

Issue 2/2014

# Nebraska Rural Water Association



## NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS

# Water & Wastewater Professionals EVERYWHERE TRUST USABlueBook®



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.*

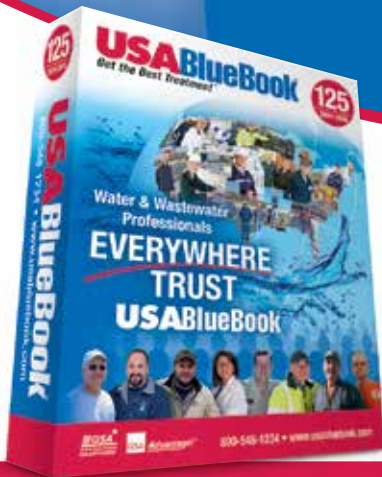
Jonnie Allison — Operations Manager at Frazier Park Public Utility • Frazier Park, CA

"I always go to USABlueBook first. If you have something available, you'll get it to me by the next day. You have the product selection and technical support I need. *Plus, I like when I call and get to speak with the same people. It's more personal that way.*"

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

"USABlueBook helps us avoid having to keep things in stock. I don't have the space, and I don't have the time to do inventory. *If I need something, I can just call up USABlueBook, and you guys will get it to me.*"

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



Unsurpassed personal customer service and expert technical support

95% of customers receive their in-stock orders in 1 to 2 days!

Over 27,000 items in stock for same-day shipping

Call 1-800-548-1234 & request your FREE USABlueBOOK CATALOG 125

**USABlueBook®**  
**Get the Best Treatment™**

800-548-1234 • [www.usabluebook.com](http://www.usabluebook.com)

# Nebraska Good Water News

# Issue 2/2014

*“Keeping Our Water Safe”*

*Board of Directors*

## Table of Contents

How'd We Do & Letters From .....	2-5
Spring Is On The Way.....	6
New Conference Location .....	7
Clorox; Is It Safe For Drinking Water .....	8
Last Paper Issue of the Water Spout .....	9
50/50 Waterpac Raffle .....	9
Meters are a Must.....	10
Raffle Prize Winners .....	11
Conference Highlights Pictures .....	12-13
A Look Back at the 2014 Conference .....	14-15
Beware of a Free Lunch.....	16
Golf and Steaks .....	17
Summer Water Use.....	18-19
Help Update the NeRWA Water & Sewer Rate Study.....	19
Evaluations from the Annual Conference.....	20
Summary of Evaluations .....	20-24
2015 Membership Directory .....	24
NeRWA Contact Information.....	25

### **President:**

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

### **Vice-President:**

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

### **Secretary/Treasurer:**

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

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

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

Dale Miller  
P.O. Box 195  
Elmwood, NE 68349  
(402) 994-2555

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

### **Staff:**

Salli Kemerling, Office Manager

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

### **On the cover:**

Water tank for the City of Curtis, winner of the National Best Tasting Water Contest.

*"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 STUART**  
MUNICIPAL WATER, POWER & GAS  
**ONE OF NEBRASKA'S MUNICIPALLY OWNED POWER PLANTS**  
**OFFICE & FAX #: 402-924-3647 LIGHT PLANT 402-924-3977**  
MUNICIPAL OFFICE  
Mark Stracke, Clerk  
Bob Lockmon, Supt.  
Larry Paxton - Chairman  
John Madsen, Trustee  
Larry Butler, Trustee  
Del Stracke, Trustee  
Dana Steinhauser, Trustee  
PO Box 177  
Stuart, NE 68780



March 26, 2014

RE: Sewer Smoking

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Street  
Wahoo, NE 68066

NRWA Staff,

The Stuart Village Board and employees would like to extend our gratitude to you for your assistance last week in helping us do a smoke test on our sewer system. By providing us with your service, we were able to identify over 20 infiltration points into our system. Please thank Mike for his valuable input and assistance.

Enclosed is a check for the cost of the supplies plus an additional donation as a thank you to your organization for the important services you provide to small communities like ours.

Sincerely,

*Mark Stracke*  
Mark Stracke  
Stuart Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF PALMER  
PO BOX 8  
PALMER NE 68864  
308-894-8665

January 31, 2014

NRWA  
2290 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NRWA,

The Village of Palmer would like to thank you for your services in December for the use of your sewer camera. Mike Lucas was very helpful to us.

Please accept our donation to your equipment fund.

Sincerely,

*Allen Christensen*  
Allen Christensen  
Public Works Director

NRWA -

Enclosed is a donation from the Village of Monroe. We appreciate the support & assistance you have given us. Randy Dellboch has been tremendous. From all of us at the Village we say THANK YOU!

*Connie Kramer*  
Connie Kramer  
Village Clerk  
Monroe

# City of Oshkosh



James R. Levick, Mayor  
ocityhall@embarqmail.com

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

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

April 14, 2014

NeRWA  
3390 Ponderosa Street  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA:

On behalf of the City of Oshkosh I would like to thank Randy Hellbusch and Russ Topp for doing our rate study and doing the leak detection tests. We are very fortunate to have Nebraska Rural Water Association on our side helping us. These two Rural Water employees have done an outstanding job for the City of Oshkosh.

The City of Oshkosh would like to donate \$200 to your association.

Sincerely,

Scott Smith  
Water Operator

311 North Oak Street  
PO Box 310  
Gordon, NE 69343-0310  
Phone: (308) 282-0837  
Fax: (308) 282-1431  
E-mail: gordon@gpcom.net

## CITY OF GORDON

City Manager  
Fred Hlava  
City Clerk  
Kim Buchan  
Deputy Clerk  
Glen Spaugh  
City Council  
Nancy I Russell, Mayor  
Jane Morgan, Vice-Mayor  
Tom Evans  
Tim Bounous  
Kelly Grant

March 14, 2014

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NE Rural Water Association:

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

Thank you again for all of your time and effort!

THE CITY OF GORDON

Mike Winter  
Utilities Superintendent

**Thomas J. Luettel**  
Chairperson

**Village of Gresham**  
310 Elm Street, P.O. Box 164  
Gresham, Nebraska 68367  
(402) 735-7385  
FAX (402) 735-7385  
villageofgresham310@windstream.net  
Office Hours  
Monday - Wednesday  
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

**Linda L. Eschenweck**  
Village Clerk



February 5, 2014

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Street  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NE Rural Water Association:

Enclosed please find a donation to your equipment fund from the Village of Gresham. The support and assistance that you provide to small communities such as ours is truly appreciated.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we just want to say "Thank you"!

Sincerely,

Linda L. Eschenweck  
Village Clerk

**VILLAGE OF BOELUS**

PO BOX 212 BOELUS NE 68009



February 5, 2014

Nebraska Rural Water  
3390 Ponderosa  
Wahoo, NE 68066

On behalf of the Village of Boelus Board of Trustees I would like to extend our sincere 'Thank you' for assisting the Village in locating a water leak in our water system. Your services are of great value to Nebraska communities.

