



# Water Ways

Volume XIV — Fall 2017





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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:

The front cover picture was taken by Jeff McCready, IRWA Wastewater Technician, in downtown Delavan, Illinois.

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](http://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](mailto:ilrwadb@ilrwa.org).

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## Corporate Control of Systems... Understand the Possible Consequences

by Don Craig,  
IRWA Deputy Director

Over the past few years, I have noticed an increased ‘pace’ of privately owned corporate companies, either buying, or trying to buy, more and more water and wastewater systems throughout our state... and the country.

Normally the saying would be “buyer beware”..., but in this case, my advice to all systems (especially rural ones), would be “seller beware”! Even though it may seem to be.... Remember, the grass may not always be greener on the “other” side.

Generally speaking, public water systems are often used to attract residents, businesses and job creators. Municipally owned water systems have much greater latitude to assist with local economic development goals and can offer rates to entice new businesses or help existing ones expand or remain. Privately-owned utilities typically do not participate in these economic development opportunities.

But, as the years pass on for public owned systems, and due to the sometimes improper administration by village boards or councils, who do not take the initiative to keep rates appreciable and reinvest properly into the community’s biggest assets (the water and sewer systems).... those systems become increasingly costly to maintain and replace.

At that point, in walks corporate America, flashing dollar signs to buy out your system(s), and the promise of a ‘better tomorrow’. This may, or may not, always be true.

It’s at this juncture, that system administrators and customers need to take heed.... and, understand that it’s time to for some due diligence of questioning, comparisons, and investigating, before throwing out the lifeboats and jumping ship from their system(s).... and honestly believing they’ve ‘hit the jackpot’ with all

the money private companies offer up.

In my opinion, there is only one thing for sure; if a community chooses to privatize its system.... their control is gone. Because, all systems need to remember, they (private companies), are in the business to make money!

Although it may be in some instances, privatization is not always the best solution for old systems needing renovations, upgrades, replacements, or even new construction. Prudent administrative actions by governing boards or councils IS needed to protect the control and identity of the biggest assets of most all municipal water and wastewater systems... while still providing the needed services for their customers at fair and equitable fees.

*(To provide some more insight and information for consideration, below is an August 2015 article from Food and Water Watch, based in Washington D.C. Their Mission Statement is: Food & Water Watch champions healthy food and clean water for all. We stand up to corporations that put profits before people, and advocate for a democracy that improves people’s lives and protects our environment.)*

### WATER PRIVATIZATION: FACTS AND FIGURES

Privatizing local water and sewer systems usually does far more harm than good for our communities.

**We all need safe food and clean water.**

Water privatization – when private corporations buy or operate public water utilities – is often suggested as a solution to municipal budget problems and aging water systems. Unfortunately, this more



often backfires, leaving communities with higher rates, worse service, job losses, and more.

### Problems with Water and Sewer Privatization

#### LOSS OF CONTROL

- **Privatization is irresponsible.** By privatizing water and sewer systems, local government officials abdicate control over a vital public resource.
- **Privatization limits public accountability.** Multinational water corporations are primarily accountable to their stockholders, not to the people they serve.
- **Loss of public input.** Because water service is a natural monopoly that lacks a true market, consumers can exercise choice only at the ballot box through the election of the public officials who oversee their utility. They don’t have a vote in the corporate boardroom. With public ownership, residents can visit their elected officials and directly express their opinions about the operation of their water systems. If the officials

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## *Corporate Control of Systems... Understand the Possible Consequences*

*continued from page 4*

fail to respond, the community can vote them out of office. The public lacks similar mechanisms to address their concerns with private utilities and appointed state regulators, and long-term complex contracts can tie the hands of local governments.

- **Loss of transparency.** Private operators usually restrict public access to information and do not have the same level of openness as the public sector.
- **The objectives of a profit-extracting water company can conflict with the public interest.** Because a water corporation has different goals than a city does, it will make its decisions using a different set of criteria, often one that emphasizes profitability. This can create conflict.
- **Cherry picking service areas.** Private water companies are unlikely to adopt the same criteria as municipalities when deciding where to extend services. They are prone to cherry-picking service areas to avoid serving low-income communities where low water use and frequent bill collection problems could hurt corporate profits.
- **Contributing to sprawl.** Local governments can use the provision of water and sewer services to promote smart growth, while water companies often partner with private developers to supply service to sprawling suburbs.
- **Undermining the human right to water.** As a result of price hikes, service disconnections, inadequate investment and other detrimental economic consequences, water privatization

often interferes with the human right to water.

