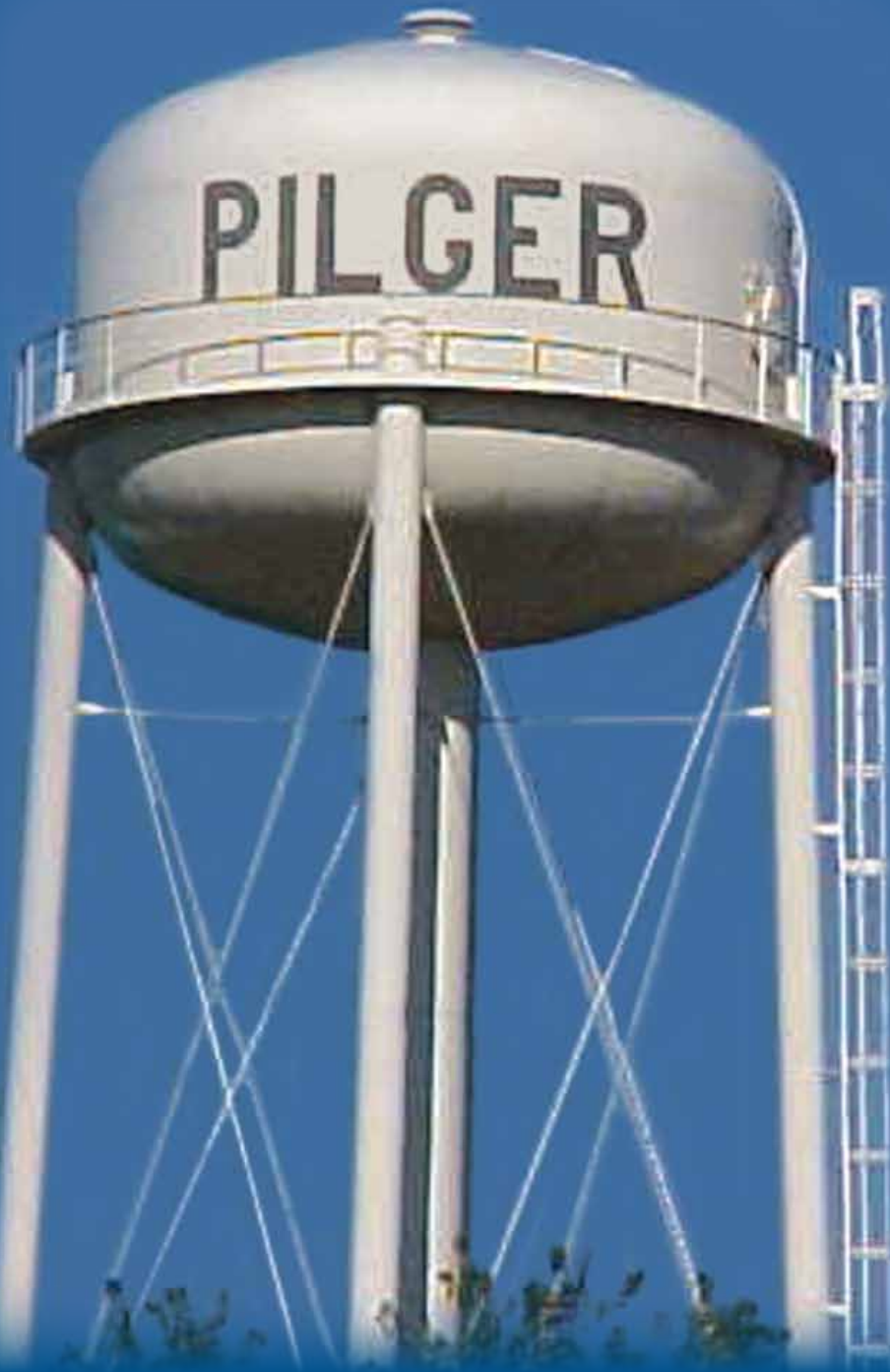


Issue 3/2012

Nebraska Rural Water Association



NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS

Nebraska Good Water News

Issue 3/2012

“Keeping Our Water Safe”

Board of Directors

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

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

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

Website: www.nerwa.org

On the cover:

The City of Pilger Water Tower

“This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.”

How'd We Do and Letters From...

Village of Oxford

P.O. Box 385 ~ 326 Ogden Avenue ~ Oxford, NE 68967 ~ Phone 308.824.3511 ~ Fax 308.824.3388

6-26-12

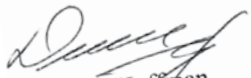
Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Salli

The Village of Oxford benefits greatly by having a resource like NRWA. We've had numerous questions answered through your office. Mike has come out, set up, and operated your equipment in Oxford.

The Board of Trustees and the Staff of Oxford would like to say thanks to Nebraska Rural Water Association. Also enclosed is a donation check for your water and wastewater equipment fund.

Sincerely


Duane D. Hoffman
Public Works Director

VILLAGE OF BELLWOOD

P.O. Box 188

Bellwood, NE 68624

Phone: Utilities Superintendent 402.538.4025
Village Clerk 402.538.4026


June 12, 2012

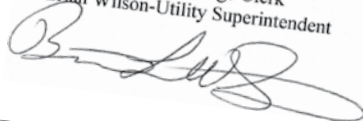
Nebraska Rural Water Association
ATTN Mr. Randy Hellbusch
3390 Ponderosa Dr.
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Mr. Hellbusch,

The Village of Bellwood and its staff are very grateful for the assistance that you and the NE Rural water association have provided for our community over this past year. We sincerely appreciate you expertise and preparation of the water rate study for the Village of Bellwood. Your expertise and recommendations of this study were extremely valuable to demonstrate to the general public the actual cost to provide this service. Also, a big thank you for completing our sewer rate study and assisting us with that project. Thanks to all the staff, past and present, for the assistance on our GPS mapping project. Without your organization, we are sure that our community, along with many others, would not be able to function as a municipality as smoothly as it does.