Again THANK YOU so much for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Russell K. Jensen  
For the Board

# VILLAGE OF DUNCAN

906 8<sup>th</sup> Street || PO Box 254 || Duncan NE 68634-0254  
Village Hall 402-897-5285 || Fax 402-897-2024

Visit us at [www.villageofduncan.com](http://www.villageofduncan.com) or Email [villageofduncan@frontier.com](mailto:villageofduncan@frontier.com)  
**Betty Kropatsch-Board Chair 402-897-2765 || Sharon Hiemer-Clerk || Sandy Bargmann-Treasurer**

February 28, 2014

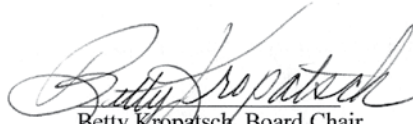
Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

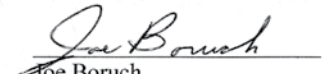
Dear NeRWA Staff,

The Village of Duncan Board of Trustees would like to thank your staff of Barney Whatley, Mike Lucas, Pat Petersen, Mike Stanzel and Russ Topp for assisting us in so many ways this past year. Our maintenance supervisor Don Reves would like to especially thank Russ Topp for his helpful advice on our water treatment plant. We received assistance with a water rate study, in T.V.ing the sewer lines, exercising valves, draining the water tower for cleaning and inspection, and freezing water lines to change meters.

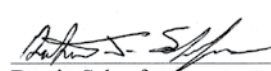
The expertise provided by your staff is an invaluable service to our community and we appreciate that you are always there when we call to offer advice and/or assistance. We have enclosed a donation to your equipment fund as an expression of our appreciation for the services that you offer.


Sincerely,  
The Village of Duncan  
Board of Trustees and Personnel

  
Betty Kropatsch, Board Chair


  
Joe Boruch

  
Eugene Drozd

  
Dustin Schaefer

  
Dawn Pensick

  
Don Reves, Maintenance Supervisor

  
Sharon Hiemer, Clerk

From: Pete Young [<mailto:pyoung@accounlimited.com>]  
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2014 10:33 PM  
To: Pat Petersen  
Cc: [jlegate@accounlimited.com](mailto:jlegate@accounlimited.com)  
Subject: Thank You from ACCO

Dear Pat,

Please pass this along to the appropriate parties at NeRWA.

On behalf of ACCO, I wanted to personally Thank You for the opportunity of participating as an Exhibitor at this year's conference. James Legate and I were very enthused and pleased with the entire experience. We enjoyed interacting in this format and venue with a significant number of existing and prospective clients. Everyone we met acted professionally and positively.

I would give this year's Conference a rating of "OUTSTANDING!". I understand the hours of work it takes to put an event like this together and to have everything go as smoothly as it did. That is no small accomplishment!

Again, we are grateful for the opportunity and a very positive experience. We plan to return again next year and appreciate the relationship we have with the NeRWA.

Best Regards,  
Pete



Pete Young  
Nebraska Sales Representative  
ACCO Unlimited  
5300 NW 55<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Johnston, IA 50131  
Toll Free: 800-548-2226  
Cell: 515-975-3308  
Fax: 515-278-2183  
[www.accounlimited.com](http://www.accounlimited.com)



## Spring is On the Way

*By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician*

---

One of the sure signs of spring is increased activity and phone calls. In this article I am going to discuss multiple subjects related to phone calls and emails that I've received within the last few weeks.

Notices have been sent out from NDEQ alerting certified operators that their operator licenses are expiring in July. Be sure to check your CEU's. If there are errors contact NDEQ or your training provider. If you need additional hours I have three classes prior to July. Check the coalition calendar for other classes. For on-line options that are also available contact Mike McBride at NDEQ. Also Barney's one day backflow classes have 5 hours of wastewater CEU's.

My goal is to try to have classes available across the state within a reasonable distance for everyone. I scheduled 12 one day classes across the state in 2014 along with our two conferences. The conferences typically have at least ten WW CEU's available depending on which sessions that you attend.

Another sure sign of spring is the 100% guaranteed line locators (backhoes) are coming out of hibernation. I can generally locate sewer lines (both service lines and mains) with approximate depths provided that there is access to the line for my camera. Please call well in advance of the dig date. It's a good idea to make sure that your decision makers are informed regarding damage to lines and who is responsible.

Disposable (**NOT FLUSHABLE**) wipes are continuing to cause problems across the state. I have sample flyers from the Water Environment Federation informing the public of their responsibility to help prevent backups. Also while we are discussing sewer backups just a reminder about the requirements to notify NDEQ of sewer backups determined to have originated from the City main. NDEQ takes it seriously and fines of \$10,000.00 per day have been proposed. I urge you to have a formal collection system maintenance program that you adhere to and of course document. I also have sample copies of these.

I hope that each of you has another operator or someone who backs you up or is at least aware of what you do. Every year the unexpected happens and the system and customers are left without an operator. It's not fair to

you or the customers to allow this condition to exist. If this happens the system needs to communicate with NDEQ and certainly call NeRWA for help as needed. That is what we are here for.

Those of you with discharging lagoons need to be planning for the future. With your new NPDES permits you are probably required to have additional tests. Ever more restrictive discharge limits are going to make compliance very difficult. Investigate your options such as land application and total containment. Also well in advance of any construction address inflow/infiltration problems. I can help you with sewer smoking. Do flow metering and consider installing water meters if you have none. If you don't address these issues prior to construction then the scope/size of the project will likely increase, not to mention the \$'s. It is discouraging when I visit systems considering discontinuing the use of some existing lagoons while paying debt service on new lagoons that they have never even used.

USDA and NDEQ have monies available for projects and planning. They are encouraging systems to apply. Systems with compliance issues will get preference. Your contact with NDEQ is Dawn Martin. Many of you know her from her work with DMR's. Along that same line Sam Capps, Program Specialist with NDEQ, is helping with my classes. She is responsible for the new Assessing Wastewater Infrastructure Needs (AWIN) program for NDEQ. It could potentially be a very beneficial program for small systems. I encourage you to attend her presentations and invite your Village Clerks and Board Members to attend also. Your community and rate payers could possibly reap the benefits.

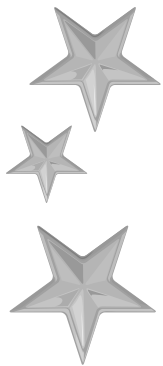
That completes a litany of topics from many of the calls that I have received. I know that there are many of you waiting for me to get to your requests (approximately 25 give or take). Please be patient and also call or email a reminder to me. I know that sometimes I have missed messages and I don't want anyone falling through the cracks. Contact me on my cell phone at (402)443-6157 or email me at [lucas@nerwa.org](mailto:lucas@nerwa.org).

Have a good and safe construction season.

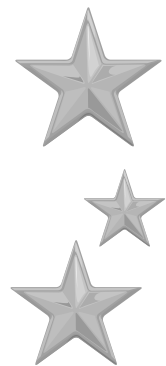




**NEBRASKA RURAL WATER  
ASSOCIATION'S  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
& UTILITY EXPO  
WILL BE HELD AT THE  
YOUNES CONFERENCE CENTER  
IN KEARNEY, NEBRASKA,  
ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**



**2015—March 16-18**  
**2016—March 21-23**  
**2017—March 13-15**  
**2018—March 12-14**





# Clorox; Is It Safe For Drinking Water

By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider

As most everyone knows, Nebraska is not a mandatory disinfection state. Most of the public water systems across the state do not use chlorine disinfection on a regular basis. Most every water operator also knows what can happen if they fail a routine monthly coliform test, panic sets in.

