

Issue 4/2011

Nebraska Rural Water Association



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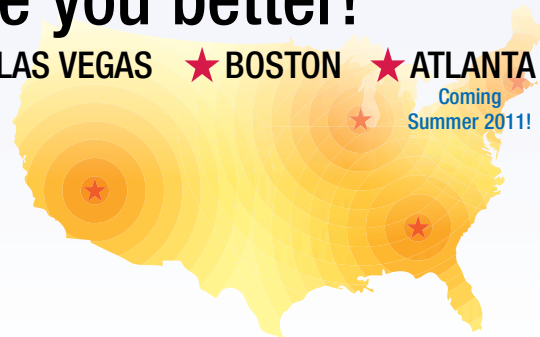
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Nebraska Good Water News

Issue 4/2011

“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.

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.

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Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician
Charles Bausch, Training/GIS Specialist

Website: www.nerwa.org

On the cover:

Water Tower for Riverdale.

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How'd We Do and Letters From...

Village of Denton

P.O. Box 132
Denton, NE 68339

Phone 797-2020

October 21, 2011

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Dr
Wahoo, NE 68066

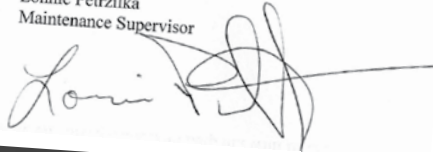
Dear NeRWA:

The Village of Denton and I would like to thank all of you for your assistance in the past years. Thank you to Barney Whatley for recently doing a rate study and attending multiple board meetings on our water and sewer rate study. Also I would like to thank Jim Heyen for his help with our yearly 24 hr composite sampling on our lagoon system.

Thanks again and in appreciation we are enclosing a check to help out with future equipment purchases.

For the Board,

Lonnie Petrzilka
Maintenance Supervisor



enclosure

VILLAGE OF DUNCAN

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

Visit us at www.villageofduncan.com or Email villageofduncan@frontier.com
Betty Kropatsch, Board Chair 402-897-2765 || Sandy Bargmann, Clerk-Treasurer 402-897-5285

October 12, 2011

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA Staff,

The Village of Duncan would like to thank Russ Topp for assisting our water operator in locating some hard-to-find curb stops for water shut-off purposes. Russ brought along his metal detector-locator and had the job done in no time at all.

We have enclosed a donation to your equipment fund as an expression of our appreciation for the services that you offer.

Sincerely,



Sandy Bargmann
Village of Duncan
Clerk/Treasurer

CITY OF LYONS

PO BOX 598
335 MAIN ST
LYONS NE 68038-0598
402-687-2485 OFFICE
402-687-4112 FAX

September 20, 2011

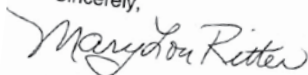
Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo NE 68066

Dear NeRWA,

The City of Lyons would like to say "thank you" for all the help and assistance your staff has provided over the years to the Water and Sewer Departments. Thank you to Randy Hellbusch for his assistance in the water and sewer rate studies.

Enclosed is a donation for the equipment fund as appreciation for everything your organization does for the City of Lyons as well as all Nebraska communities.

Sincerely,



Mary Lou Ritter
City Clerk

VILLAGE OF EWING

209 East Nebraska Street
PO Box 333
Ewing, NE 68735-0333
ewingcity@telebeep.com

Phone: 402-626-7718

FAX: 402-626-7739

August 10, 2011

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association

The Village of Ewing would like to thank your staff for coming to Ewing to help our water operator locate water shut offs. The assistance you provide the communities in Nebraska is invaluable.

At the regular board meeting the chairman and board members voted to give a donation to Nebraska Rural Water Association in appreciation for their help.

Sincerely,

VILLAGE OF EWING

Sharon Swails
Village Clerk/Treasurer

Enclosure

VILLAGE OF CONCORD

P.O. BOX 49
CONCORD, NEBRASKA 68728-0049
(402) 584-2395

October 25, 2011

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Street
Wahoo, NE 68066

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Village of Concord, please accept the enclosed donation of \$200.00. We truly appreciate your efforts in helping our community whenever needed.

