

# Wisconsin Rural Water Journal

Spring 2025



2025 Water Conservation Poster Contest Winners *see page 54*

Hydrant Flushing

Groundwater Teacher Workshops

PSC Tariffs

37<sup>th</sup> Annual Technical Conference





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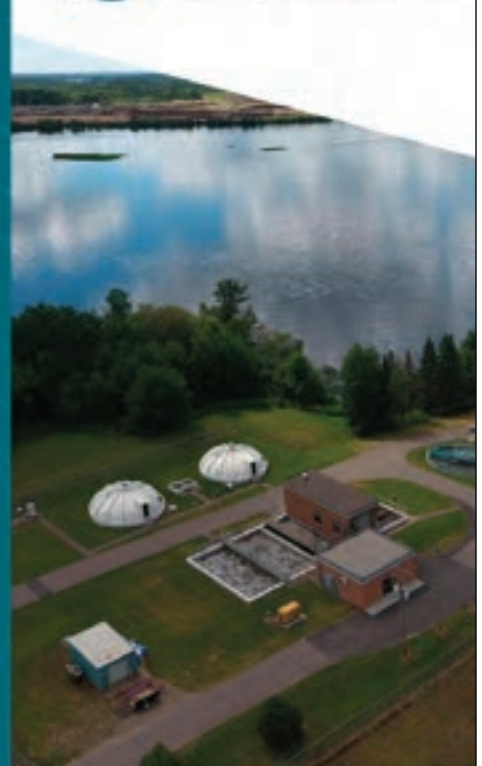
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Address all letters to the editor, advertising inquiries and correspondence to:  
Wisconsin Rural Water Association, 350 Water Way, Plover, WI 54467.





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

## Message from the President

This spring sure can't decide if it should arrive or not! Crazy weather we have been having lately. The 37th Annual Wisconsin Rural Water Association Technical Conference was a huge success in our first year back in Green Bay after many years in LaCrosse. We had 1,324 attendees, 181 vendors, and a record 231 booths. I hope you all were able to take part in at least one day of the convention as we had really positive feedback. I would like to say thank you to the staff for their hard work that they put into the planning and setting up! It's not easy moving to a new site and getting everything right the first time. There is a learning curve and a few glitches that come up, but they all handled it superbly. I would also like to thank the Sportsman Raffle as they had over 90 prizes again and raised \$58,000 this year! That money comes back to WRWA to help with anything related to education and training. Of course this all wouldn't be possible if it were not for all the vendors who donate the prizes for the raffle. Thank you!!

I would also like to thank the WRWA Board, we conducted meetings all day Tuesday of the conference and we keep up with what is happening in Madison and out in DC. We have various committees that also meet, so it is a full day! Thank you to those who volunteer for the board, committees, Sportsman Raffle and whatever else I'm forgetting, without you all, WRWA would not be where we are today!

Please remember that WRWA is here to help you with anything you may need or borrow. Contact your circuit rider and they will be more than willing to help you in any way.

I hope you all have a great spring as you are gearing up for the summer projects.

Until next time, stay safe! *Dean*



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Assisting, educating  
and representing  
our members in the  
Water & Wastewater  
Industries.





# Message from the Executive Director

## Everything is New, Except for the Old Stuff

**Chris Groh,**  
WRWA Executive Director

**W**e see descriptions of Spring every year. It's kind of the same shift from dark dead Winter into the new life that follows in Spring. I can see it in my yard with the arrival of migrating birds, small rabbits running around, turkeys fluffed out in their mating routines, and in my travels. More deer moving, sandhill cranes and redwing blackbirds, and tons of fishermen whipping the local streams into a froth looking for walleyes.

But I don't really enjoy the new stuff until the old stuff is going or gone. In the water industry there is a lot of "old stuff" still hanging over our heads. Let's look at lead and copper. Did you get your inventory in on time? It should have been done at least 6 months ago. How much lead was identified in your system? I bet you got a lot of "unknowns" that still need to be identified. You are going to have to identify them soon. Did your letters explaining the lead situation in your town go out? On time? Did it rile up the townsfolk that had no idea they had lead in their water. Did you explain if there was, or really, wasn't? Another letter to be written. How are your plans for removal/replacement going? Oh, it's the money holding you up? Afraid no help is coming about that real soon. But planning is free (relatively).

How about PFAS. If you tested out of the program, you're lucky to be out. I'm afraid there may be no "out" for PFAS depending on if a reasonable


level is set by EPA and the State and can be reached. That could be real low (really low). Again, afraid not much help is going to be available real soon on that either. And again, money is going to hold things up. The state is slowly looking at PFAS numbers in our wastewater sludges, so again, we're not completely out of the woods.

No doubt there are other things to clean up before we can enjoy Spring (like the snowbank in the parking lot), but let's stick to these couple issues to make the point.

What can we do about clearing up the "old stuff"? WRWA has been working behind the scenes at the State and National levels to advocate for our rural abilities to be resilient and able to deal with these things. Money, time and resources are the keys. If one is missing it isn't going to work out. My job is to make that known to our State regulators, Representatives, and to anyone in Washington DC. Whoever is left there. Sometimes that is harder to do than the actual lead IDs or PFAS treatments, but it is key to the start.

And to be honest, it could be my age that doesn't allow me to enjoy Spring as much as my younger self. Guess I'll grab my parka, t-shirt, ice fishing bibs, shorts and raincoat and go out and enjoy this Wisconsin Spring Day!

*Chris*

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# We get letters and emails!

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

Dear Representatives,

The City of Owen would like to Thank WRWA for all their services through the 2024 year. Todd Weich always answers his phone when called. He is always here when we have issues with our water system.

WRWA now has Brooke, an amazing EPA Wastewater Technician on board now and Tony their Wastewater Technician. This will also help small towns in the future.

It is sure nice knowing we are not alone in this world when we have any kind of issues. It's also nice when they all just check in and just stopping to update us on upcoming EPA or DNR stuff coming down the chain.

Thank You all at WRWA for everything you all do. We could not do our best job without you all!!

Chad J Smith, Director of Public Works, City of Owen

Hello Chris,

I am writing this letter to express my gratitude for the assistance our circuit rider, Todd Weich, had given us in updating our Emergency Response Plan. With this task and like so many things Wisconsin Rural Water Association does for us is priceless. From assisting with plan updates and all the training WRWA provides, our small water and wastewater utility could not keep up with the demands without WRWA.

Thank you for all you do for us!!

Sincerely,

Mike Sanborn, Utility Manager, Eagle River Light & Water

To Whom it may concern,

I'm a new trustee of the Village of Tony. I moved to this area 15 months ago. Never been a member of any village, have run mfg. companies all my life. Since moving I was "voluntold" to be on the board. Since being on board, I have discovered many things. I am currently working becoming the water/wastewater operator. So extremely new to everything. Seth and his team have been to me life savers. Getting me information for everything. Also being very patient with my dumb questions. With his help we will make this village better.

Jeffrey W Hurlebaus, Village of Tony

Hi Renee,

Just wanted to say thank you to all of you wonderful people at Rural Water for setting up the booth selection process today. I'm sure there were endless meetings and dry runs that everyone had to do, but eventually everything worked out. You guys are the best!

Looking forward to March in Green Bay!

Doralee Piering, Office Coordinator, Energeneecs

To Whom it may Concern,

Your U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant program in PY24 has played an integral role in providing training and technical assistance (T/TA) for our small public water system in Almena by achieving and maintaining compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Your drinking water Training Specialist, Seth Petersen with WI Rural Water Association, provided comprehensive guidance to ensure our system can attain and maintain financial and managerial capacity.

Specifically, this important program assisted us to complete our lead service line inventory and send out customer notification letters. Furthermore, your Specialist assisted in providing advanced training to our operators, giving them confidence, and better equipping them with the knowledge to ensure the system maintains quality drinking water while remaining in compliance with regulatory requirements.

This service is invaluable to our community and communities like ours who lack the resources to ensure the protection of safe drinking water and public health. The continuation of this program for our system into PY25 and beyond is imperative, as there are additional needs, such as providing T/TA to help continue to update our lead service line inventory and find funding to confirm and remove lead service lines in Almena that can be addressed through this program and cannot be resolved by a community with a population of 677 and Median Household Income (MHI) of \$44,000.

Thank you for your continued support in assisting us with our small public water system. Your T/Ta continues to improve water quality for the residents of Almena.

Sincerely,

Alan Gabe, Village President, Village of Almena

To Kelly Thomas

Yes, I know it took me long enough to E-mail you! But I'm getting it done now.

I appreciated you so much, helping me with all the paperwork on my federal service line inventory and my lead & copper test forms, after driving for a couple of hrs. to come to Wi. Rapids, to sit down and explain all of the forms.

Oh! When you need some good cake again, come on down.

Thank you,

Lee Spencer, Pirco MHP

Hello Andrew,

I just wanted to thank you again for coming to Woodland and sharing your expertise with our third graders. They really enjoyed having a guest speaker today, and they learned a lot that will help them understand our science unit.

Have a great day, Ellen



Hello Renee,

I wanted to write to you and let you know that Tony Roche came to our office to help me study for my wastewater general basic test, and I did pass that test! It was immensely helpful; Tony is a great teacher and explained things very well. I was very appreciative that he was able to come to me to help me.

Big thanks to Tony!!!

Have a good day!

Julie Benson, Lakeland Sanitary District No. 1

Dear Todd & the Wisconsin Rural Water Association Team,

On behalf of the Village of Edgar, we want to extend our sincere gratitude for the exceptional assistance provided on November 27, 2024. Your quick response and professionalism in locating the water leak were greatly appreciated. Todd's expertise in pinpointing the exact location of the leak was invaluable, and his efforts ensured the issue was resolved efficiently and effectively.

It is truly reassuring to know that we can depend on Rural Water in times of crisis. Your dedication to supporting communities like ours does not go unnoticed.

As the holiday season approaches, we wish the entire Wisconsin Rural Water Association team a joyful and blessed Christmas.

Thank you once again for your outstanding service and continued partnership.

Warm regards,

Bill Tess, Water Operator, Village of Edgar

Dear Chris:

For 33 years I have relied on WRWA staff for assistance. Back then there were only three staff members. The water and wastewater circuit riders were just a phone call away. Their knowledge and assistance were a great help in starting off my career on the right foot.

All the training opportunities were a great help. Whether it was an update on DNR regulations, utility specialized training on treatment processes, annual conference sessions or hands on demonstrations at the outdoor expo. Plus, the platform to collaborate with other plant operators.

Many times, we were able to borrow equipment from the loaner equipment program.

Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Wade D. Peterson,

Utility Superintendent,

City of Baraboo

To all WRWA staff,

Your organization has helped our community with many things in the past year. A co-worker and myself attended some water classes and are now certified operators. Annie helped coordinate some much-needed hydrant repairs with Bud from Waterous. She also spent some time with us doing some leak locating and sharing some of her techniques when looking for water leaks. We also attended an excavation safety training that was very informative in Plover. There are many training opportunities provided and available all over the state. WRWA is critical to helping with all problems, small to large!

Thanks for all your efforts.

Nate Fosbinder-Superintendent, City of Mineral Point

To all the WRWA staff-

I want to thank you for making the booth selection process yesterday go so smoothly.

All of the information you provided leading up to the meeting set us up to be ready to make our selection. It was very helpful that you were filling in the booth map along with putting the booth selections in the Teams chat. It was also clear that there was a plan for technology challenges.

