



Water Ways

Volume XVI – Winter 2019



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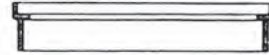
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MISSION STATEMENT

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

On the Cover:

This picture was taken at Taylorville Lake
by Heather McLeod,
Membership Services Assistant.

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.



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Regional Water Supplier

by Greg Bates,
IRWA Board President

The Illinois Alluvial Regional Water Company was recently formed to provide a reliable source of ground water to five neighboring communities at this time, but the list of communities is continuing to grow as I am writing this article. This regional effort was undertaken to have economy of scale and to control water rates and each entity or community will have an equal vote and has one board member sitting on the Board of Directors. This not-for-profit entity will be obtaining funding through Rural Development with a forty two million dollar loan over forty years and a twenty four million dollar grant. Rural Development was able to fund this project this year due to an abundance of funds in the current and next fiscal years. This is an on-going collaborative effort by all entities involved and has required teamwork and cooperation among all parties. Rural Development favors regional water supplies over funding a bunch of small water treatment facilities because of the economy of scale factor.

The Illinois Alluvial Regional Water Company will be a regional bulk supplier selling bulk water to the current five entities with a forty year contract. Each entity will remain independent and set their own rates and have their own employees. The Company plans to drill four to five wells in the Illinois River bottom and build a four million gallon per day water plant. The plant will be expandable to six million gallon per day with a large enough raw water line (30inch) to handle the increased flow

rate. The water will be lime softened, treated and pumped to the current five entities. The current five entities are located in west central Illinois and are the Village of Dorchester, Village of Bunker Hill, City of Carlinville, Central Macoupin County Rural Water District and Jersey County Rural Water Company. The finished water line will range from twenty-four inch to eight inch over fifty-two miles. Water storage will be provided by the five entities along the route of the water main. The Company will provide connection(s) to each entity with master meter pits. Currently the Board is working on easements, options to purchase land and bridge financing. The Engineering firm of Meco-Heneghan Associates LLC is working on plant and well site design.

This project has been a joint community effort and has had many ups and downs along the way. The project has had some opposition but has also had much support from many key people. I would personally like to thank Gateway Regional Water Company for the many tours, meetings, advice and hospitality given to visiting entities. Attorney David Foreman, Mike Wallace with Rural Development, Meco-



Heneghan Engineering (Bob and Max), Illinois Rural Water Association, as well as all five Board Members have also played key roles in the continued success of the Illinois Alluvial Regional Water Company. We hope construction will start in the next two years as we plan our own destiny. 💧



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A New Year

by Frank Dunmire,
IRWA Executive Director

Ahhh...the Christmas rush is over, and the New Year is about to ring in (as I am writing this article). It is certainly nice to see and visit with friends and family that you seem to connect with only during the Christmas holiday, but it is equally nice to finally get a reprieve from all the hustle and bustle that comes with the season and finally find some time to relax. With that being said, the rest and relaxation will be short-lived as a whole new season is about spring into action, and by that, I mean that legislative sessions, both here in Illinois and in Washington DC, are about to spring into action!

The Illinois House's 100th General Assembly still has a couple of days scheduled to be in session on January 7th and January 8th before the 101st General Assembly is sworn in on January 9th. The Executive branch will be sworn in on January 14th and the race will be on to see who can file the most bills. During the 100th GA (which lasts for two years) 5999 bills were introduced by House members while the Senate was a little more restrained and only introduced 3649 pieces of legislation. All the bills that did not pass through both chambers during the 100th GA will then be taken off the roles and new legislation will then be introduced to take their place.

Even though the new GA has not been sworn into office, some Legislators are already working on bills they plan to re-introduce during the 101st GA. One of those bills comes as no surprise and is one that we (IRWA, ISAWWA, IML, and others) spent many hours voicing our collective concerns about last year. In the 100th GA it was Senate Bill 3080, introduced by Senator Heather A. Steans (D-Chicago), and was titled "Reduction of Lead Service Lines Act". *The purpose of this Act is "to require the owners and operators of community water supplies to: (1) create a comprehensive lead service line inventory; (2) provide notice to occupants of potentially affected residences of construction or repair*

work on water mains, lead service lines, or water meters; (3) prohibit partial lead service line replacements; and (4) create a lead service line replacement program. Many hours were spent in meetings, email correspondences and phone conferences debating the merits of the different components of the bill. One week before Christmas, Senator Steans convened a meeting of stakeholders in her downtown Chicago office. I was surprised that there was about 30 people attending the meeting in person and at least another dozen or so conference called in. It only took a matter of minutes to figure out that we would be starting at "square-one" on any legislation that will be introduced in the next few weeks. No one is objecting to the fact that lead service lines need to be removed but there seems to be no agreeable time-line to do so. It will be quite simple for the small systems that may have but a handful of lead service lines to replace them in short order. However, large systems that may have hundreds, if not thousands, are going to need more time to comply. One solution that was discussed was a tiered approach to compliance – those with fewer lines would get x number of years while those with more lead service lines would have additional time. Another provision in SB3080 would require *Asset Management plans within 2 years of the effective date of this Act, each community water system in Illinois shall implement an asset management plan designed to inspect, maintain, repair, and renew infrastructure consistent with the standards adopted by the American Water Works Association or another industry-wide accepted standard. The asset management plan shall be submitted to the Department for approval. The asset management plan shall include a plan to remove all known lead service lines, both publicly owned and privately owned. The asset management plan shall include: an engineering study; estimated costs; a financing plan; a feasibility and affordability plan; a*



