

Quality On Tap!

October 2019 | Volume 15, Issue 2



**A RURAL WATER
RETROSPECTIVE**

**FIND WATER
QUALITY
INFORMATION**

ATC AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE OCTOBER 26TH

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Ron Gillen, President
South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems



2020 RURAL WATER RALLY

South Dakota Rural Water does many things, and one of the most important benefit 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.

We invite you to join us February 3-5, 2020 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!

**February
3-5, 2020
Washington, DC**

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

The Rural Water Rally provides an opportunity for supporters of our industry to make their case directly to their elected officials. Rural Water Associations in each state schedule meetings with Representatives, Senators and their staff, so that they can share the Rural Water success story, answer questions and build important relationships. Attending the Rural Water Rally also provides a unique opportunity to meet with association leaders and watch the Great American Taste Test in person.

For more information, visit:
nrwa.org/rally

Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill
800-332-8715

RURAL WATER RALLY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tripp County Water User District
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WEB Water Development Association
Les Hinds

West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water System
Rick Doud

Class B East River
Brad Lawrence

Class B West River
VACANT

Class C
VACANT

South Dakota Rural Water AWARD NOMINATIONS

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

Give recognition where it is due by completing our Awards Nomination Form. Awards will be presented at the Awards Brunch at the ATC – January 16, 2020. **Application deadline is October 31, 2019.** 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: 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: a municipality who puts forth exceptional efforts to properly manage, operate, and maintain their drinking water and wastewater system.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IT'S TIME TO WINTERIZE YOUR HOME

