

ServiceLine

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

WATER
A LEAK MAY
NOT BE A LEAK

SOURCE WATER
HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

WASTEWATER
INSPECTING YOUR LAGOONS

TRAINING
EPA TRAINING AND
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
FOR SMALL AND RURAL
WASTEWATER SYSTEMS
PROGRAM

**LEADERSHIP
SEMINAR
NOVEMBER 9-10**

**2023 ATC
JANUARY 10-12
PIERRE, SD**

**2023
ATC AWARD
NOMINATIONS**

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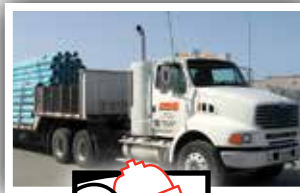
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FROM THE SDARWS PRESIDENT

RON GILLEN, SDARWS PRESIDENT

SDARWS PARTNERS WITH MEMBERCLICKS

SDARWS is pleased to announce that we have recently partnered with MemberClicks – an award-winning association membership management platform. Staff have been busy behind the scenes updating our membership database in order to switch over to the new platform. With this transition, we are also excited to introduce a re-designed and more mobile-friendly website (sdarws.com), as well as event and class registration software that syncs with our database to track attendance and certifications, as well as offer a better user experience. We look forward to sharing more information on this transition in the next issue of *ServiceLine*.

LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

Association staff are prepping for our Annual Leadership Seminar which be held at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel in Pierre November 9-10, 2022. This seminar is geared towards Rural Water System Directors and Board Members, and includes informational sessions on PFAS, Rural Development programs, the board's role in the HR process, and more. The cost to attend Leadership is \$200, and includes a meal at the President's Reception on the evening of November 9th.

ATC AWARD SUBMISSIONS

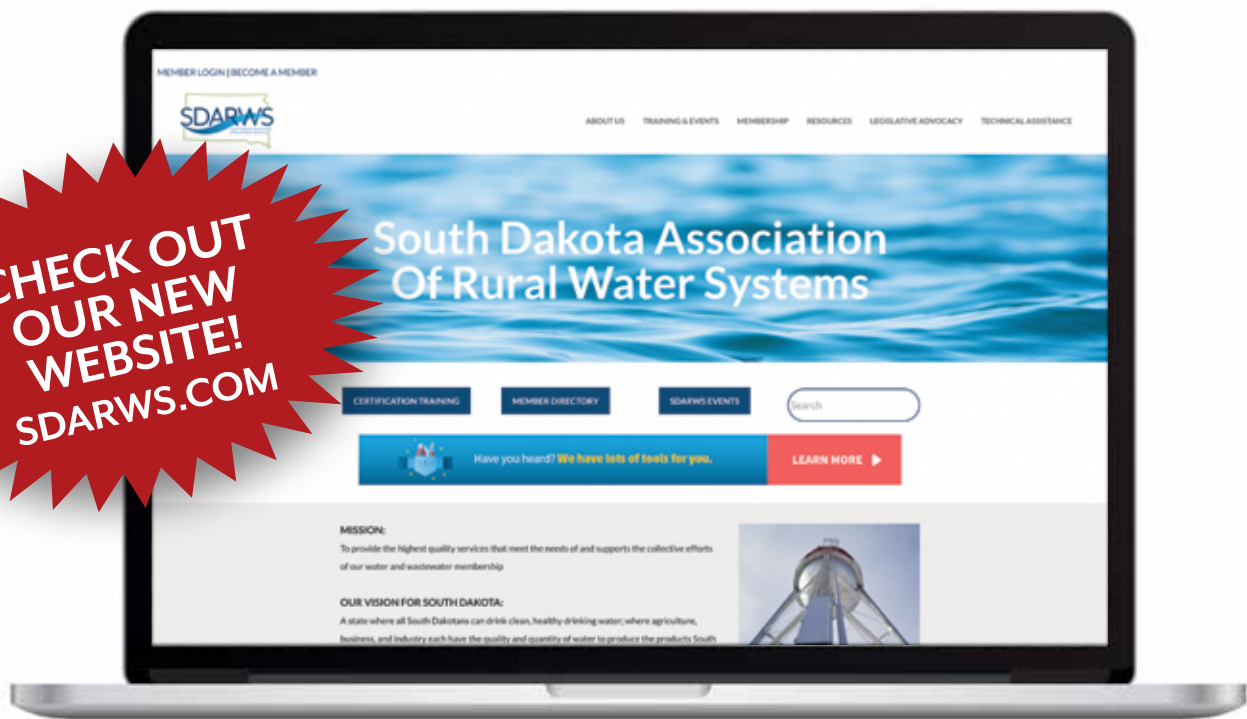
There are only a few more short months before the snow flies, so that means it's time to get in your award nominations for the ATC! Application and information can be found on pages

12-13. The deadline to submit applications is October 29th, and it can be done by mailing in the form on page 13, or online at surveymonkey.com/r/ATCawards.

2023 RURAL WATER RALLY

South Dakota Rural Water does many things, and one of the most important benefits to our rural water membership relates to our legislative efforts. Every year the National Rural Water Association hosts a Rural Water Rally in Washington D.C. to further the work of providing drinking water and wastewater services to rural communities. Rural Water professionals, leaders and customers from every state attend the rally to thank their Senators and Representatives for their support and encourage them to further support the goals and needs of the Rural Water Industry. The Rally provides your Association the opportunity to meet directly with our congressional delegation one-on-one to discuss concerns of SDARWS members and other systems, as well as with their staffers, and USDA.

