

Issue 1/2018

Nebraska Rural Water Association



NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS

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Nebraska Good Water News

Issue 1/2018

“Keeping Our Water Safe”

Board of Directors

Table of Contents

Thank You Letters.....	2-5
Training for 2018.....	6
Power of the Written Word.....	7
Conference Pre-Registration.....	8
Chlorinator Maintenance.....	9
Conference Agenda.....	10-11
Exhibitor Registration.....	12
Brutal Cold Snap Wreaks Havoc.....	13
Fun Night.....	14
Shared/Contract Operators.....	15
Source Water Protection Grants Program.....	16
Water Tasting Contest.....	17
A Big Milestone.....	18
Conference Vendor Registration Information.....	19
Scholarship Forms.....	20-21
Re-Election of Board Members.....	22
NeRWA Contact Information.....	25

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Website: www.nerwa.org

On the cover:

The Springfield Water Tower.

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

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

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

How'd We Do and Letters From...

thank you

NRWA,

Thank you for selecting me to receive your scholarship. I am planning on attending Chadron State. I will be majoring in Physical Education while playing football. My mom has enjoyed working with you over the years at Ainsworth and Bassett.

Thank you
Trey Thornburg

Thank you

The Village of Teumbull would like to say "Thank you" for all your help this past year!

Honored to be part of this "Great" organization!

We appreciate you!!
The Village of Teumbull

Village of Oxford

P.O. Box 385 326 Ogden Avenue Oxford, Ne 68967 Phone 308.824.3511 Fax 308.824.3388

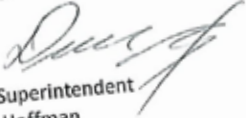
Date: 11/10/2017

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Dr.
Wahoo, Ne, 68066

Dear NRWA

The Village of Oxford Board, its employees and all of its 779 residents would like to take this opportunity to sincerely say "Thank You" to Mike Stanzel and Randy Hellbush for coming to Oxford to freeze a water line so we could change a leaking valve in a part of town that we cannot get isolated without shutting most of the town off. It saved the water operator and the office girls many hours by not having to notify anybody and only one resident was without water for 30 minutes instead of 30 or 40 without water for 3 or 4 hours. Need also to say "Thank You" to all the rest of the staff for the help, support and advice that you give us over the phone. Nebraska Rural Water Associations knowledge and equipment is priceless.

Sincerely,


Utility Superintendent
Duane Hoffman



CITY OF
GRANT

TELEPHONE: 308-352-2100
FAX #: 308-352-2358

346 CENTRAL AVENUE
PO Box 614
GRANT, NEBRASKA 69140-0614

December 12, 2017

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA:

On behalf of the City of Grant I would like to thank Randy Hellbusch for his help with our water meter rate study. Thanks to his knowledge and support we were able to complete a water project that had been many, many years in the making.

Please accept the enclosed donation.

Sincerely,

Dana Harris
City Superintendent
City of Grant
PO Box 614
Grant, NE 69140
308-352-2100

November 16, 2017



Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA:

Please accept this donation in appreciation for the support to the City of Albion.

The City of Albion thanks you and your employees for assistance in multiple rate surveys, water leak detection, water pressure monitoring, and a general willingness to serve and assist our community over the years.

Sincerely,

The City of Albion, Nebraska
James C. Jarecki, Mayor

City of Oshkosh

James R. Levick, Mayor
cityhall@embargo.com



Office of City Clerk
P.O. Box 166
Oshkosh, Nebraska 69154
(308) 772-3686
www.oshkoshnebraska.com

LeAnn Brown, City Clerk
Bill Campbell, Administrator
www.ci.oshkosh.ne.us

To provide dependable leadership, affordable services, and economic growth that will enrich the future life for all the citizens who work, play, and live in Oshkosh.

October 18, 2017

NeRWA
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

To Whom This May Concern:

Please accept this donation of _____ for all the valuable information and help Randy Hellbusch provided the City of Oshkosh. He spent several hours figuring out what the water rates should be in order to pay our loans for the new water wellfield we are currently constructing, and just our other normal expenses. His help was invaluable to us!

Thank you so much Randy!!

Sincerely,

LeAnn Brown
City Clerk

City of Sargent



106 North 2nd Street
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Fax (308) 527-3745
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www.sargentne.com
cityofsargent@nctc.net

October 17, 2017

Nebraska Rural Water Association
390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE 68066


Thank you so much for helping us find our water leak.

A thank you to Mike Stanzel and Randy Hellbush for coming to Sargent and helping us with their equipment. We appreciate your knowledge, understanding of water and sewer lines, and the equipment that you have.

Thank you so much.

Please accept the enclosed donation.

