water leak or a revenue leak?

If water sold figures are down and production seems to be staying fairly steady, it may be a meter issue. Then we need to look at the billing statistics. Is there perhaps a large user whose bill has been down recently? Often times it is beneficial to first look at the larger meters in the system. With good records it

is possible to see exactly when the problem started. If the gap is increasing gradually, it may be that old meters throughout the system are the culprit. AWWA recommends that residential meters be checked every 10 yrs. or 1.5 million gals. Water meters are the system's cash register. If a business person suspected that his cash register was cheating him, how long do you think it would take him to get it replaced? It is essential that water systems are being run like a business. Costs are constantly increasing for running small water systems due to regulations, fuel, electricity, etc. If you suspect you may have a water leak or a revenue leak give NeRWA a call and we will be glad to assist you.

### **CONSTANTLY STRIVING TO PROVIDE MORE SERVICES TO OUR MEMBERS**

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

**Gurney**  
Bert Gurney & Associates Inc.

**SERVING THE  
WATER/WASTEWATER  
INDUSTRY FOR  
OVER 50 YEARS**

**Chris Johnson  
Jeff Hubby**

**Office Location:**  
4428 South 108th Street  
Omaha, NE 68137

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

## Why Aquastore® Tanks?

### NO PAINTING FOR THE LIFE OF THE TANK

- Corrosion resistant
- Low maintenance
- Over 30 years of proven experience
- NSF approved tank for potable water
- The environmentally safe choice

### PORCELAIN ENAMEL CHEMICALLY BONDED TO STEEL

- Mechanically and chemically bonded at temperatures above 1500° F
- Graffiti removal does not damage the coating
- Tank does not need to be taken out of service for repainting

### WARRANTY

- 10-year factory extended performance
- Total low life cycle cost

Engineering America is an ESOP company and has been in business since 1980 installing Aquastore tanks and Aquastore Aluminum Geodesic Domes.

Call Engineering America for help with your next water and wastewater storage application needs.

**In 1980 we made an innovative promise that our tanks would never need to be painted. No Aquastore® tank has been painted since – we are the authentic glass-fused-to-steel!**

## THINK TANK

---

# Association Update – Spring 2011

*By Salli Kemerling, Office Manager*

---

The NeRWA Annual Conference was held March 21-23 in Columbus. We had a record attendance of 558. I think this was the best conference yet.

As most of you know by now, this was our last conference in Columbus, at least for the next three years. NeRWA has enjoyed over 25 years in Columbus and it will be hard to leave. It was easy holding the conference in Columbus each year – they knew how we wanted everything set up and everything was always ready for us when we arrived. We will have some new challenges next year with the new facility and staff.

We received a lot of feedback from attendees during and after this year's conference. The majority of comments reflected positive comments about the move to Grand Island and most indicated they will be

attending the Grand Island conference.

Thanks to all who supported NeRWA and attended the conference this year. Special thanks to all our Gold, Silver, and Bronze exhibitors. Their generosity really helps with the conference cost. We hope to see all of you in Grand Island.

Also, we will not have the Utility Expo in Fremont this year. It is being combined with the annual conference at the Heartland Event Center in Grand Island.

With the Spring Conference wrapped up, we now look ahead to the Fall Conference in Gering September 13-15. Watch in our magazine and on our website for more complete details.

**Bartlett & West**  
*innovation*  
*collaboration*  
*stability*  
*consistency*  
*resources*

**& YOU**

At Bartlett & West, you are our priority. When your needs grow, we grow to meet that demand. By creating cost-effective design, adding new technology and providing innovative services, we become far more than your engineering firm - we become your solution.

From start to finish...  
it's Bartlett & West and  
*you*

**Water Engineering Services**

- Preliminary, feasibility, and design reports
- Water source, treatment, and distribution design
- Long-range strategic and financial planning
- Regulatory compliance—strategies and planning
- GIS, GPS, and specialized system modeling
- Permitting, land rights, and easement management

**BARTLETT & WEST**  
SERVICE, THE BARTLETT & WEST WAY.

1200 SW EXECUTIVE DR • TOPEKA KS • 888.200.6464 • BARTWEST.COM



**Be sure to mark your calendar...**

**Nebraska Rural Water Association's  
Annual Conference and Utility Expo  
will be held at the  
Heartland Event Center  
In Grand Island, Nebraska.**

**The Midtown Holiday Inn room block is  
now open. Room block expires on 3/4/12.  
Call for reservations:  
308-384-1330**



---

## Last Call For Chemical Feed Pump Training

*By Doug Buresh, Technical Training Specialist*

---

By the time this issue of “Good Water News” is distributed, twenty of the twenty-four chemical feed pump training classes will be history. Classes remaining on the schedule include Mullen on May 4, Sutherland on May 10, Bridgeport on May 17 and Hemingford on May 19. We are also considering holding another class at the NeRWA office in Wahoo.

