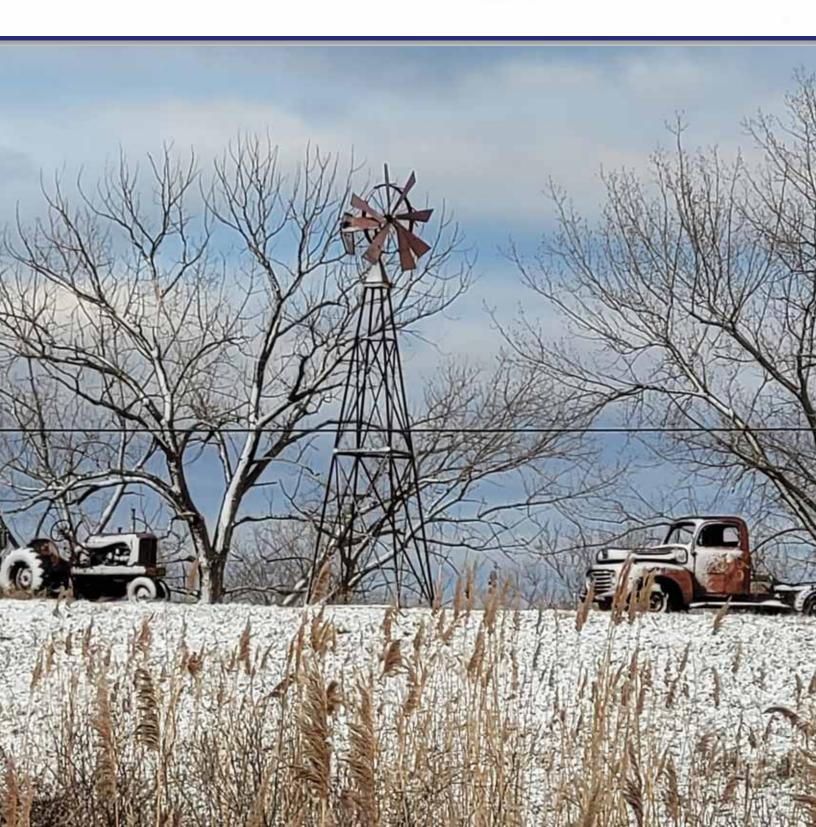


# Volume XX – Winter 2023





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**DON CRAIG** *Deputy Director* craig@ilrwa.org • 217-561-1061

HEATHER MCLEOD Membership Services Assistant ilrwahm@ilrwa.org

DENISE BURKE Administrative/Program Assistant ilrwadb@ilrwa.org

MARY REED Compliance Assistance Specialist reed@ilrwa.org • 217-561-8376

CLARK CAMERON State Circuit Rider cameron@ilrwa.org • 217-820-3814

DAVE SPEAGLE Energy Efficiency Circuit Rider speagle@ilrwa.org • 217-820-1560

Evan Jones Circuit Rider jones@ilrwa.org • 217-820-5508

Roger Noe Circuit Rider noe@ilrwa.org • 217-820-1564

CHUCK WOODWORTH Circuit Rider ilrwacw@ilrwa.org • 217-820-1569

Marc Lemrise Circuit Rider lemrise@ilrwa.org • 217-820-0222

EPA Program Specialist DAVE M<sup>c</sup>MILLAN mcmillan@ilrwa.org • 217-370-6485

STEVE VANCE vance@ilrwa.org • 217-825-5941

Scott Tozier Wastewater Technician tozier@ilrwa.org • 585-314-3759

JEFF MCCREADY Wastewater Technician mccready@ilrwa.org • 217-870-4754

**RICHMOND ADAMS** Source Water Protection Specialist adams@ilrwa.org • 217-820-2037

KENT COX EPA WW Program Specialist cox@ilrwa.org • 309-333-4069

**JEFF TUMIATI** Apprenticeship Coordinator tumiati@ilrwa.org • 217-820-2220

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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 Luke McLeod, husband of Heather McLeod, IRWA Membership Services

Assistant, on Route 66 in Godley, 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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# Now What?

#### by Frank Dunmire, IRWA Executive Director

It was a slow evening at home, and I found myself sitting in my comfortable recliner (you know - the one where you can doze off in a matter of minutes) reading news feeds on my phone. I'm sure almost everyone reading this article has been guilty of doing the same on more than one occasion. This particular night I kept clicking on the "recommended" feeds that kept popping up and came across one from Frank Vargas who is a Corporate Social Responsibility Associate. I am not sure what that job description entails, but he did have some interesting things to say about joining a nonprofit Board of Directors versus other volunteering/ donating options that may present themselves? He went on to say that one of the best ways to give back <u>and</u> have a voice in your community or, in this case, industry, is by serving on a nonprofit Board. Board service empowers you to ensure the health, equity, and stability of the water and wastewater professionals you serve. Board members who bring diverse backgrounds, perspectives, and personal experiences add tremendous value to elevating the mission and work of nonprofit organizations. Illinois Rural Water Association is blessed with a Board of Directors that brings all those qualifications to the table and are willing to attend specialized training to assist them with their responsibilities. For the more seasoned of us Water and/or Wastewater Operations Specialists, we have experienced at least one administrative change on a city council where someone new is elected and attends their first few meetings with the "I've been elected - now what" look on their face.

