

Issue 1/2014

# Nebraska Rural Water Association



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# Nebraska Good Water News

# Issue 1/2014

*"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](http://www.nerwa.org)

## **On the cover:**

Milligan's water tower was built in 1939 and it holds 50,000 gallons. It is painted every 20 years & will be painted again in 2016. Pepsi made the tower look blue using a generator & six or seven separate lights; it is normally a light green color.

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

Village of Wolbach  
PO Box 97  
Wolbach NE 68882  
Phone 308-246-5278  
[wolvillage@gpcom.net](mailto:wolvillage@gpcom.net)  
"This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider"

November 12, 2013

NE Rural Water Association  
390 Ponderosa Street  
Wahoo NE 68066

RE: Donation

The Wolbach Village Board would like to say thank you and appreciate all that has been done for the Village over the past years. The time spent trying to find the pool leak this last month is very much appreciated. Also, the prompt communication to let us know of the date and time that one could be here.

Again thanks and appreciate everyone being there to help us, when in need. A donation of appreciation is enclosed.



*Your assistance with the chlorinator made all the difference!*

CITY OF PAWNEE CITY



City of Tekamah  
P.O. Box 143  
Tekamah, NE 68061

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e-mail: tekcity@tekamah.net



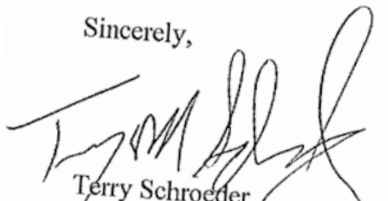
October 25, 2013

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

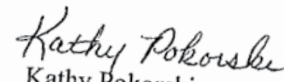
To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept the enclosed as a Thank you for the Water/Sewer rate study that Randy completed for the City of Tekamah. We appreciate the services your Association provides.

Sincerely,

  
Terry Schroeder  
Water/Sewer Superintendent

  
Karolyn McElroy  
City Clerk

  
Kathy Pokorski  
Deputy Clerk

### **Water/Wastewater Operator:**

The City of Crawford is taking applications for a full-time grade 3 or 4 water operator and grade 1 or 2 wastewater operator. Duties include, but are not limited to, maintenance and operation of water and wastewater systems. Will read meters and operate light and heavy equipment. Occasional heavy lifting required. Minimum requirements include high school diploma, able to speak and read English fluently, capable of climbing into and out of holes over the applicant's head, wear protective gear, and possess a valid Driver's license. Will be part of a rotating weekend on-call. Salary and benefits are negotiable depending on applicant's experience. Applications are available at Crawford City Hall, 135 Elm Street, Crawford, NE 69339, phone 308-665-1462. Accepting applications until February 14, 2014. The City of Crawford is an EOE.



## A Look Back at 2013 and a Look Ahead to 2014

*By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician*

Looking back at 2013 as a staff member of NeRWA, I remember tens of thousands of miles traveled across the state. I remember and am thankful for the time spent with operators, clerks and board members. Sometimes I'm glad to just provide a listening ear from someone who has been there and done that.

I have 12 one-day training classes scheduled across the state for 2014. When possible I plan to have credit hours available for water, since the majority of you wear multiple hats. There will also be five four-day certification training classes held at Wahoo. Remember that NDEQ requires that you are preregistered with them to take the wastewater certification test at least a month in advance of the test date for the testing location that you wish to attend. Those locations and dates are available on their website and in the coalition calendar. One of the ideas that I am working on is to have a six-hour, hands-on sewer jetting demonstration class. We would be looking at different heads, applications, safety and maintenance. Clear plastic pipe would be utilized so that you could visually compare different heads and pressures. My goal would be to have three class locations across the state. It would obviously have to be in warm weather (much warmer than right now). This is, of course, subject to approval by NDEQ for CEU hours.

NDEQ continues their participation in the one-day classes. Topics include: laboratory, the new AWIN program and addressing any compliance questions that you may have.

The sewer line video camera continues to be in high demand. At the time of this writing there are four jobs scheduled for next week. I probably do as many service lines as I do mains. It is mandatory to have the customer there when we view private service lines. Often times we are dealing with determining fault.

Thanks to the generosity of a donor I now have a second composite sampler. This is another often requested service that we provide. The second sampler is very

helpful when one operator has multiple systems or I have several requests in a specific geographic area of the state and we are dealing with sample holding times and lab availability.

A new priority for USDA and EPA is capacity development. We likely will be speaking with you about this in the very near future. Again at the time of this writing I don't know enough about what we are requested to do with this to even qualify as dangerous. Randy and I are scheduled to participate in a four-hour webinar to provide us with the tools to assist you and your systems in this area. More information later.

I really appreciate and encourage your input that I may better meet your needs in 2014.

