



Water Ways

Volume XXII — Fall 2025



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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 photo was taken by Jeff McCready, IRWA Wastewater Technician, in Mt. Carroll, 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. 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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Leadership: More than a Title

by Roger Noe,
IRWA Deputy Director

Last month, staff travelled to New Orleans to attend the annual WaterPro Conference. The Conference was held in the Alfred Morial Convention Center in downtown, adjacent to the river. There were over 1800 attendees from all over the country in attendance and the Conference offered over seventy educational sessions. One break out session I attended was “Elevate Your Organization thru Staff Development” presented by Jason Knobloch, the Deputy Director of Texas Rural Water. From this presentation, he spoke to leadership in utilities.

First, he delved into leading by example. Leaders should be continuously learning. They need to stay abreast of modern technologies and regulations. When leaders educate themselves, it builds their credibility and instills trust from their staff.

Jason then discussed making decisions with confidence. Confidence earns respect. When people are indecisive, it leads to uncertainty. Decisions need to be well thought out, but still timely as to not raise concern. Not every decision will be perfect, but how those decisions are determined should be.

Next, he covered adaptability. Changes will happen, but how one reacts to those speaks the type of leader someone is. Flexibility and openness to current ideas are the way

to strengthen an organization.

Finally, leaders should encourage innovation. A strong leader does not fear ideas, they encourage ideas. As a leader, you should motivate staff to share new ideas and collaborate with them for implementation. Innovation is the next step in growing an organization and being proactive in the promotion of the objectives.

In conclusion, Jason’s presentation had pieces for everyone. Being a leader is more than just authority. It is about influence, vision, responsibility, and building a team. Leading by example, decision making with confidence, being adaptable, and encouraging innovation, leaders can succeed in their organization and leave a lasting impact on people. 💧



Service to your Community

*by Greg Bates,
IRWA Board President*

I am sure, over the years, many of the water and/or wastewater operators have been asked to serve on a Board of Directors for an association or a governmental entity. Most of the associations are voluntary positions without pay. I thought it would be a good topic to write about since I have been on the Illinois Rural Water Association Board of Directors for 28 years.

The most important thing is to keep your Association mission statement in the back of your mind to make sure your ultimate goal is to follow that guideline. The second thing to remember is your fiduciary obligation to the organization. This includes reviewing and understanding the financial statements, helping to formulate a budget for the organization, getting involved in hiring the Manager/C.E.O./Executive Director to run the organization, as well as other duties. It is the board's job to oversee the operations through the Manager/C.E.O./Executive Director, and make sure the organization is financially in good standing and working within the budget. Many times, boards form committees to assist the Manager/C.E.O./Executive Director with things like Building and Grounds, Bylaws, Finance, and other formed committees that report to the full board with ideas or changes needed. The board is there to give directions to the Manager/C.E.O. / Executive Director, and his job is to implement the plan, while always keeping the mission statement in mind. The board may also oversee investing reserve funds for the organization, through the Manager/C.E.O / Executive Director.

Ultimately the board is responsible for the health of the organization, and it is to be taken seriously. The board should be aware of conflicts of interest that could come up, and deal with them quickly.

There are many advantages of being on an organization's Board of Directors. I would say that in my tenure as a Board Member, the greatest thing is meeting so many dedicated individuals with the same goals. The second advantage, in many cases, is knowing in advance of new rules or laws that may affect the Water and Wastewater industry. Another positive is networking with so many water and wastewater operators, and learning from their experiences. This is usually done by attending training courses or technical conferences, which are very valuable resources. I have been fortunate to be able to travel to other states for technical conferences and have had the pleasure of making many new friends and associates over my 28 years.

I feel through the Illinois Rural Water Association, we have accomplished many things and continue to serve our membership to the best of our ability. We meet many challenges along the way, but through our grassroots efforts and the National Rural Water Association, we have been able to keep our funding coming in to serve our membership. Our employees do a great job of staying in contact with our members and helping them with training and technical assistance...which is our mission. Thank You! 💧



Maintaining Water Quality: Getting the Most For Your Money

by Steve Vance,
IRWA Training &
Technical Assistance Specialist

During the past two years, Dave McMillan and I have discussed distribution water quality in multiple training sessions. In those training sessions, we have described several tools that can be used for optimizing water quality, including minimizing water age through looping water mains, cycling storage tanks, installing automated flushing devices and using appropriate design criteria to avoid overdesign of storage facilities and water mains.