Most often after a coliform violation we get asked, "Now what do I need to do?" Usually there are a couple of things you may want to do. One is to disinfect the system using chlorine. You can purchase chlorine from several reputable vendors across the state. Most of the commercial vendors carry 12% chlorine and you may be able to buy as little as a 5 gallon pail but usually it comes in 15 gallon carboys or more. The only problem with purchasing this amount is you may not need this much, then what to do you do with what's left over? Another source is to use Clorox. The main advantage of using Clorox for emergency disinfection is the fact that almost all grocery stores carry the product. Regular Clorox bleach is NSF (National Sanitation Foundation) approved. Clorox has evolved over the years from 5.25% to 6% and most recently 8.25%. When purchasing Clorox bleach it is very important to only purchase "Regular Clorox." This means no additives like spring fresh, lemon fresh or splash free, etc. The Clorox with additives is not NSF approved and should not be used in your drinking water supply.

The second thing water systems can do to help clean

up the system is to flush. Flushing sounds easy enough but there are a couple things to take into consideration. If it's winter, flushing can be an icing hazard. Also, all dead ends need to be flushed. Flushing can also really stir up your distribution system. Just ask any operator with high iron and manganese concentration in their water. Stirring up the system may cause more bacteria problems by stripping bio film loose from the inside walls of the water main. If this happens you may have more problems with bacteria the following month. That's why my usual recommendation is to use both methods if practical. Start the chlorinator and then flush. This will disperse the chlorine quickly and move chlorinated water into the problem dead ends. As always, if you run into a problem don't hesitate to give us a call.

**Gurney**  
Bert Gurney & Associates Inc.

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

**Locations:**  
4428 South 108th Street  
Omaha, NE 68137  
**(402) 551-7995**  
(402) 553-5879 Fax

4403 1st Ave SE, Suite 411D  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402  
**(319) 550-6697**  
(319) 550-6919 Fax

**EP**  
**ELECTRIC PUMP**

*Proudly Serving the Municipal/Industrial Water  
and Wastewater Market in: Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska,  
North Dakota, South Dakota and Western Wisconsin*

Des Moines, IA  
515-265-2222 / 800-383-PUMP (7867)

New Prague, MN  
952-758-6600 / 800-211-6432

Fargo, ND  
701-293-0204

Omaha, NE  
800-383-7867

[www.electricpump.com](http://www.electricpump.com)

Factory authorized shop and field  
service for all products offered



*Process Equipment is offered by EPI Environmental.*  
Please see the website at [www.epi-environmental.com](http://www.epi-environmental.com)

---

# **Last Paper Issue of the Water Spout**

*By Michael Wentink, Field Services & Training*

---

The current issue of *The Water Spout* will be **the last paper version you will receive**. Beginning with the next issue, *The Water Spout* will be going “paperless”.

In an effort to improve logistics and to reduce the costs involved with its production, an electronic only format will be developed and posted for viewing and printing. Although sad to see, this move to a “paperless” *The Water Spout* will provide a couple of benefits in its production.

Following production of each issue, licensed water operators will receive notice by email that the issue is available for viewing and be directed to the link where *The Water Spout* now currently resides. That website is [http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/enh\\_pwsindex.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Pages/enh_pwsindex.aspx).


**To receive the future notices on *The Water Spout* availability, a current and accurate email address is required.** Operators of public water systems and their contact information are identified on the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS). If you are the operator of a public water system, visit the public version of SDWIS and check to see if your name and email address are included in the data for your

water system. Access to SDWIS is located at <http://sdwis-dhhs.ne.gov:8000/DWW/>. To navigate through SDWIS and into the data for your water system, type in the PWS ID number (NE31xxxxx) in the box titled “Water System No” and click on “Search for Water Systems” located at the bottom of that screen. The name of your water system and PWS ID number will then be shown on the next screen. Click on the PWS ID number and information on your water system will be shown. If your name and/or email address are not shown, please contact Jennifer Nguyen at [jennifer.nguyen@nebraska.gov](mailto:jennifer.nguyen@nebraska.gov).

**For those of you who are licensed water operators, but are not employed as an operator of a public water system**, such as plumbers licensed as grade VI, contact Jennifer Nguyen at the email address above and you will be included on the notification list.

If you have any questions or need assistance navigating the public version of SDWIS, please contact me at (308) 535-8135 or by email at [mike.wentink@nebraska.gov](mailto:mike.wentink@nebraska.gov).

This article also appears in the last printed issue of *The Water Spout*.

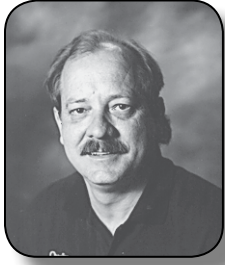


**RAFFLE!!!**

**50/50 WATERPAC RAFFLE**

Guaranteed \$500 plus 50% of the proceeds. Drawing will be held at the fall conference in Gering in September. Tickets will be available at all the training sessions. The field staff will also have tickets with them if you are interested. Tickets **MUST** be filled out in full.

**Tickets are \$5 each or 3/\$10**



## Meters are a Must

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

Everyone that is involved in the industry of safe drinking water these days is no doubt aware that our industry is changing at a tremendous rate. Many of these changes are unfortunately quite costly and demand that water systems keep a very close eye on their budget. Several small water systems around the state still charge a flat rate for water. Upcoming costly regulations and the simple fact that many systems are simply becoming quite old and have not been updated are causing many systems to take a good look at their water rates. Systems that are charging a flat rate are finding that they are forced to double or in some cases triple the rate just to meet their annual budget. This often means that a single person living alone is paying around \$35 to \$45 a month for water, the same as a family of six with perhaps a large lawn and garden. This, of course, is not a fair practice, just as it is not fair for the family of six to pay the same as a business or industry that uses far more water than the family does.

The mention of water meters seems to inflict the fear that everyone's water bill is going to be raised. This is definitely not the case. In many instances a majority of customers will see a decline in the amount that they are paying for water. Compare a flat water rate with simply installing one electric meter on the edge of town and everyone divides the bill equally. Very few residents would be willing to do this I am sure.

Systems that have installed water meters have found that water consumption had been reduced drastically, an average of 50%. This is a tremendous asset in reducing the systems annual budget which of course has a direct effect on everyone's water bill.

I recently assisted a community in Western Nebraska considering major water improvements and considering meters as a part of the project. This system has 639 connections. Currently all users pay a flat fee of \$38.23 with a handful of users paying more due to estimated water use. This generates \$339,182.00 annually. A metered rate to generate the same revenue would be \$27.00 + \$1.75/1,000 gals. This means any users averaging less than 6,000 gals. per month would be paying less (\$35.75 for 5,000 gals.) Approximately 370 of the current 639 users would be paying less with a metered rate than they are now. This is assuming they sell only 45% of what they are now pumping! Meters are truly the only fair and equitable means for a water system to generate adequate revenues.