Sincerely



Reece Jensen
Utility Superintendent



Nebraska Rural Water
Association -

Thanks for everything!

Thanks to Randy for all you have helped us with during our water project. Thanks to Pat for all your time and effort video camera-ing our sewer lines! ^{visage} of Benedict

2018 TRAINING

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

January 8-12	Wahoo
April 9-13	Wahoo
October 15-19	Wahoo

Wastewater Certification Course

February 27- March 2	Wahoo - Mechanical
April 4-5	North Platte - Lagoon
August 14-17	Wahoo - Mechanical
November 27-30	Wahoo- Mechanical

Wastewater Training

January 17	Chadron
February 6	Wayne (SUMW)
February 13	Anselmo
March 27	Wahoo
April 26	Omaha
May 8	Bridgeport
June 28	Ogallala
July 10	Neligh
August 7	Auburn
September 27	Wahoo
October 4	Omaha
November 14	Columbus
December 12	Aurora

Water Operator Training

January 17	Firth
April 10	Bridgeport
May 16	Osmond
June 13	Sutton
July 10	Chadron
July 11	Valentine
August 7	Ord
October 16	Eustis
November 15	Wahoo
December 19	Red Cloud

Backflow Continuing Education Training

January 23	Alliance
January 24	Sidney
February 6	Nebraska City
February 8	Stanton
April 17	Cairo
April 19	Falls City
April 25	Wahoo
May 9	Valentine
September 26	McCool Junction
September 27	Ord
October 23	South Sioux City
October 25	Atkinson
November 8	Wahoo
December 11	Mitchell
December 12	Ogallala
December 13	Cambridge
December 18	Wahoo

August 22
Trenching & Shoring

August 23
Confined Space Entry

Wahoo

Annual Conference March 12-14

Younes Conference Center
Kearney, Nebraska

Fall Western Conference Sept. 11-13

Gering Civic Center
Gering, Nebraska

Registrations for **all fee-based** 1-day training classes and multiple day training courses will need to be made online, mailed or faxed to our office.

We will not be taking phone registrations for **fee-based** training.



Power of the Written Word

By Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist

'The pen is mightier than the sword' was coined by Edward Bulwer-Lytton in 1839 for his play, *Richelieu; Or the Conspiracy*. Most of us have heard this phrase used, although many of us probably had no idea where the phrase came from. This article is not going to prove or disprove the above phrase, but it hopefully will expound upon the importance of the written word. Another phrase that is equally important is the phrase, "If it isn't in writing, it didn't happen!" This phrase has been used over and over in many different occupations to express the idea that things need to be documented in order for them to officially have occurred.

The Department of Labor requires documentation of events leading to the dismissal of an employee. In financial situations, modifications of loan specifics must be in writing and not just oral. In the construction industry, change orders and modifications must be in writing to protect both the contractor and the customer. This seems pretty self-evident, but it is amazing how many people forget or neglect this principle.

I am positive that other NeRWA staff will back me on the fact that if you ask us to do something for you when we get back from one of our conferences, if you do not email us to remind us, we will forget. When people are busy completing tasks they have been assigned, oral promises are likely to be forgotten.

This is very true for the state and other governmental entities. Telling your field representative that you have completed correcting all of the deficiencies noted on a sanitary survey is not the same as sending it to them in writing. As hard as it may be for some of us to believe, field representatives are human beings just like us and do not have a perfect memory. Calling them on their cell phone and telling them you have completed something will not necessarily get it marked as being completed, especially if they are driving or doing some other task when they are told. That is one of the reasons that the sanitary survey requires a written response indicating when the noted deficiencies either were or will be corrected.


The written response however is only one part of the process. Once you have detailed the time frame in which the deficiencies will be corrected, you need to follow up


by notifying them that they have been corrected. The field representative cannot remove the deficiency from the SDWIS system until he has been notified, in writing, that the deficiency has been corrected. Oral notifications do not meet the requirements. The field representative needs to have a paper trail from the water operator detailing what was done and when it was completed.

