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MISSION STATEMENT

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

On the Cover:

Pictured is a barn with the American Flag painted on it taken in southern Illinois by Circuit Rider Pat Gammill.

Water Ways is the official publication of the Illinois Rural Water Association, P.O. Box 49, Taylorville, Illinois 62568, and is published quarterly for distribution to members as well as other industry associations and friends. Our website is www.ilrwa.org. Articles and photographs are encouraged. Advertising and submissions should be mailed to the above address or e-mail us at ilrwadb@ilrwa.org.



A Major Project Reaches It's End

by Don Craig,
IRWA Deputy Director

As many of you may know, I am also heading a couple of relatively new internal services through IRWA. One of those is our GPS/GIS Mapping Program. And, at the time of writing this article, in late March, I am nearing the end of a major GPS data gathering project for one of our member water systems that serves mainly rural areas in Randolph County, but also some surrounding areas in counties nearby. That utility is Egyptian Water Company, which is now overseen and managed by Washington County Water Company, based in Nashville, IL. Egyptian Water serves a large area around Sparta, and serves approximately 820 customers throughout that rural area.

I want to take the time to thank Washington County Water employee and

Operator, Texas Fann... who has been extremely helpful in bringing this part of the total project, to an end. He has been with me from the beginning, driving me to every 'point' location that needed to have a GPS reading locked into our Trimble data logger. Believe me; there was NO way that I would have been able to complete the GPS field work, without his help, diligence, knowledge, and just "being there".

We took on a large task, in gathering GPS feature data locations for over 1300 points in the water system. This included hydrants, main valves, pressure stations, meters pits, etc. Of those, the largest number, of course, included meter pit locations. It worked out well for the water company, having one of their

employees on hand, as he was able to verify meter readings with each feature shot, as they routinely have the customer send in their own meter reading. Also, Texas had to verify account and location number information on each and every one of the numerous meter pit locations. This was a process of cross-checking existing system maps, with noted locations against accounting spreadsheets with account

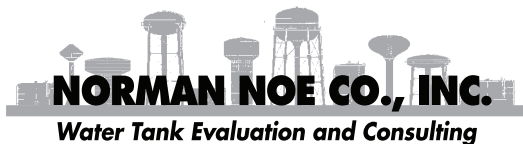


information. I was inputting this extra data attribute information on each and every meter logged. As you can imagine, this was a painstaking and tedious process that not only took a lot of time, but a lot of patience for both of us.

Needless to say, gathering GPS data in a rural water district, compared to a municipality, has a completely different logistical 'feel' and completion time element. Through it all, we drove down miles of rural roads, many of which were not too much of a road to begin with. And, we also walked many miles up and down hills, valleys, cliffs, ravines, creeks, across pastures, through yards, in woods (with poison ivy and oak), through small villages, over and under fences, and much, much more. Also, we encountered an uncountable amount of dogs, so it seems. All of those that were 'loose' were pretty friendly, but many were on leashes or in a pen, and those probably would have preferred to chew our legs off if they would have had the chance. But, the animal aspect was not limited to just dogs. There were also cats, horses, cattle (including bulls), pigs, chickens, ducks, geese, deer, snakes, hawks, donkeys, and yes, even a llama that I'm sure would have loved to spit all over us!

Many times, early on, this was in very hot weather sweating our... well, you know. And, then there was wet weather... and this past winter, several cold and

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A Major Project Reaches Its End

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windy days out in the open in those rural areas. In the last few weeks the wet weather was at peak level, and Texas had to pump the water out of nearly half, or more of each and every meter pit, to get his reading. This was a tiresome and seemingly never-ending task in itself. But, through it all, we trudged on, and finally worked to the project's end.

Ultimately, the goal of the entire project is to develop new maps for Egyptian Water Company through the GIS process utilizing all the GPS data gathered. This will include, but not limited to, digital maps, which accurately depict and register the longitude and latitude of all those features logged

during the GPS data gathering. For a rural water 'district', such as this, that kind of accurate and true data is essential for the future development and maintenance of the system.

