

Issue 4/2008

# Nebraska Rural Water Association



## NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS

# USABlueBook®

## The Number One Catalog for Water & Wastewater Professionals

USABlueBook's NEW Master Catalog #119 features over 1600 pages of equipment and supplies for water & wastewater operations, including over 160 pages of NEW products. It's also packed with detailed technical tips, selection guides and application notes to help you get the job done. Call to request your FREE catalog today!

- **Over 27,000 Products In Stock & Ready to Ship!**
- **Expert Technical Support**
- **Personal Customer Service**
- **100% Money-Back Guarantee**



Over **1600** pages of products, in areas including...

Aeration

Chart Recorders

Chemical Feed

Collection Systems

Electrical

Flow Metering

Gauges

Grounds Maintenance **NEW!**

Hose

Hydrants

Lab Chemicals

Lab Equipment

Lab Testing

Leak Detection

Level & Pressure

Locators

Maintenance

Pipe

Plugs

Process Analyzers

Pumps

Reference

Safety

Sampling Equipment **NEW!**

Security **NEW!**

Tanks

Tools

Valves

Water Treatment

Workwear

**USABlueBook®**  
Get the Best Treatment™

Call & request Catalog C119  
**800-548-1234**

Visit us at [www.usabluebook.com](http://www.usabluebook.com)



Table of Contents

How'd We Do & Letters From .....2-4

2008 Training ..... 5

Preventive (Health) Maintenance .....7-8

Association Update .....9

Fall Conference Pictures ..... 10-11

Large Meter Testing.....13-14

GIS the Meat and Potatoes of a GPS Map..... 15

Getting to Know the New

Deputy Circuit Rider ..... 16

Stay Alert..... 17

Full Cost Pricing ..... 18

Well Abandonment Money Available ..... 19

Contact Information.....21

**President:**

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

**Vice-President:**

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

**Secretary/Treasurer:**

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:**

Clancy Dempsey, Executive Director  
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, Groundwater Technician

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

“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.

**On the cover:**  
**Water tower for Western, Nebraska**  
**Western's first tower was completed in**  
**October 2007 by Maguire Iron.**

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



**SEWARD**

P.O. Box 38 • 537 Main Street  
Seward, Nebraska 68434  
Phone and TDD 402-643-2928  
Fax 402-643-6491  
www.cityofsewardne.com

NeRWA  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

July 3rd, 2008

Re: Hydrophone Leak Detection

Thanks for providing assistance for locating a leaking water main.

Respectfully yours,

David Lathrop, PE  
Superintendent of Water/Wastewater Department

Phone: 402 643 3433 | CP: 402 641 4760 | Fax: 402 643 3746

Copy: File

**CITY OF SEWARD MISSION STATEMENT**  
Our City promotes genuine community spirit by providing friendly, quality services to people who live, work and play in Seward.  
"Nebraska's Official 4th of July City"

Randy,  
Thank you for loaning us NRWA's pressure relief valve. We appreciated your courtesy.

## CITY OF BLUE HILL

Post Office Box 277  
Blue Hill, Nebraska 68930  
telephone: 402-756-2056 fax: 402-756-2057  
e-mail: cityofbluehill@gtmc.net

September 26, 2008

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find enclosed a donation from the City of Blue Hill for camera services performed in Blue Hill recently.

I also want to acknowledge that Doris Hartman of Blue Hill, submitted a donation to the city of Blue Hill for these services which were performed in her neighborhood. This is included in the amount you are receiving.

Thank you for providing these much needed and helpful services.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Kumke  
City Clerk

**VILLAGE OF DODGE, NEBRASKA**  
226 Elm St. Dodge, NE 68633  
402-693-2239

July 8, 2008

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Rural Water:

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

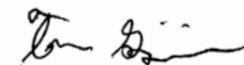
Please accept our check for the equipment fund.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,



Leo E. Blaha  
Chairman of the Board



Tom Grovijohn  
Utility Supervisor

**VILLAGE OF PRAGUE**

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

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

August 18, 2008

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Nebraska Rural Water Association:

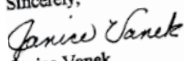
The Village of Prague would like to take this opportunity to thank the Nebraska Rural Water Association for your help during this past summer.

Special thanks to Russ Topp with his leak detector equipment and to Jim Heyan for his sewer camera equipment. Their expertise is invaluable to small communities as ours.