Attendance has been fairly decent despite some winter weather issues encountered. There was an ice storm in Pawnee City, some snow for the Wakefield, Polk, Minden and Overton classes and it was colder than a well driller’s you know what in Wilber, a pretty typical Nebraska winter. It seemed like it was a long winter, but not nearly as bad as it was a year ago.

For those who have not heard, the Nebraska Rural Water Association has a contract with the State of Nebraska to provide this free chemical feed pump training for licensed water operators. It is sponsored by the Nebraska DHHS Division of Public Health and funded through the Operator Expense Reimbursement Grant. The class is good for five hours of continuing education for water operators grades 1-4 and wastewater operators grades 1-4. Eligible water systems in Nebraska will also receive a Stenner 17 gpd chemical feed pump and a Hach chlorine pocket colorimeter at no cost.

Eligible water systems include community and non-community, non-transient systems serving 3,300 or fewer persons. A licensed water operator must attend the class for their system to receive this equipment. Each eligible system can only receive one pump and one colorimeter. Operators in charge of more than one system must attend one class for each system they operate to receive the equipment for each of those systems.

Under the contract, NeRWA will distribute up to 400 pumps and colorimeters. DHHS has identified 343 systems in need of emergency chlorination equipment

or having coliform issues during the past year and a half. A pump and a colorimeter are available for each of these priority systems, but an operator must attend a class in order to receive them. Not all of the priority systems have had operators attend classes yet. The remaining 47 pumps and colorimeters will also be given to other systems serving a population of under 3,300 and whose operators attend a class. This equipment will be given out on a first come, first serve basis.

Consider this last call to attend a chemical feed pump class. The program will be ending soon. **By attending, operators can obtain five hours of free continuing education credit for both water and wastewater, about \$600 worth of free chlorination equipment for their eligible water system, and the class is even good for Operator Reimbursement Grants for travel expenses. Except for lunch on your own, did I mention this is all FREE of charge?**

As stated earlier, if there is enough interest in it, we are considering holding another chemical feed pump class at the NeRWA office in Wahoo to give everyone one last chance. This would be in late May or early June. Please give me a call at 402-480-3596 if interested.

Thanks to all who have attended classes. Hope you all have benefited from them in some way. I know that I have learned something new at nearly every single class. Special thanks to the communities of Pawnee City, Springfield, Wilber, Denton, Dwight, Wakefield, Waterloo, Polk, Clay Center, Madison, Minden, Overton, Shelton, Burwell, Shickley, Ainsworth, Monroe, Niobrara, Indianola, Mullen, Sutherland, Bridgeport and Hemingford and their operators and other employees for hosting these classes.

# 2011 Conference



# nce Highlights



More pictures on page 16



# Help Wanted

*By Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist*

I need some help on a problem that is only marginally related to the job I perform. A lot of my travel these days is to water systems for the purpose of collecting information from Clerks and Operators and also presenting that information to Boards and Councils. I still teach backflow classes for the Association around the state as well. With the economy in the condition it is in and with gas prices seeming to be ready to go through the roof, I decided that it was not real economical to drive a van around the state for the purpose of meeting with Councils and Boards. In October of last year, my wife and I went shopping for a car for me to use at work when I did not need to haul a lot of stuff. We would keep the van for classes and conferences, but we decided that I needed something with better gas mileage for other trips.

We settled on a Ford Focus, and purchased it one Saturday morning. I drove it to work on Monday morning, and by Tuesday afternoon it had a cracked windshield on the passenger side. The dealer told me it was obviously from a rock, and therefore not covered under the new car warranty. My insurance has a \$500 deductible, and the windshield would be less than that to replace, so I decided to live with it until summer or the crack started causing interference with my ability to see the road.

All was well for a month or so, and then I was forced to drive in an ice storm on my way home from a meeting. I was tooling down the interstate at a rather sedate speed (for me at least), when I came up behind a state truck sanding the left lane. I was over in the right lane when a semi passed me and threw some gravel at me as he went by the sand truck. Now I have a small crack in the driver's side of the windshield to match the large one on the passenger's side. The driver's side crack started to spread, but was moving up the windshield rather than across it so I decided to try to live with it until the weather

was such that road sanding would be over for the year.

