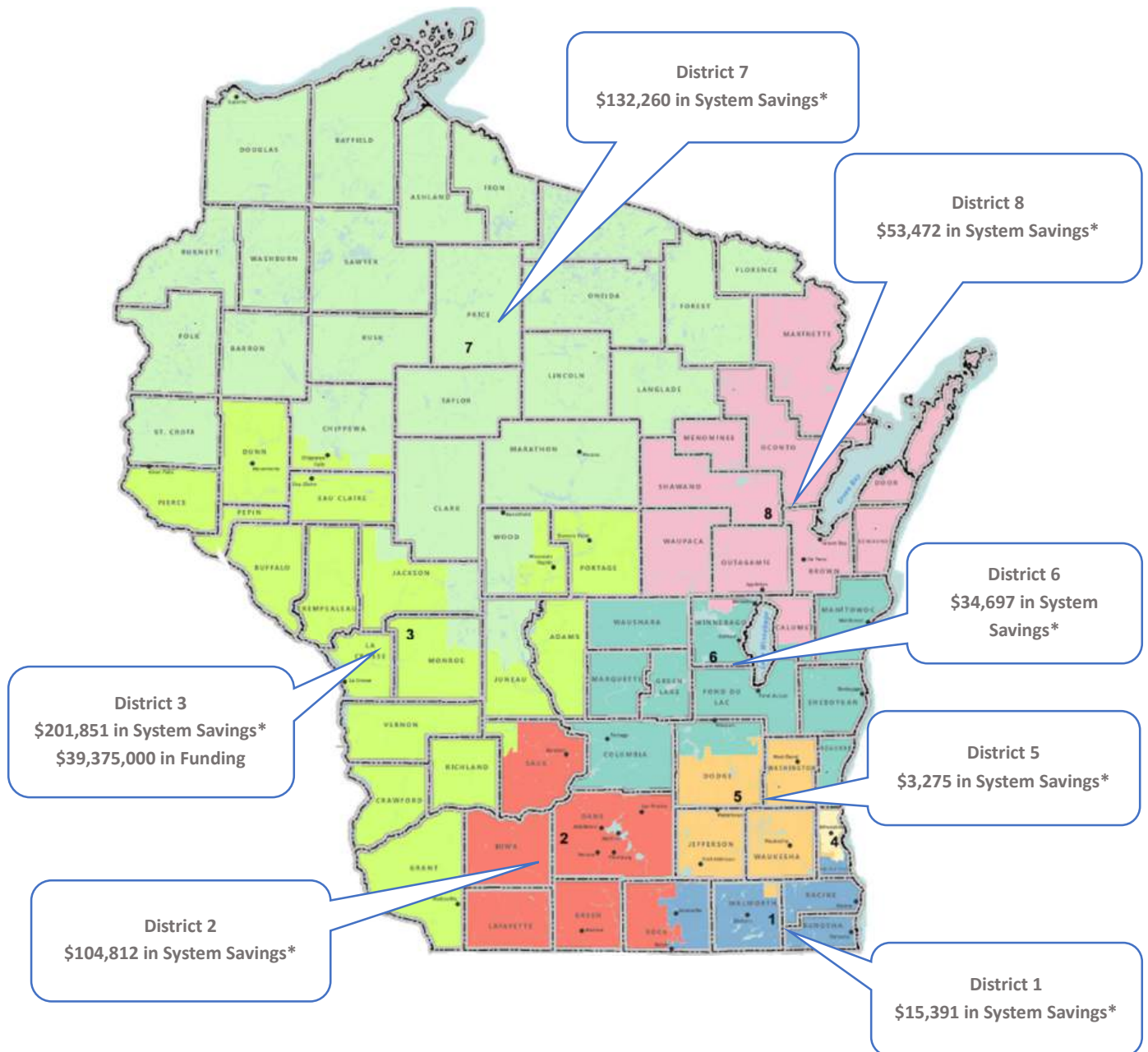




# WISCONSIN RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

## 2025 IMPACT ON WISCONSIN



*\* Includes significant visits only. Does not reflect all WRWA assistance provided throughout the year.*





## Provides Training...

WRWA continues to be the leading provider of training in the state of Wisconsin to those in the water and wastewater industries. In fact, WRWA is one of the leading trainers of water and wastewater system personnel in the nation. In 2025, WRWA conducted a total of **147** training sessions and events. These were attended by **5,350** operators, managers, administrative personnel, plumbers, and business representatives.

## Technical Assistance...

Providing technical assistance to operators of small rural water and wastewater systems throughout Wisconsin is the backbone of our services. WRWA conducted **3,207** on-site technical assistance visits in 2025 in addition to over **5,670** phone calls to and from systems. WRWA currently has a field staff of 11 providing on-site technical assistance to water and wastewater systems in the state.

WRWA technical assistance is provided in several areas, including regulatory compliance, utility management, solving distribution system problems, treatment, emergency response, source water protection, system operations assistance, energy efficiency, and providing loaner equipment.

## And Resources for Project Funding!

WRWA works closely with USDA Rural Development to help rural communities secure loans, grants, and loan guarantee programs necessary for replacing worn out equipment and expanding operations. During 2025, Rural Development assisted the town of Campbell with a low-interest loan for \$30,835,000 and a grant of \$8,540,000 to install a municipal water system necessary to reduce their high levels of PFAS. The 4,500 residents of Campbell have been on state-funded bottled water for five years due to the high PFAS levels.



# Rural Development Community Facilities & Water/Environmental Project Funding History – All Districts

District: All  
Program Area: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental

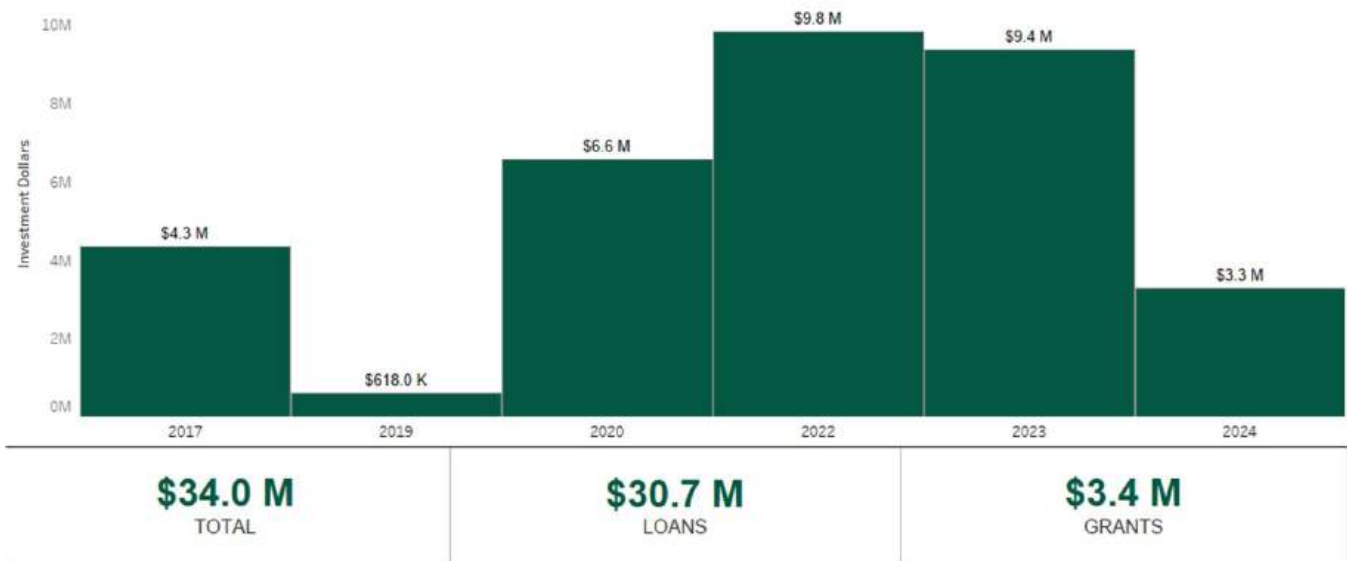


The view shows Wisconsin. Congressional districts shown: All. Program areas shown: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental. Investment types shown: All. All fiscal years will always be shown.

# Rural Development Community Facilities & Water/Environmental Project Funding History By District

## District: 1

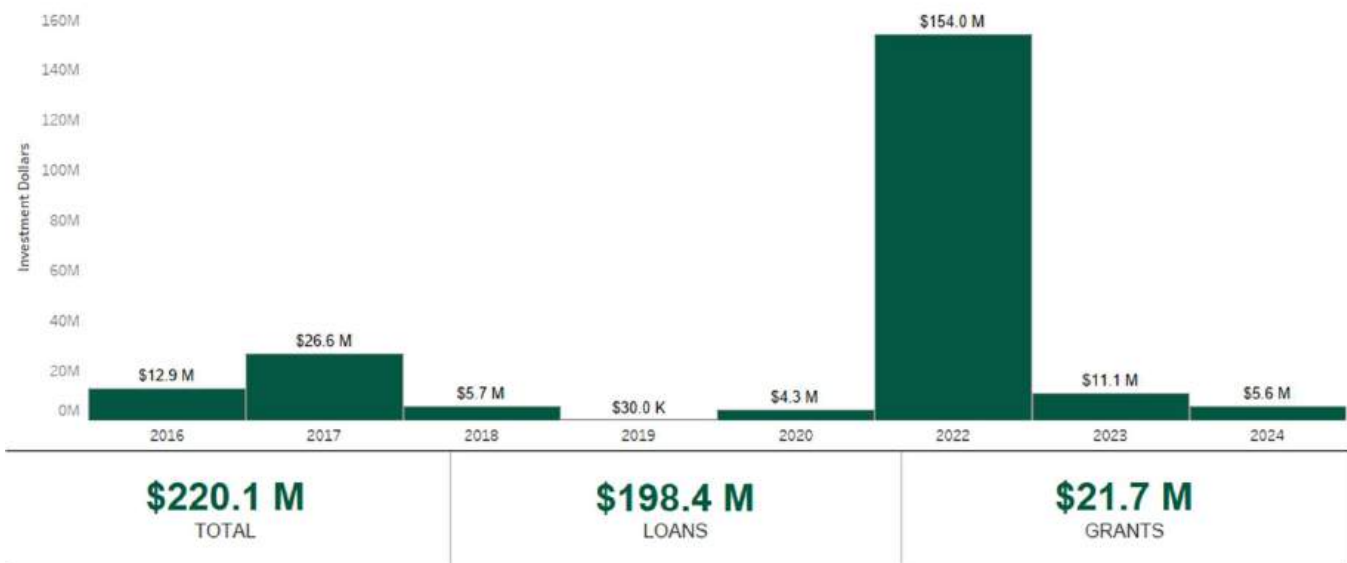
Program Area: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental



The view shows Wisconsin. Congressional districts shown: 1. Program areas shown: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental. Investment types shown: All. All fiscal years will always be shown.

## District: 2

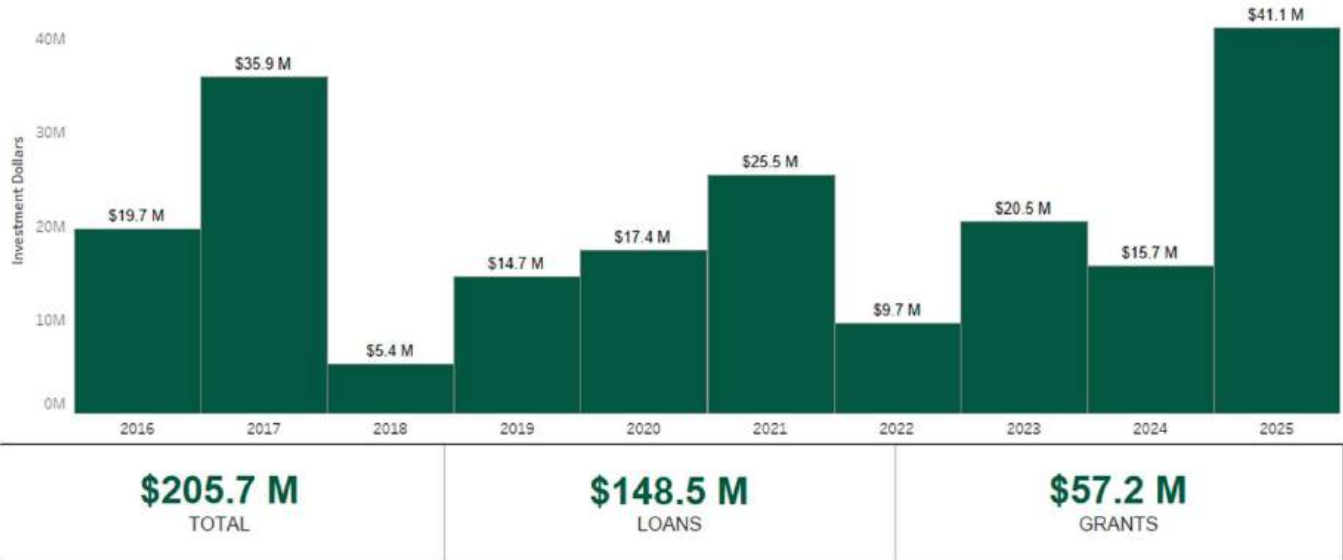
Program Area: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental



The view shows Wisconsin. Congressional districts shown: 2. Program areas shown: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental. Investment types shown: All. All fiscal years will always be shown.

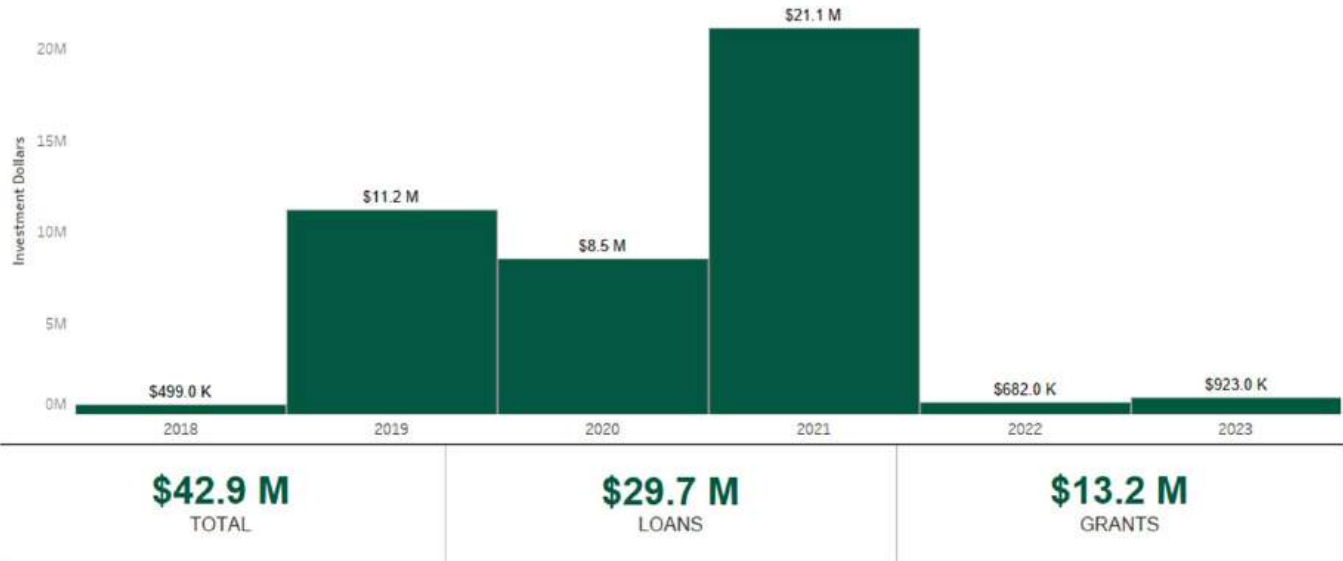


**District: 3**  
**Program Area: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental**



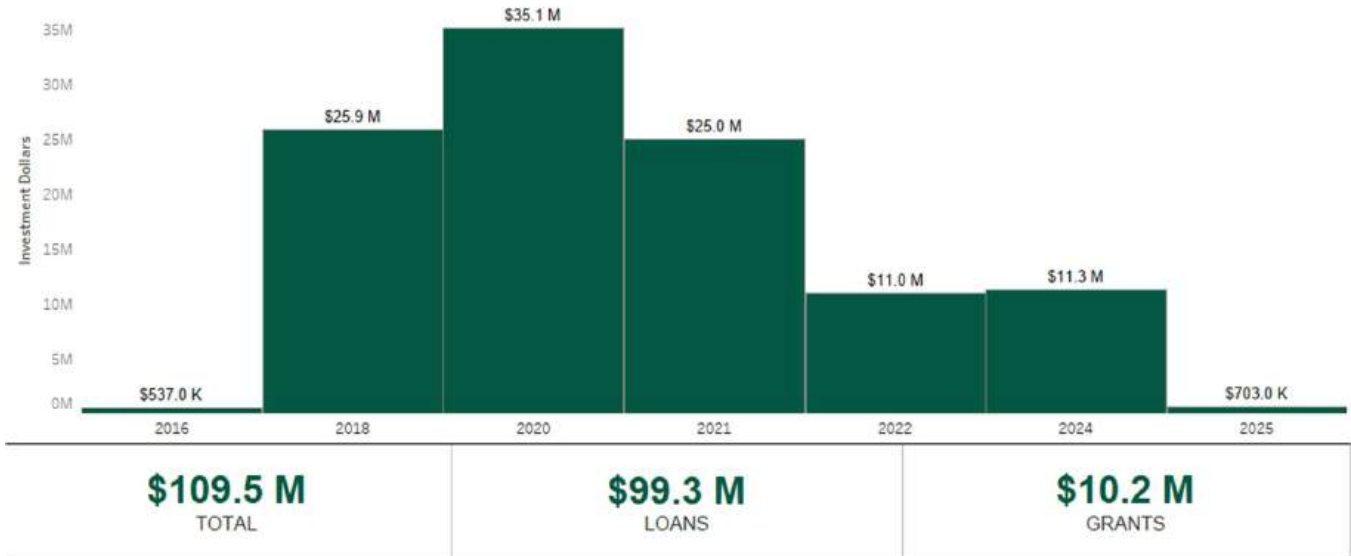
The view shows Wisconsin. Congressional districts shown: 3. Program areas shown: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental. Investment types shown: All. All fiscal years will always be shown.

**District: 5**  
**Program Area: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental**



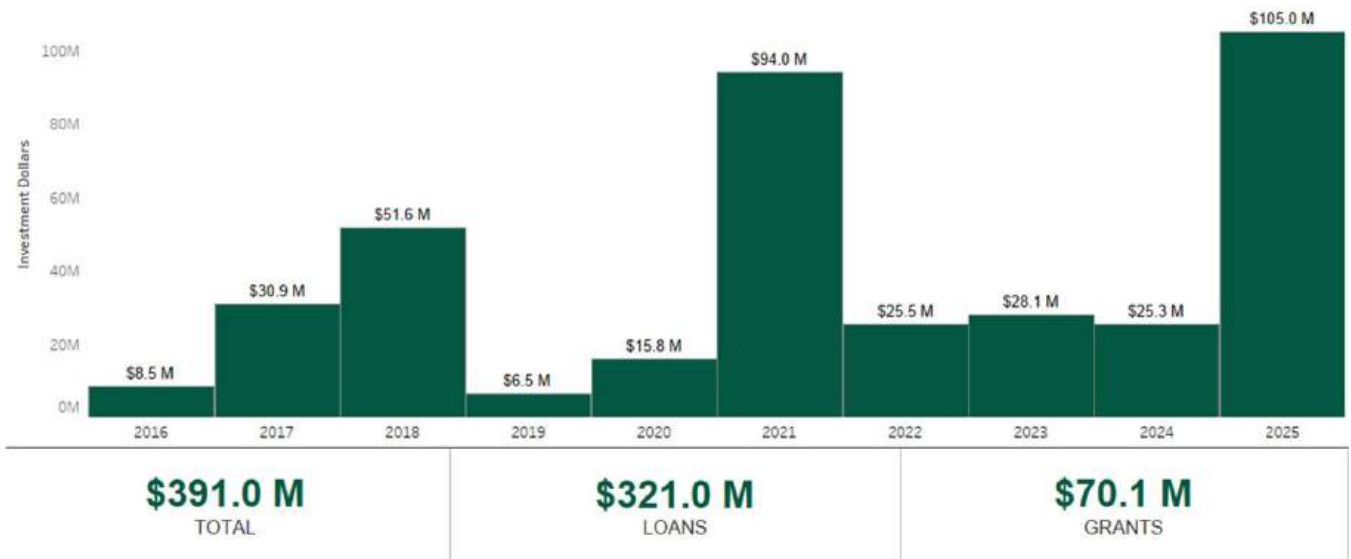
The view shows Wisconsin. Congressional districts shown: 5. Program areas shown: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental. Investment types shown: All. All fiscal years will always be shown.