plan for prioritizing high-risk areas; a proposed schedule for replacements that includes annual benchmarks; and measures to encourage diversity in hiring in the workforce required to implement the plan, if feasible. Each community water system may take into account its circumstances in considering a timeline and strategy to remove lead services lines, however, the Department may reject an asset management plan that has an unreasonable timeline. The Department may consider the number of lead service lines, the economic condition of the area the community water supply serves, and any other factors when determining reasonableness. Each community water system may make its own determination as to how its lead service line removal plan shall be financed. The asset management plan, including an updated lead removal strategy, shall be updated and submitted to the Department every 3 years. The update shall include all progress made since the previous filing period.

There are many more components of this bill that will need to be discussed over the next few months and IRWA will most likely be reaching out to our members to voice their concerns when the time is right. We will keep you posted as to this legislation's progress as well as others as this new General Assembly kicks into gear in Mid-January. Until then – sit back and relax! 💧

A Circuit Rider's View of 2018

*by Evan Jones,
IRWA Circuit Rider*

Happy New Year!!!! As I sat down to write my article for this issue, it put me to thinking what this past year has brought to our family, and the Illinois Rural Water Association. The year started with me becoming a Lieutenant on the volunteer fire department. My wife graduated from college, and she did that while working full-time and having three kids at home. Of course, it's more like having four when you count me. My oldest son got his white slip and is now driving me around. My middle son is thriving in his new-found adventures since he started cub scouts this year. The youngest...my little innocent girl, who will I am sure be the reason I go to prison (because eventually some young boy will want to take her on her first date), is going to be starting kindergarten in the

next school year.

Not only has this been happening to me and my family, but in the last year I have made a whopping 508 contacts in my travels through Illinois as a Circuit Rider for IRWA. This transfers out to 692 hours of being on site at water systems throughout northern Illinois, and assisting them with whatever they may need. I have logged over 600 hours behind the wheel of my truck, traveling to and from these systems; and have spent roughly 50 nights in hotels this past year. What isn't included in these hours, are the two in-state conferences I have worked at, that IRWA puts on. And additionally, I have completed three weeks of training out of state, through the National Rural Water Association...to stay on top of the changing industry.



Of all these contacts, 270 of those were directly related to the operation and maintenance of the system. Now when I say operation and maintenance of a system, I am talking about the 60 plus leak locates I have done in the



continued on page 7



A Circuit Rider's View of 2018

continued from page 6

past year. This is an estimate, because I started counting and finally gave up on how many there actually were. Also within those overall contacts, are also numerous service line, water main, and valve locates that I had been called to perform. Just over a hundred of the contacts I made, were involved in some form of management or finance. The management and finance contacts came up when we were discussing rate issues, employees, water shut off policies and procedures... as well as many more issues that arise in the management of a system or municipality. Included under this category are requests for operator certification training that I have helped with. Treatment issues within systems, made up approximately 70 of the contacts. These range from systems calling about filter problems,

and such things as chlorine residual issues. It really includes any problems I have helped with in the area of water treatment, and as everyone knows that list can be endless.

In the last year, I have helped one community get the ball rolling on a major upgrade to their water treatment plant. Just a bit of background in regard to this...the community had a surface water treatment plant that had some pretty bad treatment issues. So bad were the problems, that it was causing them to have to backwash one of the two filters every hour.

So, of all these contact and technical assistance hours I have laid out, you can just about take that times five when you add all three IRWA Circuit Riders and Wastewater Techs. So that will bring the grand total for the year to



approximately 2540 contacts, 3000 hours of drive time and almost 3500 hours of being on site, assisting operators in one-way shape or form.

When you see your Circuit Rider or Wastewater Technician pull up in your community, you can be assured that they are in truth, working. We do a lot of driving, talking, training, assisting, and instructing... and in John Bell's case, a lot of coffee drinking... just to make sure that everyone has safe drinking water, and that nobody is polluting our water ways. That being said, here's to the year ahead... may it be better than the last! 💧



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Cold Weather Water Loss

by Chuck Woodworth,
IRWA Circuit Rider

Another winter season is upon us, the Farmer's Almanac says that January will be a cold snowy month. With the cold temperatures comes concerns for frozen service lines, meter yokes and water main breaks caused by freezing and thawing of the soil. With the temperatures already dipping below freezing, I'm sure you may have found some small things that you may have forgot to do. Hopefully it did not cause too big of a problem and was easy to repair. I thought I would list a few things that I have found some systems do before the temperatures drop below freezing. They are in no special order, just things that I remember some systems doing. The most common is plugging in a heat tape or heater at the water tower depending on which kind of water tower you have. The pedestal towers I have seen a heater placed near the stand pipe or pressure gauges to prevent freezing of the lines feeding the gauges. Last winter I was called to system to find a leak that was very inconsistent on how much was being lost. While searching for the leak we noticed a buildup of ice around the overflow pipe of the water tower and on the ground surrounding the tower. Turns out that the heater was not plugged in and during the night the copper tube feeding the pressure gauge would freeze and the when the tower would get full the pumps would continue to run, overfilling the tower. They were very lucky that the lines did not freeze while the pumps were off,

it could have drained the tower before thawing. A few years ago, a system called me in a panic early one cold morning. One side of town had no pressure. They have two water towers, each having its own pressure zone. Both towers showed full. We found that one had frozen when full and the true water level was below normal.

