



**BDM**  
RURAL WATER SYSTEM

# Quality On Tap!

October 2023 | Volume 19, Issue 2

**UNDERSTANDING  
NON-PROFIT  
BOARD OF  
DIRECTOR  
LIABILITY**

**WATER QUALITY  
& QUANTITY  
INFORMATION  
SOURCES**

**NOW IS THE TIME  
TO WINTERIZE**

**BDM  
RECOGNIZED  
BY DANR FOR  
DRINKING  
WATER  
COMPLIANCE**

*Save the Date*  
**BDM'S 44<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL  
MEETING**

**Monday,  
March 25, 2024**

**SEE PAGE 14 FOR MORE INFO**

# FROM THE MANAGER

Rodney Kappes  
Manager, BDM Rural Water System, Inc.



## Greetings from the Team at BDM:

**T**hank you to all the customers that have completed the lead pipe survey that was in the last issue of the *Quality On Tap* magazine or the online option at [sdwaterpipes.com](http://sdwaterpipes.com). BDM and all water system providers (rural and municipal) are required to complete this data collection process on our customers hookups. (Pasture taps are not required, only those hookups that can be used for human consumption) If you have not completed the paper or online survey, please take the time to complete as without your assistance we will be required to devote our staffs time to this project for an extended period of time instead of completing necessary maintenance and upgrades to our system. I want to thank you in advance for your help and cooperation on this timely and required project.

When you return the information, you will receive a \$5.00 credit on your water bill and also be entered into a drawing for five \$100.00 water bill credits, and if we obtain a 90%+ survey return rate there will be an additional two \$250.00 water bill credit drawings.

Your BDM system has been operating smoothly in 2023 with a few minor interruptions. Water sales are 215,500,000 gallons as of the end of June. This is about 17,700,000 gallons higher than last year at this time. Financially BDM continues to perform better than budget and better than this time period last year.

This brings us to the new water treatment project. We will have the 100% design meeting, with our engineering team, in the next couple of weeks. This meeting will provide a guide for the board of directors to make a preliminary decision on how much money will need to be borrowed and what items will need to be moved to a later phase of the project, maybe years down the road. Unfortunately material and construction costs have increased dramatically in the past 24 months. The current timetable is to have the project bid in October 2023, which will give us concrete numbers to make final decisions on what will the initial construction include.

Shannon continues to work diligently on our new billing system, (Continental Utility Solutions, Inc.) CUSI. The current billing statements you are receiving are from the new program. Customers with ACH (payment automatically comes out of checking or savings account) have been enrolled in the new billing system. There won't be any charge to the customer to utilize this payment feature. Those customers on credit (debit) card will need to enroll themselves in the new customer portal, after it goes live. A separate mailing will go out to those currently on auto credit card when the payment portal goes live over the next month or two, with some step-by-step instructions how to enroll yourself in auto credit card payment. The portal will also accept one-time credit card payments if needed. There will be a 2.5% convenience fee added to credit card payments, which all goes to the payment processors. We will also continue to take checks in the office in person or the hallway lockbox or by mail.

Thankfully the rains came, although late for some crops, and the heat has subsided for the time being. Please be safe this harvest season. Thank you for your patronage and God Bless.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Torre Raap – Andover, SD

### Vice President

Kevin Deutsch – Sisseton, SD

### Secretary-Treasurer

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### Directors

Terry Leonhardt – Groton, SD

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Don Ogren – Langford, SD

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### Advisory Director

John Cloud – Sisseton, SD

## STAFF

### General Manager

Rodney Kappes

### Interim Operations Manager

Ryan Vrchota

### System Operations Specialists

Darin Roehr

Jim Hagen

Jared Marzolf

### Office Manager

Shannon Wegleitner

### Attorney

Danny R. Smeins


## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Phone: (605) 448-5417

Fax: (605) 448-2124

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

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

# BDM MEMBERSHIP CORNER



## BILLING PACKETS

Billing packets will be mailed in December to all customers not signed up for Auto-Pay.

If you haven't received yours by the end of December, please call Shannon at 605-448-5417.

### The BDM Rural Water System offices will be closed:

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 9TH  
NATIVE AMERICAN DAY**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH  
VETERANS DAY (OBSERVED)**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD  
THANKSGIVING DAY**

As always, if you have an emergency, please call the office at 605-448-5417 or toll free at 1-800-448-9236. You will then receive a message with the telephone number of the employee on call. Please call that person for assistance in an emergency only.

## BE A LEAK SEEKER!

With over 2,300 miles of pipeline, occasional leaks are going happen in the BDM system. Not only are leaks an inconvenience for our members, they are a costly expense to your water system. If you see a possible BDM leak, please call the office to report it right away. The first caller to report a verified leak will receive a \$30.00 credit on their next water bill.

## BDM RURAL WATER SYSTEM, INC. RATE SCHEDULE (EFFECTIVE 7/1/2023)

### GENERAL USER RATES:

Debt Service monthly payment: \$46.00 per hookup per month

\$6.95 per thousand gallons for the first 2,000 gallons used per month

\$5.95 per thousand gallons for the next 5,000 gallons used per month

\$4.95 per thousand gallons for the next 8,000 gallons used per month

\$3.95 per thousand gallons for over 15,000 gallons used per month

Gallons Used Per Month	Monthly Total	Gallons Used Per Month	Monthly Total
1,000	\$ 52.95	25,000	\$ 168.75
2,000	\$ 59.90	30,000	\$ 188.50
3,000	\$ 65.85	35,000	\$ 208.25
4,000	\$ 71.80	40,000	\$ 228.00
5,000	\$ 77.75	45,000	\$ 247.75
6,000	\$ 83.70	50,000	\$ 267.50
7,000	\$ 89.65	55,000	\$ 287.25
8,000	\$ 94.60	60,000	\$ 307.00
9,000	\$ 99.55	65,000	\$ 326.75
10,000	\$ 104.50	70,000	\$ 346.50
11,000	\$ 109.45	75,000	\$ 366.25
12,000	\$ 114.40	80,000	\$ 386.00
13,000	\$ 119.35	85,000	\$ 405.75
14,000	\$ 124.30	90,000	\$ 425.50
15,000	\$ 129.25	95,000	\$ 445.25
16,000	\$ 133.20	100,000	\$ 465.00
17,000	\$ 137.15	125,000	\$ 563.75
18,000	\$ 141.10	150,000	\$ 662.50
19,000	\$ 145.05	175,000	\$ 761.25
20,000	\$ 149.00	200,000	\$ 860.00

### ALL USERS:

No water is included in the debt service payment. All water used is in addition to the monthly debt service payment. Payments are due by the 15th of the month. A \$10.00 fee applies to all payments received after that date. Service is subject to disconnection if payment is not received by the 22nd.