Consider joining us February 7-9, 2023 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. For more information, visit NRWA's Rally page at: nrwa.org/rally. Room reservations can be made at the Hyatt Regency by calling 202-737-1234. If you have any questions about attending this year's event, please call the SDARWS office at 605-556-7219. We would love to have you join us on the Hill! 💧





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OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING AND EXAMS

Course Name	Date	Location
Wastewater Collection	October 4-6, 2022	Sioux Falls Ramkota - Harvest Room
OpCert Exam	October 6, 2022 @ 1:00 PM	Sioux Falls Ramkota - Harvest Room
Stabilization Pond Workshop	October 13, 2022	Highland Conference Center
Stabilization Pond Workshop	October 18, 2022	Aberdeen Ramkota - Northern Room
Water Distribution	November 15-17, 2022	Spearfish Holiday Inn
OpCert Exam	November 17, 2022 @ 1:00 PM	Spearfish Holiday Inn
Basic Wastewater Treatment	December 6-8, 2022	Rapid City Ramkota - Rushmore Room
OpCert Exam	December 8, 2022 @ 1:00 PM	Rapid City Ramkota - Rushmore Room
Basic Water Treatment	January 24-26, 2023	Rapid City Ramkota - Rushmore Room
Wastewater Collection	February 7-9, 2023	Watertown Ramkota
Water Distribution	March 7-9, 2023	Rapid City Ramkota - Rushmore Room
Basic Water Treatment	March 21-23, 2023	Watertown Ramkota
Basic Wastewater Treatment	April 4-6, 2023	Sioux Falls Ramkota - Harvest Room
Small Water Treatment Workshop	April 27, 2023	Rapid City Ramkota
Intermediate Water Treatment	May 2-4, 2023	Aberdeen Ramkota
Advanced Water Treatment	May 23-25, 2023	Rapid City Ramkota - Rushmore Room
Stabilization Pond Workshop	June 1, 2023	Huron - Huron Events Center

Classes start at 8:00 AM Tuesday through Thursday.

Classes end at approximately 4:30 PM on Tuesday and Wednesday, and noon on Thursday.

One-day Workshops start at 8:00 AM and end at 4:30 PM.

The Stabilization Pond class deals strictly with ponds/lagoons and is the best class for preparing to take the Small WW Exam. The Basic WW Treatment class deals with all types of wastewater treatment other than ponds/lagoons and is the best class for preparing to take the Class I WW Treatment exam. Small Systems that use ponds/lagoons for treatment can come into compliance with the Operator Certification Law by passing either the Small WW System exam or the Class I WW Treatment Exam.

Water systems serving less than 500 individuals and use wells as its source can come into compliance by passing the Small Water Treatment exam. Larger systems must pass the Class I Water Treatment exam or higher depending on the facility classification.

EXAM INFORMATION

All exams cost \$60.00 and must be taken "in-person."

Any exam can be taken at an exam session. You can take more than one exam at an exam session; however, the exam session remains at three hours long.

All exam applications are due no later than two weeks prior to the exam date.

Questions regarding exams can be directed to Tammie Hill with DANR at 605-773-3577.

DANR Operator Certification website:

danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/OperatorCert/default.aspx

STUDY MATERIALS

DANR has water exam study material to lend to operators. These include manuals from California State:

- *Water Distribution System Operation and Maintenance*
- *Small Water System Operation and Maintenance*

TRAINING CLASSES

Certification Training Classes are conducted by the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems. **These classes are presented at no charge.** Certified Operators can obtain contact hours for attending all of the above classes.

For more information on certification training classes, please contact Bill Thorson at 605-556-7219 (office) or 605-201-0170 (cell).

Register for training classes online at:

sdarws.com/certification.html

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

REGISTER FOR CLASSES ONLINE: sdarws.com - CLICK ON THE CERTIFICATION TAB



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November 9-10, 2022 • Pierre, SD

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ROOM BLOCK

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REGISTRATION

\$200/person

WEDNESDAY – NOVEMBER 9

- 1:00 WELCOME**
Ron Gillen, SDARWS Board President
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
AGENDA REVIEW
- 1:15 PICK-SLOAN MISSOURI RIVER BASIN PROGRAM: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**
Cheryl Chapman, Troy Larson, Brad Lawrence
- 2:15 BREAK**
- 2:30 PFAS – A “ONE WATER” CONTAMINANT**
Tim Stefanich, AE2S
- 3:15 NRWA PFAS COST RECOVERY PROGRAM**
Sam Wade and Hank Naughton, Napoli Shkolnik PLLC
- 4:00 BREAK**
- 4:15 RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**
Brian Ring, USDA Rural Development
- 5:30 PRESIDENT’S RECEPTION**
- 6:00 DINNER & GUEST SPEAKER**
Casey Crabtree, SD State Senator