I have found several leaks caused by not replacing or securing down the meter pit lids. It never fails that this happens to homes that are vacant or the owner is gone for the winter. It also never fails that this meter pit is in an area not visible from the street. I found a meter yoke that had froze, broke the yoke and when it warmed up started running water down the yard after the pit filled. This meter was located behind a row of evergreen trees and was not visible from the street. The home owner was gone for the winter enjoying the warmer temperatures in Arizona. Lucky for him the yoke broke on the city side of the meter. It was obvious where the leak was when we walked into the driveway on our way to listen to the meter. The same goes with air relief valve pit lids, especially the ones located on the edge of a farm field.

Fire hydrants that don't drain out after using them or it is not completely turned off would probably be next. I have found a few hydrants that froze and either pushed out hose nipple or they will crack the barrel of the hydrant. If the ice starts to push out the hose nipple and a fireman



hooks a hose to it and opens the hydrant, that's not a good time to find that out.

My favorite was a system that had built a new Village Hall. The old Village Hall was abandoned, the electric and gas had been disconnected but, you guessed it, the water had not been shut off. The old Village Hall building had been a business of some sort in the past that had a one and half inch service line feeding it. The service line froze and broke completely off on the inside of the basement wall. It was spraying a full inch and half stream of water across the basement. The basement drain was taking all it could and what could not go down the drain was about four feet deep. When I located and marked the leak on the main under the street in front of the building the operator looked at me and said I know what I did not do last summer as he kicked away some snow to uncover the curb stop shut off. A turn of the wrench "fixed" that leak.

Stay safe out there and see you next month at the Effingham conference. 💧

Water Supply Operators are Retiring at an Alarming Rate

by Mark E. Mitchell,
IRWA Source Water Protection Specialist

This past year, more and more it seems, the places I visit, the Responsible Operators in Charge (ROINC'S) are retiring at an ever-increasing rate. Many are reaching the 30-years-of-service mark where the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund maxes out at thirty years of service. A lot of these individuals are relatively young because they started their public service career right out of high school.

As these people transition into retirement, the question I pose is "Where will towns find quality individuals that will be willing to take on the physical work and long hours in the harshest weather, despicable working conditions. The water customers are not enthused of the fact that the water service is interrupted.

Those that remain in the workforce must find ways to do the same amount of work with leaner crews. We must constantly keep lines of communication open to find ways to bring new talent into this business.

This musing was triggered by the fact that I asked about my good friend, Gene Ashton, the water/wastewater superintendent from Mount Morris, a community of approximately 3,000 in Ogle County in far northern Illinois.

I had the privilege of sitting down with him before he exited the workforce after beginning his career at Mount Morris as a part time employee of the street department. I found his story to be so similar to so many others in Illinois with the exception being the fact that he



spent his entire public works career in one community. In his own words listed below are what he sees as the highlights of his career.



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- I started working as a part-time employee for the street department in May 1979.
- June 17, 1989, I was asked to work for the water & sewer department full time.
- I worked for 6 months and achieved class C water operator's certification.
- I worked for a year and achieved class 4 wastewater operator's certification.
- I worked for two years and achieved class 3 wastewater and after six years I achieved Class 2 Wastewater Certification. The water/wastewater superintendent left for a new job and I was left in charge.
- I trained six new workers over next 26 years and most moved on for better jobs.
- I operated the Class 3 sewer plant for 24 years until 2013 and the city is now on a new off-site sewer.
- I operated the water treatment plant and complete system for 29 years, repairing water main breaks, fixing water meters, collecting samples to stay in compliance with IEPA
- I have worked for five village presidents four village trustees as heads of my departments.
- My favorite quote. "Be nice to everyone because you never know when that person will be your boss." 💧



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*Keller Convention Center - Effingham, IL
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REGISTRATION

Registration & badges are required for all conference attendees. Please register each attendee using the registration form included.

Pre-Registration:

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

IRWA, PO Box 49, Taylorville, IL 62568

To pay on-line with your credit card go to www.ilrwa.org and click on the conference link on the home page.

Pre-registration must be postmarked by February 8th, 2019.

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.****

An event membership of one-cent per person is included in your registration fee(s) allowing participants in NRWA fundraising activities. This is required by Federal Election Commission laws. If you wish to opt-out please go to the registration booth at the conference for your refund of this one-cent fee.

