SOUTH DAKOTA

RURAL WATER'S

Quality On Tap!

October 2017 | Volume 13, Issue 2

System Spotlight:
Rapid Valley SD-WS

The Spirit(s) of South Dakota

MIND BLOWN GLASS

Regionalization of Rural Water Systems

Leadership Agenda | ATC Information | Award Nominations

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Ron Gillen, President
South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems

Association staff are busy getting ready for our Annual Leadership Seminar which will be held at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Pierre November 15-16th. This seminar is geared towards Rural Water System Directors and Board Members. The cost to attend Leadership is $140, and includes a meal at the President's Reception on the evening of November 15th. There will be a $15 discount for WaterPro members. Registration for this event will be available on our website at sdarws.com. The tentative agenda is below:

If you haven't attended a leadership training in the past, I highly suggest you register to attend this one. Registration for this event is available on our website at sdarws.com/leadership.html. The tentative agenda topics are shown below:

1. **Key Leadership Traits of successful organizations**
2. **Key Governance Documents**
3. **What does non-profit mean?**
4. **The importance of Strategic Planning**
5. **The roles of the Board and Management**
6. **Tips for running a productive meeting**
7. **10 key responsibilities of a board members**
8. **Fiduciary Responsibility**
   a. Internal Controls
   b. Role of Board & Staff
   c. Know the Revenue Sources
   d. Understanding Financials
9. **Financials: Reports and Reserves**
   a. Reserves
   b. Audit Basics
   c. Keys to financial success
10. **Legislative**
    a. Responsibilities
    b. How the process works
    c. Creating a Legislative Plan
       i. Rural Water Rally
       ii. WaterPac
       iii. Measuring success
11. **Tying this back to you!!**
    a. System Director - System - State Association - NRWA

SOUTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER
LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

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TM Rural Water District
Jay Jorgensen

Tri-County/Mni Wasté Water Association
J.R. Holloway

Tripp County Water User District
Louis Kehn

WEB Water Development Association
Les Hinds

West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water System
Rick Doud

Class B East River
Ronald Neeman

Class B West River
Robert Glenn

Class C
Dan Ostrander

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE 2018 ANNUAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

Dennis N. Davis, Executive Director
South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems

While the Annual Technical Conference is still a few months away, the staff at South Dakota Rural Water are already busy behind the scenes gearing up for the event which kicks off Tuesday, January 9th at the Best Western Ramkota in Pierre.

Registration will be available soon on our website at sdarws.com which aims to improve communication for both exhibitors and attendees, and should also ease the registration process. Our website will contain up-to-date agendas and news regarding the conference and the ability to register online. For those with smartphones – once you are registered online you will have access to our mobile app where you can manage your event registration, access event information on-the-go, and improve networking opportunities. Our Early Bird registration discount will be available until December 15, 2017 – so be sure to register early!

This year's keynote speaker is Joe Schmit. A winner of 17 Emmys from the National Television Academy, as well as a prestigious National Headliner Award, Joe has interviewed over ten thousand athletes and covered every major sporting event from the Super Bowl to the World Series. Currently the Sports Director of KSTP-TV, an ABC-affiliate in a top 15 market, Joe is also a regular on 1500 ESPN Radio and hosts the Minnesota Twins Post-game Show. Even Hollywood recognizes his award-winning style, garnering his broadcast talent for an appearance in the major motion picture, Untamed Heart.

In his keynote address, Joe tells stories of real people and the ways in which they had profound influence on others in daily life. He points to simple, powerful lessons in the stories, and will inspire you to recognize your daily opportunities to make an intentional impact on others, including stories on famous athletes like Joe Mauer, Paul Molitor, and Larry Fitzgerald, Jr., and some not-so-famous people whose stories will have an impact on you as well.

This year's awards brunch 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. If your water system is interested in participating in the taste test, make sure that they bring a quart-sized glass jar filled with water from your water system to the Registration Desk by 2pm on Tuesday, January 9th.

We will again be hosting a spouse program – so be sure to bring along your significant other. Hotel room blocks are also open until December 5th.

We look forward to seeing you in Pierre!

Training Calendar

SEPTEMBER

26-28 – INTERMEDIATE WATER TREATMENT

Rapid City Ramkota
2111 N. LaCrosse Street • Rapid City, SD 57701

This course is designed to assist those who will be attempting a class II & III Water Treatment Exam. This is a multiple day course starting at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday and ending at Noon on Thursday (all times are local time). A minimum of 18 contact hours will be awarded for full attendance.

OCTOBER

3-5 – BASIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Spearfish Holiday Inn
305 N. 27th Street • Spearfish, SD 57783

This course covers the Association of Boards of Certification "Need to Know" requirements for the Class I & II Wastewater Treatment Exams. This course does not cover the material included in the Stabilization Pond Exam. Class begins each morning at 8:00 a.m. local time and wraps up around 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday and approximately 11:30 a.m. on Thursday.

17 – STABILIZATION POND WORKSHOP

Rapid City Ramkota
2111 N. LaCrosse Street • Rapid City, SD 57701

This one-day class covers pond design, pond math, non-aerated ponds, pond microbiology, nitrification, pond problems, and lab work.

NOVEMBER

14-16 – WATER DISTRIBUTION

Sioux Falls Ramkota
3200 W. Maple Street • Sioux Falls, SD 57107

This course is designed to assist those who will be attempting a class I through IV Water Distribution Exam. This is a multiple day course starting at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday and ending at Noon on Thursday (all times are local time). A minimum of 18 contact hours will be awarded for full attendance.