### **RATE INCREASES**

- **Investor owned utilities typically charge 59 percent more for water service than local government utilities.** Food & Water Watch compiled the water rates of the 500 largest community water systems in the country and found that private, for-profit companies charged households an average of \$501 a year for 60,000 gallons of water — \$185 more than what local governments charged for the same amount of water.
- **Investor owned utilities typically charge 63 percent more for sewer service than local government utilities.** Food & Water Watch compiled sewer rates survey data from dozens of states and found that private ownership increased sewer bills by 7 percent in West Virginia to 154 percent in Texas.
- **After privatization, water rates increase at about three times the rate of inflation, with an average increase of 18 percent every other year.** Food & Water Watch examined how water prices changed under private ownership following the 10 largest known sales of municipal water or sewer system to for-profit companies between 1990 and 2010. As of 2011, after an average of 11 years of private control, residential water rates had nearly tripled on average, increasing a typical household's annual bill by more than \$300.

### **HIGHER OPERATING COSTS**

- **Private operation is not more efficient.** Empirical evidence indicates that there is no significant

difference in efficiency between public and private water provision.

- **Lack of competition.** In theory, competition would lead to cheaper contracts, but in practice, researchers have found that the water market is “rarely competitive.” The only competition that can exist is the competition for the contract, and there are only a few private water companies that bid to take over municipal water systems. Once a contract is awarded, the winning company enjoys a monopoly. A lack of competition can lead to excess profits and corruption in private operations.
- **Privatization often increases costs.** Corporate profits, dividends and income taxes can add 20 to 30 percent to operation and maintenance costs, and a lack of competition and poor negotiation skills can leave local governments with expensive contracts.
- **Public operation often saves money.** A review of 18 municipalities that ended their contracts with private companies found that public operation averaged 21 percent cheaper than private operation of water and sewer services.

### **OTHER COSTS**

- **Privatization contracts can be expensive to implement.** The privatization process is complicated, expensive and time-consuming. In total, contract monitoring and administration, conversion of the workforce, unplanned work, and use of public equipment and facilities can increase the price of a contract

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## Corporate Control of Systems... Understand the Possible Consequences

continued from page 5

by as much as 25 percent. Other hidden expenses, including change orders and cost overruns, can further inflate the price of private service.

- **Privatization can increase the cost of financing a water project by 50 percent to 150 percent.** Local governments usually use municipal bonds to finance water projects; these bonds have an average interest rate of about 4 percent. Private water companies use a mix of equity and corporate debt with a weighted average cost that ranges from 7.5 percent to 14 percent or higher. So, in total, over 30 years, private financing is nearly 1.5 to 2.5 times as expensive as public financing, adding \$0.8 million to \$2.5 million onto the total cost of every \$1 million investment.

### SERVICE PROBLEMS

- **Privatization can worsen service.** There is ample evidence that maintenance backlogs, wasted water, sewage spills and worse service often follow privatization. In fact, poor performance is

the primary reason that local governments reverse the decision to privatize and resume public operation of previously contracted services.

- **Private operators may cut corners.** When private operators attempt to cut costs, practices they employ could result in worse service quality. They may use shoddy construction materials, delay needed maintenance or downsize the workforce, which impairs customer service and slows responses to emergencies.
- **Privatization typically leads to a loss of one in three water jobs.** A survey of 10 privatization contracts found that after taking over a system, water companies reduce the workforce by 34 percent on average. Other surveys have found similar results. With fewer employees to make repairs and respond to customer service requests, it is not surprising that service quality often suffers.
- **Privatization can allow systems to deteriorate.** Such neglect can hasten equipment breakdowns and allow water system assets

to deteriorate. Because 70 to 80 percent of water and sewer assets are underground, a municipality cannot easily monitor a contractor's performance.

### WHAT ROLE SHOULD THE PRIVATE SECTOR PLAY?

From developing new technologies to providing construction crews for new treatment plants, the private sector plays an important role in protecting our water resources and finding innovative solutions to the water crisis. Although the public and private sectors work well together in many areas, businesses should not operate, manage or own public drinking water or wastewater systems. Those duties should fall under the purview of local governments, who have a responsibility to ensure safe and affordable service for all.

\*\*\*Note: The Food and Water Watch article above, is the expressed facts and opinions of that entity, and is included by IRWA in this magazine edition for the purpose of each community's administrators, employees, customers, etc. to make their own opinion upon, per its review.\*\*\*



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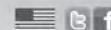


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## Small Creek, Big Flood

by Jeff McCready,  
IRWA Wastewater Technician

2017 has been full of news about floods throughout the United States and Illinois was no exception. During the spring, the northeast corner of the state was hit hard after exceptionally heavy rains fell and then northern Illinois suffered the same fate later in the summer. On July 21st, what had been fast moving thunderstorms, stalled in northwest Illinois and southern Wisconsin with some locations receiving over 10 inches of rain. Many areas were flooded, but one, the Village of Pearl City, was hit extremely hard.

