

Nebraska Good Water News

ISSUE 4/2021



Nebraska Rural Water Association

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Nebraska Good Water News

Issue 4/2021

“Keeping Our Water Safe”

Board of Directors

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Website: www.nerwa.org

“Nebraska Good Water News” is a quarterly publication of the NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION, 3390 Ponderosa, Wahoo, Nebraska 68066. Phone 1-800-849-8039 or (402) 443-5216 or FAX (402) 443-5274. Copies are mailed to all member rural and municipal water operators, Federal and State Legislators, associates and individual members.

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

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

On the cover:

Taken May 26 on a stormy night by Amber Jones of Loomis, Nebraska.

“This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.”

2021 TRAINING

<u>Wastewater Operator Training</u>	
November 16	Ogallala
December 14	Firth
5 water hours	

<u>Wastewater Training</u>	
November 17	Duncan
December 8	Wahoo
5 wastewater hours	

<u>Backflow Continuing Education Training</u>	
November 17	Wahoo FULL
November 18	Wahoo FULL
December 7	Mitchell
December 15	Wahoo FULL
December 16	Wahoo
5 water, 5 backflow 5 wastewater hours	

.....

CLASS REGISTRATION:

WE DO NOT TAKE PHONE REGISTRATIONS FOR ANY CLASSES.

REGISTRATION BY MAIL OR ONLINE ONLY.

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

.....

This is renewal year for all Grade 1-4 water licenses and Grade 6 backflow licenses.

Make sure you have enough hours before the end of the year—10 CEUs for each license.
Above are the remaining classes for 2021.

As you can see above, the Wahoo backflow classes fill up quickly. **ALL BACKFLOW CLASSES** must be prepaid. We take credit cards—you can pay online when you register or call our office with your credit card information. If you have not prepaid for the class, an invoice will be sent to you in advance. If we do not receive payment one week before the class, your name will be taken off the list.

ANNUAL WATER TASTING CONTEST

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

The City of Franklin won in 2020 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 Annual Conference in Kearney. A panel of distinguished taste testers will judge all samples. The winner will be announced at the banquet on Tuesday, March 15. 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
6. Water should be in clean, unmarked gallon container
7. Entry form must accompany sample

Water must be received by 3:00 P.M. on Monday, March 14, 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 to let us know you are entering. Thank you.



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GRANT WRITING

NOTES *of* THANKS

Village of Mead
312 South Vine Street
PO Box 46
Mead, NE 68041-0046
(402) 624-2495
FAX: 402-624-2024
www.meadnebraska.net

July 14, 2021

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

A special thank-you to Pat Petersen for helping us locate several water shut-offs recently. His help was invaluable in resolving our issues.
Please place this donation in your equipment fund.

Sincerely,
June Moline
June Moline, CMC
Clerk/Treasurer

7/23/21
Please accept this donation. We appreciate Randy completing the water/sewer rate study for the City of Tekamah.
Thank-you!
Kandyn Melroy
City Clerk
Tekamah

Alma
is for **YOU!**

City of Alma

July 19, 2021

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

NeRWA,

The City of Alma would like to thank you for your continued assistance. Your circuit riders have always been available to help up in any way we have asked.
Please accept the enclosed donation in our appreciation of the services you provide. Your expertise is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Lorri Bantam
Lorri Bantam
City Administrator

614 Main Street
P.O. Box 408
Alma, NE 68020-0408

www.almacity.com

Ph: (308) 928-2242
Fax: (308) 928-2683



VILLAGE OF MORRILL

118 South Center
P.O. Box 305
Morrill, Nebraska 69358-0305
Phone: 308-247-2312 Fax: 308-247-2061 Email: morrill@prcliveweb.com

August 10, 2021

Nebraska Rural Water Association
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear Nebraska Rural Water Association,

The Village of Morrill would like to take the opportunity to thank Nebraska Rural Water Association for all of the services you provide to Nebraska municipalities and communities. The knowledge and expertise that your technicians provide is always appreciated.

