

ServiceLine

The Official Publication of the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems

STORIES FROM THE ROAD

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CIRCUIT RIDER

DRIVE LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT

THE BENEFITS OF MIXERS IN WATER STORAGE TANKS





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Cover Photo taken by SDARWS Wastewater Technician Bill Thorson in Bristol, SD January 2019.

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FROM THE SDARWS PRESIDENT

RON GILLEN, SDARWS PRESIDENT



SDARWS INTRODUCES OUR NEW LOGO

SDARWS is pleased to introduce our brand new logo!

Our Association has grown and evolved over the years, and we felt it was time for a change. We have refreshed our logo to reflect who we are today as we continue to fulfill our mission to provide the highest quality services that meet the needs of and supports the collective efforts of our water and wastewater membership.

ATC RECAP

This year's 2019 ATC was a resounding success. We would like to thank all of those who attended and participated in all the various aspects of our conference. Without all of your support, this conference would not be possible. We would especially like to thank all of our conference sponsors: Premiere Sponsor – AE₂S; Educational Session Sponsor – Bartlett & West; Awards Brunch Sponsor – DGR Engineering; Break Table Sponsors: HR Green, CoBank, and Butler Machinery; Keg Sponsors – AE₂S, DSG, HR Green, and DN Tanks; Wine Sponsor: Great Northern Environmental; Bag Sponsor Metering & Technology Solutions. Check out page 16 for the recap. I would also like to thank all of our exhibitors (full list on page 19) – without you, our event would not be possible.

FISHING TOURNAMENT

The Rural Water Warriors are hosting the 4th annual Rural Water Fishing Tournament April 27th at the

Bad River Boat Ramp in Fort Pierre. This tournament is limited to the first 40 teams of 2-3 fishermen, and is open to current water/wastewater, associate, or corporate members of SDARWS. The cost is \$150/team and includes lunch. The deadline to register is April 19th. More information can be found online at www.sdarws.com/fishing-tournament.html, or on the inside back cover of this issue of *ServiceLine*.

WEST RIVER EXPO

South Dakota Rural Water is pleased to host the 2018 Water Technology EXPO. The EXPO will be held in Rapid City at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center (605-343-8550) on April 24-25, 2019.

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. These professional companies will be set up in the main EXPO training center for attendee easy access and to provide answers to those pressing questions. Many will be displaying the recent advances in technology our industry has witnessed over the past several years.

The EXPO will kick off at 8:00 am Wednesday April 24th and conclude at noon on Thursday, April 25th with lunch provided on the first day. Registration is \$50, and SDARWS is able to bill for this fee after the conference. Please pre-register by visiting our website at www.sdarws.com/west-river-expo.html. ♦

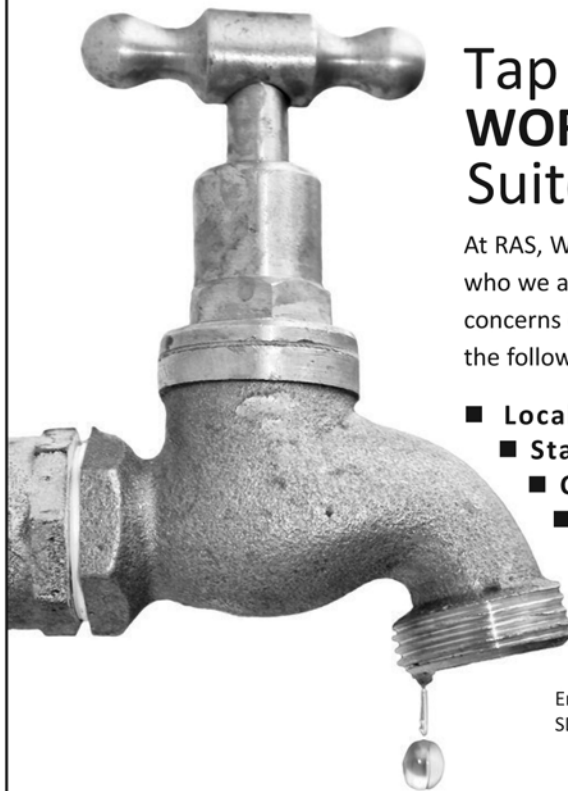


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Training Calendar

FEBRUARY

5-7 – BASIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Sioux Falls Ramkota

3200 W. Maple Street • Sioux Falls, SD

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. Operators who will be attempting the Stabilization Pond exam should consider the Stabilization Pond Workshops. 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.

