

Nebraska Good Water News

ISSUE 2/2021



Nebraska Rural Water Association

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Nebraska Good Water News

Issue 2/2021

“Keeping Our Water Safe”

Board of Directors

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“Nebraska Good Water News” is a quarterly publication of the NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION, 3390 Ponderosa, Wahoo, Nebraska 68066. Phone 1-800-849-8039 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.

On the cover:

Lower Big Blue NRD water tower located near Beatrice, Nebraska.

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2021 TRAINING

Wastewater Operator Training

May 12	Macy
June 23	Sutton
July 13	Chadron
August 11	Hartington
October 12	Franklin
November 16	Ogallala
December 14	Firth

5 water hours

Backflow Continuing Education Training

September 21	McCool Junction
September 23	Ord
October 5	So. Sioux City
October 7	O'Neill
November 17	Wahoo
December 7	Mitchell
December 9	Cambridge
December 15	Wahoo

5 water, 5 backflow
5 wastewater hours

Wastewater Training

May 19	Chadron
July 21	Kearney
August 25	Bridgeport
October 6	Omaha
November 17	Duncan
December 8	Wahoo

5 wastewater hours

Fall Western Conference

September 28-30
Gering Civic Center
Gering, Nebraska

NeRWA Office 3390 Ponderosa Street, Wahoo

August 18
Trenching & Shoring Class
8 water & 8 wastewater hours

August 19
Confined Space Class
8 water & 8 backflow, 8 wastewater hours

\$150 each class



To register, please visit:
www.nerwa.org



NeRWA Update

By Salli Kemerling, Office Manager

Well, a year has gone by since things were shut down because of covid. Hopefully, with people getting vaccinated, things should be opening up and getting back to normal.

In case you didn't have a chance to attend the annual conference in March, you can still attend our water, backflow and wastewater one-day classes and the fall conference. The list is available on our website and in every issue of our magazine, *The Good Water News*. Flyers are emailed and also mailed about four weeks before each class. If you are not receiving our emails, we might not have your email address. Send it to us and we will add you to our list.

All water and backflow licenses need to be renewed by December 31, 2021. The next license period will be 2022-2023. A wastewater license is renewed two years after the date your license was issued.

When you attend any class, you get a certificate. Keep that certificate in a place where you can easily find it. Sometimes you will have to send it to the state department as proof of attendance. If you lose the first certificate, you can request a second one. After that, each certificate will cost \$20.

A tip for all operators – bookmark our website or save it in your favorites. This way you can keep updated on class dates, addresses, and the agenda. Agendas are posted about a month before the class. Cancellations, and if a class is full, will also be noted there.

When you register online for any fee-based class, you can also pay online. If you choose not to pay, we will send you an invoice. **EXCEPTION: ANY backflow class that is held in the last three months of the renewal year needs to be paid before the class. If payment is not received by two weeks before the class, it will be assumed the person registered has decided not to attend and the space will be made available to someone on the waiting list.**

You can register for water and wastewater classes by phone, fax, mail or online. Some classes still need to be limited in size because of the space. If you register and do not attend it takes a spot away from someone else who may have needed hours. Any class or conference that has a fee must be registered for by fax, mail, or online. **REGISTRATIONS BY PHONE CALL FOR A FEE-BASED CLASS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.** You can email us but the registration form has to be attached.

We have brought back the Trenching & Shoring and Confined Space classes. The Trenching class is August 18 and the Confined Space is August 19. The Trenching class has eight continuing ed hours for both water and wastewater. The Confined Space class has eight hours for water, wastewater and also backflow. They are on our website and you can register any day for one or both of them. These classes need to be prepaid.

If you have any questions regarding hours or classes, please call our office or email any of the NeRWA staff.