Last month my wife discovered that one of the fog light lenses on the Focus was shattered. The bulb was still functioning, but the protective lens was gone, and it was just a matter of time until the bulb would be broken as well. I was unable to purchase a replacement lens from the auto parts store, and the only way to repair it was to get the part from the dealer. The dealer only sells the fog light as a complete unit, so \$69 later the fog light is once again whole.

Last week I discovered a small crack just below the large crack on the passenger's side of the windshield, but so far that one does not seem to be growing. I am almost afraid to examine any of the glass on the car too carefully anymore for fear of what I will find.

Now we get to the help I need. I know that somewhere on this car there is a rock magnet. The dealer says there is no such thing, but I know better. Does anyone out there know where it is hidden and how to remove it? I am afraid to replace the windshield until I find and remove it because I know it will just attract another rock and I will be right back where I am now. Water operators are a crafty and skillful group, so I am sure someone out there can help me with this dilemma.

**PITTSBURG  
TANK & TOWER  
MAINTENANCE CO., INC.**

**SAVE!**  
**We have a crew in  
YOUR AREA!**

Inspections	Repair	New & Used	Tanks
Wet	In Service Cleaning	Relocation	Elevated
Dry	Paint	Erectors	Underground
ROV (Robotic)	Insulation API	Dismantles Mixing System	Ground Storage

ROV inspections can be viewed on TV console during inspection & DVD provided. All inspections include bound reports, recommendations and cost estimates.

**Hugh McGee**  
270-826-9000 Ext. 330  
[www.watertank.com](http://www.watertank.com)





## It's a Small World

By Mike Lucas, Sourcewater Specialist

This is a summary of an article I read in the March 2011 "Groundwater Guardian Update" which quoted Wayne K. Roustan of the Sun Sentinel on March 19, 2011. I thought it was really interesting and worth sharing.

Japan's earthquake was so powerful that it actually sent ripples through South Florida's underground water supply. Sensitive groundwater gauges used by the South Florida Water Management District to monitor regional water resources were placed between 400 and 2,000 feet deep in the Florida aquifer and recorded unusual activity about 30 minutes after the 9.0 tremor rumbled across northeastern Japan on March 11. The water level fluctuated about 3 inches

over a two hour period, according to the recordings.

It's a small world, isn't it!



## SARGENT DRILLING COMPANY

- Loaner Motor Service
- Pump Repair
- Video Surveys
- Acidizing & Chemical Treatment
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Test Well Drilling
- Water Well Design & Construction
- Complete Pump Machining Facility
- Pump Test Labs
- Sonar Jetting

### COMPLETE MUNICIPAL WATER WELLS & PUMP SERVICE

**Gary McCracken, Manager**

South Highway 21

P.O. Box 627

Broken Bow, Nebraska 68822

Business: (308) 872-5125

After Hrs: (308) 872-8305

**Nathan Jacobson, Manager**

South Highway 81

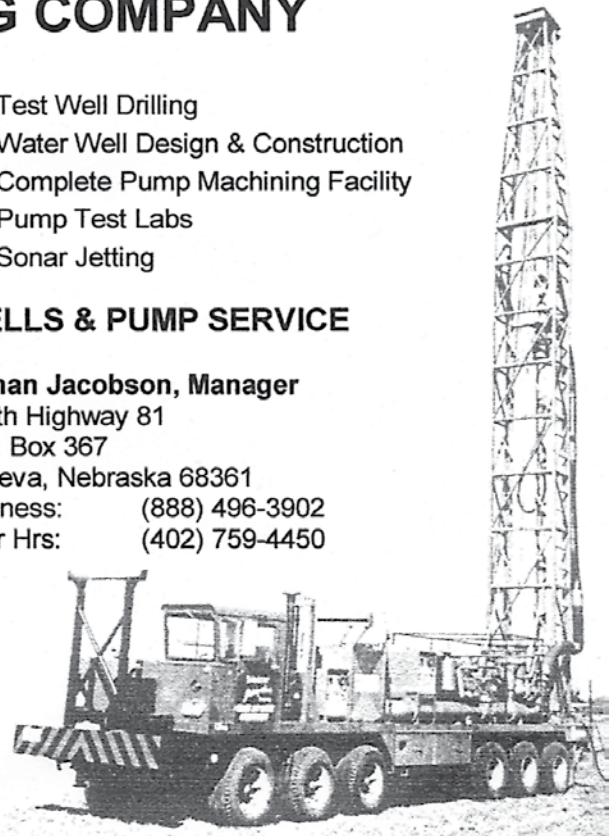
P.O. Box 367

Geneva, Nebraska 68361

Business: (888) 496-3902

After Hrs: (402) 759-4450

### MUNICIPAL & INDUSTRIAL DIVISION



# 2011 Conference Highlights





---

## Meter Accuracy

*By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider*

---

How does your water system pay for operation and maintenance costs, repairs and capital improvements? The answer should be from the revenue generated from water sales. What determines how much water is sold to your customers? The answer to that question should be the water meter. Perhaps the most important and the most neglected part of your system is the water meter.