While many community water supply systems face financial constraints that limit the capacity to initiate efforts to improve water quality, there is one investment that seems to consistently and efficiently address this issue. During my long tenure in the industry, I have seen the positive impacts of mixing devices in finished water storage tanks to produce a homogeneous water quality throughout the water column. The stratification of finished water storage tanks is real and resembles what happens in lakes and ponds bi-annually (but can be more often).

Given the science of stratification and understanding the design of most water storage tanks, diminished water quality is inevitable when older and warmer water near the top of the tank is inverted and introduced to the distribution system. Typically, this inversion results in distributed water lacking adequate disinfectant residuals and often causes taste and odor related issues.

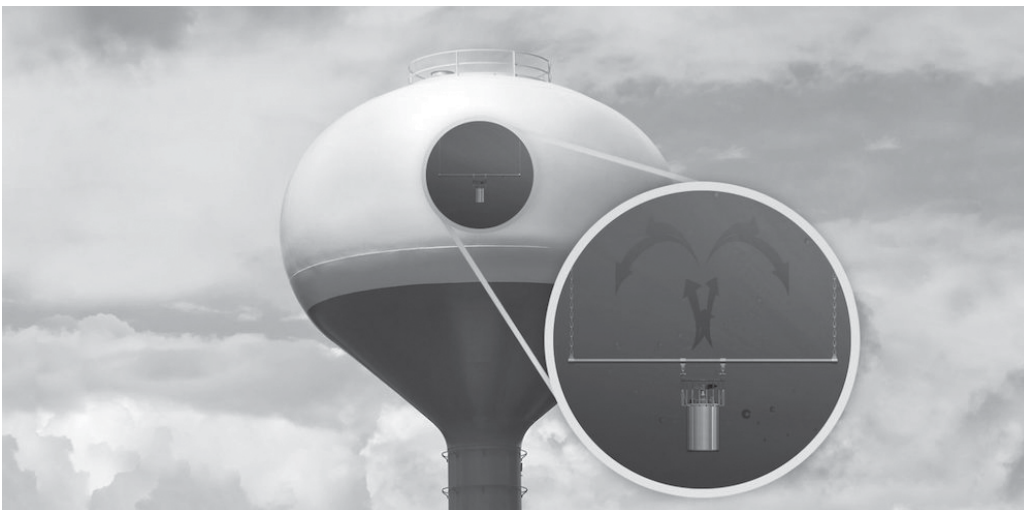
Installation of tank mixing device represents a long-term solution to water quality degradation problems associated with

finished water storage tanks. While initial costs can range from \$15,000 to as much as \$80,000, the long-term costs are less significant given the expected life-cycle of most mixing devices and when considering the real benefits provided.

However, many factors should be considered prior to choosing a tank mixer. These considerations include compliance with regulatory requirements (NSF-61 certification?), type of mixer (active or passive), reservoir shape, energy efficiency, material compatibility, maintenance and accessibility, control and monitoring systems, as well as installation and retro-fitting.

A properly designed mixer can reduce water quality issues, provide uniform disinfectants within the tank, maintain a consistent water temperature, minimize bacterial growth, and reduce corrosion potential. Most importantly, a quality tank mixer is an investment in the health of customers relying on safe drinking water.

While current regulations do not require mixers to be included in the design of new finished water storage tanks, I have



seen the benefits at numerous community water supplies throughout Illinois. So, make your job a little easier as a water supply operator and consider installing mixers in your finished water storage tanks. It's the best bang for the buck. Keep doing the good work!!! 💧

IEPA Loan Information

by Clark Cameron,
IRWA State Circuit Rider

It's time for another magazine article, so I am going to address the subject that I am asked about the most while I am doing rate studies for the various communities that I have worked with. The big question is, "where do I go for loans and grants, and how do I get started". The following is copied straight from the IEPA web site, and explains the process from start to finish. I hope that the information provided helps to answer any questions that you have, or at least provides contact information to someone who can answer them. Good luck and remember, if you need funds for your projects you must apply; and if you don't apply for funds, you are sure to not get them.