Pearl City is located in the rolling hills of Stephenson County in northwestern Illinois just a few miles west of Freeport and has a population of about 700. The village is bordered by the Yellow Creek on the north and east sides of town approximately 1/4 of a mile away. Rob Knoup is the Superintendent of Public Works and Robert K. Knoup is the Mayor. The Village has flooded 3 times in the

past and Mayor Knoup said “we have learned from each flood and made improvements after each one.” Rob said the Village has raised both lift stations to approximately 10 feet high, purchased and elevated a generator for one of them, bought additional portable pumps, and, in 2016 increased the height of the dikes protecting the wastewater treatment lagoons by another 5 ft.

On that fateful Friday, Pearl City received 5 inches of rain in less than 5 hours and later, in the early morning hours of July 22nd, received 4 more inches. After the initial 5 inches of rain, Yellow Creek had started to come out of its banks and residents were notified of the incoming flood waters at 11:00 PM. Water over the roadway caused State Highway 73, which runs thru the center of town, to be closed and then later reopened after flood waters had subsided. After the next 4 inches of rain, Yellow Creek began backing up and Highway 73 was closed



again, this time until Monday morning. Rob said “We had 2 floods, a flash flood and then a flood.” The sewer system in town was still operating properly at this time, but as the water kept rising Com-Ed, the local power company, came in and started shutting off

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## Small Creek, Big Flood

*continued from page 8*

power which included both lift stations. A backup generator then only provided power to one lift station so bypass pumping was provided for the other one. At the crest of the flooding, water levels were in excess of 7 feet deep over Route 73 at its lowest point in town – within inches of overflowing the 2 raised lift stations. Water levels were approximately 6 inches above the recently raised dikes of the wastewater lagoons while the pump house had 6 feet of water in it. The flood waters had surrounded 40 plus houses leaving the only access to them by boat for 3 days. Rob, having been through this scenario before, had taken the necessary precautions to insure the water supply was safe before the flooding got to the pump house and service was not interrupted.

On Monday, the water had dropped below the lagoon dikes, power was restored to

the lift stations, and bypass pumping of the sanitary sewer was discontinued. All hydrants that were underwater were flushed and the EPA Regional Office was given an update. If that's not enough, the Village Maintenance shed had 3 feet of water in it also. Rob said that there was very little damage to the lagoons and that the lift stations had none.

After the 2010 flood, the Village was able to get into the Flood Insurance Program through FEMA. According to Mayor Knoup and Board member and Public Works Chairman Jim Westby, after the July flood, 23 properties will have to be demolished and the properties cannot be rebuilt on. That's quite a hit for a small town with only 315 water services. The Village of Pearl City will learn from this flood as they have the past ones and continue to make what

improvements they can because they know "it's not if it happens again but when." Public Works Director Rob Knoup, other Pearl City employees, Pearl City Village Board members, Pearl City Fire Department, and numerous of other volunteers spent countless hours over several days doing what needed to be done because "that's what small towns in Rural America do."

We, as Water Operation Specialists, Wastewater Operation Specialists, and Public Works Directors have to be prepared for a flood if your town is located next any type of body of water, be it a small stream, creek, river, or lake. Flooding is a possibility no matter what size they are. Be safe and keep up the good work. 💧

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## Portable Pressure Tanks

by *Wayne Dixon,*  
*IRWA District 3 Board Member*

Last summer, I had my water tower scheduled for cleaning and painting. As all of you know this is never a good feeling trusting a well to run 24/7 for 2 to 3 weeks with no main breaks or other problems arising. I was talking to a fellow operator and he suggested that I call a portable tank company and he proceeded to give me the name of one.

I was surprised by how easy this process was. They immediately started working on proper sizing and placement of the tanks. They also worked closely with the tower cleaning company and knew exactly when the work was to begin. They brought 4 tanks

in about 2 weeks before the work started and set them up. They gave us plenty of training on how to use them, make adjustments and experiment with them so when the time came we would hopefully have no surprises.

I had to take bacteria samples and make a call to the EPA prior to going online but that was relatively easy and I ended up with 21,300 gallons of temporary storage. This made it possible for my Wells to alternate and I didn't have to waste a lot of water down my storm drains.

