



# Quality On Tap!

July 2022 | Volume 18, Issue 1

**A \$1.1 BILLION  
INVESTMENT  
IN SOUTH DAKOTA  
WATER PROJECTS**

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Ron Gillen, President  
South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems



### NRWA In-Service

In June, most of the Association staff are traveling to Anaheim, California for the National Rural Water In-Service Training. At In-Service, rural water professionals from around the nation gather together to train and discuss their work with others in their peer group. The goal of in-service is to learn about new techniques unique to each position, share expertise, and learn about new funding sources. If you see our guys around, ask them what new things they've learned.

### Golf Tournament

Join us on July 19th for the 36th Annual SDARWS 4-Person Scramble Golf Tournament at Elmwood in Sioux Falls. The tournament is a great opportunity to gather together with other Rural Water folks for a day of camaraderie and fun. You can register your four-person team online at [tinyurl.com/SDARWSGOLF](http://tinyurl.com/SDARWSGOLF). Tee times will be assigned to each team. You can find more information on page 15. We hope to see you on the course!

### Water Pro

It isn't too early to start thinking about attending this year's WaterPro Conference in National Harbor, Maryland September 26-29, 2022. NRWA puts on a fantastic show which brings in hundreds of vendors and hosts informative training sessions in operations, management, boardsmanship and governance for those involved in water and wastewater utility systems – large and small, municipal and rural. WaterPro features expert speakers from across the water/wastewater industry. Want to hear about new USDA projects or EPA priorities? You can find out at the WaterPro Conference. The WaterPro exhibit hall is filled with vendors and service-providers dedicated to offering high-quality solutions for small and rural water utilities. Find out about all the best solutions for rural water today and tomorrow. For more information on this conference, including registration and hotel reservations, please visit [waterproconference.org](http://waterproconference.org).

*The Conference for Water & Wastewater Utility Systems - Large & Small, Municipal & Rural*

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September 26-29, 2022  
Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center | National Harbor, MD

**Visit [waterproconference.org](http://waterproconference.org) for more information.**

The Official Conference of the National Rural Water Association  NRWA

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**Class B West River**  
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# OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING AND EXAMS

Course Name	Date	Location
Stabilization Pond Workshop	June 2	Huron – Crossroads
Basic Water Treatment	July 12 - 14	Watertown-Ramkota Cattail Rm.
OpCert Exam	July 14 @ 1:00 PM	Watertown-Ramkota Cattail Rm.
Wastewater Collection	August 2 - 4	Aberdeen – Ramkota Northern Rm.
OpCert Exam	August 4 @ 1:00 PM	Aberdeen – Ramkota Northern Rm.
Water Distribution	August 16 - 18	Sioux Falls – Ramkota Rushmore Rm.
OpCert Exam	August 18 @ 1:00 PM	Sioux Falls – Ramkota Rushmore Rm.
Intermediate Water Treatment	August 30 - September 1	Rapid City – Ramkota Rushmore Rm.
OpCert Exam	September 1 @ 1:00 PM	Rapid City – Ramkota Rushmore Rm.
Small Water Treatment Workshop	September 22	Zoom On-Line Course
Wastewater Collection	October 4 - 6	Sioux Falls – Ramkota Harvest Rm.
OpCert Exam	October 6 @ 1:00 PM	Sioux Falls – Ramkota Harvest Rm.
Stabilization Pond Workshop	October 13	Mitchell – Highland Conference Center
Stabilization Pond Workshop	October 18	Aberdeen – Ramkota Northern Rm.
Water Distribution	November 15 – 17	Spearfish Holiday Inn
OpCert Exam	November 17 @ 1:00 PM	Spearfish Holiday Inn
Basic Wastewater Treatment	December 6 - 8	Rapid City – Ramkota Rushmore Rm.
OpCert Exam	December 8 @ 1:00 PM	Rapid City – Ramkota Rushmore Rm.

*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.*

*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.*

#### EXAM INFORMATION

All exams cost \$60 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.

