



South Dakota Association
of Rural Water Systems

Quality On Tap!

October 2022 | Volume 18, Issue 2

WASTING WATER

PICK-SLOAN PROMISES
STILL REMAIN UNFULFILLED



ATC AWARD NOMINIATIONS | OPERATOR CERTIFICATION SCHEDULE

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Ron Gillen, President
South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems



Annual Technical Conference - January 10-12, 2023

Plans are underway for the 2023 Annual Technical Conference January 10-12, 2023 at the Ramkota Convention Center in Pierre, SD. Registration will be available on our website in early October.

ATC REGISTRATION FEES

Early Bird Registration ends December 16, 2022.

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION (MEMBER)

Full Conference Registration: \$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 Registration: \$20 Early Bird; \$25 after 12/16/22

ATTENDEE REGISTRATION (NON-MEMBER)

Full Conference Registration: \$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

ATC AWARD Submissions

There are only a few more short months before the snow flies, so that means it's time to get in your award nominations for the ATC! Application and information can be found on pages 3-4. The deadline to submit applications is October 29th, and it can be done by mailing in the form on page 4, or online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/ATCawards. If you have questions about the awards, please give the SDARWS Madison office a call at 605-556-7219.

Water Taste Test Contest

This year's Exhibit Hall will feature a public judging of the top three finalists in the SD Rural Water Taste Test. The winner chosen at this taste test will go on to represent South Dakota in the National Rural Water Taste Test held at the Rural Water Rally in Washington, DC in February of 2024. If your water system or municipality is interested in participating in the taste test, please make sure that they bring a quart-sized glass jar filled with water from your system to the Registration Desk by 2:00pm on Tuesday, January 10th.

New sdarws.com website debuting soon!

SDARWS has entered into an agreement with MemberClicks Association Management Software and will be debuting a new website and online membership portal this fall. This transition has been a year in the making, and we at SDARWS can't wait to share the final product with our members. Some of the improvements will include a new and improved certification class registration, ability to pay for events online and a more mobile-friendly website. Please note that on the new website pages may have moved or have been renamed, but all of the content on our previous site will be available on the new site. Stay tuned for the debut!

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Class B East River
VACANT

Class B West River
VACANT

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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.

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

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

□ Donald B. Pospishil

(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.

[illegible]

SDARWS | Attn: Jeremiah | PO Box 287 | Madison, SD 57042
or scan and email to gfc@sdarws.com

Field to Table Educates Area Youth



DONNA HENRIKSEN | CLAY RURAL WATER

The Field to Table program was started in 2001 by Burbank farmer, Ray Hall, to help educate children on the uses of crops grown in the area. Ray wanted to create an outdoor classroom for children so they could see exactly what is involved in growing a crop from the planting and harvesting of the crop to the finished product and what is done with it from there. Ray kept the program going until 2008, when Valley Ag of Gayville took over the program.

The outdoor classroom is set up into 7-9 different stations where the children spend two hours learning about a different topic ranging from planting to combining to selling the finished products. Most kids get exposure to what the value and production of livestock is in the area via the local 4-H programs; “The Field to Table” program was started to give them a similar exposure with the crop production of the area such as field corn and soybeans.

Stations that the children might go through include: Corn

By-Products, Corn Growth and Development, Soybean Growth and Development, Soybeans By-Products, Dairy, Livestock, Plant Nutrition, Soils, and Machinery, such as a planter & combine. The children receive packets of educational materials and are each given a bottle of water, supplied by Clay Rural Water System.

When the event first started Hall said, “I went out about 15 feet into the corn field and plowed down a circular area; that is what we called our classroom. We had, I suppose, about 100 students attend in 2001 from 6 or 7 area schools.” The event has grown over the years and is held over 3 days. In 2021, 623 4th & 5th graders attended from 13 different schools.

“It is just very important for the kids who don’t grow up on farms to see all of this,” Hall said. “It used to be kids grew up on farms and just knew the basics. Today, it is important to bring those kids who live in town out here and let them enjoy the farm while learning about the crops and how they are used in everyday life.”



