



South Dakota Association
of Rural Water Systems

Quality On Tap!

October 2023 | Volume 19, Issue 2

**UNDERSTANDING
NON-PROFIT
BOARD OF
DIRECTOR
LIABILITY**

**WATER QUALITY
& QUANTITY
INFORMATION
SOURCES**

**NOW IS THE TIME
TO WINTERIZE**

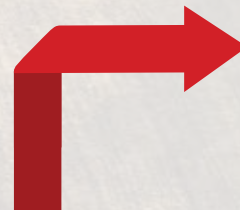
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**ANNUAL TECHNICAL
CONFERENCE**

JANUARY 9-11, 2024

*Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center
Pierre, South Dakota*



REGISTER ONLINE!

sdarws.com/atc.html



ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Annual Technical Conference - January 9-11, 2024

Plans are underway for the 2024 Annual Technical Conference January 9-11, 2024 at the Ramkota Convention Center in Pierre, SD. Registration is available at sdarws.com/atc

ATC REGISTRATION FEES

Early Bird Registration ends December 15, 2023.

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION (MEMBER)

Full Conference Registration: \$325 Early Bird; \$350 after 12/15/23

Tuesday Only: \$205 Early Bird; \$230 after 12/15/23

Wednesday Only: \$255 Early Bird; \$280 after 12/15/23

Awards Banquet: \$35 Early Bird; \$40 after 12/15/23

Spouse Registration: \$50 Early Bird; \$55 after 12/15/23

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION (NON-MEMBER)

Full Conference Registration: \$390 Early Bird; \$440 after 12/15/23

Tuesday Only: \$255 Early Bird; \$305 after 12/15/23

Wednesday Only: \$325 Early Bird; \$375 after 12/15/23

Awards Banquet: \$45 Early Bird; \$50 after 12/15/23



ATC AWARD Submissions

There are only a few more short months before the snow flies, so that means it's time to get in your award nominations for the ATC! Application and information can be found on pages 3-4. The deadline to submit applications is October 30th, and it can be done by mailing in the form on page 4, or online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/ATCawards. If you have questions about the awards, please give the SDARWS Madison office a call at 605-556-7219.

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.

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Circuit Rider



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Circuit Rider

SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

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WEB Water Development Association
Les Hinds

West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water System
Rick Doud

Class B East River
Terry Manning (Miller, SD)

Class B West River
Luke Clements (Bison, SD)

Class C
Jay Gilbertson

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 making an award nomination. Awards will be presented at the Awards Banquet. **Application deadline is October 30, 2023.** Eligible nominees must be affiliated with a system member in good standing. The online form can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/r/ATCawards.

WE ARE ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE
FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

Rural Water System of the Year: Recognition for 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 Water/Wastewater System of the Year: Recognizes a municipality who puts forth exceptional efforts to properly manage, operate, and maintain their drinking water and wastewater system.

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.

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.

NOW IS THE TIME TO WINTERIZE!

A quick step outside and a glance at the calendar will remind you of the inevitable – colder temperatures are on their way. For South Dakotans, winter is just a way of life. Taking a little time and the proper steps to winterize your home – and especially your pipes – in preparation for the cold and snow, you can save yourself time and money, and unnecessary heartache.

A broken pipe can add up to big water losses. A 1/8 inch hole can lose 296,000 gallons of water over a three month period of time – about 3,200 gallons a day. That is equivalent to the amount of water that one person will use in a month of normal use. To put things into perspective – it is enough water to fill an 850 square foot basement with six inches of water in just 24 hours. Below are some steps you can take now to winterize your home and keep your pipes from freezing this winter.

Insulate your pipes

Pipes bursting in winter are a homeowner's worst nightmare. Insulate pipes in areas of your home that are not well heated – such as crawl spaces and attics. Wrap them with pre-molded foam rubber sleeves or fiberglass insulation – both of which can be found at your local hardware store. Another option can be to install heat tape – which is basically a special electrical cord that is wrapped around your pipes and emits heat. It is crucial to install UL-approved heat tapes according to manufacturer's instructions so as to not cause an accident or fire. The heat tape should be used on both the water pipes as well as the valves that shut off the water pipes. If you already rely on heat tape to keep your pipes from freezing, inspect it thoroughly to

make sure it is working properly as it can burn out after a number of years.

Know where your master shut off and service line valves are located

If there is an emergency, you will need to know where your master shut off valve is in a hurry. If your water meter is in your basement, the valve should be close by. Your service line water valve shuts off water to your entire property ahead of your water meter – and should be marked with a sign.

