

Rural Water News

NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

22nd Annual Rural Water EXPO

Volume 3, Issue 1

January 2008

Our 22nd Annual Rural Water EXPO will be held February 12-14 at the Minot Holiday Inn Riverside.

The Expo will start off at 1:30 pm on Tuesday, February 12 with an Opening Ceremony, followed by the Exhibit Hall Grand Opening, a social hour, and the Exhibitor Appreciation Buffet dinner.

On Wednesday, February 13, we are offering a full day of training, a social hour and then we will honor the best in our industry at our Awards Banquet. A panel of distinguished judges will also choose the best tasting water in North Dakota from the final three that were chosen by attendees earlier in the day. Finally, several people from National Rural Water Association will be in attendance to help us pay tribute to a NDRWSA legend.

The Expo will end around noon on

Thursday, February 14, after a morning filled with training geared towards everyone—operators, managers, board members, and office personnel. Back by popular demand is a Defensive Driving session presented by the ND Safety Council.

We invite you to join us for some good food, excellent training, and some fun, as we celebrate our 22nd annual EXPO.

Attendees will receive 8 CEUs and the Expo qualifies for full reimbursement for operators from systems with less than 3300 population.

Contact our office for more information or to register at 800-349-6951. Online registration is also available at <http://www.ndrwsa.org>.

Mention rural water when reserving your rooms at 800-468-9968.

League of Cities Spring Training

Water systems have to continually balance the increasing demand to supply city and rural services with new rules/regulations and funding constraints. In an effort to help water systems meet this challenge AE2S, along with the NDRWSA, will be presenting a morning training session in conjunction with each of the League of Cities Regional Meetings.

Cost of Service and Utility Rate Survey: Overview of cost of service and what it means to regional water systems and small to medium municipalities. Presentation will incorporate recent data gathered from the AE2S annual utility rate survey for regional water systems and communities serving populations under 500.

Regulatory Update: Update on the latest Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) regulations to impact the

rural/regional water industry including the IDSE and other important regulatory topics affecting systems in the next 1-5 years. Also includes preliminary funding outlook to address these issues.

These sessions qualify for operator reimbursement and attendees will receive 2 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for attending. Each session begins at 9:00 am local time and ends by noon.

April 15 Bottineau
April 16 Tioga
April 17 Beulah
April 22 McVille
April 23 Ellendale
April 24 Harvey

Contact Eric Volk with any questions (ericvolk@ndrwsa.org). Watch your mail for more information on these and other training sessions.

EXPO Agenda:

Tuesday, February 12

1:30 Opening Ceremony
3:00 Exhibit Hall Opens
5:30 Social Hour
7:00 Dinner

Wednesday, February 13

7:45 Breakfast
8:30 Training Sessions
11:00 Exhibit Hall Drawings
Noon Exhibit Hall Closes
Noon Spouse Lunch/Program
Noon Lunch Buffet
1:00 Training Sessions
6:00 Social Hour
7:00 Awards Banquet

Thursday, February 14

7:45 Breakfast
8:30 Training Sessions
Noon End of EXPO 2008

Mark Your Calendar:

22nd Annual EXPO
February 12-14, 2008
Minot Holiday Inn
Riverside

Rural Water Rally
April 20-22, 2008
Washington, DC

Leadership Retreat
June 5-6, 2008
Medora, ND

NRWA Annual
Conference
October 3-8, 2008
Reno, NV

Our Staff:

Melody Kruckenberg, Executive Director
VACANT position, Administrative Assistant
Chuck Mischel, Operator Certification Specialist
Mike Ritteman, Circuit Rider-East
Lisa Schatz, Director of Finance and Administration
Tom Sieg, Circuit Rider-West
Les Sigette, Wastewater Technician
Frank Soule, Sourcewater Specialist
Rod Stroh, Drought Management Specialist
Eric Volk, Training Specialist

The mission of the NDRWSA is to educate, lead, and support its members in providing quality service to their customers.

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North Dakota WARN

When disaster strikes, how will your utility obtain assistance?