The Wastewater and Drinking Water loan programs provide low-interest loans through the State Revolving Fund (SRF). The SRF includes two loan programs: the Water Pollution Control Loan Program (WPCLP), which funds both wastewater and storm water projects, and the Public Water Supply Loan Program (PWSLP) for drinking water projects. These programs are annually the recipients of federal capitalization funding which is combined with state matching funds, interest earnings, repayment money, and the sale of bonds to form a source of financing for infrastructure projects.

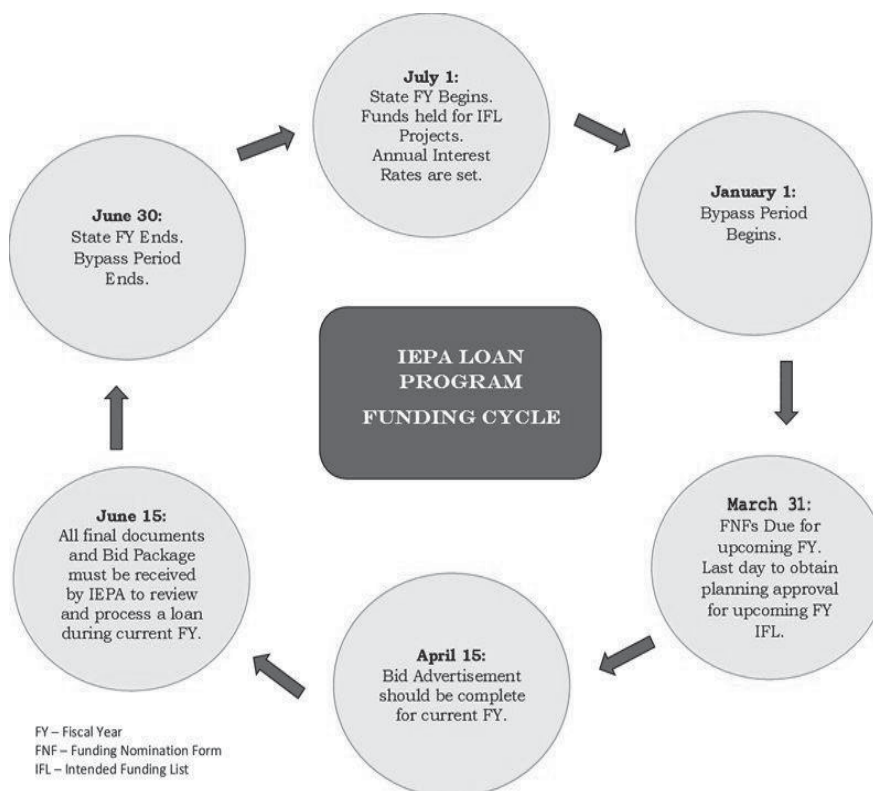
Our programs provide financial assistance to eligible public or private applicants for the design and construction of a wide variety of projects that protect or improve the quality of Illinois'

water resources. We assist applicants with projects that address human health and failing water infrastructure. Eligible projects include new drinking water or wastewater infrastructure construction; upgrading or rehabilitating existing infrastructure; storm water-related projects that benefit water quality; and a variety of other projects that protect or improve the quality of Illinois's rivers, streams, and lakes. Our historical list of borrowers includes the state's largest city, as well as, many small communities and water districts with populations less than 1,000 people.

If your community or entity is ready to begin the loan application process, call (217) 782-2027 and ask to speak to one of our project managers.



Funding Cycle & Availability of Funds



continued on page 9



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The State Revolving Fund (SRF) yearly cycle is based on the State of Illinois fiscal year, which starts July 1st and ends June 30th. Because funding is limited, projects with approved planning are scored and ranked on the Intended Funding List (IFL) to prioritize which ones will receive loan program resources during a specific fiscal year. Loan applicants are advised not to advertise

their projects for bids until money is reserved.

For more information regarding the funding cycle, see the Funding Cycle Explanation Document. This document includes significant loan program dates and pertinent IEPA loan program regulatory sections. 💧

SRF LOAN INTEREST RATES

-- July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 --

Base Rate: 2.16%

Small Community Rate: 1.62% *

Hardship Rate: 1.00% *

* Only certain projects qualify for the Small Community and the Hardship Rate.

Reference the loan rules for each program for additional details.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please contact the Infrastructure Financial Assistance Section (IFAS) at (217) 782-2027 for additional information.

You may reach the following contacts at this number.

