

# ServiceLine

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

## 2020 AWARD WINNERS

**IMPROVING ON  
20 YEARS OF  
REGIONAL UTILITY  
RATE BENCHMARKING**

**DON'T GET LEFT  
OUT IN THE COLD:  
ENHANCE WINTER WEATHER  
RESILIENCE WITH MITIGATION**

## BACKFLOW 101

**SAVE THE DATE  
RURAL WATER EXPO  
APRIL 28-29 • RAPID CITY**



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Cover Photo: Aerial view of Deadwood, SD in winter. Photo Credit iStock.com

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# FROM THE SDARWS PRESIDENT

RON GILLEN, SDARWS PRESIDENT

## SDARWS WATERPAC RAFFLE

We would like to thank all of the water systems who donated prizes to our first ever virtual WaterPac raffle, as well as all the individuals who contributed to the cause. With your support we raised \$4,107! This is an impressive amount considering the circumstances.

## WATERPAC RAFFLE WINNERS

- Lyle Schumack – \$100 Beef Bucks
- Jeremiah Corbin – \$100 Cabela's Gift Card
- Brent Hoffmann – \$100 Cabela's Gift Card
- George Vansco – \$100 Cabela's Gift Card
- Raymond Bartels – \$100 Cabela's Gift Card
- Jack Tomac – \$100 VISA Gift Card
- Jesse Christianson – \$150 Beef Bucks
- Richard Werner – \$150 Runnings Gift Card
- Bill Thorson – \$150 VISA Gift Card
- Ron Gillen – \$200 Beef Bucks
- Curt Haakinson – \$200 Beef Bucks
- Jesse Christianson – \$200 Beef Bucks
- Craig Wagner – \$200 Scheels Gift Card
- Allan Erickson – \$250 Amazon Gift Card
- Dean Nelson – \$250 Beef Bucks
- Shane Phillips – \$250 Cabela's Gift Card
- Scott Gross – \$250 Scheels Gift Card
- Gavin Graverson – \$250 Scheels Gift Card
- Reggie Gassman – 1-Year Gaylen's Popcorn Subscription
- Gavin Graverson – Yeti Camino Carryall 35 Tote Cooler

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.

Our Call for papers for this event is open until February 26th. Details can be found on page 33 of this issue of *ServiceLine*.

A room block is set up at the Ramkota Best Western Hotel in Rapid City. You can make room reservations by calling 605-343-8550 and asking for the Rural Water room rate.

The EXPO will kick off at 8:00 am Wednesday, April 28th and conclude at noon on Thursday, April 29th with lunch provided on the first day. Registration information is coming soon! Please pre-register by visiting our website at [sdarws.com/rural-water-expo.html](http://sdarws.com/rural-water-expo.html). Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this event is subject to be canceled or modified.



## RURAL WATER EXPO - APRIL 28-29, 2021

South Dakota Rural Water is planning to host the 2021 Rural Water EXPO in Rapid City at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center April 28-29, 2021.

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

## LEADERSHIP SEMINAR RESCHEDULED

South Dakota Rural Water has rescheduled the Leadership Seminar for June 1-2, 2021 at the SpringHill Suites in Deadwood in conjunction with the SDARWS June Board Meeting. This seminar is geared towards Rural Water System Directors and includes informational sessions on succession, rate setting, strategic planning, social media, and more. The full agenda can be found on page 11. To register, visit: [sdarws.com/leadership.html](http://sdarws.com/leadership.html). Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this event is subject to be canceled or modified. 💧



# OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING AND EXAMS

**More classes/exam sessions will be scheduled for 2021.  
All classes/exams are tentative based on the status of the pandemic.**

Course	Date	Location
Water Distribution Online Course	February 23-25 (CT)	Zoom Online Webinar
OpCert Exam	Feb. 25 - 1:00 PM (CT)	Brookings-Wilburt Square Events Center
Wastewater Collection Online Course	March 9-11 (MT)	Zoom Online Webinar
OpCert Exam	March 18 - 1:00 PM (MT)	Rapid City-Ramkota
Basic Wastewater Treatment Online Course	March 23-25 (CT)	Zoom Online Webinar
OpCert Exam	March 25 - 1:00 PM (CT)	Watertown-Ramkota
Basic Water Treatment	April 6-8 (CT)	Zoom Online Webinar
Small System Water Treatment Workshop	April 27 (CT)	Zoom Online Webinar
Small System Water Treatment Workshop	April 29 (CT)	Zoom Online Webinar
Intermediate Water Treatment	May 4-6 (CT)	Zoom Online Webinar
Advanced Water Treatment	May 18-20 (CT)	Zoom Online Webinar
Stabilization Pond Workshop	June 1 (CT)	Zoom Online Webinar

*Online classes will start at 8:00 a.m. Tuesday through Thursday and end at approximately 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday and noon on Thursday.*

## HOW DO I ATTEND AN ONLINE WEBINAR?

First, register for the class online at [www.sdarws.com](http://www.sdarws.com). Upon registration you will need to enter a valid email address for each registrant or we will not be able to send you the following: After you are registered, SDARWS Trainer Jim Zeck will send you a link with instructions on how to get signed up for the online course using Zoom. When registering on Zoom we ask that you use your full name instead of a handle so we know who you are when you logon to the course. You will also get instructions on how to access the course materials to download and which material you may want to print off (typically the ABC Formula Conversion Table and the Math Handout) prior to the day of the course. If you have multiple participants from one system, please fill out a registration for each attendee. During

the start of the course you may be asked to use the chat function to let trainer Jim Zeck know who is in attendance at your site if you have more than one person. You will also need a pen/pencil, notepad, and calculator available. The webinars are accessible via computer (may need headphones or speakers if not built in), smartphone, or tablet (the bigger the screen the better). During the webinar, if you have questions you are able to ask them by typing your question in the Q&A box. There is a possibility to request to turn on and use a microphone on your end if you have a very specific question or comment. Attendance will be taken periodically during the duration of the webinar. Certification webinars are not recorded - you must attend on the day the class is given for credit.

**For Study materials, visit: [www.abccert.org/testing\\_services/ExamReferences.asp](http://www.abccert.org/testing_services/ExamReferences.asp)**

**For more information contact SDARWS Trainer Jim Zeck: 605-201-9568 or [jzeck@sdarws.com](mailto:jzeck@sdarws.com)**

**REGISTER FOR CLASSES ONLINE: [sdarws.com/certification-classes.html](http://sdarws.com/certification-classes.html)**

RURAL WATER  
**EXPO**  
2021

**APRIL 28-29, 2021**  
**BEST WESTERN RAMKOTA**  
**RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA**  
*PRICING AND AGENDA COMING SOON*



***This 1½ day event includes presentations  
and features exhibit displays***

*Contact Hours • Door Prizes • Lunch provided on Day One*

*Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this event is subject to be canceled or modified.*

**REGISTER ONLINE: [sdarws.com/rural-water-expo.html](https://sdarws.com/rural-water-expo.html)**



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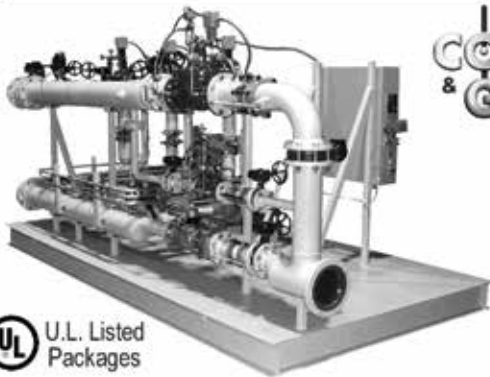
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## SLOT TOURNAMENT

