

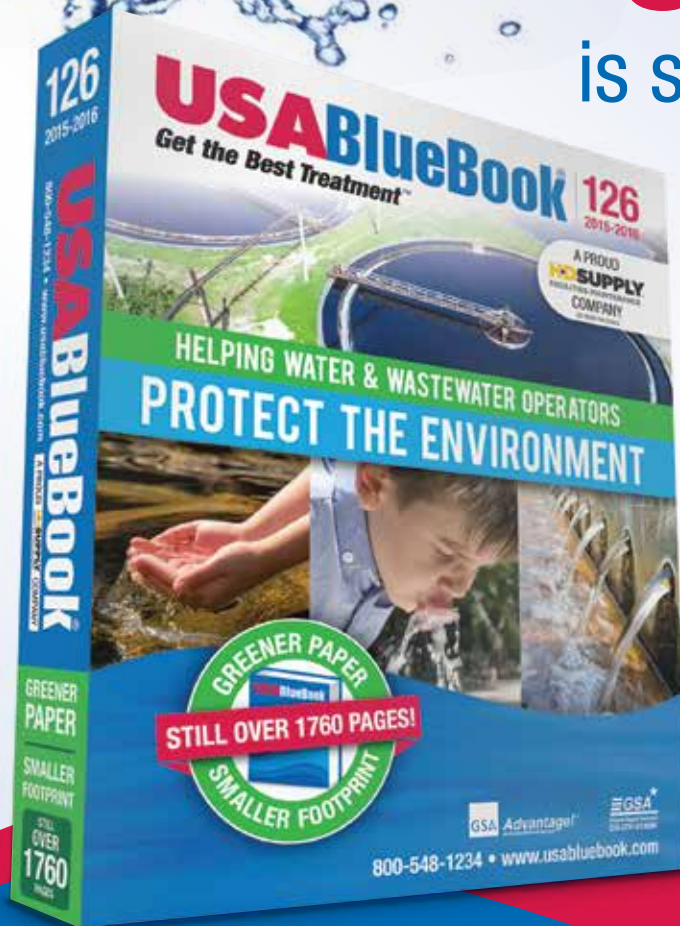
Issue 4/2015

# Nebraska Rural Water Association



## NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS

# The New Slimmer **USABlueBook**<sup>®</sup> is still **BIG** on Selection!



Don't let the smaller footprint fool you!  
 USABlueBook's new catalog uses an environmentally friendly paper that slims down our book—but not our selection. From aeration to zinc testing and everything in between, USABlueBook still offers *everything you need for water and wastewater operations and maintenance!*

**28**  
**PRODUCT**  
**CATEGORIES**

- Aeration
- Chart & Data Recorders
- Chemical Feed
- Collection Systems
- Electrical
- Flow Metering
- Gauges
- Hose
- Hydrants
- Lab Chemicals
- Lab Equipment & Supplies
- Lab Testing
- Level & Pressure
- Locating & Leak Detection
- Maintenance
- Office Products
- Pipe
- Plugs
- Process Analyzers
- Pumps
- Reference
- Safety
- Sampling Equipment
- Tanks
- Tools
- Valves
- Water & Wastewater Treatment
- Workwear

Over 64,000 Products • Personal Customer Service  
 Expert Technical Support • Nationwide Distribution Network  
**100% Satisfaction Guarantee!**

**GREEN IS THE  
 NEW BLUE!**

Printing on environmentally friendly, 100% recyclable paper is only part of the story. By reusing shipping boxes, using responsible mailing practices and offering FREE electronic billing services, USABlueBook is doing its part to help protect the environment.

**USABlueBook**<sup>®</sup>  
 A PROUD **HD SUPPLY** COMPANY  
FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

Request your **FREE** catalog today! Call **800-548-1234** or visit **www.usabluebook.com**

# Nebraska Good Water News

# Issue 4/2015

*“Keeping Our Water Safe”*

*Board of Directors*

## Table of Contents

2016 Training ..... 2

Board/Council Training ..... 3

Conference Pre-Registration ..... 4

What Is This RTCR? ..... 5

Planning for the Future..... 6

Exhibitor Registration ..... 7

Shared Operators ..... 9

Conference Highlights ..... 10-11

2015 Fall Conference Rundown ..... 12-13

Summary of Evaluations ..... 15-16

"Clerk of the Year" ..... 17

Welcome The New Office Assistant..... 17

Long-Term Planning for Your Source Water Needs... 18

We Need Your Water Tower ..... 19

Water Tasting Contest ..... 20

NeRWA Contact Information..... 21

### **President:**

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

### **Vice-President:**

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

### **Secretary/Treasurer:**

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

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

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

George Wagner  
PO Box 226  
Hooper, NE 68031  
(402) 654-3649

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

### **Staff:**

Amy Kemerling, Office Assistant  
Salli Kemerling, Office Manager  
Carol Jasa, Secretary  
Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider  
Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider  
Barney Whatley, GPS Specialist  
Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician  
Pat Petersen, Training Specialist  
Doug Buresh, Source Water Specialist

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

### **On the cover:**

Yutan Water Tower.

