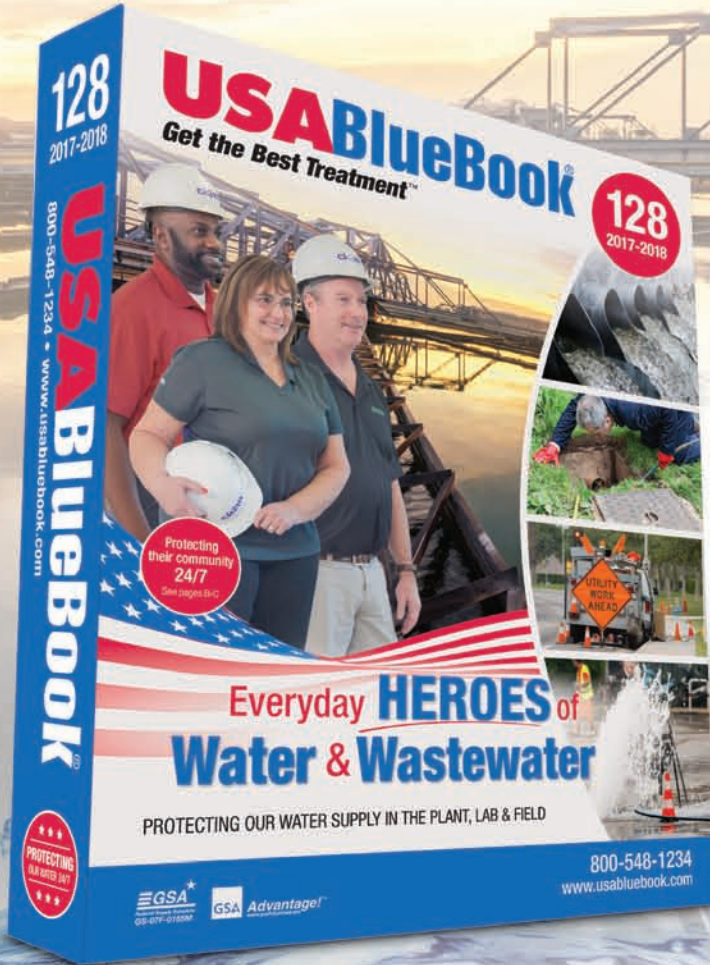


Issue 4/2018

# Nebraska Rural Water Association



## NEBRASKA GOOD WATER NEWS



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# Nebraska Good Water News

# Issue 4/2018

*“Keeping Our Water Safe”*

*Board of Directors*

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Specialist

Mike Lucas, Wastewater Technician

Pat Petersen, Training Specialist

Ken Halvorsen, Systems Specialist

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

### **On the cover:**

The Long Pine 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.*

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

VILLAGE OF HAMPTON  
P.O. BOX 277

HAMPTON, NE 68843

402-725-3186

FAX 402-725-3255

hampton@hamilton.net

Clerk hours 8:30 to 11:30 and 1:00 to 3:00  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

July 10, 2018

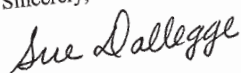
Nebraska Rural Water Assoc.  
3390 Ponderosa Street  
Wahoo, NE 68066

NRWA Staff

The Hampton Village Board and employees would like to extend our thanks to Mike Stanzel and Patrick Petersen for their assistance in exercising the Village's water valves. By providing us with your services we are able to keep our water system in great working condition.

Please accept this donation and gratitude for all your help.

Sincerely,



Sue Dallegge  
Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF HOWELLS  
P. O. BOX 351, 128 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street

HOWELLS, NE. 68641

402-986-1666 402-986-1210 (fax)

hoelk@megavision.com

"The Village of Howells is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer"

July, 2018

Randy Hellbusch  
Mike Lucas  
Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE. 68066

The Village of Howells would like to Thank Randy and Mike for their help to the Village. Randy performed a water and sewer rate study which will be beneficial as we approach our budget preparation time. Mike and his handy dandy camera helped us identify where two storm sewer pipes lead and what kind of condition they were in. This saved us a lot of time and frustration.

Your help and equipment was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Dawn Gall  
Howells Village Clerk

Thank you, for everything  
you do to make our jobs  
easier;

- GPS
- value exercising
- answering questions.
- Sewer Smoker

and much more!  
Everyone is awesome  
to work with -

Thank you  
Village of Malcolm

PHONE 402-534-4237  
FAX 402-534-5662  
EMAIL UTICANEBRASKA1@GMAIL.COM  
WWW.UTICANE.COM

## VILLAGE OF UTICA

466 1ST STREET  
P.O. BOX 158  
UTICA, NEBRASKA 68456

REGULAR MEETING  
FIRST MONDAY  
OF EACH MONTH

July 17, 2018

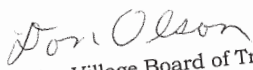
Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NeRWA,

The Village of Utica would like to thank the staff of NeRWA for the valuable services you have offered to us by reviewing our water and sewer rates, exercising valves, and using a camera to check on problematic sewer lines. We are grateful that you have the expertise and are able to provide immediate advice & solutions when we need help.