Wednesday evening @  
Cadillac Jack's

# June 1-2, 2021 • Deadwood, South Dakota

## TUESDAY – JUNE 1

- 1:00 WELCOME**  
– Ron Gillen, SDARWS Board President  
**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**  
**AGENDA REVIEW**
- 1:15 PREPARING FOR SUCCESSION: YOURS AND YOUR PEOPLE**  
Dan Oakland – Alternative HRD
- 2:00 RATE SETTING AND ASSET MANAGEMENT**  
Calvin Coles - WATERWORTH (via Zoom)
- 2:45 BREAK**
- 3:00 THE STATEWIDE GROUNDWATER MONITORING NETWORK**  
Tim Cowman – SD Geological Survey
- 3:45 BREAK**
- 4:15 STRATEGIC PLANNING**  
Bob Harris – Harris Management Group (via Zoom)
- 5:30 PRESIDENT’S COCKTAIL HOUR**

## WEDNESDAY – JUNE 2

- 8:15 REGULATORY UPDATE**  
Mark Mayer – Drinking Water Administrator, SDDENR
- 8:45 BREAK**
- 9:00 NRWA GRASSROOTS LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY IN WASHINGTON DC**  
Bill Simpson, Michael Preston & Mike Keegan – NRWA (via Zoom)
- 10:00 BREAK**
- 10:15 FIDUCIARY RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS**  
Darla Pollman Rogers – Riter Rogers, LLP.
- 11:15 CLOSING COMMENTS**  
Ron Gillen, SDARWS Board President, & Kurt Pfeifle, SDARWS Executive Director

*SDARWS is monitoring the Covid-19 pandemic and will make announcements as needed in the event the seminar needs to be modified.*





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*Due to the cancellation of the 2021 Annual Technical Conference and the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic, we were unable to host our annual Awards Brunch. However, the efforts of those who work tirelessly to keep the water flowing does not go unnoticed. We would like to recognize those individuals who have given their time and talents to our rural water systems and municipalities throughout South Dakota.*

## 2020 LONGEVITY AWARDS

### 5 YEARS

**Mary Brainard** • Aurora-Brule RWS  
**Paul Hettinger** • Aurora-Brule RWS  
**Tom Geppert** • Aurora-Brule RWS  
**Mark Hagen** • BDM RWS  
**Rodney Kappes** • BDM RWS  
**Chad Kneebone** • Big Sioux CWS  
**Hope Komes** • Butte Meade SWD  
**Kim Marzolf** • Butte Meade SWD  
**Greg Marx** • Clark RWS  
**David Reiff** • Clay RWS  
**Leanne Brown** • Clay RWS  
**Patricia Manning** • Clay RWS  
**Doug Degen** • Hanson RWS  
**Larry Eich** • Hanson RWS  
**Jeremy Hult** • Lewis & Clark RWS  
**Shawn Anderson** • Lewis & Clark RWS  
**DeAnn Hargens** • Mid-Dakota RWS  
**Kristen Arthur** • Mid-Dakota RWS  
**Troy Dorris** • Mid-Dakota RWS  
**Tessa Nelson** • Minnehaha CWC  
**Angi Hernandez** • South Lincoln RWS  
**Jason Krumbach** • TM RWD  
**Daniel Marshall** • Tri-County Mni Wasté  
**Michael "Bud" Jacobsen** • Tripp County WUD  
**Shane Phillips** • WEB WDA  
**Dean Nelson** • WR/L-J RWS

### 10 YEARS

**Don Hunt** • Butte Meade SWD  
**Todd Williamson** • Butte Meade SWD  
**Brent Hoffmann** • Grant-Roberts RWS  
**Todd Giffin** • Lewis & Clark RWS  
**Mike McCready** • Mid-Dakota RWS  
**Dan Schleusner** • Sioux RWS  
**Tom Rausch** • South Lincoln RWS  
**Darnell Bohlander** • WEB WDA  
**Torrey Wahl** • WEB WDA

### 15 YEARS

**Dawn Christenson** • Big Sioux CWS  
**Leslie Brown** • Mid-Dakota RWS  
**Tanya Schmidt** • Minnehaha CWC  
**Josh Swanson** • South Lincoln RWS  
**Scott Cameron** • South Lincoln RWS

### 20 YEARS

**Mike Wolff** • Butte Meade SWD  
**Terry Kaufman** • Clark RWS  
**Phil Iverson** • Clay RWS  
**Ron Bowen** • Grant-Roberts RWS  
**Tom Frogner** • Grant-Roberts RWS  
**Brian Callies** • Kingbrook RWS

**Jerrud Kruse** • Kingbrook RWS

**Joseph Burns** • Lincoln RWS

**Connie Olson** • Rapid Valley SD/WS

**Rusty Schmidt** • Rapid Valley SD/WS

**Mike Vetter** • WR/L-J RWS

**Veryl Prokop** • WR/L-J RWS

### 25 YEARS

**Dan Schroeder** • Davison RWS

**Lori Seten** • Lewis & Clark RWS

**Wayne Ruhnke** • Mid-Dakota RWS

### 30 YEARS

**Carol Millan** • Davison RWS

**Pam Janssen** • Davison RWS

**Lennis "Red" Arndt** • Lewis & Clark RWS

**Scott Gross** • Mid-Dakota RWS

### 35 YEARS

**Laurie Robbins** • Brookings-Deuel RWS

**Terri Anderson** • Brookings-Deuel RWS

### 40 YEARS

**Wade Blasius** • Aurora-Brule RWS

**Merri Stapp** • Butte Meade SWD

**Darrell Seefeldt** • Clark RWS

# AWARD RECIPIENTS



## CARROLL ANDERSON MEMORIAL

### Jim Thyen, Sioux Rural Water System

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 RWS and the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems. At the time of his death in December 1977, Carroll Anderson served as Vice-Chairman of both organizations.

This award represents the greatest tribute the Association can bestow on an individual to recognize contributions to both the member system and to SDARWS and is given in recognition of outstanding voluntary contributions to the advancement of rural community water systems in South Dakota.

Jim Thyen has been a member of the Sioux Rural Water board for 21 years, and has served on the Association board since 2011, most recently holding the title of Secretary.



## FRIEND OF RURAL WATER

### Tim Potts, USDA - Rural Development

This distinguished honor is awarded to agencies, organizations, or individuals who have been steadfast in their support of this incredible experience that 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 was a collective effort encompassing many.

Tim has spent nearly 40 years working for Rural Development serving since 1995 as the Area Director in Rapid City and for the last 5 or 6 years as Community Programs Director for the State of South Dakota. In these roles, he has lead a team of Rural Development Professions offering assistance to rural communities in South Dakota for water and wastewater projects. Tim's work of course included many other important programs that benefit these rural communities



## SPIRIT OF RURAL WATER

### Ralph Hammer, South Lincoln Rural Water System

Ralph was one of the early board members that endured through the tough times of the South Lincoln Rural Water System. His knowledge of the history of the system is surpassed and is relied on by the manager and the staff. He has contributed countless hours over the years, over and above his board duties to keep the system functioning. When the previous manager passed away unexpectedly, Ralph stepped right in an assisted in keeping the system running. Without directors like Ralph Hammer, it would be difficult to create and continue the business of rural water systems.



## RURAL WATER MANAGER OF THE YEAR

### Angie Hammrich, WEB Water Development Association

Angie Hammrich started her career with WEB in December 2008 as the Business Manager, and was promoted to General Manager in February of 2016. Under Angie's leadership, several projects have been funded and completed due to her diligence. Angie does her homework and comes to meetings prepared. She knows the importance of making decisions and moving forward. She has also displayed exemplary leadership and handling of the COVID crisis, and has instituted policies and standards which have lessened the effects of COVID on the entire WEB Water team.

"Angie has transformed the atmosphere of WEB with her management style which has created an efficient, orderly, and harmonious workforce. This is a testimony to her ability to lead but also to listen to her managers, board, and fellow employees," said Les Hinds, WEB Board Member.

"I have participated in many boards and without a doubt Angie Hammrich, WEB Water General Manager, has undertaken more development enhancements and projects than any other General Manager I have worked with. She does these tasks in an orderly and efficient manner," said Bob Schuetzle, WEB Water Chairman.



