



Wisconsin Rural Water Journal

Winter 2026

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Water System Components
Prepare for Winter
Pressure Zones
Wellhead Protection, is it Effective?**

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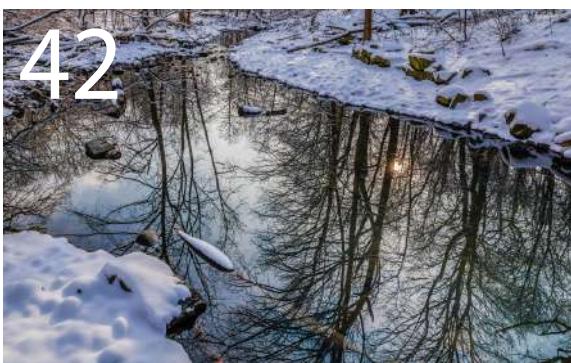
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	Chief Financial Officer Andy Aspinwall	Member Services Coordinator Renee Koback
	Technical Assistance Director Kelly Thomas	Training Specialist Brenda Staudenmaier
	Source Water Specialist Andrew Aslesen	Energy Efficiency Circuit Rider Matt Rettler
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		Municipal Water Circuit Rider Todd Weich
	EPA Wastewater Technician Dan Cooper	
	EPA Water Technician/Trainer Nate Licht	

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WRWA STATE OFFICE

PH: 715-344-7778 • FAX: 715-344-5555
E-Mail: wrwa@wrwa.org
Website: www.wrwa.org



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



Message from the President

Dean Bergstrom,
WRWA President, Cumberland

It seems every year keeps going by faster and faster! We have had some pretty nice weather this fall and now winter is here.

I would like to say thank you to all of you who wrote letters in support of a grant to help with funding for our Water College. We have support from Senators also, so hopefully with all this support we will be lucky enough to get it. I would like to thank all who have donated either money or materials to our Outdoor Training Facility. WRWA really has the greatest supporters! Thank you all!!

We are really looking forward to the 2026 WRWA Technical Conference in Green Bay on March 24th-27th. It was great getting back to Green Bay last year and hopefully we have some of the minor glitches all worked out. There will be a lot of classes and probably a record amount of vendors to walk around and see the newest and greatest technology, tools, and equipment. Please make a point to join us for one of, if not the biggest conference, in Wisconsin.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy 2026 and look forward to seeing you all in March!

Until next time, stay safe! *Dean*

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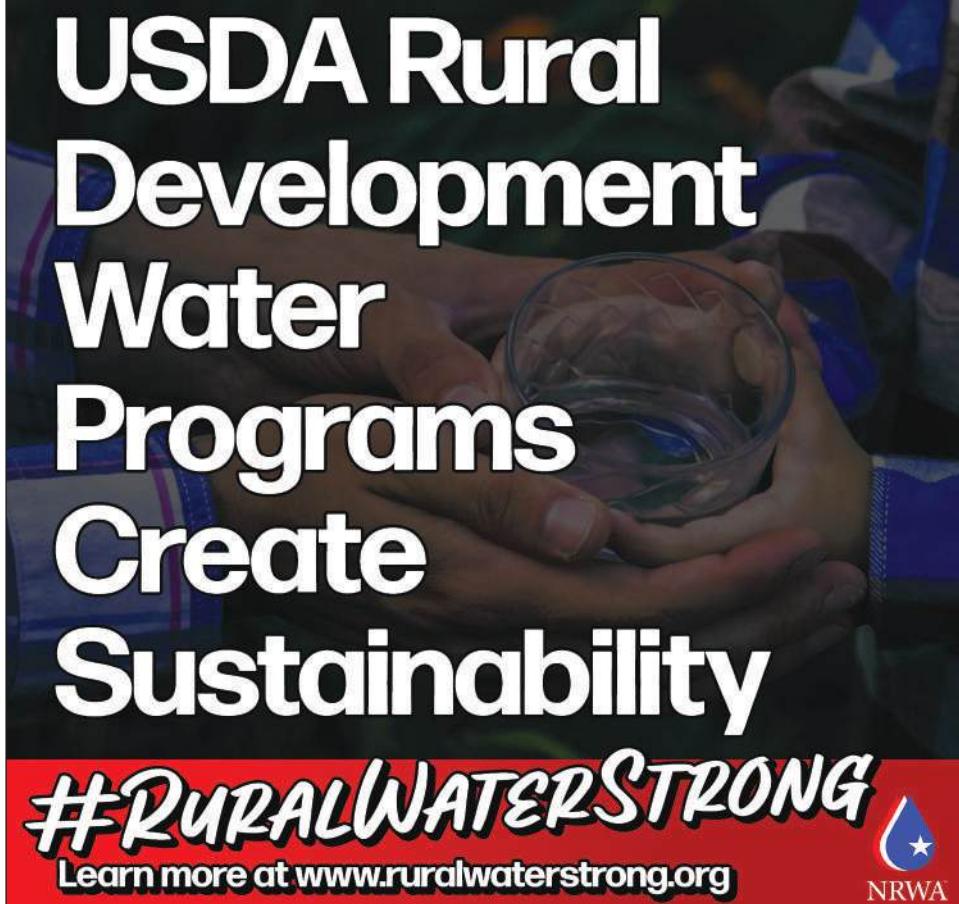
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NRWA



Message from the Executive Director

2025 Year in Review

Chris Groh,
WRWA Executive Director

If it's Winter, it's time for the WRWA Year in Review. Boy, what a year. I'll remember this year forever! It seemed like a constant state of unknown and unsuspected change for the government which led to a chaotic time for rural America. USDA took a terrible hard hit from DOGE, and we lost so many great people from USDA Rural Development, people that knew who you were, who we were, and gladly took responsibility to help rural Wisconsin keep the water flowing and the wastewater treated. Overall, funding for USDA RD programs are still funded and the staff is still able to get loans out to our rural systems in need of improvements to their facilities. Don't let this change keep you from applying for USDA funding. The need is still there, and the staff will help you make your upgrades happen.

Rural Water staff has changed also. We lost our EPA workers, and we hired new EPA staff later in the year. Nathan Licht is our new EPA Water contact, and Daniel Cooper is our new EPA Wastewater person. Please give them a call if you need specialized water or wastewater help in your systems. Nate and Dan are specializing in smaller and tribal systems, but they go wherever they are needed! They are already helping with quite a few systems, and they are great to work with!

Our Water Circuit rider program experienced a funding problem at the end of the year, and you may remember I sent out a notice that the water staff was experiencing a work slowdown, but they were available for any emergencies or other near emergencies. We kept the Circuit Rider staff on throughout the slowdown, and they received their full funding by the beginning of December. Boy, were they ever ready to go! It hurt to see such an experienced, caring group get sidelined for November. I hope you all got a sense of what it would be like if we lost this program. Imagine no help coming for your water system, no one to ask for advice or technical assistance. It would be a very dark time in many municipalities across the state.

But through it all we have kept working towards another great conference in Green Bay, a record setting Expo last August, and we are moving ahead with getting our Expo Park in shape with some hands-on equipment getting into the ground and plans to get some expert training to go with it.

Never forget we are here, our fight is for you, and we are all RURAL WATER!

Chris



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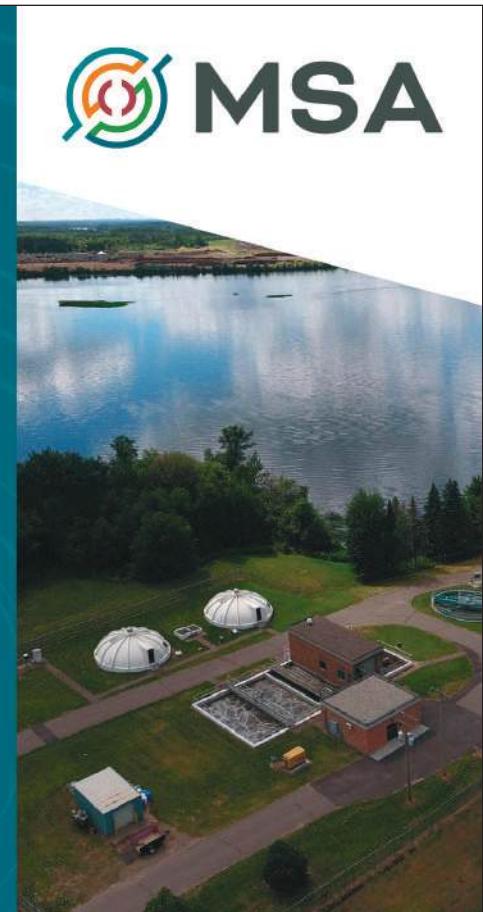
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Hello,

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.

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Roger J.D. Clark, Senior Water Supply Specialist
Drinking Water & Groundwater Bureau
Environmental Management Division
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

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

Dear Todd & Wisconsin Rural Water Association Staff:

I am writing to express my strong support for 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 interest 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.

Annie,

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

Bernie J., Troy Center Sanitary District

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

WRWA Staff 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

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 plant's 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

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

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 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, Village of Elk Mound Water & Wastewater Operator

Continued on page 7



Winter Water Sample Shipping



Kelly Thomas,
WRWA Technical Assistance Director

When possible, you are your own best courier—your vehicle gives you full control over delivery time and temperature.

Scheduling drinking water samples in winter can be challenging. You must juggle snowfalls and plowing, water main repairs, service freeze-ups, and other emergencies. Another important factor when planning sampling is cold temperatures.

You may want to think twice before shipping drinking water samples if the temperature is below zero. If the laboratory receives samples that are frozen or "slushy," they cannot be used.

If you use a major courier, try to avoid shipping your sample coolers during below-zero weather. Many courier warehouses have very little heat, and overnight delivery is no longer guaranteed by many couriers. Contact your courier service to learn about their current guarantees. When possible, you are your own best courier—your vehicle gives you full control over delivery time and temperature.

We constantly remind operators to pack coolers full of ice when shipping samples to the labs. In winter, however, consider filling coolers only halfway with ice—just enough to cover the sample bottles. Ice also acts as an insulator in winter, helping prevent samples from freezing. NR 809 requires nitrate and nitrite drinking water samples to arrive at the lab at a temperature between 0 and 6 degrees Celsius (32–42°F). Keep coolers in a heated environment as long as possible prior to courier pickup. It doesn't take long for drinking water samples to freeze when exposed to sub-zero temperatures.

Stay safe, stay healthy,

Kelly





We get letters and emails!

We'd love to hear from you...

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

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

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.

Randy Kerkman, Village of Bristol

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, Village of Deer Park

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DATA CENTERS AND WATER USAGE IN WISCONSIN

Tony Roche,
WRWA Wastewater Trainer

Wisconsin is experiencing rapid growth in large-scale data centers, driven by cloud computing and AI workloads

Hello Wisconsin! Thanksgiving is right around the corner! So break out your blaze orange, load up on gravy, and find a nice pair of sweatpants to accommodate an expanding waistline! If you have kept up with the news, a recent hot topic is the growth of data centers in Wisconsin. Let's take a closer look at data centers and water usage.

Wisconsin is experiencing rapid growth in large-scale data centers, driven by cloud computing and AI workloads. These facilities require substantial cooling, which in turn can require large volumes of water. The scale of this usage varies widely based on cooling technology, facility size, and energy sources.

Let's take Microsoft's planned data center campus in Mount Pleasant for example. Public records released by the City of Racine show projected water consumption of up to 8.4 million gallons per year. While Microsoft states it uses closed-loop "zero-water" cooling for most of the year, the facility is expected to rely on evaporative cooling during high-temperature periods. Evaporative systems result in consumptive water loss, meaning water is not returned to the watershed.

Some sources state that publicly disclosed water usage may significantly underrepresent the full water footprint. This is because

the energy required to power data centers, especially when sourced from natural gas or coal plants, includes additional indirect water consumption for power plant cooling. When this embedded water usage is included, total impact can exceed direct facility usage.

In addition, some reports warn that state regulatory systems may not fully capture consumptive water losses. Because Wisconsin's freshwater resources support agriculture, manufacturing, and drinking water supply, transparency and accurate accounting are increasingly important.