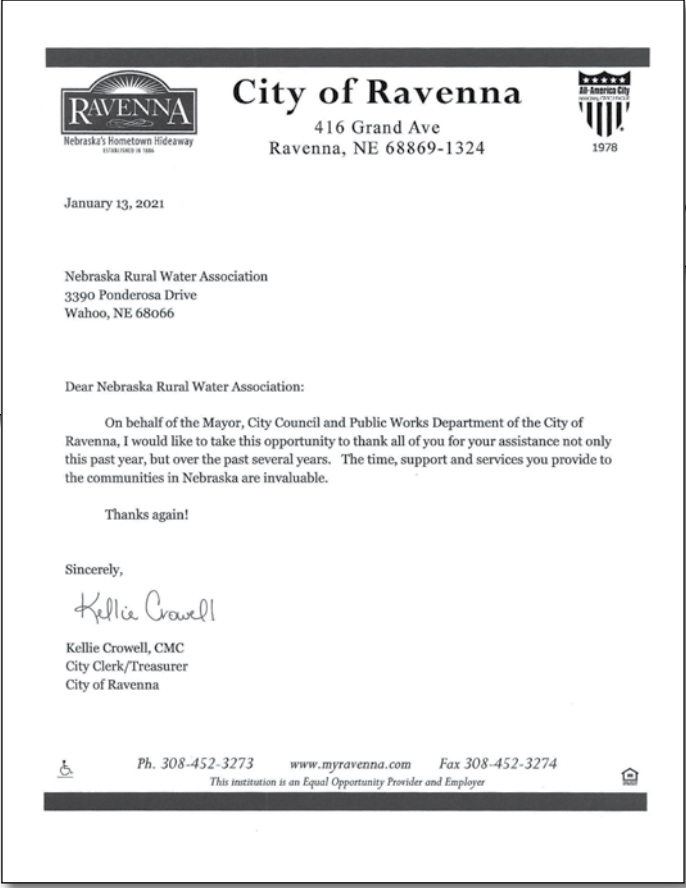
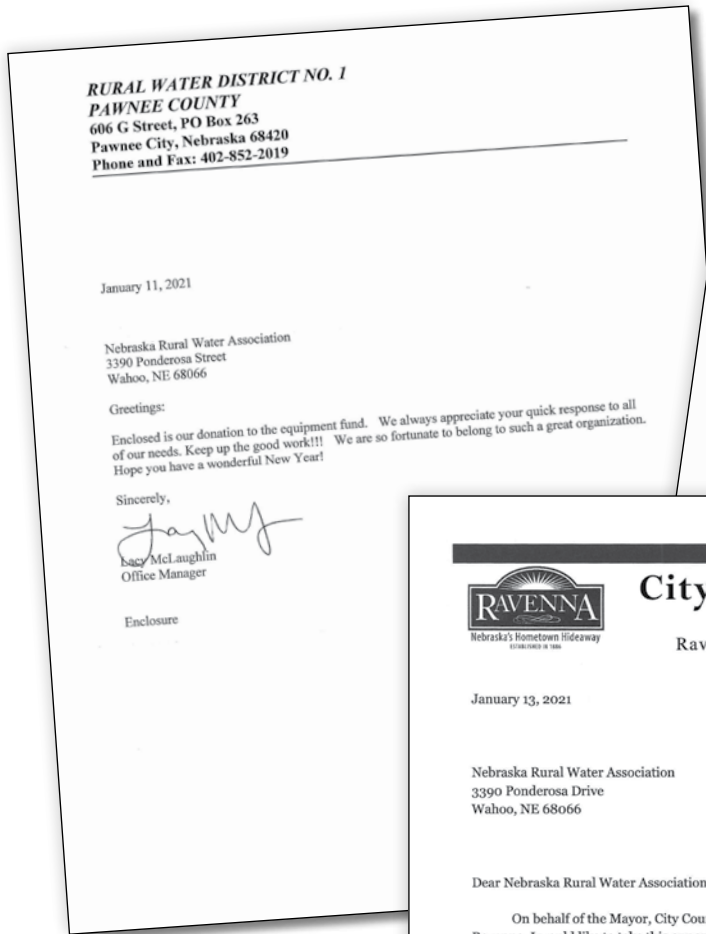


FAREWELL...

In the last issue Barney Whatley said he was retiring at the end of March. We would like to say goodbye and good luck to him. Barney had been with NeRWA for 22 years. He was a great asset to the NeRWA team. He will be missed. We hope he enjoys his retirement – he certainly deserves it.

Enjoy Your Retirement, Barney!

NOTES *of* THANKS





Village of Oakdale

400 5th Street PO Box 10
Oakdale, NE 68761
Phone: 402-776-2484 Fax: 402-776-2484

NERWA,
The Village of Oakdale would like to thank you for all you do for the communities through out this great state of Nebraska.
Mike Stanzel and Buck Buckley have been to our small village many times helping with locates, spotting while repairing water leaks, sewer camera work, smoking sewer mains, and the list goes on.
NERWA and your circuit riders have always been just a phone call away with help on the way or advice.
Please accept this \$100 donation to NERWA on behalf of the Village of Oakdale.
THANK YOU!

Karen Berg
Karen Berg
Board Chairman

Buck Jones
Buck Jones
Utilities Supt

Housing Authority of Loup City

1042 K Street
Loup City, Nebraska 68853-2014
Phone: 308-745-0624 Fax: 308-745-0624 Email: westside@cccusa.net

March 11, 2021

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa
Wahoo, NE 68066

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find enclosed a check in the amount of \$100.00 as a donation to your organization. Kevin Holcomb, City Superintendent for the City of Loup City, contacted your representative, Mike Stanzel to assist with finding a water leak on our property. We were thoroughly impressed with his knowledge and kindness as checked the property and located the area of the leak.
We are grateful that the City of Loup City is a member of your organization.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,
Miki Turdik
Miki Turdik
Executive Director

Village of Firth

Village of Firth
PO Box 38
Firth, NE 68358

January 27, 2021

Nebraska Rural Water
3390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE 68066

Good Morning:

Enclosed is a \$400 donation to your association from the Village of Firth. The Village Board is very grateful for all the services you provide to our village. Your expertise and service over the years is greatly appreciated.

Again, thank you for the services you provide to the Village of Firth.

Sincerely,
Jill A. Hoefler
Jill A. Hoefler
Village Clerk



Another 25 Interesting Facts About Water

By Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider

Once again, it's time to come up with a topic to write about for the *Good Water News* magazine. As I think back it's crazy to think this time two years ago half the state was cleaning up and recovering from historic flooding, and the other half was waiting for all the snow to melt.