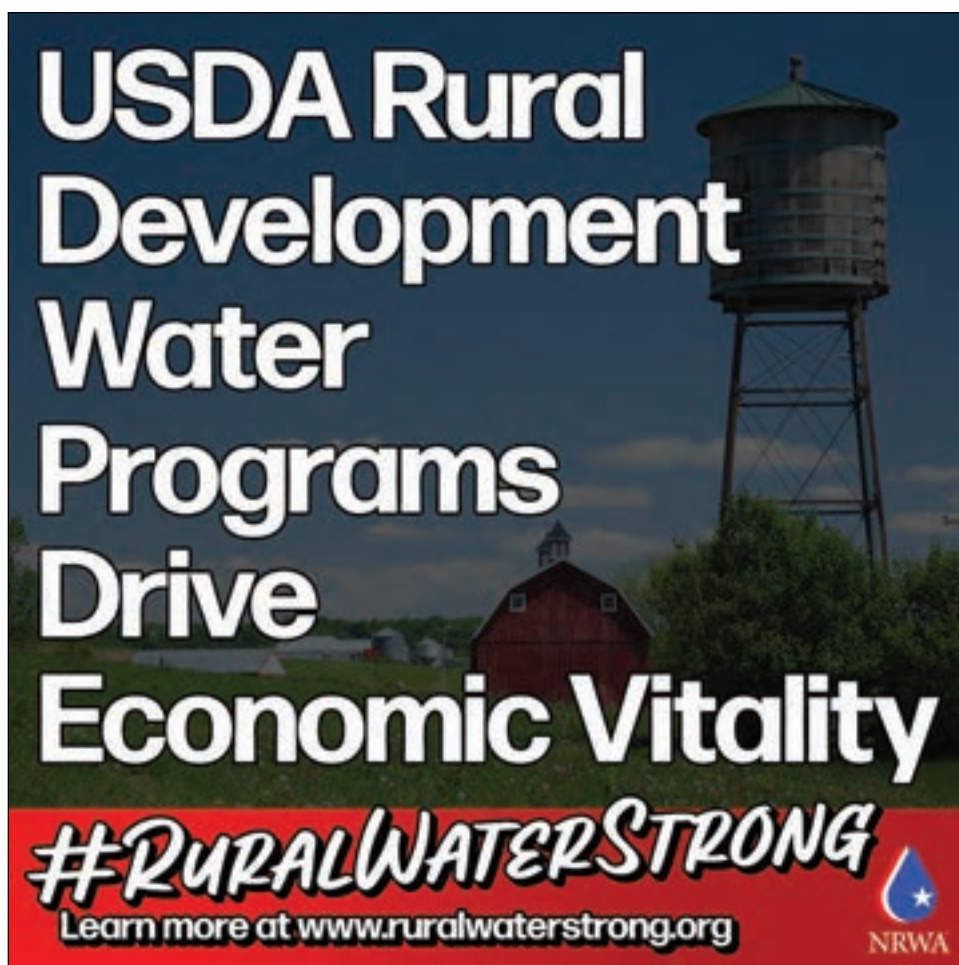
We appreciate all the hard work that the WRWA staff puts into planning and executing all WRWA events.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Green Bay and experiencing the new venue.

Sara Bach, Client Service Representative

Northern Lake Service, Inc.

*Continued on page 6*





Continued from page 5

Brian Garay here, all seem to be back to normal with the Well. It was obviously the house with the frozen line causing extra pumping. Thanks again for coming down and going through town with me. You guys always go above and beyond.

Thanks again!

Maiden Rock, WI

Good Morning,

I am sending this email to confirm that Dan Wundrow did come on 2/13/25 for a visit. I wanted to express how helpful he was. He also was here earlier to help the City of Independence find a water leak. He is always very professional, knowledgeable, kind, answers all of our questions, and will always answer a text or a call. We are very grateful for his assistance!

Thanks,

Joe Galewski, Water/Wastewater Superintendent  
City of Independence

Dear Wisconsin Rural Water Association,

On behalf of the Village of Readstown, our public works department and I want to extend our sincere gratitude for the exceptional work and dedication of Andrew Aslesen, Source Water Specialist, for creating our Wellhead Protection Plan. Andrew's expertise, professionalism, and commitment to safeguarding our communities' water supply went above and beyond our expectations.

From start to finish, Andrew demonstrated remarkable knowledge and attention to detail, ensuring that our plan not only met regulatory requirements but also reflected the unique needs of our village. Andrew's willingness to guide us through the process, answer our questions, and provide invaluable insights made all the difference.

We truly appreciate the Wisconsin Rural Water Association's commitment to supporting communities like ours. Please pass along our deepest thanks to Andrew Aslesen, his hard work will have a lasting impact on impact on our village's future.

With Gratitude,

Chelsey Hoffman, Village Clerk/Treasurer, Village of Readstown

Dear Todd and the Wisconsin Rural Water Association Team,

On behalf of the Village of Edgar, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to you and your team for your continued dedication and expertise in supporting our community. We especially want to recognize and thank Todd Weich for his outstanding efforts in assisting us with our water system.

This year alone, Todd has been instrumental in helping us locate and address three significant water leaks. Each time, his professionalism, knowledge, and use of advanced techniques provided precise locations of the breaks, saving our community invaluable time and resources. Todd's presence and participation during these critical events ensured efficient and effective resolutions, allowing us to restore services swiftly to our residents and businesses.

We want to particularly highlight Todd's extraordinary dedication during our third water main break, which occurred in extreme weather conditions. Todd was out with our team in temperatures as low as -20F, with wind chills nearing -40F. As is often the case, these breaks didn't happen in good weather, yet Todd showed unwavering commitment to helping our community resolve the issue quickly and effectively despite the severe cold.

The importance of Wisconsin Rural Water's support in rural communities like ours cannot be overstated. Your organization plays a vital role in safeguarding essential infrastructure, and your unwavering commitment to providing these services is deeply appreciated.

We encourage others in our community to join us in voicing their thanks and advocating for the continued funding and support of organizations like Wisconsin Rural Water. The work you do is indispensable, and we must ensure it continues for the benefit of all.

May your dedication be met with the recognition and support it so richly deserves. Thank you again for your incredible service and partnership.

Warm regards,

Jennifer Lopez, Village Administrator  
Village of Edgar

Dear Wisconsin Rural Water Association,

We just fixed a leak in the system that started in mid-December. Annie (sorry if spelling is wrong) was an incredible helper, she worked with Dan Foster and Tanner Cullen for hours in the cold until they finally located an area she believed, and Dan agreed, the leak was likely at. Dan had the leak detector come back again and he was able to locate the problem. After weeks of looking, it was found and repaired we can't thank you and your staff enough for your dedication to the public water utilities!!

Much Appreciation!!

Mary Jo Michek, Clerk/Treasurer  
Village of Blue Mounds



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# WORKING WITH METAL FINISHERS

**Tony Roche,**  
*WRWA Wastewater Trainer*

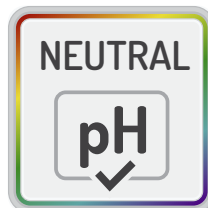
**H**ello Wisconsin! I am writing this article on March 7th...I think we have finally turned the corner, and Spring is on its way...I hope! Springtime in Wisconsin is usually a mudfest, but there are many good things that come this time of year. For example, the walleyes should start running in Central Wisconsin any week now, Maibock beers are flowing, spring turkey season is in sight, and the WRWA Annual Technical Conference is just a few weeks away! This year our conference is in Green Bay and will be held at the Resch Center right next to Lambeau Field! Hope to see you all there! Yeehaw!

Wisconsin is a pretty special place. We have a plethora of natural resources including tall timbers, fertile soils, and plenty of water to go around. The Wisconsin economy is dependent on these resources. Some of the biggest industries in this state are agriculture and manufacturing. Private industry is very important to Wisconsin and puts food on the table for many Wisconsin families. There are some industries, however, that can be especially problematic to wastewater utilities. I will touch on a few of these and offer some suggestions to effectively work with them.

I will focus on discussing some metal working processes that can generate industrial wastewater. One such process is powder coating. Powder coating creates a very durable finish on metal objects, and it is common for powder coating lines to wash parts with a phosphate solution prior to receiving the protective coating. This phosphate solution can be very high in phosphorus and can also have very acidic pH levels. Another

**From a wastewater treatment perspective, it is important to keep an eye on metal working industries**

metal working process is electroplating. Electroplating is commonly used in jewelry manufacturing and musical instrument manufacturing. Electroplating works by dipping an object in an acidic solution and adding some kind of precious metal (copper, chrome, gold, etc.) to the solution. You then run an electric current through the object and the metal coats, or plates, the object. When the solution is no longer usable it must be discarded. These used plating solutions can be hazardous and can contain high levels of heavy metals as well as very acidic pH levels. One last metal working process I will touch on is electropolishing. Electropolishing is kind of like electroplating, but in reverse. If you were to look at a metal object under high magnification the exterior of the metal would be kind of "rough" with many peaks and valleys. Electropolishing uses an acidic solution and runs an electric current through a metal object to help smooth out these peaks and valleys. As a result of this "smoothing" process metal is removed from the object and ends up in the acidic solution. The used polishing solution can be very high in metal content and have very acidic pH values.



From a wastewater treatment perspective, it is important to keep an eye on metal working industries like the ones I have described above. In treatment plants, the microbiology that removes pollutants (e.g. BOD) likes pH values near neutral. If any of your industries are creating acidic or basic wastewater, they should neutralize the water before it comes to

the collection system. Heavy metals are also concerning because they can be toxic at high concentrations and also have the tendency to settle out in biosolids. This is not a great thing because if you are land-applying your biosolids you will first have to test your solids for metal concentrations. If your metal concentration exceeds your limits you will have to find alternative ways to dispose of the biosolids, and that can get expensive in a hurry.

The best way to protect your utility from problematic industrial dischargers is to have a robust sewer use ordinance. Sewer use ordinances give your utility some teeth to fight against industry. Sewer use ordinances should be specific and spell out what industries can and cannot put down the drain. Remember how I said private industry is very important to Wisconsin...keep this in mind as you work with industrial dischargers. There is a saying that goes, "you catch more flies with honey than you do with vinegar" and from my experience that is true. If you go into a problematic industry ready to fight...you will probably receive one. On the other hand, if you offer to work with the industry, you will probably have better success. It is also important to mention that some industries are just not nice and will lie to you every chance they get. If that is the case the best thing to do is sample the industrial wastewater, and most importantly document everything! Document every conversation and site visit, and if you experience a plant upset make sure to document that too!

Well, I think that about does it for this journal article. If you need help revising a sewer use ordinance or want an extra set of eyes to inspect an industry with you, or if you need to borrow a portable sampler, please give me a call and I will help you out!

Cheers, *Tony*



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# How was your Resch Expo Experience?

**Kelly Thomas,**  
WRWA Technical Assistance Director

*The WRWA staff were excited about the challenge and opportunity to move our conference to a new venue.*

**T**hree years ago, WRWA started planning for our Annual Technical Conference to come back to Green Bay. After many meetings and a few tours of the Resch Expo Center, the WRWA Events Committee and Board of Directors decided to move our conference back to Green Bay.

The WRWA staff were excited about the challenge and opportunity to move our conference to a new venue. There are always 'bumps in the road,' but with a new venue, it was expected. The booth layout was something new to us as we had so many options. Placing the Sportsman's Raffle in the Center we felt was the best way to have more attendees flow past more exhibitors. And every booth in the room was no more than 70 steps from the raffle.

The Resch Expo Center offered large exhibit space all in one area. There was room for large pieces of equipment to be displayed in the same area as the rest of exhibitor booths. There was plenty of free parking in the shadows of Lambeau Field. Titledown was a short walk away as well as the hotels and restaurants.

Hundreds and hundreds of water and wastewater operators from the tri-state area gathered in Green Bay, WI to learn about new and

upcoming regulations and funding opportunities from USDA, DNR and PSC, new technologies, network with peers and sales representatives sharing advice and stories from their past.

A special 'thank you' to the DNR for having a dedicated booth for assisting operators with setting up their new MyWisconsinIDs.

The technical sessions drew record numbers of attendees as these sessions were conveniently located on the second floor of the complex. The 2nd floor not only offered classes for continuing education but also offered a bird's eye view of the expo center and a great view of Lambeau Field and the Green Bay Packer's training facility, the Hudson Center.

The Sportsman's Raffle is always a hit. That group initiates and organizes one of the largest annual raffles in the state. Nearly 100 prizes were given away as operators and vendors alike donate to support WRWA. Thank you for giving back!

I think we will do it all again next year. Same venue. March 24-27, 2026.