**PLEASE DECIDE TO WORK SAFE THIS YEAR!**

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### Water Operator Training

January 14	Newcastle
January 23	Fairbury
February 12	Falls City
April 16	Kimball
April 17	Imperial
May 13	Plainview
May 14	Ord
May 20	Wahoo
June 6	Sutton
July 15	Chadron
July 16	Valentine
August 13	Bancroft
August 14	Albion
August 19	Wahoo
October 21	Chappell
October 22	Eustis
November 18	Alliance
November 19	Mullen
December 16	Red Cloud
December 18	Firth

### Wastewater Training

January 8	Ainsworth
February 12	Alliance
March 12	Curtis
April 23	Auburn
May 14	Omaha
June 4	Fairbury
July 29	O'Neill
August 13	West Point
September 10	Loup City
October 15	Newman Grove
November 13	Wayne
December 10	Wahoo

### Backflow Continuing Education Training

January 7	Chadron
January 8	Valentine
February 11	Nebraska City
February 13	Norfolk-Nucor Steel
April 15	Hastings
April 17	Wymore
May 14	Sidney
May 15	North Platte
September 9	York
September 11	Ord
October 14	South Sioux City
October 16	Atkinson
November 13	Wahoo
December 9	Mitchell
December 10	Imperial
December 11	Cambridge
December 17	Wahoo

# 2014 TRAINING

### **Annual Conference**

**March 17-19**

Heartland Event Center  
Grand Island, Nebraska

### **Fall Western Conference**

**Sept. 16-18**

Gering Civic Center  
Gering, Nebraska

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

January 13-17	Wahoo
April 28-May 2	Wahoo
October 20-24	Wahoo

### **Wastewater Certification Course**

January 28-31	Wahoo
April 8-11	Wahoo
June 10-13	Wahoo
August 26-29	Wahoo
October 28-31	Wahoo

<b>October 1</b>	Trenching & Shoring -Wahoo
<b>October 2</b>	Confined Space Entry -Wahoo





## EXERCISE! Who Needs It?

*By Pat Petersen, Training Specialist*

As we grow older, we all have either heard or learned the “hard way” about the importance of exercise. A simple exercise plan can not only keep the aches and pains to a minimum but may benefit our bodies in a time of emergency. This is not only true for our bodies but for a water distribution system as well. What I am referring to is a “Valve Exercise Plan”.

During the past couple of months Source Water Specialist Mike Stanzel and myself have exercised over 150 valves with our hydraulic valve exerciser. If a system has newer valves, and an exercise plan, this may not seem like a lot. But considering that most distribution systems and valves are much older than the hands that turn the valve wrench, this machine can save you time and energy with the turn of an ignition key and the pressing of a start button on a keyboard.



When or if your community decides to have the NeRWA come and exercise your water valves we only ask a few things. First, do you know where all of the valves are? If you need help finding valves we (NeRWA) would be more than willing to help. When we get to your town we want to plan an efficient route to each valve so we can get as many done in a single day as we can. Are the valve boxes clean? This is important whether you are going to exercise a valve or not. Several things can be used to clean a valve box. Vacuum trucks, certain digging tools, and even a hose hooked to a fire hydrant will work but the best tool I have seen to clean them out is a simple “Shop Vac”

vacuum. I recently visited the Village of Hershey and I asked their Utilities Superintendent Ronnie how he kept the valve boxes so clean. He pointed to the shop vac in the back of his pickup. The beauty of this tool is the fact that it will remove the water too!

Spring and fall seem to be the best time for valve exercising. Water usage will be at a normal rate and will eliminate the possibility of disrupting service at peak times. If you or your community are interested in having the Nebraska Rural Water Association assist you with exercising your valves feel free to call the office or look for the sign-up sheet at the Annual and Western Conference.

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# Nebraska Rural Water Association

## Annual Conference Pre-Registration

**March 17-19, 2014**  
**Heartland Event Center**  
**Grand Island, Nebraska**

Name (1 person per form) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Water System/Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Registration  
 Deadline is  
 March 12, 2014**

**License numbers MUST be on this form to receive the correct CEUs.**

**License #: Water:** \_\_\_\_\_ **BF** \_\_\_\_\_ **WW** \_\_\_\_\_ **WD** \_\_\_\_\_ I am the Voting Delegate \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION INCLUDES TRAINING MATERIALS, MEALS AND BREAKS.** Registration fees on-site will increase by \$50. No registrations after March 12. Monday is free for all utility/rural water board members. Board Members can attend Tuesday and Wednesday for the price of meal tickets. Board members who are also licensed operators and want CEUs need to register as an attendee.

IF YOU REPLACE AN ALREADY REGISTERED PERSON AFTER MARCH 12,  
 THERE WILL BE AN EXTRA \$25 CHARGE.

I am a Board Member attending Monday (no charge) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Cost of meals only—check meals below) Additional days: Tues \_\_\_\_\_ Wed \_\_\_\_\_

DAYS ATTENDING	Member	Member after March 7	Non-Member	Non-Member after March 7
FULL CONFERENCE (all meals)	____ \$375.00	____ 400.00	____ \$425.00	____ \$450.00
MONDAY (evening meal)	____ \$100.00	____ 125.00	____ \$125.00	____ \$150.00
TUESDAY (lunch & evening meal)	____ \$175.00	____ \$200.00	____ \$200.00	____ \$225.00
WEDNESDAY (breakfast & lunch)	____ \$125.00	____ \$150.00	____ \$150.00	____ \$175.00

All meals are included for each registration. Please indicate below if you will be staying for the evening meals. You will not be charged for them if you are registered—it's for a more accurate count. Guests need to purchase a ticket for every meal. The breakfast on Wednesday is complimentary for all registered for the conference.

