



South Dakota Association  
of Rural Water Systems

# Quality On Tap!

January 2024 | Volume 19, Issue 3

**2024 LEGISLATIVE  
PREVIEW -  
ADVOCATING FOR  
RURAL WATER**

**MAKING SENSE OF  
YOUR WATER BILL**

**SOUTH DAKOTA  
RURAL WATER SHINES  
ON A NATIONAL  
STAGE**

*Save the Date*



**ANNUAL TECHNICAL  
CONFERENCE**

**JANUARY 9-11, 2024**

*Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center*  
**Pierre, South Dakota**



**REGISTER ONLINE!**

[sdarws.com/atc.html](https://sdarws.com/atc.html)



# ASSOCIATION UPDATES

## Annual Technical Conference - January 9-11, 2024

Make plans to attend the 2024 ATC at the Ramkota Convention Center in Pierre, SD. Registration is available at [sdarws.com/atc](http://sdarws.com/atc)

### ATC REGISTRATION FEES

#### MEMBER REGISTRATION

Full Conference Registration: \$350

Tuesday Only: \$230

Wednesday Only: \$280

Awards Banquet: \$40

Spouse Registration: \$55

#### NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION

Full Conference Registration: \$440

Tuesday Only: \$305

Wednesday Only: \$375

Awards Banquet: \$50

### ATC KEYNOTE SPEAKER - DAN MEERS

Dan Meers goes to work each day like many other men, dressed in a suit. The only difference is that instead of wearing a tie with his suit, Dan wears a tail. You see, Dan is a professional mascot.

Dan is widely known as KC Wolf, the official mascot of the Kansas City Chiefs. He travels throughout the United States and the world entertaining thousands of people both in and out of costume. Dan is in high demand not only as a mascot but also as a humorous and motivational speaker to audiences of all ages. His enthusiasm, optimism and love for life are contagious and makes Dan an inspiration to all those he meets. We are excited to have Dan Meers join us at this year's ATC!

### WATER TASTE TEST CONTEST

This year's Exhibit Hall will feature a public judging of the top three finalists in the SD Rural Water Taste Test. The winner chosen at this taste test will go on to represent South Dakota in the National Rural Water Taste Test held at the Rural Water Rally in Washington, DC in February of 2025. If your water system or municipality is interested in participating in the taste test, please make sure that they bring a quart-sized glass jar filled with water from your system to the Registration Desk by 2:00pm on Tuesday, January 9th.

### SECOND ANNUAL ATC METER CHALLENGE

We are excited to host the Second Annual ATC Meter Challenge. This competition will test and measure how quickly, totally, and accurately you can assemble a working water meter. There is no cost to participate, and there are cash prizes for the top three. Timed trials will take place on Wednesday, January 11th from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the SD Rural Water Booth. The top 5 finalists will compete at 4:30 PM in the Exhibit Hall. A full list of rules can be found at [sdarws.com/meterchallenge](http://sdarws.com/meterchallenge).



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#### SDARWS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Rick Doud

**Class B East River**  
Terry Manning (Miller, SD)

**Class B West River**  
Luke Clements (Bison, SD)

**Class C**  
Jay Gilbertson



**JANUARY 9-11, 2024 | RAMKOTA HOTEL**  
 920 W. SIOUX AVENUE, PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA

**TUESDAY**

8 AM – 4 PM REGISTRATION DESK OPEN  
 8 AM – 2 PM WATER TASTE TEST REGISTRATION  
 8 AM – 4 PM WATER PAC RAFFLE – LOBBY AREA

**10:00 AM**

GALLERY D-E OPTIMIZED CORROSION CONTROL TREATMENT  
 – Delvin DeBoer, AE2S

GALLERY F NETSSO E-REPORTING AND FUTURE E-REPORTING  
 – Tim Flor, DANR

GALLERY G CONTROL VALVE WORKSHOP  
 – Dave Kluck & Andrew Caselli, Northwestern Power Equipment

**10:45 AM**

GALLERY D-E CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CITY OF SIOUX FALLS  
 – Ted Lewis, City of Sioux Falls

GALLERY F BIOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION OF NITRATES - BIOTTA™  
 – Adam Norman, DGR

GALLERY G CONTROL VALVE WORKSHOP, CONTINUED  
 – Dave Kluck & Andrew Caselli, Northwestern Power Equipment

**12:00 PM**

GALLERY A-B-C AWARDS LUNCHEON

**1:00 PM**

GALLERY A-B-C KEYNOTE ADDRESS  
 – Dan Meers



**AWARDS LUNCHEON SPONSOR**



**EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS SPONSOR**

**2:30 PM - ISCO BREAK TABLE**

**3:00 PM**

GALLERY D-E SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR POTABLE WATER SYSTEM  
 – Craig Steve, IXOM Watercare

GALLERY F USING WATER TREATMENT RESIDUAL COATED WOODCHIPS TO REMOVE PHOSPHATE AND NITRATE FROM STORMWATER RUNOFF  
 – Chris Schmit, SDSU WEERC

GALLERY G SCADA - A FORCE MULTIPLIER FOR OPERATIONS  
 – Anthony Bramante, InControl, Inc.

