



Water Ways

Volume IV – Winter 2008



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Waterways is the official publication of the Illinois Rural Water Association, P.O. Box 6049, Taylorville, Illinois 62568, and is published quarterly for distribution to members as well as other industry associations and friends. Articles and photographs are encouraged. Advertising and submissions should be mailed to the above address or e-mail us at ilrwadb@ilrwa.org.

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IRWA's Mission Statement

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

ON THE COVER...

Picture of an ice covered tree taken by Heather McLeod just outside of Taylorville, Illinois.

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Roller Coaster

by Frank Dunmire, Executive Director

As the year winds down I find myself sitting at the desk in my office at home wondering where did the year go. It seems like only yesterday that we were celebrating the arrival of a new year and looking forward to what it might bring. Without a doubt, 2007 could be defined as a roller coaster year – full of ups and downs.

The year started off with a growing concern over the Congressional appropriations process. After passing a number of continuing resolutions to keep the government operating as it entered the new fiscal year, everyone was curious to see how the new Democratically controlled Congress would clear the backlog

of appropriations bills. The answer was not long in coming and it was not a particularly good outcome for rural water associations across the nation. Although the Source Water, Circuit Rider and Wastewater programs were fully funded the same could not be said about the USEPA programs.

As you are all well aware, funds for the Groundwater and Training programs were swallowed up by USEPA. It would have been easy to just throw our hands in the air and give up, but that is not the way rural water's grassroots efforts work. After we asked, our friends in Congress pressured EPA to make funds available for protecting our groundwater

and training our small system operators and managers. This effort did meet with a measure of success.

EPA did finally capitulate and sought proposals through a competitive bid process for source water protection and training and technical assistance (T & TA) for small systems. Rural Water was awarded the contract requiring training and



technical assistance is provided to small systems throughout the country. The source water portion went to the National Environmental Service Center out of West Virginia and it is our understanding they will create a source water resource center. Beginning January 1, 2008, the T & TA program will be reinstated in Illinois as well as the rest of rural America.

The appropriations process seemed to be destined for the same dismal fate again this year, but at the last minute all of the remaining funding packages were rolled into one huge omnibus bill and passed out of both houses of Congress. As I write this article, it has been reported that the President will sign the bill. As is usually the case, there is good news and bad news.

The good news is that the funding amount requested for the T & TA program for FY 08 is included. The bad news is that the amount requested for the Groundwater program did not survive the final cut. Just what this means to state associations won't be fully known for at least a couple of months. Hopefully we will be able to convince the powers to be that the program deserves a new lease on life and funding will be made available.

continued on page 26

An advertisement for Ressler & Associates, Inc. The background is a black and white photograph of a heavy metal chain link partially submerged in water, with ripples visible. The text is overlaid on the image. At the top, it says "Your Link to Superior Water" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Below this, a list of services is provided in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font: "Filters & Media...", "Chlorination Equipment", "Aeration & Stripping Towers", "Mixers/Flocculators", "Water Quality Monitors...", "Membrane Treatment Technology", "Lime Slakers...", "Chemical Metering Pumps", and "Spare Parts & Replacements". At the bottom center, there is a logo for "RESSLER & ASSOCIATES, INC." featuring a large stylized letter 'R' to the left of the company name. Below the logo, the text "P.O. Box 4018, Mt. Pleasant, MO 64586" and "www.resslerandassociates.com" is visible.



The Use of Variable Speed Drives In Water Distribution Systems

by Greg Bates, IRWA Board President

The use of variable speed drives in today's pumping stations gives the operator many advantages. With electrical expenses rising at a high rate, the energy saving factor of a variable speed drive is one major reason to take into consideration. The V.F.D. allows you to run a motor at any speed you desire to achieve your pumping goal and save energy at the same time. V.F.D.'s also allow you to control the ramping speed of the motor to prevent water hammer and they are adaptable to the SCADA system as well to give you the options of input that you may need.

Jersey County Rural Water Company, Inc. currently has seven variable speed drives in our water distribution system. They are used to initiate a slow start-up of the motors to prevent water hammer. The ramping can be programmed to start at the time of your choosing. In many cases, we use V.F.D.'s to control the outlet (discharge) pressure of our pumping stations so that we don't exceed pressures on our mains. We can set this pressure limit through our SCADA system to hold a constant discharge pressure. This is also very helpful if you have a tank down for painting or maintenance to hold the discharge pressure at a constant rate.

