

Issue 3/2013

Nebraska Rural Water Association



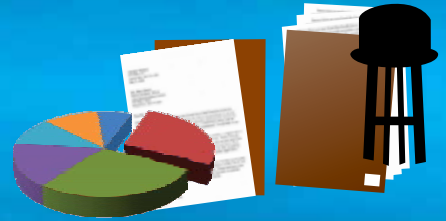
NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS



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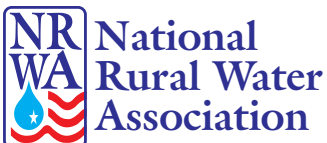
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Nebraska Good Water News

Issue 3/2013

“Keeping Our Water Safe”

Board of Directors

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

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

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

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Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician
Pat Petersen, Training Specialist

Website: www.nerwa.org

On the cover:

Doniphan Water Tower

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How'd We Do and Letters From...

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

May 14, 2013

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA,

The Utica Village Board of Trustees would like to thank the very capable NeRWA staff for coming to Utica to meet with our maintenance men on water department issues. Your assistance, expertise and professionalism are truly appreciated.

Please accept this donation to your equipment fund and our thanks for your valuable services.

Sincerely,

Don Olson, Board Chairman
Village Board of Trustees
Utica, Nebraska

City of Chappell

P.O. Box 487 - 757 2nd Street
Chappell, Nebraska 69129

May 20, 2013

Fax 308.874.2401
308.874.2508


Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Dr
Wahoo NE 68066

Dear NeRWA,

Enclosed please find a donation from the City of Chappell for our sewer rate cost study. We would like to give a special thanks to Randy for all of his efforts on performing the study for our city.

The support you provide to small communities like ours is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,


Ashlea Jepsen
City Administrator/Clerk

Thank You for your help,
Randy!



Thanks for assisting us with the
rate study...it was much
appreciated!

Sincerely,

THE CITY OF PAWNEE CITY



Keep
Fremont
Beautiful

April 19, 2013

1005 N. Clarkson St. • Fremont, NE 68025 • (402) 941-6122 • keepfremontbeautiful@gmail.com

Barney Whatley
2514 Winston Circle
Fremont, NE 68025

Dear Barney

Wow - another successful Eco-Fair! On behalf of the Keep Fremont Beautiful Board of Directors, thank you for your assistance at our 18th annual Eco-Fair.

KFB, as a non-profit organization, is dedicated to providing a continuous and consistent education program. Proper waste disposal, recycling, litter reduction and beautification are major themes of our educational efforts. The Eco-Fair is a platform to highlight the KFB mission, provide information and create greater awareness concerning individual responsibility for improving the environment.

The Eco-Fair is our single largest educational event and involves over 450 4th grade students from Fremont and the surrounding area. KFB simply could not continue to offer this event without the continuous and consistent support of volunteers, such as yourself, who donate many hours to the preparation and implementation of the days' activities.

Please know that we are very grateful for your help and hope that you will be available next year! The date for the 2014 Eco-Fair is April 23rd.

Thank you!

Sue Reyzlik
KFB Executive Director

Really do appreciate your
help!

I would like to thank you for selecting me to receive your scholarship. The money is greatly appreciated and will go toward helping pay for tuition at Midland University. Thanks again.

Anna Grovijohn
Dodge, Nebraska

Village of Allen

100 East 2nd Street - PO Box 99
Allen, NE 68710
Phone 402-635-2444 - Fax # 402-635-2523

July 15, 2013

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA:

Please except this donation for all you have done for the Village of Allen. We really appreciate all of your help and good service.

Sincerely,
Village of Allen, NE

Village of Hallam

P.O. Box 81 • Hallam, Nebraska 68368-0081

April 16, 2013

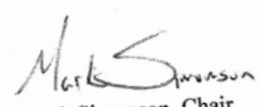
Nebraska Rural Water Association
Attn: Mr. Russ Topp
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

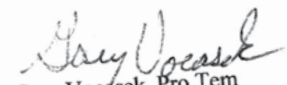
Dear Russ Topp,


The Village of Hallam Board of Trustees is extremely grateful for all of the assistance that you have provided to our town over the years! Your expertise in all areas of our water system has been so important to us and our ability to function as a water system provider. Your investment of time with the numerous trips to Hallam to assist our new Water Operators with the maintenance issues of emptying the water tower prior to cleaning, providing a pressure relief valve, disinfection of the wells, repair and calibration of the chlorine and fluoride pumps are greatly appreciated!