DECEMBER

5-7 – WASTEWATER COLLECTION

Sioux Falls Ramkota
3200 W. Maple Street • Sioux Falls SD 57107

This course is designed to assist those who will be attempting a class I through IV Wastewater Collection Exam. This is a multiple day course starting at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday and ending at Noon on Thursday (all times are local time). A minimum of 18 contact hours will be awarded for full attendance.

JANUARY

23-25 – BASIC WATER TREATMENT

Spearfish Holiday Inn
305 N. 27th Street • Spearfish, SD 57783

This course is designed to assist those who will be attempting a class I Water Treatment Exam. This is a multiple day course starting a 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday and ending at Noon on Thursday (all times are local time). A minimum of 18 contact hours will be awarded for full attendance.

30 – STABILIZATION POND WORKSHOP

Mitchell Highland Conference Center
2000 Highland Way • Mitchell SD 57301

This one-day class covers pond design, pond math, non-aerated ponds, pond microbiology, nitrification, pond problems, and lab work.

REGISTER FOR CLASSES ONLINE AT: go.activecalendar.com/sdarws

Course agendas, maps and registration are all available online at www.sdarws.com. All classes are free unless otherwise noted. For more info on these and other events, visit www.sdarws.com or call 605-556-7219.

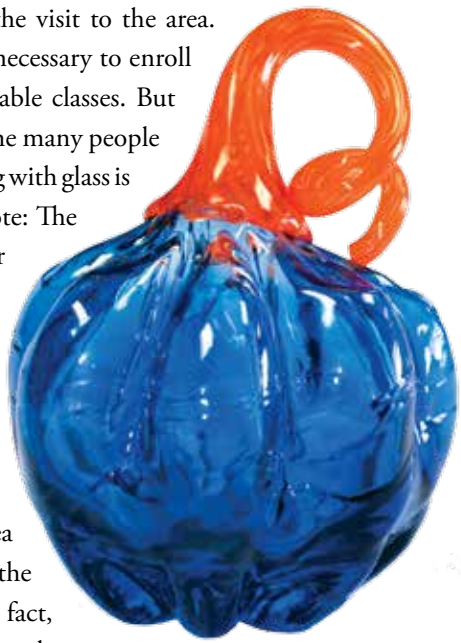
You can find the "Need to Know" document along with other information @ http://www.abccert.org/testing_services/2017WaterTreatmentExams.asp

MIND BLOWN GLASS

By Jay Gilbertson, East Dakota Water Development District

Travelers to Deadwood the past few years may have noticed that the old Texaco service station at the corner of Pine Street and Sherman Street has been re-purposed. The paint scheme is similar, but now instead of gasoline and tires, visitors can watch molten glass be shaped into forms both whimsical and practical. At Mind Blown Glass, Toni Gerlach provides visitors with a chance to experience the fascinating and exciting art form of hot glass blowing, creating one-of-a-kind pieces of art. Visitors can watch as she creates items ranging from paperweights, ornaments and drinking cups to elaborate custom pieces, all of which are for sale at the studio.

But you don't have to just watch. Mind Blown Glass also offers short classes so that people can experience working with molten glass first hand. One-on-one classes allow people to create their own glass souvenir of the visit to the area. No prior experience is necessary to enroll and participate in available classes. But be warned – the first time many people try their hand at working with glass is rarely the last time! (Note: The managers of the larger rural water systems gather quarterly to discuss items and issues of mutual interest. Many recent attendees of meetings in the Deadwood area have succumbed to the lure of molten glass. In fact, the blue pumpkin shown here was created by Big Sioux Rural Water Manager Martin Jarrett).



Information about Mind Blown Glass can be located on their website, mindblownstudio.com, where you can find out details about when the facility is open and when Ms. Gerlach is likely to be in the studio working. It also has information on available classes. They do their best to keep the information up-to-date, but visitors traveling a long distance may want to call ahead just to confirm that the shop will be open. As you can imagine when working with 2,000 degree molten glass, there are times when it might be too hot to be in the studio.

THE SPIRIT(S) OF SOUTH DAKOTA

By Denise DePaolo

Many of us enjoy a nice stiff drink from time to time. We all have our favorites – Jameson, Stolichnaya, or maybe a top shelf Scotch like Lagavulin or a good Glenfiddich. Now, a growing number of South Dakotans are working to create our next go-to spirit.

This year, South Dakota is celebrating the 20 year anniversary of the Farm Wine Bill, legislation that enabled the commercial production and sale of wine. Today, there are roughly 30 wineries scattered throughout the state, and nearly the same number of breweries. And although its enabling legislation followed close behind, the state's spirits industry is just now starting to take off, with the number of distillers sitting at seven, if only for the moment.

It all began a decade ago with Pierre's Dakota Spirits Distillery and its Bickering Brothers brandy and whiskey. And slowly more and more spirits enthusiasts filed for federal licenses and began distilling. For Philip and Cindee Klein of Watertown's Glacial Lakes Distillery, the small number was part of the appeal.

"The reason we did a distillery instead of a brewery is there are 4,000-some breweries in the United States now," said Philip. "There were only 400-some distilleries. When you see craft brewing taking off like that, you've got to assume craft distilling will do the same thing, just a few years later."