THURSDAY – NOVEMBER 10

- 8:00 RECONVENE & AGENDA REVIEW**
- 8:15 ATTORNEY’S CORNER**
Darla Pollman Rogers, Riter Rogers
- 9:00 BREAK**
- 9:15 GRASSROOTS SUPPORT: THE NRWA LEGISLATIVE APPROACH**
Bill Simpson, Michael Preston & Mike Keegan, NRWA (via Zoom)
- 10:00 BREAK**
- 10:15 NRWA: SUPPORTING WATER IN RURAL AMERICA**
Vern Steel, NRWA Deputy CEO
- 11:00 BOARD’S ROLE IN THE HR PROCESS**
Jean Bender, Davenport, Evans, Hurwitz & Smith LLP (via Zoom)
- 11:45 CLOSING COMMENTS**
Ron Gillen, SDARWS Board President, & Kurt Pfeifle, SDARWS Executive Director

South Dakota Rural Water AWARD NOMINATIONS

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

Give recognition where it is due by making an award nomination. Awards will be presented at the Awards Banquet. **Application deadline is October 29, 2022.** Eligible nominees must be affiliated with a system member in good standing. The online form can be found at www.surveymonkey.com/r/ATCAwards.

WE ARE ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE
FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

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

Rural Water Manager of the Year: Recognition for a manager of a Rural Water System for outstanding performance in operating a Rural Water System.

Rural Water Office Person of the Year: Recognition for an administrative employee of a Rural Water System for outstanding performance in office management and procedures.

Rural Water System Operations Supervisor of the Year: Recognition for a State of South Dakota Certified Operator who is actively working a supervisory role for a Rural Water System, and has demonstrated outstanding leadership ability and/or accomplishments in drinking water.

Rural Water System Operations Specialist of the Year: Recognition for a State of South Dakota Certified Operator who is actively working for a Rural Water System with outstanding leadership ability and/or accomplishments in drinking water.

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

Municipal Manager of the Year: Recognition for a municipal manager for outstanding performance in managing a municipality.

Municipal Office Person of the Year: Recognition for an administrative employee of a municipality (e.g. clerk, finance officer, etc.) for outstanding performance in office management and procedures.

Municipal Operations Specialist of the Year: Recognition for a State of South Dakota Certified Operator who is actively working for a municipality with outstanding leadership ability/accomplishments in water.

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

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

South Dakota Rural Water AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

This form is also available online at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/ATCawards

Name of Nominee _____ Title _____

Employer _____ Years with System _____

Name of person making nomination _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Please Indicate Award:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Water System of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Manager of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Water Manager of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Office Person of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Water Office Person of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Operations Specialist of the Year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Water Operations Supervisor of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Spirit of Rural Water |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rural Water Operations Specialist of the Year | <input type="checkbox"/> Donald B. Pospishil |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Water/Wastewater System of the Year | |

Supporting Information: Please provide a narrative for why this nominee deserves the award. (Outstanding accomplishments, contributions to system and state association, certifications, awards, exemplary work on legislative issues, leadership, civic activities, etc.) Feel free to add additional pages if needed.

Deadline to apply is October 29, 2022

Please complete this entry form and mail to:
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or scan and email to atc@sdarws.com



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BAYMONT INN & SUITES – 605-224-4140

JANUARY 10-12, 2023



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Holly Hoffman 2023 ATC KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Holly Hoffman was the last remaining member of the Espada Tribe and the last woman standing on Season 21 of CBS' hit reality show "Survivor: Nicaragua." Through that experience, and others throughout her life, Holly was inspired to share her message of survival.

A professional motivational speaker and the author of "Your Winner Within" and "Write Yourself a Note," Holly acknowledges that life is made up of challenges, and we are oftentimes faced with situations that seem insurmountable. But within each of us is an ability to focus our thoughts, emotions, and energy to succeed – if only we have the knowledge, tools, and discipline to do so.

A native of South Dakota, Holly's writing and speaking not only offer encouragement and optimism but a roadmap for self-discovery and spiritual enlightenment. Readers and audience members alike walk away inspired to light the fire of successful living within themselves.

Today, Holly is a member of the National Speaker's Association, a recipient of the Certified Speaking Professional designation, and travels across the country and internationally speaking to a wide variety of corporations, associations, universities, schools and women's organizations. Holly inspires her audiences to take opportunities and focus on faith, attitude, determination, confidence, desire and perseverance.

**SEE
HOLLY LIVE!**
TUESDAY, JAN. 11TH
KEYNOTE: 1:00 PM
BREAKOUT: 3:00 PM

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

MEMBER REGISTRATION

FULL CONFERENCE: \$275 (Early Bird) | \$300 after 12/16/22

TUESDAY ONLY: \$155 (Early Bird) | \$180 after 12/16/22

WEDNESDAY ONLY: \$205 (Early Bird) | \$230 after 12/16/22

AWARDS BANQUET: \$30 (Early Bird) | \$35 after 12/16/22

SPOUSE: \$20 (Early Bird) | \$25 after 12/16/22

NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION

FULL CONFERENCE: \$365 (Early Bird) | \$390 after 12/16/22

TUESDAY ONLY: \$230 (Early Bird) | \$255 after 12/16/22

WEDNESDAY ONLY: \$300 (Early Bird) | \$325 after 12/16/22

AWARDS BANQUET: \$35 (Early Bird) | \$40 after 12/16/22



**EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT
ENDS DECEMBER 16TH!**

EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

SDARWS offers two types of exhibitor booth spaces: **2-Day Hallway** (Tuesday and Wednesday), and **Exhibit Hall** (Wednesday evening). Booth spaces are limited, so make sure to reserve your space. Each booth comes with two individual conference registrations; additional individuals will need to register as an attendee (see information to the right). You **MUST** be a member of SDARWS to exhibit. All registrations will be reviewed before your booth space will be confirmed.

