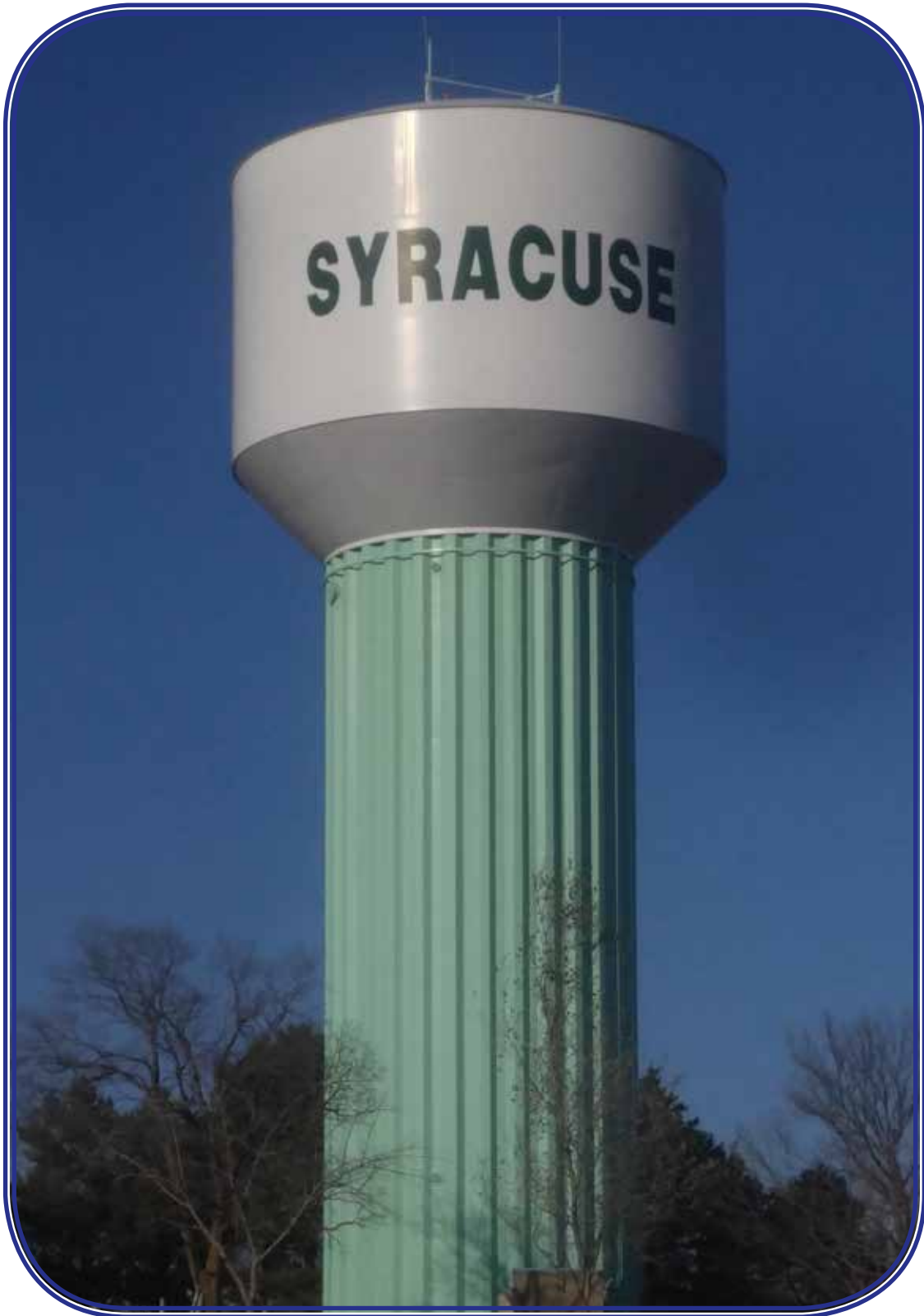


Issue 3/2019

# Nebraska Rural Water Association



## NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS

# Making Hydrant Flushing EASIER!

## Our New USABlueBook Aluminum Dechlorination Diffuser

lets you safely neutralize chlorine/chloramines during hydrant flushing. Lightweight and easy to use, it reduces spray pressure while dechlorinating water—simply add dechlorination tablets. As part of the USABlueBook family of products, this diffuser is guaranteed to deliver great performance at a great price.

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Flow Testing Diffuser with Carrying Case, 100 psi	53145	\$ 537.95
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# Nebraska Good Water News

# Issue 3/2019

*“Keeping Our Water Safe”*

*Board of Directors*

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Salli Kemerling, Office Manager

Carol Jasa, Secretary

Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider

Scott Finke, Circuit Rider

Barney Whatley, Source Water Specialist

Mike Lucas, Wastewater Tech

Charles Buckley, Wastewater Tech

Pat Petersen, Training Specialist

Ken Halvorsen, Systems Specialist

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

### **On the cover:**

The Syracuse Water Tower.

*"This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer."*

*“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...



3-13-19

To whom it may concern:

The City of Clay Center has had Randy Hellbusch's assistance in the last several years. Randy was instrumental in helping us do a water rate study just last month and has been available to help with many water locates, leaks or whatever problem may have arisen in the last year. We are currently in the process of installing meters in town and he has been available to offer his knowledge any time we have called and has even attended council meetings. Our utility supervisor calls on NeRWA quite often and they have always gone out of their way to help us. There is no doubt that Randy and NeRWA is an invaluable resource and we will definitely rely on them again in the future.