The Kleins and two friends began planning Glacial Lakes three years ago, and finally began distilling in January. The first product ready for distribution was a vodka, since it doesn't need to age. Made from locally-grown wheat, it is designed to be neutral on the palate, and virtually disappear into a cocktail. So far, it's been picked up by 205 bars, restaurants, and liquor stores. But the Kleins, like most other spirit-makers in the state, remain employed full-time, with production, tastings, and events occupying evenings, weekends, and vacation time.

"Then it grew to the mammoth business we have right now," laughed Michael Lewis, owner of Sturgis' Black Hills Dakota Distillery, recalling the long process of filing for licenses and the initial trial and error involved in spirit making. "It's not at the point that we're looking at retiring on it or even quitting our day jobs to focus solely on the distillery. It's been a slow go. It would have been kind of nice if it had taken off like the TV shows you see."

Black Hills Dakota was the state's third distillery, started by Lewis and his brother as their million-dollar scheme. While it has yet to blossom into that, making products like their flagship Sturgis Shine, has become a point of pride. The development of new and interesting flavors, a passion. And the ability to control quality, while reveling in the nuances of individual batches, a fascination. This is what Lewis loves about artisan spirit making.

"Once you learn a little more about the industry, it isn't always what you think it is," he said. "For instance, Crown Royal is

looked upon as being a very uppity whisky. Well, you'll find that Crown Royal will add coloring and flavoring to their spirit to get it to the point where they want it. That's what they do and there's nothing wrong or illegal about it, but it's a lot different from an artisan distiller who doesn't do that kind of stuff. You will find a slight variation from batch to batch, and that's just the way it is. We don't have a big lab where everybody's analyzing the final product, saying, 'We need to add more brown number 50,' or whatever to get it up to the exact color. We don't really care, because that's not what we're about."

Lewis's Sturgis Shine is based on a recipe for poitín, a very strong (and once-banned) Irish liquor. Although traditionally even higher, it is bottled at 100-proof, and drinkers are wise to follow the gentle suggestion on the side of the bottle: "Drink less. Drink better. Enjoy in moderation."

Poitín is made from honey, sugar, and barley, where typical moonshine is made from corn. For the owners of Kadoka's Badlands Distillery, moonshining is a family legacy. At 22, Shaley Herber is one of the youngest distillers in the country. Her great-great uncle Joe Herber was known for the good quality hooch that came from his still during Prohibition, and he sold it to lawmen and lawmakers alike. His recipe, flavored with brown sugar syrup, has been passed down from generation to generation, and is now bottled as the 100-proof Venom.

Herber's father, Jim, and business partner Mark Eschenbacher bought an old mechanic's shop last year, a mere 20 miles from the ranch where Uncle Joe ran his still. With the help of family and friends, the building located a stone's throw from I-90, now serves as a distillery and tasting room for half a dozen spirits, like the Wata Latte, made to taste like coffee in the most straight-forward possible manner.

(Editor's Note: The distilleries mentioned in this article all use water provided by their local public or rural water supplier.)

Images by Elizabeth Lucille Photography

Reprinted, with permission, from the November 2016 Edition of 605Magazine

REGIONALIZATION OF RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

By Martin Jarrett, General Manager of the Big Sioux Community Water System, and Randy Jencks, General Manager of the Kingbrook Rural Water System

Historical Perspective

South Dakota has approximately 30 regional rural water systems. Founded in the early 1970's, the systems have expanded to service the majority of the state. They have succeeded where many city utilities have foundered. Most cities and towns in South Dakota are now served, in one form or another, by a rural water system.

Historically, a town provided water by drilling a well within the town limits, and wherever they hit an aquifer that supplied the quantity they needed, that became the town's water source. Unfortunately, the geologic history of South Dakota made for some less than desirable outcomes. East of the Missouri River, in the glaciated half of the state, ground water was abundant and wells were usually in the 50 to 500-foot range. However, most of these sources were tainted with high iron and manganese levels (red-brown to black staining), had high levels of sulfates, and from a national perspective, provided very hard water. Livestock rearing was hampered by this poor-quality water and these water supplies were often not suitable for irrigation on South Dakota's soils. The founding of regional rural water systems in the 1970's and 1980's coincided with improved hydrological research from our universities, and so placement of the regional rural water well-fields were better sited to take advantage of both better quality and sustainable water supplies.