Inspect your meter pit

You can cover the pit with straw or other insulating material if desired to further protect the meter and pipes. Also remember to mark the location of your meter pit to avoid damage from snowplows and other equipment. If it looks damaged, contact your local rural water provider to come and check it out.

Disconnect outside hoses and faucets

It is very important to disconnect and drain your outside hoses. You should also drain your outside faucets by installing an inside shut-off valve and drain if the outside faucet is not self-draining. In-ground lawn sprinklers also need to be drained before winter hits.

Seal Outside Openings and Cracks

Locate places along outside walls, foundations, sill plates, doors and windows that may allow cold air to penetrate your home – and seal with caulk, foam or fiberglass insulation. Close any basement windows and access doors and make sure they are properly sealed.

OTHER WINTERIZING TIPS

- Clean your gutters! Gutters clogged with leaves and debris can form ice dams, which can cause water to seep into your house and cause damage. Also check to make sure your downspouts are carrying water away from your home's foundation to further prevent flooding or water damage.
- If you are going to be away from your home for a long period of time, have your rural water system shut off your water.
- Keep sink cabinet doors open during cold spells or winter power outages to allow warm air to circulate around the pipes.
- Trim trees to prevent snow and ice from weighing them down and causing breakage – possibly damaging your home or vehicles.



WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY INFORMATION SOURCES

Many South Dakotans participate in a range of water-based recreational activities, like swimming, fishing or boating. For some, their home or cabin might be located adjacent to a lake or stream. For the rest of us, access comes by way of our many public parks and beaches. In any case, people are frequently asking questions about our surface water resources. The questions typically center on concerns over water quality (Is it safe?), but questions about quantity also arise (especially during times of flood or drought).

The references below are intended to provide links to a few of the available sources of water information where many the basic questions can be answered.

WATER QUANTITY INFORMATION SOURCES

USGS Stream Gages — The United States Geological Survey (USGS) maintains a network of over 170 stations that monitor stream flows across the state. In many instances, the records go back over fifty years, so they provide a good, long-term perspective. The stations record the river level (stage) on a continuous basis, and the readings can be accessed via the Dakota Water Science Center website at www.usgs.gov/centers/dakota-water. Click on Water Data for South Dakota under the DWSC column, then click

on Statewide Streamflow Current Conditions Table for the latest information on South Dakota rivers and streams.

Smart Phone Applications — In the past few years, smart phone applications have been developed that provide access to real-time stream flow information. The information they provide is similar to what is available from more formal, web-based platforms, i.e., real-time stream stage and discharge information. One example is a product called Rivercast™, developed by Juggernaut Technology, Inc., which is available for both Apple and Android platforms.

DANR Water Rights Lake Level Site — The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) Water Rights Program maintains an interactive database map that provides information on lake levels within the state (Measured Lakes). The site provides water level data, along with established elevations for lake outlets and the ordinary high and low water marks. The site can be accessed by selecting “Data & Mapping” on DANR’s homepage at danr.sd.gov under the “Quick Links” heading.

WATER QUALITY INFORMATION SOURCES

Annual Consumer Confidence Reports — Every year, public water suppliers are required to provide a consumer

confidence report (CCR) to their customers describing the quality of the water they are providing. This requirement applies to rural water systems and municipal water utilities. This report typically comes out in the spring, with many rural water systems publishing their CCR in this magazine.

305(b) & 303(d) Integrated Report – Every two years, DANR publishes the Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality Assessment. Prepared under requirements of Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act, the report provides a status report on the condition of rivers, lakes and streams across the state. The report identifies the designated beneficial uses of each water body, such as swimming, fisheries, or drinking water, along with a determination of whether the uses are supported. A variety of water quality standards have been established to determine whether a water body supports a particular use. If more than ten percent (10%) of samples fail to meet the standard, the water is considered impaired. Water quality data used in the biannual Integrated Reports come from a broad range of public sources. The most recent report can be found on the DANR website at: danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/SurfaceWaterQuality/docs/DANR_2022_IR_approved.pdf