Sincerely,


Village of Bellwood
Angie Wellman-Village Clerk
Brian Wilson-Utility Superintendent



City of Sargent



106 North 2nd Street
P.O. Box 40
Sargent NE 68874-0040
Phone (308) 527-4200
Fax (308) 527-3745
Nebraska Relay System
TDD (800) 833-7352
cityofsargent@nctc.net

June 20, 2012

Nebraska Rural Water Association
390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE 68066

The City of Sargent would like to say a Big Thank You for all that you do. It is so helpful to have Mike Lucas and the rest of your crew come out and camera a sewer or water line. The materials, resources, and support that you provide the City is wonderful.

Please accept the enclosed donation from us

Sincerely

Mike Criss
Utility Superintendent

Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association,
Thank you for the generous scholarship. I am very grateful to be named as a recipient of your scholarship as it will greatly help towards my UNL college expenses and allow me to get one-step closer in reaching my goal of receiving my veterinarian degree. I truly appreciate the generosity of your financial assistance with my post-secondary education. Very Truly Yours,
Jashyn Livingston

PHONE 402-534-4237
FAX 402-534-5662
EMAIL VOUTICA@WINDSTREAM.NET

VILLAGE OF UTICA

466 1ST STREET
P.O. BOX 158
UTICA, NEBRASKA 68456

REGULAR MEETING
FIRST MONDAY
OF EACH MONTH

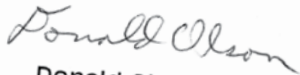
June 7, 2012

Nebraska Rural Water Association
555 Commercial Park Rd.
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NerWA,

The members of the Village Board of Trustees of Utica, Nebraska, would like to thank you for your efforts and cooperation for the village of Utica. We appreciate the professionalism and information you offer. Please accept this donation as a token of our appreciation and we look forward to working closely with you in the future.

Sincerely,



Donald Olson, Chairperson
Village Board of Trustees

CITY OF SPRINGFIELD

July 9, 2012

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Re: Donation

Dear Rural Water Association:

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

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

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

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

Thank you!

Sincerely,



Kathleen R. Gottsch
City Clerk/Treasurer

Village of Big Springs

Phone (308) 889-3324 Fax (308) 889-3161
PO Box 132 / 403 Pine Street
Big Springs NE 69122

June 7, 2012

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo NE 68066

To Whom It May Concern:

The Village of Big Springs board of trustees would like to extend a big thank you to NeRWA and Randy Hellbusch for your time and expertise in conducting our recent rate study. A special thank to Randy for coming back out for our meeting this week to go over the findings and answer questions regarding our required rates. He does an excellent job of explaining in layman's terms so everyone present gets the facts.

Your company is a great asset to our municipality.

Respectfully,



Susan McGreer
Clerk/Treasurer

June 3, 2012

Nebraska Rural Water Association
Salli Kemerling, Office Manager
3390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE 68066

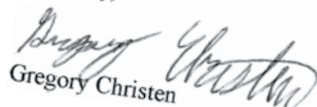
Dear Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for your gift of the Nebraska Rural Water Association scholarship for the 2012-2013 academic year. This scholarship will help me to receive a quality education that will help me to fulfill my goals and be a successful person.

I plan to complete an associates degree in building construction at Northeast Community College in Norfolk, NE. I have always enjoyed the construction fields and I feel that they are the subjects that will challenge me to do my best. With my education, I hope to start my own construction business in my hometown and provide services to the local and surrounding communities.

Thanks again. I am truly grateful for this award.

Sincerely,



Gregory Christen

Gregory Christen
201 North Chalmers Street
Anselmo, NE 68813
308 872-1096
christen_gmc@yahoo.com

2012 TRAINING

Water Operator Training

\$75—NeRWA members
\$100—all others

October 16 Axtell
October 17 North Platte

November 8 Red Cloud

December 18 Geneva
December 20 Wahoo

Backflow Continuing Education Training

\$75—NeRWA Members
\$100—all others

September 6 Ord
September 25 Falls City
September 27 York

October 10 South Sioux City

November 14 Gordon
November 27 Wahoo

December 11 Mitchell
December 12 Imperial
December 13 Cambridge
December 19 Wahoo

Wastewater Training

September 11 West Point

October 16 Neligh

November 8 Wahoo

Fall Western Conference
Sept. 18-20
Gering Civic Center
Gering, Nebraska

September 26 Trenching & Shoring Wahoo
September 27 Confined Space Entry Wahoo

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

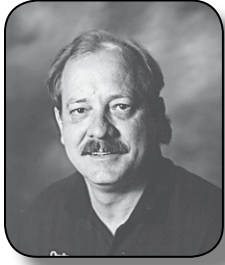
October 22-26 Wahoo

Wastewater Certification Course

August 28-31 Wahoo
October 30-Nov. 2 Wahoo

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066
www.nerwa.org
402-443-5216
800-842-8039

REGISTER ONLINE OR BY
PHONE



Lawn Watering Info

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

More and more small water systems in Nebraska are becoming metered systems, either due to lack of water quantity or due to the need for loan and grant assistance. I have attended several community meetings to discuss the issue of lawn watering and how much is it going to cost to keep my lawn green. I wish I had a \$1.00 for every time I have heard that the whole town is going to dry up and all of our yards will be brown because no one will be able to afford to water their lawn.