26-28 – WATER DISTRIBUTION

Rapid City Ramkota

2111 N. LaCrosse Street • Rapid City, SD

This course covers the Association of Boards of Certification “Need to Know” requirements for the Class I through III Water Distribution Exams. This course only covers the material for Water Distribution. Operations Specialists who wish to attempt a Wastewater Collection Exam should attend the Wastewater Collection Course. 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.

MARCH

19-21 – BASIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT

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APRIL

3 – STABILIZATION POND WORKSHOP

Huron Crossroads

100 4th Street SW • Huron, SD

This course covers the material on the Association of Boards of Certification Stabilization Pond Exams. It does not cover material on Class I or higher Wastewater Treatment Exams. This is a single day workshop starting at 8:30 a.m. local time and wrapping up around 4:30 p.m.

9-11 – INTERMEDIATE WATER TREATMENT

Huron Crossroads

100 4th Street SW • Huron, SD

This course covers the Association of Boards of Certification “Need to Know” requirements for the Class II & III Water Treatment Exams. 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.

23 – SMALL WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM WORKSHOP

Rapid City Ramkota

2111 N. LaCrosse Street • Rapid City, SD

Topics covered include; small water treatment systems, groundwater issues, disinfection issues, regulatory issues for small community and non-community water systems. This course is designed for those who are not involved on a full-time basis with water treatment. This is a one-day course starting at 8:30 a.m. and finishing at 4:30 p.m.

25 – SMALL WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM WORKSHOP

Aberdeen Ramkota

1400 8th Avenue NW • Aberdeen, SD

Topics covered include; small water treatment systems, groundwater issues, disinfection issues, regulatory issues for small community and non-community water systems. This course is designed for those who are not involved on a full-time basis with water treatment. This is a one-day course starting at 8:30 a.m. and finishing at 4:30 p.m.

30-2 – SMALL WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM WORKSHOP

Sioux Falls Ramkota

3200 W. Maple Street • Sioux Falls, SD

Topics covered include: South Dakota Drinking Water Regulations, disinfection, fluoridation, groundwater and wells, pumping, hardness, cross connections, pH, filtration, turbidity and mathematics. Day 1 & 2, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Day 3 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

MAY

14-16 – ADVANCED WATER TREATMENT

Sioux Falls Water Purification Plant

2100 N. Minnesota Avenue • Sioux Falls SD 57104

This course is designed to assist those operations specialists who are studying for a Class III & IV 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.

**REGISTER FOR CLASSES ONLINE AT:
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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.

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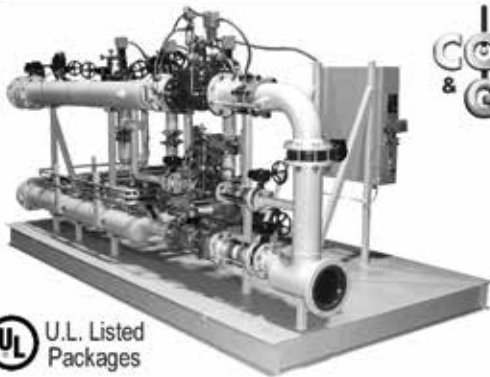
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STORIES FROM THE ROAD



**By Greg Gross,
SDARWS Circuit Rider**

an attic and basement, this is an impressive piece of architecture. The story I was told years ago, was that this was a boarding type school and the students were required to work the farm and with the livestock on the site. The date on the building is 1910. Further research on the WEB revealed that the Plainview Academy was owned and operated by the South Dakota Conference from 1911 to 1965. I would appreciate any more information on this school so that I can pass it on in a future article.