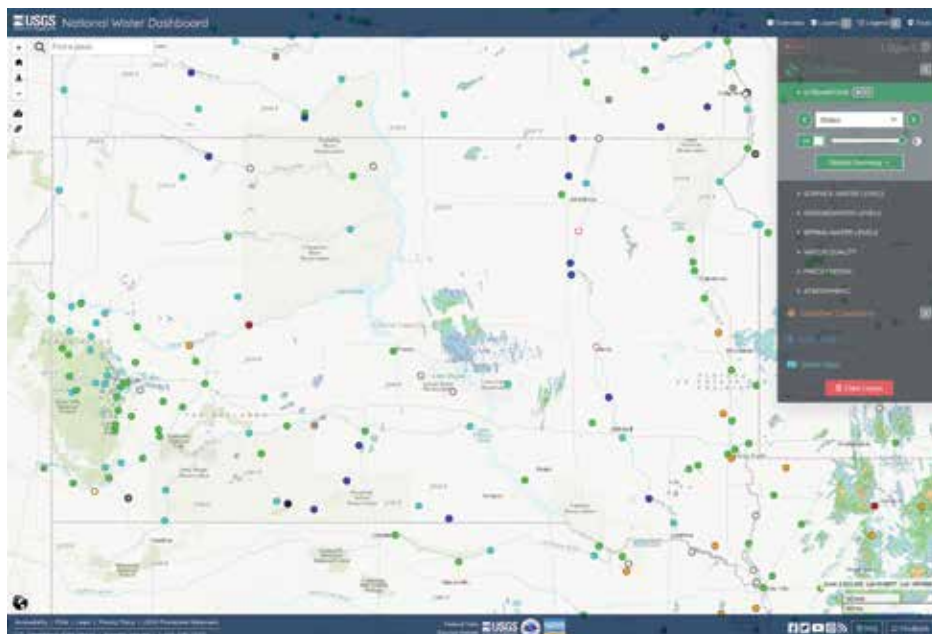
Water Quality Monitoring Access Portal – A few years back, DANR launched a new interactive database map providing the public internet access to water quality data for South Dakota’s lakes and streams. This is the same data on which the Integrated Reports are based. The Water Quality Monitoring Access Portal Map (WQ Map) provides water quality data collected during the past 50 years from DANR’s Statewide Water Quality Monitoring Network, intensive water quality monitoring surveys, Total Maximum Daily Load assessments, regional lake surveys, and citizen monitoring. Altogether, WQ Map contains data for over 3,600 water quality monitoring stations and includes results for more than 140,000 water chemistry samples, 2,500



algae samples, and 8,400 fish flesh samples. WQ Map can be accessed by selecting “Data & Mapping” on DANR’s homepage at danr.sd.gov under the “Quick Links” heading.

The sources listed above are by no means all of the available resources, but they are some of the most commonly searched. It is also important to note that information is not likely to be available for every water body, and even if there is data, it may not be from exactly where you’d like. If you’d like

to learn more about potential sources of water quality and/or quantity data for your area, feel free to contact your local public water supplier, DANR, USGS or the East Dakota Water Development District at the numbers listed below.



- **USGS Dakota Water Science Center** – 605-394-3200
- **DANR Water Rights Program** – 605-773-3352
- **DANR Surface Water Quality Program** – 605-773-3351
- **DANR Watershed Protection Program** – 605-773-4254
- **East Dakota Water Development District** – 605-688-6741, eastdakota.org



By Mike McGill, Attorney At Law

UNDERSTANDING DIRECTOR LIABILITY FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION BOARDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Navigating the intricacies of Director liability is crucial for individuals serving on the Board of Directors of a Not-for-Profit Corporation in South Dakota. While pursuing the mission of the organization, Directors must also be aware of potential risks and liabilities they may be exposed to. This article aims to shed light on the exposure to risk for Director liability under South Dakota law, ensuring board members are well informed and equipped to make informed decisions while conducting board business.

DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF DIRECTORS

Members of a Not-for-Profit Corporation Board of Directors in South Dakota owe fiduciary duties to the organization and its stakeholders. Those duties encompass loyalty, care,

and good faith in the Board's decision-making processes. Directors must act in the best interest of the organization and avoid conflicts of interest that may compromise their impartiality.

LIABILITY FOR BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTIES

Directors can be held liable for breaching their fiduciary duties, which could result in legal consequences. South Dakota law recognizes two main types of actions against **Directors for breach of fiduciary duties:**

1. Derivative actions; and
2. Direct actions.

In a derivative action, filed by a patron or member representing the entity rather than themselves personally, the claim alleges harm to the organization by the Directors' actions or omissions. For example, if a Board of Directors fail to supervise the activities of management resulting in damage to the corporation regarding business operations, patrons may have a cause of action against the Board of Directors.