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

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

Insulate your pipes

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

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

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

Inspect your meter pit

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

Disconnect outside hoses and faucets

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

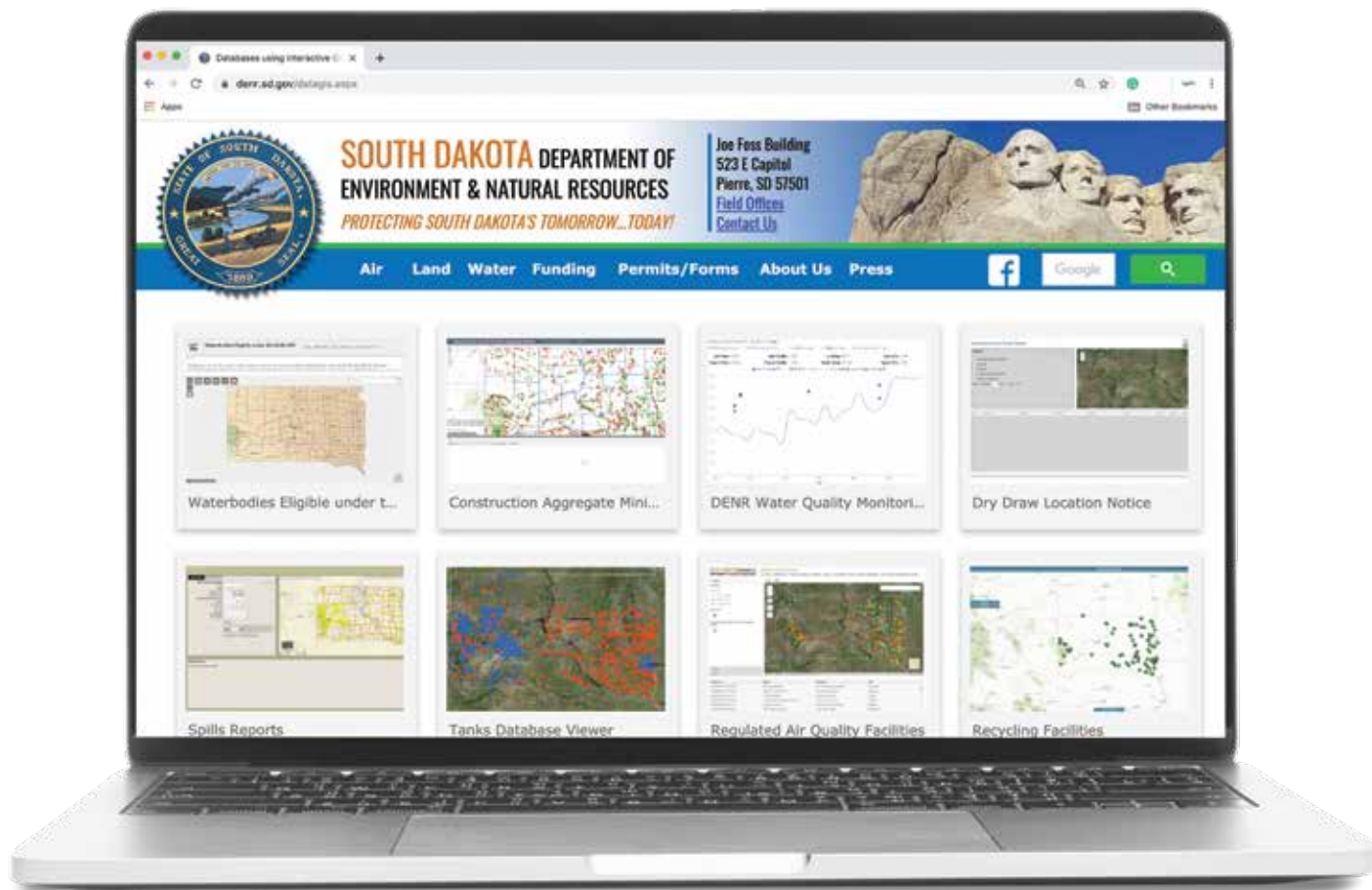
Seal Outside Openings and Cracks

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

OTHER WINTERIZING TIPS

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

WATER QUALITY INFORMATION



Jay Gilbertson,
East Dakota Water Development District

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

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

WATER QUANTITY INFORMATION SOURCES

USGS Stream Gages – The United States Geological Survey (USGS) maintains a network of over 150 stations that monitor stream flows across the state. In many instances, the records go back over fifty years, so they provide a good, long-term perspective. The stations record the river level (stage) on a continuous basis, and the readings can be accessed via the Dakota Water Science Center website (<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/dakota-water>) under the Data Tools button. Click on Real-Time Streamflow SD for the latest information on South Dakota rivers and streams. USGS Dakota Water Science Center (605-394-3200).

Smartphone Applications – In the past few years, Smartphone applications have been developed that provide

access to real-time stream flow information. The information they provide is similar to what is available from more formal, web-based platforms, i.e., real-time stream stage and discharge information. One example is a product called Rivercast™, developed by Juggernaut Technology, Inc., which is available for both Apple and Android platforms.

DENR Water Rights Lake Level Site – The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Water Rights Program maintains an interactive database map that provides information on lake levels within the state (Historical Lake Elevations Database). The site provides water level data, along with established elevations for lake outlets and the ordinary high and low water marks. The site can be accessed by selecting “Data & Mapping” on DENR’s homepage at <https://denr.sd.gov/> under the “One-Stop Shops” heading. DENR Water Rights Program (605-773-3352).