The pressure and flow rate can also be controlled into a ground storage tank to hold an adjustable back-pressure to keep your customers happy on the suction side of the tank. This can be achieved with an electric actuator and butterfly valve with the SCADA system. This allows you to open the butterfly valve 30% when the ground tank calls for water and hold a back-pressure of 55 psi. This is adjustable through the SCADA system, which looks at a transducer to determine and hold pressure settings. For instance, if your supplier only allows you to purchase a certain gallon per minute at a precise pressure, a V.F.D. can be crucial in holding these inputs.

With the increasing need for reducing energy costs, a V.F.D. is a valuable asset as you only need 12 horsepower to achieve your gallon per minute rate, but you have a 15 horsepower motor. A V.F.D. allows



you to run it slower to use less energy, yet still achieve your pumping goals. Variable Speed Drives are considered a green product, which is important in conservation as well as expense management. 💧

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Where does the time go? I work, day after day, traveling around the great state of Illinois talking to operators about Source Water Protection. It seems like only a month ago that we were looking at January 2007. The years go by in a busy, busy blur. From time to time the topics change, but foremost is always the IEPA and USEPA updates. "What are the new things coming down the pipe?" This is the question I get most often. This tells me that we are doing the right things. Operators everywhere are aware that the only thing that stays the same is change! Soon we will all gather in Effingham for the IRWA 26th Annual Conference. The thing that amazes me is that...I, Mark Mitchell, the "new guy" to IRWA have been around for 13 of them as an IRWA

employee. That means that I have been around for half of the IRWA Annual Technical Conferences! This seems entirely impossible to me! The years have been good and the conferences have continued to get bigger and better. The attendance at our Effingham Conference continues to grow with each passing year, but another thing has come to light as well.

The average age of the attendees tends to creep upward. Last month in the Technical Assistance Bulletin you read an article by Jeff Tumati, IRWA Director from District 5, which reinforced and showcased the need for new and younger operators. It is not my intention to take anything away from what he wrote in his article, but to simply add to the need in

the industry for young blood. I talked to a licensed Class *A* Water Plant /Class *3* Wastewater Operator today and he told me that he had to grow a beard, because at age 24 no one takes him seriously when they ask to talk to the person in charge! This declares the status of our profession. This young man has been involved with water and wastewater treatment from his earliest years due to the fact that his



father is a licensed water and wastewater operator. For this young man to have to grow a beard to "look older" to prove to others that he is the person "in charge" is unacceptable. The most unacceptable thing to me is that council/board members hire these very able and schooled persons and then are unable or unwilling to let them do the job they hired them to do. Systems pay salaries to the operators they hire and then are unable or unwilling to accept the fact that the person they have hired is able to handle the job they have been hired to do.

I am going to make a vow and I am going to hope that boards/councils of water systems and municipalities will do the same. I am going to accept the fact that even though an operator is much younger than me, if he or she proves that they are capable, I am willing to accept the fact that just because I am older, I am not necessarily smarter! More cynical, yes! Smarter, doubtful!

So let's hope that over the next 13 years at the IRWA Annual Technical Conferences as they continue to get bigger and better the average age of the attendees will get younger instead of older! And that the topic that is most asked for... What is new coming down the pipe from IEPA? May what is new be younger operators and may IRWA still be around to answer those questions for you. 💧



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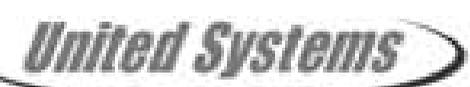
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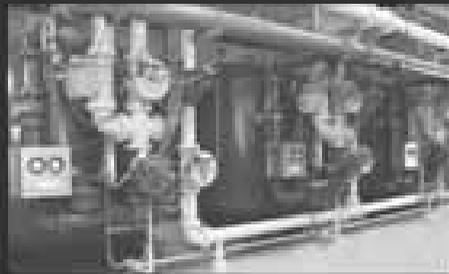
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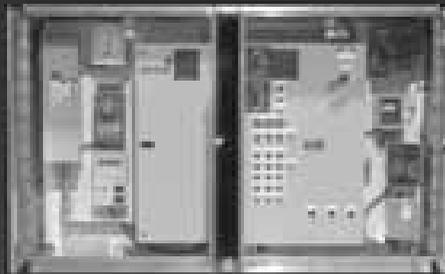
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The Town of Cortland Constructs a Sheaffer System™ for Wastewater Reclamation and Reuse Irrigation

by Gary Chase, Wastewater Technician

Cortland, Illinois, is located in Central DeKalb County with a population of 4,826 residents.