HALLWAY BOOTH

(Tuesday & Wednesday)

\$550 Early Bird | \$600 after 12/16/22

HALLWAY BOOTH SCHEDULE

Setup: Tuesday, January 10th – 9:00am - 12:00pm

Exhibit: Tuesday, January 10th – 12:00pm - 5:00pm;
Wednesday, January 12th – 7:30am - 5:00pm with the option to stay up until 8:00pm in Hallway, or move to Exhibit Hall by 4:00pm if space allows

Tear Down: Wednesday, January 11th – 5:00pm
(Hallway Only) – 9:00pm (Exhibit Hall)

EXHIBIT HALL BOOTH

(Wednesday Only)

\$450 Early Bird | \$500 after 12/16/22

EXHIBIT HALL BOOTH SCHEDULE

Setup: Wednesday, January 11 – 9:30am - 1:30pm

Exhibit: Wednesday, January 11 – 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Tear Down: Wednesday, January 11 – 8:15pm - 9:00pm

Every booth comes with full conference registrations for 2 individuals.

Corporate Partners have the option of a second booth. Please call 605.556.7219 for assistance.

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS SPONSOR – \$2,500

Benefits include recognition in conference displays and banners, logo displayed in session rooms, recognition in the program booklet. Sponsorship includes a booth space in the Exhibit Hall, as well as registration for two. *(Multiple Available)*

AWARDS BANQUET SPONSOR – \$3,000

Sponsor benefits include logo on banquet tickets and prominently displayed during the banquet, recognition in the program booklet, and the opportunity to address the crowd. Sponsorship includes a booth space in the Exhibit Hall, as well as registration for two. *(One Available)*

BREAK TABLE SPONSOR – \$1,200

Sponsorship includes electronic signage at the break table, the opportunity to place promo materials on the break table, and recognition in the program booklet and agenda displays. *(Five Available)*

CHARGING STATION SPONSORSHIP – \$1,000

The charging station will be up for the duration of the conference, and includes advertising space for a printed 22" x 28" ad. *(One Available)*

CONFERENCE LANYARD SPONSOR – \$500-\$1,500

Place your company's logo around every conference attendee with their name badge. Note: If you wish to supply your own lanyards, the sponsorship is \$500. *(One Available)*

CONFERENCE BAG SPONSOR – \$650

Your branded bag will be handed out to every conference attendee with their name badge and agenda booklet at registration. *(One Available)*

WINE SPONSORSHIP – \$650

Want to bring people to your booth? Serve them some wine! All you have to do is sign up for this sponsorship and we'll take care of the details. Includes signage. *(One Available)*

KEG SPONSORSHIP – \$550

Want extra exposure in the Exhibit Hall? Sponsor a keg! Keg can be placed in your booth if desired. Includes signage. *(Four Available)*

T-SHIRT SPONSOR – \$150

Have your one-color logo printed on the back of the official ATC t-shirts. Artwork due by December 1. *(Multiple Available)*

PUT YOUR SWAG IN OUR BAG – \$100

Have your swag inserted into each conference attendee's bag. Price is for 400 items which must be delivered to our Madison office by December 13th. *(Multiple Available)*

PROGRAM BOOKLET ADS

Put your ad in our program booklet to be handed out to each attendee. Ad deadline is December 2nd.

\$300 – Full Page Color

\$175 – Full Page B&W

\$125 – 1/4 Page Color

\$75 – 1/4 Page B&W

Sponsorships can be reserved online with ATC booth registration, by calling Jennifer at 605-556-7219 or via email at atc@sdarws.com. Sponsorships subject to availability and are first come-first served.

DOES YOUR SYSTEM HAVE THE BEST WATER IN SOUTH DAKOTA?

ENTER THE SD RURAL WATER TASTE TEST CONTEST AT THE 2023 ATC!



RULES:

- Bring your sample to the ATC registration table by 2:00 PM on Tuesday
- Samples must be submitted in a glass jar quart size or larger labeled with your system name.
- No water system can represent more than one entry from their system.
- Systems submitting samples must be members of SDARWS and meet DENR approval by having no violations of bacteriological testing or chemical monitoring for two years prior to the Taste Test.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

A panel of judges will be selected to choose the winners. Judges will consider:

- Taste
- Clarity
- Odor

PRIZES:

First place will represent all of South Dakota in the National Drinking Water Taste Test in Washington, DC in February 2024, an art-glass trophy, two Full-Conference registration passes for the 2024 Annual Technical Conference, recognition in ServiceLine magazine, and bragging rights for the next year!



HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

Kevin Christenson, Source Water Protection Specialist

HABs (Harmful Algal Blooms) are often discussed, but what are they, and can we help prevent them?

HABs occur when toxin-producing algae grow excessively in a body of water. In South Dakota, HABs are typically produced by blue-green algae, a primitive photosynthetic alga known as cyanobacteria. Blue-green algae can produce toxins that can be harmful to people and fatal to pets and livestock. In South Dakota, harmful algal blooms typically occur in nutrient-enriched lakes and ponds during the warm summer months. Non-toxic algal blooms can also affect people and the environment by preventing people from recreating in the water, creating unpleasant odors, and causing “dead zones” when large blooms die off and decay. Blue-green algae are present in every lake in South Dakota but will not produce harmful algal blooms unless the ideal conditions of warm water and high nutrient levels are present.