Thank you,

Robert L. Clarkson
Board Chairman

RLC:jh

Enclosure

VILLAGE OF KENESAW

109 North Smith Ave.
PO Box 350
Kenesaw, Ne 68956
402.752.3222 phone & fax

August 24, 2011

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, Nebraska 68066

Dear NeRWA,

The Village of Kenesaw would like to take this opportunity to once again say "THANK YOU" for all your help over the years, a service which is ongoing to our Community. NeRWA has been an excellent resource for our Village with just about any water/wastewater issue that may arise! The water and wastewater continuing education classes are an extremely important part of our operation and in addition to that ~ most recently ~ donating a pump and chlorine testing equipment.

On behalf of the Village Board of Trustees and the Village Staff, please accept the enclosed donation for your equipment fund.

We appreciate all you do and are very grateful for the work you do!

Kelli Knott, Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Kenesaw

On behalf of the Village Board of Trustees
& Village Staff

Water Operator Training

April 18	Pierce
April 19	South Sioux City
June 15	Sutton
October 16	Axtell
October 17	North Platte
November 8	Red Cloud
December 18	Geneva
December 20	Wahoo

Wastewater Training

January 18	Aurora/NDEQ
February 15	Albion/NDEQ
March 14	Omaha/NDEQ
April 18	Falls City/NDEQ
April 24	McCook/NDEQ
May 15	Arnold/NDEQ
May 16	Bridgeport/ NDEQ
June 20	Hickman/NDEQ
July 17	Ainsworth/NDEQ
July 18	Laurel/NDEQ

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

January 23-27	Wahoo
April 16-20	Wahoo
October 22-26	Wahoo

Wastewater Certification Course

January 31-Feb. 3	Wahoo
April 10-13	Wahoo
June 5-8	Wahoo
August 28-31	Wahoo
October 30-Nov. 2	Wahoo

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Backflow Continuing Education Training

January 12	Alliance
January 18	Ainsworth
February 14	Nebraska City
February 16	Norfolk-Nucor Steel
April 10	Hastings
April 12	Wymore
May 8	O'Neill
May 10	Callaway
September 6	Ord
September 25	Falls City
September 27	York
October 10	South Sioux City
November 14	Gordon
November 27	Wahoo
December 11	Mitchell
December 12	Imperial
December 13	Cambridge
December 19	Wahoo



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

September 26	Trenching & Shoring	Wahoo
September 27	Confined Space Entry	Wahoo

**Annual Conference
March 19-21**

Heartland Event Center
Grand Island, Nebraska

**Fall Western Conference
Sept. 18-20**

Gering Civic Center
Gering, Nebraska

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Association Update

By Tom Goulette, President of the NeRWA Board of Directors

The Nebraska Rural Water Association is once again turning to the membership for help. Since representation in Washington and aspects of federal regulation cannot come to terms or become fiscally responsible we need to look back to the membership for your help as we did several years ago.

What they fail to realize is the technical support, training and assistance are provided to the rural communities in our state and across our nation at little to no cost. Needless to say while they work out their so-called differences we plan to continue to assist our communities with training and technical assistance.

We are once again asking for your continued support while again implementing some fee-based training. NeRWA programs have traditionally taken a majority of the funds received and put it out into the field to benefit our membership. We typically operate on a very conservative basis and are one of the few associations that operate without an Executive Director. The thought of the board members is to help with operations when needed and return as much to the members as possible. A great staff goes a long way in this type of implementation.

NeRWA has always come through with training when needed and we will continue to do just that regardless if there are two or twenty operators needing training. Also this next year we are moving our Annual Conference to Grand Island and are hoping to provide more training options and growth in that part of our organization with your help and participation.

You're asking by now, okay, what do they want from us?Well, there are several things.

1. One is your opinion or feedback. We have to look at a lot of different things such as membership dues, what we are charging for training classes, etc.
2. We really need your help in convincing your Senator and Congressional Representative to keep these programs funded.

3. National Rural Water is also on the move asking all the Associations to help and contribute to Water PAC. The only way contributions can be made to a Political Action Committee is through your personal donation. The goal is to get each member to contribute \$10.00. This must be a personal donation and not from the system. Our NRWA representatives in Washington actually have to pay to attend functions which provide them an opportunity to make contact with the people that can positively influence our programs.