Mitzi Messenger  
Clay Center City Clerk



Dear Salli,

We had Mike Stanzel come a couple of times this past year. The first was we had him do a leak survey on our transmission line coming to town from 7 miles north. We had a leak on it the previous winter and wanted to make sure there were no other leaks. He came shortly after we called him and took care of it. We had a water main break on the 25th of December of this last year. We tried locating the break for about 8 hours by vacuuming with our portable vac, but could not locate it. I called Mike to come and try locate this leak for us, he said he had an appointment to be out west somewhere the next day, but would try and be there as quick as he could. So I called an outfit over in Webster City Iowa to come and do a locate to help us find it, which he came that day. He told me he could give me a pretty close proximity which ended up where we had already vacced 8' deep. Shortly after, Mike arrived and hooked a locator to a curb stop rod and tried to locate it that way and as it ended up he was right on. The main ended up being out under the street about 8' west of the curb where we originally had vacced behind the curb. I believe we would have been looking quite a long time before we would have found it by taking out concrete potholing. Mike did an exceptional job!!

Sincerely,

Jeff Brady  
Water/Wastewater Foreman

VILLAGE OF DODGE  
226 ELM STREET  
DODGE, NE 68633  
1-402-693-2239

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Lori Kathol – Village Clerk/Treasurer  
Tom Grovijohn – Utility Superintendent

May 8, 2019

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association,

The Village of Dodge would like to thank you for assisting our community by coming out and running the camera thru the sewer lines and completing a water and sewer rate study for us.

Please accept the enclosed donation of \_\_\_\_\_ for your equipment fund.

Sincerely,

*Lori Kathol*

Lori Kathol, CMC  
Village Clerk/Treasurer

To the NeRWA and the RWA National Office:

I have known Mike Stanzel for several years and look forward to seeing him at the western water conference in Gering, Nebraska in September each year. He is always there to help with presentations and to answer water questions from public water system operators. He is a great asset to the NeRWA. I have not worked with him on any specific projects in the last year, but worked with him on a city wellhead protection and well decommissioning project in my role as a representative of North Platte Natural Resources District several years ago. We met with city employees several times and developed a plan for Bridgeport, Nebraska to decommission their old wells and protect their active wells within the boundaries of the wellhead protection area. Mike facilitated and developed most of this plan in his role with the NeRWA. It is my understanding that Bridgeport had asked the Rural Water Association for help and Mike had responded and asked the NPNRD to participate. I presented to the city administrators what was available from the NRD with our well decommissioning cost share program. It was good to work with Mike on this successful project.

I look forward to seeing Randy Hellbusch at workshops each year. He is always part of some great presentations and breakout sessions. I see him every September at the Gering fall water conference, as well as at some other workshops that I go to hosted or participated in by the NeRWA. Randy has a lot of experience in many different areas related to groundwater and drinking water. I especially enjoy it when he is a member of the small system roundtable or operator roundtable at these conferences because he represents the NeRWA well with his knowledge and experience. Our water system at Harrisburg, NE has worked with the NeRWA on several issues including leak detection, equipment replacement, and mapping. Randy is always available to answer your questions or point you to the person who can best help you. I look forward to his presentations and his articles in the RWA newsletters. Thanks for your consideration in renewing the grants that make Mike and Randy's participation in the NeRWA possible.

David Christian  
Water Resources and Flood Control  
Harrisburg Water System Operations  
North Platte Natural Resources District  
100547 Airport Road  
P.O. Box 280  
Scottsbluff, NE 69363-0280

NRWA

I would like to thank Mike Stanzel for coming up to exercise gate valves in an area where a new water main was being installed. Without his assistance we would have never been able to isolate the mains that were needed in order to tie the new main in. By using that machine the city didn't have to spend money on linestops. I thought it was awesome watching that machine in action! Now we can turn those valves with no problems. Please accept this donation as a token of our appreciation.

Sincerely  
Wade Hershner  
City of Pierce  
Water/sewer Superintendent  
you made my day!



Nebraska Rural Water Association,  
Thank you so much for  
the \$1000 scholarship. This will  
help pay for some of my room  
and board at UNL. Kayla Dakman  
Deshler

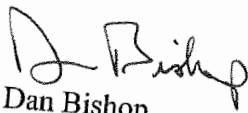
Dear NE Rural Water Association:

The City of Gordon would like to thank you for all of the work you have done for our city as well as the cities throughout the area. Your efforts are greatly appreciated! Please accept the enclosed donation on behalf of the City of Gordon and our utility department.

Mike Lucas and Barney Whatley continue to be invaluable resources to us!

Thank you again for all of your time and effort!

THE CITY OF GORDON



Dan Bishop  
Public Works Director



Shane Pascale  
Utility Superintendent



City Of  
**Syracuse**  
NEBRASKA

Growing Community. Harvesting Success.

Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association,  
I am writing to recommend both Randy Hellbusch and Mike Stanzel. They have helped tremendously with the City of Syracuse.

This year Syracuse decided to go with the USDA rural development program. Because of this, we needed to increase both our electrical and water rates. Randy Hellbusch went to Syracuse on multiple occasions, including council meetings, to develop a plan that would work for increasing rates.

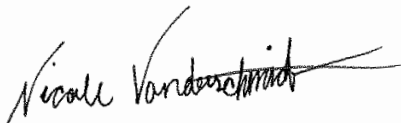
Also, Mike Stanzel helped Syracuse with finding a leak. He was called at 6:00 AM from our utilities department and was down to help the same day. The utility department greatly appreciated finding the leak quickly.

The staff has been great to work with over the years and have worked well with our staff. The City of Syracuse strives to complete projects on-time and within budget, and NeWRA has been a great help in accomplishing these tasks.

I would highly recommend NeWRA for water and wastewater related projects as they have much experience and understanding of the operations which is of great importance to the operators, budgets, and longevity of the infrastructure.

