



During the first week of February several members of the Illinois Rural Water Association's Board of Directors, Greg Long of Caterpillar Trails, Don Craig and I attended the Rural Water Rally in Washington DC. This annual trip to the Nation's Capitol is designed to coincide with the appropriations process where we ask that our funding be included in the next year's budget (in this case FY 12). Inclusion in next year's budget was not often brought up in our conversations on the hill – instead, almost all conversations were geared toward guaranteeing funding in the current year's budget. I say current year because the government has been operating on a series of continuing resolutions (CR) since October 1, 2010 (the beginning of its fiscal year). Without going into a long boring explanation of what a CR is I will boil a definition down to its simplest terms. A continuing resolution allows the Federal Government to operate under the same guidelines and funding levels as the previous fiscal year.

So far, this year has been particularly onerous for us in our attempts to lock in funding for the rest of FY 11 and consequently FY 12. In both the House and Senate versions of an FY 11 CR the funding for our USEPA training and source water protection programs was not included. I guess to be more accurate I should say that funding is available BUT there was no language included in either CR that directed USEPA to fund these authorized programs. As we all are painfully reminded, in 2007 we were presented with a similar situation and a CR was passed to fund the government for the remainder of that fiscal year and our programs originally were not funded. It was only after a lengthy letter writing campaign that the USEPA capitulated and funded our programs for approximately half of that year. When asked during her recent testimony before the House Committee on Appropriations' Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, USEPA Administrator, Lisa P. Jackson, responded that they did not plan to spend any money specifically on training of small systems. She went on to say that USDA-RD spent a lot of money in that arena.

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So there you have it – if not directed to do so, the USEPA does not plan on funding the training or source water programs. So where does that leave us?

Last week I started contacting some of the members of Illinois Rural Water Association asking that they email both of our Senate offices in DC requesting they support our programs. The phone calls began at about 7:30 Thursday morning and by 2:00 that very same afternoon one Senate office called me to say that they heard our message “loud and clear” and went on to say that he had received over 300 emails from our members. Thanks to all of those that responded with their emails – JOB WEL DONE!

As I write this article the Senate did not pass the House's proposed CR for FY 11 and did not have enough votes to pass their own CR leaving us with one final opportunity to convince legislators to include funding for our rural water initiatives. At this time Illinois, along with many other states, are working diligently in an effort to ensure that our funding remains intact and we do not have a repeat of 2007.

GPS/GIS MAPPING SERVICES

Through the implementation of GPS & GIS technology, IRWA can effectively produce hard copy and digital maps. With this new service available from IRWA, utilities can attain new and accurate maps to better manage their infrastructure assets.



The printed maps can be large-scale wall maps, (44" wide) showing major features with the desired layers (aerial photos, streets, topography, etc.). The printed maps can also be generated into a map book format. The map book is a bound 18" by 24" book of high-detail maps printed at the best available scale.

The digital map file on a CD, can be viewed and printed with free software that IRWA will provide. The software allows you to click on a waterline with a leak and highlight which valves need to be closed to isolate the line. There are also tracing features to show the direction of water flow, and other useful features.

Payment for services is determined by a charge per each system feature located. The amount charged for a Map Book will be \$50 plus \$5 per page; and a wall map is billed at \$100 per map. More information is also posted on our website, or you may call our office.

IRWA'S MISSION STATEMENT

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



1. Chlorine gas is how many times heavier than air?
 - A. 1.5 times
 - B. 2.0 times
 - C. 2.5 times
 - D. 1.0 times

2. How much pressure (in psi) does one foot of elevation offer?
 - A. 2.31 psi
 - B. 1.0 psi
 - C. .433 psi
 - D. 7.48 psi

3. What is the definition of a water main?
 - A. a line 4 inches or bigger in diameter
 - B. a line that carries finished water
 - C. any line that passes one property to reach another parcel of property
 - D. a line that carries raw water

9. The purpose of cathodic protection is to prevent
 - A. Overflows
 - B. Corrosion
 - C. Tank Collapse
 - D. Inlet Plugging

10. Before taking a bacteria sample who should rinse out the sample bottle
 - A. The Sample Collector
 - B. Certified Lab
 - C. No One

4. Pump cavitation is most likely to occur in which situation?

- A. Suction Head
- B. Suction Lift
- C. Suction Foot
- D. Head Lift

5. High sulfate levels may cause

- A. Brown Water
- B. Diarrhea
- C. Infant Suffocation
- D. Cancer

6. High nitrate levels may cause

- A. Brown Water
- B. Diarrhea
- C. Infant Suffocation
- D. Cancer

7. High turbidity can hide or shield

- A. Fluoride ions
- B. Phosphates
- C. Chloramines
- D. Pathogens

8. A corporation stop is located where?

- A. Water main
- B. Property Line
- C. Near the Water Meter
- D. Fire Hydrant

Answers

1. C
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. C
7. D
8. A
9. B
10. C

VIDEO INSPECTION SERVICES

Video inspection technology can help you identify and prioritize maintenance issues, while improving service and reducing emergency maintenance costs.



IRWA is excited to introduce our new Video Inspection Service to our members. The normal fee for this service is \$250.00 for small projects, larger projects requiring more than 1 day will be based on cost per foot.

A contract must be signed in advance of the inspection. Upon completion, your system will be invoiced for the services and will also receive a detailed report including diagrams of the inspection features, and a DVD for your references.

For more information, or to schedule an inspection of your system, please call our office at 217-287-2115 or visit our website: www.ilrwa.org



On April 30, 2011, from 10am - 2pm local time, The Drug Enforcement Agency will coordinate a collaborative effort with state and local law enforcement agencies focused on removing potentially dangerous controlled substances from our nation's medicine cabinets and divert them from entering our waterways. IRWA, SIOA and MRWA have joined forces with the DEA by promoting the event and creating an outreach initiative. The collaboration will shed light on the environmental impacts of improperly discarded prescription drugs.

