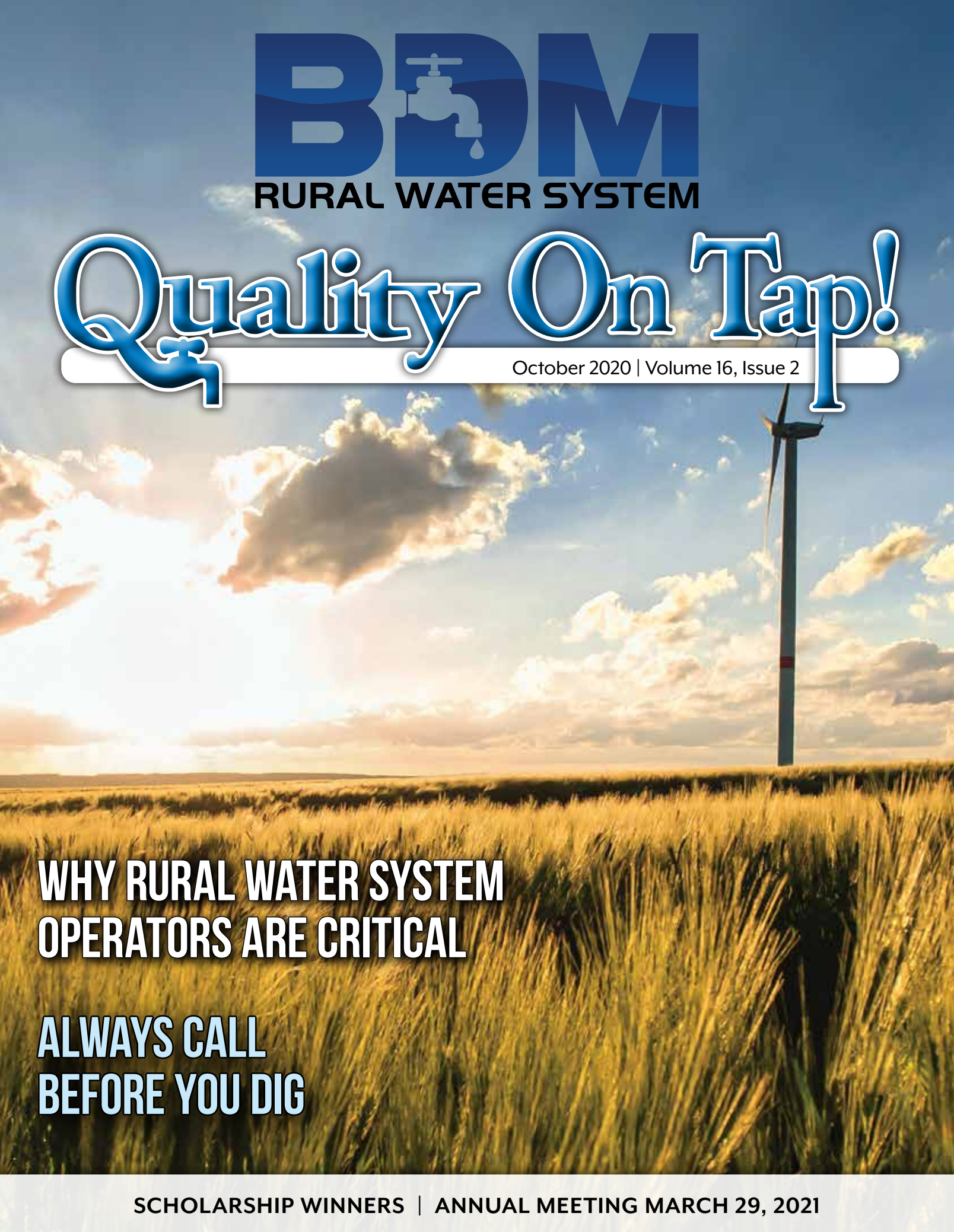


BDM RURAL WATER SYSTEM

Quality On Tap!

October 2020 | Volume 16, Issue 2

WHY RURAL WATER SYSTEM OPERATORS ARE CRITICAL

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS | ANNUAL MEETING MARCH 29, 2021

FROM THE MANAGER

Rodney Kappes
Manager, BDM Rural Water System, Inc.

GREETINGS FROM THE TEAM AT BDM:

The team is continuing to operate under our COVID-19 plan taking precautions while at the same time completing the tasks that are necessary. Our office doors will remain locked to protect our customers and staff for the near future. The staff continue to handle any customer or system issues in addition to the ongoing construction projects.

A brief update on the projects is as follows:

The SCADA system (computer system that controls the pumps, solenoids, and valves) has been replaced in all but one reservoir and the Water Treatment Plant. The reservoir should be completed in the next couple of weeks with the WTP to be completed in the late fall/early winter, to minimize customer impact.

The hydraulic model going east is completed and will be presented to the board at the August board meeting. A portion of this project will look at a high level, at the well field with future expansion opportunities.

The increased pump/motor in the first reservoir going east is completed and delivering results as planned. This project also included replacing the transfer switch at the WTP which is also completed.

The reservoir six upgrade project is complete. Customer comments include that they have not had that kind of consistent flow and pressure since they hooked up 17 years ago. The electrical upgrades at the reservoirs, are for the most part finished, with some minor tasks to wrap up this task order.