## **RURAL WATER OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR** **Mike Vetter, West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water System**

Mike Vetter has been an operations specialist with WR/LJ Rural Water for the past two decades and has worked as the operations supervisor out of the Philip Field Office for the past 14 years. He and his crew handle day-to-day operations of the system extremely well and have always kept WR/LJ in compliance with safe drinking water standards. 2020 was an especially challenging and busy year. Projects that Mike supervised this past year include installation of a new system-wide advanced metering infrastructure system, recoating the Wall water tower, and construction of a new well.

Mike is a proud graduate of the University of South Dakota. He holds Class II water distribution and water treatment certifications. He is the previous winner of the AWWA Operator's Meritorious Service Award. He served on the Philip city council for six years and he is currently serving his ninth year as Mayor of Philip.



## **RURAL WATER OPERATIONS SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR** **Marty Hertel, WEB Water Development Association**

Marty started with WEB Water in April 1999 as an Equipment Operator, and moved to Rural Operator in 2004. He was promoted to Construction Inspector in July 2019, and is the first to hold that position. He holds a Class III Water Distribution Certificate, along with Class I certificates in Water Treatment, Wastewater Collection, and Stabilization Ponds. Marty has demonstrated top-notch knowledge of the system and keeps contractors on task. Projects are moving forward as planned and on schedule because of Marty.

"Marty consistently provides a solid work product and is a valued member of the WEB Water Team. He is respected by his co-workers and is always willing to lend a hand in tough situations. His knowledge of the WEB Water System is very strong, and he is willing to share that knowledge with other staff," said Shane Phillips, WEB Operations Manager.

"WEB Water is blessed to have Marty Hertel. His longevity at WEB Water speaks for itself. We appreciate his hard work, dedication to WEB Water, his positive attitude and work ethic," Angie Hammrich, WEB General Manager.



## **RURAL WATER OPERATIONS SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR** **David Vogel, WEB Water Development Association**

Dave started with WEB Water in February 2008 as a Water Treatment Plant Operator. Prior to WEB, he was a WTP Operator for the City of Mobridge. Dave has a Class III Water Treatment Certificate and has maintained that level by attending safety classes and other continuing education classes. Dave is one of those guys who gives 100% year after year and helps WEB Water reach its goals. Dave's knowledge and work ethics are always essential with training new operators. The new operators look up to Dave for his guidance and he is the type of guy that leads softly and does not even realize that he is leading. "Dave is a very reliable senior operator at the plant. His views and experience are valued at the plant. Dave shows good judgment in his operations of the plant. I consider Dave to be an asset to the plant staff as a whole. He is willing to take on more duties and projects that are asked of him with no questions asked. Dave is also knowledgeable enough to make his own assessments of problems at hand and share them with others. Dave has been cross-trained in the role of taking distribution samples for the State Health Lab," said Clayton Larson, WEB WTP Manager.



## **RURAL WATER OFFICE PERSON OF THE YEAR** **Kati Venard, West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water System**

Kati has been with West River/Lyman-Jones for 12 years. She coordinates all billing activities of individual users and bulk community connections, provides customer service and assistance, and assists with accounting and payroll procedures. She also assists the West River Water Development District with payroll, accounts payable, preparing financial reports, board meeting minutes, and assisting with the WRWDD financial audit.

WR/LJ recently installed a new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system, and Kati was extremely quick at picking up on new metering technology and software platforms. She helped many customers get set up on the new customer portal which allows them to individually monitor daily water usage. Kati adapts to continuous changes very well. She manages and directs large amounts of important data which is vital to WR/LJ's operations. She steps in wherever needed and maintains a friendly and professional relationship with customers, co-workers and board members. She continues to be a very valuable asset to WR/LJ Rural Water.

# AWARD RECIPIENTS



## **WATER / WASTEWATER SYSTEM OF THE YEAR** City of Winner

The City of Winner has taken a proactive approach to its operations and has stepped up to make the most of the tax dollars the city has to operate on. The water and sewer department have started a new approach to their day-to-day operations in identifying needs and taking care of those areas in a systematic fashion by budgeting and doing the work themselves. They are in the midst of several ongoing projects to benefit their community, including the addition of a vertical screen and backup pumping system for the main lift station to prolong the life of the city's lagoon system and have improved the quality of their discharge samples. Winner is also starting a GIS program to locate and map all of the city utilities. The sewer department is relining 4,000 feet of sewer lines with CIP. The water department recently drained and relined a water tank and continued to operate the system during the repair with no public complaints. Lastly, they are implementing a full SCADA system for their water and sewer systems which will help to maintain efficiency, process data for smarter decisions, and communicate system issues to help mitigate downtime. These large projects are bringing the City of Winner into a new era.



## **MUNICIPAL UTILITIES MANAGER OF THE YEAR** Greg Powell, City of Chamberlain

Greg has been employed with the City of Chamberlain as the Public Works Director and City Engineer since 1996. Over the last 25 years he has overseen significant municipal growth within the community while overseeing not only the municipal water system, but also sanitary sewer, streets, airport, and park facilities. His commitment to water issues has not been limited only to the City of Chamberlain, however. Greg maintains positions on the SD board of American Public Works Association, the South Central Water Development District, and the Transportation Advisory Council. Prior to his tenure as the City Engineer, Greg assisted with the development and growth of rural water systems in South Dakota including Mni Wiconi, Mid-Dakota, and Lewis and Clark as a staff member at SD Department of Environment and Natural Resources and as an Administrator of the SRF programs. Greg's 40 years of service to making Chamberlain and the State of South Dakota a better place to live and work are evident and his legacy to future generations is apparent.



## **MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR** Greg Schuler, City of Sioux Falls Water Purification

Greg has been employed with the City of Sioux Falls Water Division since 1996. During his time in the Sioux Falls Water Division, he has earned his Class IV Water Treatment certificate and was promoted to a Lead Water Operator in October of 2004. Greg is a big picture person; he is a motivated member of the Water Division Operations Group. Greg has seen a need for teaching the next generation of water operators and whole heartily rose to the challenge of completing this task. Greg patiently takes the time to explain and train these new team members so they have the proper skills and knowledge and the correct technical aspects to provide potable water for years to come. Greg continues to be the go to guy when it comes to preparing the Operations team and equipment for summer high demand season. He meticulously inspects and flushes each piece of equipment to ensure it is ready for the upcoming summer season. Greg's 32 years of experience, his easy going demeanor, his positive attitude, his ability to work with anyone, and his knowledge of the treatment process have made him a most vital asset to the City of Sioux Falls Water Division.



## **ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR** Dakota Pump, Inc.

Associate Members consist of those companies and businesses that continue to support the goals, vision, and mission of rural water through membership with the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems. Dakota Pump, Inc. is one of SDARWS' original associate members, and has been with the association since 1983. DPI is always willing to provide presentations at our events, and have stepped forward to sponsor the Water System Manager's meetings.



## RURAL WATER SYSTEM OF THE YEAR

Minnehaha Community Water System • Scott Buss, Manager



Minnehaha Community Water Corporation currently serves 5,250 rural members and supplies bulk water to seven towns. The system reached a new milestone in 2020, with sales of over 1 Billion gallons of water for the first time. While the growth of the system has been increasing steadily each year, staff has incorporated technology and coordination with other water systems to improve efficiency.

In the office, MCWC has taken advantage of emerging technology to streamline payment processing. Staff coordinated with Applied Software and Paymentus to integrate online bill paying with the current billing software, saving time compared to taking credit cards over the phone and eliminating the risks associated with storing credit card numbers. MCWC has completed installation of an AMR system, and worked with Badger Meters and Applied Software to integrate the readings into the billing system. Once the readings were automated, staff worked with Applied Software to incorporate a process for e-mailing bills, which saves postage. Each of the improvements were then available for use by other rural water systems. MCWC office staff continue to find ways of using automated phone calling and batch text messaging to improve communication with the members. Phone calls for late notices and disconnects have reduced the number of service calls on disconnect day from an average of 30 per month to under 10 per month. Half of all payments are now done through ACH transactions. Checks are scanned and proofed in house, then sent electronically to the bank.