Waste Water treatment plants are not designed to treat all the substances contained in medications. Therefore, when they are flushed down the toilet or sink, most of these chemicals pass through the wastewater treatment facility and accumulate in rivers, lakes, groundwater, and even in aquatic organisms such as fish and amphibians.

The problem with pharmaceutical chemicals in the waterways is that some of them can have effects on aquatic animals. Researchers have found that some of the pharmaceutical chemicals in the water have similar structures and properties to estrogen, and can cause male fish and frogs to take on female characteristics, even producing eggs. And the active ingredient in Prozac has been linked to developmental delays in frogs in the laboratory. A major issue right now is the fact that a huge fraction of the medicine that people buy is getting into the water supply. The medicine that is consumed is hardly ever completely digested and so a significant portion of that goes directly to wastewater.

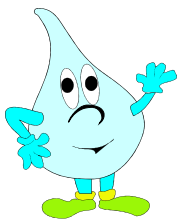
The DEA's national take-back day will provide a unified opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted, or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction. The program provides an opportunity for law enforcement, municipalities, and the business communities to collaborate and establish a safe collection site for all Americans, regardless of where they reside.

The public can find a nearby collection site by visiting <http://www.dea.gov>, clicking on the "Got Drugs?" icon, and following the links to a database, where they enter their zip code. Law enforcement agencies interested in operating one or more collection sites on April 30 can register with the DEA by calling the DEA Field Division office in their area. (To see each division office's geographic area of responsibility, go to <http://www.dea.gov> and click on the "office locations" link under "About Us" in the menu on the left side of the home page.)

Four days after last fall's event, Congress passed the Secure and Responsible Drug Disposal Act of 2010, which amends the Controlled Substances Act to allow an "ultimate user" of controlled substance medications to dispose of them by delivering them to entities authorized by the Attorney General to accept them. The Act also allows the Attorney General to authorize long term care facilities to dispose of their residents' controlled substances in certain instances. DEA has begun drafting regulations to implement the Act.

A special thanks to Perry Musgrave of Elkville and Larry Nance of Cobden for pushing to see that the April 30th Rx Take Back Event will be a success and getting their neighboring communities educated and involved. Thanks also to the DEA's St. Louis Field Division Diversion Program Manager, Scott Collier and Springfield's Diversion Investigator & Resident Agent in Charge, Scott M. Garriott & Glen Haas for being so helpful in answering our questions and allowing us to be a part of their event.

If you are interested in participating in the event or would like to know how to get involved in future initiatives please feel free to contact Kathy Rodgers, Rodgers@ilrwa.org.



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

Upcoming Training Sessions

Water

April 14, 2011—Distribution System O. & M. & Lab Math—Grand Tower

May 26, 2011—Unaccounted for Water Loss & Leak Detection—Hopedale

**Illinois Rural Water Association
3305 Kennedy Road
P.O. Box 49
Taylorville, IL 62568
217-287-2115**

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Staff Members

Executive Director
Frank Dunmire (dunmire@ilrwa.org)
Deputy Director
Don Craig (craig@ilrwa.org)
Membership Services Assistant
Heather McLeod (ilrwahm@ilrwa.org)
Administrative/Program Assistant
Denise Burke (ilrwadb@ilrwa.org)
EPA Training Specialist
Wayne Nelson (ilrwawn@ilrwa.org)
Circuit Rider #1
Gale Moore (moore@ilrwa.org)
Circuit Rider #2
Patricia "Pat" Gammill (gam@ilrwa.org)
Circuit Rider #3
Chuck Woodworth (ilrwacw@ilrwa.org)
Wastewater Technician #1
Bill Dowell (dowell@ilrwa.org)
Wastewater Technician #2
John Bell (ilrwajb@ilrwa.org)
USDA Source Water Protection Specialist
Mark Mitchell (mitchell@ilrwa.org)
USEPA Source Water Protection Specialist
Kathy Rodgers (Rodgers@ilrwa.org)

Website: www.ilrwa.org

Thank You Letters

Village of Milford
15 S West Ave, PO Box 137
Milford, IL 60953
(815) 889-4590 Mayor's Office
(815) 889-4249 Collector
(815) 889-5589 Fax

February 10, 2011

Chuck Woodworth
Illinois Rural Water Association
PO Box 6069
Taylorville, IL 62568

Dear Chuck,

We want to thank you for your help in locating the source of our water main leak on Chicago St last month. Your locate was right on the spot and saved us a tremendous amount of time and energy in making the repair.

We appreciate your adjusting your schedule and responding on such short notice.

Once again, thanks for your help.

Village of Milford Employees
Chuck Torbet
Bruce Cartwright
Austin Crawford

cc: Wayne Nelson

VILLAGE OF ALEXIS
122 N. MAIN P.O. BOX 356
(309)482-3424 (309)482-3424
Phone Fax
ALEXIS, ILLINOIS
61412

FEBRUARY 17, 2011

ILLINOIS RURAL WATER
3305 Kennedy Road
P.O. Box 49
Taylorville, Illinois 62568

The Village of Alexis would like to send a "special thank you" to your association and employee Gale Moore.

Our village experienced an undetected water leak this past week and requested the aid of Gale Moore. Mr. Moore spent two days with our employees earnestly researching for the problem. The leak was detected with the professional help of Mr. Moore.

The professional help extended to our small village was greatly appreciated. Please commend Mr. Gale Moore for his professional help!

Sincerely,
Alexis Water & Sewer Department:
Jim Olson
Dann Sperry
Alexis Village President
Dale Oberhaus