# MUNICIPAL PIPE SERVICES

- LINE STOPPING 3/4" - 60"
- LINE TAPPING 2" - 60"
- VALVE INSERTION 4" - 16"
- VALVE TURNING
- PIPE REPAIR



**For all your POTABLE and WASTE WATER needs**

## MpS

BOB HENNIG  
SALES MANAGER  
1615 WEST "J" STREET  
HASTINGS, NE 68902  
1-800-395-7473  
CELL: 402-469-1886  
FAX: 402-462-4408  
E-MAIL: BOB@MUNICIPALPIPESERVICES.COM

**WWW.MUNICIPALPIPESERVICES.COM**

# Raffle Prize Winners

The raffle prize winners were:

Cope Clark, City of Pierce-Gun; Brook Andersen, City of Wisner-\$500; Stacey Cleays, Village of Morrill-39" TV (not pictured); Chad Roberts, City of Norfolk-32" TV; John Bouchal, Winnebago Tribe-5 piece tool set; Fred Appleton, Village of Walthill-263 piece tool kit; David Tweedie, Nestle Purina PetCare-8" Kindle HDX; Wayne Regnier, Village of Garland-Fire Pit; Galen Schaefer, Michael Foods Bloomfield-Log sign donated by Bob Kendall from Reynolds (not pictured).



# 2014 CONFERENCE



# CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS





---

## A Look Back at the 2014 Conference

*By Pat Petersen, Training Specialist*

---

It was the eve of “St. Patrick’s Day.” Most people were getting ready to celebrate with green beer, corned beef and cabbage. Not the Nebraska Rural Water staff and board, we were all preparing for our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Grand Island, Nebraska. Setting up for the conference can be very time consuming, but with the help of everyone we were all set by 5 PM on Sunday night. The conference was set to begin on Monday, March 17 at 1 PM and conclude Wednesday, March 19 at 2 PM. At this year’s conference, operators were able to obtain 14 water CEU’s, 5.5 backflow CEU’s, 12.5 wastewater CEU’s and 13.5 well driller CEU’s.

On Monday, March 17 around 8 AM, vendors and exhibitors began setting up their booths for all to see and visit. This year we had a remarkable turnout in the exhibit hall. Over 60 vendors lined the floor in the arena of the Heartland Events Center. Vendors have the opportunity to be sponsors of the annual conference. This year we had one Platinum Sponsor, Municipal Supply; five Gold Sponsors, HOA Solutions, JEO Consulting, Lincoln WinWater, Sargent Drilling and Utility Service Co. Silver Sponsors were; Bartlett and West, HD Supply Waterworks, and Rehab Systems. ACCO Unlimited, Engineering America, Hydro Klean, Kriz-Davis Co., Maguire Iron, Miller & Associates, NMC, Omaha WinWater, PPG Industries and Tomcat Consultants/Tap Co. were the Bronze Sponsors. The Nebraska Rural Water Association appreciates such generosity from all of these sponsors who help make our conference a complete success.

Tom Goulette, the Nebraska Rural Water Association Board President, welcomed the operators and then gave way to Department of Health Drinking Water Administrator, Jack Daniel. Jack gave his annual regulatory update, followed by Earl Imler who informed the audience of the state’s role in emergency response. Bill Podraza with Miller and Associates gave a very interesting and also entertaining presentation about stress in the workplace and how it affects us all. Denise Brosius-Meeks completed Monday’s program with a USDA/Rural Development update.

After a quick meal on Monday evening, attendees were invited back to the Midtown Holiday Inn to have a little fun - Vegas style. Players could try their luck at several different types of games, such as Black Jack,

Craps, Roulette and the Money Wheel. In the spirit of St. Patrick’s Day green drinks, green beads and even green hats were out in full force at the game night. This game night would not have been successful without the generous donations from JEO Consulting, HOA Solutions, and Lincoln WinWater. They teamed with the Nebraska Rural Water Association to make this fun night a possibility.

Tuesday, or as I call it, “crazy” day, starts very early and finishes fairly late. The day is full of opportunities for the operators to learn, be refreshed, and network with all the other operators that attended the conference. Several roundtable discussions were held Tuesday morning to “break the ice” or get the operators comfortable with their surroundings followed by break-out sessions throughout the day. Some of the sessions operators could attend were iron and manganese removal options, water metering, locating and leak detection and how to handle non-paying customers.

A social hour hosted by HD Supply kicked off our Tuesday evening festivities. The social hour was followed by a wonderful banquet and awards. Doug Woodbeck, Field Services Manager, usually would give out the outstanding operator award but was unable to attend due to a knee replacement surgery he could not skip out on. We wish Doug the best of luck with his “new” knee. Taking over for Doug was Area 1 Field Rep. Fred Baumert. This year’s Outstanding Operator Awards went to Jerry Clark from Falls City and Bob Lockmon from Stuart. These two operators have shown what it takes to be the best water operators any community could ask for. Congratulations Jerry and Bob and we wish you continued success in the future.

To close the evening, the Amazing Arthur Fratelli took the stage for an hour of laughs and entertainment. Arthur’s event included several different types of magic and juggling acts. His performance was fantastic and hilariously funny!

Just like that, it was Wednesday, the final day of the conference and a lot of things to still get done. First priority was the operator breakfast held in the arena at the Heartland Events Center. After breakfast, the

*continued on page 15*



annual board meeting was held. One very important item at the meeting was the retirement of long time board member Eugene Schroeder with Cedar Knox Rural Water. His vacancy was filled by Ken Halvorsen from Lancaster Rural Water District #1. Good Luck Eugene on your retirement!

To wrap up the morning, it was back to the break-out sessions. Some of the highlights of Wednesday's sessions included a session about groundwater and Nebraska geology, field rep Q & A, and a session about Title 179, Chapter 7, Engineering and Design.

Wednesday's lunch included a very special guest, Nebraska's very own United States Representative Adrian Smith. He was in attendance to address the crowd and present the City of Curtis with its national champion "Best Tasting Drinking Water" award. Curtis had won Nebraska's Best Tasting Drinking Water contest at last year's conference and was automatically entered into the national contest. The rest is history! Congratulations to Curtis on their National Champion "Best Tasting Drinking Water!"

The Village of Trenton was the winner of the Best Tasting Drinking Water this year at our annual

conference. They too have earned a shot at winning the same award that Curtis did! Good Luck Trenton!

Finally as Wednesday was wrapping up I found myself doing the most important thing of all; thanking everyone! Thanks to the vendors, it was the largest number of exhibits we have ever had. Thanks to all the presenters, you were all fantastic. Thanks to the Nebraska Rural Water Board for all of your help! Salli, Carol, Mike Lucas, Russ Topp, Randy Hellbusch, Barney Whatley and Mike Stanzel - Thank You. I couldn't ask for a better group to call my teammates! Also, to Dianne Willey and her support staff I say Thank You. I learned so much from all of you! The Heartland Events Center has been a great place for our conference the past three years and we were surrounded with great people.

As we close the curtain on our 2014 annual conference we look ahead to 2015. With that being said and our three year contract complete, the Nebraska Rural Water Association has chosen to move our conference to the Younes Convention Center in Kearney, Nebraska. You will see more updates about conference "37" and its new digs. Until then, have a safe and happy summer!