CONTACTS:

PROJECT MANAGERS:

- Section Manager: Nidhan Singh Nidhan.Singh@Illinois.gov
 - Pre-Construction Manager: Bill Jankousky
 - Post-Construction Manager: Amanda Williams
 - Disbursements
 - Repayments
 - Change Orders
 - Grants Unit Manager: Lanina Clark
 - Unsewered Communities Planning Grant Program
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February 17-19, 2026



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IRWA's 44th Annual Technical Conference will be February 17-19, 2026 at the Keller Convention Center In Effingham, IL. Exhibitor information should be available in mid-November with the attendee agendas being out a few weeks after that. Watch the IRWA website, social media pages, your e-mails and of course the good ol' mailbox for announcements.

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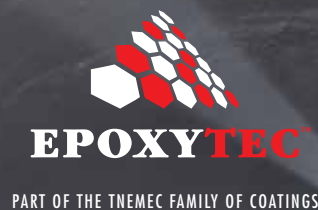
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Sewer Video inspection - Seeing What Lies Below

***by Scott Tozier,
IRWA Wastewater Technician***

One service, that IRWA provides, is sewer main video inspections. Whether it's completed using a push camera or an electric motorized crawler.... We can do both. I've performed numerous video inspections during the nearly 3 years that I've been with IRWA as a Wastewater Technician. Some of these inspections have been in the worst conditions, but it has usually helped the member community diagnose the cause of the sewer main line issues.

Push camera video inspection:



The push camera inspection is a free service that can be a cost-effective way to look into what is causing issues in your sewer main lines in a short confined linear area. Some limitations of push camera video inspections can be distance to the probable issue suspected. On a good line, which is relatively clean, I can usually get 150 feet from the manhole where the push camera is set up. Much more than that, and it will most likely not be the best option to find your issue. I've made it to a full cable run of 200 feet, only a few times; and it's usually in plastic pipe that's fairly free of debris. We suggest that the pipe needs to be jetted before we get there. And, although sometimes without jetting, I've been able to find the issue, it is recommended for best success. Size of pipe is also a limiting factor with the push camera videos. The larger the pipe size, the more the camera

cable wants to snake inside the piping, and the shorter the distance we can push the camera, before it just won't go any farther. Usually, six to twelve inch pipe is our best size for this kind of set up. I've tried 16 inch pipe, and have only been able to go 50 feet before it is impossible to push any farther.

People ask us to do customer complaints and go through a clean-out onto the property, but we are not allowed to go on private property to do inspections; and with the cable set up of these cameras, it is not meant to do smaller lines with bends. The push camera video service is a free service, so it is preferred by most members to at least try this type of inspection for the cost savings.



continued on page 18

Sewer Video inspection - Seeing What Lies Below

continued from page 17



Crawler video inspection service:

The motorized tractor inspection is another service provided by IRWA that many communities forget about. We have an Envirosight sewer video inspection crawler in a Ford van that can be brought to you to do inspection of piping. The cost of this service is very affordable compared to hiring a private contractor. IRWA does not offer a jetting service, but usually a nearby community has a jetter on hand to help outside their own community; or private companies, that do this type of service, are available as well.

The tractor has a much larger range of coverage compared to the push camera, and can easily span the usual 300 to 500 ft in between manholes, and sometimes we can go straight through a manhole on to the next one. IRWA limits this service to 5000 feet per video inspection project, which normally would be 3 to 4 days of on-site video. And, it may be less time than that, based on cleanliness of the line, no unforeseen circumstances, weather, etc. As noted before, prior to any inspection, the pipes do need to be properly jetted. That being said, one issue we many times run into, is the line may have been jetted but the pipe was not vacuumed out to remove the debris.

With the use of the motorized crawler video service, IRWA charges a reduced “per foot” fee, of line videoed, to cover



maintenance and replacement costs of the crawler equipment for IRWA voting member systems. There is a higher fee, per foot of inspection, for systems that are not a voting member of the association. This ensures that the equipment used, is in the best shape for the utility. We have found numerous issues in sewer systems, by the use of the tractor camera, including root intrusion, bore-thru from other utilities, caved in pipes, severe Infiltration issues, protruding laterals, and a host of other problems.

