

ServiceLine

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

2024 ATC INFORMATION

SEE PAGES 9-16

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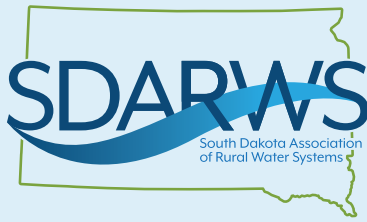
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ASSOCIATION UPDATES

EILTS HIRED AS NEW WASTEWATER TECH.

SDARWS would like to introduce everyone to our newest Wastewater Technician, Blaine Eilts. Blaine joined the SDARWS team in late November and comes to us from Valley Springs. He holds certifications in Class II Water Treatment, Class I Wastewater Collection, Class I Water Distribution, and Class I Stabilization Pond.



When asked what he is most looking forward to in this job, Blaine said, "Being able to help and connect with operators all over this great state."

In his spare time Blaine enjoys motorcycling, hunting and playing music. Welcome to the team, Blaine!

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 2025. If your water system is interested in participating in the taste test, please make sure that they bring a quart-sized glass jar filled with water from your water system to the Registration Desk by 2:00pm on Tuesday, January 9th.

SECOND ANNUAL ATC METER CHALLENGE

This year we are excited to host the second annual ATC Meter Challenge. This competition will test and measure how quickly, totally, and accurately you can assemble a working water meter. There is no cost to participate, and there are cash prizes for the top three. Timed trials will take place on Wednesday, January 10th from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the SD Rural Water Booth. The top five finalists will compete at 4:30 PM in the Exhibit Hall. A full list of rules can be found at sdarws.com/meterchallenge.

2024 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.

We invite you to join us February 5-8 at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. For more information, visit NRWA's Rally page at: nrwa.org/rally. We would love to have you join us on the Hill!

RALLY HOTEL & ROOM BLOCK INFORMATION

The sleeping room block will close on January 6, 2024.

Location: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC 20001

Rates: \$345.00/night single/dblb

A non-refundable deposit of one night's room plus tax to be taken for each room held. For reservations call 1-800-233-1234 and use Group Code: G-NTRW. If you have any questions about the room block, please contact Becca Murray at becca@nrwa.org or 580-252-0629.

TENTATIVE RALLY SCHEDULE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Registration Open (Hyatt)
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM: NRWA Welcome Social (Hyatt)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

7:30 AM - 11:00 AM: Registration Open (Hyatt)
8:00 AM: Opening Session (Hyatt)
10:15 AM: SDARWS Gameplan Meeting (Hyatt)
12:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Meetings on the Hill (Time/Locations TBA)
6:00 PM: SDARWS Group Dinner (The Monocle - 107 D St NE)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

7:30 AM - 11:00 AM: Meetings on the Hill (Time/Locations TBA)
12:00 PM: Great American Water Taste Test & Lunch (Hyatt)
1:30 PM - 5:00 PM: Meetings on the Hill (Time/Locations TBA)
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM: NRWA Social (Hyatt)

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OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING AND EXAMS

Register for training classes online at: web.sdarws.com/events

Course Name	Date	Location
Basic Water Treatment	January 23 -25	Rapid City Ramkota - Rushmore Room
OpCert Exam	January 25 @ 1:00 PM	Rapid City Ramkota - Rushmore Room
Wastewater Collection	February 6 - 8	Sioux Falls - Hilton Garden Inn SW
OpCert Exam	February 8 @ 1:00 PM	Sioux Falls - Hilton Garden Inn SW
Basic Water Treatment	March 5 - 7	Aberdeen - Dakota Events Center
OpCert Exam	March 7 @ 1:00 PM	Aberdeen - Dakota Events Center
Intermediate Water Treatment	March 19 - 21	Sioux Falls - Hilton Garden Inn SW
OpCert Exam	March 21 @ 1:00 PM	Sioux Falls - Hilton Garden Inn SW
Water Distribution	April 16 - 18	Mitchell - Highlands Conference Center
OpCert Exam	April 18 @ 1:00 PM	Mitchell - Highlands Conference Center
Small Water Treatment Workshop	April 23	Rapid City Ramkota - Rushmore Room
Basic Wastewater Treatment	May 7 - 9	Watertown - Ramkota
OpCert Exam	May 9 @ 1:00 PM	Watertown - Ramkota
Advanced Wastewater Treatment	May 21 - 23	Sioux Falls - Hilton Garden Inn SW
OpCert Exam	May 23 @ 1:00 PM	Sioux Falls - Hilton Garden Inn SW
Stabilization Pond Workshop	June 6	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.