Morrill would like to personally thank you for all of your help over the years with any issues or concerns we may have had. We always get prompt service and expert advice which we appreciate very much.

Please accept the enclosed \$300.00 donation in appreciation of the help provided to the Village of Morrill. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Respectfully,

Janine K Schmidt

Janine K Schmidt
Certified Municipal Clerk/Treasurer
Village of Morrill

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NE Rural Water - Staff

Thank you for everything you do provide for the villages cities & towns.

Couldn't do it with out you.

Malcolm

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122 South Ash Street
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Springview, NE 68778
Phone: 402-497-2901
Fax: 402-497-2902
Email: patscook@threediver.net

September 13, 2021

NE Rural Water Assn.
3390 Ponderosa Drive
Wahoo, NE 68066

Dear RWA,

Please accept our donation for your services to Springview. With the valve exercise you performed on our water tower valves, you saved us from a very expensive repair. Your services are invaluable to a small community like ours with very limited budgets.

Thank you!!

Patsy Cook
Patsy Cook
Village Clerk



Getting Ready for Winter

By Mike Stanzel, Circuit Rider

I wasn't sure summer would ever end this year. With the one hundred-plus degree weather throughout this summer you might think you would never see cold weather again. You know what they say about Nebraska, if you don't like the weather just hang around a few days. You guessed it, cold weather is just around the corner and by the time you read this article, it may have already arrived. Once again, it's time to batten down the hatches for winter.

There are a few things to keep in mind before the cold weather arrives. Well houses are always a concern. Be sure to check those heaters to make sure they are functioning properly. It's not a bad idea to have two sources of heat. In some well houses you may be using heat lamps as a supplemental heat source. If you use two different sources of heat, I would recommend to wire them into two different electrical circuits. If for some reason a fuse or breaker is tripped on one circuit, the other circuit will hopefully keep the pipes from freezing until your morning rounds. If you are lucky enough to have a SCADA system that alerts you

when the temperature drops in the well house make sure it is functioning properly.

Now that you have your well houses nice and warm, every mouse in the county will try to take up residence there for the winter. Remember if you have a rodent problem, use glue traps or snap traps. Stay away from mouse poison. Mouse poison or any kind of unapproved chemicals are a bad idea in or around wells. If you know where the little critters are getting into the well house, use some steel wool to plug their holes. Mice won't chew through steel wool.

Remember those old fire hydrants that didn't want to drain back this fall when you conducted your biannual main flushing? Be sure to check them to see if they are still full of water. You can use a large nut on the end of a light chain to drop down the barrel of the hydrant to determine if they are holding water. If they are, you will want to siphon or pump them dry before they freeze up. Most structure fires happen in the coldest weather, make sure your hydrants are functioning properly or bag them if they are not.

Check those main valve boxes that like to fill with gravel, water or both. Try to get these flushed out before cold weather. Styrofoam valve box plugs are inexpensive and seem to work well to keep gravel out of the boxes.

Remember the water tower you were trying to keep full last summer? You will probably need to operate it differently this winter. You may want to move your low water setting lower to achieve a longer fill cycle. This will allow the well to run longer and pump more warm water into the tower to help prevent ice build up.

Winter is also a good time to catch up on that dreaded paperwork that there is never time for in the summer. In between pushing snow, salting streets, scooping sidewalks, thawing pipes, fixing water main breaks, and trying to start equipment in sub-zero weather, you will have plenty of time to send out the cross-connection control surveys for the tenth time, update your emergency plan, prepare your 2- and 10-year plan, write an operation and maintenance manual and send in your Bacti sample site plan and emergency contact list. When that's all done you may want to clean up the paperwork in those file cabinets. If you would like some help with the paperwork this winter, including guidelines as to how long records must be kept, be sure to give us a call.



