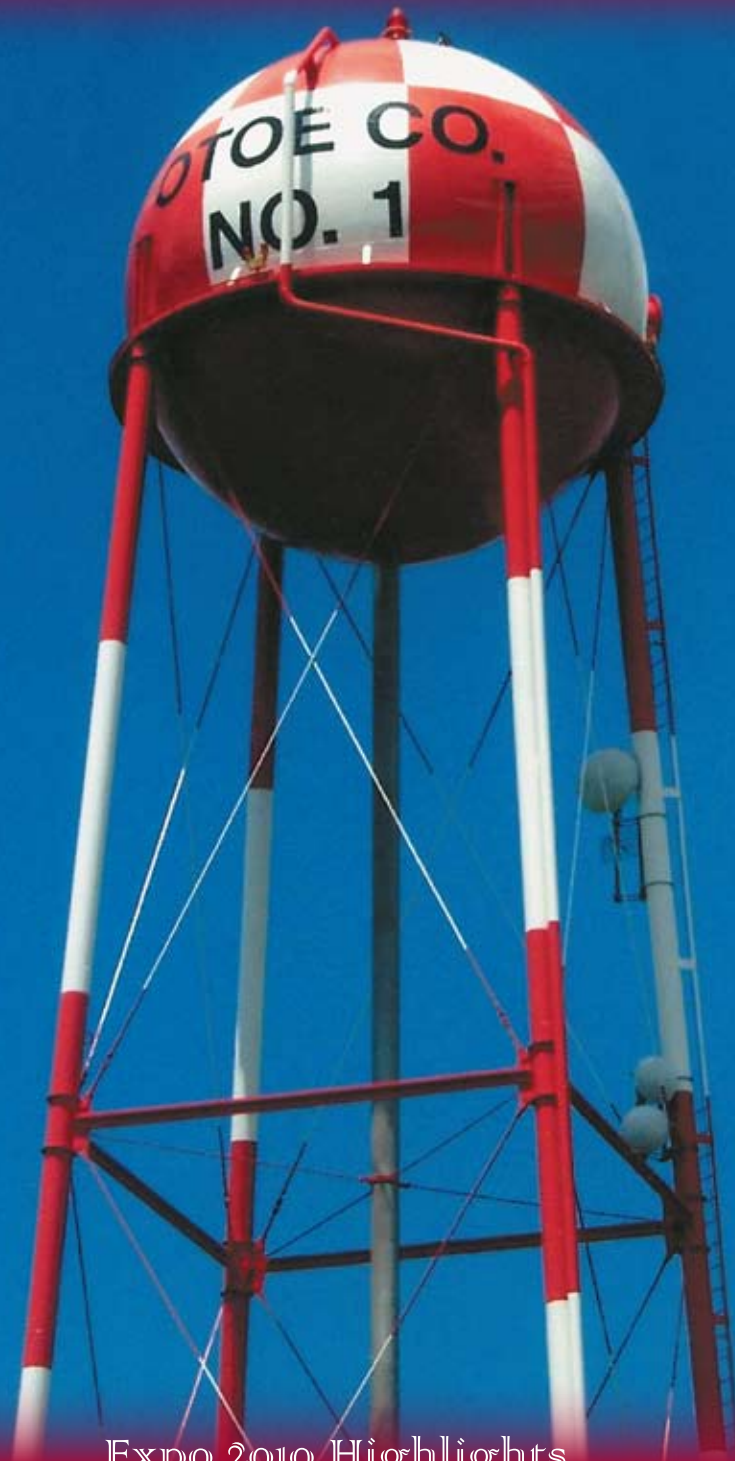


Issue 4/2010

# Nebraska Rural Water Association



Expo 2010 Highlights  
See Pages 12 & 13

## NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS



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# Nebraska Good Water News

# Issue 4/2010

*“Keeping Our Water Safe”*

*Board of Directors*

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

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

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Mike Stanzel, Deputy Circuit Rider  
Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist  
Jim Heyen, Wastewater Technician  
Charles Bausch, Training Specialist  
Doug Buresh, Training Assistant  
Mike Lucas, Source Water Specialist

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

### **On the cover:**

Otoe County RWD 1 water tower south of  
Nebraska City by the airport.

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

## VILLAGE OF ARCADIA

110 West Bridge Street ~ PO Box 95 ~ Arcadia, NE 68815-0095  
Phone 308 789-6552 ~ Fax 308 789-9112 ~ Email arcadiane@nctc.net  
www.arcadiane.com

September 17, 2010

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa  
Wahoo, Nebraska 68066

We would like to thank Ken Widhalm, ARRA Circuit Rider, for finding and exercising valves in the Village of Arcadia.