The roaring twenties and earlier were good for rural South Dakota towns. People did not travel far from home to do business and shop, so every town had much to offer. My home town of Hitchcock had up to three grocery stores, four grain elevators, multiple banks, cafes and general stores. Whatever you needed could be purchased in your home town, and if it wasn't available you could order it from Sears & Robuck, and it would come in by rail promptly in three to six business months. Railroads and rivers were the interstate highways of the Plains. Towns did not survive unless they were near the track – they would even move to be near the tracks. The original site of Alexandria, SD was along the James River, southwest of the current townsite. When it was announced where the railroad was passing by, the town was moved to be near the tracks for economics and commerce. The local businesses helped maintain a thriving economy and growing population center even in the remotest areas of our state. I may have wandered a bit in this paragraph, but the point was to describe the

...continued on page 31

While traveling through South Dakota, I am always intrigued by different buildings or structures I see. Just recently while going through the town of Zell, I could see a large building from a mile away. It baited my curiosity enough to turn off and do a quick once around the block just to take in the whole picture. The sheer magnitude of this building in such a small town was impressive. I am still looking for information about it. It appears to be a school building of some kind, but could have been a hospital or boarding house too?

Maybe I am just attracted to the large, now out of place buildings in these smaller communities. Another large structure that I would love to know more about is in Canova. This two-plus story, multi-room facility, I was told was a hospital of some kind, or possibly a mental health facility. Many of these grand old buildings had multiple uses, but eventually were too costly to heat, cool and kept in good repair. Not many people can afford upkeep for a 20-room hospital/ house in rural South Dakota.

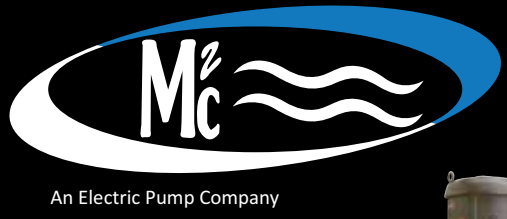
One of my favorite old building sits quietly on the south edge of Redfield. I first saw this abandon school building when I was quite young, and I was amazed to see it was still standing. Three stories tall with





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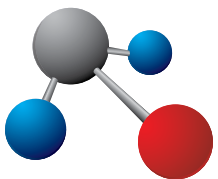


ATC 2019 RECAP

The 2019 South Dakota Rural Water Technical Conference held in Pierre was a smashing success. We enjoyed the many opportunities to visit with our membership, learn about the new advances in the water and wastewater field. Executive Director Kurt Pfeifle unveiled the new SDARWS logo during the opening session, which was then followed by Keynote Speaker Rob Bell event with his session on customer service and communication techniques. There were many sessions to attend, and even though the government shutdown caused the cancellation of a few classes, we had some companies step up to fill in last-minute holes in the agenda.

Total attendance for this year's ATC was at an all time high with over 525 people and over 70 exhibitors. Additionally, our members made generous contributions to our WaterPac with donations totaling \$4,720 – beating last year's record! We are thankful for all of the support and many thanks go out to our membership for another successful ATC. We hope to see you all again January 14-16, 2020 at the Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center in Pierre.

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WATER/WASTEWATER SYSTEM OF THE YEAR

– City of Piedmont

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– Travis Steffensen, Sioux Rural Water System

RURAL WATER MANAGER OF THE YEAR

– Heath Thompson, Sioux Rural Water System

ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

– Dakota Supply Group

DONALD B. POSPISHIL MEMORIAL AWARD

– Robert Durham, Randall Community Water District

FRIEND OF RURAL WATER

– Red Arndt, Lewis & Clark Regional Water System
– Julie Gross, USDA - Rural Development

CARROLL ANDERSON AWARD

– Glen Gilbertson, Clay Rural Water System

SPIRIT OF RURAL WATER

– Otto Hagedorn, Lincoln Co. Rural Water System
– Paul Goldhammer, West River/Lyman-Jones RWS
– Marlin Fjelland, Clark Rural Water System
– Greg Merrigan, Clay Rural Water System
– Randy Jencks, Kingbrook Rural Water System