The board and management are starting to look at capital improvement projects for 2021. The two main projects we will be looking at are some optimization opportunities at the

...continued on page 15

BDM RURAL WATER SYSTEM

OUR MISSION

IS TO ENSURE OUR MEMBERS HAVE QUALITY WATER AT A REASONABLE PRICE FOR HOUSEHOLD, LIVESTOCK AND COMMERCIAL USE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME.

BDM RURAL WATER SYSTEM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President
Torre Raap – Andover, SD

Vice President
Kevin Deutsch – Sisseton, SD

Secretary-Treasurer
Hal Treeby – Hecla, SD

Directors
Terry Leonhardt – Groton, SD
Marc O'Brien – Britton, SD
Don Ogren – Langford, SD
Alex Suther – Eden, SD

Advisory Director
John Cloud – Sisseton, SD

STAFF

General Manager
Rodney Kappes

Operations Manager
Mark Hagen

System Operations Specialists
Darin Roehr
Jim Hagen
Ryan Vrchota
Jared Marzolf

Office Manager
Shannon Wegleitner

Attorney
Danny R. Smeins

CONTACT INFORMATION

PO Box 49 | Britton, SD 57430
Phone: (605) 448-5417
Fax: (605) 448-2124
www.bdmruralwater.com

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 12TH
NATIVE AMERICAN DAY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH
VETERANS DAY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH
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 1,575 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 JANUARY 1, 2020)

General User Rates:

Debt Service monthly payment: $35.00 per hookup per month for member-read meters, $36.00 for cellular meters

$6.70 per thousand gallons for the first 2,000 gallons used per month

$5.70 per thousand gallons for the next 5,000 gallons used per month

$4.70 per thousand gallons for the next 8,000 gallons used per month

$3.70 per thousand gallons for over 15,000 gallons used per month

Add $1.00 to the Monthly Totals Below if Hookup has a Cellular Meter

Gallons Used Per Month	Monthly Total	Gallons Used Per Month	Monthly Total
1,000	41.70	25,000	151.50
2,000	48.40	30,000	170.00
3,000	54.10	35,000	188.50
4,000	59.80	40,000	207.00
5,000	65.50	45,000	225.50
6,000	71.20	50000	244.00
7,000	76.90	55,000	262.50
8,000	81.60	60,000	281.00
9,000	86.30	65,000	299.50
10,000	91.00	70,000	318.00
11,000	95.70	75,000	336.50
12,000	100.40	80,000	355.00
13,000	105.10	85,000	373.50
14,000	109.80	90,000	392.00
15,000	114.50	95,000	410.50
16,000	118.20	100,000	429.00
17,000	121.90	125,000	521.50
18,000	125.60	150,000	614.00
19,000	129.30	175,000	706.50
20,000	133.00	200,000	799.00

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 10th 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 15th.

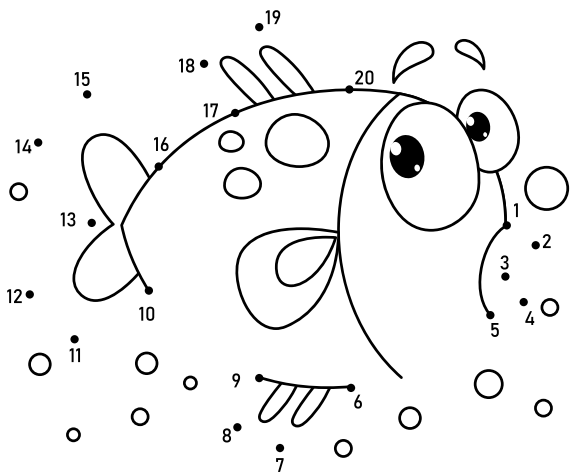
AFTER HOURS & WEEKENDS WATER EMERGENCIES:

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

WHAT IS WATER?

_____ is one of the most important things on Earth! It makes up 60% of our _____ and 71% of the _____. Water can change state, too. That means it can be a _____ (regular water), _____ (when it is frozen as ice), or ____ (when it is heated into steam). Water falls from our sky as _____ and collects on the ground as _____, _____, and _____! Water is not only needed for us to live, it's ____ to play and swim in. Isn't _____ great!

☺-a	◎-e	◎-i	☹-m	△-q	☺-u	✪-y
☻-b	✳-f	☺-j	☺-n	☺-r	☺-v	◎-z
☺-c	☺-g	☺-k	✪-o	☹-s	☹-w	
☺-d	☹-h	☺-l	☹-p	☺-t	☺-x	