## SARGENT DRILLING COMPANY

- Loaner Motor Service
- Pump Repair
- Video Surveys
- Acidizing & Chemical Treatment
- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Test Well Drilling
- Water Well Design & Construction
- Complete Pump Machining Facility
- Pump Test Labs
- Sonar Jetting

### COMPLETE MUNICIPAL WATER WELLS & PUMP SERVICE

**Gary McCracken, Manager**

**South Highway 21**

**P.O. Box 627**

**Broken Bow, Nebraska 68822**

**Business: (308) 872-5125**

**After Hrs: (308) 872-8305**

**Nathan Jacobson, Manager**

**South Highway 81**

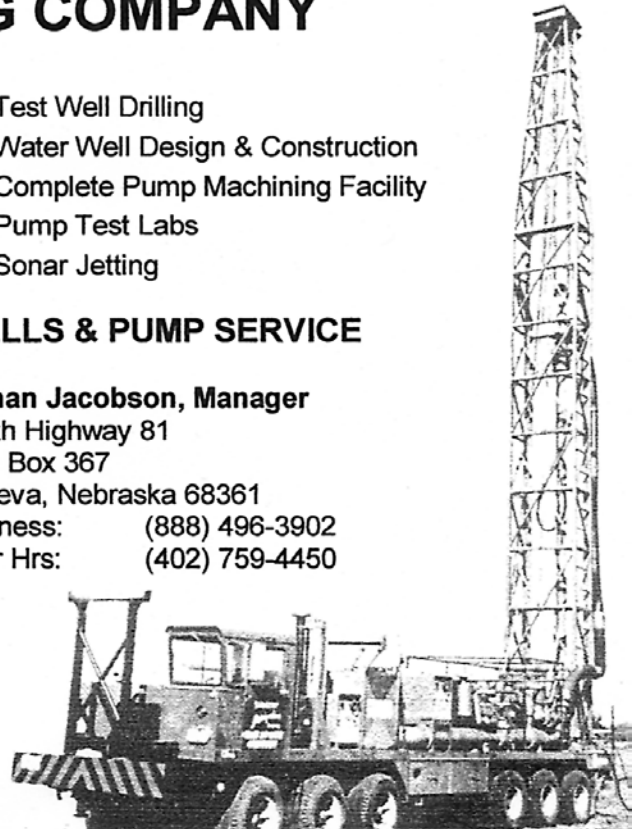
**P.O. Box 367**

**Geneva, Nebraska 68361**

**Business: (888) 496-3902**

**After Hrs: (402) 759-4450**

**MUNICIPAL & INDUSTRIAL DIVISION**





## Beware of a Free Lunch

*By Mike Stanzel, Source Water Specialist*

Back in early February I got the privilege of accompanying Randy Hellbusch and Board Members, Tom Goulette and Larry Wennkamp to the annual water rally in Washington, D.C. This was my first time ever to see our nation's capital; so needless to say, I was eagerly looking forward to the trip.

This is a yearly event sponsored by National Rural Water which provides an opportunity for us to visit in person with our state's Congressmen and Senators. Our purpose is to ask for their continued support and their help to keep funding our programs. These meetings require us to look as professional as can be, so I did have to go purchase some nice shirts, slacks and ties, which was long overdue anyway.

Randy and I flew out on the 6:00 am flight and arrived in D.C. early on Monday. Randy having been there numerous times offered to be the tour guide. So we checked in to the hotel and set out to see as much as possible. I'm pretty sure on our journey we walked somewhere between 17-18 miles or at least it felt like it. Thus causing the start of a blister from the new shoes I needed as well. Monday ended in an early night as it was a very long day.

Tuesday came and was a full day with meetings scheduled throughout the day. So with the new dress clothes on, we headed out on another journey which after all was said and done, I think we walked another 15 or so miles. UGH!!!! Lesson #1: don't bring new shoes to D.C. (Also, I'm getting to the "Free Lunch" part.)

Sometime in midafternoon Tuesday between meetings, we found out that the water sample from Curtis, Nebraska, had arrived after being misplaced. During this water rally, National Rural Water also has the Best Tasting Water in the country competition. The Village of Curtis qualified for this competition by winning our state's contest held at our annual conference in March 2013.

After the last meeting on Tuesday, we arrived back at the hotel. Of course, I'm practically limping at this point due to the enormous blister on my foot. We were immediately approached by a National Rural Water staff member informing us that Curtis's water sample had made it into the final top 5 and we needed to have a representative at the luncheon on Wednesday. We had a little dilemma on our hands since we had a meeting

scheduled at the same time at Mike Johanns' office.

So at dinner that evening, I thought, me being the "New Guy," I'd volunteer to attend the luncheon. After all, it's a FREE LUNCH, right? And it meant I didn't have to walk another 15 plus miles!

So the next day I walked into the banquet area where just about 300 or so well-dressed people were in attendance. I found a table and noticed several news cameras and reporters were also there. I was thinking apparently this best tasting water contest is a big thing!

As I'm eating lunch, I hear the Emcee on the loud speaker ask if there was anyone from Nebraska in the audience. So, of course, as I look around, I'm the only one reluctantly raising my hand. So he approaches me and said I have to come up to the stage in a little bit and talk about my water system. HUH? I GOTTA WHAT? So after I about choked on my pork chop, I put the smart phone to work. I contacted the operator at Curtis and got a brief description of their system.

Did I mention I have a HUGE FEAR of speaking in front of a bunch of people?

Well, I made it through that. They proceeded to bring out the judges and the 5 water samples and within 15 minutes they were ready to announce the winner. So as I'm sitting there thinking wow, what did I get myself into, they announced the winner. You guessed it, Curtis Nebraska! CRAP!!!! Now I was thinking I'd have to go back up there again and accept the award in front of all those people.

This time I was greeted with a bunch of reporters sticking cameras and microphones in my face. Well, somehow I fumbled through that fiasco. Dozens of people were congratulating me as I made my way back to my table only to see Tom, Randy, and Larry standing in the back just a laughing away!

So all in all it is was quite the experience but in the long run, I would not have changed a thing. But my advice to you all is:

**"Be Careful of a Free Lunch!"**



## GOLF AND STEAKS

Attention all water operators, mark your calendars on **JUNE 6<sup>th</sup>** for a 5 hour water operator training class followed by a round of golf and steak dinner courtesy of **SARGENT DRILLING**.

Please RSVP to this event to [pat@nerwa.org](mailto:pat@nerwa.org) or call the office at 402-443-5216.

If we do not have at least 15-20 participants the golf and supper will not happen. The water operator class will go on regardless of the amount of attendees.

## From the Ground Up!

*Building and maintaining* great tanks, that's what Maguire Iron has been doing since 1915. We are now in 30 states so let us do it for you too from the ground up!



We *designed* it. We *fabricated* it. We *erected* it. We *ainted* it. We *maintain* it.



P.O. Box 1446 Sioux Falls, SD 57101 605 334-9749  
[www.MaguireIron.com](http://www.MaguireIron.com)



## Summer Water Use

By Barney Whatley, Backflow Trainer

Now that the weather is warming up, we are all getting ready to start our usual summer water use. We need to take precautions to avoid unprotected cross connections, as they are quite easy to create when we



are concentrating on the task at hand rather than the protection of the water system. As water operators and system owners and managers we

are constantly reminding our customers of the dangers of cross connections. These reminders will fall a little flat if we are discovered to be engaging in the practices we are warning them to avoid. This is why it is especially important for all employees of the water system to take special precautions to “practice what we preach” instead of facing the embarrassing prospect of creating the very situation we are cautioning our customers to avoid.