Remember, if it is important and absolutely needs to be done, it needs to be done in writing so you have a record of having done it. **If it isn't in writing, it did not happen!!**

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Geneva, NE 68361

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After Hours: (402) 759-2929

Nebraska Rural Water Association Annual Conference Pre-Registration

March 12-14, 2018
Younes Conference Center
Kearney, Nebraska

Name (1 person per form) _____
 Water System/Company Name _____
 Billing Address _____
 Certificate Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Attendee's Email _____

**Pre-Registration
Deadline is
March 7, 2018**

I am the Voting Delegate _____

(Certificates will be emailed if an email address is provided)

License numbers MUST be on this form: Water: _____ BF _____ WW _____ WD _____

REGISTRATION INCLUDES TRAINING MATERIALS, MEALS AND BREAKS. No registrations after March 7. Registration fees after this date and on-site will increase by \$50. 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 SUBSTITUTE FOR AN ALREADY REGISTERED PERSON AFTER MARCH 7,
THERE WILL BE AN EXTRA \$25 CHARGE**

I am a Board Member attending Monday (no charge) _____
 (Cost of meals only for additional days) Check if attending: Tues _____ Wed _____

DAYS ATTENDING	Member	Member after February 27	Non-Member	Non-Member after February 27
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 SUBMITTED UNTIL
PAYMENT IS RECEIVED.**

To Register:
 Online: www.nerwa.org
 (If you register online, DO NOT mail one)
 Fax: 402-443-5274
 Mail: Nebraska Rural Water Association
 3390 Ponderosa Street
 Wahoo, NE 68066
NO PHONE REGISTRATIONS

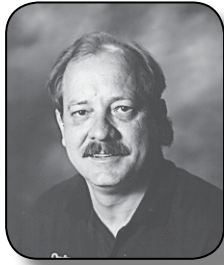
When making room reservations, mention you are with NeRWA

DATE REGISTRATION RECEIVED: _____

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellations after March 10 and NO SHOWS will be charged a \$25 processing fee.

For NeRWA office use only: Payment received _____ Check # _____

Hours: Water _____ BF _____ Wastewater _____ Certificate mailed _____



Chlorinator Maintenance

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

The majority of water systems in Nebraska do not chlorinate full time. But most systems do chlorinate at some point during any calendar year. As any of you who have used chlorine know, chlorine can be a difficult chemical to deal with especially depending on your water quality. Chlorinators that are only used maybe a month or so out of every year usually will require as much or more maintenance than a chlorinator that is used continuously.

Most systems currently utilize peristaltic pumps. They are easier to maintain and are not as subject to losing prime as a diaphragm pump.

If you are using a diaphragm pump you must assure that all check valves are working properly. Diaphragm pumps usually have four check valves. All valves can become encrusted with calcium. The foot valve must sit in an upright position in the container of chlorine. There are two check valves in the head of the pump, one above and one below the diaphragm. Finally, there is the injection valve where chlorine enters the system. To clean the valves you must first disassemble them paying close attention to how they came apart, so you can reassemble them properly.

Peristaltic pumps utilize flexible rubber tubing which wears out in time and needs to be replaced. If you are only chlorinating for a short period of time on a yearly basis it is a good idea to just replace the tubing prior to each use. The tubes are not expensive and can cause a lot of corrosion issues in a pump house if they develop a leak and it is not detected immediately. The hoses are not difficult to replace. Just take off the end cap and remove the old tubing. Install

the new tubing. You need to stretch out the new tubing a little and walk it around the rollers with the help of the motor.

Anytime a chlorinator is not going to be used for a period of time I highly recommend running vinegar through the pump and all of the hoses including the injector. This can be accomplished by simply putting both the intake hose and outlet hose in a gallon container of vinegar and let it run for an hour or two. I have even let them run overnight. Then I will follow up the same process with distilled water.

We all hope we never have an emergency situation, but it is always a good idea to be prepared and be sure the chlorination equipment is ready to go the next time you need it.

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2018 CONFERENCE AGENDA (Tentative)