Portions of this article were reprinted from the Sept. 12, 2008 edition of the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan. Ray Hall passed away in 2020 at the age of 94.



Photo Credit: Sam Stukel, SD GF&P

CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY. DO YOUR PART.

JAKE DAVIS | GF&P FISHERIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR

CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY. While it's a simple message, putting these three words to use is the best way to help slow the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) within South Dakota. So, what are AIS exactly? Well, they are aquatic plants and animals that have been introduced into waterways where they do not live naturally. They can have harmful effects on the natural resources in these ecosystems and the human uses of these resources. They include fish, plants, and invertebrates and can be found in many aquatic systems across the state. They can impact recreation as well as infrastructure within a waterbody, and once established, they can be very hard to get rid of.

ZEBRA MUSSELS (*Dreissena polymorpha*).

One species that gets a lot of attention, and rightfully so, is the zebra mussel. This small shellfish is native to the Black, Caspian, and Azov Seas; however, after hitching a ride in ballast water in ships, they became established in the Great Lakes and have continued to spread.

The first detection in South Dakota was within Lewis and Clark Lake in 2015. Since that time, they have spread upstream in the Missouri River to Lake Sharpe below Oahe Dam. Additionally, they have been detected in other eastern South Dakota waters including McCook, Yankton, Cochrane, Pickerel, Kampeska, and Mitchell Lakes, as well as Dahme Quarry. Two new waters have been identified as infested as of 2022 and those waters would include Enemy Swim Lake in the Northeast as well as Pactola Reservoir in the Black Hills, which is the first positive water west of the Missouri River.

These small mussels attach to hard surfaces, such as watercraft, docks, and plants, using special structures called byssal threads. While this is an easy way to identify them as a non-native mussel, unfortunately, it is also how they can be transported from one waterbody to another. When they are juveniles, also known as veligers, they are microscopic and can be invisible to the naked eye. This is one of the primary reasons that lake and stream water cannot be transported, as the water could have zebra mussel veligers floating in it, and a person would never know.

Adults reproduce rapidly and can impact the aquatic food web by filtering high volumes of water and outcompeting native mussels. Additionally, they can impact water infrastructure by attaching to any hard surface and can reach densities where they foul equipment and clog submerged pipes.

INVASIVE CARP

Another AIS that folks often think of are invasive carps. These are the ones that jump out of the water when startled and fly through the air. The two primary species include bighead carp and silver carp. At present, they exist in South Dakota in the Missouri River below Gavins Point Dam, as well as in the James River, the Big Sioux River below Falls Park in Sioux Falls, and the Vermillion River below East Vermillion State Recreation Area.

While they look very different than any native fish as adults, as young fish they resemble other small native fish, such as gizzard shad. Because of the similar appearance of these species and due to the popularity of gizzard shad as baitfish, areas where both species occur are closed to

noncommercial take of bait as someone may easily mistake a juvenile invasive carp for a legal baitfish and move it to another water.

OTHER AIS

Additional AIS species include plants such as curlyleaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife, flowering rush, and brittle naiad, as well as other fish species such as European rudd and common carp. Other AIS invertebrates within the state include rusty crayfish, red swamp crayfish, Asian clam, New Zealand mudsnail, and red-rimmed melania.

Several other species are not currently found in South Dakota, but occur in neighboring states and as such, are classified as AIS. Examples of these include spiny water flea, round goby, white perch, and several snakehead species. Due to the proximity of their current distribution, GFP has classified them as AIS, so possession of these species is prohibited to help prevent them from becoming established within the state. A full list of AIS and known infested waters can be found in the 2022 Fishing handbook or online at sdleastwanted.sd.gov.

SLOW THE SPREAD

So, what is South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) doing to slow the spread of AIS? The GFP AIS program utilizes a combination of outreach and education along with direct engagement with boaters as the primary methods of approach. A diverse group of users exist when it comes to South Dakota's aquatic resources, and these can range from anglers to recreational boaters. As such, every individual who recreates on the water in South Dakota is included in the target audience. The outreach and education program uses a combination of targeted emails, news releases, signage in the field, and social media posts to help spread the message of AIS awareness. Additionally, information cards are printed annually and provided to users during inspections and provided to businesses and GFP offices for distribution.