Please accept this donation as a form of appreciation.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Janice Vanek  
Village Clerk

**VILLAGE OF STUART**

MUNICIPAL WATER, POWER & GAS

**ONE OF NEBRASKA'S MUNICIPALLY OWNED POWER PLANTS**

**OFFICE & FAX #: 402-924-3647 LIGHT PLANT 402-924-3977**

MUNICIPAL OFFICE

Mark Stracke, Clerk  
Bob Lockmon, Supt.  
Larry Paxton - Chairman  
John Madsen, Trustee  
Daniel J Malone, Trustee  
Gene Herron, Trustee  
Larry Butler, Trustee

PO Box 177

Stuart, NE 68780



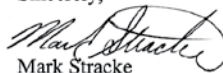
Randy Hellbusch  
Circuit Rider, NRWA  
3390 Ponderosa  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Randy,

Thank you for taking time last month to help us evaluate our water and sewer rates. With the information gathered between the collaboration of our village and the NRWA, I feel our Board of Trustees will be better informed and more confident when it comes to setting the water and sewer rates in the near future.

Please use the enclosed check as a donation to help fund and continue your services to the many communities like ours who value your help.

Sincerely,



Mark Stracke  
Stuart Village Clerk/Treasurer

**Village of DeWitt**  
Utility Office



Sept. 25, 2008

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

Dear NRWA,

The Village of DeWitt Trustees and employees would like to thank you and Randy Hellbusch for his services in helping with our water and sewer rates studies. He was very accommodating to come and gather information and present it at Village Board meetings.

We appreciate the services of NRWA through out the year and thank everyone for the great job they do.

We are enclosing a check to help with your equipment program.

Thanks again.

Mitch McDougall  
Utility Supt.  
Village of DeWitt

VILLAGE OF CONCORD  
P.O. Box 49  
Concord, Nebraska 68728-0049  
(402) 584-2395

September 23, 2008

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

On behalf of the Concord Village Board of Trustees, I want to thank you for the help given to us regarding the testing of our lagoon over the past few years.

Please find enclosed a donation to help with the expenses in the upkeep of your equipment.

Again, thank you for your willingness to aid us in our efforts.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Clarkson  
Board Chairman

RLC:jh

**GURNEY**

Bert Gurney & Associates Inc.  
www.bgagurney.com

Chris Johnson  
Don Franklin  
Sally Leftwich

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

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

**NATGUN**  
PRESTRESSED CONCRETE WATER TANKS

NATGUN CORPORATION • DAVE ORNDUFF, REGIONAL MANAGER  
12900 METCALF, SUITE 210, OVERLAND PARK, KS 66213 • TEL 913-681-6006  
FAX 913-681-6016 • E-MAIL: DORNDUFF@NATGUN.COM

# 2008 TRAINING

## Water Operator Training

November 13 Oshkosh  
November 19 Fairbury

December 9 Wakefield (NIMS)  
December 10 Waterloo  
December 11 Syracuse

NIMS Training will also be available  
at the Fall Conference.

## Backflow Re-Certification Training

November 18 Seward  
November 20 Tecumseh  
November 25 Wahoo

December 16 Mitchell  
December 17 Ogallala  
December 18 Wahoo

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

January 26-30, 2009  
Wahoo

## Wastewater Training

November 5 Ewing  
November 18 Wymore

December 4 Wahoo

### FULL SERVICE MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS

GASB 34 Compliant  
Interior and Exterior Painting, Repairs, Safety Accessories  
Inspections, Washouts, Disinfections

### WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Antenna Site Management  
Antenna Installations  
Design Reviews/Project Management

### TAX EXEMPT FINANCING

Asset Acquisition and Infrastructure Growth  
Extremely Competitive Rates  
No "Red Tape"

### NEW TANK SALES

Expedited Delivery  
Any Style, Design, Capacity



### CORPORATE OFFICE

P.O. Box 1350 · Perry, GA 31069  
Phone: 800-223-3695 · Fax: 478-987-2991  
[www.utilityservice.com](http://www.utilityservice.com)

### NEBRASKA OFFICE

6220 Pierce Street · Omaha, NE 68106  
Fax: 402-932-2272  
**John Snodgrass**  
Cell: 402-639-3428 · [jsnodgrass@utilityservice.com](mailto:jsnodgrass@utilityservice.com)  
**Kent Kuehl**  
Cell: 402-689-6708 · [kkuehl@utilityservice.com](mailto:kkuehl@utilityservice.com)

# Utility Service Co.

I N C O R P O R A T E D  
P R O F E S S I O N A L T A N K S E R V I C E S



## High Maintenance.



## Low Maintenance.

Some things just require more maintenance than others. Tanks are no different. Choose Aquastore® and you get an exclusive glass-fused-to-steel bolted tank that is factory engineered to be the best.

Say good-bye to high maintenance construction, cracks, painting, corrosion and rust. A low maintenance Aquastore is easily constructed, never needs repainting and delivers proven lifetime performance.

With Aquastore, you can be assured you will get the highest engineered quality, service and product life in storage tanks. For more information visit [www.aquastore.com](http://www.aquastore.com) or call 503-678-2533.

**AQUASTORE®**  
Tanks & Domes

Glass Tanks with a Heart of Steel™



Engineering America, Inc. - Central • 18900 W. 158th Street, Suite E, Olathe, KS 66062  
PH 913-782-7774 • Fax 913-782-7776 • [www.eai-central.com](http://www.eai-central.com)

© 2007. Aquastore is a registered trademark of Engineered Storage Products Company.