Please call Syracuse City Offices at 402-269-2173 or email [billingclerk@syracusene.com](mailto:billingclerk@syracusene.com) if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Nicole Vonderschmidt  
City of Syracuse Utility Billing Clerk

**VILLAGE OF HAIGLER  
POST OFFICE BOX 29  
HAIGLER, NEBRASKA 69030-0029  
(308) 297-3401 or 297-3414  
haiglerclerk@bwtelcom.net**

**RE: THANKS FOR ALL YOUR ASSISTANCE!**

Dear Staff Members of NeRWA:


The Village of Haigler would like to express our appreciation for the supportive actions and quick responses that are always given to requests for help.

Randy Hellbusch and Mike Stanzel have assisted us with answering questions, supplying information, and doing rate studies. The Nebraska Rural Water Association is this State's most beneficial asset in working with small communities such as ours and without your guidance and assistance, communities such as ours would greatly suffer.

Nebraska Rural Water staff has always been available for us. Randy has assisted us in the past with our water rate studies and this month will be helping us again with our sewer rate study. We thank Randy, Mike, and the entire staff of the Nebraska Rural Water Association for all that you do and sincerely hope that your services will continue to be available for us.

Sincerely,

VILLAGE OF HAIGLER BOARD MEMBERS

  
By: Marlin Crouse  
Village Superintendent



# NERWA 2019 TRAINING

<u>Water Operator Training</u>	
October 17	McCook
November 13	Minden
December 3	Pawnee City
December 12	Wahoo

<u>Wastewater Training</u>	
August 27	Duncan
September 5	Aurora
October 2	Omaha
November 12	Mitchell
December 5	Wahoo

<u>Backflow Continuing Education Training</u>	
August 20	Valentine
August 28	Wahoo (FULL)
September 4	McCool Junction
September 5	Ord
October 22	South Sioux City
October 24	O'Neill
November 13	Wahoo
December 10	Mitchell
December 11	Ogallala
December 12	Cambridge
December 18	Wahoo

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

<u>Wastewater Certification Course</u>
<b>Wahoo</b>
October 15-16 ( <i>Lagoon</i> )
November 5-8

**IT IS THE OPERATOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP RECORDS OF CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS.**

**NeRWA does not keep a record of your total hours. If you do not know how many hours you have, you can call the Department of Health.**

<u>Grade 6 Backflow Prevention Cross-Connection Control Course - 5 Day</u>
October 7-11 Wahoo

**This is renewal year for all Grade 1-4 water licenses and Grade 6 backflow licenses.**

**Make sure you have enough hours before the end of the year—10 CEUs for each license.**

**Above are the remaining classes for 2019.**

**If you need hours, register early to guarantee a place in the class. ALL WAHOO CLASSES will fill up quickly. The Wahoo classes need to be prepaid.**

**You can send a check in with your registration if mailed.**

**If you register online, you can pay with a credit card.**

**If you have not paid and we start getting an overflow, your registration will be taken off the list.**

**You can also call the NeRWA office with credit card information.**

**We do not take any phone registrations for fee based classes.**



# Wastewater Operator Training; 2019-2020

*By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician*

Once again, it's time to develop the training schedule for the upcoming year. Any input on locations, topics and speakers would be greatly appreciated, especially speakers! I try to bring new and current topics to the program. Certainly, I will try to generally cover the entire state making it less inconvenient for operators by limiting the miles traveled.

In conversations with Mike McBride from NDEQ, the infamous ABC certification tests have been changed with new questions differing from the historic ones. Passing percentages have suffered. He promised to provide me with a new training kit. He also invited me to participate on a committee to address this issue. I certainly appreciate this opportunity. So, expect our certification training courses, which we are constantly modifying, to change again in the future.



The Nebraska Rural Water Association would like to recognize Jody Kaczor with Boyd County Rural Water District #2 as one of the recipients of the Outstanding Operator of the Year Awards given by DHHS. This recognition was accidentally omitted in our previous magazine and would like to recognize him now. Keep up the Good Work Jody!

I have to finalize my work plan next week for the upcoming year so please share your comments. They are welcome anytime.

I also especially want to say "THANK YOU" to Mike McBride for recognizing a problem and going above and beyond the call of duty to reach out to trainers so that we can better help you operators.

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# Hydrant Flow Testing and Color Coding

By Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider

I have visited a lot of water systems throughout the state and have been in numerous fire barns. This has always been an interest of mine since I have spent more than 21 years in the Volunteer Fire Service. It seems the fire truck manufacturers just keep making those new trucks better and better every year. Some of these trucks can pump up to 1500 gallons per minute or more. The problem is the water mains in our towns across the state are the same mains that used to supply trucks that were lucky to pump 100 gallons per minute.

It seems like this time of year I get quite a few calls to flow test hydrants for their ISO ratings so if you choose to do it yourself, here are some suggested steps to take for fire hydrant flow testing.

You will need a hydrant flow gauge and a hydrant pressure gauge. If you don't have a flow gauge give us a call we can loan you one. A pressure gauge can be made from an old hydrant cap that is tapped to accept a pressure gauge.

1. Flush the hydrant you want to test to get rid of the rust, sand, iron and manganese and any other foreign material. This will prevent the pressure gauges from becoming fouled.
2. If you want to record the residual pressure on a hydrant downstream you will need a helper. A set of two-way radios is very helpful.
3. Put the flow gauge on a hydrant to be flow tested.
4. Put the residual pressure gauge on a hydrant downstream.
5. Open the hydrant with the residual pressure gauge and record the static pressure.
6. Open the flow hydrant and record the flow.
7. While the flow hydrant is flowing have your partner record the remaining residual pressure on his pressure gauge.
8. Slowly close the flow hydrant. And remove flow recorder.
9. Close residual pressure hydrant and remove pressure gauge.
10. Record readings on the hydrant card.