In recent years, GFP has partnered with Lawrence and Schiller, a marketing and advertising agency located in Sioux Falls, to utilize two additional outreach programs that could not be produced by the department. These include short, informational videos that are played on gas station TVs around the state. While the video is only 30 seconds long, this has shown to be an effective method to relay the message of AIS through effective audio and video content. The second approach that this partnership has provided is through the use of "Instant Experience" on Facebook and Instagram. These are short but initially, they can also be shared with an individual's family and friends on their pages to help increase viewership.

INSPECTIONS

Annually, GFP conducts roadside inspections of watercraft users and partners with local County Conservation Districts

and Lake Associations to conduct watercraft inspections at boat ramps, also known as "access-based" inspections. In western South Dakota, access-based inspections take place at Angostura, Deerfield, Pactola, Sheridan, Belle Fourche, and Shadehill Reservoirs. This direct engagement with users allows for the sharing of information, inspection for AIS on watercraft, and enforcement of AIS regulations. In central and eastern South Dakota, roadside inspections are the primary method used, as the sheer volume of boat ramps makes access-based inspections unrealistic.

The goal with the roadside inspections is to maximize contacts by setting up in areas that see a high number of watercraft being transported. Whether roadside or access-based, watercraft inspections are meant to be short interactions that determine the risk that AIS are present on a watercraft. One way for users to speed up the inspection process is to make sure there is no water in any compartments within the watercraft and all vegetation has been removed.

SELF-INSPECTION

Users should perform a self-inspection of their watercraft after every trip on the water using the acronym H.E.A.D.

- **Hull:** examine both sides of the hull below the waterline and the trailer.
- **Engine:** inspect the engine, look for AIS in dark areas, right angles, and rough spots, and drain water from your lower unit.
- **Anchor:** examine interior compartments, anchor, and ropes.
- **Dry:** pull all plugs and leave them out until your next launch.

REGULATIONS

A number of regulations are aimed at slowing the spread of AIS. Examples of these include the requirement of having all boat/drain plugs removed unless a watercraft, including jet skis, is in a boat ramp parking area, on the water, or being launched/loaded. Additionally, fish and bait cannot be transported in lake or stream water, and unused baitfish need to be disposed of properly.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?


In the end, it comes down to the actions of every user of South Dakota's aquatic resources to help take steps to minimize the risk of spreading AIS. One of the ultimate goals of the GFP AIS program is to provide individuals with the tools and information needed to help them implement best management practices when using the water. Additional information on how to help slow the spread of AIS, current species distributions, and regulations can be found at sdleastwanted.sd.gov or by contacting your local GFP office or representative. Aquatic invasive species affect all water users. That is why it will take the efforts of everyone to help make an impact. **CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY. EVERY TIME.**

WASTING WATER

PICK-SLOAN PROMISES STILL REMAIN UNFULFILLED

TROY LARSON | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM





What does it mean to waste water? To “waste” water for most of us means to consume it unnecessarily or excessively. Maybe leaving a faucet or hose running when it could be turned off, or seeing sprinklers running while it is raining or has just rained. I often think about wasting water when running the shower or faucet waiting for the water to get hot. How many gallons does that total each year? For the rural water industry though we need to think of wasting water as “letting it flow unimpeded and undiverted down rivers,” which is a quote from Mark Reisner in his book “Cadillac Desert.”

In our case it is Missouri River water flowing by us that was promised to the state as part of the Pick-Sloan Program that was first authorized in the Flood Control Act of 1944 (P.L. 78-534). This legislation called for the construction of six dams along the Missouri River; four of those are located in South Dakota. Senators Joseph O'Mahoney (D-WY) and Eugene Millikin (R-CO) successfully included amendments to Pick-Sloan that thankfully provided for the interests of people in the upper basins. The amendments created an emphasis on irrigation over river navigation and gave precedence to arid states for the use of basin water.