Stay safe. Stay healthy, *Kelly*

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PSC WATER RATE INCREASE ORDERS ISSUED

12/1/2024 – 2/28/2025

UTILITY NAME	ORDER ISSUED	OVERALL% INCREASE
Village of White Lake Water Utility	12/4/24	33.06%
Harmony Grove Sanitary District #1	12/17/24	26.07%
City of Horicon Water Utility	12/19/24	40.07%
New Glarus Light And Water Works	12/20/24	25.17%
Chippewa Falls Department of Public Utilities	12/27/24	19.48%
Fifield Sanitary District	12/27/24	22.26%
Pittsville Municipal Water Utility	12/30/24	67.20%
Troy Center Sanitary District #1	1/2/25	52.12%
Hollandale Water Utility	1/16/25	13.70%
West Allis Municipal Water Utility	1/22/25	10.50%
Almena Municipal Water Utility	1/23/25	73.61%
River Falls Municipal Utility	1/24/25	56.17%
Beaver Dam Water Utility	1/27/25	33.92%
City of Prescott Municipal Water Utility	2/3/25	85.95%
Village of Blue Mounds Municipal Water Utility	2/14/25	72.44%
Laona Sanitary District No 1	2/19/25	56.48%
Downsville Sanitary District No 1	2/21/25	17.19%
City of West Bend Water Utility	2/26/25	22.81%

PSC CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATIONS ISSUED

12/1/2024 – 2/28/2025

UTILITY NAME	ORDER ISSUED	CONSTRUCTION COST
Village of Caledonia Water Utility	2/11/25	\$5,557,300
Darlington Municipal Water And Sewer Utility	12/20/24	\$3,068,500
Durand Municipal Water Utility	1/22/25	\$1,000,000
Lannon Municipal Water Utility	1/15/25	\$487,000
Mayville Municipal Water Utility	2/12/25	\$4,627,500
Pulaski Water Department	1/8/25	\$15,373,913
Sheboygan Water Utility	12/16/24	\$3,895,467
Siren Municipal Water Utility	2/3/25	\$2,234,000
Troy Center Sanitary District #1	1/24/25	\$23,000
City of Waukesha Water Utility	1/7/25	\$25,369,599
Waunakee Water And Light Commission	2/19/25	\$6,000,000
West Allis Municipal Water Utility	2/3/25	\$881,475



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2,501 – 6,000	\$505
6,001 – 10,000	\$575
Over 10,000	\$650
Associate	\$670
Corporate	\$1,660
Corporate Gold	\$3,000

### JOURNAL ADVERTISING RATES

Black & White Advertising	MEMBER		NON-MEMBER	
	1-Time	Yearly	1-Time	Yearly
Full page	\$430	\$1,555	\$575	\$1,970
Half page	\$315	\$1,130	\$395	\$1,265
Quarter page	\$215	\$800	\$270	\$860
Business card	\$160	\$575	\$200	\$600

Color Advertising	MEMBER		NON-MEMBER	
	1-Time	Yearly	1-Time	Yearly
Inside front cover	\$670	\$2,430	NA	NA
Outside back cover	\$800	\$2,540	NA	NA
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

For information on advertising & the benefits of membership at the different levels, please contact Renee at the WRWA office: 715-344-7778 or [rkoback@wrwa.org](mailto:rkoback@wrwa.org). \*Must be employed by a WRWA system, associate, or corporate member, retired and state or federal employees

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# WWTP Tours

**Jesse Hass,**  
WRWA Wastewater Trainer

The hands-on in-person style of this class allowed for knowledge to be passed on and passed to the people on the tour and to those giving the tour

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**E**arly this winter I was able to try out a new class idea. I had a lot of operators who asked me about what other wastewater treatment plants were like. On occasion I was able to schedule meetups for utilities' operators to visit another wastewater facility. This allowed operators to ask questions from fellow operators. I feel the meetups are a good thing to do, and I try to facilitate as many as I can. The one town visiting another town is beneficial but the class that WRWA put on allowed over 30 operators to tour 3 different wastewater treatment plants in one day. This class had stops in Amherst, Waupaca, and Manawa. Although the plants were near each other, each facility had different processes for treating wastewater.

The day started in Amherst where the operators and I gave a brief rundown of the history of the facility and when major upgrades to the facility had been completed. After the talk, we broke into groups and toured the treatment plant. The attending operators were able to see how Amherst has fine-tuned their treatment process to deal with high strength waste coming in from a local brewery. The brewery sends the treatment plant high strength waste where BOD can exceed 10,000. The treatment plant utilizes biological phosphorus removal through selector tanks and treats with chemical on the back side to help further reduce phosphorus. Amherst has been working with the brewery and the brewery was in the process of installing a pretreatment system to hopefully reduce loading to domestic levels. The attendees were able to tour the treatment facility at the brewery before heading to Waupaca. At Waupaca we met at the newly constructed public works building to do our class session.

During the session in Waupaca, we talked about the history and operations of the Waupaca treatment facility. The group did a quick walkthrough of the public works building where all vehicles are kept including the vac truck for cleaning the collection system. The group then met at the Waupaca Wastewater Treatment Plant for a tour of the

facility. Waupaca also has biological phosphorus selector tanks to aid in phosphorus removal. Waupaca has a heated digester and a belt press to thicken sludge. Waupaca also has a fully operational laboratory where they run BOD, TSS, Phosphorus, Ammonia among other tests. The crew at Waupaca has 4 people dedicated to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. After all groups were done with their tour we met and headed over to the Manawa City Hall.

Manawa had an eventful summer with a flood that broke the dam and flooded out the wastewater treatment plant. During our discussion of the treatment plant at the City Hall, the crew from Manawa was able to show the class how the flood came about and how the group handled the situation. After discussing the treatment plant, the group met to do the final tour. The group was able to see how the plant handled the excessive water and what problems have arisen since the flood. The Manawa facility has benefitted from covered aeration tanks and digestors. Manawa adds ferric chloride to aid in phosphorus removal.

These three tours allowed operators to see different facilities and meet other operators. We had people drive from over 3 hours away to attend the class. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. We will be trying to do more of these types of classes in the future. Whether it be checking out 3 or 4 facilities in one day or touring one facility at the end of class day. The hands-on in-person style of this class allowed for knowledge to be passed on and passed to the people on the tour and to those giving the tour. It is a great benefit to any operator to see how other utilities run and how other treatment plants work. The next 3-plant tour will most likely be in Southeast Wisconsin in June sometime. And I will be looking for another group to do in the fall. If you are interested in hosting and have a couple of other plants within 15 to 20 minutes of your facility, please reach out. I believe any operations specialist can gain valuable knowledge and experience from attending and/or hosting one of these classes. *Jesse*

# OPERATOR CERTIFICATION

## "Exam Review"

### OTM/NN SMALL WATER SYSTEMS 2025

Hello Everyone,

Today I would like to remind you that we still have lots of opportunities to obtain your small water systems operator certification if you have not taken a review class or received any training.

A "certified operator" is an individual who has met the requirements of chapter NR 114 Wisconsin administrative code and has been issued a certificate by the DNR to work at a water system. **Remember, all OTM/NN public water systems are required to have a certified operator.**

Wisconsin DNR's Operator Certification program will be hosting in-person paper exams coordinated and facilitated by Wisconsin DNR staff in 2025.

Exams will be held approximately four times a month for four months of the year.

Here are the remaining exam review training classes that we at Wisconsin Rural Water Association will be hosting to get you ready to take WI-DNR Small water systems exam.

#### OTM/NN EXAM REVIEW

##### Multiple Dates & Locations in 2025 (4 OTM/NN Credits)

Attendees will become familiar with the "Small Water System Operator Certification Manual" and review the questions at the end of each chapter. Attendees will learn information that will assist them to prepare to take the small (OTM & NN) water system operator certification exam. This class will cover all areas of operation and maintenance of a small water system including the hydrologic cycle, water chemistry, water system regulations, water contamination & treatment and water system components.

**All Classes will be held from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

#### Class Dates:

**April 15, 2025- Chippewa Falls** – Lake Hallie Municipal Building, 13136 30th Avenue, Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

**June 26, 2025- Plover** – WRWA Technology Center, 351 Water Way, Plover, WI 54467

**September 16, 2025 – Virtual**

**October 7, 2025 – Virtual**

**Prerequisite:** \*All attendees will need a copy of the January 2019 edition of the "Small Water System Operator Certification Manual" prior to the class. The manual can be obtained on the DNR website.

**Speakers:** WRWA Staff

Please register online if you are interested in attending any of the following training at [www.wrwa.org](http://www.wrwa.org)

Thank you for reading everyone! Remember we at Wisconsin Rural Water Association are always happy to assist with any technical issues you may be having with your water system. Please contact your nearest WI-DNR Representative or Wisconsin Rural Water Association Circuit Rider with any questions.

**George Taylor, Small Water System Circuit Rider**  
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# HYDRANT FLUSHING

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

Keep in mind that WRWA has loaner valve wrenches for all utilities to use.

**H**ello once again as we bid goodbye to winter and welcome in spring we have long waited for with open arms. Pull out the motorcycles, boats, fishing poles and bikes, and golf clubs. Dust them off, get them ready for another summer.

Before we know it (hopefully), we will be dusting off our hydrant wrenches, loading those, diffusers, hose, and valve wrenches, and system maps in the work trucks to go off to yet another great adventure of hydrant flushing to flush out the distribution system. The sure sign of spring. No matter what the ground hog says.

It is recommended to have the distribution valves in good working order before flushing. Distribution valves are provided to isolate areas in the distribution system. A complete program of inspection, exercising, and maintenance of valves on a regular basis can help avoid serious problems when the need to use a valve arises.

Operators should know exactly where to go to shut off any valves at any time in case of a main break or other emergency. When a main break does occur, crews often experience problems in finding the valves whose locations are marked incorrectly on system maps. Other problems include valves that won't close or open after they are located. Time is wasted looking for valves and after finding them getting them to operate.

Routine valve inspections should include:

- Verify the accuracy of the location of the valve boxes on the distribution map. Make all corrections on the map right away.

- After removing the valve box cover, inspect the stem and top nut for any obvious damage or leaking. Clean out the valve box ring of debris and road sediment for a better seat. Blue paint can be applied to the valve box cover for ease of locating and help keep track of the inspection being complete.
- Close the valve fully, then record the number of turns to the fully closed position.
- Reopen the valve to restore system flows.

Exercising (opening and closing) a valve should be done at the same time the valve inspection is made. It is recommended that a valve never be left in a fully open position. After fully opening the valve, turn it back one to two turns. When closing a valve be careful not to close the valve too tight. It could damage the valve or valve seat causing the valve to potentially leak.

Per DNR code, distribution valves should be operated a minimum of two to four years. Hydrant valves every seven. Planned valve exercising verifies valve locations, determines whether or not the valve works, and extends the life of the valve by cleaning encrustations from the valve seat and gates. Any valves that do not close or open should be replaced. Valves that leak around the stem should be re-packed. Valves should be exercised in both directions. Fully closed and fully opened, number of turns and direction of operation to be documented. If you have a valve in the system that operates in a direction opposite to what is standard in the system, make sure that it is documented. The condition of the valve packing, stem, operating nut should be recorded.

Valves can be operated either manually or by power. Manual operating can be labor intensive and slow, time consuming and costly. Various power equipment is available which will cut valve operating time considerably. Most types of power equipment are portable, fast, and efficient and can be powered by a portable air compressor, electric generator, or gas engine. A power valve operator can also be used to accurately count the number of turns to open or close a valve. Keep in mind that WRWA has loaner valve wrenches for all utilities to use. Just contact a Circuit Rider and they can get one to you.

One of the most important factors in maintaining distribution system valves are the availability of current and correct maps of the distribution system. Verify often that it is accurate and keep the map up to date by immediately recording any changes such as replacements or additions.

Construction projects require constant attention from operators to make sure that valves are not lost. Valve boxes can be graded over or covered with pavement. Use caution when using reference points for locating valves as center lines of roads, curb lines, trees all are subject change. Changed measurements need to be documented on valve record forms.

Distribution valves are the key components of the water system. It is cost effective to keep them operable so that they are there when you need them.

Good luck in hydrant flushing this spring. May all go well. For those of you who made it to our conference this year. It was good to see you. Hope you learned a ton and had a little fun also in Green Bay. See you this summer!

*Annie*

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# Wisconsin Groundwater Model Teacher Workshops



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

The workshops are a joint effort between Wisconsin DNR, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and UW-Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science and Education.

Every year WRWA helps to educate teachers about groundwater by participating in a series of groundwater model teacher workshops. The workshops are a joint effort between Wisconsin DNR, Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and UW-Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science and Education. The workshops focus on training teachers how to use a sand tank groundwater model to teach about groundwater but also includes an overview of general groundwater principles, specifics on Wisconsin's groundwater and information on other resources available to teachers.

With groundwater supplying drinking water to a majority of Wisconsin, understanding where their drinking water comes from and how to protect it is very important. The sand tank groundwater model offers a "slice" or cross-section representation of our groundwater aquifers. Educators and students can use the model to demonstrate a variety of groundwater flow principles, including water table levels, how

groundwater supplies are replenished, how groundwater flows through different geologic materials, and how contaminants from a variety of sources can leak into groundwater. The model also contains "wells" which can be used to show the effects of pumping on the groundwater flow system. The sand tank model is an invaluable tool for helping visualize groundwater flow and educators that attend the workshop are given a model to take back to their schools or nature centers. WRWA has a sand tank groundwater model that we use for giving classroom presentations, but we are limited in how many we can do each year. The teacher workshop provides access to a sand tank groundwater model for a much broader audience.