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 to DANR. 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

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.

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).



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CLIENT MEETING ROOMS

We have a limited number of rooms available for client meetings. Call 605-556-7219 to reserve.

HOTEL INFORMATION

DAYS INN – 605-224-0411

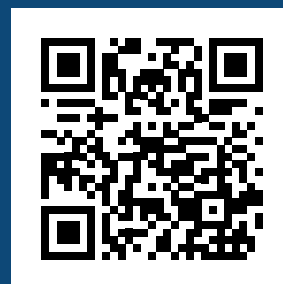
GOVERNOR'S INN – 605-224-4200

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JANUARY 9-11, 2024

PIERRE RAMKOTA HOTEL
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KEYNOTE SPEAKER: *DAN MEERS*



Dan Meers goes to work each day like many other men, dressed in a suit. The only difference is that instead of wearing a tie with his suit, Dan wears a tail. You see, Dan is a professional mascot.

Dan is widely known as KC Wolf, the official mascot of the Kansas City Chiefs. He travels throughout the United States and the world entertaining thousands of people both in and out of costume. Dan is in high demand not only as a mascot but also as a humorous and motivational speaker to audiences of all ages. His enthusiasm, optimism and love for life are contagious and makes Dan an inspiration to all those he meets. We are excited to have Dan Meers join us at this year's ATC!



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ATTENDEE INFORMATION

MEMBER REGISTRATION

FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: \$325 Early Bird; \$350 after 12/15/23

TUESDAY ONLY: \$205 Early Bird; \$230 after 12/15/23

WEDNESDAY ONLY: \$255 Early Bird; \$280 after 12/15/23

AWARDS BANQUET: \$35 Early Bird; \$40 after 12/15/23

SPOUSE REGISTRATION: \$50 Early Bird; \$55 after 12/15/23

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT ENDS DECEMBER 15TH!



NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION

FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: \$390 Early Bird; \$440 after 12/15/23

TUESDAY ONLY: \$255 Early Bird; \$305 after 12/15/23

WEDNESDAY ONLY: \$325 Early Bird; \$375 after 12/15/23

AWARDS BANQUET: \$40 Early Bird; \$45 after 12/15/23

SPOUSE ACTIVITIES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

RAMKOTA COURTYARD

8 AM - 10 AM

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

11 AM - 1 PM

SOUP/SANDWICH LUNCHEON

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.

2-DAY HALLWAY BOOTH

(Tuesday & Wednesday)

\$600 Early Bird | \$650 after 12/15/23

HALLWAY BOOTH SCHEDULE

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

Exhibit: Tuesday, January 9th – 12:00pm - 5:00pm;
Wednesday, January 10th – 7:30am - 5:00pm with the option to stay up until 8:00pm in Hallway, or move into Exhibit Hall by 4:00pm if space allows

Tear Down: Wednesday, January 10th – 5:00pm
(Hallway Only) – 9:00pm (Exhibit Hall)

EXHIBIT HALL BOOTH

(Wednesday Only)

\$500 Early Bird | \$550 after 12/15/23

EXHIBIT HALL BOOTH SCHEDULE

Setup: Wednesday, January 10 – 11:00am - 3:30pm

Exhibit: Wednesday, January 10 – 4:00pm - 8:00pm

Tear Down: Wednesday, January 10 – 8:00pm - 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.