LEWIS & CLARK USGS PROGRAMS SUPPORTING SOURCE WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE DAKOTAS  
 – Bill Eldridge & Galen Hoogestraat, USGS

L. FRANCIS CASE CASE STUDY: DISINFECTION BYPRODUCT MANAGEMENT, PREVENTION AND REDUCTION IN A RURAL WATER SYSTEM  
 – Jared Huibregtse, Bartlett & West

AMP. II KEYNOTE BREAKOUT  
 – Dan Meers

**3:45 PM**

GALLERY D-E CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABILITY OF RURAL WATER WITH AMR AND AMI  
 – Nick Polsinelli, Information Data Technologies

GALLERY F THE BALANCING ACT OF NITRIFICATION DENITRIFICATION  
 – Heather Jennings, Huma Environmental

GALLERY G REGIONALIZATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF WATER SYSTEMS  
 – Cory Chorne, AE2S

LEWIS & CLARK SESSION TITLE TBA  
 – Seth Kenner, RESPEC

L. FRANCIS CASE UNDERSTANDING JAR TESTING  
 – Tim Donovan, Hawkins, Inc.

## WEDNESDAY

- 8 AM – 4 PM REGISTRATION DESK OPEN  
8 AM – 6 PM WATER PAC RAFFLE – LOBBY AREA  
8 AM – 3 PM METER CHALLENGE PRELIMINARIES  
– SDARWS BOOTH

### 8:00 AM

- LEWIS & CLARK HOW TO SIZE AND USE HDPE IN YOUR RURAL WATER  
– Garry Bouvet, ISCO Industries
- L. FRANCIS CASE WHEN SIP HAPPENS  
– Dewey Prinzing, KLM Engineering
- AMP II DEFINING A WATER PROFESSIONAL  
– Julie Sievers, ISG

### 8:15 AM

- AMP I 49TH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
*This is the Official Membership Meeting of the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems. Delegates and Alternates are encouraged to attend. Pre-Assigned seating arrangements have been reserved based on the number of voting members per system.*

### 8:45 AM

- LEWIS & CLARK CITY OF SANBORN AND IOWA LAKES REGIONAL WATER CASE STUDIES  
– Adam Norman, DGR
- L. FRANCIS CASE IFAS STUDY ON 0.05 MGD CONCRETE WWTF MODS  
– Isaiah LaRue, Nexom
- AMP II FUNDING TO MITIGATE DISASTERS WITH “FED FUNDS”  
– Karen Edwards-Lindsey, US EPA Office of Water

### 9:30 AM - HAWKINS BREAK TABLE

### 10:00 AM

- LEWIS & CLARK MULTI-COMMUNITY PROJECTS  
– Brad Lawrence, Brosz Engineering
- L. FRANCIS CASE INDUSTRIAL PRE-TREATMENT: YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS A CITY  
– Tom Atkinson, ISG
- AMP I RURAL WATER CENTER ANNUAL MEETING  
*This is the Official Membership Meeting for Rural Water Center*
- AMP II RURAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES  
– Brian Ring, USDA - RD

### 10:45 AM

- LEWIS & CLARK MANAGING ANTENNAS ON WATER TANKS  
– Rich Kemmis, Maguire Iron
- L. FRANCIS CASE CAPITAL BUDGETING & FUNDING: ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE  
– Miranda Kleven, AE2S
- AMP II LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY  
– Erin Steevers, Bartlett & West

### 1:00 PM

- LEWIS & CLARK SESSION TITLE TBA  
– Myranda Thoen, SVEN
- L. FRANCIS CASE DROUGHT MODELING  
– Mitch Kannenberg, LRE Water
- AMP I LEGISLATIVE PANEL  
– Staff of Senator Thune, Senator Rounds, and Representative Johnson
- AMP II SRF UPDATE  
– Tina McFarling, DANR

### 1:45 PM

- LEWIS & CLARK DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF SCADA IN RURAL WATER  
– Jason Whitesock, AE2S
- L. FRANCIS CASE VFDS IN WATER & WASTEWATER  
– Bob White, Electric Pump
- AMP II WATER REGULATORY UPDATE  
– Mark Mayer, DANR

### 2:30 PM - BREAK TABLE

### 3:00 PM

- LEWIS & CLARK PREPARING FOR MUNICIPAL WORKPLACE CHALLENGES  
– Greg Anderson, Stockwell Engineers
- L. FRANCIS CASE INDUSTRIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO POTWS  
– Kyle Doerr, DANR
- AMP I LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW, NRWA RALLY ORIENTATION  
– SDARWS
- AMP II SDWARN UPDATE  
– Robin Dyskstra & Mark Mayer, SDWARN Board

### EXHIBIT HALL SCHEDULE

- 4:00 PM EXHIBIT HALL & LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION OPENS  
4:30 PM METER CHALLENGE FINALS  
7:30 PM RURAL WATER TASTE TEST FINALS  
7:45 PM WATERPAC WINNERS ANNOUNCED

## THURSDAY

### 7:30 AM

- GALLERY A-B-C SD LEGISLATURE OPEN FORUM BREAKFAST

## SPOUSE ACTIVITIES WEDNESDAY RAMKOTA COURTYARD

- 8 AM - 10 AM CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST  
11 AM - 1 PM SOUP/SANDWICH LUNCHEON



# 2024 LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW: ADVOCATING FOR RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

As we step into 2024, the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) gears up for an eventful year of legislative efforts on both the state and federal levels. Our mission is clear: to be the loudest voice in the room when it comes to advocating for water and wastewater issues in the political arenas. This article provides an overview of the critical issues and activities SDARWS will be involved in throughout the year.

## Advocacy on the State Level

SDARWS takes its role as strong and tireless activists for rural water and wastewater seriously. We continuously monitor and engage with a wide range of Bills that are crucial to the well-being of water and wastewater systems in South Dakota. Some of the key areas we will focus on at the state level include:

**1. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):** Building on the success of the 2022 Legislative Session, where \$600 million was directed to benefit water projects, we continue to push for further allocation of the remaining \$100 million (+) in ARPA funds. Our efforts to secure these additional funds were unsuccessful in the 2023 session; they remain in the state coffers, but we are determined to advocate for their allocation to water projects in the 2024 session.

