



## Saying Goodbye to a Co-Worker...and Friend

By: Don Craig, Deputy Director

June 2021  
Newsletter

Every organization or company goes through points of time, when they have to say goodbye to a veteran, knowledgeable, dependable, and dedicated employee. Come this September, IRWA will be losing such a person.

John Bell, one of our existing Wastewater Techs, will be retiring at that time. He came 'on board' to the Association as a field staff member, back in April 2003...over eighteen years ago. He has worked at various positions with IRWA since then, but the majority of the time has been spent being one of our two Wastewater Technicians, providing on-site technical assistance and training to small rural communities and operators throughout the southern half of the state. And, he has done that, and other field position work through the years, with a wealth of information and experience that has benefited many, many systems and their personnel, at a top-notch level.

John has been working in the water and wastewater fields for 50 years of his life, and during that time, has held supervisory capacities in several rural Illinois communities. And, he has worked for engineering firms as well. He also has served as an instructor for operator classes in both fields, at community colleges and training centers...along with numerous training sessions for IRWA and other organizations in the state, during those years. Also, he holds an Illinois Class "A" Water Operators Certification and a Class "1" Wastewater License.

Personally, I...and I'm sure all other IRWA staff members...will miss John being a part of our 'team', and his endless amount of learned and experienced knowledge, which too, has helped to advance our employees and Illinois Rural Water Association as a whole.

We all have benefited from his input and presence, and oh yeah...from his many, many 'stories' of his years in the industry, but also in life itself! I consider John a friend, as well as a co-worker, and wish him and

his family, all the best in retirement; and cannot express enough, my own and IRWA's gratitude for him being a valuable and needed asset through these last 18 years.

To say the least, John will be missed...



### IRWA'S MISSION STATEMENT

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

Water  
Quality  
Protection  
Education  
Representation  
On-site  
Technical  
Assistance

## FREE RATE STUDY

### Why Have a Rate Study Conducted?

With the amount of grant dollars available for water and wastewater projects continuing to dwindle, coupled with the aging water and/or wastewater infrastructure, it is increasingly more important that decision makers for systems throughout the state become more educated about system finances. This **FREE** rate study takes an in-depth look into the expenses and revenue that a system has. Once all of the data has been gathered and entered into a spreadsheet a detailed report is generated to explain the findings and recommendations. This easy to read report and any rate changes recommended will assist Boards and Councils in mapping out the financial future of their respective systems.

If your system is interested in having a rate study conducted, please contact Clark Cameron at (217) 287-2115 (Office) or (217) 820-3814 (Cell).

### What Information Will the Rate Study Provide?

- ⇒ Breakdown of expenses
- ⇒ The cost to produce the water (if applicable)
- ⇒ Amount of nonrevenue water
- ⇒ Amount of lost revenue from water loss
- ⇒ Annual gain or shortfall in revenue
- ⇒ Different rate scenarios



### What Information Will I Need to Supply For a Rate Study?

- ⇒ Financial statements for the most current fiscal year (audit report preferred)
- ⇒ Amount of water produced and/or purchased during the most current fiscal year
- ⇒ Amount of water sold during the most current fiscal year
- ⇒ Current rate structure
- ⇒ Number of customers in each rate class
- ⇒ Amount of debt (if any)

## WaterPro. Conference

September 13-16, 2021  
Wisconsin Center | Milwaukee, WI

The Conference for Water & Wastewater  
Utility Systems  
Large & Small, Municipal & Rural

Visit [waterproconference.org](http://waterproconference.org) for more information.



# CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM

## What's New?

	UPDATE	BENEFIT
OVERALL	Increase collaboration with partners and other USDA agencies on projects to monitor, measure, and verify the climate benefits, and environmental performance of CRP.	Improves environmental benefit estimates of CRP Increases program effectiveness by informing science-based program policy changes.
	Increase technical assistance capacity through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).	Enables producers to plan and implement conservation practices that are appropriate for their needs.
CRP GENERAL	New Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to incentivize practices that sequester carbon, reduce emissions.	More land enrolled, using practices that maximize benefits for climate mitigation.
	Additional one-time, 10 percent "inflationary" adjustment for the life of the contract.	Increases program payments to encourage more land enrollment.
	Adjustment of county rental rates, upward or downward, using a soil productivity index range of 50-150 percent of the county rental rate.	Increases program payments to encourage more land enrollment
CRP CONTINUOUS	New Climate-Smart Practice Incentive to incentivize practices that sequester carbon, reduce emissions.	More land enrolled, using practices that maximize benefits for climate mitigation.
	Add a one-time, 10 percent "inflationary" adjustment for the life of the contract.	Increases program payments to encourage more land enrollment.
	Allow for the adjustment of county rental rates, upward or downward, using a soil productivity index range of 50-150 percent of the county rental rate.	Increases program payments to encourage more land enrollment
	Increase Water Quality Incentive from 10 to 20 percent for water quality benefiting practices	More land enrolled, using practices that maximize benefits for water quality.
	Move State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Practices from the CRP general signup to the CRP continuous signup.	Improves attractiveness of wildlife practices, including extending the signup to year-round, thus more habitat.
	Make Highly Erodible Land Initiative (HELI) Practices available in both the CRP continuous and general signups.	Improves attractiveness of program by extending the signup to year-round, thus more land enrolled for natural resource benefits.
CRP GRASSLANDS	Establish a CRP Grassland minimum rental rate of \$15.	Returning to this minimum rate would benefit 1,347 counties that are currently under the \$15 minimum.
	Establish National Grassland Priority Zones.	Increase enrollment of grasslands in migratory corridors and environmentally sensitive areas.
PILOTS	Hold a second signup for the Soil Health and Income Protection Program (SHIPP), incentivizing producers to plant vegetative cover on less productive croplands for 3 to 5 years.	More land with short-term cover leads to healthier soil and better carbon sequestration.
	Expand the Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers 30-year contracts (CLEAR30) to be nationwide. Previous pilots were in the Chesapeake Bay and Great Lakes regions.	Pilot expansion enables producers across the nation to enter into these long-term contracts and implement practices important to water quality.

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**PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!**

**ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION**

**17TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING**

**WHEN: FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2021**

**10:00 A.M. SHOT GUN START**

**PIPER GLEN GOLF CLUB  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR ANOTHER FUN FILLED DAY WITH PEERS!  
Look for more information on our website at [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org) and  
in the mail.**