I'm sure most of you already know about this procedure but I thought it was worth

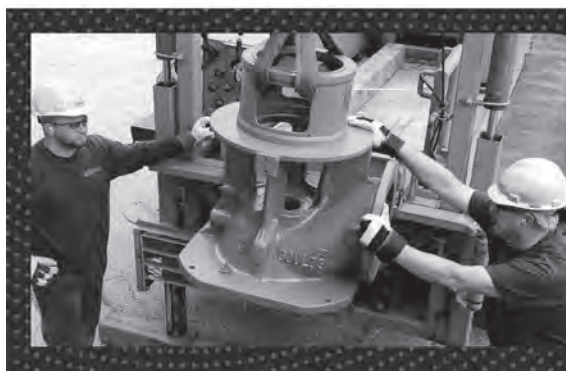


mentioning. It does takes some of the stress off the operator. Take it easy, hope to see at our Northern Conference next month in Rockford and have a stress-free day! 💧

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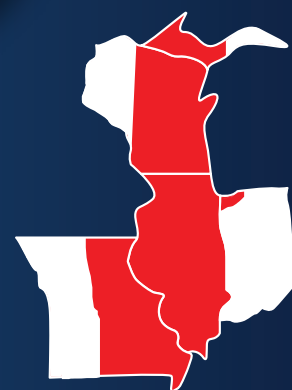
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## Where In Illinois?



### WHERE IN ILLINOIS IS THIS LOCATED?

Be the first person to identify the location of this picture and you will receive an IRWA hat!

Visit IRWA's Facebook page and if you are the first person to post the correct answer on our wall, we will send you an IRWA hat. You can find the link to our Facebook page on our website at [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org).



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## Fall Administrative Conference and Training Update!!

by Phil Donelson,  
IRWA Training Division

I hope everyone had a fun summer and you are ready for Fall to arrive! I guess it is coming whether you like it or not!! The arrival of Fall means one thing...well I guess it means a lot of things, such as kids back in school, harvest, cooler weather, and hunting season, to mention a few! But for me, it means the Fall Administrative Conference is just around the corner!

Our 5th Annual Fall Administrative Conference will be held again in East Peoria at the Par-a-Dice Hotel Casino on the 16th and 17th of November. The Administrative Conference is a day and a half of speakers on Thursday and Friday. We provide all food and refreshments throughout the two days. We host a lively hospitality "hour" on Thursday evening and do several giveaways and prizes throughout the conference as well. The focus of this conference is on the administrative staff, board members, city officials, and any other clerical staff who work for municipalities or water systems. The networking with each other is always a big highlight for this group. This conference this year

will include topics such as; Delinquency and Unpaid Accounts, Accepting Credit Cards, Limited English Proficiency, Working with Elected Officials, IEPA Funding, Insuring from Water Loss, AMI Metering, an Introduction to the Great Lakes Environmental Infrastructure Center, an update on Health Insurance, and a session on Clerical Legal Responsibilities.

I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity. If you have not yet made it to one of these events, you really should attend one and see for yourself what a wonderful workshop this is! Also, as we have done in the past, there will be a Buy One, Get One Half Off registration promotion. If a system pays for one regular priced registration, the second person from the same system is ½ off!! What a deal! Encourage your board to send a couple folks from your system. We really hope to see you there! The fliers have been sent, and a registration form is included in this publication as well. Use one of these forms or please feel free to go to our website to register.

As far as the other training I facilitate, we have had a couple sessions recently after hearing that our USEPA program funding was approved again for this year. There will be



several USEPA funded program sessions offered soon, as well as a few of the fee based sessions. I encourage you to take part in the fee sessions as well as the free sessions we offer. I know "free" is always more attractive than any fee, but our fee is typically minimal, and your support of those sessions help insure that we can continue that program. That program was designed to help make sure that we will always have training options available for you, our members.

In closing, please keep checking our website, looking for the e-mails, and our fliers to register for upcoming sessions of all types. Thanks again to all of you who support the training we provide, whether it is through speaking or attending as a student! See ya soon in class!!

I wish you a safe and fun fall!!



Marty Coe

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# 5th Annual Fall Administrative Conference

**November 16-17, 2017**

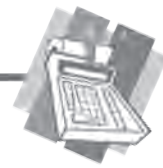
**Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino  
7 Blackjack Blvd, East Peoria, IL 61611**

**Come meet other professionals  
and discuss topics that matter  
to you.**





# Sessions and Topics



## Featured Sessions

### *"Municipal Unpaid and Delinquent Accounts"*

Becky Jansen, Vice President of Credit Collection Partners will be discussing issues involving unpaid/delinquent accounts. Her firm currently works with many Illinois Municipalities and Water Districts.

### *"Options for Accepting Credit and Debit Cards"*

Tracy Rone from CourtMoney is discussing information and an optional service to help set up a municipality or water district so that they can accept credit/debit card payments from their customers.

### *"Limited English Proficiency Under Title VI"*

Elizabeth Messervey with the USDA will host this session which provides technical assistance to help recipients implement USDA's Guidance to Federal Financial Assistance regarding the Title VI Prohibition Against National Origin Discrimination affecting persons with limited English proficiency.