The ND WARN program is being formed to provide quick and professional assistance in any situation that overwhelms the capabilities of a water or wastewater utility. No formal declaration of emergency is needed, and assistance can take the form of personnel, equipment, materials, or services. Member utilities may request mutual aid deployment of emergency support to restore critical operations at the affected water/wastewater utility. Member agencies are never obligated to respond.

All around the country, both public and private water and wastewater utilities are banding together to form Water/Wastewater Agency Response Networks (or WARNs). Some of the reasons WARNs are being formed include:

- * Utilities require specialized resources to sustain operations.
- * Government response agencies and other critical infrastructure rely on water supplies.
- * Utilities must provide their own support until State and Federal resources are available.
- * Large events impact regional areas, making assistance from nearby utilities impractical.
- * Disasters impact utility employees and their families, creating greater need for relief.

- * Agreements must be established pre-event for Federal reimbursement.
- * Promoting mutual aid/assistance meets FY06 Department of Homeland Security requirements.

Participating utilities benefit from a WARN in the following ways:

- * Increased planning and coordination.
- * Enhanced access to specialized resources.
- * A single agreement provides access to all member utilities statewide.
- * Expedites arrival of aid.
- * Is consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- * Reduces administrative conflict.
- * Agreement contains indemnification and worker's comp provisions to protect participating utilities, and provisions for reimbursement of costs, as needed.
- * Provides lists of emergency contacts and available resources.
- * Response to any incident is voluntary.
- * Improves probability for quick recovery.

For More Info Contact:
Greg Wavra
ND Department of Health
Phone: 701-328-5224
Email: gwavra@nd.gov

Become an Individual Member of the NDRWSA

- * A FREE subscription to the ND Water Magazine
- * The Legislative Liaison Newsletter published during each legislative session
- * 10% discount on registration fees for our annual EXPO (does not pertain to exhibit booths)
- * 10% discount on registration fees for our annual Leadership Retreat
- * 10% discount on registration fees for our Utility EXPO (does not pertain to exhibit booths)
- * Membership certificate suitable for framing that identifies you as an Individual Member and supporter of rural water

Your savings on registration fees alone are more than the cost of the annual dues of just \$30! Give us a call for more information!

Help Wanted

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association is seeking a fulltime self-motivated and detail-oriented administrative assistant. Duties include answering phone, data entry, filing, light accounting, composing and typing of correspondence, and miscellaneous other clerical duties.

Must be proficient in MS Office Suite software applications, have excellent customer service skills, and have the ability to multi-task. Experience with Quickbooks and/or utility billing is a plus.

36-40 hours per week. Flexible schedule and excellent benefit package. Please send resume and salary history by January 15 to:

Lisa Schatz
2718 Gateway Ave. #201
Bismarck, ND 58503
Or lschatz@ndrw.org

No phone calls please.

Consumer Confidence Reports

Believe it or not, it is already that time of year again. Time for you to begin gathering information for your annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).

The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDOH) will be sending CCR packets to all public water systems by the end of February.

Water systems that supply water to other systems must provide them with all relevant information by April 1, 2008.

The 2007 CCR must be delivered or made available to customers and a copy forwarded to the NDDOH by July 1, 2008.

Would you like FREE assistance in completing your CCR? If so, contact ericvolk@ndrw.org or call 800-349-6951 as soon as possible.

Operator Certification Training

NDRWSA will be sponsoring 6 regional operator certification review sessions that will be geared toward helping new and experienced operators pass their North Dakota Department of Health (NDDOH) Water or Wastewater certification exams. These review sessions are a full day and cover a wide variety of subject matter.

Basic Review: 9 am-Noon

Advanced Review: 1 pm-4pm

Tentative Dates: February 19-21 and February 26-28. Locations to be announced.

The training sessions qualify for operator reimbursement and attendees will receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

Watch your mail for more information!

Contact Eric Volk (ericvolk@ndrw.org), training specialist, with specific questions or if your system or city would like to host a training session.

AWARDS

Do you know someone who has done something special for the promotion, development, or enhancement of a city or rural water system? If so, please take the time to nominate that worthy individual for an award in one of the following categories:

Outstanding Water Works Employee
Friend of Rural Water
Waterline Award (Most Prestigious Award)

Contact our office for MORE information if you are interested in nominating someone.