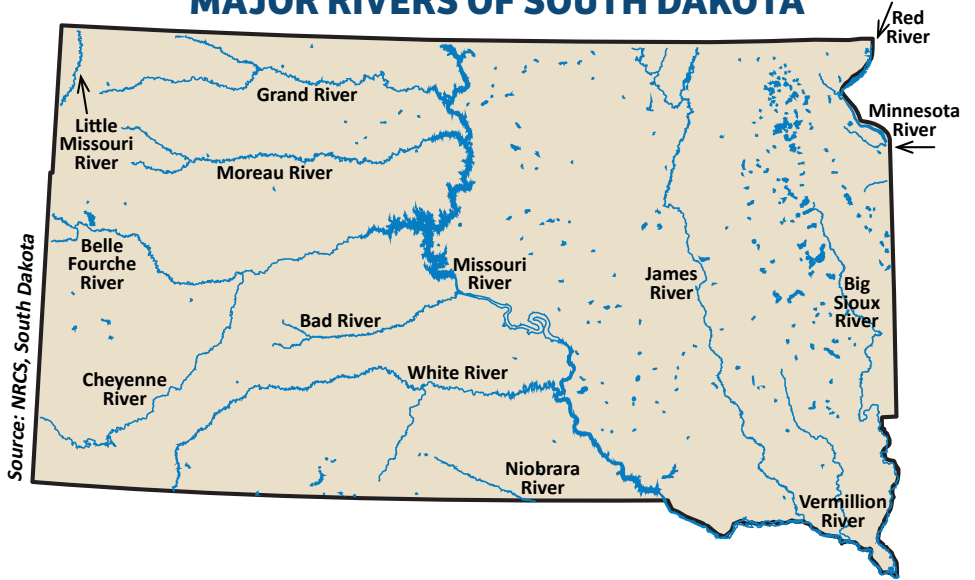
### AFTER HOURS & WEEKENDS WATER EMERGENCIES:

Please call the BDM Office at 605-448-5417 or 1-800-448-9236 & a message will direct you to the employee on call.

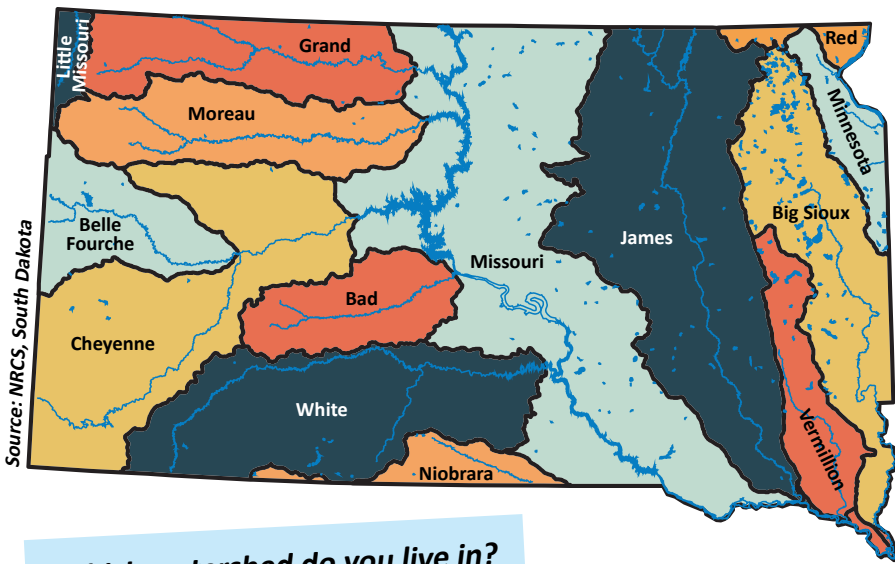
# WE ALL LIVE IN A WATERSHED!

A watershed is a system of water that all comes together. For example, when it rains, you can often see little streams of water running along a street gutter or across a parking lot. These flow into larger streams and finally into puddles or sewage pipes or maybe even into a real stream or river. The watershed for the puddle or sewage pipe or stream, would include all of the small trickles and streams that flow into it, as well as all of the ground that they flow over!

## MAJOR RIVERS OF SOUTH DAKOTA



## MAJOR WATERSHEDS OF SOUTH DAKOTA



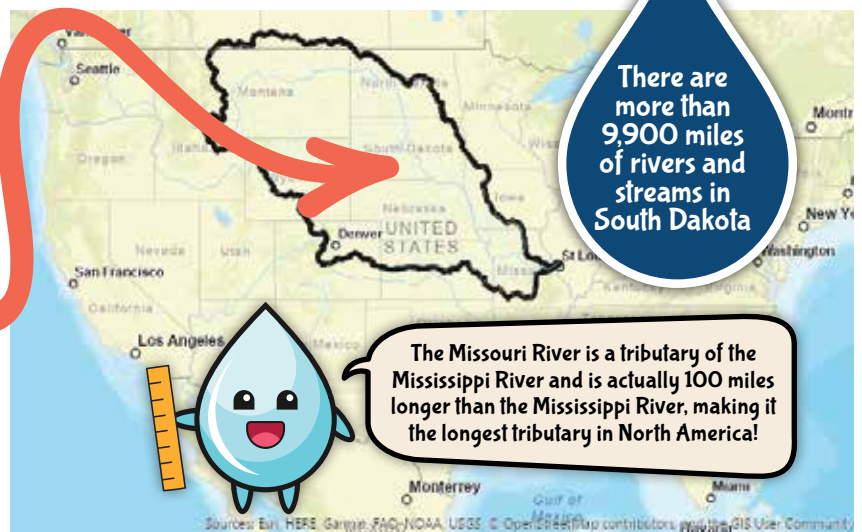
Check out the map above. How many major rivers do you see that run through South Dakota?