South Dakota gave up 520,390 acres, which was 30.4% of the land needed for the six dams.

Much was promised to the state in return such as flood protection, electric power and recreation, but I will just focus on water. South Dakota was promised 972,510 acres of irrigation from the Missouri River. According to Ken Royse, Program Manager of the Missouri River Joint Water Board, this equals about 622.4 billion gallons per year.

A number of irrigation projects were planned. The most well-known, the Oahe irrigation project, was going to bring water to 16 counties in northcentral and northeast South Dakota. Construction started on the irrigation channel, but landowner opposition eventually resulted in the Carter Administration defunding it in the late 70's. Other irrigation projects also fell by the wayside. South Dakota currently only has about 24,100 acres of irrigation, which using Ken's calculations equals about 15.4 billion gallons per year.

After irrigation fell by the wayside, what happened next? To realize the promise of Pick-Sloan the state pivoted to rural water. WEB Rural Water System was the first to tap into the Missouri River for drinking water and others followed. There are currently 11 regional rural water systems drawing water either directly from the Missouri River, or like in the case of Lewis & Clark RWS drawing water from an aquifer that is recharged by the river. This does not include the other systems who are buying water from these 11 systems.

These projects are a partial fulfillment of what was promised by Pick-Sloan, but even so collectively they are a proverbial drop in the bucket. It is estimated the 11 rural water projects are currently drawing about 19 billion gallons per year. Add in the approximately 15.4 billion gallons of irrigation and that brings the total

to roughly 34.4 billion gallons, which equals about 5.5 % of what was promised.

More projects are on the drawing board to utilize the Missouri River – Western Dakota Regional Water System and Water Investment in Northern South Dakota (WINS), which is a partnership among Aberdeen, WEB RWS and BDM RWS. Even so, the drought has made it abundantly clear that we have a great need in many parts of the state for much more water and

we need to start taking action now. Considering how long large scale water projects take to complete, we likely are already behind the 8-ball.

What is the federal interest though in terms of helping to fund future water projects? The federal interest is the roughly 588 billion gallons and the subsequent direct and indirect economic activity still remaining for South Dakota to get what was promised as part of the Pick-Sloan promise.

There are already rumblings of projects in states like California, Colorado, Nevada and Utah trying to tap into the Missouri River. In reality any of the western states could be looking at that possibility if they are not already doing so. The sooner we get started locking up what was promised to the citizens of South Dakota the better. Let's not continue to waste water by letting it flow by us.

The drought has made it abundantly clear that we have a great need in many parts of the state for much more water and we need to start taking action now

LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

The exact year has been lost to history, but the idea for a regional wholesale supplier of water started around 1987. Parachute pants were still popular back then, so that shows how long this project has taken!

After the idea was planted by what is now known as the South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources, several key people led the charge to move forward, including SDARWS' Denny Davis. With a concept in hand, which at the time was called the Southeastern South Dakota Water Supply System (quite the mouthful!), SDARWS' Bill Dempsey started beating the bushes to see which cities and rural water systems may be interested in joining.

It was determined early on that to get congressional authorization would require political support from Iowa and Minnesota, so the project was expanded into those states and renamed. Lewis & Clark RWS was incorporated in January 1990 and the first board meeting was held in April 1990. Banner Associates was hired in August 1990. Lewis & Clark shared an office with the SDARWS for a few years.

There were originally over 50 member cities and rural water systems, but in 1993 the rubber met the road in terms of signing on the dotted line, reserving a specific capacity and paying an annual cost share. Many members dropped out at that time, a decision most have deeply regretted. Brandon being the highest profile community due to their well-documented water issues, but also rural water systems like Big Sioux CWS, Clay RWS, Kingbrook RWS and TM RWS just to name a few.

After many congressional hearings, congressional authorization for Lewis & Clark was finally approved and signed into law in July 2000 for a 23.5 million gallons a day (MGD) system. Generally speaking the grant dollars for construction are 80% federal, 10% from the three states and 10% from the 20 members. No federal or state funding for operations, which are covered 100% by water rates.

