

Issue 3/2016

Nebraska Rural Water Association



NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS

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Nebraska Good Water News

Issue 3/2016

“Keeping Our Water Safe”

Board of Directors

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

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

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

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

Ken Halvorsen
Box 98
Bennet, Nebraska 68317
(402) 430-9078

George Wagner
PO Box 226
Hooper, NE 68031
(402) 654-3649

Tom Grovijohn
226 N. Elm
Dodge, NE 68633
(402) 693-2239

Staff:

Amy Kemerling, Office Assistant
Salli Kemerling, Office Manager
Carol Jasa, Secretary
Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider
Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider
Barney Whatley, GPS Specialist
Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician
Pat Petersen, Training Specialist
Doug Buresh, Source Water Specialist

Website: www.nerwa.org

On the cover:
City of Kimball's Water Tower.

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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.

How'd We Do and Letters From...



Dear Scholarship Committee,
I am writing to express my sincere gratitude to you for making the scholarship possible. I was thrilled to learn of my selection for this honor and I am deeply appreciative of your support. In the fall I will be attending Eastern Wyoming College majoring as a vet tech. By awarding me the scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus on the most important aspect of school, learning. I promise you I will work very hard. Thank you again for your generosity and support.
With much gratitude,
Bathsheba Doty

A Note of Thanks
for Randy @
Ne Rural Water

The City of Pawnee City appreciates the assistance provided by Randy Hellsbusch, Circuit Rider for NE Rural Water. Randy reviewed and evaluated city financial reports, water usage, and plugged figures/ numbers into his computer. He shared the final results by recommending his opinion for setting the City's water rates.

This type of assistance is extremely important to us! We enclose a donation in hopes that their services can be continued.

Thank You!
CITY OF PAWNEE CITY

Thank You



We at Keep Fremont Beautiful are grateful for your assistance at the recent Eco-Fair. We could not conduct an educational event of this size without our dedicated volunteers. Thank you for donating your time and expertise in making the 22nd annual Eco-Fair a success! The date for the 2017 Eco-Fair is Thursday, April 20th.

Thanks Barney for helping with the Eco-Fair! and sorry you couldn't find information on the event! Here's my cell - 402-690-4926. Feel free to call me on that if I am not at the office!

Thank You
Sue

VILLAGE OF HAMPTON

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HAMPTON, NE 68843

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FAX 402-725-3255

hampton@hamilton.net

Clerk hours 8:30 to 11:30 and 1:00 to 3:00
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

July 14, 2016

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NRRA,

Enclosed is a donation from the Village of Hampton to go towards your equipment fund. Thank you for taking time to exercise our water valves and for all the services that you offer to our community.

Sincerely,

Sue Dallegge

Sue Dallegge
Village of Hampton



Water, Water, Everywhere!

By Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist

I just spent three weeks sucking water out of my basement in an effort to save the carpet and the drywall, and when that failed, I removed the carpet, the carpet pad, the trim and the bottom 2 feet of drywall throughout the basement. This was all due to a very heavy rainfall in town. Some residents reported up to 6 inches of rain in a few hours and a total of 10 ½ inches during the storm. This occurrence got me to thinking about the unpredictable nature of weather in general and the difficulty there can be trying to plan for it. In my case, there was nothing that could have prepared me for the amount of water that came down in such a short period of time, especially considering that I was out of state when it happened. The same unpredictability of the weather can cause major issues for water systems, as well, but they can plan ahead to ease the burden that weather can create.

It seems as though Nebraska is either in a drought or flooding. Times of drought are good for the water budget as people tend to use more water on their lawns and gardens, but it is also hard on the equipment. Wells run longer and tend to break down more often, and mains and water service lines tend to spring leaks as well. Systems need to plan for the extra maintenance costs that come with drought conditions, and they need to be sure they have the pumping capacity to provide an adequate supply of water even if the best well breaks down. Drilling a new well is not something that can be done overnight, and systems need to be prepared in case something happens to one of the wells, such as a motor burn out or the shaft or impellers malfunction. Long term planning for worse case scenarios can drastically reduce the impact of drought conditions on the system.

