



# Wisconsin **Rural Water** Journal

Fall 2021

**BACT Sampling**  
**Dealing with Discharges**  
**System Upkeep and Cost**  
**Lockout/Tagout**

**Budgeting and Assessments**  
**33rd Annual WRWA**  
**Technical Conference**  
*Highlights*



# 33<sup>RD</sup> | WRWA ANNUAL | TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

## Highlights

*Details are on pages 23-27*



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## Message from the President

**Dean Bergstrom,**  
*WRWA President, Cumberland*

**H**ello to all the members of WRWA. The year has seemed to fly past us all as we are already into October and soon winter will be knocking at the door. For all that were at our annual WRWA conference in La Crosse, I hope you attended many of the classes and gained a lot of knowledge to help you in your own facilities and bring back to those that were unable to attend. I also hope you were able to talk to various vendors that may have had new tools or equipment to help you in your future needs and thanked them for being great supporters of WRWA. Without the vendors, we would not be able to hold such a big conference every year. We will be going back to having our conference in the early springtime. Next year's conference will be March 15th-18th, 2022 and I hope that you are all able to attend. With winter around the corner, now is the time to start thinking about all the maintenance that you do every year to prepare for the winter months. Again, if you ever need any assistance, don't hesitate to call WRWA, as we have many knowledgeable staff that can help you in any way. In addition, please remember we do have loaner equipment. If there is anything your utility is lacking, we likely have it for you. Call your circuit rider and schedule the use of the equipment. Have a great fall, good luck to all that hunt and until next time, stay safe.

*Dean*



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### **WRWA Mission:**

Assisting, educating  
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our members in the  
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**Chris Groh,**  
WRWA Executive Director

## Message from the Executive Director

### He Gives and He Takes Away

I'm not terribly religious although I feel spiritual about things. I always feel if something good happens that something bad must happen to even out karma. "No good deed goes unpunished" is how I live my life. Do something good and get the hell out of the way from whatever bad is going to happen.

**He Gives.** The WRWA staff have been working very hard on the Technical Conference and we had a very successful show. Yes, we were short a few booths and did not get our traditional 1250 to 1300 attendees, but it was the week before Labor Day, School was starting, construction season was in full gear and everyone is very busy doing work while the weather was nice. All reasons we normally have our Technical Conference in March or April. It's just the time of year that works the best. So, we were extremely happy with our turnout and that we could offer the best training in the water industry in the Midwest. We were also happy with seeing our friends and talking again face to face in a spaced-out manner. Everyone had a good time and most were very appreciative to get continuing education and customer contacts and sales.

All very good things. Training, exhibit hall full of technology, friends, food, fun.

Very little went wrong and we thank everyone who attended and we hope to see everyone again next March. We promise to do another good job at planning and presenting the best Technical Conference in the country.

**And He takes away.** To be honest there were several people that did attend the conference with active cases of Covid. And they did not mask like we asked before the conference. This led to several people contracting covid at our event. This includes one of my staff and me. My wife got covid from me. I was showing no symptoms so we hung out together over Labor Day. I tested positive after I found out that someone I shook hands with had Covid, and my wife tested positive 5 days later. Shame on me for trusting that my operators would actually follow our suggestions and not get vaccinated (to save themselves and save their families and customers) and then not mask at a large event with many people in their presence. I don't understand the thought that it is my right to make other people sick and possibly have a very bad result from this sickness. I had to ask myself did I not fight hard enough to get vaccines available for my operators so they could continue working, not make each other sick or their coworkers or customers? Did I not

spread the word understandably that if you get sick and spread it to others that they might die? Should I have fought for mandated vaccinations? Should I have talked to my operators about their duties about public health? I lost a business member because he thought all the operators should sit on a tack this last Spring if they wanted a vaccine. Maybe the caveat there is to stay away from customers and other operators if they feel like this.

I have been loathed to talk about this to anybody because it has become a political issue instead of a public health concern. But if water and wastewater operators, DPWs or village elders are not concerned about public health, should they be serving the public?

Enough, let's move on. Everyone please have a safe and secure Fall this year and be sure to read the articles in this Journal on Winter preparations and be sure to remember that your AWIA Vulnerability Assessments and Emergency Response Plans are due by December 31, 2021. We will be doing some training to help you all get this finished before the end of the year. If you have any questions on the AWIA reports, please call your Circuit Riders and they will be happy to help.

Have a great Fall. *Chris*

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## We get letters and emails!

*We'd love to hear from you...*

I want to say Thank You to Jeff LaBelle for loaning Danbury Utilities the electric valve turner.

We were able to complete our valve exercise requirements.

Thank you again Jeff.

Patti Edwards, Danbury Utilities Operator

Dear WRWA,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Village of Rockland, Wisconsin. We are a small town of 700 residents and 2 brand new operators. Isaac Bauer and Skylar Holzhausen accepted the operator positions knowing the Waterworks and Wastewater utilities needed some help. What we didn't realize is how much help and updating both utilities need and that is why we reached out to WRWA for assistance.

In May of 2021 when I started in Rockland I knew we needed help and needed it fast. The previous operator had left a mess of things and the water and wastewater utilities needed attention. One of the things that needed immediate attention in the wastewater side of things was the sludge holding tank which was filled intentionally from about half full up to the overflow outlet the day I stated coming in part time. Neither myself nor any of the board members were familiar with the plant or its operations so I knew we needed to call in reinforcements. Thankfully I was put in contact with Kay Curtain from WRWA who rushed down to assist with the operation and function of the wastewater treatment plant.

Kay has been a godsend for us since the first time I talked with her. With Kay's help we were able to save who knows



### Are surface water discharge limits a challenge for phosphorus, TSS, or metals?

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how much money and time not to mention avoiding certain violations with the DNR. The knowledge, skills and abilities that Kay brought with her were short of miraculous and a saving grace to the Village. Not only did she assist with the wastewater utilities and continues to do so but she lined us up with 2 other WRWA representatives Jeff LaBelle and Dan Wundrow.

Jeff came down after Kay's first visit to check in and offer additional assistance. He was helpful in explaining and verifying some of the questions I had on the waterworks side of things. One of the questions I had for him was why the chlorine levels in the distribution side of things was so high and if it was necessary to maintain the current level it was at. We were seeing a constant residual of 0.95 to 1.3 free chlorine which seemed excessive to me coming from West Salem where we tried to stay around a .35. Jeff was able to give us some insight on bringing the levels down in small increments not to upset the system and again help us save some money on unnecessary costs. He also brought down a tool to measure our well static and pumping levels to verify our gauges were operating correctly seeing we have yet to find what the hose depth is for accurate depth range reading on both of our wells.

After filling out the CMAR for 2020 and looking at some of the inconsistencies with energy usage I asked both Kay

and Jeff about an energy audit and they directed me to Dan Wundrow. After doing a walk through assessment of the wastewater treatment plant and the wells Dan had some great suggestions for energy savings. When we went to village hall to get copies of energy bills, annual wastewater and water reports Dan caught some discrepancies in the bills from the energy company saving us \$2500 a year in a matter of minutes. On top of the billing errors Dan caught when we received his completed audit there was an additional possible savings of over \$3000 if we made some of the suggested changes.

Over all myself Isaac Bauer, Skylar Holzhausen and Village of Rockland Board members would like to extend a huge thank you to Kay Curtin, Jeff LaBelle, Dan Wundrow and WRWA for all the continued help and support. In the first few months of our time here in Rockland with the assistance from WRWA representatives we have been able to save the Village thousands of dollars and countless hours of overtime. We look forward to continuing to work with WRWA representative to bring our systems up to optimum functionality and efficiency.

Sincerely,  
Isaac Bauer, Skylar Holzhausen,  
Village of Rockland Board Members

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# System Upkeep and Cost



**Annetta Von Rueden,**  
*WRWA Water Circuit Rider*

Unfortunately, too often it seems the main focus is on the current financial bottom line

---

**H**ope you all had a good summer and were able to get out and attend a few of your favorite summertime events again. The weather has been great. A little warm some days, but can beat the alternative (snow). That will be flying through the air soon enough. I know there are some of you out there that beg to differ.

It's that time of year again where we can get out the bow, dust off the hunting equipment, hang the hunting clothes on the clothesline. Sure

signs as we look forward to slowing life down a touch and taking in the tranquility nature provides. Nothing can beat the stillness as we sit in the deer stand, or the early morning flight of ducks and geese as they take off across the water.

With careful, long thought-out planning, and lots of pride, we take good care of our investment in our hunting and sporting equipment to be sure it will last us for years to come.



Do we use this same comparison to the care, maintenance and up keep that water systems ought to receive? It seems some of the time, there are systems where the level of care and upkeep seems to indicate that the system will just operate until it is worn out and almost too late. It could be "things have always been done this way". Or the board, council, upper management doesn't fully understand the important procedures and processes of running a water system. Consequently, the operator and management should be focused on keeping the system running in top condition.

Unfortunately, too often it seems the main focus is on the current financial bottom line. System personnel often state with a sense of pride, of how low their water rates are and what a bargain their customers are getting. This may be popular with the customers, by doing this, they are just putting off the financial pain for a future day of fiscal reckoning. Some of the explanations for this are: there is no money in the budget, or it is the end of an elected term or retirement, let the next person deal with it. Or, we don't want to upset constituents. The "can" can only be kicked down the road so far. Until a system failure takes place, and then it becomes an emergency. Commonly the way that this is dealt with, is a quick patch of some sort, with the mindset of that it will be addressed with a more permanent repair when time and money allow. Until it ends up failing again a sort time later, and the whole process repeats itself.

How do we get out of this repetitious cycle?

Get customers onboard with the understanding that unsustainably low rates long term is not in their best interest. An increase of a few dollars per month now is much better than a rate increase that is doubled at once.

Managers should take a tour of the system with the operator and listen to the concerns that they have and see what the current system infrastructure is looking like. Go over the DNR system surveys and address the deficiencies. Ignoring deficiencies too long can find the system in a non-compliance status with the DNR.

Determine where your system assets stand today, their current conditions, estimated future lifespan, and replacement costs. Calculating how much money needs to be set aside annually in order to fund those replacements when the time arrives.

Set 5-year, 10-year, and 20-year plans. This plan will provide recommendations and cost predictions going forward that will guide you to putting in place small rate increases over time to fund the asset replacement expenditures.

