



Wisconsin Rural Water Journal

Spring 2026

Importance of Backup Power
Spring Chores
The Sound of Water
Business Spotlights
Traffic Safety for Water and
Wastewater Operators

The Recap On
WRWA 2026
Annual Technical
Conference

WRWA 2026 Annual Technical Conference

Recap on pages 39-47



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Dean Bergstrom,
WRWA President, Cumberland

Message from the President

I hope this message finds everyone doing well. Spring is upon us and you are all probably gearing up for all your spring projects. The 38th Annual Wisconsin Rural Water Association Technical Conference was a huge success as we returned to Green Bay for our second year at the Resch Center. We had 1,425 attendees, 336 came to Tuesday's training, which was a record. We also had a record 236 booths and we had 240 operators who took various DNR tests. I hope you all were able to take part in at least one day of the convention as we had really positive feedback. I would like to say thank you to the staff for the hard work that they put into the planning and setting up! I would also like to thank the Sportsman Raffle as they had over 90 prizes again and raised \$58,000 this year! That money comes back to WRWA to help with anything related to education and training. Of course, this all wouldn't be possible if it were not for all the vendors who donate the prizes for the raffle. Thank you!!

On Thursday morning we held our annual membership meeting in which you, the members, can come and take part in the meeting and hear what your board of directors and the staff of WRWA have been doing for the past year. We also held elections for 3 districts. In district 1, Kyle Gruetzmacher was reelected, in district 2, Tom Tietz was reelected, and in district 4, John McCue, of Hayward, was elected to take my position, as I was unable to rerun, due to my retiring from Cumberland Utility. John will do a great job for district 4. Thanks John!

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

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

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

Until next time, stay safe! *Dean*



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WRWA Mission:
Assisting, educating
and representing
our members in the
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Chris Groh,
WRWA Executive Director

Message from the Executive Director

As we always say, Spring is a time for new growth and getting ready for upcoming changes. Sometimes we need to look back at the past year to see what we need to put on our to-do list so we can work on these changes. **This Spring there was a catastrophic event at a wastewater treatment facility that will bring many changes to the town affected.** Several things stood out and I feel we should review some of them for the good of all our systems (wastewater or water) and learn from this event.

First and foremost, look at your insurances for your facilities and see if you are up to date on all your policies. Be sure you have recent and updated replacement costs and keep the policy in a VERY safe place. Maybe several town employees should have copies to be sure of safety and availability. During a MAJOR event, it turns out that the Insurance provider could be your first call. Always notify your DNR or EPA contact, but under certain circumstances insurance could be first. Getting ahead on notifying your insurance company gets a big headstart on replacing lost infrastructure and getting it fast. Almost every time DNR should be your first call, but if infrastructure is gone it may be better to get insurance involved as soon as possible.

Review your Emergency Response Plan (ERP). This is the most important program in your town. Be sure to review it every time something happens and be sure that your employees know about these changes and have access to the plan for their use and to study. Phone numbers, email and other contacts should be kept current. The vendors you use are very important to keep updated contact information. They have the ability to expedite deliveries or supply emergency equipment. Don't just review your ERP yearly. Make this a living document and review it throughout the year. I always kept a copy on my desk and updated it all the time.

Make friends with your neighbors. In the middle of the night, you may have to call your neighboring Operator friend and ask for help or equipment. You should always ask WRWA for help, but you may need something NOW. You should always let your Operator friends know you are there to help them too. If they need a mutual aid agreement, be sure you cooperate with

them. We can help facilitate getting you guys together to get this done and to get to know your neighbors. You should especially know your WRWA district board members. They are very knowledgeable about who is near you and who may have the equipment you need.

Keep your safety plan up to date. Employees should be trained early in the year in safety around your treatment plants, on the street, in their vehicles and around any dangerous areas that you may have. Yearly training keeps everybody on their toes and reduces the chances of something bad happening.

These are just a few of the things we should be looking at during the beginning of the year. Spring kind of gets us going and thinking about getting things done so the rest of the year goes better. Of course, WRWA can help you with any or all of these chores, not just in Spring but throughout the year. We are always just a call away. Let's say after Insurance and DNR (wink wink).

Hope you all have a great year! *Chris*



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We get letters and emails!

We'd love to hear from you...

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

Cheryl Pettit, Lakeland Sanitary District #1

Hi Renee,

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

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

Thank you,
Chris Holt, Superintendent Public Works Department
Village of Walworth

I would like to thank WRWA for all the help that they have given to the Village of Albany over the past year and years in the past. Every time I or the Village crew has had a problem with a water break or helping the fire department doing the pressure testing of fire hydrants around the village for the fire department audit.

WRWA does a great job with training year around to keep up credits for water and sewer licenses. WRWA is one of the very best at doing their classes for new employees to get their water and sewer licenses and they know how it works and what they are doing after the classes from WRWA.

Thank you,
Lonnie W. Gill, Superintendent of Public Works,
Village of Albany

To whom it may concern:

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

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

Sincerely,
Melissa J. Fenn, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Village of Iola

Renee

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

Michelle Dollar, Sec/Treas, Mercer Sanitary District #1

I'd like to thank WRWA and Municipal Water Circuit Rider, Todd Weich for his assistance with leak detection in the Village of Bowler this past August and September.

We ended up locating and repairing 3 separate water service lines that were leaking due to a lightning strike that set current through a copper grounding wire that was connecting each water service along the 8" AC water main by each corp valve. For small water systems that have Wells with limited g.p.m. pumping abilities, it is essential to find water loss in a timely manner and the assistance from WRWA is greatly appreciated to make that happen.

Thanks!
Aaron Gutt, Bowler Waterworks

I would like to thank Dan Woodrow and others who have helped us and continue to help us here at the City of Alma to help solve our problems with both water and sewer.

Thanks Everybody for the help.
Bernard Bartz, Operator, City of Alma

Kelly,

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

Brian Naylor, Maintenance Supervisor, Village of Elm Grove

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

Thank you to everyone at WRWA for everything you do. Keep up the great work.

Thank you,
Eric Carley, City of Omro Utilities

To whom it may concern:

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

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

Sincerely,

Melissa J. Fenn, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Village of Iola

To whom it may concern:

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

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

Sincerely,

Melissa J. Fenn, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Village of Iola

A big thank you to WRWA!

The Village of Cambridge Water Dept. had an elusive water main leak that we could not pinpoint despite repeated efforts and hired leak detection services. The assistance we received from our WRWA circuit rider, Annie, was invaluable. As a direct result of WRWA assistance with pressure testing the main, we were able to finally locate the water main leak that evaded detection for so long.

Cody Garcia, Village of Cambridge

To Whom it May Concern,

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

Sincerely,

Casey Vold, Sanitary Clerk, Land O' Lakes Sanitary District

Hello! The Village of Cedar Grove wanted to express our sincere appreciation to Chris Groh and Annetta Von Rueden. We needed assistance pretty quickly for a USDA loan requirement and both Chris and Annetta were huge helps in getting us what we needed. Annetta was great to work with ~ very friendly, knowledgeable and helpful. We are very thankful for the quick response and help they provided us! Thank you for everything!

Julie Brey / Kyle Voskuil - Village of Cedar Grove

Continued on page 6



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Continued from page 5

Dear Andrew,

On behalf of the Village of Spener, Wisconsin, thank you for the outstanding assistance provided by the Wisconsin Rural Water Association. Your expertise and responsiveness are vital resources for small and rural systems across Wisconsin, helping us provide safe, reliable water and wastewater service to our community.

Recently, the Village of Spencer was “surprised” by a requirement from the DNR to update our wellhead protection plan before we could bring a new well and treatment plant online. Although we and our engineers should have been aware of the requirement, it was missed during the planning phase. Your assistance in updating our plan and associated ordinance assured that we were able to stay on track and start up the new facility as scheduled. Because the startup date triggers an associated rate increase, a delay would have significantly impacted our 2026 budget.

Over the past 30 years the Village of Spencer has benefited from WRWA's training, technical assistance, and loan-a-tool programs. They have been instrumental in keeping our system in compliance and operating effectively. We especially appreciate the professionalism and dedication of your field staff and office personnel who go above and beyond to support member systems. Thank you for all that you do for rural Wisconsin communities. We strongly value our relationship with WRWA and support continued funding for the programs and staff that make this assistance possible.

Sincerely,

Chris Helgestad, Administrator-Clerk/Treasurer,
Village of Spencer

Morning Chris,

I'm sure you had a very busy week!

I just wanted to say THANK YOU from our water Utility. It was a big honor to be nominated for the system of the year, much less to win. We were very excited and pleased.

I shared the news with staff and the Utility Commission, who were very happy.

As you know, we live in a world of wondering if people realize all the work that goes into the running of a water and wastewater system. Awards like this are very special as they show people, and especially WRWA, do appreciate our work. WRWA staff are right there with us as we operate these critical infrastructure operations. I often wonder how many people realize the small systems operate with just a few people, 4 in our case, that operate an entire water and wastewater system, including all the billing and regulatory work. It truly is remarkable, in my opinion.

When you have a chance, could you send me the intro you were reading or possibly the slide showing when we received our award? It would be nice to include with any media releases we do.

Thanks Chris

Michael Heyroth, Director, Rib Mountain Water Utility

Dear WRWA,

I wanted to drop a line and give a shout out to Annie, who has helped us over the years with leak detection, interpreting regulations, and keeping us informed of classes that would benefit our operators. Her experience is invaluable and she is always eager to share it. It is amazing that such a valuable resource exists! WRWA and Annie are helping us maintain a high-quality product to help ensure our customers are satisfied and our environment is protected.

Thank you!

Glen Schoen, Village of Bloomfield

The Circuit Rider with Wisconsin Rural Water Association, Dan Wundrow, was extremely helpful and knowledgeable. Dan provided me with information I had no idea we could get help with Rural Water. It was an informative and advantageous visit that will make my workload lighter, easier and faster. Dan has a calming presence, is highly conversant, and was a pleasure to visit with.

Thank you.

Debi Fremstad, City of Blair, Clerk/Treasurer

Annetta Von Rueden found time out of her extremely busy schedule to come to Bloomington. She helped us find a large leak that was pumping 115,000 gallons a day. This leak would have never showed up above surface, so without her help it would have taken a lot longer to find. Annetta is always very knowledgeable and helpful every time she comes down.

Keith W. Leitzinger, Public Works Director,
Village of Bloomington WI

Dear WRWA,

We would like to say thank you to Jesse Haas and the Wisconsin Rural Water Association. Within the past two years, we were hired by the Village, to operate the wastewater treatment facility, which is a pond and lagoons set up.

When the time came to get our certifications, we kept getting hung up on the Basic General Wastewater, as we didn't know much about Basic Mechanical Plants. With one phone call Jesse had a plan.

A week later we went over the sections, that we got wrong, and he explained in depth. When it came to something that he could not answer or provide, he was on it right away.

Jesse coordinated with our neighboring facilities, so we could visit and learn their process.

From all of us at the Wittenberg DPW, Thank You Jesse! Jessie has the knowledge, tips and tricks! We look forward to working with WRWA on future projects and issues.

Sincerely,

Mike Weisensel and Shawn Korbisch,
Village of Wittenberg DPW

Dear Chris,

The Village of Junction City would like to thank and commend Todd Weich and Dan Wundrow for their outstanding service recently in helping our water utility locate and resolve a water loss emergency. This adventure involved severe cold, a snowstorm, treacherous road, vacant and locked buildings, railroad tracks, and illegal use of water. To credit their efforts as “above and beyond” is an understatement. Our village and its utilities are indeed fortunate to have had a great relationship with WRWA and NRWA over the years and in many instances where repeatedly this partnership has demonstrated service and professionalism at its best.

Thank you again to Todd and Dan and all your colleagues for your help and support.

Sincerely,

Peter Mallek, President, Village of Junction City

Dear Mr. Groh,

I am gratified, and in fact honored, to write to you as a representative of three small community water and wastewater systems in Northern Wisconsin. I am the licensed certified operator-in-charge for the City of Hurley as well as the Towns of Iron Belt and Pence. I am currently in my 29th year of public service as a licensed operator originating my employment with the City of Montreal, WI in March of 1998. These small communities share similar demographics such as income levels under the median household income level, populations ranging between 200 and 1,500, and serve customer bases from 100 to 850 service connections. While the Towns are primarily residential based, Hurley has several industrial and public authority customers and approximately 110 commercial properties including grocery stores, hotels, income-based housing units, and nursing homes as their main customers.

I was first introduced to the Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA) in 1993 where I participated in my first training with the goal of becoming a certified water/wastewater operator. Since then, I have been introduced over the last 33 years to a countless number of staff members who were very instrumental in providing assistance answering questions and providing direction and support about the many detailed topics that accompany my position such as funding sources/opportunities, templates/ordinances, emergency preparedness, loaner equipment, source water protection, and energy efficiency studies to name a few. My communities and I are immensely grateful to be able to have the support of and work closely with WRWA, and because of this, I deeply support their funding to provide small systems like ours with priceless training and technical assistance. Their services and support are of great value to many small and rural communities across the Great State of Wisconsin. Over the years through in-person and online training sessions I have obtained countless training hours (some cost-free) on a plethora of subjects geared towards providing both safe and clean drinking water and wastewater and because of these trainings I have been able to make valuable connections and network with other small system operators.