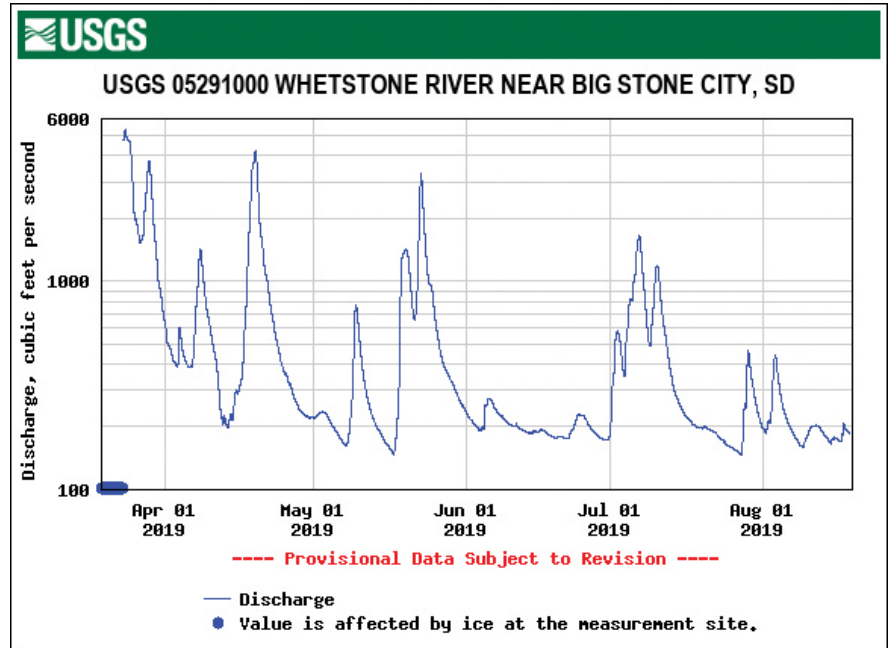
WATER QUALITY INFORMATION SOURCES

Annual Consumer Confidence Reports – Every year, public water suppliers are required to provide a consumer confidence report (CCR) to their customers describing the quality of the water they are providing. This requirement applies to rural water systems and municipal water utilities. This report typically comes out in the spring, with many rural water systems publishing their CCR in this magazine.

305(b) & 303(d) Integrated Report – Every two years, DENR publishes the Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality Assessment. Prepared under requirements of Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act, the report provides a status report on the condition of rivers, lakes and streams across the state. The report identifies the designated beneficial uses of each water body, such as swimming, fisheries, or drinking water, along with a determination of whether the uses are supported. A variety of water quality standards have been established to determine whether a water body supports a particular use. If more than ten percent (10%) of samples fail to meet the standard, the water is considered impaired. Water quality data used in the biennial Integrated Reports come from a broad range of public sources. The most recent report can be found on the DENR website, (<http://denr.sd.gov/documents/18irfinal.pdf>). DENR

Surface Water Quality Program (605-773-3351).

Water Quality Monitoring Access Portal – Earlier this year, DENR launched a new interactive database map providing the public internet access to water quality data for South Dakota’s lakes and streams. This is the same data on which the Integrated Reports are based. The Water Quality Monitoring Access Portal Map (WQ Map) provides water quality data collected during the past 50 years from DENR’s Statewide Water Quality Monitoring Network, intensive water quality monitoring surveys, Total



Maximum Daily Load assessments, regional lake surveys, and citizen monitoring. Altogether, WQ Map contains data for over 3,600 water quality monitoring stations and includes results for more than 140,000 water chemistry samples, 2,500 algae samples, and 8,400 fish flesh samples. WQ Map can be accessed by selecting “Data & Mapping” on DENR’s homepage at <https://denr.sd.gov/> under the “One-Stop Shops” heading. DENR Watershed Protection Program (605-773-4254).

The sources listed above are by no means all of the available resources, but they are some of the most commonly searched. It is also important to note that information is not likely to be available for every water body, and even if there is data, it may not be from exactly where you’d like. If you’d like to learn more about potential sources of water quality and/or quantity data for your area, feel free to contact your local public water supplier, the DENR or the USGS at the numbers listed above. The East Dakota Water Development District (605-688-6741) is also a source.

A Rural Water Retrospective

Rural Water is a relatively new concept in South Dakota – beginning in the 1970s and 1980s when forward thinking folks sought out better alternatives to private wells. As rural water systems popped up across the state, they have grown and flourished – now serving over half the state's population with a clean, safe, and reliable drinking water source. Many of the water systems in the state are managed by an aging workforce that is nearing retirement. In fact, this year two managers, Greg Merrigan, manager of the Clay Rural Water System, and Randy Jencks, manager of the Kingbrook Rural Water System are hanging up their hats after 37 and 22 years respectively. With their retirement goes decades of experience and expertise. We decided to ask them some questions about their tenure as they retire to get a perspective of what running a rural water system is like, and how the industry has changed.



Greg Merrigan

Did you ever think you'd be a rural water manager? What brought you to the position?

Greg: Working in plumbing construction while Clay was being built made me aware of what was going on, but I never gave a thought to working for the system. In 1982 an acquaintance made me aware that the system had an opening for a manager and I applied more out of curiosity. When I got the job I was very excited for the opportunity.

Randy: When I applied for the job 21 years ago I didn't know rural water systems existed. They began in the late 1970's after I had left home for college, and I spent the following 20 years in the Navy. When I got out of the service and was looking for a job in the private sector, I came across the advertisement for Kingbrook Rural Water in the *Argus Leader*. The rest is history.

You've worked for your system a long time. What kept you there?

Greg: Providing safe drinking water is a very noble profession. Growing up on a farm I knew the issues with wells and cisterns. Every time we can connect someone you can see the improvement in their lives. It is very gratifying. I've always had a great Board and Staff to work with. That has certainly contributed to my tenure here.