I know financially a lot of communities are struggling with their budgets and lack of funding but the realization is NeRWA is there when you need help. We need to make sure we can continue to be here for you.



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Is It Time for a Check-Up?

By Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist

I think I am like most guys in that I hate going to the doctor unless I am having pain and it does not go away after a while. Not too long ago I was experiencing some discomfort when I would raise my arm. It felt as though someone was shocking my elbow with an electric wire. It was not too long after that that my wife suggested that I quit “moaning and groaning” and make an appointment with the doctor to see what was wrong. I told her he would just tell me to quit using my arm for a while and come back later if it didn’t get better. I finally gave in and made an appointment, but the doctor was away and I was seen by a Physician’s Assistant (PA). After some poking and prodding, the PA decided I had a pinched nerve in my shoulder and suggested that I have an MRI done to determine where the nerve was pinched and what could be done about it.

I went to the hospital and had the MRI done, and when I went back to discuss the results with the doctor, he advised that nothing was evident in the MRI and that I should not use that arm for a couple of weeks and come back to see him if it did not improve. He also advised that the MRI did show a spot on my lung that he thought should be investigated, so he made an appointment with a pulmonary specialist to have it checked out. In addition to this, he advised that I had a slight heart murmur that should also be checked out and he scheduled a visit with a heart specialist to have a cardio echogram done.

This entailed having a CAT scan completed with the injection to highlight the veins and blood vessels. After the CAT scan, I went back to the pulmonary specialist, and he advised that he thought it might be a vein, but he was not sure and wanted another CAT scan done in three months. This was done, and the results were the same, so we scheduled a third CAT scan for six months down the road. When it was time for the next CAT scan, I was informed that my pulmonary specialist had left the area, so I put it off until I had my next annual physical. At that time I

was scheduled for another CAT scan, and the results of that one were the same as before.

Meanwhile I went to the heart specialist and had the cardio echogram completed, and he advised that I had a sticking valve, but that it was not serious as long as I did not have any of a number of symptoms. He did say he would like to have another cardio echogram done in a year to see if the condition was stable. This was done, and he advised that it looked about the same as last year, and could we do it again next year?


So, \$3,000 later (plus what insurance paid) the end result of all of this seems to be that I should return every year for these tests to insure that nothing is wrong. That is why men hate to go to the doctor!

What does all of this have to do with my job, you ask? One of the things I do as part of my job is to conduct assessments for water systems to see what shape they are in from a financial and management standpoint. In doing one of these assessments, I spend time with the water operator, the clerk and sometimes the city manager or a board member and ask questions related to the daily operation and future planning of the system. These assessments are then typed up, and notes and recommendations are added at the bottom. The results are then presented to the governing body during a public meeting, at which I stress that the recommendations are **ONLY** recommendations and that they need to run the system in a manner that they feel is best for the community and their residents.

These assessments are done as a matter of course for systems that are borrowing money from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, but any system serving a population less than 10,000 can have an assessment completed. The cost of the assessment is **FREE**, which is affordable to every system, and the results will not force the system to spend any money,

unless they choose to. Many of the recommendations involve policies, procedures or other “paperwork” items to implement them, and NeRWA is willing to assist in this at no charge to the system.

If you would like to have an assessment completed for your system, or if you have any questions regarding having one done, call the office at (800) 842-8039 or call me on my cell phone at (402) 480-4297 and we will schedule a time for me to stop by. This is one Check-Up that is fairly painless and will only lead to further appointments and scheduled procedures if that is what the system wants to do.



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Patricia Baburek, President

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Nebraska Rural Water Association

Annual Conference Pre-Registration

March 19-21, 2012
Heartland Event Center
Grand Island, Nebraska

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

Pre-Registration
 Deadline is
 March 7, 2012

License numbers MUST on this form to receive the correct CEUs.

License #: Water: _____ **BF** _____ **WW** _____ **OSWW** _____ **WD** _____

REGISTRATION INCLUDES TRAINING MATERIALS, MEALS AND BREAKS. Registration fees received after March 7 and on-site will increase. Monday is free for all utility/rural water board members. Board Members can attend Tuesday & Wednesday for the price of meal tickets.