*"This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer."*

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

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

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

# 2016 TRAINING

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

January 11-15	Wahoo
April 11-15	Wahoo
October 17-21	Wahoo

## Wastewater Certification Course

January 26-29	Wahoo
June 7-10	Wahoo
August 23-26	Wahoo
November 15-18	Wahoo

## Water Operator Training

January 12	Beaver Lake
January 14	Newman Grove
April 6	Oconto
May 17	Pawnee City
June 15	Sutton
July 13	Chadron
August 9	Bancroft
October 5	Chappell
November 9	Lindy
December 14	Red Cloud

## Wastewater Training

January 7	Wahoo
February 18	Alliance
March 3	Auburn
April 7	Aurora
May 4	Omaha
June 16	Wahoo
July 21	McCook
August 11	Ogallala
September 7	O'Neill
October 6	Ord
November 3	Omaha
December 8	Laurel

## Backflow Continuing Education Training

January 20	Alliance
January 21	Sidney
February 9	Nebraska City
February 11	Stanton
April 19	Cairo
April 20	Wymore
April 26	Wahoo
May 10	Valentine
September 20	McCool Junction
September 21	Ord
October 25	South Sioux City
October 26	Atkinson
November 22	Wahoo
December 13	Mitchell
December 14	Ogallala
December 15	Cambridge



## **Annual Conference**

**March 21-23**  
Younes Conference Center  
Kearney, Nebraska

## **Fall Western Conference**

**Sept. 27-29**  
Gering Civic Center  
Gering, Nebraska

<b>August 3</b>	Trenching & Shoring	Wahoo
<b>August 4</b>	Confined Space Entry	Wahoo



## Board/Council Training

*By Barney Whatley, Capacity Development Specialist*

As part of the contract, the Nebraska Rural Water Association has with the State of Nebraska, we are to provide Village Board and City Council training to systems throughout the state. This training is intended to assist governing bodies in understanding the responsibilities they have accepted as part of the positions they hold and help them confidently conduct and take part in meetings without fear of violating open meeting requirements. The training should be especially helpful to new board members who do not have a lot of experience with governing bodies and board chairpersons who are in the position of maintaining control of public meetings.

Although most boards and councils are open to receiving training, it is often difficult to work that training into their busy schedules. It often works fairly well for the board to hold a workshop prior to the regularly scheduled meeting for the purpose of training. Because a quorum of the board is expected to attend the training, the workshop needs to be advertised as an open meeting of the board, although no action would be taken by the board at the workshop. The workshop should begin one hour prior to the regular meeting, and wherever we are in the agenda for the training, the workshop ends at the start time of the regular meeting. If the board or council would like to continue the training, it could be done following the regular meeting or another workshop could be held.

The agenda for the meeting would likely cover a brief overview of the water system in the community, including infrastructure, personnel and equipment. We would then go over the requirements of the Open Meetings Act. Hopefully this would only be a review, but often boards discover little things they are doing incorrectly. I will be the first to admit that I am not an attorney or an expert on the Open Meetings Act, so if the board has any questions I am unable to answer, I would research the question and get back either to the board or to the clerk with the answer. A brief review of Robert's Rules of Order would then follow as a guide for conducting meetings in a logical and controlled manner. There are many rules suggested here, but the system can always alter the rules to fit their meetings if they wish.

After reviewing meeting requirements and recommendations, we would look at budgeting for the system. Since the contract is related to water systems,

this is what is specifically covered, although the principles would relate to any department over which the governing body has authority. We look at both expenses and income and the need for Capital Outlay funds and reserve funds. A city or village needs to run as a business, and all of the different departments within that village or city need to be run as separate business entities. One department should not be carrying the financial burden for another.

We then look at what is needed to procure an engineer for the system. This is usually only necessary if the system has not designated an engineer, or if the system is considering a project that is beyond the scope or ability of their designated engineer. Certain steps need to be followed to insure the system gets a competent engineer for the project being considered.

Finally, we look at succession planning. A large number of water system (and other department) personnel are baby boomers and will soon be looking at retirement. Systems need to be aware of this and plan for the future accordingly. Even if your operators are relatively young, the shortage of qualified personnel could draw them away from your system for better wages and benefits.

If your system could benefit from board training, please give NeRWA a call!

Water & Waste Water Solutions

# Gurney

Relationships • Technology • Service

**Chris Johnson**  
**Matt Moul**

**Location:**  
4428 South 108th Street  
Omaha, NE 68137

**(402) 551-7995**  
**(402) 553-5879 Fax**

# Nebraska Rural Water Association

## Annual Conference Pre-Registration

**March 21-23, 2016**  
**Younes Conference Center**  
**Kearney, Nebraska**

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

**Pre-Registration  
 Deadline is  
 March 16, 2016**

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

**License #: Water:** \_\_\_\_\_ **BF** \_\_\_\_\_ **WW** \_\_\_\_\_ **WD** \_\_\_\_\_ I am the Voting Delegate \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION INCLUDES TRAINING MATERIALS, MEALS AND BREAKS.** No registrations after March 16. Registration fees after this date and on-site will increase by \$50. Monday is free for all utility/rural water board members. Board Members can attend Tuesday and Wednesday for the price of meal tickets. Board members who are also licensed operators and want CEUs need to register as an attendee.