CANCELLATION & REFUNDS

Refunds only in the event of emergencies. We must have a written notice of cancellation to issue a refund.

REGISTRATION HOURS

Pre-Registration Pickup ONLY

Monday, February 18 4:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.

Regular Registration Hours

Tuesday, February 19 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 20 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

EXHIBIT HALL

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. 115 companies will be bringing their products and services to you at this year's conference.

The exhibit hall will be open during the following hours:

Tuesday, February 19 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 20 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Exhibitors Hospitality Night

Tuesday, February 19 4:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.

All food and beverages for the evening provided by our exhibitors.

Pub Crawl

Tuesday, February 19 7:00 p.m.

Thank you to the City of Effingham for their continued support of the pub crawl! The buses will begin picking up at the Holiday Inn at the conclusion of Hospitality Night.

Casino Night

Wednesday, February 20 6:00 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OVERVIEW & EXAM



For the first time, IRWA will be offering a certification review course and state certification exam for drinking water at our conference. The reviews will be given courtesy of E.R.T.C. on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 from 8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m. for classes C & D and from 1:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m. for classes A & B. The review is included with your conference registration. However, please circle which class(es) you will be attending on the registration page. **You must register in advance for the review so we can have enough study material for those who want to participate.**

The exam will be given by the IEPA on Thursday, February 21, 2019 beginning at 8:30 a.m. It will be available for attendees and non-attendees alike. You must have a valid **Letter of Admission** issued by the IEPA. You **must** bring the Letter of Admission and a photo ID. There are no conference fees associated with the exam and you do not need to register in advance **for the exam on Thursday.**



37th Annual Technical Conference
February 19-21, 2019
REGISTRATION FORM



Must be completed for all attendees

(One form for each attendee, please)

FIRST NAME: _____ LAST NAME: _____

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Registrations must be postmarked by February 8, 2019 to receive pre-registration pricing

FULL REGISTRATION: (Includes technical sessions, exhibit hall, meals & activities for all 3 days)

- Member—\$175.00 Spouse—\$175.00
- Non-Member—\$225.00 Non-Member Individual Joining as a Member + Conference—\$228.00

ONE DAY REGISTRATION: (Includes technical sessions, exhibit hall, meals & activities for 1 day only)

- Member—\$145.00 Spouse—\$145.00
- Non-Member—\$195.00 Non-Member Individual Joining as a Member + Conference—\$198.00

PLEASE CIRCLE WHICH DAY YOU WILL BE ATTENDING (for one day registration only)

TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY

CERTIFICATION REVIEW—PLEASE CIRCLE WHICH REVIEW CLASS YOU ARE ATTENDING

(If applicable—no walk ins will be accepted)

CLASS C & D CLASS A & B

****All fees must be paid when registering—no purchase orders or special billings****

NO REFUNDS AFTER FEBRUARY 8, 2019

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Conference At A Glance

Tuesday, February 19th		Registration Open: 8:00 a.m.— 4:00 p.m.	
9:00 a.m.	Opening Session/Awards Ceremony/RD Update		
10:00 a.m.	<i>Break/Exhibit Hall Opens</i>		
	WATER	WASTEWATER	BREAKOUT
11:00 a.m.	IEPA Regulatory Update		
12:00 p.m.	<i>Lunch Buffet—Ticket Required</i>		
1:00 p.m.	Ameren Energy Efficiency Incentives		Contractual Liability and Risk Transfer
1:45 p.m.	HDPE 101: Features and Benefits		Control Panel Troubleshooting
2:30 p.m.	<i>Break/Exhibitor Drawings</i>		
3:00 p.m.	Pipe Rehabilitation		Wastewater Lagoon Rejuvenation
3:45 p.m.	Customer Notification Options		Clear Results & Accuracy You Can Count On
4:30 p.m.	Water Taste Test		Annual Meeting
Wednesday, February 20st - Registration Open: 8:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.			Water Certification Review
8:00 a.m.	<i>Exhibit Hall Opens</i>		
9:00 a.m.	Stand-By Generator & Importance of Proper Maintenance	Activated Sludge Basics	CLASS C & D CERTIFICATION REVIEW
9:45 a.m.	Pipe Bursting	IEPA Lab Procedures	
10:30 a.m.	<i>Break/Exhibitor Drawings</i>		
11:00 a.m.	Wells 101	IEPA Water Quality Update	
12:00 p.m.	<i>Lunch Buffet—Ticket Required</i>		
1:00 p.m.	Centrifugal Pump Overview	Phosphorus Reduction	CLASS A & B CERTIFICATION REVIEW
1:45 p.m.	Electrical Energy Savings	Operator Certification Update	
2:30 p.m.	<i>Break/Exhibitor Drawings</i>		
3:00 p.m.	American Iron & Steel Requirement Overview	Biological Technologies	
3:45 p.m.	Radio Operated Meters	Modeling for Success—Taking Lagoon Process to the Next Level	
Thursday, February 21st			
7:30 a.m.	<i>Breakfast Buffet—Ticket Required</i>		
8:30 a.m.	Arsenic Treatment in Drinking Water		WATER CERTIFICATION EXAM (until 1:30)
9:15 a.m.	Coatings for the Water Industry		
10:00 a.m.	<i>Break</i>		
10:15 a.m.	From the Flood to the New Water Plant		
11:45 a.m.	<i>Closing Ceremony/Grand Prize Drawing</i>		

Sessions At A Glance

WATER SESSIONS

Rural Development Update—Mike Wallace; RD- Come to this session to learn about new updates to the Rural Development programs.

