



Tough Decisions

By: Frank Dunmire, Executive Director

September 2011
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After a long drawn out battle, we must face the cold hard reality that there will be no funding from the USEPA to sustain the USEPA Source Water Protection program and the Training & Technical Assistance program past September 30, 2011. During this past year the entire appropriations process in Washington DC took on a whole new look and anything that even remotely resembled an earmark received very little support from our elected officials. Unfortunately funding for the two programs I mentioned above were caught up in this quagmire and zeroed out. Shortly after this spring's near-shutdown of the Federal Government, there was still a slight glimmer of hope that our programs would continue into the next fiscal year without interruption. This was not to be.

Although funding for the immediate future may not be available there is a reasonable expectation that funds will once again be available through the FY 2012 appropriations process. But, as events of the past year have proven out, there still is no 100% guarantee that this will be the case. With this in mind, the IRWA Board of Directors unanimously decided to NOT reduce the staffing levels at this time. However, as in any business, you can only operate in the red for certain lengths of time before reserve funds are exhausted. The challenge before us now is one of being able to str.....etch that length of time out to a point where funds are once again available. To this end, the IRWA is no longer going to be able to host training sessions free-of-charge. This was an extremely difficult decision, but one that had to be made in an effort to keep everyone on-board.

yourself – how am I going to obtain all of the continuing education hours needed for recertification? Well the answer to that question is that while we may no longer be able to offer training sessions at no-charge we will be offering training sessions at a reasonable rate to help offset some of the costs. Although the small fees charged will not cover all of the costs associated with these training sessions they will help in supplementing our reserve funds to a point where we might be able to keep everyone gainfully employed until such time USEPA funds are forthcoming.

Currently Wayne and Kathy are finalizing all of the arrangements for the first of these sessions and it will be held in Peoria. Notices for this training opportunity were recently mailed out to systems and operators in the surrounding areas. So, if you live or work around Peoria be sure to check your mailbox. We hope that you seriously consider attending this and/or a future training opportunity being offered by the Illinois Rural Water Association.

I know that many of you reading this article may be asking yourself

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THE IRWA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|----------------|
| Friday, November 11 | - | Veteran's Day |
| Thursday & Friday, November 24 & 25 | - | Thanksgiving |
| Friday, December 23 | - | Christmas Eve |
| Monday, December 26 | - | Christmas Day |
| Friday, December 30 | - | New Year's Day |



IRWA'S MISSION STATEMENT

"Protecting and preserving the water and wastewater resources of Rural Illinois through education, representation and on-site technical assistance"

Technical Assistance



I'm Legal

By: John Bell, Wastewater Technician

Years ago, I got a phone call from Mom. And since we hadn't talked in a long while, she asked me "how you doing son?" I said, "Mom. I'm one step ahead of the law." After a short pause she said, "Well son, that's better than most of the family is doing."

I guess that being legal is a bit harder for some folks than it is for others? So you can guess at my surprise the other day when I received a letter from Jessie White informing me that I was close to breaking the law in Illinois. I think it was President Reagan that said "Government was not the solution to our problems, Government was the problem." I don't know about that for sure but I can tell you and most you will agree with me, that government sure can be a pain in the rear. I cleaned that last word up a bit, but you know what I'm saying. Anyway, Jessie noted that I owed him thirty dollars, he wasn't sure about my eyes and requested that I pass an eye exam AND he was not so sure I knew what I was doing most of the time behind the wheel of my car and thus Jessie felt that I should at the very least take the written exam. Now I know what you're thinking, It's about time this "old-fudd" had to take an exam. Those guys from IRWA are always giving operators (water and sewer) advice on taking an exam, so give him the devil Jessie and make sure that thirty dollar check is good before he gets out of the place.

So right away I got a new Rules of the Road book to review and study. The Rules of the Road book I had from the 1960's concerned me a little that it might be outdated. Maybe, just maybe, the laws had changed a little in the last 50 years. I noted that Bob Voss, IEPA-Certification, had put out a paper to give to operators on the tips for getting ready for the certification exam. I've handed out several hundred of those blue paged instructions and I often wondered if anyone took the time to read the darn thing. Bob's advice was fairly easy, study, take notes, read the

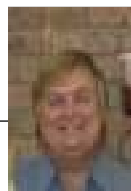
material that you were to be tested on and show up at the time a place where the exam was scheduled. Bob called it the READ, WRITE AND REVIEW Method. As a side note Bob also suggested 1.) Get 6 hrs of sleep before not during the exam. 2.) Arrive early at the exam site on the day of the exam-check the papers sent to you just to make sure where and when the exam is to take place. 3.) Make sure you eat before the exam-Bob didn't like growling tummy's during the exam. 4.) Before the exam starts, find the restroom facility and make a contribution to the local treatment facility.

