



## NEW PROGRAMS

By: Frank Dunmire, Executive Director

September 2018  
Newsletter

ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION  
 2018 NEWSLETTER

In July of this year, the Illinois Rural Water Association received funding for two additional programs – an Energy Efficiency Program funded through the USDA and an additional Circuit Rider funded through the IEPA.

The primary goal of the Energy Efficiency program is to assist rural and small community water and wastewater utility systems in evaluating their energy needs and consumption while evaluating the costs associated with their consumption. At the conclusion of the evaluation a report will be generated and presented to the utility describing measures that might be taken to reduce energy consumption while identifying potential funding sources for any improvements that might be recommended. Eligible systems are those that serve communities with fewer than 10,000 people, as well as rural areas and similar entities qualified to receive USDA Rural Development water and wastewater loans and grants. Those systems that serve low-income areas will receive a higher priority for the services of this program.

Prioritizing the program services toward the communities with the greatest need and systems that have the potential for the greatest energy savings as a percentage of their current energy costs will also be taken into consideration.

The overall objective of the energy assessments will be to educate utility systems on how to optimize power usage schedules to minimize peak demand usage in the system. Educate utility systems on the opportunities to increase energy efficiency with high efficiency pumps, motors, and enhanced technology controls. Provide information on the return on investment of capital expenditures on energy efficient equipment. Educate and assist utility systems on the funding options available such as internal funding and/or funding through the RUS/NRWA Revolving Loan Fund and other sources.

A minimum of 30 water and/or wastewater energy efficiency assessments will be completed in the program year and a minimum of two on-site sustainable utility management training events will be conducted as well. The sustainable utility management training is designed to introduce and educate water and wastewater utility

systems on the key management areas of sustainable utility management. Participants will learn the self-assessments skills necessary to identify their strengths, challenges, and prioritize improvement efforts.

The second program new to IRWA this year is the state-funded Circuit Rider. It has long been recognized that there was a need for a specialized Circuit Rider that could deal strictly with systems that were identified by the IEPA as systems that would benefit from on-site technical assistance. Assistance shall include, but not be limited to, activities such as; technical training and compliance issues, capacity development related activities, operator training and certification, identification of unaccounted for water loss and identifying improvements to the overall operation of the public water supply system.

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This assistance will focus on, but is not limited to:

- a) Assistance with technical training and compliance issues:
  1. Disinfection by-products, sampling (excluded routine), monitoring plans and procedures, water systems' best practices, backflow prevention.
  2. Assistance with water dispersal permitting, Consumer Confidence Report development for community water systems, system assessment and seasonal system requirements activities related to the Revised Total Coliform Rule, Groundwater Rule compliance.
- b) Upon request by Illinois EPA, develop and provide operator training for small systems.
- c) Assistance with unaccounted for water loss (e.g. perform audits, training to small systems, and assist small systems develop and implement feasible water conservation measures).

Through providing this on-site technical assistance and training services, small systems will be better able to more efficiently operate and maintain their systems. If you think your system can benefit from either of these services, please feel free to call into the office and we will put you in touch with the proper person.



## “Why Does My Water Bill Go Up In The Summertime? It’s Not That High In The Winter Time.”

**By: Wayne Nelson, Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District**

This is a question/comment that we get a lot from our customers when they come to our office to pay their water bills during the summer months. This is merely a rhetorical question since we already know the answers.

There is a long list of why water usage goes up in warmer weather and obviously not all reasons apply to every household. Following is a long list of reasons and I would imagine that many do pertain to your family.

**The fact that temperatures are much higher.** Either directly or indirectly, this is the main reason that our water usage rises in the summer months. The extremely high temperatures (along with its twin brother Humidity) in the high 90’s and heat indexes of 110 degrees that we have already seen in 2018 is proof of that.

We also know that:

We consume more water in the summertime to prevent dehydration. This may be in the form of tap water, iced tea, or lemonade made from mixes. Your body lets you know of the need for additional water by your degree of thirst.

We take more showers or baths due to added perspiration. It takes app. 30-35 gallons of water to take a full bath. This is much higher than that needed for a shower. While older shower heads used up to 5 gallons per minute (50 gallons for a 10-minute shower) some now use only 2 gallons per minute (20 gallons for a 10-minute shower). So, just one extra shower a day by just one family member can add an additional 600 gallons of water to your monthly bill. You also have to keep in mind that many of the showers that your kids usually take after P.E. class in school are replaced with showers taken at home during

summer.

We usually have to do extra laundry due to higher perspiration rates as well as the kids getting dirty just because they are kids. Older washers can use up to 40 gallons for a complete wash and rinse while an energy efficient machine uses around 30 gallons for a complete wash.

We also see additional water usage due to recreational use: swimming pools, water slides, or just playing in the hose and/or sprinkler. Even a 21’ x 4’ deep pool can hold app. 17,000 gallons. Many households only use 3000-4000 gallons during non-summer months, so this can equate to over three times normal usage. We see additional usage due to gardening or keeping your lawn green.

Other water usage greater than that used in the winter:

Hand-washing vehicles

Washing down driveways

Use of power washers on walks, decks, porches, or house siding

Cleaning home gutters

Birdbaths

And a host of others.

Bottom line is “It all adds up!”

Permission to reprint and revise has been given by the author (Wayne Nelson). Originally published in the 2018 Second Quarter Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District newsletter.