IEPA Regulatory Update—TBA; IEPA - You can bet there is always something new to learn from this session.

Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Incentives; Byron Lloyd; Ameren Illinois—Byron will be teaching us about the energy and monetary saving opportunities that are available to your systems.

HDPE 101: Features and Benefits—Peter Dyke; Alliance for PE Pipe — Why are HDPE advocates so certain that polyethylene pipe doesn't leak, can withstand ground movement and can decrease installation and maintenance costs? Explore some of the evidence that backs these claims as well as demonstrate through video & controlled studies.

Pipe Rehabilitation—Phil Knight; SUEZ Advanced Solutions — Extending the service life of system piping and components with SIPP technology.

Customer Notification Options—Perry Musgrave; Lake Egypt Water and Curtis Mezo; Murdale Water District—Discussion on what these two systems use to spread the word to their customers in cases of emergencies and planned outages as well.

Stand-By Generator & Importance of Proper Maintenance— Rich Gilonske; Altorfer Power Systems— Listen to some of the important changes that customers face with changing diesel fuel and the changing weather.

Pipe Bursting— Sarah Mahlike; TT Technologies— Learn the latest technology in replacing water mains with trenchless pipe bursting.

Wells 101 —Shannon McMahon; Water Well Solutions —Learn all about wells—aquifers, types of wells and how to maintain wells.

Centrifugal Pump Overview—Don VanVeldhuizen; USA Blue-Book— Every system works with centrifugal pumps. This overview will explore classifications, essential parts, maintenance and troubleshooting techniques ever operator needs to know.

Electrical Energy Savings - TBA; StraightUp Solar— The Illinois Power Agency has released a new incentive plan for solar. Learn how you can take advantage of the plan and how these programs are linked to the Future Energy Jobs Act, designed to grow the IL economy and lower electric costs by using renewable energy.

American Iron & Steel Requirement Overview - Anthony Kirby; USDA Rural Development—The American Iron and Steel provision requires USDA Rural Utilities Service Water & Environmental Programs assistance recipients to use iron and steel products that are produced in the United States. This requirement applies to projects for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of water and waste infrastructure.

Radio Operated Meters—Tyler Tucker; Sensus—Meters with that have a valve for remote shut offs. Why turn a wrench when you can push a button?

Arsenic Treatment in Drinking Water—Martin Lawrence; AdEdge Water Technologies—This presentation will dive into the details of more common arsenic removal processes, while also touching on emerging technologies that effectively remove arsenic in the presence of other co-contaminants.

Coatings for the Water Industry— Jim Davison; Sherwin Williams—Explore the correct coating options available for different applications in this session.

From the Flood to the New Water Plant—Jamie Headen; Benton and Associates & Jack Cosner; Jacksonville Municipal Utilities—Take a journey through the eyes of Jacksonville as they recover from a flood and the process of moving forward to build a new water plant and on through until treating the water for the new plant.

WASTEWATER SESSIONS

Activated Sludge Basics—Don VanVeldhuizen; USA BlueBook—What is activated sludge and why is it used so extensively? Learn about the process and why it is such an effective way to treat large quantities of raw wastes.

IEPA Lab Procedures —Michelle Rousy; IEPA—Hear about the proper procedures to use for lab testing.

IEPA Bureau of Water Update—Scott Twait; IEPA—An update on the IEPA's wastewater program.

Phosphorous Reduction in Wastewater—Jim Collins; Brenntag Mid-South—Biological & chemical reduction of phosphorous for wastewater discharges to meet limits.

Wastewater Certification Update—Lawrence Quick; Board of Certification— Sit in on this session to on learn about updates from the board of operator certification and any new rules for wastewater certification.

Biological Technologies—Chip Bettle; Blue Frog Technologies —Eliminating solids accumulation in wastewater treatment lagoons or holding ponds.

Modeling for Success - Jim Martin; Lemna Environmental Technologies —How to utilize process modeling to optimize lagoon based treatment systems in order to meet more stringent BOD, TSS and ammonia limits.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Contractual Liability—Kevin Getz & Christopher Barger; The Cincinnati Insurance—Most water and sewer utilities hire contractors in various capacities. Those contractors present a variety of liability exposures to the utility. Find out how you can prevent yourself from these exposure through risk transfer.

Control Panel Troubleshooting—John Leto & Dave Bloch; Electric Pump— How to troubleshoot schematics in a lift station control panel.

Wastewater Lagoon Rejuvenation—Tom Hinde; Air Diffusion Systems—This presentation reviews common problems experienced at lagoons and offers practical details on how to identify and to solve them.