Extra meal tickets available	Guest Tickets	Cost	Total	Your Meals
Mon evening		\$25	\$	
Tues lunch		\$15	\$	
Tues Banquet		\$30	\$	
Wed lunch		\$15	\$	

Name of guest \_\_\_\_\_

Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tickets \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NeRWA member: Bill \_\_\_\_\_ Payment enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-members—Payment must accompany registration or pay when checking in.**  
**Hours will not be issued until payment is received.**

When making room reservations, mention you are with NeRWA

DATE REGISTRATION RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_

To Register:  
 Fax: 402-443-5274  
 Mail: Nebraska Rural Water Association  
 3390 Ponderosa Street  
 Wahoo, NE 68066  
 Online: www.nerwa.org  
**NO PHONE REGISTRATIONS**

**CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellations after March 12 and no shows will be charged a \$25 processing fee.**

**For NeRWA office use only:** Payment received \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Hours: Water \_\_\_\_\_ BF \_\_\_\_\_ Wastewater \_\_\_\_\_ WD \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate mailed \_\_\_\_\_



## Keep Your Stenner Pump Running Like New

By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider

As one of the Circuit Riders for the Nebraska Rural Water Association, I have worked with a lot of water operators throughout the state. We offer technical assistance in numerous ways. Often there are requests from operators to stop by when we are in the area. Then there are requests from operators that are in panic mode. Normally that happens late in the week. They go to the clerk's office to get their mail and, you guessed it, there's a letter from the Department of Health informing them that they have a positive coliform sample. This letter is usually accompanied by a box of initial repeat samples. That's when we get the panic call. No need to panic yet. You don't really have a problem until you take the initial repeats and have one or more of these tests come back positive.


The second positive sample for a small water system in a monitoring period produces a violation for bacteria. Now it's time to panic! Not really, it's time to make an informed decision as to what step to take next. Be aware! The following month you will be required to take up to four extra samples depending on the size of your system. Typically most operators elect to chlorinate for a period of time to disinfect the system and help insure good samples the following month.

As you may recall in 2011, the Nebraska Rural Water Association and the Nebraska Department of Health held classes all over Nebraska training water operators how to set up and use a chlorinator, as well as, how to use a chlorine residual kit. By attending the class you

received a free chlorine pump and chlorine residual kit. If everything has been running smoothly the chlorine pump is still in the box at the shop collecting dust. Not everyone has been that lucky. If you are one of the unlucky operators that had to use your pump, there are some wear items you may need to check.

With extended use the Stenner chlorine pumps may need a little maintenance. The squeeze tube may need to be replaced. These tubes will usually last around six months if used continually before they need to be replaced. Sometimes the end of these tubes will disintegrate and need replacing. Changing the size of these tubes will also change the output of the pump. If the chlorine pump is too small or too large for your application you can simply change the size of the tube to fit your needs. Another wear item is the "cam." If the pump clicks several times before it locks in and turns, the "cam" is probably getting worn. It's an easy fix and the "cam" is very inexpensive, as are most of the repair parts. One other item to keep an eye on is the "duck bill" in the injector. The injector is the fitting that screws into the piping. It is easy to check. Just disconnect the tube from the injector. If water sprays out or even drips out, the "duck bill" needs to be replaced in the injector.

If your Stenner pump is not working properly give us a call. We can come out to your system and have that thing running like new in no time.



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## Let The Conference Planning Begin!

By Pat Petersen, Training Specialist

Brrr, it's cold outside! It's been a while since it's been this cold, this early! Yes we've had snow around this time but the cold hasn't stuck around like this for a few years. One thing that always happens this time of year whether it is cold or not is the planning of the Nebraska Rural Water Association's Annual Conference; so let the fun begin!

This year the Annual Conference will be held March 17, 18, and 19, at the same place it was held last year: The Heartland Events Center in Grand Island, Nebraska. This will be the third consecutive year at this venue. Operators will see familiar faces, but will find some new and interesting topics at this year's conference.

Monday March 17<sup>th</sup> the general session will start out with the traditional "Regulatory Update" by NDHHS

Drinking Water Administrator Jack Daniel. Other general session topics will include "The State's Role in Emergency Response" by Earl Imler with NEMA, a USDA/Rural Development update and a session entitled "How Stress in the Workplace Affects Everyone" by Bill Podraza with Miller and Associates. Operators are encouraged to invite and bring along their respective board members or clerks to attend the general session, for the information they will receive is aimed more at the regulatory, administrative side.

After the meal on Monday night, join us back at the Midtown Holiday Inn for fun and games. This year's "fun night" will be a little different than past conferences. JEO and HOA Solutions have teamed with the Nebraska Rural Water Association to host a "Vegas Night." Drinks, snacks, and prizes will be waiting for those who wish to try their luck.

A full day of sessions is scheduled for Tuesday beginning at 9:00 AM and concluding at 5:45. Dealing With Non-paying Customers, Iron and Manganese Treatment, Metering Systems and Marketing Your Utility to Your Community are just a few of the sessions you may attend. "Hands-On" sessions will also be offered, so after a day of learning it will be time to relax at the social hour sponsored by HD Supply. This will be held at the Heartland Events Center prior to the banquet, awards ceremony, and entertainment.