# Preventive (Health) Maintenance

*By Jim Heyen, Wastewater Technician*

Many of you believe immunizations are just for children, but you could be dead wrong! How many of you were born before 1957? You may not have received all the recommended immunizations.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that the general public, including all wastewater treatment plant operators and others working within wastewater treatment plants, be up-to-date on their immunization for diphtheria and tetanus. Booster shots are recommended every 20 years after the initial immunizations are administered. The tetanus booster needs to be repeated if a wound or puncture becomes dirty and a booster shot has not been received within 5 years.

At the present time, no additional immunizations above those recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service for adults in the general population are advised for workers in contact with wastewater. The Table below summarizes the immunizations recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service.

The preventive effect of the vaccine immune serum globulin for hepatitis A is short-lived (about 3 weeks), and is not routinely recommended for wastewater workers unless there has been a direct exposure to wastewater splashed into an open wound or the mouth or a severe outbreak has occurred in the community. The Hepatitis B vaccination is not typically recommended for wastewater workers because the risk of transmission by wastewater is extremely remote.

## Immunizations Recommended by the U.S. Public Health Service

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Who Needs Immunization</u>	<u>Immunization</u>
Hepatitis A	Individuals with close personal contact with hepatitis A	Hepatitis A globulin treatment
Hepatitis B	Homosexual males, household and sexual contact with carriers, and those who have direct exposure to blood of a known carrier or suspected to be a carrier	Hepatitis A immune globulin treatment with hepatitis B vaccine
Influenza	Adults 65 years and older*	Annual influenza vaccine
Measles	Adults born in 1957 or later, unless they have evidence of vaccination on or after first birthday, documentation of physician diagnosed disease, or laboratory evidence of the disease	Combined measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine (MMR)

*continued on page 8*

Mumps	Adults, especially males, who have not been previously infected	Mumps vaccine
Pneumococcal disease	Adults 65 years or older	Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine
Rubella	Women of childbearing age, unless proof of vaccination or laboratory evidence of immunity is available	Rubella vaccine
Tetanus and diphtheria	Adults every 10 years after initial dose and after wounds, unless it has been 5 years since last dose	TD Vaccine

\*In general, anyone who wants to reduce their chances of getting influenza can get vaccinated, CDC says.

*Adapted from **Biological Hazards at Wastewater Treatment Facilities**, published by the Water Environment Federation (Alexandra, VA.)*

**ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG**

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

Safe Digging Is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig. Visit call811.com for more information.

811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.

TRAVELERS Common Ground Alliance

**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 RWD 1, Louisville, Bloomfield, Litchfield, Columbus, Logan East RW, Papio-MO Dakota County, Wahoo, O'Neill, Dunbar, Amherst and Lyons.

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



## Association Update

By Clancy Dempsey, Executive Director

The NeRWA Fall Conference was held on September 15, 16, and 17<sup>th</sup> at the Civic Center in Gering, NE. The board and staff always look forward to this event, which has an atmosphere all it's own. Attendance was great, speakers were very interesting and the Civic Center provided excellent meals and service as usual. I hope that everyone enjoyed the time they spent there. Quite a few conference goers participated in the golf outing on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup>. I want to recognize Jack Baker of Baker and Associates for coordinating the golf outing and providing prizes to the winning golf teams. While the golf outing was taking place, about 25 operators attended our first pre-conference session about using GPS and GIS to map water and wastewater infrastructure. Rural Water recently made an investment in mapping grade GPS technology so that we can offer mapping services to our members. If you are interested in this program, please give us a call. The turn out for the pre-conference was sufficient enough that we plan to hold a pre-conference again next year, albeit a new topic will be covered that day. Conference goers enjoyed a friendly and relaxing social hour on Tuesday evening courtesy of Dave Dunning with HD Supply. Next year's Fall Conference is scheduled for September 1, 2, and 3<sup>rd</sup>. I hope to see everyone in Gering again next year.

Another annual Rural Water event held recently was the Utility Expo at Christensen Field in Fremont on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October. In only it's fourth year, attendance exceeded 150 water and wastewater operators from around the state. The Expo featured hands-on opportunities and live equipment demonstrations for many topics including: valve exercising, pipe cutter technology, fall protection safety, leak detection, locator technology, line tapping, inserting valves, large meter testing, and GPS mapping. The hands-on aspect of the Expo is really catching on with water and wastewater operators. If you have never attended this event before I hope you will consider coming out to next year's Expo which will be held on September 30<sup>th</sup> (again in Fremont). I want to offer thanks to Sargent Drilling for

sponsoring a great cookout lunch. I also want to thank Larry Andreason, Dan Roberts and John Tlamka with the City of Fremont for all of their efforts and help with the Expo this year and in years past.