Monday 12		Diamond Ballroom 4&5			
1:00	2:30	Regulatory Update/Monitoring and Compliance Update Becky Schuerman, DHHS 1.5W 1.5WD			
2:30		BREAK			
3:00	4:00	Dealing with Milleniums Bill Podraza, Miller and Associates 1W 1WW			
4:00		BREAK			
4:30	6:00	Planning for Change? Or a Change in Planning Rich Koenig, DHHS 1.5W 1.5WW 1.5WD			
Tuesday 13		Diamond Ballroom 4	Diamond Ballroom 5	Diamond Ballroom 9	Diamond Ballroom 10
9:00	10:00	Small System Roundtable NeRWA Staff and Board 1W	Rural Water Systems Roundtable NeRWA Staff and Board 1W	Trenchless Rehab Methods Brett Melson, Johnson Service 1WW	Backflow Roundtable Rich Koenig, DHHS 1W, 1WW, 1BF
.50 break		BREAK			
10:30	11:30	Water Storage Facilities, Top to Bottom Brandon VanderMay, MaGuire Iron 1W	Level Measurement Challenges in Water and Wastewater Chris Johnson, Bert Gurney 1W, 1WW, 1WD	Maintenance Inspection Methods Bret Melson, Johnson Service 1WW	Hydraulics of Backflow Patrick Miller, Mack McClain 1W 1BF 1WW
1 hour lunch		LUNCH			
12:30	1:30	Sampling Stations, Push Plugs, etc--What's New? Bob Hennig, Municipal Pipe Services 1W 1WD	Licensed vs. Unlicensed SCADA Radio Systems Mike Larson, Larson Data 1W 1WW 1WD	Nebraska 811 Update Jill Geyer, Nebraska 811 1W 1WW 1WD	PRV/Automatic Control Valves And Their Affect on Backflow Applications Patrick Miller, Mack McClain 1W, 1WW, 1BF
.50 Break		BREAK			
2:00	3:00	New Metering Technology Charles Bausch, Core and Main 1W 1WW, 1WD	Lift Station Buyer's Guide Brian Gongol, DJ Gongol and Associates 1WW	Service Dis- Connects/Reconnect Fees Lash Chaffin, LONM 1W 1WW	Good, Bad, and Ugly Rich Koenig, DHHS 1W 1WW 1BF
.50 break		BREAK			
3:30	4:30	Locating/Leak Detection Travis Beran/Brent Briley, Sub-Surface Solutions 1W 1WW 1WD	Ten Steps to Building a 21st Century Water/Wastewater Workforce Brian Gongol, DJ Gongol and Assoc. 1W 1WW	Gravity and Pressure Pipe Options and Technologies Brian McCrary, Aegion/Insituform 1WW	Backflow Knowledge Rich Koenig, DHHS 1W 1WW 1BF
.25 break		BREAK			
4:45 pm	5:45 pm	What's New at The DHHS Laboratory? Mary Boden, DHHS Lab 1W 1WW 1WD	Installations and Applications for Back-up Power Rob McShane, Interstate Systems 1W 1WW 1WD	Proper Applications When Pigging Water Lines Brad Harris, Layne Christensen 1W 1WD	NeWARN Update Dennis Watts, Norfolk USDA Update Denise Meeks, USDA 1W 1WW

TOTAL HOURS:
14 water (w)
12.5 wastewater (ww)
5 backflow (bf)
11.5 well driller (wd)

Monday: 4w, 2.5 ww, 3.5 wd
Tuesday: 6 w, 6 ww, 5 bf, 5 wd
Wednesday: 4 w, 4 ww, 3 wd

CONFERENCE AGENDA
(Continued)

Wednesday 14		Diamond Ballroom 4	Diamond Ballroom 5	Diamond Ballroom 9
7:30	8:30	NeRWA Board Meeting and Operator Breakfast		
8:30	9:30	Nitrates in Our Drinking Water Beth Ramsey, DHHS 1W 1WD	Health Benefits for Operators/Lifestyle Health Plans Shane Baack, Principal Securities 1W 1WW	Importance of Well Maintenance Nichole Grasma, Suez/Utility Service Group 1W 1WD
.25 break		BREAK		
9:45	10:45	Water Conservation for Small Systems Doug Woodbeck, DHHS 1W 1WD	Wastewater Operator Certification Update Mike McBride, NDEQ 1WW	Trench and Excavation Safety Paul Hurley United Rentals 1W 1WD 1WW
.25 break		BREAK		
11:00	12:00	Operator Quiz and Review Area Field Reps, DHHS 1W	Electrical Safety in the Water/Wastewater Industry Rob Pierce, LONM 1W 1WW 1WD	Smart Wellfields/Aquifer Resource Management John Dustman, Summit Envirosolutions 1W 1WD
1.0 hour lunch		LUNCH		
1:00	2:00	Operator Quiz and Review Area Field Reps, DHHS 1W	Dealing with Drought Scott Sprague, DHHS 1W 1WD	The Role of the Operator Mike Wentink, DHHS 1W 1WW

NeRWA Annual Conference
Younes Conference Center
Kearney, Nebraska

This year's conference will be our 40th anniversary.
We hope you have registered but, if not, we would like you to join us.
There will be new training sessions, lots of great prizes and giveaways, and, of course, some fun.

Below are the hotels - ask for NeRWA room blocks.

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

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

Hampton Inn (next door) - 308-234-3400

LaQuinta (next door) - 308-237-4400

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

**Nebraska Rural Water Association
40th Annual Conference
March 12-14, 2018**

EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION

Younes Conference Center
416 Talmadge St
Kearney, Nebraska

Registration includes 2 reps (meal tickets included).