On the other hand, times when there is an adequate supply of water are easy on system equipment, but can be very hard on the budget. When people need less water for lawns and gardens, the revenue for the water department suffers. Even though there are less expenses related to producing the water a system needs, there are still overhead costs that do not change just because you do not need to produce as much water. Employees need to be paid, water samples need to be taken and general maintenance still needs to be completed. These costs are constant and do not change with the amount of water that is being produced and sold. A well run system will plan for both times of drought and times of abundance of rain.

One of the most important things a system can do to be prepared for whatever weather conditions occur is to have a healthy reserve fund. This should be at least 10 to 12 percent of the operation and maintenance budget, and many accountants are recommending at least 15 percent. An adequate reserve fund will allow the system to cover its expenses in times when the income is reduced. It can also help to cover higher expenses than normal during times when system equipment is operating way over the average to keep up with system demands. It is often hard to explain to customers why their water bills are so high when the system appears to have an excessive amount of cash in the bank, but it needs to be pointed out that a new well or major repairs to water mains, pumps or other infrastructure can deplete a reserve fund in a hurry. During the next budgeting cycle, urge the governing body to set up a reserve fund to absorb unexpected expenses for the system during unusual weather cycles.

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2016 TRAINING

Wastewater Training

August 11 Ogallala
 September 7 O'Neill
 October 6 Ord
 November 3 Omaha
 December 8 Laurel

Water Operator Training

August 9 Bancroft
 October 5 Chappell
 November 9 Lindy
 December 14 Red Cloud

Backflow Continuing Education Training

September 20 McCool Junction
 September 21 Ord
 October 25 South Sioux City
 October 26 Atkinson
 November 22 Wahoo
 December 13 Mitchell
 December 14 Ogallala
 December 15 Cambridge

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

October 17-21 Wahoo

Wastewater Certification Course

August 23-26 Wahoo
 November 15-18 Wahoo

Fall Western Conference Sept. 27-29

Gering Civic Center
 Gering, Nebraska

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Getting Involved with Source Water Protection

By Doug Buresh, Source Water Specialist

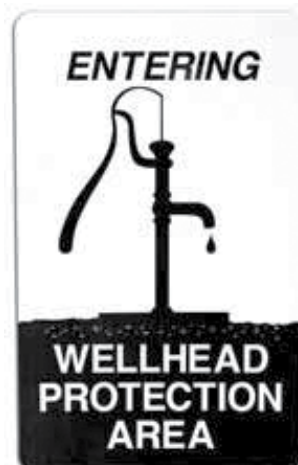
Humans, by nature, are very intuitive creatures. Our ability to be perceptive of our surroundings serves us well in most of the situations we face every day. For instance, it is usually fairly easy to read an unfamiliar dog's intentions. If he wags his tail at you while you're out reading water meters, he's probably a friendly sort, but if he growls or bares his teeth, you'd better beware. Some of our perceptions are learned over time. Depending upon our experiences, we all have preconceived notions about many of the things that we encounter on an everyday basis.

As a young boy, I used to drink from the creek that ran through my grandpa's pasture just like the cowboys did on TV because I didn't know any better. Fortunately, I don't remember ever getting ill from it, or if I did, I never let it slow me down. I've since learned that surface waters harbor microorganisms that cause several types of waterborne diseases, some deadly. Here's an interesting proposition. If these were your only choices, would you rather drink from Clear Creek or Muddy Creek? Any reasonable person would filter the water from either source through a purifier before drinking it, in case any contaminants are present. But what if you didn't have a purifier and still needed a drink? I know I'd take my chances with Clear Creek. My main point is: there are contaminants in both surface water and groundwater that can hurt us.

Most areas of Nebraska are blessed with an abundance of water. And for the most part, the water is relatively clean. The Nebraska Public Water Supply Program Summary Report for 2015 states that only 7 of the 87 contaminants that community public water systems monitor were found in quantities above the Maximum Contaminant Level. That means 80 contaminants for which monitoring was conducted were not found above the MCL in any community water system in Nebraska during 2015. This is a tribute to the dedicated water operators running these systems. We must not become complacent, however. Nitrates, for one, are a serious problem throughout the state. Several communities I've visited have wells on emergency standby use only or are treating their water as a result of past contamination to their source water. It is very costly and time-consuming to construct a new municipal well or develop a new surface water source. The best reason for implementing a source water protection plan is to protect your community's current investment.