Looking at the map to the left, how many major watersheds cover South Dakota?

Which watershed do you live in?

Smaller watersheds come together to form larger watersheds. Most all of the watersheds you see in the map above, drain into the Missouri River, making up a larger Missouri River watershed.

The Missouri River watershed is a sub-watershed of the bigger Mississippi River watershed.



# NOW IS THE TIME TO WINTERIZE!

A quick step outside and a glance at the calendar will remind you of the inevitable – colder temperatures are on their way. For South Dakotans, winter is just a way of life. Taking a little time and the proper steps to winterize your home – and especially your pipes – in preparation for the cold and snow, you can save yourself time and money, and unnecessary heartache.

A broken pipe can add up to big water losses. A 1/8 inch hole can lose 296,000 gallons of water over a three month period of time – about 3,200 gallons a day. That is equivalent to the amount of water that one person will use in a month of normal use. To put things into perspective – it is enough water to fill an 850 square foot basement with six inches of water in just 24 hours. Below are some steps you can take now to winterize your home and keep your pipes from freezing this winter.

## Insulate your pipes

Pipes bursting in winter are a homeowner's worst nightmare. Insulate pipes in areas of your home that are not well heated – such as crawl spaces and attics. Wrap them with pre-molded foam rubber sleeves or fiberglass insulation – both of which can be found at your local hardware store. Another option can be to install heat tape – which is basically a special electrical cord that is wrapped around your pipes and emits heat. It is crucial to install UL-approved heat tapes according to manufacturer's instructions so as to not cause an accident or fire. The heat tape should be used on both the water pipes as well as the valves that shut off the water pipes. If you already rely on heat tape to keep your pipes from freezing, inspect it thoroughly to

make sure it is working properly as it can burn out after a number of years.

## Know where your master shut off and service line valves are located

If there is an emergency, you will need to know where your master shut off valve is in a hurry. If your water meter is in your basement, the valve should be close by. Your service line water valve shuts off water to your entire property ahead of your water meter – and should be marked with a sign.

## Inspect your meter pit

You can cover the pit with straw or other insulating material if desired to further protect the meter and pipes. Also remember to mark the location of your meter pit to avoid damage from snowplows and other equipment. If it looks damaged, contact your local rural water provider to come and check it out.

## Disconnect outside hoses and faucets

It is very important to disconnect and drain your outside hoses. You should also drain your outside faucets by installing an inside shut-off valve and drain if the outside faucet is not self-draining. In-ground lawn sprinklers also need to be drained before winter hits.

## Seal Outside Openings and Cracks

Locate places along outside walls, foundations, sill plates, doors and windows that may allow cold air to penetrate your home – and seal with caulk, foam or fiberglass insulation. Close any basement windows and access doors and make sure they are properly sealed.

## OTHER WINTERIZING TIPS

- Clean your gutters! Gutters clogged with leaves and debris can form ice dams, which can cause water to seep into your house and cause damage. Also check to make sure your downspouts are carrying water away from your home's foundation to further prevent flooding or water damage.
- If you are going to be away from your home for a long period of time, have your rural water system shut off your water.
- Keep sink cabinet doors open during cold spells or winter power outages to allow warm air to circulate around the pipes.
- Trim trees to prevent snow and ice from weighing them down and causing breakage – possibly damaging your home or vehicles.



# WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY INFORMATION SOURCES

**M**any South Dakotans participate in a range of water-based recreational activities, like swimming, fishing or boating. For some, their home or cabin might be located adjacent to a lake or stream. For the rest of us, access comes by way of our many public parks and beaches. In any case, people are frequently asking questions about our surface water resources. The questions typically center on concerns over water quality (Is it safe?), but questions about quantity also arise (especially during times of flood or drought).

The references below are intended to provide links to a few of the available sources of water information where many the basic questions can be answered.

## WATER QUANTITY INFORMATION SOURCES

**USGS Stream Gages** — The United States Geological Survey (USGS) maintains a network of over 170 stations that monitor stream flows across the state. In many instances, the records go back over fifty years, so they provide a good, long-term perspective. The stations record the river level (stage) on a continuous basis, and the readings can be accessed via the Dakota Water Science Center website at [www.usgs.gov/centers/dakota-water](http://www.usgs.gov/centers/dakota-water). Click on Water Data for South Dakota under the DWSC column, then click

on Statewide Streamflow Current Conditions Table for the latest information on South Dakota rivers and streams.

**Smart Phone Applications** — In the past few years, smart phone applications have been developed that provide access to real-time stream flow information. The information they provide is similar to what is available from more formal, web-based platforms, i.e., real-time stream stage and discharge information. One example is a product called Rivercast™, developed by Juggernaut Technology, Inc., which is available for both Apple and Android platforms.

**DANR Water Rights Lake Level Site** — The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) Water Rights Program maintains an interactive database map that provides information on lake levels within the state (Measured Lakes). The site provides water level data, along with established elevations for lake outlets and the ordinary high and low water marks. The site can be accessed by selecting “Data & Mapping” on DANR’s homepage at [danr.sd.gov](http://danr.sd.gov) under the “Quick Links” heading.

## WATER QUALITY INFORMATION SOURCES

**Annual Consumer Confidence Reports** — Every year, public water suppliers are required to provide a consumer

confidence report (CCR) to their customers describing the quality of the water they are providing. This requirement applies to rural water systems and municipal water utilities. This report typically comes out in the spring, with many rural water systems publishing their CCR in this magazine.