In 2003 the Town of Cortland determined that the collection system was at full capacity. At that time Cortland had been pumping their wastewater to the City of DeKalb. Both Cortland and DeKalb were in a growth phase and DeKalb could no longer accept the contribution from Cortland, due to capacity limitations in the sewage collection pipeline, without replacing the existing pipe. This would raise the sewer rates for the residents of Cortland.

Cortland started to search for a system that would be environmentally friendly to the area and cost effective to operate.

The Cortland's Administration and Engineering Firm, Fehr, Graham & Associates, visited different types of wastewater treatment plants, to get an idea of technology that was IEPA acceptable, but would not be an expensive system to operate.

The search committee visited a subdivision in Wasco, Illinois, that was using a "Sheaffer System". The search committee was impressed with the treatment process and the fact that all the water treated would be reused by spray irrigation.



While Sheaffer International had previously designed and received permits for many Sheaffer Systems in Illinois and other States, Cortland was the first municipality to utilize the system for the entire town. Town representatives approached the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) who confirmed Sheaffer's track record within the State of Illinois and indicated that the agency was supportive of this type of system.

The State of Illinois did not reject the idea of Cortland constructing a Sheaffer System, since the existing systems are meeting state ground water standards.

The Town of Cortland decided to retain Sheaffer International, LLC to Design-Build-Operate a Sheaffer System™ for wastewater reclamation and reuse irrigation.

Construction started in the spring of 2006 and completed in August of 2007.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant consists of two aerated lagoons that operate in series, two storage lagoons for winter effluent storage, filtration and ultraviolet disinfection.

The first cell holds a volume of 32.4 MG. The second cell holds a volume of 21.6 MG, for a total of 54.0 MG. With a design average daily flow of 1.5 MGD, this gives a detention time in both lagoons of 36 days. The 1.5 MGD is the average design flow for the Town's growth. The present average daily flow is 0.30 MGD, which gives a detention time, in both lagoons, of 180 days.



All four lagoon cells operate at a water depth of approximately 23'. All four lagoon cells utilize fine-bubble diffusion at a 20' depth. The three-feet below the diffusers in the cells is the anaerobic zone.

In cells 1 and 2 the aeration pattern is tapered. There is more CFM at the influent end of the lagoon cell and less CFM at the effluent end of the lagoon cell.

One nice feature of the aeration system is changing, or cleaning, the diffusers without raising heavy concrete blocks or hiring a skin-diver. The drop-pipes can be removed from the surface air-header to replace, or clean, the diffuser.

There are two storage lagoon cells with each one holding 112.5 MG. The design detention time is 150 days, between the two cells at the 1.5 MGD flow rate. The detention time will be much greater until the flow rate meets the design rate of 1.5 MGD.

The aeration in the two storage lagoons is strictly for mixing, since it will be a secondary Effluent to be stored.

When the weather is conducive to irrigate the ground, the water will be pumped out of the storage lagoons, run through a pressure disk filter, disinfected

continued on page 12



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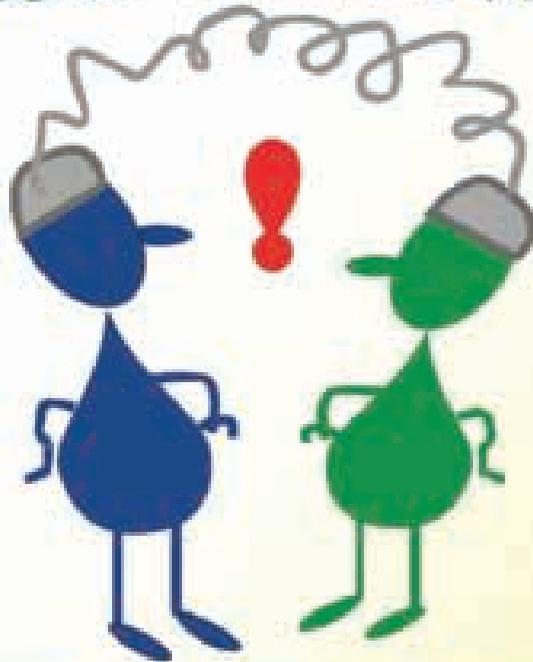
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REGISTRATION

Registration is required for all conference attendees. Badges are required for all attendees.