One continual area of interest that WRWA has been instrumental with in an ongoing basis is periodic leak detection of our water systems. Whether it's an emergency where we are

unable to locate a significant source of water loss or just a general routine checkup of our system to identify small leaks that do not surface over time, it's incalculable how much water just our three small communities have been able to conserve not to mention the incalculable volume they help conserve throughout the State every single year. This, paired with their expertise in recommending different types of water metering systems regarding a system-wide water meter replacement program for the city, Hurley was able to obtain funding from the Wisconsin DNR's Safe Drinking Water Loan Program securing a subsidized loan of \$350,000 with a 60% principal forgiveness and realize its vision of implementing an AMI metering system. This system has provided many benefits for both the utility and its customers including a major reduction in non-revenue water as well as the ability to have real-time notification alarms for customers who, for example, experience leaking fixtures or water wasting issues within their homes or facilities.

Throughout the years I have had the privilege of employing WRWA's cross-sectional diversity and expertise helping with a great number of system issues. Whether a simple phone call to just ask questions or request on-site technical assistance, WRWA never ceases in time of need. They have made presentations to Boards regarding both Water Utility rates, including providing assistance with Public Service Commission conventional rate cases, and Wastewater Utility rates including a restructuring of rate implementations. Not discounting the many other areas of need I have been provided assistance with, WRWA has been instrumental in assisting to remain compliant with Federal and State Regulatory Agencies. Our communities and leaders feel that WRWA is a tremendous asset and I could continue on with many other examples but for the sake of brevity please trust in my summation of sharing, ‘Our systems sustainability, operations, and management are greatly enhanced through the partnership we have with WRWA and we will continue to utilize their services if funding is continually made available to them’.

I am certain all other small and rural communities have similar challenges and are in need of some of the same types of services that we have been. The cost of hiring private consultants to provide this in-depth work is strictly cost prohibitive for communities of our size and for this reason and many others – including the ones above – I strongly endorse their efforts to receive continued funding and continue to offer assistance to communities like ours. As a simple reemphasis on how much their work has meant to us, ‘Our operational costs of reducing non-revenue water and its environmental impacts have been sizably reduced’.

I earnestly look forward to continuing to work with WRWA and its staff and with all the challenges that small systems continue to face, it is quite evident that we are all in this together. Our systems, our customers, and WRWA continue to work collaboratively to improve system efficiencies in all aspects and to ultimately achieve the most important goal of all: Protecting Public Health! I am proud to refer to the WRWA staff as our partners and also our friends!

Warmest Regards,

Gary Laguna, BPA – Certified Operator-in-Charge
City of Hurley, WI Water and Wastewater Utility
Town of Iron Belt, WI Water Utility
Town of Pence, WI Water and Wastewater Utility



Supporting the Partners Who Support Our Industry

Kelly Thomas,
WRWA Technical Assistance Director

I hope all who attended our Annual Technical Conference in March found it to be worthwhile.

Our Annual Technical Conference is more than just an opportunity to learn and connect. It is made possible through the commitment and generosity of our vendors and sponsors. Their participation plays a critical role in creating a successful event and supporting the ongoing education and relationship within our industry.

Vendors travel long distances, dedicate staff time, and invest resources to bring valuable equipment, technology, and expertise directly to our attendees. Sponsors help offset the cost of hosting events, training sessions, meals, and networking opportunities that make the conference informative, enjoyable and affordable.

These companies are not just exhibitors, they are partners in the work we do every day. Many of them provide tools, materials, and technical support that keep your water and wastewater systems operating efficiently and

A simple conversation, handshake, or thank-you goes a long way in showing appreciation for the support these vendors and sponsors provide.

safely. Their willingness to participate in events like this demonstrates their commitment to the communities they serve.

Our hope is that all attendees took time throughout our annual conference to visit the vendor booths. Introduced yourself, asked questions, and learned about the products and services available. Even if you are not currently in the market for a specific item, building relationships with these companies can be vital when future needs arise.

A simple conversation, handshake, or thank-you goes a long way in showing appreciation for the support these vendors and sponsors provide. If possible, consider supporting the businesses that invest in our industry and in our annual conference.

Their support helps make this conference possible—and together, we help strengthen the entire community.

Thank you to all of our vendors and sponsors for your continued partnership and dedication. Stay safe stay healthy, *Kelly*

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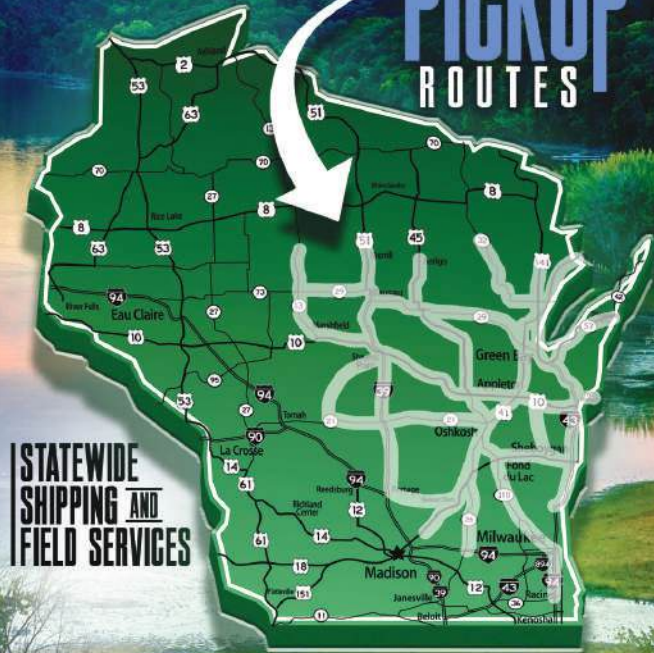
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IMPORTANCE OF BACKUP POWER

Tony Roche,
WRWA Wastewater Trainer

Having reliable backup power is critical for a wastewater treatment plant because in the event of a power failure treatment can be severely disrupted due to lack of oxygen. Aeration is crucial in sewage treatment because it adds oxygen to the wastewater, thereby allowing aerobic bacteria to break down pollutants. Treatment is accelerated by oxygen and odors are reduced by preventing the onset of septic conditions within the treatment plant. One of the main parameters of wastewater treatment is biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) removal and aeration aids in the removal of BOD. Another pollutant of concern is ammonia, and ammonia is removed through the process of nitrification. Nitrification is an aerobic process, and without proper aeration nitrification is inhibited and ammonia will not be reduced. Another important aspect of sewage treatment is mixing. Aeration not only supplies oxygen but also creates a mixing action that allows bacteria to come into contact with pollutants. Without proper mixing bacteria will not come into contact with pollutants and settling can occur in an oxidation ditch. Settling in an oxidation ditch is detrimental to treatment because settled solids will occupy volume that

In addition to the benefits of aeration, having reliable backup power enables other critical sewage treatment processes.

should be occupied by water and bacteria. One of the pillars of sewage treatment is adequate hydraulic retention time. If volume of the oxidation ditch is reduced, then hydraulic retention time is also reduced and can lead to ineffective treatment. Another aspect of sewage treatment is effective sludge management. When sludge is wasted from the system it is pumped to aerobic digesters. These digesters further stabilize the sludge and prevent the onset of odors and the attraction of vectors like birds and vermin. Vector attraction reduction is crucial because in order to land apply sludge it must be stabilized prior to land application. If digesters go without power for extended periods of time the sludge can become septic and effective digestion will be inhibited.

In addition to the benefits of aeration, having reliable backup power enables other critical sewage treatment processes. Headworks treatment units like fine screens can become clogged, or blinded, without power because they need to rotate to self-clean and if the headworks is clogged then wastewater will back up throughout the collection system and possibly cause sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) or basement backups.

Disinfection units are also dependent on reliable backup power. Disinfection prevents fecal coliforms from reproducing (via ultra-violet disinfection) and without proper disinfection discharge permit violations can occur as well as pollution to receiving water bodies. Other critical aspects of discharge permit compliance include flow monitoring and the sampling of raw influent and treated final effluent. Without reliable backup power, flow meters will not work, and neither will samplers.

The hydraulic profile of some wastewater treatment plants can also be susceptible to failure in the event of a power outage. If raw wastewater first enters the plant and flows through a fine screen then, as previously mentioned, if the fine screen becomes clogged sewage can back up throughout the collection system and cause SSOs or basement backups. Another example would be if the plant has wetwell with raw-lift pumps that pump sewage to the oxidation ditch. If the raw-lift pumps cannot operate then a treatment facility overflow (TFO) can occur due to flooding and overflowing the wetwell. Just as with SSOs, TFOs need to be reported to the DNR and are not looked upon favorably by DNR or by the public.

Finally, having good reliable backup power is important from an electrical standpoint. If a generator supplies poor power quality (i.e. low voltage, inconsistent voltage) then electrical motors can become compromised or even damaged. Having good, clean power is important for the longevity of electrical assets at the wastewater treatment plant.



Thanks for taking the time to read this article! If you have any questions please reach out to me! *Tony*

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SPRING CHORES

Annie Von Rueden,
WRWA Water Circuit Rider

One week ago, Mother Nature reminded most of Central and Northern Wisconsin who is still in charge. Even in the middle of March. With the upper hand, dumping 28+ inches of snow in a blizzard. Paralyzing travel for a few days. We have not seen a doozy like this in a while. Luckily, it is melting slowly as water and wastewater operators and vendors travel to Green Bay this week for the Annual WRWA technical training conference.

After getting back, Spring and good weather will be meeting us, along with a list of jobs to do in the warm weather.

Here are a few hydrant and valve maintenance items that can be found in DNR codes NR810.13, system maintenance.

Clean out the main water distribution lines by flushing hydrants. Eliminating water quality complaints. It also meets the DNR requirement of NR 810.33 (2) (b,c,d).

(b) Hydrant exercising. All hydrants shall be exercised at least once every two years.

(c) Hydrant maintenance. Hydrants shall be maintained in proper working conditions, consistent with the manufacturer's recommendations.

(d) Flushed dead-end mains. A schedule shall be established for the

You will not regret making the effort.

flushing of dead-end mains in other areas to remove sediment or water of poor quality.

NR810.13 (2) (a) Valve exercising. All water distribution system valves shall be exercised a minimum of two to five years. The department recommends five to seven years for hydrant lead auxiliary valves.

It is a good idea to take time to locate main valves in the system, so you know where they are when you need them. Leaks or main breaks are not scheduled. When that time does arise, you need the valves to work. Valves are also extremely handy to listen to for leaks with a leak detector or correlating. WRWA staff can help with leak detection and correlation. Get the weed whip out, pull the brush back, and find those valves. (They are supposed to be on the map). Use marking paint to mark them well. Fence posts or designated delineators can be purchased through utility vendors. While paving the streets is being done, make sure the valves are marked well and not being paved over. GIS, which WRWA offers, is a nifty tool as well. The whole distribution system is at your fingertips out in the field. Time goes by way too fast. Relying on memory after years can be challenging. "It used to be there". You will not regret making the effort.

Enjoy the long-awaited warmer weather Spring brings, give any of us at WRWA a call if you need assistance. *Annie*

2026 OTM/NN Water Systems ON-SITE Technical Assistance

Good morning,

With Spring right around the corner, I would just like to remind water operators that we at Wisconsin Rural Water Association are out in the field providing Technical Assistance for all new and current Water operators throughout Wisconsin. **With new operators becoming certified in the small Water Systems field comes with lots of challenges and learning new things. Our on-site technical assistance allows me to give hands-on field training for the new operators.** I would like to share some of the assistance we provide for you to help your water system stay in compliance with WI-DNR Regulations.

- **Water Leak Detection** – Walk through entire water system listening for water leaks.
- **Assistance with WI DNR paperwork** – Completion of Any DNR paperwork that needs attention.
- **Water Sampling Assistance** – Any Compliance Sampling that needs to be completed.
- **Lead + Copper/(WQP) sampling Assistance** – Completion of lead + Copper samples at proper locations
- **Operator Certification** – Operator look-up of credits, Classes that need to be completed. Exams that need to be taken.
- **Distribution System Inspections** – Well house inspection, Inspection of entire water system
- **Operation and Maintenance** – Well house inspection, Inspection of entire water system, Maintenance routines that should be completed.
- **Exam Review Training** – Go through the entire Small Water Systems Study Guide to prepare for exam. Pick which option is best for you. In person or virtual training.
- **Sample Requirements** – Completion of Quarterly and yearly Sampling requirements.
- **Winter Operations** – Getting your water system prepped for the extreme sub- zero winter conditions.
- **Certification Renewal Credits** – Look up credits acquired and obtain additional if needed.
- **Online/In-Person Trainings** – Throughout Wisconsin- Provide in-person training throughout the entire state at various locations. Provide multiple online virtual training courses at your convenience throughout the calendar year.

These are just a few services we can provide for your Small Water Systems. Please don't hesitate to call if your water system is having any kind of technical assistance issues. We are more than happy to help and keep your water system to stay in compliance with Wisconsin DNR Regulations.

Thank you! And have a wonderful day!