I do want to also say, we encountered many different people out in the field doing the GPS and meter reading project. Most of those were customers, some were not... but all were nice, cordial, and helpful to what we were doing. Some were more inquisitive than others, which a watchful 'eye' on us, as we traipsed across their land in many instances. But, in the end, when we got the chance to explain our purpose of being out there, they were good people to talk to and work with.

Again, I want to thank Texas and Steve Fletcher of Washington County Water Company, the office staff, and their Board, for their extensive help, diligence, and patience in getting this part of the entire project to an end. We've had several other systems already get on board with GPS/GIS projects that have been completed for their utility... we appreciate all them as well. And, we look forward to working with other systems already 'in line' to get their mapping updated with our program. If your water facility would like to discuss the possibility of getting digital and new hardcopy maps using GPS/GIS technology... just give us a call. 💧

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Spring Cleaning: Not Just For Your Home!

by Perry Musgrave,
IRWA District 8 Board Member

As the old saying goes April showers bring May flowers. Well, at my house it also brings spring cleaning and I'm not a big fan but somebody has to do it.... right? After a long winter, all the dust and grime has built up and you can't stand looking at it any longer. So clean and repair we must. As the days get longer and warmer it becomes easier to get in the mood. So we tackle those honey do jobs around the house.

Well, if it works at home why not at your treatment plant, pump stations, office or about anything else you have been planning to get caught up on? One of the items Lake Egypt Water District decided to clean out and work over

this spring is our ammonia room. As most of you know in order to store and feed aqua ammonia you are required to meet strict IEPA guide lines that have changed in the last few years. We have feed aqua ammonia for several years and to say our ammonia room was inadequate is an understatement. After talking to and receiving information from our regional IEPA office we set out to update our ammonia room. It didn't take long for me to see it was going to be very expensive to meet all the requirements. The standards for aqua ammonia are very similar to chlorine gas. You can find them in the [Recommended Standards For Water Works 2012](#)




[Edition](#). One of the reasons we replaced our chlorine gas with chlorine dioxide and Miox approximately two years ago was to eliminate the health risk to our employees. Back to our regional IEPA office I went. We discussed different

continued on page 7

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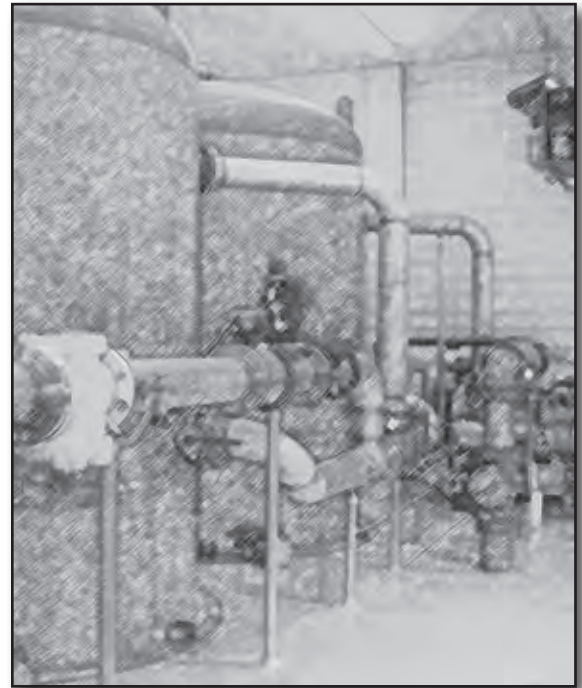


Spring Cleaning: Not Just For Your Home!