I am a Board Member attending Monday (no charge) _____
 Tues _____ Wed _____ (Cost of meals only—check meals below)

I am the Voting Delegate _____

DAYS ATTENDING	Member	Member after March 7	Non-Member	Non-Member after March 7
FULL CONFERENCE (all meals)	_____ \$375.00	_____ 450.00	_____ \$475.00	_____ \$550.00
MONDAY (evening meal)	_____ \$100.00	_____ 125.00	_____ \$125.00	_____ \$150.00
TUESDAY (lunch & evening meal)	_____ \$175.00	_____ \$200.00	_____ \$200.00	_____ \$225.00
WEDNESDAY (breakfast & lunch)	_____ \$125.00	_____ \$150.00	_____ \$150.00	_____ \$175.00

All meals are included for each registration. Please indicate below if you will be staying for the evening meals. You will not be charged for them if you are registered—it's for a more accurate count. Guests need to purchase a ticket for every meal. The breakfast on Wednesday is complimentary for all registered for the conference.

Extra meals available	Your Tickets	Guest Tickets	Cost	Total
Mon evening			\$25	\$
Tues lunch			\$15	\$
Tues Banquet			\$30	\$
Wed lunch			\$15	\$

Registration \$ _____
 Tickets \$ _____
 Total \$ _____

NeRWA member: Bill _____ Payment enclosed _____

Non-members—Payment must accompany registration

Name of guest _____

To Register:
 Call: 800-842-8039 or 402-443-5216
 Fax: 402-443-5274
 Mail: Nebraska Rural Water Association
 3390 Ponderosa Street
 Wahoo, NE 68066
 Online: www.nerwa.org

When making room reservations,
mention you are with NeRWA

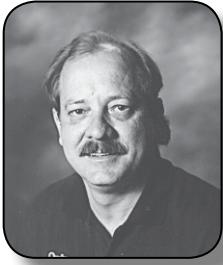
Midtown Holiday Inn
 2503 S Locust St
 308-384-1330

DATE REGISTRATION RECEIVED: _____

CANCELLATION POLICY: Full refund before March 9.

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

Hours: Water _____ BF _____ Wastewater _____ OSWW _____ WD _____ Certificate mailed _____



Reviewing Water Rates

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

Nebraska Rural Water Association recently completed our latest water and sewer rate study of all systems across the State. The last study was completed in 2008. It is interesting to look through the study and see what water rates have done over the past 3 yrs. Overall, water rate minimum charges have increased an average of 8.5%. The average charge per 1,000 gallons has increased 7%. The smallest of systems (under 400 pop.) fall right in line with the average. Systems 400-2,000 population had an average increase of approximately 4%. While systems 2,000 and larger had the largest average increase of just under 13%. The larger system rates are still considerably less than the smaller systems simply due to economy of scale. NeRWA would like to thank all systems who participated in the survey. If you would like a copy

of the latest rate survey book give the office a call and talk to Carol or Salli.

If you think it is time for your system to take a look at your rates, give us a call as well.



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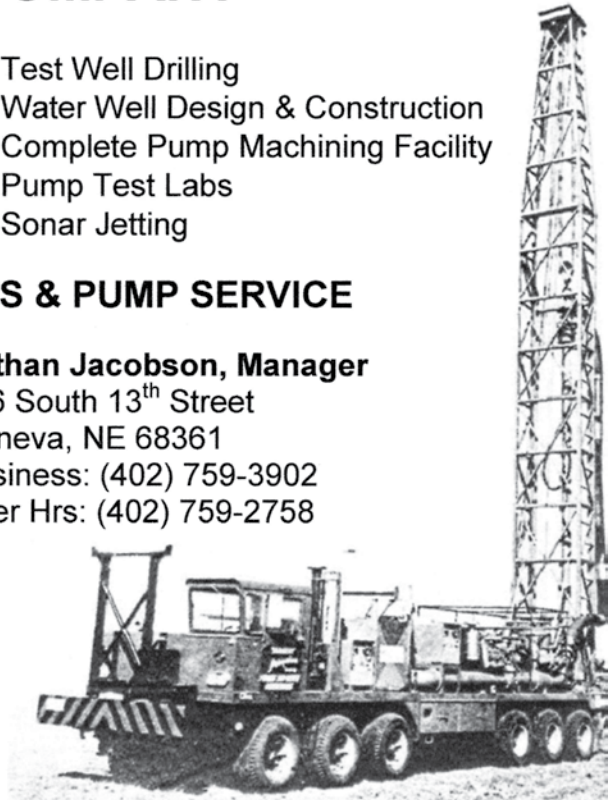
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 Geneva, NE 68361
 Business: (402) 759-3902
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MUNICIPAL & INDUSTRIAL DIVISION