Please register each attendee using the registration form which is included in this packet. Include the attendee's full name on the registration form as it should appear on his or her badge.

PRE-REGISTRATION:

To pre-register just complete the registration form and mail with payment to:

IRWA
PO Box 6049
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Or on-line at www.irwa.org for credit card payments.

Pre-registration must be postmarked by February 8th, 2008

ON-SITE REGISTRATION

All conference attendees must obtain a name badge and conference material at the registration desk. If you do not pre-register, please make sure that you register as soon as possible after you arrive at the Keller Convention Center. Please note that on-site registration is \$25.00 higher than pre-registration.

When booking your rooms, let the hotels know that you are with IRWA's conference

Registration Hours:

Tuesday, February 19th	8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 20th	8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 21st	8:00 a.m.—9:00 a.m.

Cancellation & Refunds:

Refunds only in the event of death in the family or hospitalization. We must have a **written notice of cancellation** to issue a refund.

EXHIBIT HALL

Over 60 companies will be bringing their products and services to you at this year's conference. Professionals from all areas of the water and wastewater industry will be on hand to help solve your problems and provide you with the information you need to make those crucial decisions. The exhibit hall is open during the following hours:

Tuesday February 19th	10:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 20th	8:00 a.m.—3:15 p.m.

EXHIBITOR SPONSORED HOSPITALITY NIGHT

Tuesday, February 19th	6:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.
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Please join us in Conference rooms 3 & 4 for food & beverages — provided by the great exhibitors that you see at our conference.

CASINO NIGHT

Wednesday February 20th	6:30 p.m.—10:00 p.m.
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The blackjack, roulette, red dog and craps tables are back by popular demand! There will be food, soda, cash bar, prizes, and as always—lots of fun!

SPORTSMAN RAFFLE

Once again our exhibitors will be donating sports related prizes for the raffle. Attendees have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for these prizes with the winners announced at the conclusion of Casino night. Last year we were able to finish our new storage garage, purchase new equipment for the staff and send a portion of the proceeds to rural water lobbying efforts in Washington D.C.

SESSIONS AT A GLANCE

WATER SESSIONS

Rural Development Update—Patrick Lodie, Rural Development
Hear about Rural Development's current funding levels and how this funding option can be utilized for your system's next project.

ILWARRS Mutual Aid Program—Tommy Bennett, Clark Dietz
Upon implementation this new program will assist public water suppliers and municipalities in obtaining what you need in times of disaster.

Thread-Locking: Why, When, and How—Garrett Beers, Henkel Corporation

Come hear about the proper procedures when locking the many parts that we deal with in our industry.

Water Leak Locating—Nelson Matter, Leak Detection Services

Learn about the various ways to find water that is flowing out of your water mains and service lines and may be costing you big bucks.

Introduction to SCADA—Jim Copeland, Electric Controls Co.

Learn about SCADA systems from what these initials stand for to what is the right program for your system.

IEPA Regulations Update—Mary Reed, Mike Crumley, IEPA

Come hear about new regulations as well as some changes to old ones. Stage 2 DRP (DRI) information will also be covered in this session.

Fraser Procedures for Hydraulic Installation—Andy Zeman, IMCO

We often see hydraulic failures due to improper installation methods. Hear how you can get the best operation from your hydraulics by the right installation procedures.

Methamphetamine Awareness—Detective Bill Arnold, Effingham County Sheriff's Office—Investigations Division

With this nationwide epidemic getting bigger every year the likelihood that you may come across a lab while meter reading or other distribution system work is growing. Learn about the things to look for to protect yourself.

Troubleshooting Automatic Valving—Tom Caraker Jr., Flu-Systems

Learn about the types of valving out there and tips on how to ensure that they do the job for you.

Groundwater III—Dr. Derek Winstanley, Illinois State

Water Survey (Part 1), Bill Bushner, Amy Zimmer, IEPA (Part 2)
Many of us utilize groundwater for our drinking water. Hear about what you should know about groundwater from scientists to geological formations.