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Repeat Coliform Sampling

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

This may be old hat for many operators and water system managers, but I have gotten a few calls lately from water systems that have to take repeat samples but do not have what they feel is an acceptable sample location within five connections up or down stream. I strongly recommend that systems adopt a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that pertains to repeat sample locations. This can drastically reduce the chance of a false positive sample. Below is a sample. Be sure to have the Mayor or Chairman of the Board and the Operator in Charge sign (SOP) and keep a copy of it with your testing records.



Total Coliform Repeat Monitoring Sample Site Selection

The City/Village of _____ will use the following procedure when selecting sample sites to be used for Total Coliform Repeat Monitoring.

1. Preference will be given to a site that is located within five service connections on either side (up & down) of the location of the Coliform positive sample (Original).
2. If a site is not suitable within five connections up and/or down from original site location, a site will be selected from a location that is as near as possible to the original location that is representative of that area of the distribution system.
3. All repeat sites selected will be evaluated to ensure that they meet the system's criteria of a representative site. That is, the site meets the same physical/environmental conditions of the routine sample sites of the system.
4. If needed, the same repeat sites will be used again if future testing is required for the respective original site.

Mayor/Chairperson

Date

Water System Representative

Date



Going to Gering

By Pat Petersen, Training and Technical Assistance Specialist

In 2020, one of the toughest decisions we had to make at Nebraska Rural Water was if we should or should not have our fall conference. With the pandemic not slowing down we were left no choice but to cancel it. By canceling the conference many operators were left with a question of where they would get their hours. When 2021 rolled around there was no doubt in our minds that we would get back out to Gering in the fall.



My planning of the conference took its normal path. Things were going good, speakers were excited to become a part of the conference, and then I received a call from Judy at the beautiful Gering Civic Center. The voice on the other end of the line spoke quietly and said, “we may have a problem with your conference.” She said that they had received a wonderful grant to remodel the conference center and it may not be ready in time. All I could think of was YIKES! These guys need their hours—what will we do? Well instead of

going into an instant panic, Judy and I put a plan together. We would just stay in contact week by week to see what kind of progress was being made. While attending our national conference in Milwaukee, Judy reached out to me and said, “No worries, your rooms will be ready, they may not be perfect but we will be able to handle the entire conference including 26 Vendors!” Thank goodness they were able to get it all put together! My alternative plans that nobody knew about was to have tents installed in the parking lot as classrooms...that would have been hot! Anyway, the cooperation between attendees, vendors, speakers, and the Gering Conference Center staff was amazing! Sure, we had to walk around some plastic and hear a drill or two every once in a while, but the conference went smooth.

The pre-conference started on Tuesday morning and its theme was monitoring and compliance. Topics were Lead and Copper, Monitoring and Compliance Quiz, Lab Procedures, Nebraska 811 and the need for new operators. The pre-conference was well attended this year. So well that we almost ran out of hamburgers!

Following the pre-conference, participants headed to the River View Golf Course for a round of golf. Due to the timing of the conference, Randy modified the game a little bit. Golfers would alternate their shots which sped up the game. We didn’t want mother nature to shut the lights off on us before we were able to get off of the course!

Wednesday morning began with the annual trap shoot. There were 13 shooters participating this year. The weather was not the greatest but there were some good scores. The poker run was not done this year but in full spirit, Martin Staab from Lyman was geared up and ready to go! Thanks for the picture, Martin!

Classes began at 12:30 p.m. and lasted until 5:00 p.m. Regulation, operator certification, and lab



procedures were the topics of the day. A quick banquet was held after an enjoyable social hour, sponsored by Core and Main. During the banquet, one operator was recognized for his latest achievement. Jerry Henscheid with the Omaha Tribe was named National Tribal Water Operator of the Year! This award is presented by the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona. Jerry is very deserving of this award and is an excellent water operator. Congratulations, Jerry!