Any Wisconsin teacher, naturalist or other educator who teaches about groundwater is eligible to attend the workshop. The first step is applying, which can be done at the UW-Stevens Point Center for Watershed Science and Education website. The competitive application selection



process ranks applicants based on suitability. Around 20 applicants are invited to attend one of the training one-day workshops each year. Teachers are even offered reimbursement for the school to hire a substitute teacher for the day. These groundwater model workshops have been going on since 2001, meaning more than 300 schools and nature centers have received training through the program!

If you know an educator who might be interested in attending a groundwater model teacher workshop they can find information at: <https://www3.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/watershed/Pages/GroundwaterModelWorkshop.aspx> or on the DNR's website: <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/education/groundwater>.

Of course, they can also reach out to me as well and I can point them in the right direction. Andrew Aslesen, WRWA Source Water Specialist at [Aaslesen@wrwa.org](mailto:Aaslesen@wrwa.org) or call 715-321-3451.

*Andrew*

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# HEATING COSTS IN WISCONSIN

**Matt Rettler,**  
*WRWA Energy Efficiency Circuit Rider*

*The most common heating sources for municipal buildings consist of natural gas, propane, and electricity.*

---

As winter slips away to spring, I wanted to reflect on the costs to heat in Wisconsin. Heating is a critical component for many water and wastewater structures in Wisconsin winters. We can experience long spells of cold weather making it essential to choose an energy source that balances efficiency, cost, and convenience. The most common heating sources for municipal buildings consist of natural gas, propane, and electricity. I will compare the cost differences between these energy sources so that you can make an informed decision for your next project.

Natural gas is the most used heating source in Wisconsin, and for a good reason. It tends to be more affordable than both propane and electricity. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, natural gas prices in Wisconsin typically hover between \$7 and \$10 per thousand cubic feet of product, though this can fluctuate with the market. On average, natural gas furnaces have an efficiency rating of 90% which means that approximately 90% of the gas purchased is converted into heat. In terms of heating costs, natural gas typically runs at an average price of \$0.80-\$1.00 per therm (100,000 BTUs).

Depending on building size and insulation value, a typical small building can be heated for \$400 to \$1000 per year.

Propane is another popular choice as a heating option, particularly in rural areas. Propane is stored in tanks and delivered from local vendors, which typically makes it a more expensive option over natural gas due to these storage and delivery fees. The cost of propane can vary significantly based on market conditions and even across the state at any single time. Most often you will see the cost of propane between \$1.75-\$3.50 per gallon in Wisconsin. Propane furnaces are, on average, 90% efficient just as the natural gas furnaces are, however, propane typically provides fewer BTUs than natural gas. When you compare the same heating output (million BTUs), propane is almost twice as expensive. This can cost \$700 to \$2,000 to heat the same building as compared to natural gas.

Electric heat is the least popular in Wisconsin but still widely used. Electric resistance heating (baseboard heaters, space heaters, or electric furnaces) are straight forward and easy to install. However, they are also the most expensive heating option available. The average cost of electricity in Wisconsin is approximately \$0.12 per kilowatt-hour (kWh), which is relatively low compared to the national average. A resistance heater typically has an efficiency of 100%, which means it converts all electricity to heat, but is much less efficient than gas heaters. An electric heater can consume 10-15kWh per hour of electricity to heat the same space as the above examples. This makes yearly operating costs for an electric heater to be far greater than both the gas options. Heating the same space can cost \$1,500 to \$4,000 for electricity.

There are many factors that influence the decision regarding a heating source. The biggest factor may be location. If natural gas or propane are not available, the only option left is electricity. The next biggest factor may be initial installation costs and ease of installation. It is typically more expensive to install a natural gas furnace with hookup to gas lines than it is to hook up baseboard heat. Ultimately, the best choice for each village may not be the cheapest initial installation, but a factor of many items including location, building size, installation costs, energy prices, and overall efficiency of the system. Maintenance of your system is another key aspect to the long-term efficiency of the system. Heating, along with every other purchase decision, needs to be looked at more than just the initial cost, but cost over the lifetime of the equipment.

Stay warm! *Matt*

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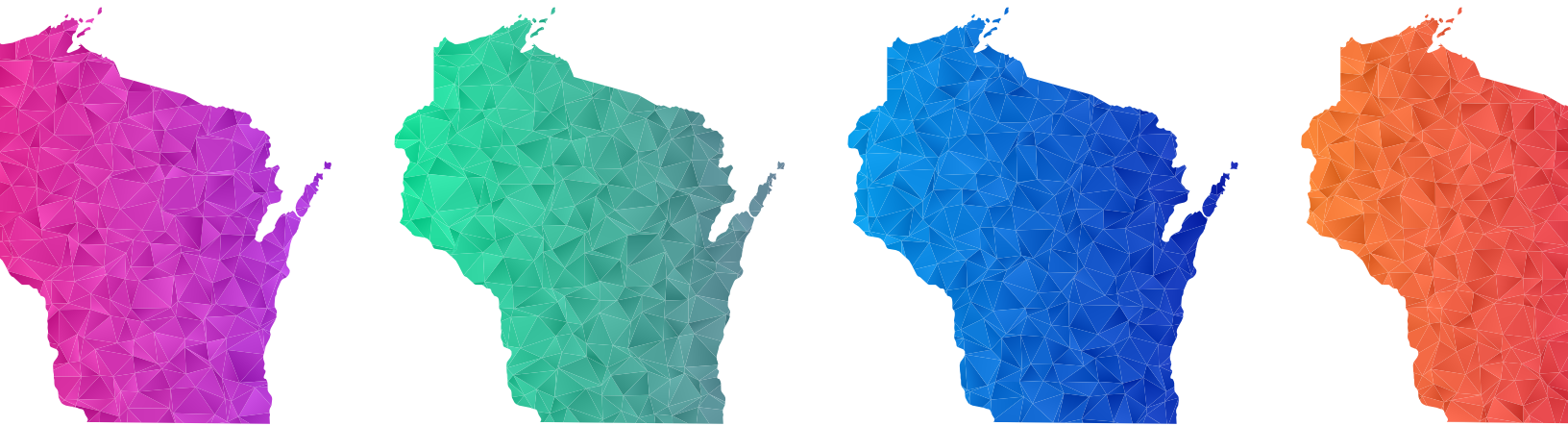
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# My Wisconsin ID

**Todd Weich,**  
WRWA Water Circuit Rider

The new MyWisconsin ID will allow users to securely access various participating online state services using one user ID and password.

It's that time of year when the weather is changing and so is your sign-in account with the DNR. The DNR will be implementing a new sign-in that will replace your WAMS account. The new system is called MyWisconsin ID. The new MyWisconsin ID will allow users to securely access various participating online state services using one user ID and password. Your workflow for entering your reports does not change, **ONLY** the log-in process. This process is to enhance security features. Some of the enhanced security features that have changed are that you will no longer be able to share your account. First, each authorized user will need to get their own MyWisconsin ID account. Secondly, there will be the need for multi-factor authentication to verify your identity each time you log in. Therefore, shared accounts will not be possible. Also, if you forget your username or password the DNR will no longer be able to help reset it. Unfortunately, any recovery of that information will need to go through the State of Wisconsin IT department.

However, you will continue to use WAMS account until you are asked to use MyWisconsin ID account information. You can get a jump start and create your MyWisconsin ID account ahead of time if you wish. I strongly suggest doing so to prevent any disruption in your monthly reporting. To do so, you can self-register for MyWisconsin ID at: [https://det.wi.gov/pages/mywisconsin\\_ID\\_Self\\_Registration.aspx](https://det.wi.gov/pages/mywisconsin_ID_Self_Registration.aspx)

The timeline is as follows:

- May 2025 for Certified Operators and County contractors
- Late Spring / Summer 2025 for Well Drillers and Pump installers
- June 2025 for Laboratory staff.

**WASTEWATER OPERATORS:** your MyWisconsin ID will not transition until 2026. So yes, if you are the operator for both Water and Wastewater you will need to navigate both systems; MyWisconsin ID and WAMS.

There will be a temporary switchboard change because DNR switchboard applications are migrating to MyWisconsin ID at different times. You will need to determine whether you should log in through MyWisconsin ID or WAMS. On the Switchboard webpage, look for the bullet point with the system you want to log into. It will either be located under the section that indicates you should sign in through MyWisconsin ID or WAMS.

Each time a system switches from WAMS to MyWisconsin ID it is important that users link their MyWisconsin ID to their WAMS data.

When prompted, users should click 'transfer' and enter their old WAMS login information so their WAMS data and roles can be linked to MyWisconsin ID. **IMPORTANT:** Facilities that previously shared a WAMS account should coordinate who will 'transfer' the WAMS data. Coordination is important because the WAMS data can only be claimed once by one user only.


If users previously bookmarked the WAMS page, you may see a link redirecting you to the switchboard page. These changes are temporary until all DNR systems have migrated to MyWisconsin ID.

If you have any questions, please visit the MyWisconsin FAQ webpage for answers to common questions, contact the MyWisconsin ID account service desk at 608-471-6667, or email [DNRDGPrivateWaterWebSupport@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRDGPrivateWaterWebSupport@wisconsin.gov).

DNR GovDelivery messages will be notified when the transition to MyWisconsin ID has happened. So please do not ignore the GovDelivery emails.

Additionally, this account is not related to those who have GoWild account to purchase recreational activities.

Keep an eye out for these upcoming changes coming soon. As always, reach out to your WRWA Circuit Rider with any questions! *Todd*



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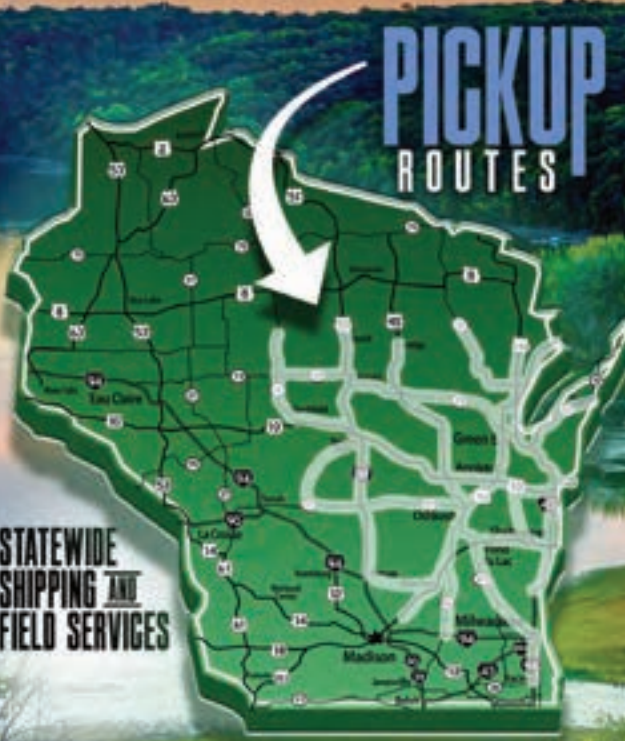
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# PSC TARIFFS

Dan Wundrow,  
WRWA Circuit Rider

*I encourage all of you to look at the tariff for your system*

In my last article, I discussed the annual PSC report. This article will discuss PSC tariffs, a legal document specific to your system that is subject to review by the PSC and, in some cases, the courts. This also sets forth the obligations of both parties involved, the utility and the customer. The utility cannot change the rates with the existing tariff. Rates can be changed with a rate case study and PSC review. All tariffs are available to the public at any time on the PSC website. Here is the website: <https://apps.psc.wi.gov/RATES/tariffs/default.aspx>

Many of you are very familiar with your tariff, which is excellent. As an operator, you should know what is in this legal document, which you shall follow. I used the word **SHALL** for a reason. This word often appears within the tariff and indicates that specific actions are mandatory. **It is illegal not to follow the tariffs.** Again, no breaks or lower rates exist for any water utility customers.

The first two pages of your tariff are the public (PFP) (F-1) and private fire protection (Ufp-1) services sheets. The utility will charge for public fire protection. The municipality has three options for recovering the fire protection cost charges for the PFP: on the water bill and non-customers per Wis. Stat. § 196.03(3)(b); the municipality can pay for the

PFP charge and recover it through property taxes; or the municipality can elect to pay a portion of PFP charges with the balances being made up through direct charges to the customers. All tariffs will state which is being considered. The second part is private fire protection. This is the charge for using private fire protection such as automatic sprinkler systems, standpipes, and private fire hydrants. You shall charge them based on the size of the connection to the water system.