**2. Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law (BIL):** Monitoring and engaging with this law ensures that water and wastewater systems receive the attention and funding they deserve as part of the broader infrastructure plan. This includes fair and equitable funding distribution of SRF funds and providing needed assistance with initiatives to address Lead Service

Lines and PFAS contamination.

**3. Pipeline Task Force Recommendations:** Working closely with the authorities, such as the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), addressing issues and recommendations related to pipeline infrastructure. Including carbon delivery pipelines and the plethora of concerns inherent to the case.

**4. 1926b Court Cases:** We will watch legal developments impacting rural water systems and the protections offered through 7 USC 1926(b). We are exceptionally watchful of efforts to try and circumvent or weaken the protections provided under this statute.

**5. Rural/Municipal Service Territory Issues:** Advocating for fair and sustainable service territories to support rural communities' water needs. This includes 1926(b) issues spoken of earlier. Still, it also recognizes the autonomy of rural and municipal systems to exercise self-governance and control through public ownership and civic authority.

**6. South Dakota One-call:** Ensuring efficient and streamlined processes for locating, excavating, and constructing all infrastructure that involves digging or moving earth. South Dakota One Call is essential in protecting underground pipelines and water and wastewater infrastructure.

**7. State Regulatory Issues:** Engaging with state regulators to represent the interests of rural water systems. SDARWS will be particularly engaged in Lead Service Line inventories

*...continued on page 13*

# MAKING SENSE OF YOUR WATER BILL: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



**U**nderstanding how water utilities decide on rate changes can help you, the consumer, better understand the value of what you're paying for. Here's a breakdown of what goes into those decisions and how they impact your monthly bill.

Providing clean, potable water to your community is no small task. It's a long-term commitment that requires a lot of resources. The biggest of these resources? Money. When you pay your water bill, that money goes back into paying debt as well as maintaining and improving the system.

One of the most fundamental interactions we have with our local water utilities isn't just when we turn on the faucet but also when the bill arrives in the mail or our inbox. Both these experiences, obtaining water and understanding the charges for it, should be seamless and transparent.

Every time we turn on the tap, we expect clean, safe water to

come out. This expectation isn't just about the physical infrastructure but also trust. We trust our water utility to maintain high standards, and they, in turn, rely on our understanding of the costs and efforts involved. Water utilities are unique in that they provide a product that is regularly tested to meet community health needs. Every drop of water is intended to be drinkable, regardless of its intended use.

When the bill arrives, it's more than just a notice. It's a reflection of your consumption, the utility's expenses, and the value it provides to its members. Any changes to this bill, especially unexpected ones, can lead to confusion or even frustration.

The relationship between a water utility and its members is built on more than just pipes and bills; it's constructed on trust. And trust, like any relationship, thrives on open,

transparent, and consistent communication.

Utilities often use a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to forecast and plan expenses. It helps them see what rates might look like years down the road. Regular rate updates and good communication help avoid sudden and surprising hikes in your bill.

Typically, a water bill has two main parts:

**Minimum Rate:** This is the basic charge for having water service. It covers big, long-term expenses like infrastructure projects and servicing debt.

**Commodity Rate:** This depends on how much water you use. It covers the day-to-day operations of getting water to your home, like treatment and distribution.

For fairness, larger households or properties with bigger water needs might see a slightly higher base charge.

Looking at a utility's finances over several years can give clues about its health and future plans. When a utility is reinvesting wisely in infrastructure and expanding its services, it's a good sign for the community.

For those of us with an agricultural background, depreciation is a familiar term, often associated with managing investments and optimizing our tax position. Just as we account for the wear and tear on our equipment and structures to ensure our operations run efficiently, our water utility also plans for the natural aging of its infrastructure.

In a water system, depreciation isn't just a financial concept; it's a practical reality. Assets like treatment plants and distribution networks gradually decline in efficiency and effectiveness. Recognizing depreciation on these assets is more than an accounting practice—it's an acknowledgment that these vital components require attention and reinvestment.

A forward-thinking utility sees depreciation as a signal to plan ahead. By setting aside funds today – much like a farmer who plans for next season's seed or equipment repair – the utility prepares to maintain and enhance the system's integrity. This foresight ensures that when parts of our water system need updating or replacement, the resources are there to do so without placing a sudden burden on us, the members.

When we talk about reinvesting in our water system, it mirrors how we think about reinvesting in our land and tools – it's about longevity and prosperity. Allocating funds for future improvements means that our water system can remain robust and capable of supporting our needs, just as

our ongoing investments ensure that our farms can continue to flourish for generations to come.

In this light, depreciation is not just a line item but a measure of our utility's commitment to sustaining the lifeline of our community: our water supply. It reflects a shared understanding that to preserve and enhance the value of our collective investment, we must continually reinvest with foresight and purpose.

As our community grows and the demands on our water system increase, it's not just about ensuring we have clean and safe water – the capacity of our system becomes equally important. Maintaining adequate water pressure is as crucial as the rigorous health standards that our system operations specialists consistently test and monitor.

Ideally, the overall value and capacity of our member-owned water system should grow over time, surpassing the rate of inflation. This isn't just about numbers; it represents our collective foresight in improving and expanding the system to meet the increasing water needs of our community members, including those in agriculture who rely heavily on water for their livelihoods.

Just as a farmer anticipates the need for more resources to support a larger harvest, our utility plans for the future. We must ensure that our infrastructure can keep up as members' water usage evolves

– whether it's expanding operations or supporting new homes and businesses. This is why a portion of the funds collected from water rates is directed toward scaling up the system, maintaining adequate water pressure, and ensuring reliability for every member, every time they turn on the tap.

When you look at your water bill, it's more than just a ledger of usage. It's a snapshot of our collective investment in a resource that's vital for both our daily lives and our economic well-being. Understanding the intricacies of rate determination helps illuminate the broader picture: each dollar is a building block in a structure designed to sustain our community's growth and health.