Now that you have gone to all the trouble to fire flow your hydrants, it would be a great time to color-code them. Don't forget to educate your local fire department

about how to identify approximately how much water they could expect to get from each fire hydrant.

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) recommends to color code them as follows.

Class	Flow	Color of Bonnets & Caps
AA	1,500 gpm or greater	Blue
A	1,000 gpm or greater	Green
B	500 – 1,000 gpm	Orange
C	Less than 500 gpm	Red

Firefighters can pick from available hydrants the one with the best flow, using a traffic light scheme for ease of memory.

Green means go, the hydrant flow will be over 1,000 gpm.

Orange means caution, the flow is between 500 and 1,000 gpm.

Red means stop, the flow is less than 500 gpm.

Blue means 1,500 gpm or greater.

If you need help flowing your hydrants or need a flow gauge please give me a call at 402-672-9084.



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## Wellhead Protection Area Maps

*By Barney Whatley, Source Water Specialist*

The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments established a strong new emphasis on preventing contamination problems through source water protection and enhanced water system management. The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality was given the authority “to develop information which enables Public Water Supply owners, consumers, and others to initiate and/or promote actions to protect their drinking water sources,” also called a Source Water Assessment. All Public Water Suppliers should have received this information by May of 2003. The Source Water Assessment can be used to start or be incorporated into a Wellhead Protection Program. The Source Water Assessment included maps of the area considered to be the future source for the system’s drinking water for the next twenty years. These maps have been updated on occasion, and NDEQ will update the maps upon request or if the system has added new wells or other changes that would invalidate the original maps.

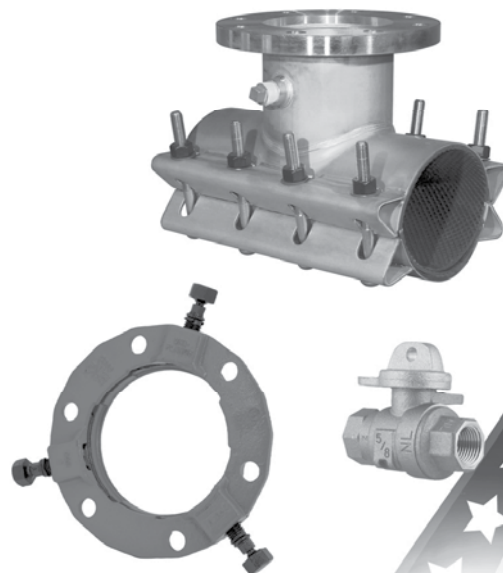
When developing a source water protection plan or a wellhead protection plan, the system is not required to use the NDEQ provided maps, but may change them if there is a compelling reason to do so. If land ownership has changed, it is often helpful to draw the map along ownership boundaries, section lines or river locations. It is acceptable to make these changes, as long as the newly delineated area contains all of the land within the 20-year time of travel of all of the system’s wells. Since all landowners within the wellhead protection area should be involved in the development of the plan, it is important to have accurate maps and current data on the ownership of the land within the protection area.

If a single entity (person or company) owns a small piece of land within the protection area’s boundaries, but not in the 20-year time of travel for any of the system wells, it might be advantageous to remove that land from the protection area to reduce the possibility of complaints from persons not directly affected by the wellhead protection plan. Systems need to keep in mind that the development of the plan needs to involve all of the public, and removing any land within the protection area does not limit the owner’s right to voice any concerns they have at any public hearings held concerning the plan.

Reducing the number of landowners directly affected by wellhead planning can be very beneficial, but the transparency of the process is very important. All voices should be given a chance to be heard regarding any actions or programs being contemplated by any public entity. The system does not want to be seen as doing things behind the backs of anyone in or near the project, as that makes it seem that they are hiding something from the public. Always be open and respectful of any opinions or comments received regarding the wellhead protection process and the planning will be smoother and the results will be more widely accepted.

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# Nebraska Rural Water Association

## EARLY REGISTRATION

### Western Nebraska Fall Pre-Conference and Conference

September 24-26, 2019

Gering Civic Center

1050 "M" Street

Gering, Nebraska

*One name per form. Make sure to indicate all your licenses to insure proper credit hours. There will be a \$25 charge for cancellations made after September 6 (2 weeks before the conference) and for attendee name changes and no shows during the conference.*

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)	_____ \$180.00	_____ \$210.00
FULL CONFERENCE (WED & THURS) (all meals included)	_____ \$125.00	_____ \$150.00
PRECONFERENCE (TUES) (includes lunch)	_____ \$90.00	_____ \$115.00
WEDNESDAY ONLY (includes Banquet)	_____ \$85.00	_____ \$110.00
THURSDAY ONLY (includes breakfast buffet and lunch)	_____ \$90.00	_____ \$115.00
GUEST BANQUET TICKETS— \$25 x _____	TOTAL \$ _____	TOTAL \$ _____
GUEST LUNCH TICKETS—\$20 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE REGISTER ONLY ONCE. DO NO SEND IN MORE THAN ONE REGISTRATION.**

<p><b>EARLY REGISTRATION ENDS September 6. FEE INCREASES \$25 FOR REGISTRATIONS DATED OR POSTMARKED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 6 AND SEPTEMBER 18. NO REGISTRATIONS AFTER SEPT 18. \$50 increase at the door.</b></p>	<p>TOTAL DUE \$ _____</p> <p>Late charge, if any \$ _____</p> <p>Total \$ _____</p> <p>BILL ME _____ PO# _____</p> <p>CHECK ENCLOSED _____</p> <p>(Note: Certificates will not be mailed until payment is received in NeRWA office.)</p>
--	--