Spring Annual Conference

By Charles Bausch, Training / GIS Specialist

With the Western Conference behind us it is now time to start planning the annual spring conference. This year's spring conference will be held in Grand Island at the Heartland Event Center located on the new state fairgrounds. This conference will combine our spring conference and our utility expo in one big event. This will bring you the best of both worlds, classroom education along with the hands-on experience operators look for to enhance their learning experience.

The Heartland Event Center provides a bigger venue for our exhibitors to expand and bring in bigger equipment. The classrooms will also have more seating which will help the overcrowding issue we had in Columbus. The host hotel is the Midtown Holiday Inn located at 2503 South Locust St. The room block is open now and filling up fast so make sure to get your room booked early. Call this number for reservations: 308-384-1330. The Midtown Holiday Inn will also be where our Monday Fun Night will take place.

Earlier this month we sent out requests for presentations to all our associate members and we are getting back some great topics for classes, but as always, I would like to hear ideas from our utility members as well. If you have done a project this past year using new technology or have updated your water or wastewater plant and would like to tell us how your project went, please contact me. These classes are always a big hit and some of the best

learning opportunities are from your peers and their stories from past projects either good or bad. Pitch me your ideas and help me make this conference the best it can be.

The conference format will stay the same for the most part with the general session on the first day and classroom sessions on day two and three. The biggest change will be hands-on training. These sessions will allow attendees a chance for some hands-on learning. Like I said earlier, the planning process has started and if there are any topics you would like to see, let me know.

I will see you in Grand Island at the Heartland Event Center **March 19-21, 2012.**

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HEARTLAND EVENT CENTER

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GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA

TENTATIVE AGENDA TOPICS:

DHHS State Water System Report

ER Grant Information

SRF Update

Security Update

319 Grant Update

Service Line Repair

Rural Water Roundtable

Backflow Sessions

Pump Repair

Water Meters & Automatic Meter Reading Systems

Water Main Repair

Metering Pumps & Controls

Lagoon Cleaning

Trenching & Shoring

Asset Management

Water Security

There will be a minimum of 10 Grades 1-4 CEUs, 5 Grade 6 CEUs, and 10 Wastewater CEUs.

NeRWA is also applying for well driller and on-site wastewater CEUs.



The New Wastewater Tech

By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Tech

This is my first article as the Wastewater Tech for NeRWA. I accepted this position effective August 1, 2011. As regular readers you know that Jim Heyen has taken a position with the City of Hastings. He is both a wealth of knowledge and on my speed dial. Jim is always there when I need advice/counseling and I try desperately not to abuse it. I've gained a very real appreciation for just how busy he was and his total commitment to NeRWA and you as members. We here at NeRWA wish him nothing but the best now and in the future.

Training is continuing as scheduled by Jim and the upcoming 2012 schedule is nearly finalized. The goal is to provide training opportunities to all areas across the state. I truly appreciate the input that

I've received regarding your areas of need. Also, the four day wastewater certification training course as initiated by Jim continues to be very popular as evidenced by the registration numbers. It will again be offered five times next year just prior to each of the State certification exam dates.

The technical support that has been provided in the past will continue including, but not limited to, the sewer camera, composite sampling, flow metering, sewer smoking and training.

Additionally EPA has a goal of coming out with a new energy conservation computer program by the first of the year for water/wastewater systems. My goal is to work with one or two systems as a test of the program. It could potentially become an additional service that I could provide for you as your energy costs escalate and continue to be a large portion of your budget. If you have an interest in participating at no cost to you please let me know.