I recently assisted a community with this very issue and we read the water meter 2 times at a residence just prior to the water sprinklers running and immediately after they shut off. The cost for the water in this community is \$2.15 per thousand gallons. Using the data we collected, figuring the lawn needed 1 inch of water per week, **in a worst case scenario of no rainfall for seven months**, the cost to water the lawn for the seven month duration came to \$.02 per sq. ft. of lawn. The cost of lawn service for their fertilizer, pesticide, herbicide, etc. was approx. \$.05 per sq. ft. That does not include mowing. Judging by this, it doesn't appear that the cost of the water would be a big deterrent to keeping a lawn looking nice.

The following shows the meter readings from both sprinkler runs

and the water costs. The sprinklers were set to run 2 times per week putting on a total of 1" per week.

Actual readings and usage from 5,560 sq. ft. lawn in Bellwood w/sprinklers set to apply 1" per week	
Sprinkler System RUN #1	
Meter Reading Start	135348.2
Meter Reading Finish	136295.5
Gallons Water Used	947.3
Water Cost	\$ 2.04
Sprinkler System RUN #2	
Meter Reading Start	136295.5
Meter Reading Finish	137236
Gallons Water Used	940.5
Water Cost	\$ 2.02
Weekly Total (1" of water)	
Gallons Used	1887.8
Water Cost	\$ 4.06
Yearly Total w/no rainfall for seven months (28 weeks) Apr.1st to Nov. 1st	
Gallons Used	52858.4
Water Cost (\$2.15/1,000 gals.)	\$ 113.65
Gallons of Water used per sq. ft.(52858 gals./5560 sq. ft.)	9.50
Cost per Sq Ft. for water	\$ 0.02
Cost of chemicals applied by custom lawn care service (\$300.00 for 6,000 sq. ft lawn in Bellwood)	\$ 0.05

How hot is it? IT'S SO HOT....REALLY - HOW HOT IS IT.....?

....the birds have to use potholders to pull the worms out of the ground.

....the trees are whistling for the dogs.

....the best parking place is determined by shade instead of distance.

....hot water comes from both taps.

....you can make sun tea instantly.

....you learn that a seat belt buckle makes a pretty good branding iron.

....the temperature drops below 90 F and you feel a little chilly.

....you discover that in July it only takes two fingers to steer your car.

....you discover that you can get sunburned through your car window.

....you actually burn your hand opening the car door.

....you break into a sweat the instant you step outside at 7:30 A.M.

....your biggest motorcycle wreck fear is, "What if I get knocked out and end up lying on the pavement and cook to death"?

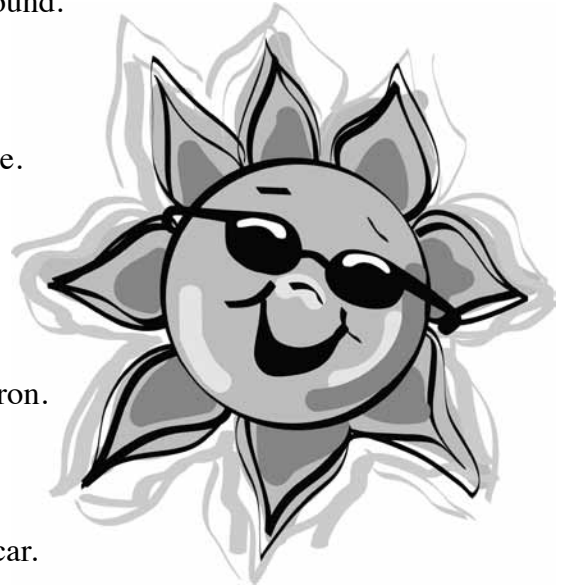
....you realize that asphalt has a liquid stage.

....the potatoes cook underground, so all you have to do is pull one out and add butter.

....the cows are giving evaporated milk.

....farmers are feeding their chickens crushed ice to keep them from laying boiled eggs.

IT'S SO DRY that the Baptists are starting to baptize by sprinkling, the Methodists are using wet-wipes, the Presbyterians are giving rain checks, and the Catholics are praying for the wine to turn back into water.



Gurney
Bert Gurney & Associates Inc.

Chris Johnson
Jeff Hubby
Greg Wymore

Locations:
4428 South 108th Street
Omaha, NE 68137

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

4403 1st Ave SE, Suite 411D
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

(319) 550-6697
(319) 550-6919 Fax



In Operators We Trust

By Doug Buresh, Circuit Rider #3

Coming from a background in plumbing, long ago I became familiar with the old slogan, “The plumber protects the health of the nation.” Cholera, dysentery, typhoid fever and hepatitis A are just a few of the many unpleasant bacterial, viral, parasitic, and protozoal infections that plagued water supplies in the not-so-distant past. These are all waterborne diseases caused by microorganisms which live in water. Modern plumbing practices have helped to virtually eliminate these problems in the U.S. Sadly, these diseases still persist in other parts of the world where modern plumbing is lacking.

I’ve thought about changing this slogan by simply inserting operator for plumber. I will not do so, as I don’t wish to detract from the contributions plumbers have made to our health and welfare. (Nor do I wish to be accused of plagiarism, or, God forbid, get sued by anyone for it.) I would like to borrow on the concept, however.