Several years had passed since the members reserved their capacities, so after the project was authorized they were given the opportunity to request additional capacity but needed to pay 100% of the incremental cost to upsize the system. The capacity of what is often referred to as the "base system" was eventually increased to 44.19 MGD.

After a Final Engineering Report was completed, a Finding of No Significant Impact was eventually issued in March 2003. This was the final environmental hurdle before construction could begin. A well-attended groundbreaking ceremony was held on the banks of the Missouri River near

Vermillion in August 2003.

Water began flowing to the first 11 members on July 30, 2012, so Lewis & Clark just celebrated its 10 year anniversary of operations. Fifteen of the 20 members are currently connected, with Sioux Center and Hull expected to come online by the end of this year. Only Sheldon, Sibley and Madison will be left to connect. Lewis & Clark's water source is a series of wells that tap into an aquifer adjacent to the Missouri River. The treatment plant is a few miles north of Vermillion.

Construction of the base system is an estimated 93% complete. Based on recent federal appropriations and funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, it is anticipated all 20 members will be connected by 2025. This includes repaying the "federal funding advances" the three states generously approved to help keep construction moving forward when federal funding dropped to extremely low levels for seven consecutive years starting in 2011.

Lewis & Clark is designed to expand to 60 MGD in the future, with the members needing to cover 100% of the remaining cost to expand the system. The future is now. The drought has been a real eye opener for the members in terms of the sustainability of their water supplies. Construction is beginning this year on the expansion and completion is anticipated by 2030. No additional capacity can be generated until the expansion is fully completed.

In today's dollars the expansion is estimated to cost \$114 million. Thankfully South Dakota and Iowa recently approved \$15 million and \$12 million respectively from the American Rescue Plan Act funding to help offset a portion of the expansion, which directly benefits homes and businesses by keeping water rates as low as possible. This leaves the members with a remaining cost share in today's dollars of \$87 million.

Like our namesake explorers, the journey has been very long and arduous. Countless challenges and obstacles along the way. Through it all we have kept the faith and persevered. This has been a team effort and there have been many incredible key partners along the way. SDARWS has certainly been one of those key partners. Everyone at Lewis & Clark is very grateful to the SDARWS for all the support and advocacy through the years. Thank you!



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Scott Hain, Worthington – Vice Chairman

Jim Hoyer, Rock Rapids – Treasurer

Todd Uhl, Sheldon – Secretary

Jerry Lonneman, Lincoln Pipestone RWS – At-Large Member

Scott Buss, Minnehaha CWC – At-Large Member

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Jim Andersen – Water Operator