Keeping the system compliant and in topmost shape is representative of the people associated with it are taking a long view, as is pertains to costs and longevity. A system that is well maintained will likely provide the highest and safest quality of water. Something that should be at the top of all our priorities.

Have a successful hunt this fall, hike in the trails to view spectacular colors, a bike ride, or grab a late season game of golf. Whichever you choose. Make it great! Enjoy!

Annie

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# BACT Sampling

Let's get back to the basics.

Todd Weich,  
*WRWA Water Circuit Rider*

In my recent travels around the great state of Wisconsin I have noticed a variety of new faces in the water operator industry, as well as some more experienced faces. One question that I seem to get asked a lot lately is a basic one. How to take a drinking water BACT sample. So, I decided it would be beneficial to all of us, including me, to refresh on something that sometimes gets overlooked but is extremely important.

According to code **NR 809.31**, it states that all water suppliers for all public water systems shall collect total coliform samples at approved sites within your distribution system. Make sure you are only pulling samples from approved locations however if your locations are not available due to many reasons, make sure you review, revise, and

resubmit for approval prior to using it. If you are looking at revising your approved monitoring site plan, a few things to keep in mind are is it accessible by the operator when needed, is the sample tap a brass or stainless-steel smooth bore sampling tap, and is the sample tap located in a clean and maintained area free of unsanitary items (i.e., a dirty sink in the corner, a mop faucet, etc.). Another thing to keep in mind; is there an option to make a simple improvement to the tap to make it more functional?

The monitoring plan is very important because if you do end up getting a positive sample, the plan states where the samples are to be taken. Operators are to collect a set of repeat samples within 24 hours of being notified. Code **NR 809.31.2.b** states that an operator

shall collect at least one repeat sample from the sampling tap where the original positive samples was taken, and at least one repeat sample at a tap within 5 service connections upstream and at least one repeat sample at a tap within 5 service connections downstream of the original sampling site as well as a raw water sample from all wells. It also states that if a positive sample is at the end of the distribution systems, or one service connection away from the end of the distribution system, the water operator shall take all required repeat samples. On a more serious note, if a water operator takes more than one repeat sample at the monitoring location required and more than one repeat sample is E coli positive, the water system has then violated the E coli mcl and must comply with **NR 809.327**.

Population served/Minimum number of samples per month	
25 to 1,000 ( <i>Serving a municipality</i> ) / 2	4,901 to 5,800 / 6
1,001 to 2,500 / 2	5,801 to 6,700 / 7
2,501 to 3,300 / 3	6,701 to 7,600 / 8
3,301 to 4,100 / 4	7,601 to 8,500 / 9
4,101 to 4,900 / 5	8,501 to 12,900 / 10

Also make sure you are familiar with your monitoring frequency within your water system. Water samples are to be taken at regular intervals determined by the population of your community as shown below. In addition to the minimum water samples per month dependent on community population, don't forget about your quarterly groundwater samples from each well prior to treatment. Did I mention to take the samples from a non-threaded, stainless steel or brass tap?

Let's get back to the basics.

After you have determined that the desired locations are approved and the sample taps are in good condition, here are a few basic steps to remember to taking a proper BACT sample.

1. Turn the sample tap on to flush with water for 30 seconds to 1 minute, or more.
2. Using a torch, flame around the tap and up into the tap opening to sanitize the tap (careful not to burn any gaskets inside the tap).
3. Repeat step 1. (an easy way to remember this is FFF! Flush, Flame, Flush.)
4. Reduce water flow to pencil width.
5. Prepare the bottle and remove the plastic seal without the cap maintaining any contact with contaminants (i.e., do not set the cap down). \*DO NOT RINSE the bottle.
6. Fill the bottle to the line marked.
7. Immediately recap bottle tightly and store in a cool location.
8. Complete the necessary chain of custody.
9. Ship to lab.

*\*Remember: No matter what lab you are using, tap to test is 30 hours.*

Best of luck to all! Feel free to reach out to your Wisconsin Rural Water representative for any and all technical support.

*-Todd*

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# Winter Operations 2021

**H**ello Everyone,

As winter approaches with sub -zero freezing temperatures and tons of snow in Wisconsin, Water operators must now start thinking about "Winter Operations" for their water systems. I'm here to give you a few helpful tips to get through these next few months of extreme cold.

First off, make sure all heaters and heat tapes are turned on within your facilities. I've seen it time and time again where just forgetting to plug in or turn them on turns into a frozen line situation or burst pipe. Keep your pump house well heated during the cold months. Depending on your system needs, decrease levels for more turn over in your water towers or outdoor tanks. Make sure all controls are heated. Also skirting around your mobile home should also be in place. To help keep the cold air from freezing water lines. Remember, try and make daily inspections routine during extreme months.

Next, Keep a map of your distribution system handy with you. You never know when or where a frozen line or burst pipe will happen. But when it does, you will be prepared to locate the service lines or curb stops fast and effectively. Some operators will even go out into the field and flag or GPS there service lines and curb stops. Remember heavy snow will be covering curb stops making them very difficult to locate. This will save time locating them during them stressful emergency situations. Your Distribution system map should include: wells, storage tanks, treatment, distribution system piping, flushing devices and valve/shutoff locations.

Always have clean access to your facilities during winter. Remove, plow snow away from the most important parts of your water system. Well houses, hydrants, and valves. Be sure not to expose under- ground water service lines as the snow provides more extra insulation. Keeping your fire hydrants cleared and visible prevents damage from snowmobiles or plow trucks. It also helps your local fire department when they are responding to emergency.

Also check your local weather forecast throughout the winter. When the temperatures drop it may be a good idea to send out a trickle water notice to prevent any future freeze-ups to customers.

Keep a current Emergency Response Plan at the ready. Depending on the situation, it's always a good thing to have all your contact information at the ready.

These are just only a few tips to help get you through the winter. Remember be proactive in identifying and preventing any potential problems within your water system.

We at Wisconsin Rural Water Association are always here to help with you with any Technical Assistance you may need. Please feel free to Contact your nearest WI-Water Circuit Rider for any questions or concerns you may have. Also make sure you check our web site at [www.wrwa.org](http://www.wrwa.org) for any Online or In-person trainings that you may need. We are the Leaders in your training needs.

Thanks for reading,

George Taylor,  
Small Water System Circuit Rider  
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Coleman Water Utility	06/06/21	48.36%
Freedom Sanitary District No 1	06/11/21	11.66%
Mcfarland Water and Sewer Utility	06/16/21	29.26%
Hudson Public Utilities	06/24/21	17.16%
Dresser Municipal Water Utility	07/08/21	46.73%
Village of Fox Point Water Utility	07/20/21	27.58%
Hilbert Municipal Water Utility	07/26/21	60.12%
City of Fort Atkinson Water Utility	07/28/21	55.4%
Village of Suring Water Utility	07/30/21	54.93%
Land O Lakes Sanitary District No 1	08/10/21	31.37%
Lone Rock Utilities	08/11/21	50.24%
City of Oconomowoc Utilities	08/26/21	26.91%
Spring Valley Waterworks	09/02/21	80.39%
Mellen Municipal Water Utility	09/02/21	9.87%

**PSC CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATIONS ISSUED**

MARCH 1, 2021 – JUNE 29, 2021

UTILITY NAME	ORDER ISSUED	CONSTRUCTION COST
Hustisford Utilities	06/21/21	\$87,732
City of Oshkosh Water Utility	07/01/21	\$3,423,652
Village of Somers Water Utility	07/09/21	\$4,079,918
Village of Menomonee Falls Water Utility	07/23/21	\$1,728,000
Village of Waterford Water Utility	07/26/21	\$747,000
Hilbert Municipal Water Utility	07/29/21	\$450,000
Theresa Municipal Water Utility	08/04/21	259,931
Cross Plains Water Utility	08/31/21	\$3,303,20

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Full page	\$575	\$1,970	\$770	\$2,670
Half page	\$370	\$1,265	\$575	\$1,965
Quarter page	\$270	\$860	\$400	\$1,400
Business card	\$200	\$600	\$335	\$1,000

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# DEALING WITH DISCHARGERS

Kay Curtin  
WRWA Trainer/Technician

Some of the dischargers are unaware of their contribution to harming the biological operations of the plant, but many are not.

The vast majority of my calls and on-site requests since I returned to WRWA a few years ago have been for assistance in dealing with industrial, commercial, institutional (such as prisons) and “mystery” discharges that disrupt or destroy the treatment process in wastewater plants. Years ago, this was rare. Why? Well, the DNR regulations were changed during the “We’re Open for Business” years to leave it up to the city, village or sanitary districts to control any discharges into the treatment plant. The DNR no longer has the ability to step in and assist the operators of the plants by making the guilty dischargers toe the line. Some of the dischargers are unaware of their contribution to harming the biological operations of the plant, but many are not. In my experience, the smaller the town, the more serious the problem, as the village boards tend to protect any businesses for fear that they will pack up and leave town or they have a vested personal interest in the industry.

Trust me; leaving is probably not an option for any well-established business, industry, or prisons to move anywhere else. The cost is far higher than just behaving themselves and not putting high levels of organics, chemicals, or other wastes down their drains. In fact, some things, such as blood, oils, grease, whey, or sugars can be sold to other industries for manufacturing products.

Consequently, this has become a catastrophic problem in Wisconsin, the state that I formerly held in high respect for their environmental regulations and clean water. It never fails; in some of these towns the finger is pointed at the operator for “not being able to operate the plant correctly.” I’ve been an operator in a city that did just that, and I remember the frustration of my superintendent. At that time, the DNR stepped in

and ordered the city to charge the industries for pounds of BOD and TSS discharges. Most of the board members had ties to or owned the industries, so they were not happy, but they complied.

Now, the DNR no longer has the ability to step in. In my opinion, this was one of the most disastrous regulation changes in the last 20 years. In quoting NR 211.10 (2) (d) Prohibited Discharge Standards include “Any pollutant, including oxygen demanding pollutants, released in a discharge of such volume or strength as to cause or contribute to interference in the POTW”. This should protect you, right? Well, read on to Subchapter II: POTW Requirements. In NR 211.20 through NR211.24 the responsibility is put right back onto the POTW and its owner - your village, city, or sanitary district.