As with any community-wide project, someone needs to be the sparkplug to get a source water protection plan started. We, as licensed water professionals, should take the lead in our communities' efforts to protect our source water. Nearly every one of our customers intuitively wishes to also protect the water they drink and many are willing to help. Communities can also take advantage of the help offered by organizations like The Groundwater Foundation, Nebraska Rural Water, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and your local Natural Resource District. These organizations do not charge for these services, either. Contact me if you would like to learn more about source water protection. If you like, I'd be willing to give a presentation at one of your board meetings. You can contact me at doug@nerwa.org or 402-480-4196.

Another great way to learn all about wellhead protection is to join the Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network. Started in 2001 by agencies and organizations who support communities developing and adopting wellhead protection programs, this group provides people who work with wellhead protection a place to meet, discuss their work and identify community needs. Funded by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, the network is facilitated by the Groundwater Foundation, a national organization with international reach, founded and headquartered right here in Nebraska.



continued on page 7

The Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network Education Subcommittee is seeking water operators to help explore ideas on developing tools to help spread the message about wellhead protection. One valuable tool recently developed was the change in design of the signs (illustrated on page 6) posted on the edges of wellhead protection areas. They were changed from “Entering Wellhead Protection Area” to “Entering Drinking Water Protection Area” to emphasize the importance of protecting our drinking water. Below is an invitation from the Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network.



Are you a water operator?

Do you work to protect your community’s source of drinking water?

If you answered yes to either of these questions then the Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network is for you!

Organizations, agencies, and water operators from across the state come together at Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network quarterly meetings to meet, discuss their work and identify community needs. Meetings are also an opportunity to get information about hot topics related to groundwater and wellhead protection. To learn more about the Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network, visit <http://www.groundwater.org/action/community/newhp.html>.

SPECIAL EVENT: The Groundwater Foundation, facilitator of the Nebraska Wellhead Protection Network, will also be holding training on risk communication in the year ahead. Some situations and issues, if miscommunicated, can create high concern, low trust and outrage within a stakeholder group. The risk communication trainings will walk you through the communication steps needed to turn the situation around. Please let us know if you have an interest in attending one of these trainings.

To get on the mailing list to learn about future Wellhead Protection Network meetings or to share your interest in the risk communication trainings, contact The Groundwater Foundation at info@groundwater.org or (402)434-2740.

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WATER TOWER SPECIALISTS



Western Conference Time

By Pat Petersen, Training Specialist

Once again the Nebraska Rural Water Association will be packing their bags for the “west coast” of Nebraska. The Annual Western Conference will be held at the Gering Civic Center with the Pre-Conference set for Tuesday, September 27, and the actual conference Wednesday, September 28 and Thursday, September 29. Festivities will include a golf tournament on Tuesday afternoon, a trap shoot and poker run on Wednesday morning and a banquet with water operator awards following the four hours of training on Wednesday afternoon.

This year’s pre-conference will include a 5 hour session focusing on the safety of water operators. Two years ago we had a pre-conference similar to this but this year the aspects of safety will focus on some of the things that may get overlooked as some may not feel they are as important. Every year at our one day training sessions operators ask to have more sessions about safety. This will be not only a great refresher but also provide information that can save on injuries and possibly deaths.

Some of the topics for this year’s Western Conference will include Hydrant and Valve Maintenance, Theory of Locating, Metering, Emergency Planning, Dealing with Customers and your typical 5 hours of backflow training. There will also be sessions pertaining to Trench Safety, Wastewater Operator Certification and preparing for Electronic DMR Submittal.

The Western Conference is a great place to reach out to other operators for advice and solutions to problems you may

have incurred this past year. The golf outing, trap shoot, and poker run are fantastic opportunities to share stories of your system. The golf will take place at the Riverview Golf and Country Club and the trap shoot will be held at the Mitchell Valley Trap Club. Randy Hellbusch will be in charge of the golfers and Mike Stanzel will be in charge of the trap shooters. The Poker Run will leave from the front of the Gering Civic Center any time between 7:30 AM and 8:00 AM on Wednesday morning. Jack Satur with the City of Scottsbluff and Doug Woodbeck with NDHHS will be in charge of the ride.