Please accept the enclosed contribution in appreciation for all the worthwhile services you provide.

Sincerely,

  
Utica Village Board of Trustees  
Don Olson, Chairman

445 6<sup>th</sup> Street PO Box 206

## City of Pawnee City

Pawnee City, NE 68420

402-852-2781

[pcityhall@pcityhall.org](mailto:pcityhall@pcityhall.org)

August 15, 2018

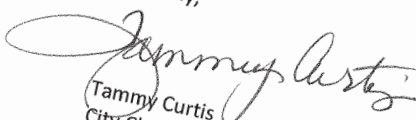
Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Street  
Wahoo, NE 68066

RE: DONATION: \$100.00

Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association:

Please accept the enclosed \$100.00 donation in appreciation for your help with flow testing our fire hydrants. Thank you for the services you provide to Pawnee City!

Sincerely,

  
Tammy Curtis  
City Clerk/Treasurer



# City of Ravenna

416 Grand Ave  
Ravenna, NE 68869-1324



September 26, 2018

Nebraska Rural Water Association  
3390 Ponderosa Drive  
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear NebRWA,

On behalf of the City of Ravenna we would like to thank you for all your help and especially Randy Hellbush for coming out and doing a water rate study for us. Your services to Nebraska communities are invaluable! Please accept this donation as a token of our appreciation.

*Kellie Crowell*

Sincerely,

Kellie Crowell, CMC  
City Clerk/Treasurer  
City of Ravenna



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# 2018 TRAINING

<u>Wastewater Training</u>	<u>Backflow Continuing Education Training</u>	<u>Water Operator Training</u>
November 14 Columbus	November 8 Wahoo (FULL)	November 15 Wahoo
December 12 Aurora	December 11 Mitchell	December 19 Red Cloud
	December 12 Ogallala	
	December 13 Cambridge	
	December 18 Wahoo	

<u>Wastewater Certification Course</u>	
November 27-30	Wahoo– Mechanical

Registrations for **all fee-based** 1-day training classes and multiple day training courses will need to be made online, mailed or faxed to our office. We will not be taking phone registrations for **fee-based** training.

Above are the training classes that are left in 2018. Next year, 2019, is a renewal year for water and backflow classes.

Get a head start and attend one or more of these classes.

**The backflow classes held in Wahoo NEED TO BE PREPAID.** There is always a waiting list for these classes.

If you register and do not pay for the class 7 days in advance you will be taken off the list and your spot will be given to someone else.

If you do not notify us 7 days in advance to cancel you will not receive a refund.

# 2019 TRAINING

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

January 14-18	Wahoo
April 8-12	Wahoo
October 7-11	Wahoo

## Wastewater Certification Course

February 26-Mar. 1	Wahoo
April 2-3 ( <i>Lagoon</i> )	North Platte
August 13-16	Wahoo
October 15-16 ( <i>Lagoon</i> )	Wahoo
November 5-8	Wahoo

## Wastewater Training

January 8	Neligh
February 13	Wahoo
March 27	Crete (SUMW)
April 10	Ogallala
May 2	Omaha
June 19	Chadron
July 17	Lindsay (SUMW)
August 27	Duncan
September 5	Aurora
October 2	Omaha
November 12	Mitchell
December 5	Wahoo

## Water Operator Training

April 9	Bridgeport
May 7	Emerson
June 12	Sutton
July 9	Chadron
August 6	Atkinson
October 17	McCook
November 13	Minden
December 3	Pawnee City
December 12	Wahoo

## Backflow Continuing Education Training

January 23	Gordon
January 24	Bridgeport
February 5	Nebraska City
February 7	Stanton
April 16	Cairo
April 18	Wymore
April 24	Wahoo
May 8	Valentine
September 4	McCool Junction
September 5	Ord
October 22	South Sioux City
October 24	O'Neill
November 13	Wahoo
December 10	Mitchell
December 11	Ogallala
December 12	Cambridge
December 18	Wahoo

### **Don't Forget:**

This is the year for **Grades 1-4** and **Grade 6** water license renewals. You need 10 CEUs by the end of the year. Plan to attend early in the year. Classes at the end of the year fill up early, especially the ones in Wahoo.

**August 21** Trenching & Shoring Wahoo

**August 22** Confined Space Entry Wahoo

### **Annual Conference**

**March 11-13**

Younes Conference Center  
Kearney, Nebraska

### **Fall Western Conference**

**Sept. 24-26**

Gering Civic Center  
Gering, Nebraska





## Be Proactive

*By Barney Whatley, Source Water Specialist*

Throughout the state, and probably the country as well, systems start looking at source water and wellhead protection when they begin having issues with contaminants or encroachments. When these problems occur, systems start looking into ways to protect their water supply from becoming unusable or requiring treatment. If you have ever been involved in the legal process of passing ordinances and getting several entities together to solve a problem, you will realize that this is not an overnight process. Getting wellhead protection zoning in place to prevent or alleviate chemical contamination in the groundwater is a time consuming process. Remember, it took decades for the nitrates or other chemicals to leach down into the groundwater, and it will not be solved in just a week or two.

