



## Sewer Video Program

By: Don Craig, Deputy Director

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In a past newsletter, I wrote a short article in regard to the success and demand of one of our IRWA internal services...that of the GPS-GIS Mapping Program. It continues to grow, and we get more requests for water, wastewater, and storm sewer mapping of rural utilities.

In that article, I made mention of one of our other internal programs, which is the Sewer Video Inspection service. That program has been used many times over the past four years, for "one-day" short runs through system sewers, but the larger projects started out strong, and then went through some time of less demand. However, recently, we have been getting more requests for proposals of major projects within various systems in the state.

In late July, IRWA completed the first phase of a larger sewer video project for the Village of Tampico, located in Whiteside County, in northwestern Illinois. And, we will complete the second, and last phase of that job when the community is ready, after doing some line cleaning. The total footage to be surveyed, is just over 10,000 linear feet. Tom Pierce, the Village Public Works Director, has used our service before, and has been very pleased with the results, not only while on the job, but in the end with the videos and graphic reports provided to the utility.

Most recently, the Association has provided the service, per their request, to the Village of Gridley, which is located in the north-central part of the state in McLean County. Just as Tampico, the community has had part of their sanitary sewer system inspected a couple years ago. But in October, after receiving an IRWA sewer video proposal, the Board once again moved forward to complete the last phase of the project. Initially,

IRWA had inspected about a third of the utility's sewer system...so, they wanted to get the remaining balance viewed and reported on.

With the help of Superintendent Dennis Stauter, and his assistant Dan Garretson, we made good use of unusually nice weather and the overall good integrity of the collection system, to complete the remaining 25,000 feet of inspection in just a little over half of the projected time to do so. As such, we were able to save the community thousands of dollars by cutting expenses for the project. In the end, we provided the town with

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good video of the lines inspected, as well as two different graphic hardcopy reports for them to utilize in the manner they need. Also, in regard to Gridley, Dennis Stauter will be retiring at the end of the year, after supervising the community's utilities for many years. Dan Garretson, who has been on board for several years himself, will assume the Superintendent's position in that community. IRWA, and I personally, wish Dennis the best in his retire-

ment, and want to again pass on the best to Dan, as well. Both of these men, were very integral into helping our staff complete the project in Gridley, in a good, efficient, and cost saving manner. We appreciate it.

So, in ending, don't hesitate to contact me directly, if your community is looking or needing to do sewer video inspections in the coming year. I would be more than happy to talk with you, about what we can do to be an asset to your utility, at the most reasonable price we can. As I tell everyone, getting a proposal, doesn't cost a thing!

## IRWA'S MISSION STATEMENT

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



By: Roger Noe, Circuit Rider

It is hard to believe that I am at my one year anniversary of being a circuit rider with Illinois Rural Water Association. Time flies when you are having fun with what you are doing. The year has consisted of helping with leak detections, certification reviews, trainings, traveling, emergency response issues, and making contacts. I was also encouraged by my former co-workers to run for the village board and I was elected. It is a little different being on the other side, but I ran for office to make utilities the priority for the village.

The traveling portion of the job has been a new experience for me. The twelve years that I worked for the Village of Wayne City I traveled two miles to work from home. Being a circuit rider I may travel between 100-300 miles per day. There are many times I spend nights in hotels. One of the first out of state trips I went to was an Emergency Training at Lonoke, Arkansas sponsored by Arkansas Rural Water Association. It was training on preparing us to help with water systems that may need assistance with emergency responses. The experience to talk with and hear stories from other circuit riders in other states was very beneficial to me. I can tell you that the guys from Arkansas and Louisiana can put together some of the best meals. It was perhaps a little spicy, but excellent food nevertheless.