Many reasons exist as to why one should consider serving on a nonprofit board and a few reasons not to. Here are a few worth mentioning:

**Make an Impact** – As stated earlier, there are countless ways people can give back to their community but joining a Board of Directors of an NFP affords you the opportunity to maximize your impact and support a cause whose mission aligns with your beliefs. While serving on a Board, you use your professional skills to help guide and shape an association over time. At first, it may not seem as impactful as serving meals to the homeless or reading to children; however, your service on a Board is critical to strategizing an organization's direction to ensure those services can be delivered effectively and efficiently. In other words, the Board plots the course for the future.

**Professional Development** - Joining a nonprofit Board can build and enhance your professional skills. You may leverage your existing expertise or branch out and learn new skills. It can provide you with new experiences you may not have had in your current or past profession. Either way, becoming a nonprofit Board member will offer many opportunities for leadership development as you work with other professionals to guide the organization strategically.

**Expand Your Network** – Being a part of a nonprofit Board of Directors allows you to meet many new people,

including other Board members, community partners, and leaders. Building your connections can be a nice perk to serving your community and can open doors for future endeavors.

The National Rural Water Association supports their membership (State Rural Water Associations) by



ensuring that they have the opportunity to grow as a Board member and provides them with excellent training opportunities. Recently, I accompanied three of IRWA's Directors that were attending State Board Leadership training that was presented through NRWA. The national association has a policy that at least 51% of the State Association's Board members receive this two day in-person comprehensive training. They also require <u>*ALL*</u> NRWA Board members to complete the leadership training as well. One hundred percent of the IRWA Board has received this training. It is through this training that a Board member can learn what their true responsibilities are, expand their network, grow professionally, and learn some of the reasons why a person should not serve on a board of directors. Without further ado, here are a few Board No-Nos.

- 1. Getting paid. If you're thinking that it pays well you will be disappointed.
- 2. Going rogue. If you are thinking of joining a Board with a self-serving agenda you may want to consider something else.
- 3. Being on a Board with a family member is also considered a nonstarter in the NFP world.
- 4. Directing staff or volunteers below the Executive Director. This has gotten many state associations in trouble and is a huge topic at leadership training.
- 5. Thinking everything is fine and nothing needs to change. Everything may be fine, but there is always room for change. Trust but verify.

As IRWA moves forward, it will continue to have its Directors attend leadership training and maintain that certification. If you come across one of IRWA's Directors, please thank them for their service.

Hope to see you in Effingham at the IRWA Annual Conference February 21 – 23.

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# **Differences in Operations Contracts**

#### by Evan Jones, IRWA Circuit Rider

It is likely, that most certified operators either have an existing agreement, or have been approached about doing a contractual operation at a water or wastewater system. I recently assisted a young operator transitioning into the contractual "scene". While I have been involved in several different aspects of contract operations, I have never formally been in that position. While the above mentioned operator and I were looking into what he needed to know... so that he could figure out if it was feasible to do some contracts... we found that the prices and the agreements themselves were all over the place as far as what the set provisions stipulated.

Below, is some of the information we discovered on how several operators are doing their contracts.

The first operator I talked to, charges a rate per day for each month. He does this because he feels he needs to be assured of some definitive remuneration, because of being on call for the system 24/7. For this daily fee, the utility gets a certified operator, as well as the CCR, monthly operating report, phone assistance, and weekly visits to the treatment plant. Anything above and beyond these aspects, and/or what is in the contract, he bills out at a rate of what his full-time job pays him for overtime. This is done so that the operator doesn't lose potential money if he were called into both places at the same time.

The second operations specialist we spoke to, is contracted for a flat rate that is set at a pretty good amount considering the size of the community. But he is technically the Public Works Director, and is responsible for water leaks as well as certain aspects of maintenance and treatment. He also handles the usual CCR, monthly operating reports, as well as the sampling and weekly visits. He also covers work there, when the parttime employee is not around to do the daily checks. This type of agreement works well overall; and he makes a pretty good wage most of the time... until things fall apart and there are many problems to respond to.

Operator number three, has signed on as a part time employee. By doing this, he isn't necessarily a contract operator as he doesn't have a signed contract. This lets the system take all the taxes and such out of his earnings and then just sends him a W-2 at the end of the year making accounting easier. He also can make out pretty well financially, because he is paid a rate by the hour when he is either on site or working on things for the system.