Systems should start looking into protecting their drinking water supply before they are facing a critical issue. Setting zoning boundaries based on the 20-year time of travel and managing the use of the land within those boundaries to minimize the potential contamination of the groundwater supply are steps that should ideally be taken when the system well is first drilled, but often the “big picture” gets overlooked due to the numerous details that need to be considered in locating, drilling and placing a well in service. When a system has invested several hundred thousand dollars in a new source of drinking water, it just makes sense to protect that source and do everything necessary to extend the useful life of that expenditure.

When looking into starting the process of protecting your drinking water source, it is extremely important to consider the landowners you want to manage in the process. All landowners within the wellhead protection area should be invited to all public meetings concerning the plan and should be invited to give input into how the plan is developed and implemented. Many systems do not want to invite the “farmers” to the meeting because they think they will just complain and be against any attempt to manage their farms by the system. Since this country was founded on the principle of freedom, it is important to consider the rights, thoughts and goals of the owners of the land that you are wanting to manage.

When systems are up front about the goals of the wellhead protection plan and are honestly willing to consider and implement the concerns of the property owners, the public meetings tend to be much more civil and all parties involved can be satisfied with the compromises that are made and show up in the final plan. Wellhead protection plans should not regulate what a farmer can and cannot do on his property, but rather they should promote good farming practices that can be used to achieve the goal of the farmer while still protecting the system’s drinking water supply. The plan can also educate the public and the local farmers of the assistance that is available to promote good farming practices and financial assistance for some of the practices recommended, such as decommissioning abandoned wells and planting buffer zones.

Protecting the future drinking water supply of a municipality is not just a “city” issue, it is a community issue that needs the input and support of everyone living and working within the protection zone. Proactive planning can assist in making this work well and achieve the intended results without unnecessary hard feelings between the town and the local farmers.

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**Bill Simmerman - Owner  
Cell: (308) 233-4729**

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



# Nebraska Rural Water Association Annual Conference Pre-Registration

March 11-13, 2019  
Younes Conference Center  
Kearney, Nebraska

Name (1 person per form) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Water System/Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Certificate Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Attendee's Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-Registration  
 Deadline is March 6  
 THERE IS A \$25 LATE FEE  
 AFTER February 27**

*(Certificates will be emailed if an email address is provided)*

I am the Voting Delegate \_\_\_\_\_

**License numbers MUST be on this form: Water: \_\_\_\_\_ BF \_\_\_\_\_ WW \_\_\_\_\_ WD \_\_\_\_\_**

**REGISTRATION INCLUDES TRAINING MATERIALS, MEALS AND BREAKS.** No registrations after March 6. 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 7,  
 THERE WILL BE AN EXTRA \$25 CHARGE**

I am a Board Member attending Monday (no charge) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Cost of meals only for additional days) Check if attending: Tues \_\_\_\_\_ Wed \_\_\_\_\_

DAYS ATTENDING	Member	Member after February 27	Non-Member	Non-Member after February 27
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 SUBMITTED UNTIL  
 PAYMENT IS RECEIVED.**

To Register:  
 Online: [www.nerwa.org](http://www.nerwa.org)  
 (If you register online, DO NOT mail one)  
 Fax: 402-443-5274  
 Mail: Nebraska Rural Water Association  
 3390 Ponderosa Street  
 Wahoo, NE 68066  
**NO PHONE REGISTRATIONS**

When making room reservations, mention you are with NeRWA

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

**CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellations after March 5 and NO SHOWS will be charged a \$25 fee to cover cost of materials.**

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

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

**NeRWA Annual Conference  
YOUNES CONFERENCE CENTER  
Kearney, Nebraska**

**March 11-13, 2019**

The annual conference is just four months away.  
Below are the hotels we will have room blocks in.

We are starting to line up the training sessions and will be sending out the topics in our Technical Action Update in December. The full agenda should be out in January. If you are interested in registering early, the registration form is in this magazine.

Topics include ice pigging, water tank maintenance, infrastructure resilience, Nebraska 811, meter technology, roundtable discussions, cross connection control topics, regulation changes, sewer maintenance practices, operator health care plans.

**Kearney Hotels:**

*Ask for NeRWA room blocks*

**Fairfield Inn & Suites (connected to center)  
308-236-4200**

**Comfort Inn (connected to center)  
308-236-3400**

**Hampton Inn (next door)  
308-234-3400**

**Wingate (next door)  
308-237-4400**

**Holiday Inn Express (across the highway)  
308-234-8100**



## Fall Conference Fun

*By Pat Petersen, Training Specialist*

---

As I sit down to write this article about the fall conference, the temperature outside is 41 degrees. September 11-13, 2018 were the dates for the NeRWA “fall” conference and the temps were 91, 93 and 96 degrees, perfect temperatures for a fun-filled week of activities and learning in Gering, Nebraska.