JANUARY 9-11, 2024 | RAMKOTA HOTEL
920 W. SIOUX AVENUE, PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9

8 AM – 4 PM REGISTRATION DESK OPEN
8 AM – 2 PM WATER TASTE TEST REGISTRATION
8 AM – 4 PM WATER PAC RAFFLE – LOBBY AREA

10:00 AM

GALLERY D-E OPTIMIZED CORROSION CONTROL TREATMENT
– Delvin DeBoer, AE2S

GALLERY F NETSSO E-REPORTING AND FUTURE E-REPORTING
– Tim Flor, DANR

GALLERY G CONTROL VALVE WORKSHOP
– Dave Kluck & Andrew Caselli, Northwestern Power Equipment

10:45 AM

GALLERY D-E CONSERVATION & SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CITY OF SIOUX FALLS
– Ted Lewis, City of Sioux Falls

GALLERY F BIOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION OF NITRATES - BIOTTA™
– Adam Norman, DGR

GALLERY G CONTROL VALVE WORKSHOP, CONTINUED
– Dave Kluck & Andrew Caselli, Northwestern Power Equipment

12:00 PM

GALLERY A-B-C AWARDS LUNCHEON

1:00 PM

GALLERY A-B-C KEYNOTE ADDRESS
– Dan Meers



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2:30 PM - ISCO BREAK TABLE

3:00 PM

GALLERY D-E SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR POTABLE WATER SYSTEM
– Craig Steve, IXOM Watercare

GALLERY F USING WATER TREATMENT RESIDUAL COATED WOODCHIPS TO REMOVE PHOSPHATE AND NITRATE FROM STORMWATER RUNOFF
– Chris Schmit, SDSU WEERC

GALLERY G SCADA - A FORCE MULTIPLIER FOR OPERATIONS
– Anthony Bramante, InControl, Inc.

LEWIS & CLARK USGS PROGRAMS SUPPORTING SOURCE WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE DAKOTAS
– Bill Eldridge & Galen Hoogestraat, USGS

L. FRANCIS CASE CASE STUDY: DISINFECTION BYPRODUCT MANAGEMENT, PREVENTION AND REDUCTION IN A RURAL WATER SYSTEM
– Jared Huibregtse, Bartlett & West

AMP. II KEYNOTE BREAKOUT
– Dan Meers

3:45 PM

GALLERY D-E CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABILITY OF RURAL WATER WITH AMR AND AMI
– Nick Polsinelli, Information Data Technologies

GALLERY F ADVANCED MONITORING SOLUTIONS FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER – INSTRUMENTS, DATA, ANALYTICS AND AI
– Ken Hayes, Core & Main

GALLERY G REGIONALIZATION AND CONSOLIDATION OF WATER SYSTEMS
– Cory Chorne, AE2S

LEWIS & CLARK CORROSION CONTROL FOR DUCTILE IRON PIPE
– Josh Blount, Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association

L. FRANCIS CASE UNDERSTANDING JAR TESTING
– Tim Donovan, Hawkins, Inc.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

8 AM – 4 PM	REGISTRATION DESK OPEN
8 AM – 6 PM	WATER PAC RAFFLE – LOBBY AREA
8 AM – 3 PM	METER CHALLENGE PRELIMINARIES – SDARWS BOOTH

8:00 AM

LEWIS & CLARK	HOW TO SIZE AND USE HDPE IN YOUR RURAL WATER – Garry Bouvet, ISCO Industries
L. FRANCIS CASE	WHEN SIP HAPPENS – Dewey Prinzing, KLM Engineering
AMP II	DEFINING A WATER PROFESSIONAL – Julie Sievers, ISG

8:15 AM

AMP I	49TH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING <i>This is the Official Membership Meeting of the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems. Delegates and Alternates are encouraged to attend. Pre-Assigned seating arrangements have been reserved based on the number of voting members per system.</i>
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8:45 AM

LEWIS & CLARK	CITY OF SANBORN AND IOWA LAKES REGIONAL WATER CASE STUDIES – Adam Norman, DGR
L. FRANCIS CASE	IFAS STUDY ON 0.05 MGD CONCRETE WWTF MODS – Isaiah LaRue, Nexom
AMP II	FUNDING TO MITIGATE DISASTERS WITH “FED FUNDS” – Karen Edwards-Lindsey, US EPA Office of Water