Enclosed is our donation. We appreciate all the work you do!

Sincerely,



Rosmarie Ritz  
Village Clerk

Just want to say  
Thanks for the help  
in getting my report  
finished.

Thanks again for being  
there when one needs  
help

Shalbach Village  
Clerk.



## City of Clarkson

The City of Hospitality

120 West Second Street - P.O. Box 18  
Clarkson, Nebraska 68629-0018  
Phone: (402) 892-3100 Fax: (402) 892-3141



September 15, 2010

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA,

Thank you very much for all the work you do for all the cities and villages in the area. Please accept this donation on behalf of the City of Clarkson for the use of the valve exercise machine on August 18, 2010.

Thanks again and keep up the good work.

Sincerely,



Linda Cech,  
City Clerk-Treasurer

Barney + NeRWA Staff -  
I do not know what part, if any, the  
NeRWA had in me being chosen as this  
years outstanding water operator  
recipient, but I do know that one is  
only as good as the help + support they  
receive from others, and for that I  
Thank You!

NeRWA Always puts on a good  
conference and receiving this recognition  
was an awesome surprise at this  
years conference! Thanks again,  
Lorndi Livingstew





August 6, 2010

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Re: Donation

Dear Rural Water Association:

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

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

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

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

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Kathleen R. Gottsch  
City Clerk/Treasurer

## VILLAGE OF ARNOLD

P.O. BOX 70  
ARNOLD, NE 69120  
308-848-2228  
FAX: 308-848-4743  
E-MAIL: arnoldvillage@gpcom.net

July 15, 2010

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association:

Thank you for the use of the valve exerciser. Also a thank you to Randy Hellbusch for doing a water rate study for us. The Village appreciates the assistance that Nebraska Rural Water Association provides to communities. On behalf of the Village of Arnold and the Arnold Village Board of Trustees, please accept the enclosed donation.

Sincerely,

Scott Winfield  
Village Superintendent

## Village of Dalton

P.O. Box 353  
Dalton, NE 69131  
Phone: 308-377-2413 Fax: 308-377-2717 Shop: 308-377-2713  
Email: daltonvillage@daltontel.net

July 15, 2010

NE Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Street  
Wahoo, NE 68066

*Village of*  
**Doniphan**  
P.O. Box 189  
Doniphan, Nebraska 68832-0189  
402-845-6609

Dear Sirs:

We are writing to acknowledge your company for all the assistance you have given our Village in the last year. We hope you will accept this donation as our "Thank You" for your services.

The time that Randy Hellbusch and Ken Widhelm have spent with us, especially Lloyd Searles, has been extremely valuable. Not only was the use of the valve exercise machine useful, but a great savor of time and labor. Having the flexibility to pull up to each site saved many labor hours.

We appreciate the work that you do. You are a valuable resource.

Sincerely,

The Village Board of Trustees

July 28, 2010

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA:

The Village of Doniphan would like to thank you for your assistance over the years and most recently for the use of your leak correlator, which helped us locate the source of a water leak so it could be repaired.

Enclosed is a donation for your equipment fund. It's nice to know that you're only a phone call away. We appreciate all you do for communities such as ours!

Sincerely,

Kim Finney, Clerk  
Village of Doniphan

Village of Coleridge  
111 South Main  
P.O. Box 276  
Coleridge, NE 68727-0276  
Phone or FAX (402) 283-4464

July 15, 2010

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3890 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Nebraska Rural Water,

The Village of Coleridge would like to thank NeRWA for the help we had from Russ and his locators to find our water leak. It was very much appreciated. We would like to make a donation to your equipment fund.

Good people to have help with our problems!

Sincerely,

Leroy Cautrell,  
Utilities Superintendent



Village of Clatonia PO Box 82 Clatonia, Nebraska 68328

October 4, 2010

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

To The NeRWA Staff:

The Village Board of Clatonia would like to thank wastewater technician, Jim Heyen, for his help with our annual 24 hour composite sample in August.

In appreciation of the NeRWA's assistance, please accept this donation to be used toward the equipment fund.

Thanks again.

Village of Clatonia Board of Trustees

*Jane Homolka*  
Jane Homolka  
Village Clerk

July 15, 2010

To Whom It may Concern:

Please accept this \$200.00 donation for the excellent work Nebraska Rural Water Association did in May for the Village of Jansen smoke testing. Jim Heyen did a great job with the smoke testing. In addition, he was very helpful in explaining the situation and very thorough with answering our questions. We appreciate all of your help.

