

Issue 1/2015

Nebraska Rural Water Association



NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS

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You guys are great. Every time I call, everybody helps me out. There was one time I needed a relief valve, and I needed it to be no-lead compliant. **Your reps were really helpful in getting me from what I thought I wanted, to what I actually needed.**

Jonnie Allison—Operations Manager at Frazier Park Public Utility • Frazier Park, CA

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Emma Kohl—Lake Supervisor at Crystal Lake WWTP • Crystal Lake, IL

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Carl Naumann—W & WW Superintendent at City of Justin WWTP • Justin, TX



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Nebraska Good Water News

Issue 1/2015

“Keeping Our Water Safe”

Board of Directors

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(402) 784-2313

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Bennet, Nebraska 68317
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(402) 693-2239

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Carol Jasa, Secretary
Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider
Russell Topp, Circuit Rider
Mike Stanzel, Source Water Specialist
Barney Whatley, GPS Specialist
Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician
Pat Petersen, Training Specialist

Website: www.nerwa.org

On the cover:

City of Wausa water tower. It was built in 2012, holds 100,000 gallons and stands 210 feet tall.

"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...

Village of Denton
P.O. Box 132
Denton, NE 68339

Phone 797-2020

December 12, 2014

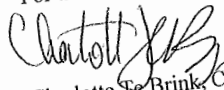
Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA:

We would like to thank whole NRWA crew for all that they do for our village. We sincerely appreciate the friendliness of your staff when offering your aid. Also special thanks to Russ Topp for the help overseeing the construction of our new water treatment facility and Mike Lucas for his yearly help with the collection of our 24-hr sewer composite sample.

Please accept the enclosed donation on behalf of the Village of Denton.

For the Board,


Charlotte Te Brink, CMC
Village Clerk/Treasurer

Enclosure

VILLAGE OF GUIDE ROCK
120 W. DOUGLAS
P.O. BOX 41
GUIDE ROCK, NE 68942
PHONE AND FAX NO.
(402) 257-3945

DECEMBER 10, 2014

NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
3390 PONDEROSA
WAHOO, NE 68066

DEAR NRWA,

THE VILLAGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE CREW FOR THEIR HELP LOCATING AND FREEZING LINES, EXERCISING VALVES, REPAIRING OUR CHLORINATOR, DMR FORMS AND WASTEWATER DISCHARGING. YOU HAVE THE GREATEST GUYS IN THE WORLD AND WE APPRECIATE THEM SO MUCH.

PLEASE ACCEPT THIS DONATION FOR THE EQUIPMENT FUND.

SINCERELY,


CYNTHIA G. SANDERS
MUNICIPAL CLERK TREASURER

City of Sargent



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

November 13, 2014

Nebraska Rural Water Association
390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE 68066

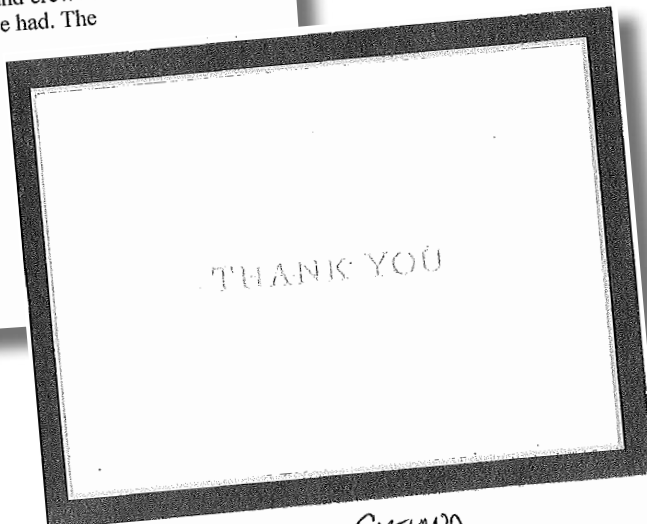
The City of Sargent would like to say a Big Thank You for all that you do. We appreciate Rural Water helping us when we have problems with sewer and water lines.

Thank you so much for helping us camera sewer lines. Mike Lucas and crew has been a great help and resource in solving the many problems we have had. The materials, resources, and support that you provide us are wonderful.

Please accept the enclosed donation.

Sincerely

Reece Jensen
Utility Superintendent



Village of Wolbach

PO Box 97

Wolbach NE 68882

Phone 308-246-5278

wolvillage@gpcom.net

"This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider"

November 10, 2014

NE Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa DR
Wahoo NE 68066

RE: Donation

Please accept the enclosed as a Thank You for helping the Village of Wolbach find the water leak.

All help has been very much appreciated.