WASTEWATER SESSIONS

IEPA Update—Bob Voss, Illinois EPA

Find out the latest news in wastewater rules, regs and certification.

SBR Design & Operations—TBA, CMT Engineers

This session will teach you the concept of Sequencing Batch Reactors. They are A2O plants with a different style.

BOD/TSS Testing—Kurt Stepping, PDC Labs

Want accurate results? Learn the procedures and problems with BOD/TSS Testing.

Workplace Safety/Bloodborne Pathogens—Sheryl Neff, IDOH

Find out what's in the wastewater/water that might be unusual, and what you can do to protect yourself.

Pumps/Hydraulics—Mickey Bernard, Hydro-Kinetics

Are you getting the most efficient pump operations? Learn basic use of pump curves and gauges in troubleshooting your sps.

VFD's—Mike Ross, Vandewater Engineering

What can Variable Frequency Drives do to help your treatment system come?

Lagoon Algae/Weed Control—Charles Corley, IEPA

We'll discuss how Harley Straw can be effective in algae control, and general weed control tips.

Sludge Dewatering/Permits—TBA, Stewart Spreading

Learn about Dewatering sludge in the field and what's new with the permitting procedure.

Blower & Blower Maintenance—John Cross, J.C. Cross Company

This will be a very informative session on blower operation and maintenance.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Turning It Up, Turning It Off, Raising Water Rates, Rules and

Regs., Disconnects, Rules and Regs. (Part 1), Employment Law

Update (Hiring and Firing, Policies and Procedures (Part 2) Big

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Employees (Part 3)—Michael Antoline, Law Office of Michael L.

Antoline, P.C.

Get the legal answers you've been looking for.

How to Set Up a Website—Michael F. Guerriero, CUM

This session is targeted toward administrative staff and decision makers, will show you how to set up a website to keep your customers informed.

What Can You do with Billing Software?—Frank McKay, LOCIS, Inc.

The bill cycle has many new options in technology from emailing bills/statements, through the collection process including manual entry, bank lock box, direct debit to a bank account, and the state of Illinois ePay option to collect payments via credit/debit card.

Going Electronic with Your Water Plant Operations Report—Chuck Woodworth, Heather McLeod, IRWA

Let Chuck and Heather show you how easy filling out your IEPA monthly report can be! Learn some basic Microsoft Excel tips, and then apply them to your report.

Quickbooks Overview—Tracie England, McGuire, Yuhas, Huffman & Buckley

This overview will take you from setting up QuickBooks, vendors, & payroll through bank reconciliations, balancing transactions between books & financial reports.

Water Audits—Pat Gammill, Gale Moore, John Bell, IRWA

Lost water is lost revenue. Attend this session to hear about some of the things that we can do to reduce loss and generate \$\$\$.

Operational Math—Dick Rohr, IRWA

Make "doing the math" easier for you by attending this session.



2008 Annual Technical Conference

REGISTRATION FORM

Must be completed for all attendees

(Please photo copy for each attendee)



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MAILING ADDRESS: _____

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PHONE NUMBER: _____ FAX NUMBER: _____

SPOUSE NAME (If Attending): _____

FULL REGISTRATION: Includes Technical Sessions, Meals, Activities & Exhibit Hall for all 3 days

- Member: \$110.00 = \$ _____
- Non-Member \$175.00 = \$ _____
- Spouse/Non-Employee \$110.00 = \$ _____

ONE DAY REGISTRATION: Includes Technical Sessions, Meals, Activities & Exhibit Hall for that *day only*