The pre-conference this year provided operators some very useful information about safety. Bob Hessler with Safetyline Consultants provided the instruction and once again received a very high rating according to our evaluations. His topics included: Traffic Control, Equipment Operation, Personal Protective Equipment and a special session titled, "Whose Fault is it?" This was an in depth discussion on who is at fault or who may be to blame should an accident happen on the job. Thank you again, Bob.

Once again after the pre-conference, participants headed to the Riverview Golf Course where thirty-eight golfers took to the course. The golf tourney once again was a huge success. Most of this success relies on the exhibitors and vendors who choose to sponsor a hole or a pin prize for the golfers. Sponsors this year were Core and Main, Sargent Drilling, Municipal Supply, Johnson Service, M.C. Schaff, Baker and Associates, Advanced Consulting Engineers, Municipal Automation, Miller and Associates and Barco. A huge thank you to all!!

When Wednesday morning rolled around, operators could either participate in the trap shoot at the Mitchell Gun Club, ride in the Poker Run or sleep in. Eighteen chose to fire their guns at the range and seven went for a beautiful morning ride on their motorcycles. Municipal Automation was the sponsor of the trap shoot this year. Thanks, Bill! In years past, the poker run didn't really have a sponsor to help fund the winners of the best poker hands besides the regular participation fees. This year was no different. That is, until Area 7 Field Rep, Tony Martinez, heard that there was no sponsor. Tony graciously donated \$50 to the Poker Run prize money. The winner of the poker run ended up being Area 8 Field Rep, Doug Woodbeck, who in return donated his winnings to the NeRWA equipment fund. Something he has done more than once by winning this event. It is things like this that make our profession (Drinking Water Professionals) so special and a great group of men and women to be a part of! Thanks guys, it really does mean a lot!

Andy Kahle then kicked off the conference with a session about regulatory changes and asset management programs. His session was followed by an update of water and wastewater certification procedures by Mike McBride with NDEQ and Mike Wentink with DHHS. Rich Koenig finished up Wednesday with an open forum for operators. This forum gave tips and pointers on how well do you “really” know your system and an opportunity to ask questions about anything you may be experiencing with your system as an operator.

A full breakfast awaited operators at 6:30 AM Thursday morning. The breakfast was well attended and helped prepare the operators for a big day of learning. Some of the presentations on Thursday included sewer rehabilitation, contamination issues, ice pigging, meter maintenance, flow controls and a round table. Thursday's classes were well attended and before we knew it our trek back east was about to begin.

Throughout the conference, operators are given the chance to win several door prizes. Just by being in attendance, they are given a chance to win one of many items. Municipal Supply (Hats), Barco (Garden Cart), Johnson Service (Fish and Game Table), Hawkins (Yeti Sidekick), Municipal Automation (Yeti Cups, Gloves), Elliott Sanitation (Golf Supplies) and Sargent Drilling (2 Pullovers) provided some of the prizes for the operators. Other door prizes included golf balls, fishing poles and many more things that I just do not have room to mention!

A big thank you to the Gering Civic Center and their staff for always having what we may have left 450 miles behind at the office and also providing excellent food for everyone. Rick and Judy, you have a great staff and you are all great to work with. Also, thank you to Mike Stanzel and Randy for running the golf tourney and trapshoot, Mike Lucas and Ken for being the photographers, Barney for all of the sign creations you come up with and finally the ladies back at the office for putting the “conference” in a box and pushing us out the door. Thanks, Salli, Amy and Carol!

So as we head towards 2019 I want to wish everyone the best of luck, good health and good fortune as we finish another amazing year! See you all in Kearney in March!!

## Summary of Evaluations

### NeRWA Gering Conference September 11-13, 2018

#### 33 EVALUATIONS

#### 1. Which best describes your position?

- |                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| a. operator/manager   | 28 |
| b. administrative     | 1  |
| c. board member       | 1  |
| d. plumber            | 1  |
| e. lawn service       | 2  |
| f. State/federal rep. | 1  |
| g. clerk              | 1  |
| h. other              | 5  |
| i. double positions   | 7  |

#### 2. Why do you attend the NeRWA conference?

- |  |    |
|--|----|
| a. The training classes                | 6  |
| b. The vendors                         | 0  |
| c. Chance to meet with other operators | 4  |
| d. All of the above                    | 30 |

#### Things you liked and why?

- Bob Hessler tells it like it is-good educator
- Bob Hessler's presentation
- Regulatory update
- Charles Bausch's presentation
- I learned a lot from Bob H's presentation
- Training
- Social events
- Location (several operators liked this)
- All
- Golf, trapshooting, food, classes
- The atmosphere, nice people, motel, food
- The town was friendly as well as the people working the conference
- Open discussion
- Great presentations
- Pre-conference, presentation and food
- Chance to earn CEU's
- Better motel
- Ice pigging
- Meals
- Very well presented
- Small, close, friendly
- Always like the presentations and learning new things
- Backflow knowledge session
- Venue
- I like Gering
- Prize drawings
- Everything
- First year here, all good
- Western location
- Vendors, slides, meals, rooms
- Close to home and lots of good info.