THE VILLAGE OF CORLAND
WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE
NERWA FOR ALL OF THE PROFESSIONAL
HELP WE HAVE RECEIVED THIS PAST YEAR.
PAT PETERSON, RANDY H., RUSS TOPP,
BARNEY W. + MIKE LUCAS HAVE ALL
BEEN EXTREMELY HELPFUL THIS YEAR AND
WE CANNOT THANK THEM ENOUGH!
- VILLAGE OF CORLAND

From: Dennis SaBell [mailto:wwtp@hamilton.net]
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2014 3:53 PM
To: lucas@nerwa.org
Subject: Wastewater Training

Mike,

Hello Mike this is Dennis SaBell at the City of Aurora Wastewater Treatment Plant. I wanted to thank you for the great job you and Barney did at the October wastewater certification training. I passed the Class II exam the first time with an 84%. Attending your class enabled me to study for the right things and help me prepare for the test. I was wondering if you have a course designed for someone taking the class III or class IV exam? I am going to hopefully try for my class III next year.

Have a good day,

Dennis SaBell
City of Aurora
Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor
402.694.6500
wwtp@hamilton.net



December 8, 2014

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Re: Donation

Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association:

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

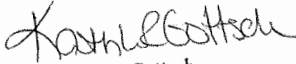
A special note of thanks to Randy Hellbusch and Mike Stanzel for all of the advice and assistance they have provided to our city employees.

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

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

Thank you!

Sincerely,


Kathleen R. Gottsch
City Clerk/Treasurer

Enclosure

P.O. Box 189 ~ 170 North 3rd Street ~ Springfield, NE 68059
Phone (402) 253-2204 ~ Fax (402) 253-2204
springfieldne.org

2015 TRAINING

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

January 12-16	Wahoo
April 13-17	Wahoo
October 12-16	Wahoo

Wastewater Certification Course

January 27-30	Wahoo
April 7-10	Wahoo
June 2-5	Wahoo
August 25-28	Wahoo
October 27-30	Wahoo

Water Operator Training

January 8	Wakefield
January 13	Wymore
February 11	Wahoo
April 14	Bridgeport
April 15	Gordon
May 20	Cairo
May 21	Geneva
June 24	Sutton
July 14	Chadron
July 15	Valentine
August 18	Atkinson
August 19	Emerson
October 20	McCook
October 21	Franklin
November 18	Mullen
December 15	Loup City
December 16	Utica

Wastewater Training

February 19	Bridgeport
March 5	Crete
April 23	Hebron
May 5	Omaha
May 14	Holdrege
June 25	Chadron
July 9	Burwell
August 6	Wahoo
September 3	Wayne
October 15	Imperial
November 10	Neligh
December 10	Ainsworth

Backflow Continuing Education Training

January 6	Gordon
January 8	Bridgeport
February 10	Nebraska City
February 12	Stanton
April 21	Hastings
April 22	Falls City
April 28	Wahoo
May 12	Ogallala
May 13	Curtis
September 23	McCool Junction
September 24	Ord
October 21	South Sioux City
October 22	O'Neill
November 19	Wahoo
December 8	Mitchell
December 9	Imperial
December 10	Cambridge
December 16	Wahoo

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066
www.nerwa.org

Annual Conference

March 16-18
Younes Conference Center
Kearney, Nebraska

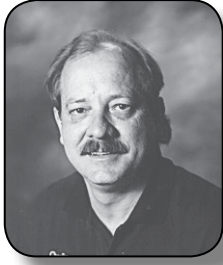


Fall Western Conference

Sept. 15-17
Gering Civic Center
Gering, Nebraska

August 12 Trenching & Shoring Wahoo

August 13 Confined Space Entry Wahoo



NeWARN; Nebraska Water & Wastewater Agency Response Network

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

The Nebraska Rural Water Association is committed to helping all water and wastewater systems in any way we are able. There are, however, steps systems can take to help themselves. One of the best ways a system can help itself is to join NeWARN. NeWARN, for any of you who may have not yet heard, is a statewide network of utilities committed to assisting each other in times of need. It is a great tool to provide a method whereby water/wastewater utilities that have sustained damages from natural or manmade events could obtain emergency assistance in the form of personnel, equipment, materials and other associated services, as

necessary, from other water/wastewater utilities. The objective is to provide rapid, short-term deployment of emergency services to restore the critical operations of the effected utility.

A pre-established agreement among a network of utilities can complement and enhance local capabilities to prepare for and respond to a broad range of threats, both natural and man-made. The establishment of an intrastate mutual aid and assistance network is a core principle of the National Preparedness Goal developed by the Department of Homeland Security.

Formalizing the existing capability to provide mutual aid and assistance provides the water/wastewater sector with a degree of resiliency against natural or manmade disasters to ensure continuity of services to our customers.