Historically, water operators have also played a large role. The Center for Disease Control has recognized disinfection of public water supplies as one of the greatest achievements of public health in the 20th century. The majority of Americans get at least a portion of their drinking water from surface waters, or water under its influence. Treatment and disinfection of that water is necessary to ensure its safety. Water operators run those treatment plants and maintain the distribution systems. For most of us in Nebraska, we are fortunate to have an abundance of fresh groundwater, and treatment and disinfection is not always needed. That is not to say we don’t have water quality issues. As operators, we deal with these issues all the time.

Think about it. Our customers depend on us as operators to provide them a constant supply of safe, clean drinking water. This should be our primary concern each and every day. Working in rural

Nebraska, our jobs require many of us to wear a lot of different hats. Each day presents its own challenges. But the one which says water operator is probably the most important hat that we wear.

There is a good reason why we are required to have professional licenses from DHHS Division of Public Health to serve as operators. The public trust is in our hands. If we are not cautious, any number of nasty contaminants could be introduced into our water system. People might get sick, or even die, if it were to happen. Several cases of contaminations of public water supplies have occurred in the United States in recent years. As professionals, we need to be diligent, and do all we possibly can within our power, to ensure this does not happen in our systems.

Aside from the waterborne diseases which still lurk out there, we must deal with all the other possible contaminants to our water including: arsenic, nitrates, uranium, E coli and Total Coliforms, as well as, all the other organic and inorganic chemicals and disinfection by-products. Remember, we as professional operators truly are guardians and protectors of the public we serve. We do important work.

Any task requires us to have the right tools to complete the job properly. Water operators also need the right tools to properly do our jobs. As professionals we need to possess the knowledge, skills, training, and experience necessary for the safe and proper operation of our respective systems. I like to think of Nebraska Rural Water as another tool in the toolbox. We are here to help by providing training and technical assistance to the systems we serve. Don’t hesitate to contact us.

The following is a related article written by Jennifer Wilson that appeared as a blog at www.smallwatersupply.org. It is titled: [Are You Doing the Right Thing?](#)

continued on page 10

Last week I found an article on Twitter about a water operator who has surrendered his license. Why? He lied about his CEUs.

We read in the news almost every week about very serious transgressions of public servants, from the mayor lining his pockets to illegal wastewater discharges. Sadly, a couple of times each year we even find out that someone died from a public servant not doing his or her job.

We don't hear that often about the "little" things. That chemical feed reading that was a guesstimate. The training class where a participant took a long lunch. The form that was signed as the certified operator for another system he had not recently visited. You don't hear about these things until they turn into a not-so-little problem, or the individual gets caught.

Water operators like this one in Massachusetts give industry professionals who do the right thing, day in and day out, a bad name.

Sometimes we forget to talk publicly about the truly important responsibility for public health protection in the hands of water operators. As water colleagues we know this, but I would argue that we owe it to the communities we serve to remind them.

Do something in 2012 to connect the water from the tap to the real people who make it happen.

Host a tour of your plant or include a flyer in your next bill. These efforts will give the public a positive message about the importance of operators and the job they do. Through local outreach you can demonstrate that most operators are not like the one in Massachusetts.



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kkuehl@utilityservice.com • Omaha, NE

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jdugger@utilityservice.com • Omaha, NE

Fall Conference Agenda

Please note that NeRWA has applied for the following continuing education hours - water (W), wastewater (WW), backflow (BF). Session times and topics are tentative.

Tuesday, September 18: Pre-Conference Sessions!!!

7:30-8:00	Pre-Conference Registration
8:00-9:00	Sampling Techniques 1W
	Russ Topp, NeRWA Proper sampling procedures and techniques can help a system avoid unnecessary violations and the problems associated with them. This session will cover proper sampling techniques and helpful hints for avoiding undeserved violations.
9:00-10:00	Emergency Planning 1W,1WW
	Mike Stanzel, NeRWA Emergency contact lists are required to be updated every year and emergency plans must be updated every 3 years. This session will explain why these regulations are important and how systems can remain in compliance.
10:00-10:15	Break
10:15-11:15	Basic Operator Math 1W, 1WW
	Mike Wentink, DHHS Disinfecting water storage tanks and mains and determining flow rates, drawdowns and other maintenance information are essential to properly operating a water system and all require math. This session will act as a refresher to remind operators how to perform these calculations.
11:15-12:15	Cross Connection Control 1W, 1WW, 1BF
	Barney Whatley, NeRWA All community and non-community, non-transient public water supply systems are required to have a cross connection control program. This session will cover the essential elements that make up a good program.
12:15-12:45	Lunch (provided)
12:45-1:45	Chlorine & Residual Testing 1W, 1WW
	Doug Buresh, NeRWA Water systems occasionally run into situations where short-term chlorination is necessary to remove contamination that has or might contaminate the system. Systems also often utilize maintenance chlorination to avoid problems in the spring and fall. This session will cover selecting, setting up and running a chlorine pump as well as measuring chlorine residuals to insure the chlorination is safe and effective.
2:15-6:00	Golf Tournament – Riverview Golf & Country Club