The fourth operator that we talked to, has the agreement that I likely would do, if I were operating a system on a contractual basis. He too, charges a flat rate, but this rate has things figured into it such as mileage, site visits, and length of visits. Also written into the contract is anything not in the original pact, will be billed out at an hourly rate. This contract, (which I've seen also has a backup operator), bills out at the same hourly rate in case of an emergency or problem, when the actual contract operator is unable to respond due to vacation, sickness, etc.

The final operator I communicated with recently, charges a



flat fee and that is it. He assists the system staff by phone, and when on site for required visits. He does complete the CCR, and monthly operating report, as well as calling in and handling the required steps for boil orders.

So, as you can see by examples above, these are customized to the operator as well as to what the system needs and requires for the contract. Illinois Rural Water Association has contract templates on our website at: *https://www.ilrwa.org/downloads.htm* 

This link will get you to the Downloads page where you can go through that process and then customize what you need. I will not say what these operators charge, or give a suggestion of what to charge. That is going to be completely dependent on it's worth to each operator and system. It is up to each person looking to do contractual operations, to research varying amounts charged to utilities by those operators that are presently doing such work. They all differ depending on classification, and what is needed by the system. I will say, don't sell yourselves short when figuring your price. Time is money... and what is your time worth to you?

This is going to be a big topic over the next couple of years as operators retire and are not renewing their certifications. Just in the last couple of months, I have been made aware of almost a dozen systems, that are either actively looking or have been given notice, that their operator is not going to be renewing the contract. To say the least, contractual operations companies, and individual contract operators will be in huge demand. If you need any assistance with your contract, feel free to contact your IRWA Circuit Rider or Wastewater Tech for your area; or call the IRWA office and they can put you in contact with the right staff member.

# **Putting MCL's into Perspective**

#### by Marc Lemrise, IRWA Circuit Rider

At this time of year water operators and system managers are still more than half a year away from distributing the annual Consumer Confidence Report. Any questions that your customers had about last year's CCR have been answered long ago and there won't be any new ones till the next CCR is posted.

After delivering the CCR, most system managers have had at least a few phone calls or letters asking if the water was safe to drink because the customer noticed a detection for a toxic substance, no matter how small. You can explain the EPA established MCL's after exhaustive research and then lowered the concentrations even further to provide a very wide margin of error. Somehow, that never seems to help. You might get a response like, "Sure, and income tax was a temporary measure."

The general public can sometimes be skeptical of information coming from a governmental agency. Furthermore, unless one is a public water supply operator or someone with a similar educational background, they just cannot picture what one part per million would even look like. If your system has a one-million-gallon water tower, you could tell them that about 8.3 lbs. of copper dissolved into a full water tower, or one teaspoon in 12,000 gallons (one semi tanker trailer slightly overfilled) would be the 1mg/l Maximum Contaminant Level. Any more than a teaspoon would be a violation.

Manganese has been considered by most to be more of an inconvenience than a health risk because it tends to stain plumbing fixtures and laundry. Manganese is an essential element to good health in humans and a deficiency thereof can cause blood clots and reduced immune system function. But you know the old saying, "too much of a good thing is a bad thing." This couldn't be truer in the case of manganese. Too much manganese can lead to symptoms like impaired memory, loss of appetite and certain neurological problems. Long term exposure can cause kidney failure and even hallucinations. The MCL for manganese is set at 50 ug/l. (parts per billion) One teaspoon dissolved evenly into 192,000 gallons would be the recipe for the manganese MCL. That's one teaspoon in seventeen and a half semi tanker trucks.

Usually, it's not copper or manganese that the customer is concerned about. One U.S. teaspoon of arsenic would be about twenty lethal doses.

Most people are aware



that arsenic is a highly toxic metal, so it's guaranteed to get their attention. I would tell them that one teaspoon of arsenic dissolved into 719,000 gallons of water best describes the MCL of 10 ug/l. To further make the point, that's one teaspoon in sixty-five semitrailer tanker trucks. (At 11,000 gallons each.)

Lead contamination is even more impressive, due to the density of that constituent. Lead shares the same MCL as arsenic, being 10 ug/l. One teaspoon of lead evenly dissolved into 1.475 million gallons would be just enough to reach the MCL. Using the tanker truck comparison, that's one teaspoon of lead in 134 tanker trucks!

As we all know, some people will never be satisfied with whatever answer you give them. Conspiracy theories still abound regarding the addition of fluoride in our drinking water. People generally believe what they want to, but reasonable people may take solace in an explanation that gives perspective to how infinitesimally small these concentrations are and maybe even give them some confidence in the agencies and operators that keep our potable water safe for any domestic use.