Looking ahead, we will soon begin preparations for the Annual Conference held over March 16 – 18 in Columbus. As you can imagine, it takes a while to assemble an agenda that typically involves around 50 speakers. So if you have any ideas or suggestions for topics you would like to hear at the Annual Conference, please call into the office or send me an email ([Clancy@nerwa.org](mailto:Clancy@nerwa.org)). I look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks for your time.

**Water Treatment is our Business...**



	Billings, MT	406-245-6246
	Black Hawk, SD	605-787-6881
	Eldridge, IA	563-285-6234
	Fargo, ND	701-293-9618
	Fond du Lac, WI	920-923-1850
	Lincoln, NE	402-420-0755
	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
	Willow Springs, IL	708-467-0125

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

3100 East Hennepin Avenue  
 Minneapolis, MN 55413  
 Phone: 612-331-9100  
 Fax: 612-617-8696



# FALL CON



John Sauer, Ogallala, was presented a water operator of the year award by Tony Martinez, DHHS.

Earl Winter, Alliance was presented a water operator of the year award by Doug Allen, DHHS.

# CONFERENCE



**Backflow Quiz Bowl Winners:**  
Greg Bouc, Jay Rundell, Barry Wallace,  
Robert Kuhns

**Golf Tournament Winners:**  
Cope Clark, Pierce  
Troy Cumpston, Johnson Service  
Matt Gregg, Bertrand



## Commitment and Passion

The dedicated employees of Maguire Iron are committed to providing the best possible product for our customers. They are passionate about building and servicing water tanks throughout the region.

It's quality people like Bruce Hartman that have separated Maguire Iron from the rest since 1915.

P.O. Box 1446 Sioux Falls, SD 57101 605 334-9749  
[www.maguireiron.com](http://www.maguireiron.com)



Bruce Hartman  
 17 Years  
 Parts Shop Supervisor

## 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

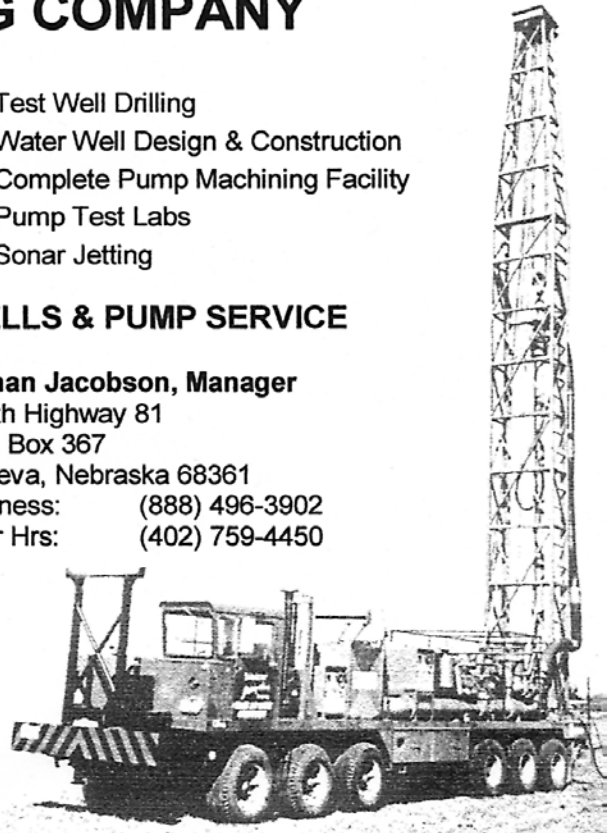
P.O. Box 367

Geneva, Nebraska 68361

Business: (888) 496-3902

After Hrs: (402) 759-4450

### MUNICIPAL & INDUSTRIAL DIVISION





## Large Meter Testing

By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider

Have you ever conducted a water audit of your water system, and found out you have an unusually high percentage of unaccounted for water? The first thing you think is I must have a water leak. You drive and walk the entire distribution system and find nothing. Where is that water going?

Maybe this would be a good time to explain just what a water audit is and how to conduct one. Simply divide the amount of water you sold by the amount of water you pumped. If you do not meter water that is used for watering ball fields or the park it might be best to use the winter months. Let's say you use the months of January,