Clear Results and Accuracy You Can Count On—Eric Link; LabtronX - Inspectors ask "How do you know?" System failures cause valuable downtime. Calibration and maintenance is needed, but where do you start? Eric has specialized in the maintenance and calibration of utility lab equipment for over 30 years and looks forward to sharing his knowledge and experience with you.

Water Certification Reviews—The reviews will be given courtesy of E.R.T.C. on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. for classes C & D and from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. for classes A & B. The review is included with your conference registration. However, please circle which class(es) you will be attending on the registration page. **You must register in advance by circling your choice(s) on the registration form for the review so we can have enough study material for those who want to participate.**



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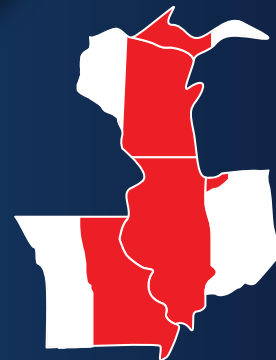
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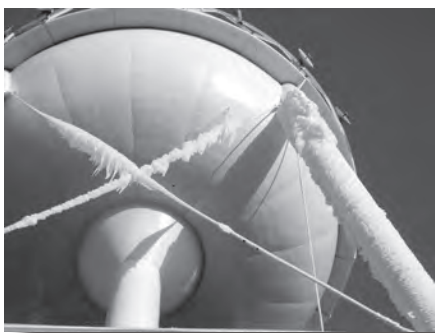
by Erin Schmitt,
Media Director for Pittsburg Tank & Tower Group

Scan the horizon of most towns and cities and the highest point will likely be a water tower. Though they aren't lofted high in the air, ground storage tanks are also generally hard-to-miss landmarks. However, for something so visible, there's a lot going on inside a storage tank that's hidden away out of sight. If there's something amiss with the interior of the tank's container, many people wouldn't know until visible degradation mars the tank's exterior.

An icy tank creates quite a dilemma. A tank in upstate New York froze this past winter was set to undergo repairs. When the contracted crew arrived, the tank had still yet to thaw, even though several methods had been attempted. In the end, after a wasted effort and money, the crew had to wait until warmer weather to return and finish the work.

According to AWWA, there are three issues that cause freezing. Two of these – static water conditions and overflow – are operational problems. Improper specification, which can be things like the vent design or the level of insulation on the tanks or on the piping and riser is the third issue.

Static water conditions mean that the water isn't turning over efficiently, letting it stagnate and leaving it vulnerable to freezing. This is more common in fire protection tanks that aren't used often except in emergencies. Water is pumped in and out a potable water tank with greater frequency, so it is less susceptible to stagnating. Potable water tanks can be equipped with mixing systems that help circulate the water and keep it from freezing.



Water at the top of a tower can become stagnant if it is not mixed regularly. Many water suppliers adjust their elevated tank levels in the winter to better keep the water moving and warm. Mixing systems keep the water inside a potable water tank circulated so that there is always a fresh, unfrozen water supply delivered to customers. As a tank is being filled, mixers keep the water from stratifying. One mixer type, hydrodynamic mixing systems, has bottom valves that are like check valves. So, when water fills the tank, the water doesn't settle at the bottom. Instead, it goes through a series of valves throughout the length of the inlet pipe and dispenses water at different levels. When water leaves the tank, the check valves at the bottom opens up and lets the freshwater travel through the system. Mixing systems circulate warmer water to the top of the tank, thus preventing freezing. Tank usage varies, but if the water is turned over once or twice a day, the movement of the water alone will prevent the liquid from freezing solid.

Freezing can also occur when tanks overflow, particularly if water is trickling out steadily. The escaping water will immediately freeze the overflow pipe in extremely cold weather. If water is still pumped into a tank after the overflow pipe is frozen, the water tank spill out

through the roof hatch and vent. The tank will then freeze and potentially build up enough pressure to burst (M42, 2013). When freezing occurs, ice expands and may place hoop stress loads on the steel and seams. This may, in turn, cause the tank to yield or burst.

It's not uncommon to insulate the fill and outlet pipes and the riser, particularly in northern areas prone to cold weather. Potable water tanks themselves are not insulated. A general rule of thumb would be that anything north of the Mason-Dixon line or the Ohio River would need to be insulated and heated in some manner to prevent the tank from freezing in cold weather. Anything below this line would be up to the owners' discretion.

It's not feasible to insulate or heat an elevated tank, although components of the tank can and often should be insulated. Depending on the size of an elevated tank, given the volume of water involved, it would have to remain very



cold for an extended period of time for the tank to freeze substantially. Even then, it's usually only the top one or two feet that freeze – although this can still create problems. When the ice breaks off, it can knock holes in pipes or rip the

continued on page 22

You Can't Make this Stuff Up!

by Wayne Nelson,
Curran-Gardner P.W.D.

When I send the association items for this space from time to time, I always try to have it relate to the water and/or wastewater operators that hopefully read my drivel. Since I know that the majority of water and wastewater operators wear several hats including snow plowing, I wanted to include the following in this month's column.