Always remember, when we talk about investing in our water system, we're talking about investing in the foundation of our community's prosperity. Just as we care for our crops and herds, we must nurture and develop our water system. It is a commitment that goes beyond today, securing a thriving and well-watered future for all members.

In this way, paying our water bill is not just a routine part of living in our community; it's an active contribution to an ever-improving, robust water system that supports each member's needs, ensuring the health and vitality of the place we call home.

When you look at your water bill, it's more than just a ledger of usage. It's a snapshot of our collective investment in a resource that's vital for both our daily lives and our economic well-being.



Over 75 South Dakotans Attended the 2023 WaterPro Conference in Aurora, CO.

The recent National Rural Water WaterPro Conference at the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center in Aurora, Colorado, witnessed an impressive turnout from South Dakota, with over 75 attendees from South Dakota making their mark. The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) made waves from the get-go, starting the week on a high note by securing the esteemed Outstanding Achievement in Communications, Publications, and Public Relations award for the fourth time in seven years. Within SDARWS' array of communication mediums lies the *Quality on Tap* magazine – a collaborative publication crafted by SDARWS and shared among 17 rural water systems. Notably, South Dakota stands as the sole state producing a cooperative water-centric magazine.

## SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF RURAL WATER SYSTEMS SHINES ON A NATIONAL STAGE



The SDARWS Team accepting the 'Outstanding Achievement in Communications, Publications, and Public Relations' from the National Rural Water Association.

The excitement continued as the SDARWS team took center stage in the spirited Rural Water Feud competition. Led by Jeremiah Corbin, Kurt Pfeifle, Jennifer Bame, Paul Dorwart, and Gavin Graverson, the team triumphed over Minnesota Rural Water, claiming victory at the Membership Appreciation Luncheon. Their win was no small feat, earning them a substantial \$5,000 credit at USA BlueBook. Demonstrating their prowess, Corbin and Bame also excelled in the "fast money" round, further bolstering the credit by an additional \$2,500, resulting in an impressive total of \$7,500.



SDARWS Rural Water Feud team with their \$7,500 prize from USA BlueBook

The talent and artistry of SDARWS members extended beyond the competition floor. Paul Dorwart and Kevin Christenson showcased their photographic skills in the Rural Water on Display Photo Contest. Dorwart secured second place in the "WaterWorks" category, while Christenson clinched first place in "Water in Rural America" and claimed the prestigious "Grand Prize" for the best overall picture, underscoring the talent within the South Dakota contingent.

Not merely participants, SDARWS members were also invited to share their expertise through informative sessions at the conference.



Communications and Marketing Coordinator Jennifer Bame spearheaded a session titled “Public Relations and Customer Engagement,” highlighting the *Quality on Tap* publication to a wide audience, while Executive Director Kurt Pfeifle and Deputy Director Jeremiah Corbin jointly hosted a presentation titled “Getting Results From Your Experts.” Their contributions added value to the conference, further highlighting the knowledge and professionalism within the rural water community.

Reflecting on the event, it was a resounding success for SDARWS in an exceptional location. The camaraderie, skill, and dedication displayed by South Dakota’s rural water professionals underscored the association’s commitment to excellence and innovation in serving rural communities.

The achievements at the National Rural Water WaterPro Conference stand as a testament to the dedication and expertise within SDARWS. As South Dakota continues to shine on a national platform, it reaffirms the association’s pivotal role in championing rural water systems and ensuring the provision of safe, reliable water services to communities across the state.

Established in 1979, SDARWS is a nonprofit organization located in Madison, SD, committed to supporting the needs of rural water and wastewater systems in South Dakota. Its primary mission revolves around assisting and promoting the interests of its members – comprising water and wastewater systems, industry professionals, and stakeholders – ensuring they have the resources and support necessary to provide safe and reliable water services to rural areas.

One of the pivotal roles of SDARWS is to serve as a unified voice for rural water systems, representing their interests at the state and federal levels. The association actively engages in legislative advocacy, working with policymakers to address issues pertinent to rural water infrastructure, funding, and regulatory compliance. By leveraging collective expertise and advocating for favorable policies, SDARWS helps secure vital resources for its members, enabling them to upgrade and maintain infrastructure, adopt advanced technologies, and comply with evolving environmental standards.

Education and training lie at the core of SDARWS’s initiatives. The association offers a diverse range of training programs, workshops, and certifications aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of water and wastewater professionals. These educational opportunities cover various aspects of utility management, technical operations, safety protocols, and regulatory compliance, empowering personnel to effectively manage and maintain water systems.

Moreover, SDARWS fosters a collaborative network where members can exchange ideas, share best practices, and learn from each other’s experiences. Through conferences, seminars, and networking events, the association facilitates invaluable opportunities for professionals to connect, learn about emerging trends, and address common challenges faced by rural water systems.

The commitment to excellence and innovation within SDARWS is evident through its emphasis on embracing technological advancements. The association actively promotes the adoption of cutting-edge technologies, encouraging the implementation of sustainable practices and efficient solutions. By staying at the forefront of innovation, SDARWS assists its members in optimizing operations, reducing costs, and improving service delivery to rural communities.

SDARWS’s dedication to community extends beyond technical assistance. The association values community engagement and outreach, recognizing the importance of

public education on water conservation, quality, and safety. Through outreach programs, SDARWS educates the public on the significance of responsible water usage and the role individuals can play in preserving this invaluable resource.

The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems plays a pivotal role in supporting and empowering rural communities across the state. Through advocacy, education, technological innovation, and community engagement, SDARWS continues to be a driving force in ensuring that rural areas have access to safe, clean water and effective wastewater management. As it moves forward, the association remains steadfast in its commitment to enhancing the quality of life for South Dakota’s rural residents, demonstrating that even the smallest drops can make a significant ripple in the community’s well-being.