There are many species of blue-green algae in South Dakota, and each species may produce a range of cyanotoxins. These toxins have a range of health impacts on humans and are often fatal if consumed by pets or livestock. When it comes to algal blooms, looks can be deceiving. The appearance of bloom isn't a reliable way of determining if toxins are present; even seemingly minor amounts of algae can produce toxic conditions.

Current studies show that excess nutrients (both phosphorus and nitrogen) are the leading cause of algae blooms in water bodies. Excess nutrients entering a water body can create conditions favorable for HABs. Runoff that includes turf and crop fertilizers or livestock waste is a significant source of excess nitrogen and phosphorous input to water bodies.

Pet waste, waterfowl, wildlife droppings, and leaking septic systems can also contribute. Anything done to reduce these inputs will ultimately improve water quality. SD DANR has put together a harmful algal bloom interactive map with data currently being collected and data collected over the past few years. This map does not show the current conditions of toxin-producing algae or algal toxins (cyanotoxins) in the state and should not be used to determine whether waters are safe for recreation at the current moment.

Several proactive measures may help uptake excess nutrients in a pond or lake. One measure is to increase the aquatic plant diversity in the pond or water body, as each type of plant will require different nutrients for growth. Appropriate shoreline plantings can also absorb nutrients at the water's edge and provide a buffer to help reduce runoff from entering the water body after heavy rains. Be aware that some aquatic or riparian plants are not appropriate for water bodies; although they do a good job of taking up excess nutrients in the water body, some are highly invasive and can require a lot of maintenance to control. You should always consult experts in the field of native plants in South Dakota to determine what would suit your region, climate, and needs without causing more harm. ♠



KEVIN CHRISTENSON started with SDARWS in November of 2021 as the Source Water Protection Specialist. He was previously employed at East Dakota Water Development District in Brookings, SD as a Field Project Specialist for 10 years collecting water quality samples and discharge measurements from surrounding streams, rivers, and lakes. Kevin's hobbies include hunting small and big game across South Dakota, coaching baseball, and following his three kids around to their many sporting events and other activities.

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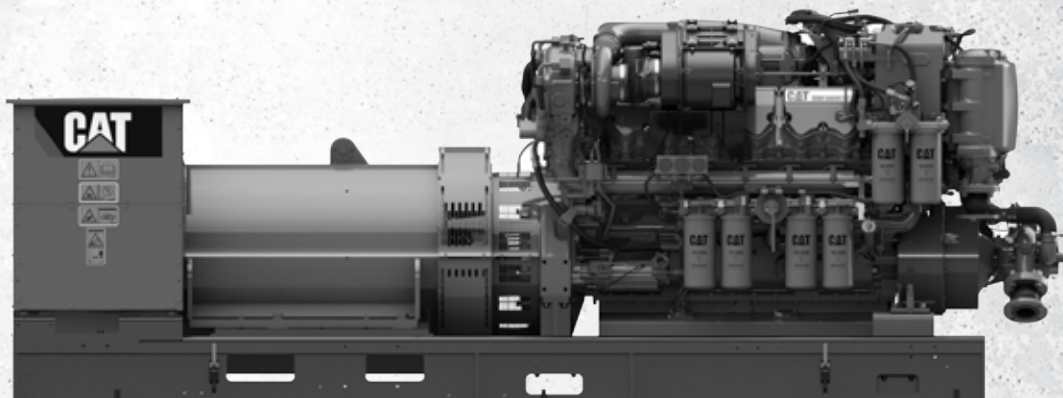
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THE GREAT RESIGNATION

Paul Dorwart, SDARWS Circuit Rider

As I began this new adventure as a Circuit Rider, I couldn't help but see a very concerning trend for many towns and water systems. Employees are quitting at an alarming rate leaving difficult gaps to fill, with small municipalities being hit the hardest. They call it the great resignation, and to small towns across the state, it has proven to be devastating. I have talked to many older, well past retirement-age operators who say they would love to retire, but there isn't anyone to take their place; they stay out of a sense of duty to their community. Many communities are left with the finance officer or mayor pulling double duty to keep compliant until a new employee can be hired.

The labor market, in turn, has become a fierce battle ground in employer's attempts to fill essential positions. Wages and benefits are increasing rapidly, leaving some small towns and systems behind. South Dakota boasted a 2.3% unemployment rate in June; while this is great for the economy, it creates a big hurdle to find and retain good employees.

Pandemic? Aging workforce? Everyone seems to have differing opinions on what or who is to blame. Still, it comes down to the fact that there has been a shift to employees wanting more flexibility, meaningful work, and better compensation. Many older workers blame young workers saying, "nobody wants to work anymore," and I think many young workers would criticize that idea saying, "I just don't want to work how you did." Recently there has been a shift for younger workers to seek entrepreneurial career paths and contract-type employment.

I think the path moving forward will be a rough one; finding the right combination of meaningful work, flexibility, and compensation to create a work-life balance that will retain your workforce will be critical. Employers will have to be increasingly creative in finding ways to accomplish this. It is not all about the money; while it helps to be competitive with compensation, it's no longer top of the list for operators. A recent Pew Research Center article found that other than pay, the reasons people gave for quitting their jobs were no opportunities for advancement and being disrespected at work.