Garden hoses are the most common cross connection there is. It is estimated that 90% of all cross connections are created with common garden hoses. A hose left running and laying on the ground could easily become submerged in a puddle of water which also has animal feces, pesticides, herbicides or other chemicals in it. A loss of system pressure while this condition exists could result in these substances being drawn into the system piping if the hose is unprotected. A simple hose bib vacuum breaker installed on the faucet

would insure that this situation would not result in a backflow incident. Many faucets are currently being installed with built-in backflow protection. This protection usually consists of an atmospheric vacuum breaker as shown in the picture to the right. Care must be taken when using this type of protection because if the hose is elevated above the vacuum breaker at any point, that will render the vacuum breaker ineffective. Unless the vacuum breaker is spring loaded, the check valve will remain in the open position as long as there is water in the body of the device, regardless of the direction the



water is flowing.

Another common use of water for utilities is filling trucks with water to be used for other maintenance work. Sewer jettors are one such instance, and by their very nature they pose a definite backflow risk. Because the



equipment is used in direct contact with raw sewage, it is important to insure that the fill connection is properly protected to prevent the possibility of backflow. If your system is large enough to have a

separate sewer department it is important to educate the employees of that department concerning the dangers of cross connections. Similarly, street sweepers also use water to perform their functions. These machines are built to sweep up dirt, cans, bottles and other debris commonly found on city streets. While most of this material is not as objectionable as what we find in the sewer, it is still not something we want to drink in our water. Again, street personnel should be educated on the dangers of cross connections and how they should be protected.

Swimming pools and water parks are another municipal use of water that needs to be protected. Most modern

swimming pools are designed and built with the fill pipe protected by either an air gap or a mechanical backflow preventer. Often times, however, there is a small water line used for makeup water to



replace the water lost on a daily basis to evaporation and being splashed out of the pool. This line must also be protected from potential backflow that could occur in the event of a system pressure loss. Even though there is chlorine in the pool water, it is not considered potable as “accidents” in the pool might not be completely disinfected by the chlorine present before the results could be drawn back into the system and consumed by a nearby neighbor. Splash stations

*continued on next page*


are also usually designed with the prevention of cross connections in mind. If your system has an old splash station or one that was not designed by an engineer, it should be inspected to insure that it will not be the inadvertent source of a backflow incident.

The Parks Department will also be using water to keep the parks, ball fields and other municipal green spaces green. Insuring that precautions are taken to avoid creating unprotected cross connections will keep the summer use of water fun rather than tragic. It is important to remember that small children will be in the parks, and they have no problem with picking up a hose or a sprinkler and getting a drink of water from it. Let's all do our very best to insure that that drink will be as safe as the drink they would get from a drinking fountain or their own kitchen faucet. Let's all work together to make this summer one that consists of fond memories of fun times and not sad memories of a tragic event.



## Help Update the NeRWA Water and Sewer Rate Study

Your help is needed to update the NeRWA water and sewer rate study. **BE WATCHING** for a letter sent to your system's clerk requesting information for the next water and sewer rate study. The letters will be in the mail in the near future. Please take a little time and record and send us your system's rates and other information. Your participation is important because the more information we get the more useful the rate study will be.



**JEO CONSULTING GROUP INC**  
800.723.8567 jeo.com

Water Storage  
Wells & Transmission Mains  
Distribution System - Water Treatment  
Water Rate Studies & Flow Analysis  
Water System Mapping  
Water Booster Stations  
Rural Water Districts

ENGINEERING   ARCHITECTURE   SURVEYING   PLANNING

# Bartlett & West

For over 60 years — engineering clean and safe water for our communities and for you.

## Water Engineering Services

- Preliminary, feasibility, and design reports
- Water source, treatment, and distribution design
- Long-range strategic and financial planning
- Regulatory compliance—strategies and planning
- GIS, GPS, and specialized system modeling
- Permitting, land rights, and easement management



BARTLETT & WEST

1200 SW EXECUTIVE DR ■ TOPEKA KS ■ 888.200.6464 ■ BARTWEST.COM

# Evaluations from the Annual Conference

Congratulations to Addison Jarzynka of Harvard! He won the Kindle from the evaluation drawing. A total of 109 people turned in their evaluations and had a chance to win.

NeRWA appreciates getting your feedback. The areas that the majority of the people who responded liked the most were the class sessions, the meals, learning new information, the vendors, the speakers and the opportunity to visit with other people; operators, staff, etc. The three things that were mentioned the most as dislikes were the fact that the Event Center was cold, the motels were not right by the Event Center and Tuesday's lunch needed some condiments for the sandwiches.

All the information that you shared has been considered as plans are made for upcoming conferences. Thank you for your valuable input. It will help us have an even better conference next year.

## Summary of Evaluations

NeRWA Grand Island Conference  
March 17-19, 2014

TOTAL EVALUATIONS RECEIVED - 109

Double positions: Operator/Manager and Clerk - 1  
Operator/Manager and Board member - 1  
Operator/Manager and Plumber - 1

QUESTION # 1 - Please circle which best describes your position:


- |   |    |
|---|----|
| a. Operator/Manager                       | 94 |
| b. Administrative                         | 2  |
| c. Board Member                           | 1  |
| d. Plumber                                | 2  |
| e. Lawn Service                           | 0  |
| f. State/Federal Rep.                     | 4  |
| g. Clerk                                  | 2  |
| h. Other: (no explanation)                | 1  |
| Backup Operator                           | 1  |
| MAP                                       | 1  |
| Utility technician/water operator trainer | 1  |
| Maintenance Tech.                         | 2  |
| Vendor/Owner                              | 1  |

QUESTION # 2 - Why do you attend the NeRWA conference?

- |                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| a. The training classes          | 37 |
| b. The prizes/entertainment      | 1  |
| c. The vendors                   | 11 |
| d. Chance to meet with operators | 28 |
| e. All of the above              | 70 |

QUESTION #3 - Things you liked and why?

- It was very educational. Very good speakers.
- The facility was spacious with plenty of room for vendors, training sessions and lunch/dinner. The entertainment Monday night was very good and well attended. Food was good and plentiful.
- All was good. ( 2 of this response)
- Everything was good.
- Good choice of training sessions to pick from. Great food.
- Class.
- Enjoyed hands-on classes. Food all around was great.
- Training sessions & speakers were great and so was the food. Motels weren't too far away.
- Good conference. Keep up the good work.
- Location. Keep it in Grand Island.
- Meals a little shaky this year. Location very good. Training more dual hours. Vendors very good.