Wednesday will kick off with the annual breakfast at the Heartland Events Center. Classes will begin at 8:30 AM and conclude at 2:00 PM. Financial Capabilities and Affordability, GPS Mapping and Question and Answer sessions with NDHHS Rule Managers and Field Reps are just a few you can choose from.

So start planning now to attend the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Nebraska Rural Water Conference. Be sure to ask your clerks, administrators, and even board members if they would like to be a part of Nebraska's largest educational opportunity for water operators. See you in March!!

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Monday 17		Bosselman Conference Center
1:00	2:30	<b>Nebraska Water System Regulatory Update</b> Jack Daniel, DHHS <b>1.5W 1.5WD</b>
.50 break		
3:00	4:00	<b>The State's Role in Emergency Response</b> Earl Imler, NEMA Response and Recovery <b>1W 1WW 1WD</b>
.50 break		
4:30	5:30	<b>Stress in the Workplace-It Affects Everyone!</b> Bill Podraza-Miller and Associates <b>1W 1WW 1 WD</b>
5:30	6:00	<b>What's New at USDA/Rural Development</b> Denise Brosius Meeks, USDA/RD <b>.5W .5WW</b>

**Conference Agenda**  
**March 17-19, 2014**

**All classes are subject to change.**  
**Hours have been applied for. None have been approved as of this printing.**

**Total hours: 14 water (w), 7 backflow (bf), 12.5 wastewater (ww) and 13.5 well driller (wd)**

**Monday hours: 4 w, 2.5 ww, 3.5 wd**  
**Tuesday hours: 6 w, 5 bf, 6 ww, 6 wd**  
**Wednesday hours: 4 w, 2 bf, 4 ww, 4wd**

Tuesday 18		Session A - Hands on Area	Session B - Classroom 1	Session C - Classroom 2	Session D - Classroom 3	Session E - Classroom 4 & 5
9:00	10:00	<b>Trenching and Shoring</b> Stuart McMillan, United Rentals <b>1W 1WW 1WD</b>	<b>Small System Round Table</b> NeRWA Board and Staff <b>1W 1 WW 1WD</b>	<b>Rural Water Round Table</b> NeRWA Board and Staff <b>1W 1WW</b>	<b>Proper Ways to Complete DMR's</b> Jim Heyen-Hastings Utilities <b>1WW</b>	<b>Backflow Roundtable</b> Rich Koenig, NDHHS <b>1W 1WW 1 BF 1WD</b>
.50 break						
10:30	11:30	<b>Trenching and Shoring-REPEAT</b> <b>1W 1WW 1WD</b>	<b>Dealing with Iron and Manganese</b> Chris Savino, Layne Christensen <b>1W 1WD 1WW</b>	<b>Digger's Hotline Update</b> Jill Geyer, Digger's Hotline of Nebraska <b>1W 1WW 1WD</b>	<b>AMR/AMI Customer Service Expectations</b> Ian Coburn, Neptune Meters <b>1W 1WW 1WD</b>	<b>Backflow Applications and Innovations</b> Bob Jedlicka, Mack McClain Associates <b>1W 1BF 1WD</b>
1 hour lunch						
12:30	1:30	<b>Team Valves/Insta Valves/Insertion Valve Technology</b> Bob Hennig, Municipal Pipe Services <b>1W 1WD</b>	<b>Non-Paying Customers? How Should we Handle This?</b> Lash Chafin, League of Nebraska Municipalities <b>1W 1WW 1WD</b>	<b>SRF Funding/Security Grants</b> Steve McNulty, Kris Luebbe, NDHHS <b>1W 1WD</b>	<b>Sanitary Problems in Storage Tanks</b> Clyde Zelch, Tomcat <b>1 W</b>	<b>Backflow Incidents and Emergency Planning</b> Rich Koenig, NDHHS <b>1W 1WW 1 WD 1BF</b>
.50 Break						
2:00	3:00	<b>Insertion Valve Technology-REPEAT</b> <b>1 W 1 WD</b>	<b>Navigating Projects Today</b> Brent Burklund, TC Engineering <b>1W 1WW 1WD</b>	<b>Water Metering/Field Logic Radio Read</b> Charles Bausch, HD Supply <b>1W 1WW 1WD</b>	<b>Revised Total Coliform Rule-Lead Free Rule</b> Sherry Wirth/Steve Drda, NDHHS <b>1W 1WD</b>	<b>The Good, Bad, and Ugly!</b> Rich Koenig, NDHHS <b>1W 1WW 1BF</b>
.50 break						
3:30	4:30		<b>Marketing Your Utility to Your Community</b> Brian Gongol, DJ Gongol and Associates <b>1W 1WW 1WD</b>	<b>A Water Meter Success Story</b> Dana Peterson, Miller and Associates <b>1W 1WD</b>	<b>Nitrates and Well Abandonment</b> Tom Christopherson, NDHHS <b>1W 1WW 1WD</b>	<b>Backflow Challenge</b> Rich Koenig, NDHHS & Barney Whatley, NeRWA <b>1W 1BF</b>
.25 break						
4:45 pm	5:45 pm		<b>A Quality Water Tower Maintenance Program</b> Jake Dugger, Utility Service Co. <b>1W</b>	<b>NEWARN Update</b> Eric Melcher, Aurora Utilities <b>1W 1WW 1WD</b>	<b>Locators and Leak Detectors</b> Scott Rauen, Subsurface Solutions <b>1W 1WW</b>	