George Taylor, Small Water System Circuit Rider
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PSC WATER RATE INCREASE ORDERS ISSUED

9/1/2025 – 11/30/2025

| UTILITY NAME | ORDER ISSUED | OVERALL% INCREASE |
|---|--------------|-------------------|
| Readstown Municipal Water Utility | 12/2 | 83.67% |
| Westboro San Dist Water system | 12/2 | 34.76% |
| Poyette Municipal Water Utility | 12/11 | 19.43% |
| Kimberly Municipal Water Utility | 12/15 | 24.98% |
| Mukwonago Municipal Water Utility | 12/16 | 46.9% |
| Cedarburg Light & Water Commission | 12/19 | 17.19% |
| Freedom Sanitary District No 1 | 1/5 | 61.18% |
| Black Creek Municipal Water & Sewer Utility | 1/15 | 52.81% |
| Chilton Municipal Water Utility | 1/20 | 31.87% |
| Dane Water & Sewer Utility | 1/20 | 40.13% |
| Jackson (V) Water Utility | 1/20 | 24.24% |
| Mazomanie Water Utility | 1/20 | 32.45% |
| Palmyra (V) Water and Sewer Utility | 1/23 | 38.29% |
| Minong (V) Water Utility | 1/27 | 18.63% |
| Eau Claire Municipal Water Utility | 1/28 | 20.04% |
| Genoa City (V) Municipal Water Utility | 1/30 | 16.64% |
| DeForest Municipal Water Utility | 2/4 | 6.29% |
| Stanley Municipal Waterworks | 2/5 | 103.12% |
| Edgerton Municipal Water Utility | 2/9 | 17.18% |
| Friendship (V) Water Utility | 2/9 | 28.68% |
| Oregon Municipal Water & Sewer Utility | 2/10 | 39.76% |
| Shorewood Hills (V) Water Utility | 2/11 | 17.39% |
| Clinton Municipal Waterworks | 2/16 | 29.99% |
| Maine Water Utility | 2/26 | 63.15% |
| Knight (T) Municipal Water Utility | 3/4 | -6.48% |
| Plainfield (V) Water Utility | 3/17 | 51.94% |
| Shorewood Municipal Water Utility | 3/17 | 8.58% |
| Campbellsport Municipal Water Utility | 3/18 | 6.5% |
| Waukegan Water & Light Commission | 3/19 | 16.11% |

PSC CONSTRUCTION AUTHORIZATIONS ISSUED

12/1/2025 – 3/30/2026

| UTILITY NAME | ORDER ISSUED | CONSTRUCTION COST |
|--|--------------|-------------------|
| Prairie Du Chien Municipal Water Utility | 12/9 | \$2,189,597 |
| Freedom Sanitary District No 1 | 12/15 | \$6,087,924 |
| Whitehall Municipal Water Utility | 12/19 | \$3,000,000 |
| Minong (V) Water Utility | 1/5 | \$2,200,000 |
| Palmyra (V) Water and Sewer Utility | 1/7 | \$6,347,580 |
| Madison Water Utility | 1/9 | \$8,000,000 |
| Germantown Water Utility | 1/15 | \$655,750 |
| Weston Water Utility | 1/28 | \$3,748,603 |
| Brockway (T) Sanitary District 1 | 1/30 | \$976,960 |
| Scott (T) Water Utility | 2/6 | \$240,000 |
| Oak Creek Water and Sewer Utility | 2/18 | \$52,330,000 |
| Green Bay Water Utility | 2/23 | \$900,000 |
| Ladysmith Municipal Water Utility | 3/3 | \$550,000 |
| Plover (V) Municipal Water Utility | 3/5 | \$843,094 |
| Dickeyville Water Utility | 3/31 | \$1,985,000 |




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| Quarter page | \$215 | \$800 | \$270 | \$860 |
| Business card | \$160 | \$575 | \$200 | \$600 |

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

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

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Vince Matarrese,
President, Advanced Safety Technology, Inc.

The units shall be activated weekly to flush the line and to verify proper operation.

Whenver the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to materials that are corrosive or can cause irreversible eye or bodily injury, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use.

- ✓ All employees who might be exposed to chemical splash shall be instructed in the proper use of emergency eye/face wash units.
- ✓ Always keep trash and any debris from eyewash basins.
- ✓ No boxes or garbage cans in front or within 3 feet around the emergency eye wash and shower station.
- ✓ Clear access at all times.
- ✓ Follow manufacturer's instructions when installing.

The units shall be activated weekly to flush the line and to verify proper operation.

- They shall be inspected and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Document inspections with date and initials of inspector.
- Make sure the emergency shower shall be capable of delivering a minimum of 20 gallons per minute for 15 minutes.
- A five-gallon pail would require 15 seconds or less to fill in order to meet the requirements.

Eyewash and emergency shower units shall be in accessible locations that require no more than 10 seconds to reach and should be within a travel distance no greater than 100 feet from the hazard.

- The eyewash and emergency shower should be located as close to the hazard as possible, and on the same level.
- The maximum time required to reach the unit should be determined by the potential effect of the chemical.
- Follow the recommendations from your Safety Data Sheets.

All employees who might be exposed to chemical splash shall be instructed in the proper use of these units.

SPS 332.30 Medical services and first aid [29 CFR 1910.151].

Substitute the following wording for the requirements in 29 CFR 1910.151(c): *Whenever the eyes or body of any person may be exposed to materials that are corrosive or can cause irreversible eye or bodily injury, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use.*

Note: The Department will accept facilities that comply with American National Standards Institute/International Safety Equipment Association (ANSI/ISEA) standard Z358.1, Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment, or other equipment that provides similar protection.

Remember, it's all about going home. *Vince*

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TALES FROM THE ROAD

Jesse Hass,
WRWA Wastewater Trainer

LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

If some of you have looked through your permit and have a requirement for a sludge management plan, give us a call, we will be able to help. The staff at WRWA have developed a template to complete a sludge management plan. The plan will include a description of your treatment facility, as well as your sludge removal operations. Treatment facilities will need to have a detailed description of all aspects of the process from sludge storage to land application. This plan will include, but is not limited to, emergency response, spill plans, hauler information, and field information. This may seem daunting at first but with the template and a little work we will help you get this done in a few hours.

MAPPING

I am starting to set my schedule for this spring and summer to help systems start mapping. If you are interested in seeing if mapping is right for you, get in contact with me. If you want to learn about mapping, someone from WRWA will be able to assist you in getting started. When we stop out, we will discuss what web-based options for mapping are available, basics of using these services, and how to GPS points into your map using one of our GPS receivers. WRWA now has 3 GPS units at our disposal, a Trimble and two Eos Arrows. These GPS receivers are available to be loaned out to communities for

If you have never attended the outdoor expo as an attendee or a vendor, you should look into it.



adding assets to a map. I am looking forward to hearing from many communities in the upcoming year who would be interested in getting a start on adding assets into a digital map. Also, keep an eye out for some classes we are offering this year. WRWA has a GPS basics class scheduled for May 6th and 7th that will be limited to 30 attendees. If that class goes well, we will offer the class again in the future.

EXPO

For those of you that attended our annual conference in Green Bay, I would like to thank each and every one of you. If you have never attended the outdoor expo as an attendee or a vendor, you should look into it. Last year we had a successful Expo with over 100 vendors and

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August 27, 2026

800 attendees. The Expo included on-site demonstrations, numerous technical sessions, many excellent exhibits and raffle with over 40 prizes. For those of you out there who have not attended the Expo, I would encourage you all to do so. It is one of the best days out there for an operator to get quality training and credits. And a terrific day for vendors to talk with existing clients and network with new possible clients. This year's Expo will be August 27th, 2026, and I hope to see more people there this year. What started out as a day with just a handful of vendors is now one of the premier water and wastewater training days in the state and the Midwest. Also, added last year to the week, is a sporting clay's event near Mosinee at Ashley Gun Club. It will be held this year on August 26th at the Ashley Gun Club. Plans are to have a classroom session before the event to learn and earn credits followed by a lunch. If you have questions, feel free to reach out to me or the office for more information. *Jesse*


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Non-Revenue Water Loss

Dan Wundrow,
WRWA Circuit Rider

It's that time of year when all of us have completed the Public Service Commission (PSC) Annual Water Reports. While most of us are glad it's done and don't want to think about it until next year, several of us are looking at them to improve the water system, and some are still unsure of what the report truly shows. No matter where you fall within the three groups, we should all be looking at the Non-Revenue Water Loss (NRWL) and Total Water Loss (TWL).

The PSC has a chart that shows, on the left, the flows of pumped and imported water, and, moving to the right, the channels of water-use categories. This chart can be very convoluted for many operators and clerks. Once you understand the flowchart, you will understand the difference between NRWL and TWL. To clear the air, all water loss is technically NRWL. I want to try to help make this not such a dichotomy.

Authorized Consumption is a volume of water that is used by known customers and includes Billed Authorized Consumption and Unbilled Authorized Consumption. Here is where it gets confusing. Although it's authorized consumption, any unbilled authorized consumption is NRWL. What falls into unbilled authorized consumption, unbilled metered (including customer use to prevent freezing), and unbilled unmetered (including unmetered flushing and fire protection). Clear as a digester, right? I think some of the confusion stems from the use of like terms.

The basics of the last paragraph are that if the water is metered and billed, it is authorized consumption and is accounted for; this also applies to unmetered but billed water. In a perfect world, we should aim never to have an unmetered-but-billed situation. Most of the time, underestimation takes place in unmetered-but-billed situations. Then the

To clear the air, all water loss is technically NRWL.

second part is authorized but not billed. This mainly applies to authorized water use for fire protection and flushing. Fire protection can be a convoluted subject, as the term is very broad. Water use in this line will be for testing and training on fire equipment and fires within the service area. Fires outside of the service area shall be charged at the bulk water rate or per the system's tariff.

Adding all authorized consumptions and subtracting them from the total gallons pumped and/or imported will give the total water loss. Total water loss has two main categories, and each category has three subgroups. Apparent Losses is category one, with subgroups: customer metering inaccuracies, unauthorized use (including theft), and systematic data-handling errors. Real losses are category two, with subgroups: leakage in transmission and distribution mains, leakage and overflows at a utility storage tank, and leakage on service connections up to the customer meter.

I want to focus on the apparent losses, as this can be a quick way to identify some of the NRWL. After reviewing several hundred W-02 sheets, one of the biggest things I look at is the total gallons sold by customer class. What I'm looking at is the gallons sold in one year compared to previous years, as well as the total meter count for the customer class. Most of the time, I find that a system will drop in total gallons sold by millions of gallons, while the meter count increases. This is a great spot to start looking for NRWL.

In some cases, it can be quick to review all the meters for a customer class, while at other times it can be very overwhelming. For this, let's say we are looking at page W-02 at the Multifamily (461.5) meter class, with a

dozen meters in this group. In 2024, the total gallons sold across all 12 meters were 1.265 million gallons, and in 2025, those same meters registered 950 thousand gallons sold. That is a 315-thousand-gallon decrease in water sales. One of the first questions should be: What events took place during the past year? Did one of the multifamily units shut down? Did one of them have a decrease in residents? Was there a meter problem with one of the units? The second thing would be to look at the historical billing. Does the billing gallons show a decrease on a specific meter or multiple meters? Does the historical billing indicate billing errors? The third thing is to review meter testing records for meters showing a decrease in water volume with no change in occupancy. Then follow up with the building owner and perform any necessary tests.

That option works well for a small group of meters. How would you do that with many meters, such as in Residential (461.1)? I would start looking at meter testing data and the oldest meters. Then cross-reference those meters to sales for the past year. If there is a decrease in sales on those meters, test and replace as necessary. The bigger part of this statement is the meter testing program. It is very important to have a very comprehensive meter testing and replacement program and policy. If you are good at Excel, you can make a simple workbook or a very in-depth workbook. If you ever need help developing or modifying a workbook, please reach out to one of your Water Circuit Riders.

When investigating a water meter and testing its accuracy, it is important to assess the meter's condition and the surrounding area. Check that the meter is installed properly, that the bypass valves are in the correct positions, that the correct register is installed on the meter, and that the meter has not been tampered with. Operators often find that the bypass valves are slightly open, and sometimes wide open. If the bypass valves are adjusted, a friendly conversation with the owner is needed, tamper-proof wire should be installed, and a random reinspection should take place.



I know this isn't the most fun subject in the world, but reducing the NRWL and TWL will have a significant impact on your utility's finances. I hope you found this article educational and made the subject a little less stressful. It was nice to see those who had the opportunity to attend our annual conference in Green Bay. Hope that you all have a great spring and summer. *Dan*

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Is Your Electricity as Efficient as it Could Be?



Matt Rettler,
WRWA Energy Efficiency Circuit Rider

Power correction devices play a crucial role in improving energy efficiency in water and wastewater treatment plants, where large motors, pumps, and electrically driven systems dominate overall energy consumption. These facilities are among the most energy-intensive in municipal infrastructure, often operating continuously and consuming significant electrical power to move, treat, and distribute water. As a result, even modest improvements in electrical efficiency can translate into substantial cost savings and environmental benefits.

At the heart of power correction is the concept of power factor. In alternating current (AC) electrical systems, power is composed of three components: real power (kW), which performs useful work; reactive power (kVAR), which sustains the magnetic and electric fields necessary for inductive equipment; and apparent power (kVA), which is the combination of the two. Power factor is the ratio of real power to apparent power, expressed as a value between 0 and 1. A low power factor indicates that a significant portion of the electrical energy supplied is not being used effectively for productive work.

Water and wastewater plants typically exhibit low power factors due to the prevalence of inductive loads such as pumps, blowers, compressors, and mixers. These devices rely on electric motors, which inherently draw reactive power to generate magnetic fields. When power factor is low, utilities must supply more current to deliver the same amount of real power. This results in increased losses in electrical distribution systems, higher demand charges from utilities, and reduced capacity of electrical infrastructure.

Power correction devices are designed to address this inefficiency by reducing the amount of reactive power drawn from the grid. The most common solution is the installation of capacitor banks. Capacitors provide reactive power locally, effectively offsetting the inductive demand of motors and other equipment. By supplying reactive power at the point of use, capacitor banks reduce the total current flowing through the system, thereby improving the overall power factor.

At the heart of power correction is the concept of power factor.

There are several types of capacitor-based power correction systems used in water and wastewater facilities. Fixed capacitor banks are permanently connected to the system and provide a constant level of correction. These are suitable for loads that operate continuously at relatively stable levels. However, many treatment processes experience variable loads depending on flow rates, seasonal demand, and operational conditions. In such cases, automatic or switched capacitor banks are more effective. These systems use controllers to monitor power factor in real time and switch capacitor stages on or off as needed to maintain optimal performance.