Thanks again,

*Lisa Marie Hummer*  
Village Clerk  
Village of Jansen

*Village of Bancroft*

Box 267  
Bancroft, Nebraska 68004

September 22, 2010

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo NE 68066

Enclosed is a donation from the Village of Bancroft, to express our sincere appreciation for all your help and assistance this year.

Everyone has been very helpful; Randy, Barney, Jim, Doug and Salli. Again we send a huge "Thanks" again for your assistance.

Sincerely,

*Jennifer Carlson*

Jennifer Carlson, CMC  
Village Clerk



# NeRWA Utility Expo a Great Success

*By Charles Bausch, Training Specialist*

The Nebraska Rural Water Association held its annual Utility EXPO on October 5 in Fremont. A big thank you to the 150 attendees and exhibitors that were at this year's Expo. There were some great classes and many exhibits to see both inside and outside. The Utility Expo is a great place for attendees to get hands-on experience with live demonstrations. Attendees have the chance to try out new equipment and see how it works. Also, the Utility Expo was a great place to

An additional thank you goes out to the Nebraska Machinery Company and Municipal Pipe Services for helping us hold our first backhoe challenge and water tapping contest. Winners of the tapping contest were



get hands-on instruction on new products and products that help us stay safe in the field.

Dan Cerny and Justin Albers of Schuyler and the winner of the backhoe challenge was Jason Lemay of Lincoln with Danny Hietbrink of Lincoln taking second place honors. Once again thank you to all who participated in the tapping challenge and backhoe challenge and to the sponsors of these events.

I would also like to thank all the vendors that helped put on a session during the Expo. Without you none of this would be possible.

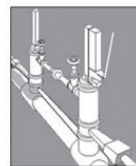
I now turn my focus to the upcoming spring conference which will be held March 21-23, 2011 in Columbus at the New World Inn. I look forward to seeing you all there.

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# 2010 TRAINING

<u>Water Operator Training</u>	<u>Backflow Re-Certification Training</u>	<u>Wastewater Training</u>
November 9 Grant	November 9 Wahoo	November 16 Bridgeport
November 16 Ord - NIMS	November 16 Cairo	November 18 Creighton
November 17 Wayne - NIMS	November 17 Bloomfield	
December 8 Bancroft		December 7 Wahoo
December 9 Wahoo	December 7 Mitchell	
December 14 Falls City	December 8 Imperial	
	December 9 Cambridge	
	December 14 Wahoo	

# 2011 TRAINING

<u>Water Operator Training</u>	<u>Backflow Re-Certification Training</u>	<u>Wastewater Training</u>
January 19 Bloomfield		
January 20 Firth	January 19 Alliance	January 19 Wahoo
	January 20 Valentine	
April 12 Mitchell		February 23 Loup City
April 13 Chappell	February 15 Nebraska City	March 29 Neligh
	February 17 Norfolk	
	April 12 Minden	April 6 Pawnee City
	April 14 Wymore	April 13 Ogallala
		April 14 Gering
		April 19 Wahoo

<u>Annual Conference</u>
March 21-23 New World Inn Columbus

<u>Grade 6 Backflow Prevention Cross-Connection Control Course - 5 Day</u>
January 24-28 Wahoo
April 18-22 Wahoo





---

## The Great Outdoors

*By Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist*

---

Soon after my wife Barb and I got married, I received a flyer in the mail advertising the position of Deputy Circuit Rider with NeRWA. We were living in western Nebraska at the time, and Barb's sons were living in Scribner with their father. Barb really wanted to move closer to her sons, and I was ready to leave the town we were living in, so I applied for the position and eventually came to work for NeRWA. Barb got a job in the Admissions Office of Midland Lutheran College (now Midland University), so we decided to move to Fremont. After getting settled in, we decided we would like to start going camping, something Barb had done a lot during her life, and something I had done as a child and just a little later in life.

We went to Wal-Mart and purchased a tent, an air mattress and a couple of sleeping bags, and we were ready to begin our new adventures together. My son was married and living in McCook at the time, and his wife's family was having a picnic over Memorial Day weekend in Cambridge. We decided that we would head out to McCook on Saturday and camp at Red Willow reservoir, heading to Cambridge for the picnic on Sunday. We drove to the lake and picked out a great camping site right near the water under a couple of large shade trees. We put our money for 2 days of camping into an envelope and put it in the registration box and proceeded to set up our home away from home. Once our tent was set up, we ran into McCook and took the kids and grandchildren out for supper.