Not all municipalities and industries are problems, and I’m definitely not anti-business. We need industry for a healthy economy. But those same industries and other businesses need to understand that they cannot just discharge anything and everything to be “taken care of” at the WWTP. Villages and cities need to do their homework prior to opening their arms and pocketbooks to a new industry. What are they producing? How many gallons per day? How many pounds of BOD/TSS/N/P etc. will be discharged? Will there be any hazardous materials used? A review of all SDS sheets is your right as a recipient of their discharges. So, what are your options as an operator?

1. A very detailed set of ordinances and an even more detailed contract is your first point of order. Include the fines that will be administered if compliance is not met, and make them high enough that the industry will take notice.





2. Sample, sample, sample, and analyze, analyze, analyze. If they are questioning your results, send the samples to a reliable commercial lab. You are welcome to borrow our portable samplers in order to do this, but I would recommend a permanent sample station. And sadly, you may need to lock it and keep the key as we found out after catching an employee watering down samples.

3. Document EVERYTHING. I realize that you're busy and hate writing things down, but even a hand-held recorder or your phone camera and video will help. If legal battles ensue, you won't be sorry.

4. Be honest. If your board, mayor, or superintendent asks that you look the other way or falsify numbers to protect an industry, don't do it. I've been in this situation in the past, and stuck to my guns. I was not fired and you won't be either. I know of at least one operator that lied to protect his superintendent. He lost his license and paid a fine. His superintendent, who claimed ignorance of the situation, is still employed.

5. Try to work things out with the industry. Once informed about their effect on the treatment plant, they may have management that are willing to work with you. Educating them, your board, and your other city officials may pay off in the end.

When faced with a multi-million-dollar upgrade to protect a dozen jobs of people that don't even live in your village, your elected officials may change their minds. Remind them that voters and folks getting their newly raised water and sewer bills won't be amused when they find out that it was all done in order to protect their Cousin Ed's methyl ethyl death factory.

*Kay*

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# NEW GENERAL PERMIT FOR FLUSHING

Each water system received a letter that reissued this permit, so you need not apply for it.



**Jeff LaBelle,**  
*WRWA Technical Assistance Director*

I have just been reading the WPDES PERMIT that all of you received. The person whom I talked to from the DNR said it was easy to understand. Maybe for him, but I'm shaking my head wondering why they lumped municipal systems in with industrial potable and nonpotable water and petroleum systems. Oh well, I'll try to help figure this thing out.

Each water system received a letter that reissued this permit, so you need not apply for it. It was approved July 14, 2021, went into effect on August 1, 2021 and expires July 31, 2026. This permit has been around for quite some time and in the past was reissued without any fanfare. But this version of the permit has some new twists that are going to affect system operators by causing some testing of discharge water from hydrants and storm water outfalls depending on what you put in the water to make it safe and aesthetic for human consumption.

Each letter to water systems state what you must test for. You may find approximately 12 bullet points in the letter.

**#1-2** are permit effective dates and contact information.

**#3** says you must sample discharge water from a fire hydrant at the end of pipe or before entering a pipe, ditch, channel, swale or storm sewer that discharges to the waters of the state. Sample must be before discharge water mixes with any other water, Section 3.2.1-3.2.2 Outfall 001 from this permit.

**#4** Volume Monitoring or Reporting under permit.

**#5** Best Management Practices for hydrant flushing. In my copy of the permit I could not find section 3.2.2.1.3. But I can say confidently that dechlorinating is probably a part of the best management practices.

**#6** Total Residual Chlorine limitations to High Flow Streams, may request

a higher limit if the receiving waters has an average low streamflow to average volume of discharge greater than 2:1.

**#7** Sampling Protocol for Fire Hydrant Discharges, opting or required to take samples for TRC use protocols in section 3.3.2.2.2 to demonstrate compliance with the TRC limit.

**#8** Reporting using a (eDMR) form that is available through the DNR Switchboard (<http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Switchboard/>), using a (WAMS) ID the report must be submitted by January 21, 2022. With an existing WAMS ID you still have to request access to the facility. If a WAMS ID is needed go to (<http://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Switchboard/HowTOGuide.pdf>)

**#9** Notifications of Other Discharges, This allows a contractor to apply for this permit while doing work on the water system. The DNR recommends that you include in contracts and specifications that the contractor or consultant apply for coverage.

**#10-11** Changes, changing quality of finished water supply will need to be reported so the department can change sampling requirements. To change Representative you need to complete and submit a Delegation of Signature Authority (form 3400-220) to the DNR at (<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/GeneralPermits.html>)

**#12** Compliance, states you are responsible to comply with requirements and conditions of this permit.

I also read through the comments sent to the DNR from the public and other interested parties. The comments were mostly the questions all of you have been asking. The DNR rejected most of the comments, saying the EPA was responsible for changes because of violations of the Clean Water



Act. I asked if the water and wastewater divisions ever talked to each other because the water side wants Ortho-Poly for corrosion control which means you have to test for it from your hydrant discharge, Chlorination to make water safe for us is a pollutant when flushing hydrants. So making our water safe on the drinking water side makes it a pollutant on the flushing side. Makes me wonder why we add anything to the water. The DNR claim that they have received numerous reports of discharges from operation and maintenance activities of municipal water systems that have resulted in fish kills due to improper management of water. In my 30+ years working in water, I have personally never heard of fish kills from flushing fire hydrants, have you? OK my rant is over.

The DNR to their credit, have a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for Municipal Water Systems, Operations and Maintenance of Municipal Water Systems WPDES Permit No. WI-B057681-05-0. That answers a lot of questions, please read it through. Best Management Practices (BMP) again is referenced in the (FAQs) but I still cannot find them, but I'll keep looking.

Jeff

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**Lödal**





# Lockout/Tagout

By Tony Roche

OSHA reported that lockout/tagout violations were the 6th greatest cause of safety standard violations in the United States.

**W**orkplace safety is something that should never be overlooked or taken for granted. Deadlines and tight schedules can make for stressful situations, but safety is one aspect that should not be jeopardized in order to get a job done in a timely manner. Unfortunately, this is not always the case. In fiscal year 2020, OSHA reported that lockout/tagout violations were the 6th greatest cause of safety standard violations in the United States. Taking the extra time to ensure that a piece of equipment has been properly locked out can be the difference between going home at the end of a shift and going to the emergency room.

If you are not familiar with lockout/tagout procedures, let me explain. Lockout/tagout, or LOTO for short, can be thought of as the control of hazardous energy. Basically, LOTO means isolating a piece of equipment from forms of energy that could injure or kill an employee performing work on that piece of equipment. Hazardous energy can be present in many forms (hydraulic, chemical, thermal, electrical, pneumatic, mechanical) and that is why LOTO procedures are so important.

If you have ever had the pleasure of removing debris from a clogged lift station pump then you should be familiar LOTO procedures. Even on a pump there are a series of components that need to be locked out. Closing and locking the suction and discharge valves of a pump controls the hydraulic energy while opening and locking the circuit breaker controls the electrical energy. Now if you have to lock out

a large treatment unit like an aeration basin the LOTO procedure becomes much more complicated. There are influent and effluent gates to lock, RAS pumps and associated circuit breakers to lock, and don't forget about the air headers to lock out! In addition, you may have to do a flow split to keep plant operation running smoothly – but that is a discussion for another day.

No matter if you are locking out a pump or an aeration basin, it is a good idea for treatment plants to have standardized LOTO procedures for every piece of process equipment. Having a standardized procedure on file is a good way to teach new operators how to correctly perform a LOTO, and it also ensures safety for all employees who will be performing work on the equipment. Without a LOTO in place, there is potential for a piece of equipment to release stored energy or unexpectedly start up. Furthermore, if there is no LOTO then there is potential for human error that may cause a piece of equipment to become energized.

Whether you are a waterworks operator, a wastewater treatment plant operator, or a collection system operator, LOTO is a critical component of a safety program that will keep operators safe from injuries related to the release of hazardous energy. No job is worth risking bodily injury or even death. Remember, it's all about going home at the end of your work day.

Thanks for all the hard work you do. Stay safe and make time to spend with the people who matter most in your life. *Tony*



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**Vince Matarrese,**  
Advanced Safety Technology, Inc.  
President



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Looking at the data from U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration we found numbers are going up. Between 2011 and 2019, fatal worker injuries at road construction sites from all causes have trended slightly upwards, ranging between 105 and 143 worker fatalities per year according to National Work Zone Safety.

## WHAT DO WE KNOW?

Driver distractions is at the top of the list. Phone usage (let's throw in multiple phone usage for some people), along with intoxicated drivers and speeding in work zones. The dangers are increasing and protecting workers is getting harder and harder.

2019 numbers in the State of Wisconsin are not good.

**19** Fatal Crashes (previous 3-year average is 14.7)

**21** Fatal Crashes (previous 3-year average is 15.7)

**6** Worker Fatalities (previous 3-year average is 2.3)

You have a better chance of going home wearing the proper clothing. But we struggle with this part.

## WORKER SAFETY

For daytime and nighttime activity, wear high-visibility safety apparel that meets the high visibility class 3 vest/pants ensemble and that meets or exceeds ANSI/ISEA 107-2015 type R standard.

Every week I see public employees with no high-visibility apparel or a plain orange or yellow-green t-shirt, in traffic. Most wearing high-visibility safety apparel will only have on class 2 shirts or jackets. Why?

The standard recommends Class 3 garments for all roadway construction personnel, vehicle operators, utility workers, survey crews, emergency responders, railway workers and accident site investigators. A person designated by the employer to be responsible for worker safety shall make the selection of the appropriate class of garment. The worker safety should be a priority!