9:30 AM - HAWKINS BREAK TABLE

10:00 AM

LEWIS & CLARK	MULTI-COMMUNITY PROJECTS – Brad Lawrence, Brosz Engineering
L. FRANCIS CASE	INDUSTRIAL PRE-TREATMENT: YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS A CITY – Tom Atkinson, ISG
AMP I	RURAL WATER CENTER ANNUAL MEETING <i>This is the Official Membership Meeting for Rural Water Center</i>
AMP II	RURAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES – Brian Ring, USDA - RD

10:45 AM

LEWIS & CLARK	MANAGING ANTENNAS ON WATER TANKS – Rich Kemmis, Maguire Iron
L. FRANCIS CASE	CAPITAL BUDGETING & FUNDING: ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE – Miranda Kleven, AE2S
AMP II	LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY – Erin Steevers, Bartlett & West

1:00 PM

LEWIS & CLARK	PUMP MAINTENANCE – Daine Olinger, SVEN
L. FRANCIS CASE	DROUGHT MODELING – Mitch Kannenberg, LRE Water
AMP I	LEGISLATIVE PANEL – Staff of Senator Thune, Senator Rounds, and Representative Johnson
AMP II	SRF UPDATE – Tina McFarling, DANR

1:45 PM

LEWIS & CLARK	DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF SCADA IN RURAL WATER – Jason Whitesock, AE2S
L. FRANCIS CASE	VFDS IN WATER & WASTEWATER – Bob White, Electric Pump
AMP II	WATER REGULATORY UPDATE – Mark Mayer, DANR

2:30 PM - BUTLER CAT BREAK TABLE

3:00 PM

LEWIS & CLARK	PREPARING FOR MUNICIPAL WORKPLACE CHALLENGES – Greg Anderson, Stockwell Engineers
L. FRANCIS CASE	INDUSTRIAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO POTWS – Kyle Doerr, DANR
AMP I	LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW, NRWA RALLY ORIENTATION – SDARWS
AMP II	SDWARN UPDATE – Robin Dyskstra & Mark Mayer, SDWARN Board

EXHIBIT HALL SCHEDULE

4:00 PM	EXHIBIT HALL & LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION OPENS
4:30 PM	METER CHALLENGE FINALS
7:30 PM	RURAL WATER TASTE TEST FINALS
7:45 PM	WATERPAC WINNERS ANNOUNCED

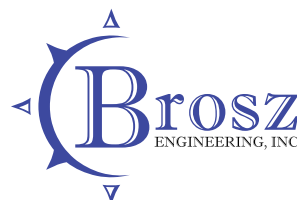
THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

7:30 AM

GALLERY A-B-C	SD LEGISLATURE OPEN FORUM BREAKFAST SPONSORED BY BROSZ ENGINEERING
---------------	---

9:00 AM

GALLERY A-B-C	SDWARN PANEL
---------------	--------------



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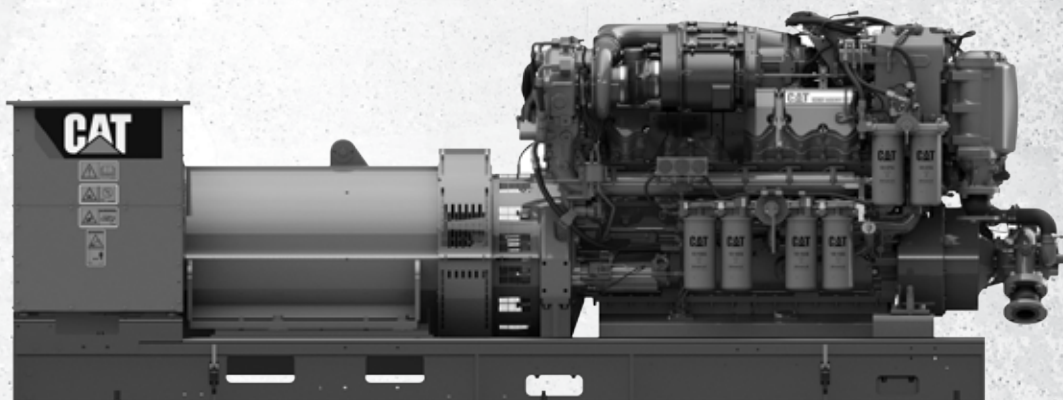
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RULES:

- Bring your sample to the ATC registration table by 2:00 PM on Tuesday, January 9th.
- 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 DANR 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 2025, an art-glass trophy, two Full-Conference registration passes for the 2025 Annual Technical Conference, recognition in *ServiceLine* magazine, and bragging rights for the next year!