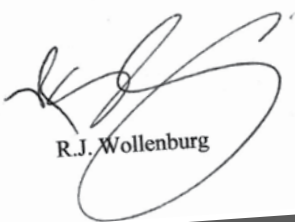
In addition to all of this, we are thankful that you have helped us with compliance regarding regulations of record management, the emergency plan, cross connection issues, sampling, testing, measurement of the static water levels and so much more. Thanks again for your generosity, thoughtfulness and support!

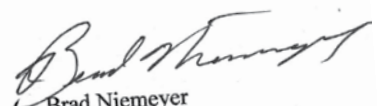
Sincerely,
The Village of Hallam Board of Trustees


Mark Simonson, Chair


Gary Vocasek, Pro Tem


Lauree Ebbers


R.J. Wollenburg


Brad Niemeyer

VILLAGE OF DORCHESTER

701 Washington Ave., PO Box 287 | Dorchester, NE 68343
Phone: 402-946-3201 | Fax: 402-946-3571 | dorchester@diodecom.net



May 6, 2013

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA staff,

The Dorchester Board of Trustees and employees would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Nebraska Rural Water Association for your services during our recent lagoon, well and water tower projects. Your organization is always willing to share your knowledge and many services so our utilities continue to run smoothly.

We wish to give special thanks to Randy Hellbusch for the water and sewer rate studies he has done. He never hesitates to schedule a time to assist us with our needs. We appreciate his guidance.

Your ongoing efforts to manage and promote safe, clean water for the citizens of Nebraska are commended. Please accept our donation of \$500.00 to continue in your cause.

Sincerely,

Brandon Koll, Chairman
Dorchester Board of Trustees

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2013 TRAINING

Water Operator Training

August 14	Spencer
August 15	Bancroft
August 21	Wahoo
October 8	McCook
October 9	Minden
November 20	Mullen
December 17	Central City

Wastewater Training

August 13	Ogallala
September 11	Dakota City
October 15	Gering
October 16	Broken Bow
November 13	Valentine
December 10	Wahoo

Backflow Continuing Education Training

September 4	York
September 5	Falls City
September 26	Ord
October 10	South Sioux City
November 19	Wahoo
December 10	Mitchell
December 11	Imperial
December 12	Cambridge
December 18	Wahoo

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

October 21-25

Wastewater Certification Course

August 27-30
October 29-Nov. 1

September 25	Trenching & Shoring
September 26	Confined Space

ABOVE CLASSES ARE HELD IN WAHOO

Fall Western Conference

Sept. 17-19

Gering Civic Center

Pre-register for classes:

Online: www.nerwa.org

Fax: 402-443-5274

Phone: 402-443-5216

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.



The Importance of Good Maps

By Barney Whatley, GPS Technician

There are several reasons why systems need good, accurate maps showing the locations of mains, valves, fire hydrants, curb stops, meter boxes, etc., not the least of which is that updated system maps are required by Title 179.



The map shows the main here, and there is a lot of water?

When you are notified of water coming up in the street at 4 am, it is usually a bad time to realize that you did not even know there was a water pipe in that street. Accurate maps will allow you to pinpoint the locations of mains, as well as locate the valves needed to isolate the leaking main so it can be repaired. It is also extremely helpful to be able to locate curb stops in a timely manner when a service line needs to be shut off, whether that is for non-payment, or because the customer has a leak and their shutoff does not seem to work.

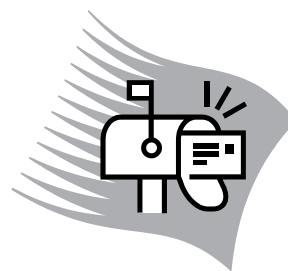
The Nebraska Rural Water Association (NeRWA) has been assisting systems with getting up-to-date GPS based maps for several years. When Charles Bausch left NeRWA for a position with HD Supply, the mapping service was put on the back burner, with only those systems whose maps had been started and who were under a time constraint getting their maps completed and printed. Circumstances now allow for much more time to be spent on the mapping projects, and I am in the process of completing the projects that were started and am ready to begin taking on new mapping projects.

Any systems that are interested in learning more about GPS mapping should contact the office or call me on my cell phone at (402) 480-4297, and I will explain the process. In order for me to produce an estimate for a

system, I need to know the total number of points that need to be included on the map. For a water system, this would include the wells, the water storage, main valves, fire hydrant valves and fire hydrants, curb stops, meter pits, sampling stations and any other infrastructure you would like included on the map. For wastewater systems, the number of manholes, cleanouts, lift stations, etc, need to be provided. Once I have this information, I can produce an estimate for the system. The estimate can be for water, wastewater, or both, with each of these being separate so the system can determine just how much mapping they can afford or need.