Another advanced solution is the use of active power factor correction devices, also known as active harmonic filters or dynamic reactive power compensators. Unlike traditional capacitors, these systems use power electronics to inject precisely controlled currents into the system. This allows them not only to correct power factor but also to mitigate harmonics—distortions in the electrical waveform caused by non-linear loads such as variable frequency drives (VFDs). Harmonics are increasingly common in modern treatment plants due to the widespread use of VFDs for motor speed control, which are themselves important for energy efficiency. By addressing both power factor and harmonics, active devices provide a more comprehensive approach to power quality management.

Improving power factor through correction devices yields multiple benefits for water and wastewater plants. One of the most immediate is the reduction in utility costs. Many electric utilities impose penalties or higher tariffs on customers with low power factors, as inefficient usage places additional strain on the grid. By maintaining a power factor close to unity (1.0), facilities can avoid these penalties and, in some cases, qualify for incentives or rebates.

In addition to cost savings, power correction enhances the capacity and reliability of electrical systems. Lower current flow reduces heating in conductors and transformers, which can extend equipment lifespan and reduce maintenance requirements. It also frees up capacity in existing



infrastructure, potentially delaying or eliminating the need for costly upgrades as plant demand grows.

Energy efficiency improvements from power correction also contribute to sustainability goals. Reduced electrical losses mean that less energy needs to be generated and transmitted, leading to lower greenhouse gas emissions associated with power production. For municipalities and utilities striving to meet environmental targets, power correction represents a relatively low-cost and high-impact strategy.

Implementation of power correction systems requires careful analysis and design. Engineers must assess the facility's load profile, identify major sources of reactive power, and determine the appropriate size and configuration of correction equipment. Overcorrection—where the system becomes capacitive rather than inductive—can lead to voltage instability and other operational issues, so precise control is essential. Coordination with existing equipment, particularly VFDs and sensitive instrumentation, is also important to avoid unintended interactions.

Maintenance considerations should not be overlooked. Capacitor banks, while generally reliable, can degrade over time due to factors such as temperature, voltage stress, and harmonics. Regular inspection and monitoring are necessary to ensure continued performance. Active systems, being more complex, may require specialized expertise but often include advanced diagnostics and monitoring capabilities.

In conclusion, power correction devices are a vital component of energy efficiency strategies in water and wastewater treatment plants. By improving power factor and reducing reactive power demand, these systems lower operating costs, enhance electrical system performance, and support environmental sustainability. As treatment facilities continue to modernize and incorporate more advanced electrical equipment, the role of power correction will only become more important. Careful planning, proper system selection, and ongoing maintenance are key to maximizing the benefits of these technologies. *Matt*

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THE SOUND OF WATER

Todd Weich,
WRWA Water Circuit Rider

Water leaks are often silent culprits, causing damage, wasting resources, and driving up utility costs long before anyone notices a problem. Traditionally, detecting leaks required guesswork, excavation, or visual signs such as wet patches. Today, acoustic water leak detection offers a smarter, non-invasive approach. By “listening” for the distinctive sounds of escaping water, technicians can locate leaks with remarkable precision, saving both time and money while preventing unnecessary damage.

The science behind acoustic leak detection is straightforward: moving water produces sound, particularly when it escapes through a crack, joint, or hole under pressure. These sounds can vary from faint hissing

Even when the leak is underground, these vibrations travel through the pipe and soil, allowing technicians to detect them above ground.

and swishing to rhythmic gurgling or even subtle pipe vibrations. The acoustic signature depends on the size of the leak, pipe material, and surrounding environment. Metal pipes, for instance, often carry higher-frequency noises, whereas plastic or composite pipes transmit lower-frequency vibrations. Even when the leak is underground, these vibrations travel through the pipe and soil, allowing technicians to detect them above ground.

To capture these noises, WRWA circuit riders use specialized equipment such as ground microphones, contact sensors, and leak noise correlators. Ground microphones are placed on hard surfaces above the pipe, amplifying the leak noise. Contact sensors attach

directly to valves, hydrants, or exposed sections of pipe to capture internal vibrations. Leak noise correlators, the most sophisticated of the tools, use two or more sensors along a pipeline and calculate the leak's location by measuring the time it takes for the sound to reach each sensor. This technique can often pinpoint leaks within a couple of feet or even down to inches, dramatically reducing the area that needs excavation. The accuracy depends on the information provided to your WRWA circuit rider. Sometimes, a system can use data loggers to monitor pipelines overnight, detecting leaks that may be too faint to hear during daytime water use.

While acoustic detection is highly effective, it does have limitations. Leaks in low-pressure systems may not produce enough sound to be detected, and deeply buried or plastic pipes can muffle vibrations. Environmental factors, such as soil type or pavement density, may also reduce sound transmission. Despite these challenges, the method remains faster, more cost-effective, and less destructive than traditional leak detection, making it an indispensable tool for municipal water systems.

As water conservation becomes increasingly critical and infrastructure continues to age, acoustic water leak detection is proving its value as a proactive solution. Combining sensitive listening technology allows utilities to locate leaks quickly, reduce water loss, and minimize repair costs. If you have concerns about leak detection, reach out to your WRWA Water Circuit Rider for technical assistance.

Todd



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Wastewater Lagoons: The Unsung Heroes of Rural Treatment (Or Are They?)

Dan Cooper,
WRWA EPA Wastewater Technical Assistance/Trainer

Let's Talk Lagoons

Picture this: It's a crisp Wisconsin morning. You're standing at the edge of a wastewater lagoon, watching the sun glint off the water. Some folks see a quiet pond. Others see a compliance nightmare waiting to happen. But what if I told you this grassy basin is actually one of the most resilient, cost-effective wastewater treatment technologies we have?

Welcome to the great lagoon debate of 2025.

The Good News: Lagoons Aren't Going Anywhere

Here's the thing about wastewater lagoons—they're like that reliable old pickup truck. Sure, it doesn't have all the bells and whistles of a Tesla, but it gets you to work every day without breaking the bank. And for rural communities, that reliability matters.

Construction and operation costs are a fraction of mechanical systems, and your operators don't need a PhD in microbiology to keep things running. They handle flow fluctuations better than many fancy systems, and recent research even shows lagoons can reduce life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions through reduced excavation and fertilizer offsets. That's right—your lagoon might be saving the planet while treating wastewater.

The Not-So-Good News: Regulations Are Getting Tougher

But let's be real. The regulatory landscape is shifting beneath our feet. The UN's 2024 report sets a bold goal: 60% of wastewater safely treated by 2030. That's ambitious, and lagoons sometimes struggle to keep up, especially on nutrient removal and pathogen reduction.

Winter in Wisconsin doesn't help either. Cold temperatures slow biological processes, and suddenly you're staring at a compliance report that makes your stomach drop. Add climate change into the mix—extreme weather, evaporation spikes, unpredictable temperatures—and you've got a moving target.

The Plot Twist: It's Not Binary

Here's where things get interesting. The "lagoons are dead" narrative misses the mark. The reality? Many utilities are finding creative middle ground.

Some are pairing lagoons with polishing systems, using the lagoon for primary treatment and tertiary treatment downstream. Others are adding aeration to boost performance without a full rebuild. Some combine lagoons with constructed wetlands for nutrient removal, while others deploy smart monitoring tools to help operators stay ahead of problems. Think of it as giving your lagoon a facelift instead of replacing it entirely.

Wisconsin-Specific Wisdom

For our WRWA members, several factors warrant consideration. Cold weather requires planning for winter slowdowns since biological activity drops significantly. Land availability remains generally good in rural Wisconsin, which is a key advantage. Federal and state programs still support lagoon maintenance and upgrades. And simpler operations align better with small team sizes, which is crucial for many rural utilities.

My Take: Context Is King

I've spent years working with wastewater systems across the region. Here's what I've learned: there's no one-size-fits-all answer.

For a small community with a limited budget and available land? Lagoons make perfect sense. For a growing town facing stricter discharge limits? You might need something more robust.

The question isn't "are lagoons obsolete?" It's "under what conditions do lagoons serve us best, and how can we optimize them?"

Bottom Line

Wastewater lagoons aren't going extinct anytime soon. They're evolving. And that's a good thing.

They'll remain part of the treatment portfolio—especially for rural America. Our job as professionals is to ensure they operate at peak performance while staying open to innovation.

So next time you're standing at the edge of a lagoon, take a moment. That quiet basin might just be doing more heavy lifting than you realized.

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Navigating the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements:

A Focus on Service Line Replacement Plans

Nathan Licht,
WRWA EPA Water Technician/Trainer

Operators work diligently to safeguard public water systems and protect the health of the communities they serve. In recent years, however, the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI) have presented significant challenges for systems striving to understand and prepare for substantial regulatory changes introduced by the EPA and implemented through the Wisconsin DNR. While the full scope of LCRI warrants extensive discussion, this article concentrates specifically on one critical component: the Service Line Replacement Plan (SLRP).

THE FIRST MILESTONE

The LCRI establishes three major milestones for Public Water Systems (PWS). The first of these, by November 1, 2027, requires systems to develop and submit a comprehensive Service Line Replacement Plan. The SLRP—often referred to as “slurp” within the

industry—must be built upon a system’s baseline service line inventory, which includes all identified Lead Service Lines (LSLs), Galvanized Requiring Replacement (GRR) lines, and Unknowns. Secondly, the baseline inventory will also include a non-lead validation pool.

REQUIRED COMPONENTS OF THE SLRP

In addition to the baseline inventory, the SLRP must address several specific planning and operational elements, including:

- A strategy to identify the material of all unknown service lines
- Standard operating procedures for full LSL and GRR replacements
- A communication strategy to notify consumers prior to full or partial LSL/GRR replacement

- A prioritization strategy based on regulatory replacement factors
- A funding strategy to support ongoing replacement efforts
- Procedures for customers following full or partial LSL/GRR/Unknown replacement
- Identification of any laws, regulations, or tariff provisions that may impact the system’s ability to conduct full replacements

These requirements are intended to ensure both transparency and consistency as systems move toward complete removal of LSLs and GRRs.

DEFINING AND VALIDATING THE INVENTORY VALIDATION POOL

In addition to the replacement pool, systems must establish a validation pool—a set of service lines eligible for validation. The validation pool consists of confirmed non lead lines, including:

- Service lines installed after the federal lead ban
- Lines with material visually identified at two or more points
- Lines previously classified as LSL or GRR that have since been fully replaced
- Service lines classified as non lead through reliable records or other approved identification methods

Using this information PWS will determine the number of validations required, randomly select service lines to be validated and submit the results to the DNR by December 31, 2034.

REPLACEMENT RATE REQUIREMENTS

The second major compliance milestone arrives on December 31, 2030. Beginning at that point, systems must maintain an annual replacement rate of 10% for LSLs and GRR lines.

For some utilities, this benchmark may appear difficult, if not impossible to achieve. Systems that can demonstrate that the 10% rate exceeds 39 replacements per 1,000 service connections may apply for a deferred deadline. It is important to note that partial replacements do not count towards the annual replacement requirement.

OBTAINING PROPERTY OWNER CONSENT

A key operational challenge lies in obtaining cooperation from property owners, particularly when replacement costs are involved. Although funding mechanisms exist, they fall outside the scope of this discussion. Instead, this article highlights the requirement for PWS to make a reasonable effort to secure owner consent. Regulations define a “reasonable effort” as a minimum of four attempts to contact the property owner using at least two different communication methods, which may include:

- In person conversation
- Phone call or text message
- Email
- Written letter or postcard
- Door hanger

Utilities should select methods that can be easily documented to protect the system’s compliance standing. If the property owner cannot be reached or declines replacement, the PWS is not required to perform any portion of the replacement, as partial replacement is prohibited under the SLRP.



CALCULATING THE 10% REQUIREMENT

Returning the conversation to the replacement rate, systems must use their baseline inventory to calculate the replacement pool. The pool is determined by summing all LSLs, GRRs, and Unknowns. Full LSL and GRR replacements are then added annually and divided by the pool total to determine the number of completed “program years.” This calculation provides a consistent means of tracking progress and ensures that systems remain on course to achieve regulatory compliance.



FINAL MILESTONE: FULL REPLACEMENT BY 2037

The third and ultimate milestone under the LCRI is the requirement that all service line replacements be completed by November 1, 2037. This deadline represents the end of the replacement program and requires systems to have fully addressed every LSL, GRR, and Unknown service line within their inventories. By this date, systems must have exhausted their replacement pools, achieved full material verification, and ensured no lead or galvanized requiring replacement service lines remain in active use. If a system finds itself overwhelmed with these requirements, free available resources exist. For additional assistance or guidance as you navigate the LCRI requirements, please reach out to any of the WRWA staff members, who are always available to help steer your system in the right direction.

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CITY OF OWEN Receives PFAS Settlement Funds



Andrew Aslesen,
WRWA Source Water Specialist

For several years you have been likely hearing us talk about the National Rural Water Association PFAS contamination lawsuit. NRWA partnered with the law firm Napolini & Shkolnic to bring a lawsuit against several manufacturers of PFAS compounds including 3M, DuPont and Tyco. Settlements have been reached with several manufacturers, with the biggest being the \$12.5 Billion settlement with 3M in March of 2024. These settlements created a Cost Recovery Program to help water and wastewater systems affected by PFAS. Several communities across Wisconsin have benefited from this Cost Recovery Program including the City of Owen, which has received around \$50,000 in payments.