- Member: \$90.00 = \$ _____
- Non-Member \$125.00 = \$ _____

Please circle which day you will be attending

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

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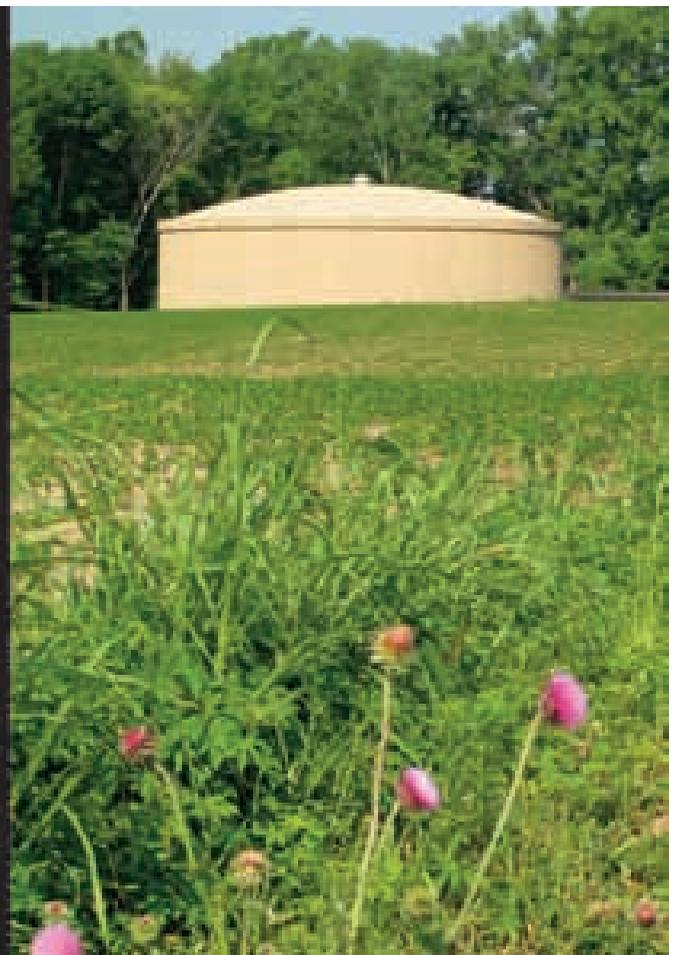
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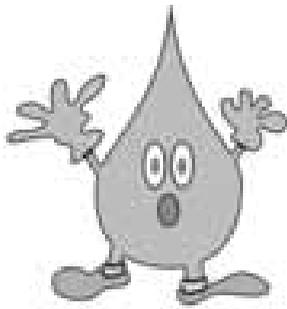
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The winner will represent Illinois in the Great American Water Taste Test, at the Water Rally in Washington D.C. on April 22, 2008. IRWA will pay for one person from the winning system to fly to D.C. for the rally.

ELIGIBILITY RULES

- ◆ Must be a voting member in good standing.
- ◆ It must be a clean glass jar!
- ◆ 1 quart of your system's water.
- ◆ Water must be received by 12:00 p.m. on 2/19/2008

To enter either mail this form to:
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Fax the form to: 217-824-8638

OR

Bring the form with your water to the conference.



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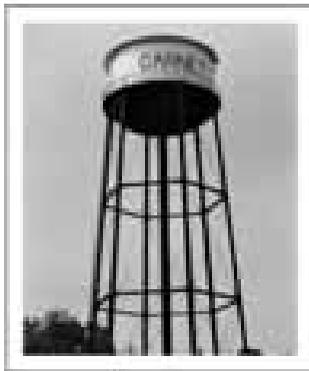
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NLP Coaching Goal Setting for Success at New Year Resolutions

by Rintu Basu

This article is about the many different ways we can trip ourselves up in setting goals, particularly with New Year Resolutions and what you can do to change.

Many people evaluate their lives and set new patterns around the New Year. There are several ways that this can deliberately set you up to fail.

Often this is done because there is an expectation from others that you should set resolutions at this time of year. Also there is often a sense of giving things up or a judgement about not having succeeded the previous year. Typically these type of resolutions have the word 'must' associated with them. Here are a few examples I have collected over the years as an NLP Coach:

I must change jobs I must be able to get into this new dress by February I must do this, give up that...and so on. I'm sure you get the idea.

This approach has a few pitfalls. How committed is the person to their goals if they feel forced in to them? The judgements and the sense of giving things up attaches negative emotions to the goals so they don't seem like fun or excitement. Is it any wonder that so many people fail with New Year Resolutions before the end of January?

NLP Techniques — A Solution

Three elements of NLP Techniques include examining intention behind behaviour, emotional state and belief changes. By taking these three elements we can start looking at our New Year Resolutions differently.

Goal Setting and Intention

By examining what we gain from our goals, who they are actually for and why we want them some interesting things sometimes fall out. The motivation to succeed or not comes from this element.

Emotions — The Secret to Success

Have you ever seen or experienced the situation where the closer you got to success the more anxious you got about it? And then possibly fell at the last hurdle? The problem with being too emotionally attached to your goals might lead to failure. How well would your crops grow if you were constantly digging them up to see how far they had got?