1 WATER METER CHALLENGE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10



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Timed trials will take place on Wednesday, January 10th
from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the SD Rural Water Booth.

The top finalists will compete at 5:00 PM in the Exhibit Hall.

A full list of rules can be found at sdarws.com/meterchallenge

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START YOUR SUMMER WATER VALVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM THIS WINTER

As winter blankets our streets with snow and ice, identifying valve boxes can become a formidable challenge for snow removal operations. It's not uncommon for these essential components to become unintended victims of snowplows and maintenance equipment. Encountering a valve box that's protruding slightly too high can lead to equipment damage and an abrupt reminder via the jarring of your vehicle.

The winter season, while presenting these obstacles, also offers an ideal opportunity for water system professionals to catalog these problematic valve boxes for summer repairs. Addressing these issues during the warmer months can prevent critical water main valves from becoming inoperable due to damage or blockages from debris.

MAPPING AND MONITORING: THE FIRST STEP TO VALVE MAINTENANCE

A comprehensive approach to valve maintenance begins with an adequately numbered and mapped system, allowing for easy identification and operation of each valve. Here's what your records for each valve should include:

- **Valve Size and Operation:** Record the number of turns from open to close. A general rule of thumb is thrice the valve size plus an additional two or three turns (e.g., a 2" valve = 9 turns; a 10" valve = 32 turns). When shutting a gate valve, make four or five turns, then reverse one or two turns, and repeat until the valve is fully closed to prevent jamming.
- **Operational Turns Count:** A valve requiring more or fewer turns than expected could signal a malfunction needing attention.
- **Direction of Closure:** Note that gate valves do not always close in a clockwise direction, and it's essential to recognize whether a valve stops suddenly upon opening or closes gradually, as it can indicate valve condition.

- **Valve Type:** Detail whether it's a butterfly, gate, curb stop, etc.
- **Valve Function:** Document what the valve controls, such as a hydrant, fire line, or domestic supply.
- **Valve Status:** Indicate the valve's last known position, which could be critical for maintaining system pressure zones.
- **Valve Location:** Record precise longitude and latitude or take detailed measurements from a fixed point to prevent future difficulties in locating the valve.
- **Valve Operating Condition:** Note if the operation was smooth or required force, indicating overall valve health.
- **Valve Box Condition:** Assess any damage to the valve box and what repairs are necessary.

Remember, a well-maintained valve can be the difference between a manageable repair and a full-blown emergency, particularly during winter's coldest, most challenging days.

For assistance with your water system's valve and valve box maintenance, do not hesitate to contact a SDARWS team member. Our resources, which include hydro-vac technology for clean and efficient valve box maintenance and a Kubota-mounted valve exerciser for ease of use, can make the maintenance process significantly more manageable. SDARWS is equipped and ready to help, especially if you find yourself short on time or personnel. 💧



WYATT HIX started his career at SDARWS in the spring of 2022 at a Circuit Rider and is based out of our Spearfish office. He holds a Class II Water Distribution, Class I Water Treatment certificate, and is a licenced Sewer and Water Contractor, Certified Installer of Individual and Small on-site Wastewater Systems, and trained in on-site Wastewater Treatment Systems Installation. Wyatt resides in Belle Fourche.

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HOW TO PREVENT YOUR WATER STORAGE TANK FROM FREEZING

With the winter cold closing in on us, it might be a good idea to discuss keeping your water storage tank from freezing.