#### Things you disliked and why?

- Nothing
- Want to see more handouts to go with the PowerPoint presentations
- Vendors are using more products that we do not use
- Same old s\*\*\*
- Tired of golfing the same course
- Too much Rich Koenig
- Location
- Chicken fried steak tasted like cardboard
- The time involved doesn't always fit into my schedule
- No information on nerwa.org for information about the location of the conference and extra activities
- Reviewing operator roles in "other states"
- Cell phones disrupting class
- Not enough BF hours
- Dedicating 3 days to the conference-very busy time
- Same slides

#### Any suggestions for future conferences?

- New s\*\*\*
- Move golf
- Move poker run to Tuesday afternoon
- Keep the same location
- More well driller hours on Wednesday and Thursday
- More hands on
- More BF hours
- New slides

#### Additional Comments:

- Thanks
- Overall a great conference
- Like this event, more operators would be great
- Good job with classes
- First time here-thanks
- Everyone did a good job
- Thanks for coming to Gering again
- Thank you for the door prize
- Please have more than 2 instructors on Tuesday

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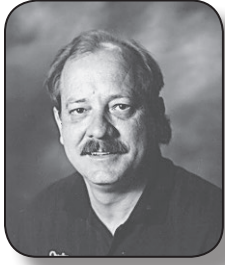
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# FALL CON



# CONVENTION





## Customer Water Complaints

*By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider*

I get a lot of calls from water systems regarding customer complaints about water taste and odor. Many of the complaints are hard to understand because it is only one customer in a certain area or neighborhood. Most of the time, the complaints are about the smell of the water. It smells like rotten eggs! The vast majority of the time the problem can be traced to the water heater. It is often difficult to get the water customer to understand this. The usual comment is, "It isn't just the hot water. The cold water smells too." Anyone who has attended a backflow class understands that after water is heated it expands and, often times, backs up into the cold water lines. This is often hard to explain to the average water customer.

Water heaters are supplied with an anode rod. This is the same concept as cathodic protection in a water reservoir. Anyone who has cathodic protection in their water storage facility knows that it has to be maintained. How many anode rods in residential water heaters do you suppose receive any maintenance? The owner's manual for any water heater states: **The anode rod must be maintained to keep the tank in operating condition. The anode rod in the tank is designed to be slowly consumed cathodically, minimizing corrosion in the glass-lined tank. A hydrogen sulfide (rotten egg odor) may result if water contains high sulfate and/or minerals. Failure to inspect and/or replace the anode rod will result in voiding the warranty.** As the rod is pitted and deteriorates it can actually do more harm than good to the water quality.

Owner's manuals also recommend that a water heater be drained periodically to prevent sediment build-up in the tank. How many of your water customers do you think do this?

Of course it is just natural for a customer to blame the water utility for water quality. In a sense they are right. It is the make up of the water that causes these problems. But in most of Nebraska, the ground water that we use is fairly corrosive and contains minerals, which is practically unavoidable.

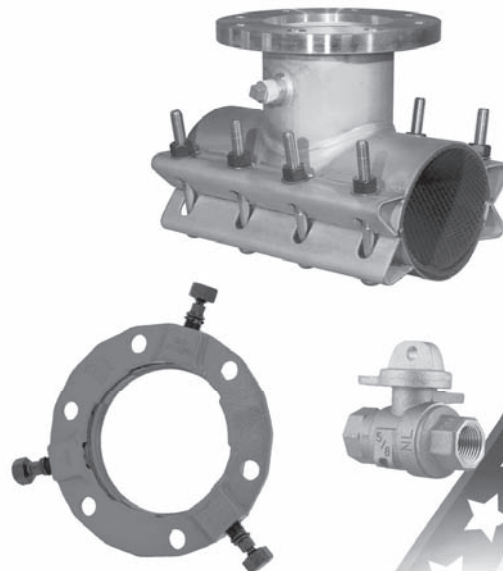
A little simple maintenance on the water heater would avoid a lot of these problems. Ask your local plumber if he can get you a copy of an owner's manual for a

residential water heater and show it to some of your customers the next time they are having a problem with water taste and odor. Many times the removal of the anode rod will eliminate the problem. But be sure the customer is aware that removal of this rod will void the warranty of the water heater if it is still under warranty. Showing a customer what the owner's manual says is the easiest way to explain the problem.

If NeRWA can help you with this or any other aspect of your water utility, don't hesitate to give us a call.

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## Things You Probably Didn't Know About Water

By Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider

As a Circuit Rider for the Nebraska Rural Water Association I spend countless hours driving from one water system to another. During my driving the past couple of months I have been trying to decide what to write about for this issue of "Nebraska Good Water News." Well, I usually try to share some recent projects that I've been assisting towns with but looking back at the past six weeks we had two weeks of conferences and two weeks of rain. So now it is crunch time to get my article to the office and I have to search my brain for something to share. I decided to change it up a little bit and give you some facts to ponder about water.