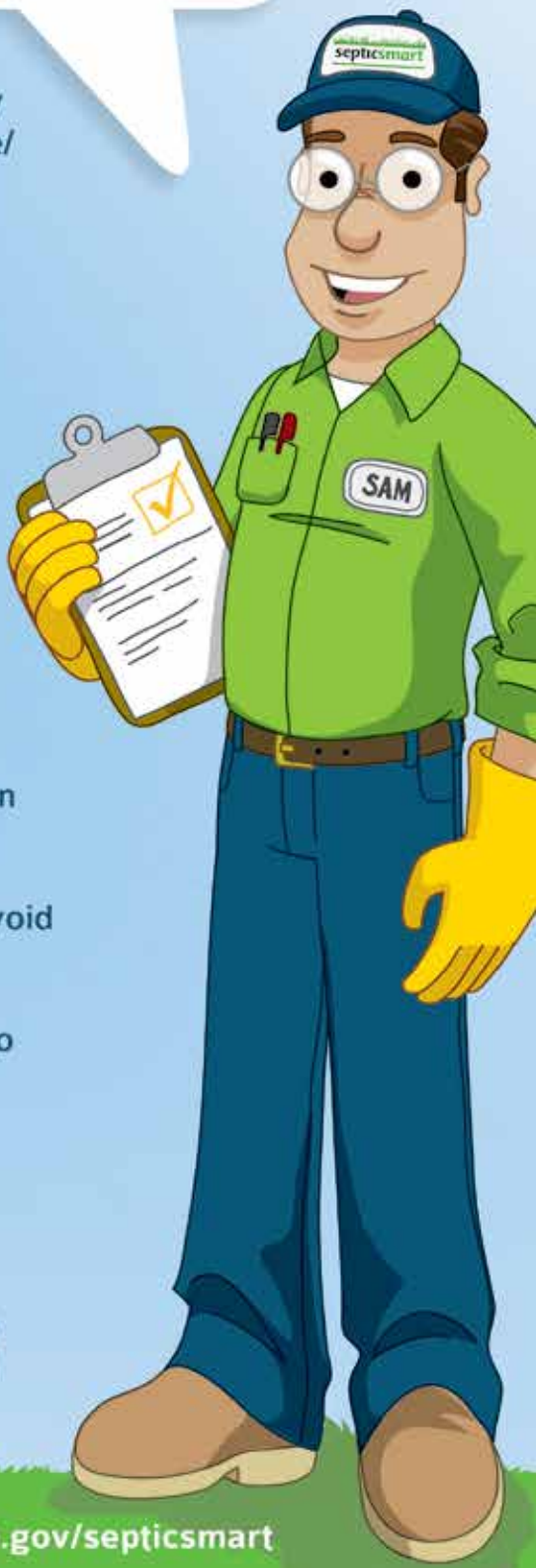


What kind of bear enjoys hanging out in the rain?

A drizzly bear!

Top 10 Ways to Be a Good Septic Owner

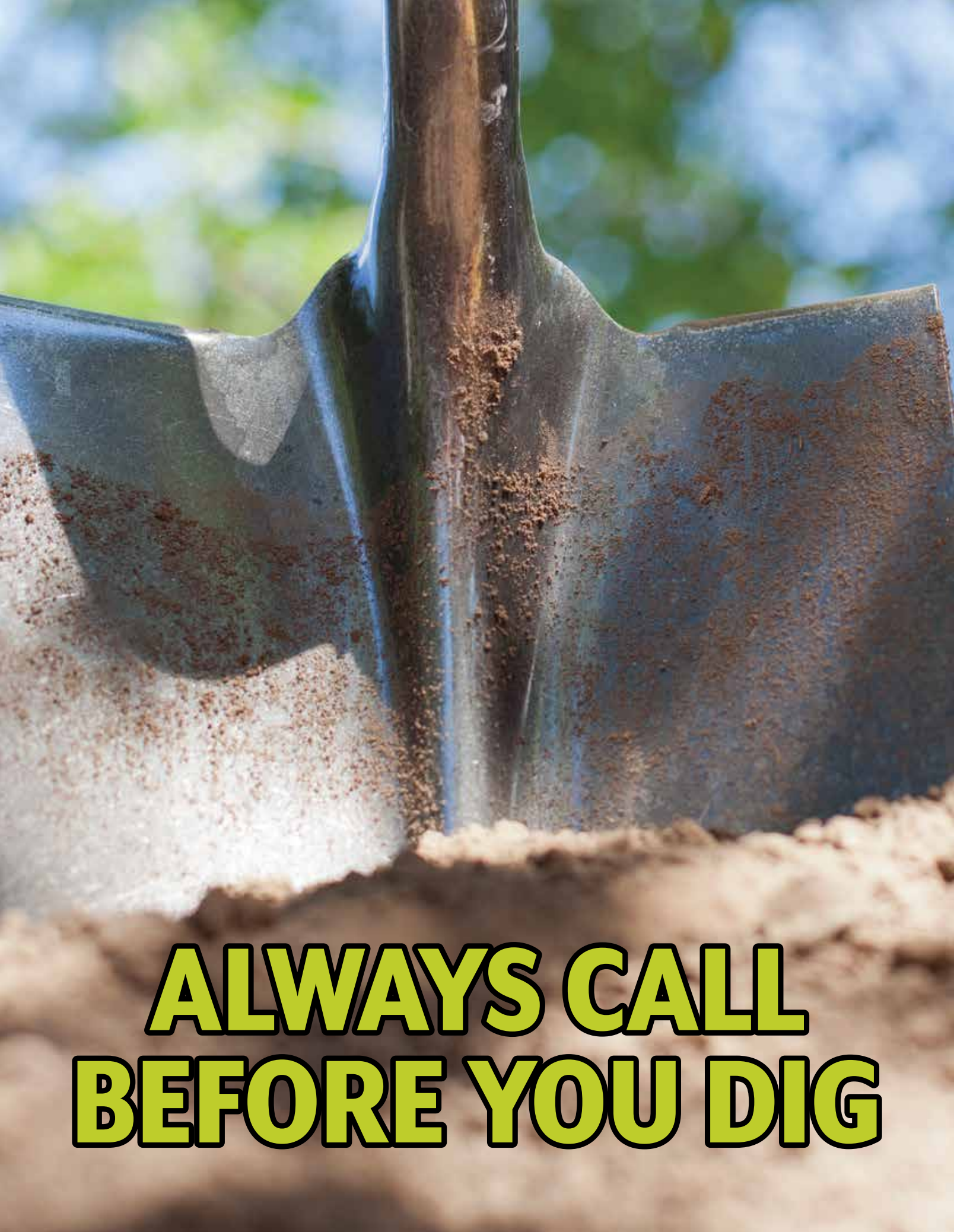
- Have your system inspected every three years by a qualified professional or according to your state/local health department's recommendations
- Have your septic tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years
- Avoid pouring harsh products (e.g., oils, grease, chemicals, paint, medications) down the drain
- Discard non-degradable products in the trash (e.g., floss, disposable wipes, cat litter) instead of flushing them
- Keep cars and heavy vehicles parked away from the drainfield and tank
- Follow the system manufacturer's directions when using septic tank cleaners and additives
- Repair leaks and use water efficient fixtures to avoid overloading the system
- Maintain plants and vegetation near the system to ensure roots do not block drains
- Use soaps and detergents that are low-suds, biodegradable, and low- or phosphate-free
- Prevent system freezing during cold weather by inspecting and insulating vulnerable system parts (e.g., the inspection pipe and soil treatment area)