In the distribution system, MCWC has taken advantage of technology to improve operational efficiency. The high service pumps in the treatment plant have been changed over to variable frequency drives, reducing electricity costs and optimizing pump operations for changing conditions. Controls in the well field have been changed to fiber optic communication with VFD's added to high producing wells for operational flexibility.

MCWC is a member of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System, and is contracted for 2.2 MGD of treated water. The original construction of the system incorporated larger lines starting at the treatment plant and smaller lines at the edges of the county. Taking L&C water in the southeast and southwest parts of the county necessitated a number of modifications to the distribution system. Those changes included several miles of large diameter lines and two new booster stations. Some of the improvements were done as part of the "Wheeling Plan" to get water to Madison, SD until the L&C project could be completed. Four water systems worked together with SD DENR to achieve the end result. L&C delivered extra water to MCWC. MCWC pumped water to Big Sioux Community Water, who then delivered water to Madison. At the beginning of 2020, MCWC finished a booster station which pumps L&C further into the distribution system. With the change, MCWC now produces half of the water used and receives the other half from Lewis & Clark.

The MCWC construction crew installs or relocates an average of 100 meter pits per year, and adds several miles of new mainline. Staff also coordinate with contractors, engineers, state, and county officials on at least one major road project per year.

The level of new construction, distribution improvements, and project activity continues to increase each year. Currently MCWC is on the State Water Plan for a \$7 Million project that includes two water towers, a control valve station, and ten miles of 12" pipeline.

# AWARD RECIPIENTS



## MUNICIPAL OFFICE PERSON OF THE YEAR

Jill Johnke, City of Harrisburg

Ms. Johnke has been an integral part of the Harrisburg City Hall staff for almost four years. In her duties managing the water and sewer billing department, Jill has spent the last couple years transitioning the billing method from drive by reading to using the online automated meter reading system. This has been rather challenging integrating two different software programs. She has reduced the number of overdue accounts by contacting customers on a regular basis and providing educational and helpful explanations to customer complaints and billing inquiries. Operations staff have greatly appreciated her help in assisting with the mailings and sampling requirements of the Water Department. She has also worked closely with Lincoln County Rural Water on transitioning customers and sharing readings. Harrisburg's aggressive growth would not be going nearly as smoothly without her contributions.



## DONALD B. POSPISHIL MEMORIAL

Don Ebbers, City of Clear Lake

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 exhibit professionalism and dedication while operating and maintaining a small water system.

Mr. Ebbers has been with the City of Clear Lake for 18 years. He does a little of everything for the city, including coordinating day-to-day operations for other two city workers for sewer, water, and street departments. He handles all curb and gutter, and street planning and contracting, manages the water, sewer, and street budgets, along with keeping track of all equipment and when they are due for new equipment, and handles all the paperwork in regards to his responsibilities.

# IN MEMORIAM

Remembering the life and legacies of those who gave their time and talents to rural water systems across South Dakota.



## LLOYD JOHN OPPOLD

LINCOLN COUNTY RURAL WATER SYSTEM

*Former Board Member*

*Born: May 22, 1928  
Died: August 1, 2020*

*8 Years of Service to Rural Water*



## DONALD KUHLMAN

SIoux WATER SYSTEM

*Former Director*

*Born: April 21, 1927  
Died: September 8, 2020*

*9 Years of Service to Rural Water*



## ROBERT WOOD

CLAY RURAL WATER SYSTEM

*Former Board President*

*Born: July 28, 1940  
Died: October 1, 2020*

*12 Years of Service to Rural Water*



## WILLIAM "BILL" ALTFFILLISCH

CLARK RURAL WATER SYSTEM

*Former Board President*

*Born: July 21, 1936  
Died: December 20, 2020*

*25 Years of Service to Rural Water*



## CLYDE ELWOOD

RAPID VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT/ WATER SERVICE

*Trustee*

*Born: July 9, 1953  
Died: January 2, 2021*

*36 Years of Service to Rural Water*



## LENNIS "RED" ARNDT

LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

*Chairman*

*Born: May 1, 1948  
Died: January 7, 2021*

*30 Years of Service to Rural Water*



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# BACKFLOW 101

**Bill Thorson, Technical Assistance/Training Specialist**

“A cross-connection is a physical connection between the water supply and any source of possible pollution or contamination. By eliminating or controlling all actual or potential cross-connections, the public drinking water system will be protected within the public water main system and within buildings. Backflow can happen from a residential or a commercial source. Medical facilities, chemical plants, industrial plants, boilers, custodial mop sinks, swimming pools, chemical feed mixers, mortuaries, medical, dental, and veterinary clinics, laboratories, irrigation and lawn sprinklers, marinas, connections with an auxiliary water supply which could be polluted, are all possible sources of cross-connection and backflow contamination.”

The above paragraph is a quick review of the definition of backflow. It is a reminder of what hazards or contamination possibilities of our drinking water systems exist in the real world. Most of the world has spent a lot of time protecting itself from an unseen hazard to our health, mostly an airborne form. Staying home more, washing our hands more, wearing a mask when out in public, and basic disinfection of almost everything has become much more common than a year ago. Diligence is the key to keeping our world safe from contaminants and pollution.

How do we do this with our drinking water, you may ask?

Well, Bob Dylan was not talking about backflow when he said that the answer is ‘blowin’ in the wind.’ The answer is diligence in using the correct backflow prevention assembly and regular testing of assemblies.

Backflow prevention assemblies can be very simple or more complex, yet all have a place in protecting our drinking water. All testable assemblies must be tested yearly, and records kept on the test and if any repairs were made.

An air gap is the simplest prevention, with no moving parts and maybe the most inexpensive way to prevent backflow in a water system. Having no moving parts is always a plus, and testing is merely making sure the air gap is never compromised. An air gap is a separation of the incoming pipe or inlet from the source of contamination or pollution by a minimum of one inch or two times the incoming pipe’s diameter. A sink has an air gap when the faucet is above the sink’s rim by at least one inch. Toilets, dishwashers, swimming



pools, and water tanks may have or should have an air gap on the incoming water line. If the sink or water tank supply line has an air gap, there is no chance that the liquid in the sink or tank can be back siphoned or back flowed into the incoming water line. If there’s no chance of backflow, no hazard, no problem.

The next best backflow prevention assembly is the reduced pressure assembly or RP. This assembly uses double check valves and a relief valve that dumps the backflow from downstream to the atmosphere in case of a pressure loss or backpressure condition on the line.

Next in line is the double check valve backflow assembly. The

use of check valves prevents backflow with the redundancy of two check valves in series.

The use of a pressure vacuum breaker is third in line for protection. This assembly is mainly used outdoors on irrigation systems to prevent backflow. It consists of a check valve and a relief valve that opens to the atmosphere.

The spill-resistant pressure vacuum breaker is used indoors on irrigation systems when a return to service may spill some liquid before the assembly is fully pressurized.

The least amount of protection (but still better than nothing) is afforded by the atmospheric vacuum breaker assembly. This assembly will protect against back siphon but not always backpressure. It has a float or spring-loaded relief valve vented to the atmosphere to break a back-siphon condition. This float or spring can be held in place with backpressure and creates a hazardous condition to the potable water supply.

Most backflow assemblies are on the main potable water line entering a building, but there may be more backflow assemblies inside of a building. Taking a quick look at a building's potable water system may reveal several spots in need of a backflow prevention assembly. A boiler system, mop sinks, wash sinks, fire suppression system, chemical feed or mixer areas, solar heating systems, and anything connected to a potable water line should have a device to prevent backflow.

This is just a small intro to backflow prevention. There are a few cities and towns with excellent backflow prevention programs on the books or soon to be in place. The groundwork has been done, so if you or your water system are thinking of establishing or upgrading your backflow prevention program, call and SDARWS staff can assist or put you in touch with someone who has the basics in place. Backflow prevention is something we all need to be working on together to protect our drinking water.