**DN TANKS**  
DYK and Natgun  
Generations Strong

**Sustainable Infrastructure**  
Prestressed Concrete Water Storage Tanks

**913.681.6006 | www.dntanks.com**  
Dave Ornduff, Regional Manager  
dave.ornduff@dntanks.com

- Training sessions.
- Good mix of vendors and speakers.
- Lots of space. Comfortable chairs in classrooms.
- Vendors, training sessions (roundtable format). Chance to meet with other operators.
- Good talks & chance to have face to face time with operators.
- Roundtable discussions. Hands-on.
- Variety of speakers. Congeniality of host. Food. Entertainment. Great prizes.
- The cookies after dinner were a good thing.
- Good variety of classes. Free beer. Visiting with other operator/managers.
- All very good.
- Meals. More vendors.
- Vendors – new equipment & tools. Hands-on classes – new ideas.
- Vendors. Speakers. Holiday Inn.
- Informative speakers. The variety of vendors. Meals were good.
- The venue, training sessions, vendors, speakers, meals, entertainment and motels.
- Good organized agenda. Clear and precise.
- Training sessions were very informative. Good meals.
- Meeting other operators. Good training classes.
- All. Liked later hours start in morning sessions.
- Vendors & info. I gained in classes.
- Updates on the rules – reminds us what we need to do and able to ask questions.
- Good training sessions – well scheduled. Food good M-T. Gone Wed.
- Good food. Good informative class.
- Game night. Meeting new people. The guy that did the stress workshop.
- Location.
- Venue is good. Vendor & classrooms easy access.
- Classes – open floor meeting.
- Meals. Training sessions. Everything was great.
- Training session. Vendors. Entertainment.
- See old friends.
- Vendors because they have new equipment that would make my job easier. Meals. Training because you learn new information. The motel because it is close to the conference.
- I like chances like this to hear a variety of subjects that we must remember how to handle. Time is not always on our side. So this consolidated time eliminates several days at individual meetings to get same information.
- Food was good.
- Classes were good – seemed better than other years.
- Meeting old friends. Informative sessions.
- A lot of good information covered in the classes. Meals and entertainment were great.
- Training sessions – learn new options. Vendors – see new products. Meals – excellent. Entertainment – good. Motel – sucks.
- All the good information. Meeting new people.
- Food was excellent. Vendors were very good this year. All speakers were excellent. Entertainment – good. Venue was good.
- Good information. Adequate room.
- It was all nice.
- Like the location – easy to get to.
- Rich Koenig's classes. Meals. Vendors. Everything is great.
- Training session very informative. Like talking to vendors & other operators. Great atmosphere.
- It's ok if here for one day. Otherwise it gets same old same old.
- I think it was very good. The classes were very good and the meals were also very good!!
- Great facility. Informative classes. Good meals. Great conference.
- Well organized.
- Lots of vendor booths. Great facility. Good subject topics to attend.
- Everything. (3 of this response)
- Everything was good. Seemed smooth.
- Overall, I think everything is pretty good.
- Venue. Easy to get to.
- Food was great. Good location.
- Was good.
- Finally comfy chairs and enough room in sessions.
- Vendors and training.
- Just a little more time with vendors.
- Meeting operators from all over the state, Field Rep. and the Rural Water people.
- Like it all.
- The ease of getting from motel to conference center. The way training rooms & vendors are laid out. Meals were great.
- Get all our hours at one time.
- Class presentations are great and

informational.

- Food was very good. Most of the speakers were very interesting. Hotel was very pleasant. I like talking to other operators (learn a lot).
- Like more room in classroom. More room for vendors. Food was great.
- I learn, it's fun to get out of town for awhile.
- New things going on. Good updates. Jack Daniel is very good at this.
- More training and talking to vendors.
- Easy access. Good parking. Nice sized rooms. Good visual aids.
- Nitrates & well abandonment was excellent. Glad to see money going into research. We need the research. Evening meal on Tuesday was very good!
- Program is spread-out and not cramped. Food was very good. Good presenters & good material content.
- The speakers and training were all very good.
- Thought entertainment was very good this year. Most of the speakers were good. Like the comfort of the classrooms and dining area. Liked the Vegas night.
- Prime rib supper.
- Nice venue. Comfy seating.
- Lots of good information in training sessions.
- Classes – memory refresher. Food.
- Training & meeting other operators. Plus checking with vendors.
- Venue is ok. Would be better if motels were close so you don't have to drive. Sessions were good. Meals were ok but could be better. Vendors and speakers were good.
- The classrooms were nice & big with plenty of room.
- Very good conference.
- Roundtable talks.

#### QUESTION # 4 – Things you disliked and why?

- Being away from motel.
- Tuesday lunch.
- First year here. Didn't know what to expect, so can't say I really disliked anything. Good conference.
- The conference itself is a little far to come to.
- The catering this year other than the banquet was sub-standard especially given the prices reflected for guests.
- Would be nice to have motel/hotel onsite.
- Comedian was a bomb.
- Quality of meals – cold, tasted terrible.

Motels not near conference center.

- Cold and dim in and around trade show floor. Just seems too big. Hard to hear entertainer at banquet. Not a good atmosphere for banquet. No hotels next door.
- Meals. Motels not on grounds.
- Motels too far away.
- Tell the DEQ to approve onsite hours please.
- Hotels are too far from conference. Start meetings earlier. No meetings should be after 5:00.
- More knowledgeable speakers and less salesmen.
- None. (20 of this response)
- Motel not attached. Some classes crowded. Speakers that don't use microphone.
- Meals were not quite as good as in the past. Why don't we get more ww hours with backflow classes?
- The length of breaks between sessions is too long. Limited material for those needing backflow hours.
- Hotel not very close.
- Motels not close to convention center.
- Some classes I wanted to attend were put on while at another class. Maybe, could do

## Stainless Steel Products

Superior Quality – Superior Protection



**STAINLESS  
STEEL**  
by Ford Meter Box



[www.fordmeterbox.com](http://www.fordmeterbox.com)



some repeats of regs & rules.

- Tuesday lunch/no condiments with sandwiches.
- Nothing – well run.
- No place to sit & visit with others except at the food tables.
- Tuesday lunch was blah.
- Venue location – prefer not driving to and from.
- Cheap ass food.
- Hot in rooms.
- The snow, wind & cold, but it is Nebraska. Rich is great with backflow but the same thing every year.
- Wish there was more time so sessions could be spread out. Too many great topics at different sessions going on at the same time.
- Tuesday noon meal – sandwiches were dry.
- Tuesday's noon meal.
- Room size – too small. Speakers spoke above operators. Vendors – not practical.
- Starting to get a little spendy but that comes with the times.
- A lot of walking but that never hurt me.
- The rooms are too close. You can hear two sessions at one time. Need to get different sound system. Doesn't work half the time.
- Some of the classes don't pertain to what we do as operators.
- Away from hotels and entertainment.
- The noon meal on Tuesday needed help. A sandwich is ok, but how about condiments. Soup was ok.
- Noticed this year there was a group of 3-4 operators attending conferences during the last 5 minutes of the session. That is: getting credit for an hour meeting that they attended for 5 minutes.
- Was not real impressed with the food or the facility.
- Classrooms were too warm – made for drowsiness. Food was good except for lunch Tuesday. Have adequate drinks for breaks.
- Lack of backflow hours.
- It was hard to hear speakers at the hands-on area.
- Meals need to have condiments. Nothing worse than a dry sandwich.
- The area we had the lunches in was very cold. Tuesday's lunch was a dry sandwich with no condiments. Need to look for a facility with hotel accommodations & vendors in the same building.
- Water, wastewater, dual hours.

QUESTION # 5 – Any suggestions for future conferences?