THERE WILL BE A \$25 FEE FOR REP SUBSTITUTIONS ON THE DAYS OF CONFERENCE

Company Name: _____

Representatives: (1) _____ (2) _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Member: One Booth-\$450, Two Booths-\$750, Three Booths-\$1000
Non-Member: One Booth-\$750, Two Booths-\$1050, Three Booths-\$1300

Number of Booths requested _____ Amount due \$ _____

Additional reps x \$100 (meals included) _____ Amount due \$ _____

Names: _____

All Reps must have a NeRWA Name Badge to be allowed in the Exhibit Hall

Please provide a brief description of your company for the conference program: _____

SET UP IS 8:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON ON MONDAY, MARCH 12

Exhibit space is 10x10 and includes an 8' table, 2 chairs, skirting, electricity and wireless internet.

Sponsorship/Donation: NeRWA appreciates contributions to offset costs. Sponsors will be published in the conference program and banners will be displayed in the exhibit hall. See attached sheet for explanations of each sponsorship.

- Diamond Sponsor: \$4000
- Platinum Sponsor: \$2500
- Gold Sponsor: \$1000
- Silver Sponsor: \$500
- Bronze Sponsor: Less than \$300

Meal tickets for 2 reps are included with each registration. Indicate additional tickets:

Mon Dinner-\$25 _____ Tues Banquet-\$30 _____
Tues Lunch-\$15 _____ Wed Lunch-\$15 _____

Donation \$ _____
Total Registration cost \$ _____
Extra ticket cost \$ _____

Payment must accompany registration form. Total Enclosed \$ _____

There is a \$100 fee for registrations received after March 5. However, to be included in the conference program, registrations must be received by February 16. No refunds if cancelled after March 7, 2018, or No Shows at the conference.

If payment is not included with the registration, you will not be given a space unless prior arrangements have been made with the NeRWA office. Credit cards are accepted. If using a credit card the registration may be emailed to salli@nerwa.org.

Mail completed form WITH PAYMENT to:

Nebraska Rural Water Association / 3390 Ponderosa / Wahoo, Nebraska 68066
402-443-5216 & 800-842-8039

For NeRWA office use only: Date Received _____ Check # _____



Brutal Cold Snap Wreaks Havoc

By Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider

Looking back at this past fall I think we all were surprised at the mild temperatures across the entire state clear up to the week before Christmas. In fact, I was in Chadron on December 20th and it was actually 63 degrees and it wasn't even noon yet. Then the very next day old Mother Nature came screaming in with a vengeance starting with freezing rain and then extreme cold. It hasn't let up for 2 weeks straight, shattering record low temps.

This is when the problems really start affecting our water systems. My phone has been ringing nonstop with questions and requests for assistance for everything from main breaks, to water towers freezing up, to water treatment plants and well houses freezing, as well.

Some of the biggest issues are water main breaks when it's this cold. My town had one and it took two days to fix mainly because they could not get the leak isolated due to either faulty, inoperable main valves to not being able to get on a valve because they were completely frozen full of water. Add in 20 below temperatures and this becomes a very dangerous situation.

Why are these main breaks happening with the cold snap? Well, I was listening to the news on the radio just the other day and they were interviewing a spokesperson from MUD who operates the city of Omaha's water system. She stated that during the New Year's weekend Omaha had 15 water

main breaks, 5 on Sunday alone and an astonishing 558 for the year 2017. She went on to explain that the lack of moisture in the soil due to a very dry fall removed the "cushion" that can protect the water main when the frost sets in so rapidly from the extreme cold. It makes perfect sense to me.

In reality there is no way you can prevent a water main break but you may be able to better prepare yourself.

1. Make sure your valves are located, painted, accessible and free of ice, gravel, etc.
2. Make sure you have repair clamps of various sizes on hand.
3. Make sure your trash pump and suction hoses are in working order.
4. Be sure to have a propane torch to thaw frozen valves.
5. Also make sure you have good insulated boots or waders along with a good hat and gloves, because if you're going out in these dangerous conditions, you need to be protected.

Another problem I assisted with was a call for a frozen tower. Luckily it turned out the tower was safe but the quarter inch copper line supplying the transducer had frozen thus causing the wells not to turn on. There was electric heat tape and insulation, but the heat tape failed.

6. If your heat tape is more than 2 years old, replace it. It's not that expensive.
7. If bare pipes are exposed to an outside concrete wall, get some insulation between the two.
8. Another thing I strongly recommend is to be sure and check your wells and towers EVERY DAY. I can't stress this enough. Heaters can fail without any warning and with subzero temperatures major problems can occur within hours.

If anyone feels they would like some assistance with looking over their systems and helping get better prepared, please feel free to give me a call at 402-672-9084.