To date, approximately 200 systems have signed the formal agreement to join NeWARN. Is your system one of them? If not, I encourage you to get your board or council to approve and sign the agreement as soon as possible and get on board. The agreement can be found by clicking on the NeWARN logo at nerwa.org or give us a call at 1-800-842-8039 and we will send you one. **THERE IS NO COST OR OBLIGATION!** You can also log on to newarn.org or contact one of the following representatives:


Eric Melcher
NEWARN Contact
emelcher@cityofaurora.org
 P: 402-631-9607
 F: 402-694-4043

Dennis Watts
NEWARN Alternate Contact
dwatts@ci.norfolk.ne.us
 P: 402-844-2210
 F: 402-644-2588

Sooner or later, we all need a little extra help from our neighbors. If you would like to have someone address your board or council about the benefits and merits of NeWARN, let us know.


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Be Aware!

By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician

This time of year we are all especially energy cost conscious when it comes to sealing up our homes and buildings airtight to reduce the loss of heating \$'s. It's at this time with little air exchange when ambient air quality can significantly deteriorate.

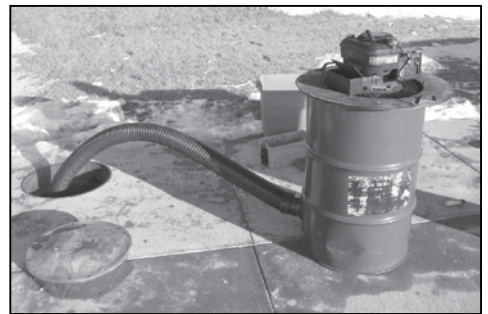
Please reevaluate whether you have the proper number of air quality warning detectors in your homes and public buildings and that the batteries have been changed.

In the last few months I have received several calls regarding apparent sewer gas problems in public buildings. You always go through the checklist of suggestions, such as, dry floor drains and plugged vent pipes. In one instance it was determined that a natural gas leak in the alley had followed the path of least resistance along a recent horizontal bore line into an interior electric panel in a business. In another location it was determined that sewer gas was entering a school building through a dry floor drain and a faulty wax

ring. In yet another location, access to a community building had been restricted because the air quality was so bad. I can personally verify that after exposure of an hour or less your throat was sore and you had a headache that persisted for a few hours. In this case the source was a leaking PVC pipe joint behind the wall of a restroom. Thankfully no one lost their lives or had permanent health damage.

If the sewer line entering a building has an interior leak it is a perfect conduit for any volatile poisonous gases that exist in that sewer collection system to enter your building. That includes those contaminants in the soil adjacent to that collection system. They can enter through faulty joints in clay tile lines. Also remember that PVC lines are not a barrier to petroleum such as underground fuel leaks. This is why many times those searching for the extent of underground contaminations (plumes) want to know the location of adjacent sewer lines. I personally know of several explosions resulting from underground propane leaks.

Thanks to the generosity of the Village of Platte Center and the efforts of the operator/design engineer, Kevin Jarecki, the NeRWA sewer smoker has an attachment that facilitates smoking sewer service lines into buildings through the outside cleanout. It has been tried and successfully tested. It is pictured here.



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www.ameristruc.com



These guys attended one of our training classes. Can anyone identify them?

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 Kearney held on March 16-18, 2015.

Larry Wennekamp, City of Schuyler
Tom Grovijohn, Village of Dodge

Larry's position may be filled by a delegate from a utility system or a rural water system. Tom's position must be filled by a delegate from a utility system.

Dale Miller, Cass County RWD2, will be resigning from the board of directors. His replacement will be voted on at the annual meeting on Wednesday, March 18. This position must be filled by a delegate from a rural water system.

Requirements for the above positions:

- Must be the voting delegate or alternate delegate from system.
- Must attend monthly board meetings (held at NeRWA office).
- Cannot miss more than 3 meetings in a row.
- Attendance at the annual spring conference is required.
- Attendance at the fall conference is encouraged.
- Occasional out-of-state travel is possible.

Duties for the positions are:


- Attend meetings and show commitment to board activities.
- Be well-informed on issues and agenda items in advance of meetings.
- Contribute skills, knowledge and experience when appropriate.

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 6, 2015. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Email to: salli@nerwa.org

Fax: 402-443-5274

Mail: 3390 Ponderosa St, Wahoo NE 68066

 Gurney Bert Gurney & Associates Inc.	Chris Johnson Matt Moul
	Location: 4428 South 108th Street Omaha, NE 68137

Municipal Automation & Control <i>municipalautomation.com</i>	
Design, Build, Service	WATER / WASTEWATER CONTROL SYSTEMS
211 N. Tyler PO Box 393 Elm Creek, NE 68836 Office/Fax: (308) 856-4730	Bill Simmerman - Owner Cell: (308) 233-4729 <i>bill.s@municipalautomation.com</i>

**Nebraska Rural Water Association
Board Member Application Form**

Name _____

Office Address _____

City _____ NE Zip _____

Work phone _____ Cell phone _____ Home phone _____

Email _____

Home Address _____

City _____ NE Zip _____

Current position/employer _____

Experience and/or employment—please attach resume.