**IF YOU SUBSTITUTE FOR AN ALREADY REGISTERED PERSON AFTER MARCH 16,  
 THERE WILL BE AN EXTRA \$25 CHARGE.**

I am a Board Member attending Monday (no charge) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Cost of meals only—check meals below) Additional days: Tues \_\_\_\_\_ Wed \_\_\_\_\_

DAYS ATTENDING	Member	Member after March 11	Non-Member	Non-Member after March 11
FULL CONFERENCE (all meals)	_____ \$375.00	_____ 400.00	_____ \$425.00	_____ \$450.00
MONDAY (evening meal)	_____ \$100.00	_____ 125.00	_____ \$125.00	_____ \$150.00
TUESDAY (lunch & evening meal)	_____ \$175.00	_____ \$200.00	_____ \$200.00	_____ \$225.00
WEDNESDAY (breakfast & lunch)	_____ \$125.00	_____ \$150.00	_____ \$150.00	_____ \$175.00

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

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

Name of guest \_\_\_\_\_

Registration \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tickets \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NeRWA member: Bill \_\_\_\_\_ Payment enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Non-members—Payment must accompany registration or pay when checking in.  
 Hours will not be issued until payment is received.**

When making room reservations, mention you are with NeRWA

DATE REGISTRATION RECEIVED: \_\_\_\_\_

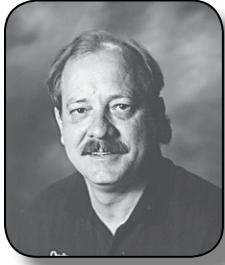
To Register:  
 Online: [www.nerwa.org](http://www.nerwa.org)  
 Fax: 402-443-5274  
 Mail: Nebraska Rural Water Association  
 3390 Ponderosa Street  
 Wahoo, NE 68066  
**NO PHONE REGISTRATIONS**

**CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellations after March 18 and NO SHOWS will be charged a \$25 processing fee.**

**For NeRWA office use only:** Payment received \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Hours: Water \_\_\_\_\_ BF \_\_\_\_\_ Wastewater \_\_\_\_\_ WD \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate mailed \_\_\_\_\_





## What Is This RTCR?

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

One of the major regulatory changes affecting public water supply systems is the Revised Total Coliform Rule. The rule change is set to take effect in April 2016. Many operators that I have visited with recently are aware there are changes coming, but aren't sure what the changes are or how they will be affected. I have heard everything from operators thinking they will no longer need to sample coliform to operators thinking that everyone is going to have to chlorinate. Of course, both statements are far from the truth.

The rule does affect two things almost all operators despise the most: public notification and paperwork. The good news is there will probably be a lot less public notification. The public notification will not be required for Total Coliform Routine + samples and Repeat TC+ samples. The bad news however, is that TC + samples will dictate more paperwork. All systems will be required to conduct an assessment when results show a system is vulnerable to possible contamination (+Coliform samples).

A level 1 assessment will be required when a system has multiple TC+ samples in any monitoring period but no Ecoli + samples or failure to take every required sample in a monitoring period. Level 1 assessments will be much like what is now referred to as a limited checklist from what I have heard. A level 1 assessment can be completed by the operator of the water system. The assessment should be done as soon as possible but at least within 30 days. Any defect found during the assessment must be addressed and corrected in a timely fashion.

A level 2 assessment will be required when a system has an Ecoli violation. This assessment is considerably more detailed and will be conducted by your DHHS field rep. Additional sampling, inspections, etc. may also be required.

Now, when do I need to notify the public?

No Notification - IF:

TC+ followed by TC+

Tier 1 Notification (24 hrs) - IF:

Routine TC+ followed by EC+ sample, Routine EC+ followed by TC+ sample, Routine EC+ sample and failure to take repeat samples

Tier 2 Notification (30 days) - IF:

Failure to conduct Assessment in required time frame,  
Failure to complete corrective action in required time frame

Tier 3 Notification (1 yr) - IF:

Failure to collect all required samples, Failure to submit/late reporting of assessments.

In short, TC+ samples will require an assessment and the system is encouraged to FIND and FIX any possible means of contamination. EC+ samples will require public notification.

This data was taken from a presentation by EPA region 8. NDHHS requirements may vary slightly. If you have any questions or concerns, I urge you to call your NDHHS field representative or NeRWA.

**ASI**  
American Structures, Inc.  
Menomonie, WI  
[www.ameristruc.com](http://www.ameristruc.com)

**American Structures, Inc.**  
**Bolted, Stainless Steel Tanks**  
**Storage Tank Solutions for Water,**  
**Waste Water, and Dry Storage**

- Tank & Silo Parts
- Steel Fabrication & Machining
- Rhino® Lining Industrial Coatings

Call or email us for a quote at:  
**715-235-4225**  
[www.ameristruc.com](http://www.ameristruc.com)



# Planning for the Future

*By Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider*

Well, I hope you all had a good summer and are getting prepared for fall and winter. I know this can be a busy time of year.

Last week I had the honor of attending a retirement reception for an operator whom I've had the pleasure of working with a lot over the past seven years. It was fantastic to see the smile on his face knowing he had only three days of work left. It was held at the community center where they served coffee and cake and was also advertised on the town's marquee. Everyone in town was invited to stop in to congratulate him and wish him good luck. It was very humbling to see such a big crowd.

This situation is a perfect example of how the operator gave the board plenty of notice of his retirement date. The Mayor and Town Board took a proactive approach and hired a new employee a year prior so that he/she could obtain the proper training and certifications and the town was not left hanging!

So here is a big question that City Councils and Village Boards need to ask themselves: Who are we going to get to replace our water operator who's been with the City/Village for awhile? How are we going to get the new person trained and certified? And the biggest question is: How are we going to pay for this training? If the original operator is still around, he/she can train the new person. But what if the original operator suddenly retires, gets sick or simply just quits?