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NeWRA Conference



20

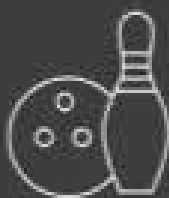
40TH ANNUAL FUN NIGHT



18

7:30 PM
TO
10:00 PM

Monday, March 12th
@ the **Big Apple Fun Center**



BOWLING



BILLIARDS



MINIATURE GOLF

*A shuttle will be providing round trip transportation to and from the
Younes Conference Center & Big Apple Fun Center from 7:00 – 11:00 PM.





Shared/Contract Operators

By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician

I have received inquiries again regarding shared and/or contract operators. My research indicates that agreements are both formal and informal and really all over the board. In order to protect all parties involved I think that there are some issues that you might want to consider in a formal agreement.

- Is the operator certified at the level required for the system to be served?
 - What is the contact information?
 - What specific duties are expected to be performed by the operator? Who takes the samples, who maintains the required records, who is responsible for routine maintenance, who maintains the regulatory correspondence, who receives kits from the lab, who makes any required public notifications and any other additional duties?
 - Who is responsible for non-compliance reporting?
 - What are the system owner's responsibilities?
 - In the case of an emergency, what is the response time? Is it less than 1 hour?
 - Is backup support available 24 hours a day?
 - What is the term of the agreement?
- Is there a termination clause?
 - Billing: Who bills whom at what rate? Does that include any material used or mileage?
 - Is there a history of non-compliance?
 - Have the appropriate regulatory agencies been notified, given copies of any contracts and are current signatory authorization forms filed?
 - Does the agreement or contract "hold harmless" and "indemnify" all parties involved?

Certainly, you may want to have your attorney review any contracts or formal agreements. Shared and /or contract operators are utilized widely across the state taking advantage of efficiencies of scale and technical support especially for the benefit of our smaller systems.



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Source Water Protection Grants Program

By Ken Halvorsen, Source Water Specialist

Source Water Protection Grants are available for proactive projects geared toward protecting Nebraska's drinking water supplies by addressing drinking water quality, quantity and/or education. Eligible applicants are political subdivisions in Nebraska that operate a public water system, having a population of 10,000 or less with groundwater sources, and demonstrate serious financial hardships.

Rather than providing a grant to complete one task, it is preferred that grants help establish and develop comprehensive local source water protection programs, enhance cooperation and education among citizens, local government, businesses, and agricultural producers. Grants can be used for the development of a Wellhead Protection or Drinking Water Protection Management Plans, but only in conjunction with the implementation of pollution prevention tasks.

Grants cannot be used to purchase land, complete operations and maintenance activities, or only cover personnel expenses. In addition, activities specific to the treatment, transmission, distribution, consolidation, or storage of the drinking water system, which includes mapping of the water distribution system, are not eligible.

General Project Requirements

- A. Projects must focus on the protection of Nebraska public drinking water sources, not operation and maintenance of the system or water treatment.
- B. Projects must include activities in one or more of the three categories: water quality, water quantity, and/or water public education.
- C. Projects must have a good potential for success (i.e., tasks must yield measurable improvement in water quality, reduction of water use, increased resource reliability, citizen knowledge and/or behaviors, etc.).
- D. Commitment must be demonstrated by the public water system and local government to develop, implement, support, and sustain a local protection program after funding is received.

- E. On-the-ground activities must take place within existing wellhead protection areas, designated future wellhead protection areas, or the associated area served by the community Public Water Supply System.
- F. At least a 10% non-federal match to the total project cost is required. For example: a project totaling \$20,000 will receive \$18,000 in grant funds and would have a requirement of \$2,000 in match. Match can be in-kind and/or cash.