I love to read small-town newspapers, especially the police or sheriff's report. I saw these in a local paper's weekly sheriff's report:

Sheriff's Dispatching Logs:

11-26 at 2:50 AM:

Report of someone plowing the street and it is keeping caller's small children awake.

11-26 at 3:21 AM:

Report of the snow plow in front of caller's house again keeping her kids awake.

My comment: I bet that the caller would also be the first to complain if the road in the front of her house hadn't been plowed in the morning.

Honorable Mention in the same dispatching logs:

11-23 at 11:37 PM:

(name of city redacted). Report of neighbors putting septic water in caller's air vents.

You have to wonder about that one. 💧



Dear IRWA members:

There is no way to know who all of you were, but we know that many of you came to our city to help with the clean up from the tornado. Your outpouring of support, love, and prayers in this time is extremely appreciated. Just another reason we know that our members are the BEST!!

Thank You!

interior ladder off the wall.

The ground insulates the bottom of a ground storage tank, providing it with some thermal protection. Lofted high in the air, an elevated tank does not have thermal protection. It's exposed to the sun, wind, rain, sleet, snow and other forms of precipitation. Aerators or bubbler systems can be placed in elevated tanks. These air compressors that sit on the ground have piping that's spiraled in the bowl at the bottom of the tower. In the wintertime, the air moves up through the water to keep it circulating and prevent freezing.

Operators should lower their elevated tank's water level so that the tank is turning over regularly, thus preventing ice from forming. Changing water levels helps circulate warmer water into the tank while expelling out colder water and helping break up any surface ice that's formed. Tanks are most likely to

freeze or develop ice overnight. People are asleep and less likely to draw water from their taps for drinking, cooking, bathing or washing.

How much a tank is used can determine if ice forms. If only a half or a third of the tank is used, while the rest of the water remains stagnant, layers or blocks of ice can form during extreme cold.

Chunks of ice can damage a tank's interior. Ice can scrape the interior lining, which is a protective coat that prevents water from interacting with the tank's steel. Metals such as steel that come into frequent contact with water are prone to rust and corrosion. Ice is also capable of prying cathodic protection cables, level gauges, and interior ladders loose. As it states in M42, "Ice buildup on an interior ladder can impose loads on the tank wall plates that are sufficient to pierce or rupture the tank container."

If your tank freezes, seek out a tank company or a tank design consultant for advice. Thorough inspections should be conducted on the freeze damaged tank once the warmer weather has arrived. The tank should be drained for this inspection. The inspections should reveal if there are any holes or leaks that need to be plugged. A thorough evaluation of the ladders, piping, and overflow should also be done.

Electric heaters or steam generators can be used to thaw out a frozen tank. A much cheaper alternative is to wait for the sun to unthaw the tank when the weather is warmer. 💧

References

1. AWWA (American Water Works Association). 2013. AWWA Manual 42 – *Steel Water Storage Tanks*. Denver, Colo. AWWA.

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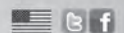


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Why Did I Ever Grow Up?

by Rev. James L. Snyder

At times, I have to do some errands for the Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. It's not that I like to do these errands, but I have learned this is one secret to getting along with her.

The errand she had for me was to go to the Mall and pick up something she had ordered. In my own way I tried to finagle out of that errand, but the more I finagled the more insistent she was. So, I decided to finagle no more.

As the pop song says, "I have a million reasons not to go, give me one reason to go." I tried to play this on her and her response was, "Because I asked you to."

You just cannot get any better than that. I know, because I have tried.

Since I do not go to the mall that often, I thought I would stop in at a coffee shop and have myself a cup of coffee and just chill out a little. Taking my coffee out in the main area of the mall, I sat in one of the lounge chairs and watched the people go by.

As a young person, my favorite author was Ernest Hemingway. In one of his books he says that the important thing for a writer is to, "listen, listen, listen." I tried to practice that throughout my life so I thought here at the mall would be a good opportunity to do just that. It was rather noisy, but I tried my best to listen. Some of the things I heard I wished I would not have heard, but that is the price you pay for listening.

In my situation, I could not hear much of a conversation, but the little that I did hear I tried to figure out what they were trying to say. I know I got some things wrong, but I laughed very discreetly at some things I heard.

Halfway through my coffee something struck me that I never thought of before.

So many young people and children were racing through the mall. I did not know there were that many children on planet Earth. They were running and laughing and whatever else they could

think of.

I just sat back and watched. I tried to listen, but there was so much noise I really could not listen so I watched. Here these young people were having the time of their life. They were laughing and joking among themselves and just having a good time.

Occasionally I caught the joke and laughed to myself, but most of the jokes I did not understand. I guess that has to do with an age difference.

It was right after Halloween and so a lot of the gibberish in the mall had to do with the Halloween spirit. I thought several were dressed for Halloween, but realized that that is exactly what they wear every day.

I saw one young girl wearing blue jeans with so many holes that they really lack purpose. I was later to find out that you buy these blue jeans with all the holes in them. Moreover, the more holes they have, the more expensive they are.

When I was young I had blue jeans with lots of holes, but I earned every one of those holes.