Thursday morning things got going early. We had a wonderful breakfast provided by the Gering Conference Center and then it was time to learn. Six hours of training was offered on Thursday, giving operators a variety of topics to learn about. Some of the usual suspects were tank maintenance, meters, sewer maintenance, chlorine pump advice, locating, Nebraska 811, and of course backflow. This day seemed to go very fast, and before I knew it, I was headed east at 4:30.

Conferences can be a challenge to put together, especially in this day and age, but the staff at the Gering Conference Center were wonderful. Even though the construction process wasn't quite complete, we pulled it off! Conferences also could not go off if you didn't have the help of an entire team. Salli, Amy, and Samantha, thank you for putting it all together and being there to help with registration and any other thing that may have come up. Our board members, George Wagner, Tom Grovijohn, Cope Clark, Jordon Bang, and Greg Bouc, were in attendance to support not only our staff but all operators in the great state of Nebraska. Mike, Randy, Adam, Buck, Scott, and Dave, thanks for all of your help—whether it was scanning or introducing speakers—it all added up to be a tremendous help for me.

Finally, when I left my driveway and headed for Gering, it was a long drive! Sometimes I really don't look forward to that long drive, but I am already looking forward to next year! I can't wait to see what the conference center will have to offer everyone. Also, mark your calendars for the Annual Conference. It will be March 14-16, 2022, in Kearney at the Younes Center. Hope to see you all there!

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NeRWA Annual Conference YOUNES CONFERENCE CENTER

March 14-16, 2022

**The annual conference is
just four months away!**

**We are in the beginning
planning stages.**

**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. You can
register online or use the form in the
magazine to mail or fax to NeRWA.**

**Below are the hotels we will
have room blocks in.**

**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**



Let Me Introduce Myself

By David Schroeter, Source Water Specialist

Greetings! My name is David Schroeter and I am the new Source Water Specialist for Nebraska Rural Water.

I have spent the last several years as a water/wastewater operator at my hometown here in Nebraska. Like many of you, that job required a lot of problem solving and variety on a daily basis.

I started out in Nebraska selling water flowmeters for a manufacturer to water districts, resellers, end users, and

municipalities around the Midwest and that led to me living and working in California and Washington state. Over the years, I have worked with meters, valves, fittings, gauges, process instrumentation, and some GPS.

In 2007, my wife and I moved back to Nebraska to be closer to family. I look forward to working with your community if you are interested in developing a source water protection plan.



NeRWA SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Nebraska Rural Water Association is pleased to announce it will be presenting two \$1,000 scholarships for higher education purposes for the school year 2022-2023 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. Applications are due March 4, 2022. Please type or print – **printing must be legible and papers must be clean.** Winners of the Scholarships will be announced at the Annual Conference in March. Send all information to the

NeRWA address. **DO NOT FORGET TO EITHER SEND THE TRANSCRIPT AND GRADES OR HAVE THE SCHOOL SEND THEM. Your application will not be valid unless everything is received.**
Please see application on next page.

OFFICIAL RULES

This grant of \$1,000 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 4, 2022. 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.

NEBRASKA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION 2022

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 _____

(High School Transcript and grades 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 _____

Nebraska Rural Water Association Annual Conference Pre-Registration

March 14-16, 2022
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 7.
 THERE IS A \$25 LATE FEE
 AFTER February 25**

I am the Voting Delegate _____

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

License numbers MUST be on this form: WO: _____ BF _____ WW _____ WD _____

**REGISTRATION INCLUDES TRAINING MATERIALS, MEALS AND BREAKS.
 No registrations after March 7. Registration fees on-site will increase by \$50.**

IF YOU REPLACE AN ALREADY REGISTERED PERSON AFTER MARCH 2, THERE WILL BE AN EXTRA \$25 CHARGE.