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)

#### 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).

#### Register for training classes online at:

[sdarws.com/certification.html](http://sdarws.com/certification.html)

**For Study materials, visit: [www.abccert.org/testing\\_services/ExamReferences.asp](http://www.abccert.org/testing_services/ExamReferences.asp)  
REGISTER FOR CLASSES ONLINE: [sdarws.com/certification.html](http://sdarws.com/certification.html)**

# SDARWS STAFF DIRECTORY



**KURT PFEIFLE**

*Executive Director*

kpfeifle@sdarws.com  
605-204-0125



**MIKE MOELLER**

*Technical Assistance  
Training Specialist*

mmoeller@sdarws.com  
605-270-4989



**JEREMIAH CORBIN**

*Field Program Supervisor*

jcorbin@sdarws.com  
605-270-3894



**ALLEN KOCMICH**

*East River Circuit Rider*

akocmich@sdarws.com  
605-201-6026



**ROBYN BROTHERS**

*Office Manager*

rbrothers@sdarws.com  
605-556-7219



**PAUL DORWART**

*East River Circuit Rider*

pdowart@sdarws.com  
605-201-9568



**JENNIFER BAME**

*Communications &  
Marketing Coordinator*

jbame@sdarws.com  
605-556-7219



**WYATT HIX**

*West River Circuit Rider*

whix@sdarws.com  
605-641-4557



**STEVE ATTEMA**

*Safety Training  
Specialist*

sattema@sdarws.com  
605-270-1766



**DANNY AYERS**

*Wastewater Technician*

dayers@sdarws.com  
605-291-2299



**BILL THORSON**

*Certification Training  
Specialist*

bthorson@sdarws.com  
605-201-0170



**GLEN OLENE**

*Wastewater Technician*

golene@sdarws.com  
605-245-6488



**JEFF FOSSUM**

*Technical Assistance  
Training Specialist*

jfossum@sdarws.com  
605-201-9561



**KEVIN CHRISTENSON**

*Source Water Protection  
Specialist*

kchristenson@sdarws.com  
605-641-1923



# A \$1.1 BILLION INVESTMENT IN SOUTH DAKOTA WATER PROJECTS

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) announced the Board of Water and Natural Resources has approved \$430,651,683 in grants and loans for rural water systems throughout South Dakota. These awards are part of more than \$1.1 billion in statewide awards approved by the board.

The \$430,651,683 total includes \$152,265,282 in grants and \$278,386,401 in low-interest loans to be administered by the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

“I am pleased to announce this financial assistance is available,” said DANR Secretary Hunter Roberts. “These grants and loans will result in upgraded drinking water systems which is good for the users and the environment.”

The grants and loans were awarded from DANR’s Drinking

Water State Revolving Fund Program, Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program, and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to the following:

**Aurora-Brule Rural Water System** received a \$4,144,734 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$1,855,266 ARPA grant to address water pressure and reliability issues within the system by installing 10 miles of new parallel water main, a new water storage reservoir, a booster station, multiple loops within the system, and making other line improvements. These funds and local cash will cover the cost of the project. The loan terms are 1.875 percent for 30 years.

**Bear Butte Valley Water, Inc.** received a \$1,115,500 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$5,202,000 ARPA grant to make improvements to its water system.



Improvements include installation of 20 miles of water mainline to 24 new services connections to meet rural, residential, and livestock drinking water demands; construction of a new well with a higher capacity pump to provide a second water source; and miscellaneous site piping and appurtenances to address system deficiencies in the Blucksberg Service area. The loan terms are 2.125 percent for 30 years.

**BDM Rural Water System** received a \$8,006,917 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan with \$507,867 in principal forgiveness and a \$3,530,083 ARPA grant to construct a new water diversion system and treatment system for additional water supplies. In addition, 18 miles of pipe will be added to expand the system, lines will be looped for redundancy and pressure stabilization, and 382 water meters will be replaced. The loan terms are 1.875 percent for 30 years.

**Big Sioux Community Water System** received a \$17,788,000 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan to replace water mains and construct 35.5 miles of parallel water lines in various sizes. The loan terms are 2.125 percent for 30 years

**Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System** received a \$5,607,560 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a

\$2,703,240 ARPA grant to install 22 miles of 12-inch water main to meet the growing demands of rural customers including livestock and dairy operations; reduce the amount of water loss due to existing glued-joint pipe; and to interconnect the system's two primary water sources. In addition, six miles of 6-inch watermain will be installed to the Lake Cochrane service area to improve low pressures around the lake during periods of peak water use. This funding, local cash, and other funds will cover the cost of this project. The loan terms are 2.125 percent for 30 years.

**Clark Rural Water System** received a \$5,068,000 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$2,172,000 ARPA grant to address low pressures on the upstream side of Henry Booster Pump Station and the Crocker Ground Storage Reservoir by installing 13.5 miles of 10-inch and 7 miles of 8-inch parallel main line. The loan terms are 2.125 percent for 30 years.

**Clay Rural Water System** received a \$10,736,050 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan, a \$825,850 Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program grant, and a \$4,955,100 ARPA grant to address increased water demand, outdated and undersized water mains, and storage facility limitations. The project includes new water storage reservoirs, booster station replacement, and water main improvements. The loan terms are 2.125 percent for 30 years.