We look forward to this trip every year and look forward to seeing familiar faces and new faces that attend this conference. Enjoy the rest of your busy summer and we hope to see you at Gering this fall!

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Nebraska Rural Water Association

EARLY REGISTRATION

Western Nebraska Fall Pre-Conference and Conference

September 27-29, 2016

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
FULL CONFERENCE WITH PRECONFERENCE— (all meals included)	_____ \$165.00	_____ \$190.00
FULL CONFERENCE (WED & THURS) (all meals included)	_____ \$100.00	_____ \$125.00
PRECONFERENCE (TUES) (includes lunch)	_____ \$65.00	_____ \$90.00
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 ENDS Sept 15.
FEE INCREASES \$25 FOR
REGISTRATIONS DATED OR
POSTMARKED BETWEEN
SEPT 16 AND SEPT 22.
NO REGISTRATIONS AFTER SEPT 22.
\$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
 Wahoo, NE 68066

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 _____

FALL CONFERENCE AGENDA

Applied for credit hours:
15 water (W), 5 backflow (BF), 11 wastewater (WW)
10 well driller (WD)

Tuesday, September 27

PRE-CONFERENCE—Tips for Safe Utility Work

Bob Hessler, Safetyline Consultants

Hours: 5 water, 5 wastewater, 2 well driller

7:30-8:00	Pre-Conference Registration	
8:00-9:00	Chemicals in the Work Place	1W,1WW
9:00-10:00	Personal Protective Equipment	1W,WW
10:00-10:15	<i>Break</i>	
10:15-12:15	Proper Equipment Operations, Focusing on the Backhoe	2W,2WW,2WD
12:15-12:45	<i>Lunch</i>	
12:45-1:45	Working Safely in Traffic	1W,1WW
2:30-6:00	GOLF	

Wednesday, September 28

Hours: 4 water, 1 wastewater, 3 well driller

8:30-12:00	TRAP SHOOT	
8:30-12:00	POKER RUN	
10:00-12:30	Conference Registration	
12:30-2:00	Regulatory Update: Howard Isaacs, NDHHS	1.5W,1.5WD
2:00-2:15	<i>Break: Tour Exhibits</i>	
2:15-3:15	Building Customer Relations: Bill Podraza, Miller & Associates	1W,1WW
3:15-3:30	<i>Break: Tour Exhibits</i>	
3:30-5:00	Water Operator/Water System Forum: Rich Koenig, NDHHS	1.5W,1.5WD
5:00-6:00	Social in Exhibit Area	
6:00-7:00	Banquet and Awards	

Thursday, September 29

Hours: 6 water, 5 backflow, 6 wastewater, 4 well driller

SESSION A—WILDCAT ROOM
SESSION B—DOME ROCK ROOM
SESSION C—CHIMNEY ROCK ROOM

6:30-7:30	BREAKFAST	
7:00-8:30	Conference Registration	

FALL CONFERENCE AGENDA **continued**

7:30-8:30	A—Proper Hydrant & Valve Maintenance: Cort Place, HD Supply	1W,1WD
	B—Trenching & Shoring: Jonathon Schnepel, United Rentals	1W,1WW,1WD
	C—Backflow Forum: Rich Koenig, NDHHS	1W,1BF,1WW
8:30-8:45	Break: Tour Exhibits	
8:45-9:45	A—Utility Technology: Charles Bausch, HD Supply	1W,1WW,1WD
	B—Confined Space Safety: Jonathon Schnepel, United Rentals	1W,1BF,1WW,1WD
	C—Backflow Incidents & Emergency Planning: Rich Koenig, NDHHS	1W,1BF,1WW
9:45-10:00	Break: Tour Exhibits	
10:00-11:00	A—Theory of Locating: Joel Pauling, Intermountain Sales	1W,1WW,1WD
	B—Wastewater Operator Certification: Mike McBride, NDEQ	1WW
	C—The Good, Bad, and the Ugly: Rich Koenig, NDHHS	1W,1BF,1WW
11:00-11:15	Break: Tour Exhibits	
11:15-12:15	A—To Be Announced	1W
	B—Remote Pressure Monitoring: Andy Andreatta, Mueller Co	1W,1WW,1WD
	C—Elements of a Cross-Connection Control Program: Barney Whatley, NeRWA	1W,1BF,1WW
12:15-1:15	Lunch	
1:15-2:15	A—Field Rep Q&A: Andy Kahle, NDHHS	1W
	B—Completing Your Electronic DMRs: Reuel Anderson, NDEQ	1WW
	C—Backflow Knowledge: Rich Koenig, NDHHS	1W,1BF,1WW
2:15-2:30	Break	
2:30-3:30	A—Preparing for Your Next Emergency: Scott Sprague, NDHHS	1W,1WW
	B—Water Distribution Analyzing Tools: Mike Wentink, NDHHS	1W
	C—To Be Announced:	