WEDNESDAY 19		Session A - Classroom 1	Session B - Classroom 2	Session C - Classroom 4&5
7:30	8:30	<b>NeRWA Board Meeting and Free Breakfast in the Arena</b>		
8:30	9:30	<b>Operators Responsibilities</b> Rich Koenig, NDHHS <b>1W 1BF</b>	<b>CIPP 101 For Gravity and Pressure Pipe Applications</b> Brian McCrary, Insituform Technologies <b>1W 1WW 1WD</b>	<b>Rule Manager Q&amp;A</b> Howard Isaacs, NDHHS <b>1W 1WD</b>
.25 break				
9:45	10:45	<b>Diggers Hotline Update</b> Jill Geyer, Digger's Hotline of Nebraska <b>1W 1WW 1WD</b>	<b>Managing Roots in Your Sanitary Sewer System</b> Lewis Hyatt, Johnson Service <b>1WW</b>	<b>Area Field Rep Q&amp;A</b> Doug Woodbeck and Field Reps, NDHHS <b>1W 1WD</b>
.25 break				
11:00	12:00	<b>Groundwater and the Nebraska Geology</b> David Miesbach, NDEQ <b>1W 1WD</b>	<b>Financial Capabilities and Affordability</b> Dawn Martin/Samantha Capps, NDEQ <b>1W 1WW</b>	<b>Proposed Changes to Chapter 22</b> Doug Woodbeck, NDHHS <b>1W 1BF 1WD</b>
1.0 hour lunch				
1:00	2:00	<b>Basic Operator Math</b> Mike Wentink, NDHHS <b>1W 1WW 1WD</b>	<b>GPS Mapping</b> Barney Whatley, NeRWA <b>1W 1WW 1WD</b>	<b>Biotta: Innovative and Cost Effective Alternative to Nitrate Removal</b> Weston Enge, Carollo Engineers <b>1W 1WD</b>

**Annual Conference Lodging Information (mention you are with NeRWA conference)**

Holiday Inn (1 mile from Heartland Events Center)  
Grand Island-Midtown  
2503 S Locust St  
Phone: 308-384-1330  
Fax: 308-382-4615

Best Western (1 mile from Heartland Events Center)  
2707 S Locust St  
Phone: 308-381-8855  
Fax: 308-381-8856

Super 8 Grand Island (1 mile from Heartland Events Center)  
2603 S Locust St  
Phone: 308-384-4380  
Fax: 308-384-5015

Howard Johnson (1.5 miles from Heartland Events Center)  
3333 Ramada Rd  
Phone: 308-384-5150  
Fax: 308-384-6551

**FUN AND GAMES**

**Come join us for fun and games Monday night for some "Vegas Style" fun. The event will be held in the Grand Ballroom at the Midtown Holiday Inn. Come to win great prizes, or just to relax and enjoy the atmosphere! This event is being sponsored by JEO and Associates, HOA Solutions and the Nebraska Rural Water Association. We hope to see you there.**

**Drinks will be provided!**



## Dealing with Regulations

*By Barney Whatley, GIS/GPS Specialist*

When NeRWA moved to its new office in Wahoo, there was a lot of thought that went into the building itself, as well as, the look of the property around it. Thanks to one of the Board members, there was a wooden sign placed at the corner of the property identifying it as the location of our office. As you can see, the sign was very sharp-looking, but unfortunately it was made of wood, and time and the elements took their toll on it. Eventually it needed to be replaced.



At about the same time, NeRWA purchased a windmill from a school that made them as a shop project. Unfortunately, our office is north of Wahoo proper, and there is very little out there to break the wind or even slow it down. The wooden blades would be blown off of the windmill and scattered around the parking lot. Then the windmill needed to be replaced, too.

After receiving input from Board members, staff and visitors to the office, it was decided that a windmill really did not symbolize what the Nebraska Rural Water Association was all about, and that perhaps we needed a different emblem for the front of the property. After giving the idea a lot of thought, it was decided that a miniature water tower would be a good representation of what we did and what our membership was all about. A design for a water tower was drawn up with the intent of using a small, round propane tank as the bowl of the tower and 6-inch steel pipe as the stem. A cone was then added to the bottom of the tower to make it look more like a real water tower.

Then the problems began. The intent was to put up

the tower with either our emblem painted on it or just the initials "NeRWA". In order to be sure we were in compliance with Wahoo regulations, we filled out an application for the sign and filed it with the Zoning Administrator. A couple of days later we were informed that our request was being denied because the City of Wahoo does not allow pole signs, and that is what we were proposing to erect. We then discussed alternatives with the Zoning Administrator and asked if we could erect the tower if there was no emblem or lettering on it. He advised that it might be okay, but we would have to apply for a conditional use permit, which would be presented to the Planning Commission for their review and recommendation. Then the Zoning Commission approved it unanimously and next it went to the City Council where it was also approved.

We located a propane tank, and it was taken to the Fab Shop next door to our office, and they removed all the appurtenances that were on the tank and welded the pipe to it. They then welded the cone to it and a 2-foot by 2-foot by 1/2 inch metal plate to the bottom for mounting. A 4-foot by 4-foot by 3-foot deep hole filled with concrete was prepared for a base for the tower to set on.