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options, one being making the change to feed liquid ammonium sulfate. This change would allow us to get away from some of the strict storage requirements of aqueous ammonia. Liquid ammonium sulfate does not have safety and handling issues, is very stable with no loss of actives due to volatility and has little or no odor. We would however be required to have a sealed and vented tank. After consulting our engineer, we decided this would be our best option. We applied for a new construction permit and then an operating permit for ammonium sulfate. After receiving IEPA approval we began feeding ammonium sulfate. Since the improvements have been implemented,

we now have a more stable chlorine residual due to the stability of the ammonium sulfate compared to the aqua ammonia. We were able to switch for approximately ten percent of what it would have cost to make the required upgrades for the aqua ammonia. The additional 40% cost to feed liquid ammonium sulfate is a disadvantage, but when you consider the advantages of initial savings, lessened health risk to our employees and more stable chlorine residual it was a good decision for us. 💧



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I Don't Think This Falls Under "AND ALL OTHER DUTIES, AS ASSIGNED"

*by Wayne Nelson,
IRWA Training Specialist*

The village of Green Valley is located in Tazewell County approximately 25 miles south of Peoria. Its' public works department maintains the village's streets, wastewater treatment facility, and water treatment plant. Like most municipalities in the state (and the nation), Green Valley doesn't have a huge pot of money lying around for capital improvements. What they do have is Public Works Director Jim Carter.

Jim has been in the water treatment field for 18 years with 13 of these at Green Valley. He is a certified Class B water operator as well as a Class 4 wastewater treatment facility operator.

When Jim was hired by Green Valley, the public water supply consisted of two wells and a hydro-pneumatic pressure tank. The wells were high in iron and manganese levels but only a phosphate was fed to help sequester both. The lack of an elevated storage tank prohibited the village from having fire protection or an adequate supply of available water.

Several years ago, the village received a grant for the construction of an elevated tank that now provides constant pressure as well as fire protection. While this was a great improvement to the system, the finished water that customers used was, while safe, still not of the best quality.

A study in 1999 by the village board found that the installation of a filtration treatment plant would cost approximately \$500,000.00 (in 1999 dollars). This cost prohibited further action to correct water quality problems.

Later, Jim began investigating what the actual cost of materials would be for a project of this type and found it to be in the \$100,000.00 range. He contacted

manufacturers for the equipment needed from the pressure filter vessels and media to valves to piping to controls. After obtaining solid numbers, he contacted an engineer for a construction plan that allowed for the use of the existing maintenance building to hold down construction costs.

This last action was done with the approval of the board that had a lot of questions about this project. After Jim confirmed to them that this project was "do-able", the board approved the purchase of the components needed for the construction of a greensand pressure filter treatment plant. Chemical treatment would consist of potassium permanganate for oxidation purposes, chlorine gas for disinfection, and fluoride.

So, the village engineer obtained a construction permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and all of the plant components were ordered. Delivery of this giant jigsaw puzzle was made in January, 2012.



The most notable construction issue was that Jim would have to construct the treatment plant himself. And, except for one day of help in bringing the pressure filter vessels inside the building, this is what he did!



Earlier, I mentioned that Jim was the Director of Public Works for the Village of Green Valley. He is also its' only maintenance employee. While constructing the new plant, he still had to do the things that go with village maintenance. He told me that the biggest thing that helped him was the fact that the winter was short on snowfall and this allowed him more time for construction.

We all know that no project ever goes smoothly. In our interview, I asked Jim about some of the things that could have gone a little better. He said that removing the old concrete foundation that held the old hydro-pneumatic pressure tank took 16 hours. Removal was done with a jackhammer mounted on a Bobcat.

Another was bringing the pressure filters into the building. When ordered, it was made clear that total filter measurements had to be 9 feet or less. When they arrived, they measured 9 feet and two inches! This problem was solved by laying the filter vessels on their side, fork-lifting them into the plant, and then setting them upright again. As I mentioned earlier, this was the one day that Jim needed assistance.

Jim also installed all of the filter media himself and properly leveled the media via the hatches in the side of the filter vessels.

I Don't Think This Falls Under "AND ALL OTHER DUTIES, AS ASSIGNED"

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Jim was also amazed at the number of actual nut and bolts needed in the construction process. He spent approximately \$2000.00 on nuts and bolts alone.

However, after all of this, the plant was constructed, bacteriological samples were collected and approved, and the operating permit was issued. The new filtration treatment plant went on-line in April, 2012.