During the time we were eating supper, the weather took a turn for the worse, and when we left the restaurant, it was raining and the wind had picked up. We dropped the kids off at their place and headed to the campground. Upon arrival we discovered that the wind had broken one of our tent poles and the pole had ripped a hole in the top of the tent. The tent was collapsed, rain was getting in and the shade trees were making ominous creaking sounds as they waved in the wind. We decided that perhaps we would not camp on this night, and Barb even suggested that we just leave the tent and sleeping bags where they were as she was afraid the shade trees were going to come crashing down on them. She waited in the car as I pulled the sleeping bags and mattress out of the tent and crammed

them in the trunk, and then together we pulled down the tent and shoved it in the back seat. We spent our first night of camping on the living room floor of my son's house, and our tent was now held together with duct tape and a prayer. We ordered new poles for the tent, but the cover still has duct tape covering the hole.

A while later we decided to go camping in Yellowstone Park over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. My legs are not accustomed to sun, so I took jeans and long sleeved shirts, and we both had our jackets. Barb had short sleeve shirts and shorts in her suitcase. The night we arrived, it was pouring down rain and about 40 degrees out. The tent kept us dry, but I thought Barb was going to freeze to death. The next day we made a journey to a nearby town where we purchased some sweat pants and sweat shirts for Barb. Later that evening we were trying to get some waterlogged wood to burn so we could have a camp fire, but the best we could do was get it to smolder. We decided to walk around the campground to keep warm only to return to find a note on our car advising us that the park ranger had put out our "fire" and a warning that we would be asked to leave if we left an unattended fire again.

We finally got a little bit better at the camping thing, and everyone at Midland was always interested in knowing our plans. They would always ask Barb if we were going to be camping during the upcoming weekend, but we finally realized they were only interested because it always seemed to rain when we went camping. Sometimes I think they wanted to join together and raise some money to send us camping far away so they could have nice weather for the weekend, but they never came up with the cash.

Over the last several years, we just have not had the time to get away like we want to, and in fact we have not been camping at all for the last two summers, and we only went once the summer before that. With weddings, babies and other projects, there just doesn't seem to be time to get out and do the things we want to do. Maybe next year!

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# 2011 DIRECTORY

## Member Utility Information

As you know, the Nebraska Rural Water Association publishes a membership directory each year. It is available in March and is handed out to the operators at the annual conference. Then it is mailed to those who did not attend the conference. It is usually sent to the water and wastewater operators. If anyone else at the utility would like a copy, just call or email the office and let us know.

This form is for our utility members only. If you send this in it will help save on postage for another mailing. **Please remember we need this form back to include your information in the directory. If we do not receive this form back, the information listed in the directory will be taken from your membership renewal form, which may not be up to date depending on the month of renewal.**

Please mail, fax or email the information to either Carol at [carol@nerwa.org](mailto:carol@nerwa.org) or Salli at [salli@nerwa.org](mailto:salli@nerwa.org) by December 15, 2010.

System \_\_\_\_\_ Population \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Water operator \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Ph \_\_\_\_\_

Water operator \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Ph \_\_\_\_\_

Wastewater operator \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Ph \_\_\_\_\_

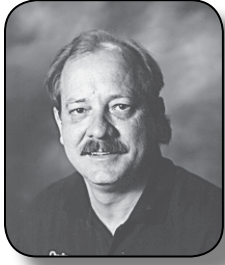
Wastewater operator \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Ph \_\_\_\_\_

Utility address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Utility Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Utility Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Utility email \_\_\_\_\_

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Street  
Wahoo, NE 68066  
Fax: 402-443-5274



## Back To The Basics

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

This fall there seems to be an abundance of coliform violations. I haven't asked anyone with HHS yet, but according to the calls NeRWA received about bacti hits, I can't help but believe they are above normal. Sometimes, or should I say most times, many of us feel somewhat rushed or in a hurry for some reason. Taking a bacti sample should not be one of those times. For most of the calls we get, the operator can't understand how the sample could be bad. There hasn't been anything done to the system, no pressure loss, no construction, etc.

Below are some basic suggestions that I am sure everyone has heard before, but sometimes it doesn't hurt to step back and review.

- Be sure to disinfect the faucet or sampling point prior to pulling the sample.
- Use hand sanitizer or disinfectant before you pull the sample.
- Make sure you have a good clean sample site.
- Be sure to let the tap run long enough to pull fresh water from the main.
- Be sure the sample bottle is not old. Rotate bottles as necessary if you keep them on hand.
- Be sure the sample bottle is clean and has not been previously opened.
- Make sure the flow from the tap is even and not spraying about.
- Open the sample bottle just prior to filling.

- Do not set the cap down or turn it upside down; recap the bottle immediately.
- If you are taking more than one sample wash your hands each time. As soon as you walk outdoors or open the door of your vehicle, your hands can become contaminated.