Randy: It was a combination of things; good company, good Board of Directors, good employees, but in addition, a significant aspect was that South Dakota was a great place to raise a family. When I came to the job our two small girls were in first grade and preschool. They thrived in our mid-western, small town atmosphere, and have gone on to successful careers on their own.



Randy Jencks

What was the biggest project you oversaw while manager?

Greg: For a number of years we worked on a project to expand into southern Union County. The project took many turns over several years and then in 2005 fell into place. We built a new water treatment plant, elevated tank and distribution system that served four housing developments and a rural area.

Randy: We have about a month left on the largest project in Kingbrook history. It was a \$12.8 million project to add approximately 260 new customers, 200 miles of distribution piping from 2-inch to 16-inch, and a 600,000 gallon storage tank.

What do you see as the biggest change in the water industry during your tenure?

Greg: I would have to say technology. I would have never guessed in 1982 that we would monitor our entire system on a mobile phone or read our member's meters from our office. Technology has made us so much more efficient.

Randy: Technology advancements that have improved our ability to manage our system facilities, i.e., treatment plants, pumping stations, water towers, etc. that all combine to improve the service we provide to our customers.

What is your favorite thing about working in the water industry?

Greg: Providing safe drinking water. Working in an industry that has great support from engineers, funding agencies, regulatory agencies, etc. Working with other water professionals from across the state. The opportunity to get involved in industry-related associations.

Randy: The people. My Board of Directors and employees from our system, managers from other rural water systems, representatives from our lending agencies, i.e., DENR, CoBank, and Rural Development, have all become good friends and made the job that much more enjoyable.

What stands out as you look back on your time as manager?

Greg: How much we have grown... from 1,000 members to 2,400. Watching staff members grow in their positions. Always having a supportive board.

Randy: How fast the time has gone by. It seems like yesterday when I returned to South Dakota to begin my second career and, now that it's over, I look back with pride and satisfaction on what we have accomplished. I have been very fortunate to have a great Board of Directors and two outstanding Chairmen during my time with Kingbrook.

Thoughts as you retire?

Greg: I will miss our staff, our board and the many fellow water professionals from across the state. I am excited about my replacement ... the system will be in good hands.

Randy: I am continually amazed at the foresight that the rural water pioneers had in the beginning. I'm sure most people thought they were nuts to have a vision that you could run water lines across vast stretches of the country. But they did it, and we are the beneficiaries today. To my replacement I would advise to focus on one simple axiom; your only job is to help your Board do its job. To the Boards of the many South Dakota rural water systems; be proactive and dream big dreams, as did those early pioneers in our industry. And finally, to our Kingbrook employees; continue to represent our system to the best of your ability. You are the face of our organization and our reputation rests in your hands.



Randy Jencks and Greg Merrigan with a Governor's Proclamation proclaiming January 10, 2019 as Greg Merrigan and Randy Jencks Day.

BLACK HAWK WATER USER DISTRICT

Back in 1949, organizers of a water system in Black Hawk, SD sent a letter out to fellow community members to begin the process of establishing a water company. The articles of incorporation were received by the members on June 6, 1949. During the Initial system sign-up, ten recruited members paid \$400.00 each for service. Well construction began on the 28th day of June, 1949 on land donated by one of the members.

The well began producing water one year later in July of 1950. Initial production was 750 gallons per hour, with that water being pumped into a 1,000 gallon holding tank. By 1951 the system had installed water meters on all services. Initial rates were established at the 1949 annual meeting; \$3.00 per month for commercial users and \$2.00 per month for homes.



Once the system was established, it never really quit growing. By 1956, 150 accounts were served by the system. A new pump house was built and an old railroad water tower was moved in from Rochford, by truck – in one piece!

Black Hawk Water added wells as the system grew. Between 1956 – 1963 a well was purchased from a private individual for backup purposes with another one purchased in the late 60's to early 70's for the same purpose. In 1986 a new well was drilled into the Madison formation which began providing water at a rate of 550 gallons per minute. The original well from 1949 has now been abandoned and

a second well was constructed in the late 90's in the Madison Aquifer to provide the system with two primary sources of water and has two wells to serve as backups.