**District: 6**  
**Program Area: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental**



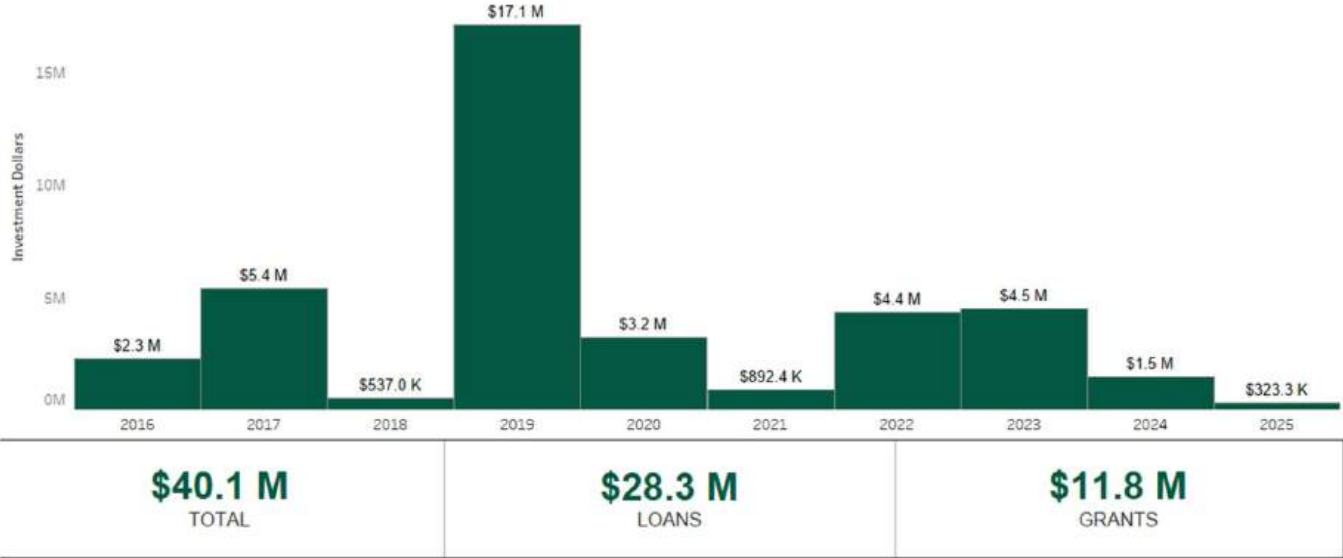
The view shows Wisconsin. Congressional districts shown: 6. Program areas shown: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental. Investment types shown: All. All fiscal years will always be shown.

**District: 7**  
**Program Area: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental**



The view shows Wisconsin. Congressional districts shown: 7. Program areas shown: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental. Investment types shown: All. All fiscal years will always be shown.

District: 8  
Program Area: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental



The view shows Wisconsin. Congressional districts shown: 8. Program areas shown: Community Facilities & Water and Environmental. Investment types shown: All. All fiscal years will always be shown.



# National Rural Water Association

## Rural Water FY2027 Appropriations Priorities

February  
2026

### Dear Congress: Please prioritize what is working.

Small and rural communities have the very important public responsibility of complying with all applicable federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act regulations and for supplying the public with safe drinking water and sanitation every second of every day. Over 91% of the approximately 50,000 community water systems serve fewer than 10,000 persons and 81% serve fewer than 3,300 persons. Small and rural communities often have difficulty complying with complicated federal mandates and providing safe/affordable drinking water and sanitation due to limited economies of scale and lack of technical expertise. This difficulty is eased due to ongoing and continuing support offered through rural water training and technical assistance programs as highlighted below.

	Initiative	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Enacted	FY2026 Enacted	FY2027 Request
USDA	Circuit Rider Technical Assistance	\$21,180,000	\$21,817,000	\$23,900,000	<b>\$24,617,000</b>
	Wastewater Disposal Technical Assistance	\$37,500,000	\$35,000,000	\$35,000,000	<b>\$35,000,000</b>
	Grassroots Source Water Protection Program	\$7,500,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,500,000	<b>\$7,500,000</b>
	Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program	\$596,404,000	\$595,972,000	\$445,864,564 <sup>A</sup>	<b>\$500,000,000</b>
	Water & Waste Disposal Revolving Loan Funds	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	<b>\$1,000,000</b>
EPA	Safe Drinking Water Act Technical Assistance	\$30,700,000	\$30,700,000	\$30,700,000	<b>\$35,000,000</b>
	Clean Water Act Compliance Technical Assistance	\$27,000,000	\$25,500,000	\$25,500,000	<b>\$26,000,000</b>
	Clean Water State Revolving Fund	\$1,638,861,000	\$1,638,861,000	\$1,638,861,000 <sup>B</sup>	<b>\$1,638,861,000</b>
	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	\$1,126,101,000	\$1,126,101,000	\$1,126,101,000 <sup>C</sup>	<b>\$1,126,101,000</b>
DOL	National Water and Wastewater Operator Apprenticeship Program	Language included	Language included	TBD	<b>\$20,000,000</b>

A: WEP Earmarks \$110,488,564 B: CWSRF Earmarks: \$892,762,272 C: DWSRF Earmarks: \$715,364,627

### How Can Representatives/Senators Support Rural Water?

1. Write the Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members in support of Rural Water's **five** funding priorities (or include in Members' formal appropriations requests);
2. Personally contact the Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members in support of Rural Water's **five** funding priorities; and
3. Ask the key staff person in each office to contact the Subcommittees in support of Rural Water's **five** funding priorities.

Subcommittee	House	Senate
<b>USDA</b>	Chair Andy Harris (MD) Ranking Member Sanford Bishop (GA)	Chair John Hoeven (ND) Ranking Member Jeanne Shaheen (NH)
<b>Interior (EPA)</b>	Chair Mike Simpson (ID) Ranking Member Chellie Pingree (ME)	Chair Lisa Murkowski (AK) Ranking Member Jeff Merkley (OR)
<b>Labor</b>	Chair Robert Aderholt (AL) Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro (CT)	Chair Shelley Moore Capito (WV) Ranking Member Tammy Baldwin (WI)

*The National Rural Water Association represents over 31,000 small and rural community members dedicated to drinking water quality, environmental protection and public health protection.*



# Description of Rural Water Priorities

## 1. USDA Circuit Riders

Since 1980, Circuit Riders have provided the primary assistance to small communities for the operation of safe and clean drinking water supplies and compliance with water regulations. This assistance protects the sizable investment the federal government has made in rural water infrastructure. Circuit Riders are in the field every day helping systems with compliance, operations, maintenance, management, disaster response and training. The Circuit Rider Program has long been one of USDA's most successful public-private partnerships, efficiently and effectively using appropriated funds to provide technical assistance and training to rural communities through state based nonprofit associations.

## 2. USDA Farm Service Agency Grassroots Source Water Protection

This is the only statewide local community-based initiative ensuring environmentally progressive local land-use decisions without the controversy and bureaucracy of regulatory programs. It provides each state with at least one full-time person to organize and assist rural communities, farmers, and other land-use interests in the implementation of source water protection plans including non-point source (runoff) protection practices in agriculture regions. This initiative allows the people who benefit from environmental protection to take responsibility for achieving it—ensuring its success and eliminating local controversy.

## 3. EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Technical Assistance and Training

Since 1977, small and rural communities have relied on local/on-site technical assistance and training for compliance with the myriad of federal EPA regulations, avoiding EPA fines, and operating drinking water and wastewater supplies. According to small and rural communities, EPA-funded local initiatives are the most effective environmental protection efforts for drinking water & wastewater, ground water, source water, and compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Small communities want to ensure quality water and stay in compliance—rural water provides them the shared technical resources to do it.

## 4. EPA Clean Water Act Compliance Technical Assistance

Small and rural communities have more difficulty affording public wastewater service due to lack of population density and lack of economies of scale. This challenge is compounded by the fact that rural communities have lower average median household incomes and often have higher rates of poverty. PL 155-270, enacted in October 2018, authorized a new technical assistance program for small and rural communities to improve water quality, operate and maintain public wastewater treatment utilities and comply with federal Clean Water Act standards.

## 5. National Rural Water Apprenticeship Program

Since 2016, NRWA has collaborated with State Rural Water Associations, USDA, DOL, EPA, and local rural water utilities to build the first nationally recognized DOL Registered Apprenticeship Program for water and wastewater system operators. Employment data indicates up to 50% of the rural water workforce will leave the water industry over the next 10 years. Rural water and wastewater utilities need a pipeline of skilled workers to help ensure clean and safe water for the public and to maintain the water infrastructure necessary to keep rural service areas economically viable. To date, thirty-five State Rural Water Associations have federally approved Registered Apprenticeship Programs and are currently offering a job creation program specifically designed by industry leaders to attract, train and retain the next generation rural water workforce with over 1200 apprentices enrolled or graduated so far.



**NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION**  
**FY2027 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST SUMMARY**

*Name of program:* **Circuit Rider Program**

*Appropriations bill:* Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

*Senate subcommittee Chairman:* John Hoeven (ND)

*Senate subcommittee Ranking Member:* Jeanne Shaheen (NH)

*House subcommittee Chairman:* Andy Harris (MD)

*House subcommittee Ranking Member:* Sanford Bishop (GA)

*Department:* United States Department of Agriculture

*Agency:* Rural Utilities Service (within Rural Development)

*Appropriations account:* Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account

*Authorization:* 7 USC 1926(a)(22)

*FY2027 President's budget request:* TBD

Funding History	
FY2021	\$20,157,000
FY2022	\$20,762,000
FY2023	\$21,180,000
FY2024	\$21,817,000
FY2026	\$23,900,000

***FY2027 request: \$24,617,000***

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) requests an appropriation of \$24,617,000 for the Circuit Rider Program for FY2027.

The Circuit Rider Program is a five-year competitive contract that was awarded to NRWA on November 1, 2020. The final year of that contract began on November 1, 2024, and expired on November 1, 2025. On October 31, 2025, USDA granted a 6-month extension to the existing contract. The FY2026 enacted level of \$23,900,000 fully funded the fifth-year contract costs and included additional funding to add a full-time position within the State of Rhode Island. This increased the total number of Circuit Riders from 132 to 133.

The Rural Development contracting officer requires NRWA to include a cost escalator for annual inflationary purposes necessary to maintain 132 Circuit Riders and to provide the same level of services. Also required is the establishment of a management reserve account to address unforeseen circumstances.

**USDA Circuit Rider Justification: Increase the FY2026 enacted level of \$23,900,000 by 3%, or \$717,000, to \$24,617,000 for FY2027.**

**USDA Rural Development Circuit Rider:** Since 1980, the Circuit Rider Program has been one of USDA's most successful public-private partnerships, efficiently and effectively using appropriated funds to provide technical expertise, training, regulatory compliance, management and disaster assistance to rural communities through state based nonprofit organizations.

There are currently 132 full-time permanent Circuit Riders deployed in rural America in all 50 states and Territories. As previously mentioned, this funding request is based on the federal contract requirements and regardless of the appropriations level, the terms and conditions of the contract require NRWA to continue to provide the same level of service, even with interrupted, delayed or reduced federal funding.

State Rural Water Associations provide non-federal matching money to cover their actual cost. In the last reporting cycle, State Rural Water Associations provided \$1,933,947 in non-federal funds to cover the full cost of delivering this program.

In addition to the core services Circuit Riders have provided for decades, demand for these critical services has increased and evolved. Included in these expanded efforts are additional emergency response and recovery efforts and requests, cyber security assistance, and increased regulatory demands to include compliance with the Lead and Copper and PFAS rules. Circuit Riders have also increased their assistance to address operator vacancies attributed to an aging workforce and addressing the increased challenges related to operating and maintaining aging infrastructure.

**Experience and Benefits:** Personnel turnover within this program is very rare. Circuit Riders have approximately 3,000 years of combined experience in the water and wastewater industry. This experience and dedication to the overall mission reaps rewards in additional cost savings provided to the communities served. With this seasoned experienced staff, salary and benefit costs are higher.

**Circuit Riders Protect Federal Investments and Public Health:** Circuit Rider assistance has become even more critical with the loss of over 1,000 USDA Rural Development staff in the field. Circuit Riders' on-site, hands-on assistance, combined with trusted peer-to-peer relationships, enhances all operations including fiscal management, disaster assistance, governance, regulatory compliance, all essential for the sustainability of water and wastewater utilities. This assistance enhances the water system's ability to repay their government debt, protects the low cost of this program while maintaining and enhancing the public health in rural communities. In addition, the Circuit Riders are considered essential employees to perform Mission Critical Services for the U.S. Government during a lapse of appropriations and public health emergencies.

**NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION**  
**FY2027 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST SUMMARY**

*Name of program:* **Grassroots Source Water Protection Program**

*Appropriations bill:* Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

*Senate subcommittee Chairman:* John Hoeven (ND)

*Senate subcommittee Ranking Member:* Jeanne Shaheen (NH)

*House subcommittee Chairman:* Andy Harris (MD)

*House subcommittee Ranking Member:* Sanford Bishop (GA)

*Department:* United States Department of Agriculture

*Agency:* Farm Service Agency

*Appropriations account:* Grassroots Source Water Protection Program

*Authorization:* 16 U.S.C. 3839bb–2

*FY2027 President's budget request:* TBD

Funding History	
FY2021	\$6,500,000
FY2022	\$6,500,000
FY2023	\$7,500,000
FY2024	\$7,000,000
FY2026	\$7,500,000

***FY2027 request: \$7,500,000***

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) requests an appropriation of \$7,500,000, consistent with the FY2026 enacted bill, for the FSA Grassroots Source Water Protection Program. NRWA requested, and Congress appropriated \$6.5 million to carry out this initiative from FY2016 to FY2022. For FY2023, Congress increased this account by \$1,000,000 to allow additional activities to include, but are not limited to, enhanced assistance to address nutrient run-off from highly erodible cropland; decline in water quantity and quality related to drought; chemical security mapping; and coordination implementing source water protection practices in high priority areas, as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

NRWA currently maintains 55 full-time Grassroots Source Water Protection Program Specialists in the field. Every state has one full-time Source Water Specialist with two Specialists currently provided in Colorado, California, Kansas, Minnesota, and Montana.

**FSA Source Water Justification: Enact the FY2026 funding level to maintain current field staff, services, and activities in FY2027.**

**Grassroots Source Water Protection Initiative:** Protecting public health is the top priority in every water and wastewater system in America. Since 1990, the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) and State Rural Water Associations have assisted water utilities and rural communities in identifying, controlling, and eliminating pollutants from the nation's water resources. The NRWA Source Water Protection Program is built around small water utilities, local businesses, agriculture, government, and other groups working together to develop and implement strategies to protect their drinking water sources. It is a voluntary, grassroots planning effort that builds local responsibility and creates more sustainable communities.

**Source Water Protection:** The FY2027 source water protection program appropriation of \$7,500,000 will allow NRWA to maintain 55 full-time field employees to continue to provide this essential service with enhanced activities.

**Prevention vs. Remediation:** This cooperative program has made significant progress in reducing point source pollution from industrial, agricultural, municipal, and even household sources. The program has also made progress in the challenging area of nonpoint source pollution. Nonpoint source pollution results from activities over large areas, such as runoff from agriculture, industry, and transportation that flows into water sources. In addition to protecting the health and welfare of U.S. communities, source water protection efforts save consumers money. The USDA estimates damages from soil erosion costs between \$2 billion to \$8 billion per year. The EPA estimates that public water systems spend an additional \$200 million per year just to remove excess nitrate to meet federal drinking water standards. A small community's nominal investment in implementing and adhering to a source water protection plan can avoid substantial remediation costs.

This is the only statewide local community-based initiative ensuring environmentally progressive local land-use decisions without the controversy and bureaucracy of regulatory programs. Currently there are 55 full-time specialists employed to organize and assist rural communities, farmers, and other land-use interests in the implementation of source water protection plans including nonpoint source (runoff) protection practices in agriculture regions. State Associations provided \$342,151 of non-federal matching funds to carry out this initiative from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. This initiative allows the people who benefit from environmental protection to take responsibility for achieving it- ensuring its success and eliminating local controversy. Through comprehensive planning efforts that identify potential threats to the water supply, communities proactively maintain local sources of safe and clean water. Additionally, by developing and implementing a source water protection plan, communities can help minimize the future need for expensive upgrades to treatment facilities.



**NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION**  
**FY2027 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST SUMMARY**

*Name of program:* **EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Technical Assistance**

*Appropriations bill:* Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

*Senate subcommittee Chairman:* Lisa Murkowski (AK)

*Senate subcommittee Ranking Member:* Jeff Merkley (OR)

*House subcommittee Chairman:* Mike Simpson (ID)

*House subcommittee Ranking Member:* Chellie Pingree (ME)

*Agency:* Environmental Protection Agency

*Appropriations account:* Environmental Programs and Management

*Authorization:* Safe Drinking Water Act (42 USC 300j-1(e))

*FY2027 President's budget request:* TBD

Funding History

FY2021	\$21,700,000
FY2022	\$25,700,000
FY2023	\$30,700,000
FY2024	\$30,700,000
FY2026	\$30,700,000

***FY2027 request: \$35,000,000***

The National Rural Water Association requests report language, consistent with the House FY2026 reported bill (see below) appropriating \$35,000,000 under this account to provide \$26,000,000 dedicated to the technical assistance activities as prescribed under the Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Act. Small and rural communities rely on local/on-site technical assistance and training for compliance with federal EPA regulations, avoiding EPA fines, and operating drinking and wastewater supplies.

**Report Language:** *Environmental Protection: National Priorities.*- The bill provides \$35,000,000. The Committee directs that funds be used for a competitive grant program for qualified non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance for improved water quality or safe drinking water, adequate wastewater to small systems, or individual private well owners. The Agency shall provide \$26,000,000 for Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act, for activities specified under Section 1442(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-1(e)(8)). The Agency is directed to provide funding to the most qualified and experienced non-profit organizations in providing technical assistance to small water systems and to issue the grant awards from this program on an annual basis.

**EPA Technical Assistance Justification: Enact the House's FY2026 reported level of \$35,000,000 and follow the Congressional intent of Public Law 114-98 for FY2027.**

**EPA Technical Assistance Authorization:** The President signed the Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act into law (Public Law 114-98) on December 11, 2015. The House of Representatives unanimously passed the bill on November 30, 2015 and the Senate on June 9, 2015 (also unanimously). The authorization was modified in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (H.R.3684, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) to ensure the funding is used in the most beneficial manner for rural and small communities.

The purpose of the Act is to require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) follow Congressional intent in administering directed appropriations to assist small and rural communities to comply with federal environmental mandates. The Act authorizes the EPA to provide technical assistance to small and rural communities to assist them with: (1) compliance with the myriad of federal regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act; (2) operation and maintenance of their water utilities; and (3) public health protection through the supply of safe public drinking water.

**Technical Assistance Demand:** Small and rural communities often have a difficult time, due to their limited customer base and technical capacities, providing safe water and complying with federal standards. This is compounded by the fact that small and rural communities often have lower median household incomes and higher water rates compared to larger communities. As a result, the cost of compliance is often dramatically higher per household.

The vast majority of U.S. drinking water supplies are small; 91% of community water systems serve a population of fewer than 10,000 people. Some communities are so small they rely on volunteers to operate their drinking water supply. Small communities in violation of the federal rules are subject to \$25,000 per-day civil penalties. We are urging Congress to fully fund the Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act portion at \$26,000,000 and ensure funding is limited to qualified, experienced technical assistance providers to effectively serve the needs of rural utilities

**Experience:** Since 1977, NRWA has assisted small and rural communities in providing safe drinking water and ensured access to the expertise of an experienced, trustworthy technician. This technical assistance provides for efficient system operation and maintenance and affordable compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act mandates. Small and rural communities are struggling under new federal regulations, complex funding program applications, and continuing mandatory operator training requirements. Recent EPA awards for this initiative do not adequately address the needs of small and rural communities that need help as soon as possible.

**NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION**  
**FY2027 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST SUMMARY**

*Name of program:* **EPA Clean Water Act Compliance Technical Assistance**

*Appropriations bill:* Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

*Senate subcommittee Chairman:* Lisa Murkowski (AK)

*Senate subcommittee Ranking Member:* Jeff Merkley (OR)

*House subcommittee Chairman:* Mike Simpson (ID)

*House subcommittee Ranking Member:* Chellie Pingree (ME)

*Agency:* Environmental Protection Agency

*Appropriations account:* State and Tribal Assistance Grants Account

*Authorization:* America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (section 4103), "*Technical Assistance for Treatment Works*"

*FY2027 President's budget request:* TBD

Funding History

FY2021	\$18,000,000
FY2022	\$20,000,000
FY2023	\$27,000,000
FY2024	\$25,500,000
FY2026	\$25,500,000

***FY2027 request: \$26,000,000***

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) requests \$26,000,000, consistent with the FY2026 House reported level, to fund section 4103 America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. This competitive grant program provides small and rural communities with the technical assistance necessary to improve water quality, operate and maintain public wastewater treatment utilities, assist with permitting, comply with federal Clean Water Act regulations and apply for federal funding under the Clean Water State Revolving Funds. Small and rural communities strive to ensure quality wastewater stays in compliance—this initiative provides them with the technical resources to do so.

**Bill Language:** \$26,000,000 shall be for grants under section 104(b)(8) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1254(b)(8)).