Water quality instantly improved in the distribution system. Manganese levels dropped to 0.03 mg/L and iron levels dropped to 0.02 mg/L in the finished water. Chlorine feed rates were able to be dropped from 3 pounds/day to 2. Before the construction of the new plant, the distribution system had to be flushed almost constantly to keep the water mains cleaned out. Currently, the system only needs to be flushed twice per year.

So what's the story from a money standpoint? While water rates were raised to pay for these improvements, it was not a huge increase. At the time of the rate increase, a letter from the village board was sent to customers explaining the project and the promise of improved water quality.

The final actual project cost was \$140,000.00 (including engineering). ***Remember the original estimate of half a million dollars in 1999?*** While this did cover a little overtime paid to Jim, most of the work was done by him during his normal workday.

At the close of our interview, Jim stated to me that, in 2001, he told himself that he would find a way to clean up the water in Green Valley without spending half a million dollars. He feels that he would have gotten it done quicker if he had questioned the 1999 study earlier.

Jim's advice to anyone thinking of a project is to "do a little research and that research is usually free."

After all of this, you would think that Jim would sit back and enjoy the fruits of his labor. Not so. Toward the

end of our interview, we discussed his distribution system. It is constructed of A/C (transite) pipe with corporation stops threaded directly into the pipe. He wants to eventually replace these mains. I have no doubts that he will get this job done. ♀



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Don't Forget to Listen

by John Bell,
IRWA Wastewater Technician

A record setting snow in March can bring with it many problems. I found that shoveling the drive and the sidewalk was the least of the problems at my ranch.

A day after the record-setting snowfall, the wife mentioned that she had noticed that the vent to the clothes dryer was covered over with snow and would I clear the dryer vent. You bet!!! This was a minor task that could be easily and quickly done. So I went out and cleared the snow from the vent and before going back into the house I thought I had better check to see if the flapper to the vent was operating properly. I reached the flapper and pulled back some lint. NOT GOOD. Got my tools and took the cover face off the vent and peeked inside. NOT GOOD. All I could see was lint. So I bent a wire and tried to clean the dryer vent, to no avail. NOT GOOD. Crawl space here I come.

A few hours later and the dryer vent put back in place minus the lint, we were back in operation. I've been told that house fires can be caused by dryer vents being clogged with lint. Thinking back I know that it was mentioned in general conversations that the dryer was taking longer than normal to dry a load of clothes. I knew that the dryer vent is cleaned after each load and that yearly we pull the dryer out and vacuum the dryer line. I had not taken the extra steps and disassembled the vent line for a complete inspection and cleaning.

I got a call a few days ago about a sanitary line that was blocked. A customer had mentioned that his line was not working properly and that started the operator on the inspection as to what was causing the problem. After a complete search it was found that the Village sewer line was plugged. The operator then jetted the line and was having a tough time getting through one spot. The jetting only temporarily helped and a few days later the line was plugged again. The operator tried jetting the line again and could not get past a blockage.

He called me and requested if IRWA would televise the line so that he could better determine what had to be done to open the line. Next day the line was televised. The customer's sewer line had been pushed by tree roots into the Village's sewer and was completely blocking the line.

Due to the televising of the line, Corey and the Village of Patoka knew what had to be properly done to correct the problem. Thus, the stories of two problems where one person was listening and jumped into action



and the other where he finally listened and was lucky the way things turned out.

I have often said that water and sewer operators can just step out of their trucks and know immediately that something isn't right at their facility. I need to remember that and thought I might pass this story on to you. 💧

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An advertisement for Water Well Solutions. The central graphic features the letters 'WWW' in a large, blue, stylized font with a white outline, set against a dark blue background with a water ripple effect. Below this, the text reads 'Water Well Solutions' in a bold, white font, followed by 'Design, Service, & Installation' in a smaller white font. The phone number '888-769-9009' and the website 'www.waterwellsolutions.com' are listed. The location 'Oconomowoc, WI • Elburn, IL' is also provided. The text 'Electrical Controls' is at the bottom. On the left side, '24 Hour / 7 Day a Week Service' is written vertically. On the right side, 'Booster Systems' is written vertically.