Water operators are some of the hardest-working individuals I've met. They have a tremendous amount of responsibility placed on them, and when given the opportunity, they will do what's right for their system. The loss of an experienced operator has an incredibly high cost – not only the actual costs for finding a replacement and training, but the loss of system knowledge that experience brings is immeasurable. ♦



PAUL DORWART joined the team at SDARWS as a Circuit Rider for the state's east side in March 2022. He has a degree in Ag Management from Mitchell Technical College and a bachelor's degree in business administration from Dakota Wesleyan University. Paul worked as a general contractor for nine years before becoming the maintenance superintendent at the City of Kimball. He holds a Class I Water Distribution, Class I Wastewater Collection, and Stabilization pond certificate.

Paul He currently resides in Kimball with his wife and two daughters. He enjoys hunting, traveling, gardening, landscaping, and building/remodeling projects in his spare time.

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A LEAK MAY NOT BE A LEAK

Al Kocmich, SDARWS Circuit Rider

During my time here at SDARWS, I have been contacted many times by water operators and finance officers who have found significant water loss in their system – some as much as 50%. After doing this job for a while now, I have realized that they are not all leaks.

One small town contacted me recently, and they had a water loss of 40% for over six years. Upon inspection of the billing department's records, the water loss started when the city had put in new remote-read water meters. The operator had stated that water loss was up to 50% during the spring, summer, and fall, but it dropped to 10% in the winter. Upon inspection of water billing records, we discovered that the local fertilizer and spraying co-op, which had a two-inch water meter, used very little water for the thousands of acres they sprayed. Upon examination of the water meter, it was found the two-inch water meter was installed with a multiplier of 10 gallons per minute instead of 100 gallons per minute.

On another occasion, I was called to visit a small town with our leak trailer that was losing one million gallons a month. After finding two small leaks which did not amount to that large of a loss, we had the leak trailer hooked up to a fire hydrant in front of the water plant. It indicated that the backflow device was not working correctly, water was running back into the water plant, and the operators had to treat the water twice.

And then there was the rural water system that supplied a

little town that was using a tremendous amount of water. We discovered that a piece of a clay valve had broken off and lodged itself into the pipe three inches in front of the meter sending all the flow to one half of the turbo water meter and causing it to spin twice as fast.

So, when we talk about water loss, it is always a good idea to investigate the loss by beginning with records and looking at what, when, and where the water loss began. Some things to consider are if the loss is the same every month or if something has changed in the water system.

It is a good feeling to be able to go to a town and solve a water problem and not have to dig up a street or somebody's front lawn.

If your system does need help with leak detection, give one of us Circuit Riders a call, and we'd be happy to help you assess your water loss. Our contact information can be found on page 9. ♠



ALLEN KOCMICH joined the SDARWS staff in November 2021 as a Circuit Rider. He previously worked for 30 years at the City of Avon, SD as the Water/Wastewater Superintendent. Al holds a Class I Water Distribution and Class I Wastewater Collection. Al has volunteered with the Avon Fire Department for over 30 years, with 15 years as Assistant Chief, and has been on the Avon Ambulance crew for 22 years. He enjoys fishing, hunting, boating, camping, and the Green Bay Packers (when they win).



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EPA TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SMALL AND RURAL WASTEWATER SYSTEMS PROGRAM



Jeff Fossum,
SDARWS Technical Assistance Training Specialist

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) has the largest and most experienced extent of water professionals in the United States and U.S. territories. They provide on-site technical assistance and training to the nation's public drinking water and wastewater utilities. State Associations have a proven track record of developing local capacity and providing the training that helps rural, small, and tribal publicly owned treatment works (POTW) and decentralized wastewater (WW) treatment system personnel achieve and maintain long-term sustainability and Clean Water Act (CWA) compliance.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters. Under the CWA, EPA has implemented pollution control programs such as setting wastewater standards for the industry. EPA has also developed national water quality criteria recommendations for pollutants in surface waters.

The EPA Training and Technical Assistance for Small and Rural Wastewater Systems Program is established under the CWA. The objective of this program is to provide training and technical assistance (T/TA) for rural, small, and tribal publicly-owned treatment works and decentralized wastewater treatment systems. Secondly, it aims to make those services available nationally in rural and small communities and to all personnel of these systems, including personnel of tribally owned and operated systems.

This program specifically provides assistance to systems that treat up to one million gallons per day (MGD) of wastewater or serve a population of fewer than 10,000 people, and may also help serve operations such as, but not limited to, hospitals, schools, and restaurants.

The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) will provide T/TA services to rural, small, and tribally owned treatment works operators, including hands-on, one-on-one training on-site from our professional Water Quality Action Specialists (WQAS). Training and technical assistance developed and supported by NRWA and SDARWS will effectively align with national priorities and defined components along with state and local level priorities.

SDARWS will provide opportunities for on-site training on a variety of wastewater topics across the state at municipal and tribally-owned wastewater facilities. On-site technical assistance is also available through this program.

If you are looking for training or technical assistance for wastewater, please call SDARWS at 605-556-7219. 💧



JEFF FOSSUM joined the SDARWS staff in February 2018. He previously worked for 32 years for the City of Canton, SD as the Water/Wastewater Superintendent. Jeff holds a Class II Water Treatment, Class II Water Distribution, Class II Wastewater Treatment and Class II Wastewater Collection. His interests include gardening, woodworking, and talking.