When we got the tower back from the Fab Shop, we had to prepare it for painting. This consisted of grinding the preservative off of the pipe using an angle grinder, sandpaper and a lot of elbow grease. Dick Frankforter with Maguire Iron generously donated enough epoxy primer and paint to prime the tower and put two coats of paint on it. After drying, a blue drop of water was painted on two sides of the tower to give it a little variety, and a solar powered LCD clearance light was added to the top.





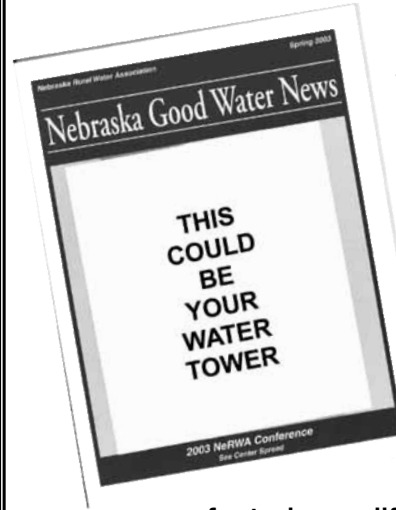
We rented one of the digger trucks and then a bucket truck from the City of Wahoo to struggle to lift it into place. We finally got the nuts secured to the bolts, and the tower was up!

I am only thankful that we were not planning to fill this tower with water and use it, or we would then have had to deal with state regulations as well. I now have a good feeling for what people have to go through when dealing with governing bodies, and I can only say that I am glad this is not something I have to deal with on a regular basis. On the other hand, I feel that the final results are worth the trouble,

even though almost everyone who sees the tower for the first time describes it as “cute”, which is not quite the adjective we were aiming for.



## ATTENTION...



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 our website.

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## Protecting Our Groundwater Is Vital

*By Mike Stanzel, Source Water Protection Specialist*

The main goal of a Source Water Protection Program is to protect the land and groundwater surrounding public drinking water supply wells from contamination. Since approximately 85% of Nebraskans receive their drinking water from groundwater, preventing groundwater contamination is vital.

One of the most important steps in developing a plan is mapping out the contaminant source inventory. What is a possible contaminant source? Well you might be surprised! They can range from fuel storage, chemical storage, grain storage, livestock, gas stations, rail yards, junk yards, auto repair shops, auto body shops, sewage treatment, septic tanks, landfills, cemeteries, manufacturing plants, oil wells, and highway maintenance yards. The list can go on and on. However the one most commonly found could possibly be in your neighbor's backyard: a lawn, irrigation well!

We were astounded in a town we mapped out in western Nebraska. We were able to locate over 30 private irrigation wells. Most of them are not registered; probably none of them are cased; half were not even functional; and most likely, all are illegal. Every single one poses a major threat to the groundwater. We even found a few that were just a 6-8 inch diameter hole straight down into the ground. You might as well have a giant funnel aimed directly into the aquifer! Most of these wells were discovered by the operator's diligence by closely evaluating their cross connection control surveys and documenting all who have a private well.

Now the big challenge is how do we address these problems and how do we pay for them. Each city or village should have an ordinance enforcing the illegal use of these wells.

It will be challenging to get the property owners' cooperation to properly decommission these wells. Decommissioning a well can only be done by a certified well driller. We did check with a local driller and they stated that an approximate cost could easily be a \$1000 dollars per well.

We are also working with the local NRD and have discovered that they do have a cost share program to help offset the cost. Surprisingly, very few people have taken advantage of these funds over the past few years. I am only 4 months into this new position and I feel I am learning more and more every week. I will continue to keep you all updated through these articles, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. If I do not know the answer, I will do my best to find out and get back to you.

The Village of Hemingford is seeking applications for the following positions: Utility Foreman and Utility Worker. Utility Foreman salary based on certifications; must have experience with electric, water and sewer; Utility Worker must have the ability to meet the requirements and obtain required certifications as needed. Please contact the Village of Hemingford at 308-487-3465, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. Applications can be obtained at The Village Office located at 700 Box Butte, Hemingford OR Online at [www.ci.hemingford.ne.us](http://www.ci.hemingford.ne.us).



**Chris Johnson**  
**Jeff Hubby**  
**Greg Wymore**

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**(402) 553-5879 Fax**

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Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

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

**NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2014**

**Personal Data**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligible System Employee Data**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
MEMBER SYSTEM \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**High School Data**

SCHOOL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADUATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
YOUR CLASS RANK \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR GRADE POINT AVERAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Transcript must be submitted with application)**

LIST BELOW ANY ACADEMIC AWARDS, MEMBERSHIPS OR OTHER SPECIAL RECOGNITION YOU HAVE RECEIVED DATING BACK TO YOUR SOPHOMORE YEAR.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**College/University Data**

IS THIS YOUR FIRST YEAR OF HIGHER EDUCATION? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ IF NO, CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE \_\_\_\_\_ COLLEGE GRADE POINT AVERAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE INDICATE: \_\_\_\_\_ 4-YEAR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2-YEAR COMMUNITY/JUNIOR COLLEGE  
\_\_\_\_\_ VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY \_\_\_\_\_

*Priority will be given but not limited to water related studies.*

***(For those already in college, a first semester transcript or grade report and second semester enrollment must accompany application)***