> Sources: Aqua-calc.com USEPA Quora.com Transcourt.com Healthandenviornment.org Atsdr.cdc.gov

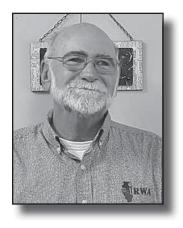
## A Pathway to the Future

#### by Jeff Tumiati, IRWA Apprenticeship Coordinator

Those in the water and wastewater industry know the importance of safe drinking water and the proper treatment of wastewater. Water and Wastewater Operations Specialists are very much aware of how unique their jobs are, in that they involve the daily responsibilities of public health protection, technical operations, and maintenance of critical but unseen infrastructure. Water and Wastewater professionals have, and continue, to work tirelessly to protect our water and waterways, thereby ensuring the health and safety of both our customers and our water - ensuring access for all. They are ultimately responsible for meeting stringent regulatory standards, replacing aging infrastructure, and responding to and recovering from disasters. Having said all that you also know that it can be one of the most challenging and satisfying career paths where you know what you do every single day makes a difference not only for your community, but in the quality of life for your family, friends, and neighbors. You should be very proud of what you do while working in the water and wastewater field and know that you are making a difference as you strive to provide safe potable water and/or properly treat wastewater before returning it back to mother nature.

I'm very happy to be able to continually provide you with positive updates about the Illinois Rural Water Association's Apprenticeship training program as it continues to grow at a brisk pace. IRWA currently has eleven active apprentices and will be starting another group of Water Operation Specialists in early 2023. To date thirty-eight applicants have completed the online application. The pool of employers looking to hire and train the next generation of operators is growing along with the expanding pool of eligible applicants waiting for their chance to enter the Water/Wastewater industry and ultimately someday becoming Operations Specialists. Our first group of Water Operation specialists that started their journey in September of 2021 are now well over halfway through their journey. A few of them have challenged and successfully passed their IEPA certification exams. Congratulations great job!

Another accomplishment that we are very proud of is receiving the Business Partnership Award from Land of Lincoln Workforce Alliance. At their most recent Innovation Board Awards banquet held in Springfield, Illinois Rural Water Association was recognized and presented the Business Partnership Award. The Land of Lincoln Workforce Alliance began a partnership with the Illinois Rural Water Association after a referral from Illinois Department of Human Services – Rehabilitation Services. This project has provided reimbursement funds for five systems in Central Illinois for the training of their Water Operations Specialists currently participating in the IRWA apprenticeship program. The systems that the apprentices work for are currently being reimbursed for 90% of their training and educational costs. This will not only impact those communities in Central Illinois but also statewide for many years to come. This project is the perfect example of what local workforce offices do throughout the State. There is currently such a workforce shortage, and this program has the potential to impact each of these local communities greatly by providing an avenue for them to have a Water/ Wastewater Specialist that can handle the



operations of their facilities as well as its supporting infrastructure in two and half years.

Interested individuals looking to enter the water and wastewater field can go to our website, www.ilrwa.org. to complete their application. Once all criteria have been met, they will be placed onto the eligible apprentice pool list. Systems looking to fill the shoes of those retiring employees or simply fill an unexpected opening must also meet the criteria contained in the apprenticeship program standards to be eligible to train apprentices. Once everything is completed, we will register the employer and the apprentice with the U.S. Department of Labor. The next step would be pairing the apprentices with the employers. To learn more about the apprenticeship program, please visit our website at www.ilrwa.org.

Until we meet again stay healthy, work safe and best wishes.



Pictured left to right: Sarah Graham Executive Director Land of Lincoln Workforce Alliance, Jeff Tumiati Apprenticeship Coordinator, Heather McLeod Membership Services Coordinator

# HEAR YE, HEAR YE!!!

#### by Chuck Woodworth, IRWA Circuit Rider

It's that time of the year again...Are you ready for some training? You don't want to miss the "big show", the "main event", the conference of all conferences and the exhibit hall, over 100 booths filled with the latest and greatest tools, parts and technology. You will also find in the



exhibit hall some tasty snacks, hot and cold drinks. The most important thing you will find in the exhibit hall is the people, some of the water industry's smartest people who enjoy talking about what they do. Any of them would be happy to discuss similar issues they have had that might be close to an issue you might be having back home in your system. All you need to do is walk up to someone, introduce yourself then ask, have you ever had a situation like this before in your system? Next thing you know there will be a small group of water operators standing there having a discussion solving the issues. I have been told several times that some of the best training comes from operators talking in the halls or while enjoying one of the great meals that are provided.



The sportsman raffle is another big draw if you are interested in buying tickets for a chance at winning new fishing poles, deer stands, golf clubs, trail cams, cash, outdoor grills and wide selection of other outdoor sports related items. The winner of each of these items are announced after the casino night. We also have a few items that are donated for an auction the same night.

Our annual conference is a 2 1/2 day event with training sessions with around 13 credit hours available. 115 exhibitors set up for 2 days and will be happy to tell you about their latest products and services. The next conference will be held at the Keller Convention Center in Effingham, IL on February 21-23, 2023.