City and Village Boards need to realize how valuable their operators are. As operators, you have obtained much information and knowledge over the years about various aspects of your City or Village. I would guarantee that each and every water operator out there knows something about their water system that no one else knows, whether it is knowing how to shut off a particular section of water main that isn't on the map or being able to find the shut off valve for the old theater that is located two blocks down and one block over. Regardless of how long you have been there, you have an invaluable amount of knowledge that only comes with experience. So the longer you get to work with and train a new operator, the better off your city/village will be.

Cities/villages are going to need to budget for this. They are probably going to need to do some restructuring since adding an additional employee can be extremely costly, especially if they are on a tight budget. A city/village's fiscal budget year can vary. If you're thinking about retiring, find out when the budget year starts and give your employer plenty of notice. Six months to a year is not unreasonable. So please share this article with your Board and Council members and encourage them to get a plan of action ready, in case you are planning to retire.

## Sargent Drilling Co.

- **Test Well Drilling**
- **Water Well Design and Construction**
- **Complete Pump Machining Facility**
- **Pump Repair**
- **Loaner Motor Service**
- **Pump Test Labs**
- **Video Surveying**
- **Acidizing and Chemical Treatment**
- **Sonar Jetting**



**Complete Municipal Water Well and Pump Service in Nebraska, Wyoming, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, & South Dakota**

**24 Hour Emergency Service**

### MUNICIPAL AND INDUSTRIAL DIVISION

**Broken Bow Office**

PO Box 627, 263 South 23rd  
Broken Bow, NE 68822

Gary McCracken, Branch Manager  
Shad Yarrington, Salesman

Office: (308) 872-5125  
After Hours: (308) 870-0138

**Geneva Office**

PO Box 367, 846 South 13th  
Geneva, NE 68361

Doug Yantzie, Municipal Manager

Office: (888) 496-3902  
After Hours: (402) 759-2929



# Nebraska Rural Water Association Annual Conference March 21-23, 2016

## EXHIBITOR REGISTRATION

Younes Conference Center  
416 Talmadge St  
Kearney, Nebraska

**Registration includes 2 reps (meal tickets included).**

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

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Representatives: (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**WILL YOU BE USING YOUR COMPANY NAME TAGS: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_**

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

Number of Booths requested \_\_\_\_\_ Amount due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**SET UP IS 8:00 A.M. TO 12 NOON ON MONDAY, MARCH 21**

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

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

**Platinum Sponsor: \$2500**

**Gold Sponsor: \$1000**

**Silver Sponsor: \$500**

**Bronze Sponsor: Less than \$250**

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

Mon Dinner-\$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Tues Banquet-\$30 \_\_\_\_\_

Tues Lunch-\$15 \_\_\_\_\_ Wed Lunch-\$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Registration cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Extra ticket cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payment must accompany registration form.

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Deadline for registrations is March 15. However, to be included in the conference program, registrations must be received by February 25.

No refunds if cancelled after March 14, 2016.

If payment is not included with the registration, you will not be given a space unless prior arrangements have been made with the NeRWA office.

Mail or fax completed form with payment to:

Nebraska Rural Water Association / 3390 Ponderosa / Wahoo, Nebraska 68066  
402-443-5216 & 800-842-8039 / fax 402-443-5274

For NeRWA office use only: Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

# MUNICIPAL PIPE SERVICES

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



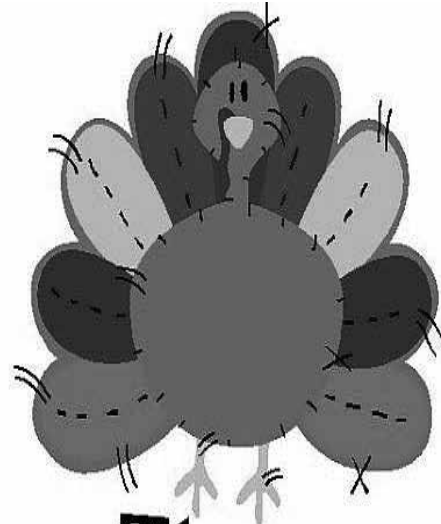
For all your **POTABLE** and  
**WASTE WATER** needs



BOB HENNIG  
SALES MANAGER  
1615 WEST "J" STREET  
HASTINGS, NE 68902

1-800-395-7473  
CELL: 402-469-1886  
FAX: 402-462-4408  
E-MAIL: BOB@MUNICIPALPIPESERVICES.COM

[WWW.MUNICIPALPIPESERVICES.COM](http://WWW.MUNICIPALPIPESERVICES.COM)



# Happy Thanksgiving

WE ARE AN **AMERICAN** TRADITION

**WE ARE MAGUIRE IRON**

We've been providing communities with functional landmarks since 1915. Maguire Iron designs, fabricates, erects, paints and repairs water towers and tanks. We look forward to the next century with great pride as a family-owned American company.