The picture shown on page 21 is of the water coming out of a fire suppression system drain. If you think you have had bad water complaints, just think of that nasty stuff backflowing into your water system – who would want to drink that?

As always, stay safe. 💧



**BILL THORSON** joined the SDARWS staff in March of 2018 as a Wastewater Tech. Bill transitioned to Trainer/Technical Assistance Specialist with SDARWS in October of 2019. Bill previously was employed with the City of Canton as Public Works Director for nine years and water/wastewater operations specialist for 19 years. Bill holds Class II certifications in Water Treatment, Water Distribution, Wastewater Treatment, and Wastewater Collection. Bill is NASSCO certified in pipeline and manhole inspections. Bill is also an SDWWA board member.




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A child in a red and blue striped shirt is in a swimming pool, wearing large, colorful goggles and giving a thumbs up. The background is a blue tiled pool wall.

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# IMPROVING ON 20 YEARS OF REGIONAL UTILITY RATE BENCHMARKING

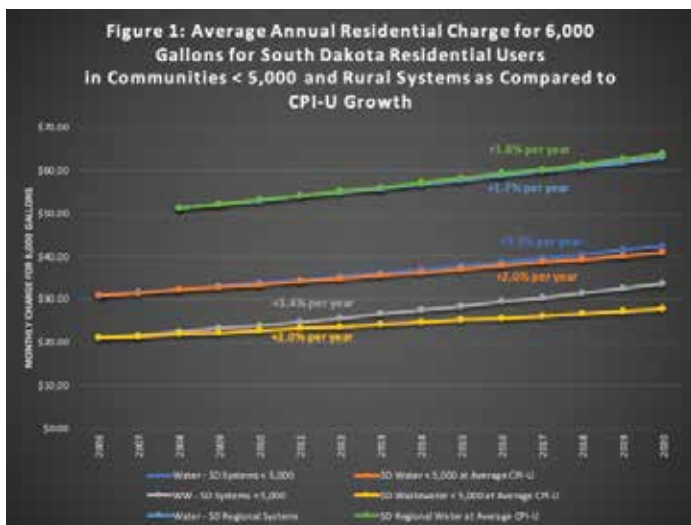
Miranda Kleven, PE, AE2S Nexus

Happy New Year, South Dakota! As we start in to the new year, AE2S would like to take a moment to first say THANK YOU! to the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Members for your continued support of and consistent participation in our Annual Utility Rate Survey. Since 2002, AE2S has collected water, wastewater, stormwater and solid waste utility rate data from around the region to help your systems address the often-asked question: “How do my rates compare?” We’re excited to announce that 2021 marks the 20th year of this effort – and to celebrate, we are digging into “history” and providing additional value to you through the 20th anniversary Rate Survey!

## MODEST BEGINNINGS LEADING TO GREAT PARTICIPATION

When we undertook the first rate survey back in 2002 we knew the information would be valuable to systems, but what we didn’t know was how you would respond to the survey request. Since its humble beginnings when we had participation from a handful of systems, to 2019 when we received responses from over 80 systems, you have shown us that the information is indeed beneficial!

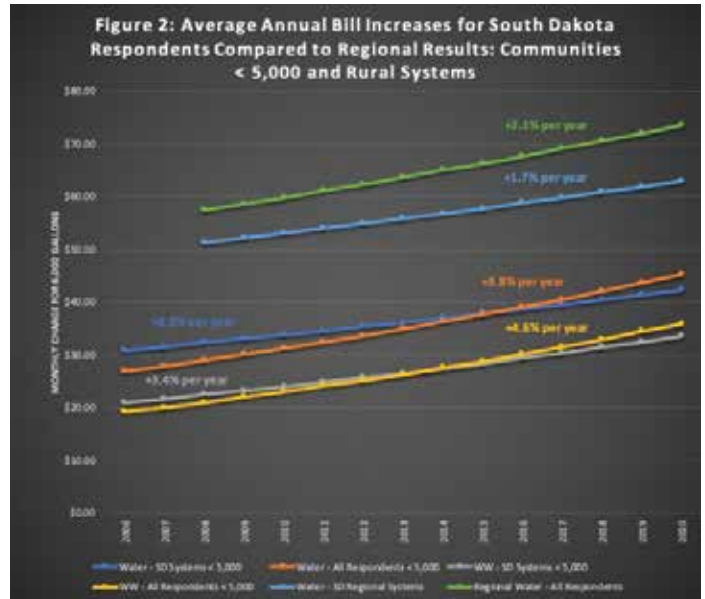
As a case in point, Figure 1 illustrates the trending of rates over the years compared with the consumer price index, etc. Here is some key information that our years of the rate survey data shows about communities serving 5,000 or fewer residential users:



- With an average Consumer Price Index for (CPI) of 2.0 percent since 2006, the dark blue line shows that the monthly bill for 6,000 gallons in communities serving less than 5,000 has risen by an average of 2.3 percent annually, slightly higher than the average annual CPI-U of 2.0 percent for that period.
- Similarly, but to a larger degree, the average cost associated

with 6,000 gallons of wastewater disposal has increased at an average annual rate of 3.4 percent.

- The monthly cost to rural/regional users for 6,000 gallons of water has increased by an average rate of 1.7 percent since 2008, which is very close to the average annual CPI-U since 2008 of 1.8 percent.

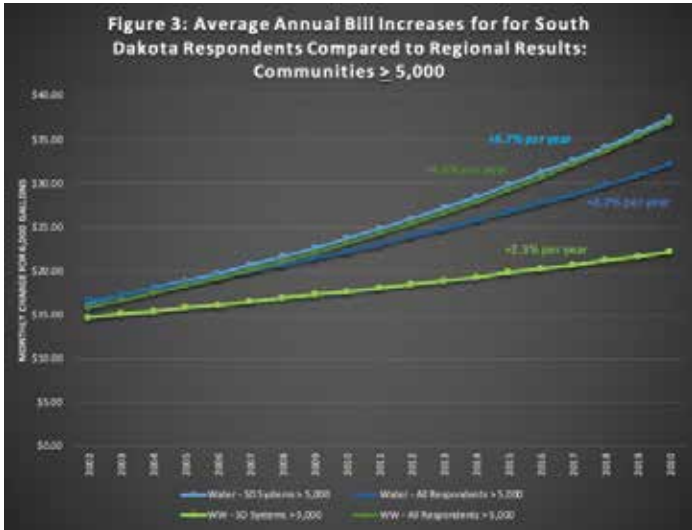


Although the annual change in the cost of water and wastewater has generally outpaced that of inflation, South Dakota systems overall saw smaller increases when compared to other systems in the region. Figure 2 summarizes the comparison of the annualized change in water and wastewater charges for South Dakota Systems serving less than 5,000 as compared to similar systems in the region.

It is notable that for both water and wastewater respondents serving less than 5,000, the average rates in 2006 were higher in South Dakota than the average for all respondents, but the average rate of change from 2006 to 2020 was less in South Dakota than the average for all participants.

South Dakota systems serving less than 5,000 appear to have started out ahead of their counterparts in surrounding states, and then experienced relatively smaller annual increases overall. For rural/regional respondents, the average charge in 2008 was less than the overall average. The annualized average increase of 1.7 percent was less than the average increase of 2.1 percent for all rural/regional respondents.

Figure 3 shows a little bit different story for South Dakota systems serving 5,000 or greater. The average charge for 6,000 gallons of water for communities of this size was about equal to the average across the region in 2002. The average rate of increase for South Dakota water systems of this size has been 4.8 percent since 2002, as compared to an average for all participants over that period of 3.7 percent per year. Conversely, the average bill for South Dakota wastewater systems serving



systems? Through the 2021 AE2S Rate Survey we intend to help you find answers to those (and other) questions you have.

**NEW IN 2021**

We understand that rate-setting can seem complicated. It can be helpful for water and wastewater system managers to have a frame of reference to provide context to any proposed rate changes.