If you have an inquiry about needing some sewer lines inspected using the push-camera, you can get in touch directly with myself or our other Wastewater Tech, Jeff McCready. For larger projects, requiring the motorized unit, please contact IRWA’s Deputy Director, Roger Noe, for a proposal to complete a project. 💧

Assisting Operators on Both Sides of the Mississippi River

*by Jeff McCready,
IRWA Wastewater Technician*

In October of 2024, I was approached by an operator, and was asked the question, “What do you know about an algae-wheel treatment plant?” I said that there was one located at a Manufactured Home Community in Gardner, Illinois, and had heard that there was one just across the Mississippi River in Davenport, Iowa. Beside those, I told him that I didn’t know a whole lot about them.

The operator stated that a small system, he contract operates, is going to be building one next spring; and he was curious as to how they operate and how much time was required daily at these types of plants. He wanted to know, before he signed a contract to operate the new plant. I told him that I would contact Iowa Rural Water Association Wastewater Tech Adam Leslie, and see what I could find out.

After talking with my counterpart from Iowa, I was told there was an algae-wheel treatment plant at West Lake Park... just outside of Davenport, Iowa, which was about a one hour drive for the inquiring operator in Illinois. After a few phone calls and emails with Adam and the operators on both sides of the river, we were able to set up a date and time for the both of us to meet at West Lake Park with their operators, to tour the treatment plant.

At the meeting, there was a lot of discussion between the operators about how the treatment facility functions, maintenance issues, and what’s required daily at the plant. After I stated that there was another facility like this one in Gardner, Illinois, the operators from West Lake Park, were interested in seeing that plant, and talking to their staff about how they

operate theirs, compared to how they were running the one in Iowa. I told them I would see what I could do about setting up a date and time for a trip to Gardner. Now mind you, Gardner is located in Grundy County and is closer to the east side of Illinois, whereas Davenport, Iowa is across the

Mississippi River in western side of Illinois, in what we like to call “northwest Illinois”....for those of you who are unfamiliar with our geographical locations. This would amount to a 2 hour drive from Iowa, but the operators felt it would be worth it.

After contacting the operator of the Manufactured Home Community’s person in charge, he stated he would like to visit with the operators from Iowa, as well. It took me some time to get it in my schedule, (for a while I think they had probably given up on me), but I was able to get a date and time set for a trip for the Iowa facility staff to go to Gardner, visit the plant and talk to the operators there.

On August 18, 2025, we made the trip, and they had some good discussions between each of them about how they operated their plants, and about things they wish they could possibly do differently in regard to the processes. Then the discussion came up about the new algae-wheel plant that is being built in Bureau County, Illinois. All of them stated, that they would like to visit that site, before it’s put into operation, to better understand how the facility is built...as none of them were on location, during the construction of the other treatment plants.

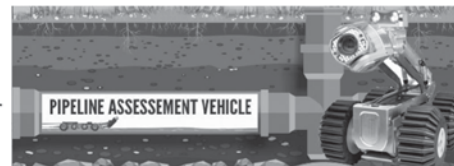
At the time of writing this article, I’m working on setting up a date for all the interested parties to visit the plant that is under construction, so that they can see how it is built, whether there have been any design changes, and to possibly better understand how to resolve some operational issues.

The reason I chose to write an article about this topic, is to show how we at Illinois Rural Water Association can work with our other state rural water associations to use all of our resources to assist operators throughout the nation, not just in our home states. If you are interested in visiting with other operators to discuss an issue, let us know and we can probably assist you with getting that visit set up.

Remember, you as system members of Illinois Rural Water Association, are also part of the National Rural Water Association, which is the largest water and wastewater utility membership organization in the nation...representing over 31,000 small rural community systems. 💧



VIDEO INSPECTION SERVICE WITH



Video inspection technology for wastewater and storm sewer systems can help you identify and prioritize maintenance issues, while improving service and reducing emergency maintenance costs.

IRWA incorporates both a “Set Minimum Maintenance Fee” and a “Maintenance Fee per Foot Charge”. The sole purpose of each is to operate, and maintain the IRWA Sewer Video Inspection Van and equipment used.

IRWA is glad to provide this Sewer Video Inspection Service to our members, and non-members (at a higher fee). As of March 1, 2024, the IRWA voting members “set minimum maintenance fee” for this service is \$500.00 for projects that do not exceed 500 feet (Non-IRWA voting member utilities pay \$750).