My spirits were beginning to rise and I was enjoying my visit in the mall. Do not let that get out, I do not want anybody to know I was having a good time, particularly, you know who.

It seemed the more I watched, the more young people and children flooded the mall. And, the laughter rang from one end of the mall to the other with me in between.

As I was enjoying this little episode, a thought snuck into my mind. I must confess that it is a rare occasion when a thought actually comes to my mind. This time a thought did come to my mind.

What I wanted to know was, why were all of these kids happy? Why were they having so much fun?

Don't they know how miserable the world is today? Don't they know how sad and horrific things are on the outside? The hatred, the anger, the putrefaction of the world as we know it.

Quickly my smile turned upside down and I frowned.

It then came to me. These kids in the mall having a wonderful time were not all caught up with what is going on out in the world. Their world is a world of fun and excitement. It is only the "old geezers" that know about all of the terrible things going on in the world. The young only see the good.

In pondering this, I asked myself a very serious question. Why in the world did I grow up?

Why couldn't I have stayed young and naïve and only focused on having a good time? If I had stayed young, I probably would not be so depressed by everything that is going on "out in the world."

In pondering this, I thought of what David once said. "I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread" (Psalms 37:25).

I can appreciate what these young people see, but they really cannot appreciate what I have seen through the years. That is simply, God always takes care of his people. 💧

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The Rev. James L. Snyder is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, 1471 Pine Road, Ocala, FL 34472. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at 352-687-4240 or e-mail jamesnyder2@att.net. The church web site is www.whatafellowship.com.

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SPORTSMAN'S RAFFLE!

Once again, we will be hosting the Sportsman's Raffle at our annual conference. This is a raffle of items that are donated by our exhibitors and other interested parties.

We hold this raffle for our portion of the Waterpac. This is the money collectively donated by each state and used by the Rural Water Associations for lobbying efforts in Washington D.C. for funding of Rural Water programs.

Each year, the money that has been left after our Waterpac obligation, we have been able to purchase new equipment for our staff, so they are able to serve you, our members better.

If you would like to donate an item to the Sportsman's Raffle or would like more information, please call Heather at IRWA. 800-762-5011. We appreciate your support!!

GPS/GIS MAPPING SERVICES



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

The printed maps can be large-scale wall maps up to 36"x48" showing utility features with the desired layers (aerial photos, streets, topography, etc.).

The digital map file on a CD, can be accessed with free software that IRWA will provide and install on a utility computer. The program allows you to view, print and click on system features (such as a valve, hydrant, meter pit, curb stop, manhole, lift station, treatment facility, etc.) and pull up attribute data about each. As well as several other capabilities such as printing, zooming, etc.

IRWA has a working relationship with DiamondMaps.com, to put your IRWA project maps on their server, for mobile viewing with a smartphone or cellular capable tablet - including editing capability. This is at no extra charge to the system for the first year's subscription. Continuance of the Diamond Maps service after the first year is at the utility's discretion.

Payment for services is a set charge per feature, with IRWA members receiving an automatic 30% discount, and even more of a reduction with bigger projects.

For more information, you may download a brochure from IRWA's website: www.ilrwa.org/Equipment/Asset_Mapping.html or contact Don Craig by phone: 217-561-1061 or e-mail: craig@ilrwa.org

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 \$350.00 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



FORD FLEET PROGRAM



The National Rural Water Association and the Ford Motor Company have created a partnership to offer special fleet discounts to State Rural Water Associations and their utility system members. This partnership combines the buying power of 31,000 individual utilities to provide reduced fleet pricing on utility vehicles. The Ford Fleet Team is #1 in commercial fleet customer satisfaction according to surveys. The Rural Water Ford Fleet Program is a valuable member benefit for water and wastewater utilities. State Rural Water Associations determine eligibility for their members, and provide a fleet code that allows access to substantial vehicle discounts to fill the need for reliable work vehicles. Fleet vehicles must be registered in the name of a member water or wastewater system.



Member utilities should contact their State Rural Water Association to access the Rural Water Ford Fleet Program. Vehicles may be purchased at your local dealer or through the national fleet auto group, get all the details you need online at: www.nrwafleet.com. Incentive discount pricing is available on fuel efficient cars, vans, SUVs and trucks. Systems can save up to \$5800 off factory invoice per vehicle. Happy shopping!

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- Limited to water/wastewater utilities that are current members of a State Rural Water Association
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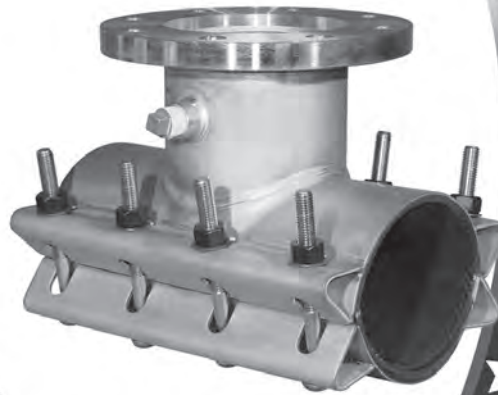
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