***SDARWS Executive Director Kurt Pfeifle and Communications & Marketing Director Jennifer Bame address the crowd at the 2023 WaterPro Conference in Aurora, CO.***

## PERKINS COUNTY RURAL WATER SYSTEM

**P**erkins County Rural Water System, Inc. (PCRWS) stands as a testament to the power of community collaboration and perseverance in ensuring access to clean water. The journey of PCRWS, from its inception to its ongoing expansions, exemplifies a community's dedication to securing a vital resource for its residents.

### **A Vision Takes Root (1982-1993)**

The seeds of PCRWS were sown in 1982 when a group of farmers, ranchers, and local representatives were approached by the Southwest Water Pipeline Project with an ambitious proposal to provide water to Perkins County. However, it wasn't until 1992, when the Southwest Water Authority reintroduced the idea to the county, that momentum began to build.

A dedicated committee comprising approximately 25-30 individuals from diverse backgrounds across the county convened in 1992, leading to the formation of PCRWS. A volunteer Board of Directors, representing different districts within the county, was established to guide the initiative.

### **From Vision to Reality (1993-1999)**

In March 1993, PCRWS was officially organized as a non-profit entity, backed by initial funding from the State of South Dakota in the form of two \$50,000 grants under the State Water Plan. The feasibility study commissioned by PCRWS, conducted by KBM, Inc. of Grand Forks, ND, and The Alliance of Rapid City, validated the potential of building a distribution system and purchasing water from Southwest Water Authority.

The next several years were spent working with US Congress, towns of Lemmon and Bison, United States Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Grand River Grazing Association. In 1998, both of the towns signed a contract with Perkins County Rural Water to furnish them with 100% of their water needs. The pivotal moment arrived in the spring of 1999 when the Governor's office and the State legislature sanctioned PCRWS, earmarking one million dollars for the Southwest

Pipeline construction in North Dakota. The system engaged in persistent lobbying efforts at the federal level, ultimately resulting in the US Congress passing an authorization bill in 1999 (Public Law 106-136) to support the construction of the distribution pipeline in Perkins County. The authorization stated that the federal government would cost share 75% grant money of 28 million dollars to build the distribution pipeline in Perkins County. The appropriation was spread over at least six years of construction time.

### **Building Foundations and Expansions (2003-Present)**

PCRWS secured the purchase of 400 gallons per minute of water plus any excess water in the line from Southwest Water Authority, paving the way for distribution to Perkins County Rural Water members. The system embarked on initial construction in 2003, officially breaking ground on May 1, 2004.

Over the ensuing years, PCRWS achieved milestones, completing Phases I to VIII in 2012 and initiating the repayment of \$5.144 million over 40 years from the state in 2015. Ongoing projects such as the DOT-mandated realignment on highways and the installation of an automatic meter reading system underscore the commitment to modernization and efficiency.

### **A Testament to Community Commitment**

The evolution of PCRWS embodies the dedication and resilience of a community that came together to secure a reliable water supply. From initial discussions to navigating legislative channels and overseeing infrastructure development, PCRWS stands as a beacon of community-driven initiatives ensuring a fundamental resource for generations to come.

As PCRWS looks towards the future, it continues to uphold its commitment to providing accessible and reliable water to the residents of Perkins County, ensuring a thriving and sustainable community for years ahead.

# PERKINS COUNTY RURAL WATER SYSTEM

## DIRECTORS:

### Lodgepole District

President – Donald Melling Jr.

### Bison District

Vice President – Brian Morris

### Lemmon District

Secretary – Lynn Frey

### Municipal Appointed Directors

#### Town of Bison

Treasurer – Luke Clements

#### City of Lemmon

Pat Dalzell

## STAFF:

O&M Manager – Shiloh Baysinger

O&M Operator – Eric Newman

Office Manager – Brandi Baysinger

Attorney – Eric Bouge

## STATISTICS:

Hookups: 883

Miles of Pipeline: 850

Water Source: Southwest Water Authority,  
ND

Counties Served: Perkins

Towns Served Individual: Lemmon, Bison



Perkins Co. Office in Bison, SD



Booster Station on Highway 20



Main pump station near Lodgepole.

# RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

## WINTER VACATION DESTINATIONS

### Down

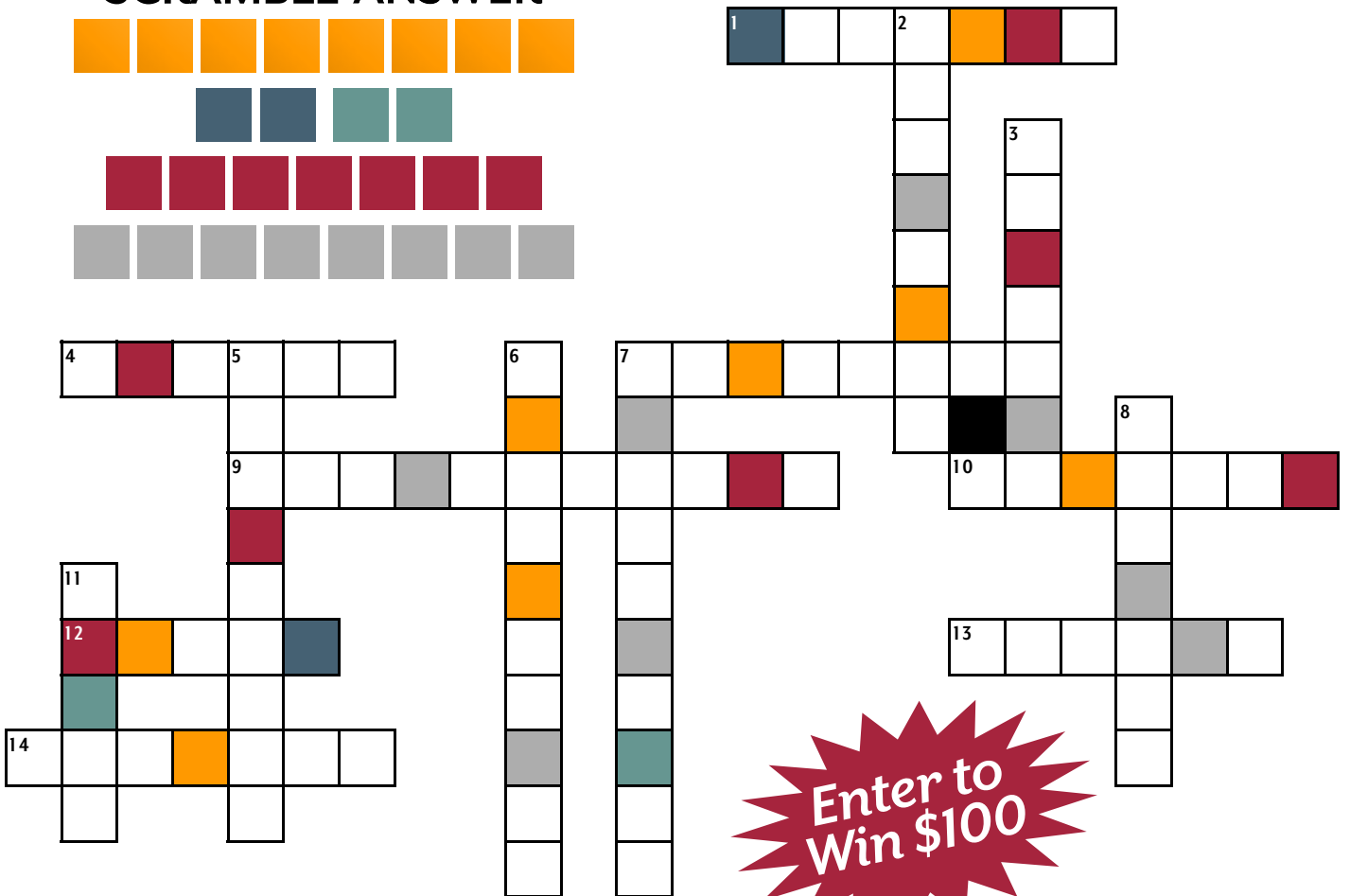
2. Gambling empire
3. Popular desert retirement destination
5. Land down under

6. US island territory
7. Has its faults
8. Third largest island in the Caribbean
11. European peninsula

### Across

1. Northern Lights and Blue Lagoons
4. Luau location
7. Rocky Mountain ski state
9. Alpine country
10. Islands north of Cuba
12. Largest gulf state
13. South of the border
14. State of many keys

### SCRAMBLE ANSWER



**RULES:** Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See page 2 for contact information) or enter online at [www.sdarws.com/crossword.html](http://www.sdarws.com/crossword.html) with the correct phrase by January 15, 2024 to be entered into the \$100 drawing. Only one entry allowed per address/household. You must be a member of a participating rural water system to be eligible for the prize. Your information will only be used to notify the winner, and will not be shared or sold.

Congratulations to Don & Lura Kirkpatrick with West River/Lyman-Jones who had the correct phrase of "Everything Comes Back to You" for January 2024.

and replacement and issues such as PFAS and the UCMR-5 issued by EPA.

**8. Health Care, Property & Liability, and Worker's Comp. Insurance:**

Supporting measures that benefit water wastewater system employees and their coverage needs. Always on the lookout for increased efficiencies and lower premiums.

**9. Permitting Process and Fees for Railroad Crossings:**

This seems to be a perennial issue. When you think you've "put it to bed," something new arises. An effort in the last Legislative Session to increase crossing fees and add new terms to crossings is an excellent example of how this issue keeps returning. SDARWS will always be watchful and address issues related to railroad crossings to enhance water infrastructure development and protection.

**10. Economic/Workforce Development:** Promoting initiatives that foster workforce development in the water and wastewater sector. This will include SDARWS's continued support of the Water & Wastewater Apprenticeship program crafted by NRWA and approved by the U.S. Department of Labor.

**Advocacy on the Federal Level**

SDARWS collaborates closely with the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) in congressional efforts to bring about positive change for rural water systems. Some of our main focuses on the federal level include:

**1. EPA Regulations:** Monitoring and advocating for regulations that support and protect rural water systems. With a particular emphasis on the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR) fifth (5) version. This includes the "forever chemicals" such as PFAS. It will also involve monitoring the developments and funding for the Lead Service Line Inventory and replacement programs. The latter is addressed in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) passed by Congress in prior years.

**2. Funding through EPA and USDA – Rural Development:**

Ensuring that rural water projects receive federal financial support. SDARWS will especially keep a watchful eye on funding provided through the USDA – Rural Development Water & Environment Program (WEP) and funds provided to the states by EPA through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) program. Both of the preceding are crucial to the advancement of rural water and wastewater.

**3. Training and Assistance Programs:**

Supporting federal water, wastewater, and source water programs, including Circuit Rider programs that offer valuable assistance and training. The support and advocacy are provided as we work in connection with our partners at the National Rural Water Association (NRWA).

**4. Farm Bill:** Actively participating in developing and advocating the next Farm Bill, scheduled for consideration and adoption in 2025. Farm Bills are considered and reauthorized every five years. Congress is busy at this very moment writing the next Farm Bill for consideration in 2025. SDARWS and NRWA are in constant contact with our Congressional Delegations to ensure that the language of the next Farm Bill is favorable to South Dakota.