With budgets getting tighter and tighter, most water systems are becoming aware that water loss adds up to money loss and are conducting water audits and leak detection to see exactly where their water is going. Some systems are surprised to find they are losing a lot of water, but there are no water leaks to be found. One place the water could be going is through the meter without being registered. How old are your meters and when was the last time, if ever, have they been tested? American Water Works Association recommends that 5/8" brass body residential meters be tested at least every 10 years, 3/4" at least every 8 years, 1" at least every 6 years, and 2" at least every 4 years. If you have high iron and manganese they suggest testing twice as often. If your meters haven't been tested recently, you may want to consider starting a meter maintenance program. A good way to start a meter maintenance program may be to purchase a case of new meters, replace some of the old meters you suspect may not be accurate, and have the old meters tested.

Even if the meters are accurate, it doesn't mean everything is fine. The outside remote readout may be the next problem. The newer direct read meters have the technology to read directly to the head of the meter. This technology takes one major water loss factor out of the equation. If you are still using the old pulse type meters that send a pulse to an outside reader, I can almost guarantee you that not all the water is being recorded. This old technology was a huge labor saver at the time but the outside readers do not always register a pulse from the meter. If

you have these types of outside readers, you should always set the remote reader to the same reading as the actual meter inside the house. If this was done when the meters were installed originally, it is very easy to see how much water went through the meter without being registered by the outside remote reader. You just subtract the outside reader from the actual meter. If the readings are the same, then the outside reader has worked flawlessly. Most outside pulse remote readers were installed without corresponding with the inside meter. If this is the case you, will need to set the outside readout to the same reading as the inside meter and give it a few months. Then check to see if it is working properly. I know you can send a pulse from a battery to see if the readout will accept a pulse but it is difficult to know if the meter is sending a good enough pulse to get the remote to work.

Nebraska Rural Water Association has approximately 1,345 residential meters in our database. Below is the water use homes should average per month over a year:

Average water use for 1 person in the household is 6,745 gallons.

Average water use for 2 people in the household is 10,098 gallons.

Average water use for 3 people in the household is 12,376 gallons.

Average water use for 4 people in the household is 11,836 gallons.

Average water use for 5 people in the household is 13,812 gallons.

If you have customers using noticeably less than these amounts, this would be a good time to start your meter maintenance program. As always if you would like assistance from Nebraska Rural Water Association, please give us a call.



# Spring Break!

By Jim Heyen, Wastewater Technician

My wife and I were surfing the web to find things to do in Vegas (when our money ran out on the gambling floor) and found Ethel M's Botanical Gardens and of course chocolate shop.

The chocolate shop was interesting and tasty! My favorite is rich dark chocolate but would have to say the pecan brittle was buttery, crisp and sweet.



Okay, so why am I sharing about one of my vacation sightseeing spots? This place had the

most amazing wastewater treatment facility! After 33 years in the business, even when I am on vacation I'm visiting wastewater treatment plants! This place made our must see list!

The treatment facility was called a "Living Machine". The plant recycles 100 percent of the chocolate factory's wastewater without using any chemicals.

The eco-friendly system uses an aerated pond, using bacteria, algae, protozoa, snail and fish, to breakdown the waste then the water is used for drip irrigation on the plants in the garden.



Behind the aerating pond, a wetland was created using

plant vegetation allowing nutrient removable.

The ponds attract many of the birds that inhabit the gardens which contain more than 350 different cactus and succulent species.



In a time where we are looking at using less chemicals and more green effects to manage

our waste, this plant was ahead of the curve.