BEST TASTING WATER IN SOUTH DAKOTA

– Mid-Dakota Rural Water System



Glen Gilbertson



Heath Thompson



Roger Thomas



Robert Durham



Travis Steffensen



Amy Kittelson



Rapid Valley Sanitary District/Water Service



Josh Lewis



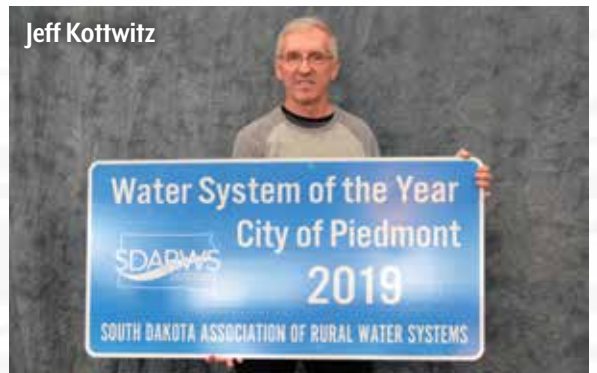
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THE BENEFITS OF MIXERS IN WATER STORAGE TANKS



**By Mike Moeller,
SDARWS Technical Assistance/
Training Specialist**

Water storage tanks are simply what the name implies, a place where water is stored for future usage. Some of the issues that arise with water storage tanks is that your water may get stagnant sitting in it in the summertime, and in the winter it may form ice on the side walls and top that can damage the coating on the inside of the tank – or even worse rupture the tank.

South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems recently assisted with the installation of a tank mixer at Perkins County Rural Water. The mixer was installed in a 320,000-gallon ground storage tank and was rated for up to a million gallons. Installation was simple. The mixer sits on the floor of the tank with a stainless-steel cable running to the top of the tank. A bracket is mounted to the flange on the roof hatch that the cable is connected to. The power cord is also run through the bracket to the outside with a weather tight cord grip. The installation was very straight forward, and the most time-consuming part of the install was getting power trenched from the booster station over to the side of the tank and up to the top into the junction box. The mixer package did come with its own control panel that you can set the run times for how many hours a day you want to mix your tank. After running the mixer for a couple of months, Shiloh Baysinger, manager of Perkins County Rural Water, said he will never have another tank without a mixer in it.

Why use a mixer? The main benefit of using a mixer is that it keeps your water in the tank fresh. If you don't have mixer when the tank fills the warm water that was in the tank rises to the top and the new fresh water that is cooler in temperature stays at the bottom causing stratification. When stratification occurs, and the warm water stays at the top it never really gets used, and the disinfectants in the warmer water tend to dissipate thus raising the chance for bacteria to form in the warmer water. When you use a mixer, the water is kept at a uniform temperature throughout the tank, and the disinfectants will remain in the water and prevent bacteria from forming.

Another reason to have a mixer, especially in our winter climate, is to prevent ice from forming on the sides and top of the tank. When ice forms on the side of the tank it reduces the capacity of the tank and can create problems with the coating on the tank. When the coating is compromised in the tank water can get to the steel under it and causes corrosion problems. If the tank has an ice shelf on the top, it can potentially slide down when the water level drops and shear off the bolts in a bolted tank design. If the water level drops a few feet before the ice shelf slides it could potentially create a vacuum inside the tank and cause the tank side walls to collapse inward in a worst-case scenario.

Lastly, if you are on a water system that uses chloramines as a disinfectant when the water in your tank becomes old from stratification the water on the top that is warmer will go through a microbial process that converts the ammonia into nitrates and nitrites. When this occurs, disinfection by-products will become present and can be potentially hazardous to your water system.

There are many options for mixers in tanks whether it is a standard ground storage tank or an elevated storage tank. The cost of a mixer may seem high to some, but in the end, the water quality and possible tank maintenance will be lowered. If electricity is not available in the tank location, some mixer companies have the option of a solar-powered mixer. If you are interested in a mixer, you can Google water storage tank mixers, and you will be able to find many articles on mixers and which one may work best for you. ♦



Perkins County Rural Water System installing a mixer in their 320,000-gallon ground storage tank




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DRIVE LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT



**By Steve Attema,
SDARWS Safety Trainer**

When you hear the title statement images may come to mind of being chased by some other vehicle or rushing to the hospital for some life-threatening injury. This statement, however, should be used every time you get behind the wheel. It is not only your life that depends on it but others as well; the passengers in the car, other drivers on the road, pedestrians, and anyone else that can be harmed if you do not give your full attention to driving.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration states that 94% of serious crashes are linked to human error. There is a long list of these human errors that cause accidents, but by far the biggest three are:

DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE:

Using alcohol or other drugs and getting behind the wheel (this can be a prescription medication that impairs your ability to drive).