**CANCELLATIONS AFTER MARCH 8 AND NO SHOWS THE DAYS OF THE CONFERENCE WILL BE CHARGED A \$25 FEE
 TO COVER MATERIALS THAT WERE PREPARED BEFORE THE CONFERENCE.**

FORM MUST BE COMPLETED IN FULL OR YOU WILL NOT BE REGISTERED

The entire conference is free for all water system board members. I am a Board Member (no charge) _____

DAYS ATTENDING	Member	Member after February 25	Non-Member	Non-Member after February 25
FULL CONFERENCE (all meals)	____\$395.00	____420.00	____\$420.00	____\$445.00
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

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

All meals are included for each registration. Please indicate above 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.

Name of guest _____

When making room reservations, mention you are with NeRWA

To Register:
 Online: 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

Registration \$ _____
 Tickets \$ _____ Total \$ _____
 NeRWA member: Bill _____ Payment enclosed _____
**Non-members—Payment must accompany registration or
 pay when checking in.**
**CERTIFICATES WILL NOT BE ISSUED AND HOURS WILL
 NOT BE SUBMITTED TO STATE AGENCIES
 UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED.**

DATE REGISTRATION RECEIVED: _____

For NeRWA office use only: Payment received _____ Check # _____ Other _____
 Hours: WO _____ BF _____ WW _____ WD _____ Certificate mailed _____

**Nebraska Rural Water Association
42nd Annual Conference
March 14-16, 2022**

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: _____

**Member: One Booth-\$475, Two Booths-\$800, Three Booths-\$1200
 Non-Member: One Booth-\$800, Two Booths-\$1200, Three Booths-\$1500**

EACH ADDITIONAL BOOTH GETS 2 MORE REPS WITH IT

Number of Booths requested _____ Amount due \$ _____
 Additional reps x \$100 (meals included) _____ Amount due \$ _____
 Names: _____

All Reps must have a NeRWA 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 14

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
- Diamond Sponsor: \$1000
- Gold Sponsor: \$500
- Silver Sponsor: \$300
- Bronze Sponsor: \$250 & under

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

Mon Dinner-\$25 _____ Tues Banquet-\$30 _____ Donation \$ _____
 Tues Lunch-\$15 _____ Wed Lunch-\$15 _____ Total Registration cost \$ _____
 Wednesday breakfast is free for all registered for the conference. Extra ticket cost \$ _____
 Late fee \$ _____

Payment must accompany registration form. **\$100 LATE FEE AFTER MARCH 9**
 Total Enclosed \$ _____

**To be included in the conference program, registrations must be received by February 24.
 No refunds if cancelled after March 9, 2022, or No Shows at the conference.
DO NOT SEND PAYMENT WITH REGISTRATION**

Mail completed form to:
 Nebraska Rural Water Association / 3390 Ponderosa / Wahoo, Nebraska 68066
 402-443-5216 & 800-842-8039
 OR Email to amy@nerwa.org

For NeRWA office use only: Date Received _____ Check # _____



October Chill

By Adam German, Wastewater Technician

October got here in a hurry! We have gone from really hot weather to a nice fall chill. Many of us enjoy and look forward to the fall weather, but the temperature changes can irritate your lagoons. I found some information online that you may find helpful this time of year.

Although regular and accurate sampling is critical for wastewater lagoon operators, you can tell a lot about a lagoon's health and the quality of treatment you're getting with a visual check of water and algae color.

A healthy, efficient wastewater lagoon has sufficient dissolved oxygen (DO) levels to allow the bacteria to break down the biological oxygen demand (BOD). In addition, robust mixing through the water column keeps solids in suspension, promoting aerobic conditions for expedient BOD removal. Mixing also keeps sludge at bay to maximize

the lagoon's capacity and maximize treatment time: Sludge buildup takes up valuable volume that will shorten retention times, and adequate retention time is critical to the lagoon process.