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INSPECTING YOUR LAGOONS:

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Glen Olene, SDARWS Wastewater Technician

First, a little about myself I am a new hire for SDARWS as of mid-May 2022. I grew up in Hendricks, MN, and joined the Army from 1977 to 1997. Upon retirement from the military, I moved to Watertown, SD, where I worked a few different jobs: welder, postal carrier, maintenance at a nursing home, independent contractor for FedEx ground, and served as the Public Works Director for the City of Eureka from 2017 to 2022.

Inspect your lagoons for the following to prevent them from turning septic on you. Make sure the grass is mowed, weeds are sprayed, and all trees have been removed from the berms. Your lagoons need wind to move the water which puts oxygen in the pond and lets sunlight in. Duckweed starts small but, in no time, can take over your pond, covering the surface and blocking sunlight that is needed for evaporation. This in turn lets aerobic microorganisms change waste solids to carbon dioxide, ammonia, and phosphates, which is a food source for algae that produces oxygen in the pond. Duckweed can be reduced or eliminated mechanically or chemically.

Fencing is also a must, along with a locked gate and signage notifying people to keep out of untreated sewage. You do not

want hunters out in your lagoons shooting the place up.

Check your dike for burrowing animal holes that could damage your liner or equipment. Also look for erosion due to the lack of rip-rap, spring thaw, and/or shifting ice. Check the duck walk for damage moving in or out due to ice, snow, and wind.

Lastly, exercise your valves, ensuring they turn and will work for you when needed for discharging. Lower the pond so it can hold 180 days of wastewater during the winter months.

It is important to check your lagoons weekly, if not monthly. If you need assistance with your lagoons, please give us a call at 605-556-7219. 💧



GLEN OLENE joined South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems in May of 2022. Prior to that he worked as the Public Works Director for the City of Eureka, and spent 20 years in the ARMY. Glen holds a Class I in Wastewater Collection, Class I in Stabilization Ponds, and Class I in Water Distribution. In his spare time he enjoys riding his Harley with his wife, camping, hunting, and fishing.



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SDARWS Conferences & Events



Leadership Seminar | November 9-10, 2022

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

For more information, visit sdarws.com/leadership.html or email jcorbin@sdarws.com

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



Annual Technical Conference | January 10-12, 2023

The ATC is the annual conference of the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems, and is the largest water/wastewater conference in South Dakota. This event is designed to bring together water and wastewater utility systems – both large and small, municipal and rural – for sessions in operations, management, boardmanship and governance. This conference is held every year during the first week of the South Dakota Legislative session in Pierre, SD and hosts over 500 attendees.

To learn more, visit sdarws.com/ATC.html or email atc@sdarws.com

Pierre Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center
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Rural Water EXPO | April 26-27, 2023

The EXPO is open to all water and wastewater utility staff, board/council members, engineers, State and Federal employees. The training will consist of twenty presentations, 30 minutes each, thus allocating ten contact hours for those individuals who are licensed operations specialists. Along with the training sessions, the EXPO will showcase many of our industry's manufacturer and supplier leaders. Many will be displaying the recent advances in technology our industry has witnessed over the past several years.

To learn more, visit sdarws.com/EXPO.html or email expo@sdarws.com

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



Rural Water Fishing Tourney | April 28-29, 2023

The Annual Rural Water Warriors Fishing Tournament takes place at the Outpost Lodge on Cow Creek Bay in 2023. Teams consist of 2-3 people with at least one person who is a current water/wastewater, associate member or corporate partner of the SDARWS. This tournament is limited to 50 teams. There is an eight fish maximum per boat with the largest seven fish weighed, and all South Dakota fishing regulations must be followed. A mandatory rules meeting is held at 8:00pm the night before the tournament.

For more information, visit sdarws.com/fishing-tournament.html or email fishing@sdarws.com



Rural Water Open Golf Tourney | July 18, 2023

The Annual Rural Water Open will take place at the Elmwood Golf Course in Sioux Falls. This tournament is open to Utility Members, Associate Members, and Corporate Partners of SDARWS. Registration is \$100/player and includes golf, cart, lunch, and awards.