The cost for mapping will vary from system to system, depending on the travel time and mileage to go to the system to collect points and review the preliminary maps. The actual data collection and interpretation costs average around \$6.50 to \$7.00 per point, with travel and expenses being extra. Please call for an estimate if you are interested, as there is no obligation and the estimate is free.

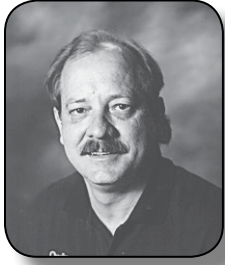
MAILING ADDRESSES FOR MEMBER SYSTEM OPERATORS



Just want to mention that if you want your mail sent to a specific address PLEASE inform your clerk of that address. Then when your clerk fills out your system's membership renewal

form the address you prefer can be included. That will help us when we update our database and will help you get your mail delivered where you would like it.

Thank you.



What a Difference a Year Makes!

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

Although it is starting to get plenty dry around much of the state, most areas are in much better shape moisture wise than they were a year ago. Most water systems that I have visited with say they are not pumping near the water that they did at this point in time last summer. NeRWA assisted many systems with drought and conservation plans over the winter and early this spring in anticipation of another season of drought. Thankfully, so far this year anyhow, it appears much of that work hasn't been needed. However, being prepared is always a good thing.

It is somewhat unfortunate that it takes a drought event for people to become aware that there really isn't an endless supply of water and that we need to take care of what we have. Conserving water really isn't a difficult task. Common sense can go a long ways. Check household faucets for leaks. A faucet that leaks

15 drips per minute will waste 1,225 gallons per year. A leaky toilet can easily waste 6,000 gallons per month or more. Small items like this not only are a big waste environmentally, but also result in higher water bills. Another water saving technique is to keep a jug of water in the refrigerator. This will eliminate leaving the tap running until the water gets cold every time you want a drink.

Lawn watering can also be a major factor in higher water bills and can be attributed to huge water waste. If you like to keep your lawn green, water in the evening or early morning. The majority of lawns that do get watered are over watered. In this area of the U.S. only 1 inch of water per week is required to keep lawns green. Put out a rain gauge or a flat bottom container when you are watering and time it to see when it reaches 1 inch. You might be amazed at just how little water that takes compared to what you have been using.

NeRWA has other fact sheets and conservation tips. If we can be of any assistance give us a call. Bottom line: CONSERVE WATER. It is our greatest natural resource.



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RURAL WATER GUYS LOOKING FOR A LEAK...



Our guys go out of their way to help – Mike Stanzel and Randy Hellbusch.



Fall Conference

By Pat Petersen, Training Specialist

With the 4th of July and the National Rural Water In-service behind us, it is time to look forward to the Nebraska Rural Water Association's 2013 Fall Conference. The conference will be held September 17, 18, and 19 at the Gering Civic Center in Gering, Nebraska. This will be my first western conference either as an operator or the planner so I am looking forward to being there. Here's a little rundown of what's in store for you.

Tuesday the 17th will be the pre-conference. This year's pre-conference will focus on the 5 critical core components of Asset Management. Katie Miller, Program Manager of the Environmental Finance Center at Wichita State University will be our presenter. The pre-conference will run from 8 AM until 1:45 PM. Following the pre-conference there will be a golf tournament at the Riverview Golf and Country Club for the golfers in attendance. If you have any questions about the golf outing you will want to contact our golf "pro," Randy Hellbusch.

Wednesday morning will offer two activities to start the day. You can choose to go to the trap shoot at the Mitchell Valley Trap Club (3.25 miles south of Mitchell) or ride your motorcycle on a quick poker run. Both of these events will begin at 8:30 AM and conclude around noon. Look for NeRWA Circuit Rider Russ Topp if you want to "shoot" and look for DHHS field rep. Doug Allen if you want to "ride." Conference registration will run from 10:00 AM until 12:30 PM. A quick welcome to all of the operators at 12:30 PM will begin our general session followed up by a DHHS Regulatory Update from DHHS Office of Drinking Water Administrator Jack Daniel. Other topics included in the general session are Security Grants, Source Water Protection, and what it really takes to be an "Outstanding Operator". A social hour at 5 PM will give way to the banquet and awards at 6 PM.