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Featured Sessions

"The Impact of Healthcare Reform on Illinois Municipalities"

Brian Jablonski from the Linden Health Group will discuss how the new law will directly affect municipalities. He will also explain how to become compliant, budget for the new taxes and costs increases, and show strategies to lessen the burden of Healthcare Reform.

"These Risk Management and Insurance Issues Should Not be Keeping You up at Night"

Keith Dobrolinsky, Vice President of the Assurance Agency will focus on current and emerging risk management issues facing Illinois municipalities. During this time he will teach you ways to reduce your public entity's overall exposures and cost of risk.

"Managing Public Records"

Michael Hall with the Illinois State Archives will go over ways to manage your records, the local records act, and examine the responsibilities of public agencies as they relate to public records.

"A Discussion on Illinois E Pay"

A representative from the Illinois Treasurer's Office - Illinois Funds/ E Pay division will talk about E Pay and answer your questions about this handy on-line service being offered by the State of Illinois.

"Water service disconnect procedures and policies"

Michael Antoline, from the Law Office of Michael Antoline, will be going over legal procedures and policies for water service disconnection. He also plans to cover the topic of placing liens on property for nonpayment

"Human Resources Services Overview"

Joyce Grenis is Senior Vice President of Human Resource Consulting Services at Sikich LLP, and will be covering a variety of HR topics to include, an overview of the current industry, best practices, key policies to have in place, and documentation and personnel files

"Accounting Services Overview"

Angela Leach, CPA, is a partner in the Sikich LLP office in Springfield with more than 25 years of public accounting experience. She will be going over topics which will include not only an overview of the current industry, but QuickBooks Best practices for account structure, journal entries, payroll reporting, reconciliations, etc., Hot topics in accounting!

Conference Agenda

THURSDAY May 9th

8:00-8:30 a.m.	Registration and Welcome
8:30 -9:15 a.m.	Linden Group-Healthcare Reform
9:15 -9:30 a.m.	Break
9:30 -10:15 a.m.	Healthcare Reform/ followed by Assurance-Risk Mngt.
10:15 - 10:30a.m.	Break
10:30 -11:15 a.m.	Assurance-Risk Mngt. Insurance Continued
11:15-11:30 a.m.	Break
11:30-noon p.m.	Additional Q & A time from morning sessions
Noon - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch Provided and Sponsored by The Linden Group and Assurance Agency
1:00-1:45 p.m.	Secretary Of State-Public Records
1:45-2:00 p.m.	Break
2:00-2:45 p.m.	State Treasure's Office- E-Pay
2:45-3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Water Disconnect Policies
4:30-6:00 p.m.	Hospitality Reception

FRIDAY May 10th

8:30 -9:15 a.m.	Sikich-HR Services Overview
9:15-9:30 a.m.	Break
9:30- 10:15 a.m.	Sikich-Accounting Services
10:15-10:30 p.m.	Break
10:30-11:15 a.m.	Sikich Wrap up with Q & A
11:15-11:30 a.m.	Break
11:30 -12:00 p.m.	Drawings and Door Prizes



REGISTRATION INFORMATION - May 9 & 10 , 2013



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All Hotel Block Rates are open until: 4/9/13

Registration Hours:

Thursday, May 9th 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Registration:

Registration and badges are required for all conference attendees.

Pre-Registration:

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

IRWA
PO Box 49
Taylorville, IL 62568

Or on-line at www.ilrwa.org for credit card or PayPal payments only.

Pre-registration must be postmarked by April 26, 2013

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 Convention Center. Please note that on-site registration is \$25.00 higher than pre-registration.

Cancellation & Refunds:

Refunds are issued only in the event of an emergency or hospitalization. We must have a **written notice of cancellation** to issue a refund.

Hospitality Reception:

Thursday, May 9th 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Please join us after the days sessions for munchies, beverages, and a good time sure to be had laughing with your peers! It should be a good time to get warmed up for a night out shopping and dining in the area. We hope you will join us.