1. Of all the earth's water, 97% is salt water found in oceans and seas.
2. Only 1% of the earth's water is available for drinking water. Two percent is currently frozen.
3. An average household uses approximately 30% of their water for outdoor use, such as watering lawns, washing cars and the like. Inside the home the toilet uses the most water with an average of 27 gallons per person per day.
4. More than 13 million homes get their water from private wells.
5. The average daily requirement for water in the United States is about 40 billion gallons, with about 300 billion gallons used for agriculture.
6. You can survive about a month without food, but only 5 to 7 days without water.
7. About two thirds of the human body is water. Some parts of the body contain more water than others. Your skin is about 70% water.
8. A person should consume 2 ½ quarts of water per day (from all sources including water, food, etc.) to maintain good health.
9. In 1974, Congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act to ensure that drinking water is safe for human consumption. The Act requires public water systems to monitor and treat, if necessary, the water to protect public safety.
10. The first municipal water filtration works opened in Paisley, Scotland in 1832.
11. More than 79,000 tons of chlorine is used per year in the United States and Canada to treat water.
12. There are more than 54,000 community water systems in the United States.
13. Approximately 1.8 million miles of distribution mains carry water in the United States and Canada.
14. Public water suppliers process 38 billion gallons of water per day for domestic and public use.
15. About 800,000 water wells are drilled each year in the United States for domestic, farming, commercial, and water testing purposes.
16. Total water use in a typical single family home is about 100 gallons per person per day.
17. The average five-minute shower takes between 15 to 25 gallons of water.
18. An automatic dishwasher uses about 9 to 12 gallons of water while hand washing dishes can use up to 20 gallons. That's good news for us men.
19. If every home in America had a faucet that dripped once each second, 928 million gallons of water would be wasted every day.
20. You can refill an 8-ounce glass of water approximately 15,000 times for the same cost as a six-pack of soda pop.
21. A dairy cow must drink four gallons of water to produce one gallon of milk.
22. One gallon of water weighs 8.34 pounds.
23. One inch of rainfall drops 7,000 gallons or nearly 30 tons of water, on a 60' x 180' piece of land.
24. 300 million gallons of water are needed to produce a single day's supply of U.S. newsprint.
25. Industries released 197 million pounds of toxic chemicals into waterways in 1990.

Now you have been supplied with 25 interesting or maybe not so interesting facts to baffle your friends or board members! Good luck!

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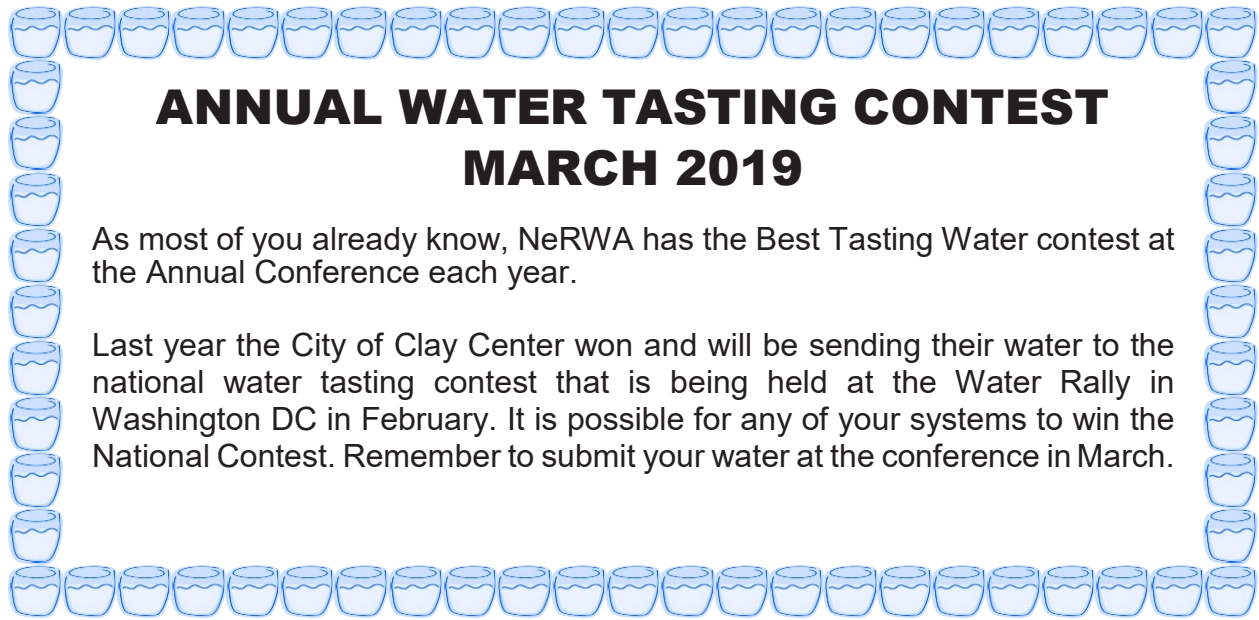
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# ANNUAL WATER TASTING CONTEST MARCH 2019

As most of you already know, NeRWA has the Best Tasting Water contest at the Annual Conference each year.