List any experience serving as a Board member for other organizations:

Why are you interested in serving as a Board member for NeRWA?

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Monday 16		Younes Conference Center Diamond Ballrooms 4, 5, 9, 10			
1:00 pm	2:30 pm	Nebraska Water System Regulatory Update Howard Isaacs, DHHS 1.5W 1.5WD			
2:30 pm	3:00 pm	BREAK			
3:00 pm	4:30 pm	EMERGENCY RESPONSE! The Aftermath of the Pilger Tornado: What it Really Takes! Panel Discussion and Photos. Rich Koenig, NDHHS 1.5W 1.5WW 1.5WD			
4:30 pm	5:00 pm	Break			
5:00 pm	6:00 pm	Tips to Help Operators Present Information to Boards and Councils Bill Podraza, Miller and Associates 1W 1WW 1WD			
Tuesday 17		Diamond Ballroom 4	Diamond Ballroom 5	Diamond Ballroom 9	Diamond Ballroom 10
9:00 pm	10:00 pm	Trench and Excavation Safety Jon Schnepel/Stuart McMillan, United Rentals 1W 1WW 1WD	Small Systems Round Table NeRWA Board and Staff 1W 1WW 1WD	Rural Water Systems Round Table NeRWA Board and Staff 1W 1WD	Backflow Round Table Rich Koenig, NDHHS 1W 1WW 1BF 1WD
.50 break					
10:30 pm	11:30 pm	Confined Space Entry Jon Schnepel/Stuart McMillan United Rentals 1W 1WW 1WD 1BF	Well Decommissioning and Case Study Results Tom Christopherson, NDHHS 1W, 1WD	Tank Mixing Systems Jake Dugger, Utility Service Co 1W	Applications/Hazard Levels Brett Petersen, Mack McClain and Assoc 1W 1WW 1BF
1 hour lunch					
12:30 pm	1:30 pm	Team Valves/Insertion Valve Technology Bob Hennig Municipal Pipe Services 1W 1WD	What's New at 811/Digger's Hotline of Nebraska Jill Geyer, Nebraska 811 1W 1WW 1WD	Lagoon Basics Jim Condon Olsson and Assoc 1 WW	Backflow Incident and Emergency Planning Rich Koenig, NDHHS 1W 1WW 1BF
.50 Break					
2:00 pm	3:00 pm	Modern Materials for System Maintenance Bob Hennig, Municipal Pipe Services 1W 1WW 1WD	Source Water/Wellhead Protection Plans Samantha Capps NDEQ 1W 1WD 1WW	Dealing with Mother Nature Brian Gongol, Gongol and Assoc 1WW 1WD	The Cost of Not Having a Cross-Connection Control Program Rich Koenig, NDHHS 1W 1WW 1BF
.50 break					
3:30 pm	4:30 pm	Dealing with Arsenic/ Bellwood Treatment Blake Birkel, JEO 1W 1WD	CIPP 101, Pressure and Gravity Pipe Applications Brian McCrary, Insituform 1W 1WW 1WD	Utility Technology Charles Bausch, HD Supply Waterworks 1W 1WW 1WD	Backflow Challenge Rich Koenig, NDHHS 1W 1WW 1BF
.25 break					
4:45 pm	5:45 pm	USDA/RD Update Denise Meeks, USDA NeWARN Update Eric Melcher, City of Aurora 1W 1WW 1WD	GPS Utility Mapping Barney Whatley, NeRWA 1W 1WW	Wastewater Operator Requirements and Certification Mike McBride, NDEQ 1WW	Sample Sites and Assessments Andy Kahle, NDHHS Field Services Supervisor 1W

March 16-18, 2015

All classes are subject to change.
Hours have been applied for.

**Total Hours: 14 water (W)
5 backflow (BF)
12.5 wastewater (WW)
13 well driller (WD)**

**Monday hours: 4W, 2.5 WW, 4 WD
Tuesday hours: 6W, 5BF, 6WW, 6WD
Wednesday: 4W, 4WW, 4WD**

Wednesday 18				
7:30	8:30	NeRWA Board Meeting and Operator Breakfast		
		Diamond Ballroom 4	Diamond Ballroom 5	Diamond Ballroom 9
8:30	9:30	RTCR, Assessments, Sample Sites Howard Isaacs, NDHHS 1W	Meters Ian Coburn, Neptune Meters 1W 1WD	Sanitary Sewer Maintenance and Rehabilitation Practices Lewis Hyatt, Johnson Service 1WW
.25 break				
9:45	10:45	Field Rep/Lab Q & A NDHHS Field Reps Andy Kahle, NDHHS 1W 1WD	USEPA: Free Preparedness Tools for Water and Wastewater Utilities Karen Edwards, EPA 1W 1WW	Well Siting and Planning Brad Harris, Layne Western 1W 1WD
.25 break				
11:00	12:00	The Well Went Dry!! What Should We do Now? Lash Chaffin, LONM 1W 1WD	What Operators Need to Know Scott Sprague, NDHHS 1W 1WW	NIMS Review Kris Luebbe, NDHHS 1W 1WW 1WD
1 hour lunch				
1:00	2:00	To Be Announced Mark Saylor Hydro Seal	NDEQ Wastewater CWSRF Update Kevin Stoner, NDEQ 1WW	How to Figure the Proper Rates Randy Hellbusch, NeRWA 1W 1WW