If there are other areas of special need that you have in training or technical support by all means please make me aware of them. They are most likely shared by others. I truly enjoy traveling across the state meeting all of you and providing help in whatever areas that I can to the best of my ability. In my opinion we as an organization exist solely to serve you and I feel fortunate to be a very small part of this dream team.



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That Leak is Where?

By Mike Stanzel, Deputy Circuit Rider

We are asked to write an article pertaining to our jobs once a quarter. And believe me trying to come up with a different topic can sometimes be challenging. Because I am not an author, I generally try to write on recent experiences or what I have been busy doing.

Well, since we've been busy doing leak detection, I thought I would share with you what we discovered in a small town recently surveyed. We were contacted to assist a small village with about 70 service connections that had a reported 45-50% water loss. The system has one primary well and one older well used for backup.

We started as usual by asking questions pertaining to the system, like what's metered, what's not, how often meters are read and how old the meters are, etc. As we continued on, listening to hydrants for leaks, all was quiet until we got near the well house. I had asked if the well was running and it was not, so we proceeded to investigate. Well, it did not take long to find the source. It was a water lube line coming back from the system and down into the well, which is not metered and not being accounted for. This was the same situation in the backup well also. We estimated that these lube lines can account for 25- 30% of the water loss.

As we completed the system survey with no other detectible leaks, we were standing in front of the city shop getting ready to call it a day, when I saw a yard hydrant next to the wall. The operator had explained that that was the only source of water in the shop. I decided to give it a listen and sure enough the line was broken underground and seeping into an old floor drain. Oh, did I forget to mention that the village does not meter their own services?

Well, we were able to shut it off at the curb box and the operator was going to make the repairs, as well as, install meters on both wells so that the water being used can be included in the amount of water being

billed.

So in closing, don't overlook the city-owned properties when doing a water loss audit. I know that a lot of fire departments and community buildings have never had meters installed, which is fine, but you can still estimate the water usage in your monthly reports.

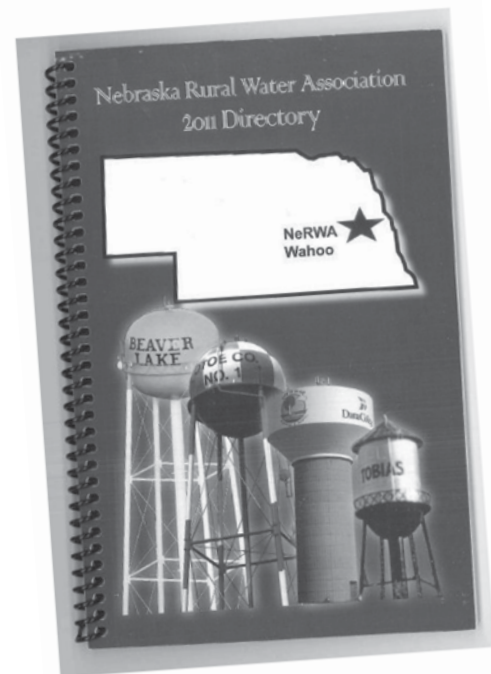
The 2011 directory is now available. If you would like one or more, contact the NeRWA office to get on the list.

800-842-8039
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You can also email Salli or Carol:

salli@nerwa.org
carol@nerwa.org

They will be either mailed or dropped off by one of the field staff if they are in your area.





Good Time for an Audit

By Russ Topp, Circuit Rider

Don't have a heart attack! I'm talking about a water audit not a tax audit. Winter months are right around the corner and that's the best time to conduct a water audit.

Have you ever conducted a water audit of your water system, and found out you have an unusually high percentage of unaccounted for water? The first thing you think is I must have a water leak. You drive and walk the entire distribution system and find nothing. Where is that water going?

Maybe this would be a good time to explain just what a water audit is, and how to conduct one. Simply divide the amount of water you sold by the amount of water you pumped. For an example, let's say you use the months of January, February and March. The total amount of water you pumped for these three months is 7,500,000 gallons. During these months you sold 5,000,000 gallons. Simply divide 5,000,000 by 7,500,000. You should get 66%. This means you are selling 66% of the water you pump, or losing 34%. Typically the industry standard is anything under a 15% loss is acceptable.