- Use a motel conference center.
- It would be nice to have lodging at the conference itself, but understand the logistics in Grand Island. Lodging is not that far away.
- Kearney.
- Toothpicks for dinner.
- None. (14 of this response)
- Move to Kearney. (2 of this response)
- Move to Kearney! They are set up for this and the service, food & accommodations are great.
- Lose the lunch on Wednesday. Continue sessions straight through. Snack on a break is good enough.
- Breaks no longer than 15 minutes. Noon meals should feed men. Not soup & a sandwich.
- Veterans from the field speaking who have experience, not salesmen.
- I have no problem with moving to Kearney. ALL speakers should use a microphone.
- Keep it in Grand Island. (3 of this response)
- Keep it so we can get at least 10 hours w – 10 hours ww & 5 bf.
- Perhaps a location, such as Kearney, where they have a hotel and convention center together would be a better place to host this conference. It's also more centrally located in the state.
- Give Columbus another chance since there is new management now.
- Leave conference in Grand Island.
- More things to do for the wives.
- Something to drink other than coffee, tea or water.
- Will improvements at Columbus New World Inn permit considering going back? Kearney?
- 1 conference.
- More hands-on if possible. A venue with

## Municipal Automation & Control

[municipalautomation.com](http://municipalautomation.com)

**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**

[bill.s@municipalautomation.com](mailto:bill.s@municipalautomation.com)

- attached hotel rooms.
- Better food.
- Please continue to find the money to keep this conference available.
- Try to keep it in the eastern part of the state.
- Divide them up – have smaller venues.
- Keep this conference in Grand Island.
- More cookies on breaks.
- Could have more wastewater classes.
- Make a rule that you cannot (punch-in) after that conference session is (1/2) half over.
- Would be very nice to get in a place where conference & motel were in the same place.
- More entertainment.
- More backflow hours.
- More small town operator-vendors.
- Need a change for Monday night entertainment. It has been casino night long enough. I would try 3 years in Kearney and then see how it goes. Also, think Monday prizes should give everybody the same chance to win. Give one ticket to everybody present. Entertainment was ok. Food choices could be better. Need more stuff for breaks.
- Kearney - with rooms & space for vendors in one building.
- Glad it's happening. Hours in 2 days.
- Rooms by classes.

- Good classes & displays.
- Where's the chocolate cake for dessert?
- Enjoyable time. Lots of nice people.
- Good job.
- Keep up good work. (2 of this response)
- Thanks for the time and effort it takes to put on the event.
- Instructors are all very good.
- Thank you and keep up the good work.
- Very good.
- Great Job to all putting this event on!
- Nice size of classes.
- Maybe moving it to Kearney would be a good idea.
- Good.
- Wacky entertainer.
- All went well.
- First time here. Good info.

#### ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Keep up good work. Staff is great!
- Good conference overall. Thanks for putting the conference on each year. It is the best way to get education hours for our community. It's beneficial to meet and mingle with operators, vendors and staff to ask questions and get information.
- As stated before, it's my first year here. I met nothing but good people and look forward to years to come.
- To all the NerWA staff and Board members: Keep up the outstanding work. I don't know what we would do without you all!!!!
- I think a move west would be good - Kearney.
- I really enjoy this conference.
- May not attend future conferences.
- I thought the speakers did a great job this year. The stress one was right on.
- Overall good conference – Thank you!
- All was very good.
- This is a good way for operators to learn and feel confident about what they do.



*By Salli Kemerling, Office Manager*

The Nebraska Rural Water Association will be publishing a new membership directory that will be available January 2015.

The directory will contain the same information as in the past. If you have any ideas of other things you would like to see in the directory, please let me know.

The mailing for the membership directory updates will be sent out in November with a return time of 2 weeks. The material for the directory needs to be at the publishers by December 1. So if you have any changes in information up until December 1, please send them to me. The information for the directory comes from the membership renewal forms that you send in to us on or before the month it is due. If I do not receive any changes, the information in the directory will be exactly as it appears on the renewal form that we presently have on file.

If you have any questions, you can call me at 800-842-8039 or email me at [salli@nerwa.org](mailto:salli@nerwa.org).

Thank you.

# 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... ▼

## NeRWA Staff

Training Specialist
Water Circuit Rider I
Water Circuit Rider II
Water Circuit Rider III
Wastewater Tech.
GIS/GPS Mapping Specialist
Deputy Circuit Rider
Capacity Development Specialist
Office Manager
Secretary
Board of Directors

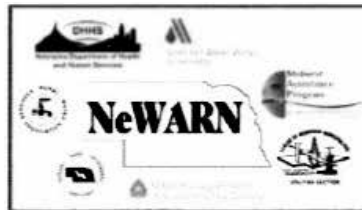


## News & Downloads Page NEW

Register on Line for Training  
 Available Equipment



**BARTLET**  
 SERVICE. THE BARTL



## Informational Links

National Rural Water
USDA Rural Development
NE Public Water Supply
HHS License Information
Check your tests Results
EPA Wastewater
EPA Drinking Water
Nebraska DEQ
League of Municipalities
Nebraska Section, AWWA
AWWA Library Reference Listings
NeRWA Associate Members
Archived "Good Water News" Articles

## NeRWA Contact Information:

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
 3390 Ponderosa Street  
 Wahoo, NE 68066

Office phone numbers:

800-842-8039  
 402-443-5216  
 Fax: 402-443-5274  
 Website: [www.nerwa.org](http://www.nerwa.org)  
 Email: [office@nerwa.org](mailto:office@nerwa.org)



### Cell #

### Email

Randy Hellbusch	402-443-8535
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	402-443-7072
Carol Jasa	

[randy@nerwa.org](mailto:randy@nerwa.org)  
[lucas@nerwa.org](mailto:lucas@nerwa.org)  
[pat@nerwa.org](mailto:pat@nerwa.org)  
[mike@nerwa.org](mailto:mike@nerwa.org)  
[russ@nerwa.org](mailto:russ@nerwa.org)  
[barney@nerwa.org](mailto:barney@nerwa.org)  
[Salli@nerwa.org](mailto:Salli@nerwa.org)  
[Carol@nerwa.org](mailto:Carol@nerwa.org)

**Nebraska Rural Water Association**

3390 Ponderosa  
Wahoo, NE 68066

**PRSR STD**  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
MAIL U.S.A.



*“Local Service, Nationwide”*

**10707 S. 149th Street  
Omaha, Nebraska**

Sensus Meters & AMR Equipment  
Smith-Blair Clamps & Couplings  
Ford Meter Box Company  
Febco Backflow Devices  
Tyler Fittings & Valve Boxes  
Griffin Ductile Iron Pipe  
AY McDonald Curb Boxes  
Uni-Flange Adapter Flanges  
Megalug Mechanical Joint Restraint  
Star Pipe Products  
McElroy Equipment Rental

American Darling Valve & Hydrants  
JM Manufacturing PVC Pipe  
PVC Round Meter Boxes  
Hymax Couplings & EZ-Max Repair Clamps  
Contech Construction Products  
Cherne Testing Equipment  
Live Tapping Services  
Northern Pipe Products  
Mueller Gas Distribution Products  
ADS HDPE Corrugated Pipe  
GPK Products

**Phone (800) 247-6811**

**FAX (402) 896-6379**