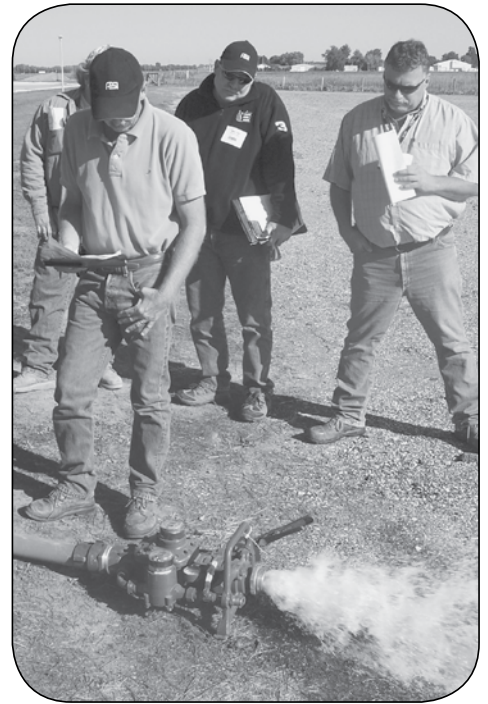


February and March. The total amount of water you pumped for these three months is 7,500,000 gallons. During these months you sold 5,000,000 gallons. Simply divide 5,000,000 by 7,500,000 you should get 66%. This means you are selling 66% of the water you pump, or losing 34%. Typically the industry standard is anything under a 15% loss is acceptable. Remember to compare your well meters with the annual well efficiency records as to how accurate your well meter is and to figure the water lost through the pre-lube lines.

If you were able to attend the Fall Conference in Gering or the Rural Water Expo in Fremont, Dave Dunning with HD Supply may have the answer to some of this

water loss. Dave demonstrated how to test large water meters. Almost every water system will have at least a couple or maybe several large water meters in their system. Some places you may find a large meter could be at the school, nursing home, hospital, an apartment building, possibly a factory or processing plant.

Turbo meters were installed in a lot of services with 2" or larger service lines. At the time these type of meters were fairly inexpensive to install. Dave used an old turbo meter in his demonstration. This meter had over 10 million gallons through it and it was still around 97% accurate at the high and medium flows. Low flow was a different story. A flow of 2.7 gallons per minute wouldn't even turn the meter. At this



*continued on page 14*

Engineering | Architecture | Surveying | Planning  
www.jeo.com


 **JEO**  
Consulting Group, Inc.



rate a system could lose almost 4,000 gallons of water per day. During a one-month billing cycle this would add up to be 120,000 gallons and over a year over 1.4 million gallons. At \$1.50 per thousand this would cost your system over \$2,000 per year. This is for just one meter. If your system has several of these meters the dollars could really add up. I realize these meters are not cheap to replace, but when you add up the possible lost revenue, you may want to at least check them for accuracy.

Dave has a large meter tester that is available for loan. He announced that he would be willing to test a meter for you or if you have several to test, he would train you how to use it and you could test them at your convenience. Not all large meters need to be replaced, depending on water quality they may just need to be cleaned up or possibly some new parts installed.

If you have some of these large meters it may be time to test them for accuracy.



**THE ART OF ENGINEERING**

**M&A**  
**Miller & Associates**


Kearney, NE   Omaha, NE   McCook, NE   Colby, KS

**308.234.6456**   [www.miller-engineers.com](http://www.miller-engineers.com)




*Autumn*

**WATER WORKS BRASS  
AND PIPELINE PRODUCTS**



**The Ford Meter Box Company, Inc.**  
<http://www.fordmeterbox.com>  
260-563-3171

**FORD** 





## **GIS the Meat and Potatoes of a GPS Map**

*By Charles Bausch, GIS Specialist*

---

Many of you know that GPS (Global Positioning System) is the backbone to putting locations of your valves, hydrants, manholes, etc. onto a utility map. GPS technology is what makes maps more accurate and reliable than traditional maps. So, how do you integrate important information about your system into a map? GIS (Geographic Information System) incorporates information about your system's features. GIS, as I put it, is the meat and potatoes of your GPS maps.

The mapping process begins when the Nebraska Rural Water Association comes to your community to record the location of valves, hydrants, shutoffs, manholes and so on using GPS. At that same time we also enter some data about these points. What type of information does NeRWA collect? The type and amount of information is up to the community, but here are a few examples of information we can attach to map points.

For fire hydrants, you can attach the make, the cast date, and flow rate if it is known at that time. If some information is unknown at the time the point is collected, like flow rate or static pressure, these items can be added later.

For manholes we can include flow direction, material of the manhole, and number of inlets to the manhole. Flow and inlet information can be useful, for example, when a sewer back-up happens so that you know which upstream customers to alert of a potential back-up problem and encourage them to cut down their water use until the problem is resolved.

For water mains you can attach the year of installation and how the main was installed. Having better information on main location can help the planning process of future projects. Having better knowledge of underground utilities can help with placement of new utilities and lessen the chance for change orders during construction. With fewer change orders crews will be

able to stay on target for finishing the project and save money. This in turn will speed up the construction which lessens the inconveniences that your customers experience with a construction project.