**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

Tuesday, September 24

PRE-CONFERENCE

(Session Topics and Hours are Subject to Change)

8:00-10:00	<b>Lead &amp; Copper Rule:</b> Zidarta Winfrey, NDHHS	2W
10:00-10:15	<b>Break</b>	
10:15-11:15	<b>Public Water System O&amp;M:</b> Doug Woodbeck, NDHHS	1W
11:15-12:15	<b>RTCR/Assessments:</b> Elizabeth Esseks, NDHHS	1W
12:15-12:45	<b>Lunch</b>	
12:45-1:45	<b>Sample Sites/Sampling:</b> Rich Koenig, NDHHS	1W
2:30	<b>Golf</b>	

Wednesday, September 25

8:30-12:30	<b>Trap Shoot</b>	
8:30-12:30	<b>Poker Run</b>	
10:00-12:30	<b>Conference Registration</b>	
12:30-2:00	<b>Regulatory Update:</b> Justin Nelsen/Andy Kahle, NDHHS	1.5W
2:00-2:15	<b>Break: Tour Exhibits and Drawings for Prizes</b>	
2:15-3:15	<b>USDA Update:</b> Sarah Pierce, USDA	
	<b>Capacity Development Update:</b> Shelley Rekte, NDHHS	1W,1WW,1WD
3:15-3:30	<b>Break: Tour Exhibits and Drawings for Prizes</b>	
3:30-5:00	<b>Hazard/Flood Mitigation/Emergency Preparedness:</b> Rich Koenig, NDHHS	1.5W,1.5WW, 1.5WD
5:00-6:00	<b>Social in Exhibit Area</b>	
6:00-7:00	<b>Banquet and Awards</b>	

Thursday, September 26

6:30-7:30	<b>BREAKFAST</b>	
7:00-8:30	<b>Conference Registration</b>	
7:30-8:30	<b>A—Trenchless Sewer Rehab:</b> Brett Melson, Johnson Service	1WW
	<b>B—Learning to Locate:</b> Brent Briley, Subsurface Solutions	1W,1WW
	<b>C—Backflow Roundtable:</b> Rich Koenig, NDHHS	1W,1BF,1WW
8:30-8:45	<b>Break: Tour Exhibits and Drawings for Prizes</b>	
8:45-9:45	<b>A—Metering Technology:</b> Charles Bausch, Core&Main	1W, 1 WD
	<b>B—Flexible Drop Pipe in Your Wells:</b> Carlos Guerra, Hose Solutions	1W, 1WD
	<b>C—Backflow Incident:</b> Rich Koenig, NDHHS	1W,1BF,1WW
9:45-10:00	<b>Break: Tour Exhibits and Drawings for Prizes</b>	
10:00-11:00	<b>A—Water Tank Maintenance Utilizing Divers:</b> Roger King, RFC Professionals	1W
	<b>B—Capacity Development Issues:</b> Shelley Rekte, NDHHS	1W,1WD
	<b>C—Testing Backflow Devices:</b> Rob Pierce, LONM	1W,1BF,1WW
11:00-11:15	<b>Break: Tour Exhibits</b>	
11:15-12:15	<b>A—Measurement &amp; Instrumentation Control:</b> Steve McAlpine, FCX Performance	1W, 1WW,1WD
	<b>B—Water Tower &amp; Tank Painting:</b> Jake Dugger, Maguire Iron	1W
	<b>C—Backflow Knowledge:</b> Rich Koenig, NDHHS	1W,1BF,1WW
12:15-1:15	<b>Lunch</b>	
1:15-2:15	<b>A—Public Notice Procedures:</b> Zidarta Winfrey, NDHHS	1W
	<b>B—Field Rep/Lab Q&amp;A:</b> Field Reps/Mary Boden, NDHHS	1W
	<b>C—The Good, The Bad, The Ugly:</b> Rich Koenig, NDHHS	1W,1BF,1WW
2:15-2:30	<b>Break</b>	
2:30-3:30	<b>A—Source Water Planning:</b> Barney Whatley, NeRWA	1W, 1WD
	<b>B—Some Quick Calculations:</b> Mike Wentink, NDHHS	1W, 1WW,1WD
	<b>C—Board Training:</b> Ken Halvorsen, NeRWA	1W, 1WW

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# Nebraska Rural Water Association

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---	---

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<b>Vendors who would like to attend but not have a booth:</b>	
NeRWA Members: Full conference-\$200 _____	Non-Members-\$250 _____
Members: Wed-\$100 _____ Thurs-\$125 _____	Non-Members: Wed-\$125 _____ Thurs-\$150 _____

Exhibition days are Wednesday and Thursday. Registration includes meals. **WE NEED A COUNT FOR THE CATERER, SO PLEASE INDICATE MEALS AND NUMBER OF REPS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING.** Breakfast on Wednesday morning is complimentary for anyone attending the conference.

**MEALS ATTENDING:**    \_\_\_\_\_ **Wed Banquet**                      \_\_\_\_\_ **Thurs Lunch**

Outside space for trailer                      \_\_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_\_ No  
 Donating a door prize (giveaway)        \_\_\_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_\_\_ No    Item \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation for outdoor activity            \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THOSE ATTENDING TRAINING SESSIONS: \$80—all 3 days    \$50—Wed, Thurs
YOU NEED TO COMPLETE A SEPARATE REGISTRATION FORM FOR EACH PERSON ATTENDING THE TRAINING SESSIONS. PLEASE INDICATE THE LICENSES YOU NEED CEUs FOR.