The City of Owen Public Works Director Chad Smith originally heard about the PFAS lawsuit from his water circuit rider Todd Weich. Smith heard about it again at one of WRWA's training classes. After the city's first round of PFAS samples in the summer of 2023 showed trace levels of PFOA and PFOS Smith decided he would go ahead and apply for the cost recovery program. Smith says the initial application process wasn't easy. He spent quite a bit of time gathering all the necessary information, but he stuck with it even though he wasn't expecting that they would receive any compensation based on the very low level detects. Early in 2025 though Smith received an email from Napolini & Shkolnic saying that the city was eligible for an initial 3M AFFF settlement payment. After several back-and-forth correspondents

These settlements created a Cost Recovery Program to help water and wastewater systems affected by PFAS.

with the law firm where Smith had to provide some additional information the city received their first 20% settlement payment of nearly \$8,800 in June 2025. This was followed by several additional payments over the remainder of 2025 for a total settlement payout of just over \$50,000. The city currently has that money in a special account to be used for future PFAS mitigation costs. Despite the work it took, Smith is glad that he went through with the application and secured some funds for the city.



If you want to find out more about the PFAS Cost Recovery Program or find out if you are eligible, visit: <https://www.napolilaw.com/en/pfas-lawsuit-settlement/>. Of course, you can also reach out to me as well and I can point them in the right direction. Andrew Aslesen, WRWA Source Water Specialist at Aaslesen@wrwa.org or call 715-321-3451.

Thank You — TO WRWA MEMBERSHIP

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the time I was allowed to serve on the WRWA board. It was a great experience for an operator from a small community. I was fortunate to attend the first couple of conferences where there were around 100 attendees and 25 vendors, but look at today, 1400 attendees 230 booths because of you, the membership.

Thank you to all the vendors who support this great organization. To the many of you that have supported the sportsman raffle, who have helped pay off the technology center, donated materials for training, and now helping out with the new area for training.

Thank you to the past two ED's and current ED Chris. It was, and is, their hard work that sees into the future to do what is needed to keep this organization looking ahead.

Thank you to the staff and circuit riders who are there to help bring all this information out to the operators and communities. For their ability to keep up with all the rule changes and upgrades in your work. I am being told times are changing and it is these ladies and gentlemen who are helping keep up with it.

Thank you to all the communities who have allowed their operators to serve on the WRWA board. Allowing them to meet at least 4 times a year plus committee meetings. I worked with many board members from many communities, and their knowledge and opinions were all greatly helpful to the organization.

I will be stepping down in June at our board of retreat, and it will hit me then to think of all the friends and friendships I have made over the years. Thank you,

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Wisconsin Sewer User Charge Report *Provides Insights* Toward the Cost of Clean Water



Pat Morrow,
 PE, Wastewater Senior Team Leader at MSA



In 2025-2026, MSA conducted its 11th Wisconsin Sewer User Charge Survey — a project that involved sending 814 questionnaires to Wisconsin WPDES permit holders to collect and analyze data related to community size, sewer rates, and wastewater treatment system type. This survey has been completed approximately every three years since 1996, with this latest iteration garnering a nearly 29% response rate (239 participants).

Throughout the years the questions posed in the survey have been modified to further identify and evaluate trends in the data — ranging from the treatment technologies commonly in place for given sized communities to the number of years that have passed since the last major facility upgrade occurred. Ultimately the goal of the survey and accompanying report is to provide data-driven answers so that municipal leaders and utility departments have a candid, comparative analysis of sewer rates across the state. Furthermore, to provide supporting background information to help explain why sewer rates may differ significantly among similar-sized or neighboring communities, sanitary districts vs. villages vs. cities — due to economies of scale — and regional customers vs. treatment facility owners, or certain regions within the state. This can be an important tool when applying for funding to support wastewater upgrades and can provide residents with peace of mind when explaining the need to introduce new rate increases.

So, what does the survey reveal?

Rates continue to steadily increase

Since the first survey was conducted in 1996, the average cost for residential sewer service has been consistently increasing. A number of factors contribute to this. The rising cost of electricity, fuel, chemicals, and labor, for one. But also, the new and larger debt payments municipalities must make on capital improvements to replace aging infrastructure and meet stricter environmental standards. The chart below shows the continual increase in average cost for residential sewer service across all population ranges — and as a statewide average — with each bar on the graph representing one of the 10 past Sewer User Charge Surveys conducted. Note, Figure 1 is based upon an annual water usage of 55,000

gallons per year, which was a historically accepted water usage rate among some regulatory agencies. However, each edition of the survey has shown that water usage continues to decrease and drift farther from the 55,000 gallon-per-year benchmark. This will be discussed in further detail later in this article. The 2025 Sewer User Charge Survey found the average cost for residential sewer service statewide to be \$550 per year (\$137.39 per quarter or \$45.80 per month) based upon actual water use. Based on the common benchmark water usage of 55,000 gallons per year, the 2025 statewide average is \$698. This represents an increase of 6.8% per year since 1996 when this benchmark was first introduced into MSA's Sewer User Charge Survey report.

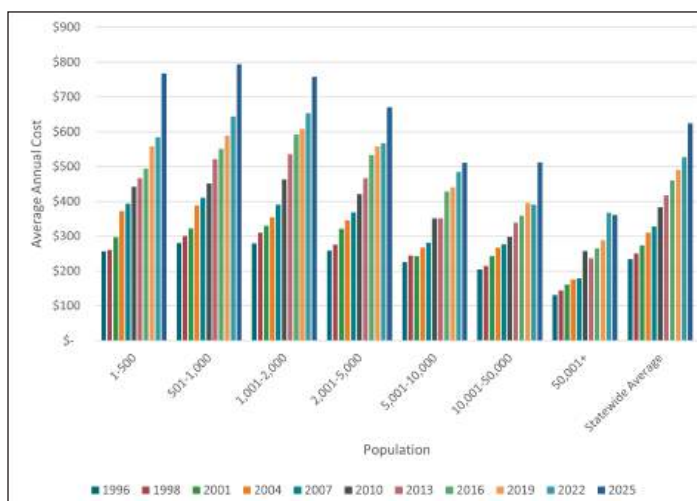


Figure 1: Average annual residential sewer charges, by population range, based on 55,000 GPY use (1996-2025)

Smaller communities are paying more

While the average cost of residential sewer service varies significantly within the various population groups, people in smaller communities tend to pay more. This has been largely the case since these surveys began. The problem is that smaller communities are required to meet the same new and stricter regulations as larger cities yet lack the user base to fund projects without more significant impacts to sewer rates.

As a result, residents in small communities often face disproportionately higher costs because there are fewer people to share the financial burden. Results show that the greatest variability of cost occurs within the 1-500 population range, and the least amount of variability occurs in the 50,000+ population range, which is depicted in Figure 2.

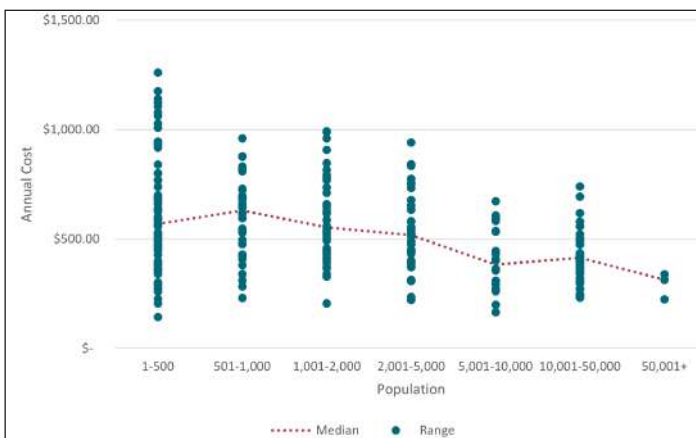


Figure 2: Annual sewer charges & median, based on actual use, by population range

Sewer rates in comparison to household income

Figure 3 provides median household income (MHI) values for the various population groups considered in the survey, and Figure 4 presents sewer rates as a percentage of household income. While both MHIs and sewer rates have steadily increased over time, the average cost for residential sewer service as a percentage of MHI is generally declining for all population ranges. This is because median household incomes continue to rise at a faster rate than sewer rates. The potential takeaway here is that municipalities could take this into consideration when identifying whether rate increases are needed and determining the size of rate increases. Implementing a policy of gradual rate increases that track with MHI increases could help establish capital improvement funds and lessen the sewer rate impacts when wastewater system upgrades are needed. A final consideration is that Wisconsin has a statutory threshold that identifies economic hardship considerations when the sewer rates reach 2% of the MHI. While there are individual communities within the state whose sewer rates are at or very close to the 2% threshold, the average sewer rates are significantly lower.

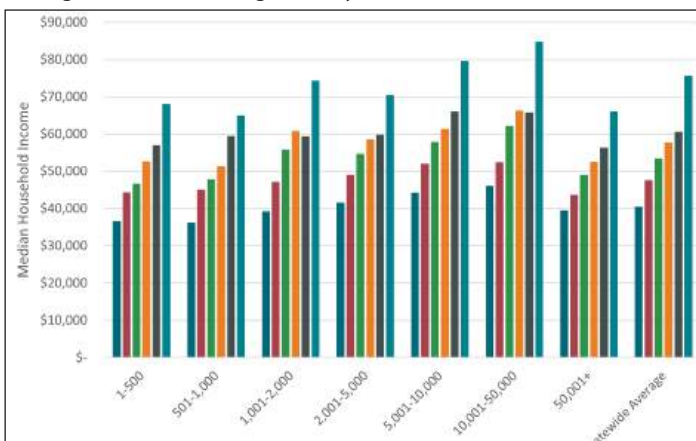


Figure 3: Average median household income (MHI), by population range (2000-2025)

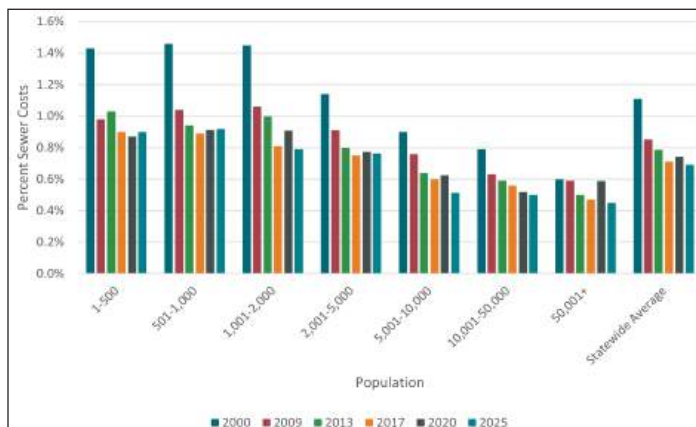


Figure 4: Average cost for residential sewer service as a percentage of MHI, by population range, based on actual use (2000-2025)

Water use is declining

As mentioned previously, actual water usage continues to drift away from the historical benchmark annual water usage of 55,000 gallons per year, as water use is largely in decline. Water use trends are shown in Figure 5. The primary reason for this trend is believed to be rooted in lower-flow, higher-efficiency plumbing fixtures coupled with improved public perceptions favoring water conservation. While this is a good thing from an environmental and conservation perspective, it is also very much a double-edged sword. The sewer rates in most communities are comprised of both a fixed-fee component and a variable, volume-based component. As such, sewer revenue depends upon water usage. It is a common observation that after a significant sewer rate increase, water usage will decrease. And as usage drops, sewer utilities may need to further increase rates to make up for lower than anticipated revenue.

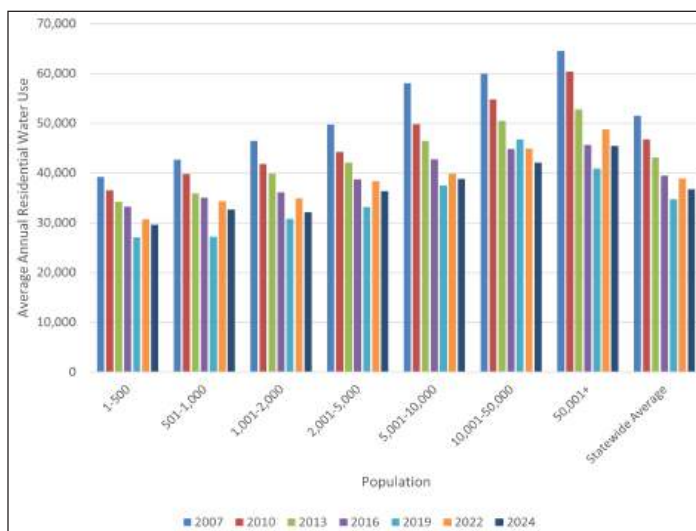


Figure 5: Average annual residential water use, by population range (2006-2024)

Rate increases are becoming more frequent

The 2025 Sewer User Charge Survey found that statewide, the median number of years since the last sewer rate increase is approximately 1.4 years; however, the average number of years since the last sewer rate increase is 3.1 years. Furthermore, the data indicates the average number of years since the last sewer rate adjustment has decreased across all population ranges as compared to the 2022 survey. A total of 49% of the survey respondents indicated a sewer rate increase will be necessary within the next year, with an average anticipated rate increase of 11%.

Continued on page 34

Sewer rates may not reflect the true value of service

It also appears that sewer rates don't often reflect the true value of the service provided. Clean water and safe drinking water have historically been undervalued and underprioritized, even though they are integral to public health and safety. Elected officials, city councils, and utility boards take great pride in keeping water and sewer rates as low as possible, but this may have unintended, negative consequences. Maintaining a stagnant rate structure can do communities a great disservice when upgrades are needed and they must ask residents for a 20%, 30%, 60%, or more increase. Providers of other basic services such as natural gas, cable TV, electricity, or internet increase rates on a frequent basis without a second thought. Rationale for periodic, frequent rate increases are to keep pace with inflation, set aside funds for future equipment replacements or improvements, fuel costs, increased cost of labor, etc.