NLP Techniques — Belief Changes

What you believe about yourself and the world around you will determine your success or failure. Any NLP Practitioner Training will show you a whole number of techniques for changing beliefs, letting go of limiting beliefs and installing empowering one. Using these NLP processes you can ensure that the goals you set and the New Year Resolutions that you take on are meaningful and that you will succeed. But the real power for making big sweeping changes to your life comes from NLP Coaching Systems.

NLP Break-through Coaching Process

Many coaches are also NLP Practitioners and they have integrated some powerful tools into their coaching practice. But there are a few very skilled Hypnosis and NLP Trainers that have developed the NLP BreakThrough Coaching Process that can help in making serious and deep changes in a person's life.

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Coaching process starts by examining your goals, expectations, unconscious behaviours and repeat patterns of behaviour. Through this we can determine the key limiting beliefs and negative emotions that will let you really achieve anything you want. Then through systematic Interventions you can let go of the past and embrace powerful new ways of being. The whole process usually takes as little as three or four hours. Many people that are serious about their goals and achievements have taken this route to success.

When you think about how you and the people around you set their New Year Resolutions you might be considering doing things differently. A little imagination and creative thought might give you the opportunity to achieve more in the next twelve months than you have in the last twelve years. How much of a result would that be for you?

Rintu has developed the NLP Scotland community's NLP Training Provider of choice in The NLP Company. He also maintains an exclusive NLP coaching practice in Glasgow and is focused on high quality training and developing new hypnosis and NLP applications.

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Water: Our Most Precious and Most Under-Appreciated Natural Resource

*by John Mone,
District Manager, IL, IA
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We all use it many times a day... And very rarely do we ever consider what our lives would be like without it. I am speaking, of course, of water. I would like to think that those of us in the water business have more of an awareness than the general public regarding what must happen to effect the treatment and distribution of water in our communities every day. This is especially brought to mind whenever I come across an article discussing water usage and distribution methods dating back to the early 1900s. These articles will invariably invoke fond memories of a childhood spent in a rural area of our country, as well as bringing to light the wonder and blessing of the water system infrastructure of current day. So, on this note, I would like to tell you about some of my memories, and relate them to current day attitudes and practices.

Probably my most vivid memories of 'less than modern' residential water systems were from my preteen and teenage years. My parents owned an old farmhouse in southeastern Illinois. The well house was attached to the home, and the hand-dug, shallow well was rock-lined. On top of the well there was a reciprocating pump belted to an 110v motor along with a 10-gallon pressure tank. Its operation was very apparent anytime

anyone used the water in the house. We were just happy to have 'indoor plumbing'. Many of our neighbors did not and had to run out to the outhouse in the bitter cold of winter when nature called. A variety of other water systems were also found in our rural county. Some neighbors had deep wells with submersible pumps, but some folks had the task of drawing water out of their well with rope and a 2 gallon bucket. Still others without a well would go to Decker Springs, a pristine spring which bubbled from a limestone bluff, and they would fill containers with drinking water and haul them back home!!! I am quite sure that all of these scenarios still exist in our state, country, and world to this day, however, at least in our country, their frequency is diminishing.

With the expansion of rural water lines throughout our country, many have been relieved of the chore of hauling water or of maintaining wells. The infrastructure of water lines throughout our country is surely one of the impressive 'pieces of the puzzle' that makes our great land so great, and I am reminded of how truly blessed we all are to live in so great a country as the U.S. of A.

Now that I have a family of my own, with children who don't really comprehend the hardships endured by generations gone by, I have tried to impart a sense of appreciation and conservation in my children. The best way which I have found to accomplish this has been on our family camping trips. We have enjoyed many

of the beautiful campgrounds which the state of Illinois has to offer, from the Mississippi Palisades State Park in NW Illinois to Cave-In-Rock State Park in SE Illinois. Whether ultra-modern or relatively primitive, these campgrounds have offered us an excellent opportunity to study and learn to appreciate the water from our tap, and have encouraged the practice of conservation of one of our most precious natural resources, water.