septicsmart
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

For more SepticSmart tips, visit **www.epa.gov/septicsmart**

EPA EPA-832-F-16-010 | July 2016


ALWAYS CALL
BEFORE YOU DIG

By Larry Janes, Executive Director, SD One Call/SD811

Have you ever thought about what it would be like not to have good tasting, clean water available when you need it? Probably not. I know I rarely do, but there's just nothing better than turning on the tap and getting a refreshing cold glass of water to quench your thirst on a hot day or having that steaming hot water ready for you in the shower. And in those rare cases when there's a water break, we just can't wait until it's repaired.

For many, having clean water available for basic human needs is just not the case. There are all kinds of figures available on the internet ranging anywhere from hundreds of millions of people to several billion people who don't have access to clean or even adequate water supplies, either on a regular basis or ever. Fortunately for those of us living here in South Dakota, we do. And we have our water suppliers, excavators and you to thank for that.

Our water suppliers work hard to learn about new technologies to keep our water clean and safe. But why thank excavators and you, you ask? That's because you contacted the South Dakota 811 Center before digging, more than ever before, in 2016. In fact last year was a record year for contacting the South Dakota 811 system, either by calling 811 or by going on-line to request utilities to locate their underground services and mark them with paint or flags before digging occurred. The 811 Center was contacted, a whopping 161,767 times last year. That's more than any other year since the service began back in 1993. With our population in South Dakota of about 882,000 people, and with this large number of locate requests, it works out to a little over one in five people digging something, somewhere in the state all year long.

What's really cool about this is that 61% of all these requests were made online, with no hold time, even during the busiest times of the year, which are always during the spring thaw and just before freeze-up. We're constantly working to make it easier and more efficient for you to get your work projects out to the utilities in your area as quickly as possible. A call to the 811 Center takes about 7 to 8 minutes, from the time you reach a representative until you hang up, but the new, online Homeowner Portal takes only about half that time. Just go to ***sdhop.southdakota811.com*** to process your request using the South Dakota Homeowner Portal. It's a step-by-step process that's really easy to use. (Even I can do it, and that's saying something).

South Dakota 811 is there to accept your calls and on-line requests 24/7, 365 days a year, so water suppliers and other underground facility operators know to mark their lines to prevent outages. This can protect those buried services during excavation projects, such as planting trees, placing fences or drain tile, and any other projects where the earth will be disturbed and where those buried lines could accidently be damaged. Once you've made contact with the Center all utilities in the area are notified of the work you'll be doing and when you plan to do it, so they can mark those underground lines, including your water, to ensure your safety and making sure that you won't lose your valuable services.

South Dakota 811®

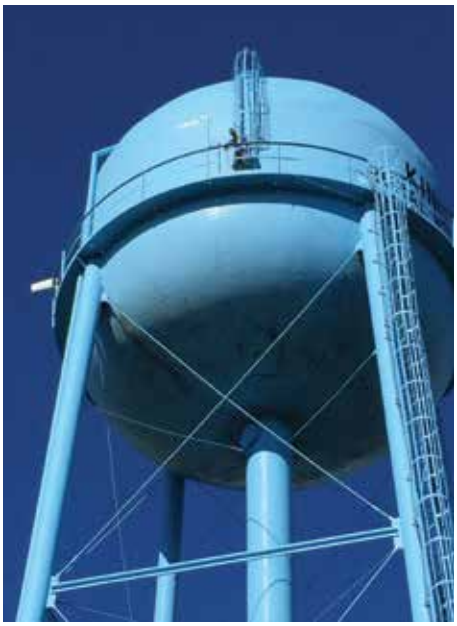
Know what's below. Call before you dig.

HOW TO REQUEST SD 811 LOCATES

PHONE: Make a free call to 811 (in-state) or (800) 781-7474 (outside of South Dakota).

ONLINE: Use the new South Dakota 811 Web portal for faster processing of locate requests. Just visit: ***sdhop.southdakota811.com***

MOBILE APP: The South Dakota 811 app is available free in the Apple App Store and Google Play. Just search for "South Dakota 811."