Sustainability-minded data center operators can reduce water use by employing closed-loop systems, relying on air-cooled chillers in cooler months, and increasing the use of renewable energy sources that require minimal water. As the state's data center market expands, clear reporting requirements, independent auditing, and long-term watershed planning will be essential to protecting Wisconsin's water resources.

If you are heading out to the woods please remember to be safe and have fun! Until next time. *Tony*

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WATER SYSTEM COMPONENTS

Annie Von Rueden,
WRWA Water Circuit Rider

There is a lot to think about of all the components of how a water system works.

Water distribution typically consists of pipes, storage facilities, pumping stations, valves of various sizes and purposes, and fire hydrants. The purpose of these components of this operating system is to always deliver enough quantities of water at sufficient pressures under continually changing conditions while at the same time protecting water quality. Two major factors combine to accomplish this purpose. The first deals with the physical features of the system and relates to its ability to withstand the stresses upon it to protect the quality of the water it transmits, and to deliver the supply in sufficient quantity through adequately sized facilities. The second element is the operation and maintenance of the system in a manner that preserves the integrity and quality of the water it delivers. Of most importance is the maintenance of a continuous positive water pressure in the distribution system under all conditions to protect the system from toxic and other undesirable substances entering the system. To properly understand and operate a distribution system, the operator must be thoroughly knowledgeable and trained in physical and hydraulic characteristics. Hydraulic concerns of a water distribution system are, will the water flow, and in what direction? Available pressures are also of main concern. Generally, water

should be delivered with a working minimum pressure of 35# psi. 20# psi is the absolute minimum pressure, while 100# psi is the maximum pressure. Accomplishing these goals sometimes becomes very complex when a distribution system serves customers living on high hills or in the lowest area of the system. Another factor that must be considered is that water flowing in a pipe will lose pressure due to pipe friction loss. Water pressure problems created by hills and lowest areas of the system are a lesser concern than friction losses because pressure problems due to elevation can be anticipated and corrected when the distribution system is designed and engineered. However, the loss of pressure due to friction in the pipe is not constant, being determined by the coarseness of the interior of the pipe creating turbulence with the velocity of water flowing in the pipe. This velocity is constantly changing with demand while pipe coarseness can gradually increase over a period of time. Other factors of concern are thrust and water hammer. Water flowing in a pipe applies at any point where the layout of the system either changes the direction of flow, increases the velocity, decreases, or stops flow. Particularly pipes with ninety-degree angles and hydrants. At these points, the pipes and fittings must be anchored and kept from moving or pulling apart with the use

of thrust blocks. Thrust blocks are generally large concrete blocks or similar material placed correctly around a pipe to prevent movement when the pipe is conveying water. The location of thrust blocks depends on the direction of thrust and type of fitting used. Water hammer is caused by surges in the water distribution line resulting from rapid increase or decrease in the water flow. This usually results from turning pumps on or off, distribution valves, especially hydrants too rapidly. Water hammer exerts tremendous force on the system and can cause a lot of damage. Water operators and firefighters should be the only personnel authorized to start and stop pumps, open or close distribution valves and hydrants. Water operators must be properly trained in pump operations, and how to slowly close and open distribution valves and hydrants. Fire fighters should also be trained in proper fire hydrant operations.

The ideal water distribution system would rely completely on gravity to bring water from its source to the consumer at the desired pressures. In most systems, some pumping is required. Usually, because of the topography of the water system, water must be boosted to distribution reservoirs and elevated tanks. Sometimes booster pumps are often installed directly on the mains to increase the available system pressures. Sufficient water must be available from the water sources and reservoirs to supply adequately, dependably, and safely the requirements of all users under maximum demand conditions. When designing or engineering, avoid dead-ends water mains by looking or grid out the distribution system. Dead-end water mains should be avoided to prevent the development of stale water. Stale, underused, unflushed water can cause many issues from taste and odor, or if left in the line long enough, black water. If a dead-end main cannot be avoided, future expansion for example, a hydrant flushing valve, or blow off is needed on installation for flushing of the line. The valve layout and placement of a distribution system is very important for the functionality of the distribution system. Valves can be used to isolate a section of the distribution system to pin-point a leak, or valves can be used in isolation for directional flushing when flushing out the system using fire hydrants – hydrant flushing. Valves are also used to isolate a section of the line for distribution pipe repair – main break.

Elevated tanks and reservoir capacity should be sufficient to meet the equalizing or operating storage demands, fire reserve, and emergency reserve. On the economic side, the cost of storage is weighed against the cost of pumping. Storage provides savings in energy consumption because tanks can be filled during periods of low water and energy demand, while the stored water is used to meet peak water demands. Storage capacity eliminated frequent on/off pumping periods. Storage capacity is also considered when fire insurance rates are established. Fire demand has a big impact on the size of a system. Most of the components in a distribution system may need to be oversized to meet fire demands. A fire can put very high demand on a system for short periods of time. As fire demands are usually more than twice as normal user demands. Facilities are often designed and built to over twice the capacity needed for normal use.

There is a lot to think about of all the components of how a water system works. These a just a few things mentioned and again of how necessary water must be available from the water sources and distribution reservoirs to supply adequate, dependable, and safe drinking water to all customers within the system.

I hope you all had a successful deer hunt and good Thanksgiving with your families as we buckle down for another joyful winter and Christmas season!

Annie

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PSC WATER RATE INCREASE ORDERS ISSUED

9/1/2025 – 11/30/2025

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Oconto Utility Commission	9/10	-3.27%
Benton Municipal Electric And Water Utility	9/24	27.92%
Eleva Municipal Water Utility	9/24	161.3%
Wind Point Municipal Water Utility	9/30	37.86%
City of Oconomowoc Utilities	10/8	33.17%
Bellevue Water Utility	10/16	36.1%
Delavan Water and Sewage Commission	10/16	52.69%
Sun Prairie Utilities	11/4	7.3%
Rib Mountain Water Utility	11/6	11.91%
Burlington Municipal Waterworks	11/13	28.56%
Brookfield Municipal Water Utility	11/21	10.92%

PSC CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATIONS ISSUED

9/1/2025 – 11/30/2025

UTILITY NAME	ORDER ISSUED	CONSTRUCTION COST
Mcfarland Water and Sewer Utility	9/15	\$4,219,100
Appleton Water Department	10/8	\$730,600
City of Cudahy Water Utility	11/6	\$690,000
Village of Suring Water Utility	11/7	\$160,000
Town of Brockway Sanitary District 1	11/12	\$600
Fairchild Municipal Water Utility	11/12	\$1,929,000
Spring Green Municipal Water Utility	11/19	\$3,423,900
City of Menomonie Water Department	11/25	\$10,457,482



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“Preparing for Winter”

Winter Operations

Small water systems OTM/NN

Good morning,

Again, we hit that time of the year with freezing temperatures and lots of snow in Wisconsin. Water operators must now start thinking about “Winter Operations” for their water systems. I’m here to give you some helpful insight to get you through these next few months of snowstorms and extreme temperature drops. Don’t forget to dress for the situation. Waterproof insulated boots, winter jackets and bibs, face masks and gloves are always a must when responding on the chilly days or after hour late night emergency calls.

First off, make sure all heaters and heat tapes are turned on within your facilities. I’ve seen it time and time again, operators forgetting to plug in or turn them on. Which turns into a frozen line situation or burst pipes. Keep your pump house well heated during the cold months. Depending on your system needs, decrease water levels for more turnover in your water towers or outdoor tanks. Make sure all controls are heated. Also, skirting around your mobile homes should also be in place. This will help keep the cold air from freezing water lines. Remember, try and make daily inspections routine during extremely cold months. This will help you identify or see any water main breaks or bursts.

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

Always have clean access to your facilities during winter. Remove or plow snow away from the most important parts of your water system. Well houses, hydrants, and valves. Be sure not to expose underground water service lines as the snow provides extra insulation. If you need extra insulation for your service lines, frost blankets or hay bales can be used. Keeping your fire hydrants clear and visible of snow prevents damage from snowmobiles or plow trucks from hitting them. Keeping them visible also helps your local fire department when they are responding to emergencies.

Check your local weather forecast throughout the winter months. When the sub below temperatures move in it may be a good idea to send out a trickle water notice to customers. This will help prevent any future freeze-ups or lines bursts to customers.

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

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

We at Wisconsin Rural Water Association are always here to help you with any Technical Assistance you may need. Please feel free to contact your nearest WRWA-Water Circuit Rider for any questions or concerns you may have. Also make sure you check our web site at www.wrwa.org for any online or In-person training that you may need. We are the leaders in your training needs.

Thanks for reading everyone!

George Taylor, Small Water System Circuit Rider

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GIS MAPPING

Jesse Hass,
WRWA Wastewater Trainer

In the past few years, this technology has become more user-friendly and affordable.

Mapping is becoming a hotter topic these days with more affordable options available to municipalities. GPS used to seem like an impossible task unless you hired an outside firm. Now with a little direction and training, having your own GPS maps is a very reasonable thing to accomplish. With web-based services available on the internet, systems of all sizes can start up their own GPS maps and have control over their own maps. With a little guidance any operator has the capability to have a professional looking map at a very affordable price.

When GIS was first introduced it was cumbersome and expensive. In the past few years, this technology has become more user-friendly and affordable. Many systems who never believed they could use this technology are now able to map their systems using GIS. There are

numerous possibilities using GIS to manage points of interest within a utility. Once an asset is recorded you can add maintenance reports, attach videos and link to online SCADA systems in some applications. I have helped numerous systems in the past few years set up maps and show them ways to build layers in their map. There are a few very cost-effective options available, and mapping has never been easier. What used to be an expensive endeavor can now be done for less than \$500.00 a year, and in the case of smaller towns it can be done for around \$250.00 a year.

Maps can be as detailed as the operator would like. An operator can easily upload pictures to accompany any point on their map. This has been helpful to operators in many ways. Some utilities upload pics of most of their assets to their maps. Some others have started taking

pictures during "Diggers Hotline" locates so they can have a reference of where the utilities

assets are as well as electrical, gas, and internet is as well. The possibilities are endless when building a map. WRWA also has three GPS units, a Trimble R1 and two EOS Arrows, that provide sub-meter accuracy. These units are available through our loaner equipment program. If you are looking to get into mapping or are wondering if there is more that you could be doing with your map, give a circuit rider a call.

One last note, keep an eye on our training calendar, on May 6th and 7th WRWA staff will be doing a two-day training session which will include blueprint reading, GPS equipment, starting a map and mapping tips and tricks. Jon Strand from CBS Squared will be giving a talk on reading and understanding blueprints. Jay Reister from Seiler Geospatial will be showing attendees how GPS devices work and what types of devices are on the markets. WRWA staff will be going over mapping basics and how to plot points into a map. Attendees will have the ability to bring in tablets and either start a map or add more detailed points to their existing map. Other things to bring to the class would include shape files of previously plotted points. This class may have cap on attendance so if you see it sign up early. If you sign up for the class and have not started a map, give us a call and we can stop out to get you started before the class. *Jesse*

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Pressure Zones

Dan Wundrow,
WRWA Circuit Rider

One of the most critical factors in a municipal water system is pressure.

Over the last few weeks, I have had the opportunity to dive deeper into a few subjects. I spent some time looking at completed projects and how they have positively affected drinking water systems. One project that grabbed my interest was creating pressure zones for the Madison distribution system.

One of the most critical factors in a municipal water system is pressure. The Wisconsin DNR code requires that a system maintains a minimum pressure of 35 psi and not exceed 100 psi. It is a given that water systems have different pressure readings throughout. Think about your system for a minute; I bet you can think of a few spots in town where you have had customer complaints about low or high-water pressure. Maintaining even, constant pressure across the entire water system can be tricky. Customers in the high hills of town often complain of low pressure, while those in the low-lying areas usually have high water pressure.

The most common solution that many utilities revert to is creating pressure zones. This involves dividing the water system into smaller hydraulic zones that control pressure. Creating a pressure zone not only helps maintain even pressure throughout the distribution system but also saves water, reduces energy costs, and protects infrastructure.