*Deadline for registering is September 6.  
**Payment must** be included with registration.  
 You will not be guaranteed a booth until  
 payment is received.*

**Nebraska Rural Water Association**  
**3390 Ponderosa Street**  
**Wahoo, NE 68066**

If you have questions, please contact our office:  
 800-842-8039 or 402-443-5216  
 info@nerwa.org

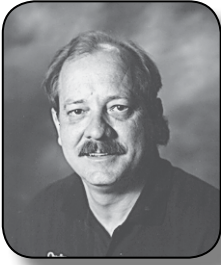
**Total enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Please indicate how many are participating in the following:</b>	
Golf tournament, Sept 24	_____
Trap Shoot, Sept 25	_____
Poker Run, Sept 26	_____

\*\*\*\*\*

For NeRWA office use only:                      Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Check# \_\_\_\_\_





# Lead and Copper Sampling

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

We have been receiving a lot of inquiries lately concerning the lead & copper rule, primarily concerning sampling techniques. Below are some sampling techniques and protocol that may be of some assistance.

## PRIOR TO SAMPLING

1. **Have a water system employee do the actual sampling.** Water customers are like all of us. Our lives often get hectic and hurried. Don't let an error by a consumer cause your system a compliance issue.
2. **Flush all faucets in residence 5 minutes or longer.** The water in tap being sampled is to sit stagnate for 6 hours. Prior to this time it is a good idea to flush all taps until water is good and cold.
3. **Turn off faucets slowly.** Velocity in the piping will cause copper to leach more aggressively.
4. **Sample 6 hours later.** Do not allow the water to stand any longer than the required 6 hour period.

## SAMPLING

1. **Turn on faucet slowly and only until there is a small steady stream.** Take at least 1 minute to fill the container.
2. **Samples do not need to be taken all on the same date.** Mail samples as you collect them. Be creative, sample on weekends when homes are more accessible. Sample in the evening as opposed to morning, i.e., flush the system at noon and sample at 6 pm.
3. **Avoid dead ends or low flow areas of the system.** Stay as close to the water source as possible.
4. **Never sample from a home with a water softener or other home treatment device,** even if there is a line dedicated to untreated water.

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## NeRWA Equipment

The equipment below purchased by NeRWA is used for on-site technical assistance. All of our assistance and use of the equipment is at "no charge" to any member water system except the Valve Exerciser for which there is a mandatory charge to help with the upkeep and maintenance.

Below is the equipment that you may borrow if it is available. The items in **BOLD** have to be accompanied and operated by one of our technicians.

### Water Equipment

AWWA Standards on CD  
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Pressure Relief Valves  
Temp & pH Meters  
Valve Box Locators  
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### Wastewater Equipment

Flow Meter  
Microscope  
pH Meter  
**Sewer Smoker**  
Sludge Judge  
**TV Camera**

Donations help our association purchase new equipment and maintain it so that we can better serve the needs of water systems throughout Nebraska. We would like to thank you for your support in this endeavor.

If you have any questions regarding this fund or would like further information on what is available, please do not hesitate to contact us.

## LICENSE RENEWAL YEAR

This is renewal year for all water (grades 1-4) and backflow (grade 6) licenses. You need to have a total of 10 recertification hours for each license. Now is a good time to check your hours to see how many you need before December 31.

If you only need 5 hours you can attend one of the 1-day classes that are held across the state. Water classes always have 5 credit hours; backflow classes have 5 water, 5 wastewater and 5 backflow. There is a fee for backflow classes. Don't wait until the last 2 months of the year because unforeseen circumstances—such as weather, health issues, appointment changes—can change your plans. The November and December Wahoo classes usually fill up before the actual month the class is held so don't wait until the last minute to register for those. The last backflow class is December 18 so plan ahead.

There is a training calendar with the remaining classes for the year in this magazine.



## Fall Fun

*By Pat Petersen, Training/Technical Assistance Specialist*

As the summer heat burns on and last winter is only a memory, it's time to look forward to the Nebraska Rural Water Association's Fall Conference. The conference will be in beautiful Gering again. The Pre-Conference will be held on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, followed by the actual conference on Wednesday the 25<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon and all day on Thursday the 26<sup>th</sup>. I have had the pleasure of planning the last 7 of these fall festivals and I hope this one is as fun and educational as those in the past!

With the summer being busy as usual, we are still putting together the official agenda. Don't be alarmed! We have a pretty good start for what operators will get to see and learn about. Don't forget about the wonderful food they serve at the fantastic Gering Civic Center.

Each year on Tuesday we have a stand-alone pre-conference. This allows operators to pick up five hours of training and it focuses on one subject. This year the pre-conference will be an update on drinking water rules and regulation. Lead and Copper, RTRC and Operation and Maintenance are a few of our focal points for this year's pre-conference. At the conclusion of the pre-conference all attendees are invited to enjoy an afternoon of golf. Be sure when you sign up for the conference, you let us know if you will be golfing. It just helps with the planning.

The Wednesday morning tradition will continue with a trap shoot and poker run. If you plan on shooting you can let us know when you sign up for the conference or if

our Circuit Rider, Mike Stanzel, is helping you out with anything, you can let him know. Mike can run a mean trap shoot! Area 8 Field Rep Doug Woodbeck will be the go-to-guy for the poker run which is always a good time, too.

When all the fun is done on Wednesday morning we will have a quick four and a half hour general session from 12:30PM-5:00PM. This session will be followed by a social hour and awards banquet.

Thursday we will get serious about education and, of course, door prizes. We will start the day with a great breakfast followed by six hours of continuing education. The official agenda will be announced soon so be looking for it!

Hope to see you all in Gering!

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## Water and Mother Nature

*By Ken Halvorsen, System Specialist*

Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink!