WHY RURAL WATER SYSTEM OPERATORS ARE CRITICAL

by Erin Hayes, General Manager, Kingbrook Rural Water System

Water operators are the first line of defense in public health. They deliver safe, plentiful drinking water to our members. Being a water operator is a very meaningful career choice as they make a huge, positive difference in the health of our communities. Most technical operations are handled by our operators, who are probably the most important person in the overall operations of our system.

Operators provide one of the most valuable services to Rural Water members. They work in vital jobs that we cannot do without a tremendous amount of knowledge and fortitude. They keep us supplied with a necessity of life 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Water keeps us alive and is delivered or treated to protect our health as well as the environment.

It is important for everyone to understand how as leaders we need to support and equip operators with the skills and financial resources to do their job and help the operator keep the community's system running well.

Every state requires water operators to pass certification exams to show they are capable of overseeing critical aspects of water operations; it is no different in South Dakota.

Water operators run the equipment and control the process that cleans drinking water. They maintain and repair the pipes, valves, pumps, controls, engines, generators, and other equipment used to produce water. They sample and test the water at various points during treatment and distribution to ensure the treatment processes are working correctly to maintain water quality.

Once water leaves the treatment plant, it is stored in a tank or distributed directly to members through the distribution system. This is a network of pipes and pumps that carry water from the treatment system to the homes, businesses, schools, pasture taps for livestock, etc.

Rural water operators generally work on their own in a specified geographic area and are supported by an entire team of operators throughout the organization. ***"A successful team understands that regardless of how different each person on the team is, they all share a common goal."***

Rural water operators monitor the miles of different size pipes daily within their respective service area. An operator begins their day by looking at the overnight activity of water in their service areas using a technology called SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition). This is a system of software and hardware elements that allow rural water organizations to directly interact with devices such as sensors, valves, pumps, motors, and more. To simplify this, the operator looks for any anomalies that may have occurred throughout the night that may have caused potential leaks, or other related issues.

Every day the operator reviews their work orders and other service work the office may have scheduled for them. The workload generally consists of adding new services, repairing leaks, maintaining customer meters, responding to utility locates, assisting at treatment plants, obtaining easements for pipe routing, collecting GPS points on valuable assets, servicing pasture taps, taking equipment from one site to another to assist other operators and so on. These individuals also serve on an on-call duty rotation six times a year where they are expected to know every aspect of our footprint and what their responsibilities are for each community we serve.

This may sound like "all in a day's work," but to understand how your system operates is essential. The type of work an operator does is ever changing. Automation and digital technologies are requiring operators to be able to do more with data.

The most rewarding factor an operator can do to achieve their goals in rural water, is to stay focused on the plan, the action, and be better than the day before. Every day in this profession, is an opportunity to provide safe drinking water for families, our members, and our communities. Having a winning career in the water industry creates a long-lasting ripple effect that any operator can and should be proud of.








CLARK RURAL WATER SYSTEM

In 1976, the worst drought in South Dakota's history was beginning to dramatically impact the lives of rural Clark county residents. Wells and dugouts were going dry and livestock was sold due to the lack of feed and water. Knowing that a guaranteed water source could break the back of drought cycles and help both the farmer and main-street prosper was a motivating factor in the development of Clark Rural Water System.

The original idea for the Clark Rural Water system started with a group of farmers from southern Clark County gathered around a kitchen table. By 1977 a steering committee was formed and began the daunting task of developing interest in rural water among the county residents. Although there were setbacks, the committee secured nearly 400 sign ups by 1978 and the Clark Rural Water System was put on the State Water Plan in 1981.

By 1982, the Clark Rural Water Board of Directors had secured $5.2 million dollars in loan and grant funds. Funding for Clark Rural Water primarily came from Rural Development (called FmHA in those days) with a combination of loan and Grant funds. The state of South Dakota also contributed loan and grant funding to the system. The grants Clark received included a HUD Community Development grant, Oahe Subdivision grant, Oahe exploratory Grant, and a small grant from the East Dakota Water Development District. The developing membership also contributed nearly $160,000 towards the project.

Construction started on Clark Rural Water in October of 1982 with work starting on the first well; the final distribution lines were installed December 1983. 525 rural users and five municipalities were part of the original project with the final cost of the original construction of Clark Rural Water totaling around $5,250,000.

The design of the system called for the source to be developed, the treatment plant constructed and the distribution lines installed at nearly the same time. As a result, there was no treated water available to pressure check the distribution lines being installed. The process of using untreated water worked great at the time for verifying that the newly constructed lines were leak free, but now whenever there is any disruption to the lines they need to be flushed as the iron that settled out of the water from that initial construction can dirty the water.

Clark's first expansion project began in 1984 after the system acquired some grant funding. After the initial project, there were some monies left over – so a small project was developed to connect 20 additional rural users and several miles of distribution main line. The next expansion occurred in 1989 when the system expanded to the east connecting hookups to the north side of Lake Kampeska. The project included a storage tank, pumping station and added 125 new members to the system.