About now you are asking yourself, why would I want to conduct this audit in the winter months? There could be a significant amount of water pumped by your system that doesn't get metered. Some examples could be a swimming pool, park, ball field, fairgrounds, playground, golf course, cemetery, hydrant flushing, sewer jetting or fire fighting to name a few. Swimming pools and irrigation can consume a huge amount of water that may not be metered. There are some other sites that you may have to estimate the usage for. This could be city-owned buildings such as the city office, library, water or wastewater plants, city shop, low income or elderly living apartments.

Your wells may be another place you need to be aware of. If you have an older line shaft turbine well there could be a pre-lube line running continuously. Most

of the newer wells have a solenoid valve that opens a few minutes before the well starts to lube the shaft. Make sure the solenoid valve is working correctly and they typically don't use much water. If you have an older line shaft turbine well you may want to install a check valve and a residential meter to determine how much water is actually going back down the well. Be sure the check valve is installed correctly to allow water back down the well. Read the meter and deduct that amount from the water pumped. If you have your well tested for efficiency every year by your well driller, check the report they send to you. This report will tell you if your well meter is accurate. You need to check the orifice test compared to the well meter reading. I have seen well meters running up to 18% fast. This can be a big factor as to the actual amount of water your well pumps in a month's time. Calculate the actual amount of water pumped when conducting the audit.

Remember 10% loss is great and 15% very good. If your loss is above 20% it might be time to have us come and conduct a leak survey.

Happy Holidays!

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Natural Disasters

By Charles Bausch, GIS / GPS Specialist

Natural disasters of 2011 seem to keep coming, from the flooding along the Missouri and the northeast, to the tornados that hit the south and the drought and fires that have swept through Texas. Seems like weather patterns are more severe than ever or we just hear about these disasters more. In past articles we talked about the importance of good mapping. When a disaster hits that's no time for wishing you had updated maps with GPS coordinates.

Fall and spring are great times for GPS data collection. Since a GPS receiver uses a radio signal from satellites, trees and tall buildings can affect the data collection process. This is why spring and fall can be the best time for GPS data collection. At NeRWA our goal is to get your data collected quickly and efficiency to help save you time and money.

Once your data is collected and your maps are finished you will have GPS locations of all your points in your utility system. This way when disaster hits you are prepared and able to act quickly and more effectively. Even if points are difficult to find you can always call NeRWA. We can load your maps back on our GPS unit and assist you with finding those features. When and if a disaster hits, remember that if you have taken the time to get your maps updated to a GIS/GPS map you can feel safe knowing that your features will never be lost.

Contact me if you would like to discuss getting started or just want a free estimate on GIS/GPS maps for your utility system.

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THINK TANK

Amazing We All Learned English!

(This was taken from an email message)

1) The bandage was wound around the wound.

2) The farm was used to produce produce.

3) The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.

4) We must polish the Polish furniture.

5) He could lead if he would get the lead out.

6) The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.

7) Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.

8) A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.

9) When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.

10) I did not object to the object.

11) The insurance was invalid for the invalid.

12) There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.

13) They were too close to the door to close it.

14) The buck does funny things when the does are present.

15) A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.

16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.

17) The wind was too strong to wind the sail.

18) Upon seeing the tear in the painting I shed a tear.

19) I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.

20) How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

Let's face it, English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger; neither apple nor pine in pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England or French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat. We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

And why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce, and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, 2 geese. So one moose, 2 meese? One index, 2 indices? Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it?

If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat? Sometimes I think all the English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell?

How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are

opposites? You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down; you fill in a form by filling it out; an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

PS. - Why doesn't 'Buick' rhyme with 'quick'?

You lovers of the English language might enjoy this:

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that is 'UP'.

It's easy to understand UP meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP?

Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

We call UP our friends.

And we use it to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver; we warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen.

We lock UP the house, and some guys fix UP the old car.

At other times the little word has real special meaning.

People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special.

A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

We open UP a store in the morning but we close it UP at night.

We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary.

In a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4th of the page and can add UP to about thirty definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used.

It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP.

When the sun comes out we say it is clearing UP.

When it rains, it wets the earth and often messes things UP.

When it doesn't rain for awhile, things dry UP.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP.

for now my time is UP,

so.....it is time to shut UP!

Now it's UP to you to decide what to do with this email.



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