**IF YOU'RE A SUPERVISOR, SET A GOOD EXAMPLE!**

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

- The apparel background (outer) material color shall be fluorescent orange-red, fluorescent yellow-green, or a combination of the two as defined in the ANSI standard. The retroreflective material shall be orange, yellow, white, silver, yellow-green, or a fluorescent version of these colors, and shall be visible at a minimum distance of 1,000 feet.
- The retroreflective safety apparel shall be designed to clearly identify the wearer as a person. **DON'T BLEND IN! YOU WANT TO BE SEEN!**
- Ensure that each flagger is equipped with a handheld two-way radio and a "stop/slow" sign paddle.
- Ensure that sign paddle signs are 18 X18 inches or larger, meet retroreflective requirements of WIDOT 637.2.2.2, have at least 6-inch letters, and are mounted on a handle with the bottom of the sign at least 5 feet above the ground. The STOP/SLOW paddle should be the primary and preferred hand-signaling device for flagging because the STOP/SLOW paddle gives road users more positive guidance than red flags.
- Use of flags should be limited to emergency situations.
- The flagger should stand either on the shoulder adjacent to the road user being controlled or in the closed lane prior to stopping road users. **DON'T STEP OUT IN FRONT OF MOVING VEHICLES TO STOP THEM!**

## Flagger stations should be preceded by proper advance warning signs.

- A flagger should only stand in the lane being used by moving road users after road users have stopped.
- The flagger should be clearly visible to the first approaching road user at all times.
- The flagger also should be visible to other road users.
- The flagger should be stationed sufficiently in advance of the workers to warn them (for example, with audible warning devices such as horns or whistles) of approaching danger by out-of-control vehicles.
- The flagger should stand alone, away from other workers, work vehicles, or equipment.

*The Flagger sign **shall be removed, covered, or turned away from road users when the flagging operations are not occurring. When you leave them up, you teach people not to pay attention to the signs.***

## TRAINING

All workers within the right-of-way who are exposed either to traffic (vehicles using the highway for purposes of travel) or to work vehicles and construction equipment shall be trained and equipped as per the 2019 Wisconsin Uniform Traffic Control Devices Manual (WUTCDM).

*For over 30 years I've been telling employees "It's all about going home". It's not about dying at work. Follow the WUTCDM, wear ANSI/ISEA 107-2015 type R class 3 clothing and don't turn your back to traffic. Be alert when you are out there.*

As always, it's all about going home. Have a safe hunting season and tie-off while in your tree stand.

*Vince*



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THAN THE BEST**

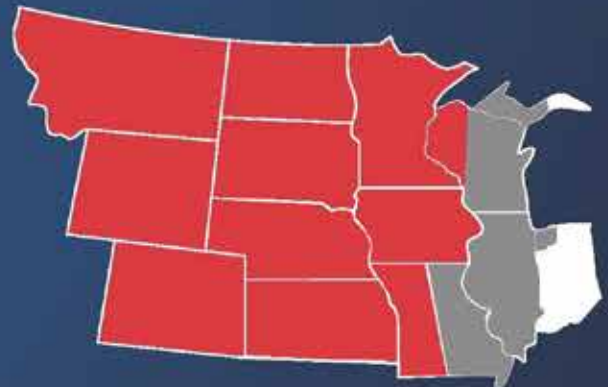
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**First Supply** is a leading main channel wholesale distributor providing local municipalities and underground contractors with an extensive line of products and services. First Supply is made up of 28 warehouse facilities serving the upper Midwest.

Wisconsin • Minnesota • Illinois • Iowa



[FirstSupply.com](http://FirstSupply.com)

# 33<sup>RD</sup> WRWA ANNUAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

## Highlights





**33<sup>RD</sup>**  
**ANNUAL**

**WRWA**  
**TECHNICAL**  
**CONFERENCE**

**WINNERS**



**Travis Walters**  
Richland Center  
\$500 Kalahari Gift Card  
MSA Professional Services



**John Doyle**  
Deerfield  
Yeti Cooler  
ISG



**Mitch Mesko**  
Mellen  
Stihl Chainsaw



**Jerome Bashynski**  
Randolph  
Yeti Cooler  
Dorner



**Jason Carley**  
Green Lake  
\$250 Gift Card  
Granse/Trio Sales



**Tom Griesmer**  
Hartford  
\$250 Gift Card  
Granse/Trio Sales



**Chris Massart**  
Algoma  
Vortex Binoculars  
Roth Professional  
Solutions



**Mike Deml**  
La Crosse  
Go Pro  
PrinscoWater  
Management Solutions



**Barry Schwingel**  
Benelli  
12 Ga Peerless Pump



**Drew Setzer**  
Visu Sewer  
Spotting Scope  
Clearas Water Recovery



**Scott Mitchell**  
Hydro Corp  
Tri Star 12 Ga  
J&R Supply



**Tony Cocchiarella**  
Mac Queen Equipment  
Lowrance Hook2 Ice Machine  
Great Lakes TV and Seal



**Ryan Ellis**  
Mellen  
Red dot Scope  
M.E. Simpson Water  
System Specialists



**Sarah Nunn**  
CTW Corporation  
Packer Tent & Igloo Cooler  
Sigma Group



**Robert Kincaid**  
Jefferson  
Generator  
NEO



**Brandon Heilman**  
Onalaska  
Ground Blind Pkg  
Etna



**Larry Gates**  
Prairie du Chien  
Ground Blind Pkg  
Vermeer



**Tim Hayden**  
Fort Atkinson  
Bowfishing Carp Shoot  
Midwest Meter, Inc



**Sam MacGrath**  
Martelle Water Treatment  
Guided Musky/Walleye Trip  
Midwest Meter, Inc



**Chris Massart**  
Algoma  
Henry Long Barrel 22 Mag.  
Cooper Engineering Co.



**Lee Anderson**  
La Crosse  
Rod and Reel Combo  
Cooper Engineering Co.



**Sarah Nunn**  
CTW Corporation  
Foodi Gift Package  
Verbicher Engineers



**Sarah Nunn**  
CTW Corporation  
Smoker  
Baxter & Woodman  
Engineers



**Bill Blashka**  
Sheboygan  
Air Pod Pros & Gift Card  
Kunkel Engineering

**33<sup>RD</sup>**  
**ANNUAL**

**WRWA**  
**TECHNICAL**  
**CONFERENCE**

**WINNERS**



**Todd Peterson**  
**Galesville**  
Glen Dell Buck Target  
James Orr Coating  
Inspection



**Nicholas Lea**  
**Amherst**  
Savage 93R17 BVSS  
WM Metering



**Gary Ovaska**  
**Excel Energy**  
Yeti Cooler with Beer  
Advanced Drainage  
Systems



**Fyscher Gameson**  
**West Salem**  
Milwaukee Tool Kit  
Ford Meter Box



Range Finder  
Mead & Hunt



**Chris Jensen**  
**Birnamwood**  
Guided Duck Hunt on the  
Horicon Marsh  
Chuck Dodge



**Jake Falk**  
**Richland Center**  
Hytest Safety Shoes  
Hytest Safety Footwear



**Dave Becker**  
**McQueen Equipment**  
MilwaukeeTool Packout Kit  
Town & Country Engineering



**Dale Passehl**  
**Sparta**  
\$250 Cabela's Gift Card  
JF Ahern



**Tom Roberts**  
**Franklin**  
His & Hers Garmin Watches  
WonderWare



**Brian Hansen**  
**Slinger**  
"Hunter Widow"  
Coach Purse  
Becher Hoppe



**Kevin Mraz**  
**Algoma**  
SD 410 Over/Under Shotgun  
KLM Engineering



Blackstone Grill  
Tri-County Waterworks



**Rand Bates**  
**Colfax**  
LockdownTree Stand  
Geo-Logic Associates



**Todd Hanson**  
**Sparta**  
Milwaukee Tool Hammer/  
Drill Set  
First Waterworks



**Randy Atwood**  
**Ford Meter Box**  
Drone Envirotech  
Equipment



**William Colby**  
**Abbotsford**  
Pressure Washer  
Donohue



**Dan Wundrow**  
**WRWA**  
Paddle Board Combo  
Hawkins



**David Beck**  
**Brookfield**  
Smith & Wesson M&P  
LW Allen Pump Systems



**John Dunbar**  
**Spencer**  
Huge Tree Stand  
South West Water  
Professionals



**Jeff Dietsch**  
**Jackson**  
WRWA Water Tower Print



**John Murphy**  
**Elkhorn**  
Apple Watch  
Strand Associates



**Travis Walters**  
**Richland Center**  
Golf 4-Some Package  
Waterous



**Mark Anderson**  
**La Crosse**  
One Night Condo Stay  
at Chula Vista  
General Engineering



**33<sup>RD</sup>**  
**ANNUAL**

**WRWA**  
**TECHNICAL**  
**CONFERENCE**

**WINNERS**



**Lynn Hall**  
**Xcel Energy**  
Brewers Ticket Package  
Mueller



**Gary Ovaska**  
**Xcel Energy**  
St. Croix Rod, Reel & Tackle  
Visu-Sewer



**Barry Schwingel**  
**Fitchburg**  
Yeti Panga Duffle Bag  
Copperhead Industries



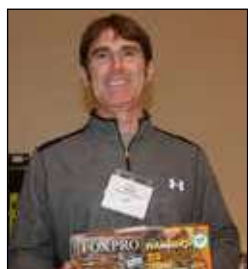
**Jessica Morrison**  
**Wonderware**  
Solar Generator  
Cedar Corp.