**5. Federal Authorization and Funding for Water Projects:**

Monitoring and advocating for federal authorization and funding for vital water projects in South Dakota, including large Bureau of Reclamation Projects and projects utilizing traditional financing paths through Rural Development and EPA. Three large projects are currently under consideration and development in South Dakota. Water Investment in Northern South Dakota (WINS); Western Dakota Regional Water System and Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System. These projects potentially represent billions (with a "B") of dollars of water investment in our great state.

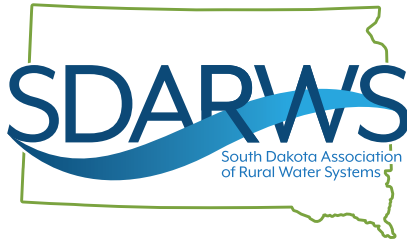
**Conclusion: Join the Advocacy Chorus**

In 2024, SDARWS anticipates a busy year of legislative advocacy at the state and federal levels. We invite everyone to actively engage in political and legislative issues related to rural water and wastewater systems. By joining us in telling the story of water and wastewater needs loudly and proudly, we can ensure that rural water systems receive the support and attention they deserve.

With your support, SDARWS is confident that 2024 will be a prosperous year for rural water and wastewater systems in South Dakota. Let us stand together as a united voice and make a difference for our communities and the future of water infrastructure.

Join us in advocating for quality on tap!  
Together, we can make a difference.





# OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING AND EXAMS

Register for training classes online at: [web.sdarws.com/events](http://web.sdarws.com/events)

Course Name	Date	Location
Basic Water Treatment	January 23 -25	Rapid City Ramkota - Rushmore Room
OpCert Exam	January 25 @ 1:00 PM	Rapid City Ramkota - Rushmore Room
Wastewater Collection	February 6 - 8	Sioux Falls - Hilton Garden Inn SW
OpCert Exam	February 8 @ 1:00 PM	Sioux Falls - Hilton Garden Inn SW
Basic Water Treatment	March 5 - 7	Aberdeen - Dakota Events Center
OpCert Exam	March 7 @ 1:00 PM	Aberdeen - Dakota Events Center
Intermediate Water Treatment	March 19 - 21	Sioux Falls - Hilton Garden Inn SW
OpCert Exam	March 21 @ 1:00 PM	Sioux Falls - Hilton Garden Inn SW
Water Distribution	April 16 - 18	Mitchell - Highlands Conference Center
OpCert Exam	April 18 @ 1:00 PM	Mitchell - Highlands Conference Center
Small Water Treatment Workshop	April 23	Rapid City Ramkota - Rushmore Room
Basic Wastewater Treatment	May 7 - 9	Watertown - Ramkota
OpCert Exam	May 9 @ 1:00 PM	Watertown - Ramkota
Advanced Wastewater Treatment	May 21 - 23	Sioux Falls - Hilton Garden Inn SW
OpCert Exam	May 23 @ 1:00 PM	Sioux Falls - Hilton Garden Inn SW
Stabilization Pond Workshop	June 6	Huron - Huron Events Center

*Classes start at 8:00 AM Tuesday through Thursday. Classes end at approximately 4:30 PM on Tuesday and Wednesday, and noon on Thursday. One-day Workshops start at 8:00 AM and end at 4:30 PM.*

## EXAM INFORMATION

All exams cost \$60.00 and must be taken “in-person.”

Any exam can be taken at an exam session. You can take more than one exam at an exam session; however, the exam session remains at three hours long.

**All exam applications are due no later than two weeks prior to the exam date to DANR. Questions regarding exams can be directed to Tammie Hill with DANR at 605-773-3577.**

## DANR OPERATOR CERTIFICATION WEBSITE

[danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/OperatorCert/default.aspx](http://danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/OperatorCert/default.aspx)

*The Stabilization Pond class deals strictly with ponds/lagoons and is the best class for preparing to take the Small WW Exam. The Basic WW Treatment class deals with all types of wastewater treatment other than ponds/lagoons and is the best class for preparing to take the Class I WW Treatment exam. Small Systems that use ponds/lagoons for treatment can come into compliance*

*with the Operator Certification Law by passing either the Small WW System exam or the Class I WW Treatment Exam.*

*Water systems serving less than 500 individuals and use wells as its source can come into compliance by passing the Small Water Treatment exam. Larger systems must pass the Class I Water Treatment exam or higher depending on the facility classification.*

## STUDY MATERIALS

DANR has water exam study material to lend to operators. These include manuals from California State:

- *Water Distribution System Operation and Maintenance*
- *Small Water System Operation and Maintenance*

## TRAINING CLASSES

Certification Training Classes are conducted by the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems. **These classes are presented at no charge.** Certified Operators can obtain contact hours for attending all of the above classes.

For more information on certification training classes, please contact Bill Thorson at 605-556-7219 (office) or 605-201-0170 (cell).

# SDARWS Conferences & Events



## Annual Technical Conference | January 9-11, 2024

The ATC is the annual conference of the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems, and is the largest water/wastewater conference in South Dakota. This event is designed to bring together water and wastewater utility systems – both large and small, municipal and rural – for sessions in operations, management, boardsmanship and governance. This conference is held every year during the first week of the South Dakota Legislative session in Pierre, SD and hosts over 500 attendees.

To learn more, visit [sdarws.com/ATC](https://sdarws.com/ATC) or email [atc@sdarws.com](mailto:atc@sdarws.com)

**Pierre Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center**  
920 W Sioux Ave. • Pierre, SD • 605-224-6877



## Rural Water EXPO | April 24-25, 2024

The EXPO is open to all water and wastewater utility staff, board/council members, engineers, State and Federal employees. The training will consist of 13 presentations, 30 minutes each, thus allocating ten contact hours for those individuals who are licensed operations specialists. Along with the training sessions, the EXPO will showcase many of our industry's manufacturer and supplier leaders. Many will be displaying the recent advances in technology our industry has witnessed over the past several years.