The General Service-Metered (Mg-1) page indicates your monthly or quarterly meter charge based on the size of the meter and the cost per unit of water. Some systems are set up pre 1000 gallons per 100 cubic feet. I find this page extremely helpful when discussing potential lost revenue with a significant water leak or loss or in discussion with a system with a large population still on private wells. Also included on this sheet are the billing information, late fees, and combined metering.

The Other Charges (OC-1) sheet contains different things you can charge for. The most typical item on this sheet is that non-sufficient funds shall be assessed at a set rate. This will vary depending on your system and what you and the PSC set.

*Continued on page 26*

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The Public Service (Mpa-1) sheet contains metered and unmetered services for public use. Water used by the municipality for flushing sewers, street cleaning, skating rinks, drinking fountains, swimming pools, etc., shall be billed at the set on the General Service Meter sheet (Mg-1). The same shall apply for unmetered water service, apart from the utility shall estimate the water used based on the pressure, size, and time frame of the water used, excluding any service charge.

I have had more questions from system leaders about the Seasonal Service (Sg-1) sheet than one would think. Depending on what is in your tariff, you shall charge the customer for the monthly or quarterly charges for the meter service, even if the meter has been pulled from the house. Upon the return/reconnection of the customer, the utility shall apply any charges under the Reconnection Charge schedule (R-1). This schedule is what a utility shall assess for the reconnection of a customer. Typically, there are two rates: regular and after business hours.

The Bulk Water (BW-1) talks about what a system shall charge for the water used by a customer, along with applicable meter service charges when needed. There is a hydrant hook-up fee associated with it as well. This will vary from system to system. The PSC allows the system to decide how the utility bills the hook-up fee pre-day, pre-week, month, quarter, job, or pre-load. There is a catch: once the utility determines how it will charge the hydrant hook-up fee, it must consistently apply the charge to everyone. No exceptions. Drafting and keeping a policy within the policy manual or the service rules is advised.

The next couple of pages are self-explanatory. I won't dive deep into them. Instead, I'll touch on a few of the key ones I have dealt with.

Water for construction seems like a small item, but it is also essential. An application must be filed with the utility stating the amount of construction work done, the size of the tank filling, and other such items. No connection with the service lateral at the curb stop shall be made without the application being on file. This also means that no utility personnel may turn the water on for construction if the application is not on file.

The following two are problems that most people have had or are currently dealing with: the use of hydrants and the unauthorized use of valves and hydrants. There is always one contractor that will take water from a hydrant without asking or claiming they got permission from someone at the water department, even though that person has been gone for years. Within the tariff under the operating rules, permission has to be granted by the water utility, proper metering and valving must be installed, and payment must be made before any water can be taken from a hydrant. If none of that is done, this will be classified as unauthorized use of valves and hydrants and is subject to a fine as provided by municipal ordinance. The only exception is for extinguishing fires.

I could go on more about the tariff sheets, but my article would be as long as reading the tariff. There are some good things about water utility operating rules for the new operators and clerks. I encourage all of you to look at the tariff for your system. This will help with some questions or issues you may currently have. If you need help understanding any of it, you can reach out to the PSC or ask one of your Water Circuit Riders for advice. *Dan*

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# ORTHO/POLYPHOSPHATES: USES AND BENEFITS

Seth Petersen,  
WRWA EPA Water Technician/Training Specialist

Utilities that use ortho/polyphosphates should review their methods before summer

Orthophosphates and polyphosphates are widely used in Wisconsin drinking water systems to prevent corrosion, control scale formation, and sequester iron and manganese. Utilities that use ortho/polyphosphates should review their methods before summer and the water main and hydrant flushing season begins. This article discusses the role of phosphates in drinking water treatment and their associated benefits and potential consequences.

## ROLE OF POLYPHOSPHATES IN DRINKING WATER TREATMENT

Wisconsin drinking water systems incorporate ortho/polyphosphates to minimize the release of metals into drinking water and to manage iron and manganese levels.

- **Orthophosphate** is primarily used for lead and copper corrosion control by forming stable compounds that remain in solid form, reducing their dissolution into water. The effectiveness of orthophosphate depends on factors such as concentration, pH, dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC), and existing corrosion scale composition.
- **Polyphosphates** are utilized for sequestering iron and manganese, preventing discolored water. However, they are ineffective in controlling lead and copper corrosion.
- **Blended phosphates** combine orthophosphate and polyphosphate, offering both sequestration and corrosion control benefits.

## OPTIMAL USE AND CONSIDERATIONS

The typical concentration of ortho/polyphosphates in water systems ranges from **0.5 to 3.0 mg/L**, with maintenance levels typically between **1.0 and 2.0 mg/L**. Concentrations exceeding 3.0 mg/L provide minimal additional benefits and may lead to unwanted side effects, such as:

- **Digestive issues** for consumers.
- **Pipe scouring**, which may inadvertently increase lead and copper leaching into drinking water. Pipe scouring can also lead to “dirty” water as scale and deposits are removed from water mains leading to customer complaints and longer hydrant flushing times.

## Conclusion

Polyphosphates are useful for maintaining clean and efficient drinking water systems by providing corrosion control, scale prevention, and sequestration. When used correctly, ortho/polyphosphates are highly effective water treatment chemicals. However, careful management is necessary to avoid negative consequences. For guidance on proper phosphate use, water system operators are encouraged to contact their **WRWA Water Technician or Circuit Riders** for assistance.

Seth

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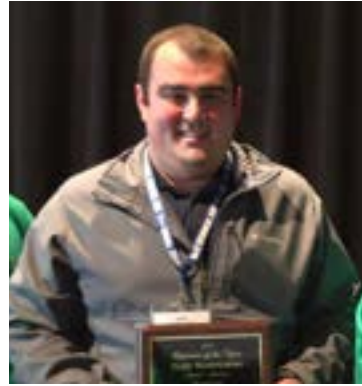
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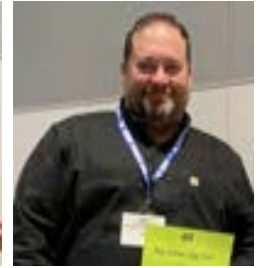
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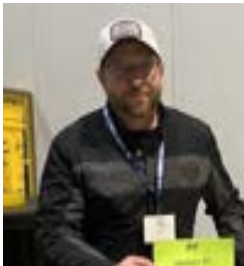
**Tom Hupp**  
Smith & Wesson 686  
Deluxe 357 Mag  
Martelle Water



**Riley Raschein**  
Scent Crusher Roller Bag  
and Boot Dryer  
Energeneccs



**Sarah Nunn**  
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Northern Lake Service, Inc



**Chad Smith**  
Generator #3  
Core and Main



**Paul Schafer**  
iPower 2300Watt Portable  
Generator (gas powered)  
Robert E. Lee &  
Associates, Inc.



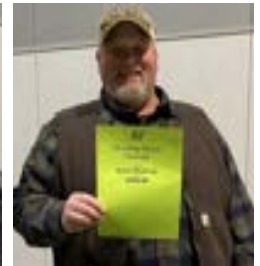
**Alan Kunz**  
Savage Model 93 .22  
WMR Rifle  
Ridgeline Utility Co.



**Lee Anderson**  
Vortex Spotting Scope,  
Binoculars, & Accessories  
Tri-County Waterworks



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**Kris August**  
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er, Electric Filet Knife, Etc.)  
NEO



**Gabe Steinagel**  
Vortex Diamondback  
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L&S Electric



**Michael Hesseliaik**  
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**Matt Stephan**  
Electric Grinder Bundle  
WWWP



**Jack Harrington**  
JBL Xtreme 3 Speaker  
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.270 Browning XB2  
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**Joseph Hoban**  
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**Jim Geibel**  
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**Eric Jacobs**  
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**Scott Popelka**  
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M12 Heated Jacket  
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**Matt Beekman**  
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Cabela's Gift Card  
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## RAFFLE WINNERS NOT PICTURED

**Jeff Erickson** - St. Croix Spinning Rod, Pflueger Spinning Reel, Tackle Box, Etc., Visu-Sewer, LLC

**Chris Murphy** - 75" Big Screen TV with Sound Bar, Adaptor Inc.

**Christopher Clark** - 30-06 Savage 334, LW Allen

**Matthew Mace** - Leupold Scope, VX-3HD, 3.5-10x40 CDS-ZL, Sensus (A Xylem Brand)

**John Schoen** - YETI Hopper M30 Tote Soft Cooler, 2 - YETI 20 oz Tumblers, \$50 Cabela's Gift Card, Donohue & Associates

**Mike Preibe** - Coach Purse & Wine, Mid City Corporation

**Bart Lehman** - 12 Gauge Franchi, Municipal Well and Pump

**Andy Santi** - Ginger Worx Custom Forged Hunting Knife, Sherwin-Williams Co.

**Lori Anderson** - St. Croix Legend Elite 8'6" Musky Rod, Ridgeline Utility Co.

**Jeff Erickson** - Tactical Earmuffs & Range Finder, Serwe Implement

**Jon Witter** - Takin the cash towards one of the toys!



**THANK  
YOU FOR  
JOINING US!**

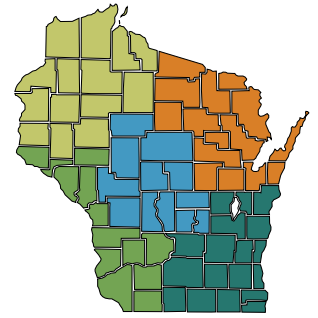
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# 2025 ICE FISHEREE WINNERS

## Annual Ice Fisheree - Fox Lake January 29-30, 2025



A day of fun and relaxation. Our annual event is sponsored by many of our Business members for operators to get on the ice and compete for the chance to win the extremely coveted WRWA Golden Minnow Pail!

The winning team, **West Bend Crew (sponsored by Core & Main-Allan Kunz)** is pictured above. A 10 panfish total of 7.4 pounds took the trophy!

### Other winners:

Northern: Jack Adams-32-1/4"

Walleye: Craig Schroeder-27-3/4"

Bass: Ton Tietz-18-1/4"

Rough Fish: Tom Tietz-1.1 Pounds-Shiners

## Annual Ice Fisheree - Chetek February 6 & 7, 2025



A day of fun and relaxation for our friends and Operators in northern Wisconsin. This annual event is sponsored by many of our Business members for operators to get on the ice and compete for the chance to win the extremely coveted Northern Wisconsin WRWA Golden Minnow Pail!

The winning team, **sponsored by Crane Engineering** is pictured above. A 10 panfish total of 3.6 pounds took the trophy!

### Other winners:

Northern: Drew Lindh-25-1/2"

Walleye: Brent Burdick-19" & 21"

Bass: Jeremy Boe-16-1/4"

**WRWA Classifieds** is now online. Check us out: [www.wrwa.org/classifieds/](http://www.wrwa.org/classifieds/)







# What is a Silver Tsunami?

**Brooke Klingbeil,**  
WRWA EPA Wastewater Technician

...we all recognize how crucial the water and wastewater industry is, yet we're facing a big challenge: we expect to lose 30-50% of our workforce as they retire in the next ten years.

I hope everyone had a wonderful winter and managed to take some time off for spring break. I was lucky enough to spend a week in Arizona with my parents and family, enjoying some Brewers baseball, hiking, and plenty of sunshine! It gave me a little taste of what retirement might feel like—though that's still about 40 years away for me. Speaking of retirement... we all recognize how crucial the water and wastewater industry is, yet we're facing a big challenge: we expect to lose 30-50% of our workforce as they retire in the next ten years. We need to urgently find new ways to attract young talent to keep our essential services running. Reflecting on my own start in this industry with little to no qualifications for wastewater operations, I was fortunate to have experienced mentors who guided me before they retired. However, many won't have this chance as the looming "silver tsunami" could strip us of experienced workers faster than we can replace them, making it essential to recruit young people.

As college tuition continues to soar (considering my hefty \$26,436.16 cost for just two years finishing a bachelor's degree), many young people are exploring alternatives to traditional four-year college degrees. Careers in trades, like those in our industry, offer rewarding, well-paying, and crucial

jobs that serve our communities—perfect for the new generation seeking meaningful work!

Job postings in public works or utilities, such as those on the WRWA website, often list preferred qualifications like a Wisconsin driver's license, a high school diploma, some work experience, and specific certifications. However, employers should not overlook candidates without direct experience in water or wastewater treatment. Think about the untapped potential in our own backyard—Wisconsin is full of farm kids who excel in technical education and have hands-on skills like engine repair, which is quite similar to fixing pumps and other various process equipment in our industry. There is considerable value in diverse work backgrounds, and candidates often have ample time to obtain necessary certifications after being hired. Relevant experience and skills in other fields can provide a solid foundation for a successful career in water and wastewater treatment, and such candidates should not be discounted.