BLACK HAWK WATER USER DISTRICT



Updates have not been limited to the physical attributes of the system; Black Hawk's original system map was constructed on a white piece of plywood. In the early 90's Cindy Swanson, system manager, contracted a local engineering firm to digitize the map and save it to a computer. Now Black Hawk has the ability to have its larger maps printed on paper; the plywood map is still consulted occasionally.

In 1996, Black Hawk Water Company, Incorporated was dissolved as a corporation and Black Hawk Water User District was formed. Though the organizational structure of the system changed, the goal remained the same – provide the highest quality water in the area. System expansions resulted in the system supplying water outside of the Black Hawk community. Today Black Hawk Water serves the communities of Black Hawk and Summerset and also sells bulk water to the Stagebarn Subdivision and the city of Piedmont.

DIRECTORS:

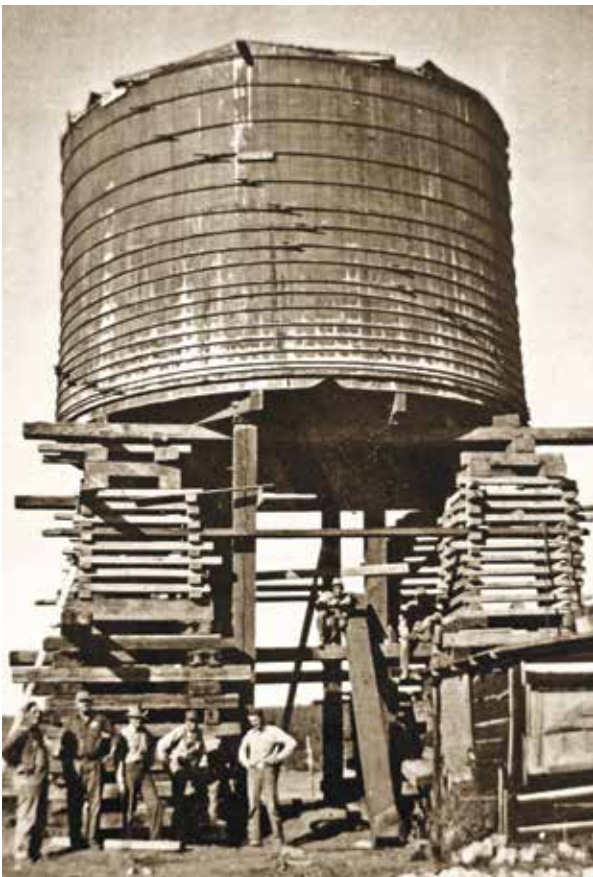
- Ed Striebel – Chairman
- David Braun – Vice Chairman
- Loren Kuper – Secretary
- Brian Peterson – Treasurer
- Gerry Scharer – Director
- Chad Neiger – Director
- Mike Marsland – Director

STAFF:

- Cindy Swanson – Manager
- Ken LeBon – Assistant Manager

STATISTICS:

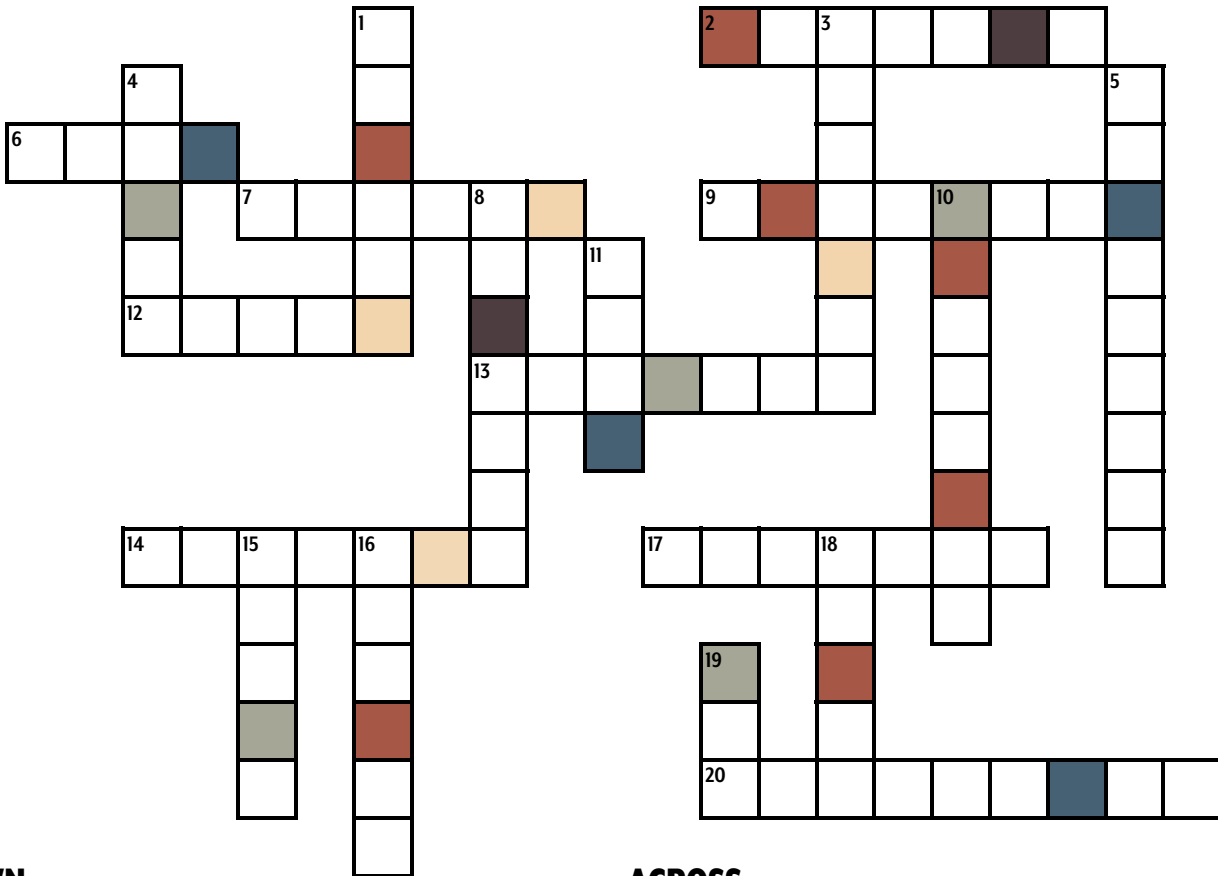
- Hookups: 1,487
- Miles Of Pipeline: 23
- Water Source: Madison Formation
- Counties Served: Meade
- Towns Served Individual: Black Hawk - Summerset
- Towns Served Bulk: Stagebarn Subdivision, City of Piedmont



RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

THE HUNT

Enter to Win \$100



DOWN

1. A spread of these range in sizes from standard to super magnum
3. Popular hunting outfitter in southeast South Dakota
4. Cover device for hunters
5. Breed of gundog good for pheasant hunting
8. Weapon popularly used for bird hunting
10. Process of looking for a good hunting spot
11. What does the coyote do that the domestic dog also does?
15. This spooks game very easily
16. Waterfowl and pheasant hunting hours typically end at _____.
18. Snows and Blues
19. Deer breeding season

ACROSS

2. Type of hunting using a bow
6. Deer, but not related to a donkey
7. Ruffed, Sage, Blue, Spruce
9. Ring Neck
12. Like many bird species, the males of this breed of waterfowl often have more colorful feathers than their female counterparts.
13. Jakes and Jennies
14. Deer meat
17. Moving a lure to attract fish
20. Open or enclosed platforms used by hunters

SCRAMBLE ANSWER

RULES: Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See page 2 for contact information) or enter online at www.sdarws.com/crossword.html with the correct phrase by October 4, 2019 to be entered into the \$100 drawing.

Only one entry allowed per address/household. You must be a member of a participating rural water system to be eligible for the prize. Your information will only be used to notify the winner, and will not be shared or sold.

Congratulations to Angi Burnham of Emery who had the correct phrase of "luck is not a strategy" for October 2019.

RURAL WATER

ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA

SOUTH DAKOTA'S WATER AGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK

What is WARN?

WARN is a statewide Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) of “utilities helping utilities” to prepare for the next natural or human-caused emergency. SDWARN was organized in 2008 when the first five members joined. The City of Fort Pierre was the first to sign the agreement, along with the TM Rural Water System, Minnehaha Community Water Corporation, the City of Winner, and the Clay Rural Water System. As of 2019, there are 125 members. SDWARN has approximately 77% of the population covered in the state with nearly every Class 1 municipality as a member. Membership also includes a tribal member and a Fortune 500 member, making it unique among the rest of the state WARNs.

Why Do We Need SDWARN?