For more information, visit sdarws.com/golf.html or email golf@sdarws.com

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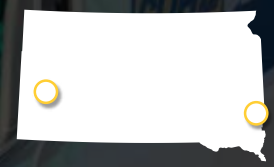
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1. **If a routine turbidity sample exceeds the maximum contaminant level, the utility should**
 - a. change the sample-point location.
 - b. take a check sample within 1 hr.
 - c. take a check sample the next day to obtain an average for two consecutive test results.
 - d. throw out the sample and substitute the average NTU value for the preceding month.
2. **Oxidation and aeration are**
 - a. two processes for removing or modifying constituents.
 - b. the methods to remove troublesome gases.
 - c. physical changes that take place with water quality during aeration.
 - d. effective in eliminating tastes and odors.
3. **The effective pH range for hydrogen sulfide removal is**
 - a. 6 or less.
 - b. 7.
 - c. 8 to 9.
 - d. not applicable to this constituent.
4. **If no gas has formed in the inverted vials after the first 24 hrs. of incubation in the presumptive test**
 - a. coliform bacteria, if present, have been inactivated.
 - b. the culture must be incubated for another 24 hrs.
 - c. the test is negative and no further testing is required for total coliform.
 - d. there is the possibility of laboratory error.
5. **Occasionally some of the people on a work crew will indulge in active horseplay. This should be**
 - a. discouraged because some of the workers might not like it.
 - b. encouraged because it promotes good fellowship.
 - c. permitted as it is a form of relaxation.
 - d. stopped immediately because it is likely to cause an accident.
6. **Overcoming problems of cold-water floc can be corrected by operating the process at the best pH for that water temperature, increasing the coagulant dosage, or**
 - a. adding weighting agents.
 - b. performing the jar test.
 - c. increasing the number and strength of floc particles.
 - d. increasing the detention time for floc formation.
7. **A foreman's monthly report should include**
 - a. last time supervisor read report.
 - b. number of complaints received and investigated.
 - c. number of monthly reports prepared.
 - d. number of qualified workers available.
8. **Public notification for an acute maximum contaminant level violation in a community water system must take the form of**
 - a. mail.
 - b. mail and newspaper.
 - c. mail, newspaper and broadcast.
 - d. radio or TV broadcast.
9. **Rapid-sand filters can be installed with control devices consisting of a rate-of-flow controller, loss-of-head indicator, and**
 - a. auxiliary scour.
 - b. on-line turbidimeter.
 - c. pilot filter.
 - d. underdrain sensor.
10. **Oxygen supersaturation should be avoided to**
 - a. improve the softening process.
 - b. make appropriate pH adjustments.
 - c. reduce the cost of chlorination.
 - d. retard or prevent corrosion.

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South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) has partnered with CoBank,

a national cooperative bank that serves rural America, to provide attractive financing solutions for SDARWS members. Find out about the specially negotiated terms on many loan products and bonds for water and wastewater utilities, including:



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KURT PFEIFLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Over the next year, champions for rural America, like South Dakota Senator John Thune and Representative Dusty Johnson, both members of the House and Senate Agricultural Committees, will lead efforts to rewrite the Farm Bill. South Dakota's rural water systems will be at the negotiating table. The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) and the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) are currently working together to enhance the underlying statutes and legislation that authorize Rural Water's priority programs like Circuit Rider technical assistance, Source Water Protection, Water and Waste Disposal technical assistance and training, and the loans and grants exclusively dedicated to supporting rural water infrastructure. These initiatives, along with additional modifications to modernize and bolster the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Water and Environmental Programs (WEP), will ensure the quality of life and economic prosperity are prioritized for South Dakotans for the duration of the 2023 Farm Bill.

Congress intends to renew the Farm Bill every five years. The most recent farm bill, the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, was comprised of 12 separate titles and 529 pages of bill text which extended USDA's authority to appropriate funds for Rural Development's (RD) discretionary programs, like WEP initiatives, through the next year. Exclusively focused on rural water and waste infrastructure needs, WEP provides a host of affordable financing tools and services, including a complement of operational, financial, and managerial technical assistance to ensure safe drinking water quality and sanitation, environmental stewardship, and public health of South Dakotans is protected. Thanks to input from State Rural Water Associations, NRWA was successful in securing improvements to the 2018 Farm Bill including expanding the eligibility of the Water and Wastewater Guaranteed Loan program with priority for communities under 10,000, reauthorizing rural water loan and grant funding, and increasing technical assistance opportunities including third party independent financial and operational assessments.

Looking forward to the Farm Bill 2023 update, NRWA has already provided testimony in an off-the-record hearing on Capitol Hill, participated in a field hearing in Arkansas hosted by Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member John Boozman, and is actively providing feedback to House and Senate Agriculture Committee staff. After the November midterm elections, SDARWS and NRWA are looking to make the case for our current priority programs and capitalize on opportunities to modernize WEP and benefit our collective system membership by removing the "lender of last resort" requirement to give USDA RD more discretion in their funding determinations, removing burdensome health and safety eligibility requirements for funding, retaining USDA RD's ability to closely scrutinize loan parity requests potentially with a "fast-track" review deadline, and giving USDA RD additional affordable financing and servicing tools, similar to the existing EPA SRF authorities, to expand affordability to rural communities that lack financial and human resources.

For over 75 years, Congress has authorized and strengthened rural water infrastructure programs which have made great advancements in the standard of living in South Dakota and across rural America. Because of these rural water initiatives, millions of rural Americans now have access to safe drinking water that their parents did not have. Thousands of rural communities now have public sewer or wastewater systems that have allowed for the elimination of millions of failing septic tanks, cesspools, straight pipes, or worse. WEP funding is critical to maintaining the affordability of user rates in many rural communities and SDARWS's direct technical assistance provides the expertise to protect both the federal government's investment and the communities' mission to provide safe, sustainable, and affordable water and wastewater service. Thankfully, the authors of the 2023 Farm Bill understand the value USDA rural water initiatives bring to small and rural communities and will rely on the historical results and expertise of SDARWS and NRWA to continue leveraging one of the federal government's most successful public-private partnerships. ♦

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FULL AGENDA
ON PAGE 11

2022 RURAL WATER
BOARD TRAINING EVENT

SAVE THE DATE

NOVEMBER

9-10, 2022

RAMKOTA HOTEL, PIERRE, SD

REGISTER ONLINE AT SDARWS.COM