Wednesday, September 19: Class Starts at 12:30 PM

8:30-12:00	Trap Shoot at Mitchell Valley Trap Club (3.25 miles south of Mitchell)
8:30-12:00	Poker Run Motorcycle Ride
10:00-12:30	Conference Registration
12:30-12:45	Welcome
12:45-2:00	<p>DHHS Regulatory Update 1.25W Jack Daniel, Administrator-DHHS Public Water Supply Program This session gives an overview of Nebraska's public water systems and the issues they are facing. Current and upcoming rule and regulation changes and how they will affect systems will also be presented.</p>
2:00-2:30	Break: Tour Exhibits
2:30-3:00	<p>Lead-free Requirements & Enforcement .5 W Steve Drda & Doug Woodbeck, DHHS The revised "Lead-Free" pipe requirements from EPA and the definition of Lead-Free will have a major impact on what water systems can install, replace and repair in the system. This session will explain the impact of the rule and how the state intends to enforce its requirements.</p>
3:00-3:30	<p>USDA Update .5W, .5WW Natalie Furrow, USDA This session will give attendees an update on USDA activities, what monies are available for loans and grants for water and wastewater system improvements and the steps systems need to take to qualify and apply for them.</p>
3:30-4:00	Break: Tour Exhibits
4:00-5:00	<p>Chapter 22 Rewrite 1W Doug Woodbeck, DHHS Chapter 22 of Title 179 contains the regulations governing community and non-community, non-transient public water systems. This chapter is being reviewed with the intention of making changes that will enable systems to function more efficiently in producing safe drinking water. Attendees will be briefed on some of these changes and have an opportunity to have their opinion heard.</p>
5:00-6:00	Social in Exhibit Hall
6:00-7:00	Banquet and Awards

Thursday, September 20: Breakfast will be from 6:30-7:30 AM

7:00-8:30	Conference Registration		
	Session A – Oregon Trail	Session B – Platte/Pioneer	Session C – Fire Hall (across from Civic Center)
7:30-8:30	Fire Hydrant Maintenance- Part 1 1W	Metering Technology 1W	DMR Question and Answer Session 1WW

	Andy Andreatta Mueller Co.	Charles Bausch HD Supply	Dawn Martin DEQ
	This session will give details on the design and use of fire hydrants and will go into great detail on the proper maintenance that will insure a long and useful life.	The design, function and reading of meters is becoming more advanced on an almost daily basis. This session will update attendees on what is available and how it functions.	This session will give wastewater operators the chance to have questions answered regarding the proper way to complete a DMR report.
8:30-8:45	Break		
8:45-9:45	Fire Hydrant Maintenance- Part 2 1W	Good & Bad Installations 1W, 1BF, 1WW	Nitrate Issues & Well Construction 1W
	Andy Andreatta Mueller Co.	Rich Koenig DHHS	Colleen Casada & Tom Christopherson DHHS
	This is a continuation of the previous session and is not intended as a stand-alone session. Attendees will get the most benefit by attending both of these sessions.	This session consists of viewing slides of backflow preventers as they have been discovered in the field. Both good and bad installations are included for comparison purposes.	This session covers the increase in nitrate issues being faced by water systems in Nebraska and well construction techniques that are being investigated to assist with this concern.
9:45-10:00	Break: Tour Exhibits		
10:00-11:00	Valve Maintenance 1W	Surveying Facilities 1W, 1 BF, 1WW	Rural Water Project 1W
	Andy Andreatta Mueller Co.	Rich Koenig DHHS	Frank Strong MC Schaff
	This session will cover the basics on water main valves, including proper installation and maintenance.	This session will give attendees tips on what to look for during a cross connection control survey of a commercial or industrial facility.	This session will cover the challenges that water systems face when they pursue a regional water system, ranging from engineering, permits, leases and financing.
11:00-11:15	Break		
11:15-12:15	Field Rep Q & A 1W	Start Up of Backflow Devices 1 BF, 1WW	State Laboratory Update 1W
	DHHS Field Reps	Bob Jedlicka Mack McClain Associates	Mary Boden DHHS
	Operators often have unanswered questions concerning the regulations under which they must operate. This is your chance to get those questions answered by the regulators themselves.	Backflow devices are complicated pieces of equipment that can be damaged or made ineffective if they are not used properly. Proper start-up will increase the possibility of trouble-free operation.	This session will provide an update on the state health lab. The new fee structure will be covered as well as the reason samples need to be returned in a timely manner.

12:15-1:15	Lunch		
1:15-2:15	Line Tapping 1W	Developing A Department Budget 1W, 1WW	Backflow Quiz Bowl 1BF, 1BF
	Bob Hennig Municipal Pipe Services Tapping mains is a common operation for water operators. This session will look at routine taps, as well as emergency tapping and large taps under system pressure.	Randy Hellbusch NeRWA Water and wastewater systems need to be operated as a business. This session will assist operators in developing a budget for their department that can be presented to the governing body.	Rich Koenig DHHS Test your knowledge of backflow regulations and common practices and win prizes. Attendees will form teams of four to answer questions regarding backflow with the top three teams winning prizes.
2:15-2:30	Break		
2:30-3:30	Three Keys for Water Storage Quality 1W	Digger's Hotline Update 1W, 1WW	Backflow Devices, Assemblies & Their Uses 1W, 1 BF, 1WW
	Jacob Dugger Utility Service Co. Maintaining good quality water in a storage tank can be a challenge for a water system. This session looks at tank inspections, combatting old or stagnant water and dealing with biofilm formation.	Jill Geyer Digger's Hotline Anyone digging in Nebraska is required to notify Digger's Hotline and have utilities in the area located. This session will cover what is expected of the digger as well as the utility.	Barney Whatley NeRWA This session will cover the methods, devices and assemblies used to protect cross connections. What they are, how they function and what they are best suited for will be covered.
3:30-3:45	Break		
3:45-4:45	Innovations in Pipe Fitting 1W, 1WW	Sewer Lagoon Maintenance 1WW	
	Eric Eickmeyer Lincoln Winwater Pipe being used in the water and wastewater industry is constantly being changed and improved. This session will cover some of the newest innovations and what makes them more useful than current options.	Mike Lucas NeRWA Many wastewater systems in the state are using lagoons as a method of treatment. These systems have fewer state regulations to comply with, but it is still important to operate them properly to get the best treatment results.	