Water distribution depends on pressure generated by gravity (from elevated storage) and mechanical pumping. However, terrain and elevation differences mean pressure is rarely consistent throughout a system. If left unchecked, pressure in low-elevation areas can become excessive, leading to pipe stress, leaks, and breaks. At higher elevations, pressure may drop below acceptable levels, leading to poor service and fire flow issues. Both extremes decrease equipment life, increase maintenance costs, and lower customer satisfaction. Many utilities aim for service pressures between

40 and 80 psi at the customer tap. Achieving this throughout all zones requires clever system design—and pressure zones are a key tool.

A pressure zone is a geographically defined area within the water distribution system where hydraulic pressure is maintained within a specific range and that operates somewhat independently of neighboring zones. Each zone has its own supply, storage, and control devices. Standard components include booster pump stations, pressure reducing valves (PRVs), elevated storage, and check or isolation valves.

Now, suppose you have a system located in rolling hills. The lower part of town has higher pressure, while the upper zone has lower pressure. You have storage available in your water tower. A quick, simple solution is to change the set points and operate the tower at the maximum level. This might add a few extra psi to the upper zone, but it will also increase psi in the lower zone. You will also notice that well pumps turn on and off frequently. This will increase energy costs and cause wear and tear to the pumping equipment. The optimal solution is to create a separate zone, thereby reducing energy costs while increasing consistent pressures, extending equipment life, and improving fire flows. When it comes to leak detection, you will also get a quick snapshot of which zone is using more water than usual, helping to reduce overall water loss.

When creating a pressure zone, many items need to be reviewed. This is a great time to involve your engineers. One of the biggest things that will need to take place is creating a model of the water system. Last year, I did an article on EPANET. The engineer will create a model in some software like that. You will need to gather system data, including pressure readings from several areas of the distribution system and system elevations. This will help with creating natural boundaries for each pressure zone. During

this stage, it is best to maintain open, transparent communication with the engineer on this project.

When creating a pressure zone, several factors should be considered. Can the infrastructure handle the increased pressure? Is the water main past its life cycle? Will the project's price benefit many people? Will the overall project allow for expansion where it otherwise would not be considered? We will need to justify these matters to our rate payers as well.

Here is the summary of the Madison Water Utility (MWU) project: it has several pressure zones: 3, 5 6E, 6E, 6W, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11. In 2023, MWU completed a Resilience Project for pressure zones 6W and 7. The installation of a remote-controlled PRV allowed Well 14 to pump water into two separate pressure zones. This project was estimated at \$40,000 and significantly increased the number of residents that Well 14 could supply. If you want to read the whole project scope, check out <https://www.cityofmadison.com/water/projects/pressure-zones-6w-and-7-resilience-project>

Not every water system needs to create pressure zones. Sometimes, pressure varies based on customer demand. I'm working with a system that is currently experiencing significant pressure swings. Typical operating pressures during swings are around 80 psi, with lows of 65 psi and highs of 105 psi. It's crazy to watch that happen in real time. After discussing it with several industry peers, we all reached the same conclusion. Installing a temporary PRV should help reduce the pressure swings. Once installed on a hydrant downstream of a customer who uses high volumes of water, the pressure fluctuations decreased dramatically. Now this is only a temporary fix until permanent equipment can be installed.

I hope that this article was helpful and insightful. If you are having pressure problems, please reach out to one of the circuit riders in your area. Have a great holiday season. *Dan*

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WRWA Energy Assessment

Matt Rettler,
WRWA Energy Efficiency Circuit Rider

It has come to my attention over the past couple of months that many municipalities don't know that WRWA has an energy program and that it is completely FREE!

I've been in my position for a little over two years now and have enjoyed digging into the, often overlooked, energy portion of the process at many municipalities across the state. No matter the size of the operation, there are often energy savings that can be found whether they are small changes in the process, updating old equipment, removing taxes from a bill, adjusting the speed of a currently installed VFD, or better understanding how and when to use power that can be shifted throughout the day. Savings come in a wide range from \$100 a year to tens of thousands per year.

It has come to my attention over the past couple of months that many municipalities don't know that WRWA has an energy program and that it is completely FREE! I attended a few classes recently to introduce myself and give a basic background of the energy program and the information needed to complete an assessment. I was surprised to see that not many operators even knew of the program. Most are familiar with our water and wastewater circuit riders that provide their services free of charge, but there is another free service available. Completing an energy assessment is painless and has many benefits to offer. The

biggest benefit is by cutting electricity consumption, which reduces operating costs and supports a more sustainable, environmentally friendly impact. With the alarming rate of rising electricity costs, it only makes sense to get ahead of the curve and save where you can. Besides easing the cost of operation, an assessment can also be reported on your yearly CMAR report for a better "grade" on your wastewater utility. The entire process starts with an initial contact and then a collection of the data to be analyzed. The data includes 12 months of the most recent power bills for each meter in the system, any pump information available, motor data plate information, motor runtimes, and any other information the municipality may be looking for specifically for the report. After analyzing the data, I schedule an onsite visit to go around to each motor within the systems to get an amp draw, grab motor plate data if it hasn't been provided, follow the system processes and discuss any potential changes, and make notes of possible savings avenues.

After all data collection and the onsite visit, I will explore all options for energy savings possible for each facility. This may include upgrades, changes to the process, or simple billing updates. When completed I make another site visit and present all the recommendations to anyone that is interested (operators, board members, department leads, etc.). It is important to consider that some recommendations require a capital investment to be made to save energy but many require no additional spending from the municipality to save costs and energy. Hopefully recommendations are implemented within the system. Once a recommendation has been implemented, a follow-up assessment can be done 12 months later to verify the original prediction of savings. A follow-up assessment is a shortened version of the original that can include additional recommendations if they are found. It still goes through the process of collecting power bills and onsite verification to determine the true savings.

To conclude, there aren't many things for FREE these days, but you will get a free assessment for your municipality if you contact me with your interest in our energy assessment program. With escalating costs across the board there is no harm in checking to see if any savings are possible at your facility. *Matt*

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The Hidden Helper... THAT KEEPS YOUR DRINKING WATER SAFE

Todd Weich,
WRWA Water Circuit Rider

Did you know the safety of our drinking water depends on more than the quality of treatment at municipal facilities? When treated drinking water enters a building, it can become vulnerable to contamination through a process known as backflow. To guard against this risk, plumbing codes and public health standards require the use of backflow prevention devices, which serve as critical barriers between clean water and potential pollutants. Understanding how these devices work reveals why they are essential to maintaining safe, reliable drinking water.

Backflow occurs when the direction of water flow reverses, allowing contaminated water to enter the drinking water system. This reversal can be caused by two primary conditions: backpressure and backsiphonage. Backpressure happens when pressure within a building's plumbing systems becomes greater than the pressure in the water main. This imbalance can occur due to elevated temperatures in boilers, the use of pumps, or structural elevation differences within a building. In contrast, backsiphonage is created by a sudden drop in supply pressure, such as during a water main break, heavy usage,

The importance of these devices cannot be overstated.

or firefighting operations, which can draw contaminated water backward into the water system.

To counter these risks, backflow prevention devices are installed at key points within water systems. These devices ensure that water can flow in only one direction and immediately block any attempt at reverse flow. While several types exist, including double check-valve assemblies, vacuum breakers, and reduced-pressure principal devices, they all share the same fundamental function: preventing contaminants from entering drinking water lines. Most devices rely on internal check valves, air gaps, or mechanical seals that close automatically when abnormal pressure changes are detected. In higher-risk applications, some devices are designed to vent potentially contaminated water safely away from the water supply.

The importance of these devices cannot be overstated. Even a small backflow incident can allow fertilizers, chemicals, industrial fluids, or wastewater to enter the drinking water system, posing serious health hazards. Contaminated water can cause gastrointestinal illnesses,

chemical exposure, microbial infections, or environmental damage. By isolating water from systems that contain or may encounter hazardous substances, backflow prevention devices serve as vital safeguards for both public health and building safety.

Backflow prevention is particularly important in locations where potable water connects to systems with elevated contamination risks. Irrigation and sprinkler systems, boiler and HVAC equipment, fire suppression systems, commercial kitchens, medical facilities, and industrial processes all pose potential hazards. For this reason, building codes and water authorities often require regular testing and maintenance of backflow prevention devices to ensure they remain fully functional. Testing should be completed at the time of installation, any time maintenance is performed, and at least once yearly.

Ultimately, the role of a backflow prevention device is both simple and indispensable: it protects the integrity of the drinking water supply by stopping contamination before it can occur. As water moves through increasingly complex networks in homes, businesses, and industrial operations, these devices provide peace of mind that the water we use every day remains clean, safe, and reliable.

As always, reach out to your Circuit Rider with any questions or technical assistance requests. See you all next year!

Todd



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WRWA Mission:

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



Supporting Wisconsin's Water: Helping Communities Take Care of Their Wastewater Systems

Dan Cooper,
WRWA EPA Wastewater Technical Assistance/Trainer

Across Wisconsin, small towns and rural communities rely on wastewater systems that often go unnoticed—until something goes wrong. These systems protect our lakes, rivers, and drinking water, and the people who operate them work hard every day to keep things running smoothly. As part of the Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA), my job is to help these communities by providing guidance, training, and hands-on support wherever it's needed.

A Career Built on Community Service

My path into this work started back in high school, with a summer job for the City of Columbia Heights. I began in the Parks Department and later joined the Signs Department, where I learned how important it is to take care of community infrastructure. What began as a part-time job quickly became a passion for public service.

Before joining WRWA, I spent nearly a decade as a Public Works Director. I oversaw everything from utilities and streets to budgets, zoning, and emergency repairs. That experience taught me just how important it is for smaller communities to have access to reliable help—especially when staff and resources are limited. Today, I carry that experience into the field as I work with systems all across Wisconsin.

Helping Communities Access Funding for Improvements

One major part of my work involves helping communities understand and pursue funding for wastewater projects. Through an EPA program called Priority Area 1 (PA1), WRWA helps small towns, rural communities, and Tribal communities learn how to apply for infrastructure loans and grants, especially through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

This support helps communities:

- Plan projects
- Understand the funding process
- Strengthen their applications
- Prepare for long-term maintenance and upgrades

For many smaller municipalities, these programs make the difference between “someday we should fix this” and actually getting a project started.

Hands-On Help for Wastewater Operators

Another important part of my work comes through EPA Priority Area 2 (PA2). Through this program, I visit wastewater systems across the state to provide advice, training, and on-site support. Every community is different, and every system presents its own challenges.

Some days I help troubleshoot mechanical problems. Other days I might review sampling procedures, discuss emerging contaminants, or offer training on cybersecurity—an area that has become increasingly important for utilities of all sizes.

The goal is simple: give operators the tools and knowledge they need to keep their systems running safely and in compliance with environmental standards.

Supporting Communities With Decentralized Systems

Many small towns in Wisconsin operate lagoon systems or decentralized wastewater systems rather than conventional treatment plants. These facilities are often simple, cost-effective, and well-suited to rural areas—but they still need regular care, monitoring, and guidance.

Through **EPA Priority Area 4 (PA4)**, I assist these communities with inspections, planning, troubleshooting, and understanding future needs. This support is especially important for communities with limited staffing or aging infrastructure.

Proud to Serve Wisconsin

Whether I'm standing on the edge of a lagoon at sunrise, working alongside an operator to diagnose a problem, or helping a municipality take the first step toward a major upgrade, my goal is always the same: **to help Wisconsin communities protect their water and their future.**

Outside of work, I spend much of my time outdoors—fishing, riding trails, and enjoying the same natural resources I'm committed to helping protect. Those moments remind me why this work matters. Clean water supports our health, our environment, and the Wisconsin way of life.

I'm proud to serve our rural and small communities, and I look forward to continuing this work—community by community, system by system.