Flying was also a new experience for me. The first trip was to Reno, Nevada for training with National Rural Water Association. I was more nervous about parking and getting through security at the airport than flying on the airplane. Frank met me in the parking lot and he got me through the process with no problems. We left St Louis, flew to Dallas, and then to Reno. Landing in Reno and seeing the landscape was an experience I will not forget. The second trip I took was flying to Oklahoma City for the Water Pro Conference sponsored by National Rural Water Association. The conference was very informative and I was able to see many new tools from vendors. I also had the opportunity to explore Oklahoma City. I visited the Oklahoma City Memorial which was the site of the bombing at the Federal Building. That was one of the most surreal moments I have ever experienced. If you are ever in Oklahoma City I recommend making a trip to the Memorial

Museum. I was only a few blocks away from the arena where the Oklahoma Thunder plays. I had to go and take some pictures of the arena for my son since it is one of his favorite NBA teams. We also ate supper one night at NBA All Star Kevin Durant's restaurant in his special room. My son was very jealous when he saw the pictures. I am thankful for the opportunities to see new places this year.

However, of the new places I have visited not all have been out of state. Growing up in Central Illinois, I am used to a flat agricultural landscape. The terrain in Southern Illinois is very different. My service area stretches to the southernmost tip of Illinois, so I have had the chance to see and appreciate what Southern Illinois looks like.

In my job duties, I have performed several leak locates this past year. Each time I do one I learn some new tricks of the trade. There have been some that have been difficult and interesting. I was called about a leak where the community was losing 100,000 gallons of water per day and there were no signs of water coming to the surface. I met with the operators and reviewed some maps and came up with a plan. This was a rural water system and that can make a challenge with locating water leaks. They had narrowed it down to a smaller area by shutting valves. They had also found chlorine residuals in a pond. I finally found the leak. It was at a reducer before going into a vault with gate valves. When the pipe was installed they had put concrete over the reducer so it was never going to allow the water to come to the surface.

I have also done a handful of operator certification reviews for water operators. When I receive the call that the employee has passed the exam it is a good feeling. I always tell the operator if they do fail the test to not get discouraged. They can always retake the exam on the next available date. If someone in your system needs to be certified, give us a call and we are happy to help.

As I look back on this year, it has been filled with new experiences, introductions, and opportunities. I look forward to meeting more operators, mayors, and clerks in the years to come.



The IRWA Office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, December 24 & 25 for Christmas Eve and Christmas.

**The IRWA Board and Staff Wish You and Your Family a Wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!!**



## **A Sigh of Relief! - A New Home for Northern Conference**

**By: Heather McLeod; Membership Services Assistant**

Our 11th year of the Northern Conference is now behind us. This year we were at yet another new location, as we try to find a place that is attentive to our needs, and by George I think we got it this time!

The conference was held at Giovanni's Restaurant and Convention Center in Rockford, Illinois with the host hotel being across the street at the Holiday Inn. There were 83 attendees getting those ever popular credit hours, and visiting with 40 vendors that were on hand.

Thanks to everyone who made this conference a success, including PDC Laboratories for sponsoring the shuttle service between venues, Watersurplus for sponsoring lunch on Tuesday, Ferguson Waterworks for sponsoring breaks, and Servline for sponsoring Hospitality night. Congratulations to Janice Melton for winning the grand prize of a Samsung TV.

We had an overwhelming request from exhibitors and attendees as well to go back to Giovanni's next year— so, since you are the boss, we are booked for October 25 & 26, 2016.



### **Important Notice**

## **FLUORIDE RULE CHANGE NEW TARGET - .7 mg/L**

The new fluoride rule that we have all been hearing rumors about has now been finalized. The new target for fluoride is now .7 mg/L and was published in the November 20, 2015 Illinois Register with an effective date of November 9, 2015. Therefore Illinois water supplies should now target .7 mg/L rather than the former .9 – 1.2 mg/L range.

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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.

The printed maps can be large-scale wall maps up to 36"x48" showing major water and wastewater features with the desired layers (aerial photos, streets, topography, etc.). The printed maps can also be generated into a map book format. The map book is a bound 11"x17" book of high-detail maps printed at the best available scale.

The digital map file on a CD, can be viewed and printed with free software that IRWA will provide. The software allows you to click on a waterline with a leak and highlight which valves need to be closed to isolate the line. There are also tracing features to show the direction of water flow, and other useful features.

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](http://www.ilrwa.org) or you may call our office at 217-287-2115.