Our final but busiest day of the conference will begin with breakfast at 6:30 AM Thursday morning.

Concurrent sessions will begin at 7:30 AM and end at 4:45 PM. Session topics will include an update from Digger's Hotline, Q and A with DHHS Field Reps, backflow and cross-connection issues and several more topics that affect everyday water operators.

So mark your calendars for a fall getaway to our fall conference September 17-19th. It should be a fantastic three days of learning and fun! Have a great rest of the summer and I hope to see you this fall!

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Fall Conference Agenda September 17-19, 2013

Tuesday, September 17 - Critical Components of Asset Management

Katie Miller

Environmental Finance Center, Wichita State University

Time	Lobby Area	Exhibit Hall	Oregon Trail
7:30 - 8:00	Registration		
8:00 - 9:00			Introduction--Core Component #1: Current State of Assets/Workshop 1W, 1WW
9:00 - 10:00			Core Component #2: Level of Service/Workshop 1W, 1WW
10:00 - 10:15	Break		
10:15 - 11:15			Core Component #3: Critical Assets/Workshop 1W,1WW
11:15 - 12:15			Core Component #4: Life Cycle Costing/Workshop 1W,1WW
12:15 - 12:45	Lunch		
12:45 - 1:45			Core Component #5: Long Term Funding Strategy/Implementation of Asset Management and Energy Efficiency 1W, 1WW
2:30 - 6:00	Golf Tournament		

Wednesday, September 18

Time	Lobby Area	Exhibit Hall	Oregon Trail
8:00 - 12:00		Exhibitor Setup	
8:30 - 12:00	Trap Shoot		
8:30 - 12:00	Poker Run		
10:00 - 12:30	Registration		
12:30 - 12:45			Welcome
12:45 - 2:00			Regulatory Update: Jack Daniel, DHHS 1.25W,1.25WD
2:00 - 2:30	Break		
2:30-3:30			Characteristics of an OUTSTANDING Operator: Rich Koening, DHHS 1W,1WW
3:30 - 4:00	Break		
4:00-4:30			Security Grants and Emergency Plans: Kris Luebbe, DHHS 1W,1WW
4:30-5:00			Source Water Protection: Mary Schroer, NDEQ 1W,1WW
5:00 - 6:00		Social Hour	
6:00 - 7:00		Banquet and Awards	

Fall Conference Agenda - continued

Thursday, September 19

Time	Lobby Area	Exhibit Hall	Oregon Trail	Platte/Pioneer	Fire Hall
6:30 - 7:30		Breakfast			
7:00 - 8:30	Registration				
7:30 - 8:30			Line Tapping, Line Stops, Valve Insertion: Bob Hennig, Municipal Pipe Services 1W	Rural Water Round Table: NeRWA Rural Water Board and Staff 1W,1WW	DMR Q & A: NDEQ 1WW
8:30 - 8:45			Break		
8:45 - 9:45			VOC/Arsenic Q&A: Justin Nelson & Andy Kahle, DHHS 1W	Digger's Hotline Update: Jill Geyer, Digger's Hotline 1W,1WW,1WD	Cross-Connection/Backflow Regulatory Review and Update: Rich Koenig, DHHS 1W,1WW,1BF
9:45 - 10:00			Break		
10:00 - 11:00			Water Quality Issues: Jake Dugger, Utility Service 1W	Basic Operator Math: Mike Wentink, NDHHS 1W,1WW	Good, Bad, and the Ugly Installations-A Whole New Chapter: Rich Koenig, DHHS 1W,1WW,1BF
11:00 - 11:15			Break		
11:15 - 12:15			Trench and Excavation Safety: Stuart McMillan, United Rentals 1W,1WW,1WD	Changing Pumping Styles: Chris Egger, HOA Solutions 1W,1WW	Applications and Troubleshooting Backflow Devices: Bob Jedlicka, Mack McClain and Associates 1BF, 1WW,1W
12:15 - 1:15			Lunch		
1:15 - 2:15			Field Rep Q&A: Doug Woodbeck, Tony Martinez, and Doug Allen, DHHS 1W, 1WD		Backflow Challenge: Rich Koenig, DHHS 1W,1BF
2:15 - 2:30			Break		
2:30 - 3:30			Advances in Instrumentation for Water Analysis: Eric Lehmann, Hach Co. 1W,1WW,1WD	NeWARN Update: Eric Melcher, City of Aurora Utilities 1W,1WW,1BF	Elements of a Cross-Connection Control Program: Barney Whatley, NeRWA 1W,1WW,1BF
3:30 - 3:45			Break		
3:45 - 4:45			How to Figure Rates With a Rate Study: Randy Hellbusch, NeRWA 1W,1WW	Lagoon Basics: Mike Lucas, NeRWA 1WW	No Session