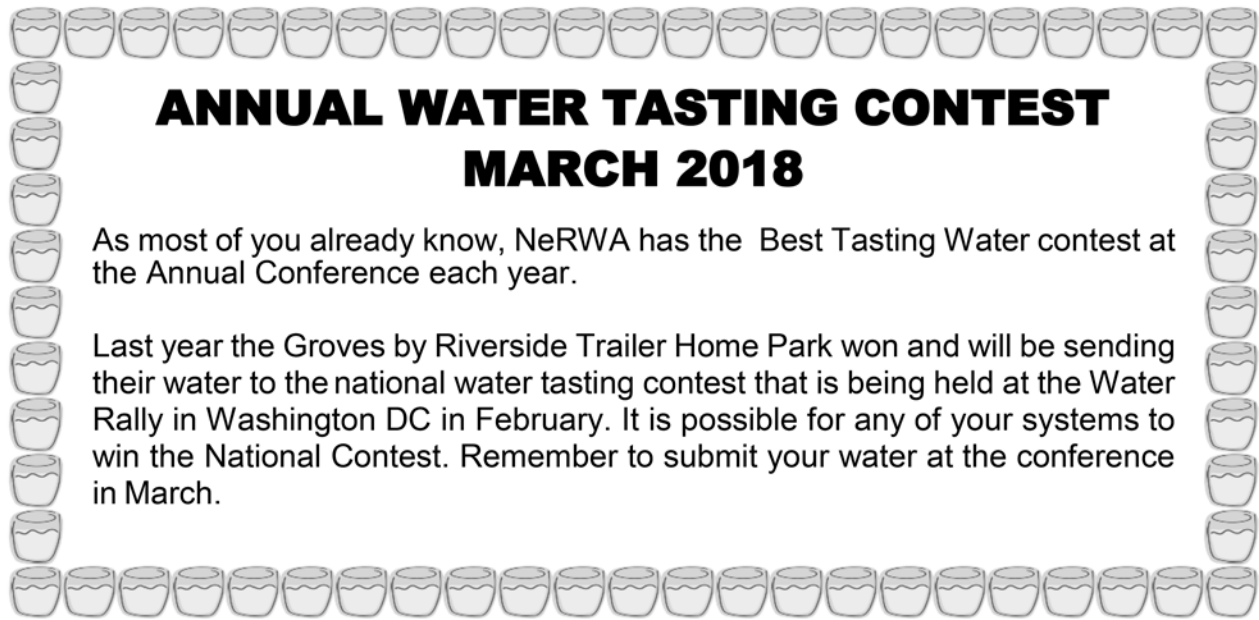
Funding Priority

Prioritization will be given for the following status/activities:

- A. Developing a Drinking Water Protection Management Plan.
- B. Projects where activities will be sustained beyond the term of the grant.
- C. Projects implementing on-the-ground management activities.
- D. Projects that addressing nitrate contamination/loading.
- E. Public Water Supply Systems that have a NDEQ-approved Wellhead or Watershed Protection Plan and/or designated Groundwater Guardian.
- F. Projects that focus on community education and awareness about how to protect and improve the local drinking water source.

Examples of projects that have previously been funded can be found on the NDEQ website:
<http://deq.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/SWPGMain>

The invitation for proposals will be sent out in February, for more information please contact Sam Radford at 402-471-3376 or sam.radford@nebraska.gov.



ANNUAL WATER TASTING CONTEST MARCH 2018

As most of you already know, NeRWA has the Best Tasting Water contest at the Annual Conference each year.

Last year the Groves by Riverside Trailer Home Park won and will be sending their water to the national water tasting contest that is being held at the Water Rally in Washington DC in February. 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 13. 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. Must be a member of Nebraska Rural Water Association
- 2. Sample must be from a Nebraska public water supply system
- 3. One entry per water system
- 4. Water must come before any point-of-use treatment
- 5. 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 12, 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.



A Big Milestone

By Pat Petersen, Training Specialist

NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION
40TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
MONDAY, MARCH 12 – WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2018
YOUNES CONFERENCE CENTER

Some organizations may look at 40 years of service as a milestone. This year the Nebraska Rural Water Association will host its 40th Annual Conference. Speaking on behalf of the NeRWA, I don't only look at it as a milestone but as a springboard toward the next 40 years of providing training and technical assistance to the small systems across the great state of Nebraska.

Forty years of dedicated service is quite an accomplishment. These 40 years would not have been possible without the continued support of our associate members, operators and communities in Nebraska. With that being said, the NeRWA is going to try and create an atmosphere at this year's conference that operators will be telling their predecessors about for the next 40 years and beyond.

As conference agendas go, this year's format will look a lot like previous years but some new faces and new topics will be seen and heard. Licensed vs. Unlicensed SCADA systems, Back-Up Power Applications, Aquifer Resource Management and Health Benefits for operators are just a few of the different topics attendees will see at this year's conference. Along with the new faces will also be some of the pillars that have spoken at several conferences. According to one of the "pillars," this will be his last time presenting for Nebraska Rural Water since he is thinking about retirement, but that doesn't mean I won't ask him to present for us at future training sessions.

Once again, we have scheduled a fun night on Monday night after the general session. The fun night will be held at the newly renovated Big Apple Bowling Center, right down the road from the conference center. JEO will once again headline a host of sponsors for this super fun event.

Tuesday will involve a full slate of training classes and several breaks. Operators can use these breaks to mingle with other operators and vendors and get some refreshments.

The Annual meeting will be held during the operator

breakfast on Wednesday. Come help us get the day started with a nice plate of food and hot cup of joe before getting the day started. Training sessions will begin at 7:30 AM and conclude at 2:00 PM so everyone can get a good start home Wednesday afternoon.