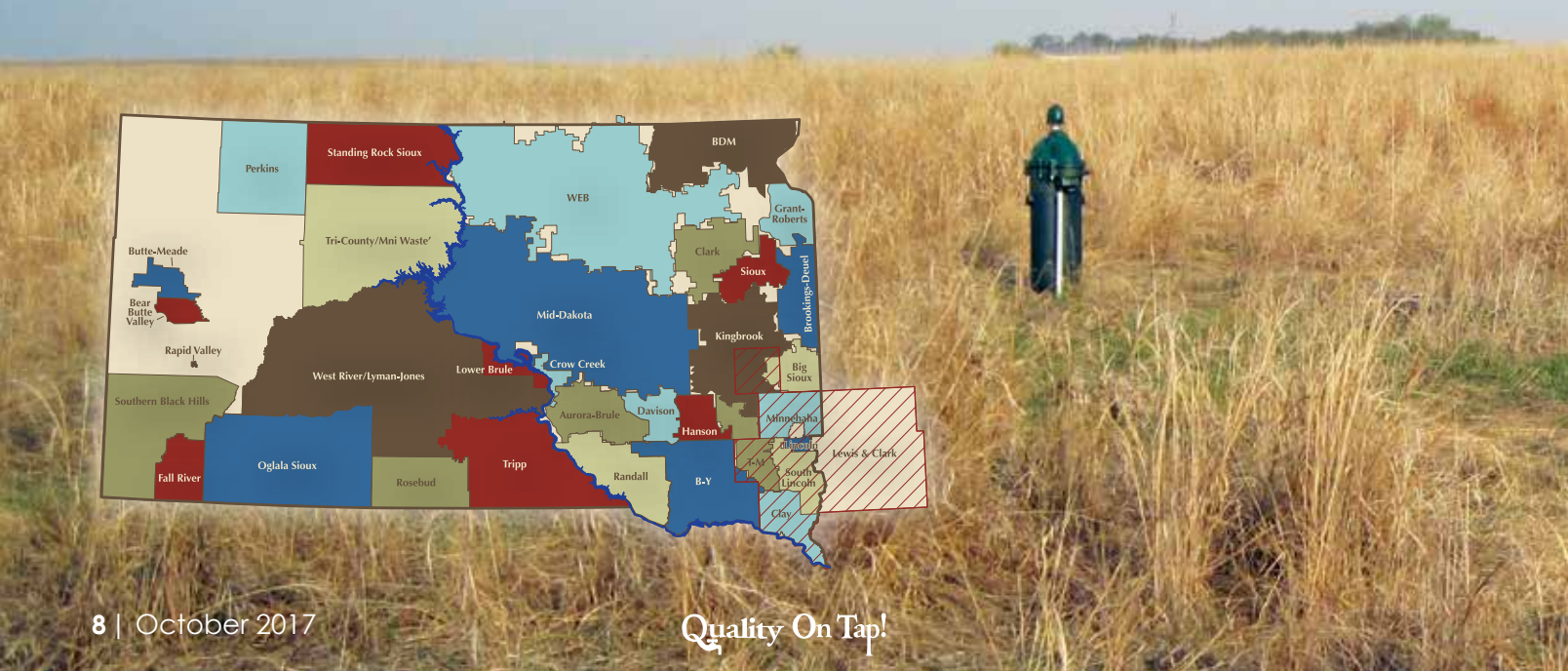
West of the Missouri River offered greater challenges from a water supply standpoint. With much of western South Dakota covered by thick formations of Cretaceous Age shales, well depths were frequently over a thousand feet deep and the water quality was brackish in nature. It was during the 1980's that the Missouri River waters became the focus in developing large pipeline-based systems, often with thousands of miles of pipe in the ground. Systems such as WEB, West River Lyman Jones, Mid Dakota, and more recently, Lewis and Clark Regional Water system, are examples of these efforts built under the guidelines and support of the Federal Bureau of Reclamation. Given the sparse population in South Dakota, most of these systems would never have been built without Federal and state subsidies.

The development of rural water systems in South Dakota has enabled agriculture to flourish. Better water quality and greater resources now supply many large dairies, confined swine and cattle units, as well as multiple ethanol plants. Rural water has improved the standard of living for many South Dakota families, enabling in home use of dishwashers, and extending the working life of water heaters and washing machines.

It is unquestionable that rural water systems are important. As stated by James Vann, Jr., Chairman of the Task force on Rural Water and Wastewater Infrastructure, "Unless we have clean water and safe wastewater disposal in our service areas, people will not be willing to locate in our communities."

The Path Forward

During the last 30 plus years, rural water systems have tried to contain costs and keep levels of service affordable. With a relatively



low customer base and over 45,000 miles of pipe in the ground, this has been a challenge. Higher power rates, pollution issues requiring modified forms of treatment, higher infrastructure costs and higher chemical costs have all contributed to the challenge. Just in the last 15 years, we have seen infrastructure costs doubling or increasing by over five percent per year, and in the case of hydrated lime, we have seen a delivery of 24 ton increase from $1,200 to over $4,500.

Is this sustainable? In the case of smaller to medium sized rural water systems – possibly not. These systems are already under pressure trying to provide what our customers expect for service--better water quality, better pressures and flows, an online presence, better communication, automatic meter reading and billing, and on-line bill pay. Most of these systems are under staffed, with no IT person, no environmental engineer or chemist on staff. However, some progress has been made. Innovations in the use of heat exchangers have lessened the reliance on fossil fuel use, more efficient use of lighting and variable speed drives have helped with electrical demand, and the use of third party providers in the areas of meter reading and account billing have lessened the work load.

Perhaps one of the most exciting recent developments has been expanding the influence of the Lewis and Clark pipeline system with the "wheeling project," enabling the expanded use of Lewis and Clark water by Minnehaha Community Water System to free up some of its own capacity to push water up into the neighboring Big Sioux Community Water System, which in turn pushes water up to the cities of Madison and Chester. This process costs considerably less than creating new well-fields and treatment plants.

Another example of this innovative thinking took place when Kingbrook and Brookings-Deuel Rural Water Systems entered a joint venture to build a treatment plant that has served both systems for the past 40 years. However, the next logical step to review sharing staff, facilities, equipment and joint planning for the future has not taken place for various reasons.