Nebraska Rural Water Association

EARLY REGISTRATION

Western Nebraska Fall Pre-Conference and Conference

September 17-19, 2013

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: Water # _____ Grade 6# _____ WW # _____ Well Driller _____

System/Company Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

DAYS ATTENDING	MEMBER	NON-MEMBER
PRECONFERENCE—Sept 17— DEADLINE SEPT 6 (lunch included)	_____ \$65.00	_____ \$90.00
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
GUEST BANQUET TICKETS— \$15 x _____	TOTAL \$ _____	TOTAL \$ _____
GUEST LUNCH TICKETS—\$10 x _____	TOTAL \$ _____	TOTAL \$ _____
GOLF TOURNAMENT ON TUESDAY AFTERNOON _____ YES		
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.

The venue needs a count for the evening meal. Please indicate if you will staying for the Wed evening meal: Yes _____

**EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE
is Aug 31.
Fee increases \$25 for registrations
dated or postmarked between
Sept 2 and Sept 12.
NO REGISTRATIONS AFTER SEPT 12.
\$50 increase at the door.**

TOTAL DUE \$ _____
Late charge, if any \$ _____
Total \$ _____
BILL ME _____
PO# _____
CHECK ENCLOSED _____
(Note: Certificates will not be mailed until payment
is received in NeRWA office.)

To Register (no phone registrations):
Fax: 402-443-5274
Online: www.nerwa.org
Mail: Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Street

When making room reservations, mention you are with NeRWA
Monument Inn, 1130 "M" Street
308-436-1950

DATE REGISTRATION RECEIVED: _____

For NeRWA office use only: Hours: Water _____ BF _____ Wastewater _____ WD _____

Payment received _____ Check # _____ Certificate mailed _____



Lift Stations

By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician

I receive numerous phone calls and emails concerning lift stations from operators, consultants, funding agencies and Village Board/City Council members. Lift stations can be major energy users and the source of problems for many wastewater collection systems. Many times lift station pumping records are based on hour meters and the pump's nameplate gallons per minute (gpm) capacity.

At least annually the pumps should be calibrated to determine their actual pumping rate. These should be recorded to reveal trends as the pumps wear. Flow meter accuracy can also be verified. Calibration is a relatively simple process requiring a tape measure, stopwatch and calculator. Make all measurements in inches.

With circular wet wells calculate the surface area by taking the radius squared times 3.14. In square or rectangular lift stations multiply the width by the length. Measure down from a fixed point to the level where the pumps kick on and again where they kick off. Time how long it takes for each pump individually to pump it down. This difference in length times the surface area gives you the volume pumped in cubic inches. Convert the cubic inches to gallons by multiplying by .0043. Convert the time in seconds to minutes. If there is flow coming into the lift station while you are test pumping it down then time how long it takes to refill and the pumps to kick back on. You previously determined the volume so calculate the rate of flow into the lift station. The actual pumping rate then is the volume in gallons divided by the time in minutes for the draw down with the gpm flow into the lift station added to it.

Do this several times for each pump. If new pumps were installed and they aren't pumping at the nameplate there may be a blockage. One particularly astute operator determined that a check valve on the lead pump was stuck open. Replacing the check valve reduced the energy usage at the lift station by nearly half. I've heard of other instances where a check valve was stuck open.

If you would like assistance calibrating your lift station pumps contact me on my cell (402)443-6157 or email me at lucas@nerwa.org.

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ATTENTION OPERATORS...

As you all know by now, the term of the water, backflow and well driller licenses is now two years and 10 CEUs are required for renewal. The licenses will be up for renewal at the end of this year. Make sure you have received the required number of hours. You can find out your total hours on the NDHHS website. Go to our website, www.nerwa.org, and on the right side under Informational Links, go to the HHS License link.

If you have any questions regarding hours, you can call the Department of Health or the NeRWA office.