Larger projects requiring more time and inspection coverage, will be based on the set minimum maintenance fee up to 500 feet. Then a maintenance per foot charge of \$1.00, will be assessed for footage above the minimum allowance. IRWA member utilities receive an automatic discount on the “per foot” charge, as well as the reduced set minimum maintenance fee, for each of these types of projects. Non-IRWA member systems will pay the increased set minimum maintenance fee of \$750, plus a charge of \$1.50 per foot, above the initial 500 feet allowed in the minimum.

(Note: Due to staffing varied work demands and logistics, IRWA will not undertake video inspection jobs exceeding 5,000 feet maximum per project.)

A proposal (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 graphic diagrams of the inspection features, and a correlating digital video file for visual reference.

For more information, or to schedule an inspection of your system, email Roger Noe at: noe@ilrwa.org, or you can call him at 217-820-1564.



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

The digital map files, can be accessed through a working relationship that IRWA has with DiamondMaps.com, to put your IRWA project maps, on their server, for mobile viewing with a smartphone or cellular capable tablet, as well as access on your computer over the internet; and will give users full editing capability. 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.) on various base maps such as aerial and road view; and pull up attribute data about each, which you can edit and add data to.

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. Also, the system will receive a digital copy of all initial GPS and GIS processed mapping files; and IRWA will keep a copy as well.

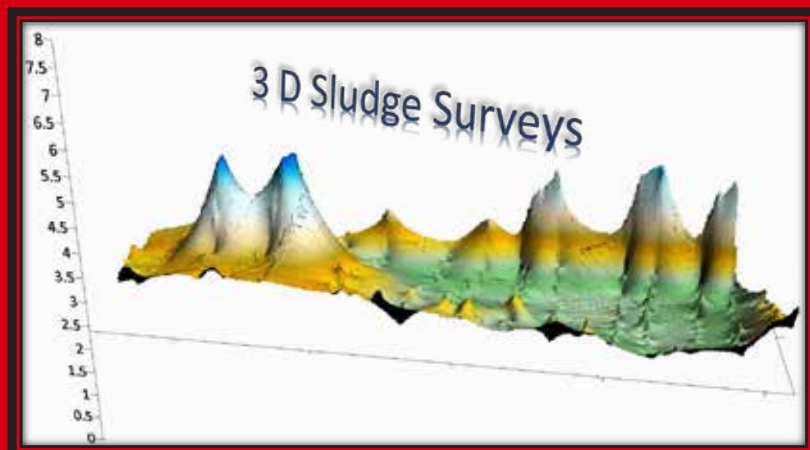
Payment for GIS services is a set charge per feature, with IRWA members receiving an automatic 30% discount, and even more of a reduction with bigger projects.

E-mail Don Craig at: craig@ilrwa.org, or call him at 217-561-1061 for additional information.

WATER TREAT TECHNOLOGY

Wastewater Treatment for Manufacturers and Municipalities

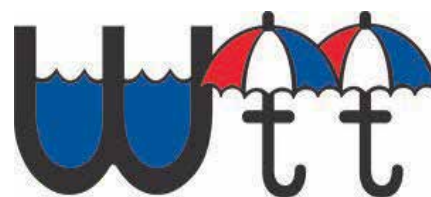
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- Lagoon sludge reduction
- Dewatering polymers
- Antifoams

and so much more

What are you looking for? - The ABC's of ilrwa.org

- **Advertising in Water Ways information** (Ad agreement and links) - Publications > Advertising Information
- **Apprenticeship**—Resources > Apprenticeship
- **Becoming a Certified Water or Wastewater Operator**—Resources > Becoming a Certified Operator in Illinois
- **Boil Order Notice**—Resources > Downloads
- **CCR**—Services > e-CCR Hosting
- **Certification Overview from IRWA**—Training > Certification
- **Certified Water Operator Contract**—Resources > Downloads
- **CEU Forms from webinars or conferences**—Training > CEU Form Archives
- **CEU's from CD training**—Training > CD's
- **Compliance Assistance**—Services > Compliance Assistance
- **Cross Connection** (manual, survey & ordinance) - Resources > Cross Connection
- **Current hot topics and upcoming events** - Home
- **Energy Efficiency Assessment**—Services > Energy Efficiency
- **For Sale/Wanted**—Services > For Sale/Wanted
- **Forming a new water district**—Resources > Downloads
- **GPS/GIS**—Services > GPS/GIS Mapping
- **Industry Organizations**—Resources > Links
- **Job Board**—Resources > Job Board
- **Lead Information** —Resources > Lead Information
- **Leak checklist and how much am I losing flyers**—Resources > Downloads
- **Legislative Information** – (Who is my rep?, Bills that IRWA is following)—Resources > Legislative
- **Mutual Aid**—Resources > Downloads
- **Nitrification Action Plan Information**—Resources > NAP
- **NFP Tax Forms** — Resources > Downloads
- **NRWA Fleet** - Membership > Benefits—click on the NRWA logo
- **Operator Groups**—Resources > Links
- **PFAS**—Home
- **Rate Study**— Services > Rate Study
- **Red Flag Act**—Resources > Downloads
- **Speaker Request Form for Conference** —Training > Conferences
- **Tracer Wire Specs**—Resources > Downloads
- **ERP/Contingency Plans**—Resources > Emergency Preparedness Planning
- **Video Inspection Services**—Services > Video Inspection
- **Wastewater CEU information**—Training > Wastewater > under table
- **Water Loss Handouts**—Resources > Downloads