**NATGUN**  
A Division Of DN Tanks

**Prestressed Concrete Water Storage Tanks**

**913-681-6006**  
[www.natgun.com](http://www.natgun.com)  
Dave Ornduff, Regional Manager

**Sustainable Infrastructure**

**Municipal Automation & Control**

DESIGN, BUILD, SERVICE

WATER / WASTEWATER CONTROL SYSTEMS

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

**Bill Simmerman – Owner**  
Cell: (308) 233-4729  
[simelectric@dawsonppd.com](mailto:simelectric@dawsonppd.com)



---

# One Last Hurrah at Columbus 2011 Annual Conference

By Charles Bausch, Training Specialist

---

The 33<sup>rd</sup> NeRWA Annual Conference in Columbus once again proved to be a great place for Nebraska water and wastewater system personnel to experience the many facets of their industry. Attendees experienced training sessions, viewed equipment exhibits, made new friends or just caught up with old ones. A crowd of over 540 persons attended the conference on March 21-23, 2011 at the New World Inn in Columbus.

Monday morning, March 21, began with registration and the set-up of exhibits and displays. This year the conference was able to accommodate 55 exhibitors, including several first-time exhibitors. Traffic through the exhibit area was steady throughout the conference as attendees took advantage of the opportunity to check out new product displays and to do some shopping for their utilities. NeRWA would like to say thank you to all the exhibitors for their participation. You help provide a great experience for conference attendees.

Conference training sessions on Monday afternoon were in the Courtyard area which is the best place to accommodate the large crowd of attendees. First day sessions have traditionally been well attended in the past and this was again true in 2011. Charles Bausch opened the day with a short welcome speech about taking back your customers by promoting your water system. This theme revolved around the damage the bottled water companies have done to customers' confidence in the public water system. Jack Daniel of NDHHS provided the *Nebraska Water System Regulatory Update*, followed by the *USDA Land Condemnation*, presented by Richard Keith of USDA and William Blake of Baylor Evnen. Dave Taladay and Emily Bausch of SENDD presented *Development District Assistance* where Dave showed all the different hats a development district wears to help a community with a project. The next session of the day was *Alternate Funding Sources* presented by Mary Schroer of NDEQ, and Steve McNulty and Kris Luebbe from NDHHS. This session showed operators

what money was available for this year's projects. The final session, *Working with Contractors* presented by Matt Thurlby from OSHA, was not only educational but very entertaining. Matt talked about how to handle contractors doing work for you in your utility system. He also talked about trench safety and judging an unsafe work scene. Once sessions were concluded the Monday night social hour started, followed by an excellent meal and the day ended with game night. Game night gave attendees a chance to win tickets for some very nice prizes, such as a Kindle, a portable DVD player and a cordless drill, just to name a few.

Tuesday was again our biggest day for attendance. Conference attendees were able to choose from a variety of training sessions. Tuesday and Wednesday's schedules were designed for operators to pick and choose what sessions they want to attend from four concurrent sessions. All of the sessions were designed to provide continuing education re-certification hours for water, wastewater and backflow.

The highlight of each Annual Conference is the banquet and awards ceremony held on Tuesday evening. Following another delicious meal, awards were presented as follows: Winner of the **Best Tasting Water Contest** was the Village of Trenton represented by Joe Cole. The Village of Trenton's water will now be entered in the National Best Tasting Water competition sponsored by the National Rural Water Association. NDHHS personnel presented two **Water Operators of the Year Awards**. One award went to Jack Cordes of the City of Scribner and the other to Robert (Bob) G. Curry of Johnson Co. RWD #1. Congratulations to these individuals and systems for their excellent work. The evening concluded with a very funny and entertaining comic performance by Chris Barnes.

Many people were on hand at 7:00 a.m. for Wednesday morning's complimentary buffet breakfast and

followed by NeRWA's Annual Business meeting. Twenty great training sessions were well attended in the morning and afternoon on Wednesday. Raffle prize winners were announced at the noon luncheon. By 3:00 p.m. all sessions were finished and the process of loading up for the trip home began as attendees, exhibitors and presenters said goodbye **one final time to Columbus and to another great conference.**

NeRWA is once again grateful to everyone who works to make the conference a success. Among these are the exhibitors who add so much to the total conference experience. Special thanks to the *Gold Exhibitors*, who made cash donations of \$500 or more: Bartlett & West Engineers, HD Supply, Municipal Supply, Sargent Drilling, Utility Service Inc., and Lincoln Winwater. Special thanks also to the *Silver Exhibitors* (cash donations of \$300 or more): Maguire Iron, Inc., Miller & Associates, and JEO Consulting. Finally a special thanks to our *Bronze Exhibitor* (cash donation of \$100) Team Laboratory.