What a Free Internet Subscription Could Cost Your Water System

By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider

Over the last few years I have had several calls from water operators concerning communication providers wanting to install antennas on their water towers. Water towers are very inviting to these companies because it saves the cost of erecting their own tower. Typically it is wireless internet providers or cell phone companies wanting to provide service to the village and surrounding area. It could also be the rural fire department or law enforcement agency wanting to install antennas or repeaters on the water tower.

Installing these antennas on the tower can provide the community with a valuable service. Most communities are in need of better cell service or high speed internet service and most village board members are all in favor of getting a free internet subscription for the village or fire department, but is a free subscription really worth the potential cost?

At least once every five years the water tower will need to be inspected and cleaned if necessary. The tower contractor will have to comply with OSHA regulations. There could be cables draped over the balcony that could cause a trip hazard. Cables strapped to the ladder may pose a potential hazard and may not be OSHA compliant. Sooner or later the tank will need to be painted. If the cables are not secured properly and out of the way, they will need to be moved prior to the contractor performing the work. Who will be responsible to move the cables and what will it cost? If brackets for the antennas need to be welded to the tank there may be damage to the paint. If the interior coating of the tank is damaged the tank will need to be drained and the coating repaired or rust will start and cause expensive repairs later. Will the company need to house electronics under the water tower? If a leak occurs and sprays on the electronics will the village be responsible to replace them?

Security will also be a concern. All water towers should have some type of security device on or around them. If a service technician needs to access the secure area what will the protocol be for them to access the tower?

Will the water operator need to be present while the work is being done?

Safety is always a concern when someone needs to climb the tower. If there would happen to be an accident while someone was on the tower, would the village insurance cover them or could this lead to legal action against the village?

Before signing a contract with anyone wanting to install antennas on your water tower you may want to consider what the long term costs may be for the village and what the liabilities could be.

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New Opportunities

By Mike Stanzel, Source Water Specialist

My career with NeRWA started on October 1, 2008, when I was hired as a Deputy Circuit Rider working under a state-awarded contract called the “Technical/Managerial” or 2% Contract. When I was hired for this, I was nervous as heck to say the least. My first day was a breeze! They said show up at 7:00 am and help with our one-day training Expo in Fremont, Nebraska. No problem!

Day #2: Come to the office first thing in the morning and complete all your paperwork. No problem! Then go to Best Buy and get yourself a laptop computer. PROBLEM!!! I didn’t even know how to turn one of those things on, let alone know how to use it. But with a little crash course from Barney, I was up and rolling. Almost every aspect of my job revolves around my laptop; daily logs, reports, travel vouchers, state forms, policies, ordinances, etc.

With the Deputy Circuit Rider job I was required to travel to assist public water systems throughout the state with mainly compliance issues and other problems with their water system. For the past five years I have estimated that I have assisted over 1200 systems doing everything from paperwork to line locating, leak detection, hydrant repair, draw down training, coliform issues, valve replacement and troubleshooting, just to name a few.

I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting and working with so many operators and clerks over the years and developed a lot of friendships. I can truly say that I “liked” getting up and going to work every day, which I don’t think too many people can say.

So it is with a heavy heart that I tell all of you that the state contract was up for bids and NeRWA was not awarded the contract this time.

We still have two circuit riders, Randy and Russ, who will still be assisting all of our members. But needless to say, their workload just got a little heavier.

Fortunately the National Rural Water Association has found funding to reinstate the Source Water Specialist position and our board of directors offered it to me. This is the “New Opportunity” I am writing about. Thankfully I am still employed for this great organization. This is going to feel like my second day on the job for a while until I get my feet wet.

I am not real sure about what this new position is going to entail. However, I do know that I will still be working with various towns and villages developing source water protection plans to protect your drinking water from possible contaminants. I look at this position as a learning opportunity to increase my knowledge and learn a different aspect of my career as a water operator.



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WATER/WASTEWATER OPERATOR:


The City of Schuyler, Department of Utilities is accepting applications for a water/wastewater operator. This individual will serve under the direction of the Water/Wastewater Supervisor and will perform maintenance and operation of the water and wastewater systems. Possession of a valid Nebraska Class B Commercial Driver’s License with air brakes endorsement, Certification as a Grade 3 Water Operator, Grade 1 Wastewater Operator and a Grade 6 Backflow Certification will be required. This individual will be responsible for being on call on a rotating basis for nights and weekends. Applications are available at the Utility office. (204 East 10th Street) Submit application, resume and/or letter of interest by September 15, 2013, to the City of Schuyler, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 526, Schuyler, Nebraska, 68661. EOE

Water Conservation Tips


We are all aware of water conservation and probably have read dozens of articles and tips. These are just reminders of ways to save water.

- Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn is watered and not the house, sidewalk, or street.
- Run your clothes washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
- Choose shrubs and groundcovers instead of turf for hard-to-water areas such as steep slopes and isolated strips.
- Use the garbage disposal sparingly. Compost vegetable food waste instead and save gallons every time.
- For cold drinks keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap. This way, every drop goes down you and not the drain.
- Water your lawn and garden in the morning or evening when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation.
- Wash your fruits and vegetables in a pan of water instead of running water from the tap.
- Spreading a layer of organic mulch around plants retains moisture and saves water, time and money.
- Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk and save water every time.
- If water runs off your lawn easily, split your watering time into shorter periods to allow for better absorption.
- When buying new appliances, consider those that offer cycle and load size adjustments. They're more water and energy efficient.
- Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.
- Upgrade older toilets with water efficient models.
- Adjust your lawn mower to a higher setting. A taller lawn shades roots and holds soil moisture better than if it is closely clipped.
- When running a bath, plug the tub before turning the water on, and then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.
- Rather than following a set watering schedule, check for soil moisture two to three inches below the surface before watering.
- Don't use running water to thaw food. Defrost food in the refrigerator for water efficiency and food safety.
- Use drip irrigation for shrubs and trees to apply water directly to the roots where it's needed.
- Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and you can save 140 gallons a week.
- When doing laundry, match the water level to the size of the load.
- Teach your children to turn off faucets tightly after each use.
- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you up to 750 gallons a month.
- Soak pots and pans instead of letting the water run while you scrape them clean.
- Don't water your lawn on windy days when most of the water blows away or evaporates.
- Water your plants deeply but less frequently to encourage deep root growth and drought tolerance.
- Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save water and prevent damage to your home.
- To decrease water from being wasted on sloping lawns, apply water for five minutes and then repeat two to three times.
- Use a minimum amount of organic or slow release fertilizer to promote a healthy and drought tolerant landscape.
- Trickling or cascading fountains lose less water to evaporation than those spraying water into the air.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and save 25 gallons a month.
- Encourage your school system and local government to develop and promote water conservation among children and adults.
- Set a kitchen timer when watering your lawn or garden to remind you when to stop. A running hose can discharge up to 10 gallons a minute.
- Make sure there are water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.
- Install an instant water heater near your kitchen sink so you don't have to run the water while it heats up. This also reduces energy costs.
- If your dishwasher is new, cut back on rinsing. Newer models clean more thoroughly than older ones.
- If installing a lawn, select a turf mix or blend that matches your climate and site conditions.
- When the kids want to cool off, use the sprinkler in an area where your lawn needs it the most.
- Consult with your local nursery for information on plant selection and placement for optimum outdoor water savings.
- Winterize outdoor spigots when temperatures dip below freezing to prevent pipes from leaking or bursting.
- Insulate hot water pipes for more immediate hot water at the faucet and for energy savings.
- Drop your tissue in the trash instead of flushing it and save water every time.
- Support projects that use reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and industrial uses.


continued on next page

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- Use a hose nozzle or turn off the water while you wash your car. You'll save up to 100 gallons every time.
- If your toilet was installed before 1992, reduce the amount of water used for each flush by inserting a displacement device in the tank.
- Report broken pipes, open hydrants and errant sprinklers to the property owner or your water provider.
- Let your lawn go dormant during the summer. Dormant grass only needs to be watered every three weeks or less if it rains.
- Listen for dripping faucets and running toilets. Fixing a leak can save 300 gallons a month or more.
- Turn off the water while you wash your hair to save up to 150 gallons a month.
- Wash your pets outdoors in an area of your lawn that needs water.
- When shopping for a new clothes washer, compare resource savings among Energy Star models. Some of these can save up to 20 gallons per load, and energy too.
- Apply water only as fast as the soil can absorb it.
- Aerate your lawn at least once a year so water can reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
- When washing dishes by hand, fill the sink basin or a large container and rinse when all of the dishes have been soaped and scrubbed.
- Turn off the water while you shave and save up to 300 gallons a month.
- If you accidentally drop ice cubes when filling your glass from the freezer, don't throw them in the sink. Drop them in a house plant instead.
- While staying in a hotel or even at home, consider reusing your towels.
- When backflushing your pool, consider using the water on your landscaping.
- For hanging baskets, planters and pots, place ice cubes under the moss or dirt to give your plants a cool drink of water and help eliminate water overflow.
- Throw trimmings and peelings from fruits and vegetables into your yard compost to prevent using the garbage disposal.