While residential sewer rates do continue to trend upward, by comparison with other household utilities, wastewater service remains one of the least-costly utilities in the average home. Naturally, the costs for these services varies as well depending on location, options, or monopolies of service providers. But it provides a bit of context around today's sewer rates and what the average consumer pays for the comforts and conveniences of home. Figure 6 provides this comparison of sewer and water rates to other common monthly expenditures and utilities.

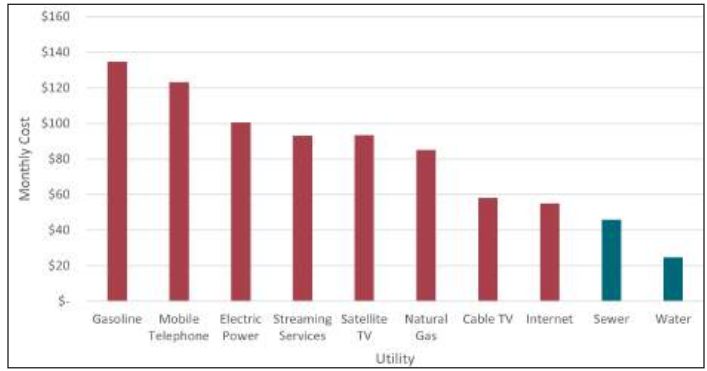


Figure 6: Estimated average monthly cost of various utilities

The “Cost of Clean” bottom line

The Wisconsin Sewer User Charge Survey Report is intended to be a comprehensive guide to sewer user rates across the state. It is meant to assist municipal leaders and utility departments with assessing their own rates against communities of similar size and treatment technology type, with the goal of helping to successfully plan, fund, and implement wastewater infrastructure upgrades.

The 2025 Wisconsin Sewer User Charge Survey Report was made available to participants who completed the survey. For those who did not elect to participate, interested parties can email ratesurvey@msa-ps.com for more information.

About MSA Professional Services, Inc.: MSA Professional Services, Inc. (MSA) is a 100% employee-owned, multidisciplinary consulting firm serving clients from 19 offices throughout the United States. For over a century, MSA has delivered smart solutions for complex infrastructure challenges and trusted expertise for sustainable community development. When you work with MSA, it's more than just a project. It's a commitment to building honest, open relationships and working together to solve immediate challenges and achieve long-term goals. For more information, visit msa-ps.com.

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Wisconsin Pump Works

Wisconsin Pump Works is transitioning to a unified regional name, **Midwest Pump Works**. The change reflects how the organization already operates, with coordinated expertise and shared resources across state lines. Importantly, the transition does not represent a change in personnel, service approach, or customer relationships. The same teams, service standards, and regional knowledge remain in place.



Since its establishment in 2016, Wisconsin Pump Works has grown into a trusted resource for water and wastewater utilities across Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The company was built with a clear focus on technical competence, fair pricing, and professional service. From the beginning, the goal was not rapid expansion, but dependable support for communities that rely on critical pumping infrastructure every day.

Wisconsin Pump Works emerged as an extension of **Iowa Pump Works**, which was established in 2010, followed by **Minnesota Pump Works** in 2012. Together, the three companies developed a strong regional footprint by combining local service knowledge with shared technical resources. This structure allowed each operation to remain closely connected to its customers while benefiting from broader experience across multiple states.

Over time, Wisconsin Pump Works expanded its capabilities to meet the evolving needs of utilities facing aging infrastructure, regulatory pressures, and the demand for reliable long term performance. Today, the company provides pump sales, service, repair, and consulting supported by more than fifty full time professionals operating from six fully equipped service shops. A fleet of service trucks and mobile crane trucks enables crews to respond efficiently to both planned projects and unplanned system issues.

In addition to pump focused solutions, the organization supports a broader range of equipment commonly found throughout water and wastewater facilities. This includes screening systems, mixers, valves, control panels,



and related equipment that play a critical role in system performance and reliability. By understanding how these components interact within a complete system, the team is able to provide practical guidance that helps utilities make informed decisions, improve operational efficiency, and plan for long term maintenance and upgrades.

Beyond equipment and service support, the organization also maintains a dedicated full service Projects team that assists utilities after bid day. This team helps coordinate equipment submittals, approvals, scheduling, and communication between engineers, contractors, and operators. By staying involved through the execution phase of a project, the Projects team helps reduce delays, clarify technical details, and ensure equipment is delivered and supported in alignment with project timelines and specifications.

A key development supporting this evolution has been the ability to represent and support **Sulzer** pump solutions across the state of Wisconsin. This expanded representation strengthens the organization's ability to serve a wide range of municipal applications, from lift stations and treatment facilities to more complex wastewater environments. Access to Sulzer equipment statewide allows utilities to pair proven pump technology with localized service and support.



Our team places strong value on education and collaboration. Staff are always willing to visit facilities to host lunch and learn sessions or meet directly with operations and maintenance teams. The organization regularly provides presentations, pump maintenance classes, and hands on training opportunities designed to support operators, extend equipment life, and promote safe and effective system operation.

In 2023, Iowa Pump Works, Minnesota Pump Works, and Wisconsin Pump Works were acquired by **United Flow Technologies**, a national platform focused on the municipal and industrial water and wastewater markets. Through this acquisition, the companies gained access to expanded technical resources, shared best practices, and a broader network of industry partnerships, while continuing to operate with the same local teams and service philosophy.



As Midwest Pump Works moves forward, the organization continues to build on the same foundation of experience, regional knowledge, and dependable service that utilities have relied on for years. The name may be new, but the people and the commitment behind it remain unchanged.



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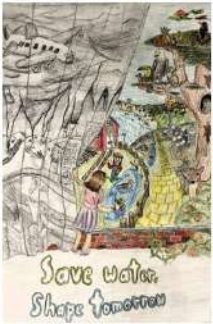
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Congratulations Winning Students!

6TH GRADE



1st - Ellie Ferretti
Fontana Elementary

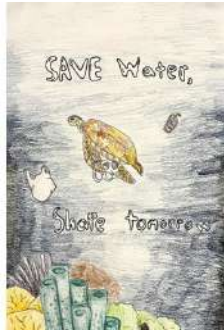


2nd - Gianna Ihm
St. Clement School
(Lancaster)



1st - Kyler Olivero
Lodi Elementary

5TH GRADE

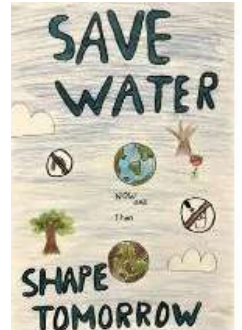


2nd - Gretta McCanna
West Side Elementary
(Elkhorn)

4TH GRADE



1st - Arabella Leffler
Prairie Ridge Intermediate
(Reedsburg)



2nd - Charlotte Werner
Prairie Ridge Intermediate
(Reedsburg)

3RD GRADE



1st - Hennk Schmidt
Woodland Elementary
(Appleton)

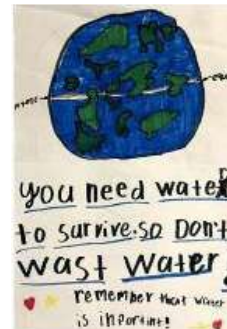


2nd - Noah Dart
Woodland Elementary
(Appleton)

2ND GRADE



1st - Grady Christiansen
Pardeeville Elementary



2nd - Avery Lachn
Hillcrest Elementary

Thank you to everyone who participated in this years poster contest! We had so many great posters but there are always a few that stand out above the rest. The ballots have been cast and the votes have been counted. This year's winning student are:

6TH GRADE

- 1st Place: Ellie Ferretti-Fontana Elementary
- 2nd Place: Gianna Ihm-St. Clement School (Lancaster)

5TH GRADE

- 1st Place: Kyler Olivero-Lodi Elementary
- 2nd Place: Gretta McCanna-West Side Elementary (Elkhorn)

4TH GRADE

- 1st Place: Arabella Leffler-Prairie Ridge Intermediate (Reedsburg)
- 2nd Place: Charlotte Werner-Prairie Ridge Intermediate (Reedsburg)

3RD GRADE

- 1st Place: Hennk Schmidt-Woodland Elementary (Appleton)
- 2nd Place: Noah Dart-Woodland Elementary (Appleton)

2ND GRADE

- 1st Place: Grady Christiansen-Pardeeville Elementary
- 2nd Place: Avery Lachn-Hillcrest Elementary(Chippewa Falls)

Congratulations to all the winning Students! 1st place winners will receive \$100 & 2nd place winners will receive \$50. Each teacher that submitted posters was placed in a drawing for one of 5 \$100 Amazon gift cards. The following teachers won an Amazon gift card, congratulations!

- Rose Gallagher-Amherst Middle School
- Kate Downey-Hillcrest Elementary (Chippewa Falls)
- Melissa Schoeni-Omro Elementary
- Robin Sterkowitz-Prairie Ridge Intermediate (Reedsburg)
- Avery Feathers-Woodland Elementary (Appleton)

If you have a winning student or are one of the teachers who won an Amazon gift card, I will be in contact with you shortly to work out prize delivery logistics. Thanks again to everyone who participated, the poster contest would not be a success without you! I sincerely hope that you will participate again next year.

Thank You, Andrew Aslesen, Source Water Specialist

At a Glance WRWA 2026 Annual Technical Conference



2026 AWARD WINNERS



Water System of the Year
Rib Mountain Water Utility



Administrative Professional of the Year
Danielle Doelle – Trempealeau



Wastewater System of the Year
Egg Harbor WWTP



Administrative Professional of the Year
Candice Grunseth – Gilman



Operator of the Year-District 1
Daryl Rutkowski – Eagle River



Operator of the Year-District 2
Ed Costello – Village of Eden



Operator of the Year-District 3
Brandon Wilson – Owen



Operator of the Year-District 4
Rand Bates – Wheeler

Congratulations!

2026 AWARD WINNERS



Business Member of the Year
First Waterworks



Friend of Rural Water
Sara Bach – Northern Lake Service, Inc. and Tracy Huber – Northern Lake Service, Inc.



Best Tasting Water
Village of White Lake



Lifetime Achievement
Todd Hanson



Lifetime Achievement
Donald W. Erickson



Lifetime Achievement
John Bork

AWARD WINNERS NOT PRESENT

Operator of the Year - District 5: *Tom Stowell – Hillsboro*

Lifetime Achievement: *Roger Mayer, Tom Dimoff, Ted Curtis*

Administrative Professional of the Year: *Sandy Anderson – Black River Falls*

Conservation: *Village of East Troy*

Service Award: *Chris Jensen*

Safety Award: *City of Fond Du Lac Public Works Dept.*

2026 RAFFLE WINNERS



Diane Thoune
Adorable Puppy
Hydro-Klean, LLC.



Kyle Young
All In Bucket!!
Water Well Solutions



Joe Nepras
Vortex Diamondback HD
2000 Laser Rangefinder
Mead & Hunt, Inc.



Kyle Youngn
\$200 Cabela's Gift Card & YETI
Roadie 2.0 24 Hard Cooler
Bolton and Menk, Inc.



Gary Dickrell
500 Watt Inverter
Generator & \$50 Gift Card
Core and Main



Aaron Gutt
Milwaukee Tool M18
FUEL QUIK-LOK STRING
TRIMMER (KIT) +
attachment
L&S Electric Inc



Brian Mueller
160-Liter Commercial
Food Dehydrator and
Commercial-Grade Vacuum
Sealer
B&M Technical Service, Inc.



Tyler Hastings
St. Croix Spinning Rod
and Spinning Reel
LAI, Ltd.



Travis M. Lang
YETI Old School Camo
Hopper M30 Cooler
UtilityLogic



David Yearous
St Croix Rod Avid series 7'
Medium Flex and Vanford
2500 HG spinning reel
Drydon Equipment



Darryl J. Pywasay
22" Yeti Roller Carry-On
Luggage
Copperhead



Joe DeYoung
Cabela's 10X
Magnification 42 MM
RangeFinder Binoculars
Drydon Equipment



Tim Bourdo
Cabela's Gift Card
Ahern



Mark Madden
St. Croix spinning rod,
Plueger reel, and tackle
package
Visu-Sewer, LLCt



Todd Peterson
Leupold BX-4 10x42
Binoculars - Scheels
Binocular Harness
WRWA Staff and Board



Shannon Lane
Benelli Montefeltro
shotgun 12 ga
Municipal Well and Pump



Michael Tinder
DEWALT 20V MAX 12 in
Cordless Brushless Compact
Chainsaw PLUS \$100 in
Fleet Farm Gift Cards
KLM Engineering, Inc.



Reed Cooper
75" Samsung TV and
Sound Bar
Adaptor Inc.



Curt Ubersox
Ruger 10/22
Northeast Water
Professionals Assoc.



Bill Gruber
Gift Basket (Staab Heated
Vest, Carhartt Hat & \$150.00
Cabela's Gift Card)
Staab Construction

2026 RAFFLE WINNERS



Jared Feider
STIHL GTA 40.0 SET
Cordless Pruner
Badger Labs



Pete Baca
DeWalt Chainsaw and
Blower Combo
ISG Inc.



Tim Hayden
St. Croix Spinning Combo
with Tackle
First Waterworks



Ben Schroeder
Gift card for \$500 to
University Ridge Golf
Course, Madison WI
American Flow Control -
Waterous



Travis M. Thulle
Packers custom replica
jersey and a \$250 Gift Card
to the Packers Pro Shop
Ayres Associates



Warren Howard
1000 Watt Inverter
Generator
Core And Main



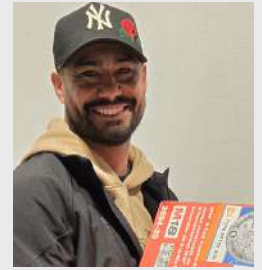
Jose Trejo
GoPro MAX2 8K 360
Action Camera Bundle
USG Water Solutions



Zach Urwiler
Tanglewood Ranch
Pheasant Hunt
Delta 3 Engineering, Inc.