Wastewater Update

By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician

August 1st will mark the completion of my first year serving NeRWA as the Wastewater Technician. I will have logged 50,000+ miles crisscrossing the State of Nebraska. I will have held 13 training classes in 2012 for 213 operators with the intent of providing training opportunities to all geographic areas across the state of Nebraska.

By the time that you are reading this article the classes for my 2012-2013 program year will have been pretty much finalized. My goal for the 1 day classes is to provide variety, address current needs and provide new information to help you with your professional responsibilities. I appreciate very much the systems that without exception have agreed to host the training classes. During my next program year I plan to provide a total of 20 wastewater training classes at some different locations with new topics, in addition, of course, to the two state-wide conferences.

Judging by the number of registrations and the student evaluations the 4-day certification training classes have remained very popular. Gil Frey and I will conduct 5 of the certification training classes again next year at the Wahoo NeRWA office. We try to schedule them as closely as possible to the NDEQ certification test dates. The certification classes are intended to help new operators prepare for the State conducted test or provide certified operators the opportunity to review so they can take the test and move up a grade. The training consists of 4 days of pretty intensive classwork so even your brain may become tired. Lagoon operators have the option to register for only the last day of the classes for a reduced price. We recommend however that if possible you attend the full 4 days of training. You are tested over a lot of the same information with just 25 fewer test questions and with only 1 day of class preparation. It is however optional. We encourage those who register to order the mandatory resource books early. We utilize the resource manuals Volumes 1 and 2,

Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants, seventh edition from California University, Sacramento. The manuals are available for purchase through the NeRWA office. If you already have recent versions of the manuals you need not purchase new ones. Upon registration you will receive a study guide prior to the class. You will also be provided State test dates, locations and test registration requirements. There is a tremendous amount of material to cover in an incredibly short period of class time and your success will be determined by your own personal preparation. As the instructors, our success is directly related to your success. It is all about serving your needs. Your input is extremely valuable to us and to future classes.

I will continue to provide onsite assistance with sewer smoking, flow metering, composite sampling, locating, and sludge judge measurement while always looking for ways to expand our services to better meet your needs. At any one time I may have 15-20 systems on a waiting list. From the bottom of my heart I thank all of you for your patience while for efficiency purposes I attempt to meet all of your needs, coordinate on-site visits within specific geographic areas and stay somewhat within the same budget constrictions that all of you deal with.

I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank You" to Carol Jasa for preparing all of my class materials so that I can pick them up to be better prepared for classes and doing all of the mailings, Salli Kemerling for fielding all of the phone calls, Randy Hellbusch and Barney Whatley for delivering class materials and equipment to me across the state so that I can continue on-site visits, Mike Stanzel and Russ Topp for helping with sewer smoking projects, Charles Bausch for helping with training classes, Gil Frey for his invaluable help with the certification training classes after Charles' departure, Jim Heyen who always makes himself available as a resource and

Continued on page 16

finally to all of the operators who have entrusted me with their training.

I have really enjoyed traveling across the state providing assistance to systems while meeting new and also long time (not old) friends. Sometimes just providing an understanding ear at a time when it is needed is beneficial. The appreciation expressed is the ultimate reward. I also want to take this opportunity to give a tip of the NeRWA camo cap to all of you operators across the state that have committed your lives and health and sacrificed family time to unselfishly serve your individual communities. You embody the institutional knowledge of your systems. You shoulder huge amounts of responsibility with ever increasing professional demands on you which is often times not understood by the system owners that you serve. Know that I appreciate you and what you do and I share that message in your communities every time I am given the opportunity.

Please work safe out there. I really want to see you the next time I stop by or have a training class in your area. See you all during my next program year.

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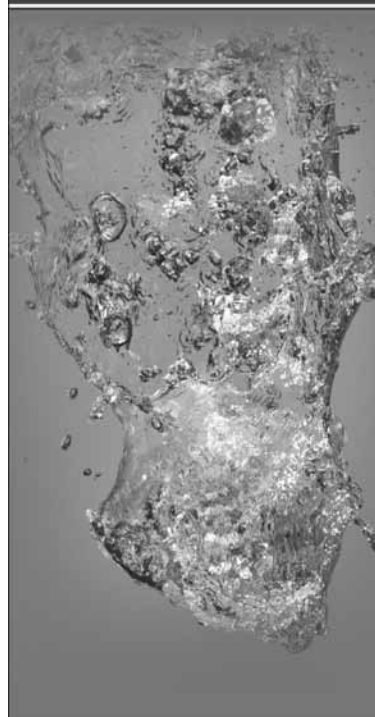


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Thanks for all your bids.



2012 Is One Dry And Hot Summer

By Mike Stanzel, Deputy Circuit Rider

It is safe to say that we have gone from one extreme to another when you compare this summer to last years with all the flooding. Many operators that I have visited in the past few weeks have stated that they have had no measurable rain for 4-6 weeks, causing extremely dangerous dry conditions and stressing their water systems to maximum pumping capacities.

It is very important to keep a close eye on your pump run times and tower levels to ensure there is a sufficient quantity of safe drinking water and also an adequate supply for fire fighting. Also you should be performing your draw down readings more frequently, especially in areas with numerous irrigation wells in close proximity of your towns.