SPEEDING:

Driving above posted speed limits, overdriving road conditions or speeding through slower traffic.

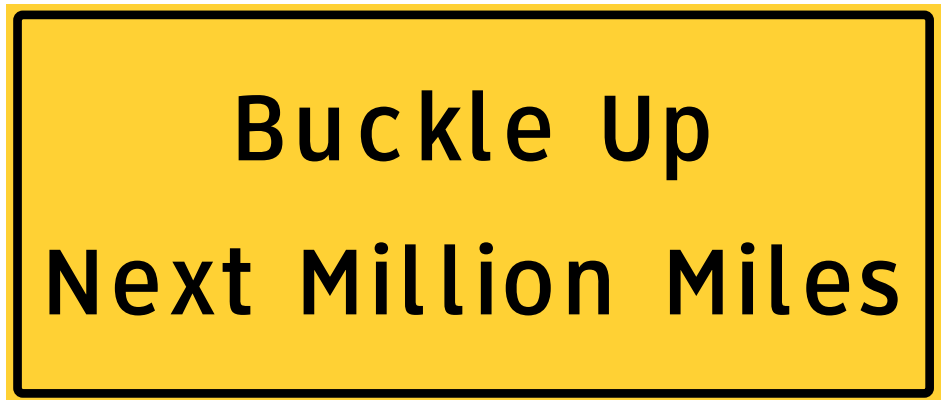
DISTRACTED DRIVING:

This includes things like eating, using car controls like radio or navigation, being distracted by other passengers, texting or other phone use, and even talking to other passengers. Texting is the worst offender here because it takes your eyes off the road, impairs your cognitive ability and takes one or more hands off the wheel.

These may take some self-control or prior planning to prevent but are necessary actions to make the roadways safer for you and everyone else.

Taking those steps significantly reduce the chance that you cause an accident, but there still are conditions (mainly other drivers) that can cause an accident. That is why protecting yourself from serious injury or death when in an accident is also crucial. As technology moves forward cars will become safer; we have seen this with airbags, lane detection, automatic braking, and the list will continue. The number one way still to prevent severe injury or death when an accident happens is to wear your seat belt. According to the CDC, seat belts reduce the risk of death by 45% and cut the risk of serious injury by 50%.

That is far from the whole story when it comes to driving safety and living in South Dakota brings another factor we all know too well; winter driving. While winter conditions can add danger to roadways, there are many things you can do to keep yourself safe. First, have a mechanic do a winter checkup on your vehicle to keep all systems in good working order. Next, make sure you know the weather and road conditions and if the experts say driving is not advisable to heed their warnings and wait out the storm if possible. If you must drive on slick roads there are a few tips you can do to drive safer:



- Do not use cruise control on rain/snow/ice-slicked roads
- Look and steer gently in the direction you want to go if you find yourself in a skid (older cars with rear wheel drive and no traction control may be a little different but always look/focus in the direction you want to go).
- Increase following distance from the usual 3 seconds to 8 to 10 seconds or more.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full.
- Slowly accelerate and decelerate.

If you do slide off the road:

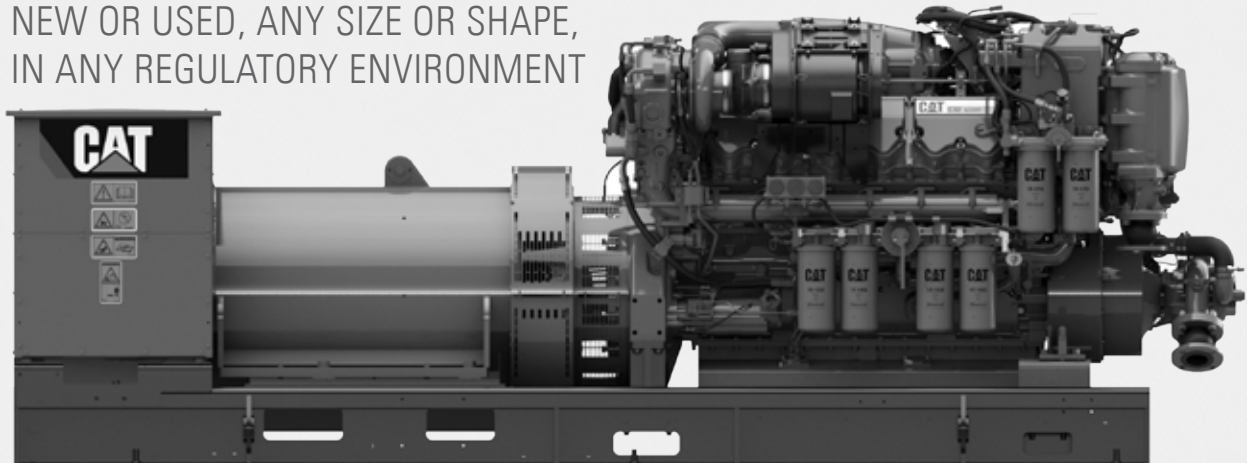
- Stay with your vehicle and wait for help.
- Use flares or brightly colored cloth in the window or on the antenna to let people know you need help.
- If your car can safely run use it to keep warm along with other clothing and blankets. Just make sure that your tailpipe is not blocked, so you don't succumb to carbon monoxide poisoning.