THIS AGENDA IS TENTATIVE—SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Conference Activities

The golf tournament is Tuesday, September 27, at 2:30 pm at the Riverview Country Club (100928 County Rd 18, Scottsbluff). Bring your own clubs. Golf carts are available.

The trap shoot is Wednesday, September 28, at 8:30 am at the Mitchell Valley Trap Club (3.25 miles south of Mitchell). Bring your own gun and shells.

The Poker run is Wednesday, September 28, at 8:30 am. Meet in front of the Gering Civic Center.

You can call the office if you are interested in any of these fun events or check them on the registration form.

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Check-out 12:00 noon

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Free High Speed Wireless Internet
Microwave
Refrigerator/Freezer
Complimentary Bottled Water
Local Newspaper



FACTS YOU MIGHT NOT WANT TO KNOW

1. The entire state of Wyoming only has two escalators.
2. Ravens in captivity can learn to talk better than parrots.
3. The actor who was inside R2-D2 hated the guy who played C-3PO, calling him “the rudest man I’ve ever met.”
4. In 1939, Hitler’s nephew wrote an article called “Why I Hate My Uncle.” He came to the U.S., served in the Navy, and settled on Long Island.
5. According to an analysis by FiveThirtyEight, 44 percent of Bob Ross’s paintings contain at least one “happy little cloud.”
6. The word “PEZ” comes from the German word for peppermint—Pfefferminz.
7. The duffel bag gets its name from the town of Duffel, Belgium, where the cloth used in the bags was originally sold.
8. At Fatburger, you can order a “Hypocrite”—a veggie burger topped with crispy strips of bacon.
9. The Q in Q-tips stands for quality.
10. Editor Bennett Cerf challenged Dr. Seuss to write a book using no more than 50 different words. The result? Green Eggs and Ham.
11. In his book, Dick Cheney says his yellow lab Dave was banned from Camp David for attacking President Bush’s dog Barney.
12. Lyme disease is named after the town of Lyme, Connecticut, where several cases were identified in 1975.
13. William Faulkner refused a dinner invitation from JFK’s White House. “Why that’s a hundred miles away,” he said. “That’s a long way to go just to eat.”
14. In 1907, an ad campaign for Kellogg’s Corn Flakes offered a free box of cereal to any woman who would wink at her grocer.
15. “Silver Bells” was called “Tinkle Bells” until co-composer Jay Livingston’s wife told him “tinkle” had another meaning.
16. Hawaiian Punch was originally developed as a tropical flavored ice cream topping.
17. During a 2004 episode of Sesame Street, Cookie Monster said that before he started eating cookies, his name was Sid.
18. Roger Ebert and Oprah Winfrey went on a couple dates in the mid-1980s. It was Roger who convinced her to syndicate her talk show.
19. Fredric Baur invented the Pringles can. When he passed away in 2008, his ashes were buried in one.
20. There really was a Captain Morgan. He was a Welsh pirate who later became the lieutenant governor of Jamaica.
21. Sorry, parents. According to NASA’s FAQ page, “There are no plans at this time to send children into space.”
22. The sum of all the numbers on a roulette wheel is 666.
23. Dolly Parton once entered a Dolly Parton look-a-like contest—and lost.
24. In Peanuts in 1968, Snoopy trained to become a champion arm-wrestler. In the end, he was disqualified for not having thumbs.
25. For \$45, the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing will sell you a 5-lb bag with \$10,000 worth of shredded U.S. currency.
26. Before settling on the Seven Dwarfs we know today, Disney also considered Chesty, Tubby, Burpy, Deafy, Hickey, Wheezy, and Awful.
27. If you open your eyes in a pitch-black room, the color you’ll see is called ‘eigengrau.’
28. In 1965, a Senate subcommittee predicted that by 2000, Americans would only be working 20 hours a week with seven weeks’ vacation.
29. There are roughly 70 ingredients in the McRib.
30. George Washington insisted his continental army be permitted a quart of beer as part of their daily rations.
31. During the first Super Bowl in 1967, NBC was still in commercial when the second half kicked off. Officials asked the Packers to kick off again.
32. Sea otters hold hands when they sleep so they don’t drift apart.
33. In 1991, Wayne Allwine, the voice of Mickey Mouse, married Russi Taylor—the voice of Minnie.
34. Carly Simon’s dad is the Simon of Simon and Schuster. He co-founded the company.
35. When the computer mouse was invented, it was called the “X-Y Position Indicator for a Display System.”
36. “Jay” used to be slang for “foolish person.” So when a pedestrian ignored street signs, he was referred to as a “jaywalker.”
37. The only number whose letters are in alphabetical order is 40 (f-o-r-t-y).
38. Until 1954, stop signs were yellow.