Kearney Hotels:
Ask for NeRWA room block

Fairfield Inn & Suites (connected to center)
308-236-4200

Comfort Inn (connected to center)
308-236-3400

Hampton Inn (next door)
308-234-3400

Wingate (next door)
308-237-4400

Holiday Inn Express (across the highway)
308-234-8100

Nebraska Rural Water Association

Annual Conference Pre-Registration

March 16-18, 2015
Younes Conference Center
Kearney, Nebraska

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

Pre-Registration
 Deadline is
 March 11, 2015

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 11. 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 11,
 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 11 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 _____



Preparing For Disinfection

By Mike Stanzel, Source Water Specialist

This past fall and early winter there seems to have been an unusual amount of coliform bacteria violations compared to past seasons. Which brings up the questions: how do we prevent this from happening in the future and are we prepared to disinfect?

A lot of operators have some good prevention techniques that range from directional flushing, overflowing the tower on a monthly basis, installing sampling stations or finding better sample sites. However, when it comes down to the need for disinfection are you prepared?

Being prepared might mean, do you have the proper equipment to chlorinate and do you know how to use it? For example, do you have a chlorine pump? Does it work? Is it the proper size? Do you know how to figure your dosage? Does it have good tubing? Does it have a suction screen? Does it have a functioning check valve injector? Do you have a place to inject chlorine? Do you have a dedicated power outlet that only comes on with the well? Do you have a good clean bucket for chlorine? Do you have fresh chlorine? Do you have a chlorine residual tester? Is it calibrated? Does it work? Are the reagents expired? Do you know how to take a residual and where? Do you have extra sample bottles?

Does this seem like a lot of questions? I hope so, because how many of you can answer yes to all of them and be ready to start disinfecting? Realistically you might have to start disinfecting today or tomorrow and might not be prepared.

For example, I recently assisted a system that had to start immediate disinfection due to a water main break and having to shut down more than 10% of their system. The operator had quite a few years of experience, however, he has not had to chlorinate in the past 8 years so he called for assistance from Nebraska Rural Water.

Upon our arrival we discovered that this particular system was not prepared to chlorinate. First off they had to send an employee on a 2 hour road trip to go buy chlorine, a new clean bucket, tubing and fittings which turned out to be the wrong ones. We then proceeded to the well house only to find their chlorine pump was way oversized and pieces were missing from it. Fortunately I brought my pump that was all set up and ready to go. We installed it and figured the


correct dosage and began disinfecting.

By no means am I scolding this system for not being prepared. Nebraska Rural Water was more than happy to help show them the steps in setting up a chlorinator because this is something that a system, hopefully, rarely ever has to do.

Since this is the time of year when things are not so hectic, you may want to take a little time to make sure you are prepared in case you need to disinfect. Please call Nebraska Rural Water if you would like assistance with this process.

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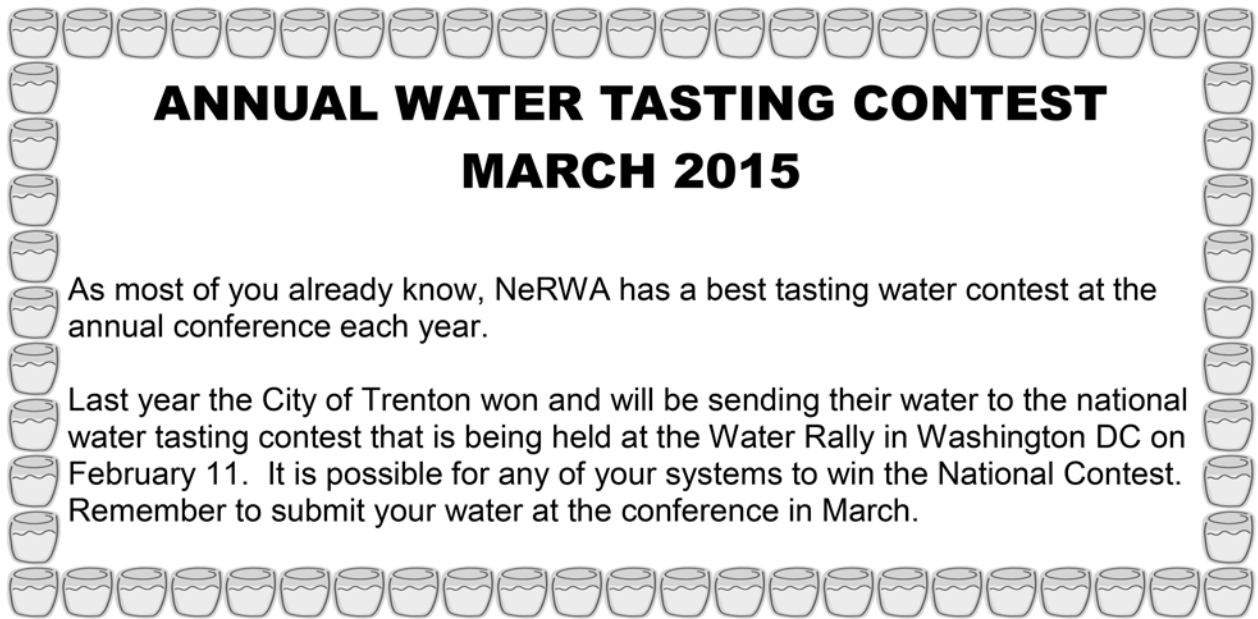