That brings us to the next point; have a winter emergency kit in your vehicle with items such as: a shovel, tool kit, flares, jumper cables, flashlight, high energy foods, blankets, mittens, socks, hats. Winter emergency kits with all these items and more can be purchased from many different sources.

All these tips can ensure that you get home safely to your loved ones. So, **DRIVE LIKE YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!** ♦

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WOULD THAT WORK?



**By Bill Thorson,
SDARWS Wastewater
Technician**

Traveling around the state of South Dakota, I oftentimes run across good, sometimes genius, ideas that make a job or task a little easier. Some of the ideas are well thought out and have taken many steps to achieve the desired result. Other ideas come from someone saying, “How about we do it this way? Would that work?” and a new concept is born. Highlighting some of the ideas here allows us all to maybe see some small task or job in a different light, maybe helping someone streamline a task or procedure.

One good idea I have come across is to place all of your manhole covers with the notch or pick hole always in a north or south direction. Why may you ask? In the dead of winter with some ice or snow accumulation on the lid, it makes it so much easier to find the keyway for opening the manhole lid. Even in construction situations when covered in sand, dirt, tar, or asphalt, one can easily locate the opening notch because it will always be in one of two spots.

Another idea along the same lines is to align your valve top covers so anyone can look at the cover and know if the valve is open or shut. Now, this takes everyone’s diligence to be sure to follow the “code” and stick to the plan. If the notches in the valve top are aligned north/south, then the valve is open; if the notches are

aligned east/west, then the valve is closed. Same valve, just the lid is turned after the valve has been closed. This can be beneficial if more than one person operates the valves for directional flushing or a water leak. How many times has a valve not been opened up after an event and water complaints ensue? If you follow this procedure, anyone can drive by a valve and know if it is open or closed.

Stay tuned for more good ideas from innovative folks making it work in South Dakota. ♣



Helpful tip: place all of your manhole covers with the notch or pick hole always in a north or south direction so when ice and snow accumulates it makes it easier to find the keyway top open the lid if needed.



Another helpful tip: align your valve top covers so anyone can look and know if the valve is open or shut. North/South for open; East/West for shut.

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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A CIRCUIT RIDER

BRANT AGER



What was your first job? Car detailer at Scott Peterson Motors in Belle Fourche at age 15.

What was your first water related job? Maintenance Tech. at the City of Belle Fourche dealing with water/sewer/streets. I always favored water.

What does your typical day as a Circuit Rider entail? Travel to water systems to address issues or offer assistance to generate work.

What's your favorite thing about being a Circuit Rider? Seeing the variety of water systems and learning about each to better provide help.

What's the most challenging job you've ever undertaken as a Circuit Rider? Leak detection in Keystone where we found an unknown main.

How do you think rural water systems could operate more effectively?

Use technology to their benefit but don't forget basic hands-on techniques. Rural water in South Dakota didn't get to where it is now without intelligent, but practical operators.

What's the best advice you could give to rural water systems? Know your system's needs, demands and capabilities. This will reflect the needs, demands and capabilities of your users and employees.