### *"Working with your Board and Elected Officials"*

Frank Dunmire, Executive Director of IRWA, will be discussing aspects of working with elected officials and your town board. Frank has sat on many boards, is an elected official, and has many times conducted board training for the association.

### *"IEPA Updates and Topics"*

Heidi Allen and Kevin Bryant with the IEPA water revolving funding division plan to discuss their role and a few other current topics in this session.

### *"Insure from Water Loss"*

Kris Schultz from Servline, a new and unique insurance program that covers water loss with no deductible, as well as repairs or replacement of a customer's water and sewer line in a timely fashion.

### *"AMI Metering and Meter Overview"*

Darin Clarke from SUEZ will be going over all types of information involving meters and new technology in automation for metering customer water.

### *"An Introduction to the GLEIC"*

John Sullivan, from the Great Lakes Environmental Infrastructure Center (GLEIC) will present a mini Infrastructure Finance Basics class, for the purpose of introducing the GLEIC to our group.

### *"Updates on NRWA Lifestyle Health Insurance"*

Brian Jablonski from CBIZ Benefits and Insurance will be updating us on recent developments of the NRWA Health Insurance Plan here in Illinois.

### *"Administrative Legal Responsibilities"*

Michael Antoline, will be discussing many of the legal responsibilities that face clerks and administrative professionals. As a second topic he will also be going over legal issues in billing, such as late notices and shut off policies, etc...

## Conference Agenda

### Thursday Nov. 16th

8:00-8:30 a.m.	Registration and Welcome
8:30-9:15 a.m.	Municipal Unpaid and Delinquencies
9:15-9:25 a.m.	Break
9:25-10:10 a.m.	Options for Credit and Debit Cards
10:10-10:20 a.m.	Break
10:20-11:05 a.m.	Limited English Proficiency
11:05-11:15 a.m.	Break
11:15-12:00 p.m.	Working with your Board
Noon -1:00 p.m.	Lunch Provided
1:00-2:00 p.m.	IEPA Updates and Topics
2:00-2:10 p.m.	Break
2:10-2:55 p.m.	Insure from Water Loss
2:55-3:05 p.m.	Break
3:05-4:00 p.m.	AMI Metering Overview
4:00-7:00 p.m.	Hospitality Reception

### Friday Nov. 17th

8:30-9:15 a.m.	Introduction to the GLEIC
9:15-9:25 a.m.	Break
9:25-10:10 a.m.	Update on NRWA Lifestyle Insurance
10:10-10:20 a.m.	Break
10:20-11:30 a.m.	Admin. Legal Responsibilities
11:30	Drawings and Recap

Thanks For Your Participation!



# Registration Information - November 16 & 17, 2017

## Host Hotel :

Par-A-Dice Hotel-Casino

7 Blackjack Blvd

East Peoria, IL 61611

Telephone: 800-438-6777 Fax: 309-698-3273

## Room Rates

Double Queen Room \$100

King Room \$100

## Reservations can be made online at:

[www.paradicecasino.com/groups](http://www.paradicecasino.com/groups)

or call 1-800-547-0711 and referencing code- 1115RWA

All Hotel Block Rates are open until: 10/25/2017

## Registration Hours:

Thursday, November 16, 2017 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](http://www.ilrwa.org) for credit card or PayPal payments only.

**Pre-registration must be postmarked by November 4, 2017**

## 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, November 16th 4:00-7:00 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.

## 2017 Annual Fall Administrative Conference

### REGISTRATION FORM

Must be completed for all attendees

(Please photo copy for each additional attendee)

NAME FOR BADGE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST. \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

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Includes Sessions, Meals, and Activities for both days

### Pre-Registration

Member: \$165.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Member \$190.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Member: \$82.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Non-Member \$95.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### On-Site Registration

Member: \$190.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Member \$215.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Member: \$95.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

2nd Non-Member \$107.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### ALL FEES MUST BE PAID WHEN REGISTERING

**WE CANNOT DO PURCHASE ORDERS OR SPECIAL BILLINGS.**

**NO REFUNDS AFTER November 10, 2017**

Please make check payable to:

Illinois Rural Water Association

P.O. Box 49

Taylorville, IL 62568

You can also register on-line at [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org) with a credit card or PayPal payments **ONLY**.

Call 1-800-762-3547 with questions





# HAVE YOU HEARD?



The National Rural Water Association in collaboration with Medova Healthcare and CBIZ, is pleased to introduce Lifestyle Health Plans as a unique health benefits program designed to address the underlying causes of the rise in healthcare costs for both employer and employee alike - employee health behaviors.