**Report Language:** The Agency is directed to issue awards on an annual basis to the most qualified and experienced non-profit organizations necessary to provide quality uninterrupted training and technical assistance. The Agency is directed to allocate funds to grantees within 180 days of enactment of this Act.

**EPA Clean Water Act Compliance Technical Assistance Justification: Enact the FY2026 House reported level of \$26,000,000 for section 4103 of America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 in FY2027**

**EPA Clean Water Act Compliance Technical Assistance:** This technical assistance authorization, section 4103, "Technical Assistance for Treatment Works," was included in America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, and signed into law by the President on October 23, 2018.

Small and rural communities have more difficulty affording public wastewater service due to lack of population density and lack of economies of scale. This challenge is compounded by the fact that rural communities have lower average median household incomes and often have higher rates of poverty. Likewise, rural communities have a much more challenging time complying with federal Clean Water Act permits and operating complex wastewater treatment systems due to the lack of technical resources and expertise in small communities. While most rural communities have fewer resources, they are regulated in the exact same manner as a large community - and often operating similarly complex treatment systems that are smaller in scale but no less sophisticated to operate and troubleshoot. Many small communities may only have one (or one part-time) operator with multiple duties (not just wastewater treatment) - while a large community may have a team of technical experts including engineers, chemists, and highly trained operators - all as part of their full-time staff.

Many small and rural communities are currently struggling to comply with the EPA sewer permits (i.e. federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits), experiencing issues with inflow and infiltration of their collection systems, meeting Clean Water Act ammonia standards, biochemical oxygen demand standards, new nutrient standards, stormwater regulations and changing permits due to implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulations.

This recent law provides direct on-site assistance to communities to support the efficient operation of their wastewater utilities and ensure compliance with all the federal regulations under the Clean Water Act. Funding and implementation will allow communities to comply with the federal Clean Water Act requirements, potentially save thousands of dollars, prevent the hiring of consultants to comply with the Clean Water Act and limit exposure to civil penalties. Instead of a "must" mandate from the federal government, this provision will provide small and rural communities with "how-to" guidance for cost-effective compliance with the federal government's Clean Water Act.

**NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION**  
**FY2027 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST SUMMARY**

*Name of program:* **National Water and Wastewater Operator Apprenticeship Program**

*Appropriations bill:* Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies

*Senate subcommittee Chairman:* Shelley Moore Capito (WV)

*Senate subcommittee Ranking Member:* Tammy Baldwin (WI)

*House subcommittee Chairman:* Robert Aderholt (AL)

*House subcommittee Ranking Member:* Rosa DeLauro (CT)

*Department:* United States Department of Labor

*Agency:* Employment and Training Administration

*Appropriations Account:* Training and Employment Services

*FY2027 President's budget request:* TBD

**Apprenticeship Grant  
Program Funding History**

FY2021	\$185,000,000
FY2022	\$235,000,000
FY2023	\$285,000,000
FY2024	\$285,000,000
FY2026	TBD

***FY2027 request: \$20,000,000 set-aside within the Apprenticeship Grant Program***

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) requests \$20,000,000 for a national water and wastewater operator apprenticeship program to be funded by the available resources within the Apprenticeship Grant Program account.

**Bill Language:** \$20,000,000 shall be for national water and wastewater operator industry workforce training through apprenticeship programs registered with the Office of Apprenticeship of the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor or a State apprenticeship agency recognized by the Office of Apprenticeship pursuant to the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the "National Apprenticeship Act"; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

**Report Language:** The Committee directs the Secretary to make \$20,000,000 in grant funding available for a nonprofit organization working with community water systems to establish, implement, expand, and administer registered apprenticeship programs consistent with the National Guideline Standards of Apprenticeship for Water and Wastewater System Operations Specialists to address nationwide shortages of qualified drinking water and wastewater operators, especially in rural America.



**DOL Rural Water Workforce Initiative Justification: Provide the FY2026 House reported level of \$20,000,000 for a national water and wastewater operator apprenticeship program.**

NRWA, State Rural Water Associations, USDA, DOL, EPA, and local rural water utilities are collaborating successfully to establish the first nationally recognized Registered Apprenticeship Program for water and wastewater system operators, while creating jobs in rural America. In July 2024, NRWA achieved a significant milestone by securing \$7,631,873 in DOL competitive grant funding to support the development and expansion of these vital rural water apprenticeships. As of January 2026, 35 State Rural Water Associations have completed the rigorous process of obtaining federally approved Registered Apprenticeship Programs and are now attracting, training, and retaining the next generation water workforce with over 687 apprentices enrolled and over 519 have completed their apprenticeship as of December 31, 2025.

To bolster this effective initiative, Congress “urged” the Secretary of Labor to make funding available for the NRWA Registered Apprenticeship Program in the FY2024 Further Consolidated Appropriations Act and the FY2026 DOL House Appropriations report includes a set-aside directing the Secretary of Labor to invest \$20 million:

*The Committee directs DOL to make \$20,000,000 in grant funding available to establish, implement, expand, and administer registered apprenticeship programs consistent with the National Guideline Standards of Apprenticeship for Water and Wastewater System Operations Specialists to address nationwide shortages of qualified drinking water and wastewater operators, especially in rural America (page 18)*

To continue the growing, successful NRWA Apprenticeship Program, we also request a \$285 million funding level for the Apprenticeship Grant Program account, the same as the House and Senate’s FY2026 reported level with a \$20,000,000 set-aside for a national water and wastewater operator apprenticeship program to be funded by the available resources within that account.

Safe and effective water utility management is vital to rural America and the nation. There are currently over 50,000 community water supplies in the country, 91% serve populations of 10,000 or less. Employment data indicates up to 50% of this workforce will leave the water industry within the next 10 years. A vast majority of community water systems have been unable to attract, train and retain the next generation workforce due to the lack of an identifiable career path coupled with low salary levels and population density. Rural water utilities need a pipeline of skilled workers to ensure clean and safe water for the public and to maintain the water infrastructure necessary to keep service areas economically viable. These operators serve as public health officials and are often the only person responsible for complying with all the applicable federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act regulations and for supplying the small community with safe drinking water and sanitation every second of every day. Water and wastewater systems will be empowered to leverage workforce development activities including an identifiable career path and a modern, systematic apprenticeship model with this funding for the first time.



DISTRICT 1

Annie -

a big thank you to  
you and Rural Water.  
Your time & the use of your  
equipment helped us  
determine what we have &  
what is needed in our  
district. Great to work  
with you.

Bernie J.  
Troy Center Secretary  
District



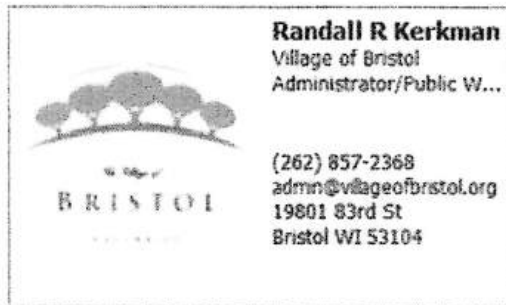
## Renee Koback

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**From:** Randy Kerkman <admin@villageofbristol.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 3, 2025 8:56 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Thank you

Hi Renee,

Just want to thank you/Rural Water for all you do for us small utilities. We are working with Matt on our efficiency for utilities. In the past you helped with emergency operations plan. Thank you sooo much for all you do.





12/10/25

Hi Renee,

The Village of Walworth is greatly indebted to the efforts of WRWA. We have received much needed training and support in areas such as water testing, leak detection, energy efficiency, and safety education.

WRWA means a great deal to the future of safe drinking water and to developing professionals to ensure that it remains plentiful and available for all.

Thank you,

Chris Holt, Superintendent Public Works Department  
Village of Walworth

## DISTRICT 2

<b>Legend:</b>
Blue - Waterworks Assistance
Green - Energy Efficiency
Teal/Aqua – Source Water Assistance
Light Brown – Wastewater Assistance

Contact Date	System Name	System Contact	Position	System Connections/ Energy Savings	Total Contact Time	Savings to System
12/11/23	North Freedom					\$30,000
A wellhead protection plan was completed by an engineering firm in 2007 but never implemented. The current public works director/water operator and village clerk were both new to the system and requested help with an update. WRWA Sourcewater Specialist Andrew Aslesen updated the WHPP which included a robust implementation strategy. On 12/11/23, Andrew attended the village board meeting to explain the WHPP, the WHP ordinance and answer questions. During the meeting, village board voted to adopt the wellhead protection ordinance, which implements the plan and provides protection for the village wells. WRWA's technical assistance saved the village \$30,000 in engineering costs.						
9/30/24	La Valle					\$30,000
WRWA Sourcewater Specialist Andrew Aslesen was contacted to draft a wellhead protection plan precipitated by a new well. Andrew was able to help the public works director draft a robust WHPP for the village and assist the clerk in preparing an ordinance creating a wellhead protection zoning overlay district. The proposed WHP ordinance was adopted by the village board on 9/30/24. WRWA's technical assistance saved La Valle \$30,000 in engineering fees.						
1/2/25	Argyle Waterworks	Jared Johnson	Water Superintendent	385 W / 320 WW	2.5 hrs.	\$1,200
WI DNR Water Engineer Nathan Wells contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden for assistance with Argyle Water Utility's chlorination system. At the DNR sanitary survey, Mr. Wells pointed out the chlorine levels in the water distribution system were inconsistent and low. He recommended purchasing new chlorine pumps, changing out the chlorine lines with new lines engineered and sized appropriately for each of the three wells gallons per minute output. The new chlorine pumps were to be set to DNR recommendation. Annetta traveled to Argyle to do an assessment of the new chlorine pumps, new chlorine lines, and pump settings. Annetta did an assessment at all three of the wells in town. She demonstrated to Mr. Johnson how the chlorine lines were to be installed, and the new chlorine pumps were to the correct settings and were pumping chlorine. She also demonstrated how to take a chlorine sample at the entry point to be sure the system is getting recommended chlorine residuals in the distribution system. Mr. Johnson and Annetta carefully reviewed the letter received from the DNR, and Annetta said the new chlorine system in all three wells looked good, and that Argyle should no longer be noncompliant with the DNR.						
3/6/25	New Glarus Waterworks	Jason Borth	Water Superintendent	960 W / 760 WW	2.5 hrs.	\$1,800
Jason Borth contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden for assistance with a Tier II Violation from the Lead Materials Inventory. Annetta agreed to meet with Mr. Borth to review the deficiencies. After a review of the inventory, it was determined the engineering firm contracted for the service did not complete the inventory properly. There were numerous entries submitted in the incorrect category. For instance, copper lines written down to dwellings should have been entered as unknowns and service lines that had no connection were entered. The inventory would have to be redone. This was a tedious task to undertake but would have to be done by the utility for accuracy. By contacting WRWA for assistance, New Glarus Water Utility saved \$1,800 in engineering fees to return to compliance.						
3/17/25	Village of Monticello					\$30,000
Monticello's municipal water system is served by two existing municipal wells and one newly constructed well. The newly constructed well is a large expense for a system this small and any way for them to save money on the process was important. Well #1 is shallow, well-constructed in an unconsolidated sand and gravel aquifer that is vulnerable to contamination. The well has experienced elevated nitrate levels in recent years. WRWA Sourcewater Specialist Andrew						

Aslesen can provide technical assistance and develop a wellhead protection plan free of charge, saving the system a significant amount of money. Elevated nitrate at Well #1 is the biggest concern. It is believed that spills from the cheese factory next to Well #1 have contributed to the elevated nitrate. The operator believes recent improvements made by new ownership at the cheese factory has led to recently reduced levels of nitrate in Well #1. Andrew completed a new WHPP which was approved by WI DNR in February 2025, saving the village a significant amount of money. WRWA provided technical expertise into the nitrate issue at Well #1 and included plans to monitor nitrate levels at Well #1. WRWA continues to be available to the village to provide technical assistance with ongoing wellhead protection and implementation activities. WRWA's technical assistance saved the village \$30,000 in engineering costs.

3/17/25	Village of Windsor			6,200 kWh W 0 WW		\$412 ann.
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WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed a follow-up energy efficiency assessment for Windsor's water and wastewater operations. For their water operations, Matt suggested adding a timer to reduce the dehumidifier runtime on Morrisonville Well #3 by 50% and turn tax exempt forms in for Morrison Well #3, the pressure tank and service address 4676 Cty Rd DM. For their wastewater operations, Matt suggested maintaining the distribution system to reduce I/I and to turn in the Peck St. lift station tax exempt form. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Windsor would save \$130 annually for their water operations and \$282 annually for their wastewater operations.

4/15/25	Belmont Waterworks	Riley Cutler	Water Operations Specialist	330 W / 330 WW	3.25 hrs.	\$1,500
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Newly appointed Water Superintendent Kelly Soltis contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden for assistance with water utility operations and to update the Utility Emergency Response plan. Annetta met with Mr. Soltis and Water Operations Specialist Riley Culter. Annetta demonstrated how to properly fill out and complete the village's Emergency Response Plan. Mr. Cutler and Mr. Soltis had questions on how to measure well depths in the well houses and how the operation of the chlorine pump was properly set. Annetta demonstrated the difference between direct and indirect well depth readings and the applicable one to the well gauge. Annetta also demonstrated how to operate the chlorine pump for the well. They discussed upcoming DNR deadlines for a water utility and how to meet those deadlines. Belmont's water operation specialists are well on their way to properly operating and managing the water utility due to WRWA's expertise. WRWA saved the village \$1,500 in services otherwise charged by an engineering firm.

4/22/25	Morrisonville SD #1	Jon Claas	Water Operations Specialist	166 W / 0 WW	2.75 hrs.	\$2,500
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WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was contacted by Jon Claas to assist with leak detection. Mr. Claas is also the Water Superintendent for Morrisonville. Todd met with Mr. Claas and Operations Specialist Lee Dietrick. In addition to the system's unsuccessful efforts at leak detection, a neighboring water municipality had attempted to locate the leak with no results. The crew had an idea where the leak may be based on wastewater flows. The system had doubled the daily water pumping because of the ongoing leak. Todd explained that the next step to leak detection was to go out into the system and listen to some hydrants, valves, and customer services with the LD-12 leak detection listening device. He gathered the equipment needed for the testing. Working alongside Mr. Claas and Mr. Dietrick, Todd listened to fire hydrants and customer water services and was able to pinpoint the leak. They also discovered noise on a customer's water service on a new water main and service installation, which was inspected and repaired. Mr. Claas estimated the savings to the village to be about \$2,500 for the leak detection services and resolution of the water loss from the leak.

6/9/25	Hollandale Waterworks	Jerry Doescher	Public Works Director	102 W / 102 WW	2.75 hrs.	\$1,000
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Jerry Doescher contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden for assistance on a leak within the water system. The system has been losing water since 2024 AND Mr. Doescher was not able to find the source of the leak. The past 18 months, the village had been constructing a new addition for the Riverdale Elementary School District on the elementary school in town. The construction company contacted Mr. Doescher with concerns about a potential water leak on the construction site. Annetta and Mr. Doescher listened to a new water line leading all along the new addition of the school and listened to the hydrant that was moved. There was sound on the hydrant evident that a leak was on the new water line installed. The construction crew, Mr. Doescher and Annetta went into the mechanical room of the school to listen where the water line entered the building and detected where the leak was. WRWA's technical assistance saved the village \$1,000 in costs of hiring a professional leak detection company and the construction crew repaired the line.

7/7/25	Hill Point Sanitary District	Bob Breneman	Wastewater Ops. Specialist	0 W / 50 WW	3 hrs.	\$1,000
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WRWA Trainer/Technician Tony Roche was contacted by Bob Breneman to help with reporting monthly discharge data. Hill Point recently completed a major upgrade and has new wastewater reporting responsibilities to maintain compliance with their WI Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. Tony met with Mr. Breneman and Hill Point Sanitary District Consultant Lisa McGlynn to submit monthly discharge reports for April – June 2025. Tony assisted Mr. Breneman and

Ms. McGlynn with submitting data for monthly discharge reporting. He also helped them calculate monthly phosphorus discharge masses. WRWA's technical assistance saved the sanitary district \$1,000 in engineering fees.

7/24/25	Blue Mounds Waterworks	Dan Foster	Public Works Director	189 W / 189 WW	2.75 hrs.	\$900
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Dan Foster reached out to WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden with concerns of a hydrant leaking in the water distribution system. When Annetta arrived, she demonstrated to Mr. Foster how to listen for a leak at the fire hydrant. After careful listening, the leak was confirmed. Annetta and Mr. Foster narrowed down the leak to be at the bottom section of the hydrant requiring disassembly. Annetta, Mr. Foster and Water Operations Specialist Tanner Cullen proceeded to disassemble the hydrant. The hard rubber gasket at the bottom seat of the hydrant had a gouge in it due to a small rock getting wedged when closing the hydrant, along with the hydrant assembly which was badly corroded due to age. After replacing the aged bottom assembly with all new parts, Annetta demonstrated to Mr. Foster and Mr. Cullen how to reassemble the hydrant. Annetta then showed them how to test and operate the hydrant without flowing water due to water customer complaints. After repair and testing the hydrant was found operational. WRWA's hydrant repair plus parts saved the village \$900 in contractor costs.

11/5/25	Hill Point Sanitary District	Lisa McGlynn	Wastewater Ops. Specialist	0 W / 50 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$1,000
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WRWA Trainer/Technician Tony Roche was contacted by Lisa McGlynn to assist her with measuring the sludge blanket depth and collect sludge samples. The village uses a two-cell stabilization pond system for wastewater treatment and was required to complete a sludge blanket depth profile and collect sludge samples to remain in compliance with their wastewater discharge permit. Tony and Ms. McGlynn successfully measured the sludge blanket depth in the wastewater lagoon system and collected sludge samples to keep the Village of Hill Point in compliance with their wastewater discharge permit. WRWA's technical assistance saved the village \$1,000 in consulting/engineering fees.

12/22/25	Cambridge Waterworks	Blake Darnell	Water Superintendent	325 W / 325 WW	2.75 hrs.	\$3,500
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Public Works Director, Cody Garcia, and Water Superintendent, Blake Darnell, contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden for assistance with water loss in the distribution system. Upon arrival to the area of concern, Mr. Garcia and Mr. Darnell pointed out a very wet area of land where the water distribution line goes under. Annetta listened and detected a noise in the valve nearest to the wet spot on the land. Mr. Garcia and Mr. Darnell stated that in reviewing well pumping records from the last 5-10 years, a large ongoing water loss was going on, and they felt this was a highly suspicious spot. They then contacted a professional water leak locating company. Annetta followed up with them weeks later to see how things were progressing. The professional leak locator performed extensive leak locating with a correlator and sound devices, resulting in no leak detected. Annetta, Mr. Garcia and Mr. Darnell went back out to the site to perform more investigating in finding the leak. Annetta demonstrated how to listen to valves outside of the zone of the suspected leaking water distribution line and how to listen for a leak on a water distribution line hydrant. After confirming a leak was on the line, Annetta demonstrated how to pressure test the line. The pressure gauge lost all pressure on the line further verifying a leak. WRWA's services saved the village \$3,500 in additional contractor fees.



WADE D. PETERSON

PO Box 215

Baraboo, WI 53913

Phone: (608) 397-0251

Wisconsin Rural Water Association

January 2, 2025

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

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

## Renee Koback

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**From:** Mary Jo Michek <mmichek@bluemoundsvillage.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2025 12:45 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Main Mailing Address  
**Attachments:** bluemoundscopier@gmail.com\_20250128\_124405.pdf

Here's the updated system information.

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!!

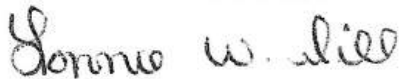
Mary Jo Michek  
Clerk/Treasurer  
Village of Blue Mounds  
11011 Brigham Avenue  
P. O. Box 189  
Blue Mounds, WI 53517  
608.437.5197 ext. 1  
608-437-4198 Fax

[www.bluemoundsvillage.com](http://www.bluemoundsvillage.com)

**Register or Request Absentee here:** <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/>

I would like to write this letter about the help that WRWA has been for the Village of Albany this last year and for the last 20 years that I have been with the Village. When I started, the day, I was hired by the superintendent that hired me and passed away that night. I was got a call the next day from the village president that told me about his passing. I was able to leave the job that I was working for, early so I could start as so as posable. At the village at the time there was one person that had been there for many years but didn't want to take charge. He called WRWA and they came down and helped with getting everything lined up, making sure we would get things done and all the testing and the paperwork filled out right. We could call anytime if we had any questions and helped me. The one that became Superintendent did not know how to and what we needed to get our State Water and Sewer Certification done. WRWA came in with one call and pointed us in the right direction. Over the years they have come down and helped find a water break and we had a hard time finding, Annie was a very good help that very cold day. WRWA helped me get thought paperwork that I was having trouble with for the Villages USDA loan for a New Standpipe and Replacement of Watermains. WRWA has and will always be for the communities of the State of Wisconsin there funding should near be cut or anything for what they do for the State and the community that no one sees but the one that they help every day.