This year I consider the eastern half of the state lucky, as Douglas County, for instance, recorded nearly the exact same amount of snow this past season as we did in 2019 when the flood happened. Luckily, the melt was slower and the March


rains didn't come until after the snow melted. However, we did receive quite a bit of rain these past few weeks leading to a high ground water table and standing water in ditches and fields in some parts of the state with dry conditions in the other. So with all the water we have seen lately, I thought I would search the internet to find some more interesting facts about water.

1. It takes 2,072 gallons of water to make four new tires.
2. To manufacture a new car it takes 39,090 gallons.
3. Water regulates the earth's temperature.
4. A human can survive more than a month without food but only a week without water, depending on conditions.
5. In one day a tree gives off 70 gallons of water though evaporation.
6. One acre of corn evaporates 4,000 gallons of water per day.
7. There are approximately one million miles of water pipes in the U.S. and Canada. That is enough to circle the earth 40 times.
8. The first water pipes were fire-charred bored logs.
9. An average five-minute shower uses 25 to 50 gallons of water.
10. There are approximately 56,000 public water supply systems in the U.S.
11. 80% of the earth's surface is covered by water.
12. 97% of the earth's water is in the oceans or seas.
13. 1% of the earth's water is suitable for drinking.
14. It is possible to drink water from the dinosaur era.
15. In a 100-year period, a water molecule spends 98 years in the ocean, 20 months as ice, about two weeks in lakes and rivers, and less than a week in the earth's atmosphere.
16. It would take 219 million gallons of water to cover one square mile with one foot of water.
17. It takes 27,000 gallons of rain water to get one inch over one acre.
18. 66% of the human body is water.
19. A tomato is 95% water.
20. An elephant is 70% water.
21. An ear of corn is 80% water.
22. It takes 1,500 gallons of water to process one barrel of beer.
23. It takes 24 gallons of water to make one pound of plastic.
24. To refine a barrel of oil it takes 1,851 gallons of water.
25. To produce one ton of steel it takes 62,600 gallons of water.

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A Possible Tool to Assist with Wellhead Protection

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

I recently received an email from a good friend, Marty Norton, whom many of you may have been acquainted with when he was an Engineer with USDA. Marty is now a Conservation Engineer with NRCS. Marty informed me that with the NRCS EQIP program, the NRCS is able to make incentive payments to producers to help them pay for treatments to meet natural resource concerns. A high priority (means that they get funded prior to other producers) resource concern is water quality in a wellhead protection area. For some of the following practices NRCS pays for management costs, some for construction, some for seeds and seeding.

Marty explained that the cost share can run from 25-75%. The remainder may be eligible through your local NRD, or could be paid by the land owner, the water system itself, or a combination of any of the entities involved. This could possibly be a very affordable and practical approach to preventing future nitrate or other contaminate issues. If you feel this is something that may benefit your water system, I would encourage you to approach the land owner and encourage their participation. There is a District Conservationist in each local NRD office and I would also suggest you contact this person to help get things started.

Along with the practices listed below, the hiring of an agronomist to assist with best management practices such as proper fertilizer application, etc., is an allowable expense.

The types of practices that are eligible include:

- Conservation Plantings
- Crop Rotation
- Contour Buffer Strips
- Cover Crops
- Well Decommissioning
- Groundwater Testing
- Planting a Field Border
- Riparian Planting
- Riparian Forest Buffer

- Filter Strip
- Grassed Waterway
- Irrigation Pipelines
- Micro-irrigation
- Gravity to Center Pivot/ Lateral Move
- Nozzle with Drops
- Irrigation Scheduling Costs
- Plant to Pasture or Hay
- Plant to Range
- Nutrient Management Costs
- Pest Management Costs
- Construct a Wetland (usually comes with some deep water
- Wetland Restoration or Enhancement



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This Happened

By Pat Petersen, Training and Technical Assistance Specialist

It was real, it was in person, and it was one of the most necessary things I've ever been a part of. The men and women of the State of Nebraska drinking water world needed this. They needed the hours for recertification, they needed the time away from their jobs, but most of all, they needed to see the faces of their comrades and leaders and just release. Well, it happened, it really happened! The 2021 Nebraska Rural Water Association Annual Conference was the place.

Several great things were about to take place the week of March 15-17 in Kearney at the conference. Yes, we were all late for our St. Patty's Day celebration but in all honesty, I think St. Patrick's Day was barely a mention.

NeRWA Board President Tom Goulette kicked off the conference with the Pledge of Allegiance and his welcoming address. Sue Dempsey, the NDEE Drinking Water Administrator, followed with the updates being made in the regulatory department. A Lead and Copper Rule update was given by Mike Wentink with DHHS, followed by a NeWARN update given by Ryan Hurst, the Utilities Manager from the City of Wahoo. After Ryan's presentation, we were invited to a Zoom meeting with Congressman Adrian Smith. Congressman Smith shared his support for the Nebraska Rural Water Association and all of the water and wastewater operators in the State of Nebraska. The congressman also reinforced his support for the USDA/RD and EPA programs that the Nebraska Rural Water Association works within. Rich Koenig and Dave Jundt, field reps for DHHS, gave a very in-depth presentation on how the coronavirus affected the daily operations of water operators and regulators.