**305(b) & 303(d) Integrated Report** – Every two years, DANR publishes the Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality Assessment. Prepared under requirements of Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act, the report provides a status report on the condition of rivers, lakes and streams across the state. The report identifies the designated beneficial uses of each water body, such as swimming, fisheries, or drinking water, along with a determination of whether the uses are supported. A variety of water quality standards have been established to determine whether a water body supports a particular use. If more than ten percent (10%) of samples fail to meet the standard, the water is considered impaired. Water quality data used in the biannual Integrated Reports come from a broad range of public sources. The most recent report can be found on the DANR website at: [danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/SurfaceWaterQuality/docs/DANR\\_2022\\_IR\\_approved.pdf](https://danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/SurfaceWaterQuality/docs/DANR_2022_IR_approved.pdf)

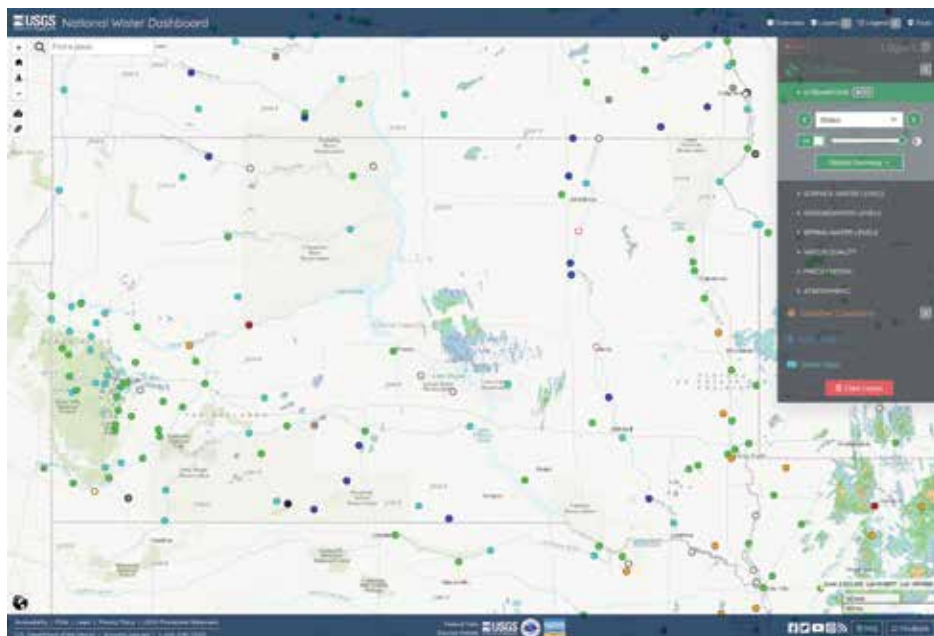
**Water Quality Monitoring Access Portal** – A few years back, DANR launched a new interactive database map providing the public internet access to water quality data for South Dakota’s lakes and streams. This is the same data on which the Integrated Reports are based. The Water Quality Monitoring Access Portal Map (WQ Map) provides water quality data collected during the past 50 years from DANR’s Statewide Water Quality Monitoring Network, intensive water quality monitoring surveys, Total Maximum Daily Load assessments, regional lake surveys, and citizen monitoring. Altogether, WQ Map contains data for over 3,600 water quality monitoring stations and includes results for more than 140,000 water chemistry samples, 2,500



algae samples, and 8,400 fish flesh samples. WQ Map can be accessed by selecting “Data & Mapping” on DANR’s homepage at [danr.sd.gov](https://danr.sd.gov) under the “Quick Links” heading.

The sources listed above are by no means all of the available resources, but they are some of the most commonly searched. It is also important to note that information is not likely to be available for every water body, and even if there is data, it may not be from exactly where you’d like. If you’d like

to learn more about potential sources of water quality and/or quantity data for your area, feel free to contact your local public water supplier, DANR, USGS or the East Dakota Water Development District at the numbers listed below.



■ **USGS Dakota Water Science Center** – 605-394-3200

■ **DANR Water Rights Program** – 605-773-3352

■ **DANR Surface Water Quality Program** – 605-773-3351

■ **DANR Watershed Protection Program** – 605-773-4254

■ **East Dakota Water Development District** – 605-688-6741, [eastdakota.org](https://eastdakota.org)



By Mike McGill, Attorney At Law

# UNDERSTANDING DIRECTOR LIABILITY FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION BOARDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

**N**avigating the intricacies of Director liability is crucial for individuals serving on the Board of Directors of a Not-for-Profit Corporation in South Dakota. While pursuing the mission of the organization, Directors must also be aware of potential risks and liabilities they may be exposed to. This article aims to shed light on the exposure to risk for Director liability under South Dakota law, ensuring board members are well informed and equipped to make informed decisions while conducting board business.

## DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF DIRECTORS

Members of a Not-for-Profit Corporation Board of Directors in South Dakota owe fiduciary duties to the organization and its stakeholders. Those duties encompass loyalty, care,

and good faith in the Board's decision-making processes. Directors must act in the best interest of the organization and avoid conflicts of interest that may compromise their impartiality.

## LIABILITY FOR BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTIES

Directors can be held liable for breaching their fiduciary duties, which could result in legal consequences. South Dakota law recognizes two main types of actions against **Directors for breach of fiduciary duties:**

1. Derivative actions; and
2. Direct actions.



In a derivative action, filed by a patron or member representing the entity rather than themselves personally, the claim alleges harm to the organization by the Directors' actions or omissions. For example, if a Board of Directors fail to supervise the activities of management resulting in damage to the corporation regarding business operations, patrons may have a cause of action against the Board of Directors.

Direct actions, on the other hand, are filed by individuals personally harmed by a Director's breach of fiduciary duty, allowing them to seek remedies and damages directly. These claims require establishing a direct relationship between the Director's action and the individual's personal injury or loss.

Directors found to be in breach of their fiduciary duties can face various legal remedies, such as monetary damages and equitable relief. The courts may order Directors to reimburse funds misappropriated, prevent further harm by issuing injunctions, or even removing Directors from their position.

## **EXCULPATION PROVISIONS AND INSURANCE COVERAGE**

If a board member served a Not-for-Profit Corporation under South Dakota law without receiving any compensation, they are immune from suit. However, most Water Systems compensate their Directors for expenses related to attending the meeting in addition to compensation for their services. In that case, where a Director is compensated, the Director is not entitled to absolute immunity for their actions under South Dakota law.