Direct actions, on the other hand, are filed by individuals personally harmed by a Director's breach of fiduciary duty, allowing them to seek remedies and damages directly. These claims require establishing a direct relationship between the Director's action and the individual's personal injury or loss.

Directors found to be in breach of their fiduciary duties can face various legal remedies, such as monetary damages and equitable relief. The courts may order Directors to reimburse funds misappropriated, prevent further harm by issuing injunctions, or even removing Directors from their position.

EXCULPATION PROVISIONS AND INSURANCE COVERAGE

If a board member served a Not-for-Profit Corporation under South Dakota law without receiving any compensation, they are immune from suit. However, most Water Systems compensate their Directors for expenses related to attending the meeting in addition to compensation for their services. In that case, where a Director is compensated, the Director is not entitled to absolute immunity for their actions under South Dakota law.

However, South Dakota law provides as follows with respect to indemnity of a Not-for-Profit Board Member:

SDCL 47-23-27 A nonprofit corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative other than an action by or in the right of the corporation by reason of the fact that that person is or was a Director, officer, employee, or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a Director, officer, employee, or agent or another corporation, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, against expenses including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by that person in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding if that person acted in good faith and in a manner that person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe such conduct was unlawful.

Essentially, a Director is entitled to indemnification from the non-profit corporation if they acted in good faith. This means that the Director adhered to a reasonable standard

of conduct in doing business for the corporation. South Dakota law does not define a standard of care for Directors and officers. However, based on the rules in other states the best guidance is for Directors to act in a manner the Director reasonably believes to be in the best interest of the corporation, to become and to remain informed of the business of a corporation to properly provide an oversight function of management, disclose any conflict of interest to other board members and management and to utilize the services of competent professionals with respect to accounting and legal affairs of the corporation. The Director should actively participate in board meetings, make sure management retains record keeping, investigate any warnings, properly manage real and personal property, and exercise independent judgment for the best interest of the corporation. The Director must avoid conflict of interest, self-dealing, and must maintain confidentiality of business affairs of the corporation.

Good governance practices also means that Directors must require that their entity implement a conflict-of-interest policy, require auditing the books of the corporation, utilize professionally managed investments, and to assure that tax returns are filed annually.

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS LIABILITY POLICY

Moreover, Directors should consider securing adequate Director and Officers (D and O) liability insurance coverage. This insurance can help offset costs related to potential claims or damages arising from a breach of fiduciary duty. Careful review and consultation with legal professionals can ensure the insurance coverage is comprehensive and suited to the organization's needs.

The Directors and Officer's policy includes two types of protection. First, the insurance company has a duty to defend and provide attorney's fees to the company and the Board of Directors individually. Second, the insurance company has a duty to pay indemnity costs or damages for the lawsuit. In many cases the most important duty to implicate with respect to the insurance policy is the duty to defend because this includes the provision of an attorney and expenses of attorney's fees to investigate and defend the action. Many times that investigation leads to a settlement without the filing of suit as a result of mediation and compromise.

CONCLUSION

Serving as a member of Not-for-Profit corporation Board of Directors is a rewarding opportunity. However, it is crucial for Directors to understand and appreciate the exposure to risk for Director of liability under South Dakota law. By diligently fulfilling their fiduciary duties, adhering to ethical standards, considering exculpation provisions, and obtaining appropriate insurance coverage, Directors can significantly mitigate potential liabilities and contribute the growth and success of the organization.

SIOUX RURAL WATER SYSTEM

Rural residents of Hamlin, Codington and Deuel Counties in eastern South Dakota joined together in early 1972 forming Sioux Rural Water Association. These areas were in need of a safe reliable water supply for household and livestock consumption. This region of South Dakota receives an average annual rainfall of about 20 inches with 16 inches falling during the crop growing season.

The engineering firm of DeWild Grant Reckert & Associates Co. (DGR) was engaged in March 1972 to perform a system feasibility study and preliminary design work. The study was financed by \$25.00 good intention fees collected from all association members. The feasibility study was completed late in September 1972 and indicated favorable conditions for developing the proposed water system. The Association's Board of Directors approved the study and directed the engineer to proceed with final design and preparation of Plans and Specifications. Following approval of the Association Board and funding agencies, successful bid lettings were held



in May and September 1972, and June 1975. Construction work began in the fall of 1974 with work essentially complete by early fall of 1976.