[MAGUIREIRON.COM](http://MAGUIREIRON.COM) | 605 334-9749

WATER TOWER SPECIALISTS





# Shared Operators

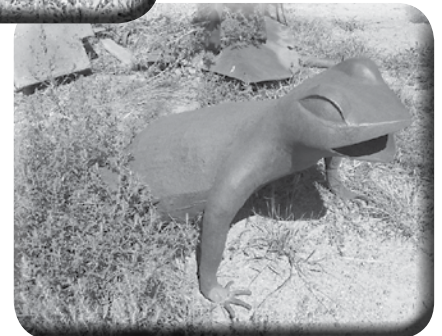
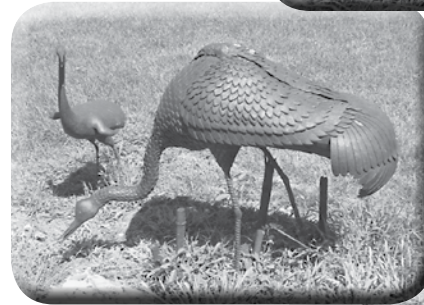
*By Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician*

Across the state it's becoming more and more difficult for small systems to hire and retain certified operators. A solution that I frequently see is shared operators between systems. These agreements range from those between the certified operator and each individual system to formal agreements between systems whereby one larger system may contract to share manpower and resources with a neighboring system or systems. I know of cases where one operator individually has agreements with two systems and others where the operator serves from 4 to 5 systems. There are larger systems that have successfully provided skilled personnel and resources to 3 or 4 neighboring communities. These arrangements may cover the full range of utility services or be specific to limited areas. Generally it can be a winning arrangement for everyone. If this seems like something that may be of benefit to you or your system contact me at 402-443-6157 or lucas@nerwa.org and I'll provide you with some contacts.


One never knows where your life's path will lead you. One of the benefits to this job with NeRWA is the opportunity to meet many operators as I travel across the state providing assistance in whatever way that I can. I am forever impressed with the dedication, commitment and skills that I witness in operators who truly care about their communities. I've seen operators who have spent endless hours keeping their systems operating after storms and system failures. I witnessed an operator take time to help a lost 2 or 3 year old boy in a diaper and t-shirt clutching his ziplock bag of animal crackers to find his way home in the rain.

Recently I had the opportunity to spend some time with Jack Stevens who is a shared operator between the Villages of


Venango and Elsie. Jack cares deeply about the communities that he serves. He is a certified welder and somehow finds time to create magnificent metal artwork. He has metal sculptures in several states. Photos are attached. Soon to come is a sculpture of his grandfather on an antique tractor and an absolutely awesome ghost buffalo.



Once again a tip of the NeRWA cap to all of you operators out there.



**DN TANKS**  
 DYK and Natgun  
 Generations Strong



**Sustainable Infrastructure**  
 Prestressed Concrete Water Storage Tanks

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



# 2015 CONFERENCE





# NCE HIGHLIGHTS







---

## 2015 Fall Conference Rundown

*By Pat Petersen, Training Specialist*

---

Although it is called the “Fall Conference,” I believe when I pulled into Gering on Monday, September 14th, the thermometer on my car said 96 degrees. It was downright hot! Despite the heat, the Gering Civic Center was once again the site of the Nebraska Rural Water Association’s “Fall” Pre-Conference and Conference.

This year’s pre-conference was entitled “The Future of Your Water System.” Five different items that may affect the future of water operators and their systems were on the agenda. 1. Charles Bausch with HD Supply addressed the crowd first with his Utility Technology presentation. As we all know, technology is always changing and for all of us in the water industry, it was fun to see what is out there to benefit our systems. 2. A budget is a vital part of running a water system, so Randy Hellbusch with the Nebraska Rural Water Association gave his presentation on the proper ways to build a budget around a water system. 3. Keith Broman with Sargent Drilling has helped several communities and operators learn about the benefits of installing VFD’s or Variable Frequency Drives on their municipal wells. Not only can a system save money but also save wear and tear on equipment. 4. Layne Christensen’s Dan Freese then showed the steps it takes when siting and planning for a new well. Water wells do not last forever and we know there are several steps to follow when it is time to drill a new well. This presentation showed us just that. 5. The final speaker of the pre-conference was Rich Koenig, field area 3 rep. for the Department of Health and Human Services. Rich’s presentation focused on what it’s going to take to fill the shoes of water operators throughout the state that retire or change jobs. Water operators have one of the most important jobs in the State of Nebraska and when we need to replace them we need to do it right by finding just the right person! Over 40 operators participated in the pre-conference!

Following the pre-conference was the operator golf outing. Once again, the weather was more like that of a summer day, but it was a perfect day for several operators to show off their golfing skills. Sixteen teams took part in the fun afternoon and each team received some sort of prize money thanks to these sponsors: Baker and Associates, HD Supply, Johnson Service, M.C. Schaff and Associates, Municipal Supply, Sargent Drilling, Utility Service, Maguire Iron, Midco Diving and Miller and Associates. The championship flight

winners were Mike McKee and Steve Kelley. Way to go guys!

Wednesday morning kicked off with the annual trapshoot that was sponsored by Bill Simmerman with Municipal Automation. Championship flight winners were Mike Wentink and Tommy Rudder. Also taking place on Wednesday morning was the poker run which was won by Martin Staab. Thanks to those of you who participated and for the sponsors of each event! These things couldn’t be done without you.

At 12:30 PM Wednesday afternoon it was finally time to get this conference up and going. Howard Isaacs, the new Drinking Water Administrator for the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, gave the annual Regulatory Update followed by Bill Podraza with Miller and Associates who advised water operators on how to address their village boards and city councils. Rich Koenig completed Wednesday’s agenda with a presentation about a certain situation that he personally was involved with. **WE DON’T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED! NOW WHAT?** A certain water system’s security had been compromised. He and the operator had no idea how far the culprits may have gone so he described the steps it took to issue a “Do Not Consume” order.