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ANNUAL WATER TASTING CONTEST MARCH 2015

As most of you already know, NeRWA has a best tasting water contest at the annual conference each year.

Last year the City of Trenton won and will be sending their water to the national water tasting contest that is being held at the Water Rally in Washington DC on February 11. It is possible for any of your systems to win the National Contest. Remember to submit your water at the conference in March.

The water contest is to be held at the Conference in Kearney. A panel of distinguished taste testers will judge all samples. The winner will be announced at the banquet on Tuesday, March 17. The winning system will compete against finalists from the other 49 states in the National Contest at the National Rural Water Association Water Rally in Washington DC.

Contest Rules:

1. Sample must be from a Nebraska public water supply system
2. One entry per water system
3. Water must come before any point-of-use treatment
4. Water must come from the distribution system
5. Water should be in clean, unmarked gallon container
6. **Entry form must accompany sample**

Water must be received by 3:00 pm on Monday, March 16, at the conference registration table.

Water System: _____


Submitted by: _____

If at all possible, please call our office in advance at 800-842-8039 or 402-443-5216 or email to salli@nerwa.org to let us know you are entering. Thank you.

CONTINUING EDUCATION HOURS

The Department of Health Licensing is no longer entering continuing ed credit hours on their website. However, they will continue to keep them on file. If you want to find out your total hours during the current renewal period, you can call Mike Wentink at 308-535-8135.

NeRWA issues certificates to every person attending our 1-day classes and conferences. It is your responsibility as an operator to keep track of your certificates and continuing ed hours until you renew your licenses. You possibly might need your certificates to prove you attended a class or session. NeRWA will issue one replacement certificate if the first one gets misplaced. After that there will be a \$25 charge.



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ENGINEERING ARCHITECTURE SURVEYING PLANNING

Utilities Superintendent: The City of Minden is accepting applications for a full-time Utilities Superintendent position to oversee the water and wastewater treatment plants. Successful applicants must possess or have ability to obtain a grade 2 water operator license from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and a grade 3 wastewater operator license from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality within six months of hire, and a class B CDL from the State of Nebraska within 60 days of hire.

Primary duties include operating, maintaining and repairing of the City's water treatment plant, storage reservoirs and distribution system and operating, maintaining and repairing of the City's wastewater treatment plant, lift stations and collection system. Additional duties include but are not limited to sampling, testing and reporting as required by law, and supervision of all employees within the utilities department.

Additional requirements necessary for the position are strong mathematics and biology skills, the ability to lift 100 pounds from ground to waist on occasion, and experience working on aerial lift equipment to heights of 60 feet. Experience with equipment such as front end loaders, backhoes, skid steer loaders, and dump trucks are all preferred. Position also includes on-call responsibilities.

Salary is commensurate with experience and is subject to a specific probationary period. The successful applicant will receive a benefits package to include employee and family health insurance, retirement plan, sick, vacation and holiday pay. Requirements include graduation from high school or equivalent and a valid Nebraska driver's license. Applicant must be 18 years of age or older and must pass a drug test.

Please submit a resume and application to the City of Minden, 325 N. Colorado Ave., Minden, NE 68959. Applications can be obtained by contacting the City of Minden at (308) 832-1820 or visit the City of Minden website at <http://www.mindennebraska.org/support/application.pdf>. Resumes and applications will be accepted by the City Administrator until the position is filled. For further information contact Matthew Cederburg, City Administrator, at (308) 832-1820, or e-mail mcederburg@mindennebraska.org.

The City of Minden is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or disability and the position is subject to a veterans preference.

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WATER TOWER SPECIALISTS





Same Time, NEW PLACE!