**Davison Rural Water System** received a \$810,385 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$439,615 ARPA grant to address water supply and system pressure issues. In addition, the project will increase accuracy and efficiencies by upgrading from self-reading meters to automatic meter read technology. The loan terms are 2.125 percent for 30 years. This funding and local cash will cover the project costs.

**Grant-Roberts Rural Water System** received a \$4,360,400 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$2,433,600 ARPA grant to install approximately 24 miles of pipeline and other miscellaneous apparatus to add capacity so each reservoir can be filled during high water use periods. In addition, pipeline looping and parallels will be completed to distribute water to existing and new customers as well as improve the reliability of the water system. This project will include a connection to provide bulk water service to the residents of Corona. The loan terms are 2.125 percent for 30 years.

**Hanson Rural Water System** received a \$2,356,165 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$1,273,835 ARPA grant to address water supply and pressure issues within the system by paralleling and looping existing mains to meet current demands. In addition, the project will upgrade metering methodology by moving from self-reading meters to automatic meter read technology to increase accuracy. The loan terms are 1.625 percent for 30 years. This funding package along with local funds will complete the cost of the project.

**Joint Wellfield Inc.** received a \$6,592,000 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$2,868,000 ARPA

grant to construct a new gravity filtration water treatment plant to increase the treatment capacity of the system and drill two new wells. The loan terms are 2.125 percent for 30 years. These funds along with local cash will cover the cost of the project. This project is a joint effort between the Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System and the Kingbrook Rural Water System.

**Kingbrook Rural Water System** received a \$22,850,000 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$9,900,000 grant to install an elevated tank near Arlington, a booster pump station near Bryant, and relocate and resize pipeline segments along Highway 25 north of DeSmet. In addition, Kingbrook has several existing facilities that are operating beyond its firm capacity and need to be replaced or improved. These include the Badger Pump Station, DeSmet Water Treatment Plant, Chester Water Treatment Plant, Oakwood Pump Station, and the Orland Pump Station. The loan terms are 2.125 percent for 30 years. These funds along with local cash will cover the cost of the project.

**Lewis & Clark Regional Water System** received a \$13,136,100 ARPA grant to expand its water system and increase capacity. This grant will greatly benefit rate payers, as the project has a direct impact on the water rates paid by its customers.

**Lincoln County Rural Water System** received a \$2,653,700 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$1,137,300 ARPA grant to install 16.5 miles of new pipeline to serve the growing developments surrounding the City of Sioux Falls and City of Harrisburg without negatively impacting existing customers. The loan terms are 2.125 percent for 30 years.





**Shared Resources Inc.** received a \$69,983,400 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$38,276,600 ARPA grant for a joint effort between Minnehaha Community Water Corporation and the Big Sioux Community Water System. The project includes a treatment plant, well field, distribution pipeline, and two storage tanks. Shared Resources will treat and deliver the water to the two systems, which will then distribute water to their existing customer base. The loan terms are 2.125 percent for 30 years.

**Sioux Rural Water Systems** received a \$3,202,650 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$1,778,350 ARPA grant to construct a new elevated tank and pipeline to address inadequate storage in the existing system. A pipeline will be installed in two locations to improve service pressure to

existing customers and provide adequate delivery to the proposed elevated tank. The loan terms are 2.125 percent for 30 years. These funds and local cash will support the project.

**South Lincoln Rural Water System** received a \$10,384,082 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$5,677,918 ARPA grant to meet increasing demands on its existing service area and construct new water system facilities. The new facilities include an elevated tank south of Canton, a pump station north of Canton, and a new water treatment plant south of Worthing. The loan terms are 2.125 percent for 30 years. These funds and local cash will support the project.

**Southern Black Hills Water System** received a \$540,000 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$3,060,000 ARPA grant to install a new well, booster pump station, storage, a new chlorination system, a SCADA system, and water main to connect the Paramount Point and Spring Creek Acres Service areas. The loan terms are 2.125 percent for 30 years.

**Tri-County/Mni' Waste Water Company** received a \$1,238,302 ARPA grant to make improvements to the raw water line, which will stabilize a landslide threatening the entire system's water source. This grant and other funds will cover the cost of these improvements. Mni' Waste Water Company also received a \$6,448,598 ARPA grant to replace an undersized pipeline along Highway 63 causing high friction loss and low pressure issues. In addition, new treated water pipeline, water tower, valves, pumps, and air releases will be installed.