FREE ENERGY EFFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

Will evaluate your energy needs, consumption and costs and recommend measures to reduce energy consumption and identify sources of funding for improvements.

What is Ameren's current electricity price?

As of Oct. 1, Ameren's "price to compare"—the supply rate you compare with alternative supplier offers—is: 0-800 kilowatt-hours (kWh): 12.236¢ per kWh—Above 800 kWh: 9.777¢ per kWh. For the first 800 kilowatt-hours, this represents a 126 percent increase over the price last October!

Ameren has also asked the ICC for approval of an additional 83 million dollar increase for next year!

Consider ...

The high cost of operating utilities has gotten to the point where the utility has to look at all options available. Keeping the operational costs to a minimum ensures that your rates are the lowest possible and still ensure safe drinking water and wastewater utilities.

What do we assess?

The Energy Conservation Circuit Rider will assess your electric bills, system assets and operational procedures. They will break it down into a usable format with options to explore which will lower costs and a projection of the time to payback.

Why ...

Most Operators spend their time in operational issues to ensure safe drinking water and maintaining compliance. They often do not have the time to dedicate to energy savings or expertise in doing assessments. We can take the time and figure it out for you.

Key Offerings

Find where your system can save money on energy. Not only can your system be more efficient, it can outline which changes can generate repayment the quickest.

What is requested of the system?

You Provide a Tour of the Facilities for Circuit Rider
You Provide Copies of Energy Bills for one year

What Do You Receive?

Recommendations on how to conserve and save on your energy bills with items listed on the projected cost of improvements and how quickly those investments recoup the return.



How Do I Get A Free Energy Assessment?

Contact Steve Stortzum

618-335-1474 – cell phone

217-287-2115 – IRWA office

stortzum@ilrwa.org

Bottled vs. Tap

*by Richmond Adams,
IRWA Sourcewater Protection Specialist*

Bottled water is everywhere these days. Grocery stores, vending machines, and even gas stations all stock coolers full of it, and the marketing behind those bottles suggests something pure, natural, and superior to what flows from the tap. It should come as no surprise, then, that many people assume bottled water must be safer or cleaner. The reality tells a different story.

Tap water is one of the most closely regulated resources in the country. Public water systems are required to meet strict Environmental Protection Agency standards, with frequent testing for a wide range of possible contaminants. Water operators know just how much sampling and reporting goes into making sure those standards are met every single day. The same level of transparency does not exist for bottled water however. While the Food and Drug Administration does set requirements for bottled water, testing is typically less frequent, and the results are not as accessible to the public. In fact, some bottled water brands draw directly from municipal supplies then repackage it for sale.

The cost difference is also just as striking. Tap water costs less than a penny per gallon, while bottled water can cost hundreds of times more. That is money going into packaging and