When considering a rate change of any magnitude, it is useful to have data that supports your plan. Toward that end, we are working to increase the value and relevance of the AE2S Rate Survey to include more detailed benchmarking comparison data for your use. We have rewritten some of the questions to streamline the survey completion process and provide more useful data for benchmarking purposes. Some of the key issues we know you are interested in include:

- Full cost recovery
- Capital reserve funding
- Operating reserve funding
- Fixed charges
- Stormwater rate strategies

As always, AE2S will continue to provide this survey free of charge to all participants. We hope you will take part in the 20th Edition version of our AE2S Annual Utility Rate Survey. The survey can be completed at [www.ae2sratesurvey.com](http://www.ae2sratesurvey.com) or by requesting a paper copy of the questionnaire at [Miranda.Kleven@ae2s.com](mailto:Miranda.Kleven@ae2s.com). The deadline for submission is April 9, 2021. We look forward to sharing our 20th Anniversary Edition with you! 💧

5,000 or greater has increased at an annual rate of 2.3 percent compared to the average across all respondents of this size of 4.8 percent.

Historical data indicates that South Dakota’s small and regional systems saw smaller increases over the comparison period than their peers, as did South Dakota’s large wastewater systems. South Dakota large water systems experienced average annual increases greater than the average of all large water system respondents. Is this good news or bad news? What does this mean? Have the increases been adequate to support operational and financial sustainability for South Dakota

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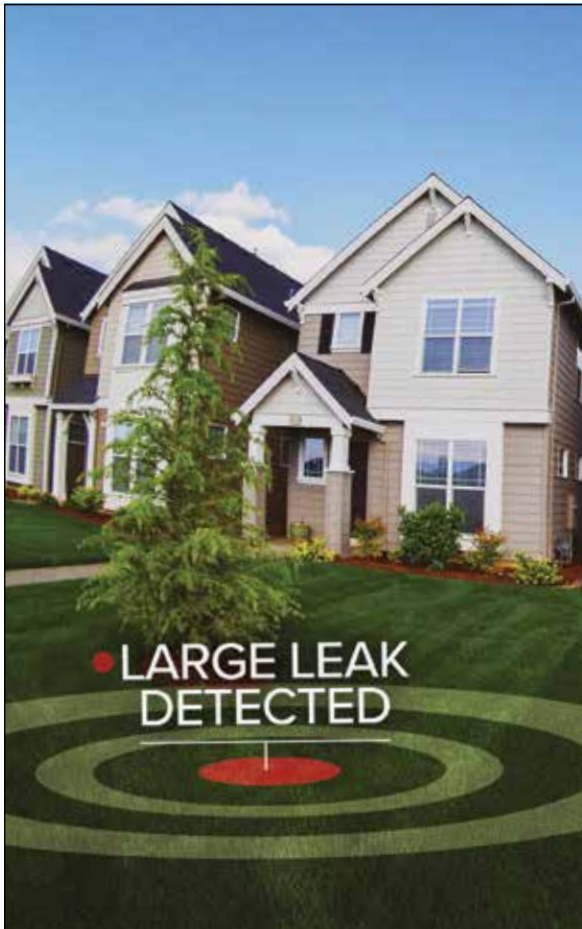
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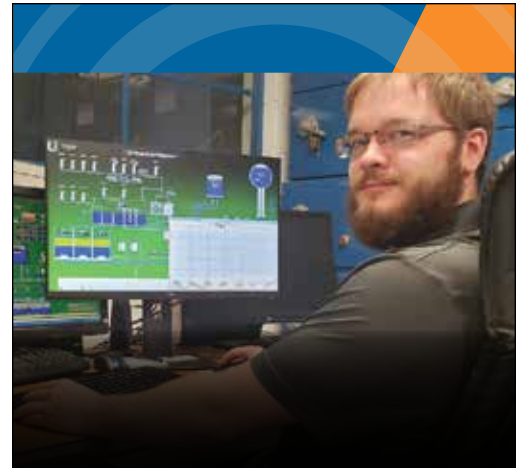
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# CERTIFICATION PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- If you want to fill a new section of distribution system before putting it into service and the pipe is 10 inches in diameter and 1500 feet long. How long will it take to fill in minutes, if your flow into the pipe is 200 gpm?
  - 2.4 hours
  - 0.5 hours
  - 140 minutes
  - 31 minutes
- A water tower has a total height of 145 feet to the tank overflow, the dimensions of the tank at the top are 24 feet in diameter by 25 feet tall. If the tank is full to the overflow, how many psi would this represent at a pressure gauge at the base of the tower?
  - 37 psi
  - 63 psi
  - 52 psi
  - 48 psi
- During hydrant flushing an operator flushes a 8 inch water main and achieves a flow of 800 gpm, what is the velocity of the water in the main during flushing?
  - 1.5 ft/sec
  - 2.8 ft/sec
  - 4.65 ft/sec
  - 5.2 ft/sec
- The flow from your pump is 1400 gpm at a pressure of 125 psi. Your pump efficiency is 93% and your motor efficiency is 88%. What is the motor Hp?
  - 125 Hp
  - 150 Hp
  - 75 Hp
  - 50 Hp
- Your system installs a new sodium hypochlorite (bleach) generator that produces a 0.8 % solution of sodium hypochlorite. In the past 24 hours you used 300 gallons of this hypochlorite solution and pumped an average of 900 gpm. What is your chlorine dosage (mg/L)? (Assume the hypochlorite solution has a specific gravity of 1)
  - 1.9 mg/L
  - 2.35 mg/L
  - 0.85 mg/L
  - 3.55 mg/L
- Specifications allow for a maximum of 0.5 gallons/hr/1000 feet of leakage in a new water main during hydrostatic testing. What would be the maximum allowable leakage (in gph) for 1 mile of new water main?
  - 1.85 gph
  - 2.32 gph
  - 8.3 gph
  - 2.6 gph
- Your motor uses 30 KW of electrical power and has water Hp of 35 Hp. What is the overall efficiency of the pump and motor?
  - 74%
  - 36%
  - 13%
  - 87%
- The flow from your pump is 1400 gpm at a pressure of 125 psi. Your pump efficiency is 93% and your motor efficiency is 88%. What is the motor Hp?
  - 125 Hp
  - 150 Hp
  - 75 Hp
  - 50 Hp
- If the pump in problem #8 runs for an average of 18 hours/day and your electric rate is \$0.045/KW, what would be the electric cost to run that pump for one year?
  - \$2,500.32
  - \$27,569.36
  - \$18,345.82
  - \$42,155.18
- Checking the Meter in the well house (meter measures in 1000 gallons units) you find the meter reading on the first of the month was 102830 and 108996 on the last day of the month. After checking with the billing clerk you find that they billed out for 5,885,000 gallons. What is the % water loss for the month?
  - 95.5%
  - 85.5%
  - 4.5%
  - 14.5%



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

# DON'T GET LEFT OUT IN THE COLD:

## Enhance Winter Weather Resilience with Mitigation

**Gabrielle Minton, Physical Scientist – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

The services provided by drinking water and wastewater utilities are vital to the health and resilience of a community. However, extreme winter weather, including floods, blizzards, and ice storms, can present challenges to maintaining drinking water and wastewater services, underscoring the need for long-term resilience solutions in the water sector.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) forecast for the 2020-2021 winter season predicts warmer, drier conditions in the southern tier of the United States and colder, wetter weather across the northern tier., due in part to an ongoing La Niña. To better prepare for the upcoming winter season, your utility can take steps before, during and after winter weather events using the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) suite of easy-to-use tools and resources.

### PRIORITIZE YOUR UTILITY

The winter season can bring freezing temperatures, heavy snowfall, ice, and flooding. These conditions can cause power loss and infrastructure damage, such as pipe breaks and flooded facilities. The EPA has developed the Extreme Cold and Winter Storms Incident Action Checklist (IAC) to help utilities prepare for, respond to and recover from extreme winter weather events.