One action every wastewater treatment plant manager should take is to call your local high school. Ask about their mentorship programs which allow seniors to spend 1-2 hours during the school day with

professionals, exploring careers they're interested in. These aren't paid positions, so they pair well with constrained budgets, and they offer invaluable experience. During my time in Medford, I had the privilege of mentoring two remarkable young women in our laboratory through the mentorship program. By the semester's end, they were well-acquainted with the practices of our wastewater laboratory and actively participated in the plant's operations. One of the students was even brought on board for summer employment, which provided much-needed assistance to our team during a monitoring study. Both students have decided to further their studies in engineering and environmental science at Virginia Tech and Winona State University, respectively. However, it's important to remember that not everyone aims for higher education.

In Wisconsin, organizations like the Cooperative Education Service Agency (CESA) 6 have successfully connected high school students with local utilities, providing invaluable real-world experience through apprenticeships. To be eligible to offer a youth apprenticeship, employers must meet certain criteria: the position must be paid at least the minimum wage and involve a minimum of 450 hours, which are distributed over the summer and the school year. Specifically, 200 hours can be completed during the summer, with the remaining 250 hours extending throughout the school year. This setup requires some flexibility in scheduling to accommodate the program's requirements.

If your municipality is in a position to offer an apprenticeship, I strongly encourage you to consider learning more about CESA 6 and getting involved as an employer. You can find additional information by visiting the

Youth Apprenticeship section on the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development's website at <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/apprenticeship/>. Here, you can search by school district or directly contact the state YA staff. Moreover, feel free to reach out to me, and I'll provide you with resources that can help determine if the YA program is a suitable fit for your needs!

As we consider the future of our industry and the pressing need for new talent, let's commit to not just filling positions, but to creating opportunities that will shape careers and lives. By investing in apprenticeships and mentorship programs, we aren't just covering gaps; we're building a foundation for the next generation of water and wastewater professionals. Let's all try and do our part to ensure that our efforts today can turn into career-defining opportunities for someone tomorrow! *Brooke*







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 **Engineering Services**

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# UP THE CREEK

## A RIVER FLOAT

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

Weekends come and go way too fast. But when time off from work arrives, like the rest of you, our family tries to make the best of every minute. That was certainly the case that weekend a few years ago. A boat ride, birthday celebration, tree planting, visitors and building benches filled a good portion of our plate for two days.

A float down the river is a lazy way to spend an afternoon and unless you're in a hurry, it's a grand way to blend together one's mind and body. That's the way it was for me on opening day of the fishing season that Saturday - a three and a half hour drift down a few miles of the Wisconsin River. My craft was a ten-foot Jon boat - one I purchased as a teenager more than fifty years ago - a vessel that has taken me on many adventures over the years. Besides the Wisconsin, we have traveled as one down rivers like the Fox, the Mississippi, the Rock and the Chippewa. As far as lakes go, there's just too many to list.

My weekend journey began at the dam below the Dubay flowage and ended near the slough that takes water from our creek. A handful of fishermen were working the waters below the dam, taking an occasional fish, or two as I passed by. The Wisconsin is a walleye factory and its waters contain most species of fish known to exist in our state - including of late, an impressive showing of sturgeon and catfish. More recently, much to the surprise and dismay of fish managers, white bass have taken hold above the dam.

Did you know our state was named after this inspiring river? The largest and longest river in our state, it stretches nearly 430 miles and passes through the heart of many communities - all owing their existence to the watercourse itself. While my journey just scratched the surface, it followed a large portion of the eastern edge of our township. On the map and as the crow flies, my trip covered less than four miles. Crisscrossing from bank to bank, like a bird dog searching a woodlot for a partridge, my final mileage was a bit longer. Meandering allowed me to explore a few backwater sloughs and observe some feathered residents of the waterway. A pair of islands, downstream from the dam, insisted that I pay them a visit and it was there that a half dozen spotted sandpipers put on quite a show. Several pairs of belted kingfishers greeted me with reservations as I floated past their

deep burrows in the steep, high banks near Deer Island. Their loud, harsh clatter sounded a warning - perhaps as I approached too closely to their nests. They went back to fishing, diving repeatedly head-first into the water. Maybe they were busy gathering food for their newly hatched young - who were waiting up to eight feet deep in their bank side nests.

I rowed across the river, only to interrupt an immature bald eagle, who was also fishing - sending it on its way south, where it met up with a pair of white-headed adults, no doubt the parents. Their nest, a half-mile west, and the dam, a half mile north, keep the family in the neighborhood year-round. Hunting will intensify as this year's young get older and hungrier. Occasionally, they'll fly over our place on the creek and perhaps, as in the past, may snatch a fish from one of our ponds.

A backwater slough held wood ducks, mallards and a great blue heron, which rounded out the short checklist of birds spotted that day. With the wind at my face, I rowed past a dead tree, hollowed out by time and woodpeckers. Something white caught my eye in a hole towards the top. A sun-bleached skull of a raccoon rested in the opening, as if the furbearer had fallen asleep while gazing over its beloved river bottom. Faded fur peeked over its back, revealing an identity, I snapped some pictures while floating by - and contemplated the story behind the animal's demise - then named that spot forever in my mind "coon skull point".

My river float ended, but not the weekend. Day two was my birthday. With no plans or expectations, the day blossomed like the new trilliums in the woods. From waking up to a phone call from number one son, who at the time was attending graduate school out east, to the secret plans the boss had in store for me - a perfect day evolved. Number two son arrived and spent the day - building Leopold benches and planting three hundred wildlife shrubs along a new fencerow. Steaks on the grill and neighbors stopping by for a chat, rounded out a great weekend that began with a simple, old fashioned float down a lazy river - reliving the distant memory of a much younger boy and his faithful Jon boat.

## ANNOUNCING BOOK RELEASE



I'm pleased to reveal my fourth book,  
**COUNTRY JOURNAL - & OLD MAN'S MUSINGS**  
was released late last year.

In a review by Dan Small, host of Outdoor Wisconsin and contributing editor of Wisconsin Outdoor News, he noted; "In this series of short musings, reminiscent of Aldo Leopold's A Sand County Almanac, Blomberg, with his senses as keen as those of his beloved bird dogs, shares the lessons he has learned from a lifetime of observing the seasonal changes of the natural world."

Country Journal and Old Man's Musings  
Publisher - Ten16Press, Waukesha, Wisconsin  
5.5 x 8.5, Paperback, 140 pages, PRICE: \$14.99

Available from Ten 16 Press,

**www.ten16press.com**

140 pages, paper, \$14.99.

Also available through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and can be ordered through Ingram at most independent book stores.

*\*Autographed copies can be purchased for \$14.99 plus tax and shipping by contacting the author at: 2099 Mayflower Road, Junction City, WI 54443 or by email at: eaupleinekennels@gmail.com.*

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# Ensuring Compliance and Protecting Aquatic Life: A Guide to Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Testing

**Brenda Staudenmaier,**  
*WRWA Training Specialist*

WET testing assesses the combined effects of all potential toxicants in an effluent sample rather than testing for individual contaminants.

As wastewater operators, ensuring that effluent discharges meet regulatory standards is crucial for protecting the environment and maintaining compliance. One essential tool for evaluating the potential harm of wastewater discharges is Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) testing. This bioassay method measures the effects of effluent on aquatic organisms, providing a comprehensive picture of potential toxicity. Understanding the fundamentals of WET testing can help facilities avoid compliance issues, reduce environmental impact, and improve operational efficiency.

What is WET Testing?

WET testing assesses the combined effects of all potential toxicants in an effluent sample rather than testing for individual contaminants. This is achieved by exposing test organisms to a series of diluted effluent samples mixed with receiving water or laboratory water. The results are determined by measuring organism survivability, reproduction, or growth.

## Why WET Testing is Essential

- ✓ Identifies toxicity from multiple sources in wastewater.
- ✓ More cost-effective than testing for individual toxicants separately.
- ✓ Provides quick results, enabling operators to address toxicity issues proactively.

Test Organisms Used in WET Testing

**Two species are commonly used to evaluate effluent toxicity:**

### 1. Fathead Minnow (FHM)

- Native to most of North America.
- Easy to raise in hatcheries.
- Can survive in small water volumes.

### 2. Ceriodaphnia dubia (C. dubia) (Water Fleas)

- Small aquatic crustacean, native to North America.
- Simple to culture and maintain.
- Important food source for many aquatic organisms.

## Types of WET Tests

### 1. Acute WET Tests (Short-Term Toxicity)

- ✦ Measures survivability only over a short duration.
- ✦ Conducted at 20°C using two effluent samples.
- ✦ Test concentrations: 6.25%, 12.5%, 25%, 50%, 100%.
- ✦ Test durations:
  - C. dubia: 48 hours
  - FHM: 96 hours
- ✦ If ≥50% of organisms die in 100% effluent, the test fails.

## 2. Chronic WET Tests (Long-Term Toxicity)

- ◆ Measures survivability, reproduction, or growth over time.
- ◆ Conducted at 25°C using three effluent samples.
- ◆ Test concentrations vary based on the Initial Wastewater Concentration (IWC):
  - IWC ≤ 30% 1%, 3%, 10%, 30%, 100%.
  - IWC > 30% 12.5%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 100%.
- ◆ Test durations:
  - FHM: 7 days (fish are euthanized, dried, and weighed).
  - C. dubia: 6-8 days, or until 80% of control organisms produce three broods.
- ◆ IC25 (Inhibition Concentration) must be higher than IWC to pass.

### Factors That Can Influence Test Results

Several sample characteristics can impact WET test outcomes, including:

- 📌 Temperature
- 📌 Dissolved Oxygen
- 📌 pH
- 📌 Conductivity
- 📌 Hardness & Alkalinity
- 📌 Ammonia & Chlorine Levels

### What Happens if a WET Test Fails?

- Retesting: Two additional tests must be conducted within 90 days.
- If a retest fails, a Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) may be required.
- The facility may be placed on an accelerated testing schedule.



### Common Causes of Failures & Solutions

#### ▲ Ammonia:

- Primarily affects fish.
- More toxic at higher pH levels.
- Can be controlled using CO<sub>2</sub> adjustments.

#### ▲ Chlorine:

- Mainly affects C. dubia.
- Even small amounts can be toxic.
- A dechlorination test can confirm chlorine as the cause.

#### ▲ Polymers:

- Extremely toxic at low doses.
- Overdoses can cause 100% mortality in tests.
- Easily corrected by adjusting polymer usage.

## Best Practices for a Smooth Testing Process

### Sampling Guidelines

- ✓ Regularly clean/replace hoses on samplers.
- ✓ Avoid testing during plant upsets—reschedule if necessary.
- ✓ Confirm whether a grab or composite sample is required.
- ✓ For composite samples, collect over a full 24-hour period.
- ✓ Monitor temperature and pH (important for ammonia control).
- ✓ Collect receiving water (RW) samples upstream of the discharge point.
- ✓ Keep debris and organisms out of RW samples.

### Shipping Guidelines

- ✓ Ground vs. Air Delivery: Choose based on urgency.
- ✓ Hand Delivery: Acceptable if samples arrive in under 4 hours.
- ✓ Temperature Control: Samples must stay below 10°C during transport.
- ✓ Timely Testing: Effluent must be tested within 36 hours of collection.
- ✓ Reporting Requirements
- ✓ Test results must be submitted within 45 days of test completion.

### Conclusion

WET testing is a crucial tool for wastewater treatment facilities to ensure regulatory compliance and protect aquatic ecosystems. By understanding WET testing procedures, common causes of failures, and best practices for sampling and reporting, operators can streamline their testing process and avoid costly violations. Implementing proactive measures will not only help maintain compliance but also contribute to the ongoing mission of preserving water quality for future generations.

Environmental Consulting and Testing, Inc. (EC&T), in partnership with the Wisconsin Rural Water Association, invites you to a hands-on Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) testing tour.