**Tripp County Water Users District** received a \$9,250,000 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and

**Mid-Dakota Rural Water System** received a \$29,467,750 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan, a \$2,000,000 Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program grant, and a \$13,867,250 ARPA grant to install a new water meter system, construct parallel pipe, and make improvements to the water treatment system including a new backwash recovery system and additional membrane capacity. The loan terms are 1.875 percent for 30 years.

**Minnehaha Community Rural Water System** received a \$44,349,000 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan to install new water main to keep up with increasing demands in the area. Improvements include installation of approximately 7.3 miles of 20-inch diameter water main, 19 miles of 16-inch diameter water main, a new control valve station, a 1.5 million gallon water tower, and a new reservoir and booster station. The loan terms are 2.125 percent for 30 years.

**Perkins County Rural Water System** received a \$4,589,000 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$2,471,000 ARPA grant to add two elevated storage tanks in their Central and Lemmon service areas to provide adequate storage on high-capacity days and add a ground storage tank at the main booster station. Transmission and distribution lines will also be upgraded to accommodate increased pressure and handle peak demands. The loan terms are 1.625 percent for 30 years.

**Randall Community Water District** received a \$6,325,375 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$2,710,875 ARPA grant to update waterlines to accommodate growth and maintain pressure to existing customers in Cedar Grove Waterline North area, Lakeview Colony Waterline North area, and Carda Tank Waterline South area. The loan terms are 1.875 percent for 30 years.



a \$4,050,000 ARPA grant to replace two storage tanks, parallel and loop lines to increase water pressure, and expand their well field to address supply issues. The terms of the loan are 0.0 percent for 30 years.

**TM Rural Water District** received a \$5,913,600 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$2,534,400 ARPA grant to address deficiencies in its distribution system due to increasing demands attributed to drought and new customers. Improvements includes installation of 4 miles of parallel 12-inch watermain. The loan terms are 1.625 percent for 30 years.

**WEB Water Development Association** received a \$6,520,000 ARPA grant to upgrade its raw water intake pipe size from 30-inch to 48-inch in anticipation of a much larger drinking water regionalization project. This funding along with other funds will support the project.

**West River/Lyman Jones Rural Water System** received a \$2,800,000 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan and a \$1,200,000 ARPA grant to install 8-inch, 6-inch, and 4-inch PVC water main pipes to replace existing undersized main services in Mellette, Haakon, and Lyman counties. In addition, a ground storage tank will be replaced in Pennington County. The terms of the loan are 1.625 percent for 30 years.

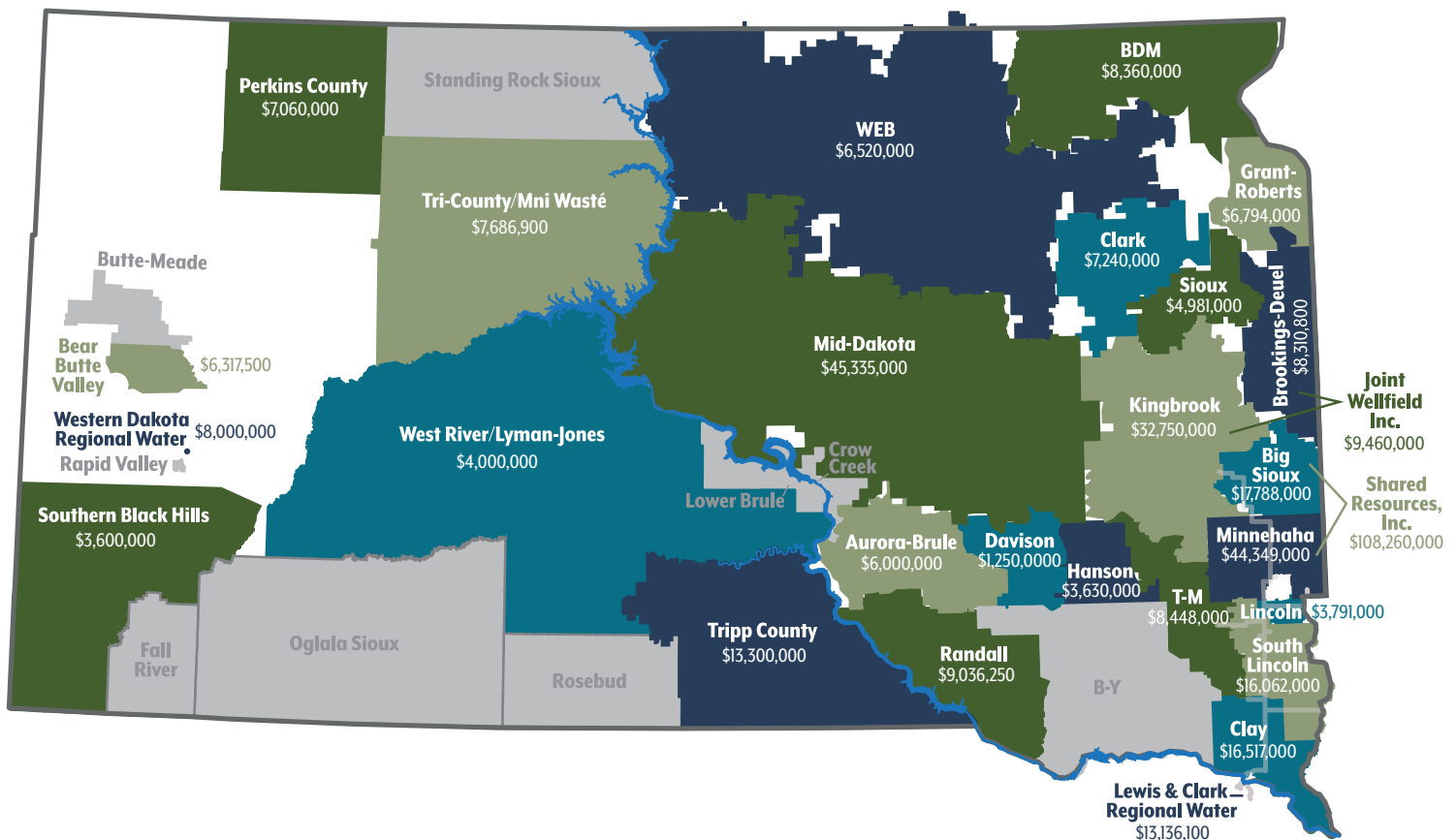
**Western Dakota Regional Water System** received a \$8,000,000 ARPA grant to hire an engineering firm to complete a facility plan and preliminary design for a drinking water expansion project from the Missouri River to Western South Dakota. The study is necessary to address source water capacity and resiliency in the event of a long-term drought for the region.