A social hour sponsored by HD Supply and the awards banquet took place Wednesday evening. Two operators from the western part of the state were honored with Outstanding Operator Awards. The two recipients of the awards were Dave Smith from the City of Bridgeport and Rod Klein with the Village of Farnam. Congratulations, Dave and Rod. You are both very deserving of this fantastic award!

On our final day of the conference, operators were treated to a wonderful breakfast before a long day of learning. Training sessions were held from 8:30 AM until 3:30 PM. Yes, it was a long day of learning but it was a great opportunity to obtain 6 water hours, 6 wastewater hours, 5 backflow, and 5 well driller hours. Overall the entire conference and pre-conference offered 15 water, 5 backflow, 11.5 wastewater hours and 9 well driller hours. Hopefully everyone was able to obtain what they needed.

*continued on page 13*

Several vendors provided door prizes that gave those in attendance a chance to take something nice home. Door prizes were drawn every break and a lot of people took some very nice things with them as they left the conference. Vendors who supplied the NeRWA with door prizes were: Sargent Drilling - two pullover windbreakers, Barco - hip waders and several decks of cards, Maguire Iron - ammo box, clock radio and a shooting rest, Elliott Equipment - flashlight, Hawkins - blanket and cooler, Municipal Supply - several hats and Municipal Automation - several pairs of gloves and tri-fold calendars. Thanks again to all of you who donated and to all of you who took the time to exhibit. The exhibit hall was full every break!

Finally, a big thank you to the crew who puts it all together. Salli, Carol, Amy, Mike Lucas, Mike Stanzel, Randy, Barney, and Doug, thanks! NeRWA Board members who were able to attend, I want to thank you for your support and lending a helping hand when we need it. I think we have a great team here at the Nebraska Rural Water Association! With that being said and speaking for the Nebraska Rural Water Association Board and staff, I hope to see all of you at the Annual Conference in Kearney, Nebraska on March 21-23, 2016. Have a safe and happy winter!



**ELECTRIC PUMP**

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

Des Moines, IA

515-265-2222 / 800-383-PUMP (7867)

New Prague, MN

952-758-6600 / 800-211-6432

Fargo, ND

701-293-0204

Omaha, NE

800-383-7867

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

Factory authorized shop and field service for all products offered



*Process Equipment is offered by EPI Environmental.*

Please see the website at [www.epi-environmental.com](http://www.epi-environmental.com)

# Bartlett & West

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

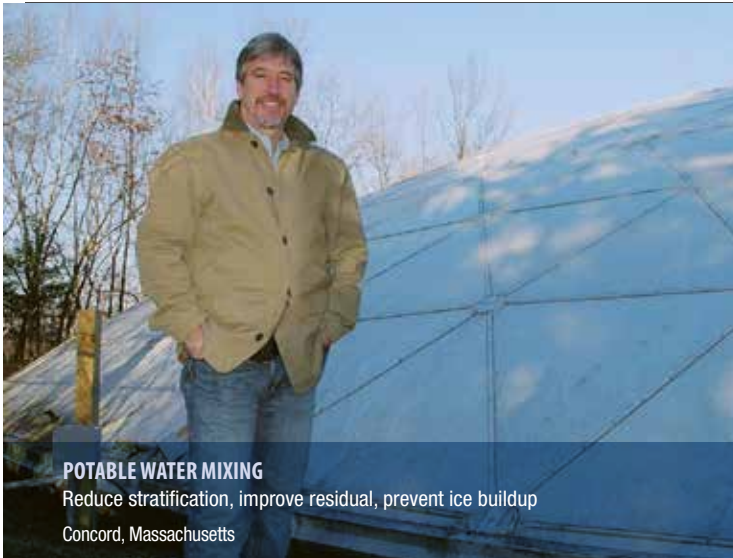
**&you**

## Water Engineering Services

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



1200 SW EXECUTIVE DR ■ TOPEKA KS ■ 888.200.6464 ■ [BARTWEST.COM](http://BARTWEST.COM)



**POTABLE WATER MIXING**  
Reduce stratification, improve residual, prevent ice buildup  
Concord, Massachusetts



**POTABLE WATER THM REMOVAL**  
Achieve compliance  
York, New York



**WASTEWATER**  
Reduce energy cost, improve nutrient removal, achieve compliance  
St. Helens, Oregon



**LAKES AND RAW WATER**  
Reduce WTP operating costs, control algae, increase hypolimnetic oxygenation  
Pagosa Springs, Colorado

# Water professionals agree.

## Medora Corporation helps solve water quality problems and save money.

From California to New York, water operators and engineers trust Medora Corporation to help reduce operating costs and achieve better compliance in their potable water systems, wastewater lagoons and lakes. They depend on our electric, solar and air-powered systems for fast, reliable results. And that's just the beginning. Year after year, our customer support and long-term product performance ensure complete satisfaction.