If you're looking for some training on a little smaller scale maybe the northern conference would be more







suited to your likings. This is a conference held in the Northern part of the state normally near the Rockford area. During the 2 day conference you can attend training sessions and receive around 10 credit hours, and visit with 40 exhibitors. As always, great meals are provided. The next Northern Conference will be held in October 2023.



# **About The Program**

The NRWA Rural Water Loan Fund (RWLF) is a funding program specifically designed to meet the unique needs of small water and wastewater utilities.

The RWLF provides low-cost loans for short-term repair costs, small capital projects, or pre-development costs associated with larger projects. The RWLF was established through a grant from the USDA/RUS, and repaid funds used to replenish the fund and make new loans.

Apply today by contacting your State Rural Water Association or NRWA!



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# **Eligible Projects**

- Pre-development (planning) costs for infrastructure projects
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Applications, information and forms can be downloaded from the NRWA website at nrwa.org or by scanning the QR Code above. For help, please call 1.800.332.8715 or email nrwarwlf@nrwa.org.





National Rural Water Association is an equal opportunity provider and employer. This material is based upon work supported by the Rural Utilities Service, United States Department of Agriculture.



# **IRWA Support Letters Are Needed**

IRWA employees are dedicated in helping the water and wastewater systems throughout the state in making onsite visits and providing technical assistance in helping to ensure your systems have safe and quality water.

Please take a moment to thank any or all of the IRWA employees who have helped your system by writing an appreciation letter on your letterhead and mail to:

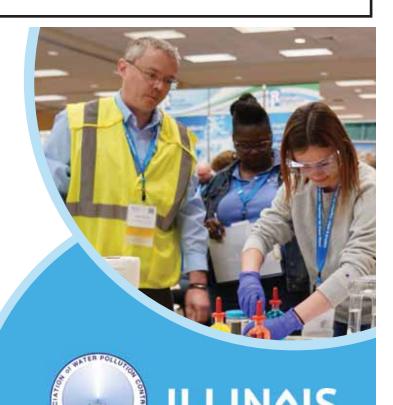
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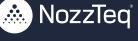












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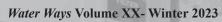


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Water Ways Volume XX- Winter 2023



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# FREE RATE STUDY

#### Why Have a Rate Study Conducted?

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

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

#### What Information Will the Rate Study Provide?

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



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

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



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#### Contact your local Tnemec coatings consultant:

Northern Illinois **Erik Otten** Taylor Coating Sales, Inc. Tel: (708) 822-8323

eotten@tnemec.com

Western Illinois **Keith Kennett** Taylor Coating Sales, Inc. Tel: (309) 945-2094 kkennett@tnemec.com Southern Illinois **Mike Cerutti** Coating Solutions, LLC Tel: (314) 703-8042 mcerutti@tnemec.com



# ABOUT DIMOND BROS.

IRWA

- Dimond Bros. Insurance is an independent insurance agency headquartered in Paris, IL
- 40 Office Locations throughout Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin with 300+ employees
- One of the Largest Privately Held Insurance Agencies in the United States

## **OUR CARRIERS**

 Carriers will be selected based on the individual risk. Carriers we may utilize include: Cincinnati, Travelers, Selective, Bliss McKnight, OneBeacon, IPRF or ICRMT

## **OUR COMMITMENT**

- Response to members in a timely and professional manner
- Individualize communication style preferences including email, mail, phone, fax
- Attend and Contribute to IRWA Conferences



# DimondBros.com

**John B. Griffith** 801 N. Third St., Suite B Effingham, IL 6240 (217) 347-0584 ext. 3105 **Sean Griffith** 801 N. Third St., Suite B Effingham, IL 62401 (217) 347-0584 ext. 3104

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The National Rural Water Association has created partnerships with motor groups to offer discounts to utilities around the country. Member utilities should contact their State Rural Water Association to access the Rural Water Fleet Program.



Visit https://nrwa.org/members/products-services-portfolio/ fleet-program/ for up-to-date information.



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# ATTENDEE INFORMATION THE DRIVING FORCE



# 41ST ANNUAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 21-23, 2023 Keller Convention Center · Effingham, IL

HOST HOTEL Holiday Inn 1301 Ave. of Mid-America Effingham, IL Phone: 217-540-7777 \$115.00 + tax per night



#### **Auxiliary Hotel**

LaQuinta 1103 Ave of Mid America Phone: 217-540-1111

#### Auxiliary Hotel

Country Inn & Suites 1200 N. Raney St. Phone: 217-540-5555

#### **Auxiliary Hotel**

**Auxiliary Hotel** 

Holiday Inn Express 1604 Fayette Ave (exit 159) 217-994-9949 Best Western-Delta Inn 1509 Hampton Drive 217-342-4499

#### Auxiliary Hotel

Hampton Inn & Suites 1305 N Keller Dr 217-540-5050

#### **CONFERENCE LOCATION**

The conference will be held at the Thelma Keller Convention Center located at 1202 N. Keller Dr. The convention center is attached to the host hotel.

