

Rural Water News

NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

Celebrate Water! Drinking Water Week 2008

National Drinking Water Week is May 4-10, 2008. Water Week 2008 is part of a national campaign to increase the public's awareness about the vital role water plays in our daily lives and to remind everyone of the importance of the work their local water professionals perform. We often forget what a valuable commodity water is and how much effort is required in keeping it clean, safe, and accessible. Water Week is an opportunity for communities to show their appreciation for the hard work and dedication of over 54,000 local water systems that supply America with safe, clean water every day.

We invite you to join us in celebrating this important event. To help, we are pleased to provide a list of educational materials for your use as well as a sample press release. Please contact our

office if you would be interested in obtaining any of the educational materials. These are FREE of charge, but supplies are limited and available on a first come, first served basis. We suggest you also put this information on your city/system Website.

You may visit our Website at <http://www.ndrw.org> and click on "What's New NDRW?" to access the Water Week information.

Please pass this information on to your local elementary schools. National Drinking Water Week is a great time to teach kids the value of water. Our professionally trained staff would be more than willing to speak on the importance of water.

We encourage your elementary schools to contact our office at 800-349-6951 to schedule a speaker.

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) has sent CCR packets to all public water systems.

Water systems that supply water to other systems should

have already provided their consecutive users 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.

If you would like FREE assistance in completing your CCR, please contact our office as soon as possible.

Job Openings

R & T Water Supply Association, Ray, ND, has an opening for a Licensed Operator for Class III lime-softening water treatment plant. Duties include plant operation, maintenance and repair, janitorial work. Must be willing to work 12 hour shifts; days, nights, weekends and holidays. If interested in applying, call R&T Water Supply Assn. at 701-568-3457 or 701-641-8472, stop at 101 Main Street, (City Hall), write to PO Box 126, Ray, ND or inquire via email to rtwater@nccray.net for application.

The **City of Pick City** is seeking a qualified maintenance person. Duties include street and city hall maintenance, as well as sewer and water superintendent. Employee will need to become certified in water and sewer distribution - willing to train. Excellent benefits and competitive salary. If interested in applying, please contact the city auditor at 701-487-3327 between 8 am-11 am central time, Monday through Friday. Deadline for application is April 30.

We will post your **JOB OPENINGS** on our website and in upcoming Rural Water Newsletters FREE of charge. Call 800-349-6951 or email melkruck@ndrw.org with your information.

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Mark Your Calendar:

RW Rally April 20-April 22
Hyatt on Capitol Hill-Washington, DC

National Drinking Water Week
May 4-10

Summer Board Meeting June 5
Medora Community Center

Leadership Retreat June 5-6
Medora Community Center

NRWA Annual Conference
Oct. 5-8
Reno, NV

Our Staff:

Melody Kruckenberg, Executive Director

Holly Ledahl, Administrative Assistant

Chuck Mischel, Operator Certification Specialist

Mike Ritteman, Circuit Rider-East

Lisa Schatz, Director of Finance and Administration

Tom Sieg, Circuit Rider-West

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Rod Stroh, Drought Management Specialist

Eric Volk, Training Specialist/Field Staff Supervisor

NDRWSA

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Preparing Financially for New Regulations & Aging Infrastructure

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 North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association, is 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" 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 one to five years. Also includes preliminary funding outlook to address these issues.

A recently developed Small Water System Infrastructure Funding Guide will also be discussed.

These sessions qualify for operator reimbursement and attendees will receive two Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for attending. Each session begins at 9 a.m. local time and ends by noon. The dates and locations are as follows:

Tuesday, April 15—Bottineau Armory
 Wednesday, April 16—Tioga Farm Festival Building
 Thursday, April 17—Beulah Civic Center
 Tuesday, April 22—McVillage City Auditorium
 Wednesday, April 23—Ellendale Fireside Restaurant
 Thursday, April 24—Harvey Eagles Club

Watch your mail for more information on these and other training sessions or contact Eric Volk at ericvolk@ndrw.org.

Small System Funding Guide NOW Available

Providing safe, clean drinking water to the more than 250 million people served by approximately 54,000 community water systems in the United States is an important goal of federal, state, and local officials. While our drinking water is among the safest in the world, many public water systems must make significant infrastructure improvements in the near future to continue supplying safe drinking water to their customers.

A 2003 EPA survey of drinking water infrastructure identified a 20 year need of more than \$276 billion to adequately make the needed improvements. Approximately \$34 billion of this total is for small systems which serve up to 3,300 people.

Meeting the demands of repairing and replacing aging infrastructure is taking a toll on many small utilities. Many public water systems, particularly small systems, have difficulty obtaining affordable financing for infrastructure improvements. Capital costs for new construction and upgrades can be immense. Replacing obsolete service lines, upgrading or replacement of treatment facilities, or extending service to new areas requires

careful planning and a thorough consideration of potential funding opportunities.

Recognizing that acquiring funding for needed infrastructure is time consuming and complex, the North Dakota Department of Health in conjunction with the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association, compiled the information in this booklet to help small systems meet the challenge of obtaining the necessary funding to complete their projects.

This booklet will help the reader understand the following:

- The various funding sources available.
- The rules, regulations, and application processes of funding sources.
- How to get on the project priority list for construction.
- Interest rates and special concerns for disadvantaged communities.
- How the various funding entities are working together to put affordable projects together for small and rural communities.

The North Dakota Department of Health will be providing ONE FREE copy of this

EXPO in Fargo? You decide!

For more than 15 years, the NDRWSA EXPO has rotated between Minot (even years) and Bismarck (odd years).

Lately, more and more people have asked us to hold an upcoming EXPO in Fargo. We are going to continue to hold all odd-numbered years in Bismarck, due to the legislative session. Believe it or not, 2012 is the soonest the Fargo Holiday Inn can accommodate us. We are still undecided as to whether we should move it or not so would truly appreciate your opinion.

Please call, mail, fax, or email us with a simple "Fargo-Yes" or "Fargo-No". Thanks in advance for your participation in this survey.

informative booklet to each public water system in North Dakota.

Extra copies are available for \$10 from the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association.

*North Dakota Rural Water
Systems Association*
New Horizons in Rural Living