What makes Lifestyle Health different? ERISA Fully-funded major medical plan designs, Premium savings averaging 10-15% in most cases Integrated wellness incentives and cash-rewards, Up to a \$500 deductible credit available to all wellness participants, Underwritten by "A" rated carriers, Integrated concierge telemedicine, outpatient lab and diabetic supply benefits.

**NEW**

**Only 1 (or more) employees are needed to take advantage of this plan.**

For a look at some sample plans, go to [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org) and click on Services at the top of the home page to find the link for Lifestyle Health Plans.

To learn more about how Lifestyle Health Plans can work for you and take advantage of our program-negotiated pricing, contact Brian Jablonski with CBIZ at 630-505-3616 or via email at [bjablonski@cbiz.com](mailto:bjablonski@cbiz.com).



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# Chrysler Group Fleet Program



The National Rural Water Association and the Chrysler Group have created a partnership to offer a Volume Incentive Program (VIP) 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. You will have access to special fleet benefits as a preferred Chrysler Group customer.

The Rural Water 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 system or company.

Member utilities should contact their State Rural Water Association to access the Rural Water Fleet Program. Vehicles may be purchased at your local dealer or through the national fleet auto group, details are online at:

[www.nrwafleet.com](http://www.nrwafleet.com). Incentive discount pricing is available on Jeep SUVs and Ram trucks. Systems can save up to \$7,000 off factory invoice per vehicle. Happy shopping!



## 2017 Program Details

- Entities must be current members of State Rural Water Associations to be eligible
- There is no limit to the number of vehicles that can be purchased under the program
- Incentive pricing is deducted off the factory invoice
- Call your State Association today to get your Fleet Account Number (FAN)

Eligible Vehicles	Incentive	
Ram 1500 Quad/Crew	\$6,250	2WD 4WD
Ram 1500 Regular Cab	\$3,500	2WD 4WD
Ram 2500 Crew/Mega	\$7,000 \$5,000	2WD 4WD
Ram 2500 Regular Cab	\$7,000	4WD
Ram 2500 Regular Cab	\$5,000	2WD
Ram 3500 Reg Cab	\$4,000	2WD 4WD

Eligible Vehicles	Incentive	
Ram 3500 Chassis Cab	\$2,500	2WD 4WD
Ram 3500 Crew/Mega	\$4,500	2WD 4WD
Ram 4500 & 5500	\$2,500 to \$3,500	2WD 4WD
Ram Promaster 1500	\$5,500	2500 2500
Ram Promaster City	\$3,500 to \$6,000	
Jeep Patriot	\$3,000	2WD 4WD

*Example incentives only. Many other option or powertrain items can be utilized under the VIP program.*



## Illinois Facts and Trivia

- The name “Illinois” comes from a Native American word meaning “tribe of superior men.”
- Illinois became a state on December 3, 1818. Illinois was the 21st state to enter the Union. It had a population of 34,620 people. Illinois is now the fifth most populous state in the country with almost 12.9 million people.
- The state song is “Illinois.”
- Illinois’ state animal is the white-tailed deer.
- The state slogan, “Land of Lincoln,” was adopted by the General Assembly in 1955. The State of Illinois has a copyright for the exclusive use of the slogan.
- Ottawa, Freeport, Jonesboro, Charleston, Galesburg, Quincy, and Alton hosted the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates that stirred interest in the slavery issue all over the country.
- The first aquarium opened in Chicago in 1893.
- The world’s first skyscraper was built in Chicago in 1885.
- Illinois is home to the Chicago Bears Football Team, Chicago Blackhawks hockey team, Chicago Bulls basketball team, Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox baseball teams, and Chicago Fire soccer team.
- Peoria is the oldest community in Illinois.
- Illinois’ state fruit is the Goldrush apple.
- The Illinois state reptile is the painted turtle.
- The Willis Tower (formerly known as the Sears Tower), located in Chicago, is the tallest building on the North American continent. It was the world’s tallest building from 1973 until 1996. It covers two city blocks and rises one-quarter mile above the ground. From the top of Willis Tower, you can see four states.
- Metropolis, the home of Superman, really exists in southern Illinois.
- Illinois is home to Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, which is the most sophisticated prehistoric native civilization north of Mexico.
- Illinois had two different capital cities, Kaskaskia and Vandalia, before Springfield.
- The Illinois state fossil is the Tully monster.
- The Illinois state prairie grass is big bluestem.
- Illinois was the home of President Ulysses S. Grant, whose home is preserved in Galena.
- The NFL’s Chicago Bears were first known as the “Staley Bears.” They were organized in Decatur in 1920.
- In 1865, Illinois became the first state to ratify the 13th Amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery.
- On December 2, 1942, Enrico Fermi and a small band of scientists and engineers demonstrated that a simple construction of graphite bricks and uranium lumps could produce controlled heat. The space chosen for the first nuclear fission reactor was a squash court under the football stadium at the University of Chicago.
- Illinois’ state tree is the white oak.
- The Illinois state mineral is fluorite.
- Springfield is the state capital and the home of the national historic site of the home of President and Mrs. Abraham Lincoln. Abraham Lincoln is buried just outside Springfield at Lincoln Tomb State Historic Site.
- Chicago is home to the Chicago Water Tower and Pumping Station, the only buildings to survive the Great Chicago Fire.
- The Illinois state insect is the monarch butterfly.
- Illinois’ state snack food is popcorn.
- Before Abraham Lincoln was elected president, he served in the Illinois legislature and practiced law in Springfield.
- Carlyle is the home of the largest man-made lake in Illinois.
- Illinois has 102 counties.
- Ronald Reagan, born in Tampico and raised in Dixon, became the 40th president of the United States in 1980.
- The highest point in Illinois is Charles Mound at 1,235 feet above sea level.
- The state motto is “State Sovereignty, National Union.”
- The Illinois state amphibian is the eastern tiger salamander.
- Illinois’ state flower is the violet.
- Evanston is the home of the ice cream sundae.
- The first silo was constructed on a farm in Spring Grove.
- The Illinois state dance is square dancing.
- The Illinois state bird is the cardinal.
- Illinois’ state fish is the bluegill.
- At over 6,000, Illinois has more units of government (i.e., city, county,