By Pat Petersen, Training Specialist

The Nebraska Rural Water Association will host its Annual Conference March 16, 17 and 18, 2015. The conference will have a new look this year. The Younes Conference Center in Kearney, Nebraska will be the home of the conference for the next five years. The Heartland Events Center in Grand Island, Nebraska was home to the past three conferences and was a fantastic venue with a great support crew when it came to planning a conference. I must say, I learned an awful lot from their staff, especially Dianne Willey, on what it really takes to plan a conference of this size. With that, I say, "Thank You."

Many of the water operators throughout the state attend the NeRWA one day training sessions that we provide throughout the state. You all are asked to complete an evaluation at the end of the course so we can see what we need to improve on when holding these sessions. We also ask that operators complete an evaluation at the end of the annual conference. One observation by the operators that seemed to repeat itself on the evaluation form was the fact that there was no lodging real close to the events center. This observation made a big impact on where the conference would be held. The Younes Conference Center is directly connected to two motels, the Fairfield Inn and Suites and the Comfort Inn. Three other motels, The Wingate Inn, The Hampton Inn and the Holiday Inn, are located within walking distance and complete the campus. Upon arrival, operators, board members and anyone else who attends the conference may not have to move their vehicle until it is time to go home!


Traditions are traditions, so the Regulatory Update will once again kick off the conference on Monday afternoon. For the first time in many years, Jack Daniel will not give the update. Jack is enjoying retirement after 46 ½ years of service. Following the regulatory update will be an exclusive look at the Pilger, Nebraska tornado. This session will include a panel discussion with first responders and others who assisted with this emergency. At our final session on Monday, Bill Podraza will provide water operators with some tips on how to address your board or council in a professional way. Supper and possibly a "Vegas Night" will close out Monday evening's festivities.

Tuesday, March 17, will be a day filled with learning for water operators, wastewater operators, and well-drillers. Classes will begin at 9AM and conclude at 5:45PM. HD Supply Waterworks will sponsor a Social Hour for all of those in attendance. The annual banquet with awards will begin at 6:45PM and be followed by 2 hours of entertainment and fun. This year's entertainment will be provided by

"176 Keys Fun Pianos". This should be an evening of food and fun, so please plan on attending. Remember, this entertainment will be provided within walking distance of the five motels that surround the conference center so come on over!

The Nebraska Rural Water Association will hold its annual board meeting during the operator breakfast on Wednesday morning from 7:30AM-8:30AM. Wednesday's training sessions will begin at 8:30AM and conclude at 2PM.

A total of 14 water operator CEU's have been applied for, along with 14 well-drillers' hours, 12.5 wastewater hours and 5 backflow hours. The Nebraska Rural Water Association looks forward to seeing all of you at our annual conference. We hope that you have the chance to learn and share with other operators at our 37th Annual Conference; "LEARNING AND SHARING: The Water Experience."



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NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2015

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 2015-2016 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, 2015. Please type or print – printing must be legible. Winners of the Scholarships will be announced at the conference in Kearney 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, 2015. 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 recipient's name and/or likeness for purpose of promotion.

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All Leaks Surface, Don't They?

By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider

As most of you know by now Nebraska Rural Water Association and the Nebraska Health and Human Services has joined forces to help water systems in Nebraska operate more efficiently and conserve water. The Nebraska Health and Human Services purchased a Leak Correlation system and Nebraska Rural Water Association trained its staff in its proper use. We have been busy using the new equipment around the state, which has led to some interesting discoveries. Not all leaks surface!

A York County community contacted Nebraska Rural Water to assist them with a possible leak. A resident on the south side of the street had complained that his yard felt spongy. The complaint was checked out and it was discovered that there was water pouring into a sanitary sewer manhole. The systems operator said the only water main was in the yard on the north side of the street. It was determined with the leak detection equipment that there was a leak on this water main. The correlation equipment was used to pinpoint the leak and it was excavated. As it turned out an 8" water main was trenched though an old storm sewer. The storm sewer was associated with an old railroad that had been abandoned years earlier. The storm sewer was connected to the sanitary sewer manhole with a 4" pipe. The 8" water main broke (you guessed it) right on top of the storm drain. The system was losing approximately 500,000 gallons of water per day. The water was going to the wastewater treatment plant.

A small water system in Sherman County was losing approximately 1,500,000 gallons of water per month. This leak had been leaking for 2 months and the operator was unable to find the leak because it was not surfacing. The operator contacted Nebraska Rural Water Association for assistance. It was discovered that a water pipe froze and then thawed in a house that was under renovation. This water service was not checked because the service was supposed to be off. This house had an old cistern just behind it. The basement and the cistern were completely full of water.

A leak was located in a small town in Polk County. The operator contacted Nebraska Rural Water Association for assistance because the leak was not surfacing. It was found to be a broken line under an old lumberyard office. The system was losing about 22,000 gallons per day.