Water and wastewater systems provide our communities with a life-sustaining resource that is of vital importance to maintaining public health, sanitation, and safety. When water and wastewater services are interrupted for extended periods of time, a community's well-being quickly deteriorates, as evidenced by Hurricane Katrina. And without an adequate water supply, our communities are vulnerable to devastating fires. By restoring water and wastewater service in the most efficient manner possible, SDWARN provides renewed hope for fast recovery from such disasters.

This spring, SDWARN set up a command post to help with the spring flooding, but the flooding was more long term and less catastrophic than anticipated. However, several SDWARN pumps were deployed to multiple locations, and there are places where pumps are operating, along with active requests for more pumps. We had pumps dispatched to at least seven different locations this spring and summer. The City of Flandreau has been utilizing several pumps for a couple of months and has made great use of the SDWARN equipment to help them with sewer problems.

Many of the pumps were a donation from the City of Fort Pierre after the 2011 Missouri River Flood. Fort Pierre had purchased a lot of pumps and had no use for them after the flood. SDWARN solicited the pumps, and the city donated them for all members to use. The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) has been host to the WARN pumps and equipment since 2015 when the pumps were donated. Pumps are housed in Madison and at the City of Spearfish who stepped up and provided a housing location west river. SDWARN is currently searching for a home for some pumps and equipment in the center of the state, and the City of Chamberlain has offered up some space for the future. The SDWARN board members are looking at the best arrangement of pumps to ensure that the shortest time is needed to access the greatest amount of pumping capability possible.

Last year, The City of Madison created the Challenge Grant program for SDWARN and put out a system challenge to match their \$500 grant to SDWARN. From that challenge, \$13,151 was donated to SDWARN, and it was an overwhelming success. The

one-dollar came from the City of Harrisburg who decided to “one-up” the challengers with a \$501 donation. Many rural water systems jumped in and donated the lion's share with four systems donating \$1,000

each. 2019 has seen the rural water systems taking the lead again with a CoBank matching grant donation of \$10,000. The City of Madison is again issuing a challenge to any system that wants to match the \$500. These donations will provide the equipment that has been in use this year and some new forms of equipment that are not presently available.





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kurt Pfeifle, Executive Director
South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems

“Ultimately, leadership is not about glorious crowning acts. It’s about keeping your team focused on a goal and motivated to do their best to achieve it, especially when the stakes are high, and the consequences really matter. It is about laying the groundwork for others’ success, and then standing back and letting them shine.” – Chris Hadfield (Canadian Astronaut)

The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) will hold its 13th annual Leadership Conference on November 13 & 14, 2019 at the Ramkota River Centre Hotel in Pierre, SD. The Leadership Conference began in 2006 and was intended to help mold current and future leaders of the rural water industry in South Dakota. The conference was tailored to the officers of governing boards and managers of systems. As the conference grew and matured, it was opened to all members of the governing board and all rural water personnel who play a leadership role at their respective systems. After all, it’s good to keep your existing leaders current on the role they play and the responsibilities they have, but you need to be conscious of who will be filling the void as those leaders separate and exit their systems.

Since 2006, SDARWS has brought excellent training opportunities to those in governance and management positions at South Dakota Rural Water Systems. The Leadership Conference has continued to grow and gets better with each subsequent year. The 2019 Leadership Conference will continue with the tradition of growth and improvement. We hope and encourage all rural water systems to give thoughtful consideration to attend this year’s event.

On the conference agenda you will find:

- Water System Depreciation
- Manager Panel (Strategic Planning, Serving Small Communities, Rate Strategies & SDWARN)

- SD Water Rights
- Workplace Issues 2020 – 2030
- NRCS – a focus on water quality
- NRWA Demystified (what NRWA does for you)
- Social Media and websites for utilities
- EPA Criminal Investigation Division

In addition to the many great agenda items, attendees will have the opportunity to hear from Hunter Roberts, the newly appointed Secretary of South Dakota Department of Environment & Natural Resources. Mr. Roberts will be the guest speaker at the President’s Reception on the evening of November 13th.

Please make plans to join us at the 13th Annual SDARWS Leadership Conference! We’d love to see you there!





OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING AND EXAMS

Intermediate Water Treatment	September 24-26	Rapid City-Ramkota
OpCert Exam	September 26-1:00 pm	Rapid City-Ramkota
Stabilization Pond Workshop*	October 1	Aberdeen-Ramkota
Stabilization Pond Workshop*	October 3	Mitchell-Highland Conference Center
Basic Water Treatment	October 22-24	Rapid City-Ramkota
OpCert Exam	October 24-1:00 pm	Rapid City-Ramkota
Water Distribution	November 5-7	Brookings-Days Inn
Wastewater Collection	December 3-5	Sioux Falls-Ramkota Inn

*The Stabilization Pond class deals strictly w/ ponds and is the best class for preparing to take the Small Wastewater System exam. The Basic Wastewater Treatment class deals w/ all types of wastewater treatment other than ponds and is the best class for preparing to take the Class I Wastewater Treatment exam. Small systems that use ponds for treatment can come into compliance w/ the OpCert Law by passing either the Class I Wastewater exam or the Small Wastewater System exam.

**Water systems serving less than 500 people that use wells can come into compliance by passing the Small Water Treatment exam. Larger systems must pass the Class I Water Treatment exam.

CONTACT HOUR REQUIREMENTS

Number and Type of Certificates	Contact Hours Required
Operator has one certificate (Class I or II).....	10 contact hours every three years
Operator has one certificate (Class III or IV)	20 contact hours every three years
Operator has more than one certificate and all are Class I and II.....	15 contact hours every three years
Operator has more than one certificate and at least one certificate is a Class III or IV	30 contact hours every three years

**For more information contact SDARWS Trainer Jim Zeck
605-201-9568 or jzeck@sdarws.com**

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



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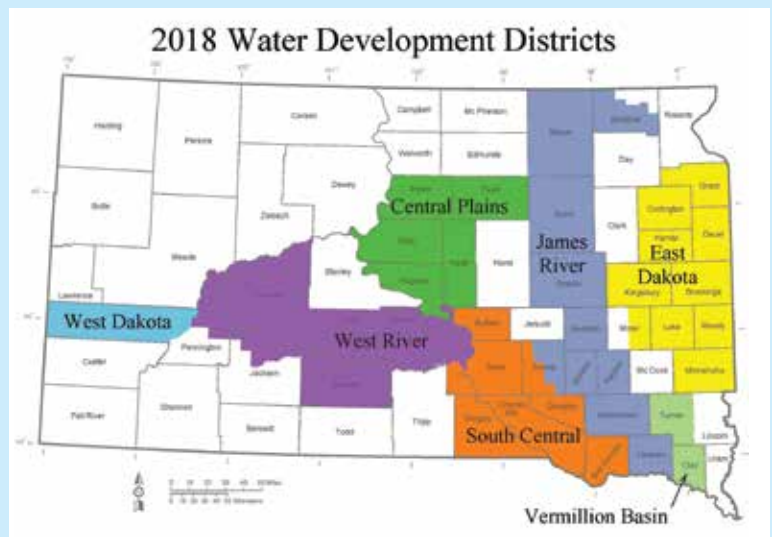
WATER MATTERS

South Dakota Water Development Districts

Water development districts (WDDs) are political subdivisions of the State. WDDs promote the conservation, development, and proper management of water resources according to district priorities. They can provide technical, organizational, and financial assistance to prospective and existing projects and activities. While sharing many common efforts, each of the seven existing WDDs (see map) have developed programs and expertise designed to address those issues most important to their area.

Each WDD is governed by an elected Board of Directors, consisting of 5, 7, or 9 members, depending on population. The Board hires or contracts for staff and other services as necessary. WDDs have a limited taxing authority, being able to levy a tax of no more than thirty cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation (0.3 mill). They also pursue external grant support for priority activities.

If an organization, entity, group or individual has a project or activity that needs technical, organizational, or financial assistance, contact the WDD for that area. Staff has extensive experience in developing and supporting projects. They can assist in preparing an application to include a project on the State Water Plan, an important step if a project needs state or federal assistance. They can also help project sponsors search for funds from other sources.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

East Dakota WDD – Jay Gilbertson
 605-688-6741 • edwdd@brookings.net

Vermillion Basin WDD – Brad Prehiem
 605-563-2883 • vbwdd@hotmail.com

James River WDD – Dave Bartel
 605-352-0600 • davebartel@midconetwork.com

Central Plains WDD – Lynette Eckert
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South-Central WDD – Peg Haenfler
 605-724-2624 • scwdd@unitelsd.com

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