**Brad McGowan**  
**Fort Atkinson**  
Air Rifle Package  
Ruekert Mielke Engineering



**Dave Magnussen**  
**MSA Professionals**  
Golf Bag and Putter  
HydroCorp



**Todd Hanson**  
**Sparta**  
Foxpro Predator Call  
Advanced Safety  
Technology



**Josh Wild**  
**Horicon**  
Browning BPS 12 ga  
Municipal Well & Pumping



**Glen Beardsley**  
**Franklin**  
\$500 Cabelas Gift Card  
MacQueen Equipment  
Group



**John Metcalf II**  
**Hayward**  
Yeti Cooler & Mugs  
Crane Engineering



**Michael Dunbar**  
**Hazel**  
Green \$400 Cash  
Northern Lake Service



**Jason Stibbe**  
**Peshtigo**  
Pair of UE Boom Speakers  
East Jordan Iron Works



**Andrew Chandler**  
**New London**  
Ozonics Orion Scent  
Eliminator  
B&M technical Services



**Tony Cocchiarella**  
**Mac Queen Equipment**  
Chainsaw  
Robert E. Lee & Associates



**Loren Schwier**  
**West Salem Milwaukee**  
Tool Combo Ferguson



**Gary Ovaska**  
**Xcel Energy**  
Back Yard Games Package  
Dixon Engineering



**Stephen Dreher**  
**Shawano**  
\$500 Cash Western  
Wisconsin Water  
Professionals



**Brian Thibodeau**  
**WI Veterans Home**  
Beer Package  
Fischer, Harris & Associates



**Dean Ziegl**  
**Resseville**  
Nexgrill 5 Burner Grill  
Alden Pool



**Chris Massart**  
**Algoma**  
Milwaukee Tool Combo  
Badger Meter



**Mitch Mesko**  
**Mellen**  
Vortex Diamondback  
Sensus



**Lenny Larson**  
**ISG**  
Remote Control Cooler  
PJ Kortens



**Doug Wiles**  
**Ladysmith**  
PSE Fang Crossbow Package  
Martelle Water Treatment



**Jessica Morrison**  
**Wonderware**  
Vortex Scope  
Drydon

**33<sup>RD</sup>**  
**ANNUAL**

**WRWA**  
**TECHNICAL**  
**CONFERENCE**

**WINNERS**



**Jeff Stelter**  
Core & Main  
Custom Knife  
Drydon



**Tim Hayden**  
Fort Atkinson  
Kayak Package  
SHE



**Kevin Obiala**  
CTW Corporation  
Fish Locator  
Xylem



**Rand Bates**  
Colfax  
Microsoft Surface Go  
CBS2



**Jason Erthum**  
Hatfield  
SD DeWalt Tool Combo  
and Jacket  
CTW



**Dan Dvorak**  
Mosinee  
Nikon 5 Binoculars  
McMahon Associates



**Ronnie Mumm**  
Bloomington  
Vortex Binoculars  
WRWA Board & Staff



**Casey Jakubek**  
Plover  
75" Big Screen TV  
Adaptor Inc.



**Larry Gates**  
Prairie du Chien  
"Going all in Bucket"  
Water Well Solutions



**Ross Kahler**  
Baxter Woodman  
Adorable Puppy  
Hydro Klean



**Randy Atwood - Ford Meter Box**  
Grand Prize

## RAFFLE WINNERS NOT PICTURED

**Patrick Harrington**  
Peerless Well and Pump  
Browning A-bolt with Scope  
Sabel Mechanical

**Matt Holtan**  
Portage  
Green Bay Packers Package  
Ayres

**Brian Janikowski**  
Hatley  
Pitboss Smoker  
Utility Logic

**Kelly Mulhern**  
Badger State Inspection  
Gun Safe  
Core & Main

**Brandon Risch**  
Taylor  
Bear Archery Package  
Cretex

**Mark Ullrich**  
Portage  
\$250 Carhartt Gift Card  
& 2 Yeti Mugs  
Borger

**Greg Olesiak**  
Weyerhaeuser  
DeWalt 5-1 Combo Kit  
Energenecs

**Jeff Thompson**  
Drydon Equipment  
2 Person Pheasant Hunt  
Delta

**Patrick Harrington**  
Peerless Well and Pump  
Gun Safe  
Core & Main

**Ross Kahler**  
Baxter  
Woodman Box of Booze  
Sealing systems Inc.

*Congratulations AND Thank you...*

for participating and helping make our 33rd Annual Conference a Success!



**WISCONSIN RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION** would like to thank the following Business Members for sponsorship of “Things from Wisconsin” that were given as bag stuffers for the National Rural Water Association WaterPro Conference in Milwaukee September 13-16.

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**



# The Water Conservation Poster Contest Returns!



**Andrew Aslesen,**  
*WRWA Source Water Specialist*

*In 2020 there were around 1,000 participating students from 40 classes at 23 different schools*

**A**fter taking a one year hiatus due to the Covid pandemic, WRWA is pleased to announce the return of the annual Water Conservation Poster Contest. This year will be the 13th annual poster contest and the theme is "Conserve to Preserve". Conservation seeks to promote the proper use of natural resources, while preservation seeks to protect nature from use. When applied to our water resources, we can protect our water from human use by using the least amount of water that we possibly can, or conserving water. The goal of this this year's theme is to challenges students to think about both concepts, conservation and preservation, and how they can be used together to provide the most benefit to our water resources.

We invite and encourage all water operators, wastewater operators, clerks, administrators, board members and others to help promote the contest and distribute the poster contest informational flyer found in this issue of the journal. Please consider giving the flyer to the schools in your communities (both public and private schools), or giving it directly to teachers that you know. The water conservation poster contest is a great way for utilities to connect with their local school and educate students and the public on issues that utilities face every day and how utilities protect the environment and promote water conservation. The poster contest is open to public, private & home school students in 1st through 6th grade anywhere in Wisconsin. Participants are asked to create a poster that depicts a message of water conservation that relates to our theme. As part of the project, teachers have the opportunity to discuss the importance of water resources and water conservation with their students. Additionally, teachers are given the option to invite Wisconsin Rural Water Association staff to give a groundwater presentation at their school. Posters are

submitted to the Rural Water office in February, where they are reviewed and the top 15 posters from each grade are taken to and displayed at our Annual Technical Conference in March. Conference attendees choose the winning posters by voting for their favorite poster from each grade. The top two posters from each grade are awarded first and second prize. First place winners receive a \$100 cash prize and their school has a chance to win \$500. Second place winners receive a \$50 cash prize.

In the last twelve years, the Water Conservation Poster Contest has continued to be an outstanding success. In 2020 there were around 1,000 participating students from 40 classes at 23 different schools. This year we would like to reach even more students, but we need your help to get the word out. Please join us in promoting this year's poster contest by distributing the information on the contest to schools in your community and encouraging them to participate. If you have any questions or need additional entry forms feel free to contact me; Andrew Aslesen, WRWA Source Water Specialist at [Aaslesen@wrwa.org](mailto:Aaslesen@wrwa.org) or calling 715-321-3451.

*Andrew*

*Poster Contest  
Details and  
Contest Entry  
Form are on  
pages 30 & 31!*



# The Wisconsin Rural Water Association Presents The: 2022 Water Conservation Poster Contest

## 'Tap In, To Water Conservation'

The Wisconsin Rural Water Association and water utilities across the state invite teachers to participate in our annual Water Conservation Poster Contest. The contest is open to all 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade students in Wisconsin. Two winners are chosen from each grade, each of which will receive prizes. All first place winners are entered into a drawing for a \$500 school prize.

The theme for the 2022 contest is "Tap In, To Water Conservation". To "Tap In" to something, is to understand and use something in a way that brings good results. When applied to water conservation the concept promotes gaining a better understanding of water conservation and utilizing water conservation to better manage our water resources. As part of the project, teachers are encouraged to discuss the importance of our water resources and help students think about how they can learn more about water conservation and what role they play in conserving and protecting water. Here are some water facts and things to consider:

- What do you do as an individual to reduce your water use?
- Why do we need to care about water conservation?
- A person can survive about a month without food, but only 5 to 7 days without water
- Showering and bathing are the largest indoor water use (27%)
- It takes about 1.1 million gallons of water to grow enough food for an average family for a year (Some foods take more water to produce than others).
- Even if you have abundant, clean safe drinking water, are there people in the state, country or world who don't? Who are they and is there anything you can do to help?
- 780 million people globally lack clean safe water (water.org).
- Only 1% of the Earth's water is available for drinking water.
- Each person in Wisconsin uses approximately 60 gallons of water every day (Source: Wisconsin Public Service Commission).

All entries must be drawn vertically (portrait) on 11"x14" paper. Entries must be postmarked no later than Friday January 21, 2022. See page 2 for contest guidelines and rules. One first and second place winner will be selected from each grade level 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup>. Winners will be chosen by attendees at Wisconsin Rural Water Association's Annual Technical Conference March 16-18, 2022. For Further information visit: [www.wrwa.org](http://www.wrwa.org) or Contact, Andrew Aslesen, [AAlesen@wrwa.org](mailto:AAlesen@wrwa.org) or 715-321-3451

### Prizes

#### First Place

- \$100 Cash Prize
- Chance at your classroom winning \$500 for supplies.

#### Second Place

- \$50 Cash Prize



2020 Poster Contest: 6<sup>th</sup> Grade 2nd Place Winning Poster By: Amiah Cerasoli, from Amhers Middle School

Sponsored By: **Water Industry Professionals**





**Entry Deadline:**  
**Postmarked No Later Than**  
**Friday, January 21, 2022**  
**Questions? Call (715) 321-3451**

**Mail Entries To:**  
**WI Rural Water Association**  
**350 Water Way**  
**Plover, WI 54467**

## Water Conservation Poster Contest Entry Form

### Guidelines

Teachers, please talk with your students about water: where our water comes from, our limited supply, why water conservation is important, and how everyone can conserve and protect water. Then, encourage your students to draw a poster that illustrates one important point based on this year's theme, "Tap In, To Water Conservation" winning posters typically use few words, large lettering, heavy lines and strong colors.

### Contest Entry

We ask that teachers **submit the top 3 posters per class** that illustrate this year's theme to represent your class. Art teachers may submit 3 posters to represent each class they teach, and combination classes may submit 3 posters per grade level. Please make sure to attach one student entry form (Right) to the back of each poster. Then package the posters, along with one class entry form (below) and mail by Friday Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 to WRWA 350 Water Way, Plover WI 54467.

### Rules

1. Participating schools must be located within the State of Wisconsin. Entries will be accepted from public, private & home school teachers.

2. **Posters must be drawn vertically (portrait) on 11"x14" paper.** Entries that are not on 11"x14" paper or are drawn horizontally will be disqualified.

3. Students may use crayon, watercolor, poster paint, markers, ink, cut paper, tissue paper or fabric. Please do not use materials that may smear, crack or chip.

4. Students must work on posters independently. Collaborated work (a poster created by 2 or more students) will be disqualified.

5. Only original student artwork will be accepted. Computer generated drawings will not be considered. Reproduction of popular cartoon characters or three-dimensional work will be disqualified.

6. Posters will not be returned and will remain the property of the WRWA and may be displayed publicly, published or reproduced.