Thank You Lonnie W. Gill



Superintendent of Public works

Village of Albany



To whom it may concern:

My name is Mark Myers. I am the Waterworks and Wastewater Operator for the village of Rewey, Wi. I started my position on May 27, 2020, after the previous operator had retired from the village. My learning experience was mostly a trial by fire, as I did not receive much in the line of training time. I was, to put it mildly, lost. I had very little experience with all aspects of my job, from actual in the fieldwork to the required paperwork for the job. At one time within the first year of my employment I was seriously contemplating resigning, as I saw no light at the end of the tunnel.

Somewhere along that time, my DNR rep for water at the time, Theera Ratarasarn, suggested I contact WRWA for help.

Annetta Von Rueden, the WRWA circuit rider for our area here has been a tremendous amount of help, providing pointers, equipment, on site instruction and help from paperwork to hydrant flushing and valve exercising. She has also helped us with attempts to get funding for needed projects in the village that we do not have money for.

She has been a wealth of information and help, and I now have a much better outlook and attitude toward working to get our village's issues under control and on the right track.

I've also interacted on the Wastewater side with WRWA's rep, Tony Roche. During this past summer, I have endured I&I issues at the treatment plant that have hurt my plants performance. Tony was great and actually came to the site to examine my plant's situation and layout. He was able to offer some great pointers that have helped steer our treatment plant back in the right direction.

Without the help and services of WRWA, I would still be struggling here in our small village. I hope that funding for the WRWA will continue to provide this much needed service to my fellow Waterworks and Wastewater operators.

Thanks Annie, Tony and WRWA!

Mark Myers, Public Works  
Village of Rewey  
PO Box 33  
218 West Street  
Rewey, Wi 53580

Dear those from WRWA,

I deeply appreciate being awarded your scholarship. As someone going into college, being able to finance school has proven itself to be quite the challenge, so all of the help counts. Your donation is not only substantial, but something I'm very grateful for, since it helps chip away at that hefty cost of entry. Again, thank you very much.

Sincerely,  
Caleb Retnieski  
Caleb



## VILLAGE OF DEFOREST

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120 S STEVENSON STREET  
DEFOREST, WI 53532  
PHONE (608) 846-6751  
WWW.DEFORESTWI.GOV

Dear Wisconsin Rural Water Association,

Thank you for supporting the Village of DeForest by making the expertise of Source Water Specialist Andrew Aslesen available to assist with the update of our Wellhead Protection Plan in 2025. Your organization's commitment to source water protection and technical assistance was vital in helping us strengthen safeguards for our municipal water supply and align our planning efforts with Wisconsin's wellhead protection expectations.

Andrew's guidance throughout the planning process—ranging from drafting an updated plan to practical advice on implementation of ordinances—significantly improved the quality and clarity of our updated plan. His work reflects WRWA's broader mission of assisting, educating, and representing Wisconsin water systems, and it has made a tangible difference for our residents.

The Village of DeForest values WRWA as a trusted partner and appreciates the continued support your association provides to communities across the state working to protect drinking water and groundwater resources. Please extend our sincere gratitude to your leadership, staff, and board for prioritizing programs that make this kind of collaboration possible.

With appreciation,

Judd Blau  
Director of Public Works / Deputy Administrator  
Village of DeForest  
608-846-6751 | [blauj@deforestwi.gov](mailto:blauj@deforestwi.gov)  
12/3/2025

VILLAGE OF ALBANY  
PUBLIC WORKS  
206 North Water Street  
Albany, WI 53502-9430



PHONE: 608-862-3246  
FAX: 608-862-1539  
WEBSITE: [albanywi.org](http://albanywi.org)  
EMAIL: [publicworks@albanywi.org](mailto:publicworks@albanywi.org)

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I would like to thank WRWA for all the help that they have given to the Village of Albany over the past year and years in the past. Every time I or the Village crew has had a problem with a water break or helping the Fire Department doing the pressure testing of Fire Hydrant around the Village for the Fire Department audit. WRWA does a Great job with training year around to keep up credits for water and sewer licenses. WRWA is one of the Very Best at doing their classes for new employees to get their water and sewer licenses and they know how it works and what they are doing after the classes from WRWA.

Thank You

Lonnie W. Gill

Superintendent of Public Works

Village of Albany

# Wisconsin Rural Water Association

## Impact on Wisconsin by Congressional Districts

### DISTRICT 3

Legend:
Blue - Waterworks Assistance
Green - Energy Efficiency
Teal/Aqua – Source Water Assistance
Light Brown – Wastewater Assistance

Contact Date	System Name	System Contact	Position	System Connections/ Energy Savings	Total Contact Time	Savings to System
1/10/25	Augusta Waterworks	Scott Williamson	Wastewater Superintendent	438 W / 438 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$3,000
<p>Scott Williams contacted WRWA technician Chris Groh for assistance with their wastewater treatment plant. Their former operator had retired, and their activated sludge system began to fail. Mr. Groh met with the operating crew and found the mixed liquor solids were over 10,000 ppm and mostly lifeless. This is entirely too many solids, so Chris instructed and demonstrated a very critical means to reduce the solids in the process. After this, Chris went through the plant with the crew to explain and demonstrate how to run the plant properly. The temperature during the visit was about -14 degrees, so it was important to show proper cold weather operations. Chris returned 2 weeks later for a progressive report and found some improvement. Extreme cold temperatures do not allow quick changes. Next steps were discussed and the operators were given further instructions on sludge handling and digestion of sludges. WRWA's services saved the village \$3,000 in consultant fees for diagnosis and technical assistance.</p>						
2/11/25	Wheeler Waterworks	Don Knutson	Village Clerk	3,072 kWh		\$563 ann.
<p>WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler met with Don Knutson and performed an energy efficiency assessment for Wheeler's water operations. Matt suggested changing the electrical rate, reducing the runtime of the tower mixer and adding a VFD to the current well. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Wheeler would save \$563 annually on their water operations.</p>						
2/24/25	Durand Waterworks	Mitch Gilbertson	Asst. Public Works Director	804 W / 804 WW	3.25 hrs.	\$3,259
<p>WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by the City of Durand to provide technical assistance with locating a water leak. Dan traveled to Durand and met with Mitch Gilbertson. They reviewed the system maps concentrating on the areas with known issues. Dan, armed with his LD-12, isolated the section of the water system where the leak was located. He then used correlator equipment to pinpoint the leak. With the sensitive location of the leak, Mr. Gilbertson suggested an alternative test before digging. They conducted a pressure test, revealing a leak in this section of the water main. Unfortunately, a failure occurred during the pressure test, rendering a private 4-inch water service to the courthouse inoperable. Dan proposed a temporary service to the courthouse. During the setup of the temp service, Dan and Mr. Gilbertson discovered the courthouse water meter was turning backward. Further investigation revealed a second leak on the private side of the service. Dan's expertise was instrumental in identifying the system's water leak and providing Mr. Gilbertson with valuable knowledge. This service saved the City of Durand \$2,000 for leak detection and correlator expenses, \$1,038 revenue loss, \$221 pumping expenses and a loss of 1,062 kWh.</p>						
3/12/25	Rockland Waterworks	Keegan Erickson	Wastewater Ops. Specialist	172 W / 172 WW	2.5 hrs.	\$1,000
<p>WRWA Trainer/Technician Tony Roche was contacted by Keegan Erickson to help troubleshoot problems with high effluent solids and high effluent BOD in the wastewater facility. Tony and Mr. Erickson discussed issues and causes of the plant upset and decided the cause was coming from clarifier washout during high flow periods. Mr. Roche trained the Rockland staff how to properly waste sludge at a slow rate that would prevent coning and how to take sludge blanket depth readings in the clarifier. Tony and Mr. Erickson agreed that the sludge storage tank needed to be emptied to make room to waste more sludge out of the clarifier. Rockland staff contacted their biosolids hauler and scheduled hauling appointments to take sludge out of their sludge storage tank. WRWA services saved Rockland \$1,000 for consulting fees.</p>						
3/20/25	Adams Waterworks			3,687 kWh		\$1,102 ann.

WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed an energy efficiency assessment follow-up for Adams' water operations. He had conducted an initial assessment in 2024. On this visit, Matt suggested turning in the tax-exempt forms to the electric provider to remove taxes from the bill and fine tuning the VDF to maximize pump efficiency. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Adams would save \$1,102 annually for their water operations.

4/14/25	Lake Hallie Waterworks	Scott Decker	Water Operations Specialist	2228 W / 1684 WW	6.25 hrs.	\$17,950
WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by the Village of Lake Hallie to provide technical assistance in developing a GIS map. Dan traveled to Lake Hallie and met with Scott Decker. Together, they reviewed all documents from previous construction records, as-builts, engineering drawings, and current GIS markings. After the review, Dan taught Mr. Decker how to import data and build system map layers. Once all layers were installed, Dan provided technical training on managing specific layers. Mr. Decker requested that a layer be constructed to automatically calculate the flushed gallons from a hydrant and a layer for daily well logs and pumpage reports. With the addition of the layers, Mr. Decker and his team can streamline their day-to-day operation. During the on-site visit, Dan developed a comprehensive GIS mapping and asset management program. This service saved Lake Hallie \$16,000 on GIS programs from outside vendors and provided Mr. Decker and his staff with complete control of their mapping platform. The comprehensive nature of the program ensures all aspects of their operations are covered, giving the stakeholders a sense of security. WRWA's expertise saved Lake Hallie Waterworks a total of \$17,950.						
4/29/25	Vesper Waterworks	George Brandl	Public Works Director	171 W / 171 WW	3.5 hrs.	\$1,000
WRWA Trainer/Technician Tony Roche was contacted by George Brandl to help with writing standard operating procedures for permit required sampling, pH testing, and DO testing. Tony met with Mr. Brandl to create standard operating procedures for influent and effluent sample collection, pH testing, and DO testing. During the meeting, Tony assisted Mr. Brandl with creating standard operating procedures that will aid Vesper staff with performing permit-required duties while Mr. Brandl is away on vacation or on leave. WRWA's technical assistance saved Vesper \$1,000 in consultant fees to create standard operating procedures.						
5/12/25	Prairie du Chien Waterworks	John Rickleff	Wastewater Ops. Specialist	1730 W / 1730 WW	5.25 hrs.	\$1,000
WRWA Trainer/Technician Tony Roche visited the Prairie du Chien wastewater treatment plant to assist John Rickleff with phosphorus testing. The department had experienced employee turnover, and Mr. Rickleff was recently tasked with conducting phosphorus analysis to maintain compliance with their Wisconsin Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit. Mr. Rickleff was struggling to pass quality control requirements for phosphorus analysis and was instructed by the WI DNR to create a new phosphorus detection curve. Tony trained Mr. Rickleff on the procedures needed to comply with the phosphorus detection curve and staff created a new curve that met the statistical criteria set forth by the DNR. WRWA's technical assistance saved Prairie du Chien \$1,000 in consultant fees.						
6/11/25	Vesper Waterworks	George Brandl	Public Works Director	22,845 kWh		\$3,059 ann.
WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler met with George Brandl and performed an energy efficiency assessment for Vesper's wastewater operations. Matt suggested replacing old motors with new energy-efficient motors and adding a VFD to one of the blowers for better process control. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Vesper would save \$3,059 annually for their wastewater operations.						
6/12/25	Augusta Waterworks	Dennis Bergman	Wastewater Ops. Specialist	438 W / 438 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$1,000
WRWA Trainer/Technician Tony Roche was contacted by Dennis Bergman to help with sludge management options needed to dispose of biosolids at the treatment plant. Mr. Bergman recently transitioned into the wastewater operator role and did not have any prior wastewater experience. Tony trained Mr. Bergman to correctly waste sludge to maintain process control and to correctly sample biosolids from the sludge storage tank in order to maintain compliance with DNR sludge sampling requirements. Tony explained the importance of regular wasting to avoid operational problems with the treatment plant. They explored different options to dispose of the biosolids from the treatment plant. Augusta is beginning the process of enrolling new agricultural fields into the biosolids program. Tony explained the necessary process to enroll a field into a biosolids program, and the soil sampling requirements needed to have the field approved by the WI DNR. WRWA's services saved the village \$1,000 in contractor fees.						
6/30/25	Patch Grove Waterworks			18,438 kWh		\$2,509 ann.
WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed an energy efficiency assessment for Patch Grove's wastewater operations. Matt suggested repairing the air leak at the pipe joint above the blowers, reducing the DO level from plus 5.0 mg/L to an operating area of 1.0-3.0 mg/L and replacing the old inefficient motors with new high-efficiency						



motors. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Patch Grove would save \$2,509 annually for their wastewater operations.

7/14/25	Maiden Rock Water Utility	Brian Garay	Public Works Director	87 W / 50 WW	9.25 hrs.	\$21,080
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WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by the Village of Maiden Rock and Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH) for technical assistance with a water tower drain down and inspection, and water main upgrade into the water tower. Dan met with Brian Garay, and they began setting up the water system to be drained and maintain pressure via a pressure relief valve. Once they had established a pressurized system, they began preparing the water tower for inspection, the water main tie-in, and the addition of a tower mixer. As the tower was being drained, a meeting took place before digging began. After a quick review of the plans, Dan noticed a significant problem with the designed plans. If the tie-in occurs, Maiden Rock will be unable to ever drain the water tower or maintain pressure for future drain downs. Dan requested that the contractor not begin any work until this item was resolved. Jeff Nussbaum, senior engineer at SHE was consulted. The three discussed the potential issue this could cause in the future. It was determined the water tie-in could be placed further downstream without requiring a change order. This significantly reduced downtime, allowing Maiden Rock to bring the tower back online three weeks sooner than anticipated. WRWA's technical assistance saved Maiden Rock \$6,250 in consultant and equipment rental fees, avoided an \$8,700 change order, and prevented 9.84 million gallons of water from being wasted, at a cost of \$6,130.

8/14/25	Gays Mills Waterworks	Dawn McCann	Clerk	227 W / 227 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$1,500
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WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by Gays Mills to provide technical assistance with developing an emergency chlorination plan. Dan traveled to Gays Mill and met with Dawn McCann, the Clerk, and Robert Robinson, the Ground Water Specialist. Mrs. McCann and Mr. Robinson discussed how a significant amount of water documentation had been lost during the floods and the transition of water operators. Mrs. McCann expressed concerns that Gays Mill might face substantial deficiencies during their upcoming sanitary survey inspection. Dan and Mr. Robinson began developing the emergency chlorination plan. During the on-site visit, Dan provided essential analytical and technical assistance for developing an emergency chlorination plan. WRWA's services saved Glenwood City \$1,500 in consultant fees and valuable technical assistance with developing their new emergency chlorination plan.

8/20/25	Potosi Waterworks	Ron Dressler	Water Operations Specialist	195 W / 195 WW	3.5 hrs.	\$1,600
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Ron Dressler contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden for assistance with a whole water distribution leak survey at the request of the village engineer. When Annetta arrived in Potosi, she met with Mr. Dressler and Village Clerk Jessie Gavinski to discuss a plan to look for the leak in the distribution system. Mr. Dressler suggested it would be best to start at the water tower and work down to the bottom or end of the distribution system. A lengthy investigation of the whole system came up with several results. Five hydrants and one pipe at the end of the distribution system were leaking. The pipe had several repairs to it already. Annetta strongly suggested they consider replacing that section of the old water pipe as there is a brewery at the end of that main that requires a lot of water for production. Mr. Dressler and Ms. Gavinski will present the findings to the village board and village engineer at their next board meeting. WRWA's technical assistance saved the village \$1,600 in contracted leak detection services.

9/8/25	Alma Waterworks	Larry Grisen	Board Chairman	372 W / 372 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$127,500
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WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by Larry Grisen. They planned to conduct ice pigging to address a water quality issue. Dan pointed out that while ice pigging might solve the immediate issue, the underlying cause still needed to be addressed. Dan met with Water Superintendent Bernie Bartz. Current water issues included sulfur-smelling water, a reddish-brown color, and a slimy texture. Dan noted the water problems resemble those caused by iron bacteria, and the planned ice pigging will not resolve the issue. They flushed the affected area, and Dan observed no signs of the reported water problems. However, he detected elevated levels of chlorine and air within the water system. Dan conducted multiple on-site visits, developed a water quality plan, a flushing plan, several standard operating procedures, customer complaint forms, a GIS flushing layer, and new sampling forms. At the September utility board meeting, Dan presented a comprehensive water quality plan and other documents to the board. The board approved the water quality plan and decided not to proceed with the ice pigging. WRWA's services saved Alma Waterworks \$90,000 by avoiding ice pigging, \$30,000 for a water quality plan, \$7,500 for a flushing plan, and the cost of a GIS mapping layer.

9/9/25	Gays Mills Waterworks	Dawn McCann	Clerk	227 W / 227 WW	2.5 hrs.	\$1,000
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WRWA Trainer/Technician Tony Roche was contacted by Dawn McCann to help complete the Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance (CMOM) Report for the village. Gays Mills was recently visited by the WI DNR and was informed that their CMOM document needed to be updated to maintain compliance. Tony met with Ms. McCann and

Gays Mills operator Bob Robinson to update and complete the CMOM report. WRWA's technical assistance saved the village \$1,000 in engineering fees.

9/30/25	Bloomington Waterworks	Keith Leitzinger	Public Works Director	7,928 kWh		\$1,109 ann.
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WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler conducted an energy efficiency assessment for Bloomington's water operations. Matt suggested adding a VFD to their only well and reducing the water loss in the village to less than 10%. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Bloomington would save \$1,109 annually for their water operations.

9/30/25	Amherst Waterworks	Nic Lea	Water Operator	6,599 kWh		\$967 ann.
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WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler conducted an energy efficiency assessment for Amherst's water operations. Matt suggested adding a VFD to Well 2 for process control, prolonged pump life, and energy savings. He also suggested adjusting the speed of Well 1 after the UV disinfection process is added. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Amherst would save \$967 annually for their water operations.

10/9/25	Friendship Waterworks	Beth Schultz	Public Works Director	231 W / 0 WW	5.25 hrs.	\$1,200
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WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by Friendship Waterworks to provide technical assistance in reviewing the Wisconsin DNR study guide in preparation for the water operator exam. Dan traveled to Friendship and met with Beth Schultz, the Ground Water Specialist. During the on-site visit, Ms. Schultz acknowledged her knowledge gaps. Dan worked with Ms. Schultz on all parts she was unsure about. They went out in the system and applied some of the WI DNR study guides to practical practice. During fieldwork, Ms. Schultz demonstrated many skills and knowledge needed to pass the WI DNR operator exam. During the on-site visit, Dan provided one-on-one classroom instruction and in-the-field training. WRWA's services saved Friendship \$1,200 in consultant fees while providing new skills and education.

10/16/25	Friendship Waterworks	Beth Schultz	Public Works Director	231 W / 0 WW	3.25 hrs.	\$900
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Beth Schultz contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden for assistance with an inoperable fire hydrant in the village. Annetta demonstrated to Ms. Schultz and her assistant, Kiera Applegate, how to properly open the hydrant slowly to detect signs of wear on the operating rod. The hydrant opened with extreme difficulty. Annetta informed Ms. Schultz the issue was an old bushing in the operating nut, the top nut on a hydrant that turns for operation of the hydrant. Annetta, along with Ms. Schultz disassembled the hydrant to replace the bushing and reassembled the hydrant. Ms. Schultz tested the hydrant, and it operated with ease. Ms. Schultz requested Annetta demonstrate how to properly operate water distribution valves, as she has never operated a water distribution valve before. WRWA's services saved the Village of Friendship \$900, the cost to have a company come out and repair the hydrant.

10/20/25	Almond Waterworks	Greg Otto	Wastewater Superintendent	129 W / 129 WW	1 hr.	\$1,000
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WRWA Circuit Rider Jesse Hass was contacted by Greg Otto to help with issues in the collection system and asked if he could drop off a sewer camera. Jesse helped train Mr. Otto on how to use the camera and check problem areas within the collection system. The village is having issues with laterals hooked to the collection system. Jesse and Mr. Otto will touch base after Mr. Otto televises areas within the collection system. WRWA saved the village \$1,000 in rental fees.

10/21/25	Vesper Waterworks	George Brandl	Wastewater Ops. Specialist	171 W / 171 WW	2.5 hrs.	\$1,000
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WRWA Trainer/Technician Tony Roche was contacted by George Brandl to help with writing a standard operating procedure (SOP) for evaluating the toxicity of a phosphorus removal chemical used at the Village of Vesper wastewater pond system. The village was recently instructed by their whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing contract lab to complete an SOP to evaluate toxicity of their phosphorus removal chemical to maintain compliance with WET testing regulations. Tony met with Mr. Brandl to help complete the SOP report for the Village of Vesper. WRWA's technical assistance saved the village \$1,000 for not having to hire an engineering firm to complete the SOP report.

11/21/25	Bloomington Waterworks	Keith Leitzinger	Public Works Director	34,155 kWh		\$4,466 ann.
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WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler conducted an energy efficiency assessment for Bloomington's wastewater operations. Matt suggested replacing blower motor 3 with a new high-efficiency motor, lowering the DO from the current 5.0 mg/L plus to 1.0-3.0 mg/L, and removing the valves on the intake piping for the blowers. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Bloomington would save \$4,466 annually for their wastewater operations.