The American Rescue Plan Act provides grants for eligible water, wastewater, storm water, and non-point source projects. The state of South Dakota is making a historic investment in infrastructure by dedicating \$600 million of American Rescue Plan Act funding for local water and wastewater infrastructure grants.

The Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program, funded in part by revenues from the Petroleum Release Compensation Tank Inspection fee and the sale of lotto tickets, provides grants and loans for water, wastewater, and watershed projects.

The State of South Dakota and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency fund the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program, which provides low-interest loans for public drinking water system projects. The program is funded through a combination of federal appropriations, loan repayments, and bonds.

# FUNDING ALLOCATIONS





# WESTERN DAKOTA REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

Access to a reliable and plentiful source of high quality drinking water is critically important from a public health and safety standpoint, especially in western South Dakota, which has a more arid climate and limited water supplies. This is compounded by population and industrial growth.

The Western Dakota Regional Water System (WDRWS) will serve western South Dakota where the population and water needs are both expected to more than double in the next century. Due to the area's growing population and the unpredictable nature of future drought projections, the WDRWS is needed to ensure reliable ongoing access to drinking water in western South Dakota.

An example of the need for supplemental water supplies is southwestern South Dakota, which has historically heavily relied on groundwater from the Minnelusa and Madison aquifers and surface water from Rapid Creek and Cleghorn Springs as a drinking water supply. These drinking water sources have been adequate. However, as the regional population grows and is combined with drought, the

demand for water will exceed the current supply.

To determine the future water needs for the area, the West Dakota Water Development District (WDWDD) commissioned the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSMT) in 2017 to complete the Missouri River Water Allotment Study for Future Use Water Permit 1443-2.

The WDRWS and its engineering team will expand upon these efforts to understand the needs of those who live in western South Dakota and to dive even deeper into water service for this region.

WDRWS was provided an \$8 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grant from the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources and will use that financial support to develop:

1. more detailed regional water needs assessments;
2. concept designs for a fully regional system; and
3. financial analysis of the regional concepts, Tribal

## PROGRESS TO DATE

### DECEMBER 2019

- West Dakota Water Development District (WDWDD) receives South Dakota Mines Report

### MARCH 2020

- WDWDD asks Banner Associates to start West River discussion to gauge interest

### DECEMBER 2020

- WDWDD receives report to proceed with:
  - Governance
  - Technical Evaluation
  - Funding