Where have we heard that before? People in a Nebraska town along the Missouri River were beginning to think that scenario was going to happen to them. The flood that raised so much havoc to a good part of Nebraska had put their wells under the influence of the surface water and pretty much destroyed their treatment plant. Now, this town had experienced many floods before, but none as devastating as the flood of 2019, which is still dealing the town fits.

So, you are wondering where I am going with this. This town was fortunate to have a neighbor willing to help them out by delivering ten to twelve semi loads of water a day and pump it into their tower. This has so far kept their system “above water.” The water is being hauled in food grade tankers, and so far they have had no problems with bacti sampling.

Where do they go from here? The short term fix is to bring in a portable treatment plant hoping it will have the capacity that they need. The second option would be to do major repairs to their own plant. The third would be to run a transmission main to the same town hauling water to them. This option would take quite some time. We all know how long it would take to get easements and permits to go many miles.

This is just one of many incidents resulting from the flooding where systems have had to be innovative in order to continue to provide water for their customers. Two other systems ran a connection line between their systems after the flood of 2011. Their planning paid off as they had to use that connection line this year.

Did the first set of systems have an agreement prior to the March flooding? We all know that obtaining a water source in times of natural or manmade disasters is part of the Emergency Plan which everyone is required to have. If you haven’t approached a neighboring system to explore the options available, while the flood is still fresh in our minds, now, might be the time for that conversation.

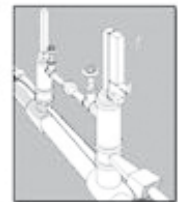
What have we learned from all the issues we have dealt with this spring? First, sometimes, the best laid plans

will fail. You can say you tried. Second, we need to make sure we have explored all of our options before there is an emergency. Third, no matter how we plan, mother nature still rules.

If you are interested in a System Assessment or Capacity Development Training for your Board, you can contact me at 402-609-9750 or ken@nerwa.org.

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NeRWA would like to welcome Charles (Buck) Buckley to our staff. Charles will be our second Wastewater Tech. He has worked for the City of Fremont and PeopleService for the past 14 years. Charles will be assisting Mike Lucas with the wastewater duties.

Charles looks forward to meeting a lot of you at the fall conference in Gering on September 24-26. When you see him, take a moment and introduce yourself.

**NOTICE:** Mike Lucas will be unavailable from August 8 through September 15 for medical reasons. Please **DO NOT** call or email him with any requests for assistance. Instead, if you need wastewater help, please call Charles or Pat Petersen. Charles' phone number is 402-277-6632. His email is [buckley@nerwa.org](mailto:buckley@nerwa.org).



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## Deputy Village Clerk Position

The **Village of Snyder, NE** is accepting applications for the position of deputy village clerk. This position will assume the full role of village clerk/treasurer on November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The applicant will train with the village clerk/treasurer until the date of the transition. This is a 30 hour per week position and wages commensurate with experience. Duties include, but not limited to, processing monthly utility bills; maintaining payroll records; pay claims approved by the Board; invest municipal funds; attend board meeting and take minutes; file required state and federal reports; accept bids from supplies; issue zoning permits. Qualifications: equivalent of a high school education and at least one (1) year of bookkeeping experience. Experience in municipal government and general good computer skills including knowledge of Excel and Word is preferred. Must be a detail oriented, self-motivated and organized individual and enjoy working with the public in a kind, courteous and helpful manner. Applications are available at the Snyder Village Office M-F 9:00 – 4:00. Resumes may be emailed to [snyder@skyww.net](mailto:snyder@skyww.net) or mailed to 125 Ash St. P.O. Box 247 Snyder, NE 68664. For more information call 402-568-2306. First review of applications will be August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019. EOE



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## Finding a Successor

*By Scott Finke, Circuit Rider*

---

How easy is it to replace a profession that has an aging demographic? Some of you are probably thinking about retiring in a couple of years, but who is going to take your place? Many of the younger generation want to have a job that is not so demanding. They would prefer to have a job that will be inside and where they are around more of their friends and colleagues.

Going to conferences I see that the demographic of people in water operation is around my age or older. Thus, there will be plenty of towns and villages, not just in the state of Nebraska but across the U.S., that are looking for newer and younger hires. In a metropolitan area or larger city there are probably a couple of people in line to take your position, but in a small town you are most likely a one man show.

I have been around talking with some of the operators and they told me they are going to retire soon. That puts a burden on the villages if they have nobody to replace them yet. The village boards need to find someone who is willing to take the job and is willing to be trained on what needs to be done. When hiring a new face, the pay also becomes a problem. The usual \$15 an hour may not work and so that will have to be increased and to what is up to the specific village.

Some of you have retired from a bigger city and then have been hired in a smaller town. That is great for the village because you already know what is going on and the things that need to be done around town. This makes the transition of hires so much easier on the towns when searching for a new operator.

Finding your successor could be hard. The new hire may have to get their operator's license in water and/or wastewater, as well as, any other license they may need, which takes time. Let your board know if you are going to retire soon so they can start looking for someone. Finding someone may be difficult, but possible. Hopefully, a new person will be hired before your time comes to retire, that way they will be able to learn from an experienced professional and not on their own.

So, when you do retire, enjoy doing your hobbies and spending time with your family and friends. You have worked long and hard for it, so enjoy it. Have a happy retirement.

If you need to contact me for anything call: 402-607-2249.



# TRIVIA

In the year 1900 in the U.S. what were the most popular first names for boy and girl babies?

- A. William & Elizabeth
- B. Joseph & Catherine
- C. John & Mary
- D. George & Anne

When did the Liberty Bell get its name?