NeRWA is also appreciative of the expertise of all

those who prepared and delivered presentations. While some training sessions are old favorites that seem to be repeated year after year, there were a variety of new topics and new presenters at the 2011 Conference. NeRWA strives to provide training that challenges operators and other utility personnel, provides new ways to solve problems and provides timely information. Each and every presenter, and they are too numerous to name here, did their best to provide quality information to those in attendance.

Once again some sessions may have been crowded this year. However, the move to Grand Island's Heartland Event Center in 2012 should alleviate this problem with larger rooms for sessions and exhibits. It has been observed that people attend the Annual Conference for a variety of reasons - for the exhibits, for meeting with friends and acquaintances, and for training. NeRWA thanks all of you who attended the conference this year from villages, cities and water and wastewater systems throughout the state. We look forward to seeing you again in 2012 at Grand Island. Remember the Holiday Inn block is open so get your reservations in early as this block will soon fill up!



**America's Tank Maintenance Company!™**

**Utility Service**

**Utility Service is the premier provider of professional water tank services:**

- Maintains thousands of potable water tanks under full service asset management programs
- Delivers true sustainable solutions and peace of mind
- Provides site management services for antennas on existing and new tanks

**A water quality management tool... **WaterMix™****  
The Right Mix for Cleaner Water

Call your local Utility Service Representative today...

**John Snodgrass • 402 639.3428**  
jsnodgrass@utilityservice.com • Omaha, NE

**Kent Kuehl • 402 689.6708**  
kkuehl@utilityservice.com • Omaha, NE

**Jake Dugger • 402 651.6450**  
jdugger@utilityservice.com • Omaha, NE

utilityservice.com

## JUST A REMINDER

The chemical feed pump classes are coming to an end. The last two in May are the 17th in Bridgeport and 19th in Hemingford. There will be at least one more in June for those who missed any of the other classes.

These classes were held for the purpose of giving a chlorine pump and a residual tester to eligible systems for no cost to the system. All that was required was a licensed water operator from that eligible system to attend the 5-hour class and he would receive one of each. Total value of both being approximately \$600.

Think of what a great value and benefit this is for your system - attending a class and getting all that free equipment. If you were one of those who missed the class, you still have a chance to attend. Let Doug Buresh (402-480-3596) know as soon as possible if you are interested or to check if you are eligible so he can set up a class/classes in June for those who still would like to attend and receive their free equipment.



## Babco Valves

Patricia Baburek, President

Manufacturer of BABCO Valves  
No Freeze Drain Valves  
Hydrant Pressure Relief Valves  
55 Years of Dependable  
Tank Maintenance

P.O. Box 40  
Plattsmouth, NE 68048  
402-296-4155 or 800-293-0195  
Fax: 402-296-4082  
Email: babcovalves@alltel.net

Neglected Preserved

## Don't Neglect Your Tank - Preserve It!

Caldwell's professional tank services include:

**TAP-ONE** - Extended warranty program  
**TAP-ON** - Full-service on-going maintenance

Rick A. Smith  
rsmith.sd@caldwelltanks.com  
605.270.1675 • www.caldwelltanks.com

## Whenever and wherever you need us



- No job is too big or too small. Make Electric Pump your one call for all of your fluid handling needs.
- We offer 24/7 emergency service.
- From preventative maintenance service agreements to a complete lift station overhaul/retrofit, we are your solution.
- We are the largest pump service organization in the upper Midwest, with a force of 16 dedicated, factory trained service technicians and 8 mobile service vehicles to act quickly to get your equipment up and running.
- Fully insured and bondable.



Electric Pump, Inc.  
800-383-(Pump) 7867  
Des Moines • Quad Cities

Exclusive authorized ITT Flygt distributor and warranty center.  
Also in Minnesota, Nebraska, Illinois, North Dakota, South Dakota & Wisconsin.



## The Village of Swanton is Our Wellhead Protection "Spotlight Community"

*By Mike Lucas, Sourcewater Specialist*



The Village of Swanton is a warm and friendly community of 131 residents in southern Saline County. The Chairman of the Village Board said that it is a privilege to serve this community. The system is served by two wells. Well #1 was drilled in 1936 and well #2 was drilled in 1981. The elevated storage tank has approximately 35,000 gallons of storage. There are 7 business and 58 residential non-metered service connections. The local COOP is the largest water consumer.