### JANUARY 2021

- WDWDD commissions Water Use Study
- Asks for a new non-profit to be convened

### SEPTEMBER 2021

- Western Dakota Regional Water System (WDRWS) Non-Profit is formed

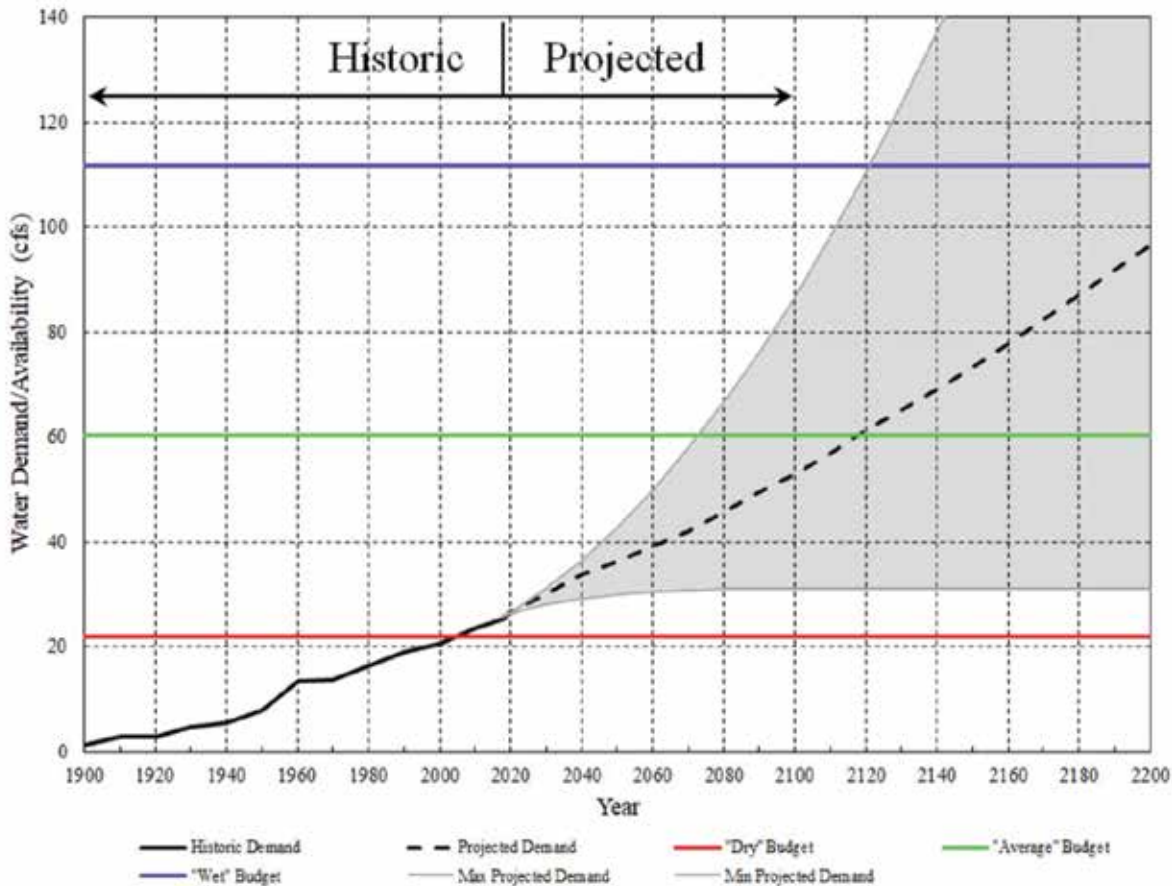


consultation, and completion of National Environmental Act compliance.

The outcome of these efforts will be used to help secure federal authorization and for the construction of the project.

For more information on the Western Dakota Regional Water System, please contact Cheryl Chapman, Ph.D., PE, Executive Director, WDRWS via email at [info@WDRWS.org](mailto:info@WDRWS.org), or call 605-519-7333.

*“As population in the area increases, the need to ensure water security will grow even greater. Therefore, local entities with a stake in our water security should pool their resources to ensure that they are proactive in securing future sources of water, one of which could involve from the Missouri River.” (Source: 2019 SDSMT Study)*



**INITIAL QUESTIONS**

1. Who's interested in participating in the project?
2. How much water do they need?
3. When do they need the Water?
4. How much will this cost the end users?

*Credit: South Dakota School of Mines & Technology (2019)*

**Ensuring long-term water security for western South Dakota will be a challenging feat.** However, the ARPA grant secured by the WDRWS Board of Directors and staff provides a unique opportunity to overcome the most challenging part of providing long-term reliable water service to the region. We are taking the first step by seeking answers to some initial questions shown above.

The funding already secured for this project will help answer these questions and so much more! However, it will be essential for the project to have broad support and participation from water systems across the region.