With the new groundwater rule, if you have a bacti hit, you don't only need to take the necessary repeat samples, but you also need to take samples at your well sites. Sometimes a little precaution and extra time can save you a lot of time and work later.

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## Old Man Winter's Coming, Are You Ready?

*By Mike Stanzel, Deputy Circuit Rider*

I'm pretty sure that after last winter that every operator in this state was ready to move to Florida, myself included. I don't think in all my years I can remember that much wind and snow. The excessive snow caught many by surprise and without a plan to deal with it. This article will hopefully help you prepare your water system for the upcoming winter.

First of all you should check your well houses and lift station heaters now and assure they are in good working order and are free from debris such as bugs and mice nests. It's also a good idea to have a portable space heater as a backup in case the main one fails. It might not keep it 60 degrees but it might keep it from freezing.

Next if you have automatic standby generators you should make sure the batteries are charged and the coolant/anti freeze is sufficient; and also if you have diesel generators you need to add fuel additives to avoid them from getting gelled up.

If you have a treatment plant or add chemicals at your well like chlorine or fluoride, make sure you have an adequate supply on hand in case the delivery truck cannot make it to town or to the well houses.

If they are predicting a snow or ice storm make sure you get your water and wastewater samples taken well before or after the storm. There have been situations where the samples did not make it to the lab because of foul weather and systems were out of compliance.

Many of you have well houses that are located way out in the country and way back off the gravel roads. I talked to many operators who said they couldn't get to their well houses because the drifts were 10-15 feet tall. My question to them was: "What would you have done if the well goes down?" They didn't have a plan. You need to go out now and secure an agreement to get the lanes open after a storm. You can go ask a local farmer - most of them have big tractors with loaders on them or even a local contractor or gravel pit.

I realize that most of you will be busy just trying to keep the streets open in town, but if your water system

goes down you are the soul person responsible for insuring adequate safe potable drinking water.

Also remember the basics when it comes to protecting yourself in the work truck.

- Keep a full tank of gas.
- Keep a cell phone and charger.
- Keep boots, gloves, coat and warm hat.
- Keep a blanket and a small candle and matches.
- Keep bottled water and dry snacks like granola bars or peanuts.
- Keep a shovel and tow strap.
- Keep a flashlight.

And most of all KEEP SAFE!

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**Nathan Jacobson, Manager**

South Highway 81

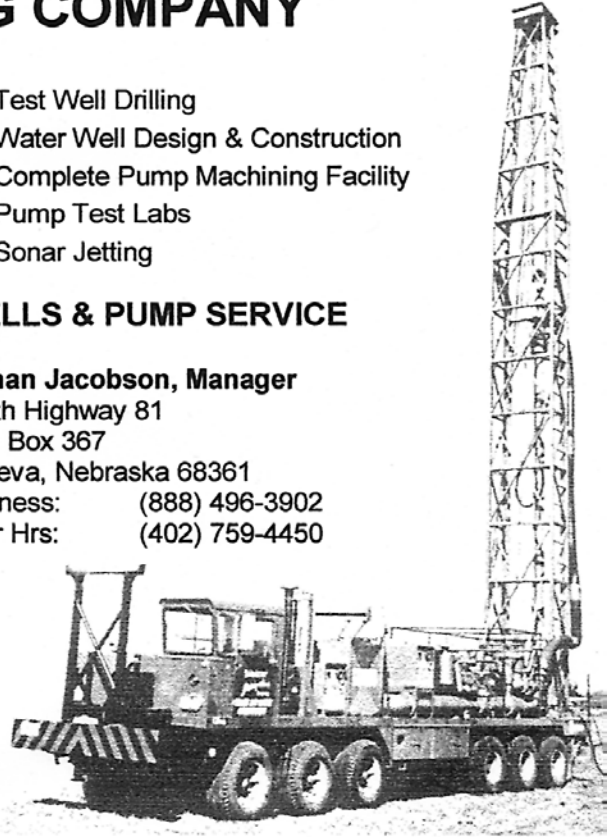
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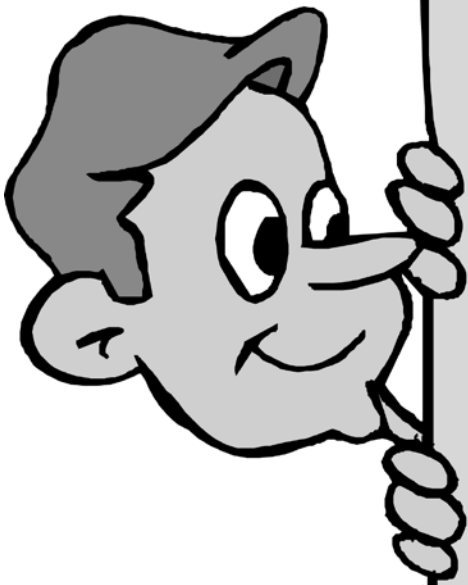
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We would like to put the water towers of Nebraska on our cover. We want to feature a different tower on each issue.