However, South Dakota law provides as follows with respect to indemnity of a Not-for-Profit Board Member:

**SDCL 47-23-27** A nonprofit corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative other than an action by or in the right of the corporation by reason of the fact that that person is or was a Director, officer, employee, or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a Director, officer, employee, or agent or another corporation, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, against expenses including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by that person in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding if that person acted in good faith and in a manner that person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe such conduct was unlawful.

Essentially, a Director is entitled to indemnification from the non-profit corporation if they acted in good faith. This means that the Director adhered to a reasonable standard

of conduct in doing business for the corporation. South Dakota law does not define a standard of care for Directors and officers. However, based on the rules in other states the best guidance is for Directors to act in a manner the Director reasonably believes to be in the best interest of the corporation, to become and to remain informed of the business of a corporation to properly provide an oversight function of management, disclose any conflict of interest to other board members and management and to utilize the services of competent professionals with respect to accounting and legal affairs of the corporation. The Director should actively participate in board meetings, make sure management retains record keeping, investigate any warnings, properly manage real and personal property, and exercise independent judgment for the best interest of the corporation. The Director must avoid conflict of interest, self-dealing, and must maintain confidentiality of business affairs of the corporation.

Good governance practices also means that Directors must require that their entity implement a conflict-of-interest policy, require auditing the books of the corporation, utilize professionally managed investments, and to assure that tax returns are filed annually.

## **DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS LIABILITY POLICY**

Moreover, Directors should consider securing adequate Director and Officers (D and O) liability insurance coverage. This insurance can help offset costs related to potential claims or damages arising from a breach of fiduciary duty. Careful review and consultation with legal professionals can ensure the insurance coverage is comprehensive and suited to the organization's needs.

The Directors and Officer's policy includes two types of protection. First, the insurance company has a duty to defend and provide attorney's fees to the company and the Board of Directors individually. Second, the insurance company has a duty to pay indemnity costs or damages for the lawsuit. In many cases the most important duty to implicate with respect to the insurance policy is the duty to defend because this includes the provision of an attorney and expenses of attorney's fees to investigate and defend the action. Many times that investigation leads to a settlement without the filing of suit as a result of mediation and compromise.

## **CONCLUSION**

Serving as a member of Not-for-Profit corporation Board of Directors is a rewarding opportunity. However, it is crucial for Directors to understand and appreciate the exposure to risk for Director of liability under South Dakota law. By diligently fulfilling their fiduciary duties, adhering to ethical standards, considering exculpation provisions, and obtaining appropriate insurance coverage, Directors can significantly mitigate potential liabilities and contribute the growth and success of the organization.

## SIOUX RURAL WATER SYSTEM

Rural residents of Hamlin, Codington and Deuel Counties in eastern South Dakota joined together in early 1972 forming Sioux Rural Water Association. These areas were in need of a safe reliable water supply for household and livestock consumption. This region of South Dakota receives an average annual rainfall of about 20 inches with 16 inches falling during the crop growing season.

The engineering firm of DeWild Grant Reckert & Associates Co. (DGR) was engaged in March 1972 to perform a system feasibility study and preliminary design work. The study was financed by \$25.00 good intention fees collected from all association members. The feasibility study was completed late in September 1972 and indicated favorable conditions for developing the proposed water system. The Association's Board of Directors approved the study and directed the engineer to proceed with final design and preparation of Plans and Specifications. Following approval of the Association Board and funding agencies, successful bid lettings were held

Final construction cost for the original system was \$3,962,000 with 76% of this cost for construction of the distribution pipeline. Total project cost including legal, engineering and administrative cost is \$4,440,000. The cost was paid for by a partial grant and a 40-year construction loan from the Farmers Home Administration, a grant from the State of South Dakota, and by user membership fees. The cost of operation and repayment of loans will be made through water use revenues.

### Projects and Upgrades

**The 1979 User Add-on Project:** After original system construction and continued requests for service, funding was secured and a few hundred new users became members of the Sioux Rural Water System.

**1983 Water Source:** A new water source was needed in Division II, so after a year of research a new well, pump station and storage at the Castlewood Pumping Station. Moreover, 12.5 miles of main line were added and the system began to serve the Town of Hayti.

**1988 Phase I Construction:** Deteriorating water quality became a priority prior to 1988, coupled with the system outgrowing portions of original design. These factors prompted the construction of 8.5 miles of main line, added storage, a new well at Castlewood and piping upgrades at the Sioux plant.

**1990 Phase II Construction:** Phase II constructed two water filtration plants and 20.3 miles of main line piping with treatment plants located at the Castlewood well site and the Sioux well site. Plant improvements remedied issues caused by iron and manganese found in raw water sources.

**1991 User Add-on (Phase III):** Sioux Rural Water System obtained 130 new members through an expansion project. The project was engineered and designed to provide water to individuals experiencing a lack of water or poor water quality.

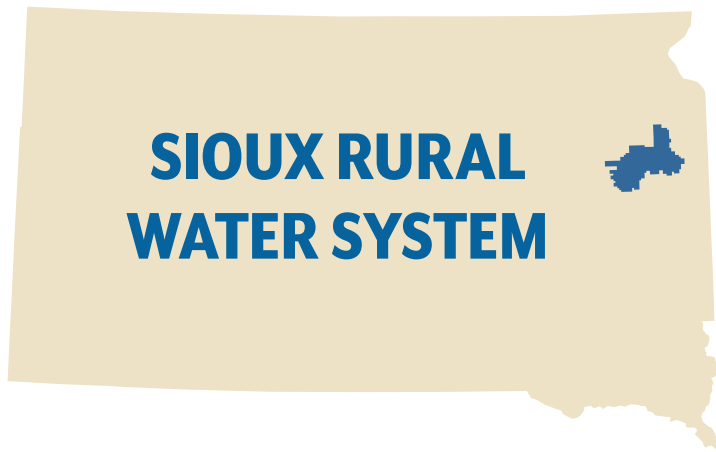
**1996 Well Relocation / System Upgrade:** Nitrate contamination required Sioux to look for a new water source. A year-long search culminated in the purchased 60 acres of land near existing wells by the Castlewood Treatment Plant (Division II). Additional efforts, along with the help of surrounding land owners, created a wellhead protection area. Furthermore, the project included the implementation of a SCADA control systems allowing operators to monitor and control the system remotely.