The planning measures outlined in the Extreme Cold and Winter Storm IAC encourage utilities and community partners to work together before potential incidents to plan for power restoration, plowing, and road salting or sanding. Making sure your utility has priority can keep your staff safe and ensure customers have a reliable source of water

before, during, and after a disaster. Similarly, confirming your utility's response access credentials with local law enforcement before an incident can make all the difference when staff are urgently needed to restore facility operations.

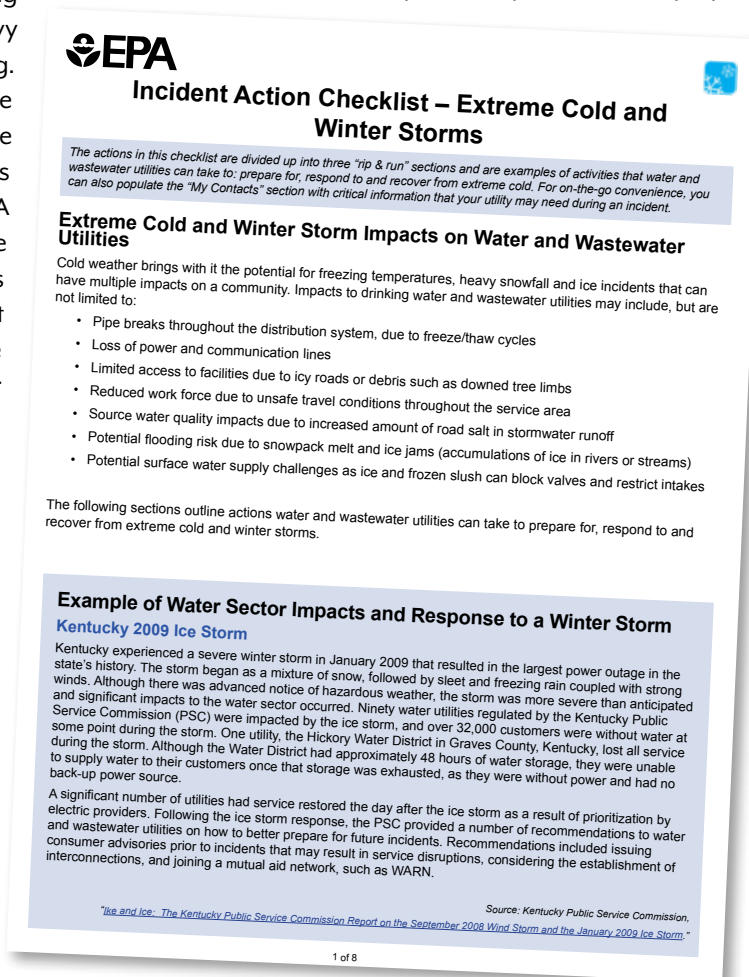
### STEPS TOWARD RESILIENCE: UNDERSTAND THREATS, IDENTIFY VULNERABILITIES, AND DETERMINE CONSEQUENCES

Floods are one of the most common and widespread weather-related incidents. They can be caused by a variety of weather events, including rains that follow significant snow and ice accumulation. EPA developed the Flood Resilience Guide: A Basic Guide for Water and Wastewater Utilities for your utility to use to minimize damage and rapidly recover from disruptions to service. The Flood Resilience Guide presents a four-step process for building resilience to winter-related flooding emergencies.

For each step, the Guide provides worksheets outlining actions your utility can take to prepare for, respond to, and recover from winter season floods. These actions can include reviewing utility records of past flooding events to determine the magnitude of threat to your utility and identifying the specific causes of past flooding incidents, such as ice jams or snow melt. These steps will ensure the mitigation measures are economical, practical, and effective at protecting your utility and customers.

### TRANSFORM PREPAREDNESS INTO MITIGATION

While preparedness measures can strengthen your utility's resilience to extreme winter weather, putting long-term mitigation planning for incidents into practice is the most effective way to ensure your utility and community can better

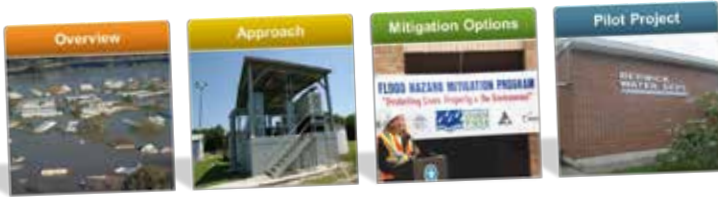




# FLOOD RESILIENCE

A Basic Guide for Water and Wastewater Utilities

Select a menu option below.  
First time users should start with the Overview.



Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Small Business Association, FEMA and EPA to identify those that are applicable to your utility. It also provides examples of successful utility applications and tips for funding.

## CONSOLIDATE INFORMATION IN AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Another key aspect in planning for and responding to winter weather incidents is developing a robust Emergency Response Plan (ERP). An ERP describes strategies, resources, plans, and procedures to prepare for and respond to a natural occurring or man-made incident. Under America's Water Infrastructure of 2018 (AWIA) Section 2013, community water systems serving over 3,300 people are required to develop or update an ERP.

The information, plans and procedures developed when utilizing the Extreme Cold and Winter Storms IAC, Flood Resilience Guide and Hazard Mitigation Guide for Natural Disasters contribute to the foundation of your ERP. Compiling this information provides a clear and concise process for emergencies and fosters a culture of preparedness at your utility.

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## INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

To learn more, visit [www.epa.gov/waterresilience](http://www.epa.gov/waterresilience) or join the What's Going On newsletter email list by contacting [WSD-outreach@epa.gov](mailto:WSD-outreach@epa.gov). With the help of EPA's free water resilience resources, you can help ensure that your utility continues to provide safe and reliable services to your customers during emergencies. 💧

The Hazard Mitigation for Natural Disasters Guide also includes information on eligibility for funding, such as federal grants or loans, to support mitigation work. This includes the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) which can be used by communities to implement hazard mitigation projects following a Presidential Disaster Declaration.

## IDENTIFY FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MITIGATION

There are several federal programs, including HMGP to help utilities understand and obtain federal disaster and mitigation funding. EPA developed the Federal Funding for Water and Wastewater Utilities in National Disasters (Fed FUNDS) tool so that utilities can quickly screen funding programs from U.S. Department of



Overview Hazard Mitigation

Join Local Mitigation Efforts

Develop Mitigation Projects

Implement and Fund Project

Mitigation Case Study



# QUICK & EASY FINANCING SOLUTIONS



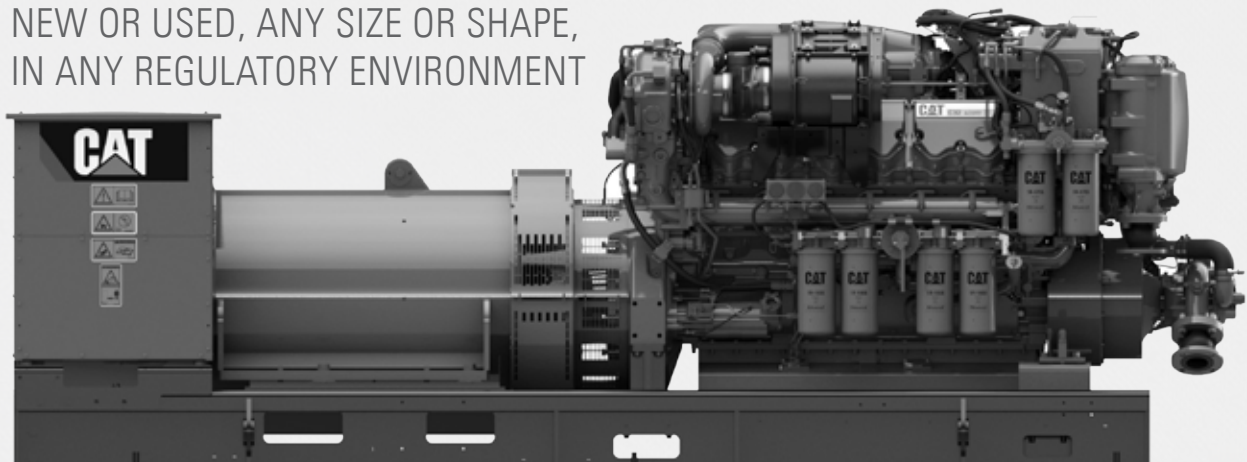
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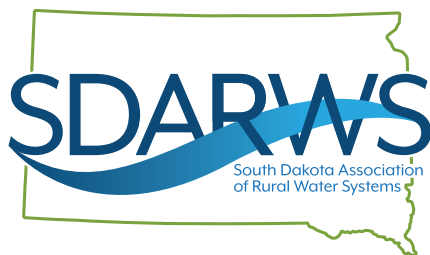
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# RURAL WATER EXPO 2021

## CALL FOR PAPERS

South Dakota Rural Water, in cooperation with the many small and rural systems located in western South Dakota, would like to invite manufacturers, suppliers, and engineering firms to participate in our Rural Water EXPO April 28-29, 2021 at the Rapid City Ramkota.