#### REGISTRATION

Registration & badges are required for all conference attendees. Please register each attendee using the registration form included.

#### **Pre-Registration:**

To pre-register complete the registration form and mail with payment to:

IRWA, PO Box 49, Taylorville, IL 62568

To pay on-line with your credit card, go to www.ilrwa.org and click on the conference link on the home page.

CONFIRMATIONS OF REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE SENT!

Pre-registration must be postmarked by February 3, 2023.

#### **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 Keller Convention Center. \*\*Please note that on-site registration is \$25.00 higher than pre-registration.\*\*

An event membership of one-cent per person is included in your registration fee(s) allowing participants in NRWA fundraising activities. This is required by Federal Election Commission laws. If you wish to opt-out, please go to the registration booth at the conference for your refund of this one-cent fee.

#### **CANCELLATION & REFUNDS**

Refunds only in the event of emergencies. We must have a written notice of cancellation to issue a refund.

#### **REGISTRATION HOURS**

Pre-Registration Pickup ONLY Monday, February 20 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

#### **Regular Registration Hours**

Tuesday, February 21 Wednesday, February 22 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

#### **EXHIBIT HALL**

Professionals from all areas of the water and wastewater industry will be on hand to help solve your problems and provide you with the information you need to make those crucial decisions. 115 companies will be bringing their products and services to you at this year's conference.

The exhibit hall will be open during the following hours:

Tuesday, February 21 Wednesday, February 22

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

#### Exhibitors Hospitality Night

Tuesday, February 21 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. All food and beverages for the evening provided by our exhibitors.

#### Pub Crawl

Tuesday, February 217:30 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.Thank you to the City of Effingham for their continued<br/>support of the pub crawl! The buses will begin picking up<br/>at the Holiday Inn at the conclusion of Hospitality Night.

#### **Casino Night**

Wednesday, February 22 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

#### **CERTIFICATION OVERVIEWS & EXAMS**

Certification overview courses and state certification exams for drinking water and wastewater will be held at the conference. The reviews will be given courtesy of E.R.T.C. on Wednesday, February 22, 2023. The review is included with your conference registration.

The exams will be given on Thursday, February 23, 2023 beginning at 8:30 a.m. It will be available for attendees and non-attendees alike. You must have a valid **Letter of Admission** issued by the IEPA. You <u>must</u> bring the Letter of Admission and a photo ID. There are no conference fees associated with the exam. *However, you must return a registration form with the exam you will be taking circled.* 

RWA ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION		F ATTENI	ebruary 2 DEE REG	chnical ( 21-23, 202 ISTRATIO	N FORM	e
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CITY:						
PHONE NUMBER:		E-MAIL AD	DRESS:			
FULL REGISTRATION: (Inclue	des technical	sessions, ex	hibit hall, mea	Is & activities fo	r all 3 days)	
☐ Member—\$190.00 ☐ Non-Member—\$240.00		se—\$190.00 ⁄Iember Indivi	dual Joining as	a Member + Conf	ference—\$225.00	
ONE DAY REGISTRATION: (Ir	ncludes techr	nical session	s, exhibit hall,	meals & activitie	es for 1 day only)	
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Non-Member—\$215.00	) 🗌 Nor	n-Member Ind	ividual Joining a	as a Member + Co	onference—\$190.00	
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#### Conference At A Glance Tuesday, February 21st - Registration Open: 8:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. 4.5 Water/3.5 Wastewater credits available ( \* = dual credit) Opening Session/Awards Ceremony/RD Update\* 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Break/Exhibit Hall Opens WATER WASTEWATER BREAKOUT 11:00 a.m. **IEPA Panel Discussion** 12:00 p.m. Lunch Buffet—Ticket Required Water Tower/Tank Maintenance 1:00 p.m. Biosolids 2023 & Beyond Transferring Your Infrastructure Risks\* & Service Agreements Non-Revenue Water with Cost Effective 1:45 p.m. Streamlining Lead Service Lagoon Management & Maintenance Line Inspections Leak & Pressure Data Break/Exhibitor Drawings 2:30 p.m. Improving Water System Control Through 3:00 p.m. Aerobic Digestion: Old Challenge, New Line Stopping Innovative Solution! Effective Valve Management How to Increase Revenue 3:45 p.m. Need More Water? Lagoons in Illinois-Plenty of Life Left! Raise the Water Tower without Raising Rates\* Water Taste Test Annual Meeting 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 22nd - Registration & Exhibit Hall Open: 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. 5.25 Water/5.25 Wastewater credits available (\* = dual credit) 9:00 a.m. Metering & Technology: The Next **Pump Station Selection &** Generation of Metric Reading **Design Reasoning** Water Math Review (9:00-11:00) Theory of Dissolved Oxygen 9:45 a.m. Water Storage Tank Winter Operations 10:30 a.m. Break/Exhibitor Drawings 11:15 a.m. Water Quality Trading: Achieve Permit GIS & Asset Management\* Goals & Protecting the Watershed 12:00 p.m. Lunch Buffet—Ticket Required 1:00 p.m. Solar, Energy Storage & **Overview of Testing Procedures** Demand Shaving\* Disinfection and Softening Review\* 1:45 p.m. **Optimize Pump Station Management** The Do's and Don'ts of Sampling with Web-Based Remote Monitoring & Control 2:30 p.m. Break/Exhibitor Drawings 3:00 p.m. Packed Bed Filter Treatment and the Well Treatment Options Contribution on Advantex Basic Wastewater Math (2:45-4:00) 3:45 p.m. Composite Manholes Frames and PFAS: Latest Developments, Lids for Sanitary Sewer/Water Meter Monitoring, and Treatment Strategies Applications Thursday, February 23rd (No registration or exhibit hall open) 3 Water/2.25 Wastewater credits available (\* = dual credit) 7:30 a.m. Breakfast Buffet—Ticket Required 8:30 a.m. Compliance Assistance\* Crisis Communications: Responding 9:15 a.m. to the media and the public WASTEWATER WATER in emergency situations\* CERTIFICATION CERTIFICATION Break 10:00 a.m. EXAM **EXAM** (until 11:30) 10:15 a.m. **Control Valves** (until 1:30) The Importance of Apprenticeships\* 11:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m. Grand Prize Drawing