2026 January ICE FISHEREE

12th Annual WRWA Ice Fisheree

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 & Thursday, January 22, 2026 ~ Fox Lake, WI

MEET & GREET: 5:00 pm on January 21st

FISHEREE REGISTRATION from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm on January 21st and after 5:00 am on January 22nd

FISHEREE from 5:00 pm on January 21st – 2:00 pm on January 22nd

LUNCH after 2:00 pm

- Raffle Prize drawings & awards presentation immediately following lunch
- \$50 individual prizes for longest Walleye, Northern, Musky & Bass (photo entry, catch & release preferred)
- Trophy for combined weight of 10 largest panfish by team (1:00 pm cut off time for panfish weighing)
- \$50 prize for combined weight of rough fish (includes all fish not listed for prizes above)

ENTRY FEE: **\$50.00 per person** (includes coffee, donuts, lunch, raffle, promotional item)

NAME(s)

1. _____ 5. _____
2. _____ 6. _____
3. _____ 7. _____
4. _____ 8. _____

(Please register by 4:00 pm, January 16th for meal count)

EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Hook (\$550) Includes eight fisheree entries, name on signs, website and WRWA Journal
 Line (\$350) Includes four fisheree entries, name on signs, website and WRWA Journal
 Sinker (\$150) Includes name on signs, website and WRWA Journal
 Food Sponsorship (\$200)

RAFFLE PRIZE DONATION

Donor Name: _____ Donated Raffle Prize: _____

(i.e. jig poles, tip ups, winter clothing, etc.)

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Location: Boathouse Pub & Eatery, N10575 Chief Kuno Trail, west of the City of Fox Lake off of Hwy 33

Lodging: For booking information contact Vicky Matheys at (920) 928-3470

Bait, Licenses, Tackle: **Fishtales Bait & Liquor**, 529 W. State St., Fox Lake, WI – (920) 520-0015

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Plover WI 54467

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For questions on event & lake information:

Contact Dave Magnussen 920-344-1411
or visit www.wrwa.org



Meet Nathan Licht



Nathan Licht,
WRWA EPA Water Technician/Trainer

I am excited and extremely thankful for the opportunity to introduce myself as the new WRWA EPA Water Technician/Trainer. In my role as a technician/trainer, I'll have the privilege of working with many of the dedicated operators throughout the state. When I first discovered WRWA as a new operator, I instantly knew my goal was to become part of such a wonderful team one day.

I grew up in the country just outside of the city of New Richmond surrounded by US Fish and Wildlife land where I spent my childhood hunting, fishing, and taking scrap wood, nails or anything else I could find in my dad's shed to build tree forts with my brother. After graduating from New Richmond High School, I received my associate's degree in marketing from Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College. I then began my career as a manager in the retail industry. This is where I learned that I was able to connect with people in many ways which helped create the vast number of professional relationships I have today. However, I continually thought about how I grew up spending time outdoors, and how the environment is essential to all of us. This is when I decided to go back to school where I earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science from American Public University. I then began my career as an operator with the Village of Star Prairie where I spent over 7 years as the acting Director of Public Works. I am thankful for the opportunity to work with the Village as this

helped me get where I am today. Throughout my time as an operator, I was lucky enough to work with WRWA staff members who were always there to help guide and simply listen to crazy situations about main breaks or any other disaster that has happened to all of us at some point. I truly am honored to be a part of such an amazing team.

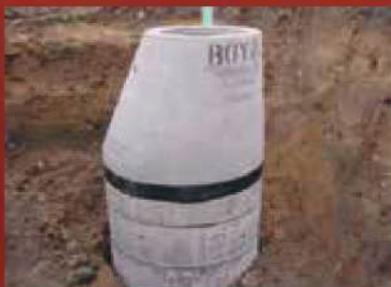
I currently live in New Richmond, WI with my wife Andrea and our two daughters Ellerie (8) and Ivie (4) as well as our dog Phoebe (3). I enjoy spending as much time as possible with my family and we all love to hunt, fish (especially ice fishing) and play golf. My wife and I also love to explore new places to eat and drink and if there's a sushi restaurant, you'd probably find us there.

My focus as an EPA Water Technician/Trainer is to conduct on-site and in formal training across the entire state. I will be answering questions and assisting water systems with any regulatory updates, operator certification, cybersecurity, lead and copper, emergency management or anything else systems may need assistance with. I will also be hosting a few training classes across the state, focusing on Tribal water systems and systems that are looking for training opportunities.

I look forward to seeing many of you out in the field or at any of WRWA's events such as the expo, the conference in Green Bay or training classes put on across the state.

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Wellhead Protection, Is It Effective?



Andrew Aslesen,
WRWA Source Water Specialist

I often find myself wondering just how effective these programs are.

Wellhead protection for municipal wells has been around since the early 90's, but how do we know if it's really working? That's a tough question to answer because there is no way to measure how many times you have actually prevented a well from becoming contaminated, because you prevented it! The DNR does a good job of tracking how many wells are covered by a plan and how many of those plans are implemented, but that only tells part of the story. For me, as someone who helps communities with their wellhead protection programs, I often find myself wondering just how effective these programs are. I came across one article recently, published in October by the University of Nebraska, that uses safe drinking water sampling from municipal wells to help answer this question.

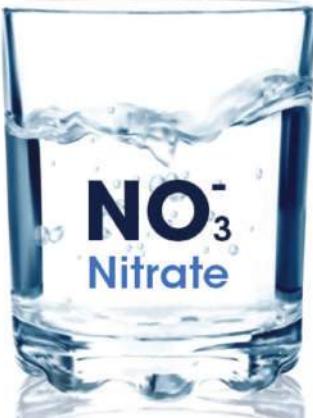
The study is titled "Do Wellhead Protection Areas Improve Groundwater Quality? Evidence from Nebraska". Nebraska, like Wisconsin, is heavily dependent on groundwater for their drinking water supply, with more than 85% of the population using groundwater. Nebraska is also like

Wisconsin in that Agriculture is prevalent, particularly row-crops such as corn which have contributed to elevated nitrate concentrations in many aquifers. Nebraska has an extensive database of groundwater sample results called the "Nebraska Groundwater Quality Clearinghouse". Researchers utilized this data from the year's 1996 to 2019, which included over two million nitrate records, to determine if the establishment of wellhead protection areas (WHPAs) and implementation of land use controls in those WHPAs has improved groundwater quality in those wells.

One of the biggest challenges the researchers faced with this study is the fact that different communities implement wellhead protection areas at different times. Since the introduction of the wellhead protection program in the mid 1990's the number of communities that have adopted wellhead protection areas has been steadily increasing. To account for this, they used a research method that helps compare places that adopted WPAs with those that had not—

while also taking into account that each place joined the program at a different time. This approach builds on a commonly used technique called “difference-in-differences,” which helps determine if a policy made a difference by comparing changes over time between areas that adopted the policy and those that did not. To ensure their results were accurate, and not effected by sampling bias, regional trends or coincidental land-use changes researchers used multiple checks, including using various control groups, model structures and subsets of wells.

So, what did they find? First, across the study timeline (1996-2019), they found that after wellhead protection areas were designated, there was an average reduction of 0.71 mg/L of Nitrate per year. While that may seem like a small amount, those reductions accumulate over time, creating a meaningful improvement in water quality, particularly considering the MCL for Nitrate is 10 mg/L. The second major finding was that the full effect of the wellhead protection areas didn't materialize immediately. They found an average time lag of roughly 15 years after implementation for the impact to fully register in water samples. That lag is consistent with what we know about groundwater movement and nitrate transport. Contaminants can take years to move from the surface to groundwater and to a receiving well. The implications of the time lag are important because it means that policies aimed at reducing nitrate pollution may be working even if early sampling doesn't show much change.



While this study is only looking at one groundwater contaminant, Nitrate, the results are encouraging. The researchers at the University of Nebraska were able to utilize results from the water sampling that every water operator does as a part of their job to show that wellhead protection is effective at improving groundwater quality, at least when it comes to Nitrate. The study translates

well to Wisconsin since Nitrate has been repeatedly cited by the Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council's annual report to the legislature as Wisconsin's most widespread groundwater contaminant which continues to show a trend of increasing concentrations. Just remember that results could take some time to see, but pursuing wellhead protection is worthwhile, and like always, WRWA's Source Water Protection program can help. Feel free to reach out any time if you have questions or want to talk about wellhead protection: Andrew Aslesen, WRWA Source Water Specialist at Aaslesen@wrwa.org or calling 715-321-3451. If you want to read the article you can find it here: <https://waterforfood.nebraska.edu/news-and-events/news/2025/10/do-wellhead-protection-areas-improve-groundwater-quality>.

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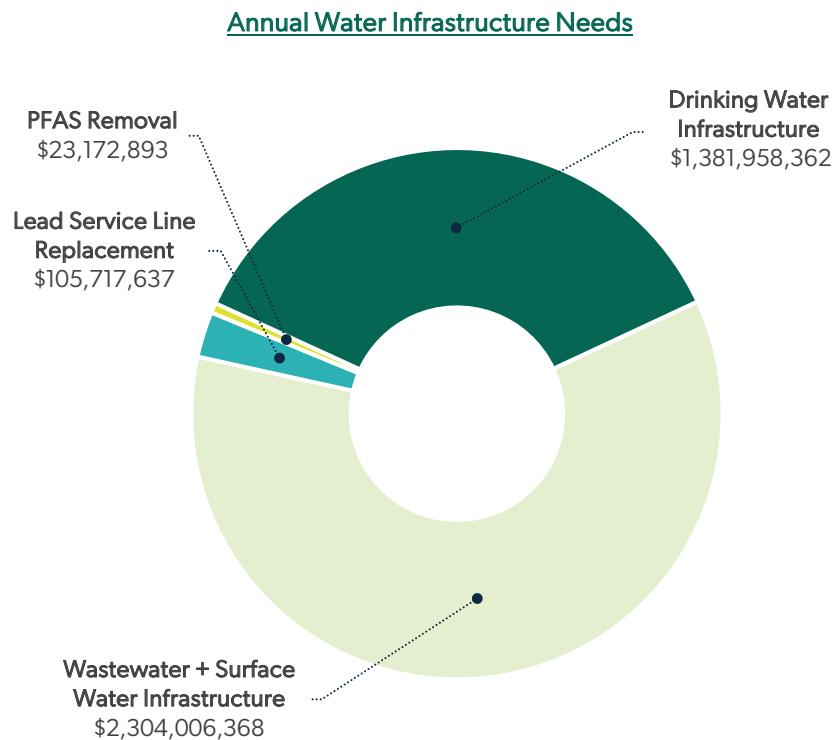
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Investing in Water Infrastructure, Investing in Wisconsin's Future

Water shapes every facet of our daily lives, but the infrastructure we depend on to make safe, reliable water for people and the environment possible is under mounting stress.

Funding vs. Need—A Growing Gap

In 2025, Wisconsin received only 5% (about \$271.9 million in federal funding) of the annual funding it needs for its water infrastructure, leaving many capital needs unmet. The costs of inaction compound over time: every year that needed investments are deferred, the price tag grows, and what isn't covered by federal or state funding ultimately falls on local ratepayers.



Over the next 20 years, the state requires \$76 billion in investment to bring its water and wastewater infrastructure to a state of good repair. This equals roughly \$3.8 billion each year—or \$647 per resident per year.

Consequences of Inaction

When water infrastructure fails, it disrupts basic needs—safe homes, clean drinking water, and healthy ecosystems—and can stall growth and the economy. Just a 24-hour disruption in water and wastewater services would mean significant losses to key industries in Wisconsin.

Sector	Daily Losses – Millions of Dollars
Accommodation and food service	\$-55.2
Food and beverage	\$-123.5
Chemical and pharmaceutical	\$-21.3
Human health activities	\$-93.1
Real estate activities	\$-96.4
Arts entertainment and recreation	\$-13.1

Water's Economic Potential

These aren't just unavoidable costs for an essential service—closing the nation's water infrastructure investment gap represents a major opportunity to strengthen Wisconsin's economy, workforce, and communities for the long term.

Every \$1 invested in water infrastructure in Wisconsin supports \$2.02 in economic output nationally. Meeting the national funding need over a 20-year period would support \$1,223 per capita in economic output, contribute \$3.86 billion to state GDP, create 34,500 jobs, and generate \$2.02 billion in wages for Wisconsin annually.