So far we have had Cass County

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# Water & Wastewater Grant Information

*By Doug Buresh, ARRA Circuit Rider 1*

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Last time I wrote about financing projects through the Nebraska Water Wastewater Committee. The majority of this funding comes from WWAC stakeholder's normal loan and grant programs. I will expand on that and discuss some of the other grant programs available. Not all systems will qualify based on population and income guidelines. If you do not qualify, I can sympathize. As you all know, budgets are tight everywhere. All communities and districts are not alike. The reason for these qualifications is to give assistance to those who need it most.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), in coordination with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Division of Public Health (NDHHS-DPH), has several financial assistance programs which are funded through the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund and the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund. Here are the specific grant programs available. Once again, it is very important to submit your annual Needs Survey for water and sewer projects to be eligible.

## **Wastewater Facility Planning Grants**

These grants are available for systems with a population of 10,000 or less who have been identified with a financial hardship. Up to \$20,000 can be used to hire consultants for engineering studies to assess the current system and develop strategies for future use. These cover 90 percent of the eligible facility plan project costs. Contact Nebraska Environmental Partnerships at (402) 471-3193.

## **Small Community Matching Grants**

These grants are made in conjunction with loans to systems with a population of 10,000 or less who have completed their Needs Survey and have been placed on the Intended Use Plan. Your Median Household Income (MHI) needs to be under the state's MHI to be eligible. Maximum amount of this grant is \$25,000. Contact NDEQ Wastewater Facility Section, SRF Unit at (402) 471-4206.

## **Wastewater Emergency Grants**

NDEQ is able to provide emergency grant funding from the Administrative Cash Fund. These grants

cannot be used for routine repairs or maintenance of facilities. They may be combined with a loan. Contact NDEQ Wastewater Facility Section, SRF Unit at (402) 471-4206.

## **Planning Grants: Drinking Water Preliminary Engineering Reports**

For publicly-owned water systems with less than 10,000 population. The maximum grant for individual communities is \$15,000 per system with a 10 percent match by the community. The maximum grant for a regional system is \$25,000 and a 20 percent match by the system. Contact Nebraska Environmental Partnerships Coordinator at (402) 471-3193.

## **Source Water Protection Grants / Wellhead Protection Implementation Grants**

Eligible applicants are political subdivisions that operate public water systems serving a population of 10,000 or less. This year's program had approximately \$100,000 available and the application deadline was August 6, 2010. Projects must provide long-term benefits to drinking water quality, quantity, education and/or security. There is no match requirement, but a cash or "in-kind" match is encouraged. Contact Source Water Protection Grants Program at (402) 471-6988.

## **Public Water System Security Grants**

These grants provide funds to public water systems serving a population of 10,000 or less to provide increased security. The grants are funded on a first come first serve basis. Maximum grant is \$5,000 and the system must provide a 10 percent match. NDHHS-DPH sends out letters about May 1 to all eligible systems.

## **Drinking Water Emergency Funding**

NDEQ is able to provide emergency funding as a grant, loan, or as a combination of grant and loan from the Administrative Cash Fund. Documentation that the emergency jeopardizes the public water system's ability to provide an adequate supply of safe drinking water on a continuing basis is required. Approval of the project must also be obtained from NDHHS-DPH. This funding may not be used for routine repair of maintenance. Contact NDEQ at (402) 471-2186.

The **Nebraska Environmental Partnerships** program is a unique state-coordinated program designed to help small communities meet the challenges of complex environmental regulations, limited financial resources, aging infrastructure, aging population, and “small towns getting smaller.” NEP typically works with communities of fewer than 1,000. All recommendations made by NEP are based on each community’s specific needs. Local community leaders determine the extent of NEP’s involvement and decisions remain up to the community. NEP’s services include identifying financially feasible solutions to problems, assisting in finding funding sources, and helping to implement solutions. Contact Nebraska Environmental Partnerships Coordinator at (402) 471-3193.

USDA Rural Development also has specific grant programs for water and wastewater systems. **SEARCH Grants** are a new program for smaller communities. This program will provide financial assistance to the most eligible communities based on need. It will eventually take the place of their Predevelopment Planning Grants.

#### **SEARCH Grants**

Up to \$30,000 for predevelopment planning for water or

waste disposal needs, with no matching funds required. These funds can be used for feasibility studies, design assistance, and technical assistance. Applicants must have a population of 2,500 or less and be financially distressed. The applicant will have to write a narrative detailing project objectives and timetables.