**Essay**

ON A SEPARATE PAGE IN 250 WORDS OR LESS, WRITE A BRIEF MESSAGE ON YOUR GOALS AS THEY RELATE TO YOUR EDUCATION, CAREER AND FUTURE PLANS

**Certification**

IN SUBMITTING THIS APPLICATION, WE CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE. FALSE INFORMATION WILL RESULT IN THE REVOCATION OF ANY SCHOLARSHIP GRANTED.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## NeRWA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Nebraska Rural Water Association is pleased to announce it will be presenting two \$500 scholarships for higher education purposes for the school year 2014-2015 fall and spring semesters. The scholarship is available to children and stepchildren of member public water system employees. Employees of the Nebraska Rural Water Association Board of Directors and staff are not eligible. Interested persons should complete and submit the application in this mailing. Applications are due March 5, 2014. Please type or print – printing must be legible. Winners of the Scholarships will be announced at the Columbus Conference in March. Send all information to the NeRWA address.

### Official Rules

This grant of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) will be made to a student to defray the cost of tuition, books, or room and board at an accredited institution of higher learning approved by the Nebraska Rural Water Association (NeRWA). Disbursement of the money will be made upon presentation of winner's college or university invoice as proof of full-time enrollment. The scholarship money will be paid directly to the student, two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per semester. The scholarship will be awarded to children or stepchildren of member utility system employees. In order to be eligible for scholarship, applicants must complete the application form in its entirety by filling in all blanks. If item is not applicable please place a N/A in the blank. Upon completion return it to the NeRWA Scholarship Committee by the entry deadline, March 5, 2014. All applications will be first screened on the basis of leadership responsibilities in community and school activities as well as grade point average. Applicants will be evaluated on a comparative basis at the sole discretion of the committee. Decisions will be final. Application material and decisions of the committee shall be confidential. Acceptance of scholarship constitutes permission to use r

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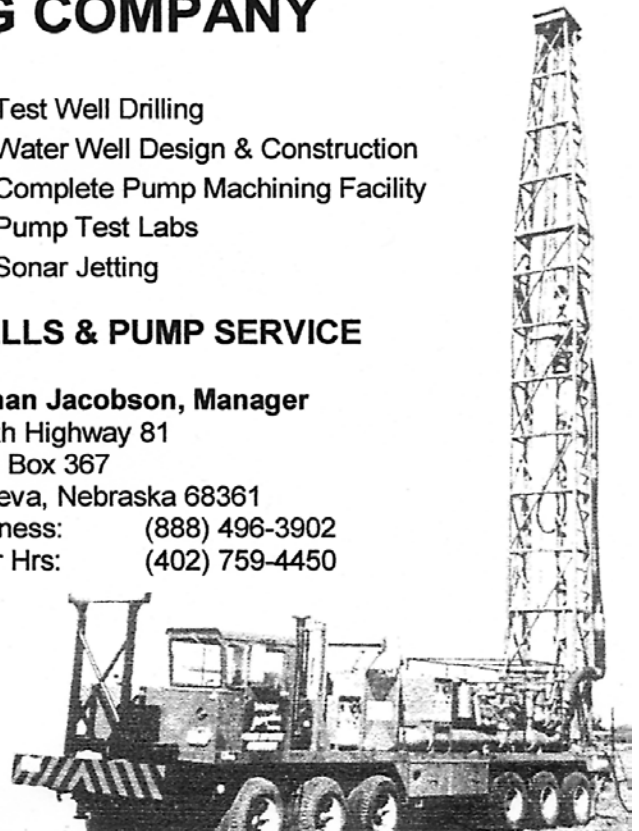
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# Super Bowl for Milligan

Milligan, Nebraska, will never host a Pepsi Super Bowl Halftime Show,

but as the geographic halfway point of America, the small town hosted one of Pepsi's first "Get Hyped for Halftime" surprises to drum-up excitement for this year's Pepsi Super Bowl Halftime Show.



Pepsi rolled into Milligan on Thursday, January 2,

and set up six Pepsi machines on Main Street and two that were run by generators at the Milligan Welcome Sign on the highway. The machines were giving away free cans of Pepsi. Some of them had stickers on them inviting people to attend the live concert by country music star, Lee Brice, at 6:30 pm on Saturday, January 4. An estimated 5000 plus people attended the concert which was followed by fireworks.



Milligan is one of Nebraska Rural Water Association's many utility members. Congratulations to them.

## Announcing the "Best Looking Water Storage Facility Contest"

Here's your chance to showcase your efforts to provide safe, reliable drinking water to your community by entering a picture of your "Community Water Storage Facility" in the "Best Looking Water Storage Facility Contest". The contest will be held at the 2014 NeRWA Annual Conference in Grand Island.

Please send pictures to Sherry Wirth, [sherry.wirth@nebraska.gov](mailto:sherry.wirth@nebraska.gov) and if you have any questions you can call Sherry at 402-471-0932.

Have fun with this contest! It's a chance to show off your community's drinking water system.