Plus, if sludge degrades anaerobically, it can release noxious odors and increase lagoon ammonia levels—also known as fertilizer!—into the water. These fertilizers stimulate algae blooms, which will remove oxygen from the lagoon, thereby increasing your BOD and TSS levels.

Seasonal changes in a lagoon's microbial populations and chemistry combine to affect lagoon color. The following are common lagoon wastewater colors and what they can tell you about your lagoon's health...

Clear sparkling green, blue, or brown: A lagoon with clear sparkling water is healthy and has sufficient lagoon DO. Some green lagoon algae growth around the edges during the hottest summer months is acceptable.

Pea soup green or green streaks: There is an overabundance of microscopic and/or blue-green lagoon algae (*cyanobacteria*), which may be accompanied by foul odors. (Blue-green algae blooms create microcystin, the bacteria that rendered the water supply in Toledo, Ohio, undrinkable in August of 2014.) This indicates low pH and low lagoon DO, and may cause high TSS in the effluent.

Bright green leafy covering: Duckweed. This common floating plant spreads rapidly, especially in the heat of July and August, and indicates high nutrient levels. Duckweed will cause low lagoon DO levels and high TSS. Since duckweed likes stagnant water, mixing will keep it at bay.

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Clear: Possibly excess ammonia or sulfide toxicity coming from anaerobically digesting sludge. It could also be an indication that lagoon DO and pH are falling.

Red or pink in summer: Purple sulfur bacteria (*proteobacteria*), which like anoxic conditions; their presence indicates low lagoon DO level. The lagoon is likely overloaded with nutrients, and possibly odorous; recirculation is necessary. Could also be red algal blooms, a sign of excess nutrients. Either can contribute to high TSS levels.

Red patches: *Daphnia* water fleas, which consume algae and bacteria, turn red when stressed due to lack of food (algae). This indicates insufficient lagoon DO.

Gray or black: You may smell it before you see it: A gray or black lagoon is septic with anaerobic conditions. This will likely result in complete treatment failure if left uncorrected.

Hopefully, all of your lagoons are of a nice, sparkling blue color. If not, we can put our heads together and come up with a way to treat the lagoon.

September flew by, with conferences in Milwaukee, WI, and Gering, NE. These conferences gave me the opportunity to meet several new techs and operators. I learned a few things and made a few friends along the way. Next is a busy October...stay safe out there.

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What, There's No Water Line There?

By Scott Finke, Circuit Rider

Ever had that happen to your system? There's no water line there? The water line is across the street or there's no line running down this street? I recently went to a village to locate a water line that was abandoned and leaking. Upon arrival at the village, they were working on another leak that had been coming up through the street. They had no clue there was a water line there. There was no water line on the map, the main was on the south side of the street. The water main was an old 2" steel line that was all rusty and had a hole in it the size of a dime blowing a lot of water (see Picture 1). The leak was powerful enough to blow away all the dirt around the leak after the backhoe got down to the leak. As you see in Picture 2, the backhoe kind of got a bath. The water operator shut down some valves and was

able to get a 2" sleeve around the pipe and stop the leak. There were no water main valves for the 2" line. Having good maps for your system is a plus. Sometimes you come across this where you don't have a water main on your maps. If you do have this happen to you, mark it so the next operator will know it is there. If you need a water main or line located, contact one of us circuit riders or contact our office (402) 443-5216 and we will gladly come out and locate a line for you.

Great to be back at the fall conference in Gering. There were some great speakers and a lot of information spoke about. If you ever get a chance to go out there, it is worth going to the conference.



Picture 1: Two inch steel line



Picture 2: Backhoe getting a bath



Public Relations in Your Community

By Charles Buckley, Wastewater Technician

I myself have struggled with the relationship between the operator and the community.