At that point, the Sioux System served 632 members at 670 pipeline connections; that number has grown to 1,728 members. Projected water use for the system is approximately 500,000 gallons per day or over 180 million gallons per year; 373,493,000 gallons were pumped in 2022. Ninety percent of the potential users with the system's service area who joined the Association are receiving water. The System has a density of 1.8 connections per mile of pipe, with approximately 1,400 miles of pipe in the ground.

Final construction cost for the original system was \$3,962,000 with 76% of this cost for construction of the distribution pipeline. Total project cost including legal, engineering and administrative cost is \$4,440,000. The cost was paid for by a partial grant and a 40-year construction loan from the Farmers Home Administration, a grant from the State of South Dakota, and by user membership fees. The cost of operation and repayment of loans will be made through water use revenues.

Projects and Upgrades

The 1979 User Add-on Project: After original system construction and continued requests for service, funding was secured and a few hundred new users became members of the Sioux Rural Water System.

1983 Water Source: A new water source was needed in Division II, so after a year of research a new well, pump station and storage at the Castlewood Pumping Station. Moreover, 12.5 miles of main line were added and the system began to serve the Town of Hayti.

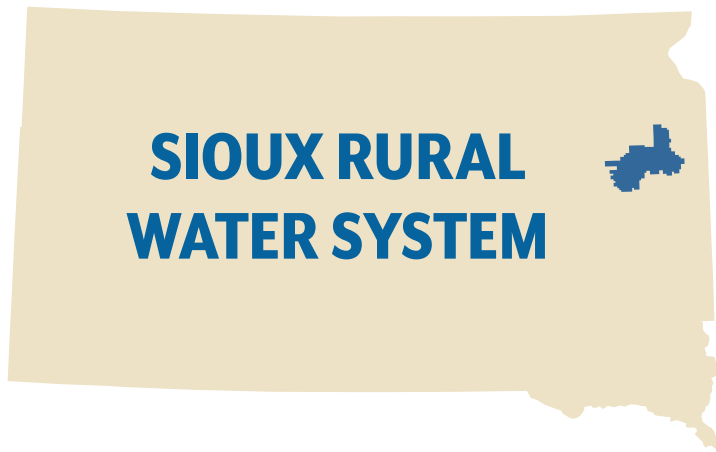
1988 Phase I Construction: Deteriorating water quality became a priority prior to 1988, coupled with the system outgrowing portions of original design. These factors prompted the construction of 8.5 miles of main line, added storage, a new well at Castlewood and piping upgrades at the Sioux plant.

1990 Phase II Construction: Phase II constructed two water filtration plants and 20.3 miles of main line piping with treatment plants located at the Castlewood well site and the Sioux well site. Plant improvements remedied issues caused by iron and manganese found in raw water sources.

1991 User Add-on (Phase III): Sioux Rural Water System obtained 130 new members through an expansion project. The project was engineered and designed to provide water to individuals experiencing a lack of water or poor water quality.

1996 Well Relocation / System Upgrade: Nitrate contamination required Sioux to look for a new water source. A year-long search culminated in the purchased 60 acres of land near existing wells by the Castlewood Treatment Plant (Division II). Additional efforts, along with the help of surrounding land owners, created a wellhead protection area. Furthermore, the project included the implementation of a SCADA control systems allowing operators to monitor and control the system remotely.

1999-2000 User Add-on Project: Continued requests for water to areas miles away from other water systems prompted a study of those areas. The process identified 150 new members system wide and another mainline expansion.



2009 Office Project: In 2009 Sioux Rural Water constructed a new office near the original office at the Sioux Treatment plant location. The construction of this efficient building will adequately meet Sioux Rural Water's needs for years to come.

2015 Water System Improvement Project: Construction of approximately 31 miles of new distribution system pipeline and individual meter services in Kranzburg. One existing booster pumping station will be replaced due to equipment being made obsolete by distribution system changes.

The City of Kranzburg distribution system will be improved with 14,950 feet of pipeline and appurtenances size 3-inch through 6-inch, and with new service pipelines and meter pits. The 72 existing customers of the City of Kranzburg water utility will be customers of Sioux Rural Water, and the City will no longer operate a water utility.

Additionally, two new wells and accessories will be constructed at the Castlewood wellfield to replace declining capacity in existing wells. The obsolete water system SCADA control system will be replaced.