**Location:** Environmental Consulting and Testing, Inc.

**Address:** 1423 North 8th Street, Superior, WI 54880

**Date & Time:** Wednesday, September 3, 2025, at 8 AM

If you would like to stay in a hotel on 9/2, we have a group discount rate of \$93 per night at Barkers Island Inn Resort & Conference Center, 300 Marina Drive Superior, WI 54880 • (715) 392-7152 • [frontdesk@barkersislandinn.com](mailto:frontdesk@barkersislandinn.com)

Tell them you are attending the WRWA event at Environmental Consulting and Testing, Inc and would like the group rate. *Brenda*

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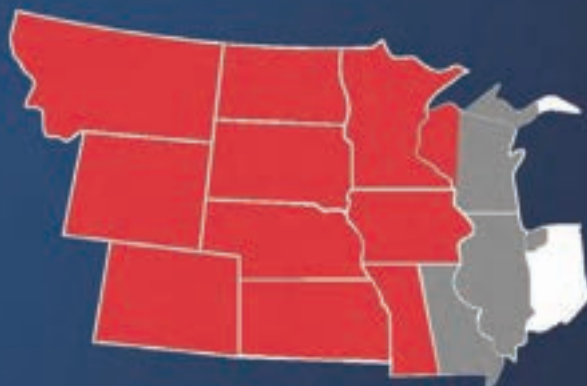
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
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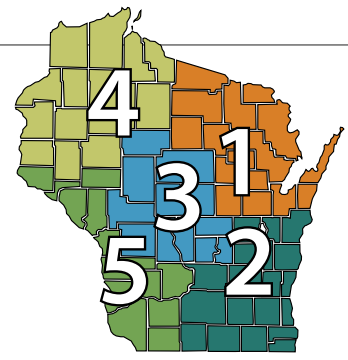
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# WRWA

## 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  
Crandon  
Crivitz  
Dale Sanitary District No. 1  
Darboy Sanitary District #1  
\*De Pere  
Denmark  
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 #1  
Grand Chute  
\*Green Bay  
Greenville Sanitary District  
Gresham  
\*\*Hiawatha Mobile Homes  
Estates  
Hobart  
Holland Sanitary District #1  
Hortonville  
\*Howard  
Iola  
\*Kaukauna  
Kewaunee  
Kimberly  
Krakow Sanitary District #1  
Lake Tomahawk Sanitary  
District No. 1  
Lakeland Sanitary District #1  
\*\*Lakeland Village  
Lakewood Sanitary District #1  
Laona Sanitary District #1  
Lawrence Utility District  
Ledgewiew  
Lena  
Little Chute  
Luxemburg  
Manawa  
\*Marinette  
Marion  
Mattoon

Menominee Tribal  
\*Merrill  
\*\*Merrill Area Public Schools  
\*\*Natural Beauty Growers  
New London  
Niagara  
Nichols  
Oconto  
Oconto Sanitary District #1  
Oconto Falls  
Oneida Nation Utility  
Peshtigo  
Phelps Sanitary District #1  
Pound  
Pulaski  
Rhineland  
Russell Sanitary District #1  
Scandinavia  
Scott  
Seymour  
Shawano  
Shawano Lake Sanitary District #1  
Shiocton  
Sister Bay  
Sokaogon Chippewa  
Community  
Sturgeon Bay  
Suamico  
Suring  
\*\*Three Lakes Northernaire  
Sanitary District  
Three Lakes Sanitary District  
\*\*Thunder Properties, LLC  
Tigerton  
Tomahawk  
Wabeno Sanitary District No. 1  
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  
\*\*Antioch Storage LLC  
Arlington  
Ashippun Sanitary District  
\*\*Asset Development Group Inc.  
\*\*Autumn Ridge Water  
System, LLC  
\*Beaver Dam  
Belgium  
Bellevue  
\*Beloit  
Beloit Sewer Department,  
Town of  
Big Bend  
Black Earth  
Bloomfield

Blue Mounds  
Brandon  
Brillion  
Bristol  
Brodhead  
\*Brookfield, Town of  
Brookfield, City of  
Brooklyn  
Brownsville  
Browntown  
Burlington  
Caledonia Water Utility District  
Cambria  
Cambridge  
Cambridge – Oakland  
Wastewater Commission  
Campbellsport  
Cascade  
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 Aire Mobile Home  
Park  
Country Estates Sanitary  
District  
\*\*Country View Estates  
Cross Plains  
\*\*Crystal Lake RV Park  
\*Cudahy  
\*\*Dakota Capital Park  
Dane  
\*\*Dairyfood USA, Inc.  
Darien  
De Forest  
Deerfield  
Delafield  
\*Delafield-Hartland WPCC  
Delavan  
Delavan Lake Sanitary District  
\*\*Don's Mobile Manor Inc  
Dousman  
Eagle  
East Troy, Town of  
East Troy, Village of  
Eden  
Edgerton  
Elkhart Lake  
Elkhorn  
\*\*Erin School District  
Evansville  
Fairwater  
Fall River  
\*Fitchburg  
\*Fond du Lac  
Fontana

Footville  
\*\*Foremost Farms USA  
\*Fort Atkinson  
\*Fox Crossing  
Fox Lake  
Fox Point  
Franklin  
Fredonia  
Friesland  
Fulton  
\*\*Geneva National Services  
Genoa City  
\*Germantown  
Glenbeulah  
\*Glendale  
\*\*Grande Cheese  
\*Great Valve Homes Inc.  
\*Greendale  
\*\*Hale Park Meadows Water  
Trust  
Harmony Grove Sanitary District  
Harrison  
Hartford  
Hartland  
\*\*HB Performance Systems Inc.  
Hilbert  
\*\*Holy Family Convent  
Horicon  
Hustisford  
Iron Ridge  
Ixonia Sanitary District #1  
Jackson  
\*Janesville  
Jefferson  
Johnson Creek  
Juda Sanitary District  
Juneau  
\*\*KD Plumbing Inc.  
Kellnersville  
Kewaskum  
Kiel  
\*\*Kikkoman Foods Inc  
Kohler  
Lake Como Sanitary District #1  
Lake Geneva  
\*\*Lake Meadows Water Trust  
Lake Mills  
Lannon  
Larsen – Winchester Sanitary  
District  
LeRoy Sanitary District #1  
Liberty Sanitary District No. 1  
Lodi  
Lomira  
Lowell  
\*Madison  
\*Manitowoc  
Maple Bluff  
Maribel  
Marshall  
Mayville  
Mazomanie  
McFarland  
\*Menasha  
Menasha Utility District  
Menomonee Falls

\*Middleton  
Milton  
\*Milwaukee  
Mishicot  
Monona  
\*Monroe  
Monticello  
Mount Horeb  
Mukwonago  
\*Muskego  
\*\*Natural Oven's Bakery Inc.  
\*Neenah  
New Berlin  
New Glarus  
New Holstein  
Newburg  
North Fond du Lac  
Northern Moraine Utility  
Commission  
\*Oak Creek  
Oakfield  
\*Oconomowoc  
Omro  
Oostburg  
Oregon  
Orfordville  
\*Oshkosh  
Palmyra  
Pardeeville  
\*\*Pat's Services, Inc.  
\*Pewaukee, City of  
Pewaukee, Village of  
\*Pleasant Prairie  
Plymouth  
\*\*Plymouth Joint School  
District  
Plymouth Town Sanitary  
District #1  
Portage  
Poynette  
\*Racine  
\*\*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  
Rosendale  
S & R Egg Farm, Inc.  
\*\*St. Benedict's Abbey  
St. Cloud  
St. Nazianz  
Salem Utility District  
Saukville  
\*\*Shady Hill Mobile Home Park  
Sharon  
Sheboygan, Town of  
Sheboygan Falls

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Sherwood  
 \*Shorewood  
 Shorewood Hills  
 Slinger  
 Somers  
 \*South Milwaukee  
 Stoughton  
 \*Sun Prairie  
 \*\*Sunnyfield Acres Water Association  
 Sussex  
 \*\*The Knolls Water Co-Operative  
 Theresa  
 \*\*Tremain Mobile Home Park  
 \*\*Trevor-Wilmont Consolidated Grade School District  
 Troy Center Sanitary District #1  
 \*\*Twin Lakes Park Co. Op. Inc  
 \*Two Rivers  
 Union Grove  
 Valders  
 Verona  
 Waldo  
 Walworth  
 \*Walworth County Metro Sewerage District  
 Waterford  
 Waterloo  
 \*Watertown  
 \*Waukesha  
 Waunakee  
 \*Waupun  
 \*Wauwatosa  
 \*\*Wendorf Enterprises 2 LLC  
 \*West Bend  
 Westport  
 \*\*Wheel Estates, Inc Mobile Home Park  
 Whitelaw  
 \*Whitewater  
 Williams Bay  
 Wind Point  
 Windsor Sanitary District #1  
 Winneconne  
 \*\*Winneconne Community School District  
 Wyocena  
 \*\*Yorkville

### DISTRICT 3 (Central)

Abbotsford  
 Adams  
 Alma Center  
 Almond  
 Amherst  
 Athens  
 Berlin  
 Biron  
 Black River Falls  
 \*\*Brakebush Brothers, Inc.  
 Brockway Sanitary District #1  
 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  
 Friendship  
 Gilman  
 Granton  
 Green Lake  
 \*\*Green Lake Conference Center

Green Lake Sanitary District  
 Greenwood  
 Hancock  
 Hatfield Sanitary District 1  
 Hatley  
 Hixton  
 Hustler  
 Junction City  
 Kendall  
 Kronenwetter  
 Little Green Lake Protection & Rehab. District  
 Loyal  
 Lyndon Station  
 Maine  
 Marathon  
 Markesan  
 \*Marshfield  
 Mauston  
 Medford  
 Melrose  
 Merrillan  
 Milan Sanitary District  
 Milladore  
 Montello  
 Mosinee  
 Necedah  
 Neillsville  
 Nekoosa  
 Neshkoro  
 New Lisbon  
 Northfield Sanitary District #1  
 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  
 Vesper  
 Volk Field  
 Warrens  
 \*Wausau  
 Wautoma  
 Westboro Sanitary District #1  
 Westfield  
 \*Weston  
 Whiting  
 Wilton  
 Withee  
 Woneewoc

### DISTRICT 4 (Northwest)

Almena  
 Amery  
 Ashland  
 Baldwin

Balsam Lake  
 Barron  
 Bayfield  
 Bell Sanitary District #1  
 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  
 Dresser  
 Drummond Sanitary District #1  
 Elk Mound  
 Emerald – Greenwood Sanitary District #1  
 Exeland  
 Fifield Sanitary District #1  
 Frederic  
 Glen Flora  
 Glenwood City  
 Glidden Sanitary District  
 Grandview Sanitary District #1  
 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  
 Milltown  
 Minong  
 Montreal  
 New Auburn  
 New Richmond  
 North Hudson  
 \*\*Northwood School District  
 Ogema Sanitary District No. 1  
 Osceola  
 Park Falls  
 Phillips  
 \*\*Pleasant Valley Properties of WI, LLC  
 Poplar Wastewater  
 Port Wing Sanitary District

Prentice  
 Radisson  
 Red Cliff North  
 Rice Lake  
 \*River Falls  
 Roberts  
 Saxon Sanitary District #1  
 Sheldon  
 Shell Lake  
 Siren  
 Solon Springs WWTF  
 Somerset  
 Spooner  
 St. Croix Falls  
 Stanley  
 Star Prairie  
 Stone Lake Sanitary District  
 \*\*Stresau Lab Inc  
 \*Superior Water Light & Power  
 Superior, Village of  
 \*\*T.A.P. Investments  
 Tony  
 Trade Lake  
 Turtle Lake  
 Washburn  
 Webster  
 Weyerhaeuser  
 Wheeler  
 Winter  
 \*\*Wisconsin Structural Steel  
 Woodville

### DISTRICT 5 (Southwest)

Alma  
 Altoona  
 Arcadia  
 Arena  
 Argyle  
 Augusta  
 Avoca  
 Bagley  
 Bangor  
 Baraboo  
 Barneveld  
 Bay City  
 Belmont  
 Benton  
 Blair  
 Blanchardville  
 Bloomington  
 Blue River  
 Boscobel  
 Bridgeport Sanitary District  
 Campbell  
 Cassville  
 Cazenovia  
 Chaseburg  
 Cobb  
 Cochrane  
 Coon Valley  
 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  
 Linden Sanitary District No. 1  
 Edmund  
 Livingston  
 Loganville  
 Lone Rock  
 Maiden Rock  
 \*\*Marell Mobile Home Courts  
 Merrimac  
 Mineral Point  
 Mondovi  
 Montfort  
 Mount Hope  
 Muscoda  
 Nelson  
 North Freedom  
 \*Onalaska  
 Ontario  
 Osseo  
 Patch Grove  
 Pepin  
 Pigeon Falls  
 \*\*Pinewood Court Inc.  
 Plain  
 \*Platteville  
 Potosi-Tennyson  
 Prairie du Chien  
 Prairie du Sac  
 Prescott  
 Readstown  
 Reedsburg  
 Rewey  
 Richland Center  
 Ridgeway  
 Rock Springs  
 Rockland  
 Sauk City  
 Seneca Sanitary District #1  
 Sextonville  
 Shelby Sanitary District #2  
 Shullsburg  
 Soldiers Grove  
 South Wayne  
 Spring Green  
 Spring Valley  
 St. Joseph Sanitary District #1  
 Stoddard  
 Strum  
 Trempealeau  
 Viola  
 Viroqua  
 Wauzeka  
 West Baraboo  
 West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility  
 West Salem  
 Westby  
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# RURAL AMERICA RELIES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT



NATIONAL  
RURAL WATER  
ASSOCIATION

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER PROGRAMS ENSURE AFFORDABILITY

## AFFORDABILITY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Affordability is the key factor for small and rural communities in their decisions to upgrade and enhance water services for their customers.

