

THE SPIGOT

from the NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

NDRWSA Thanks Andy McDonald for Years of Service

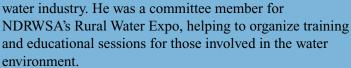
By Lisa Schatz

Andy McDonald, North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association's (NDRWSA) source water protection specialist, has accepted a position as an environmental scientist with Montana Dakota Utilities.

McDonald wore many hats throughout his employment with NDRWSA. In 2009, he was hired as NDRWSA's source water protection specialist, but due to funding cuts from the National Rural Water Association, the position was no longer offered and he became the Association's technical advisor for its Training and On-site Assistance Program. In 2013, the Source Water Program was reinstated and McDonald resumed his position as source water protection specialist. During his tenure with NDRWSA, he has traveled thousands of miles to assist municipalities and rural water systems to preserve and protect water resources and wellhead protection areas from contamination. His ability to educate and inform stakeholders on prevention and preventative measures was an invaluable asset.

McDonald served five years as a board member for NDWARN, a water and wastewater response network. In

2010, he played an integral role in developing Bismarck State College's Water and Wastewater Technology Program, which is offered to students interested in the



Rural water staff enjoyed giving him a hard time about his favorite teams (Cincinnati Bengals and Atlanta Braves) and often encouraged him to "jump ship," but he would not hear of it. His outgoing personality and team-oriented attitude will be greatly missed.

The NDRWSA board of directors and staff wish McDonald well as he continues his career and thank him for his years of dedication and hard work.

NDRWSA Welcomes Bailey Elkins

Bailey Elkins joined the North Dakota Rural Water Systems team in January as its new source water protection specialist. She is a North Dakota native who attended school at the University of Montana, where she earned a bachelor's degree in geoscience. She has a strong background in geochemistry, as well as hydrogeology.

Her prior experience includes work in oil and gas exploration, and environmental engineering and she was involved with environmental assessment and remediation in geotechnical investigations. She has also been involved in storm water infiltration studies, geophysical investigations, and environmental compliance work with power generation, oil and gas production, and transportation and small business clients.

NDRWSA is excited for Bailey to be a part of the rural water team.



NDRWSA Holds Legislative Social

By Lisa Schatz

NDRWSA and rural water systems throughout North Dakota hosted a legislative social in Bismarck on Jan. 22. Numerous state legislators attended the event to visit with rural water system managers, water operators, and board members. "This social was a great opportunity for rural water systems to educate and inform state legislators about rural water funding needs. The state plays an important role in rural water development and it is important that all legislators are aware of this," says NDRWSA Executive Director Eric Volk.

Exhibit booths and table-top displays outlined the perimeter of the event, depicting the areas of recent development and the areas that need development. Rural water systems supply more than 200,000 rural residents with potable drinking water. "The continued development and expansion of these systems are significant to rural growth, property value, and quality of life," says Jon Nelson, NDRWSA president.

NDRWSA Legislative Social Sponsors

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Leadership Retreat

Join us at the Chieftain
Conference Center in Carrington
on June 23-25. A golf scramble
will be held on June 23. Rooms
have been reserved at the
Chieftain (701-652-3131) and
Carrington Inn (701-652-3982).
Watch for the schedule of events
in the May edition of
North Dakota Water!



Mueller Training Trailer Demos Coming to Bismarck and Fargo in July

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