It's certainly ok to issue voluntary or mandatory water conservation on lawn watering. People need to understand that their grass will come back after being dormant.

Also here are a few safety tips on heat stroke and heat exhaustion. Working in extreme heat can be dangerous and even deadly. First, you need to know the signs of "Heat Exhaustion". As the peak of summer approaches and the outside temperature increases to unbearable highs, the risk of heat exposure increases. Common signs of heat exhaustion are sweating, moist clammy skin, weakness and fatigue, nausea and or vomiting, elevated body temperature, headache and disorientation. If you or someone you know or are working with experiences signs like these, you should immediately remove the victim from the heat. Apply cool wet towels and fan the victim. However, you should stop fanning if victim develops goose bumps or shivers. If victim is conscious it is alright to give them fluids to drink. Water or sports drinks are the best in this instance. **DO NOT** give alcohol or caffeinated drinks as these actually increase dehydration. Do not apply ice directly to skin as this can cause cell damage

and frostbite. Do not allow victim to become so cold that he or she shivers as this actually increases body temperature. Do not leave the victim alone. Seek medical attention if victim does not improve within an hour or so.

Secondly, you need to know the signs of "Heat Stroke". Signs and symptoms are hot dry skin, red or spotted skin, extremely high blood pressure, mental confusion, convulsions, or loss of consciousness. If these symptoms occur get the victim in a cool bath if possible or apply cool compresses to body. Do not give fluids as they are at risk for vomiting and aspiration and seek medical attention as soon as possible.

Some safety tips to prevent injury from the extreme heat are as follows: 1. Try to schedule strenuous outdoor projects in the early morning hours when the temperatures are cooler. 2. Wear a hat and sunscreen to protect you from the UV rays. 3. Dress in light-weight, light-colored clothing, and shorts if possible. 4. Drink plenty of water even if you do not feel thirsty. 5. Take frequent breaks in the shade or a cool building. 6. If you have a large project, have plenty of assistance there to avoid over working yourself. 7. Avoid drinking alcohol.

Hopefully these tips will help you have a safe and productive summer.



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Project Funding Woes

By Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist

I am guessing that most of you notice when you go to the grocery store that your grocery bill keeps getting larger and the packages of food you purchase seem to keep getting smaller. A similar situation appears to be occurring when it comes to funding water and wastewater improvement projects. When the stimulus bill was passed, there were a number of water and wastewater systems that were able to take advantage of those funds to complete their improvement projects. Unfortunately, the stimulus money was directed towards projects that were “shovel ready”, and there was not enough time to complete preliminary engineering reports and the design portion of the majority of the needs within the state in a timely enough manner to qualify for stimulus funding.

Improvement projects are still being funded in the state by the various funding agencies as they are submitted to the Water and Wastewater Advisory Committee (WWAC). The major players in WWAC are currently USDA Rural Development, the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) and the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF). The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program administered by the Department of Economic Development (DED) is phasing out the grant program for water and wastewater infrastructure and using those funds for projects that have no other funding sources.

If a system is eligible for grant funds or loan forgiveness both USDA and SRF base the amount available on the Median Household Income (MHI) for the community applying for the funding. Census data is what they use to determine the MHI for each community. In the past, this has worked relatively well since the census collected financial information in addition to counting the number of persons residing within each community. The 2010 census did not collect financial information, so census information is

still from 2000. American FactFinder is a service that has estimated income and other financial data based on the 2010 census, and this data can also be used. The issue here is that these figures are estimates only, and in many cases they are very inaccurate. In one case, the margin of error is listed at nearly 16%.

The option that leaves for systems needing grant or loan forgiveness to keep their rates at an affordable level is to complete a MHI survey of the residential customers who will benefit from the project to determine the actual MHI for the system. This is not a difficult process, but it does require some time on the part of system personnel. NeRWA has assisted systems in completing MHI surveys by receiving the survey forms and collating the results to determine the MHI for the community. NeRWA could have someone go door to door and deliver the survey forms, explaining what they are and why they need to be completed and returned, but people are reluctant to give financial information on the say so of a stranger. NeRWA recommends that the Village Board or a community group deliver the survey forms and explain their purpose, as this usually gets better results.

A particular issue with a MHI survey is the confidentiality of the information that is gathered.

continued on next page

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Each survey form must be marked so as to identify the household it came from, and people are generally uncomfortable knowing this link exists. When NeRWA is collating the survey information, the filled out survey forms are kept in our office, and the only thing the governing body of the system in question will ever see is a summary of the information that shows the MHI for the system and the number and percentage of the survey forms that were returned. The only time the survey forms are ever returned to the system is when and if there is an audit of the project and the funding agency requests to see the survey forms. At that time, the sealed envelope is brought to the audit meeting, representatives of the funding agency are allowed to look at the survey forms, and then the forms are resealed and returned to NeRWA's office where they will remain for the duration that they are required to be available. At the end of that time, the survey forms are destroyed by being shredded and recycled.

Systems that are pursuing funding for projects and have been informed that the MHI on record makes

them ineligible for grants or loan forgiveness can contact NeRWA to assist them in completing a MHI survey. Part of the survey process includes making an official request to conduct a survey and the reason that the system feels the MHI on record is inaccurate must be stated. Call Barney Whatley at (402) 480-4297 or the NeRWA office at (403) 443-5216 if your system would like to consider a MHI survey.