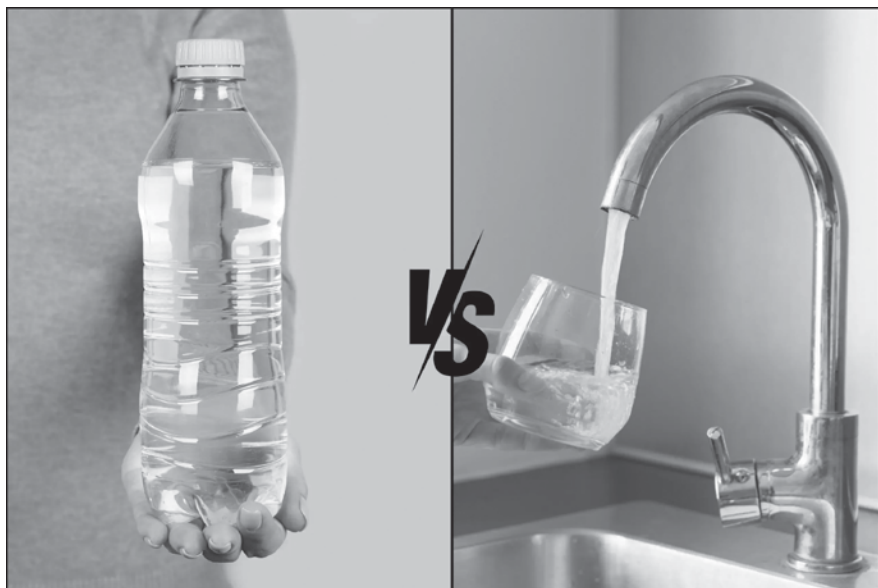
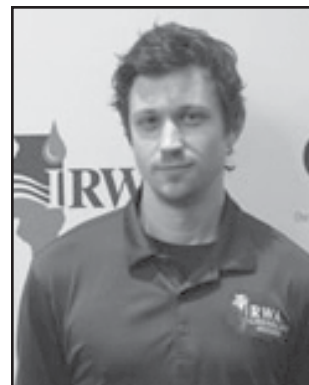
transportation and not into improving water infrastructure. For rural systems, I imagine it can be frustrating to see residents spending so much on bottled water when they already have safe, reliable water at home.

Then comes the matter of waste. Plastic bottles take resources to produce and transport, and too many of them end up in landfills or as litter. Even where recycling programs are strong, only about a third of bottles are ever recycled. Choosing the tap is not only a cost-saving measure, it is also better for the environment.

Some people argue bottled water simply tastes better. But time and again, blind taste tests show most people can't tell the difference between bottled and tap. A reusable bottle filled at the tap offers the same portability, at a fraction of the cost, without the environmental footprint.

The misconception that bottled water is somehow superior can be discouraging for operators who work hard every day to provide safe drinking water. The truth is, tap water is every bit as good, and often better. By reminding communities of the value of their local water systems, we can help shift the conversation.

Next time someone reaches for a bottle, encourage them to think about what they are really buying. In most cases, the best water choice has been right at the tap all along. 💧





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Finance Team History:

1,200+ loans for \$3.7 billion

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- Fixed rates, 1-30 years
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- Funding can be provided in 90-120 days
- BABAA, AIS, Davis-Bacon do not apply to this Program

Finance Team History:

300+ loans for \$500 million

About Us

The Rural Water Financing Agency is a public agency designed to allow borrowers to join together for the purposes of financing governmental projects.

The Agency can lend to governmental entity borrowers in all 50 states.

Visit www.ruralwaterfinance.com for contact information and to fill out your application.

Dedicated Team of Professionals



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ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

USDA Rural Development invests \$137,000 to help fund emergency repairs to flood-damaged watermains in Franklin and Jersey counties

Funding through the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG) program will help recovery from heavy rains and flooding

CHAMPAIGN, Ill., Sept. 8, 2025-

- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) State Director Jesus Ortega announced today that USDA RD is investing \$137,000 to help fund emergency repairs to watermains in Franklin and Jersey counties in Illinois. The watermains were damaged by heavy rains and flooding.

“We are pleased to partner with Franklin and Jersey counties to support swift recovery from the heavy rains and flooding that affected these communities,” said State Director Ortega. “This funding will be essential in helping to ensure the quality and quantity of water that is available to people in these parts of rural Illinois for generations to come.”



The Akin Water District will receive \$89,000. Jersey County Rural Water, Inc. will receive \$48,000.

This investment is through the USDA RD Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAGs) program. The ECWAGs program helps eligible communities prepare for, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water.

“The funding announced today is another example of how the Trump administration has the health and safety of people in rural Illinois at the forefront of priorities,” State Director Ortega said. “President Trump is committed to supporting the people of rural Illinois, when faced with weather disasters and emergencies.”

More information about the USDA RD Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants program is available online, here: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/emergency-community-water-assistance-grants/il>. 💧





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