As if having all of these great leaders and presenters wasn't enough to kick off our Monday, the Nebraska Rural Water Association was honored to be the host of National Rural Water Association CEO Matt Holmes. Matt arrived Monday afternoon and was able to stick around until Wednesday. Matt addressed the attendees at lunch on Tuesday. What an honor to have the leader of our national organization take the time to be a part of our Nebraska tradition. Thank you, Matt!

Not only was Matt the highlight of Tuesday, operators obtained six hours toward their recertification of water, wastewater, well driller, and five hours of backflow. The day went fast, very fast! After classes Tuesday, a grab-and-go meal was given to all attendees. Mine was delicious! Hopefully next year we can sit and enjoy our meals as we have in the past...it was just one of those years where things were going to be different, including meals.

By the time Wednesday rolled around, a feeling of accomplishment was in the air. The NeRWA was ready to put the finishing touches on our "in-person" conference. Four hours of continuing education were hammered out and a wonderful lunch was provided. It was complete. The conference was a success. I personally want to thank all of you for completing your evaluations for the conference. We read all of your suggestions and comments regarding the food. There were a few issues but I hope to have a better plan in place should this happen again. The Younes Center had nothing to do with how the food was dispersed. That was my decision and like I mentioned earlier, I hope next year things will be back to "normal."

So, as I look back at the conference, I see so many great things. I see in-person classroom learning, exhibitors taking the time to visit with the 280+ attendees, and a return to normalcy...a normal that most have been looking forward to! It was fun, it was stressful, but most of all it was a success. Thank you to all of you who attended and participated.

Finally, if it wasn't for a team effort of the Nebraska Rural Water Association's Board and staff, things like this may not go as well as they could. Each member of this staff and Board plays a part in making this thing happen. Board members, thank you for offering to help whenever you see

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something needs to be done! Salli and Amy, thank you for putting everything in boxes so I don't have to see how much work it really takes!! Randy, Mike, Scott, Ken, Buck and Adam, thank you for being the workhorses behind the scenes. Whether it be scanning classroom attendance, or loading the trailer, you guys are the difference makers!

No, I did not forget to mention one of our staff members, Barney Whatley. Barney taught me how to plan a conference. He taught me well. If you think you'll need it, bring it. Barney, thank you! If it wasn't for you, there is no way I

could do what I do when it comes to planning the annual conference. I know you will miss it, and we will miss you, but please, enjoy your retirement!

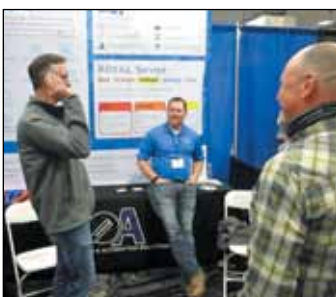
I know I'm starting to ramble but I just want to reiterate how important this conference was for everyone. We were together as a group again. A group that when together as one, could be one of the strongest unions in the state! A group that was able to share old stories with new friends and new stories with old friends! See you in Gering! Have a great summer!

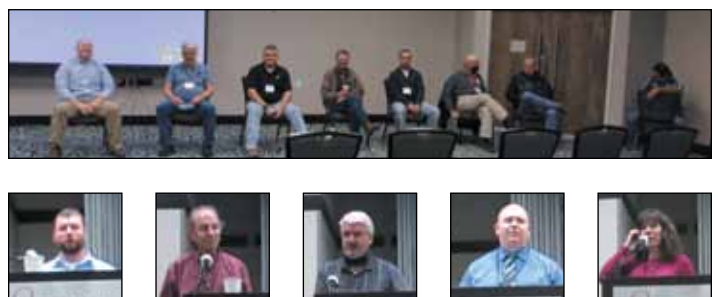
CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 15-17 Kearney, Nebraska

Turn page for more event photos! →







Summary of Evaluations

NeRWA Kearney Conference

March 15-17, 2021

Out of the 273 attendees at the conference in March, 90 handed in an evaluation. There were 79 operators and 11 other fields, such as state reps, managers, clerks.

The majority said they attend the conference for the training. Other reasons were the vendors, social interaction, prizes and entertainment, food just to name a few.

- Roundtable discussion was very good
- Comfortable seating
- Speakers/networking
- Good facilities and classes
- Good way to get hours, good food, keeping everyone as safe as possible
- Excellent facility, rooms, hotel
- Good place to have/motels
- The opportunity to gather together—you pulled it off!
- Training was great
- Great facility/long breaks/presentations
- Very good classes
- Vendors/food/speakers
- Nice variety of training sessions
- Everything was good
- More room, not packed into the rooms
- Liked it all under the circumstances of covid
- All presenters were great
- Very well ran, excellent meals—thanks for keeping us safe with masks
- Good to go to an actual training session again
- The variety of classes and vendors
- Did a great job putting on the conference and keeping everybody safe
- Operator's roundtable was the best ever/excellent food
- Food and classes
- A wide variety of excellent information/meals and lodging
- Glad to have the conference in spite of restrictions

- A very well ran conference
- Great job as always
- Venue centralized, vendors, training very informative
- Everything—I am a new hire!
- Thankful for NeRWA's efforts to be able to have the conference
- Speakers were great; training class scan card provided
- Location/vendors
- Updates on lead and copper
- Networking with other operators and sharing ideas
- Nice to have in-person training again
- The knowledge of the presenters
- Getting to visit with other operators
- My first conference and I thought it went well—good speakers
- The choice to get water and wastewater hours

QUESTION #4 – Things you disliked and why?