A GPS map will show you where valves are located and with this you can make better decisions to isolate a main when needed. Valves can have several types of information attached. For example, the number of turns it takes to shut off, when the valve was installed, date the valve was last exercised, and if the valve works or not. Functionality of your valves is most important and does take some time to figure out. But it could be useful to have this information on your map. During a main break, for example, you may need four valves and you know that three of the valves work, but one does not; and you have to determine which valves upstream you could use to help in isolating the main break. This information could be attached to a map that you view on the computer as well. Also, if you would add service line connection information to your map you could alert your customers of the break and the service interruption during the repair process.

These are just a few ways that GPS and GIS can be used to give you better information about your system. The information you want to include is up to you and depends upon how it will help you in your project planning and day to day tasks. Remember, the more information you can attach about your points the better your map will be.

The possibilities with GIS/GPS mapping are nearly endless. There are many attributes that will help make any given system's maps more useful. GPS maps give you accurate locations of your valves, etc. but GIS incorporates information about each point to help you with your day to day tasks. As always, if you have any questions about GIS/GPS mapping feel free to contact me. Large system or small, all systems deserve good maps of their utility.



## Getting to Know the New Deputy Circuit Rider

By Mike Stanzel

Greetings fellow operators! My name is Mike Stanzel and I have lived in Valley, Nebraska, nineteen years. I am married and have four kids and another is expected in March of 2009. Most of my free time is spent with them hunting, fishing, boating, and trying to get as many miles as I can on my Harley Davidson.

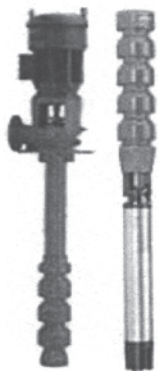
My career in the water/wastewater industry started back in July of 1998. I was hired on with People Service Inc. as a maintenance tech. I received my Grade 4 water license in September of 1998; I then received my Grade 2 wastewater license in July of 1999. My Grade 3 water license was obtained in May of 2000. Then later that same year I received my Grade 2 water license. Through my tenure with People Service I had the opportunity to operate and manage numerous water

and wastewater systems. The water systems ranged from large iron and manganese removal plants to small public water systems with only 20 service connections. On the wastewater side I have had experience with a variety of treatment plants and many different styles of lift stations.

I am hoping as the new Deputy Circuit Rider I will be able to help any of you in any way I can. My main job here will be working with systems that have deficiencies and need assistance resolving them. Please feel free to contact me if you need assistance. My email address is [mike@nerwa.org](mailto:mike@nerwa.org) and my cell phone number is 402-672-9084.



Professional Services for Municipal & Industrial Water Supply Systems



- Pump Sales & Service
- Well Repairs & Rehabilitation
- New Well Construction
- Water Treatment Solutions & Equipment
- *Arsenic, Nitrate, Iron, Manganese, Radium, Uranium*
- *Removal - Cost Effective, Detailed Pilot Studies*
- Technical Services

Layne-Western ■ [1072@laynechristensen.com](mailto:1072@laynechristensen.com)

■ Kearney, Nebraska ■ Tel 308-234-1914 ■ Fax 308-234-6326

■ Valley, Nebraska ■ Tel 402-359-2042 ■ Fax 402-359-2310





## Stay Alert

*By Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist*

During these times of financial uncertainty, it is wise to stay alert to the financial situation within your water system. With uncertainty reaching out and touching your customers in their savings, retirement accounts, employment and cost of living, systems need to keep a constant watch on their bottom line and be prepared to take steps to keep it in the black. Uncertainty can also effect the availability of funding for needed system improvements as government spending priorities can change very quickly. The cost of operating and maintaining your system can also be effected as energy costs, labor costs and material costs are effected.

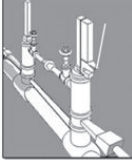
The effects of the current global financial situation will likely cause some, if not all, of your customers to make changes in their living patterns. Persons living on a fixed income will likely be looking for ways to decrease their spending in order to maintain some semblance of the lifestyle they are currently living. Many of these people may even be forced to live on less income than before as retirement funds may have been devastated by the lower markets. Some areas are experiencing higher unemployment rates that will effect personal income, and the housing crisis could cause a system to become burdened with vacant houses and fewer customers. A reduction in the use of utilities may be one way for these customers to cut costs. By no longer watering lawns or gardens, or curtailing normal water usage, they might be able to reduce their utility bills. This will also have an effect on the system income, and could cause the water system to start operating at a loss.

As the federal and state governments concentrate on trying to reverse the economic trend and improve the financial system, spending priorities will likely be altered. One place these governmental entities might look to save money being spent on financial problems is in the loan and grant funds that are currently being made available for infrastructure improvements, including water and sewer. The condition of a water system and its need for repair and replacement are

not generally subject to the availability of funding. If something needs to be replaced, you may not have the luxury of waiting for several years for funding to become available. At the very least, failure to replace system components in a timely manner will cause an increase in the maintenance costs for the system as the worn out facilities require more frequent repairs.

