

# Rural Water News

## NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

### Summer Leadership Retreat A Huge Success!

Fifty board members and rural water system managers from 16 rural water systems met in historic Medora on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> to participate in NDRWSA's Annual Summer Leadership Retreat.

"Leadership Basics; a Leadership Program for Board Members and Managers", provided a good foundation for new board members and managers and it also served as a great refresher for veteran directors and managers. During the two half days of training, attendees learned about and discussed challenges facing water systems, board basics & responsibilities, financial oversight, planning for the future, IRS & water districts, water rates & affordability, emergency planning and the ND WARN Program. A lot of eyes were opened during this interesting, informative and

highly interactive session.

We would love to bring our board/management training to your system. We have found that this type of training works especially well for smaller groups of 20 or less. Please consider partnering with a nearby rural water system or two. We could present the same topics or help you plan your own custom-designed training sessions.

We are totally flexible and could present a half-day, a full day, or even more hours of training for your board and management team.

Please contact us (800-349-6951 or [melkruck@ndrw.org](mailto:melkruck@ndrw.org)) if you have any questions and to begin making plans for your system's board/management retreat!

### Water Day Festival of Fun!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the first ever Water Day Festival of Fun at the ND State Fair in Minot on July 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Numerous water groups from around the state, including the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association, will be represented under the tent

providing prizes, refreshments giveaways, fun, and games galore!

Be sure to join us from 3:00-4:00 for the First Annual Frostfest for FREE snowcones.

The South Central Regional Water District, North Central Rural Water Consortium, and

#### Job Opening

The **City of Devils Lake** is seeking a Senior Wastewater Operator. This position assists with the supervision of employees and coordinates and runs the wastewater treatment and collection system under the direction of the Utilities Supervisor. Applicant must be able to obtain wastewater and water operator certification through the ND Dept. of Health. Successful candidate must be able to work in extreme weather conditions and occasionally lift and/or move up to 100 lbs. Full job description and job application are available at the Devils Lake City Offices and the city website [www.dvlnd.com](http://www.dvlnd.com). Salary range is \$29,436 to \$45,276. EOE. Please send application by 7/23/08 to:

City of Devils Lake  
Attn: City Administrator  
PO Box 1048  
Devils Lake, ND 58301

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](mailto:melkruck@ndrw.org) with your  
information.



the Southwest Pipeline Project are just a few of the other water groups that will be exhibiting at the Fair.

We hope to see you there!

Volume 3 Issue 3

July 2008

#### Mark Your Calendar:

Co-op Day at the Fair  
July 23  
Minot State Fair

Water Day Festival of Fun  
July 24,  
Minot State Fair

NRWA Annual Conference  
Oct. 5-8  
Reno, NV

NDRWSA Annual Meeting  
Dec. 3, Bismarck Ramkota

EXPO 2009  
Feb. 3-5, 2009  
Bismarck Ramkota

#### Our Staff:

Melody Kruckenber, 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

Les Sigette, Wastewater Technician

Frank Soule, Sourcewater Specialist

Rod Stroh, Drought Management Specialist

Eric Volk, Training Specialist/Field Staff Supervisor

**NDRWSA**  
2718 Gateway Ave., Suite #201  
Bismarck, ND 58503  
<http://www.ndrw.org>

## Water Theft Has Serious Consequences

By Eric Volk, Training Specialist

On one of my training trips across the state, I came across an article posted on a water system's bulletin board that caught my eye. It was an article from the early 90's that had to do with how a water system in north central North Dakota dealt with a certain water theft situation. The water system discovered that a customer had installed a sprinkler system that bypassed the system's meter. Unmetered sprinkler usage had gone on for almost 10 years. It was estimated that the customer had stolen over 1.3 million gallons.

According to the ND Century Code Chapter 49-04.1, *in any civil action brought pursuant to this section, the utility is entitled, upon proof of willful or intentional*

*bypassing, tampering, or unauthorized metering, to recover one thousand dollars or three times the amount of the actual loss, whichever is greater, caused by the bypassing, tampering, or unauthorized metering, plus all reasonable expenses and costs incurred on account of the bypassing, tampering, or unauthorized metering. Reasonable expenses and costs include expenses and costs for investigation, disconnection, reconnection, service calls, employees and equipment, expert witnesses, costs of the suit, and reasonable attorneys' fees.*

The customer was found guilty of illegally bypassing the system's water meter and tampering with water system prop-

erty. The customer was ordered to pay back nearly \$20,000.

There are smart thieves and there are not so smart thieves. There are poor thieves and there are rich thieves. The point is, they are out there and they are taking advantage of paying customers.

The demand for "Quality Water On Tap" is increasing every day. The scarcity of water should be reflected in its price. As the price of water goes up, the occurrences of water theft will also increase.

The bottom line is, if you are stealing water, you will be caught and you will have to pay the consequences.

## NRWA Revolving Loan Funding Available

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) Revolving Loan Fund was established under a grant from USDA/RUS to provide financing to eligible utilities for pre-development costs associated with proposed water and wastewater projects. Revolving Loan Funds can also be used with existing water/wastewater systems and the short term costs incurred for replacement equipment, small scale extension of services or other small capital projects that are not a part of regular operations and maintenance.

Systems applying must be public entities. This includes municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, Native American Tribes and corporations not operated for profit, including cooperatives, with up to 10,000 population and rural areas with no population limits.

### Loan Amounts:

Loan amounts may not exceed \$100,000 or 75% of the total project cost whichever is less. Applicants will be given credit for documented project costs prior to receiving the RLF loan.

### Loan Terms:

The law authorizing the program allows a maximum repayment period of 10 years. Additional ranking points are awarded in the selection process for applicants that propose a quicker repayment of the loan. The repayment period cannot exceed the useful life of the facilities or financed item.

5 year, interest only, pre-development loans are also available.

### Interest Rate:

Loans will be made at 70% of the poverty interest rate as established by RUS at the time of loan approval or closing whichever is lower with a minimum of 3%. The most current rates are available on the RUS Water and Environmental Programs Home Page at [www.usda.gov/rus/water](http://www.usda.gov/rus/water).

### Collateral Requirements:

At a minimum, a promissory note or comparable document authorized by the gov-

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23RD ANNUAL WATER EXPO  
FEBRUARY 3-5, 2009  
BISMARCK RAMKOTA  
FOR RESERVATIONS CALL  
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erning body will be required. Additional security may be required by the RLF administrator or loan committee when deemed necessary as allowable under State Law.

### Apply:

Applications, information and forms can be acquired via the internet at [www.nrwa.org/revolvingloan](http://www.nrwa.org/revolvingloan). Information can be emailed, if available electronically, to [nrwarlf@nrwa.org](mailto:nrwarlf@nrwa.org).

Please feel free to contact our office for assistance in acquiring, preparing and submitting the required documents.

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