- Lunch didn't meet previous meals—lack of desserts and snacks
- No banquet
- Meals were good but not kept warm enough
- Food cold, operators getting lax about wearing masks
- Meals were bad
- Meals/people talking in classes
- Meals were very bad, cold, rare and poor-quality steaks
- Likely due to covid precautions, but meals were not the best
- Meals in a bag
- Meals below average, being in two different motels, no evening get-togethers
- Cold food/masks
- Meals
- Meals worst ever, not cooked, cold
- Wearing masks/cold meals
- Masks, to-go containers
- Needed a paper plate with meals
- Did not dislike anything, considering covid restrictions
- Masks

- Coronavirus – no social time
- Masks
- No entertainment
- Backflow training could be spread out a bit so we aren't into sitting there all day.
- Not being able to attend certain/all classes
- Time of year, move to June or July

I want to address a couple issues. I believe we were the largest event the Younes Center has had since the covid started last March; at which time we were their last large event for the year. It was our intention to have an in-person conference but still keep everyone safe by following some of the guidelines for the virus.

As you can see our biggest complaints were the meals and the masks. We decided not to have the huge social gatherings with the sit-down meals and entertainment to keep everyone safe. We still had seating set up in the dining area for those who wanted to stay. However, it seems that the majority opted to leave after picking up a meal. As for the masks, they were mandatory in all the Younes Center's properties.

The backflow classes are all held on Tuesday. Some comments mentioned having backflow on other days. There used to be one or two hours on each day of the conference. But over the years, most of the operators requested they all be on one day because some of them only come for backflow and can only attend one day of the conference.

We appreciate all the people who attended the conference in March and we think it was a success even with all the changes that had to be made. Hopefully, by next year things will be back to normal and we can go back to the conference with all the bells and whistles. Thank you for all your support.



Valve Exercising

By Scott Finke, Circuit Rider

Another conference that was well-attended, and hats off to Pat for putting on a great conference. Now, on to valve exercising. What is valve exercising? The ability to operate valves at a moment's notice is extremely important. In an emergency, entire sections of a distribution system may need to be shut down immediately. However, if a valve is not used over a period of time it can seize up from corrosion and/or silt, resulting in an inoperable valve.

Knowing the exact location of your valves has multiple benefits. Surveying and exercising valves gives you an accurate representation of your existing water system, lets you know if water main valves are operating as they are designed to shut down water mains quickly in case of a main break.

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) recommends that all water utilities initiate a valve exercise program that requires all valves to be operated and inspected

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) recommends that all water utilities initiate a valve exercise program that requires all valves to be operated and inspected on a regular basis.

on a regular basis. Every valve should be operated through a full close and open cycle on a regular schedule. You can develop the use of GIS system mapping to locate the valves and have detailed records of each valve. Some things you can have for information would be valve type and size, valve number, valve depth, valve location, date exercised, rounds exercised, open/closed direction and any other information you would want to

put in. In general, the operating formula for opening/closing a valve is three times the nominal valve size plus two or three turns of the operating nut. (Example; $6 \times 3 = 18$ plus 2 or 3 = 20 or 21). If you have some older valves, you may only get the valve size $\times 3$, it just depends on how old the valve is and what kind they are. After you are done opening the valve back up, make sure you turn the valve back a half or one turn to help keep it from corroding in the open position.

By regular survey and valve exercising you will have the detailed records you need to ensure the operability of your distribution system. Surveying helps identify the condition and location of all your valves. Knowing the condition of your valves and having an updated GIS system helps eliminate higher costs associated with water main breaks, and lost time digging up buried valves. When it comes to maintaining your valves, it's better to be proactive than reactive.

If you need your valves exercised, please call me or call the NeRWA office (402-443-5216) and we will get you on the list to exercise valves.

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Source Water Tips

By Adam German, Source Water Technician

As I have been traveling around thinking about the world of source water protection, I have come to the realization that a lot of our Nebraska citizens just don't understand how quickly things can go wrong and harm our safe drinking water supply. Before I took my Grade 4 exam and even for some time afterward, I was guilty of over fertilizing my lawn, maybe even leaving the hose in the pool to fill up. My understanding of cross connections as gotten a lot better as of late and I think it's important for water operators to keep public information and public education as ongoing and as frequent as possible. If residents are getting a better deal on the big bag of fertilizer, or the 5-gallon container of Round-up that is what they will purchase. We are all guilty of wanting the best deal; and when you have extra you use more. The unknowing consumer will use more and not ask where the extra fertilizer goes when one of our drenching April showers hits. They may not realize that it will wash off their lawns and into the storm sewer system.

Water operators need to help educate the self-proclaimed yard expert to limit the use of pesticides or fertilizers, and always follow the label directions. Many fertilizers and pesticides contain harmful chemicals which can travel through the soil and contaminate groundwater or run off in stormwater to rivers, streams, and lakes. EPA evaluates pesticides to ensure that when they are used according to label directions, they will not harm people, non-target species or the environment.