7. Each School will have a maximum of one chance in the first place winners drawing to win the school prize.

8. **Package the posters, along with one class entry form (below) and mail to WRWA 350 Water Way, Plover WI 54467.**

**Questions?** Call (715) 321-3451 Email: AAslesen@wrwa.org

### STUDENT ENTRY FORM ATTACH TO BACK OF POSTER

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Posters will not be returned. They will remain the property of WRWA and may be reproduced.*

### STUDENT ENTRY FORM ATTACH TO BACK OF POSTER

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Posters will not be returned. They will remain the property of WRWA and may be reproduced.*

### STUDENT ENTRY FORM ATTACH TO BACK OF POSTER

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Posters will not be returned. They will remain the property of WRWA and may be reproduced.*

### CLASS ENTRY FORM: SEND ONE WITH POSTERS

Teacher's Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ zip \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Total Entries Submitted (up to 3 per class) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number of Students who Participated \_\_\_\_\_

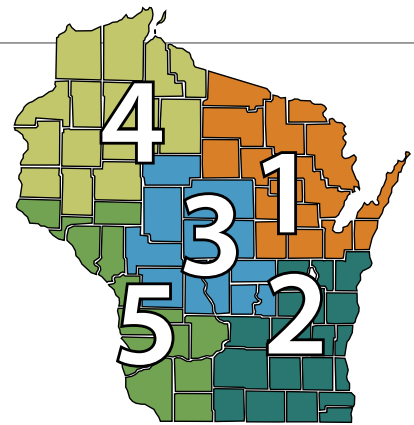


*Check here if interested in having WRWA staff  
 Give a ground water flow model demonstration  
 at your school.*



# WRWA

## System Member List



### DISTRICT 1 (Northeast)

\*\*2YK, LLC  
Algoma  
\*Allouez  
Antigo  
\*Ashwaubenon  
Bailey's Harbor WWTP  
Bear Creek  
Bellevue  
Birnamwood  
Black Creek  
Bonduel  
Bowler  
Brazeau Sanitary System #1  
Cecil  
Clintonville  
Coleman  
Combined Locks  
\*\*Conserve School  
Crandon  
Crivitz  
Darboy Sanitary District  
Denmark  
\*DePere  
Eagle River  
Egg Harbor  
Elcho Sanitary District  
Embarrass  
Ephraim  
Fish Creek Sanitary District #1  
Florence  
Forest County Potawatomi  
Freedom Sanitary District #1  
\*\*Geiss Inc  
Gillett  
Goodman Sanitary District  
Grand Chute  
\*Green Bay  
Greenville Sanitary District  
Gresham  
\*\*Hiawatha Mobile Homes  
Estates  
Hobart  
Holland Sanitary District #1  
Hortonville  
\*Howard  
Iola  
\*Kaukauna  
Kewaunee  
Kimberly  
Lakeland Sanitary District  
\*\*Lakeland Village  
Lakewood Sanitary District #1  
Laona Sanitary District  
Lawrence Utility District  
Ledgewiew  
Lena  
Little Chute  
Luxemburg Wastewater  
Treatment Facility  
Manawa  
\*Marinette  
Marion

Mattoon  
Menominee Tribal  
\*Merrill  
\*\*Merrill Area Public Schools  
\*\*Natural Beauty Growers  
New London  
Niagara  
Nichols  
\*\*Northern Sanitary District  
Oconto  
Oconto Sanitary District #1  
Oconto Falls  
Oneida Nation Utility  
Peshtigo  
Phelps Sanitary District  
Pound  
Pulaski  
Rhineland  
Russell Sanitary District #1  
Scott  
Seymour  
Shawano  
Shawano County Utilities  
Shawano Lake Sanitary District  
Shiocton  
Sister Bay  
Sturgeon Bay  
Suamico  
Suring  
Three Lakes Sanitary District  
\*\*Thunder Properties, LLC  
Tigerton  
Tomahawk  
Wabeno Sanitary District  
Waupaca  
Wausaukee  
Weyauwega  
White Lake  
\*\*Wisconsin Veterans Home  
Wittenberg  
Wrightstown  
Wrightstown Sanitary District #1

### DISTRICT 2 (Southeast)

\*\*7 Mile Fair Inc.  
Adell  
Albany  
Algoma Sanitary District #1  
Allenton Sanitary District  
Arlington  
Ashippun Sanitary District  
\*\*Asset Development Group Inc.  
\*\*Autumn Ridge Water System, LLC  
\*Beaver Dam  
Belgium  
Belleville  
Beloit  
Black Earth  
Bloomfield  
Blue Mounds  
Brandon  
Brillion  
Bristol

Brodhead  
\*Brookfield  
Brookfield Sanitary District  
Brooklyn  
Brownsville  
Browtown  
Burlington  
Caledonia Water Utility District  
Cambria  
Cambridge  
Cambridge – Oakland  
Wastewater Commission  
Campbellsport  
Cedarburg  
\*\*Cedar Crest Specialties Inc  
Cedar Grove  
\*\*Cedar Lake Home  
Chilton  
Cleveland  
Clinton  
Clyman  
Columbus  
\*\*Concordia University Wisconsin  
Consolidated Koshkonong  
Sanitary District  
Cottage Grove  
\*\*Country Acres Mobile Home  
Park Ltd  
\*\*Country Aire Mobile Home Park  
Country Estates Sanitary District  
Cross Plains  
\*\*Crystal Lake RV Park  
\*Cudahy  
\*\*Dakota Capital Park  
Dane  
\*\*Dairyfood USA, Inc.  
Darien  
Deerfield  
DeForest  
Delafield  
Delavan  
Delavan Lake Sanitary District  
\*\*Don's Mobile Manor Inc  
Dousman  
East Troy, Town of  
East Troy, Village of  
Eden  
Edgerton  
Elkhart Lake  
Elkhorn  
Evansville  
Fairwater  
Fall River  
\*Fitchburg  
\*Fond du Lac  
Fontana  
Footville  
\*Fort Atkinson  
Fox Lake  
Fox Point  
Franklin  
Fredonia  
Friesland

Fulton  
\*\*Geneva National Services  
Genoa City  
\*Germantown  
Glenbeulah  
\*Glendale  
\*Green Bay  
\*Greendale  
\*\*Hale Park Meadows Water Trust  
Harmony Grove Sanitary  
District  
Harrison  
Hartford  
Hartland  
\*\*HB Performance Systems Inc.  
Hilbert  
Horicon  
Hustisford  
Ixonia Sanitary District #1  
Jackson  
\*Janesville  
Jefferson  
Johnson Creek  
Juneau  
Kellnersville  
Kewaskum  
Kiel  
\*\*Kikkoman Foods Inc  
Kohler  
\*\*Lad Lake Inc  
Lake Como Sanitary District #1  
Lake Geneva  
\*\*Lake Meadows Water Trust  
Lake Mills  
Lannon  
LeRoy  
Lodi  
Lomira  
Lowell  
\*Madison  
Maple Bluff  
Maribel  
Marshall  
Mary Hill Park Sanitary District  
Mayville  
Mazomanie  
McFarland  
\*Menasha  
Menasha Utility District  
Menomonee Falls  
\*Middleton  
\*Milwaukee  
Milton  
Mishicot  
Monona  
\*Monroe  
Monticello  
Mount Horeb  
Mukwonago  
\*Muskego  
\*Neenah  
New Berlin  
New Glarus

New Holstein  
North Fond du Lac  
Northern Moraine Utility  
Commission  
\*Oak Creek  
Oakfield  
\*Oconomowoc  
Oostburg  
Omro  
Oregon  
Orfordville  
\*Oshkosh  
Palmyra  
Pardeeville  
\*\*Pat's Services, Inc.  
Pewaukee, City of  
Pewaukee, Village of  
\*Pleasant Prairie  
Plymouth  
\*\*Plymouth Joint School District  
Plymouth Sanitary District  
(Hanover)  
Portage  
Poynette  
\*\*Rainbow Lake Manor  
Randolph  
Random Lake  
Reedsville  
Reeseville  
Rio  
Ripon  
\*\*Robert William Park Water Assoc  
Rochester Sewer Department  
\*\*Rock Prairie Montessori School  
\*\*Rock River Leisure Estates  
Cooperative  
\*\*Rock River Shores Manufactured  
Housing Community  
Rosendale  
S & R Egg Farm, Inc.  
\*\*St. Benedict's Abby  
St. Cloud  
St. Nazianz  
Salem Utility District  
Saukville  
\*\*School District of Beloit Turner  
\*\*School Sisters of Notre Dame  
\*\*Shady Hill Mobile Home Park  
Sharon  
Sheboygan Falls  
Sheboygan, Town of  
Sherwood  
\*Shorewood  
Shorewood Hills  
Slinger  
\*\*Snug Harbor Inn  
Somers  
\*South Milwaukee  
Stoughton  
\*Sun Prairie  
\*\*Sunnyfield Acres Water  
Association  
\*\*Sunnyside Estates

\*Associate Members (Over 10,000 pop.)    \*\*Other Than Municipal

Sussex  
 \*\*The Knolls Water Co-Operative  
 Theresa  
 \*\*Tremain Mobile Home Park  
 \*\*Twin Lakes Park Co. Op. Inc  
 \*Two Rivers  
 Union Grove  
 Valders  
 Verona  
 WalCoMet  
 Waldo  
 Walworth  
 Waterford  
 Waterloo  
 \*Watertown  
 \*Waukesha  
 Waunakee  
 \*Waupun  
 \*Wauwatosa  
 \*West Allis  
 \*West Bend  
 Westport  
 \*\*Wheatland Estates Mobile Home Park  
 \*\*Wheel Estates, Inc Mobile Home Park  
 Whitelaw  
 \*Whitewater  
 Williams Bay  
 Wind Point  
 Windsor Sanitary District #1  
 Winneconne  
 \*\*Winneconne Community School District  
 \*\*Wright's Mobile Home Park  
 Wyocena

### DISTRICT 3 (Central)

Abbotsford  
 Adams  
 Alma Center  
 Almond  
 Amherst  
 Athens  
 Berlin  
 Biron  
 Black River Falls  
 Brockway Sanitary District #1  
 Brokaw  
 Camp Douglas  
 Cashton  
 \*\*Cawley Creek Village Inc.  
 Chelsea Sanitary District  
 Chili Sanitary District #1  
 \*\*Clark Co Health Care Center  
 Colby  
 Coloma  
 \*\*Community Water & Sewer  
 Curtiss  
 Dorchester  
 Edgar  
 Elroy  
 \*\*Fox Marquette Estates  
 Friendship  
 Gilman  
 Granton  
 Green Lake  
 \*\*Green Lake Conference Center  
 Green Lake Sanitary District  
 Greenwood  
 Hancock  
 Hatfield Sanitary District 1  
 Hatley  
 Hixton  
 \*\*Holiday Park I & II  
 Hustler  
 Junction City  
 Kendall