**OCTOBER 2021**

- Water Use Study Completed

**NOVEMBER 2021**

- Named on the State Water Plan

**DECEMBER 2021**

- Water Summit
- WDRWS First Annual Membership Meeting

**JANUARY 2022**

- Submits Drinking Water Facilities Funding Application
- WDRWS interviews 3 engineering teams for a competitive selection

**FEBRUARY 2022**

- WDRWS Selects AE<sub>2</sub>S and its teaming partners KLJ and Black & Veatch

**APRIL 2022**

- WDRWS receives \$8M. 100% grant from SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources

# RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

## WEATHER



### SCRAMBLE ANSWER



### ACROSS

- 2. Sun blocker
- 4. A line of intense, widespread, and fast-moving storms that moves across a great distance and is characterized by damaging winds.
- 7. Transport to Oz
- 9. Damp air

- 11. Frozen dew
- 13. Severe weather is happening in your area
- 14. Aptly contains the letters R-A-I-N
- 15. Prolonged dry spell

### DOWN

- 1. Overflow
- 3. Measured in degrees
- 5. Major snowstorm
- 6. A meteorological phenomenon in which rain falls while the sun is shining
- 8. Comes in a flash
- 10. Rainy day delight
- 12. Means severe weather is possible, but not yet happening

**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 July 15, 2022 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 Greg Anderson with Kingbrook RWS who had the correct phrase of "Weed it and Reap" for April 2022.



# RURAL WATER

## ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA



### SOUTH DAKOTANS RALLY FOR WATER SUPPORT ON CAPITOL HILL

Seventeen South Dakotans representing South Dakota Rural Water made the trip out to Washington, DC this past March to attend the National Rural Water Rally and meet with our congressional delegation to discuss rural water priorities and funding requests. The Rally opened with speeches from rural water champions in D.C. including Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV); Chris McLean, Acting Administrator for U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service; Radhika Fox, Assistant Administrator for EPA Water; and Gary Gold, Deputy Assistant Secretary for

Water and Science at the U.S. Department of the Interior. Also while in the nation's capitol, we met with Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds, Congressman Dusty Johnson, USDA Assistant Administrator Charles Stephens, and USDA Director of the Water Programs Division Steve Polacek. We came away from those meetings with a good feeling that South Dakota's congressional delegation knows and understands the value and the importance of water development priorities in our state as well as our national priorities.





## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kurt Pfeifle, Executive Director  
South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems

# CO-OP LEADERS ENCOURAGE ENGAGEMENT

Cooperative success depends upon member engagement, explained Kurt Pfeifle, Executive Director of the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems.

“Apathy is Kryptonite to cooperative success,” Pfeifle said. “When a cooperative suffers from lack of interest among its members, its foundation falters. Cooperatives that have been tremendously successful have strong member-leadership and provide outstanding service.”

Pfeifle was one of three panelists to discuss cooperatives and their value to rural South Dakotans during a recent Rural POWER seminar. The other panelists were Mike Traxinger, General Counsel and Director of Governmental Affairs, Agtegra Cooperative and Luke Reindl, South Dakota Farmers Union Communications and Legislative Specialist.



Rural POWER is a year-long leadership development program sponsored by South Dakota Farmers Union (SDFU) and hosted by the Billie Sutton Leadership Institute. As the POWER acronym suggests, the program is focused on “Powering Opportunities While Energizing Rural.”

“I have learned more than I anticipated from leaders from different cooperatives throughout the state,” explained Jordan Jones, Senior Associate in the auditing department for a public accounting firm in Rapid City.

Through his work, Jones works with cooperatives and initially joined Rural POWER to expand his knowledge and understanding of cooperatives. “This program has exceeded my expectations in the amount of information I have gained.”

Jones said he was impressed by what the panelists shared. “An underlying concept of Rural POWER is to encourage us to participate in the cooperatives we belong to. After participation in this program, I feel much more likely to look into doing that.”

Because cooperatives are member-owned and member-led, during the panel discussion Pfeifle said, “they are a testament to the power of people. We can accomplish so much together that would be impossible to achieve alone.”

Traxinger added that member-leadership is among the

reasons he enjoys working for Agtegra. “We are member-controlled, democratic system. It doesn’t matter how large or small your farm is, everyone has a vote. If you are a member, you can run for the board.”

In addition to working for Agtegra, Traxinger was recently elected to serve on the board of a local electric cooperative. “Don’t be afraid to ask how you can get involved.”

Pfeifle added that many times existing board members are seeking someone to take over for them. “Many say, “I have been on this board for 20 years, but I can’t leave until I find someone who is willing to replace me.””