As I travel through our great state of Illinois, I enter many different sizes of towns and cities. I am always struck by the prominence of the water tower in any given community, and I can't help but wonder if those in that community have much of an appreciation, if any, of the accessibility and quality of the water in each of their homes. The infrastructure that exists in most of our communities is truly worth its weight in gold, but unfortunately, is usually not something that most of us ever consider. Not until, that is, there is a reason to issue a boil water order for a few days. It seems that, at least in my family, this also is an occasion to appreciate what we all take for granted most of the time and an opportunity to realize the importance of investing time and resources into the maintenance and upgrading of our water systems. It is only through this pro-active strategy that these water systems will continue to operate properly and provide our children, our children's children, and us with wholesome, potable water for many years to come. As Benjamin Franklin once said, "Only when the well is dry will we know the worth of water." Let us all keep his words in mind, and enlist the assistance of all citizens to protect and maintain our public water supply so that our wells will never run dry. 💧



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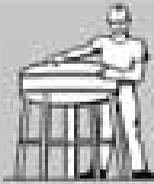
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Not to be left out, things were just as volatile in Springfield this past year. The year started off as any other and there was really no indication of the tumultuous times to come. About midway through the legislative year Democratic powerhouses started bickering (that's putting it mildly) among themselves. This bickering quickly turned to an all out war of words as accusations were tossed about like a hot potato. (To this day the bickering continues – but I digress.) Throughout all of the budget battles other pieces of legislation were being held hostage – including one that would greatly benefit the not-for-profit (NFP) water companies that provide a valuable service to a large portion of rural Illinois.

Negotiating for the “release” of rural water’s bill was Jim Reimer of Governmental Consulting Solutions with

offices in Springfield. When this bill (SB 1360) was introduced, few people gave it a chance to survive. Through Jim’s guidance and hard work, it not only survived, but it passed out of both houses without a single dissenting vote.

Leaving nothing to chance, Jim also visited with the Governor’s office to ensure that there was no confusion on what the bill was attempting to do. Starting January 1, 2008, NFP water providers will be exempt from paying most sales taxes. Job well done Jim!

Still climbing upwards, best describes attendance as a record number of participants attended both IRWA conferences this past year. The Northern Conference held in Rockford enjoyed a 25% increase in attendance and the exhibit hall had a

waiting list of vendors wanting to display their products. Likewise, the annual conference held in Effingham had a large turnout of water and wastewater operators who enjoyed visiting with vendors in the sold out exhibit hall. IRWA has committed to making next year’s conferences better than ever by providing quality training opportunities presented by knowledgeable speakers.

As one year comes to a close and another is poised to begin, I suppose I had best tighten my seatbelt; as the roller coaster is about to depart the gate for another ride. Hope to see you all in Effingham next Month. 💧

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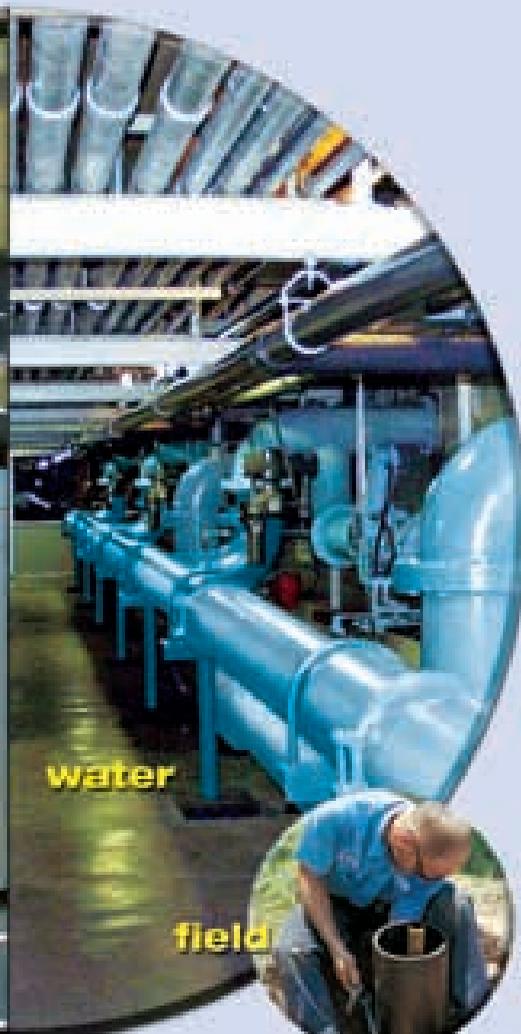
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