2018 Water System Improvement Project: SRWS staff is installing 1,700 automatic read meters (AMR) in the system. Approximately 9 miles of 3"-10" distribution pipeline and a new pump station was installed at the Kones Reservoir to improve system pressure and delivery flows. There was also a new control vault installed at the Hazel Tower site.

The City of Hazel was changed from a bulk customer to individual rural water customers. Meters were replaced and isolation valves were installed at each service. Some water pipeline improvements were made to the city distribution system.

Both the Sioux and Castlewood Water Treatment Plants had major upgrades. New electrical rooms, office and lab space, chemical feed rooms, filter cells, and other miscellaneous equipment to both treatment plants. Water Treatment capacity was increased from 500 gpm to 750 gpm at the Sioux WTP and from 900 gpm to 1,500 gpm at the Castlewood WTP. New larger generators were installed at both Water Treatment Plants.

Hazard Mitigation: Our Kones Reservoir and Hayti Boosters both have backup generators thanks to our past manager pursuing funding through FEMA.

2023 Water System Improvement Project: The foundation has been dug at the Bryant Tower site for a new 300,000 gallon water tower. This new 300,000 gallon tower will replace the 50,000 gallon water tower on the existing Bryant Water Tower site along with the 50,000 water tower at the Hazel Tower site. Approximately 14 miles of 4" – 10" distribution pipeline will be added in this project.

The City of Castlewood and the City of Estelline are in the process of becoming bulk water users of Sioux Rural Water System Inc.

DIRECTORS:

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Jim Thyen – Director, SDARWS Director

Brad Jongeling – Director

Betsy Oleson – Director

Daniel Schleusner – Director

Keith Smith – Director

STAFF:

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Sarah Bruinsma – Office Manager

Todd Goodfellow – System Operations
Specialist

Guy Groenwold – System Operations
Specialist

Jesse Foreman – System Operations
Specialist

Brandon Benike – System Operations
Specialist

Brandan Spiering – System Operations
Specialist

Angie Larson – Billing Clerk

STATISTICS:

Hookups: 1,728

Miles of Pipeline: 1,400

Water Source: 6 wells and 2 standby wells
Counties Served: Codington, Clark, Deuel,
Hamlin

Towns Served Individual: Bemis, Grover,
Naples, Thomas, Vienna, Waverly

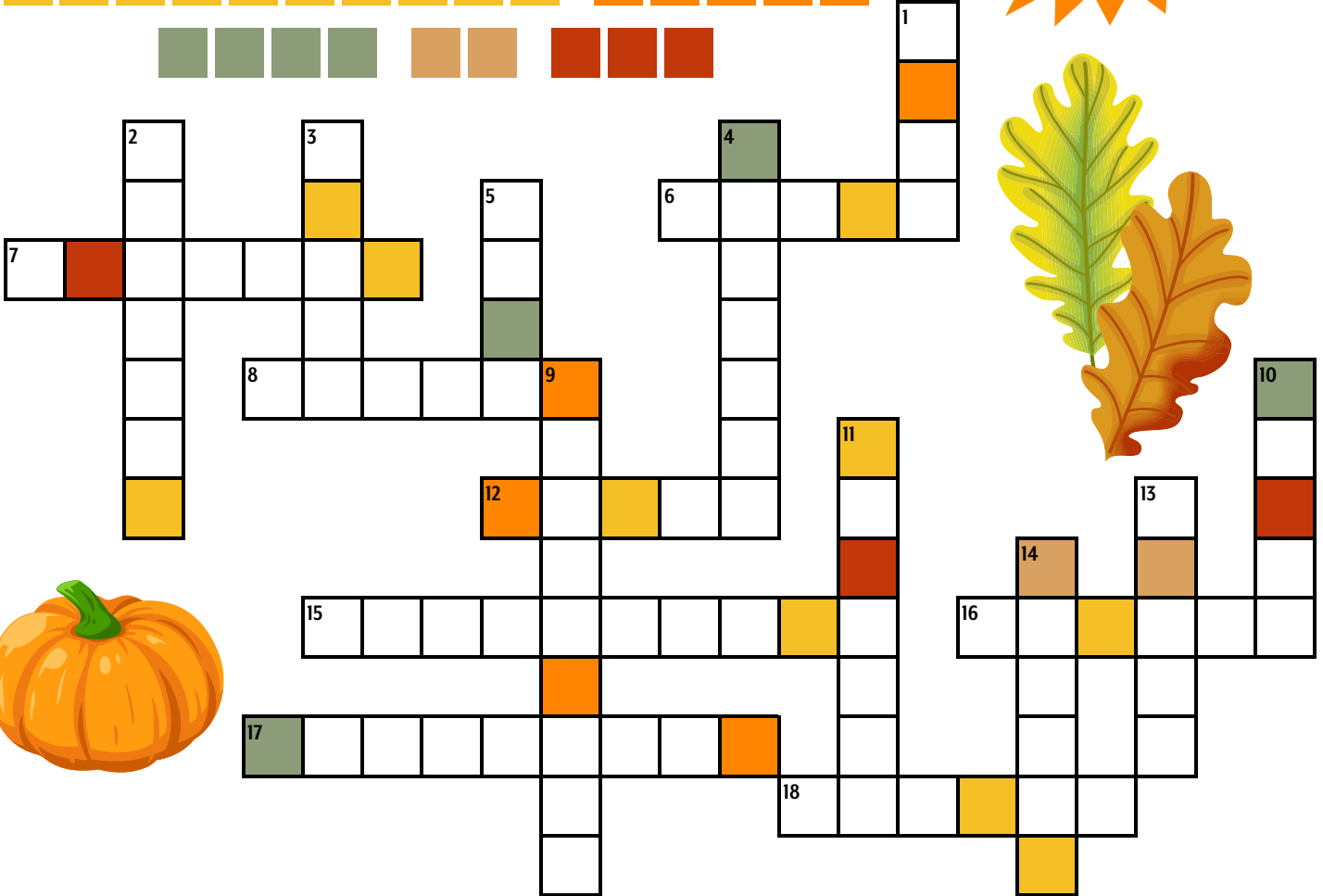
Towns Served Bulk: Bryant, Hayti, Hazel,
Kranzburg; Standby Bulk - Castlewood

RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

HARVEST TIME



SCRAMBLE ANSWER



Down

- 1. Under a quilt, say
- 2. Harvester
- 3. Crunchy, brittle, or fresh
- 4. Outdoor blaze

- 5. Leaf mover
- 9. Hay dummy
- 10. Squirrel snack
- 11. Tractor-drawn excursion
- 13. Squash, for example
- 14 Thanksgiving roast

Across

- 6. Hazy skies
- 7. Carved in October
- 8. Bobbing goals
- 12. Native corn

- 15. Orchard beverage (2 words)
- 16. Harvest season
- 17. Hot dish
- 18. Fall ground cover

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 15, 2023 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 Kay Zeigler with Mid-Dakota RWS who had the correct phrase of "In summer, the song sings itself" for October 2023.

RURAL WATER

ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA

CITY OF MADISON NEARS FULL INTEGRATION WITH LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL WATER

By Zac Zwaschka, *Madison Daily Leader*

Madison's integration into the Lewis & Clark Rural Water System (L&C) is on its home stretch, and according to L&C Executive Director Troy Larson, residents can expect the city to be fully connected by around this time next year.

Madison — along with 19 other member cities across South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota — joined L&C more than 30 years ago, and with Madison being one of the last to be incorporated, this is a welcome completion to a lengthy project.

Larson explained that there are three items remaining for Madison's integration, all of which are making significant progress. Among these are two 16-mile segments of 16-inch diameter PVC pipe that will connect Madison to the broader L&C system.

"Both of them expect to be substantially complete by the end of this year," Larson said, adding that between the two, nearly 90% of piping has been placed.

Construction on these segments began in April and May, respectively, with Halme Construction of Lake Norden handling the southern end and Carstensen Contracting of Dell Rapids working to the north.

On top of this, Larson said that additional pumps will be needed to ensure the water flows smoothly to its destination.

"We're adding pumps to a pump station just a mile west of Crooks that is needed to get the water pumped up to Madison. That contract is progressing very well, and we expect that it will hopefully be completed in the next couple months," Larson added.

The final item is a million-gallon ground storage reservoir to be built east of Madison's Water Sanitation Plant. Construction on the reservoir kicked off in May, and Larson said that it's set for completion in August of next year.

Larson described the reservoir as the "final piece of the puzzle," as its completion date will signify Madison's full

integration with L&C.

Once completed, the L&C system will deliver 44.19 million gallons per day (gpd) to its 20 members from an aquifer adjacent to the Missouri River, which is pumped to a treatment plant near Vermillion. From this total, Madison is slated to receive a million gpd.