Skyrocketing construction costs, disrupted supply chains, and ever increasing regulatory requirements are just a few of the roadblocks rural America faces when financing critical water infrastructure.

Rural Development's Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program is a lifeline for rural America, funding clean and reliable water systems nationwide.

America has 49,397 community water systems, most of which are small. Small and rural communities lack economies of scale. Passing the costs of unfunded mandates onto customers is not feasible without assistance from USDA Rural Development.

**91%**  
of America's  
water systems are small

Grant costs can cover up to 75% of total development costs for the most vulnerable communities, which is necessary to provide affordable rates. For the majority of small and rural communities, a grant/loan mix is critical to keep projects affordable. USDA RD needs an adequate amount of baseline grant funding to maintain their mission to serve rural America.

*Today's Congressional policies and funding decisions are jeopardizing the ability of every community in rural America to keep water and wastewater services affordable. Budget cuts will leave USDA WEP unable to accomplish its mission. WEP is instrumental in helping rural America maintain affordable and sustainable water access for all rural people.*

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS (WEP)

For many underserved communities, USDA Rural Development is the lender of first opportunity. RD exclusively serves small and rural communities. Without this program, many rural Americans will lose access to affordable safe and clean water.

In 2023, WEP excelled in their mission to serve rural America:

72% of WEP funded projects benefited communities with populations of 2,500 or less.

45% of WEP funded projects benefited communities with populations of 1,000 or less.

## TELL CONGRESS NOW

**KEEP RURAL AMERICA STRONG!**

Scan the QR Code to learn more about how you can help keep Rural America Strong!





# RURAL AMERICA RELIES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT



NATIONAL  
RURAL WATER  
ASSOCIATION



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER PROGRAMS DRIVE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

## ECONOMIC VITALITY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Critical infrastructure, including adequate water service, is a basic requirement for a healthy economy, encourages employment opportunities and makes a community a desired place to live and work. The nearly 45,000 water systems in rural America are anchor institutions in their communities.

In many rural communities water infrastructure is past its useful life. Without adequate water and sanitation services, businesses move out of our rural communities, forcing the next generation to leave to find better opportunities. Those left behind are robbed of hope for a prosperous future.

Rural America's economy is driven by entrepreneurship, and made of a diverse range of operations through over 700,000 businesses. Rural areas produce most of the food we consume, provide lumber and other forest products used to build our homes and furniture, and supply the energy we consume daily.

*Rural economies  
are deeply  
connected to  
their urban  
counterparts*

USDA RD WEP not only provides essential services to the families that live in rural America, but also all business activities. These include small businesses, farming, manufacturing, emergency services, and more. In rural America, nearly 85% of all business establishments are small. These small businesses are critical to local economies, employing 54% of workers in their communities. Rural communities need access to funding through USDA RD WEP to thrive.

*Today's Congressional policies and funding decisions are jeopardizing the economic vitality of every community in rural America. Budget cuts will leave USDA WEP unable to accomplish its mission. WEP is instrumental in helping rural America increase economic opportunities for all rural people.*

PROMOTION BY THE NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS (WEP)

In 2023, USDA RD WEP funded over \$1.7 billion in projects to small and rural communities.

The average median household income for communities that received WEP funding was \$37,029, half of the national average household income of \$74,580.

In 2023, 308 WEP projects addressed health and sanitary challenges and 28,326 new connections provided drinking water to residents for the first time, resulting in over 400,000 individuals and households benefiting from this funding.

## TELL CONGRESS NOW

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# RURAL AMERICA RELIES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT



NATIONAL  
RURAL WATER  
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## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER PROGRAMS PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH

### PUBLIC HEALTH FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Water is a vital resource and is required for all aspects of daily life, including drinking, cooking, washing, and flushing. In order to protect public health, all Americans should have access to this resource through reliable infrastructure.

Rural America's 46.1 million residents deserve safe drinking water and clean wastewater treatment just as much as urban or metropolitan residents. While access to basic water infrastructure may be taken for granted by many American citizens, it still is not a reality for approximately 146,000 rural households.

Over the last 70 years, through billions of dollars in financial assistance through USDA RD, the U.S. has made great advancements in the standard of living in rural America. Millions now have access to safe drinking water that their parents did not have. Thousands of rural communities now have modern wastewater systems, eliminating millions of failed septic tanks, cesspools, straight pipes, and worse.

For the 27,500 public elementary and secondary schools, approximately 9.8 million students, and 1,810 hospitals in rural America, public health would be immediately jeopardized without safe drinking water and clean wastewater treatment.

Even for established water and wastewater systems, new regulations such as EPA's recent PFAS and Lead and Copper Rules results in costly operational and infrastructure upgrades. USDA RD WEP ensures rural America and its communities have access to funding when they are faced with making these upgrades to remain in compliance.

*Today's Congressional policies and funding decisions are jeopardizing the public health of every community in rural America. Budget cuts will leave USDA WEP unable to accomplish its mission. WEP is instrumental in helping rural America ensure public health is protected for all rural people.*

### USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS (WEP)

Since 1972, USDA RD WEP has been the consistent source of support for rural communities to complete necessary upgrades to their water and wastewater facilities.

During 2023, WEP obligated more than \$1.6 billion in loans and grants, with 73.5% of projects addressing a health and sanitary issue.

The projects funded support more than 1.1 million rural residents, including approximately 28,326 new service connections.

### TELL CONGRESS NOW

**KEEP RURAL AMERICA STRONG!**

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# RURAL AMERICA RELIES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT



NATIONAL  
RURAL WATER  
ASSOCIATION



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER PROGRAMS CREATE SUSTAINABILITY

## SUSTAINABILITY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Small and rural communities rely on access to affordable loan and grant opportunities through USDA Rural Development to make repairs, upgrades, and to build new critical infrastructure for their communities.

While affordable financing is a vital component for these communities, it is not the complete solution. After these projects are completed, the need for training for water and wastewater operators does not go away. Technical assistance ensures the government's and public's investment is secured. For small and rural communities to remain sustainable, they need ongoing training and technical assistance.

Last year, Circuit Riders directly helped to protect the health and safety of 30,721,691 people - 42% of rural America.

**1 in 5**

**Americans Live in a Rural Community**

Technical assistance for small and rural communities includes providing training, energy audits, certification, financial management, environmental compliance, governance, and on-site technical assistance necessary to ensure that water and wastewater facilities operate at the highest possible level. Through the grants provided through USDA WEP, these services are provided at no cost through technical assistance providers like NRWA and its State Affiliates. The loss of funding for this essential technical assistance will jeopardize the sustainability of rural water systems and their communities. System managers will be forced to choose between not addressing ongoing operational and management issues or contracting for these services at steep costs.

*Today's Congressional policies and funding decisions are jeopardizing the sustainability of every community in rural America. Budget cuts will leave USDA WEP unable to accomplish its mission. WEP is instrumental in helping rural America ensure their communities are sustainable now and into the future.*

PROMOTION BY THE NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

## USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS (WEP)

State Rural Water Associations in partnership with USDA RD WEP provide the following technical assistance to rural communities:

Circuit Rider Program

Disaster Recovery Circuit Rider Program

Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training Program

NRWA Apprenticeship Program

Manufactured Housing Program

Energy Efficiency Program

Decentralized Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training Program

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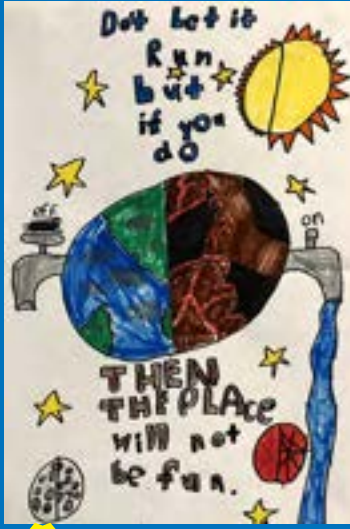
# Congratulations! 2025 Water Conservation Poster Contest Winners

## 2ND GRADE



1st Place

Graynger Hendrickson  
Pardeeville Elementary



2nd Place

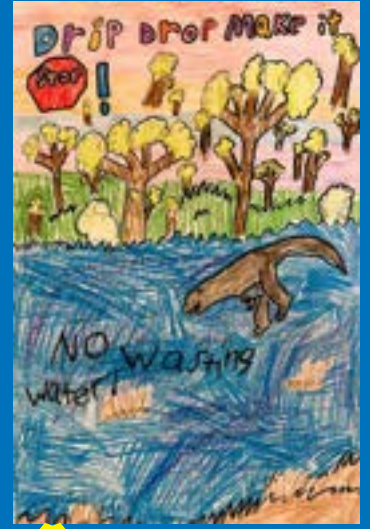
Brayden M.  
Hillcrest Elementary

## 3RD GRADE



1st Place

Ximena Perez  
Fontana Elementary



2nd Place

Harrison Hachmeister  
Fontana Elementary

## 4TH GRADE



1st Place

TJ Burton  
Pardeeville Elementary



2nd Place

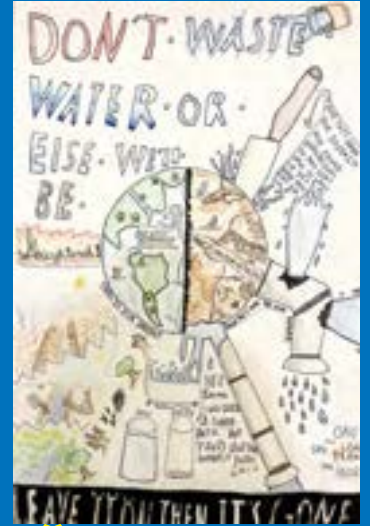
Olivia McIn  
White Lake Elementary

## 5TH GRADE



1st Place

Evelyn Writz  
Phillips Elementary



2nd Place

Zoey Yan  
Glenn Stephens Elementary

## 5TH GRADE



1st Place

Gwyn Cevallos  
West De Pere Intermediate



2nd Place

Nora Schroeder  
West De Pere Intermediate





## Wisconsin Rural Water Association supports Rural Water Financing Agency

The Rural Water Financing Agency provides interim construction funding to borrowers with a USDA takeout (or other approved permanent lender).

The Agency\* has made over \$1 billion in interim loans to borrowers with a USDA takeout!

*\*Includes the Agency's predecessor organization (Kentucky Rural Water Finance Corporation)*

### STREAMLINED PROCESS

1. Submit an application online via [ruralwaterfinance.com](http://ruralwaterfinance.com)
2. Legal document preparation
3. Construction bidding, USDA takeout letter
4. Interim loan closing, funds available for disbursement
5. Construction completion, USDA loan closing/interim loan payoff

---

**Please reach out to one of the contacts below to learn more.**

**Chris Groh, Executive Director**  
Wisconsin Rural Water Association  
[cgroh@wrwa.org](mailto:cgroh@wrwa.org)  
715.340.2055

**Gary Larimore, President & CEO**  
Rural Water Financing Agency  
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**Nick Roederer, Managing Director**  
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**Daniel Olson, Corporate Trust Relationship**  
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## WRWA Calendar

WRWA Golf Outing	May 14, 2025
Office Closed Memorial Day	May 26, 2025
Office Closed 4th of July	July 4, 2025
1st Annual WRWA Sporting Clays	August 27, 2025
WRWA Outdoor Expo	August 28, 2025
Office Closed for Labor Day	September 1, 2025
Office Closed for Thanksgiving	November 27 & 28, 2025
Office Closed for Christmas Eve (1/2 Day)	December 24, 2025
Office Closed for Christmas Day	December 25, 2025
Office Closed for New Years Day	January 1, 2026
WRWA Annual Conference (Green Bay)	March 24 - 27, 2026

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