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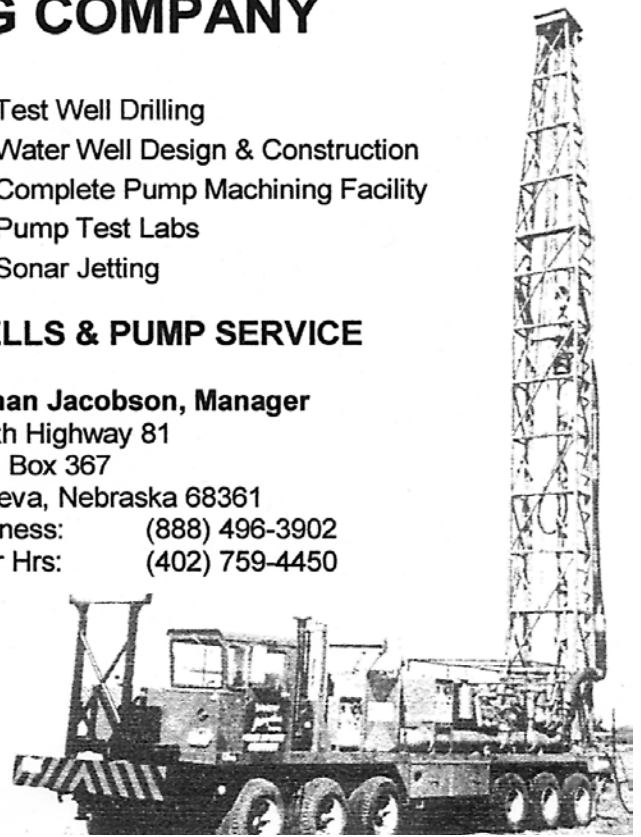
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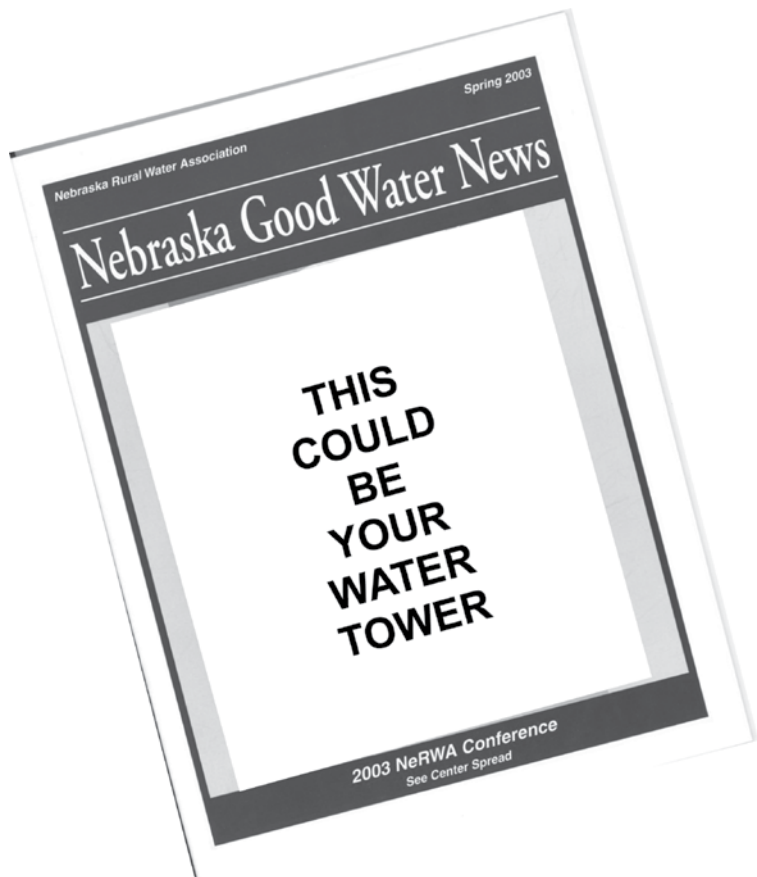
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We are running low on pictures of water towers.

Send us your tower!!!

We are putting the water towers of Nebraska on our cover and are featuring a different tower on each issue. We have only used up a fraction of the towers in the state.

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 carol@nerwa.org or salli@nerwa.org.

Nebraska Good Water News

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