As energy costs keep on rising, the cost of pumping water or operating a treatment plant will also rise. The costs of chemicals and labor may also be effected as some systems may have to increase wages in order to keep their personnel. The costs of materials may also be effected by the uncertainty of the times, and this will cause repair and maintenance costs to be more than expected. All of these system costs may rise unexpectedly to the point that they will surpass the amounts budgeted for these items.

The combination of all of these possible effects of the current uncertainty plaguing not only our country, but the entire world, could easily lead to a system finding itself operating at a loss. System personnel need to keep a close eye on the financial stability of the system and be prepared to raise rates or cut spending to keep the system operating as a business without having to borrow funds from other sources.



- LINE STOPPING  
3/4" - 60"
- LINE TAPPING  
2" - 60"
- VALVE INSERTION  
4" - 16"
- VALVE TURNING
- PIPE REPAIR


FOR ALL YOUR POTABLE AND WASTE WATER NEEDS

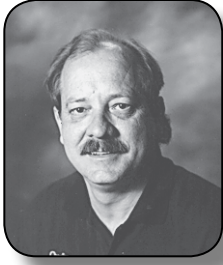
[WWW.MUNICIPALPIPESERVICES.COM](http://WWW.MUNICIPALPIPESERVICES.COM)

---

## MUNICIPAL PIPE SERVICES

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





# Full Cost Pricing

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

NeRWA gets many requests from many water systems to assist with rate setting. One of the first things we usually discover is that the water system is being subsidized in one way or another. I am referring primarily to municipal systems. Rural Water systems basically have no other revenue stream to tap into. Very few municipal systems actually rely on water revenues only to run their water system. Funds are many times transferred from another account, i.e. electric, general, etc. Imagine that you are an electric customer in a community, but have no water service. Is it fair that part of your monthly electric bill is being used to subsidize water users? In the current economic climate, these funds historically being robbed to help out the water system are also becoming strained. It is becoming increasingly more essential that all utilities become self supporting. This is where we come to the term FULL COST PRICING.

On the surface, this sounds fairly simple and obvious. Take the annual O&M, plus Debt Service. That appears to be the amount of revenue we need to generate. But let's take a closer look. If we are generating just enough to cover annual operating costs and make our loan payment, what happens when a well goes down, the tower needs painting, meters need replacing, pump controls fail, etc.? In reality, what we usually see is the old: "let's take it out of the general fund, there is money in there!" This approach doesn't show much fiscal responsibility. Every time money is transferred out of another account something suffers, whether it is

streets, parks, library, electric; the money transferred usually was meant for another purpose. That isn't the biggest reason for FULL COST PRICING however.

The main point I want to impress on you is that when we look at rates and revenues, we need to be thinking ahead. We need to assure enough money is being generated to cover our O&M costs and Debt, but we also need to look at Sustainability factors. The components of a water system aren't designed to last forever. Many of them require periodic maintenance or replacement. We need to be sure that when that time comes we are prepared financially to keep our system running and that our customers are getting the service and clean water they deserve and expect. Sadly, the good old days of "well, we will just get a grant if we need one" are over.

I have attended many board and council meetings and have learned that one of the hardest things to sell decision makers on is the need for a reserve. I can't count the times I have heard, but we aren't in this for a profit. This is very true, however, if your system needs repairs and the money isn't there to do the work. It is your rate payers who suffer in the end. The general public is much more acceptable to small rate increases more frequently than for a huge jump in rates because the system wasn't prepared and didn't set the money aside. If you would like assistance in being sure your system is generating the proper revenue to remain sustainable give us a call. We would be glad to help.



**Jon Harger**  
Sales Engineer  
Cell (612) 805-6383  
vesscojharger@isunet.net

Ames, IA      A Process Equipment Company      Chanhassen, MN

226 SE 16th Street, Suite B • Ames, IA 50010  
Phone (515) 233-8599 • Fax (515) 233-8602 • www.vessco.com

**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

# Well Abandonment Money is Available

A good way to protect groundwater, your source of drinking water in Nebraska, is to close water wells (illegal, abandoned, not in proper condition) that are located in a Wellhead Protection Area or the community associated with that Wellhead Protection Area.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) uses funding from an Environmental Trust Grant to assist in closing these wells. The Environmental Trust money pays for the decommissioning costs not covered by the Natural Resources District's cost-share funding.

For more details on how this can happen in your community, take a look at the NDEQ website. Information can be found at: [www.deq.state.ne.us](http://www.deq.state.ne.us) (Publications Forms- Grants ⇒ Water Quality, Grant Information ⇒ Protecting Ground Water by Properly Closing Abandoned Wells ⇒ aban well info.pdf). If you have additional questions, contact Brad Routt at NDEQ (402-471-3381, [brad.routt@ndeq.state.ne.us](mailto:brad.routt@ndeq.state.ne.us)).