Presentations for the 1½ day event will focus on water technology, distribution and regulatory advances in the water & wastewater field. Tabletop displays will be arranged around the perimeter of the room and/or the hallway areas to provide easy access to exhibit displays. Sponsorships will be available.

We will also offer exhibitors 30 minutes on the program on a first come first serve basis. We have pre-arranged our program to provide 20 presentations at 30 minutes each. Lunch will be provided.

## TOPIC SUGGESTIONS

- Drinking water security strategies and tools
- How Water Storage Can Impact Water Quality
- Fair Labor Standards Act
- Hands-on sessions:
  - ◆ Control valve repair kits
  - ◆ Hydrant maintenance and repair
  - ◆ Solution pump repairs (diaphragm and peristaltic)
  - ◆ Repair couplers, saddles, wet tapping
- The importance of Cross Connection Control
- Water Rights for public systems
- Ice Pigging to clean water and sewer pipelines
- Source water protection and sustainability of water supplies
- Climate change, water and energy efficiency, and conservation
- Clean Water Act/SDWA connections, nutrient pollution, and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)
- Emerging drinking water treatment technologies and optimization of current technology
- State revolving loan fund tools and techniques/ green infrastructure strategies
- Small systems: TMF, sustainability strategies, technologies, and compliance
- Trench Safety
- Data management (e.g., SCADA, GIS, IT)
- Workforce, operator certification, and/or technical assistance initiatives
- Distribution system issues
- Emerging contaminants in drinking water, both chemical and microbial
- Drinking water research
- Sanitation and wastewater management
- Risk assessment, risk communication and consumer outreach
- Implementation of regulations – challenges and successes

**Register & submit abstracts online at [sdarws.com/rural-water-expo.html](https://sdarws.com/rural-water-expo.html)**



# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KURT PFEIFLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## DIARY OF A CORONAVIRUS SURVIVOR

You know how you wake up in the morning and you're assaulted by your own "morning breath?" Well, the morning of December 13, 2020, I woke and immediately noticed the absence of the offending morning breath. I thought to myself "that's weird" I seem to have lost my sense of smell. I told my spouse of this weirdness and she immediately became concerned. She left, then came back with a tube of something, she waved it under my nose... "can you smell that?" Nope, I got nothing. She sighed, and said it was Vick's Vapor Rub, and that I should've smelled something! We made arrangement to drive to Sioux Falls and get tested for Covid at GS Labs, they advertised a short turn-around for Covid testing. Within an hour of having the test, I received a confidential email with the word "POSITIVE" emblazoned in the test results field.

For the next couple of days, I felt relatively good, the only symptoms I was having was loss of taste and smell and some fatigue. I remember thinking "looks like I'm one of the lucky ones that only have mild symptoms." I shouldn't have spoken so soon. Over the next five days, the symptoms of my Covid steadily increased. On the seventh day, I was still not smelling or tasting anything, my fatigue had increased to utter exhaustion, the headaches were excruciating, nausea had set in and my appetite was gone. However harsh and unwanted those symptoms were, I was unprepared for the breathing problems I would be experiencing. I had noticed my breathing becoming more-shallow by the day and taking a deep breath (like when yawning) was impossible to do. On that seventh day, I was showering in the morning, and found myself having to cut my shower short because I literally could not stand in the shower any longer. I had to stop, get out and lie down. It took all I could muster to even get dried off.

For days 7 – 12, my symptoms remained about the same, and I was worried that I may not get the relief for which I had been praying, anytime soon. As I sat on the couch, swaddled with a blanket in my sweats, my wife asked me on a couple of occasions "do you need to go to the emergency room/hospital." To be quite honest, I didn't know, but at times, I questioned my wisdom of not answering in the affirmative and have myself admitted. This is a good place to note, that my wife did not escape the Covid experience either, she had tested "POSITIVE" two days after I did. She had many of the same symptoms, but she's clearly stronger than I am, and was

able to push through her symptoms and keep our household running and tended to me and my symptoms. Bless her for her caring nature and her strength as she muddled through both our illnesses.

The Lab information told me that I was clear to discontinue quarantine after 10 days. For those who believe that after 10 days you're cured and ready to return to work, I can only say, "if you're lucky." My symptoms continued through day 16, only afterwards did I begin to feel that I'd be ready to report to work and actually be productive. Not being contagious, is not the same as being recovered. In fact, to this day, more than a month out, both my wife and I have lingering symptoms, they're not debilitating, but they are there, and they're noticeable, nonetheless.



## THE ADVICE I GIVE TO OTHERS AFTER EXPERIENCING COVID IS:

- 1.) Avoid it, it is real and there is no guarantee you or your loved one won't contract it and have a bad experience. Mask up, keep your distance, wait for the vaccine, it's not that far away.
- 2.) Don't be fooled by early mild symptoms, the worst of Covid can sneak up on you and it is best to be prepared.
- 3.) Don't play the macho card. If you're having difficulties, go to see your primary care provider and get help.
- 4.) Search for things you can do to help stave off some of the worst of Covid. I was baffled and disappointed that the only advice I received was to quarantine and talk to my doctor if I felt I needed to... nothing else... We had to search the internet to find things to do to "self-treat." We kept up with taking Tylenol and Ibuprofen for head and body aches. We made a routine of taking our temperature and checking our oxygen levels. We regularly got up, moved around, and stretched. There were other things we were told we could do, but I'll not mention them here as I don't subscribe to the belief that everything on the internet is accurate or true.

I'll end this chronical by saying, both my wife and I are fine today. We survived Covid that's for sure, but we have a healthy respect for the disease. Vaccines are on the way, and there's a light at the end of the tunnel... let's just hope that the light we see isn't another train barreling down the track heading straight for us; I'm teasing of course. Happy New Year to you all, let's hope and pray 2021 is a much better and uneventful year than 2020 was! 💧

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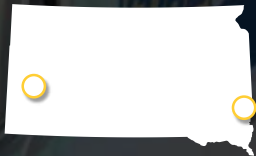
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## MANDATORY RULES MEETING

April 30, 2021 at 7:00 PM  
in the Outpost Lodge Event Center

- Teams to consist of 2-3 people with at least one person who is a current water/wastewater, associate or corporate member of South Dakota Rural Water.
- Tournament begins at the Cow Creek Boat Ramp on Saturday, May 1 at from 7:00 AM - 3:00 PM.
- This is a boat-only tournament.
- Participants may fish above or below the dam (Lake Sharpe or Lake Oahe)
- Boat inspection prior to start.
- South Dakota fishing regulations must be followed.
- Weigh-ins start @ 3:30 PM
- Walleye tournament; largest seven walleye weighed per team.
- 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.
- Meal to follow at the event center @ 5:00 PM.

For more information, contact Mike Moeller, SDARWS Tournament Chair  
605-270-4989 • mmoeller@sdarws.com

**Register online at [sdarws.com/fishing.html](http://sdarws.com/fishing.html)**