2013 Annual Spring Administrative Conference

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Must be completed for all attendees

(Please photo copy for each additional attendee)

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REGISTRATION:

Includes Sessions, Meals, and Activities for both days

Pre-Registration

Member: \$150.00 = \$ _____

Non-Member \$175.00 = \$ _____

On-Site Registration

Member: \$175.00 = \$ _____

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Call 1-800-762-3547 with questions

The Numerous Benefits of Time Management Skills

by Ann Marie

It's normal to hear time management discussed in business circles; yet, it is a topic that can be of great benefit to everybody. Time is a challenge for all of us, whether we're business people, workers, students or stay at home moms or dads. There seems to be less time in today's world, and that's why it's a lot more important to learn how to properly manage our time. In this article, we are going to be discussing a few key reasons why time management is so important.

A big benefit of time management is just how that it boosts your productivity. It is something that almost everybody hopes to be able to do. Seldom do you hear of individuals who feel that they've

got adequate time to do the things they need and wish to do. In lots of instances, the problem is not not enough time but rather the fact that you do not have an efficient way of managing your time. Time management shows you how to set priorities, and to focus on how much time you're wasting every day. The idea is not really to put yourself under more pressure to try and do more, but to utilize your time more wisely so you appear to have more of it.

One positive advantage of time management is decreased levels of stress. Not having enough time is one of the main reasons we experience stress. Think about how tense you feel if you are

worrying about being late for a scheduled visit or if you're stuck in traffic. These issues relate to time, and if you have this type of situation often you could probably benefit from some training in time management. Learning how to control schedule so that overwhelmed us and become an issue indicates that you are supervising your time efficiently. We often believe that the solution to our problems is doing things faster, but it could be even better and more relaxing if we learn how to manage our time better.

Time management doesn't just include boosting your productivity and efficiency; you also want to feel more

continued on page 22



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The Numerous Benefits of Time Management Skills


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pleasure and a better quality of life. Time is an important component of life and so we feel better about our lives when we have the ability to control our time. Conversely, feeling that we're running out of time can create an overall feeling that we aren't good in some part of life. Those who are genuinely successful are aware that time management is a crucial skill they have to get good at. It could be the one determining factor that lets you live in the moment and appreciate your life instead of feeling that time is a merciless boss.

Time management is very significant in our present times, even

more so than in previous decades. Existing technology allows us to do things faster than before and yet we feel forced to continually increase the pace. As an example, we continue to have difficulty keeping track of the large number of available information even with computers and other gadgets that are extremely powerful. Time management is the component that can give us a sense of control over time so we can quit rushing and loosen up.

About The Author

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<p>Drops Breaking To Stream</p> <p>1 MINUTE LOSS = 2 OUNCES 1 HOUR LOSS = 1 GALLON 1 DAY LOSS = 24 GALLONS 1 WEEK LOSS = 175 GALLONS 1 MONTH LOSS = 700 GALLONS</p>	<p>1/16" Stream</p> <p>1 MINUTE LOSS = 7 1/2 OUNCES 1 HOUR LOSS = 3 1/2 GALLONS 1 DAY LOSS = 64 GALLONS 1 WEEK LOSS = 575 GALLONS 1 MONTH LOSS = 2500 GALLONS</p>
<p>1/8" Stream</p> <p>1 MINUTE LOSS = 23 OUNCES 1 HOUR LOSS = 11 GALLONS 1 DAY LOSS = 260 GALLONS 1 WEEK LOSS = 1800 GALLONS 1 MONTH LOSS = 7800 GALLONS</p>	<p>3/16" Stream</p> <p>1 MINUTE LOSS = 39 OUNCES 1 HOUR LOSS = 18 GALLONS 1 DAY LOSS = 425 GALLONS 1 WEEK LOSS = 3000 GALLONS 1 MONTH LOSS = 12,750 GALLONS</p>

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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.



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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 at www.ilrwa.org or you may call our office at 217-287-2115.

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