Last year the City of Clay Center won and will be sending their water to the national water tasting contest that is being held at the Water Rally in Washington DC in February. It is possible for any of your systems to win the National Contest. Remember to submit your water at the conference in March.

The water contest is to 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 12. 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:**

- 1. Must be a member of Nebraska Rural Water Association
- 2. Sample must be from a Nebraska public water supply system
- 3. One entry per water system
- 4. Water must come before any point-of-use treatment
- 5. Water must come from the distribution system
- 5. Water should be in clean, unmarked gallon container
- 6. Entry form must accompany sample

Water must be received by 3:00 pm on Monday, March 11, 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 or email to [salli@nerwa.org](mailto:salli@nerwa.org) to let us know you are entering. Thank you.



# System Assessments and Board Training

*By Ken Halvorsen, System Specialist*

Most of you know me from my visits promoting source water and protection. Now my handle is going to be Systems Specialist. I will be doing technical assistance, financial and managerial assistance (TFM) and board training.

I will also be doing assessments for systems receiving State Revolving Funds (SRF). These assessments will be done prior to systems receiving funding, and also according to a time frame after project completion to determine if the money spent actually benefited the system in reference to technical, financial and managerial (TFM) capacity. These pre and post assessments are required for SRF funding.

I will assist any system to do an assessment to determine their present situation and what they could do to improve on it. This assessment does not require a SRF

loan. Questions are asked to determine if the system is operating as a profitable business. The assessment would take about two to three hours to complete. The assessment will show positive things the system is doing and also where improvement is needed.

I will also be doing training for board members of Nebraska water systems which will include budgeting, how to run a public meeting, getting acquainted with your system and duties and responsibilities of elected officials. Board training will be provided statewide. If your board or council would like to pursue a training session, we will come to your community or work with other systems in the area and meet in a convenient location.

For assistance you can contact Nebraska Rural Water or my cell @ 402-607-9750.

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**NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2019**

**Personal Data**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Eligible System Employee Data**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TITLE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
MEMBER SYSTEM \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**High School Data**

SCHOOL NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADUATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
YOUR CLASS RANK \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ YOUR GRADE POINT  
AVERAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
(Transcript must be submitted with application)

LIST BELOW ANY ACADEMIC AWARDS, MEMBERSHIPS OR OTHER SPECIAL RECOGNITION YOU HAVE RECEIVED DATING BACK TO YOUR SOPHOMORE YEAR.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**College/University Data**

IS THIS YOUR FIRST YEAR OF HIGHER EDUCATION? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ IF NO, CREDIT HOURS COMPLETED \_\_\_\_\_  
NUMBER OF CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED TO GRADUATE \_\_\_\_\_ COLLEGE GRADE POINT AVERAGE \_\_\_\_\_  
SCHOOL NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
PLEASE INDICATE: \_\_\_\_\_ 4-YEAR COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2-YEAR COMMUNITY/JUNIOR COLLEGE  
\_\_\_\_\_ VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY \_\_\_\_\_

*Priority will be given but not limited to water related studies.*

***(For those already in college, a first semester transcript or grade report and second semester enrollment must accompany application)***

**Essay**

ON A SEPARATE PAGE IN 250 WORDS OR LESS, WRITE A BRIEF MESSAGE ON YOUR GOALS AS THEY RELATE TO YOUR EDUCATION, CAREER AND FUTURE PLANS

**Certification**

IN SUBMITTING THIS APPLICATION, WE CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE. FALSE INFORMATION WILL RESULT IN THE REVOCATION OF ANY SCHOLARSHIP GRANTED.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## NeRWA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Nebraska Rural Water Association is pleased to announce it will be presenting two \$1000 scholarships for higher education purposes for the school year 2019-2020 fall and spring semesters. The scholarship is available to children and stepchildren of member public water system employees. Employees of the Nebraska Rural Water Association Board of Directors and staff are not eligible. Interested persons should complete and submit the application in this mailing. Applications are due March 1, 2019. Please type or print - **printing must be legible** and papers must be clean. Winners of the Scholarships will be announced at the Columbus Conference in March. Send all information to the NeRWA address.

### Official Rules

This grant of \$1000 will be made to a student to defray the cost of tuition, books, or room and board at an accredited institution of higher learning approved by the Nebraska Rural Water Association (NeRWA). Disbursement of the money will be made upon presentation of winner's college or university invoice as proof of full-time enrollment. The scholarship money will be paid directly to the student, \$500 per semester. The scholarship will be awarded to children or stepchildren of member utility system employees. In order to be eligible for scholarship, applicants must complete the application form in its entirety by filling in all blanks. If item is not applicable please place a N/A in the blank. Upon completion return it to the NeRWA Scholarship Committee by the entry deadline, March 1, 2019. All applications will be first screened on the basis of leadership responsibilities in community and school activities as well as grade point average. Applicants will be evaluated on a comparative basis at the sole discretion of the committee. Decisions will be final. Application material and decisions of the committee shall be confidential. Acceptance of scholarship constitutes permission to use recipient's name and/or likeness for purpose of promotion.