In the summer months, people like to keep their tank levels as full as possible to have the added water available during the heat of the summer, but as most of you know, we only have those temperatures for a few months, and then it's back to cold and winds. Ice in a water storage tank can be very harmful to the structure, scraping the internal coating, ripping at any level-sensing control wires, and, in a worst-case scenario, even causing structural damage to the tank.

One of the best ways to keep an elevated storage tank from freezing is to keep the water moving. A recirculation pump is commonly used in South Dakota to keep ice to a minimum in an elevated storage tank. Water is pumped from the standpipe at the base of the tank up a smaller pipe within the standpipe at the top of the water level. With enough flow from the pump, the water in the tower won't freeze. Keep in mind this means the pump would have to run all the time and may be costly to the system.

If you don't have a recirculation pump and need to keep the water moving, one way is to adjust your tank levels so that the refill point is closer to the shutoff point. This action helps keep a cycle of water moving in and out of the tank and prevents the standpipe from freezing, which happens to most tanks when they freeze.

Heaters are another option for a water storage tank to keep the ice away. I have seen both elevated and ground storage tanks with heaters in them. Again, this is an option to keep your tank from freezing in our frigid winter months, but it uses electricity to power the heaters and costs the system to run them.

Mixers are also an option to keep the ice out of your water storage tank. The mixer moves water from the bottom of your tank to the top of the tank, keeping all the water at a uniform temperature. With regular tank usage with water leaving the storage tank and new water being introduced as it refills, the ice shouldn't have a chance to form.

The last way that operators in South Dakota keep their water storage tanks and towers from freezing is to adjust the fill and stop set points to keep the water moving as frequently as possible. It does work most of the time, but in the event of a



Mixer installation in a ground storage tank in NW South Dakota.

long cold snap, these tanks and towers freeze.

In conclusion, if your water storage tank does freeze, some companies specialize in thawing frozen tanks with steam. It will take them some time to accomplish the thawing process, but they will get it back in operation for your system as quickly as possible. 💧



MIKE MOELLER has worked for SDARWS since 2014. He previously worked at Dakota Pump and Control for five years, and served 30 years with the South Dakota National Guard. Mike also holds an Advanced Safety Certificate from the National Safety Council.

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CROSS-CONNECTION CONTROL AND BACKFLOW PREVENTION CLASSES

South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems will soon offer Cross-connection Control and Backflow Prevention classes – three per year, to be exact. I am working on locations and times, but the first ones will most likely be in the January through June time slot to start with.

Backflow is the undesirable reversal of the flow of fluids, chemicals, or any other foreign material into the public drinking water system. There are two forms of backflow:

1. **Backsiphonage** is usually caused by a pressure loss in the drinking water system.
2. **Backpressure** is caused by pumps, piping systems elevation, or thermal expansion from a heat source.

The reference above was taken directly from the American Backflow Prevention Association website at www.abpa.org/page/BackflowPrevention.

A cross-connection is a physical connection between the water supply and any possible pollution or contamination source. By eliminating or controlling all actual or potential cross-connections, the public drinking water system will be protected within the public water main system and within buildings. The Safe Drinking Water Act says that the water systems are responsible for protecting the drinking water. The plumbing code has requirements for backflow prevention, and there are administrative rules on backflow prevention as well. If you think about what is connected to your water system, there are many areas for cross-connection. Hospitals, dental offices, schools, butcher shops, chemical or fertilizer companies,

how about a car wash? Any of these companies could have a potential for a cross-connection and, therefore, backflow of pollutants or contaminants into your drinking water system. The one-day class will cover the rules governing backflow and backflow assemblies, what backflow is, what a cross-connection is, what are the ways to prevent backflow, what is a backflow prevention assembly, what makes a good backflow prevention program, and what is your system responsibility with or without a prevention program in place.