Continued consolidation and sharing of facilities may be the most efficient response to the challenges facing today's rural water systems. But consolidation can be a sensitive subject in rural areas. Take for instance the memories associated with school consolidations, acquisitions and other mergers that did not produce the intended results. The feeling of loss of control, the sense of ownership, and the fear of the unknown all contributed to the frustration felt by the decision makers. It's understandable how this could result in lack of action to pursue consolidation. However, the consolidation of many smaller rural water systems may be the only way to take advantage of economies of scale in both the treatment, delivery, and administration of present day rural water systems. Most rural water systems do not carry the extra capacity throughout their service areas to add on additional ethanol plants or 5,000 head dairies. A plentiful supply of high quality water is often taken for granted. Many planners and developers assume it is available, whilst in reality, both from a treatment and delivery standpoint, the cost to provide that capacity is an ever-increasing challenge.

While negative perceptions on consolidations exist, there are many potential positive outcomes. These include efficiency gains through spreading fixed costs over a larger customer base; more effective use of staff, equipment and facilities; personnel redundancy and resultant cross training opportunities to reduce crisis management with the loss of a critical position; and, most importantly, better service to customers. As stated by USDA Rural Development's Jim Maras, "obtaining an economy of scale for operations, staffing and especially management should be the goal for consolidation discussions". The question remains, "are current systems willing to exhibit the foresight and courage necessary to begin the journey?"

SYSTEM SPOTLIGHT

RAPID VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT-WATER SERVICE

The Rapid Valley Water Service Company was organized on January 19, 1962 by several local citizens who saw the necessity of having a safe drinking water supply as most of the area was using water from shallow wells. A nine-member Board of Directors was elected by the original 133 members of the cooperative. Loans were obtained from Farmers Home Administration for the initial installation of water mains, water towers and wells.

Rapid Valley Water Service was one of the first rural water systems in South Dakota to receive a loan from the Farmers Home Administration. By 1965, approximately 300 households were members of the system.

The same individuals, who formed Rapid Valley Water Service, foresaw the need for a sewer collection system to eliminate the pollution of the area caused by faulty septic systems. They established Rapid Valley Sanitary District in 1966. It was founded primarily to provide water and sewer service to the small rural community that had developed, which at the time was approximately three miles east of Rapid City.

Rapid Valley Water Service Company's first well was constructed in 1962. However, this well quickly closed because of poor production. Two more wells were dug in the 1960s, but both were eventually closed due to high radium content. A well was completed in 1980 in the Madison Formation, which is one of the larger and deeper aquifers in the Black Hills, but it had to be closed one year later because of problems with the casing.

In 1990, an underground gallery was installed along Rapid Creek to use surface water. The water treatment plant was a pressure tank sand filtration process that was located on Rapid Creek. This treatment plant was taken off-line in 2007 when a new microfiltration facility was constructed. Prior to the microfiltration plant the District purchased 70% of their water from the City of Rapid City. The District has become self-sufficient in the production of water, but continues to strive for a spirit of cooperation with Rapid City.

Improvements to both the water and sewer systems have been financed through loans, grants, bonds and by original local contributions.

In 1993, the five-member Board of Trustees for the Sanitary District and the nine members of the Water Board decided it would be in the best interest of the customers and employees to merge. The merger became effective on July 21, 1994. The new company is a quasi-governmental entity that operates under the name Rapid Valley Sanitary District–Water Service.

The District employs eight people: the general manager, two office personnel and five service people. Two of the employees have each worked for the District for more than 34 years, thus adding to the richness of the District's historical resources.

For many years, the District's office was a small cement block building. Three major renovation projects took place at that physical site to add adequate office, meeting and garage space. In 2002, the South Dakota Department of Transportation built an overpass directly adjacent to the District's office, thereby rendering the building useless to the District as there was no longer access for equipment. The District purchased land and built a new office building that nearly tripled existing space.

The Rapid Valley area is a fast-growing area on the outskirts of Rapid City. In fact, part of the Rapid Valley service area is within city limits due to expansion by the city. The District and the city work closely to provide high quality service to their customers and residents. The District currently serves approximately 3,900 connections.

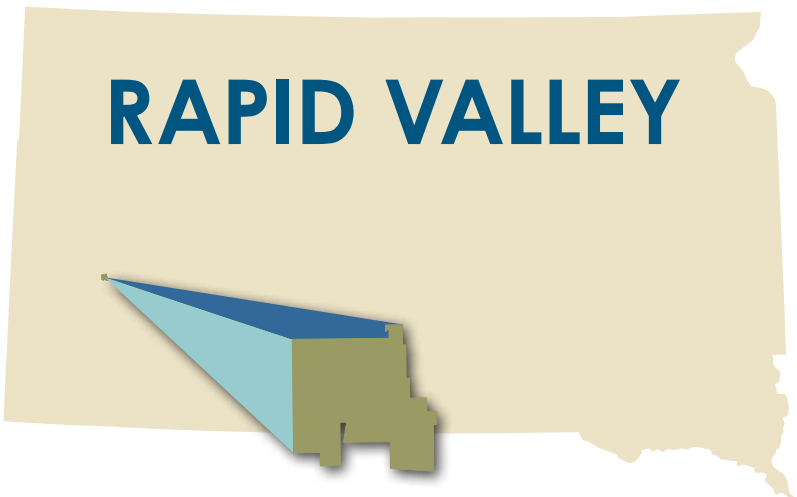
A new 1.85 million gallon tank was constructed in 2009. The concrete tank was built partially underground and serves the low level part of the District and another .256 million gallon Aqua store tank was constructed in 2013 to serve the upper system. Rapid Valley Sanitary District–Water Service now has 3.61 million gallons of storage.