Electronic Reporting of DMR's

By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician

A big “Thank You” goes to the NDEQ for providing the following information:

On October 22, 2015, EPA published the Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Electronic Reporting Rule, which requires electronic reporting of NPDES information rather than the currently required paper based reports from the permitted facilities. To comply with the federal rule, permittees will be required to submit DMR’s electronically using the EPA NetDMR tool

starting December 21, 2016. The rule provides flexibility to grant temporary or emergency waivers from electronic reporting. To receive the waiver, you must first submit an electronic reporting waiver request to the NDEQ. The Department will either approve or deny the request. The following are considered approved criteria for a waiver not to exceed 5 years:

- Access to a computer with high-speed internet is not readily available.

For more information on waivers, contact NDEQ.NetDMR@Nebraska.gov


The rule also requires electronic reporting of certain other NPDES reports by December 21, 2020, including:


- Notices of intent to discharge under a general permit
- Notices of termination of coverage under a general permit
- Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Report
- Pretreatment Program Annual Reports
- Sewer Overflow/Bypass Event Reports
- Clean Water Act Annual Reports
- And others

The NDEQ has begun providing NetDMR training at NeRWA wastewater operator training classes and other locations across the state.

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Eleven Commandments for Water Users

By Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider

Well, I sure hope you all are having a great summer, and trying to beat the heat with a little down time here and there. I know you are all as super busy as I am running all over the place.

I am just about to complete my 8th year here at NeRWA and I can honestly say I have thoroughly enjoyed every step of the way. One of my "Signature" lines that many of you have heard me say is "Persistence Pays Off," like when we are trying to solve a problem or find a leak. If we keep after it, we usually figure it out. My other one is "You Learn Something New Every Day."

When you assist 20-25 systems a month for 8 years you see and learn a lot of things. Some make you scratch your head and wonder, what the heck? And some make you laugh and smile. So here is something I ran into at a clerk's office that I have never seen and it sure made me smile and I'm sure you ALL can relate to it.

1. Thou shall receive thy water with gladness and shall give thanks for the days of uninterrupted services.
2. Remember thy water bill to keep it paid, for thou shall put no other bill before it.
3. Honor thy manager and thy board, for they keep thy water running.
4. Thou shall love thy water system employees as thyself and shall not abuse them with nasty notes and not profane their names before others.
5. Thou shall not pass into the hands of thy bookkeeper checks for which thou has no funds to cover.
6. Thou shall not leave thy vicious dog unchained to feed upon the leg of thy meter reader.
7. Thou shall not bare false witness against thy serviceman nor shall abuse the ears of thy spouse on the phone.
8. Thou shall not commit cross-connections or in any other way endanger the safety of thy neighbor's water.
9. Thou shall not tamper with thy meter nor violate any other rule of the system lest thy days as user be shortened.