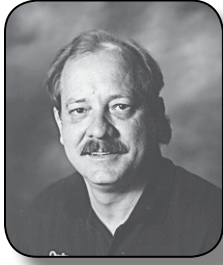
To enter, please submit a sharp, quality, landscape-oriented picture, approximately 1-2 MB in size of your community's water storage facility to the DHHS Drinking Water Program by March 1, 2014. The pictures will be displayed at the NDHHS booth during the NeRWA Conference, March 17-19, 2014. Everyone will have the chance to vote for their favorite water storage facility during the conference, one entry per person please. You will have until 10 am on March 19<sup>th</sup> to vote, after which, the votes will be counted and the results announced at the luncheon that day.

The winner will be the cover photograph for the 2015 Nebraska Coalition Water Training Calendar. The 12 runners up will be selected for each month of the year.

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## Rising Water Rates

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

NeRWA has recently completed the latest rate survey book. It is no surprise that the average water and sewer rates have increased. Everything in our lives keeps getting more expensive.

The major reason for most increases is due to regulations. I can't imagine any other industry that has dealt with the increase in regulations over the past 5 years like the drinking water industry. When you have communities under 1,000 in population spending approximately \$4,000,000.00 to find a new source due to the reduction in arsenic, selenium and/or

uranium limits, it is bound to have a profound impact on the ratepayers. Of course many systems are also continually facing nitrates issues. I am surprised that over the past five years the average overall water rates in the state of Nebraska have only risen by about 20%. Of course this is encompassing all systems. Some population bases are much higher. The following chart shows a breakdown in rates by population and shows the increases from 2008-2013.

If water rates are something your system feels it needs to address, please give us a call.

Chart Continued on page 19

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		2009	2011	2013
0-200	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$17.81	\$19.35	\$20.54
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$1.70	\$1.84	\$2.11
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	2000	1800	1321
200-400	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$16.79	\$18.05	\$19.20
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$1.76	\$1.86	\$1.80
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	1002	930	927
400-600	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$16.60	\$17.29	\$18.19
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$1.65	\$1.70	\$1.89
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	890	890	600
600-800	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$15.01	\$16.54	\$18.18
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$1.70	\$1.71	\$1.82
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	1002	750	978
800-1000	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$14.47	\$14.61	\$19.47
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$1.62	\$1.64	\$1.75
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	1160	1080	465
1000-2000	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$13.94	\$14.96	\$16.47
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$1.42	\$1.54	\$1.64
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	700	460	400
2000-5000	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$10.60	\$11.85	\$19.09
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$1.48	\$1.81	\$1.89
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	980	720	720
5000-10,000	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$9.44	\$10.56	\$11.48
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$1.53	\$1.65	\$1.80
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	620	620	500
10,000+	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$7.58	\$8.80	\$9.06
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$1.27	\$1.39	\$1.54
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	1800	1500	400
RWD's	Average Residential Monthly Fee	\$23.89	\$25.66	\$29.29
	Average Residential Price per 1,000 gals.	\$2.64	\$2.95	\$3.13
	Average Gallons allowed with Monthly fee	500	500	500





## "Old Guy" Needs A Little Help

*By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider*

Remember the "Old Guys" who are always at the spring conference? They are easy to pick out of the crowd because they always show up with neon green t-shirts that say the "Old Guys." Dwight Nickel from Western, Old Guy #1 - aka "Butch," caught Alan Krupicka from Tobias, Old Guy #2 - aka "Pidge," recruiting help to open a curb stop for Margie Durflinger, the Village Chair of Alexandria.

The next time you are by any of these towns please stop in and see if you can lend a helping hand to the "Old Guys." They may need it.



*Photo courtesy of Butch Nickel*

### **Board of Directors**

The following NeRWA board members will be running for re-election to the association Board of Directors at the annual conference in Grand Island held on March 17-19, 2014.

Greg Bouc, Village of Valparaiso  
Dennis Hoback, Cass County RWD 1

One position must be filled by a delegate from a utility system and the other by a rural water system.

Gene Schroeder, Cedar Knox RW, will be resigning from the board of directors on March 19, 2014. His replacement will be voted on at the annual meeting on Wednesday, March 19. This position must be filled by a delegate from a rural water system.

Requirements for the above position:

- Must be the voting delegate or alternate delegate from system
- Must attend monthly board meetings
- Attendance at the spring conference is required
- Attendance at the fall conference is encouraged
- Occasional out-of-state travel is possible

If you are interested in running for any of the above positions, please submit a letter and a resume so indicating. The deadline is March 7, 2014. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Email to: [salli@nerwa.org](mailto:salli@nerwa.org)

Fax: 402-443-5274

Mail: 3390 Ponderosa St, Wahoo NE 68066

# 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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Water Circuit Rider I
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Water Circuit Rider III
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## News & Downloads Page NEW

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Nebraska DEQ
League of Municipalities
Nebraska Section, AWWA
AWWA Library Reference Listings
NeRWA Associate Members
Archived "Good Water News" Articles

## NeRWA Contact Information:

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 3390 Ponderosa Street  
 Wahoo, NE 68066

Office phone numbers:

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



### Cell #

### Email

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Mike Lucas	402-443-6157
Pat Petersen	402-277-6699
Mike Stanzel	402-672-9084
Russ Topp	402-480-4196
Barney Whatley	402-480-4297
Salli Kemerling	402-277-0839
Carol Jasa	

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Star Pipe Products  
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PVC Round Meter Boxes  
Hymax Couplings & EZ-Max Repair Clamps  
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