Finally, this will be the sixth annual conference that I have had the privilege to plan for the Nebraska Rural Water Association. I use the term "I" lightly because it takes a lot of time and effort to put this conference together. These conferences would not be possible without the team I work with at the office and in the field, our operating board, associate members and the operators of Nebraska. So, if you're looking for an opportunity to learn some new things and have a little fun before the spring rush is upon us, please join us in Kearney on March 12-14 for our 40th Annual Conference! Hope to see you there!

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CONFERENCE VENDOR REGISTRATION

On behalf of the Nebraska Rural Water Association, we invite you to exhibit your products and services at the Younes Conference Center during our **40th Annual Conference**. Last year over 500 people attended this event. We hope that you will join us and help make this conference the largest and best yet. The registration form is included in the magazine.

The exhibitor fee for NeRWA members is \$450 per booth. The non-member fee is \$750. This fee includes two representatives and their meal tickets. The booth size is 10'x10' and includes an 8' table, 2 chairs, skirting, electricity and wireless internet. Larger booth spaces are available if needed for our exhibitors who want to expand their showcase. If you plan on bringing larger exhibit items you will need to contact our office prior to the conference so your space can be reserved. Please notify our office if your plans change and you are not able to attend the conference. **PRE-PAYMENT IS REQUIRED**. Your registration will be held but not assigned a spot until payment is received.

The exhibit hall will be available for setup on Monday, March 12, from 8:00 am to noon. Registrations received by February 16 will be listed in the conference booklet. Please provide us with a short explanation of your products and services for that booklet on the **Exhibitor Registration Form**. Please note that if someone from your company plans to attend sessions for any credit hours, it will be necessary for them to register as a conference attendee. There is also a small fee to attend classes. Call the NeRWA office for details.

NeRWA appreciates any donations which help defer conference expenses. If you wish to make a donation or sponsor a break or social hour please fill in the appropriate section on the **Exhibitor Registration Form**. You will receive a confirmation letter after we receive your exhibitor registration and payment.

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NeRWA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Nebraska Rural Water Association is pleased to announce it will be presenting two \$1000 scholarships for higher education purposes for the school year 2018-2019 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 1, 2018. 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 \$1000 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, \$500 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 1, 2018. 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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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 12-14, 2018.

Larry Wennekamp
Tom Grovijohn
George Wagner

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

Requirements for the above position:

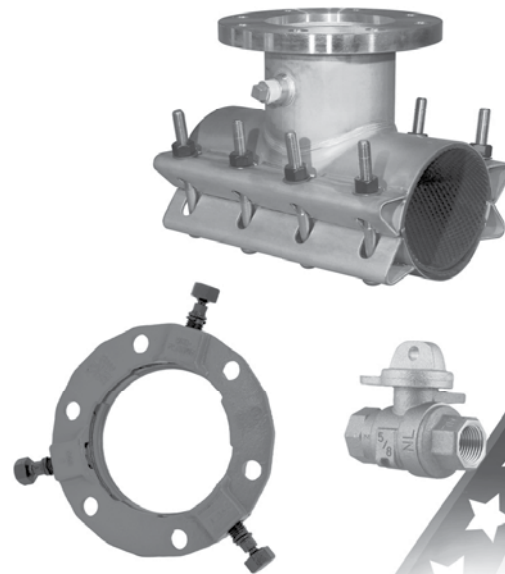
Must be the voting delegate or alternate delegate from system
Must attend monthly board meetings
Attendance at the spring conference is required
Attendance at the fall conference is encouraged
Occasional out-of-state travel is possible

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 5, 2018. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

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40 YEARS

The logo for the Nebraska Rural Water Association (NeRWA) is a circular emblem. It features a stylized water tower in the center, with a spout at the top. The words "NeRWA" are repeated around the perimeter of the circle.

2018 marks the 40th year the Nebraska Rural Water Association has been assisting the small systems throughout the state. Come and join us for our best conference yet.

Great training sessions during the day, awesome prizes, fun activities in the evening, and seeing old friends and making new ones.



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Nebraska Good Water News

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 Home | Office | Membership Info | Training | Annual Conference | Fall Conference | EXPO

Contact NeRWA... ▼

NeRWA Staff

Water Circuit Rider I
Water Circuit Rider II
Training Specialist
Wastewater Tech.
Sourcewater Protection Specialist
Capacity Development Specialist
Office Manager
Secretary
Board of Directors
Office Assistant



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EPA Wastewater
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Nebraska DEQ
League of Municipalities
Nebraska Section, AWWA
AWWA Library Reference Listings
NeRWA Associate Members

NeRWA Contact Information:

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 Wahoo, NE 68066

Office phone numbers:

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



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