**1999-2000 User Add-on Project:** Continued requests for water to areas miles away from other water systems prompted a study of those areas. The process identified 150 new members system wide and another mainline expansion.



in May and September 1972, and June 1975. Construction work began in the fall of 1974 with work essentially complete by early fall of 1976.

At that point, the Sioux System served 632 members at 670 pipeline connections; that number has grown to 1,728 members. Projected water use for the system is approximately 500,000 gallons per day or over 180 million gallons per year; 373,493,000 gallons were pumped in 2022. Ninety percent of the potential users with the system's service area who joined the Association are receiving water. The System has a density of 1.8 connections per mile of pipe, with approximately 1,400 miles of pipe in the ground.



**2009 Office Project:** In 2009 Sioux Rural Water constructed a new office near the original office at the Sioux Treatment plant location. The construction of this efficient building will adequately meet Sioux Rural Water's needs for years to come.

**2015 Water System Improvement Project:** Construction of approximately 31 miles of new distribution system pipeline and individual meter services in Kranzburg. One existing booster pumping station will be replaced due to equipment being made obsolete by distribution system changes.

The City of Kranzburg distribution system will be improved with 14,950 feet of pipeline and appurtenances size 3-inch through 6-inch, and with new service pipelines and meter pits. The 72 existing customers of the City of Kranzburg water utility will be customers of Sioux Rural Water, and the City will no longer operate a water utility.

Additionally, two new wells and accessories will be constructed at the Castlewood wellfield to replace declining capacity in existing wells. The obsolete water system SCADA control system will be replaced.

**2018 Water System Improvement Project:** SRWS staff is installing 1,700 automatic read meters (AMR) in the system. Approximately 9 miles of 3"-10" distribution pipeline and a new pump station was installed at the Kones Reservoir to improve system pressure and delivery flows. There was also a new control vault installed at the Hazel Tower site.

The City of Hazel was changed from a bulk customer to individual rural water customers. Meters were replaced and isolation valves were installed at each service. Some water pipeline improvements were made to the city distribution system.

Both the Sioux and Castlewood Water Treatment Plants had major upgrades. New electrical rooms, office and lab space, chemical feed rooms, filter cells, and other miscellaneous equipment to both treatment plants. Water Treatment capacity was increased from 500 gpm to 750 gpm at the Sioux WTP and from 900 gpm to 1,500 gpm at the Castlewood WTP. New larger generators were installed at both Water Treatment Plants.

**Hazard Mitigation:** Our Kones Reservoir and Hayti Boosters both have backup generators thanks to our past manager pursuing funding through FEMA.

**2023 Water System Improvement Project:** The foundation has been dug at the Bryant Tower site for a new 300,000 gallon water tower. This new 300,000 gallon tower will replace the 50,000 gallon water tower on the existing Bryant Water Tower site along with the 50,000 water tower at the Hazel Tower site. Approximately 14 miles of 4" – 10" distribution pipeline will be added in this project.

The City of Castlewood and the City of Estelline are in the process of becoming bulk water users of Sioux Rural Water System Inc.

## DIRECTORS:

Darwin Mack – President

Kent Roe – Vice-President

Todd Moritz – Secretary

Jon Hegge – Treasurer

Jim Thyen – Director, SDARWS Director

Brad Jongeling – Director

Betsy Oleson – Director

Daniel Schleusner – Director

Keith Smith – Director

## STAFF:

Travis Steffensen – General Manager

Sarah Bruinsma – Office Manager

Todd Goodfellow – System Operations  
Specialist

Guy Groenwold – System Operations  
Specialist

Jesse Foreman – System Operations  
Specialist

Brandon Benike – System Operations  
Specialist

Brandan Spiering – System Operations  
Specialist

Angie Larson – Billing Clerk

## STATISTICS:

Hookups: 1,728

Miles of Pipeline: 1,400

Water Source: 6 wells and 2 standby wells  
Counties Served: Codington, Clark, Deuel,  
Hamlin

Towns Served Individual: Bemis, Grover,  
Naples, Thomas, Vienna, Waverly

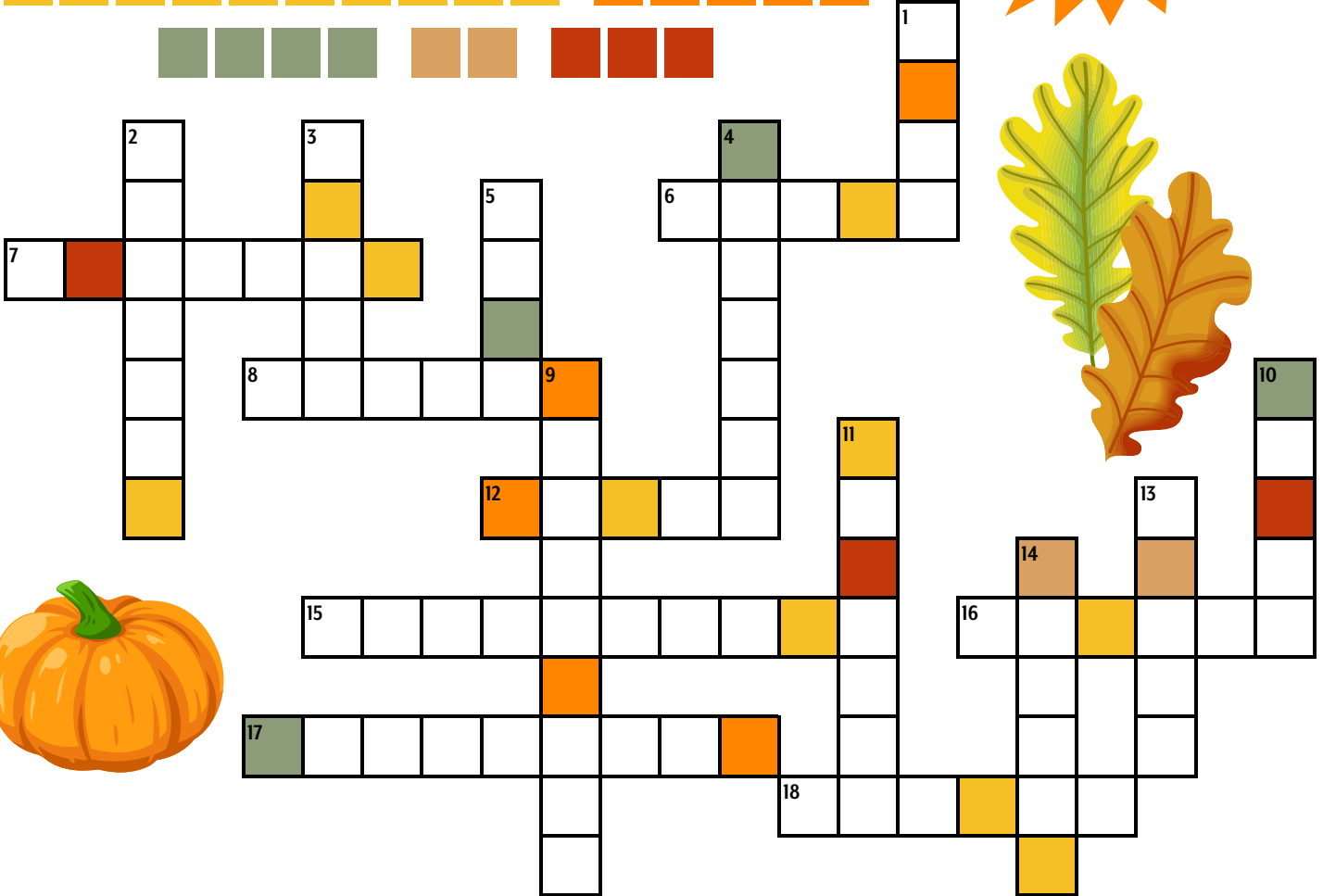
Towns Served Bulk: Bryant, Hayti, Hazel,  
Kranzburg; Standby Bulk - Castlewood

# RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

## HARVEST TIME



### SCRAMBLE ANSWER



### Down

- 1. Under a quilt, say
- 2. Harvester
- 3. Crunchy, brittle, or fresh
- 4. Outdoor blaze

- 5. Leaf mover
- 9. Hay dummy
- 10. Squirrel snack
- 11. Tractor-drawn excursion
- 13. Squash, for example
- 14 Thanksgiving roast

### Across

- 6. Hazy skies
- 7. Carved in October
- 8. Bobbing goals
- 12. Native corn

- 15. Orchard beverage  
(2 words)
- 16. Harvest season
- 17. Hot dish
- 18. Fall ground cover

**RULES:** Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See page 2 for contact information) or enter online at [www.sdarws.com/crossword.html](http://www.sdarws.com/crossword.html) with the correct phrase by October 15, 2023 to be entered into the \$100 drawing.

Only one entry allowed per address/household. You must be a member of a participating rural water system to be eligible for the prize. Your information will only be used to notify the winner, and will not be shared or sold.

Congratulations to Kay Zeigler with Mid-Dakota RWS who had the correct phrase of "In summer, the song sings itself" for October 2023.

# RURAL WATER

## ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA

### CITY OF MADISON NEARS FULL INTEGRATION WITH LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL WATER

By Zac Zwaschka, *Madison Daily Leader*

Madison's integration into the Lewis & Clark Rural Water System (L&C) is on its home stretch, and according to L&C Executive Director Troy Larson, residents can expect the city to be fully connected by around this time next year.

Madison — along with 19 other member cities across South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota — joined L&C more than 30 years ago, and with Madison being one of the last to be incorporated, this is a welcome completion to a lengthy project.

Larson explained that there are three items remaining for Madison's integration, all of which are making significant progress. Among these are two 16-mile segments of 16-inch diameter PVC pipe that will connect Madison to the broader L&C system.

"Both of them expect to be substantially complete by the end of this year," Larson said, adding that between the two, nearly 90% of piping has been placed.

Construction on these segments began in April and May, respectively, with Halme Construction of Lake Norden handling the southern end and Carstensen Contracting of Dell Rapids working to the north.

On top of this, Larson said that additional pumps will be needed to ensure the water flows smoothly to its destination.

"We're adding pumps to a pump station just a mile west of Crooks that is needed to get the water pumped up to Madison. That contract is progressing very well, and we expect that it will hopefully be completed in the next couple months," Larson added.

The final item is a million-gallon ground storage reservoir to be built east of Madison's Water Sanitation Plant. Construction on the reservoir kicked off in May, and Larson said that it's set for completion in August of next year.

Larson described the reservoir as the "final piece of the puzzle," as its completion date will signify Madison's full

integration with L&C.

Once completed, the L&C system will deliver 44.19 million gallons per day (gpd) to its 20 members from an aquifer adjacent to the Missouri River, which is pumped to a treatment plant near Vermillion. From this total, Madison is slated to receive a million gpd.

Madison has technically been receiving water since 2017 via a wheeling plan where Madison receives water from the Big Sioux Community Water Corporation (BSCWC), who purchased it from the Minnehaha Community Water System (MCWC).

While this wheeling plan has helped Madison maintain its water needs over the last half-decade, it was always meant to be temporary.

Part of the reason Madison's integration has taken so long is L&C's reliance on federal funding for 80% of the project's costs, with the other 20% being evenly divided between the member cities and states they inhabit.

Larson explained that at times, federal funding was "minimal at best, leading to small, incremental progress." However, a recent surge in federal spending has resulted in a boost of efficiency, as L&C has a record 17 active contracts throughout its service area.

This is an all-time high for L&C, and Larson noted that previously, three to four consecutive contracts was the best they could hope for.

"Fortunately, we've seen an influx of funding, and that's really helped us make a push to get to the finish line," he added.

Madison's integration into the original project is a critical milestone, as water of increased quality and quantity will finally be available to residents. As completion nears and expansion plans gain momentum, further information will be forthcoming.

*Reprinted with Permission from the Madison Daily Leader*

# BDM RECOGNIZED BY DANR FOR DRINKING WATER COMPLIANCE

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources has awarded BDM Rural Water System and its operations specialists as having met all the compliance monitoring, drinking water standards, and certification requirements for 2022. To qualify, operators must meet all of the compliance monitoring and reporting requirements, drinking water standards, and certification requirements for that year.