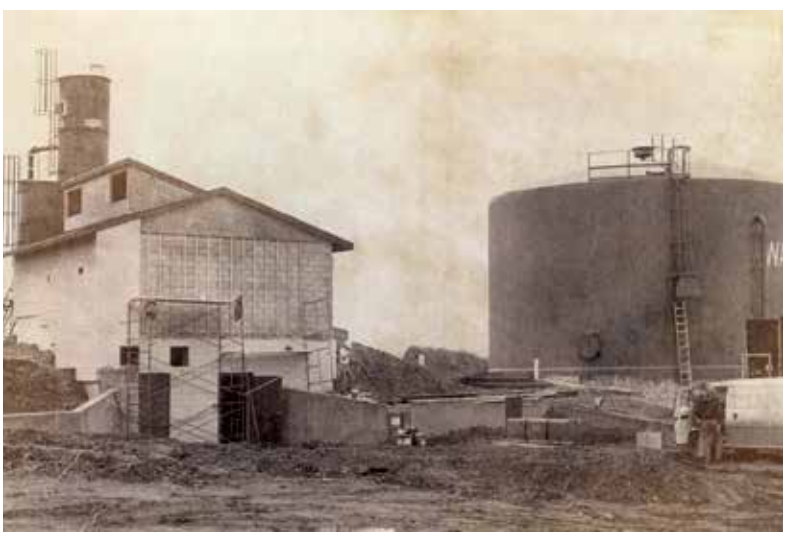
In 1992 Clark Rural Water joined forces with Codington-Clark Electric to save costs and increase service reliability for both organizations. Clark Rural Water installed a 150 kW backup generator at the treatment plant to help with load management. This agreement was the first between a Rural Water System and a Rural Electric for load management. The agreement allowed the rural electric utility to reduce their wholesale power costs, and as a result Clark Rural Water received a reduced rate on electricity – which in turn reduced the cost of delivering water to the membership.

By 1993 the demand on the system had exceeded the original plant design capacity. A second filtration unit was added that doubled the system capacity from 600 gpm (gallons per minute) to 1,200 gpm. With this added capacity, the system was able to expand to the northwest from Raymond to Crocker and north

to another 125 people who were requesting water service. A small storage tank and pumping station were constructed to serve the members. Three additional wells have been constructed since 1991 to serve the main treatment plant, bringing the total number of wells to six. Land around the wells has been purchased over the years for wellhead protection. Currently, 675 acres are rented to local farmers or dedicated to the CRP program, while giving Clark Rural Water control over the activities and practices around the well field.

Another dry cycle in 2006 demonstrated the limits of the distribution system, with tanks running very low or dry. A tanker truck was used for three days to keep members in water during August by delivering over 136,000 gallons to keep the Kampeska storage tank from going dry. In October the staff at Clark RWS began construction of a 200 gpm nitrate removal plant, storage tank and wells to serve the area north of Watertown. The plant went online in 2007 and has eliminated the shortage that was experienced the year before, and enabled the system to provide water to a 48 home development and the Joy Ranch facility for Lutheran Outdoors. By building the plant with system personnel, the system saved over $300,000 in construction costs. An additional 137 acres was purchased around the wells at the Kampeska Plant for well protection.

The original treatment plant had a design life of 20 years. 2007 took the plant five years beyond that figure with a couple more years to do something about it, after evaluating the condition it was in. Engineering reports and design proposals took a couple of years to approve, and when the project was ready to look at funding resources the Stimulus Program was announced. Shovel ready projects were the qualifier and we had a shovel ready project. A lime softening treatment plant with a total cost of $7,820,000 was approved with a great ratio of 36.6% Grant, or $2,862,000 grant money and a loan of $4,958,000 at a 2.75% interest rate. It would be hard to imagine that the system will ever outgrow this facility with a treatment rate of 2200 gallons per minute, and the construction of the plant and the process equipment inside will have an extremely long life cycle and will be able to provide good water for decades. The ongoing evolution of the system has brought us to over 1,200 members and six municipalities that use nearly 300 million gallons annually, and now with capacity for future development in our service area.



CLARK RURAL WATER SYSTEM

DIRECTORS:

Steve Arnesen – President
Mark McHenry – Vice President
Darrell Seefeldt – Secretary
Arlen Boehnke – Treasurer
Larry Wasland – State Association Director
Marlin Fjelland – Director
Michelle Birkholtz – Director
Myron Hanson – Director
Ryan Helkenn – Director

STAFF:

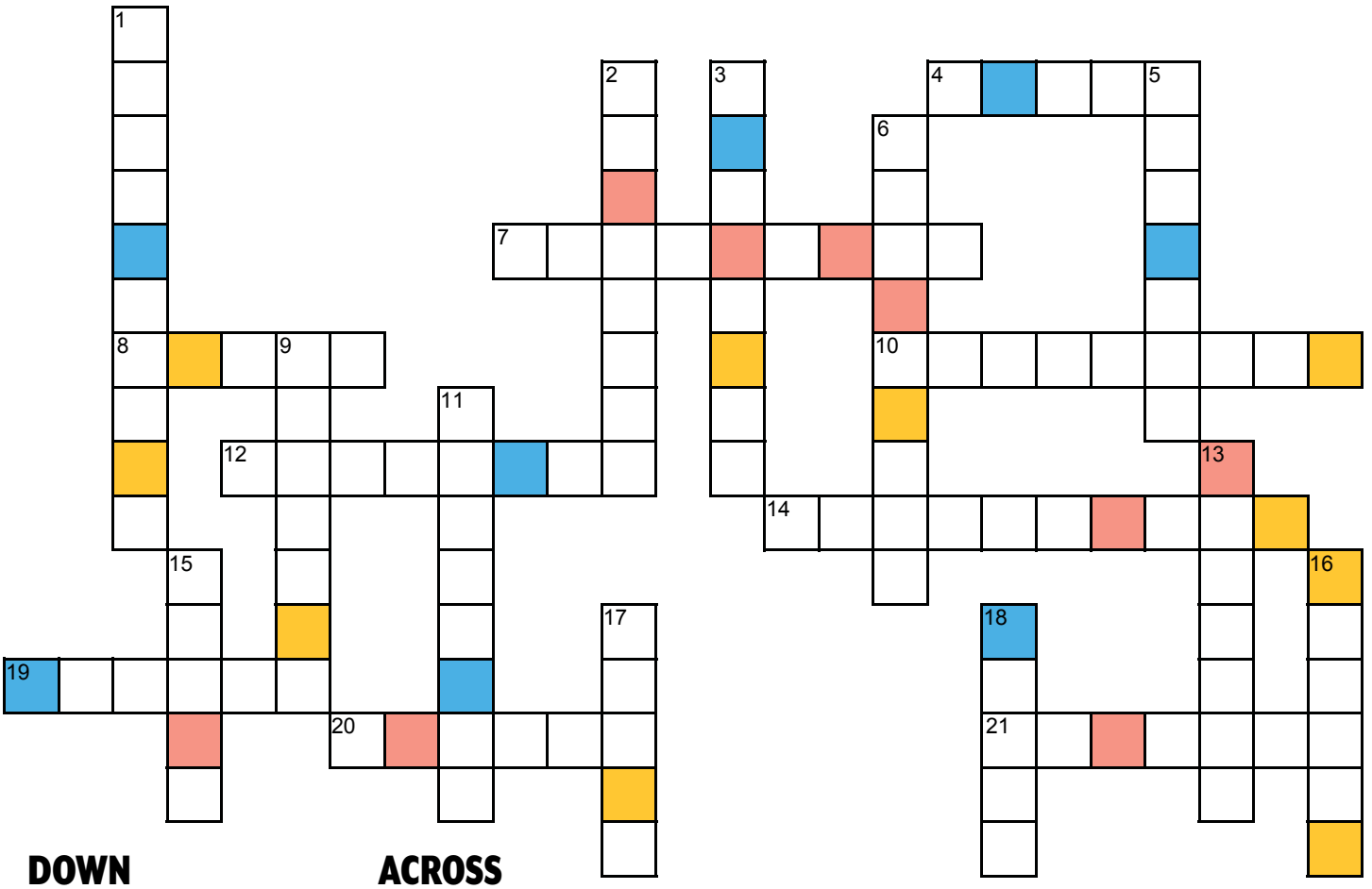
Terry Kaufman – Manager
Diane Spieker – Office Manager
Greg Marx – Operations Specialist
Jeff Hoffman – Operations Specialist
Scott Hovde – Operations Specialist

STATISTICS:

Hookups: 1,200
Miles of Pipeline: 1,150
Water Source: East Fork Vermillion Aquifer, Big Sioux Aquifer (North Unit)
Counties Served: Codington, Day, Grant, Hamlin, Clark
Towns Served Bulk: Dakota Sioux Casino, Nature's Deli, Clark, Florence, Henry, Wallace, Raymond, Bradley

RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

Back to School



DOWN

1. Temporary educator
2. Loose-leaf or bound
3. Little learners
5. Class that dwells on the past
6. School boss
9. Homework assigner
11. Putting letters in the right order
13. Colorful wax sticks
15. Vocal or instrumental
16. Grade school break
17. Measuring device
18. Student's stations

ACROSS

4. Boxed, bagged, or on a tray
7. Educational excursion (2 words)
8. Midterm and final
10. Teacher's domain
12. Carryall
14. Clean when black and dirty when white
19. Mistake eliminator
20. Of the number 2 variety
21. Biology or chemistry

Enter to Win $100

SCRAMBLE ANSWER

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** with the correct phrase by October 12, 2020 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 Doug Kiesz who had the correct phrase of "The first wealth is health" for July 2020.

MID-DAKOTA PROJECT

2020 is a big construction year for Mid-Dakota Rural Water System. A new lagoon, which is bigger than the other three on location, finished construction in the late spring. The addition of the lagoon will help to improve the output of the water treatment plant by increasing the amount of sludge that can be released speeding up the water treatment process.

The Town of Ree Heights wanted Mid-Dakota to take over their water system. There were old water lines and service lines in the town and they really needed to be replaced. Ree Heights applied for funding and advertised bids. Once the project is completed, the Town of Ree Heights intends to turn the town's water system over to Mid-Dakota and get out of the water business.

The board and staff wanted to push more water to the eastern portion of the Mid-Dakota service area. To do that there were projects that needed to be completed. First, extra storage was needed so another 1.5 million gallon tank is being built to the west of the existing tank west of Highmore. Landmark Tank was the winning bidder on this tank project. Completion of the construction of this tank is in the summer of 2021 The other project is the paralleling of 21 miles of 24" mainline pipe in three different sections from Highmore to east of St. Lawrence. Carstensen was awarded the bids on the first two sections of pipeline and S.J. Lewis was awarded the last section. Pipeline completion is set for this fall.

2020 BDM SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

BRIAN MORK

CHESNEY OLSON

COLE FOSNESS

MADISYN NELSON

BRIAN MORK

Brian is a 2020 graduate of Webster Area High School. He is majoring in Architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Brian is the son of Jerry and Rita Mork of Pierpont.