I had a pretty little girl tell me years ago about a method that would help me to make better grades. And I said "what might that be little girl?" She noted that "I should show up to class, listed to what is said, take some notes to review, read the material, and study just a bit before any exam." Girls, they come up with some of the darndest things, but I felt I should give it a whirl since I asked for help. Anyway she was talking to me and I kind of liked the look of her sailboat, if you know what I mean, and wanted to stay in close contact and well you know. Dang! she was right. I started making great grades right away. Who would of thought that something so easy would work? I guess I'm kind of getting off the subject. Anyway I applied 1 hour of the above process to the exam. No need to overdo a thing and I was wanting to watch a TV program.....you know.

I gave Jessie thirty dollars, read nine letters, said left and right regarding a blinking light to my periphery and answered 20 questions plus identified 20 road signs and BINGO!!!! I'm back on the road again all legal like. Be seeing all you guys and gals now that I have my Jessie White Driving License. And don't forget to study for your test. Good Luck!!!

HASARA RECEIVES WATER UNIVERSITY PLAQUE

By: Wayne Nelson, Training Specialist



Tim Hasara, manager of the Curran-Gardner Public Water District, recently completed the Water University course offered by the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) and the Illinois Rural Water Association (IRWA). He is the first water professional in the state (other than IRWA staff) to pass this comprehensive training course.

Pictured is IRWA Training Specialist Wayne Nelson presenting the plaque to Tim Hasara.

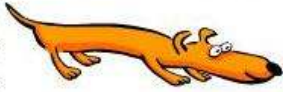
The course covers a wide variety of topics that water industry professionals need to be able to understand and put to use in their daily job duties. Topics such as budgeting, water rate structures, emergency management, and treatment processes are included in the training modules.

Tim has been in the water/wastewater treatment field for 25 years and is the holder of an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Class A public water supply operator certificate, an IEPA Class 1 Wastewater Treatment Works Operator certificate, and several certifications in other states.



2011 NORTHERN CONFERENCE

October 25 & 26, 2011



10.75 Credit
Hours Available!

- ⇒ Attendee agendas and registration information has been sent out. The information is also available on our website (www.ilrwa.org), where you may also pay with your credit card.
- ⇒ New features to the conference include cash prizes throughout the day and prizes during hospitality night all donated by the exhibitors.
- ⇒ 43 exhibitors will be available with their latest products.
- ⇒ Room reservations can be made by calling the hotel at 815-398-6000. Rooms are \$95.00 per night and includes 4 tickets to the Co-Co Key water resort. Remember to tell them you are with IRWA's room block.

Clock Tower Resort & Conference Center 7801 E. State St. Rockford, IL

THANK YOU TO ALL THE GOLFERS THAT PARTICIPATED IN IRWA'S 8TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING AND TO THE FOLLOWING FOR SUPPORTING THIS EVENT— IT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!!!

AMEN!

American Flow Control
 Bainbridge, Gee, Milanski & Associates
 Brenntag Mid-South, Inc.
 Brotcke Well & Pump, Inc.
 Crawford, Murphy & Tilly Inc.
 Flo-Systems, Inc.
 Frank Dunmire & Don Craig
 HD Supply
 Heneghan & Associates, P.C.
 Henry, Meisenheimer & Gende, Inc
 IMCO Utility Supply Co.
 IRWA Board Members
 JCM Industries
 Midwest Meter, Inc.
 MSA Professional Services
 PDC Laboratories
 Richards Electric Motor Company
 Sikich LLP
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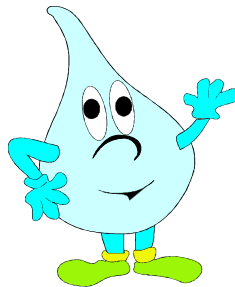
QUALITY ON TAP!



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**Remember to check out
our website,
www.ilrwa.org, for the
latest training sessions to
register for!!**

Upcoming Training Sessions

Water

October 12 - Microsoft Excel—Peoria

Wastewater

September 29 - Blower O. & M. -Carterville