When it comes to running for a board position, Reindl also encouraged Rural POWER participants to step up. “Don’t be shy. Know that you will not know everything. Be OK with that,” he said. “Go into the position understanding that you can ask questions and

learn. Be willing to serve, that is the biggest thing.”

Service to others is a focus of South Dakota Farmers Union. And because of the important role cooperatives play in ensuring essential services to rural communities, since its founding more than a century ago, supporting cooperatives is one way the grassroots policy organization serves family farmers and ranchers and their rural communities.

Jones said as a Rural POWER participant he has gained a strong understanding of the role cooperatives play in the communities they serve. “Understanding the functions of a cooperative and the business model is not something I learned in school,” Jones said. “So, I appreciate that after this experience, I have a better understanding and feel more competent when I sit down and talk with a General Manager of a cooperative or co-op controller.”

Jones is one of six rural cooperative members sponsored by South Dakota Farmers Union and selected to participate in the 2021-22 Rural POWER class. Other members include Sara Hento, Avon; Joshua Hofer, Parkston; Wayne Ducheneaux, Eagle Butte; Krecia Leddy, Stockholm; and Katy VanderPol, Platte.

**To learn more about Rural POWER, visit [suttonleadership.org](http://suttonleadership.org).**



# SDARWS Conferences & Events



## Rural Water Open Golf Tourney | July 19, 2022

The Annual Rural Water Open will take place at the Elmwood Golf Course 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 [www.sdarws.com/golf-tournament.html](http://www.sdarws.com/golf-tournament.html) or email [golf@sdarws.com](mailto:golf@sdarws.com)

Elmwood Golf Course  
2604 W. Russell St • Sioux Falls, SD • 605-367-7092



## Leadership Seminar | November 9-10, 2022

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

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

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



## Annual Technical Conference | January 10-12, 2023

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 [www.sdarws.com/annual-conference.html](http://www.sdarws.com/annual-conference.html) 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 26-27, 2023

The EXPO is open to all water and wastewater utility staff, board/council members, engineers, State and Federal employees. The training will consist of twenty 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 [www.sdarws.com/rural-water-expo.html](http://www.sdarws.com/rural-water-expo.html) 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 | April 29-30, 2023

The Annual Rural Water Warriors Fishing Tournament takes place at the Outpost Lodge on Cow Creek Bay in 2023. 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 50 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 [www.sdarws.com/fishing-tournament.html](http://www.sdarws.com/fishing-tournament.html) or email [fishing@sdarws.com](mailto:fishing@sdarws.com)



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# WATER MATTERS

## The Cost of Pipe



As described elsewhere in this issue of *Quality on Tap!*, public water suppliers (PWS) all across the State of South Dakota are benefitting from access to \$600,000,000 provided by the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The amount of money being made available is unprecedented, and it will provide once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for the various PWS's that are successful in obtaining ARPA funds.

At the same time, this opportunity will present some very real challenges, as PWS's scramble to get project designs completed, obtain the necessary materials (pipe, pumps, etc.) and line up contractors to do the actual work. Further complicating things is a hard deadline of December 31, 2026, for the expenditure of the ARPA funds.

Unfortunately, inflation and supply chain issues will mean that the available grant and loan dollars won't go as far as they could a year or two ago. ARPA funding is largely available right away, but the sudden influx of support does not mean that engineers, suppliers and contractors can increase their capabilities on a similar time line. Project planners need to prepare for cost increases and shortages related to labor and materials and adjust bid expectations accordingly.

*PVC & Pipe Weekly* reported in the April 29, 2022 edition that demand for PVC pipe remains strong enough that some pipe makers are allocating pipe to customers due to a large backlog of orders. In addition, some ductile iron pipe distributors report orders are 40 months out, so some customers are switching to PVC pipe which will likely increase the shortage. Along with supply chain issues, the cost of PVC pipe has increased steadily, rising over fifty percent (50%) in the past two years.

for funding, odds are good that the ARPA funds will allow early implementation of a project that was going forward anyway, albeit with a little more grant assistance than might have been expected. If planning began with the advent of ARPA funding, things could be a little trickier, as available resources, whatever they might be, are likely to have been swept up by the early starters.

No matter what type of project is being implemented with ARPA funding, cost increases and supply chain issues are a reality that need to be budgeted for in the next few years. Although no one has



a (working) crystal ball that tells us when things might get back to normal, careful thought and decision making on the front end can minimize drastic impacts to project budgets for the duration of the ARPA funding opportunities. Compared to no available funds, these are problems that most people are happy to have!

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOUR LOCAL PWS? If plans and designs were in place and simply waiting

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132B Airport Avenue  
 Brookings, SD 57006  
 605-688-6741  
 eastdakota.org