Rapid Valley began making infrastructure upgrades in 2009, including new water and sewer main projects and the addition of a 1600 gpm booster station to provide for future expansion in the high zone of the District. The District annually reviews a short/long term project plan and implements two to four projects every year.

Rapid Valley Sanitary District–Water Service added a third microfiltration unit in 2010. This treatment, along with the previous units, achieves a 5 log removal along with our Trojan ultra violet system which adds another 4 log removal. This exceeds drinking water quality standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency. The upgrade increased treatment production from two million gallons per day to three million gallons per day and allows Rapid Valley the capacity to serve Green Valley Sanitary District.

RVSD Board Members

RAPID VALLEY



Rapid Valley Sanitary District–Water Service continues to look to the future to provide high quality drinking water to its consumers. This commitment to the future involves all the employees as they increase their skills and education to stay abreast of the ever-changing water industry and a Board of Trustees with a forward thinking mindset. Rapid Valley is currently pilot testing ceramic membranes for water treatment, the testing thus far has shown that this may well be the direction of the future, three to four times the production capacity per square foot when comparing to the standard polymeric membranes with a higher recovery rate and lower operating cost, hopefully this will prove to be the gateway for Rapid Valley and many other systems for the long term sustainability of the water treatment business.

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Bob Phillips, Director

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David Flint, Field Supervisor

Nate Broom, Operator

Garett Whipple, Operator

Glen Hahne, Operator

Mike Chrobak, Operator

Marty Garwood, Office Operations Supervisor

Kathy Graff, Administrative Clerk

STATISTICS:

Hookups: 3,900

Miles of Pipeline: 60

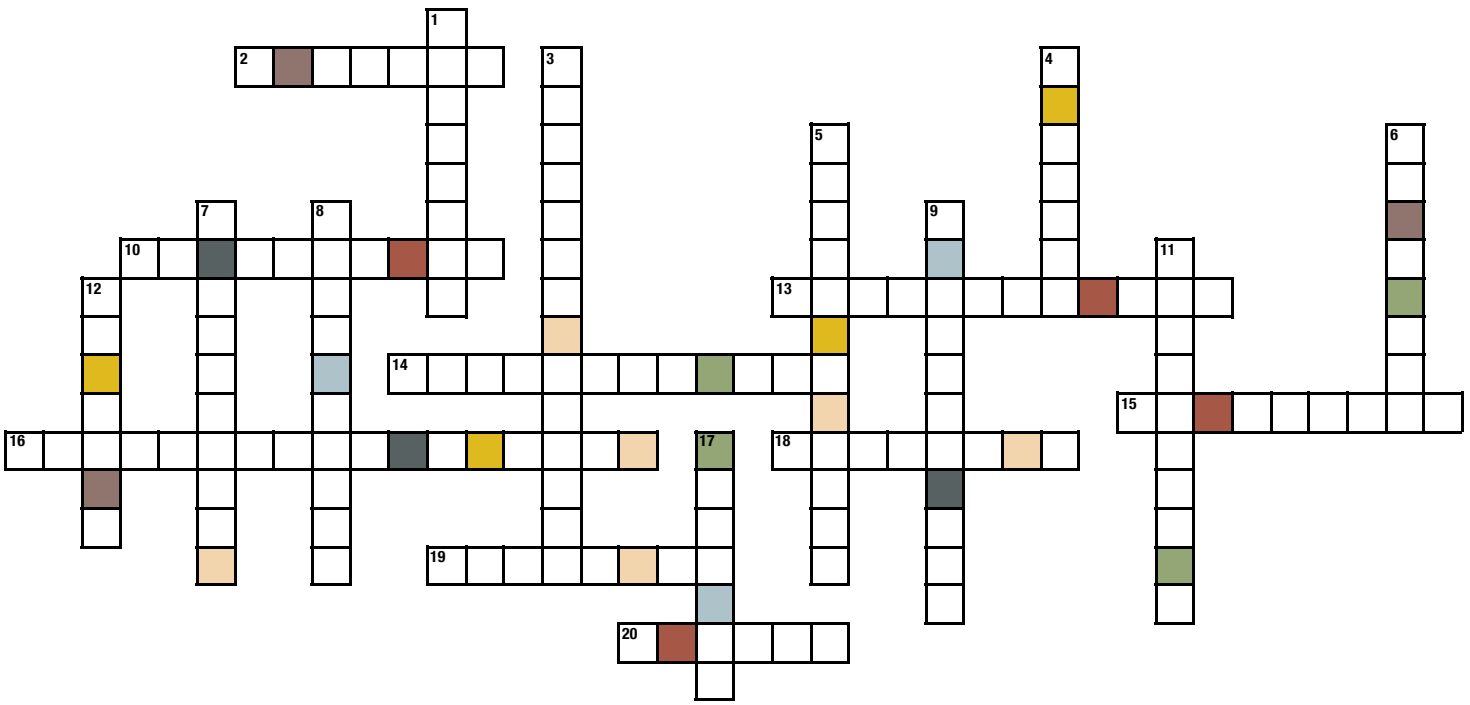
Water Source: Rapid Creek, Interconnection with Rapid City