12/17/25	Merrillan Waterworks	Mike Garbers	Wastewater Ops. Specialist	233 W / 234 WW	3.75 hrs.	\$1,000
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Tony Roche was contacted by Mike Garbers to help update their Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance (CMOM) Report. The village was recently visited by the WI DNR and was informed that their CMOM document needed to be updated to maintain compliance. Tony met with Mr. Garbers and the Merrilan Public Works Director, Griffin



Abbott. During the meeting, Tony assisted Village of Merrilan staff with updating the CMOM report. WRWA's technical assistance saved the Village of Merrilan \$1,000 in engineering fees to complete the CMOM report.

12/17/25	Gays Mills Waterworks	Bob Robinson	Public Works Director	4,336 kWh		\$671 ann.
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WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler conducted an energy efficiency assessment for Gays Mills' water operations. Matt suggested locating and repairing system leaks to prevent unnecessary water pumping. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Gays Mills would save \$671 annually for their water operations.

12/19/25	Gays Mills Waterworks	Bob Robinson	Public Works Director	10,244 kWh		\$1,416 ann.
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WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler conducted an energy efficiency assessment for Gays Mills' wastewater operations. Matt suggested replacing or repairing SS lines with excessive I/I during plant upgrades. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Gays Mills would save \$1,416 annually for their wastewater operations.

Renee Koback

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**From:** Chris Groh  
**Sent:** Monday, January 27, 2025 8:12 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Thanks for Annie

**Fwd: Hey Annie 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.**

Sent from Chris' iPhone

*Maiden Rock*

## **Renee Koback**

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**From:** John Schmitt <[John.Schmitt@foremostfarms.com](mailto:John.Schmitt@foremostfarms.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 10:11 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback; Chris Groh  
**Subject:** RE: Rural Water E-News 2/12/2025

Good morning,

This is in response to Renee's request for writing a letter in support of WRWA, I hope an email is okay.

I want to thank WRWA and Chris Groh specifically for the technical support and advice I have received throughout the years. Until recently, I was the only Advanced Wastewater operator in the entire Foremost Cooperative. So I need to rely on other sources of information and reference, and Chris has always done a great job with that. Whether it is confirming a hunch that I have, or helping with issues that I can't seem to figure out, Chris is an invaluable resource for all the members of the Wastewater treatment community. I really appreciate your expertise, Chris, and your willingness to help out whenever the phone rings. And I think it's even more important that the advice is never linked to a specific product line, it's information and it's very helpful and appreciated. Thank you so much.



**Thank you,**  
**John P. Schmitt**  
Wastewater Supervisor

[john.schmitt@foremostfarms.com](mailto:john.schmitt@foremostfarms.com)  
Phone: 608-630-1803  
932 N. Madison St  
Lancaster, WI 53813  
[www.foremostfarms.com](http://www.foremostfarms.com)

## **Renee Koback**

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**From:** Chris Groh  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 11:10 AM  
**To:** Dan Wundrow; Kelly Thomas; Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Fw: CR Follow-up [EXTERNAL] 2/13/25 visit

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**From:** Brian Davis <Brian.Davis@nrwa.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 10:55 AM  
**To:** Chris Groh <CGroh@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** Fw: CR Follow-up [EXTERNAL] 2/13/25 visit

The following message was received in response to the NRWA auto-generated email following an ONS visit by one of your Circuit Riders.

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**From:** Utility Supervisor - Joesph Galewski <indeews@independence.wi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 10:49 AM  
**To:** Customer Satisfaction <customersatisfaction@nrwa.org>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 2/13/25 visit

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**  
City of Independence  
Water/Wastewater Superintendent

(715) 965-2229 Work  
(715) 538-3682 Mobile  
indeews@independence.wi.gov

# VILLAGE of READSTOWN

116 North Fourth Street, PO Box 247, Readstown, WI 54652

Ph. (608) 629-5627 Fax (608) 629-5699

[clerk@vi.readstown.wi.gov](mailto:clerk@vi.readstown.wi.gov) [www.vi.readstown.wi.gov](http://www.vi.readstown.wi.gov)

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2/28/2025

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 our village's future.

With gratitude,

*Chelsey Hoffman*

Village Clerk/Treasurer  
Village of Readstown

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Andrew,

Thank-you for your hard work  
and dedication!

Austin Aldrey  
Chris Stein  
Chris Stein

Chelsea Hoffman

## Renee Koback

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**From:** Chris Groh  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 13, 2025 6:55 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback; Brenda Staudenmaier  
**Subject:** Fw: Training

Very nice letter. John is a great supporter.

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**From:** John Hauth <JohnH@lancasterwisconsin.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 12, 2025 8:48 AM  
**To:** Chris Groh <CGroh@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** Training

Hi Chris,

I attended the Advancing Water and Wastewater Systems, Practical Solutions, Technology and Leadership for Operators training held at First Supply in LaCrosse on April 10<sup>th</sup>. Brenda from WRWA and the staff from ISG did a fantastic job of organizing and presenting this class, it was one of the best I have attended. The range of topics provided good information, ideas to take back to our communities and discussion amongst attendees and presenters. Keep up the good work.



**John Hauth**  
Public Works Director, City of Lancaster  
206 S Madison St., Lancaster, WI 53813  
(608)723-7543 (608)723-4789

## Renee Koback

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**From:** Firkus, Kathi - RD, WI <kathi.firkus@usda.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 16, 2025 2:36 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** RE: [External Email]WRWA 2025 Outdoor Expo Call for Presentations

Hi Renee....

Just letting you know that Monday is my last day with RD....so in the future, please send these sort of e-mails to Lisa Paulson as she is the acting CP director.

[Lisa.Paulson@usda.gov](mailto:Lisa.Paulson@usda.gov)

Could also copy in [Steve.Opatik@usda](mailto:Steve.Opatik@usda) as he is our state engineer...he is located here at the state office for now.

I did let Chris and the staff know last week Monday when they were here for our meeting.....but wanted to be sure to reach out to you also.

Thank you SO much for all that you have done for WI RD, and for all you do every day for Rural communities throughout Wisconsin.

It has been a pleasure working with you and I really appreciate all your hard work...it does not go unnoticed.

Take care,

Kathi

**Kathi Firkus**  
Community Programs Specialist  
Rural Development - Community Programs

**USDA**

 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Wisconsin Rural Development – State Office  
5417 Clem's Way – Stevens Point, WI 54482  
Ph: (715) 345-7651

**From:** Renee Koback <RKoback@wrwa.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 16, 2025 2:01 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback <RKoback@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** [External Email]WRWA 2025 Outdoor Expo Call for Presentations

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[External Email]

If this message comes from an **unexpected sender** or references a **vague/unexpected topic**;

Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: [Spam.Abuse@usda.gov](mailto:Spam.Abuse@usda.gov)

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# 2025 Outdoor Expo



## **Renee Koback**

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**From:** Mark Levra <mark@elkmound.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 22, 2025 6:52 AM  
**To:** WRWA  
**Subject:** Tony Roche

Good Morning:

I just wanted to drop and email to let you know how appreciative The Village of Elk Mound is with the assistance that Tony Roche and Chris Groh provided while we worked on figuring out a treatment issue at our WWTP. They made multiple trips, checked in weekly, and provided us with resources while we worked to get back on track. A big shout out to these two and the effort they put in to helping us get back to compliance. Proud to be a member of WRWA.

**Mark Levra**  
**Director of Public Works**  
**Village of Elk Mound**  
**E206 Menomonie Street**  
**Elk Mound, WI 54739**  
**(715)556-4566**

## Renee Koback

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**From:** Chris Groh  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 3:09 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback; Tony Roche; Jesse Hass; Brooke Klingbeil  
**Subject:** Fw: Feedback- Thank you!

Maybe shadowing an auditor would be good for the DNR and our operators?

Renee, a great one for the journal

*Chris Groh*

Executive Director  
Wisconsin Rural Water Association  
[cgroh@wrwa.org](mailto:cgroh@wrwa.org)  
(715) 340-2055



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**From:** Sijan, Zana Z - DNR <[Zana.Sijan@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Zana.Sijan@wisconsin.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2025 1:21 PM  
**To:** Chris Groh <[CGroh@wrwa.org](mailto:CGroh@wrwa.org)>  
**Subject:** Feedback- Thank you!

Hi Chris,

I would like to thank the WRWA organization and Tony for providing onsite training at the Prairie du Chien Treatment Plant lab. The training included, but not limited to, the generation of a passing calibration curve for total phosphorus using the Hach TNT plus kit as well as the first day testing for the initial MDL study for total phosphorus. Thanks to Tony's great work, the lab has been set up for success on the total phosphorus test. Having WRWA as an additional resource for labs to reach out to for training is invaluable especially in the current environment where many labs are experiencing significant turnover in staffing. When labs have multiple training interactions (i.e. WRWA onsite training, DNR onsite visits and phone conversations), the lab staff are offered opportunities to get all of their questions answered, resolve existing issues and learn at a greater capacity. The Laboratory Certification Program will continue to reach out to WRWA when training opportunities come up.

If the WRWA training team is interested, I would love to extend an invitation to have the training staff shadow our auditor Patricia Doerflinger for an onsite audit(s) as a way to increase consistency and exchange of ideas. Please let me know if this is something that WRWA would be interested in and I would be happy to facilitate.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Have a great weekend!

Zana Šijan  
she/her/hers

Manager, Certification Services  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Phone: 608-512-6070  
[Zana.Sijan@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Zana.Sijan@wisconsin.gov)



[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)

Our core values include professionalism, integrity, and customer service.

Please visit our [survey](#) to provide feedback on your experience interacting with any DNR employee.



Rural Water Employees,  
We would like to send a special thanks to  
Brooke & Dan W. who came out to help the  
Village on June 18, 2025. We appreciate  
all of the hard working employees that  
Rural Water has. They are always there  
to help us answer our water questions  
and to deal with the challenges that  
a small Rural Village faces.

Thank-You so much. Village of Bay City

Kev.

Sandra

Chris

John

**Renee Koback**

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**Subject:** FW: WRWA Appreciation letters

**From:** Scott Kwick <skwick@ci.altoona.wi.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 9, 2025 4:34 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback <RKoback@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** Re: WRWA Appreciation letters

Hi Renee,

On behalf of the City of Altoona, I'd like to express our sincere appreciation for the outstanding support provided by Andrew Aslesen through the Source Water Protection Program. Andrew played a key role in helping us develop our wellhead protection plan and was instrumental in guiding us through the process of getting it formally adopted as a city ordinance.

Andrew was a pleasure to work with—knowledgeable, responsive, and always willing to go the extra mile. His assistance not only helped us protect our drinking water supply but also ensured that the plan met the necessary technical and regulatory standards. Thanks to his help, our community is in a much better position to safeguard our wells for the long term.

I would highly recommend that any municipality or system interested in developing a wellhead protection program reach out to Andrew and take advantage of this valuable resource.

Thank you to WRWA and the Source Water Protection Program for continuing to provide this kind of hands-on, local support to communities across Wisconsin. Your work truly makes a difference.

Sincerely,

-Scott

**Scott Kwick | Public Works Director**

City of Altoona, Wisconsin

1303 Lynn Avenue | Altoona, WI 54720

Desk: 715-839-2948 | Cell: 715-271-6693

E-mail: [skwick@ci.altoona.wi.us](mailto:skwick@ci.altoona.wi.us)

## **Renee Koback**

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**To:** Keith Leitzinger  
**Subject:** RE: WRWA Appreciation letters

**From:** Keith Leitzinger <bwwt@villageofbloomington.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 9, 2025 4:38 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback <RKoback@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** RE: WRWA Appreciation letters

Hi Renee, Id like to say a thank you to Annetta Rueden and Matt Rettler. Annetta came down to introduce herself, and I had showed her a few things, which she is going to contact me about. Then Matt Rettler came to do the energy audit, he was very helpful and informative.



Thursday, July 10, 2025

Wisconsin Rural Water Association  
350 Water Way  
Plover, WI 54467

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Village of Trempealeau, I would like to extend our sincere appreciation for the outstanding support and technical assistance we have received from Dan Wudrow, one of your Municipal Water Circuit Riders.

Dan has been a tremendous resource to our utility. He consistently brings industry best practices, thoughtful guidance, and a collaborative approach to every interaction. His help with reviewing and interpreting water statistics for our year-end reporting has given us confidence that we are staying aligned with regulatory expectations and maintaining transparency in our operations. Having another set of expert eyes on our data has been extremely valuable.

Dan has also provided meaningful connections to other utilities that led to a substantial financial benefit for our community. Through one of those connections, we were able to purchase a significant quantity of used water meters at a greatly reduced price. These types of opportunities help small utilities like ours remain fiscally responsible while still making necessary upgrades to our systems.

The WRWA's continued support of communities across Wisconsin, especially through programs like the Circuit Rider program, has a real and measurable impact. We are grateful not only for the help we have received, but also for the chance to show our support for keeping these vital programs funded and available to other communities.

Thank you for the work you do and for the dedicated team you have assembled.

Sincerely,

*Isaac Pooler*

Isaac Pooler, CPA  
Village Administrator / Finance Director  
Village of Trempealeau & Trempealeau Municipal Utilities

**Renee Koback**

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**Subject:** FW: WRWA Appreciation letters

**From:** John Rickleff <jrickleff@prairieduchien-wi.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 10, 2025 10:11 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback <RKoback@wrwa.org>; Tony Roche <TRoche@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** RE: WRWA Appreciation letters

Dear Renee,

I wanted to send you this email thanking Tony Roche, Wastewater Technician from Wisconsin Rural Water Association, for teaching me everything about HACH TNT843 phosphorous test method. Our previous lead operator took a different job, so that put me as the operator in charge. I reached out to Tony and he was able to make it to our facility within a matter of days. Tony is very knowledgeable and great to work with. Anytime I had a question, he was on it! Tony does a great job of making contact time to time just checking in to see how operations are going and to see if I have any questions. As a newly advanced operator, it is a great feeling to know I have someone to count on if I have technical questions. I just wanted to say thanks again for all your hard work and dedication. I would recommend other operators to use the resources Wisconsin Rural Water has to offer!

Thanks,  
John Rickleff  
Prairie du Chien WWTF



## Renee Koback

---

**Subject:** FW: WRWA Appreciation letters

**From:** Rita Bulin <cazvillageclerk@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, July 11, 2025 4:44 PM

**To:** Renee Koback <RKoback@wrwa.org>

**Subject:** Re: WRWA Appreciation letters

Thank you to the Wisconsin Rural Water Association!

The Village of Cazenovia lost our long time Public Works Director when he passed unexpectedly earlier this year. As a new Director came on and worked on learning our water system, we realized we needed some help. It was suggested to us to call the Wisconsin Rural Water Association. After speaking with Annie Van Rueden over the phone, we knew we had contacted the correct place. Annie is a wealth of information and let us know of the services Rural Water is able to provide. I called Annie on a Thursday, and by Tuesday of the following week she was able to be in our community and working with us hands-on. What an unbelievable great resource we have with Rural Water in a location as remote and as small as Cazenovia. We will be contacting Rural Water again in the future as we continue to serve the needs of our village.

Thank you!

--

Rita Bulin  
Village of Cazenovia, Clerk-Treasurer  
303 N. State Highway 58  
P.O. Box 151  
Cazenovia, WI 53924  
Email: [cazvillageclerk@gmail.com](mailto:cazvillageclerk@gmail.com)  
Phone: (608) 983-2099  
Office Hours: 9am - 3pm Mon - Fri  
Village Office Dropbox: located on the front door

## Renee Koback

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**From:** Chris Groh  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 15, 2025 10:20 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Fw: CR Follow-up [EXTERNAL] On Site Visit

Maybe could go in the journal?

---

**From:** Brian Davis <Brian.Davis@nrwa.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 15, 2025 7:43 AM  
**To:** Chris Groh <CGroh@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** Fw: CR Follow-up [EXTERNAL] On Site Visit

The email below was received in response to the automated message sent following an on-site visit by one of your Circuit Riders.

---

**From:** John Hauth <DPW@lancasterwisconsin.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 14, 2025 2:57 PM  
**To:** Customer Satisfaction <customersatisfaction@nrwa.org>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] On Site Visit

Hello,

I want to express my appreciation for the rural water circuit rider program and to thank Annetta Von Rueden of the Wisconsin Rural Water Association for her recent visit. Over the years WRWA has provided technical assistance and guidance to our water and wastewater systems along with training opportunities.



**John Hauth**  
Public Works Director, City of Lancaster  
206 S Madison St., Lancaster, WI 53813  
(608)723-7543 (608)723-4789

*Please note that the Lancaster Department of Public Works has updated its primary contact email. Please direct all future correspondence to: [dpw@lancasterwisconsin.com](mailto:dpw@lancasterwisconsin.com)*

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This email has been scanned for spam and viruses by Proofpoint Essentials. Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

## **Renee Koback**

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**From:** Kim Lunda <kim@vil.baycity.wi.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 16, 2025 9:08 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Thank You so Much for being Here for the Village of Bay City.

The Village of Bay City appreciates all the help that has been received from WRWA, they have helped us with many things and made trips here to help us with reports. We are in the process of completing drilling a new well and they have made multiple trips to meet with us on how they feel we need to proceed and help us to know what type of testing we need to do for test sites.

We have been able to borrow tools from them, and they have really helped us cut cost with not having to buy those tools. The WRWA staff has come to our offices and helped us with completing state reports that we have not had to report on before.

WRWA has been an extraordinary help to us here at the Village of Bay City. Thank You so much for being there for us. I hope that the state funding continues for you as this entity is just so important for rural Wisconsin, America!!

### **Thank-You**

All of the Village of Bay City Wisconsin Staff  
Phone (715) 594-3168  
Cell (715) 530-4401

# VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH

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130 N CHESTNUT STREET, ELLSWORTH, WI 54011 | PHONE 715-273-4742 | FAX 715-273-6460

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Village of Ellsworth, I would like to express our appreciation for the support we received from the Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA) Office throughout 2025. The guidance, resources, and professional assistance provided by WRWA continue to play an important role in helping us operate and maintain our water and wastewater systems effectively.

In addition, the continuing education opportunities offered through WRWA have been essential in ensuring that our staff remain current with their wastewater and water certifications. This support helps us stay compliant, improve system performance, and better serve our community.

We value the services WRWA provides to municipalities across Wisconsin, and we are grateful for the ongoing assistance that strengthens the technical and operational capabilities of systems like ours.

Thank you for your continued support of these programs.

Sincerely,  
Bradley Vick  
DPW Village of Ellsworth

TO: Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA)  
FROM: Kevin Garnett (DNR# 37561), Village of Elk Mound Public Works  
DATE: December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025  
RE: Program Excellence and Support

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Kevin Garnett, and I am a Water and Wastewater Operator for the Village of Elk Mound in Western Wisconsin.

Over the course of the last 18 Months, our Activated Sludge Wastewater Plant began to give us problems. We began to lose our treatment and with that, inched closer to becoming non-compliant with our Permit Numbers for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. I, along with our other operators and director of Public Works, worked tirelessly to attempt to rectify the issue with no success.

Feeling like we had exhausted our options within our abilities, we reached out to WRWA. Tony Roche, WRWA Wastewater Technician along with Chris Groh, WRWA Executive Director, came to our aide and attempted to get our plant back and pointed in the right direction. Chris and Tony both demonstrated a vast and complex knowledge of plants like ours and offered up many ideas to try. Chris was well-spoken and had an exceptionally good understanding of what might upset our plant. Tony had an extensive knowledge of the meters we were using, the chemistry within our plant as well as some process control options we could try. Both gentlemen were extremely accessible and responded to many emails, texts and calls. Tony and Chris both were on-site on multiple occasions helping us identify legitimate next steps.

Over the course of many months, our plant slowly returned to a compliant state, and we once again started to discharge a very high-quality effluent to our Muddy Creek Watershed.

We are proud to be a part of the WRWA, we attend the annual conference and believe highly in the part they play within our state. Without programs such as these and folks like Chris and Tony, our Natural Resources would suffer. Having guys like this to bounce ideas off of, to have question our plan and process control, help municipalities like ours ensure we are making the right decisions that are in the best interests of our constituents, taxpayers and the natural resources we work so hard to protect!

The Village of Elk Mound FULLY endorses the work that the Wisconsin Rural Water Association does within the State of Wisconsin! They are vital partners for Water and Wastewater Programs around the state!

Respectfully,

*Kevin A. Garnett*

Kevin A. Garnett  
Village of Elk Mound Water and Wastewater Operator

# *Village of Friendship*

507 West Lake Street

P.O. Box 206

Friendship, WI 53934

Phone: 608-339-3243

FAX: 608-339-4763

Dear Wisconsin Rural Water Association Team,

As the new Public Works Director for the Village of Friendship, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the tremendous support WRWA has provided me this year. Your guidance has been instrumental in helping me navigate my responsibilities and ensure our Village meets essential standards.

Your team's visit to our Village to demonstrate proper fire hydrant maintenance and inspection was invaluable. Additionally, your assistance in explaining the requirements for passing water tests through the DNR gave me the confidence to manage these processes effectively.

I would like to give special recognition to Annie and Dan who have been an incredible resource. Their willingness to answer questions and provide guidance whenever needed has made a significant difference in my transition into this role.