In the last four and a half years, funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust has enabled NDEQ to facilitate the closure of nearly 600 wells in 67 communities. This is the last year we will be doing this, so **now is the time to take advantage of this opportunity.**

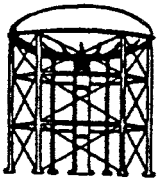


## Where in Nebraska is this?

*The first person to call the NeRWA office with the correct answer will be awarded a NeRWA coffee mug and hat. The answer will be revealed in the next issue of the rural water magazine.*



CLEANING, SANDBLASTING, PAINTING & REPAIRS  
— COMPLETE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM —



### CUNNINGHAM SANDBLASTING & PAINTING CO., INC.

*Specializing In Water Tanks*

Members of S.S.P.C., A.W.W.A.  
Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma,  
Arkansas Rural Water Association

417-626-2800  
Fax 417-624-0222  
Cell 417-439-6011  
j.brookshire@mchsi.com  
**JAMES BROOKSHIRE**

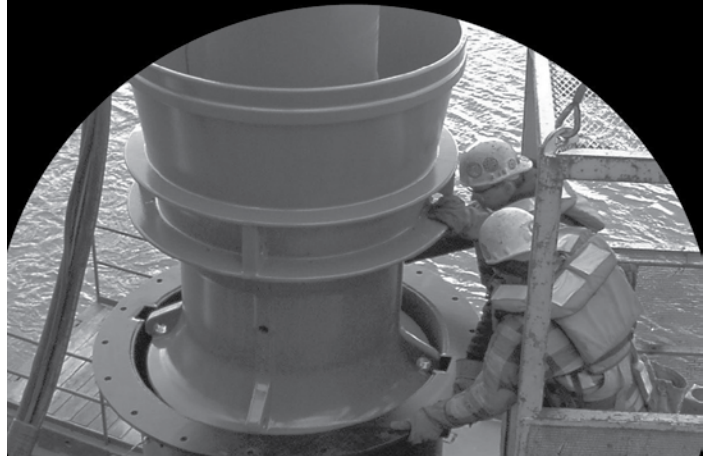
4300 W. 32nd St.  
Joplin, MO 64804

## PITTSBURG TANK & TOWER INC.



P.O. Box 1349 \* Henderson, KY 42420-01349  
Don Johnston C.E.O. Ph:270-826-9000 Ext:228  
Fax:270-8274417 E-mail: sales@wertank.com  
\*Inspections with R.O.V. (robotic) Wet or Dry \* Repairs for Cleaning,  
Painting, & Insulations \* Relocation, Erections, & Dismantles \*  
Tanks : Elevated, Underground, Ground Storage

## Whenever and wherever you need us



**Electric Pump, Inc.**  
800-383-7867

Des Moines • Quad Cities • Cedar Falls  
Sioux City

Authorized Flygt distributor  
Also in Minnesota, Nebraska, Illinois, North Dakota, South Dakota & Wisconsin

## BABUREK METAL PRESERVING CO., INC.



PAUL BABUREK  
*President*

*Babco Valves • Day or Night • 55 Years of Dependable Tank Maintenance*

141 S. 3RD • PLATTSMOUTH, NE 68048  
PHONE: 402-296-4155 OR 1-888-293-0195 • FAX: 402-296-4082

# IT'S ABOUT SATISFACTION

SERVICE. THE BARTLETT & WEST WAY.

"The customer is the ultimate judge of quality.  
I need an engineer who can deliver every  
time. I depend on that ..."

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



UNDERSTANDING  
YOUR NEEDS

ACCESSIBILITY &  
RESPONSIVENESS

INTEGRITY

QUALITY

PROACTIVE  
COMMUNICATION

*John Ruckman, Project Manager*

888.200.6464 ■ WWW.BARTWEST.COM

## 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: [nerwa.org](http://nerwa.org)  
Email: [info@nerwa.org](mailto:info@nerwa.org)



### Cell #

### Email

Clancy Dempsey	402-480-3596
Charles Bausch	402-480-2982
Randy Hellbusch	402-443-8535
Jim Heyen	402-480-8524
Mike Stanzel	402-672-9084
Russ Topp	402-480-4196
Barney Watley	402-480-4297
Salli Kemerling	
Carol Jasa	

<a href="mailto:Clancy@nerwa.org">Clancy@nerwa.org</a>
<a href="mailto:Charles@nerwa.org">Charles@nerwa.org</a>
<a href="mailto:Randy@nerwa.org">Randy@nerwa.org</a>
<a href="mailto:Jim@nerwa.org">Jim@nerwa.org</a>
<a href="mailto:Mike@nerwa.org">Mike@nerwa.org</a>
<a href="mailto:Russ@nerwa.org">Russ@nerwa.org</a>
<a href="mailto:Barney@nerwa.org">Barney@nerwa.org</a>
<a href="mailto:Salli@nerwa.org">Salli@nerwa.org</a>
<a href="mailto:Carol@nerwa.org">Carol@nerwa.org</a>

**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**