Sectors that are key to Wisconsin's economy would also stand to gain.

Sector	Annual Economic Output – Millions of Dollars
Direct Impacts	
Construction	\$2,934
Prof/Tech Services	\$450
Real Estate & Leasing	\$225
Government Enterprises	\$127
Utilities	\$23
Indirect and Induced Impacts	
Manufacturing	\$589
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	\$398
Wholesale Trade	\$345
Retail Trade	\$310
Health Care and Social Assistance	\$291



Shared Prosperity

Water infrastructure investments rely on national supply chains for materials, equipment, and specialized services. When other states invest in water, Wisconsin benefits—and vice versa. Closing the national gap also means other states' water infrastructure investments benefit Wisconsin. The top three indirect sources of GDP growth would be:

- **Illinois:** \$59 million in GDP gains from investment in Illinois, largely to Wisconsin's Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing industry (\$5.5 million GDP impact).
- **Minnesota:** \$41 million in GDP gains from investment in Minnesota, largely to Wisconsin's Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing industry (\$2.6 million GDP impact).
- **Michigan:** \$22 million in GDP gains from investment in Michigan, largely to Wisconsin's Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing industry (\$2.7 million GDP impact).

Likewise, investment in Wisconsin benefits other states' GDPs. The top three beneficiaries by state GDP growth would be:

- **Illinois:** \$184 million in GDP gains to Illinois, led by Wisconsin's connections to Illinois's Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services industry (\$28.1 million GDP impact).
- **Minnesota:** \$76 million in GDP gains to Minnesota, led by Wisconsin's connections to Minnesota's Wholesale Trade industry (\$11.2 million GDP impact).
- **Texas:** \$59 million in GDP gains to Texas, led by Wisconsin's connections to Texas's Rental and Leasing Services industry (\$12.4 million GDP impact).

Read the full report, The Economic Benefits of Investing in Water Infrastructure, at
www.thevalueofwater.org.



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WRWA 2026 Annual Technical Conference

March 24 – 27, 2026

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*To participate, please fill out the General Registration Form,
Awards Nomination Form and Water Taste Test Form
in this publication or online at wrwa.org under the events tab!*

WRWA 38th Annual Technical Conference

GENERAL REGISTRATION FORM

(Municipal Systems, Gov't Agencies Only)

March 24 – March 27, 2026



ONE FORM PER PERSON

Full Name: _____ *DNR Op. Cert. No. _____

System: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: (_____) _____ Email: _____

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOXES AND ENTER AMOUNTS FOR DAYS ATTENDING

1. **Tuesday, March 24, 2026**

(Includes educational sessions, continental breakfast, lunch)

REGISTRATION

WRWA Member
Non-Member

\$110

\$125 \$ _____

2. **Wednesday, March 25, 2026**

(Includes educational sessions, exhibit hall, continental breakfast & lunch)

REGISTRATION

WRWA Member
Non-member

\$110

\$125 \$ _____

3. **Thursday, March 26, 2026**

(Includes educational sessions, exhibit hall, continental breakfast, lunch & banquet)

REGISTRATION

WRWA Member
Non-member

\$160

\$180 \$ _____

Exhibit Hall Pass with Lunch Wednesday & Thursday ~ (Retirees only (with no credit slip)

REGISTRATION

\$100

\$ _____

4. **Friday, March 27, 2026**

(Includes educational sessions & continental breakfast)

REGISTRATION

WRWA Member
Non-member

\$60

\$70 \$ _____

5. **Additional Banquet Ticket** Print full name: _____

Thursday – 3/26

\$50

\$ _____

***** ON-SITE REGISTRATION – Add \$25 to cost shown**

TOTAL REGISTRATION: \$ _____

***FOR WRWA to SUBMIT YOUR CEU'S to the DNR, YOU MUST INCLUDE YOUR CERTIFICATION NUMBER ABOVE**

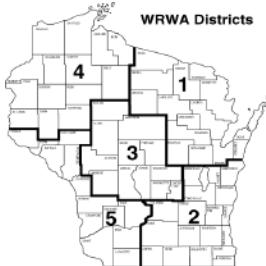
Cancellations/Changes and Refunds: No later than March 13, 2026. After that date, fees are non-refundable.

All refunds will be processed after the conference. Substitutions are allowed at no charge.

Please check appropriate box: Check enclosed Paid by Credit Card

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To pay by Credit Card: (Visa, Discover, MasterCard) Go to www.wrwa.org *** MUST fax completed form(s) to (715)344-5555 or email to wrwa@wrwa.org**

QUESTIONS : (715) 344-7778 – Conference information ~ www.wrwa.org



Wisconsin Rural Water Association

2026 Awards Nomination Form

Since 1989, WRWA has recognized those in the State of Wisconsin that demonstrate excellence in the water and wastewater industries. Please add your nominations in the appropriate area of this form and submit to WRWA no later than **February 6, 2026**, for consideration*.

WATER/WASTEWATER SYSTEM OF THE YEAR: This award is presented to WRWA member systems that provide excellent service to their customers and stay in compliance with state & federal regulations.

Water System of the Year: _____

Wastewater System of the Year: _____

OPERATOR OF THE YEAR: This award is presented to certified operators that work for WRWA member systems to maintain regulatory compliance, protect the environment and provide excellent service to their customers.

Operator of the Year – WRWA District 1: _____ **System** _____

Operator of the Year – WRWA District 2: _____ **System** _____

Operator of the Year – WRWA District 3: _____ **System** _____

Operator of the Year – WRWA District 4: _____ **System** _____

Operator of the Year – WRWA District 5: _____ **System** _____

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR: This award is presented to utility clerks who work for WRWA member systems and have shown the highest level of integrity and proficiency in their field.

Administrative Professional of the Year: _____ **System** _____

BUSINESS MEMBER OF THE YEAR: This award is presented to WRWA Business Members that have worked to promote WRWA's mission and shown dedication in providing service to the water & wastewater industries.

Business Member of the Year: _____

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT: This award is presented to those individuals that have worked throughout their careers to support WRWA and the water & wastewater industries, and shown a high level of dedication to their field.

Lifetime Achievement: _____

FRIEND OF RURAL WATER: This award is presented to those that have gone above and beyond the call of duty in helping WRWA in its mission of assisting rural communities and protecting Wisconsin's natural resources.

Friend of Rural Water: _____

CONSERVATION: This award is presented each year to member systems that have shown a high level of commitment to operating efficiently and protecting & preserving Wisconsin's water and energy resources.

Conservation: _____

***Submitting a short letter of support explaining the reasons for nomination provides valuable information to the Awards Committee during the selection process and improves the chances of winning the award.**

Mail this form to: WRWA, 350 Water Way, Plover, WI 54467
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2026 WRWA Water Taste Test

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Enter your sample & let the judges decide if you have the best tasting water in the state.

*Winners will compete nationally at the NRWA Water Rally in Washington DC.
Prizes will be awarded!*

Wisconsin Rural Water Association WATER TASTE CONTEST!

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2026

CONTEST RULES:

- Only one sample per system please.
- Bring a 1-quart sample to the WRWA Booth before 11:00 am, Thursday, March 26, 2026 (HINT: use a glass container)
- Fill out the entry form.

.....

WATER TASTE CONTEST ENTRY FORM

(Please bring this form and water with you to the Conference,
DO NOT MAIL TO WRWA)

SYSTEM _____

SAMPLE SUBMITTED BY _____

Bridging the Gap: Innovative Tools for Sustainable Infrastructure Financing



Nick Roederer,
Managing Director
Raymond James & Associates, Inc

These investments not only improve day-to-day life for residents but also make rural regions more attractive for businesses, helping to retain local jobs and spur new economic opportunities.

Financing infrastructure projects is essential to the economic and social vitality of communities across the United States, particularly in rural areas. Quality infrastructure—such as water and sewer systems, roads, bridges, schools, and fire stations—forms the backbone of local communities. In rural America, where populations are more dispersed and private investment is often limited, public financing tools like municipal bonds and innovative financing programs play a crucial role in bridging the funding gap. These investments not only improve day-to-day life for residents but also make rural regions more attractive for businesses, helping to retain local jobs and spur new economic opportunities.

Bridging this gap necessitates strategic financial investments, and that's where the significance of financing tools like the Rural Water Financing Agency ("RWFA") comes into play. RWFA is a public agency headquartered in Bowling Green, Kentucky, and its primary function is to mobilize financial resources for governmental projects. Raymond James serves as Bond Underwriter for the RWFA Interim Program and as Municipal Advisor for the RWFA Flex Term Program. My fellow colleagues at Raymond James and I have worked with RWFA and its predecessor (Kentucky Rural Water Finance Corporation) since 1995 to finance more than 800 projects for over \$1.8 billion. The RWFA and Raymond James are committed to providing borrowers with quick access to affordable infrastructure financing in my home state of Kentucky and throughout the country.

The Rural Water Financing Agency plays a pivotal role in mobilizing financial resources from various channels, including the municipal bond market, to offer funds that can be strategically deployed for a variety of projects. The RWFA funding is available through its two financing programs to governmental borrowers throughout the country:

RWFA Interim Program

- Provides tax-exempt construction financing to borrowers with a USDA Takeout
- Streamlined and efficient application and documentation
- Fixed rate for the term of construction
- All costs included in the loan rate
- All interest is capitalized until the end of construction

RWFA Flex Term Program

- AA- rated program offers borrowers access to tax-exempt markets at low rates
- No debt service reserve requirement
- Fixed rate terms from 1-30 years for a variety of project types
- Funding can be provided in 60-120 days (depending on regulatory requirements)
- Projects not subject to federal regulations (BABA Act, American Iron and Steel, Davis Bacon)

The RWFA Flex Term Program has been particularly active recently as communities have determined that financing their projects quickly and without some of the federal regulations (BABA Act, American Iron and Steel, etc.) is most beneficial to them. Just in 2025 the RWFA Flex Term Program issued over \$150,000,000 to fund 36 projects in 11 states. The upcoming December 2025 issuance is expected to provide approximately \$70,000,000 in financing to nine projects in seven states. This increasing momentum has led to a variety of projects being financed by RWFA around the country such as water and sewer improvements, a new library, fire trucks and fire station renovations, a new parking facility, a new multi-purpose event center, healthcare facility improvements, a new correctional facility, school building improvements, land purchases, and refinancing.

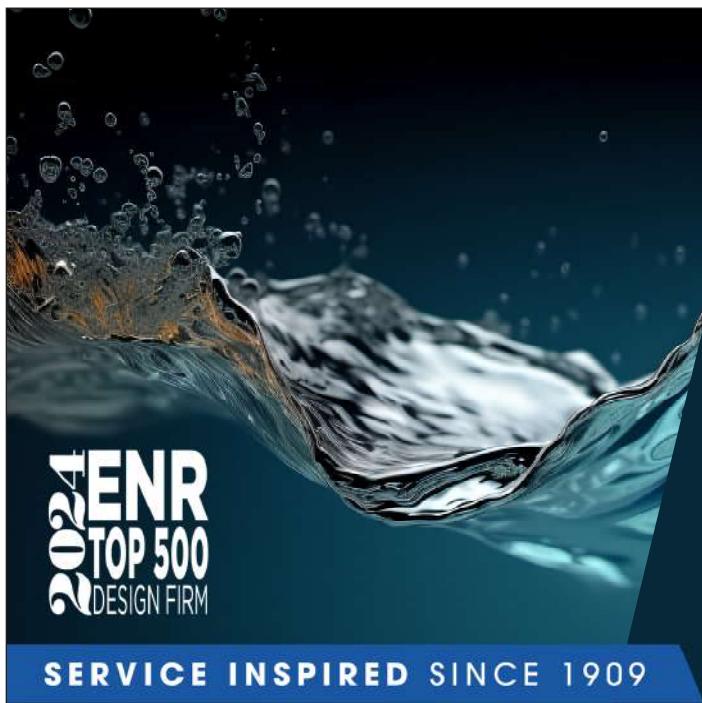
These RWFA Flex Term loans have been secured by revenues, general obligation pledges, special obligation pledges or other tax revenues. This flexibility ensures that the unique challenges faced by different communities are addressed and fostered by a more effective, efficient and consistent financing approach.