10. Thou shall not place an undue burden upon thy system by letting thy water cast to the winds or needlessly spread upon the dry, parched earth.

11. Thou shall not covet thy neighbor's bill, if it be less than thine own. For whatsoever is thou usage, for that shalt thou also pay.

I hope this put a smile on your face as it did mine, hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer and please feel to call me if you need anything.

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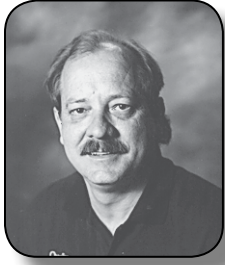


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Better Planning for Short-lived Assets, Operations and Maintenance

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

At almost every water seminar you attend anymore you hear the term “Capacity Development” mentioned. By now, we all know that pertains to the Financial, Technical, and Managerial aspects of maintaining a water system.

I want to focus on the financial end of the equation. I get involved in doing many water rate studies around the state for small water systems. One of the areas that we need to focus on more than we have in the past is figuring the true cost year in and year out of running a water system. We need to focus on making sure we have considered all expenses in determining needed revenue. This way we can fairly reflect the cost of providing service to all classes of users and be able to justify user rates and charges.

The planned revenue should be sufficient to provide for all debt service, debt reserve, operation and maintenance, and, if appropriate, additional revenue for facility replacement of short-lived assets without building a substantial surplus. Proper budgeting of annual, reoccurring items in the O&M budget should include such items as, meter replacement, leak detection, line repairs and routine maintenance necessary on an annual basis.

We also need to account for depreciation. Proper budgeting for depreciation would allow you to pay cash for an asset to replace it at the end of its useful life. A reserve should be created through an annual budget for short-lived assets that include items not budgeted for in the annual O&M expenses, but are anticipated in the next 5-7 years. This helps to ensure continual operation of the system with a positive cash flow. Short-lived assets would include items, such as trucks, computers, testing equipment, storage tank painting, pump replacement, construction equipment, filter media, etc.

Capital improvements is another item that needs to be considered. Capital improvements should not be confused with depreciation. Capital Improvements is the process of budgeting for assets to be built or purchased in the future. Many times these items are not budgeted for, but systems seek financial assistance through loan and grant sources. We all need a banker from time to time.

Some useful information in trying to set a good budget

could be prior year’s actual expense or similar system costs. Using professionals, such as an engineer or accountant, or utilizing technical assistance, such as provided by Nebraska Rural Water, can often prove to be very beneficial in this process.

Good records are an essential part of the budget process. They provide us the information we need to operate our utility in a cost-effective manner. Good records provide historical data in a format that can be used to facilitate projections. This helps justify changes in modes of operations and can aid in supporting cost of service and rate-making calculations.

Items that need to be included in a good, small water system budget are included in the worksheet on the next page. With this type of information, we can then set a rate that will keep the water system viable and at the same time provide justification for our ratepayers. If the NeRWA can help your water system with budgeting and rate setting give us a call.

Continued on page 17

SUMMER



NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION						
Rate Budget Worksheet						
EXPENSES						
Payroll tax/FICA						
Payroll tax/med						
Salaries						
Profit Sharing						
Office Supplies						
Gas and Oil						
Insurance/Bonds						
Dues Printing/Pub						
Materials/Supplies						
Utilities						
Garbage						
Group Ins.						
Telephone						
Mileage/Conv.						
Small Tools						
Postage/Freight						
Vehicle Maint.						
Equipment Rental						
Professional Fees						
Misc.						
Equipment Maint.						
Maintanance/office						
Uniforms						
Building Maint.						
Maint. Station Equip						
Maint. Wells						
Maint. Towers						
Maint. Dist.						
Maint. Services						
Maint. Meters						
Maint. Hydrants						
Chemicals						
Debt Service						
12% Operating Reserve						
TOTAL EXPENSE						
WATER INCOME:						
No. of users X min. bill=						
Gals. sold X price per M=						
TOTAL USER FEE REVENUE:						
DIFFERENCE						
BOLD ITEMS ARE POSSIBLE FIXED COST: to be included in minimum charge						

The Village of Bancroft, Nebraska is taking applications for the position of village clerk.
Approximately 35 hours a week.