It is the time of the year that everyone wants to do a little spring cleaning as well. Has your community thought about hosting a day to properly get rid of hazardous materials? It is important for people to understand the risks of pouring hazardous waste down the drain, on the ground, or into storm sewers. This could contaminate the soil, groundwater, or nearby surface water.

A number of products used at home contain hazardous or toxic substances that can contaminate ground or surface waters, such as:

- Motor oil
- Pesticides
- Leftover paints or paint cans
- Mothballs
- Flea collars
- Household cleaners
- A number of medicines

EPA's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program has more advice on how to safely manage and reduce the use of these materials. Don't hesitate to use the resources given to you and to pass them on to all of our water users. The more people that understand the importance of keeping our water safe and that can recognize a possible cross connection or potential contamination will help keep the water that we drink, and our children drink, safe for generations to come.

Before I hit the road again, I would like to thank Barney Whatley for his help and his patience the last few months. Barney may be retired but he already called me from his new number; you can bet your you-know-what I saved it. I have a feeling I will have a few more questions for him. Enjoy your retirement Barney! Stay safe out there.

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WESTERN CONFERENCE TIME

It is time to be thinking about heading west to Gering for the NeRWA's Fall Conference. As you know, last year's conference was cancelled due to covid. However, we are planning on bringing it back this year. The conference will be held September 28-30 at the Gering Civic Center. It will once again mix fun and relaxation with a chance to learn new things and gather much needed CEUs to renew your operator licenses.

There will be a pre-conference on Tuesday. Following the pre-conference is the golf tournament at the Riverview Golf and Country Club. This is set to begin at 2:30 and conclude around 6:00 P.M. Wednesday morning will start with the bang of the annual trap shoot held at the Mitchell Valley Trap Club. This is scheduled to begin between 8 and 8:30 A.M. and conclude around noon. After that, sessions will start. A social hour, banquet and operator award presentation will complete Wednesday. There will be a complimentary breakfast served at 6:30 A.M. Thursday followed by a full day of training sessions.

More detailed information will be in the next issue of the magazine and also in a special conference mailing. We also send this information out by email. If you aren't getting our emails and would like to, send your email to salli@nerwa.org. If you have never attended the fall

conference and you have the resources to do so, please try to make it to Gering. It is a mix of fun and learning. We hope to see you out west!



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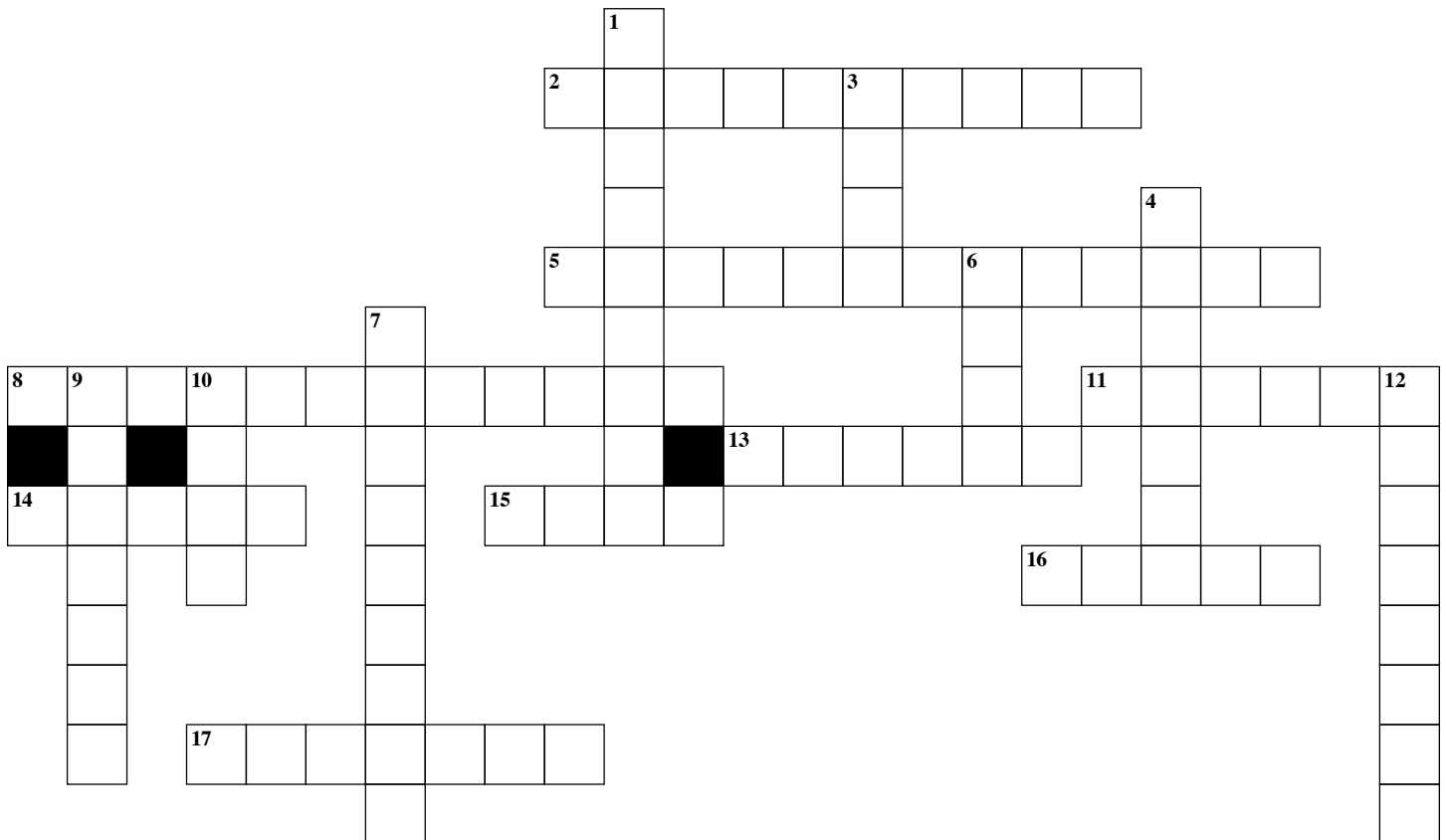
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Board Training