Furthermore, the Rural Water Financing Agency plays a pivotal role in leveraging partnerships and collaboration. By facilitating alliances with governmental bodies and state rural water associations, RWFA amplifies its impact and creates a network of support for infrastructure projects. To date, RWFA has partnered with 19 state rural water associations that are contributing to enhancing the financial resources available to borrowers in their states.

Strategic infrastructure investment is about resilience and the future. Well-financed projects strengthen a community's ability to withstand and recover from natural disasters, economic downturns, and demographic shifts. Financing tools such as the ones that RWFA provides allow local governments to plan beyond short election cycles and focus on projects that will serve residents for generations. In rural America, where every dollar must stretch further, thoughtful infrastructure financing is not just an economic necessity, it's an investment in future generations, connectivity, and the enduring strength of community life.

RWFA and Raymond James pride ourselves on being able to provide financing to borrowers quickly and efficiently and it all starts with a simple application. Please visit the website at www.ruralwaterfinance.com to learn more and to fill out your application for financing.

Raymond James & Associates, Inc. serves as underwriter to the Interim Loan Program and municipal advisor to the Flex Term Program. This overview may not be representative of the experience of other clients and is not a guarantee of future performance or success. Past performance is not indicative of future results. The information contained herein is solely intended to facilitate discussion of potentially applicable financing applications and is not intended to be a specific buy/sell recommendation, nor is it an official confirmation of terms. The information contained herein has been obtained from sources considered to be reliable, but we do not guarantee the foregoing material is accurate or complete.



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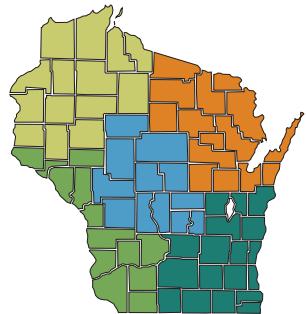
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- Compact design



UP THE CREEK

THE OTHER HUNTERS

Ken Blomberg,
WRWA past Executive Director

This is a story of a bear, a hawk and a wolf. All three made their presence known along the creek a few years ago and if I was writing a book on the subject, each would easily earn a chapter by themselves. Three tales of hunters, predators and the outdoor world they share.

It began as a few close friends gathered at our place to wrap up the hunting season with a traditional late season ruffed grouse hunt. The search for birds was sidetracked for a moment when good friend Tim and his son Travis followed their German shorthaired pointer, "Hammer" into thick alders. They found him standing rigid only a few feet away from a hibernating black bear! Much to their relief, the dog heeded commands to stay put, while the large bruin rolled out of bed and lumbered off.

Back at headquarters, we feasted on hot chili, soup and sandwiches while matching stories of the day, the year and seasons past. Needless to say, that year's bear affair wouldn't soon be forgotten.

As we sat around the table, not one, but two small birds flew into the kitchen window from our backyard feeders. We jumped up and peered outside at one of the hapless birds lying on the ground, a junco – just in time to see a sharp-shinned hawk swoop in and fly off with the small bird in its talons.

While predator number 2 devoured his prey high in a backyard tree, all other birds scattered to the winds – except one trembling downy woodpecker, who remained plastered to a hanging suet feeder for ten minutes. Only when the other birds returned, did our little woodpecker release his grip and resume feeding.

The last page of this tale began two days later when neighbor Jim dropped by with holiday cheer and a hot tip. Seems his son Brian spotted some wolf tracks in the snow a little more than a half mile as the crow flies from our house. It was garbage day and right after a quick trip to the township garage, I headed to the scene. In short order, I spotted the tracks, as they were exactly where Jim had indicated.

Tracks in the snow tell no lies and when read, they told a good story of predator number 3. Out of a marsh came a single set, crossed the road, looped around an ice-covered pond then disappeared once again in the marsh to the south. I drove a mile to the southwest and picked up the wolf's tracks where it crossed another road and disappeared to the west through a marsh bordering a small spruce bog. At one point, I crawled down the ditch bank, took pictures and measured the length of one well-defined track. It reached five and a half inches in length by four inches wide – large by wolf standards, most likely indicating a male.

ANNOUNCING BOOK RELEASE

My fourth book, **COUNTRY JOURNAL - & OLD MAN'S MUSINGS** was released late last year.

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

Country Journal and Old Man's Musings: Publisher - Ten16Press, Waukesha, Wisconsin , 5.5 x 8.5, Paperback , 140 pages, \$14.99 Available from Ten 16 Press, www.ten16press.com, 140 pages, paper, \$14.99.

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

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



So winter may have brought an end to our hunting season that year, but for our neighborhood predators, the hunt was on and as always, a year-round occupation.

This story continued a few years later.

Like a whisper, the pair slipped in and out of our property with little fanfare. They crossed the south fence line silently and under the cover of darkness. The light crunch of their paws on crusty snow was perhaps the only sound they made.

A pair of wolves had passed through our "forty" one late Friday night.

On Saturday morning the tracks they left were still fresh. Backtracking was easy, revealing where they entered our property together behind Golden Pond, passing by Uncle Mike's deer stand and finally splitting apart as they coursed a deer bedding area.

The larger male's tracks came out on the field directly east of the house then turned towards Vera's Pond. The smaller female's tracks came out of the woods by our duck blind and crossed the field west of the pond. They met up again by the road and followed a heavily used deer trail that led into a freshly harvested field of corn to the north.

Our place along the creek lies in Wisconsin's "tension zone", a vegetative transition area dividing southern habitats from the northwoods, and contains many large tamarack/spruce bogs - ideal secluded wolf habitat for denning and hunting. A small herd of deer – then numbering ten at last count – had taken to our woods that winter, bedding down during the day, coming out at dusk each evening to feed on corn residue across the road.

The wolves moved quickly across our land, each stride indicating a trot. They passed through the deer bedding area, which was empty that night, then followed a well-used deer trail leading to the corn.

It has been determined by experts that the daily movements of wolves are dictated by pack territories – ranging in size from 50 to more than 1,000 square miles. No doubt, central Wisconsin wolves live within the smaller range, yet by nature, and at a five miles per hour trot, they can travel up to 30 miles in a day searching for a meal.

Sightings, tracks and howling have become more common in our neighborhood. To the west, a much larger pack had established itself on a large piece of state public land. A network of spruce/tamarack bogs in our township, like islands on a lake, had become stepping stones for overflow members of the larger pack.

I know the thought of wolves puts many folks in a negative mood, but for me, it pulls at something I'm not sure of. Something I know deep down is good. I'm not too concerned that they share our backyard – once and awhile. But you better believe we are on alert when we walk with our birddogs. Wolves are not very tolerant of lesser canines.

A pair of wolves paid us a visit that past weekend on a Friday night. And while following the tracks backwards, they led me to a grouse budding in an old aspen tree by Golden Pond.

Then on Sunday morning, while at the breakfast table, we spotted our deer herd – still numbering ten – as they came off the corn field, passed by Vera's Pond and returned to their beds, safe and sound under the pines along the creek.



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Wisconsin Office

5307 South 92nd St., Suite 125
Hales Corner, WI 53130
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Protecting Your Community's Water with Backflow Prevention

Brenda Staudenmaier,
WRWA Training Specialist

What makes them remarkable is their ability to detect leaks that slip past even the most sophisticated acoustic or electronic tools.

Safe drinking water isn't just about treatment at the plant; it's also about maintaining the integrity of the distribution system. Cross-connections which is any actual or potential connection between potable (drinkable) water and non-potable sources can pose a serious risk. If water flows in reverse, contaminants can enter the system, potentially harming public health.

Backflow occurs when water or other substances flow the wrong way into the potable system. There are two main types:

- Backsiphonage: A drop in system pressure, such as from a main break or pump failure, creates suction that can pull non-potable water into drinking water lines.
- Backpressure: When a non-potable source is under higher pressure than the potable system, forcing contaminants into the water supply.

Essentially, backflow happens when a cross-connection exists, a pressure differential occurs, and protective devices fail or are absent.

The EPA Office of Water (4601M), Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, reports that backflow and cross-connections are not hypothetical. Between 1981 and 1998, 57 documented waterborne disease outbreaks linked to cross-connections/backflow caused

nearly 10,000 illnesses. Contaminants include not only microbes but also chemicals like metals, pesticides, antifreeze, and industrial fluids. Distribution systems are complex and dynamic, so the risk of backflow events is ongoing.

For utilities, backflow incidents can lead to sick customers, regulatory fines, loss of public trust, costly system flushing, downtime, and liability risk.

Why Certified Backflow Testers Matter

Installing backflow prevention devices isn't enough. Utilities need trained and certified personnel who can:

- Survey and identify potential cross-connections.
- Understand hydraulic and pressure conditions that can trigger backflow.
- Install, test, maintain, and repair backflow prevention assemblies.
- Detect failed or bypassed devices.
- Keep accurate records to maintain regulatory compliance.
- Respond quickly to events like main breaks or high-demand periods.

Certified testers keep systems proactive rather than reactive, ensuring devices work when they are most needed.

Wisconsin Regulations

Wisconsin's SPS 382.41 and DNR NR 810.15 establish the rules for cross-connection control. Utilities must develop programs that protect every plumbing fixture, appliance, or nonpotable connection. High-hazard connections—like fire sprinklers, chemical feeders, private wells, or drain systems—require containment devices such as reduced pressure principle backflow preventers, installed according to SPS 384 standards. Proper placement, venting, and freeze protection are critical to compliance and public health.

WRWA Training: Building Expertise

The Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA), in partnership with Rich Davison – Soderholm & Associates and Gary McLaren – HydroCorp, offers a 40-hour certification course for State Registered Cross-Connection Control / Backflow Assembly Testers. Residential surveyor classes are also available for those who want to inspect devices without testing.

Certified testers are in demand across utilities, engineering firms, inspection departments, and private contractors. The 40-hour course elevates qualifications and opens doors to greater responsibilities and opportunities.

What the 40-Hour Course Covers

- Backflow hydraulic theory
- Prevention devices and assemblies
- Cross-connection control practices
- Wisconsin cross-connection regulations
- Plumbing codes
- Surveying and inspection procedures

- Assembly nomenclature and testing procedures
- Hands-on labs and practical exam
- Classroom final exam
- Guidance for completing State Registration

Location: WRWA Technology Center, 351 Water Way, Plover, WI

Register: www.WRWA.org

Phone: 715-344-7778

Email: wrwa@wrwa.org

Upcoming 2026 Classes

40-Hour Tester Certification (40 CE Credits):

- April 20–24 | Sept 28 – Oct 2

3-Hour Online CCC Assembly Refresher (3 CE Credits):

- Feb 10 / Sept 8 | 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Feb 17 / Sept 15 | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Residential Cross-Connection Surveyor Class (6 CE Credits):

- May 5 | Oct 22 | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Advanced Backflow Tester Refresher (6 CE Credits):

- June 3 | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

Backflow prevention isn't just a technical requirement, it's a critical safeguard for public health. By combining proper devices, strong regulations, and highly trained personnel, utilities can ensure safe, reliable drinking water for their communities. WRWA training empowers operators and industry professionals to take a proactive role in protecting Wisconsin's water systems. ~ *Brenda*

24/7 Emergency Line 920-579-2028



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2026 February ICE FISHEREE

7th Annual WRWA Ice Fisheree North

Thursday, February 5, 2026 & Friday, February 6, 2026 ~ Chetek, WI

MEET & GREET: 5:00 pm on February 5th

FISHEREE REGISTRATION from 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm on February 5th & after 5:00 am on February 6th

FISHEREE from 5:00 pm on February 5th – 1:00 pm February 6th

LUNCH after 1:00 pm weigh-in

- Raffle Prize drawings & awards presentation immediately following lunch
- \$50 individual prizes for longest Walleye, Northern, & Bass (photo entry, catch & release preferred)
- Trophy for combined weight of 10 largest panfish by team (1:00 pm cut off time for panfish weighing)

ENTRY FEE: **\$50.00 per person** (includes coffee, donuts, lunch, raffle, promotional item)

NAME(s)

1. _____ 5. _____
2. _____ 6. _____
3. _____ 7. _____
4. _____ 8. _____

(Please register by 4:00 pm, January 30th for meal count)

EVENT SPONSORSHIP

Hook (\$550) Includes eight fisheree entries, name on signs, website and WRWA Journal

Line (\$350) Includes four fisheree entries, name on signs, website and WRWA Journal

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Donor Name: _____ Donated Raffle Prize: _____

(i.e. jig poles, tip ups, winter clothing, etc.)