Nebraska Rural Water Association assisted a city in Gage County to locate a water main break. It was discovered that the water had found its way into the sanitary sewer system. By using the correlation equipment the leak was dis-

covered over a block away from where the city crew was going to begin excavating. The leak was estimated at 216,000 gallons per day.

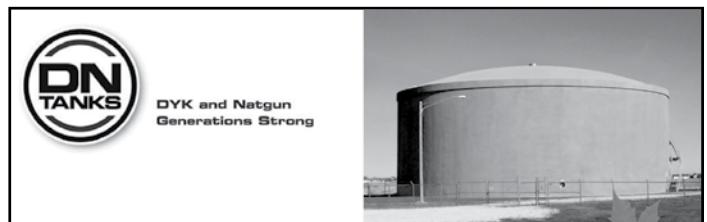
An operator from a small town in Fillmore County requested assistance to find a suspected leak that was coming into a resident's basement. No leak was found at the home. During the investigation a different leak was found down the street. This leak had found its way into a storm drain and was not surfacing. The operator requested that the entire town be surveyed for leaks to see if there were any other leaks that were not surfacing. During the survey another leak was found. A quick check in a nearby manhole indicated this leak had found its way to the sanitary sewer system.

An operator in Dixon County conducted a water audit of his system and determined that the system was losing around 50 percent of their water. Leak detection was performed and a 2" water main stub was found to be broke. This particular break had found its way into the basement of a home that was a block away. The homeowner assumed their problem was ground water infiltration and had tiled around the basement and ran sump pumps to keep the water out. After the break was repaired their basement dried up.

This is just a sampling of the water leaks that didn't surface.

Since February of 2003 Nebraska Rural Water has logged over 211 hours traveling to assist water systems with leaks and 377 hours onsite finding leaks. So far 109 leaks have been found and the equipment has been used 184 times.

If your water system is experiencing unusual water loss please give us a call here at Nebraska Rural Water Association. We will be glad to help you find those leaks that may never surface.



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Welcome to the 21st Century

By Barney Whatley, Backflow Trainer

The Nebraska Rural Water Association has a Web Page! I know that this is not news to a lot of water operators, but the web site is not used as much as it could or should be. Training schedules can be checked, and the agendas for classes can be viewed when they have been adopted. Along with the agenda is a registration form that can be printed and filled out to bring to the class. You can also register online for classes coming to your area. When we have water and backflow training sessions, the person from NeRWA who is in charge of the session will set up a registration table where attendees fill out the attendance form and pick up the class folder. We often hear people say they called in and registered, and this helps to insure that we have enough hand-out material for everyone who attends. Unfortunately, calling in does not give us an address, license numbers and some other information we need for our records.

Operators who register for a class on our web page will arrive at class to discover that the required paperwork has already been completed, and usually all they need to do is pick up the class folder and find a seat. This allows us to be better prepared to start class on time instead of rushing around to get the paperwork completed. In the case of Backflow classes, this can save a lot of time as often times receipts must be filled out for those who are paying for the class when they get there. If someone registers online and does not show up for the class, all we have to do is throw away the registration form we filled out and delete the name from the attendance sheet.

There are also a number of useful links on our web page. The Associate Members' page gives a list of all of our associate members with links to their web pages. This can be a useful resource for finding vendors of materials and services used in the water and wastewater industries. There are links to USDA, NDEQ, EPA and other organizations who provide assistance and guidance to systems. The Licensure link will allow operators to view their license information and generate a verification letter advising of the status of the license, although continuing education hours are no longer being tracked by credentialing on their web page. It is therefore important that operators keep the certificates they receive at continuing education classes so they can be provided to prove attendance at these classes, if necessary.

The link to the NE Public Water Supply page allows operators to download or view Title 179, the regulations that govern the operation and maintenance of public water supply systems. The regulations on this page are kept current, so it is a good place to go to determine if the regulations the

system has on file are up to date. The most recent copy of the Water Spout, the Department of Health's newsletter, is also available. The center portion of the Training Coalition calendar listing all scheduled training for the year is also reproduced on this web page.

Past articles from the NeRWA "Good Water News" are archived on our web page as well. These can be listed by author, position or date, which lets operators find past articles they found helpful. NeRWA's office also acts as the location where the AWWA library is housed. A list of all the manuals, DVDs, Tapes and other items in the library is available on our web page. If an operator or system would like to check something out of the library, they just need to call the office and the item in question will be sent to them.

There is a lot of useful information available on our web page, and I hope operators will take advantage of it and browse around. If you want to see other information or links on the web site, let me know and I will try to accommodate you. The address for the web page is <http://www.nerwa.org>.

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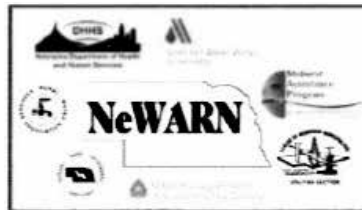


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