#### **Predevelopment Planning Grants**

These grants will be phased out next year. They may also be used for water or wastewater. Maximum grant of \$15,000 or 75 percent of project costs, whichever is less. Systems must be below the state’s rural Median Household Income to be eligible.

#### **Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants**

For communities under 10,000 population who have less than 100 percent of the state’s rural Median Household Income. \$500,000 maximum grant when a significant decline in water quantity or quality has occurred within two years. \$75,000 maximum grant to make emergency repairs and/or replacement of facilities on existing systems. Grants may make up 100 percent of project costs. Contact your nearest USDA Rural Development office for any of these grant programs.



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## **The Village of Lindsay is in the Source Water Management "Spotlight"**

*By Mike Lucas, Sourcewater Specialist*

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\*-words from the monument

The busy Village of Lindsay is home to 276 citizens. Located in the rolling farm land of Platte County it is fortunate to be the home to Lindsay Manufacturing Co., international makers of Zimmatic irrigation center pivots. Lindsay Manufacturing Co. employs approximately 350 people locally. Lindsay Manufacturing Co. and Lindsay Holy Family High School are the two largest water system customers. The Village provides water from two municipal wells. Nitrate contamination of the ground water supply has become a problem. Community leaders have stepped forward to responsibly address the issue through a source water protection management program. They are working closely with NeRWA and the Lower Platte North NRD. The stakeholder group has representation from both village and rural members of the Lindsay Community. Chairman of the Village Board, David Albracht stated “I wish we had done this 5 or 10 years ago.”

Contact NeRWA Source Water Specialist, Mike Lucas for more information about protecting and managing your source water protection area at [lucas@nerwa.org](mailto:lucas@nerwa.org) or (402)443-6157.





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NeRWA is always looking for new and better ways to serve our membership. In sticking with this philosophy, we recently purchased a HURCO SD800 Spin Doctor Hydraulic valve exerciser. It is something we have had many requests for over the past few years. Valve exercising is one of the most important maintenance procedures a system can perform, yet is often the most neglected. Face it, manually turning valves is a very strenuous, time consuming and difficult task. NeRWA field staff will stay on site and assist with the use of the valve exerciser just as we do with any other aspect of technical assistance. A nominal fee will however be required to insure that the equipment is kept properly maintained.

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## Things To Consider Before Installing Antennas On Your Tower

By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider

Over the last few years I have had several calls from water operators concerning communication providers wanting to install antennas on their water towers. Water towers are very inviting to these companies because it saves the cost of erecting their own tower. Typically it is wireless internet providers or cell phone companies wanting to provide service to the village and surrounding area. It could also be the rural fire department or law enforcement agency wanting to install antennas or repeaters on the water tower.

Installing these antennas on the tower can provide the community with a valuable service. Most communities are in need of better cell service or high speed internet service and most village board members are all in favor of getting a free internet subscription for the village or fire department, but is a free subscription really worth the potential cost?

At least once every five years the water tower will need to be inspected and cleaned if necessary. The tower contractor will have to comply with OSHA regulations. There could be cables draped over the balcony that could cause a trip hazard. Cables strapped to the ladder may pose a potential hazard and may not be OSHA compliant. Sooner or later the tank will need to be painted. If the cables are not secured properly and out of the way, they will need to be moved prior to the contractor performing the work. Who will be responsible to move the cables and what will it cost? If brackets for the antennas need to be welded to the tank there may be damage to the paint. If the interior coating of the tank is damaged the tank will need to be drained and the coating repaired or rust will start and cause expensive repairs later.

Security will also be a concern. All water towers should have some type of security device on or around them. If a service technician needs to access the secure area what will the protocol be for them to access the tower? Will the water operator need to be present while the work is being done?

Safety is always a concern when someone needs to climb the tower. If there would happen to be an accident while someone was on the tower would the

village insurance cover them or could this lead to legal action against the village?

Before signing a contract with anyone wanting to install antennas on your water tower you may want to consider what the long term cost may be for the village and what the liabilities could be.

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We would like to thank all our members for supporting us this past year. We look forward to working with you in 2011.

We wish you all the best during the upcoming holidays.

*Doug* *Paul* *Charles*  
*Mikes* *Brian*  
*Mike* *Jim*  
*Carol*  
*Andy* *Sari*





# My Last Review

By Ken Widhalm, ARRA Circuit Rider

I am writing my last article for the “Nebraska Good Water News” and I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks to everyone that I was able to contact. Being able to meet so many people through a job with the big responsibility of providing service to your communities has been very memorable and something I’ll never forget. I am sorry I didn’t get to meet everyone. My last day will be October 31.