#### WATER SESSIONS

Rural Development Update - Mike Wallace; RD– Find out about updates to the Rural Development programs.



**IEPA Update - TBD IEPA -** This popular session will fill you in on all of the new regs and any changes to older ones.

Water Tower/Tank Maintenance and Service Agreements—James Creed: KLM Engineering - Learn about the ins and outs of a service agreement and maintenance for today's water storage tanks.

Streamlining Lead Service Line Inspections—Kip Kritis & Justin Krones; Horner & Shifrin, Inc. -Utilize GIS to track, coordinate, report & budget for which service lines are required to be replaced & provide the EPA with the mandated data in an efficiently & effectively.

Linestopping—Michael Bailey, Eric Haworth & Jason Williams; IMCO - Find out what linestopping is and how to use it to your benefit. A Q & A session will follow this session.

<u>Need More Water? Raise the Water Tower—Mike Buzicky: MSA</u> <u>Professional Services -</u> Hear how an undeveloped area in Lake Geneva raised the pressure when more static water pressure was needed to comply with code.

Metering Technology: The Next Generation of Meter Reading— Brian Lawson: Smart Earth Technologies - Learn how meters have advanced and how reading systems have changed. You will also learn about cellular reading.

<u>Water Storage Tank Winter Operations — Rich Kemmis ; Maguire</u> <u>Iron -</u> Hear about the indications of a frozen water tank, problems and potential damages that can result from a frozen tank, thawing the tanks open, as well as preventative measures to ensure your tank does not freeze in the wintertime.

GIS and Asset Management - Don Craig; IRWA—See how this IRWA program helps rural community systems address part of needed asset management of their water, wastewater & storm sewer infrastructures.

Solar, Energy Storage & Demand Shaving —Bryce Vincent; <u>Amerlight -</u> Financial benefits for water utility systems, benefits of renewable energy, critical components & infrastructure needed for a solar array & a case study demonstrating energy & financial savings.

The Do's and Don'ts of Sampling—Jennifer Solomon; Pace Labs -Are you taking your samples properly? Come to this session and hear about things you may or may not be doing correctly.

Well Treatment Options—Tim Kelly; Brotcke Well & Pump - Various well treatment options will be discussed along with the pros and cons of these treatments.

<u>PFAS: Latest Developments, Monitoring and Treatment Strategies</u> <u>- Jake Causey; Corona Environmental Consulting, LLC -</u>

The latest actions regarding PFAS impacting drinking water utilities, latest analytical methods for monitoring PFAS levels, and treatment strategies for removing PFAS from drinking water.

<u>Compliance Assistance—Mary Reed; IRWA</u> - Find out how this new IRWA program can save you headaches as you try to stay in compliance with the state regulations.

Crisis Communications: Responding to the Media & the Public in Emergency Situations—Kim Biggs; IEPA - Have you ever struggled to know what to say and how much information to give out during an emergency? Learn what to say & maybe more importantly what not to!

<u>Control Valves—Sarah Towle: C and C Pumps—</u>The presentation covers different types of control valves as well as maintenance and a free app to track maintenance.

The Importance of Apprenticeships—Kim Kuchenbrod, DCEO - It is growing more important to replace the retiring water & wastewater specialists in the workforce. Find out how partnering in an apprenticeship program can work for your system.