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## Board of Directors

The following NeRWA board members will be running for re-election to the association Board of Directors at the annual conference in Kearney held on March 11-13, 2019.

Tom Goulette, City of West Point  
Jordon Bang, Lancaster County RWD 1

One position must be filled by a delegate from a utility system and the other by a rural water system.

Dennis Hoback is retiring from the board as of March 13, 2019. We are looking for someone to fill this position for one year before being eligible for re-election. This position must be filled by a delegate from a rural water district.

Requirements for the above positions:

- Must be the voting delegate or alternate delegate from system
- Must attend monthly board meetings, held in Wahoo
- Attendance at the spring conference is required
- Attendance at the fall conference is encouraged
- Occasional out-of-state travel is possible

If you are interested in running for any of the above positions, please submit a letter and a resume so indicating. The deadline is March 7, 2019. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

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Fax: 402-443-5274  
Mail: 3390 Ponderosa St, Wahoo NE 68066

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If any other systems would like to be on the cover, send your picture to us and you will be added to the list.

Pictures can be taken with a smartphone or a camera. We are only taking digital copies. DO NOT mail a picture. Send them to [salli@nerwa.org](mailto:salli@nerwa.org).

Thank you.

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The reason that we have so many myths associated with Thanksgiving is that it is an invented tradition. It doesn't originate in any one event. It is based on the New England puritan Thanksgiving, which is a religious Thanksgiving, and the traditional harvest celebrations of England and New England and maybe other ideas like commemorating the pilgrims. All of these have been gathered together and transformed into something different from the original parts."— James W. Baker, Senior Historian at Plymouth Plantation.


1. Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade began in 1924 and is 2.5 miles long.
2. The first national Thanksgiving in the United States was proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1777.
3. Other countries that celebrate Thanksgiving are:
  - Germany – Harvest Thanksgiving Festival in early October
  - Grenada – Thanksgiving Day on October 25 to celebrate the anniversary of the US-led invasion of Grenada (one of the three largest Spice Islands in the Caribbean) that began on that day in 1983 to restore political stability to the country.
  - Japan – Labor Thanksgiving on November 23, a day for commemorating labor and production and giving one another thanks.
  - Korea – late September or early October (on the fifteenth day of the eighth month of the lunar calendar); called Chusok, this major harvest festival lasts three days.
4. Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of the popular women's magazine Godey's Lady's Book, began a campaign in 1827 to make Thanksgiving a national holiday. Sarah Josepha Hale also wrote Mary Had a Little Lamb.
5. In 1863, Hale was able to convince President Lincoln that a national Thanksgiving might unite the country after the Civil War. Lincoln declared two national Thanksgivings that year, August 6 celebrating the victory at Gettysburg, and the last Thursday in November.
6. In order to help the country economically, Franklin Delano Roosevelt lengthened the Christmas shopping season by declaring Thanksgiving for the next-to-the-last Thursday in November in 1939. In 1941, Congress permanently established the holiday as the fourth Thursday of November.
7. Swanson had an abundance of turkey (260 tons) in 1953 and a salesman told them they should package it onto aluminum trays with sides similar to airline meals. The dinner had turkey, cornbread dressing, peas and carrots, mashed potatoes, and "apple cranberry cake cobbler." Hence, the TV dinner was born.
8. According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the heaviest turkey weighed 86 pounds.
9. Ever wonder about the origin of the green bean casserole? Campbell soups created the recipe for an annual cookbook over 50 years ago. Campbell's sells over \$20 million worth of cream of mushroom soup for Thanksgiving meals.
10. Cranberries were probably not eaten at the first Thanksgiving as they were too bitter. Native Americans used the berries as a dye and to heal wounds.
11. Thanksgiving Day is the busiest travel day of the year.
12. It wasn't until a fictional account appeared in the bestselling Standish of Standish (1889), a story about the Pilgrims, that the Pilgrim's "first Thanksgiving" became associated with the holiday. However, this idea did not become popular until after WWII.
13. There are only two accounts of the 1621 Thanksgiving.
  - Edward Winslow wrote about it in a letter dated December 12, 1621 and published in 1622.
  - William Bradford wrote about it in his History of Plymouth Plantation. Bradford's account mentions turkey as one of the meats eaten.
14. The first Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was in 1924. Four hundred Macy employees marched from Convent Ave to 145th Street in New York City with animals from the Central Park Zoo.
15. It took 66 days for the Mayflower to travel across the Atlantic Ocean. There were 101 men, women, and children on board.
16. The Pilgrims were also called Puritans because they wanted to purify the Church of England from Catholic influence. Those that wanted to separate from the Anglican Church were called Separatists.

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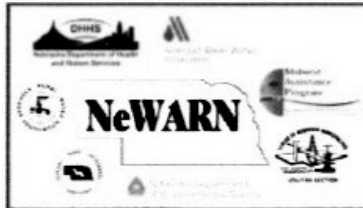


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## NeRWA Contact Information:

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