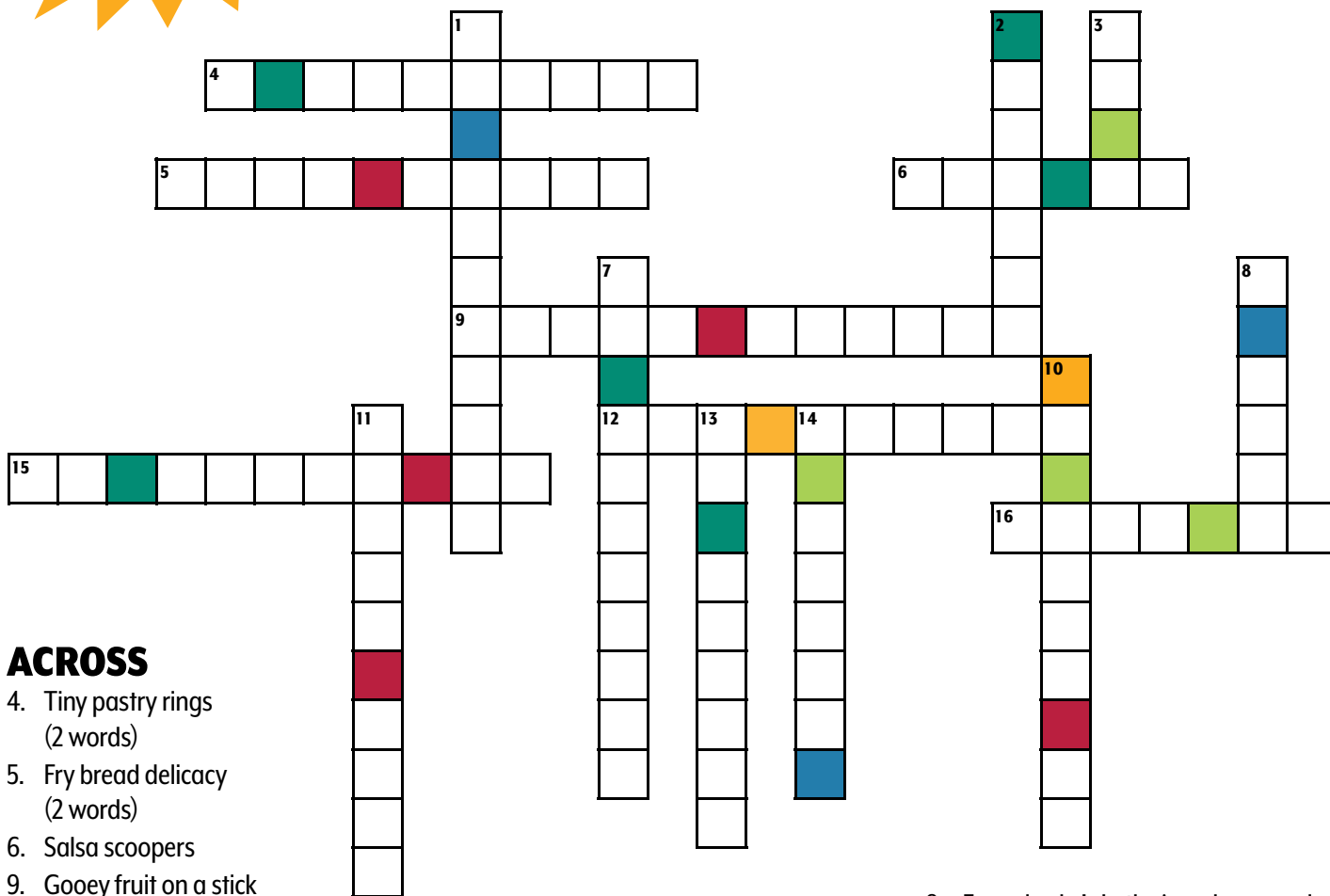
Jon Johnson – Custodian (part-time)

RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

FAIR FOODS

Enter to
Win \$100

SCRAMBLE ANSWER



ACROSS

4. Tiny pastry rings
(2 words)
5. Fry bread delicacy
(2 words)
6. Salsa scoopers
9. Goopy fruit on a stick
(2 words)
12. Sweet and salty snack made
in a kettle (2 words)
15. Deep-fried dairy chunks
(2 words)
16. Frank on a stick (2 words)

DOWN

1. Fluffy sweet treat (2 words)
2. Icy dessert (2 words)
3. Greek pita sandwich
7. Tex Mex in a bag (2 words)
8. Funnel cake's Latin American cousin
10. Circular fried root veggie (2 words)
11. Deep-fried batter (2 words)
13. Limb of a gobbler (2 words)
14. Classic sidewalk stand beverage

RULES: Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See page 2 for contact information) or enter online at www.sdarws.com/crossword.html with the correct phrase by October 15, 2022 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 Dixie Ball with Mid-Dakota RWS who had the correct phrase of "After Rain Comes Fair Weather" for July 2022.

RURAL WATER

ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA

On August 10, 2022, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Tanya Trujillo joined Bureau of Reclamation leaders at a ribbon cutting event to celebrate a \$75.5 million investment from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law into the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System. The funding was allocated in March 2022, as part of a \$420 million investment in rural water.

"The Biden-Harris administration is steadfast in our commitment to investing in rural America and to ensuring that every family and every community has sufficient access to safe, clean, reliable water," said Assistant Secretary Trujillo. "Through this \$75.5 million investment provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the tremendous partnership of Lewis & Clark, this project will eventually benefit 300,000 people in the tri-state area, supporting families, farmers, wildlife and furthering our work to tackle historic drought conditions."