Nitrate contamination of the drinking water has become a concern. Nitrate concentrations have fluctuated but have generally increased over the past 10 years by approximately 2 milligrams per liter (mg/l). Certified laboratory tests currently reflect concentrations ranging between 7 and 9 mg/l. The present EPA drinking water maximum contaminant level (mcl) for nitrates is 10 mg/l. If the current trend

continues, the EPA nitrate maximum mcl will be exceeded in less than 10 years. The Village Board recognized the problem, discussed their concerns and are responsibly addressing the issue with an annually reviewed wellhead protection area management plan.

	-LINE STOPPING	FOR ALL YOUR POTABLE AND WASTE WATER NEEDS <a href="http://WWW.MUNICIPALPIPESERVICES.COM">WWW.MUNICIPALPIPESERVICES.COM</a>
	-LINE TAPPING	
	-VALVE INSERTION	
	-VALVE TURNING	
	-PIPE REPAIR	
<b>MUNICIPAL PIPE SERVICES</b>		
BOB HENNIG SALES MANAGER 1615 WEST "J" STREET HASTINGS, NE 68902 1-800-395-7473 CELL: 402-469-1886 FAX: 402-462-4408 E-MAIL: BOB@MUNICIPALPIPESERVICES.COM		





## Trenton Water Department Brings Home Top Honors in Best Tasting Water Contest

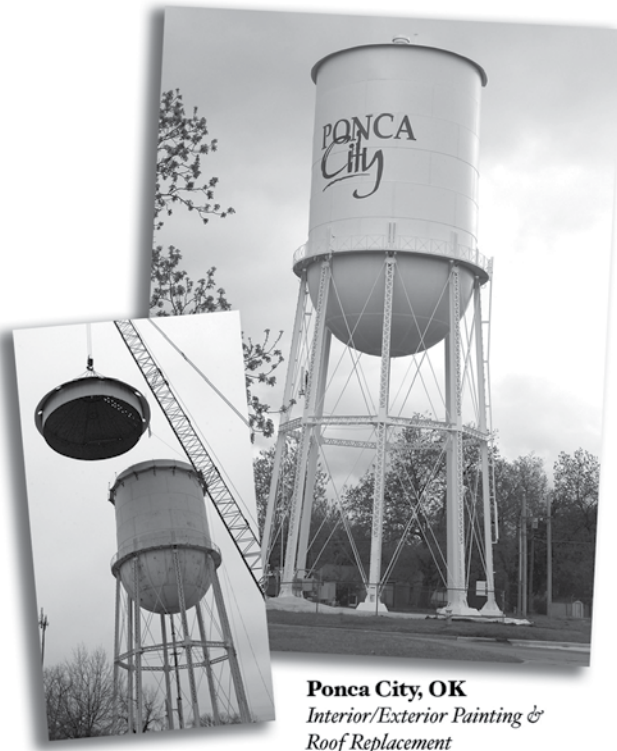
*By Charles Bausch, Training Specialist*

Bragging rights for the “Best Drinking Water” in the State were on the line Tuesday afternoon, March 22<sup>th</sup> at the Nebraska Rural Water Association’s Annual Conference. The Village of Trenton took home the top award that evening, being judged the best drinking water by a panel of four judges representing different sectors of the drinking water industry. Joe Cole, Utility Superintendent for the Village of Trenton was presented a first place plaque at the conference’s annual banquet.

The Village of Trenton is now set to compete in the National Rural Water Association’s Great American Water Taste Test. This event will be held February 2012 in Washington, DC as part of the 2012 Rural

Water Rally. The Rally is a chance for small and rural water systems to take their message to Congress and assure support of the rural water programs that benefit Nebraska’s small, rural communities and those communities all across the United States. Trenton will compete against all 50 states’ winners of their local contests for bragging rights for the best tasting water in the USA.

Congratulations to Joe Cole and the Village of Trenton for earning the title of “Best Drinking Water” in Nebraska and good luck in the National Contest!



**Ponca City, OK**  
*Interior/Exterior Painting &  
Roof Replacement*

## Bringing Multi-legs back in-style!

Maguire Iron is old enough to remember the introduction of the hula hoop, when a first class postage stamp cost 4¢, and when Multi-legs were the ‘in’ tank.

Today some of these tanks are ready for a make-over and who better than Maguire Iron to make them come to life and again be the talk of the town.

Call us today to improve your city’s center piece with our latest technology. Maguire Iron also provides:

- maintenance contracts
- new and reconditioned tanks



P.O. Box 1446 Sioux Falls, SD 57101 605 334-9749

[www.maguireiron.com](http://www.maguireiron.com)

---

## And the Winners Are.....

---

Conference attendees filled out and turned in 202 evaluations this year. That was a great response. Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

The evaluations contained lots of ideas and suggestions. The things liked most were being able to interact with other water operators, the sessions, all the information available and visiting the vendors and exhibits. The thing that was liked the least was the fact that it was too crowded. The majority of the general comments were positive reactions to the conference. There were also a variety of suggestions. Your responses will help us in planning for the 2012 Conference.