Thank you for your dedication and for offering such outstanding support. I truly appreciate everything WRWA has done for me and our community, and I look forward to continuing our partnership.

Sincerely,  
Beth Schultz  
Public Works Director  
Village of Friendship

## Renee Koback

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**From:** Cheryl Cushman <wastewater@platteville.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 4, 2025 7:19 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Thank You

To Whom it may concern,

I attended another training session that Wisconsin Rural Water organized (Anaerobic Digester Course). These trainings provide the opportunity to maintaining Continued Education Credits required for operator licensure. The information from these trainings and the networking with other operators that attend the trainings has proven invaluable.

Thanks,

Cheryl Cushman  
WWTP Foreman  
[wastewater@platteville.org](mailto:wastewater@platteville.org)  
office: 608 348-9741 x2249  
cell: 608 778-2771



## Renee Koback

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**From:** George Taylor  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 4, 2025 11:05 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** FW: Nedland Waters Sample/

Thank you letter from Nedland Industries.

Thanks ,

George Taylor

Wisconsin Rural Water Association

715-321-4145

Gtaylor@wrwa.org

**From:** Curt Olson <curt@nedland.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 4, 2025 10:25 AM  
**To:** George Taylor <GTaylor@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** Nedland Waters Sample

Hello George,

Just wanted to let you know how much we appreciate your knowledge and assistance in collecting our water samples and making sure we are in compliance with state requirements.

Thank you,  
Curt

Contoller,  
Nedland Industries, Inc.  
(715) 949-1982



## **Renee Koback**

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**From:** bernard <cityalmawwtp@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 12:59 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** ThankYou Would like to thank Dan Woodrow and others who have helped us and continue to help us here at the City of Alma to help solve our problems with both water and sewer.

Thanks Everybody for the help.

Bernard Bartz Operator City of Alma

## DISTRICT 5

<b>Legend:</b>
Blue - Waterworks Assistance
Green - Energy Efficiency
Teal/Aqua – Source Water Assistance
Light Brown – Wastewater Assistance

Contact Date	System Name	System Contact	Position	System Connections	Total Contact Time	Savings to System
1/15/25	East Troy Waterworks	Mike Mengel	Wastewater Ops. Specialist	1008 W / 1008 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$1,000
WRWA Wastewater Trainer/Technician Jesse Hass was contacted by Mike Mengel regarding ammonia testing procedures and quality control. East Troy was using the probe method to test ammonia levels in their samples. Mr. Mengel had purchased a new Genesys spectrophotometer. He had heard that the Test n' Tube method was more efficient for the laboratory and wanted to information on switching procedures. Mr. Hass dropped by to discuss the procedure for ammonia analysis using the spectrophotometer. Mr. Hass informed Mr. Mengel that he would be willing to provide an SOP, bench sheets, and a walkthrough on how to set up an ammonia curve. After discussing the ammonia testing procedure, they agreed the lab would need to order some new standards to run an ammonia curve and order the tubes for the procedure. Mr. Hass said he would stop again soon to walkthrough the testing procedure and help set up the curve if they switch to the Test n' Tube method full time. Mr. Hass also offered to find a lab that runs Test n' Tube method and would set up a day for the East Troy facility to observe the method in another lab. WRWA saved the system \$1,000 for consulting fees, training and not having to buy a new probe.						
2/6/25	Jefferson Waterworks	Mike Meske	Water Superintendent	1930 W / 1930 WW	1.5 hrs.	\$1,275
Mike Meske contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden for assistance in navigating through the WI DNR hydro static permit. When Annetta arrived, she showed Mr. Meske the proper sampling procedures to follow for hydrant flushing water discharge and well rehabilitation discharge water. Annetta demonstrated to Mr. Meske where in the permit the specific parameters were that needed to be tested and sampled prior to discharge. Mr. Meske had well rehabilitation schedule, a perfect opportunity for sampling these parameters according to the DNR permit. Now that Mr. Meske knew which parameters to sample (phosphorus, total chlorine, and number of gallons flushed), he could continue with the well rehabilitation and stay in compliance with the DNR hydro static permit. WRWA's technical assistance saved the City of Jefferson \$1,275 in engineering fees and consulting.						
5/22/25	Waterloo Waterworks	Nick Hauptli	Wastewater Ops. Specialist	885 W / 885 WW	4.25 hrs.	\$1,000
WRWA Wastewater Trainer/Technician Jesse Hass and WRWA EPA Wastewater Technician Brooke Klingbeil were contacted by Waterloo Director of Public Works Mike Kitelinger to help set up a new DR3900 spectrophotometer. Jesse and Brooke discussed with Mr. Kitelinger and Mr. Hauptli how to set up the machine and the necessary paperwork. After researching the Standard Operating Procedures, Jesse and Brooke helped set up standards for a new phosphorus curve. Mr. Kitelinger and Mr. Hauptli analyzed the standards, and all the data was put into a spreadsheet to see if the curve met the criteria to be used. Jesse and Brooke confirmed the data was sufficient. A week later, Mr. Kitelinger advised the village had failed its annual proficiency test on their old spectrophotometer. Brooke and Jesse scheduled another stop and told Mr. Kitelinger to purchase a practice test. Brooke and Jesse went over the phosphorus test on both spectrophotometers. After reviewing procedures and discussing a few more quality-control checks, the village was able to get positive results on the practice test. The village will use their new spectrophotometer on their next proficiency test. WRWA's assistance saved the village \$1,000 in training and consultant fees associated with setting up the device.						

**Renee Koback**

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**From:** Sara Bach <sarab@nislslab.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 15, 2025 8:38 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** WRWA Annual Technical Conference Booth Selection

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.

[sarab@nislslab.com](mailto:sarab@nislslab.com) | [www.nislslab.com](http://www.nislslab.com)  
O: 715-478-6069 D: 262-547-3406  
2420 N Grandview Blvd, Waukesha WI 53188

Like us on Facebook @northernlakeservice



## **Renee Koback**

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**From:** James Nickel <jcpnickel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 21, 2025 9:42 AM  
**To:** Kelly Thomas  
**Cc:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Thank you Kelly

Kelly, thank you for taking the time on May 19<sup>th</sup> to meet up with me to discuss and advise on updating our system emergency response plan. As a relatively new operator and administrator for our system of 80 homes, I have been navigating the different state requirements and updating forms over the past year. All of it is new to me. I appreciate the clarification and direction you were able to offer in coming up with a viable, real-world solution to fit our system needs and meet the state requirements. I also appreciate the info you shared regarding companies and contractors to consider for working on the system when needs arise. Thank you for making yourself available. You and the WRWA are a great resource and I'm sure I will be calling on you in the future!

Jim Nickel  
Operator/Trustee  
Sunnyfield Acres Water Association  
Oconomowoc



**Techniplas**

Destination: next level

Techniplas  
N44W33341 Watertown Plank Road  
Nashotah, WI 53089

August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Wisconsin Rural Water Association  
350 Water Way  
Plover, WI 54467

Subject: Letter of Appreciation for WRWA Training Services

Dear Wisconsin Rural Water Association Team,

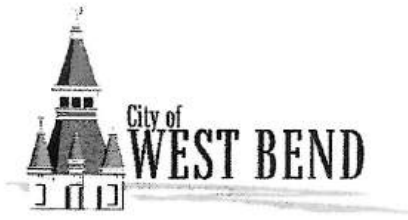
I am writing to extend my sincere appreciation for the outstanding training services provided through your program. Most especially, to commend Kelly Thomas for the exceptional experience I had during my recent training. Kelly's professionalism, knowledge, and dedication were clearly evident throughout the training.

Throughout our time preparing, Kelly consistently demonstrated flexibility, even accommodating sessions on shorter notices when needed. Kelly was prepared to answer any question I threw at him during the training session, and he always knew the best response. Moreover, Kelly's personable nature made the learning session genuinely enjoyable. He created a welcoming and engaging learning environment that encouraged my curiosity and involvement. Leaving our exam training session, I felt well-informed and prepared, which significantly boosted my confidence.

What stood out most was Kelly's ability to break down complex systems using relatable analogies was incredibly helpful, especially since I came into the training with almost no prior knowledge on water systems. Thanks to his thorough teaching styles, I was not only able to grasp the material but also passed the exam on my first attempt! His depth of knowledge and passion for the industry truly shone through the lesson. It was clear that Kelly doesn't just do his job, he enjoys it, and that passion makes a significant difference for learners like myself.

I want to offer a huge thank you to the Wisconsin Rural Water Association for establishing and maintaining such a valuable program. It's efforts like these that open doors for individuals to grow professionally and help ensure the continued excellence of water systems in Wisconsin. I feel privileged and extremely appreciative to have been a part of it.

Warm regards,  
Mackenzie Leibiger  
[Mackenzie.Leibiger@Techniplas.com](mailto:Mackenzie.Leibiger@Techniplas.com)  
EHS Coordinator



## **WATER UTILITY**

### **Thank You from the City of West Bend Water Utility**

Dear Wisconsin Rural Water Association,

On behalf of the City of West Bend Water Utility, I would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation for everything you do each year to support and strengthen the water industry. The guidance, training, and conferences you provide hold tremendous value and create lasting, career-long impacts for our operators.

Our deepest thanks go to the dedicated employees of WRWA whose hard work ensures that Wisconsin's water professionals remain informed, prepared, and confident. Your commitment to keeping the industry current and resilient does not go unnoticed.

We are especially grateful for the high-quality classes and educational opportunities you offer. Whether introducing operators to new technologies or refreshing their knowledge of existing systems, your team consistently delivers clear, relevant, and expert instruction. Because of your efforts, our operators remain sharp, motivated, and equipped to serve our community with excellence.

Quite simply, without the expertise, passion, and support provided by WRWA, our utility would face significant challenges in maintaining the same level of readiness and professional growth. Your organization plays a critical role in our success, and for that, we are truly thankful.

Again, thank you to all of the WRWA staff for your knowledge, dedication, and continued willingness to help whenever needed. Your organization is both essential and greatly appreciated.

With sincere gratitude,

**City of West Bend Water Utility**

## Renee Koback

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**From:** Kelly Thomas  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 4:38 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** FW: lead and copper

*Kelly C. Thomas*

Mr. Kelly C. Thomas  
Technical Assistance Director  
Wisconsin Rural Water Association  
(715) 204-0488  
[www.wrwa.org](http://www.wrwa.org)

**From:** Brian Naylor <[bnaylor@elmgroviewi.org](mailto:bnaylor@elmgroviewi.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 9:44 AM  
**To:** Kelly Thomas <[KThomas@wrwa.org](mailto:KThomas@wrwa.org)>  
**Subject:** lead and copper

Kelly,  
Thanks for the help with the lead and copper posting requirements.  
We are good to go.  
Have a good holiday  
Brian



**Brian Naylor**  
**Maintenance Supervisor**  
**Village Of Elm Grove**

[262-782-6700](tel:262-782-6700) | [bnaylor@elmgroviewi.org](mailto:bnaylor@elmgroviewi.org)  
[13600 Juneau Blvd. Elm Grove, WI 53122](https://www.elmgroviewi.org/)

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## DISTRICT 6

<b>Legend:</b>
Blue - Waterworks Assistance
Green - Energy Efficiency
Teal/Aqua – Source Water Assistance
Light Brown – Wastewater Assistance

Contact Date	System Name	System Contact	Position	System Connections/ Energy Savings	Total Contact Time	Savings to System
2/4/25	Reedsville Waterworks	Tanner Raddatz	Wastewater Superintendent	485 W / 353 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$10,000
WRWA Wastewater Trainer/Technician Jesse Hass was contacted by Tanner Raddatz to troubleshoot problems with poor treatment in the wastewater facility. After discussing the problem, they decided the cause was possibly due to the cold temperatures and the best course of action was to monitor the temperature in the basins. Mr. Raddatz was still within his limits and was just trying to get a handle on the situation. Mr. Raddatz asked if Mr. Hass could help the village with a phosphorus optimization study. Mr. Raddatz needed to finish the phosphorus study to remain in compliance with the DNR. Mr. Hass said he could help the village with the study. They discussed what to include in the DNR report. Mr. Hass provided Mr. Raddatz with a phosphorus report he helped develop for another community to use as a reference. They will meet again in March to finish report before it is submitted to the DNR. WRWA services saved the village \$10,000 in consulting and engineering fees to complete the report.						
4/15/25	Cedar Grove Waterworks	Jan Hoitink	Public Works Director	503 W / 503 WW	3.25 hrs.	\$15,000
WRWA Circuit Rider Jesse Hass was contacted by Jan Hoitink to help set up an online mapping system and wanted to learn how to add points once he was subscribed to a GPS map. Mr. Hass met with Mr. Hoitink and the crew in Cedar Grove to discuss mapping and what they hoped to get out of their asset management program. Mr. Hass then trained Mr. Hoitink and the crew on how to install the GPS software on their phones and how to sync the GPS device with their phones. He then showed everyone how to pull the GPS data from the GPS device instead of his phone's location. Mr. Hass accompanied Mr. Hoitink and the crew in the field and trained them in how to add points into the mapping system. Mr. Hass then loaned the GPS device to the village so they could continue adding assets to their map. WRWA saved the village \$15,000 in engineering costs and GPS unit rental.						
8/5/25	Arlington Waterworks	Tyler Schwenn	Water Operations Specialist	147 W / 147 WW	3 hrs.	\$1,500
WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was contacted by Tyler Schwenn to assist with locating a few water services within his municipality. Todd arrived and met with Mr. Schwenn and Roger Henn, their sewer operator. The village needed to locate several customer service laterals so they could be shut off for non-payment. One customer was about \$19,000 past due. Mr. Schwenn said they had line locating equipment but had no clue how to use it. Todd, Mr. Schwenn and Mr. Henn reviewed the line locating equipment and Todd explained how to use it. They went out into the village to locate customer services and Todd showed them They successfully located and shut off several services that needed to be shut off. WRWA's technical assistance and training saved the village of Arlington approximately \$1,500.						
8/6/25	Fairwater Waterworks	Pat Connell	Wastewater Superintendent	94 W / 94 WW	3.5 hrs.	\$2,500
WRWA Circuit Rider Jesse Hass was contacted by Pat Connell to help set up the village's mapping system. Mr. Connell had subscribed to an online mapping system and wanted to learn how to add points to his GPS map. Jesse trained Mr. Connell on how to install the GPS software on his phone and how to sync the GPS device with his phone. Then Jesse showed Mr. Connell how to pull the GPS data from the GPS device instead of his phone's location. He accompanied Mr. Connell out in the field and trained Mr. Connell on how to add points into his mapping system. Jesse also helped troubleshoot typical problems that might arise while using the GPS device. Jesse then borrowed WRWA's GPS device to the village so they could continue adding assets to their map. WRWA's services saved the village \$2,500 for GPS unit rental and not having to purchase a GPS unit in the future.						



9/23/25	Theresa Waterworks	Ryan Koll	Water Operations Specialist	350 W / 350 WW	4 hrs.	\$2,500
<p>WI DNR Water Engineer Sophia Stevenson contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden for assistance with Theresa Waterworks. Their only operations specialist was put on administrative leave and then terminated from the village. Wastewater treatment plant operations specialist, Ryan Koll, is certified in wastewater but not water. Annetta pointed out that he met the qualifications to take the daily well readings and compliance bacteria samples to keep the utility in compliance. She also stated that their utility could ask the neighboring water utility to act as an interim operator to sign off on the monthly DNR reports until someone is hired. Annetta met with Mr. Koll and demonstrated the basics of operating the water system to get by until the village decides what to do. Together, they reviewed the well's recorded daily numbers and samples for the monthly bacteria test. Annetta ensured Mr. Koll felt comfortable performing the tasks before departing. WRWA's technical assistance saved the village \$2,500 per month instead of hiring a contractor.</p>						
9/30/25	Mayville Waterworks			0 kWh		\$197 ann.
<p>WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler conducted an energy efficiency assessment for Mayville's wastewater collection system. Matt suggested completing the tax-exempt forms for the Kekoskee lift station for electric and gas. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Mayville would save \$197 annually for their wastewater operations.</p>						
10/2/25	Pardeeville Waterworks	Beau Zeihen	General Manager	788 W / 788 WW	2.5 hrs.	\$3,000
<p>Beau Zeihen contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich to assist him in repairing a fire hydrant within the municipality. Todd met with Mr. Zeihen and Operations Specialists Josh Cross and Frank Annett. The hydrant that needed to be repaired was identified earlier in the year during their annual hydrant flushing. Todd and Mr. Zeihen made sure the hydrant was still isolated. Next, Todd explained the steps for removing the inner workings of the hydrant. Todd and Mr. Cross removed the top of the hydrant from the barrel. Once the stem was exposed, they removed the stem and lower seat assembly from the fire hydrant. Once removed, Todd explained what can cause leaks. After everything was assembled, the stem was lowered back into the standpipe of the hydrant and properly secured. Todd and Mr. Cross turned on the water supply and tested the fire hydrant. WRWA's technical assistance and training saved the municipality \$3,000, eliminating excavation costs and the possible replacement of the hydrant.</p>						

**Renee Koback**

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**From:** Doralee Piering <doralee.piering@energenecs.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025 11:14 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Thank you!

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

**Energenecs**



Office 262-377-6360  
Direct 262-235-4919  
700 East Milan Drive  
Saukville, WI 53080  
[www.energenecs.com](http://www.energenecs.com)

## **Renee Koback**

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**From:** Eric Carley <ecarley@omro-wi.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 28, 2025 8:06 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Thank you

I would like to thank WRWA for all that they do to help all the small community give their customers the best service possible. Todd Weich, the circuit rider for my area, stopped in on April 21st to assist us in doing some leak detection. This service is truly helpful and extremely appreciated by our small community.

Thank you,  
Eric Carley  
City of Omro Utilities  
(920)685-7025

Hello,

My name is Tony Steffen, I work with MCO on behalf of the Village of St. Cloud. In early 2025, we discovered that the village had a significant water leak that was not surfacing. After using the resources we had and could not find the leak, we contacted WRWA. On June 11<sup>th</sup> WRWA associate Todd Weich came to the village to help us out. Todd helped us sound out hydrants then eventually pressure test and correlate a section and determine where the leak was located. A week later the village dug up the leak, replaced the damaged service line and are seeing a great reduction in pumping amounts.

The Village of St. Cloud and myself would like to thank Todd for all his time, efforts, and help with finding this leak. You were a great resource and we were glad you could help us!

Sincerely,

Tony Steffen

Operations Specialist

Midwest Contract Operations

## Renee Koback

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**From:** Clark, Roger J - DNR <Roger.Clark@wisconsin.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 1, 2025 4:44 PM  
**To:** WRWA  
**Cc:** nicholas.bertolas; Jensen, Jesse M - DNR; Kelly Thomas  
**Subject:** Superb customer service from Circuit Rider Kelly Thomas

Hello, I would like to pass along my appreciation for the fine work that Kelly Thomas provided to me at my request.

I had a public water system in Ozaukee County that had multiple violations.

I communicated with the facility on how to return to compliance but must have been misunderstood as to the actions to be taken by the operator.

I met with Kelly in person to explain the details of the violations and requested if he could guide the operator to get back into compliance.

This was done to assist this system to remain compliant and out of further DNR and EPA enforcement proceedings.

The facility had a past due CCR/CCR cert from 2021 and two lead sample notification violations.

Kelly was able to help the operator generate the 2021 CCR and certification from the DNR's website and to post and send a copy with the certification to DNR.

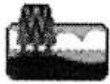
He was also instrumental in assisting the operator with the missing lead sample notification postings to residents and to send the certification to DNR.

The facility is now back in compliance. Thank you.

**We are committed to service excellence.**

Visit our survey at <http://dnr.wi.gov/customersurvey> to evaluate how I did.

Roger J.D. Clark  
Senior Water Supply Specialist  
Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau  
Environmental Management Division  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
1155 Pilgrim Road  
Plymouth, WI 53073  
Cell (920) 449-8376  
E-Mail: [roger.clark@wisconsin.gov](mailto:roger.clark@wisconsin.gov)



[dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov)



## **Renee Koback**

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**From:** Eric Carley <ecarley@omro-wi.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2025 9:47 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** City of Omro Thank you letter

I would like to thank WRWA for everything they do to help small communities. We recently had a water leak that we could not find. We called our WRWA field rep. Todd and with in a day he was on site. With his help, we were able to find the issue, locate the area that needed repair, and were able to get it fixed. The services WRWA provides are invaluable to all of our smaller water systems. Thank you to everyone at WRWA for everything you do keep up the great work.

Thank you,  
Eric Carley  
City of Omro Utilities  
(920)685-7025



Toelle was instructed to put a valve wrench on the valve. The leak was close by, based on the noise level the valve was producing. Todd correlated the leak, obtaining a spike for the location. The location was marked for excavation and repair. Todd remained on-site to assist due to the location and conditions. The technical assistance provided by WRWA saved Phillips \$8,000 and prevented the destruction of a state highway by accurately pinpointing the location of the leak.