Counties Served: Pennington

RURAL WATER & Crossword Word Scramble Contest

Animals of SD

$100 Grand Prize



ACROSS

2. It may give a hoot on a farm
10. Lewis & Clark's "barking squirrel"
13. Surefooted wooly billy
14. Large predatory cat (two words)
15. Often mistaken for an antelope
16. Endangered critter
18. Ring-neck's cousin
19. Cerulean sunfish
20. Wile E. for one

DOWN

1. Speedy vixen
3. Pinching slowpoke
4. Winged fisher
5. What mighty large horns ewe have
6. Whitetail's cousin (two words)
7. Sword-nosed bottom feeder
8. Playful aquatic mammal (two words)
9. Venomous tail shaker
11. Long-eared hopper
12. Large shaggy brown bison
17. State gamefish

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 with the correct phrase by October 14th, 2017 *to be entered into the $100 drawing.*

Online Entries - go to: www.sdarws.com/crossword.html

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 Betty Saathoff who had the correct phrase of "Step right up and be amazed" for July 2017.

FUNDING CUT THREAT CONCERNS WATER QUALITY ADVOCATES

By John Hult
Reprinted with permission from the Argus Leader

It's an important program that produces real results, but it's not worth keeping.

That was the message East Dakota Water Development District's Jay Gilbertson took from a press release trumpeting the release of $2.5 million in funding for water quality projects in South Dakota.

The release came from the Environmental Protection Agency. The money came from the Section 319 program, which is designed to tackle "nonpoint" pollution – farm runoff, manure from pastures and the like.

It's grant money South Dakota's used for years to tackle pollution in the state's public waters, two-thirds of which are too dirty for some combination of drinking, fishing, kayaking or swimming.

"Providing funds directly to South Dakota emphasizes the importance of partnering with states to help address their unique and critical environmental challenges," said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.

What the July 25 news didn't mention was that two months before that, Pruitt's agency proposed a budget that would zero out Section 319 funding in the next fiscal year.

"It struck me as a little disingenuous for the secretary to be lauding the benefits of a program the administration believes is unnecessary," said Gilbertson, whose agency uses Section 319 funding for projects up and down the Big Sioux River.

The budget proposal is subject to Congressional approval, and there are signs the program will remain funded. The House's budget proposal would restore $170 million in funding.

Each member of the state's Congressional delegation – Sens. John Thune and Mike Rounds and Rep. Kristi Noem – said this week they'd offer the program due consideration.

Even so, Gilbertson's not the only one troubled by the symbolism of a proposed budget that leaves no room for Section 319.

There are a handful of funding sources to help farmers pay for what are known as "Best Management Practices, or BMPs.

Those include planting buffer strips to capture runoff, installing fences and clean water sources to keep livestock and their waste out of rivers and streams and building barns with underground pits that trap waste and keep it from washing away and into water sources.

Section 319 funding pays for some of the project costs, but it also pays the salaries of the people who pitch the projects to farmers and monitor their success.

"If there's nobody there to do the program, it just sits there," Gilbertson said. "The 319 funding in South Dakota, to a certain extent, has been the glue that holds everything together."

Barry Berg works for the East Dakota Water Development District. He designed a program called S-RAM – Seasonal Riparian Area Management – that's credited with heavy reductions in pollution along Skunk Creek.

Last year, the Big Sioux River-feeding creek north of Sioux Falls was de-listed for total suspended solids after years of impairment.

Section 319 money's not only paid for Berg and an assistant over the years, but contributed S-RAM payments to farmers for keeping livestock out of the creek.

The city of Sioux Falls matches contributions and uses state revolving fund money to help pay for the program upstream of the city, but total funding cut would be significant.

"It's millions of dollars that we wouldn't have," Berg said.

"A cut to the program would likely force the city of Sioux Falls to alter its approach to Big Sioux River cleanup," said Jesse Neyens of the Sioux Falls Environmental Division.

"We wouldn't be able to accomplish all of the things we want to accomplish," Neyens said.

Jim Feeney of the state Department of Environment and Natural Resources can't recall an EPA budget without any 319 money, but he has seen Congress increase funding after budgets that sought to cut payments.

The DENR uses the money to pay 60 percent of the salaries for the equivalent of 13 full-time employees who focus on water quality.

Feeney said the agency will continue to take applications for projects through the fall, evaluate them through the winter, and wait to see if enough money's awarded to keep working.

"All we can do is proceed with thinking we're going to have 319 funding," Feeney said.

South Dakota Rural Water AWARD NOMINATIONS

Do you know someone who is doing a great job? Goes above and beyond the call of duty? Has your water system achieved excellence this year – or has overcome some amazing challenges?

Give recognition where it is due by completing our Awards Nomination Form. Awards will be presented at the Awards Brunch at the ATC – Janaury 11, 2018. **Application deadline is October 27, 2017.** Eligible nominees must be affiliated with a system member in good standing. The online form can be found at **www.surveymonkey.com/r/ATCawards**, or through a link on our website at: **www.sdarws.com/annual-conference.html**.

WE ARE ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

RURAL WATER SYSTEM OF THE YEAR: a member system who puts forth exceptional efforts to properly manage, operate, and maintain their drinking water system.

RURAL WATER MANAGER OF THE YEAR: Recognition for a manager of a Rural Water System for outstanding performance in operating a Rural Water System.