By Ken Halvorsen, Systems Specialist

Here is a fun way to get acquainted with what you will learn during a Board Training session. If you are looking for more clues to ensure you have the knowledge to keep your system running efficiently, contact Ken, ken@nerwa.org, today.



Across

- 2. more than one asset doing the same job
- 5. exchanging information, essential for system success
- 8. allocating funds to rehab or replace in order of importance
- 11. _____ body, governing body of all political subdivisions in the State of Nebraska
- 13. yearly financial plan that needs to be balanced
- 14. _____ management, getting the most value from each of your assets
- 15. _____ call vote, proper method of voting
- 16. a funding source
- 17. _____ improvement, funds set aside for future improvements

Down

- 1. most important asset of your system
- 3. _____ time, when equipment is not working
- 4. documenting the meeting
- 6. _____ of ethics, behavioral guidelines
- 7. _____ planning, decisions about your system's future
- 9. _____ required, funds set aside each year for asset replacement
- 10. _____ Meeting Act, document to be posted in the meeting room
- 12. major assets for public health, safety and environmental concerns

Answers on Inside Back Cover



Title 123 Chapter 11

By Charles Buckley, Wastewater Technician

This quarter I thought instead of writing an article I would share a copy of Title 123 Chapter 11. I believe it would be good to review. Let's see how well we are doing as operators of treatment plants and lagoons.

Title 123 - Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-1504(12); 81-1505(8)
Chapter 11 - Operation and Maintenance of
Wastewater Works
Effective Date of Last Revision: September 4, 2019

001 - Wastewater treatment facilities will be maintained in proper operating condition in accordance with this chapter and operated in a manner to meet all NPDES permit requirements and not result in a prohibited bypass or an unauthorized discharge.

002 - All wastewater works will be operated and maintained by a competent, designated operator. The operator shall perform operational tests required by the Department. Records of all tests will be kept for three years and made available to the Director or his authorized representative. Facilities requiring certified operators will meet the requirements of NAC Title 197, Rules and Regulations for the Certification of Wastewater Treatment Facility Operators in Nebraska.

003 - Wastewater collection systems will be kept open and free flowing at all times. Adequate sewer cleaning equipment will be kept available within two hours response time.

004 - All mechanical devices, including standby or backup units, that are designed and installed in the original WWTF or lift station will be promptly repaired or replaced when they become inoperable.

005 - The owner will maintain an inventory of supplies, chemicals, and spare parts, as necessary to maintain uninterrupted operation of the WWTF.

006 - An unobstructed, all weather access road will be maintained to WWTFs, lift stations, and to other wastewater structures that could require emergency maintenance.

007 - Grit, screenings, grease, scum and similar materials removed from wastewater will be stored in suitable containers before disposal.

008 - The operation and maintenance of wastewater lagoons will be conducted in the following manner:

008.01 - Lagoon dikes will be maintained with grass to minimize soil erosion, except for areas protected by rip rap or other stabilization methods. The grassed dikes will be mowed to prevent growth of trees or woody plants. Cattails,

reeds and other emergent vegetation will be removed from the lagoons promptly as they appear.

008.02 - At least two feet of water will be maintained at all times in active wastewater lagoons unless the lagoon has a synthetic liner with an adequate ballast system to prevent uplift from the wind.

008.03 - A fence will be maintained around lagoon systems to keep unauthorized persons, pets, and domestic livestock from entering the lagoon. Warning signs will be maintained in legible condition. Gates and locks will be maintained in operable condition.

008.04 - If a new lagoon cell is not immediately needed, or if wastewater flow to a lagoon cell is interrupted for a period greater than a year, lagoon cells may be allowed to dry out. These lagoon cells shall be mowed, as necessary, to prevent the growth of woody plants. When inactive lagoon cells are placed into service, the liner's permeability rate will be tested, and if necessary, restored to meet the seepage rate established by the Department. Synthetic liners that are being placed back into service will be restored to a watertight condition.

008.05 - Damage to lagoon dikes and liners caused by muskrats or other rodents, erosion, tree roots, animal hooves, or any other source will be promptly repaired.

008.06 - The liners of wastewater lagoons will be maintained so that wastewater seepage does not exceed the rate approved by the Department in the construction plans and specifications. Where no record of approved plans and specifications exist, the lagoon liner will be maintained to meet the seepage rate prescribed by the Department for the specific wastewater being treated. The owner will perform seepage testing when requested by the Department.