3/13/25	Glidden Sanitary District	Todd Schmidt	Water Superintendent	265 W / 265 WW	4.25 hrs.	\$8,600
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WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by the Sanitation District of Glidden to assist with the Wisconsin Annual Public Service Commission (PSC) Water Report. Dan traveled to Glidden and met with Water Superintendent Todd Schmidt and Clerk Kathleen Bay. Dan reviewed the previous PSC Annual Water Report and indicated several issues that had taken place. It was Ms. Bay's first time completing a PSC Annual Water Report. Dan asked Ms. Bay and Mr. Schmidt to print several specific reports for the water department. With those reports, Dan, Ms. Bay, and Mr. Schmidt went line by line with the PSC Water Report and started to complete the current PSC Annual Water Report. Dan also provided training in the PSC Annual Water Report to help them better understand why and where monetary values are put in the reports and the importance of accuracy. Ms. Bay and Mr. Schmidt were able to complete the rest of the PSC Annual Water Report without hiring an accounting firm. During the on-site visit, Dan provided technical assistance and training with the Wisconsin PSC Annual Water Report and saved the sanitation district \$8,600 in accounting fees.

4/22/25	Danbury Waterworks	Pattie Edwards	Water/Wastewater Operator	8,972 kWh WW 4,025 kWh W		\$1,046 ann.
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WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler met with Pattie Edwards and performed an energy efficiency assessment for Danbury's water and wastewater operations. For their wastewater operations, Matt suggested running a single blower in the summer months that alternates between aeration tank and digester rather than one for each. For their water operations, Matt suggested adding a timer to the dehumidifier to reduce the runtime by 10% as it runs 24/7/365 now. He also suggested Well 1 should be run more often than Well 2, as it pumps more efficiently. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Adams would save \$320 annually for their wastewater operations and \$726 annually for their water operations.

5/8/25	City of Montreal Waterworks	Mark Haeger	Public Works Director	354 W / 354 WW	4.5 hrs.	\$17,044
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WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by the City of Montreal to provide technical assistance/training on GIS mapping. Dan traveled to Montreal and met with Mark Haeger. During the visit, Dan provided detailed training on the mapping system. Mr. Haeger grasped the mapping system training quickly and showed enthusiasm for learning more, which allowed them to engage in a conversation about water loss. It became evident that Montreal Waterworks was facing a significant issue with water loss. Mr. Haeger inquired about affordable leak detection solutions. Dan outlined the available services and technical assistance that WRWA could offer, at Mr. Haeger's request, and scheduled a follow-up visit for the following day. Dan traveled back to Montreal and met with Mr. Haeger to conduct an acoustic sounding of the entire water system. They discovered two minor leaks. Not long after, they found a significant leak at an abandoned property. Dan and Mr. Haeger successfully shut off the water at that location, effectively stopping the water loss. WRWA's on-site services saved Montreal Waterworks \$1,500 on GIS mapping training, \$2,800 on leak detection, and helped mitigate a loss of \$12,744 in revenue due to 2.6 million gallons of lost water.

5/21/25	Pittsville Waterworks	Peter Petersen	Public Works Director	4,697 kWh W 17,903 kWh WW		\$2,729 ann.
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WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler met with Peter Petersen and performed an energy efficiency assessment for Pittsville's water and wastewater operations. For their water operations, Matt suggested running both booster pumps at 95% speed and swapping out the VFD from Well 8 to Well 9. For their wastewater operations, Matt suggested limiting Blower 2 to only 25% runtime and changing pulleys on Blower 2 to match Blower 1. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Pittsville would save \$637 annually for their water operations and \$2,092 annually for their wastewater operations.

6/12/25	Glenwood City Waterworks	Dave Caress	Water Superintendent	329 W / 329 WW	7 hrs.	\$5,380
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WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by Glenwood City for technical assistance with a water tower drain-down and inspection. Dan traveled to Glenwood City and met with Dave Caress, the Public Works Director, and Cory Schone, the Operations Specialist. Mr. Caress articulated this would be his first time completing a water tower drain-down. Dan addressed his concerns. They set up the pressure relief valve and discussed proactive solutions for the tower drain down. The following day, Dan returned to assist and provide training on how to complete a textbook water tower drain-down and inspection. As Mr. Caress and Mr. Schone started the tower drain-down, Dan provided education on system pressure and how to maintain system pressure during the time the water tower will be offline. Once the water tower was drained, an outside vendor provided the tank inspection. After the inspection was completed, Mr. Schone and Dan began to refill the tower. Dan provided on-site analytical technical assistance that was crucial to the success of the



water tower drain-down and inspection, ensuring clean, safe drinking water to the residents of Glenwood City. WRWA services saved Glenwood City \$5,380 in consultant fees and equipment rental fees along with technical training.						
6/16/25	Bloomer Waterworks	Bill Miller	Public Works Director	14,200 kWh		\$2,069 ann.
WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler met with Bill Miller and performed an energy efficiency assessment for Bloomer's water operations. Matt suggested installing a new pump/motor to Well 2 with a VFD to eliminate the booster pump and reservoir. He also suggested adding VFDs to Well 3 and Well 5 to eliminate the valve being partially closed. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Bloomer would save \$2,069 annually for their water operations.						
6/17/25	White Lake Waterworks	James Turner	Water Operations Specialist	96 W / 96 WW	3 hrs.	\$4,500
WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was contacted by the Village of White Lake Public Works Director Scott Popelka to assist him in performing leak detection within his municipality. Todd met with Mr. Popelka and Operations Specialist James Turner, who told Todd they had a leak within the water system and had no clue where it was. Mr. Turner said their small water system had doubled in daily water pumping. Todd listened to some hydrants, valves, and customers' services with the LD-12 leak detection listening device. They discovered noise on a vacant lot that had water stubbed into it for future housing. WRWA's technical assistance and loaner equipment saved the village approximately \$4,500.						
6/20/25	Rib Lake Waterworks	Cody Lind	Wastewater Operator	56,000 kWh		\$6,042 ann.
WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler met with Cody Lind and performed an energy efficiency assessment for Rib Lake's wastewater operations. Matt suggested a 123-panel solar array to their WWTP for green energy production. With credits, the total project cost would be \$88,189 and will net a 13-year payback. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Rib Lake would save \$6,042 annually for their wastewater operations.						
6/30/25	Thorp Waterworks			219,315 kWh		\$18,230 annually
WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed an energy efficiency assessment follow-up for Thorp's wastewater operations. Their plant underwent an overhaul with some of the previous 2021 assessment recommendations implemented but also brought about some changes to their operations. Matt suggested replacing the 100 hp blower with a 60 hp turbo blower with a VFD, DO controller for the VFD, and natural gas heaters. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Thorp would save \$18,230 annually for their wastewater operations.						
8/21/25	Glidden Sanitary District	Luke Eder	Wastewater Ops. Specialist	265 W / 265 WW	2.75 hrs.	\$1,000
WRWA Trainer/Technician Tony Roche visited Glidden Sanitary District and assisted Luke Eder with measuring the sludge blanket depth and collecting sludge samples in their stabilization lagoon system. Tony and Mr. Eder successfully measured the sludge blanket depth in the wastewater lagoon system and successfully collected sludge samples to keep the sanitary district in compliance with their wastewater discharge permit. WRWA's technical assistance saved the district \$1,000 in consultant fees to measure the sludge depth profile and collect sludge samples.						
11/19/25	Wabeno Sanitary District #1	Scott Shaffer	Wastewater Superintendent	365 W / 365 WW	1 hr.	\$5,000
WRWA Wastewater Technician Jesse Hass was contacted by Scott Shaffer to help with a few reports due by the end of 2025. Jesse and Mr. Shaffer met at his office and began by reading over his permit and deciding what was required for the utility to complete. The first report was a Phosphorus Compliance Alternatives Plan. This report was due 11/28/25. Jesse and Mr. Shaffer looked over the data and the report that Mr. Shaffer initially submitted. Mr. Hass gave input to complete the report after looking over the suggestions from his DNR Representative. They also discussed the utility's Notice of Noncompliance sent by the DNR. Jesse said Mr. Shaffer would have to submit a report to the DNR for every violation they have received in the past months. Jesse helped Mr. Shaffer by providing possible reasons why the Wastewater Treatment Facility was not meeting permit. Jesse offered to help the Sanitary District with their upcoming reports and get the treatment plant back into compliance. Jesse also discussed options for completing the chemical addition forms for the DNR since the Sanitary District will be adding chemical and the DNR needs to approve permanent chemical addition. WRWA services saved the village \$5,000 in consulting fees.						
11/21/25	Land O' Lakes Sanitary District	Chad Lederer	Public Works Director	6,852 kWh		\$1,242 ann.
WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler conducted an energy efficiency assessment for Bloomington's water operations. Matt suggested insulating the Well 1 building to a higher R-value and adding a timer to the water tower recirculation pump. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Land O' Lakes would save \$1,242 annually for their water operations.						
12/17/25	Land O' Lakes Sanitary District	Chad Lederer	Public Works Director	3,190 kWh		\$530 ann.

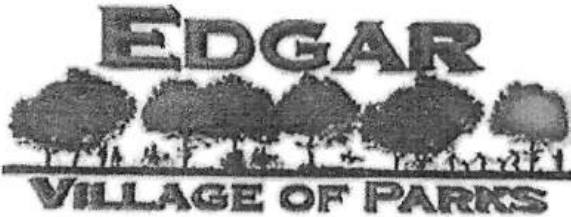
WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler conducted an energy efficiency assessment for Land O' Lakes' wastewater operations. Matt suggested adding a camera to the sewer mains to reduce I/I in the system. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Land O' Lakes would save \$530 annually for their wastewater operations.

12/18/25	Cumberland Waterworks	Casey Delawyer	Water Operations Specialist	916 W / 916 WW	1.25 hrs.	\$9,648
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WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by the Utility Supervisor, Jordan Peichel, and by the Water Specialist, Casey Delawyer. Mr. Peichel stated that a significant water leak was taking place near Highway 48. Once on-site, Dan and Mr. Peichel determined the leak was located on 11th Street. After some further investigation, Dan's radius was narrowed down to 50 feet. Mr. Peichel requested that we conduct a correlation on Thursday when a contractor could be available. Dan returned to Cumberland to pinpoint the water leak on 11th Street. The current leak was more significant than initially thought. Mr. Delawyer stated the leak was estimated at around 100,000 gallons per day and, according to the pumping records, it started around December 3rd. Dan and Mr. Delawyer began the process of correlating the water main. The results came expeditiously. WRWA saved Cumberland Waterworks \$3,600 for correlation services, \$5,040 in water loss revenue, and \$1,008 in pumping expenses in addition to providing technical guidance.

12/27/25	Glen Flora Waterworks	Wayne Hillman	Water Operations Specialist	31 W / 31 WW	3 hrs.	\$3,000
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Wayne Hillman contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich to assist him in taking the water tower offline for a recirculating pump replacement. Todd arrived and met with Mr. Hillman and Matt Fisher from Lane Tank Company. Mr. Fisher was hired to do the repairs. Mr. Fisher went out into the distribution system to set up a pressure relief valve so the system would maintain water pressure. After the pressure-relief valve was set up, Todd and Mr. Hillman set the well setting into hand so the pump would run continuously, and they located the valve that would isolate the water tower. The valve was turned off, and the tower was isolated. Todd and Mr. Hillman went back to the well house to make sure pressure was maintained and the water tower was drained. Mr. Fisher replaced the pump and some broken valving in the tower. Todd and Mr. Hillman then opened the valve and started to fill the water tower slowly, placed the well back into auto setting and removed the pressure relief valve. Mr. Hillman said he was not aware of the technical assistance WRWA can provide. Todd's technical assistance saved the village \$3,000 in engineering firm expenses.



## VILLAGE OF EDGAR

224 S. Third Avenue  
P.O. Box 67  
Edgar, Wisconsin 54426

Ph. (715) 352-2891  
[www.vil.edgar.wi.us](http://www.vil.edgar.wi.us)

January 22, 2025

Todd Weich  
Wisconsin Rural Water Association  
350 Water Way  
Plover, WI 54467

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.

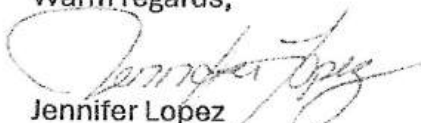
We want to particularly highlight Todd's extraordinary dedication during our third water main break, which occurred in extreme weather conditions. Todd was out with our team in temperatures as low as -20°F, with wind chills nearing -40°F. As is often the case, these breaks didn't happen in good weather,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

## Renee Koback

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**From:** Chris Groh  
**Sent:** Monday, April 7, 2025 10:45 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** FW: Thanks

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Matt Boehmer <boehmer.m66@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 7, 2025 10:14 AM  
**To:** Chris Groh <CGroh@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** Thanks

Chris,

I wanted to write a quick note to thank you for all the help over the years while I was working in Ladysmith and what a great Executive Director you have been since assuming the role.

As my time in this profession has come to a close, I've been reflecting on all the great people who I've met and who have helped me along the way. I learned so much from you. Not only in daily tasks at the plant or lab, but in understanding the meaning of helping fellow operators. Even though I trained a few operators at Ladysmith, it wasn't until helping Johnathon in Hawkins that I truly understood how important it was to pass that knowledge along. During your opening remarks at the conference you said all the old guys need to mentor the young. That's kinda when it hit me that's exactly what I had done in Hawkins. I didn't feel worthy of my nomination until that statement. The fact the committee chose me over the other very well deserving operators was just the icing on the cake. Thanks so much.

At this time, I don't know where or even if I will continue as an operator. Hopefully I can find something for a couple hours a week that allows me to stay in this field. If not, I'm ok if this was my last hoorah!

Thanks for all you and your staff do. We couldn't do it without you.

Matt

## Renee Koback

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**From:** Todd Weich  
**Sent:** Friday, April 25, 2025 5:17 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback; Chris Groh  
**Subject:** Fw: Thanks

Email I received from hawkins.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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**From:** Matt Boehmer <boehmer.m66@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 23, 2025 7:48:44 AM  
**To:** Todd Weich <TWeich@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** Thanks

Hey buddy,

I've been meaning to email since conference, but haven't had the words to express how thankful I am for all you did for me, John, and Hawkins. You truly were a blessing. It's a shame there is no award for what you do and the people you help. I just really, really appreciate you. Thank you!

Matt  
Sent from my iPhone

## **Renee Koback**

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**From:** Curtiss DPW <curtissdpw@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 19, 2025 2:00 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Cc:** Andrew Aslesen  
**Subject:** Thank you!

Good afternoon, Andrew!

Thank you very very much for all the work you put into our current water project! It has been great working with you. I look forward to, I am sure, more interaction as we continue working towards getting this across the finish line. All the hours doing the Bedrock surveys, Groundwater Flow Direction, Zone of Influence, Zone of Contribution (Recharge Area), Well siting strategy meetings, Setback requirement info, example land agreements, and much more is very appreciated. This is the first time in at least 20+ years that every test well drilled on a project could be turned into a production well. Our ratios in the past were more like 5-10 test wells per final well. Thank you!

**Respectfully,**

**Larry Swarr**

Village of Curtiss Public Works

P.O. Box 97

915 Meridian St

Cell: 715-551-9802

Office: 715-223-1755

Email: [curtissdpw@gmail.com](mailto:curtissdpw@gmail.com)

Give Thanks unto the LORD for He is **GOOD!**



**Renee Koback**

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**From:** Curtiss DPW <curtissdpw@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 19, 2025 1:50 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Thank you!

Good afternoon, Dan!

Thank you for being available for questions relating to our water system upgrade. It has been very helpful to bounce some things off of someone with no conflict of interest. Thanks for your service!

**Respectfully,**

**Larry Swarr**

Village of Curtiss Public Works

P.O. Box 97

915 Meridian St

Cell: 715-551-9802

Office: 715-223-1755

Email: [curtissdpw@gmail.com](mailto:curtissdpw@gmail.com)

Give Thanks unto the LORD for He is **GOOD!**

## **Renee Koback**

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**From:** Curtiss DPW <curtissdpw@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 19, 2025 1:47 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Cc:** Todd Weich  
**Subject:** Thank you!

Good afternoon, Todd!

Thank you very much for being available to call up and ask questions regarding our system upgrade. It has been very helpful to have someone with knowledge about the system to bounce things off of to double check our direction and plans. Thanks again!

**Respectfully,**

**Larry Swarr**

Village of Curtiss Public Works

P.O. Box 97

915 Meridian St

Cell: 715-551-9802

Office: 715-223-1755

Email: [curtissdpw@gmail.com](mailto:curtissdpw@gmail.com)

Give Thanks unto the LORD for He is **GOOD!**



## Renee Koback

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**From:** Scott Popelka <publicworks@vi.whitelake.wi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 22, 2025 8:10 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Appreciation Letter

To all the WRWA staff:

Your organization plays such a major part in helping small communities like ours transition through difficult and trying times. Recently, Todd helped find a leak which we were unable to locate. He used his knowledge and expertise and found the leak very quickly. Thank You Todd!

Your staff continues to amaze all on how you organize and execute the Annual Technical Conferences and Outdoor Expo's They continue to grow and get better each year. You should all be commended on a job well done.

Andrew recently visited the local school and shared his expertise of the "water cycle" with the kids there. Prior to that, Andrew was very instrumental in preparing a wellhead protection plan for the Village and Tony has done an energy audit of both our water and wastewater departments.

WRWA has been very supportive in teaching and instructing, helping and guiding our small community over the years. Thank You so much for your continued help and support.

Scott Popelka  
Village of White Lake

## Renee Koback

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**From:** Chris Groh  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 23, 2025 12:40 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Fwd: CR Follow-up [EXTERNAL] site visit

Another good one for Dan  
Sent from Chris' iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Brian Davis <Brian.Davis@nrwa.org>  
**Date:** July 23, 2025 at 12:07:41 PM CDT  
**To:** Chris Groh <CGroh@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** Fw: CR Follow-up [EXTERNAL] site visit

The email below was received in response to the automated message sent following an on-site visit by one of your Circuit Riders.

---

**From:** citypublicworks cityofbayfield.com <citypublicworks@cityofbayfield.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 21, 2025 8:15 AM  
**To:** Customer Satisfaction <customersatisfaction@nrwa.org>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] site visit

NRWA,

Dan is doing a great job and enjoy our informative visits when he comes around. With all the new legislation happening, it's nice to have someone from WRWA to keep the communities up to speed and in compliance. Keep up the good work.

Joel Weber  
City of Bayfield  
Director of Public Works  
715-779-1204

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This email has been scanned for spam and viruses by Proofpoint Essentials. Click [here](#) to report this email as spam.

## Renee Koback

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**From:** George Taylor  
**Sent:** Monday, December 1, 2025 11:32 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Fw: Thanks

Thank you letter I received.  
George Taylor

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone  
[Get Outlook for Android](#)

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**From:** Emma Ruth Eby <lesteremmaeby@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 26, 2025 11:26:27 AM  
**To:** George Taylor <GTaylor@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** Thanks

A big thank you to George Taylor and DNR for taking the water samples for us at Railside School. It was much appreciated!

Lester Eby

↓  
N 10396 HiLine Ave  
Spencer, WI 54479

## **Renee Koback**

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**From:** Village of Radisson Public Works <vrpublicworks@bevcomm.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 2, 2025 8:53 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** WRWA appreciation

WRWA members are always there for you when you need them. They offer equipment, knowledge, and hands on help that is always greatly appreciated.

--

Robert Sampson, Village of Radisson Public Works Phone Number 715-558-4641 Email  
vrpublicworks@bevcomm.net

**Village of Gilman**  
**P.O. Box 157**  
**Gilman, WI 54433-0157**

**December 2, 2025**

**To Whom it May Concern:**

**The Village of Gilman is in full support of Wisconsin Rural Water and all that they do for our Village. Todd has been instrumental in assisting our Public Works Director with valve concerns and hydrant updates. We were also grateful to Brooke Klingbeil and Tony Roche with our WPDES permitting changes and now have Dan Cooper assisting us. We are thankful for the time and energy they all have spent assisting us here in Gilman.**

**Thank you.**

**Sincerely yours,**

**Candice Grunseth, WCMC**  
**Village Clerk/Treasurer**  
**Village of Gilman**

# Village of Deer Park

112 Front St W

Deer Park, WI 54007

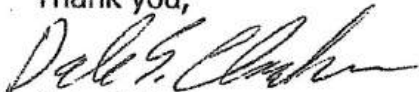
December 3, 2025

Everyone at WRWA,

I would like to thank everyone at WRWA. Having support from you makes our OIC's job much more efficient and manageable.

Being a small community makes it very difficult to manage money for our multi-million-dollar system. I am very much appreciative of having resources available from WRWA.

Thank you,



Dale E Clarkson

Clerk/Treasurer  
112 Front St W  
Deer Park, WI 54007

## Renee Koback

---

**From:** John McCue <pw3@centurytel.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 3, 2025 12:56 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback; Chris Groh  
**Subject:** City of Hayward Thanks You

I would like to thank WRWA for your hard work on the numerous projects the City of Hayward's had during past year. Dan Wundrow's Water Technical advice, hands on help and tool loaner program. Tony Roche's Wastewater Technical advice and training.

I am really proud of the effort WRWA put into these projects and wanted to give you a shout-out for all your hard work. It's great to see how much you've grown as an association and team members. I don't know what I would do with out WRWA's help on these projects.