Bryant Meinel
Liquor Basket - Canadian
Whiskey, Gin, Irish Cream,
Bourbon, Scotch, Tequila,
and Vodka in a basket.
Sealing Systems, Inc.



Daniel Perez
Milwaukee M18 18-Volt
Lithium-Ion Cordless Combo
Kit (9-Tool) with (2) Batteries,
Charger, and Tool Bag
Ford Meter Box Company



Mike Judkins
St.Croix Spinning Combo
Fishing Rod & Gift Card
Graef-USA, Inc



Donald Hart
St. Croix Fishing Package
MacQueen



Nicholas Lea
Milwaukee M18 chainsaw
with battery & rapid charger
Mid City Corporation



Jason Viergutz
\$1,000 CASH
CTW Corporation



Tonia Westphal
\$250 Cabela's Gift Card with
2-Yeti Rambler Tumblers
Donohue & Associates



Lee Anderson
Tool Package
Ferguson



Ben Brooks
Duck Hunting Package/
Layout Blind
LadTech



Travis M. Lang
STIHL MS 251 C-BE Z 18 in.
45.6 cc Gas Chainsaw
William Reid



Mike Kennison
Commercial Grade 15" Vacu-
um Sealer
P.J. Kortens & Company, Inc.



Amanda Kordus
Kate Spade Tote Bag w/
Goodies.
Becher-Hoppe Engineering

2026 RAFFLE WINNERS



Austin Zane
The Bull Golf Course -
Foursome.
Bytec



Andrew Craig
Savage 110 Trail 207
Winchester
LW Allen/SJE



Zachary Werner
Tree Stand
NEWP



Sarah Nunn
Ravin R10 Crossbow
Team Laboratory
Chemical Group



Elizabeth Schultz
Kalahari Resorts gift card
MSA Professional
Services, Inc.



Bill Kortens
Ice Fishing Package
Baxter & Woodman, Inc.



Matthew Wachowiak
Hoyt Compound Bow
Hawkins Inc.



Gary Laguna
Hunting Pistol Smith &
Wesson 686 357 magnum
Martelle Water Treatment



David E. Patterson
(2) Avian Breeder/Feeder
Decoy Combo
Energenecs



Peggy Schultz
Turkey Hunting Package
Kunkel Engineering



Cody Simonis
Shooting Package
Napoli Shkolnik PLLC



Andrew Strait
Vortex Viper HD
Binoculars - 10x42mm
Dorner Company



Ramon Knudtson
Glendel Deer Target
Orr Inspection



Dave Pufall
2350 Watt Inverter
Generator
Core And Main



Steve Krueger
Solo Stove Yukon 2.0 -
27" Stainless Steel
Prinsco



Mike Judkins
Fat Tire Bike
SWWOP



John Beneke
Yeti Cooler & chair package
SWOP



Andy Aspinwall
Milwaukee M12 Tool
Combo Kit
ME Simpson



Dave Martelle
Yeti Day Trip 14 Liter with
Gift Card
Hydro Corp



Kyle Young
Sony XV500 Bluetooth
Speaker
Envirotech

2026 RAFFLE WINNERS



Jeff Monson
Kask Helmet Safety
Equipment Package
Morton Safety



Donald W. Erickson
Milwaukee Packout
Crane Engineering



Aaron Gilson
Ooni Koda 12 Gas
Powered Pizza Oven
Cummins



Chad J. Smith
Green Egg
Midwest Meter



Jon Craker
Solo Stove & Campfire Kit
McMahon Engineers



Michael Hesseliak
Cooler, Packer Memorabilia,
Advanced Microbial
Solutions & Associated Bank



Brett Sajera
Stihl BG 50 Leaf Blower
REL



Jon Craker
Inflatable
Paddleboard & Kifevest
Western WI Water Professionals



Rick Huening
Vexilr Fish Locator
Sewer AI



Deanna Marks
Grand Prize

2026 RAFFLE WINNERS NOT PRESENT

- Kevin Mrz** - Pellet gun package, Ruekert and Mielke
- Kelly Mulhern** - Kayak Package, SEH
- Josh Kolodziej** - Smoker Package, Tri-County Association
- Ryan Beyer** - \$400 Cash, Northern Lake Service, Inc
- Andy Aspinwall** - Polaroid Camera Gift Basket /(2) color film packs, Dixon Engineering, Inc.
- Kim Johnson** - Cooler, Electric Pump, LLC
- Jeff Deitsch** - Green Bay Packers Tundra 65 Hard Cooler, Cretex Specialty Products
- Thomas Roeser** - Colt 1911 10mm, Sabel Mechanical
- Christopher G. Massart** - Apple iPad 11 w/accessories, CBS Squared
- Christopher G. Massart** - 28" Blackstone grill Package, Town & Country Engineering, Inc
- David Van Grinsven** - Leupold Rifle Scope, Sensus/Xylem Meters
- Dennis Van Dinterr** - Honda 2200 Generator, Great Lakes TV Seal Inc
- Chuck Pech** - Marshall Speaker, EJ USA
- Mark Young** - Tequila package, American Ductile Iron & Fischer Harris
- Jeff Erickson** - One night stay, 3 bedroom condo-Chula Vista, General Engineering Company
- Tom Kohnhorst** - Game cart, Hunting knives, HD Laser rangefinder, Jeff Deitsch
- Christopher G. Massart** - Garmin Striker Fishing GPS, Xylem
- Tom Kohnhorst** - Turtlebox Waterproof Speaker, Cedar Corp
- Jake Charron** - Golf Bag & Balls, Advance Drainage Systems

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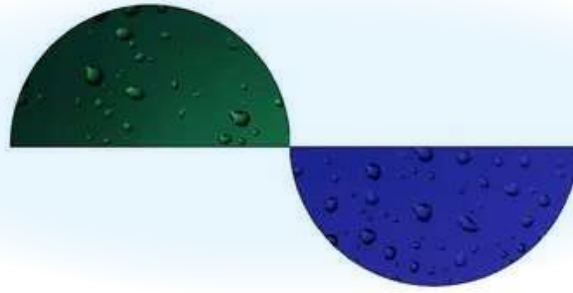
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business days. At RMB, we pride ourselves on working closely with clients to understand their needs and provide dependable, science-driven solutions.

A key area of expertise at RMB is Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) testing, an essential tool for evaluating the potential impact of wastewater discharges on aquatic life. RMB operates a state-of-the-art WET testing facility, designed to maintain strict environmental controls and ensure consistent, high-quality results. To further support reliability and ease for our clients, RMB offers an internal courier service capable of picking up samples nationwide. This end-to-end control of sample handling helps preserve integrity, maintain holding times, and provide clients with confidence from collection through reporting.

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SR Commercial Roofing

Municipal buildings face unique roofing challenges, especially when operations must continue during repairs. They have to consider maintaining critical facilities with limited disruption, tight budgets, and long-term performance.

From public works buildings to water treatment facilities, roofing systems are often overlooked until they become urgent—yet they play a vital role in protecting infrastructure, equipment, and daily operations.

At SR Commercial Roofing, we specialize in spray-on restoration-based roofing solutions that can be installed with little to no tear-off. By avoiding full replacements whenever possible, we reduce noise, debris, and disruptions to staff and services—keeping your buildings functional throughout the process.

Our spray-on systems are designed to fully waterproof existing roofs, covering and sealing common failure points like seams, fasteners, and penetrations. The result is a durable, long-term barrier against harsh weather conditions—snow, ice, heavy rain, hail, and freeze-thaw cycles.

We can restore any roof type: metal, rubber, tar, etc. The basic steps in a restoration are tearing off rocks or tar while leaving the base intact (or no tear-off for metal roofs). Then we clean the surface, install fabric for additional strength (if needed), spray primer, base coat, and top coat to create a waterproof, seamless, UV resistant barrier that can withstand Midwest weather for years to come.

We also offer spray foam as part of some roof restoration to improve the structure's strength and energy efficiency. Spray foam reduces thermal transfer between the building and the outdoors, improves structural integrity, and limits condensation issues within the building. This can be especially valuable in buildings housing sensitive equipment or requiring stable working environments.

When you work with us, we first conduct a complimentary roof inspection, send a quote, and then set a date for the roof restoration when you're ready to move forward. Our pricing depends on the complexity of the project and the systems that will be used (for example spray foam increases the price of the project). However, roof restorations usually cost less than new rubber or metal roofs, last as long as or longer, and require less tear-off and waste.

After the roof is restored, we offer roof maintenance resources to extend the roof's life well beyond the initial installation. Regular inspections, minor repairs, and proactive care help prevent costly emergencies and allow for better budgeting over time. Additionally, as spray-on roof restorations wear out, they can be quickly and economically recoated to last another 20 years.

We've worked with several municipalities in Wisconsin: the City of Bloomer, City of Onalaska, City of La Crosse, Town of Brockway, Village of Wilton, City of Sparta, City of Tomah, Town of Leon, Town of Forest, as well as the City of Hokah (in Minnesota), and the goal is always the same: provide reliable protection, reduce unexpected issues, and support the people who rely on these buildings every day.

As municipalities continue to look for practical, long-term solutions, we believe roofing should be part of the conversation—not just when there's a problem, but as part of a proactive plan for infrastructure management.

We appreciate the opportunity to connect with members of the Wisconsin Rural Water Association and look forward to supporting communities across the state.



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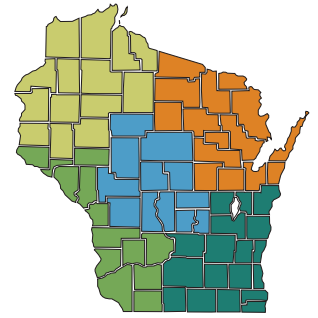
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UP THE CREEK

“Birdfeeder Politics”

Ken Blomberg,
WRWA past Executive Director

I believe it was humorist Will Rogers who once professed, “I love a dog. He does nothing for political reasons.”

Perhaps, in the same vein, that is why I like all things wild and free – as they do nothing for political justification. Unless, of course, you take into account the daily show right outside the kitchen window – an event I submit to you as birdfeeder politics. Even an untutored eye will notice the backyard bird chain of command, on display for those willing to observe.

On top of the ladder is the governing shrike – appearing now and then – but for the most part hiding in the shadows. When he enters the picture, all others scatter – bowing to his stature and position on top of the food chain. At his side, are the lieutenant governor, attorney general and secretary of state – Blue Jays, one and all.

Our senate of cardinals come and go as they please but are first to arrive in the morning and last to leave at the end of the day. A mixed caucus of chickadees, juncos, redpolls and finches make up our assembly and can be found here, there and anywhere – quick to debate any birdseed deficit, swift to seek subsidy offerings. Their legislative support staff – nuthatches and sparrows, dig in and clean up after those higher on the feeder’s organizational chart. No matter what issues come to the plate,

at the end of the day, all the political players at the feeder retreat and roost to survive the elements of the night.

Daylight each morning brings lobbying woodpeckers of various legal stripes, which can be caught roaming the box elder and locust halls, beaks open for leftover pork and fat scraps at the trough. Always on top of their game, they are at their best while entertaining feeder landlords, influencing bureaucratic birdwatchers and securing passage of suet legislation.

Bi-partisan at times, but for the most part, split by party - peace-loving doves on the left and more aggressive hawks circling the sky to the right. That is, until election storms roll in. Then it’s every bird for himself. Low pressure fronts trigger feeding frenzies, while feathered candidates perch above them all, singing promises of better weather, full feeders and sunny skies.

Will Rogers, a political satirist and friend of presidents, senators, prime ministers and kings, loved to poke fun at elected officials from all parties. He knew the nature of their antics and enjoyed following the affairs of state and nation.

He summed it up when he quipped, “Politics is the best show in America. I love animals and I love politicians and I love to watch both of ‘em play...”

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: eaupleinekennels@gmail.com.*



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Traffic Safety for Water and Wastewater Operators:

Protecting Workers in the Right-of-Way

Brenda Staudenmaier,
WRWA Training Specialist

Because sewer and water infrastructure is frequently located beneath roadways, working in traffic is an unavoidable part of the job.

Water and wastewater operators are among the many professionals who must work directly in or near active roadways. Whether responding to a sudden water main break, addressing a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO), or performing routine maintenance in a manhole, these workers often find themselves in close proximity to moving traffic. According to the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) (https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/pdfs/11th_Editionr1/mutcd11theditionr1hl.pdf), proper traffic control practices are essential for protecting workers, motorists, and pedestrians whenever work occurs within the public right-of-way.

The MUTCD provides nationally recognized guidelines for traffic control in work zones. These guidelines emphasize planning ahead before entering the roadway. Water and wastewater operators

should evaluate traffic speed, roadway type, visibility conditions, and available space before beginning work. Establishing a clearly defined traffic control zone—which may include advance warning areas, transition areas, buffer spaces, and the work area itself—helps drivers anticipate hazards and adjust their behavior safely.

In many situations, traffic control devices such as cones, warning signs, barricades, and flaggers are necessary to alert drivers and guide them through or around the work zone. Advance warning signs should be placed far enough upstream to allow drivers adequate time to slow down or change lanes. Cones or channelizing devices help guide vehicles safely past the work area, while flaggers provide active control when traffic must alternate through a single lane or when sight distances are limited.