To learn more, visit [sdarws.com/EXPO](https://sdarws.com/EXPO) or email [expo@sdarws.com](mailto:expo@sdarws.com)

**Rapid City Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center**  
2111 N Lacrosse Street • Rapid City, SD • 605-343-8550



## Rural Water Fishing Tourney | May 4, 2024

The Annual Rural Water Warriors Fishing Tournament takes place at the Outpost Lodge on Cow Creek Bay in 2024. Teams consist of 2-3 people with at least one person who is a current water/wastewater, associate member or corporate partner of the SDARWS. This tournament is limited to 40 teams. There is an eight fish maximum per boat with the largest seven fish weighed, and all South Dakota fishing regulations must be followed. A mandatory rules meeting is held at 8:00pm the night before the tournament.

For more information, visit [sdarws.com/fishing](https://sdarws.com/fishing) or email [fishing@sdarws.com](mailto:fishing@sdarws.com)

**Outpost Lodge on Cow Creek Bay**  
Cow Creek Recreational Area, 28229 Cow Creek Rd. • Pierre, SD • 605-264-5450



## Rural Water Open Golf Tourney | July 2024

The Annual Rural Water Open will take place in Sioux Falls. This tournament is open to Utility Members, Associate Members, and Corporate Partners of SDARWS. Registration is \$100/player and includes golf, cart, lunch, and awards.

For more information, visit [sdarws.com/golf](https://sdarws.com/golf) or email [golf@sdarws.com](mailto:golf@sdarws.com)



## Trap Shoot | Fall 2024

The Second Annual Rural Water Trap Shoot will take place at the Crooks Gun Club. This tournament is open to Utility Members, Associate Members, and Corporate Partners of SDARWS. Registration is \$100/player or \$150 to pick your partner. Includes shells and dinner. For more information, visit [sdarws.com/trap](https://sdarws.com/trap) or email [ggraverson@sdarws.com](mailto:ggraverson@sdarws.com)



## Leadership Seminar | November 13-14, 2024

This seminar is geared towards Rural Water System Directors and covers a gamut of topics pertaining to rural water boards and system leadership.

For more information, visit [sdarws.com/leadership](https://sdarws.com/leadership) or email [jcorbin@sdarws.com](mailto:jcorbin@sdarws.com)

**Pierre Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center**  
920 W. Sioux Ave. • Pierre, SD • 605-224-6877

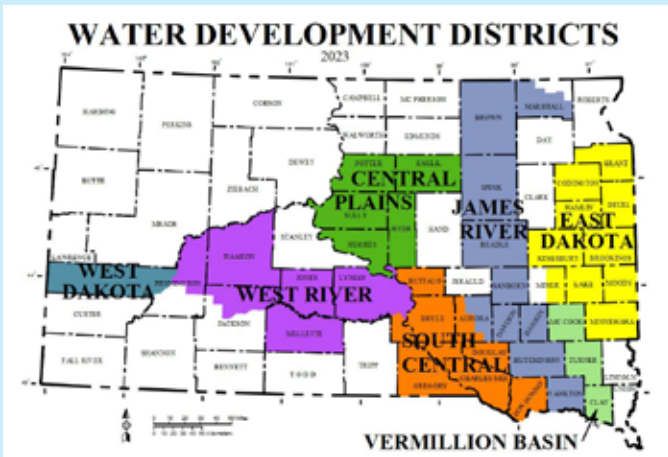


P.O. Box 287  
 Madison, SD 57042  
[www.sdarws.com](http://www.sdarws.com)  
 605-556-7219



# WATER MATTERS

## WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS



If an organization, entity, group or individual has a project or activity that needs technical, organizational, or financial assistance, contact the WDD for that area. Staff has extensive experience in developing and supporting projects. They can assist in preparing an application to include a project on the State Water Plan, an important step if a project needs state or federal assistance. They can also help project sponsors search for funds from other sources.

**Water Development Districts (WDDs)** are political subdivisions of the State. WDDs promote the conservation, development, and proper management of water resources according to district priorities. They can provide technical, organizational, and financial assistance to prospective and existing projects and activities. While sharing many common efforts, each of the seven existing WDDs (see map) have developed programs and expertise designed to address those issues most important to their area.

Each WDD is governed by an elected Board of Directors, consisting of 5, 7, or 9 members, depending on population. The Board hires or contracts for staff and other services as necessary. WDDs have a limited taxing authority, being able to levy a tax of no more than thirty cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation (0.3 mill). They also pursue external grant support for priority activities.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

**East Dakota WDD** – Jay Gilbertson  
 605-688-6741 · [edwdd@brookings.net](mailto:edwdd@brookings.net)

**Vermillion Basin WDD** – Brad Prehiem  
 605-563-2883 · [vbwdd@hotmail.com](mailto:vbwdd@hotmail.com)

**James River WDD** – Dave Bartel  
 605-352-0600 · [davebartel@midconetwork.com](mailto:davebartel@midconetwork.com)

**Central Plains WDD** – Lynette Eckert  
 605-280-6763 · [cpwdd@midconetwork.com](mailto:cpwdd@midconetwork.com)

**South-Central WDD** – Peg Haenfler  
 605-724-2624 · [scwdd@unitelsd.com](mailto:scwdd@unitelsd.com)

**West River WDD** – Jake Fitzgerald  
 605-669-2931 · [jfitzgerald@wrlj.com](mailto:jfitzgerald@wrlj.com)

**West Dakota WDD** – Daniel Mullaly  
 605-394-2685 · [wdwdd0@outlook.com](mailto:wdwdd0@outlook.com)

#### BACK PAGE CONTENT PROVIDED BY:



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