What advice would you give to a young person who wants to embark on a water career? There is an eternity of learning, so test every solution you may come up with and listen to a veteran operator. Stay diligent because it is a challenging but fulfilling career. ♣

STORIES FROM THE ROAD: continued from page 13...

climate of these towns in their most prosperous time. During these times, great schools, hospitals, and boarding houses were built to accommodate the needs of the growing population and fueled by the financial success of the time. The collapse of the '30s began a mass migration out of the dust bowl. The people fled, leaving behind these great buildings as reminders of a once densely populated prairie.

During my last trip to Geddes, I was able to see an ancient city map that described each business on Main St. at that time. The map showed three blocks of side by side by side businesses on both sides of the street. One of the few reminders of this grand time in history is the three-story boarding house on Main Street. Many of these withering towns were once home to hundreds if not thousands of people. Shop owners and their families lived above their business and worked it faithfully as a family.

My last stop on this whirlwind tour of former SD great places lands us in Conde. The Conde city building is a former dance hall and theater. The theater still has the old projector, and the building is in very good repair for its age. You enter the auditorium in the middle of the seating through a staircase from the foyer below. There is also a stage for live shows. I will have to ask Jim Zeck if he ever participated in any talent shows on that stage. I do love the old building, the design, and craftsmanship

that went into building each one. I often wish the walls could speak and tell all they have seen.

I am always looking for more historic sites, so if there is some in your area, let me know. If it is not on my way, I will definitely make a personal trip to see you. If there are corrections or additions to the above information, let me know, and I will add it to the next "Story from the Road." ♣



PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Some of the SDARWS staff stopped by the Mid-Dakota water treatment facility for a tour while in Pierre before the ATC.



Technical Assistance Training Specialist "St. Nicholas" Jackson showed off his holiday spirit while teaching safety classes.



Circuit Rider Greg Gross delivered the custom bottles to Mid-Dakota manager Scott Gross to send off their water samples for the National Rural Water Taste Test in DC.



SDARWS hosted a Quad-State Regional Executive Director meeting at the Madison office this past December. In attendance are Executive Directors Erik Volk from North Dakota, Lori Blair from Minnesota, Greg Huff from Iowa, and Kurt Pfeifle from South Dakota.



SDARWS Circuit Rider Brant Ager ran into North Dakota Circuit Rider Tom Seigwhile visiting the Standing Rock water treatment plant.

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1 COLLOIDAL PARTICLES ARE?

- a. Large fast settling particles
- b. Small non-settling particles
- c. Large non-ionic particles
- d. A form of pathogenic protozoa

6 WHICH POLYMERS WOULD HAVE A NEGATIVE CHARGE?

- a. Non-ionic
- b. Cationic
- c. Anionic
- d. Alum

2 WHICH NATURAL ELECTRIC FORCES KEEP COLLOIDAL PARTICLE FROM SETTLING?

- a. Zeta Potential
- b. Weak Nuclear Forces
- c. Gravity
- d. Quantum Forces

7 HOW OFTEN SHOULD SETTLING BASINS BE DRAINED FOR CLEANING, INSPECTION AND REPAIR

- a. Every 6 Months
- b. Weekly
- c. Monthly
- d. Annually

3 DETENTION TIME IN FLOCCULATION BASINS ARE?

- a. 3 to 4 hours
- b. 2 to 3 seconds
- c. 15 to 45 minutes
- d. 1 to 2 days

8 ALUM CONTAINS WHICH METAL WHICH AIDS IN COAGULATION

- a. Aluminum
- b. Iron
- c. Antimony
- d. Silver

4 ZETA POTENTIAL MEASURES THE NUMBER OF EXCESS WHAT, FOUND ON THE SURFACE OF PARTICLES

- a. Protons
- b. Neutrons
- c. Electrons
- d. Cations

9 WHICH DEVICE COLLECTS SETTLED WATER AS IT LEAVES THE SEDIMENTATION BASIN

- a. Weir
- b. Launder
- c. Baffle
- d. Scraper

5 WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IS A TYPE OF COAGULANT

- a. Alum
- b. Ferric Chloride
- c. Ferric Sulfate
- d. All of the Above

10 SOLIDS CONTACT BASIN WORK BY HAVING

- a. Low solids concentrations
- b. Minimal sludge blanket
- c. High solids concentrations
- d. No sludge removal from the system