Total Amount Enclosed _____

Location: Pokegama Lakeside Cantina, 840 25 5/8 St, Chetek, WI

Lodging: For booking information www.ExploreChetek.com

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Rod & Gun Sport Shop, 513 2nd St, Chetek WI (715)921-4181

Send check and form to:

Wisconsin Rural Water Association

350 Water Way

Plover WI 54467

For Credit Card Payment:

Go to www.wrrwa.org to pay by credit card

(Discover, MasterCard, Debit)

If paying by credit card, please fax filled-out form to:

715-344-5555

For questions on event & lake information:

Contact Jon Schwichtenberg (608) 358-9517

or visit www.wrrwa.org



WHAT'S INSIDE MATTERS

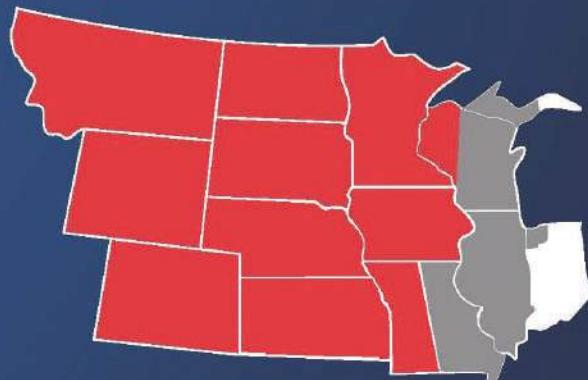
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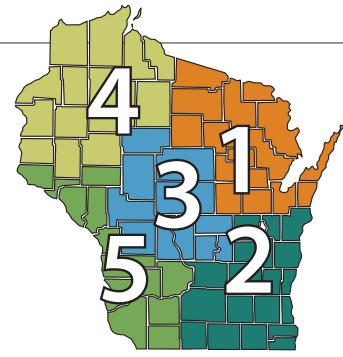
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Cecil
Clintonville
Coleman
Combined Locks
Crandon
Crivitz
Dale Sanitary District No. 1
Darboy Sanitary District #1
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Egg Harbor
Elcho Sanitary District
Embarrass
Ephraim
Fish Creek Sanitary District #1
Florence
Forest County Potawatomi
Freedom Sanitary District #1
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Goodman Sanitary District #1
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*Green Bay
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Holland Sanitary District #1
Hortonville
*Howard
Iola
*Kaukauna
Kewaunee
Kimberly
Krakow Sanitary District #1
Lake Tomahawk Sanitary District No. 1
Lakeland Sanitary District #1
**Lakeland Village
Lakewood Sanitary District #1
Laona Sanitary District #1
Lawrence Utility District
Ledgeview
Lena
Little Chute
Luxemburg
Manawa
*Marinette
Marion
Mattoon

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Allenton Sanitary District
**Antioch Storage LLC
Arlington
Ashippun Sanitary District
**Asset Development Group Inc.
**Autumn Ridge Water System, LLC
*Beaver Dam
Belgium
Belleville
*Beloit
Beloit Sewer Department, Town of
Big Bend
Black Earth
Bloomfield
Blue Mounds

Brandon
Brillion
Bristol
Brodhead
*Brookfield, Town of
Brookfield, City of
Nichols
Oconto
Oconto Falls
Oconto Sanitary District #1
Oneida Nation Utility
Peshtigo
Phelps Sanitary District #1
Pound
Pulaski
Rhineland
Russell Sanitary District #1
Scandinavia
Scott
Seymour
Shawano
Shawano Lake Sanitary District #1
Shiocton
Sister Bay
Sokaogon Chippewa Community
Sturgeon Bay
Suamico
Suring
***Three Lakes Northernnaire Sanitary District
Three Lakes Sanitary District
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Wausaukee
Weyauwega
White Lake
**Wisconsin Veterans Home
Wittenberg
Wrightstown
Wrightstown Sanitary District #1

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

Monona
*Monroe
Monticello
Mount Horeb
Mukwonago
*Muskego
**Natural Oven's Bakery Inc.
*Neenah
New Berlin
New Glarus
New Holstein
Newburg
North Fond du Lac
Northern Moraine Utility Commission
*Oak Creek
Oakfield
*Oconomowoc
Omro
Oostburg
Oregon
Orfordville
*Oshkosh
Palmyra
Pardeeville
**Pat's Services, Inc.
*Pewaukee, City of
Pewaukee, Village of
*Pleasant Prairie
Plymouth
**Plymouth Joint School District
Plymouth Town Sanitary District #1
Portage
Poynette
*Racine
**Rainbow Lake Manor
Randolph
Random Lake
Reedsville
Reeseville
Rio
Ripon
**Robert William Park Water Assoc
Rochester Sewer Department
**Rock Prairie Montessori School
**Rock River Leisure Estates Cooperative
Rosendale
**St. Benedict's Abbey
St. Cloud
St. Nazianz
Salem Utility District
Saukville
**Shady Hill Mobile Home Park
Sharon
Sheboygan, Town of
Sheboygan Falls
Sherwood
*Shorewood
Shorewood Hills
Slinger
Somers

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

*South Milwaukee	Hewitt	Barron	Radisson	Genoa
Stoughton	Hixton	Bayfield	Red Cliff North	Gratiot
*Sun Prairie	Hustler	Bell Sanitary District#1	Rice Lake	Hazel Green
**Sunnyfield Acres Water Association	Junction City	Birchwood	*River Falls	Highland
Sussex	Kendall	Bloomer	Roberts	Hillpoint Sanitary District
**The Knolls Water Co-Operative	Kronenwetter	Boyceville	Saxon Sanitary District #1	Hillsboro
Theresa	Little Green Lake Protection & Rehab. District	Boyd	Sheldon	Hollandale
**Trevor-Wilmont Consolidated Grade School District	Loyal	Bruce	Shell Lake	Holmen
Troy Center Sanitary District #1	Lyndon Station	Butternut	Siren	Independence
**Twin Lakes Park Co. Op. Inc	Maine	Cable Sanitary District #1	Solon Springs WWTF	Ironton
*Two Rivers	Marathon	Cadott	Somerset	Kieler Sanitary District #1
Union Grove	Markesan	Cameron	Spooner	*La Crosse
Valders	*Marshfield	Catawba-Kennan Joint	St. Croix Falls	La Farge
Verona	Mauston	Sewage Commission	Stanley	La Valle
Waldo	Medford	Centuria	Star Prairie	Lake Delton
Walworth	Melrose	*Chippewa Falls	Stone Lake Sanitary District	Lancaster
*Walworth County Metro Sewerage District	Merrillan	Clayton	**Stresau Lab Inc	Lincoln Sanitary District #1
Waterford	Milan Sanitary District	Clear Lake	*Superior Water Light & Power	Linden
Waterloo	Milladore	Clover Sanitary District #1	Superior, Village of	Linden Sanitary District No. 1
*Watertown	Montello	Colfax	**T.A.P. Investments	Edmund
*Waukesha	Mosinee	Cornell	Tony	Livingston
Waunakee	Necedah	Cumberland	Trade Lake	Loganville
*Waupun	Neillsville	Dallas	Turtle Lake	Lone Rock
*Wauwatosa	Nekoosa	Deer Park WWTP	Washburn	Maiden Rock
**Wendorf Enterprises 2 LLC	Neshkoro	Downsville Sanitary District	Webster	**Marell Mobile Home Courts
*West Bend	New Lisbon	Dresser	Weyerhaeuser	Merrimac
Westport	Northfield Sanitary District #1	Drummond Sanitary District #1	Wheeler	Mineral Point
Whitelaw	Norwalk	Elk Mound	Winter	Mondovi
*Whitewater	Oakdale	Emerald - Greenwood	**Wisconsin Structural Steel	Montfort
Williams Bay	**Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc. -Tomah	Sanitary District #1	Woodville	Mount Hope
Wind Point	Owen	Exeland		Muscosa
Windsor Sanitary District #1	**Pineland Park Enterprises LTD	Fifield Sanitary District #1		Nelson
Winneconne	Pittsville	Frederic	Alma	North Freedom
**Winneconne Community School District	Plainfield	Glen Flora	Altoona	*Onalaska
Wyocena	Plover	Glenwood City	Arcadia	Ontario
**Yorkville	Port Edwards	Glidden Sanitary District	Arena	Osseo
	Princeton	Grandview Sanitary District #1	Argyle	Patch Grove
	Redgranite	Grantsburg	Augusta	Pepin
	Rib Lake	Hammond	Avoca	Pigeon Falls
	Rib Mountain Sanitary District	Hawkins	Bagley	**Pinewood Court Inc.
	Rome	Hayward	Bangor	Plain
	Rosholt Sewer Commission	Hudson	Baraboo	*Platteville
	Rothschild	Hurley	Barneveld	Potosi-Tennyson
	Schofield	Iron River Sanitary District #1	Bay City	Prairie du Chien
	Silver Lake Sanitary District	Joint Water Quality Commission of Danbury & St. Croix Chippewa Indians of WI	Belmont	Prairie du Sac
	Sparta	Knapp	Benton	Prescott
	Spencer	Knight	Blair	Readstown
	Stetsonville	Lac Courte Oreilles Public Works Department	Blanchardville	Reedsburg
	*Stevens Point	Ladysmith	Bloomington	Reweys
	Stratford	Lake Hallie	Blue River	Richland Center
	**Superior Fresh LLC	Lake Holcombe Sanitary District #1	Boscobel	Ridgeway
	Taylor	Luck	Bridgeport Sanitary District	Rock Springs
	Thorp	Madeline Sanitary District	Campbell	Rockland
	Tomah	Manitou Falls Sanitary District #1	Cassville	Sauk City
	Union Center	Mason	Cazenovia	Seneca Sanitary District #1
	Unity	Mellen	Chaseburg	Sextonville
	**Upper Room Properties	*Menomonie	Cobb	Shelby Sanitary District #2
	Vesper	Mercer Sanitary District #1	Cochrane	Shullsburg
	Volk Field	Milltown	Coon Valley	Soldiers Grove
	Warrens	Minong	Cuba City	South Wayne
	*Wausau	Montreal	Darlington	Spring Green
	Wautoma	New Auburn	**Dell Creek Estates	Spring Valley
	Westboro Sanitary District #1	New Richmond	Dickeyville	St. Joseph Sanitary District #1
	Edgar	**Northwood School District	Dodge Sanitary District #1	Stoddard
	Elroy	Ogema Sanitary District No. 1	Dodgeville	Strum
	Friendship	Osceola	Durand	Trempealeau
	Gilman	Park Falls	Eastman	Viola
	Granton	Phillips	Eleva	Viroqua
	Green Lake	**Pleasant Valley Properties of WI, LLC	Ellsworth	Wauzeka
	**Green Lake Conference Center	Poplar Wastewater	Elmwood	West Baraboo
	Green Lake Sanitary District	Port Wing Sanitary District	Ettrick	West Central Wisconsin
	Greenwood	Prentice	Fairchild	Biosolids Facility
	Hancock		Fall Creek	West Salem
	Hatfield Sanitary District 1		Farmington Sanitary District	Westby
	Hatley		Fennimore	Whitehall
	Balsam Lake		Fountain City	Wiota Sanitary District
			Galesville	Wisconsin Dells
			Gays Mills	Yuba

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

RURAL AMERICA RELIES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER PROGRAMS ENSURE AFFORDABILITY

AFFORDABILITY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

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

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

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

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

91%
of America's
water systems are small

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

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

PROMOTION BY THE NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS (WEP)

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

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

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

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

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RURAL AMERICA RELIES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER PROGRAMS DRIVE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

ECONOMIC VITALITY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

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

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

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

Rural economies are deeply connected to their urban counterparts

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

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

PROMOTION BY THE NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS (WEP)

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

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

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

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RURAL AMERICA RELIES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT



NATIONAL
RURAL WATER
ASSOCIATION



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER PROGRAMS PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

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

Rural America's 46.1 million residents deserve safe drinking water and clean wastewater treatment just as much as urban or metropolitan residents.