Kronenwetter  
 Little Green Lake Protection & Rehab. District  
 Loyal  
 Lyndon Station  
 Marathon  
 Markesan  
 \*Marshfield  
 Mauston  
 Medford  
 Melrose  
 Merrillan  
 Milladore  
 Montello  
 Mosinee  
 Necedah  
 Neillsville  
 Nekoosa  
 Neshkoro  
 New Lisbon  
 Norwalk  
 Oakdale  
 \*\*Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc. - Tomah  
 Owen  
 \*\*Pineland Park Enterprises LTD  
 Pittsville  
 Plainfield  
 Plover  
 Port Edwards  
 Princeton  
 Redgranite  
 Rib Lake  
 Rib Mountain Sanitary District  
 Rome  
 Rosholt Sewer Commission  
 Rothschild  
 Schofield  
 Silver Lake Sanitary District  
 Sparta  
 Spencer  
 Stetsonville  
 \*Stevens Point  
 Stratford  
 Taylor  
 Thorp  
 Tomah  
 Union Center  
 Unity  
 \*\*Village Acres Mobile Home Court  
 Vesper  
 Warrens  
 \*Wausau  
 Wautoma  
 Westboro Sanitary District #1  
 Westfield  
 \*Weston  
 Whiting  
 Wilton  
 Withee  
 Wonewoc

### DISTRICT 4 (Northwest)

Almena  
 Amery  
 Ashland  
 Baldwin  
 Balsam Lake  
 Barron  
 Bayfield  
 Birchwood  
 Bloomer  
 Boyceville  
 Boyd  
 Bruce  
 Butternut  
 Cable Sanitary District #1

Cadott  
 Cameron  
 Catawba-Kennan Joint Sewage Commission  
 Centuria  
 Chetek  
 \*Chippewa Falls  
 Clayton  
 Clear Lake  
 Clover Sanitary District #1  
 Colfax  
 Cornell  
 Cumberland  
 Dallas  
 Deer Park WWTP  
 Downsview Sanitary District #1  
 Dresser  
 Drummond Sanitary District #1  
 Elk Mound  
 Exeland  
 Fifield Sanitary District #1  
 Frederic  
 Glen Flora  
 Glenwood City  
 Glidden Sanitary District  
 Grantsburg  
 Hammond  
 Hawkins  
 Hayward  
 Hudson  
 Hurley  
 Iron River Sanitary District #1  
 Joint Water Quality Commission of Danbury & St. Croix Chippewa Indians of WI  
 Knapp  
 Knight  
 Lac Courte Oreilles Public Works Department  
 Ladysmith  
 Lake Hallie  
 Lake Holcombe Sanitary District #1  
 Luck  
 Madeline Sanitary District  
 Manitou Falls Sanitary District #1  
 Mason  
 Mellen  
 \*Menomonie  
 Mercer Sanitary District #1  
 \*\*Middle River Health & Rehab Center  
 Milltown  
 Minong  
 Montreal  
 New Auburn  
 New Richmond  
 North Hudson  
 \*\*Northwood School District  
 Oliver  
 Osceola  
 Park Falls  
 Phillips  
 \*\*Pleasant Valley Properties of WI, LLC  
 Port Wing Sanitary District  
 Prentice  
 \*\*Primera Foods Corporation  
 Radisson  
 Red Cliff North  
 Rice Lake  
 \*River Falls  
 Roberts  
 \*\*S&J Wild River Mobile Home Park  
 St. Croix Falls  
 Saxon Sanitary District #1  
 Sheldon

Shell Lake  
 Siren  
 Solon Springs WWTF  
 Somerset  
 Spooner  
 Spring Valley  
 Stanley  
 Star Prairie  
 Stone Lake Sanitary District  
 \*\*Stresau Lab Inc  
 \*Superior  
 \*\*T.A.P. Investments  
 Tony  
 Trade Lake  
 \*\*Troy Glen Court  
 Turtle Lake  
 Washburn  
 Webster  
 Weyerhaeuser  
 Wheeler  
 \*\*Whitcap Mountains Resort  
 Winter  
 \*\*Wisconsin Structural Steel  
 Woodville

### DISTRICT 5 (Southwest)

\*\*Advanced Plumbing Systems  
 Alma  
 Altoona  
 Arcadia  
 Arena  
 Argyle  
 Augusta  
 Avoca  
 Bagley  
 Bangor  
 Baraboo  
 Barneveld  
 Bay City  
 Belmont  
 Benton  
 Blair  
 Blanchardville  
 Bloomington  
 Blue River  
 Boscobel  
 \*\*Bush Brothers & Company  
 Cassville  
 Cazenovia  
 Chaseburg  
 Cobb  
 Cochrane  
 Coon Valley  
 \*\*Coulee Region Enterprises Inc  
 Cuba City  
 Darlington  
 \*\*De Soto Area School District  
 \*\*Dell Creek Estates  
 Dickeyville  
 Dodge Sanitary District #1  
 Dodgeville  
 Durand  
 Eastman  
 Eleva  
 Ellsworth  
 Elmwood  
 Ettrick  
 Fairchild  
 Fall Creek  
 Fennimore  
 Fountain City  
 Galesville  
 Gays Mills  
 Genoa  
 Gratiot  
 Hazel Green  
 Highland

Hillsboro  
 Hollandale  
 Holmen  
 Independence  
 Ironton  
 Kieler Sanitary District #1  
 \*La Crosse  
 La Farge  
 La Valle  
 Lake Delton  
 Lancaster  
 Lincoln Sanitary District #1  
 Linden  
 Livingston  
 Loganville  
 Lone Rock  
 Maiden Rock  
 \*\*Marell Mobile Home Courts  
 Merrimac  
 Mineral Point  
 Mondovi  
 Montfort  
 Mt Hope  
 Muscoda  
 Nelson  
 North Freedom  
 \*Onalaska  
 Ontario  
 Osseo  
 Patch Grove  
 Pepin  
 Pigeon Falls  
 \*\*Pine Creek Water  
 \*\*Pine Edge Mobile Home Park  
 \*\*Pinewood Court Inc.  
 Plain  
 \*Platteville  
 Potosi-Tennyson  
 Prairie du Chien  
 Prairie du Sac  
 Prescott  
 Readstown  
 Reedsburg  
 Rewey  
 Richland Center  
 Ridgeway  
 Rockland  
 Rock Springs  
 \*\*Saint Bede Monastery  
 Sauk City  
 \*\*Sauk County Health Care Center  
 \*\*School District of Alma  
 \*\*School District of Mondovi  
 Seneca Sanitary District #1  
 Sextonville  
 Shelby Sanitary District #2  
 Shullsburg  
 Soldiers Grove  
 South Wayne  
 Spring Green  
 St. Joseph Sanitary District #1  
 Stoddard  
 Strum  
 Trempealeau  
 Viola  
 Viroqua  
 Wauzeka  
 West Baraboo  
 West Central Wisconsin  
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- Road and water projects are easier to schedule due to decreased volume in traffic.
- Low construction costs and available contractors are not guaranteed to last.



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# Budgeting and Assessments

You may be sitting there thinking, “My wastewater plant, or waterworks, is running great.”

By Dan Wundrow



As fall rapidly approaches, it's time that we all start looking at and working on the annual budgets for our utilities. This can be a stressful time for wondering who, where, and what to budget for. This is an excellent time to start examining the utility bills and wonder if we could find some hidden savings. In some cases, yes, it's possible if we want to put in the work. Examining your utility bills could be the difference of not having to cut things that are needed for your plant's operation, wages for the utility operator, or not increasing rates to the customer.

You may be sitting there thinking, “My wastewater plant, or waterworks, is running great. My utility bills are low. There is no way I can cut my utility bill.” Some of the simplest things overlooked are rate schedule, paying sales tax, lighting used when not occupied, and overheating buildings. I will demonstrate a simple formula and study from Focus On Energy for municipalities close to the same size.



For waterworks systems, all you will need is the most current Wisconsin PSC report page W-15. On that page, take the total kilowatt (kWh) and divide it by the total gallons pumped. This will give total kWh used per 1,000 Gallons. Looking at the chart below match up with your system size.

Type	kWh/1000 Gallons
Class AB (> 4,000 customers)	1.81
Class C (1,000-4,000 customers)	1.94
Class D (<1,000 customers)	2.41

For wastewater systems, it is a little simple. Taking the most recent CMAR, looking at 7.1.1 table column Electricity Consumed/Flow (kWh/MG), this automatically gives the average line. Take that number and match it up with the system type in the chart below.

Treatment Type	Flow Range MGD	Number of Facilities Surveyed	kWh per Million Gallons
Activated Sludge**	0-1	26	5,440
	1-5	14	2,503
	> 5	11	2,288
	All AS	51	2,954
Aerated Lagoon	0-1	15	7,288
Oxidation Ditch	0-1.2 <sup>a</sup>	19	3,895

After reviewing your information and comparing to the charts provided, if your community is higher than what is the average, please get hold of me and we can set up a time to complete an assessment.

Here are some things that can help around this time of the year for budgeting.

Electrical rates are an important thing to look at and understand what they mean for your community. Are your well houses on different rate schedules? A recent energy assessment showed well houses that were on different rate schedules. One well was on time on demand (TOD) service and one well was on municipal well pumping. This may not seem like a big deal, but the TOD system was paying \$42 per month for general meter charge. The municipal well pump was paying \$17 for the general meter charge. Right out of the gate, that's a \$300 a year savings, not including the demand charge for the well. By switching rate schedule so both wells are on the same Municipal Well Pumping, the waterworks system could see a savings of \$1,200 annually. Granted that is not a ton of money but when your municipality is under 1,000 residents, that is a great savings to them at no additional cost to you.

The second thing I look for when reviewing utility bills is sales tax. Many times, this is overlooked. We just don't pay any attention to sales tax. This is a great time to check the last few months of bills. If you find sales tax on the bill, call the utility provider and talk with them and resubmit the tax-exempt number. The savings with not paying taxes could be anywhere from \$100 to \$500 depending on the normal cost of the electric bill and costs only a phone call.