The classes will be listed on the SDARWS website as soon as I can get them scheduled, and registration will be the same as for the other certification classes. Hours will also be awarded to attendees of the classes and submitted to DANR for certified operators. Don't hesitate to bring along a council person, mayor, or other interested party. I welcome participation from system people other than operators as they have good questions and may want to know more about the costs, benefits, liabilities, and work involved in preventing backflow. I hope to see you in class, and as always, stay safe.💧



BILL THORSON joined the SDARWS staff in March of 2018 as a Wastewater Tech. Bill transitioned to Trainer/Technical Assistance Specialist with SDARWS in October of 2019, and took over Certification training in 2020. He was previously employed with the City of Canton as Public Works Director for nine years and water/wastewater operations specialist for 19 years. Bill holds Class II certifications in Water Treatment, Water Distribution, Wastewater Treatment, and Wastewater Collection and is NASSCO certified in pipeline and manhole inspections. Bill is also an SDWWA board member.



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INAUGURAL RURAL WATER TRAP SHOOT A SUCCESS



The inaugural Rural Water Trapshoot took place on Thursday, October 19th, 2023, at the Crooks Gun Club, hosted by South Dakota Rural Water. This event marked the organization's first-ever Trap Shoot. Jim Zeck, a retired team member from SDARWS, joined us, contributing his expertise by scoring targets and adding his unmatched enthusiasm to the event.

A total of 26 shooters from the surrounding area participated, showcasing their shooting skills. Each shooter took aim at 50 targets from the 16-yard line. The results determined their handicap yardage. Subsequently, they shot another 50 targets from distances ranging from 19 to 26 yards based on their earlier success. The combined scores from both rounds determined their final scores. To add to the excitement, we also included a couple of "Annie Oakley" rounds, allowing shooters to exhibit their long-range shooting prowess.

RESULTS:

1st Flight: 1st Place: Greg Schuler 2nd Place: Scott Vandermeulen
3rd Place: Steve Bruce

2nd Flight: 1st Place: Brent Hoffman 2nd Place: Austin Claeys
3rd Place: Cory Stark

Following the individual scoring, shooters were randomly paired to form teams. Some participants also had the option to choose their own partners during registration.

Team Race Results: 1st Place: Drew O'Brien & Scott Vandermeulen with a team score of 128 2nd Place: Greg Schuler & Chris Myers with a team score of 127 3rd Place: Steve Boone & Ben Julson with a team score of 121

Special thanks to our sponsors AE2S for providing beverages, Core & Main for an excellent meal prepared by Creek Side Meats from Hartford, DSG for purchasing the 2600 targets thrown, and appreciation to Banner Engineering, Ford Meter Box, Electric Pump, Dakota Pump, and DGR for contributing gift cards and swag!

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to making this event a success. We look forward to scheduling another shoot next year!





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CERTIFICATION PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Which of the following is not considered to be a disinfectant?
 - a. Ozone (O₃)
 - b. Potassium Permanganate
 - c. Rock salt
 - d. free chlorine
 - e. chloramines
 - f. total chlorine
2. Chlorine gas is heavier than air by
 - a. 1.33 times
 - b. 2 times
 - c. 2.5 times
 - d. 4.33 times
3. The chlorine curve has three locations where a measurable residual can be detected. The strongest, most aggressive form of chlorine is found on the _____ portion of the curve.
 - a. disinfection-by-product (DBP)
 - b. chloramine destruction
 - c. free-chlorine
 - d. monochloramine buildup
4. Which of the following is the free-chlorine molecule?
 - a. HCl
 - b. HOH
 - c. HOCl
 - d. NaCl
5. Chlorine gas and water form which two acids?
 - a. hypochlorous and hydrochloric
 - b. sulfuric and nitric
 - c. caustic soda and soda ash
 - d. natural organic matter and chloramines
6. Chlorine gas is produced by dissolving rock salt in water then placing electrodes in the brine solution. As a result, the three chemical products produced are
 - a. chlorine gas, caustic soda liquor, and hydrogen gas
 - b. chlorine gas, ammonia, and brine
 - c. chlorine gas, hypochlorous acid, and THM's
 - d. chlorine gas, sulfuric acid, and disinfection-by-products
7. The fusible plugs on a chlorine container are designed to melt and release chlorine when the container reaches which temperature?
 - a. 158° to 165°F
 - b. 158° to 165°C
 - c. 212° to 220°F
 - d. 100° to 105°C
8. At sea-level in the year 2023, freshwater begins to boil at what temperature?
 - a. 212°F or 100°C
 - b. 158°F or 70°C
 - c. 250°F or 121.1°C
 - d. 451°F or 232.8°C
9. Natural Organic Matter (NOM) and free-chlorine can form
 - a. trihalomethanes
 - b. hypochlorous acid
 - c. hydrochloric acid
 - d. caustic soda
10. To extract gas from a one-ton chlorine container, you should connect to
 - a. the bottom valve
 - b. one of the fusible plugs
 - c. the "B" kit
 - d. the top valve