We congratulate and thank our operations specialists Darin Roehr, Jim Hagen, Ryan Vrchota, and Jared Marzolf for their dedication to the system.



## 44TH ANNUAL MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 25, 2024

**Make plans to attend BDM's 44th Annual Meeting on Monday, March 25th, 2024, at 6:00 pm.** Director positions in Districts One and Seven are up for election. Should you wish to nominate yourself or other member for a directorship, please request a nominating petition from the BDM office. Completed petitions, along with the required signatures, must be returned to the office by Wednesday, February 8th, 2024. Directors must reside in the District they represent.

**District One:** Farmington, Homer, Independence, Liberty, N Andover, Union, Lynn, & Raritan Twps in Day Co; Newport Twp in Marshall Co.

**District Seven:** Minnesota, Lien, Enterprise, Hart, Harmon W, Harmon E, Sisseton, Grant, Bryant, Goodwill, Easter, One Road, Agency, Lawrence, Becker, Alto, Springdale, Spring Grove, Lee, & Lake Twps in Roberts Co.

# Lead-Free SD

(Take the survey now—it could pay off!)

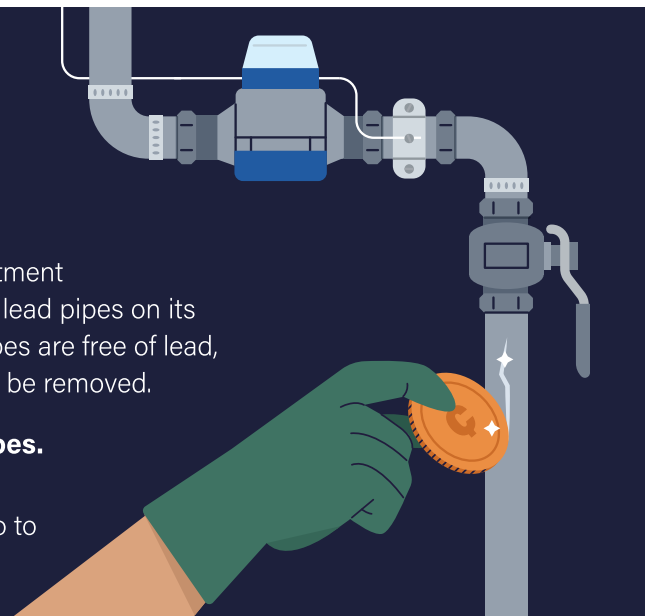
### Have you completed your water line survey?

Drinking water is free of lead when it leaves the water treatment plant—however, water can absorb lead if it travels through lead pipes on its way to your faucet. The majority of South Dakota water pipes are free of lead, but we need to find where lead pipes still exist so they can be removed.



We need YOU to help us find the lead pipes. That's where the survey comes in.

To complete your quick water line survey, go to [survey.SDWaterPipes.com](https://survey.SDWaterPipes.com)



**Receive a \$5 credit on your water bill, and also be entered into a drawing for five \$100 water bill credits.**

*If we obtain a 90%+ survey return rate there will be an additional two \$250 water bill credit drawings.*

# 2023 BDM SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



**MAGGIE  
KILKER**

**ELLIOTT  
STEINER**



**DEAN  
SHULTZ III**

**WYATT  
TOSSE**



## **MAGGIE KILKER**

Maggie graduated from Britton-Hecla High School in 2023 and will be attending North Dakota State University majoring in Apparel, Retail Merchandising, and Design. She is the daughter of Darian and Andrea Kilker of Lake City.

## **ELLIOTT STEINER**

Elliott is the daughter of Nathan and Michelle Steiner of Eden. She is a 2023 graduate of Webster Area High School. Elliott plans to attend Southeast Technical College and major in Diagnostic Medical Sonography.

## **DEAN SHULTZ III**

Dean is a 2023 graduate of Sisseton High School. He will be attending Lake Area Technical College and majoring in Welding Technology. Dean is the son of Dean and Lori Shultz, Jr. of Sisseton.

## **WYATT TOSSE**

The son of Shawn and April Tosse of Britton, Wyatt is a 2023 Britton-Hecla High School graduate. He plans on attending North Dakota State University to major in Business Administration.

**Congratulations to our scholarship winners!**



**RURAL WATER SYSTEM**

PO Box 49  
Britton, SD 57430

[www.bdmruralwater.com](http://www.bdmruralwater.com)  
605-448-5417



# WATER MATTERS

## Observation Wells



**D**riving around rural South Dakota, it is not uncommon to see a piece of plastic pipe sticking out of the ground in the road ditch. Most (hopefully) will be flanked by a couple of steel fence posts and some will have a cap secured with a padlock. Sometimes the pipe is encased in a steel housing. These are ground water observation wells, and they are used to monitor the nature and condition of the aquifers on which we all depend.

Most observation wells are used to measure the water level over a period of time. During times of drought or high demand, water levels will drop. When use declines, or when precipitation replenishes the aquifer, water levels rise. The overall goal is to insure that water use does not exceed the aquifers capacity. The Water Rights Program within the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) maintains a network of over 1,550 observation wells across the state for this purpose.

By comparing the water levels across an aquifer, it is possible to determine the direction of water movement. If a public water supplier knows where its water comes from, it can develop protection strategies and programs.

Observation wells can also be used to monitor the quality of the water in an aquifer. Such wells might assess conditions in the area around a known contamination event, or simply monitor long-term conditions and trends. The Statewide Ground Water Quality Monitoring Network, maintained by the DANR Geological Survey Program, monitors 25 critical shallow aquifers across the state.



**If you see a well that is in poor condition, or if you just have questions about what the well might be used for, you can contact the following entities:**

**DANR Geological Survey Program, (605) 677-5227**

**DANR Water Rights Program, (605) 773-3352**

**East Dakota Water Development District, (605) 688-6741**

### BACK PAGE CONTENT PROVIDED BY:



EAST DAKOTA  
WATER  
DEVELOPMENT  
DISTRICT

132B Airport Avenue  
Brookings, SD 57006  
605-688-6741  
[eastdakota.org](http://eastdakota.org)