Assistant Secretary Trujillo was joined at the event by Reclamation's Missouri Basin and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf Region's Regional Director Brent Esplin, and Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Executive Director Troy Larson.

The Lewis & Clark Regional Water System is a non-profit 501(c)4 organization incorporated in 1990 and authorized by Congress in 2000. It is a wholesale provider of water to 20 member cities and rural water systems in a 5,000 square miles area in southeast South Dakota, northwest Iowa, and southwest Minnesota. The initial ground-breaking was on

August 21, 2003, construction began in earnest in 2004, and operations started on July 30, 2012. Water is currently being delivered to 15 members: Beresford, Centerville, Harrisburg, Lennox, Lincoln County Rural Water System, Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water System, Luverne, Minnehaha Community Water Corp, Parker, Rock County Rural Water Department, Rock Rapids, Sioux Falls, South Lincoln Rural Water System, Tea and Worthington.

The project is currently 86% completed, with funding for construction provided through federal, state and local grants. The states and members have paid 100% of their cost share, and the \$75.5 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will go toward constructing the remaining 32 miles of pipeline for the Madison service line, the 17 miles of pipeline to Sheldon, meter buildings, a pump station and a new water storage reservoir.

When completed, the system will distribute treated water through 337 miles of pipeline. The capacity of the completed system will be 45 million gallons of water per day with the ability to expand to 60 million gallons of water per day in the future. The system utilizes a series of wells to tap into an aquifer adjacent to the Missouri River near Vermillion, South Dakota. In addition to a traditional lime softening treatment facility, the non-looped system also includes a series of wells, meter buildings, pump stations and water storage facilities.





FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

SDARWS AND NRWA INFLUENCE 2023 FARM BILL REAUTHORIZATION

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.



OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING AND EXAMS

Course Name	Date	Location
Small Water Treatment Workshop	September 20, 2022	Zoom Online Course
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 Distributon	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
Basic Wastewater Treatment	February 21-23, 2023	Spearfish Holiday Inn - 76/Swarm Room
Water Distributon	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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WATER/WASTEWATER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN SOUTH DAKOTA



As we all know, everyone needs water to exist. However, for most people, our water is provided to us by some outside source, such as a public water supplier (PWS) such as your rural water system. In turn, PWSs pass along the costs of acquiring, treating and delivering this water, in the form of monthly water charges, to its customers. No matter how critical, some customers may, from time-to-time, have trouble paying for the water they need.

The South Dakota Department of Social Services has received funding to assist low-income individuals and families whose water/wastewater service has been disconnected or who are at risk of losing access to water service. If your water/wastewater service has been disconnected; or if you have been notified of pending service disconnection; or if you have overdue water service bills, there may be help available.

Eligibility for Energy Assistance is based on the number of people and income of everyone in the home. To apply contact the Community Action Agency serving your County. Applications are being accepted now.

TO APPLY, CONTACT THE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY SERVING YOUR COUNTY:

Inter-Lakes Community Action

605-256-6518

www.interlakescap.com

serves Brookings, Clark, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Lake, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, and Moody counties.

Grow South Dakota

605-698-7654

www.growsd.org

serves Beadle, Brown, Campbell, Day, Edmunds, Faulk, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, McPherson, Marshall, Potter, Roberts, Spink, Stanley, Sully, and Walworth counties.

Rural Office of Community Services

605-384-3883

www.rocsinc.org

serves Aurora, Bon Homme, Brule, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Clay, Davison, Douglas, Gregory, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Jones, Lincoln, Lyman, Mellette, Sanborn, Todd, Tripp, Turner, Yankton, and Union counties.

Western South Dakota Community Action

605-348-1460

www.wsdca.org

serves Bennett, Butte, Corson, Custer, Dewey, Fall River, Haakon, Harding, Jackson, Lawrence, Meade, Perkins, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, and Ziebach counties.

The South Dakota Department of Social Services is dedicated to strengthening families to foster health, well being, and independence. For more information, please visit dss.sd.gov.

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