#### WASTEWATER SESSIONS

Biosolids 2023 and Beyond—Greg Firrantello; Stewart Spreading -An overall and wide look at the biosolids industry from generator to end user, to public relations & environmental regulations. A <u>Lagoon Management & Maintenance—Ben Shakman:</u> <u>Triplepoint Environmental -</u>Ben will discuss the impact of routine and cyclical maintenance as well as

**GLANCE** retro-commissioning/recommissioning as a framework to help get systems back to operating as designed.

> Aerobic Digestion: Old Challenge, New Innovative Solution! -Freddy Kade: EnviroMix—Benefits of this energy-efficient solution and a case study of Benton, IL WWTP and their use of decoupled aeration and mixing to realize over \$40,000 in annual savings.

Lagoons in Illinois-Plenty of Life Left! - Nick Janous; Nexom, Inc.– There are many ways to upgrade and reuse lagoons to meet the nutrient limits many DNR's are forcing on plants today.

Pump Station Selection and Design—Michael Heitert; Enviro-Line <u>Co., Inc. -</u> This presentation will cover the reasoning behind a decision on pump stations selection and designs.

Theory of Dissolved Oxygen - Eric Link; LabtronX— We will explore how temperature and pressure affect contraction, expansion, saturation and diffusion.

Water Quality Trading: Achieving Permit Goals and Protecting the Watershed— Andrew Skog; MSA Professional Services - A case study on how the City of Broadhead, WI implemented a water quality trading program to meet permit goals, achieve cost savings & improve a local watershed.

<u>Overview of Testing Procedures for Small Wastewater Systems</u> <u>Scott Tozier; IRWA -</u> Scott will cover tests such as: temp, PH, TSS, BOD/CBOD, ammonia and fecal coliform. This course is meant for small systems that may not do these tests, but are required to know this information for certification testing.

Optimize Pump Station Management with Web-Based Remote Monitoring & Control—Glenn Panner; Grundfos - The presentation will cover the latest web-based technology for monitoring remote lift station operations in the palm of your hand enabling time & cost savings.

Packed Bed Filter Treatment and the Contribution on Advantex— Jerry VanAuker; Orenco - The timeline & benefits of packed bed filter treatment, various media used, how treatment takes place and the benefits will be discussed in this session.

<u>Composite Manholes Frames and Lids for Sanitary Sewer/Water</u> <u>Meter Applications—Eric Luschen; MMG -</u> Composite manhole frames and lids greatly help to reduce SOs, reduce workers injuries and last much longer due to corrosion resistance.

#### **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

Transferring Your Infrastructure Risks—Robert E. O'Connell; My <u>Utility Claim, Inc.</u> - Insurance strategies for transferring utility infrastructure risks to preserve reserves and improve infrastructure.

Reduce Non-Revenue Water with Cost Effective Leak & Pressure Data—Steve Bruskiewicz; Clow Valve Company - Manage your distribution system more efficiently and respond more effectively to hydraulic events in your distribution system using remote leak detection and pressure monitoring.

Improving Water System Control through Effective Valve Management—Deryck Freudeman; Xylem; Wachs Water Services -Attendees will learn why it is critical to prioritize valve condition assessments to gain a better understanding of the control they have on water distribution systems.

How to Increase Revenues without Raising Rates—Gary Sanders: <u>Utility Information Pipeline, LLC -</u> User fees are an often overlooked source of income to supplement rate revenues. Hear about some fees to consider when updating your schedule of fees.

<u>Water and Wastewater Certification Math Overviews—Matt Maas</u> <u>ERTC</u> - Water math review will be back again this year. By popular request, Matt will also be going over wastewater math as well!

Disinfection and Softening Certification Overview—Drew Hoelscher; ERTC - Come to this session to hear an overview on disinfection and softening to assist you in passing your certification exam.

# 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 offersis: 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?

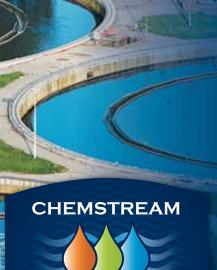
<u>Recommendations</u> on how to conserve and save on your energy bills with items listed on the projected cost of improvements and how quickly those investments recoup the return.



How Do I Get A Free Energy Assessment?

Contact Dave Speagle 217-820-1560 – cell phone 217-287-2115 – IRWA office speagle@ilrwa.org

# Innovation | Chemistry | Excellence



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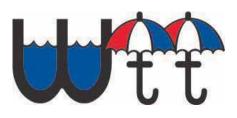
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- State-of-the-art monitoring systems to ensure compliance
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#### Activated Sludge:

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- ✓ Filamentous Control
- ✓ Ammonia Control
- ✓ Sludge Reducing Treatment

#### Lagoons:

- ✓ Algae Control
- ✓ Duckweed and Water Meal Control

#### Services:

- ✓ Wastewater Consulting
- ✓ Contract Operating Services
- ✓ Lab Services
- ✓ Troubleshooting



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