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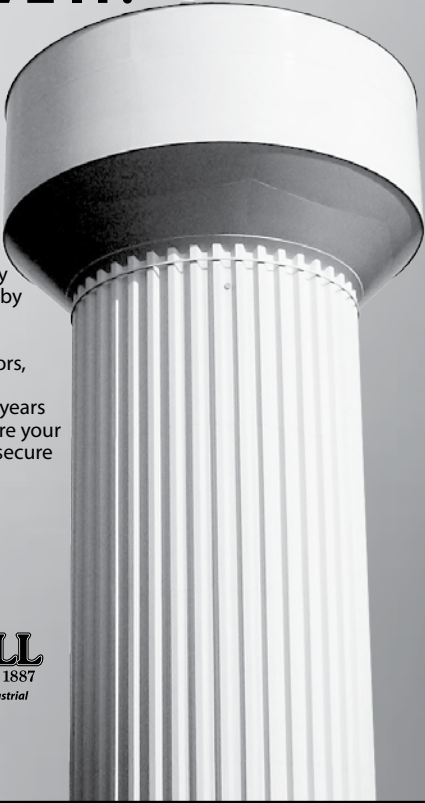
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The Giraffe Test

By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider

I recently ran across an interesting test in the Wyoming Rural Water Magazine that cracked me up, I just had to pass it along. Test your co-workers and board members, but be careful, testing your kids or grand kids, they might surprise you.

1. How do you put a giraffe into a refrigerator? Stop and think about it, and decide on your answer.

The correct answer is: Open the refrigerator, put in the giraffe, and close the door. This question tests whether you tend to do simple things in an overly complicated way.

2. How do you put an elephant into the refrigerator? Did you say, Open the refrigerator, put in the elephant, and close the refrigerator? Wrong answer.

The correct answer: Open the refrigerator, take out the giraffe, put in the elephant and close the door. This tests your ability to think through the repercussions of your previous actions.

3. The Lion King is hosting an animal conference. All the animals attend... Except one. Which animal does not attend?

Correct answer: The elephant! The elephant is in the refrigerator. You just put him there. This tests your memory. Okay, even if you did not answer the first three questions correctly, you still have one more chance to show your true abilities.

4. There is a river you must cross but it is used by crocodiles, and you do not have a boat. How do you manage it?

Correct Answer: You jump into the river and swim across. Have you not been listening? All the crocodiles are attending the animal conference. This

tests whether you learn quickly from your mistakes.

According to Anderson Consulting Worldwide, around 90% of the Professionals they tested got all questions wrong, but many preschoolers got several correct answers. Anderson Consulting says this conclusively proves the theory that most professionals do not have the brains of a four-year-old.

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Nebraska Rural Water Association

EARLY REGISTRATION

Western Nebraska Fall Pre-Conference and Conference

September 18-20, 2012

Gering Civic Center

1050 "M" Street

Gering, Nebraska

One name per form. Make sure to indicate all your licenses to insure proper credit hours:

Name _____

Certificate numbers must be included: Water # _____ Grade 6# _____ WW # _____

System/Company Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

DAYS ATTENDING	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
PRECONFERENCE—Sept 18— NO REGISTRATIONS AFTER SEPT 7	_____ \$50.00	_____ \$75.00
FULL CONFERENCE WITH PRECONFERENCE (includes all meals)	_____ \$140.00	_____ \$165.00
FULL CONFERENCE (includes all meal tickets)	_____ \$100.00	_____ \$125.00
WEDNESDAY ONLY (includes Banquet)	_____ \$60.00	_____ \$85.00
THURSDAY ONLY (includes breakfast buffet and lunch)	_____ \$65.00	_____ \$90.00
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TRAP SHOOT ON WEDNESDAY MORNING _____ YES		
POKER RUN ON WEDNESDAY MORNING _____ YES		

Meals are included with the conference registration. Extra meal tickets are available above.

Please indicate if you will staying for the evening meal: Yes _____

**EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE is
Aug 31.
Fee increases \$25 between
Sept 1 and Sept 12.
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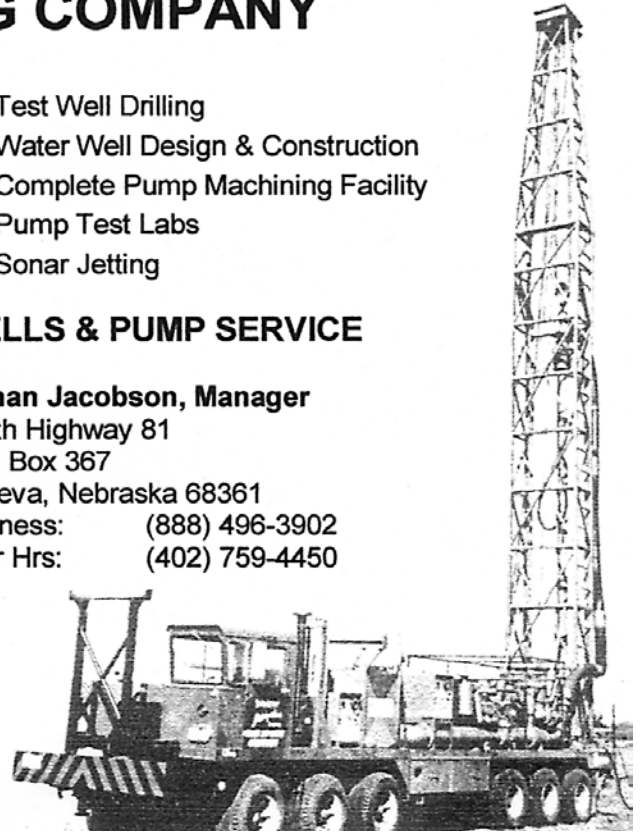
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