Madison has technically been receiving water since 2017 via a wheeling plan where Madison receives water from the Big Sioux Community Water Corporation (BSCWC), who purchased it from the Minnehaha Community Water System (MCWC).

While this wheeling plan has helped Madison maintain its water needs over the last half-decade, it was always meant to be temporary.

Part of the reason Madison's integration has taken so long is L&C's reliance on federal funding for 80% of the project's costs, with the other 20% being evenly divided between the member cities and states they inhabit.

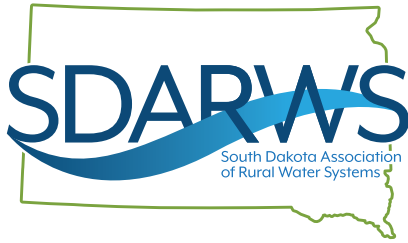
Larson explained that at times, federal funding was "minimal at best, leading to small, incremental progress." However, a recent surge in federal spending has resulted in a boost of efficiency, as L&C has a record 17 active contracts throughout its service area.

This is an all-time high for L&C, and Larson noted that previously, three to four consecutive contracts was the best they could hope for.

"Fortunately, we've seen an influx of funding, and that's really helped us make a push to get to the finish line," he added.

Madison's integration into the original project is a critical milestone, as water of increased quality and quantity will finally be available to residents. As completion nears and expansion plans gain momentum, further information will be forthcoming.

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OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING AND EXAMS

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.

Course Name	Date	Location
Intermediate Water Treatment	August 29 - 31	Spearfish Holiday Inn
OpCert Exam	August 31 @ 1:00 PM	Spearfish Holiday Inn
Small Water Treatment Workshop	September 19	Via Zoom Only
Stabilization Pond Workshop	October 12	Huron - Huron Events Center
Stabilization Pond Workshop	October 17	Mitchell - Highland Conference Center
Wastewater Collection	October 24 - 26	Rapid City Ramkota - Rushmore Room
OpCert Exam	October 26 @ 1:00 PM	Rapid City Ramkota - Rushmore Room
Basic Wastewater Treatment	November 14 - 16	Spearfish Holiday Inn
OpCert Exam	November 16 @ 1:00 PM	Spearfish Holiday Inn
Water Distribution	December 5 - 7	Rapid City Ramkota - Rushmore Room
OpCert Exam	December 7 @ 1:00 PM	Rapid City Ramkota - Rushmore Room

Register for training classes online at: web.sdarws.com/events

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

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).

For Study materials, visit: www.abccert.org/testing_services/ExamReferences.asp

SDARWS Conferences & Events



Trap Shoot | October 12, 2023

The First Annual Rural Water Trap Shoot takes place in 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 or email ggraverson@sdarws.com**



Leadership Seminar | November 8-9, 2023

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 or email jcorbin@sdarws.com

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



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 or email 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 or email expo@sdarws.com

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



Rural Water Fishing Tournery | April 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 or email 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 Tournery | 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 or email golf@sdarws.com



P.O. Box 287
 Madison, SD 57042
www.sdarws.com
 605-556-7219



WATER MATTERS



Observation Wells

Driving around rural South Dakota, it is not uncommon to see a piece of plastic pipe sticking out of the ground in the road ditch. Most (hopefully) will be flanked by a couple of steel fence posts and some will have a cap secured with a padlock. Sometimes the pipe is encased in a steel housing. These are ground water observation wells, and they are used to monitor the nature and condition of the aquifers on which we all depend.

Most observation wells are used to measure the water level over a period of time. During times of drought or high demand, water levels will drop. When use declines, or when precipitation replenishes the aquifer, water levels rise. The overall goal is to insure that water use does not exceed the aquifers capacity. The Water Rights Program within the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) maintains a network of over 1,550 observation wells across the state for this purpose.

By comparing the water levels across an aquifer, it is possible to determine the direction of water movement. If a public water supplier knows where its water comes from, it can develop protection strategies and programs.

Observation wells can also be used to monitor the quality of the water in an aquifer. Such wells might assess conditions in the area around a known contamination event, or simply monitor long-term conditions and trends. The Statewide Ground Water Quality Monitoring Network, maintained by the DANR Geological Survey Program, monitors 25 critical shallow aquifers across the state.



If you see a well that is in poor condition, or if you just have questions about what the well might be used for, you can contact the following entities:

DANR Geological Survey Program, (605) 677-5227

DANR Water Rights Program, (605) 773-3352

East Dakota Water Development District, (605) 688-6741

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