To read the case studies and learn more, visit [medoraco.com/betterwater](http://medoraco.com/betterwater)



**GridBee® SolarBee®**

Brands of Medora Corporation

Medora Corporation • Dickinson, ND • 866-437-8076 • [www.medoraco.com](http://www.medoraco.com)

## Summary of Evaluations

NeRWA Fall Western Conference  
September 15-17, 2015

TOTAL EVALUATIONS RECEIVED – 28

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

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| a. Operator/Manager  | 23  |
| b. Administrative  | 2   |
| c. Board Member  | 1   |
| d. Plumber.  | 3   |
| e. Lawn Service  | 1   |
| f. State/Federal Rep.  | 1   |
| g. Clerk   | 2   |
| h. Other:  |     |
| Streets, Sewer, Mechanic, Janitor, Electrician and Carpenter | - 1 |

Double positions: Operator/Manager and Clerk – 1  
Operator/Manager and Administrative – 1

Multiple positions: Operator/Manager, Administrative, Plumber,  
Lawn Service. Plus Streets, Sewer, Mechanic,  
Janitor, Electrician and Carpenter - 1

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

- |                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| a. The training classes          | 8  |
| b. The vendors                   | 0  |
| c. Chance to meet with operators | 1  |
| d. All of the above              | 19 |

QUESTION #3 – Things you liked and why?

- Good topics & good presentations.
- Beer
- Like the way the NeRWA and State bring us the information we need to know and updates.
- Able to choose what classes I go to. Facility is good.
- All of the above and sponsors & vendors. Civic Center was very hospitable.
- Good info.
- Good presentations/presenters. Nice facilities. Gering is a nice location for the conference. Good meals.
- It all works. Gets information out.
- Regulatory updates. Source water protection plans. Dealing with Arsenic & Uranium.
- Vendors. Training by Howard, Tony & Doug. Coliform Rule.
- The variety of available classes.

- Coverage of new regs.
- Nearby my city.
- Informative sessions. Location of venue.
- Was refreshing to be updated on well technology.
- Venue and lunch provided. Speakers kept on topic and moving. Good presentation.
- The experience of Rich Koenig. The vendors.
- It was very relaxed & fun environment.
- I enjoyed Rich Koenig's sessions. He is very informative.
- Pretty good conference all in all.
- Speakers – didn't put me to sleep.
- Thought this was a very good conference. Food was great & speakers were good.
- Location. All training sessions were good – very useful. Meals – great.
- Classes, meals, speakers.
- Good job!
- Some good information about VFDs and expense management.

QUESTION # 4 – Things you disliked and why?

- Not enough beer.
- Liked it all.
- None. (5 of this response.)
- Rooms are too cold.
- I found out about the conference late and wasn't able to attend the first class.
- Repeating the same thing year after year.
- No donuts or rolls at first break.
- Hard to find motel.
- I both like and dislike the amount of time the conference takes with the pre-conference.

QUESTION # 5 – Any suggestions for future conferences?

- Specific invitations to Board & Council members.
- More beer.
- I think the way the conference is designed is very well put together.
- No/None/Nope. (5 of this response.)
- None. Good conference.
- More hands-on – discussions.
- Keep it in Gering.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- I would like to see a rotation of DHHS folks who are in charge of various programs attend the Western Fall conference.
- No. (2 of this response.)
- Was a very good conference with excellent topics.
- Food was good as usual.



---

# Clerk of the Year

---



Donna Rut juggles five jobs in five towns in Southeast Nebraska. She is the village clerk for Daykin, Swanton, Western, Alexandria and Tobias. And her jobs are all part-time.

“I love what I’m doing, and it basically gives me a full-time job,” she said, albeit one with no benefits. She also didn’t plan to have five jobs.

A lifelong resident of the Daykin area, her first job was at the Farmers Cooperative. After working a couple of years, she decided to stay at home and raise her two children.

Then the village clerk job in Daykin opened up. Rut was hired in December 1979.

Alexandria came knocking in 2001. Its village clerk had resigned and it needed a replacement. No one had applied for the job. Rut was hired.

Western was next. Its village clerk retired, and village officials asked Rut if she would be interested. She was, and she got the job in 2006.

Swanton and Tobias contacted Rut in 2013, and she accepted both positions.

A village clerk’s responsibilities are many. Rut takes care of all of the bank accounts, pays bills and co-signs checks, attends village board meetings and responds to questions.

“I’ve probably met everyone in every town except Swanton, just because I’m not there that often,” Rut said.

Four of the towns have office space for a village clerk, but Rut does most of her work at home. She and her husband, John, knocked out a wall and converted their children’s bedrooms into a work area. Rut does not keep any records at home; they’re kept safely in each town.

When she works at home, she tackles one town at a time.

“I never try to do two. I never put (paperwork for) two towns on the desk at the same time,” she said during an interview at the old Daykin Public Schools building, where she also has an office.

Rut recently got a surprise visit from USDA Rural Development State Director Maxine Moul, who recognized her for excellent job performance and thanked her for years of dedicated service.

Lincoln Area Nebraska USDA staff nominated Rut for Clerk of the Year for helping three of her five towns through Rural Development loans, applications or project completion. Western, for example, used a USDA loan and grant money for a water project that included a new well, water tower, meters and pipes.

Members of Rut’s family and officials from the five towns she serves attended the award presentation. She said it was the first time she has been recognized for her work.

We would like to welcome Amy Kemerling to the NeRWA staff as our new office assistant.