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SDARWS Conferences & Events



Annual Technical Conference | January 9-11, 2024

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, boardsmanship 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 or email atc@sdarws.com

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



Rural Water EXPO | April 24-25, 2024

The EXPO is open to all water and wastewater utility staff, board/council members, engineers, State and Federal employees. The training will consist of 13 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 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 | May 4, 2024

The Annual Rural Water Warriors Fishing Tournament takes place at the Outpost Lodge on Cow Creek Bay in 2024. 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 40 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 or email fishing@sdarws.com

Outpost Lodge on Cow Creek Bay
Cow Creek Recreational Area, 28229 Cow Creek Rd. • Pierre, SD • 605-264-5450



Rural Water Open Golf Tourney | July 23, 2024

The Annual Rural Water Open will take place 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 or email golf@sdarws.com



Trap Shoot | Fall 2024

The Second Annual Rural Water Trap Shoot will take place at the Crooks Gun Club. This tournament is open to Utility Members, Associate Members, and Corporate Partners of SDARWS. Registration is \$100/player or \$150 to pick your partner. Includes shells and dinner. For more information, visit sdarws.com/trap or email ggraverson@sdarws.com



Leadership Seminar | November 13-14, 2024

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

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

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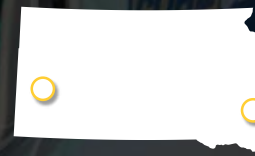
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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KURT PFEIFLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHATGPT'S ROLE IN THE MODERNIZATION OF THE WATER UTILITY INDUSTRY

The water utility sector, traditionally perceived as resistant to rapid technological changes, is currently experiencing a transformative wave, driven in part by advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies. At the forefront of this evolution is ChatGPT by OpenAI, and Bard, by Google, showcasing an array of promising applications.

RESPONSIVE CUSTOMER SERVICE:

Gone are the days of lengthy waits and navigating through complicated voice response systems. With AI-empowered platforms, consumers can receive prompt, accurate answers to a myriad of queries, ranging from billing details to vital water conservation advice. This not only elevates the user experience but also offers utilities a more cost-efficient customer service model.

OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE:

The intricate nature of water distribution demands swift, accurate decision-making. With AI at their fingertips, utility workers can instantly retrieve essential information, receive real-time updates, and troubleshoot minor issues. This immediacy ensures smoother operations and reduces downtime.

ENHANCED TRAINING AND ONBOARDING:

The water utility sector faces the dual challenge of an aging workforce and the imperative of assimilating a younger generation into its fold. Here, the new Chatbots shine as a digital mentor, simplifying jargon, explaining processes, and offering scenario-based problem-solving. This accelerates the learning curve for newcomers.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Water conservation is a collective responsibility. AI can be instrumental in crafting interactive platforms that educate and engage users on water-saving techniques and local conservation efforts. Such platforms not only inform but also foster a deeper bond between utilities and their communities.

For transparency, I'd like to confess that this article was crafted with the assistance of ChatGPT. However, it's crucial to understand that while tools like ChatGPT are undeniably powerful in streamlining certain tasks, they aren't silver bullets. The water utility industry, with its multifaceted challenges, still heavily relies on human interaction, expertise, and onsite problem-solving. In essence, while ChatGPT and similar AI models are invaluable tools, the heart and soul of our industry remain rooted in human dedication and intuition. 💧





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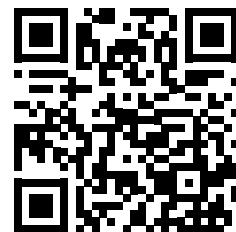


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