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1. B 2. A 3. C 4. C 5. D 6. C 7. D 8. A 9. B 10. C



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KURT PFEIFLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I want to take this opportunity to talk a little about Government Shutdowns. Regardless of your personal or political persuasions, Government Shutdowns such as the most recent one beginning December 22, 2018 affects us all. Clearly, these events impact government workers and contractors first and most directly, but again, at some point it affects us all. In conversations with some government employees, I sensed a frustration with not being able to go to their place of work and at least be able to volunteer their time and keep up with workload. Many of these civil servants would very much like keep up with the myriad of tasks and functions that are otherwise piling up on their desks while they are on mandatory furlough. Time and time again, I heard the weariness in their voices, that aside from their work piling up, not being able to perform their responsibilities for the people and entities they work for is the most significant disappointment they deal with.

South Dakota Rural Water (SDARWS) isn't immune from the effects of a Government Shutdown. The most recent example was the monkey-wrench thrown into our Annual Technical Conference (ATC). SDARWS had arranged and relied upon the attendance of staff from the Environmental Protection Service (EPA) and the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (RD), including participation from an RD Administrator from Washington, DC. In talking with each of them, I know they very much wanted to be at the ATC and do their presentations and participate in meetings and speaking engagements. They were not allowed to attend and are barred from even donating their time in an official capacity. Another and potentially impactful effect is a possible gap in funding for our Circuit Riders, Wastewater Technicians, Source Water Specialist, and EPA functions. Each of these programs rely upon significant and timely federal funding. Depending on how a shut-down is implemented, SDARWS could have periods of no funding and/or orders to cease work. SDARWS was notified by the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) that our USDA Contracting Officer determined that the Circuit Rider contract was exempt from this particular (partial) shutdown. All our USDA Programs were good to go and work could continue. Certainly, this was good news for SDARWS at least in this shutdown, but there are no guarantees regarding future stoppages!

The ripple effects emanate beyond those directly involved with the federal government. Many of our communities and water systems are pursuing funding from RD and are waiting on approval of loan documents or awaiting the RD engineer's stamp to approve construction plans. Either of these situations can cause a delay in proceeding to bid and construction of a Project. Delays such as these can interfere with bid strategies, such as timing a bid opening to be done early and take advantage of when contractors are "hungry" for work. It can wreak havoc with available supplies (pipe, valves, fittings etc...) that are now in much more demand, because so many projects have been delayed and are all hitting the streets (offered for bid) at the same time. Projects and their engineers may experience delays in accessing RD online tools such as "RD APPLY" or the RD "ePERS," again, causing more delay. The National Weather Service maintains the servers where CORS (GPS) Network Correction data is stored, this service is unavailable when the government is shutdown.

Safety can be impacted as well, we all know about concerns with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and federal aviation air traffic controllers being out of work and/or not being paid (or not knowing when they'll be paid) for their essential service. Here again, the tentacle of a shutdown extend beyond these obvious and concerning areas. For example, SDARWS received a phone call of a community that was concerned about high levels of Arsenic in their drinking water. SDARWS staff went to the EPA website to obtain additional information and was met with a message of the website being shut down and unavailable.

Fortunately, SDARWS staff are well trained and knowledgeable and have the additional available recourse of our Safe Drinking Water Professionals and primacy agency the South Dakota Department of Environment & Natural Resources. The information we were looking for, in this instance, can be obtained through that venue. Not all states have the benefit of a local state agency being their primacy agency.

To reiterate, personal and political persuasions aside, (I have zero desire to be political in my prose), government shutdowns have impacts, and they have consequences; let us hope and pray that our elected government leaders figure these issues out quickly and do all they can to avoid these circumstances in the future. ♦



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- Boat inspection prior to start. This is a boat-only tournament.
- South Dakota fishing regulations must be followed.
- Walleye tournament; largest seven walleye weighed per team.
- \$1,000.00 prize for first place; other payout dependent on participation.
- Meal provided Saturday afternoon after the tournament.
- All judges rules are final.
- In case of a tie, the team with the biggest fish by weight wins.
- Tournament winners announced shortly after weigh-in results are compiled.

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Mike Moeller, SDARWS Tournament Chair
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