Thanks John

--

John McCue  
Public Works Director  
City of Hayward  
PO Box 969  
15889 W 3rd Street  
Hayward, WI 54843  
Phone: 715-634-4612  
Fax: 715-634-5868  
[pw3@centurytel.net](mailto:pw3@centurytel.net)  
[www.cityofhaywardwi.gov](http://www.cityofhaywardwi.gov)

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12/10/25

Lakeland Sanitary District #1 would like to send a big "thank you" to Tony Roche for all of his help in 2025. He did an in-house visit this year to help us fill in some gaps in our laboratory knowledge, which was very helpful. He is also always prompt in his replies when we have questions. He is considered an indispensable member of our team and things would be much more difficult without him!

Cheryl Pettit

Lakeland Sanitary District #1



## **Renee Koback**

---

**From:** Michelle Dollar <msd1@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 17, 2025 12:18 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Thank you

Renee

I am reaching out to you today to Thank you and Rural Water for all you do for us. Your help with the Wellhead Protection Plan is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Michelle Dollar  
Sec/Treas  
Mercer Sanitary District #1  
5054N US Hwy 51  
Mercer WI 54547  
Ph: 715-476-3575  
Email: msd1@outlook.com

# Land O' Lakes Sanitary District #1

PO Box 246  
Land O' Lakes, WI 54540  
(715) 547-3429  
lolsand01@gmail.com

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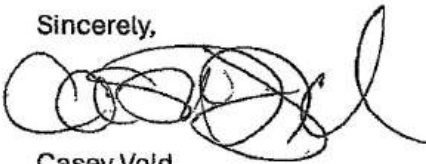
December 18, 2025

Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA)  
350 Water Way  
Plover, WI 54467

To Whom It May Concern,

I wanted to send this note to express my sincere gratitude for the time and effort that was given to the Land O' Lakes Sanitary District by WRWA Source Water Specialist Andrew Aslesen. Our Wellhead Protection Plan was out of date and through WRWA we were introduced to Andrew and his specialties. His willingness to travel the distance to meet with us and review our system, write the updated plan and again travel to review the first draft with us has been invaluable to our small system. These updates and revisions to plans are necessary to keep the system operating smoothly as well as maintain compliance. Andrew's efforts to help us with this project, at no cost to our small budgeted system, are truly appreciated. Without the WRWA as an invaluable resource it would be difficult, if not impossible, to keep everything up to date and operate to ensure safe drinking water for our consumers as well as continuing to protect the environment through proper wastewater treatment. Thank you for everything you do for all municipal water systems.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Casey Vold', with a stylized, looping flourish extending from the end.

Casey Vold  
Sanitary Clerk

## DISTRICT 8

<b>Legend:</b>
Blue - Waterworks Assistance
Green - Energy Efficiency
Teal/Aqua – Source Water Assistance
Light Brown – Wastewater Assistance

Contact Date	System Name	System Contact	Position	System Connections/ Energy Savings	Total Contact Time	Savings to System
3/4/25	Pound Waterworks	Scott Fuelle	Public Works Director	121 W / 121 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$1,500
WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was requested by Scott Fuelle to assist him in repairing a fire hydrant within his municipality. Todd met with Mr. Fuelle at the village shop, who explained he had a fire hydrant needing repair. Mr. Fuelle said he believed the fire hydrant was broken by the fire department and he could not get it totally shut off. Mr. Fuelle was able to slow the flow of water but could not stop it because there was no isolation valve. Todd and Mr. Fuelle loaded up the tools needed and drove to the hydrant that needed to be repaired. Todd explained to Mr. Fuelle the steps for removing the inner workings of the Waterous Pacer fire hydrant. They removed the top of the hydrant off the barrel. Once the stem was exposed, Todd noticed that the traffic breakaway had failed and may be the cause of the hydrant leaking. They cleaned and replaced the upper valve washers as well as new traffic breakoff. Once everything was assembled, the top of the hydrant was properly secured. Todd and Mr. Fuelle tested the operation of the fire hydrant. WRWA's technical assistance saved the village \$1,500 and prevented them from digging and replacing the hydrant.						
3/5/25	Lena Waterworks	Terry Earley	Water/Wastewater Operator	18,696 kWh W 39,046 kWh WW		\$7,922 ann.
WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler met with Terry Earley and performed an energy efficiency assessment for Lena's water and wastewater operations. For their water operations, Matt suggested adjusting each VDF to maximum efficiency and utilizing Well 2 more, as it pumps water more efficiently. For their wastewater operations, Matt suggested new screw type aeration blowers and adding a VFD to the influent pumps rather than soft starts. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Lena would save \$3,442 annually for their water operations and \$4,480 annually for their wastewater operations.						
3/11/25	Wausaukee Waterworks	Tylor Stumbris	Wastewater Lead	6,126 kWh		\$705 ann.
WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler met with Tylor Stumbris and performed an energy efficiency assessment for Wausaukee's wastewater operations. Matt suggested using an electric heater rather than the PD blower to create heat and replace the current 86.5% efficient motor with a new high efficiency motor. He also suggested adding a VFD to the current motor on the RAS pump. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Wausaukee would save \$705 annually in their wastewater operations.						
3/21/25	Suring Waterworks	Jeff Tienor	Wastewater Superintendent	177 W / 177 WW	2 hrs.	\$3,000
Jeff Tienor contacted WRWA Wastewater Technician/Trainer Jesse Hass to help troubleshoot treatment problems in the wastewater facility. After discussion, it was determined the problem was coming from somewhere in the collection system. Mr. Hass suggested talking with the industries in town to see if they were using any new chemicals that could be affecting the plant operations. He also offered a sampler from WRWA to help locate the source of the high strength waste. Mr. Hass delivered a sampler and explained the options for placing the sampler in various points throughout the collection system to collect the best data to locate the issue. If the information gathering stage does not yield results, he can request an additional sampler from WRWA to help further pinpoint the source of contamination. Mr. Tienor will use the sampler and try to educate the customers on the effects of discharging harmful waste to the wastewater treatment plant collection system, which is a hazard to the plant process once it reaches the system. This also can cause harmful contaminants to be released into the waste discharge stream when the plant cannot process and remove them in the treatment phase. WRWA's technical assistance saved the Suring Wastewater Treatment Plant \$3,000 based on cost quotes to rent a composite sampler which was provided and delivered free of charge through WRWA.						

5/7/25	Gresham Waterworks	Ryan James	Water Operations Specialist	153 W / 153 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$3,800
WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was contacted to assist with a pressure relief valve. Mr. James was taking the village's water tower offline for repairs. Mr. James told Todd the village needed to set up pressure relief valves because the water tower would be taken offline for inspection and minor repairs. Todd and Mr. James reviewed the village's written plan on where to set up a pressure relief valve and what to set the system pressure at. They went out into the water distribution system to the specified fire hydrants in the plan and set up the pressure relief valves. They also set the water pressure specified operational plan. Once the pressure relief valves were set, Todd and Mr. James returned to the water plant and used the SCAD system to control the pumps. After they set the gallons per minute and pressure on the SCAD system per the operational plan, they went to the water tower and Mr. James shut off the main valve for the tower. Todd and Mr. James returned to the water plant to make sure the system was operating 100% on system pressure. Mr. James estimated WRWA saved the village \$3,800 in technical assistance and use of WRWA loaner equipment.						
6/20/25	Shiocton Utilities	Dan Nabberfell	Wastewater Superintendent	268 W / 268 WW	7.25 hrs.	\$2,500 ann.
WRWA Circuit Rider Jesse Hass was contacted by Dan Nabberfell to assist with village's annual wastewater report and troubleshooting issues within the treatment facility. Mr. Nabberfell was completing the annual wastewater report and monthly DNR report for the first time. Jesse helped with both reports. Mr. Nabberfell then took Jesse to the treatment plant and explained a problem the plant was having. The gearbox for the clarifier was damaged, and the village was waiting for a replacement part. They discussed how the plant had previously been operating and what changes have occurred since the problem started. They discussed possible reasons for the buildup of solids in the aeration basin. Jesse and Mr. Nabberfell talked through some possibilities and ideas. Mr. Nabberfell will adjust the wasting rate and try to get the MLSS to a lower level. He'll also try to pump some of the sludge out of the clarifier to help with settling. Jesse will keep in touch with the village and assist in any way. WRWA's assistance saved the village \$2,500 in consulting fees.						
7/7/25	Birnamwood Waterworks	Connor Oppen	Public Works Director	311 W / 311 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$20,000
WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was contacted by Connor Oppen to assist him in performing leak detection and main locate within his municipality. Todd traveled to Birnamwood and met with Mr. Oppen. He told Todd that he had a leak within his water system and had an idea where it was located and no maps to indicate where the main water line or the customers' service was. Todd gathered the equipment needed for the testing. They started to listen to fire hydrants and customers' water services in the area where Mr. Oppen thought the leak was. Next, they assembled the water main tracing equipment. They hooked the tracing equipment to the closest fire hydrant and began locating the main. Once the main was located, they hooked the tracing equipment to the plumbing of the house that had the leaking service. They successfully located the service. Todd returned to assist Mr. Oppen with the dig and repair of the service. The water loss was estimated at 30,000 gallons a day. WRWA saved the village about \$20,000 had the leak not been found.						
7/16/25	Lena Waterworks	Tyler Schmit	Wastewater Ops. Specialist	179 W / 179 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$1,000
Tyler Schmit contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Jesse Hass to help troubleshoot problems with poor treatment in the wastewater facility. They discussed possible issues and causes of the plant upset and decided the cause was possibly due to various issues within the plant. Jesse and Mr. Schmit discussed aeration issues and using a portable dissolved oxygen meter. They also discussed draining down and cleaning out the tanks in the treatment facility. Lena is doing a plant upgrade starting in the fall but is monitoring the situation and doing what they can to clean tanks. Jesse will stay in touch with Mr. Schmit regarding the plant. WRWA's technical assistance saved Lena \$1,000 in consulting fees.						
9/4/25	Weyauwega Waterworks	Mike Lee	Water Superintendent	850 W / 695 WW	2.75 hrs.	\$1,800
Mike Lee contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich to assist him in locating a water main within his municipality. Todd arrived on-site and met with Mr. Lee. The city needed to locate a water main because of a construction project that was going to start soon. Mr. Lee showed Todd the maps of the water system but said he could not locate any of the shut-off valves indicated on the map. Mr. Lee said the area was currently a hay field. After a review of the line locating equipment, Todd explained how to use it. Upon arrival at the area where the water main was located, they located a valve and successfully located the water main. Mr. Lee estimated WRWA technical assistance saved the municipality \$1,800 from not having to hire an engineer or surveyor.						
9/5/25	Embarrass Waterworks	Harold Schreiber	Wastewater Superintendent	133 W / 133 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$2,500
WRWA Circuit Rider Jesse Hass was contacted by Harold Schreiber to assist with village's monthly wastewater reports. Mr. Schreiber's monthly report changed, and he was required to report daily, monthly, and yearly pounds for Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Phosphorus. Mr. Schreiber contacted Jesse to help walk him through the report. Jesse went through the entire report with Mr. Schreiber and answered his questions. Jesse offered to make an Excel spreadsheet for						

calculating pounds for TSS and phosphorus. Mr. Schreiber had to report pounds starting in January of 2025 and was missing data on the previous reports to the beginning of 2025. Jesse took the plant data from the start of the year and entered it into the spreadsheet he built. Mr. Schrieber was able to report the total pounds for phosphorus and TSS and get back into compliance with the DNR. WRWA services saved the village \$2,500 in consulting fees.

9/12/25	Sister Bay Waterworks	Megan Barnes	Public Works Director	5,109 kWh WW 3,171 kWh W		\$2,094 ann.
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WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed an energy efficiency assessment for Sister Bays' wastewater and water operations. For their wastewater collection system, Matt suggested slowing the speed of Pump 1's motor to 57 Hz to be more efficient and pump the required volume. He also suggested slowing the speeds on the larger Pumps 2 and 3 to 51 Hz for maximum efficiency. For their wastewater treatment plant, Matt suggested monitoring the amount of energy used to get back to 123 kWh. No new processes have been added, yet energy consumption is up. He also suggested changing the runtime of the blower, so it is off between 8 am and noon. For their water operations, Matt suggested changing the motors at Well 2 booster station to high-efficiency motors, changing speed setpoint of the VFD at Well 1 to 100%, and to have someone become familiar with the operation of adjusting speed changes to find optimum efficiency levels. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Sister Bay would save \$1,671 annually for wastewater operations and \$423 for water operations .

11/21/25	Suring Waterworks	Jeff Tienor	Public Works Director	39,604 kWh WW 148 kWh W		\$5,651 ann.
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WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler conducted an energy efficiency assessment for Suring's water and wastewater operations. For their wastewater operations, Matt suggested rubber boot repairs and other pipe leaks, eliminating the aeration of the effluent, and adding a VFD to the blower motor along with a DO sensor to control the VFD. For their water operations, Matt suggested switching the electric rates at Wells 2 and 3 from the current plan to a Cg3 plan and slowing the speed down at Well 2 from 60 Hz to 56 Hz. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Suring would save \$5,017 annually for their wastewater operations and \$634 for their water operations.

12/17/25	Wrightstown Waterworks	Andy Vickman	Wastewater Superintendent	502 W / 502 WW	1.25 hrs.	\$1,000
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WRWA Circuit Rider Jesse Hass stopped by to visit Wrightstown. Andy Vickman informed Jesse the village was dealing with some high loadings from a local industry and was in the process of collecting data. Jesse helped assess the situation and informed Mr. Vickman he would bring a sampler to Wrightstown so they could identify the waste from the industry. Jesse will show Mr. Vickman how to set up and use the portable sampler. They discussed options for dealing with the industry sending the high loadings to the treatment plant. Mr. Vickman wants to build a credible set of data from sampling to make industry recommendations and will use the sampler to try and pinpoint the source of the loadings and what is all being sent to the village. The village will stay in touch with Jesse for information on different strategies to use until the WWTP is operating correctly. WRWA services saved the village \$1,000 for sampler rental and consulting fees.

**Renee Koback**

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**From:** Andrew Aslesen  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 10:07 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** FW: WRWA Water Conservation Poster Contest

Hi Renee,

Below is a thank you email from a school that I gave a presentation at last week.

Andrew Aslesen  
Source Water Specialist  
Wisconsin Rural Water Association  
C: 715-321-3451

**From:** Ellen Peterson <epeterson@kimberly.k12.wi.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 4, 2025 11:00 AM  
**To:** Andrew Aslesen <AAslesen@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** Re: WRWA Water Conservation Poster Contest

Hello,

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

On Mon, Feb 3, 2025 at 11:51 AM Andrew Aslesen <AAslesen@wrwa.org> wrote:

Great, thanks for confirming. We'll see you tomorrow!

Andrew Aslesen

Source Water Specialist

Wisconsin Rural Water Association

C: 715-321-3451

**From:** Ellen Peterson <epeterson@kimberly.k12.wi.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 3, 2025 11:00 AM  
**To:** Andrew Aslesen <AAslesen@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** Re: WRWA Water Conservation Poster Contest

**Renee Koback**

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**From:** Todd Weich  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 3, 2025 5:04 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback; Chris Groh  
**Subject:** Fw: Support Letter

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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**From:** Ryan James <rjames@villageofgresham.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 2, 2025 12:15:19 PM  
**To:** Todd Weich <TWeich@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** Support Letter

Village of Gresham  
Water & Wastewater Utility  
June 30, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge how instrumental the Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA) has been in supporting our utility operations through their loaner equipment program.

Specifically, the availability of blow-off valves and leak detection equipment has been an invaluable resource. These tools have helped us improve system maintenance, respond to customer concerns more efficiently, and better manage water loss. Without WRWA's support, many of these tasks would be more difficult and costly for a small system like ours.

We greatly appreciate WRWA's continued dedication to helping rural utilities like ours succeed.

Sincerely,  
Ryan James



## Renee Koback

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**From:** Chris Groh  
**Sent:** Monday, October 6, 2025 4:58 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Fw: Thank You letter

Great letter for Todd

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**From:** villageofbowler@frontier.com <villageofbowler@frontier.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 3, 2025 2:02 PM  
**To:** Chris Groh <CGroh@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** Thank You letter

I would like to thank WRWA and Municipal Water Circuit Rider Todd Weich for his assistance in finding a total of three very unique water service leaks within the Bowler Waterworks distribution system. The overall cause of the water service leaks turned out to be from the existence of a 2 gauge copper grounding wire that was installed when the system was put in during the late 1960's. That copper grounding wire runs along the 8" Transite Water Main connecting each of the copper water service lines by the Corp Valves. Each of the 3 leaks were directly where the grounding wire wrapped around the copper water service pipe. While the reason this was done remains a mystery, it definitely caused a major problem 55 years later when we assume that a lightning strike or power surge caused a current in the grounding wire that arched a pin hole in all 3 of the water services. We can only hope now that the situation that caused these 3 leaks is no longer an issue, and also that the entire system was not grounded in the same way. The Leak Detection services offered by WRWA are definitely appreciated by small water systems that operate on a "1 man" crew.

THANK YOU!!

Aaron Gutt O.I.C.  
Village of Bowler  
107 W. Main Street  
P.O. Box 68  
Bowler, WI. 54416-0068  
Phone: (715) 584-5042





Midwest Contract Operations

October 13, 2025

Todd Welch  
Wisconsin Rural Water Association  
350 Water Way  
Plover, WI 54467

Dear Todd and Wisconsin Rural Water Association Staff:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA) and the vital work they do on behalf of Wisconsin's small and rural communities. For years, WRWA has been a trusted partner to our company and our municipal clients across the state—providing technical expertise, hands-on training, and professional development opportunities that help ensure the safe and reliable delivery of water and wastewater services to Wisconsin residents.

Small municipalities often operate with limited resources, yet they face the same regulatory requirements and public health responsibilities as larger systems. WRWA fills that critical gap by offering on-site assistance, educational workshops, and certification programs that empower local operators and municipal leaders to maintain compliance, improve efficiency, and protect both public health and the environment. Their team's responsiveness and deep technical knowledge have been invaluable to communities that might otherwise struggle to access affordable support.

Beyond technical services, WRWA also serves as a strong advocate for rural systems—representing their interests at the state and federal levels, and ensuring that rural voices are heard in discussions about infrastructure funding, water quality standards, and workforce development.

The Wisconsin Rural Water Association plays an essential role in maintaining the sustainability and resiliency of our state's water infrastructure. I wholeheartedly support their mission and commend their dedication to serving the people and communities of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Paul Much  
President  
Midwest Contract Operations, Inc.

## Renee Koback

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**From:** Aaron Gutt <a.gutt281@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 12, 2025 2:35 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Thank You!  
**Attachments:** 1000003990.jpg; 1000003961.jpg

I'd like to thank WRWA and Municipal Water Circuit Rider, Todd Weich for his assistance with leak detection in the Village of Bowler this past August and September. We ended up locating and repairing 3 separate water service lines that were leaking due to a lightning strike that set current through a copper grounding wire that was connecting each water service along the 8" AC water main by each corp valve. For small water systems that have Wells with limited g.p.m. pumping abilities, it is essential to find water loss in a timely manner and the assistance from WRWA is greatly appreciated to make that happen.

Thanks!

Aaron Gutt

Bowler Waterworks



## VILLAGE OF IOLA

180 S. Main St. • PO Box 336, Iola, WI 54945  
Email: [info@villageofiola.com](mailto:info@villageofiola.com) • [www.villageofiola.com](http://www.villageofiola.com)

*"Collectively upholding our relevancy for today, responsiveness for tomorrow; readiness in the future to address the needs of our entire community."*

December 17, 2025

To whom it may concern:

We would like to send a special Thank you to Jesse Hass, Wastewater Technician at WRWA.

Our Public Works Department (Glenn Tetzlaff and Edward Bonikowske) informed the Clerks Office what an asset Jesse Hass has been to them this past year. His willingness to assist the Village of Iola Public Works Department throughout the year has been amazing. We couldn't have corrected wastewater issues in the Village as quickly and efficiently without him.

Sincerely,

Melissa J Fenn  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer  
Village of Iola  
180 South Main St  
Iola WI 54945



## VILLAGE OF IOLA

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December 17, 2025

To whom it may concern:

We would like to send a special Thank you to Renee Kobach, Member Services Coordinator, at WRWA.

I would personally like to Thank her for always being so kind and patient when we correspond.

Sincerely,

Melissa J Fenn  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer  
Village of Iola  
180 South Main St  
Iola WI 54945



## VILLAGE OF IOLA

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*"Collectively upholding our relevancy for today, responsiveness for tomorrow; readiness in the future to address the needs of our entire community."*

December 17, 2025

To whom it may concern:

We would like to send a special Thank you to Todd Weich, Municipal Water Circuit Rider at WRWA.

Our Public Works Department (Glenn Tetzlaff and Edward Bonikowske) informed us that his knowledge has been extremely helpful when the Village of Iola had water main breaks. He helped make a stressful, time sensitive problem easier to manage.

Sincerely,

Village of Iola  
Melissa J Fenn  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer  
Village of Iola  
180 South Main St  
Iola WI 54945