CHESNEY OLSON

Chesney is a 2020 graduate of Langford Area High School. She is majoring in Biology at South Dakota State University. Chesney is the daughter of Travis and Lisa Olson of Langford.

COLE FOSNESS

Cole graduated from Britton-Hecla High School in 2020. He is attending North Dakota State University, majoring in Nursing. Cole is the son of Nick and Jenny Fosness of Britton.

MADISYN NELSON

Madisyn graduated from Langford Area High School in 2019 and is currently attending the University of Sioux Falls majoring in Business Administration and Accounting. She is the daughter of Matt and Michelle Nelson of Langford.

Congratulations to our scholarship winners!

Manager: continued from page 2

WTP and an additional water piping project for more flow and redundancy going east. We will also be looking at replacing one of the operators' service pickups, as most of the pickups are well over 100,000 miles and repair bills are increasing.

It appears that water sales through the first seven months of the year are comparable to last year. This is down about 8% from the time-period of 3-4 years ago. This affects revenue however BDM is ahead of last year revenue. The expense side is affected by significantly higher costs to repair pipeline breaks. This is driven mainly by 3 leaks early in 2020 that were very costly to repair due to wet and type of ground conditions. Through the first seven months of 2020 we are showing a net loss after servicing $773,000 in depreciation expense. We may be able to close some of the gap by year end if water sales maintain and pipeline water breaks level off. BDM continues to have a healthy financial condition.

The challenge has been and will continue to be infrastructure replacement, that cost considerably more than when the original assets were put in place 20-30 years ago. Using a 2.75% inflation factor means the cost to replace an asset 25 years later, will cost 1.97 times the original cost or a 30-year-old asset will cost 2.25 times the original cost. This is in addition to much less grant money available now versus when the system was built, which means a much larger dollar amount is financed by our customers base and usage rates.

Your board and staff continue to make decisions and operate your system under these parameters, 1). How can we increase reliability today? 2). How can we improve sustainability for tomorrow? 3). When investing in the system, always look to make the system more redundant where possible.

Your board, staff and I thank you for your patronage, stay safe and healthy through the harvest season and God bless.

WATER FACT

Turning off the tap while brushing your teeth can save 8 gallons of water per day and, while shaving, can save 10 gallons of water per shave. Assuming you brush your teeth twice daily and shave 5 times per week, you could save nearly 5,700 gallons per year.

source: https://www.epa.gov/watersense/statistics-and-facts

SAVE THE DATE

BDM RURAL WATER SYSTEM

41st ANNUAL MEETING

MONDAY

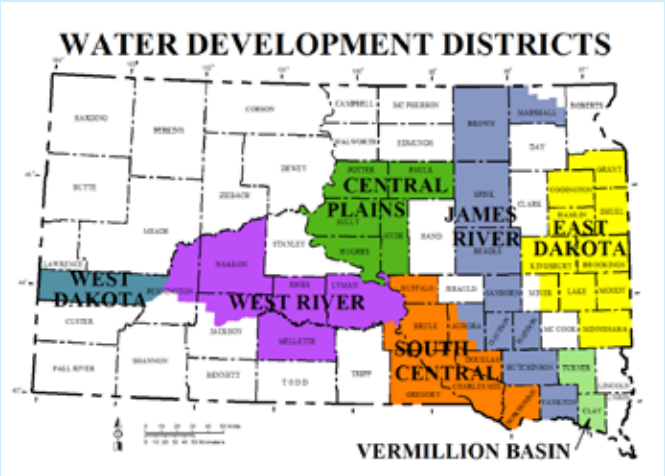
March 29th, 2021 @ 6:00PM

Director positions in Districts 1 and 7 are up for election.

BDM
RURAL WATER SYSTEM
PO Box 49
Britton, SD 57430
www.bdmruralwater.com
605-448-5417

WATER MATTERS

Water Development Districts



WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

East Dakota WDD - Jay Gilbertson
605-688-6741 • edwdd@brookings.net

Vermillion Basin WDD - Brad Prehiem
605-563-2883 • vbwdd@hotmail.com

James River WDD - Dave Bartel
605-352-0600 • davebartel@midconetwork.com

Central Plains WDD - Lynette Eckert
605-280-6763 • cpwdd@midconetwork.com

South-Central WDD - Peg Haenfler
605-724-2624 • scwdd@unitelsd.com

West River WDD - Jake Fitzgerald
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Water Development Districts (WDDs) are political subdivisions of the State. WDDs promote the conservation, development, and proper management of water resources according to district priorities. They can provide technical, organizational, and financial assistance to prospective and existing projects and activities. While sharing many common efforts, each of the seven existing WDDs (see map) have developed programs and expertise designed to address those issues most important to their area.

Each WDD is governed by an elected Board of Directors, consisting of 5, 7, or 9 members, depending on population. The Board hires or contracts for staff and other services as necessary. WDDs have a limited taxing authority, being able to levy a tax of no more than thirty cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation (0.3 mill). They also pursue external grant support for priority activities.

If an organization, entity, group or individual has a project or activity that needs technical, organizational, or financial assistance, contact the WDD for that area. Staff has extensive experience in developing and supporting projects. They can assist in preparing an application to include a project on the State Water Plan, an important step if a project needs state or federal assistance. They can also help project sponsors search for funds from other sources.

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