Responsibilities include all bookkeeping activities for the Village of Bancroft, financial oversight/ reporting, payroll, attending village board meetings, recording the minutes, file required State / Federal reports, issuance of necessary permits, maintain village records, create and maintain monthly and annual budget reports. The village clerk is the appointed Zoning Administrator and Cemetery Manager, and shall perform other duties as assigned by the Village Board.

Qualifications

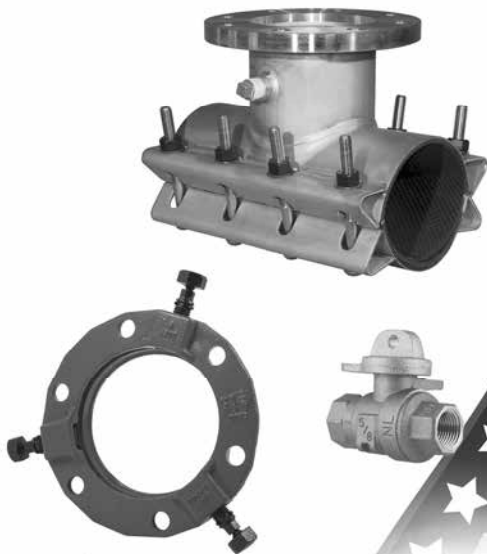
The clerk shall have a high school education or equivalent, and at least one year of bookkeeping experience. Experience in municipal government is preferred. Continuing education is important; working towards becoming a certified municipal clerk would be encouraged. Have knowledge of federal and state laws that affect the operation of a municipal government.

Applications can be requested at the Village office by calling 402-648-3332 or resumes with salary requirements must be received no later than August 31, 2016 and should be addressed to:

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Sample News Release

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Short-Term Chlorination Reporting Form

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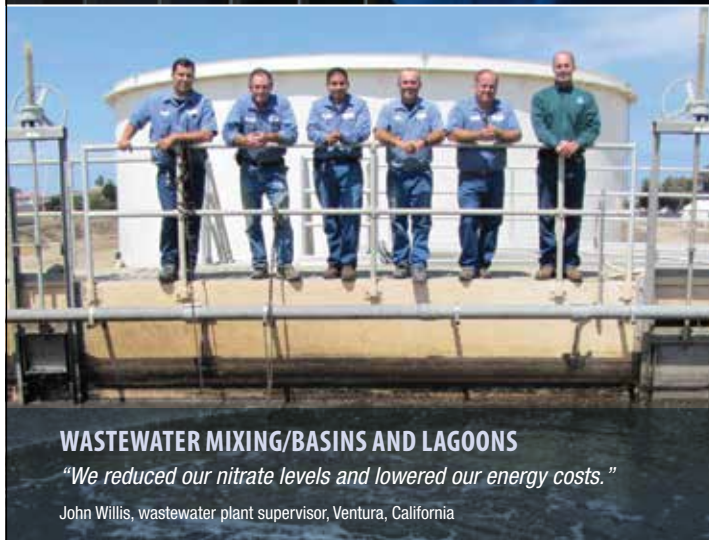
Cary Johnson, water operations mgr., Rochester Public Utilities, Rochester, Minnesota



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Nebraska Section, AWWA
AWWA Library Reference Listings
NeRWA Associate Members

NeRWA Contact Information:

Nebraska Rural Water Association
 3390 Ponderosa Street
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Office phone numbers:

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 402-443-5216
 Fax: 402-443-5274
 Website: www.nerwa.org
 Email: office@nerwa.org



Cell

Email

Randy Hellbusch	402-443-8535
Mike Lucas	402-443-6157
Pat Petersen	402-277-6699
Mike Stanzel	402-672-9084
Doug Buresh	402-480-4196
Barney Whatley	402-480-4297
Salli Kemerling	402-443-7072
Carol Jasa	
Amy Kemerling	

randy@nerwa.org
lucas@nerwa.org
pat@nerwa.org
mike@nerwa.org
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