*continued on page 24*





## Illinois Facts and Trivia

*continued from page 23*

township, etc.) than any other state. One reason for this may be the township governments, which generally govern areas of just 6 square miles.

- In 1905, the president of the Chicago Cubs filed charges against a fan in the bleachers for catching a fly ball and keeping it.
- Unlike most skyscrapers, the Chicago's Mercantile Exchange building was built entirely without an internal steel skeleton; it depends on its thick walls to keep itself up.
- The abbreviation "ORD" for Chicago's O'Hare airport comes from the original name, Orchard Field. The airport was renamed in honor of Lieutenant Commander Edward H. "Butch" O'Hare.
- The trains that pass through Chicago's underground freight tunnels daily would extend over 10 miles total in length.
- In Mount Pulaski, it is illegal for boys (and only boys) to hurl snowballs at trees.
- Illinois is known for its varied weather, including major winter storms, deadly tornadoes, and spectacular heat and cold waves.
- The first birth on record in Chicago was that of Eulalia Pointe du Sable, daughter of Jean-Baptiste Pointe du Sable and his Potawatomi Native American wife, in 1796.
- Chicago's Mercy Hospital was the first hospital in Illinois.
- The first animal purchased for the Lincoln Park Zoo was a bear cub, which was bought for \$10 on June 1, 1874.
- The University of Chicago opened on October 1, 1892, with an enrollment of 594 and a faculty of 103.
- Comedy showcase "Second City" was founded on North Wells Street in a former Chinese laundry in 1959.
- Chicago's first African American mayor, Harold Washington, took office in 1983.
- The four stars on the Chicago flag represent Fort Dearborn, the Chicago Fire, the World's Columbian Exposition, and the Century of Progress Exposition.
- The Chicago Public Library is the fourth largest public library in the United States with a collection of more than 5.7 million books.
- The Chicago Post Office at 433 West Van Buren is the only postal facility in the world you can drive a car through.
- The Chicago River is dyed green on Saint Patrick's Day.
- Chicago is home to the world's largest cookie and cracker factory, where Nabisco made 16 billion Oreo cookies in 1995.
- Illinois' state soil is Drummer silty clay loam. 💧

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# 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 system or company.

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](http://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!



## 2017 Program Details

- Limited to Water/Wastewater utilities that are current members of a State Rural Water Association
- There is no limit to the number of vehicles that can be purchased under the program
- Incentive pricing is deducted off the factory invoice
- Fleet vehicles must be in service for a minimum of 12 months or 20,000 miles
- Vehicles must be registered and operated in the United States
- Call your State Association today to get your Fleet Identification Number (FIN)

Eligible Vehicles	Incentive	Exclusions
Focus	\$1400	BEV
Fusion	\$2000	Hybrid Energi
Taurus	\$3300	Police Interceptor
Econoline	\$4500	
Edge	\$2500	
Escape	\$1800	
Expedition	\$4000	

Eligible Vehicles	Incentive	Exclusions
Explorer	\$2700	Police Interceptor
F-Series Super Duty F250-F550	\$5800	
F150	\$5500	Raptor
F150 4x2 Reg Cab	\$4500	
Transit	\$3700	
Transit Connect	\$2100	