008.07 - Wastewater lagoons will be operated so that the water level is not maintained in the area designed for freeboard.

009 - Rapid infiltration cells will operate in a two-phase cycle of wastewater application followed by a drying period that is sufficient to restore aerobic conditions to the soil. The application period will not exceed seven days unless written permission is obtained from the Department.

010 - Dead animal carcasses will not be placed in any wastewater works.

Enabling Legislation: Neb. Rev. Stat. §81-1504(12), 81-1505(8)
Legal Citation: Title 123, Ch. 11, Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy



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GRANT WRITING

GUIDELINES FOR CONTINUING ED HOURS

This article addresses all training including backflow licensure, backflow continuing ed classes, water and wastewater classes, and both conferences.

All water and backflow licenses need to be renewed by December 31, 2021. The next license period will be 2022-2023. A wastewater license is renewed 2 years after the date your license was issued.

The hours required for renewal for each license are listed below:

1. Water and backflow – 2-year renewal period requiring 10 continuing ed hours. The end of the renewal period is always December 31 of odd numbered years. An easy tip is to get 5 hours per year. Start early in the year to get your hours. **THE LAST 3 MONTHS OF THE RENEWAL YEAR GET VERY BUSY.** Register early! We have people trying to register for classes in October thru December close to the date of the class. November and December classes are usually full 2 to 3 months before the classes.
2. Wastewater – A 2-year renewal period with 20 continuing ed hours.

When you attend any class, you get a certificate. Keep that certificate in a place where you can easily find it. Sometimes you will have to send a certificate to the state department as proof of attendance. If you lose the first certificate, you can request a second one. After that, each certificate will cost \$20.

Flyers for all training classes (unless they are full way in advance) are either mailed or emailed to all our members. The classes are listed in our quarterly magazine which is also mailed to our members. We publish a training calendar each year that is mailed to all operators we have listed. This calendar is available on our website also. A tip for all operators – bookmark our website or save it in your favorites. This way you can keep updated on class dates, addresses, and the agenda. Agendas are posted about a month before the class. Cancellations, and if a class is full, will also be noted there.

When you register online for any fee-based class, you can also pay online. If you choose not to pay, we will send you an invoice. **EXCEPTION: ANY backflow class that is held in the last 3 months of the renewal year needs to be paid before the class.** If payment is not received before the class, it will be assumed the person registered has decided not to attend and the space will be made available to someone on the waiting list.

You can register for water and wastewater classes by phone, fax, mail or online. The virus situation has caused us to reduce the number of attendees we can have in any one class. If you register and do not attend it takes a spot away from someone else who may have needed hours. Any class or conference that has a fee must be registered for by fax, mail, or online. **REGISTRATIONS BY PHONE CALL OR EMAIL FOR A FEE-BASED CLASS ARE NOT ACCEPTED.**

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NeRWA 2022-2023 Scholarship Winners

We received many scholarship applications this year. As usual there are some very talented students out there. This year's winners are:

Mandy Schoen

Mandy is the daughter of Kim Schoen, Assistant Clerk for the Village of Oxford.

Rylee Hogue

Rylee is the daughter of Mark Hogue, Manager for Cass County RWD 2.

The alternates are:

Rhegan Jensen

Rhegan is the daughter of Russ Jensen, Operator for the Village of Boelus.

Trinity Turner

Trinity is the daughter of Wade Turner, Superintendent for the Village of Paxton.

BODIES OF WATER

FIND THE WORD IN THE PUZZLE.

Words can go in any direction.

Words can share letter as they cross over each other.

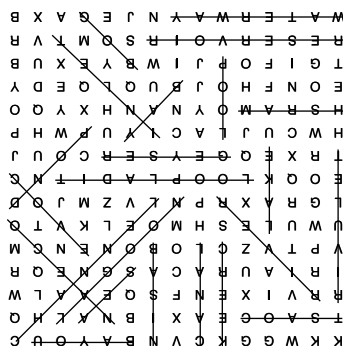
- | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|
| BASIN | BAY | BAYOU |
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| GEYSER | INLET | LAGOON |
| LAKE | MARSH | OCEAN |
| POND | POOL | RESERVOIR |
| RIVER | RIVULET | SEA |
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 T S A O C E A X I B N A L H Q
 R R V I X E N F S Q E A A L W
 I R I A U R A C A S G N E Q R
 V P T V Z C L O B O N E N C M
 U W U L E S H M O E L K V T O
 L G R A X R P N L V Z M J O D
 E O Q K L O O P L A D I T N C
 T R X E Q G E Y S E R C O U J
 H W C U J L A C I Y U P W H P
 H S R A M O Y N A N H X Y Q O
 E O N F H O J B U Q L Q E D Y
 T G I F O P J I W B Y E X U B
 R E S E R V O I R S O M T V R
 W A T E R W A Y N J E G A X B



Answers to crossword from page 16:

- ACROSS: 2. Redundancy;
 5. Communication;
 8. Prioritizing; 11. Public;
 13. Budget; 14. Asset;
 15. Roll; 16. DWSRF;
 17. Capital
 DOWN: 1. Personnel;
 3. Down; 4. Minutes;
 6. Code; 7. Strategic;
 9. Reserve; 10. Open;
 12. Critical



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