While access to basic water infrastructure may be taken for granted by many American citizens, it still is not a reality for approximately 146,000 rural households.

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

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

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

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

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS (WEP)

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

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

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

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RURAL AMERICA RELIES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER PROGRAMS CREATE SUSTAINABILITY

SUSTAINABILITY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

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

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

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

1 in 5

Americans Live in a Rural Community

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

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

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS (WEP)

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

Circuit Rider Program

Disaster Recovery Circuit Rider Program

Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training Program

NRWA Apprenticeship Program

Manufactured Housing Program

Energy Efficiency Program

Decentralized Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training Program

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Wisconsin Rural Water Association supports Rural Water Financing Agency

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

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

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

STREAMLINED PROCESS

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

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

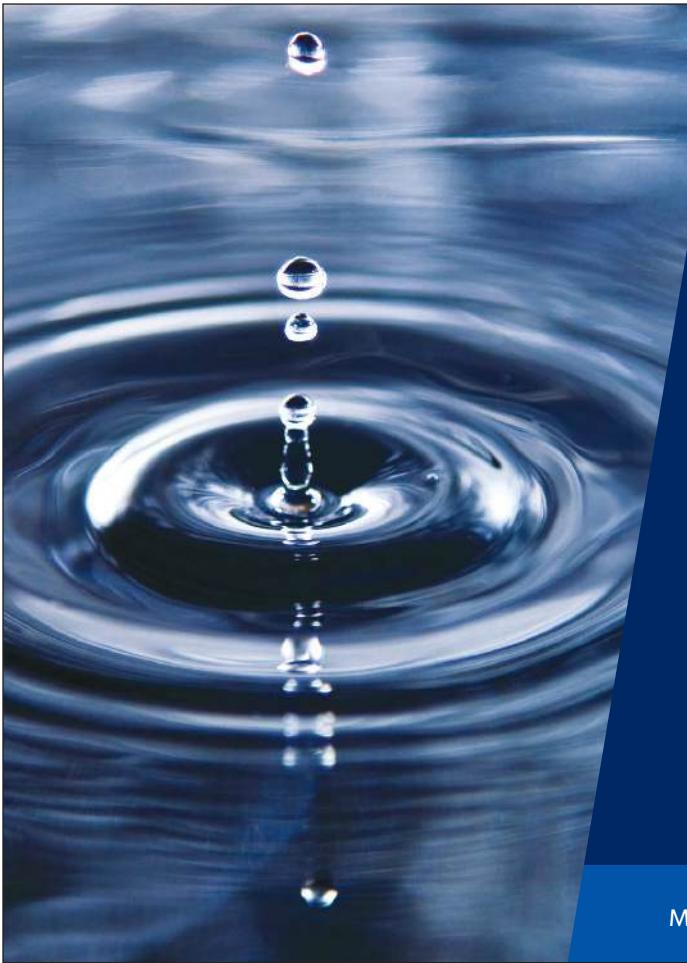
Chris Groh, Executive Director
Wisconsin Rural Water Association
cgroh@wrwa.org
715.340.2055

Gary Larimore, President & CEO
Rural Water Financing Agency
g.larimore@krwa.org
270.535.5921

Nick Roederer, Managing Director
Raymond James (Program Underwriter)
nick.roederer@raymondjames.com
502.741.3686

Kristen Millard, Director
Raymond James (Program Underwriter)
kristen.millard@raymondjames.com
859.232.8249

Daniel Olson, Corporate Trust Relationship Consultant
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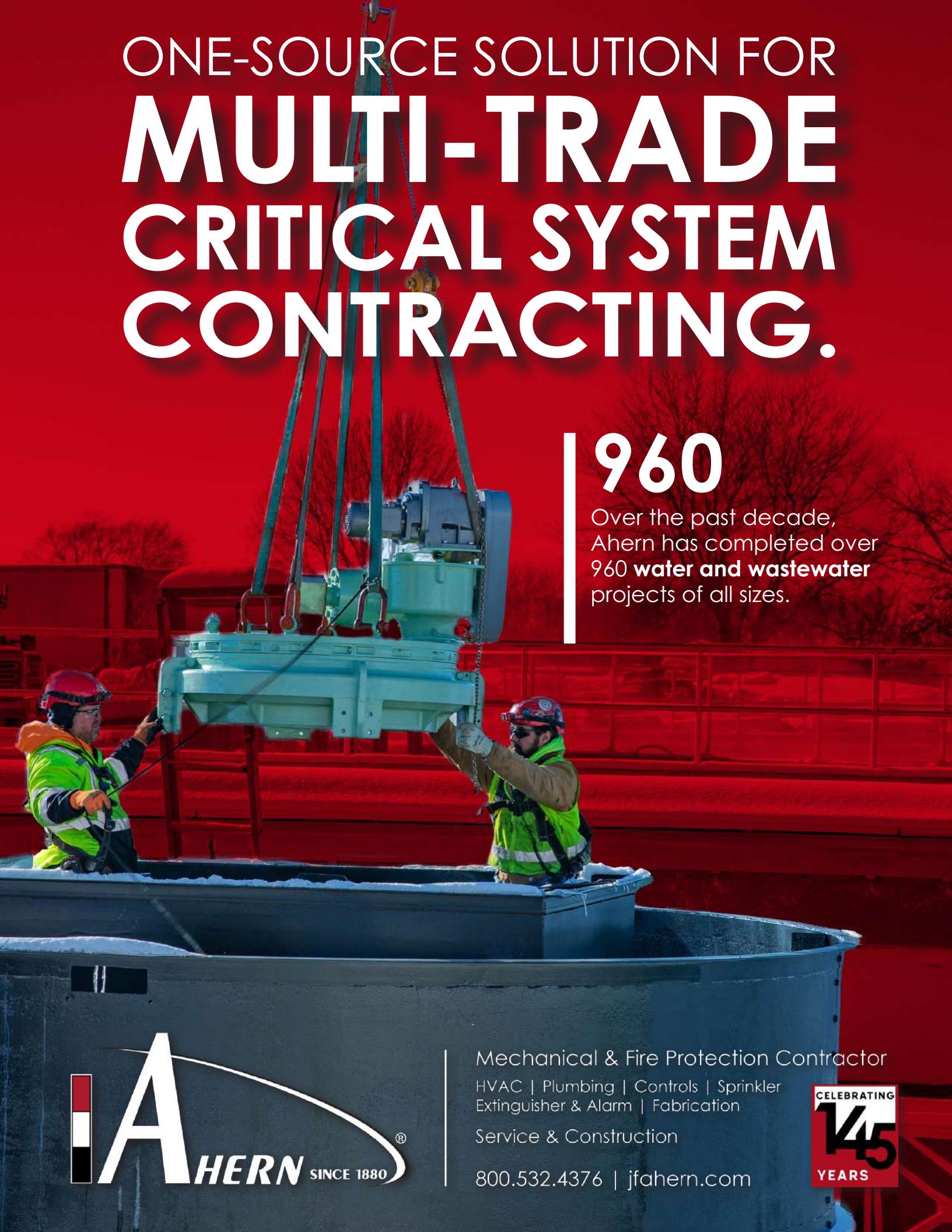
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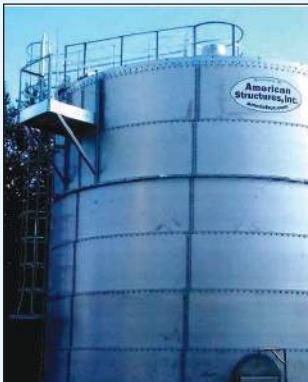
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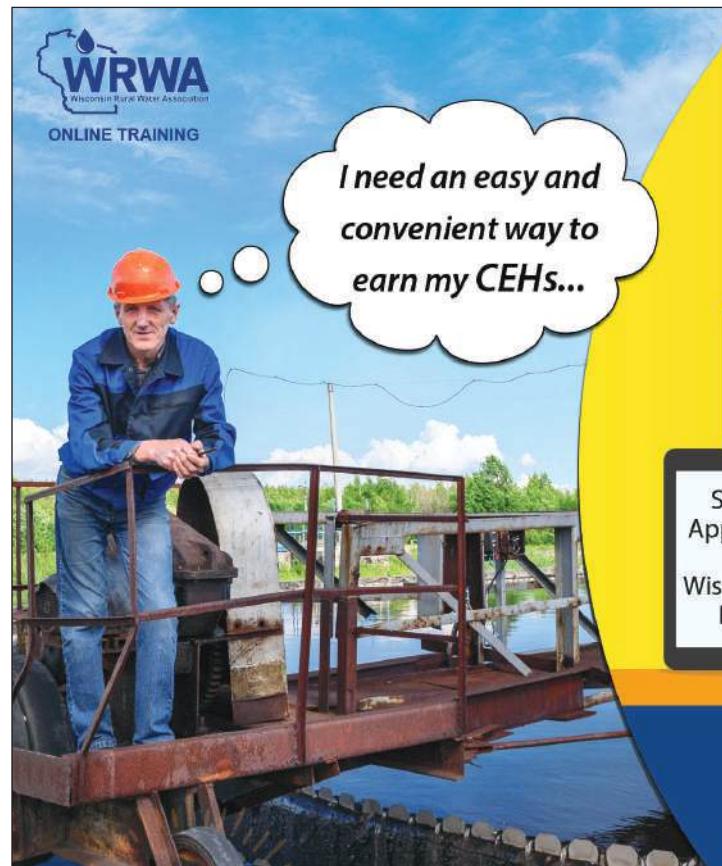


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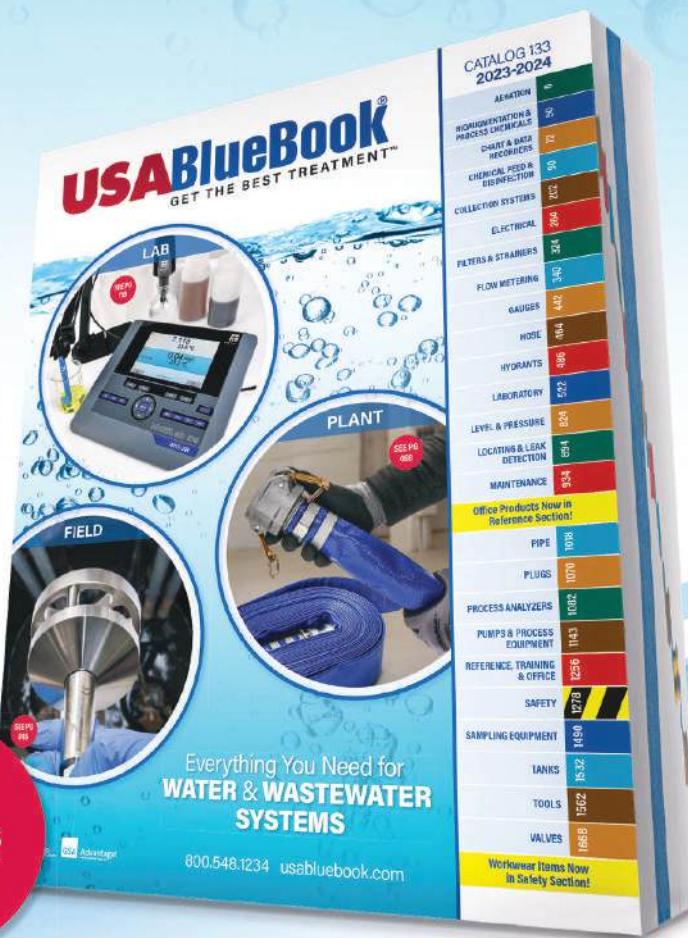
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