If you are interested in seeing the summary of the Conference evaluations, you can find it on our website: [nerwa.org](http://nerwa.org)

### And the winners are:

John Huff from the City of Randolph was drawn as the winner of the Kindle for turning in his evaluation.

Also, Layne Western gave a Cabela's gift card to be given away. Justin Albers of the City of Schuyler won it. Congratulations to both of the winners!

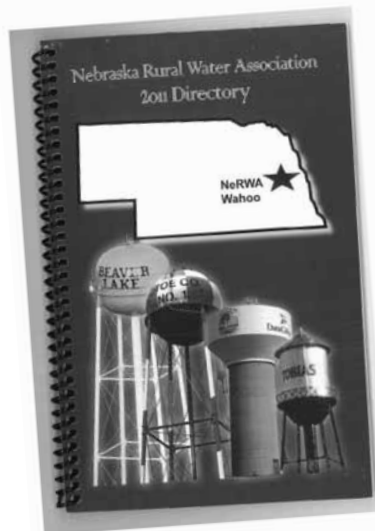
The 2011 directory is now available. If you would like one or more, contact the NeRWA office to get on the list.

800-842-8039  
402-443-5216

You can also email Salli or Carol:

[salli@nerwa.org](mailto:salli@nerwa.org)  
[carol@nerwa.org](mailto:carol@nerwa.org)

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



## WATER WORKS BRASS AND PIPELINE PRODUCTS



The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc.



<http://www.fordmeterbox.com>

260-563-3171



# Nebraska Good Water News

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

Contact NeRWA... ▼

## NeRWA Staff

Training Specialist
Water Circuit Rider I
Water Circuit Rider II
Water Circuit Rider III
Wastewater Tech.
GIS/GPS Mapping Specialist
Deputy Circuit Rider
Capacity Development Specialist
Source Water Specialist
Office Manager
Secretary
Board of Directors



## News & Downloads Page NEW

Register on Line for Training  
 Available Equipment



**BARTLET**  
 SERVICE. THE BARTL



## Informational Links

National Rural Water
USDA Rural Development
NE Public Water Supply
HHS License Information
Check your tests Results
EPA Wastewater
EPA Drinking Water
Nebraska DEQ
League of Municipalities
Nebraska Section, AWWA
AWWA Library Reference Listings
NeRWA Associate Members
Archived "Good Water News" Articles

## NeRWA Contact Information:

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
 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)



### Cell # Cell #

Charles Bausch	402-480-2982
Doug Buresh	402-480-3596
Randy Hellbusch	402-443-8535
Jim Heyen	402-480-8524
Mike Lucas	402-443-6157
Mike Stanzel	402-672-9084
Russ Topp	402-480-4196
Barney Whatley	402-480-4297
Salli Kemerling	402-277-0839
Carol Jasa	

### Email

[charles@nerwa.org](mailto:charles@nerwa.org)  
[doug@nerwa.org](mailto:doug@nerwa.org)  
[randy@nerwa.org](mailto:randy@nerwa.org)  
[jim@nerwa.org](mailto:jim@nerwa.org)  
[lucas@nerwa.org](mailto:lucas@nerwa.org)  
[mike@nerwa.org](mailto:mike@nerwa.org)  
[russ@nerwa.org](mailto:russ@nerwa.org)  
[barney@nerwa.org](mailto:barney@nerwa.org)  
[Salli@nerwa.org](mailto:Salli@nerwa.org)  
[Carol@nerwa.org](mailto:Carol@nerwa.org)

**Nebraska Rural Water Association**

3390 Ponderosa  
Wahoo, NE 68066

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



*“Local Service, Nationwide”*

**10707 S. 149th Street  
Omaha, Nebraska**

**601 NW 27th Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska**

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

American Darling Valve & Hydrants  
JM Manufacturing PVC Pipe  
PVC Round Meter Boxes  
Hymax Couplings & EZ-Max Repair Clamps  
Contech Construction Products  
Cherne Testing Equipment  
Live Tapping Services  
PW Eagle PVC Pipe  
Mueller Gas Distribution Products  
ADS HDPE Corrugated Pipe

**Phone (800) 247-6811**

**FAX (402) 896-6379**