Visibility of workers is another critical safety factor. Collection system operators working within the road right-of-way must wear high-visibility safety apparel that meets ANSI/ISEA 107 standards. The level of protection required depends on the traffic environment:

CLASS 1 APPAREL is appropriate where traffic hazards are minimal and vehicle speeds are under 25 mph, such as parking lots or sidewalks.

CLASS 2 APPAREL is required when workers are near traffic traveling faster than 25 mph or when visibility may be obstructed by weather, equipment, or roadway conditions. This includes most city streets, county roads, and residential roadways.

CLASS 3 APPAREL is necessary in high-speed or low-visibility conditions, such as highways, night work, or inclement weather. Wisconsin DOT also requires Class 3 apparel for flagging operations. Wearing high-visibility pants with a Class 2 vest satisfies the Class 3 requirement.



Beyond proper clothing, operators should continually assess their surroundings. Traffic patterns can change quickly, especially during emergency responses. Workers should maintain clear communication within the crew, position vehicles strategically to shield the work area when possible and remain alert to distracted drivers or unexpected hazards.

Because sewer and water infrastructure is frequently located beneath roadways, working in traffic is an unavoidable part of the job. Following MUTCD guidelines, implementing effective traffic control setups, and wearing proper safety apparel significantly reduce the risks faced by operators who maintain these essential public services. ~ *Brenda*

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2nd Annual WRWA Sporting Clays

Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 10:00 am

Ashley Shooting Club-201111 County Rd. X, Mosinee, WI 54455

Limited to 20 teams with four shooters per team.

Free two-credit classes will be provided starting at 10 am. Lunch will be provided at 12:00 pm, followed by the shoot. This will be a shotgun start format—followed by an optional 2-man flurry competition.

Shooters can bring their own shells or purchase them from the Ashley Shooting Club.

Prizes will be awarded to 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-place shooters and teams.

Entry Fee..... \$300 Per Team, Max Four Shooters Per Team

Name(s)

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Shooter 1 _____ | Flurry Shoot <input type="checkbox"/> Yes \$20 <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Shooter 2 _____ | Flurry Shoot <input type="checkbox"/> Yes \$20 <input type="checkbox"/> No |
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Event Sponsorship

_____ **Station Sponsor (\$150)** *Includes sponsor name on one of the stations*

Number of station sponsors _____

_____ **Pink Flyer Sponsor (\$100)** *Sponsorship will go towards a grand prize at the WRWA Outdoor Expo.*

_____ **Lunch Sponsor \$50**

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

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Company Name: _____ **Email** _____

Donated Raffle Prize: _____ *(i.e. Shotgun shells, rounds of shooting, gift cards, shell pouches, etc.)*

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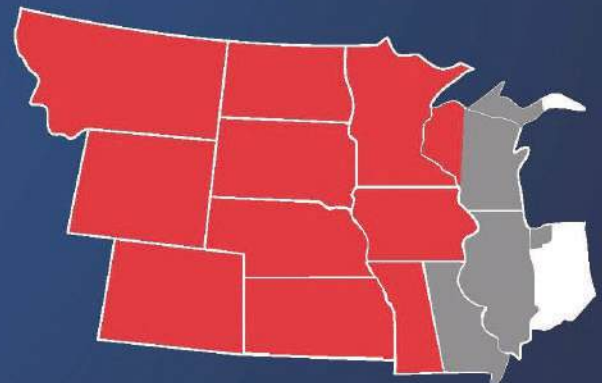
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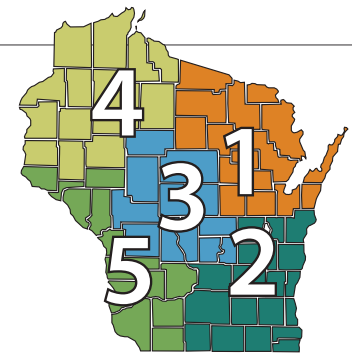
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 Hixton
 Hustler
 Junction City

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

DISTRICT 4 (Northwest)

Almena
 Amery
 Ashland
 Baldwin
 Balsam Lake
 Barron
 Bayfield
 Bell Sanitary District#1

Birchwood
 Bloomer
 Boyceville
 Boyd
 Bruce
 Butternut
 Cable Sanitary District #1
 Cadott
 Cameron
 Catawba-Kennan Joint
 Sewage Commission
 Centuria
 Chetek
 *Chippewa Falls
 Clayton
 Clear Lake
 Clover Sanitary District #1
 Colfax
 Cornell
 Cumberland
 Dallas
 Deer Park WWTP
 Downsview Sanitary District
 Dresser
 Drummond Sanitary District #1
 Elk Mound
 Emerald – Greenwood
 Sanitary District #1
 Exeland
 Fifield Sanitary District #1
 Frederic
 Glen Flora
 Glenwood City
 Glidden Sanitary District
 Grandview Sanitary District #1
 Grantsburg
 Hammond
 Hawkins
 Hayward
 Hudson
 Hurley
 Iron River Sanitary District #1
 Joint Water Quality
 Commission of Danbury &
 St. Croix Chippewa Indians
 of WI
 Knapp
 Knight
 Lac Courte Oreilles Public
 Works Department
 Ladysmith
 Lake Hallie
 Lake Holcombe Sanitary
 District #1
 Luck
 Madeline Sanitary District
 Manitou Falls Sanitary District 1
 Mason
 Mellen
 *Menomonie
 Mercer Sanitary District #1
 Milltown
 Minong
 Montreal
 New Auburn
 New Richmond
 **Northwood School District
 Ogema Sanitary District No. 1
 Osceola
 Park Falls
 Phillips
 **Pleasant Valley Properties of
 WI, LLC
 Poplar Wastewater
 Port Wing Sanitary District
 Prentice
 Radisson
 Red Cliff North

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

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 Argyle
 Augusta
 Avoca
 Bagley
 Bangor
 Baraboo
 Barneveld
 Bay City
 Belmont
 Benton
 Blair
 Blanchardville
 Bloomington
 Blue River
 Boscobel
 Bridgeport Sanitary District
 Campbell
 Cassville
 Cazenovia
 Chaseburg
 Cobb
 Cochrane
 Coon Valley
 Cuba City
 Darlington
 **Dell Creek Estates
 Dickeyville
 Dodge Sanitary District #1
 Dodgeville
 Durand
 Eastman
 Eleva
 Ellsworth
 Elmwood
 Ettrick
 Fairchild
 Fall Creek
 Farmington Sanitary District
 Fennimore
 Fountain City
 Galesville
 Gays Mills
 Genoa
 Gratiot
 Hazel Green

Highland
 Hillpoint Sanitary District
 Hillsboro
 Hollandale
 Holmen
 Independence
 Ironton
 Kieler Sanitary District #1
 *La Crosse
 La Farge
 La Valle
 Lake Delton
 Lancaster
 Lincoln Sanitary District #1
 Linden
 Linden Sanitary District No. 1
 Edmund
 Livingston
 Loganville
 Lone Rock
 Maiden Rock
 **Marell Mobile Home Courts
 Merrimac
 Mineral Point
 Mondovi
 Montfort
 Mount Hope
 Mount Sterling
 Muscoda
 Nelson
 North Freedom
 *Onalaska
 Ontario
 Osseo
 Patch Grove
 Pepin
 Pigeon Falls
 **Pinewood Court Inc.
 Plain
 *Platteville
 Potosi-Tennyson
 Prairie du Chien
 Prairie du Sac
 Prescott
 Readstown
 Reedsburg
 Rewey
 Richland Center
 Ridgeway
 Rock Springs
 Rockland
 Sauk City
 Seneca Sanitary District #1
 Sextonville
 Shelby Sanitary District #2
 Shullsburg
 Soldiers Grove
 South Wayne
 Spring Green
 Spring Valley
 St. Joseph Sanitary District #1
 Stoddard
 Strum
 Trempealeau
 Viola
 Viroqua
 Wauzeka
 West Baraboo
 West Central Wisconsin
 Biosolids Facility
 West Salem
 Westby
 Whitehall
 Wiota Sanitary District
 Wisconsin Dells
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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.

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS (WEP)

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

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

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

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

TELL CONGRESS NOW

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



RURAL AMERICA RELIES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT



NATIONAL
RURAL WATER
ASSOCIATION



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER PROGRAMS DRIVE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

ECONOMIC VITALITY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

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

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

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

*Rural economies
are deeply
connected to
their urban
counterparts*

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

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

PROMOTION BY THE NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS (WEP)

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

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

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

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RURAL AMERICA RELIES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT



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.

PROMOTION BY THE NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

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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United Systems Welcomes Mountain States



Utilities nationwide are leaning on partners who can blend regional expertise with long-term stability and modern technology support.

United Systems & Software, Inc. announces that it has acquired Mountain States Pipe & Supply, a trusted name in utility metering since 1955. Moving forward, the company will operate as Mountain States Systems, a wholly owned subsidiary of United Systems.

Mountain States has been a family-run business for nearly 70 years, guided by three families across two generations: from the Sonnyborn family to the Wilcox family, and most recently the Carroll family. Along the way, they built long-standing relationships with utilities in 11 states by doing the basics exceptionally well: reliable products, technical expertise, and follow-through.

They've also helped shape the metering landscape in the West. Mountain States began selling water meters in 1960 and has been a gas meter distributor for more than 50 years. In 1988, they became the fourth Itron distributor nationwide, and the only distributor at the time selling both water and gas meters.

The track record speaks plainly:

- More than **1 million water meters** sold from the Rocky Mountains to the West Coast
- Over **400,000 gas meters** sold across the Rocky Mountain states
- More than **1 million water, gas, and electric meters** installed since 2004

The combined customer footprint now spans coast to coast and supports metering infrastructure across water, gas, and electric utilities across two-thirds of the nation.

"This opportunity aligns directly with our expansion plans by building on the strong foundation Mountain States has established," says Scott Waldrop, President of United Systems.

Mountain States will continue operating with the same team, the same service mindset, and the same customer-first approach—now with added resources behind them. For customers and partners, this is about continuity with momentum.



Together, we will deliver more integrated, data-driven capabilities to utilities nationwide while maintaining the service and reliability our customers expect," says Waldrop.

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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.

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Wisconsin Rural Water Association

cgroh@wrwa.org

715.340.2055

Gary Larimore, President & CEO

Rural Water Financing Agency

g.larimore@krwa.org

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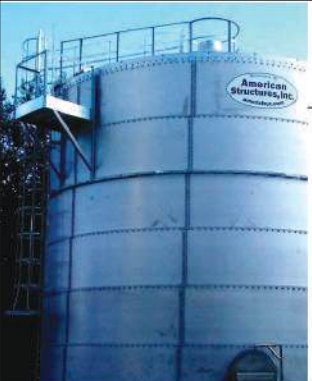
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WRWA Calendar

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| WRWA Golf Outing | May 13, 2026 |
| Office Closed Memorial Day | May 25, 2026 |
| Office Closed 4th of July | July 3, 2026 |
| 2nd Annual WRWA Sporting Clays | August 26, 2026 |
| WRWA Outdoor Expo | August 27, 2026 |
| Office Closed for Labor Day | September 7, 2026 |
| Office Closed for Thanksgiving | November 26 & 27, 2026 |
| Office Closed for Christmas Eve (1/2 Day) | December 24, 2026 |
| Office Closed for Christmas Day | December 25, 2026 |
| Office Closed for New Years Day | January 1, 2027 |
| WRWA Annual Conference (La Crosse) | March 23 - 26, 2027 |

WRWA Office Hours:

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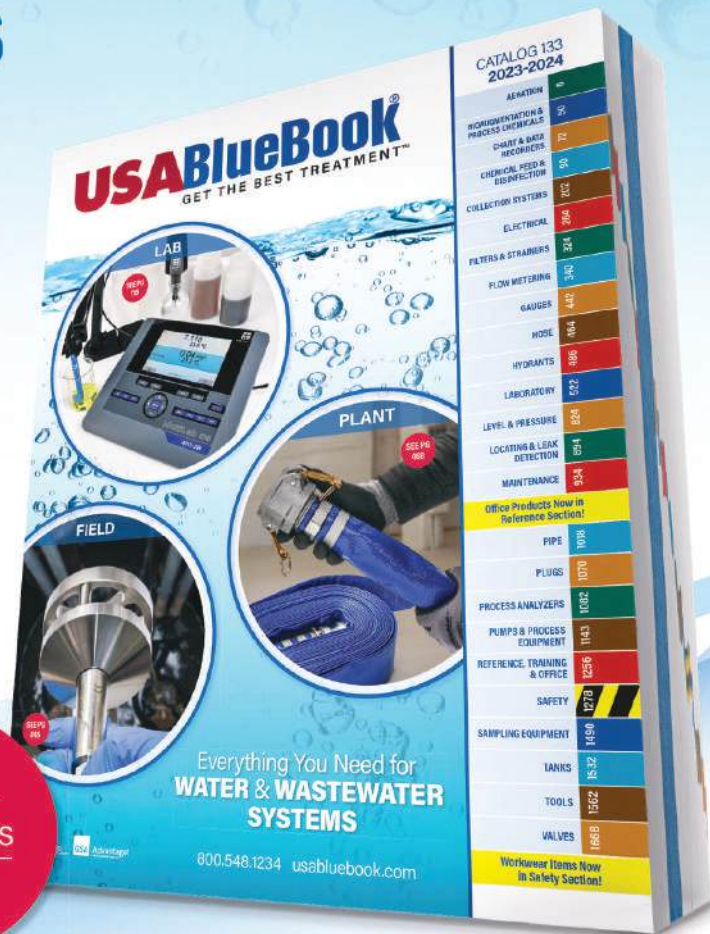
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