

# Rural Water News

## NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

### Celebrate Water! Drinking Water Week 2007

National Drinking Water Week is May 6-12, 2007. Water Week 2007 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 53,000 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, 2007.

The 2006 CCR must be delivered or made available to customers and a copy forwarded to the NDDOH by July 1, 2007.

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

### POLY-PIGGING IMPROVES WATER QUALITY

Is buildup in your water distribution system causing poor water quality? Does routine flushing only temporarily fix the problem? Are customer complaints regarding the system's water quality driving you crazy? Is your system planning to upgrade its current treatment process or possibly hooking up to a regional water supply?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, your system might benefit from having NDRWSA "Poly Pig" your system's distribution pipeline.

Pigging is a process of cleaning potable water mains which have accumulated buildup on their interior surfaces. Pigging is accomplished by using a foam sponge (soft pig or swab) that is launched into the distribution system. The pig is propelled down the pipeline by water pressure. Debris and buildup is removed from the inside of the pipes and pushed out of the water system.

For just the cost of the "pigs", the professionally trained staff of NDRWSA will assist your system in cleaning out its distribution pipelines. Pigging is cost efficient, very effective and **may** be an alternative to pipe replacement. Contact Circuit Riders Tom Sieg (701-693-5068) or Mike Ritteman (701-304-0127) for further information.

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#### Mark Your Calendar:

RW Rally April 29-May 1  
Hyatt on Capitol Hill-Washington, DC

Summer Board Meeting July 12-13  
Gladstone Inn-Jamestown

Operator, Equipment, & Utility EXPO  
Sept. 5-6  
Stutsman County Fairgrounds and  
The Gladstone Inn-Jamestown

NRWA Annual Conference  
Sept. 23-26  
Philadelphia, PA

#### Our Staff:

Melody Kruckenberg, CEO

Monica Knowlen, Administrative Assistant

Chuck Mischel, Operator Certification Specialist

Alan Neer, Water Conservation Tech

Mike Ritteman, Circuit Rider-East

Lisa Schatz, Finance Manager

Tom Sieg, Circuit Rider-West

Les Sigette, Wastewater Technician

Frank Soule, Sourcewater Specialist

Rod Stroh, Groundwater Specialist

Eric Volk, Training Specialist

# Small System Funding Options

Meeting the demands of repairing and replacing aging infrastructure is taking its toll on many small utilities. In an effort to help water systems meet this challenge the NDRWSA will be presenting a morning training session in conjunction with each of the League of Cities Regional Meetings.

Upon completion of this course, entitled "Small System Funding Options", the participant should understand the following: 1) Acquiring funding for needed infrastructure is time consuming and complex, 2) The various funding sources available, 3) The rules, regulations, and application process, 4) How to do your research and

homework, 5) How to get on the project priority list for construction, 6) Interest rates and special concerns for disadvantaged communities, 7) How the various funding entities are working together to put affordable projects together for municipalities.

Representatives from USDA-Rural Development, the state Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, Community Development and NDRWSA will speak on their respective funding options.

This seminar is a DO NOT MISS if you are looking for funding in the near future!

These FREE sessions qualify for operator reimbursement and attendees will receive Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for attending. Registration begins at 8:30 am local time. The seminar will begin promptly at 9:00 am and end by noon.

April 24 Fordville, American Legion Club

April 25 Wahpeton, City Hall

April 26 Gackle, American Legion Hall

May 1 Williston, International Inn

May 2 Rugby, Econolodge

May 3 Hazen, City Hall

# Water Loss Prevention Campaign

Water loss is a huge concern for every water system. Finding water leaks is a great way to reduce a system's overall water loss percentage, but locating leaks can be a complex and time consuming process. Large leaks are usually easier to find as they tend to be found bubbling out of the ground. On the other hand, small leaks are much more difficult to locate and can cost a water system thousands of dollars each year. Where do you start? As part of our Water Loss Prevention Campaign we

have developed a letter that will help your customers become aware of situations that might indicate a water leak. This letter is available for download on our website, [www.ndrw.org](http://www.ndrw.org). Feel free to customize the letter as you see fit and send it out as a bill stuffer, a stand alone mailing, or use it as a public notice that could be put up around your system. Please contact our office with any questions and remember that lost water costs everyone.

## Rural Water Finance Corporation

Does your system have an upcoming Rural Development Project?

The ND Rural Water Finance Corporation provides interim funding to systems that have received a permanent loan commitment from the USDA-RD. The program structure enables access to short-term loan funds at below market costs.

The effective rate of borrowing is based on the nominal loan rate (currently 5.0%) less an interest earnings credit (currently 5.05%) on undisbursed construction proceeds. The effective rate of funds is estimated at 1%-3% depending on the actual timing of disbursements. Call 800-349-6951 for more information!

# NEW Member Services!

The NDRWSA is pleased to announce our newest member services: *VIRTUAL OFFICE ASSISTANCE* and *BOARD TRAINING*

## What is Virtual Office Assistance?

Perhaps your office manager, bookkeeper, or other administrative support staff is on vacation, ill, or you simply don't need full time office personnel. Or maybe you occasionally have office tasks that your already overworked staff can't handle. We can help!

Virtually, any task that onsite office staff would do – WE CAN DO FOR YOU – using

our equipment, staff, and other resources – performed in our office located in Bismarck!

## Board Training

Board members and management from North Prairie Rural Water District, Central Plains Rural Water District, Fort Berthold Rural Water, and the North Central Rural Water Consortium recently attended a board training seminar held at the Four Bears Casino near New Town. This 2-day session was conducted by Eric Volk and Melody Kruckenberg.

Topics included Financial Oversight, Rate Analysis, Board Basics, Board/Management Relationship, Affordability, and Board Self-Evaluations.

We will bring this training to YOU and can customize it to fit your needs. NUMEROUS other training topics are available. This is ideal training to hold in a retreat-like setting for your system or with neighboring systems.

Contact either Mel or Eric to line up your customized training seminar. 800-349-6951.