RURAL WATER OFFICE PERSON OF THE YEAR: Recognition for an administrative employee of a Rural Water System for outstanding performance in office management and procedures

RURAL WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR: Recognition for a State of South Dakota Certified Operator who is actively working a supervisory role for a Rural Water System, and has demonstrated outstanding leadership ability and/or accomplishments in drinking water.

RURAL WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR: Recognition for a State of South Dakota Certified Operator who is actively working for a Rural Water System with outstanding leadership ability and/or accomplishments in drinking water.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER OF THE YEAR: Recognition for a municipal manager for outstanding performance in managing a municipality.

MUNICIPAL OFFICE PERSON OF THE YEAR: Recognition for an administrative employee of a municipality (i.e. clerk, finance officer, etc.) for outstanding performance in office management and procedures.

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR: Recognition for a State of South Dakota Certified Operator who is actively working for a municipality with outstanding leadership ability/accomplishments in water.

CARROLL ANDERSON MEMORIAL: The Carroll Anderson Memorial Award is a tribute to the exemplary work of Carroll Anderson who gave generously of his time, talents, and efforts to the Kingbrook Rural Water System and the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems. This award recognizes an individual's outstanding voluntary contributions to the advancement of rural community water systems in South Dakota, and is the greatest tribute the Association can bestow recognizing an individual's contributions to both the member system and to SDARWS.

FRIEND OF RURAL WATER: This distinguished honor is awarded to agencies, organizations, or individuals who have lent a hand in supporting this fantastic phenomenon we call Rural Water. The ability to provide life's essential need, water, to all the citizens of South Dakota was not done by one person or organization; it is a collective effort encompassing many.

SPIRIT OF RURAL WATER: This award is presented to an individual, business or group that goes above and beyond for a rural water system or rural water cause. South Dakota Rural Water wants to recognize exceptional rural water advocates that stand out from the pack because of their commitment to rural water issues and/or their passion for the job. Eligible candidates include rural and community water consumers, employees, directors, as well as lawmakers, businesses, or any person or group that puts forth a noble effort to advance rural water.

DONALD B. POSPISHIL: This award honors the work of Don Pospishil who dedicated many years of his life to helping small water systems across South Dakota. The Donald B. Pospishil Award is awarded to individuals who demonstrate leadership abilities in the water supply field, provide quality services to consumers, and exhibits professionalism and dedication while operating and maintaining a small water system.

South Dakota Rural Water

2017 AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

This form is also available online at: **www.surveymonkey.com/r/ATCawards**
or through a link on our website at: www.sdarws.com/annual-conference.html

Name of Nominee_____ Title_____

Employer _____ Years with System _____

Name of person making nomination _____

Address_____

City_____ State _____ Zipcode_____

PLEASE INDICATE AWARD:

- ☐ Rural Water System of the Year
- ☐ Rural Water Manager of the Year
- ☐ Rural Water Office Person of the Year
- ☐ Rural Water Operations Supervisor of the Year
- ☐ Rural Water Operations Specialist of the Year
- ☐ Municipal Manager of the Year
- ☐ Municipal Office Person of the Year
- ☐ Municipal Operations Specialist of the Year
- ☐ Carroll Anderson Memorial
- ☐ Friend of Rural Water
- ☐ Spirit of Rural Water
- ☐ Donald B. Pospishil

SUPPORTING INFORMATION: Please provide a narrative for why this nominee deserves the award. (Outstanding accomplishments, contributions to system and state association, certifications, awards, exemplary work on legislative Issues, leadership, civic activities, etc.)

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DEADLINE TO APPLY IS OCTOBER 27, 2017

Please complete this entry form and mail to:
SDARWS | Attn: Jeremiah | PO Box 287 | Madison, SD 57042
or scan and email to atc@sdarws.com

Form is also available online at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/ATCawards
or on our website at: www.sdarws.com/annual-conference.html

SOUTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER
P.O. Box 287
Madison, SD 57042

www.sdarws.com | 605-556-7219

WATER MATTERS

Ground Water Protection

Why do we need it?

With only a few exceptions, public water supplies in South Dakota depend on ground water resources, known as aquifers, to meet the needs of their customers. Protection of these aquifers helps insure that both current and future users can count on clean and safe water.

How can aquifers be protected?

Protection strategies can vary depending on the type of aquifer/wells involved. For buried units, geologic materials between land surface and the aquifer provide effective isolation and protection. The only real concern would be contamination that might find its way down to the aquifer along a poorly constructed well or other man-made conduit.

With most shallow aquifers, there is usually very little or no native cover over the water-bearing deposits. This means that they can be quickly and effectively recharged by rainfall and/or snow melt, but it also means that contaminants can just as quickly find their way into the aquifer. The best and most practical protective measures reduce or restrict the presence of contaminants and/or potentially hazardous practices, particularly in the immediate vicinity of production wells. To help protect critical aquifers, over a dozen counties in eastern South Dakota have adopted land-use controls (ordinances) specifically designed to protect shallow aquifers.

What can I do to help protect ground water?

- Recognize that many of our actions can potentially impact our water supplies, and act accordingly.
- Encourage your local county and city governments to adopt aquifer protection measures as needed.
- Support source water protection efforts by your local public water supply.

To learn more about ground water protection, contact your local public water supplier or check the web sites listed below.

SD Department of Environment & Natural Resources
denr.sd.gov/des/gw/groundprg.aspx

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/sourcewaterprotection/local-source-water-protection-measures

East Dakota Water Development District
www.eastdakota.org/BSAGPP.html

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