When I started as an operator in my town, and not being from the community, I took it upon myself to become part of the community. I was asked by the fire department to join and assist them for day calls. I thought being an EMT I could use my experience to help and get to know the thirty members of the department. That would be a great way to get to know people. This turned out to be a great deal as I became friends with some of the greatest people I have met to date. I also could keep an eye on my water system and understand why I had excessive use the following day when I did my rounds. I also was able educate the members on water hammer and the stress it can put on the water mains. In my tenure as an operator, I only had one main break from the department...darn rookies. Now, I understand not everyone wants to be part of a fire department and that's ok.

After the tornados in Oklahoma some citizens decided to have a supply drive for the victims of the disaster. I saw a notice asking for donations and supplies. I went to the local Walmart and picked up a bunch of water and dropped it off. . . you know from the water operator. I was thanked and asked if I could assist in the loading of the trailers in a few days. I did. I met more great members of the community. I later received one of the best thank you letters ever!



I had a discussion with the clerk and asked if it would be a good idea for the new board members to be given a full tour of the water and wastewater system. This would give them a better understanding of everything in the operations they help finance. This is still their practice to date. I also suggest that all operators write up a job description for their board. This will give them a better understanding of all the duties and tasks required for our jobs.


I would also suggest that operators offer tours of the system to all schools, scouts, 4-H groups, and other organizations.

Go online and copy some education manuals, pamphlets, and fun exercises for the visitors. We are already part of the Quality on Tap program and backflow prevention awareness for the adults in the community.

I think you all understand where I am going with all of this. Become part of your community, help at fundraisers, pancake feeds, Vets club, car shows, festivals and become part of the community you take care of.


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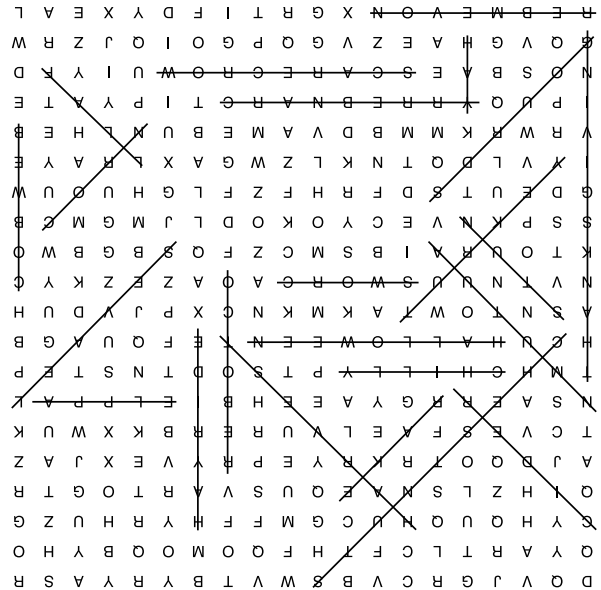
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Answer Key to Autumn Word Find (inside back cover)



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GUIDELINES FOR CONTINUING ED HOURS

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

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

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

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

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

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

When you register online for any fee-based class, you can also pay online. If you choose not to pay, we will send you an invoice. **EXCEPTION:** ANY backflow class that is held in the last 3 months of the renewal year needs

to be paid before the class. If payment is not received before the class, it will be assumed the person registered has decided not to attend and the space will be made available to someone on the waiting list.

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



Nebraska Good Water News

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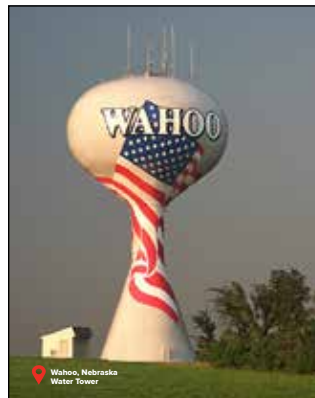
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FIND THE WORDS IN THE PUZZLE.

Words can go in any direction. Words can share letter as they cross over each other. Answers on page 18.

ACORN	APPLE	CIDER
CHESTNUTS	CHILLY	CRANBERRY
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CROWS	FALL	HARVEST
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