- A. When it was made in 1701
- B. When it rang on July 4, 1776
- C. In the 19th century, when it became a symbol of the abolition of slavery
- D. None of the above

In the Roy Rogers - Dale Evans Museum, you will find Roy and Dales stuffed horses. Roy's horse was named Trigger, which was Dales horse?

- A. Buttermilk
- B. Daisy
- C. Scout
- D. Tulip

The Daniel Boone museum at the home where he died can best be described how?

- A. A log cabin in Kentucky
- B. A two-story clapboard house in Tennessee
- C. A four-story Georgian-style home in Missouri
- D. A three-story brick house in Arkansas

Which of the following items was owned by the fewest U.S. homes in 1990?

- A. Home computer
- B. Compact disk player
- C. Cordless phone
- D. Dishwasher

Who holds the record for the most victories in a row on the professional golf tour?

- A. Jack Nicklaus
- B. Arnold Palmer
- C. Byron Nelson
- D. Ben Hogan

Who is third behind Hank Aaron and Babe Ruth in major league career home runs?

- A. Reggie Jackson
- B. Harmon Killebrew
- C. Willie Mays
- D. Frank Robinson

In 1990, in what percentage of U.S. married couples did the wife earn more money than the husband?

- A. 8
- B. 18
- C. 38
- D. 58

During the 1980s for six consecutive years what breed of dog was the most popular in the U.S.?

- A. Cocker spaniel
- B. German shepherd
- C. Labrador retriever
- D. Poodle.

In 1985, five percent of U.S. households had telephone answering machines. By 1990 what percentage of homes had answering machines?

- A. 10 percent
- B. 15 percent
- C. 31 percent
- D. 51 percent

The first African American pictured on a U.S. postage stamp was who?

- A. Frederick Douglass
- B. Booker T. Washington
- C. Louis Armstrong
- D. Joe Louis

The Brownie Box Camera introduced by Eastman Kodak in 1900 had a retail price of what?

- A. \$1
- B. \$5
- C. \$10
- D. \$20

Which of these characters turned 40 years old in 1990?

- A. Charlie Brown
- B. Bugs Bunny
- C. Mickey Mouse
- D. Fred Flintstone

The Philadelphia mint started putting a "P" mint mark on quarters when?

- A. 1960
- B. 1980
- C. never

Before becoming George Bush's Secretary of Defense, what was Dick Cheney's position?

- A. Congressman from Wyoming
- B. Governor of New Hampshire
- C. Secretary of defense under Ronald Reagan

When Mt. St. Helens erupted on May 18, 1980, how many people were killed?

- A. 1
- B. 57
- C. 571

In J. Edgar Hoover, what did the J stand for?

- A. James
- B. John
- C. Joseph

Florence Nightingale became known as "the Lady with the Lamp" during which war?

- A. American Civil War
- B. Crimean War
- C. World War I

What year was it that the Census Bureau first reported that a majority of new mothers were remaining in the new job market?

- A. 1968
- B. 1978
- C. 1988

- C. 1988
- B. Crimean War
- B. John
- B. 57
- A. congressman from Wyoming
- B. 1980
- A. Charlie Brown
- A. \$1
- D. Joe Louis
- C. 31 percent
- A. Cocker spaniel
- B. 18
- C. Willie Mays
- C. Byron Nelson
- B. Compact disk player
- C. A four-story Georgian-style home in Missouri
- A. Buttermilk
- C. In the 19th century, when it became a symbol of the abolition of slavery
- C. John and Mary

ANSWERS



# Water and Sewer Rate Study: 2018-2019

The 2018-2019 water and sewer rate study has been completed. It always feels like quite an accomplishment and a relief. Some of you that requested a copy of the rate study have already received one. The rest of you will be getting yours in the near future.

If anyone else is interested in getting a copy please contact us. If you are a member and sent in your information for the study, your first rate study is free and any extra ones are \$25.00. If you are a member and didn't send in any information then the study will cost you \$25.00. Non-members that sent in information will get the reduced rate of \$25.00. Otherwise, all other non-member water/wastewater systems will have to pay \$250.00 and businesses will be charged \$500.00.

Thank you to all the systems that took extra time out of their busy schedules to send in their system's information. I want you to know that your effort was greatly appreciated.

## Mailing Addresses for Operators

Just want to mention to the water and wastewater operators that it is important to tell your system's clerk what address you would like them to put down on the NeRWA membership renewal form each year. We send a membership renewal form out to the systems' clerks every year and we put the information they send back to us in our database. If you want to receive our mailings at a certain address, please let your clerk know.

## 2020 NeRWA Membership Directory


**BE WATCHING** for a letter asking for your help to update the NeRWA membership directory. The letter will be out shortly. The information that will be in the directory is being sent to you so all you need to do is look at it, see if any of the information has changed, make the changes on the sheet and return it right away to our office. Hopefully, this method will be quick and easy for you. Thank you in advance for your help on this next project.


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# Nebraska Good Water News

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

Contact NeRWA... ▼

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Nebraska Section, AWWA
AWWA Library Reference Listings
NeRWA Associate Members

## NeRWA Contact Information:

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
 3390 Ponderosa Street  
 Wahoo, NE 68066

Office phone numbers:

800-849-8039  
 402-443-5216  
 Fax: 402-443-5274  
 Website: [www.nerwa.org](http://www.nerwa.org)  
 Email: [office@nerwa.org](mailto:office@nerwa.org)



### Cell #

Charles Buckley	402-277-6632
Scott Finke	402-607-2249
Ken Halvorsen	402-607-9750
Randy Hellbusch	402-443-8535
Mike Lucas	402-443-6157
Pat Petersen	402-277-6699
Mike Stanzel	402-672-9084
Barney Whatley	402-480-4297
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