Lighting of unoccupied spaces is such a difficult one. We all know how crazy over worked and pulled in many different directions at once we are. It has happened to the best of us we are working on one thing next thing we know the SCADA is call for a failed pump, call to run alarm, high level, or any other alarm that we go racing to. Unaware that we have just left the lights on because we will be back in a few moments but this will now consume the rest of the day. We fixed the problem at hand and we head home for the day. Just to come back in the morning to see that we forgot the lights were left on overnight. We all know that one time isn't going to break the bank but if occupation sensor is installed this wouldn't be a problem any more. Keeping in mind that a little saving will always add up at the end of the year. There is a formula for the lighting but let's save that for a different time. Roughly let's say the savings is around \$100 annually.

Heating at well houses and other facilities is a common problem. It's well known how cold it can get in the winter months here. Many facilities are overheated in the winter months and that sure will consume a lot of electricity. For the most part buildings only need to be heated to prevent freeze ups. Not saying that this winter you should go turn all your facility buildings down to just above freezing at 33 degrees but lowering them to around 50 degrees could make a difference. Keep in mind to check on the buildings, and see what happens to the electric bills.

Along with heating, this one will be a hard one for some, but using milk house heaters and other small electrical heater drive up utility costs. These heaters are hard not to buy when you see the price tag when compared to propane or natural gas heaters but in the long run, they cost more money to run over the course of the heating season. So, let's say the building is 120 square feet and you have a 1.5kWh heater and it runs 24 hours a day. That comes out to 24hr X 1.5kWh = 36kWh X 30 Days = 1,080 Total kWh for the month. Taking the 1,080kwh X \$0.10 kWh = \$108 a month to run the one heater. So, the more electric heaters you have the more it will cost per month. If propane or natural gas heaters are invested in, the upfront cost is nearly three times the price but the savings per year per heater is approximately \$420. Depending on the number of heaters your facilities require, these can easily pay for themselves in no time.

Facilities with these items that I talked about could see these savings all depending on electric rate schedule, electric bill cost, and heating source. These are all items to keep in mind as you start looking at the utility operation budget. I would love to come out to your municipality and work with you to help cut your utility bills.

If you would like to get on the list for an assessment, please reach out to the WRWA office or directly to me then we can get you all set up and ready to go. Currently, I am booked out for the next 9-12 months so the sooner you can get on the list, the better.

I wish you all a safe and successful hunting season. Hope to hear all the great big buck stories and pictures from your hunts next time we cross paths. I'll share mine!

*Dan*



# Weather happens. Most times predictable...but not always.

By Kelly Thomas

If you are like me, every day you try to watch the weather person on the television or check your weather app on your device to see what the future holds for the upcoming hours. This typically lets me plan out my day (or week). It's interesting, many of us have no schooling or professional experience when it comes to meteorology, but we think we can do a better job predicting the weather than those we see on TV. Let's be real. Maybe we can predict some of the weather with a bit of assistance from our apps and local meteorologists, but we are just wondering about two things, "Rain or sunshine?" You are asking yourself if you will be able to work outside, go fishing, hunting, plan outdoor sporting events, family gatherings and so on. Rain or sunshine? Almost always, we wish for sunshine. It is much easier to plan our lives around sunny days. Nobody marks dates on a calendar for an event and hopes that it will rain on that particular day. Planning an event is easy...if the weather cooperates. Rain or sunshine?

Unfortunately Mother Nature can be unruly at times. To "her" it's not just rain or sunshine. Rain can mean anything from slight drizzle to 2+ inches of rain per hour nightmare. Most of the time we will have some sort of warning of severe weather, but we usually don't get much more than a 6 hour warning for a real accurate forecast. Mainly this is because the meteorologists look at the trends of what storms have already done prior to reaching our area. Technology in the field of predicting weather is extremely accurate. So, I guess one could say that watching the weather forecast on a daily basis is part of your Emergency Response Plan (ERP). I mean, probably not listed on your actual hard copy, but without the forecast (of any kind), you cannot plan ahead.

I always liked this quote from Gordan Grahm, a 33 year veteran of California law enforcement, "Predictable is Preventable." This holds true

for almost any situation. If you can predict severe weather, you can prevent long term "down time."

No one likes to plan for severe weather, but if you do have a plan to recover for the worst case scenario, recovering from all the other scenarios will work out just a bit easier. ERPs are meant to do just that, make your life easier when "bad" stuff happens.

Your ERP is a great tool to have when you need it. But like many tools, they need to be maintained (updated) every now and then. Not only is this a recommendation, it's a requirement for communities 3,300 population and above. In fact, if your population is in-between 3,300 and 50,000, your ERP needs to be completed/updated by December 31, 2021. This is in according to America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018. (EPA Section 2013)

WRWA staff will be more than willing to sit with you and assist you in updating your ERP. Most times the work is already done in your head; it just needs to be transcribed on to "paper."

WRWA will be holding 2 workshops to help you complete/update your ERP. They will be September 30 in Lake Hallie and October 6 in Plover. In these workshops you will complete an ERP on your laptop or tablet according to the EPA guidelines so nothing will be missed. Then you will leave the workshop with confidence, and with a new ERP.

Again, if you preplan for severe weather such as tornados, ice storms, flooding, extreme cold, extreme heat; recovery can be so much easier. I am not saying that there will not be any "down time" after or during these events, but the recovery time can be much shorter. Predictable is preventable.

Stay safe, stay healthy. *Kelly*

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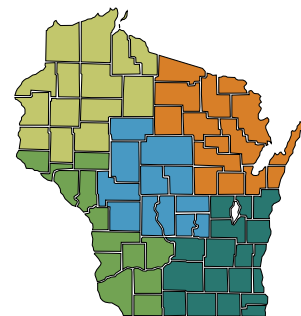
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# UP THE CREEK



**Ken Blomberg,**  
*WRWA past  
Executive Director*

## OF BIRDS AND MEN

There are a few things in nature that take my breath away. Birds in flight are on top of that list. On the occasions they fly by, I marvel at their style and grace and wonder how they manage the feat. Who among us has not contemplated what it would be like to fly?

Seemingly lighter than air, a bird in the hand weighs little of nothing. Hollow bones and weightless feathers account for next to nothing. The aerobatic hummingbird weighs only 3 grams and flies like a helicopter, flapping its wings at a rate of 70 times per second!

On the other end of the spectrum, cranes, with eight foot wingspans, beat their wings less than once per second. Painting a mental image with words worthy of this magnificent bird is not an easy task. If I were an artist, they would no doubt grace my canvas. To my eye, their outer primaries resemble fingers, feeling their way across the sky.

With wings cupped and webbed feet braced, a flock of geese coming in for a landing can make a grown man look for cover. Hawks and owls fly in silence, hunting day and night respectively. During late summer days, nighthawks zigzag just above the treetops - fueling their bellies with insects as they migrate south.

Eagles soar below the clouds, seemingly without effort, catching the waves of updraft winds. Who cannot resist watching as our national symbol passes by? And who has not imagined hitching a ride as they glide up and down the river valley?

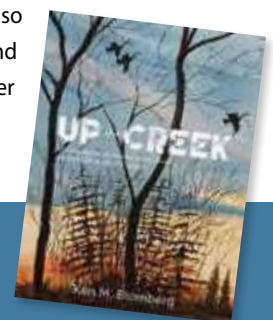
Man's early attempts to fly involved gliders, balloons and powered aircraft. In 1903, the Wright brothers made the first sustained and controlled heavier-than-air powered flight. The rest, as they say, is history.



In my case, the urge to fly in a metal bird has never been strong. In fact, I avoided flying like the plague, until my real job demanded I use airplanes as a means to travel cross country. My preferred mode of transportation remains four wheels on the pavement and looking at the sky through a moonroof.

The other side of the coin finds No. 2 son embracing flying with a passion. As a toddler, he would point by the kitchen window and cry out, "Airplane-plane, Airplane - plane!" At the tender age of 13, he began flying lessons at a nearby municipal airport. The "boss" and I would hold our breath and watch from the parking lot as he and his flight instructor would take off, disappear over the horizon and return an hour or so later. Then the day came - even before he earned a driver's license - when he flew a plane solo.

After a hiatus of a few years, he went back in the cockpit - on track to earn his pilot license and bring home his wings, so to speak. Then, who knows, perhaps the "boss" and I will hitch a ride as he glides up and down the river valley with the eagles.



*Ken M. Blomberg is the past Executive Director of the Wisconsin Rural Water Association. Ken has written 2 books since his retirement. Autographed copies his first book, UP THE CREEK, are now available for \$16.33, postage paid. A portion of the sale proceeds will be donated to WRWA's scholarship program. Send checks payable to Ken M. Blomberg, 2099 Mayflower Road, Junction City, WI 54443.*



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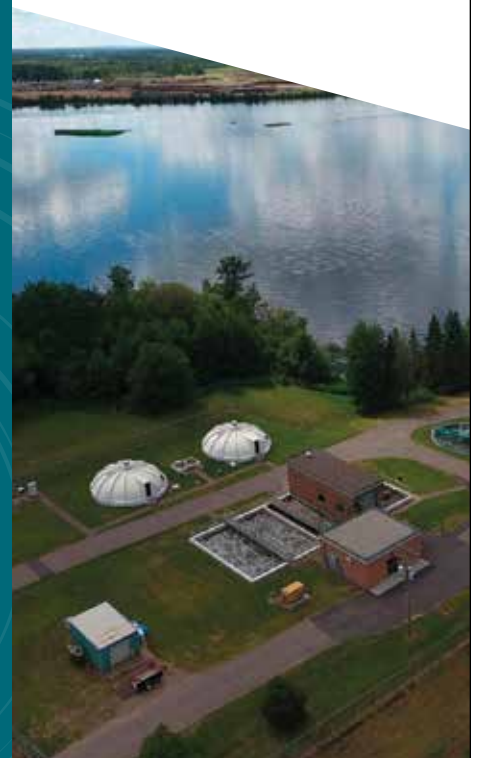
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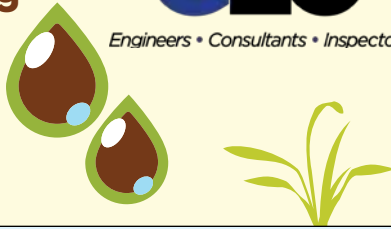
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