## Municipal Automation & Control

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

Design, Build, Service

WATER / WASTEWATER CONTROL SYSTEMS

211 N. Tyler  
PO Box 393  
Elm Creek, NE 68836  
Office/Fax: (308) 856-4730

**Bill Simmerman - Owner**  
Cell: (308) 233-4729  
[bill.s@municipalautomation.com](mailto:bill.s@municipalautomation.com)



## JEO CONSULTING GROUP

[jeo.com](http://jeo.com) 800.723.8567

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

ARCHITECTURE • ENGINEERING • SURVEYING • PLANNING



## Long-Term Planning for Your Source Water Needs

*By Doug Buresh, Source Water Specialist*

It's really been enjoyable renewing acquaintances with operators, clerks and all the others working with water systems from across the state over these past three months. Several of you were already participating in Nebraska Rural Water Association activities when I first got into this business many years ago. I always enjoy meeting new people, too, and I've had the pleasure of meeting several. I am looking forward to seeing many more of you soon.

I've learned quite a bit about source water since I started this new position in July. To be perfectly honest, I have to admit I never really used to be all that serious as a water operator about my systems' water sources. I suppose I just took for granted that our wells would always continue to produce a steady supply of clean drinking water. That all changed overnight a few years back when I received lab results for quarterly nitrate samples. One of the community water system's two wells jumped from 9.5 mg/L to 26.1 mg/L. A confirmation sample verified the bad news. Sure didn't see that coming. That well is now on emergency standby use only. It's pretty scary not having a backup to the system's only remaining well.

Source water protection is vital. Eighty-five percent of Nebraskans get all or a part of their drinking water from groundwater. Losing a well when water from a contaminated aquifer becomes unfit for human consumption is costly and disruptive. The easiest way to make certain that groundwater is clean and safe for consumption is to prevent contamination in the first place. That is where a Wellhead Protection Plan comes in. Most of you have probably all seen the five steps of a Wellhead Protection Plan, but I'll repeat them for anyone who hasn't.

1. Delineating the Wellhead Protection Area
2. Potential Contaminant Source Inventory
3. Contaminant Source Management
4. Emergency, Contingency and Long-Term Planning
5. Public Education & Participation


It is not a simple process, but protecting your source water makes sense; right now, and for the future. The benefits to communities who develop and implement a Wellhead Protection Plan might be best understood by considering the costs of failing to do so. What would you do if your system suddenly and unexpectedly lost your only source of

drinking water?

We all have Emergency Operating Plans for our systems. It's not a bad idea to have some sort of contingency or long-term plans in place to identify options for obtaining an additional source of drinking water. Don't be caught off-guard like my system was. Contact me at 402-480-4196 if you need additional information or assistance with source water protection.


### Stainless Steel Products

Superior Quality – Superior Protection



**FORD** [www.fordmeterbox.com](http://www.fordmeterbox.com)  
260-563-3171

**STAINLESS STEEL**  
by Ford Meter Box



# **WE NEED YOUR WATER TOWER...**

**We are running low on pictures of water towers. Send us your tower!!!**

**We are putting the water towers of Nebraska on our cover and are featuring a different tower on each issue. We have only used up a fraction of the towers in the state.**

**Let us add your name to our list and see how long it gets. Email a picture to [salli@nerwa.org](mailto:salli@nerwa.org).**



**ANNUAL  
WATER  
TASTING  
CONTEST  
MARCH 2016**

***Sponsored by  
Nebraska  
Rural  
Water  
Association***



The water contest will again be held at the Conference in Kearney. A panel of distinguished taste testers will judge all samples. The winner will be announced at the banquet on Tuesday, March 22. The winning system will compete against finalists from the other 49 states in the National Contest at the National Rural Water Association Water Rally in Washington DC.

Contest Rules:

- Sample must be from a Nebraska public water supply system
- One entry per water system
- Water must come before any point-of-use treatment
- Water must come from the distribution system
- Water should be in clean, unmarked gallon container (preferably glass)
- Entry form must accompany sample**

Water must be received by 3:00 pm on Monday, March 21, at the conference registration table.

**Water System:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Submitted by:** \_\_\_\_\_

If at all possible, please call our office in advance at 800-842-8039 or 402-443-5216 to let us know you are entering. Thank you.

**Remember—bring completed form with your water!!!**

# Nebraska Good Water News

Nebraska Rural Water Association - 3390 Ponderosa Drive - Wahoo, NE 68066  
 Home | Office | Membership Info | Training | Annual Conference | Fall Conference | EXPO

Contact NeRWA... ▼

## NeRWA Staff

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



## News & Downloads Page NEW

Register on Line for Training  
 Available Equipment



**BARTLET**  
 SERVICE. THE BARTL



## Informational Links

National Rural Water
USDA Rural Development
NE Public Water Supply
HHS License Information
SDWIS System Data
EPA Wastewater
EPA Drinking Water
Nebraska DEQ
League of Municipalities
Nebraska Section, AWWA
AWWA Library Reference Listings
NeRWA Associate Members

## NeRWA Contact Information:

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
 3390 Ponderosa Street  
 Wahoo, NE 68066

Office phone numbers:

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



### Cell #

### Email

Randy Hellbusch	402-443-8535
Mike Lucas	402-443-6157
Pat Petersen	402-277-6699
Mike Stanzel	402-672-9084
Doug Buresh	402-480-4196
Barney Whatley	402-480-4297
Salli Kemerling	402-443-7072
Carol Jasa	
Amy Kemerling	

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



**Nebraska Rural Water Association**

3390 Ponderosa  
Wahoo, NE 68066

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



*“Local Service, Nationwide”*

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

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

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

**Phone (800) 247-6811**

**FAX (402) 896-6379**