## **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, or you may call our office.



## **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](http://www.ilrwa.org)





# ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES TRAINING CENTER



## One-Year Water Quality Control Operations Program

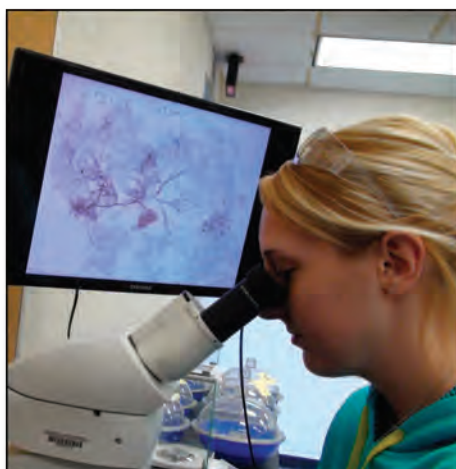
The **ERTC-SIUE** *Water Quality Control Operations* program is a one-year, full time program of study leading to a Certificate of Completion. Classes start in late August and end in the following July. The students' learning is split between the classroom and the operation of ERTC's **30,000 gallon/day training-scale water and wastewater treatment plants**. Upon completion of the full year program, students are eligible to take Illinois and Missouri certification exams to become certified as entry-level public water supply operators and wastewater treatment operators.

Starting salaries range from \$35,000 per year to more than \$45,000 per year. Students have access to loans, scholarships, and military veterans' grants and programs.

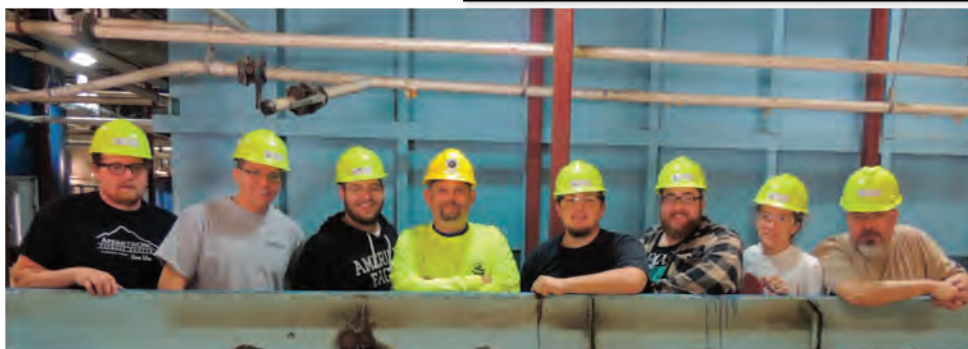
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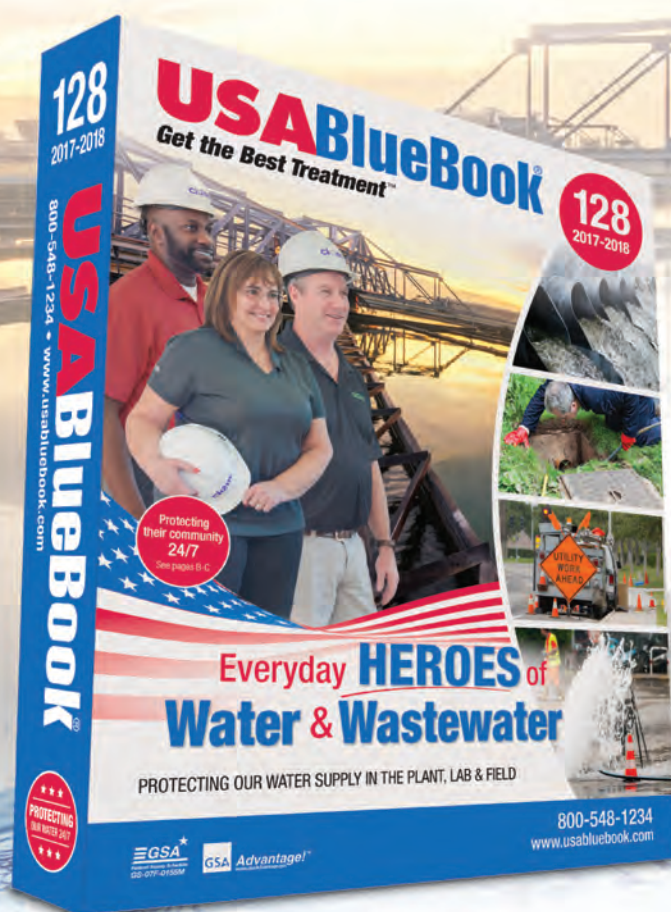
[www.siue.edu/ertc](http://www.siue.edu/ertc) 618-650-2030

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