I came on the job to finish out a program that had 7 months left to go. I met a lot of operators, clerks and board members, and I have to say, there are a lot of nice people in Nebraska. I enjoyed visiting with you and tried to help in whatever way I could.

I have been busy with the valve exercise machine. I have been pulling it from town to town working valves. If you want to use the valve machine, call the NeRWA office at 1-800-842-8039 or anyone of the Circuit Riders and you will get on the list. It does not make any difference how many valves you want done. We

will try to get them all turned. Sometimes I have found some valves that will not operate. That means it is dig time. If a valve doesn’t work, it doesn’t do you or your system any good.

I want to thank NeRWA and all their staff and Board members and a special thank you to Salli and Carol in the office and the Circuit Riders. They are the best. If you need anything at any time, they will help you out.

This job has been a learning experience and I enjoyed it. I have seen parts of this great state that I never saw before and some places out of state when I went to conferences, etc. I will miss all of it and everyone associated with it. It’s been great.

Now I will go back into retirement and see what turns up next!

Thanks again. It’s been a pleasure.

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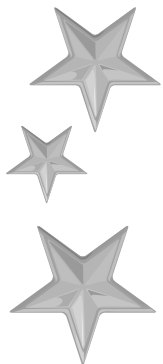
**POSITION OPENING**

The City of Hay Springs has an immediate opening for the position of Water Superintendent. The successful applicant will be responsible for the operation and maintenance of the water and wastewater systems. This position requires a Grade 4 Water Operator Certification and a Grade 6 Backflow Certification or must be able to obtain certifications within three months. A CDL is also required. This position also involves various responsibilities with other departments of the City (i.e. snow removal, mowing, etc.). Wage will depend on experience and certification. There will be a six-month probationary period. Position open until filled. Applications available at City Hall at 234 N Main or mail resume to: City of Hay Springs, PO Box B, Hay Springs, NE 69347.

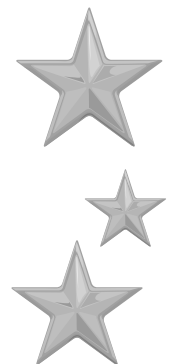




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# Pin UP Calendar

By Jim Heyen, Wastewater Technician

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you who work in rural America and wear many hats. Most of you are asked to service water, wastewater, keep up the parks, maintain roads and the list goes on.

The paper work seems tedious and less important to, for example, sewer in someone's basement, but it must be done.

One of the most overlooked reports is the influent (incoming sewage) sampling. This is done only once a year, which is why it is easily forgotten.

It's kind of like your wedding anniversary, it only happens once a year, but boy you better remember that date! This is why, I suggest you use one of those freebee calendars you get from a local business and post it in the lab or office and CIRCLE THE DATE to begin sampling your influent, since it needs to be done on a 24-hour composite.

- First, I would suggest you print ALL your DMR's

at the beginning of your fiscal year. You should find a date in which you are required to submit your influent samplings. Go to that calendar and in red marker circle that date. In most cases, it will fall in the last quarter of your year; but by printing the whole year, you can know exactly when you are to report.

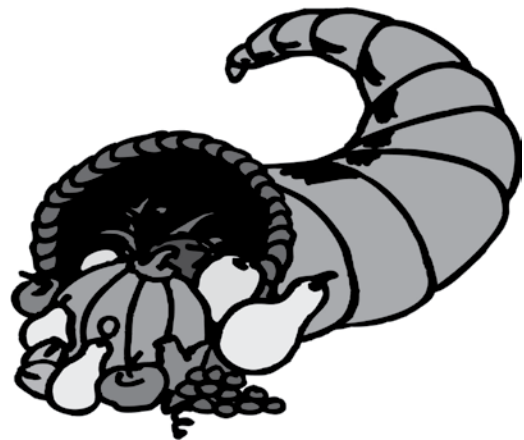
- Second, allow yourself enough time to complete the sampling. The sampling must be a composite of 24 hours; allow yourself enough time, so you don't start testing too close to the last day of the recording month.

If you have further questions you can refer to the Appendix A, under sampling, in your permit or give me a call.

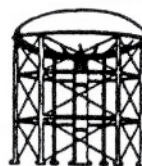
Unlike making up a forgotten wedding anniversary to your spouse by making special dinner reservations or sending a bouquet of flowers to her at work, DEQ is less forgiving!

## REMINDER ....

The end of the year is less than two months away. If you need any continuing education hours before then, make sure to attend the training sessions in November and December. The training schedule is on page 6 of this magazine.



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