### **YOU CAN’T MAKE THIS STUFF UP!**

All water operators know that no matter how long you have been in the water business you still get questions or comments from your customers that make you shake your head. I hope that you will appreciate the following recent exchange between our billing clerk and a customer.

Our water system is currently installing a major \$4,017,000.00 treatment plant upgrade which made it necessary to raise our monthly water rates by \$4.00 per month. We have even put a line-item on our water bills to show that this \$4.00 was going to “Water Plant Improvement”.

After our bills went out we received a call from one of our customers asking if she had to pay the \$4.00 since she told us “But I don’t have any plants, so I don’t know how I can improve watering them.”

Like I say, “You can’t make this stuff up!”

(Credit—Wayne Nelson & Cherril Graff, Curran-Gardner Townships Public Water District)

## “MY SUMMER VACATION”

**By: John Bell, IRWA Wastewater Technician**

I am sure all of you remember your summer vacations when you were young. Back when I was a kid, the thing I didn't like about summer vacation was going back to school.

While that is correct, there is more to it than not wanting to go back to school. What I didn't want to do was face the first assignment from the teacher. And the first assignment was always to write about what you did on your summer vacation. Ugh! I'm sure this was the teachers way of getting everyone off to a great start for the new year.

My fellow classmates knew this teacher request would be coming and had plotted with their parents to pull off a “cool” summer vacation in order to nail this first assignment.

As for me, no plot, no plan and no exciting vacation for the teacher to read to the class. All I had done during most of my summer vacations was the normal stuff. You know, like playing ball, fishing, swimming and kick-the-can. My summers were a whole lot of fun but did not rise to the level of an exciting vacation. Send me in coach I am ready to write my story. This summer was cool and here is my story.

I was contacted by the mayor of a small village in central Illinois to inspect their waste water treatment facility. The

mayor felt that the facility had been neglected and wanted guidance in restoring proper operation.

I met with the mayor at the facility and the list of instructions included cleaning the sand filters, cleaning sand out of the chlorine contact tank, repairing the valves between the lagoons and lowering the operating levels in the lagoons.

It sounds simple on paper, but it would be hard work and costly to achieve. Immediately, the Mayor contacted Newell Sand and Rock Cleaning to clean the sand filters. The sand from the chlorine contact tank was removed and placed back on the filters to be cleaned. Portable pumps were used to lower the high operation levels in the lagoons. Broken valves were replaced and other valves exercised so that they worked properly. The waste water treatment facility has been restored back to proper operating conditions.

This work took a large part of the summer to complete and the Mayor, Village Council, Tom Newell, other workers and I formed a team effort to accomplish this huge task. If you are having problems give me and IRWA a call. We're here to help.

I had a great summer. Now all I need is a can and a bunch of guys!

## 6th ANNUAL FALL ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE November 15 & 16, 2018 Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino

### Hotel Information

Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino  
7 Blackjack Blvd  
East Peoria, IL 61611

Room rate: \$99.00 **Hotel block rate is open until: 10/24/2018**

1-800-547-0711 reference code 1115RWA

Reservations can be made online at: [www.paradicecasino.com/groups](http://www.paradicecasino.com/groups)



### Topics will include:

- \*Options for Accepting Credit & Debit Cards
- \*Basics of Writing and Applying for Grants
- \*Rural Development Update
- \*Utility Software and Solutions
- \*Lifestyle Health Plans

- \*Municipal Unpaid & Delinquent Accounts
- \*Understanding Apparent Losses
- \*FOIA and the Open Meetings Act
- \*Eliminate Paper and Fire Excel!

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION COMING SOON! WATCH YOUR MAILBOX AND ILRWA.ORG!**

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

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**Staff Members**

- Executive Director**  
Frank Dunmire (dunmire@ilrwa.org)
- Deputy Director**  
Don Craig (craig@ilrwa.org)
- Membership Services Assistant**  
Heather McLeod (ilrwahm@ilrwa.org)
- Administrative/Program Assistant**  
Denise Burke (ilrwadb@ilrwa.org)
- Circuit Rider #1**  
Evan Jones (jones@ilrwa.org)
- Circuit Rider #2**  
Roger Noe (noe@ilrwa.org)
- Circuit Rider #3**  
Chuck Woodworth (ilrwacw@ilrwa.org)
- Wastewater Technician #1**  
Jeff McCreedy (mccreedy@ilrwa.org)
- Wastewater Technician #2**  
John Bell (ilrwajb@ilrwa.org)
- USDA Source Water Protection Specialist**  
Mark Mitchell (mitchell@ilrwa.org)
- State Funded EPA Technician**  
Clark Cameron (cameron@ilrwa.org)

**Website: [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org)**

**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 files on a CD, can be viewed and printed with free software that IRWA will provide and install on a utility computer. The software allows you to view and click on a system feature (such as a valve, hydrant, meter pit, curb stop, man-hole, lift station, treatment facility, etc.), and pull up attribute data about each...as well as several other capabilities such as printing, zooming, etc.

Also, 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. Continuation of the Diamond Maps service after the first year, is at the utility's discretion.

Payment for GIS services, is a set charge per feature, with IRWA members receiving an automatic 30% discount, and even more of a reduction with bigger projects. More information is also posted on our website at: [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org), or you may call our office at 217-287-2115.

