



# WISCONSIN RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

## 2024 IMPACT ON WISCONSIN



*Assisting, educating and representing our members in the wise use of water resources*





## Provides Training...

WRWA continues to be the leading provider of training in the state of Wisconsin to those in the water and wastewater industries. In fact, WRWA is one of the leading trainers of water and wastewater system personnel in the nation.

In 2024, WRWA conducted a total of **194** training sessions and events. These were attended by **6,166** operators, managers, administrative personnel, plumbers, and business representatives.

## Technical Assistance...

Technical assistance to operators of water and wastewater systems in Wisconsin is the backbone of our service to our membership. WRWA conducted **3,105 actual on-site technical assistance visits** in 2024 in addition to **over 5,623 phone calls** to and from systems. WRWA currently has a field staff of 10 providing on-site technical assistance to water and wastewater systems in the state.

WRWA technical assistance is provided in several areas, including regulatory compliance, utility management, solving distribution system problems, treatment, emergency response, source water protection, system operations assistance, energy efficiency, and providing loaner equipment.

## AND Resources for Project Funding!

Customer Name	Project Name	District	County	Loan Amount	Grant Amount
Village of Sharon	Sharon WWTP	1	Walworth	\$2,692,000	\$600,000
Village of New Glarus	FY24 Water Reservoir	2	Green	\$2,300,000	\$0
Lyndon Station, Village of	FY22 WWTP	3	Juneau	\$1,552,000	\$0
VILLAGE OF BAY CITY	FY24 SEARCH grant Water	3	Pierce	\$0	\$30,000
Village of Kendall	FY24 PPG Sewer	3	Monroe	\$0	\$30,000
Village of Kendall	FY24 PPG Water	3	Monroe	\$0	\$15,000
Village of Taylor	FY23 - SEARCH Grant	3	Jackson	\$0	\$25,000
Village of Wheeler	FY24 Well project	3	Dunn	\$648,000	\$884,000
Village of Wheeler	FY24 WWTP/Lift Station Upgrades	3	Dunn	\$741,000	\$1,265,000
Burnett SD #1	FY24 - Wastewater Regionalization	6	Dodge	\$380,000	\$1,644,000
Village of St Nazianz	FY24 WWTP Improvements	6	Manitowoc	\$4,301,000	\$4,000,000
City of Rhinelander	FY24 Messer Street Sewer Project	7	Oneida	\$5,217,000	\$1,300,000
Grand View SD #1	FY 23 SEARCH Grant	7	Bayfield	\$0	\$30,000
Village of Clayton	FY24 SEARCH Grant	7	Polk	\$0	\$30,000
Newcap, Inc.	DWS FY24	8	Brown	\$0	\$323,263
				<b>\$17,831,000</b>	<b>\$10,176,263</b>



**Dear Congress: Please prioritize what is working.**

Small and rural communities have the very important public responsibility of complying with all applicable federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act regulations and for supplying the public with safe drinking water and sanitation every second of every day. Over 91% of the approximately 50,000 community water systems serve fewer than 10,000 persons and 81% serve fewer than 3,300 persons. Small and rural communities often have difficulty complying with complicated federal mandates and providing safe/affordable drinking water and sanitation due to limited economies of scale and lack of technical expertise. This difficulty is eased due to ongoing and continuing support offered through rural water training and technical assistance programs as highlighted below.

	Initiative	FY2023 Enacted	FY2024 Enacted	FY2025 House Report	FY2025 Senate Report	FY2026 Request
USDA	Circuit Rider Technical Assistance	\$21,180,000	\$21,817,000	\$21,817,000	\$22,470,000	\$23,562,000
	Wastewater Disposal Technical Assistance	\$37,500,000	\$35,000,000	\$30,000,000	\$35,000,000	\$35,000,000
	Grassroots Source Water Protection Program	\$7,500,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,500,000	\$7,500,000
	Water & Waste Disposal Loan & Grant Program	\$596,404,000	\$595,972,000 <sup>A</sup>	\$496,716,000 <sup>B</sup>	\$496,490,000	\$500,000,000
	Water & Waste Disposal Revolving Loan Funds	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
EPA	Safe Drinking Water Act Technical Assistance	\$30,700,000	\$30,700,000	\$35,000,000	\$32,700,000	\$35,000,000
	Clean Water Act Compliance Technical Assistance	\$27,000,000	\$25,500,000	\$25,500,000	\$27,500,000	\$27,500,000
	Clean Water State Revolving Fund	\$1,638,861,000	\$1,638,861,000	\$1,203,013,000 <sup>C</sup>	\$1,638,861,000 <sup>C</sup>	\$1,638,861,000
	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	\$1,126,101,000	\$1,126,101,000	\$883,515,000 <sup>D</sup>	\$1,126,101,000 <sup>D</sup>	\$1,126,101,000
DOL	National Rural Water Apprenticeship Program	Language included	Language included	\$20,000,000	\$0	\$20,000,000

**A:** WEP Earmarks \$117,484,737 **B:** WEP Earmarks: House- \$119,101,000 (Senate did not include) **C:** CWSRF Earmarks: House \$470,139,492 |Senate \$345,125,000 **D:** DWSRF Earmarks: House \$410,309,777 |Senate \$243,639,000

**How Can Representatives/Senators Support Rural Water?**

1. Write the Appropriations Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members in support of Rural Water's **five** funding priorities (or include in Members' formal appropriations requests);
2. Personally contact the Subcommittee Chairs and Ranking Members in support of Rural Water's **five** funding priorities; and
3. Ask the key staff person in each office to contact the Subcommittees in support of Rural Water's **five** funding priorities.

Subcommittee	House	Senate
<b>USDA</b>	Chair TBD Ranking Member TBD	Chair TBD Ranking Member TBD
<b>Interior (EPA)</b>	Chair TBD Ranking Member TBD	Chair TBD Ranking Member TBD
<b>Labor</b>	Chair TBD Ranking Member TBD	Chair TBD Ranking Member TBD

*The National Rural Water Association represents over 31,000 small and rural community members dedicated to drinking water quality, environmental protection and public health protection.*

# Description of Rural Water Priorities

## 1. USDA Circuit Riders

Since 1980, Circuit Riders have provided the primary assistance to small communities for the operation of safe and clean drinking water supplies and compliance with water regulations. This assistance protects the sizable investment the federal government has made in rural water infrastructure. Circuit Riders are in the field every day helping systems with compliance, operations, maintenance, management, disaster response and training. The Circuit Rider Program has long been one of USDA's most successful public-private partnerships, efficiently and effectively using appropriated funds to provide technical assistance and training to rural communities through state based nonprofit associations.

## 2. USDA Farm Service Agency Grassroots Source Water Protection

This is the only statewide local community-based initiative ensuring environmentally progressive local land-use decisions without the controversy and bureaucracy of regulatory programs. It provides each state with at least one full-time person to organize and assist rural communities, farmers, and other land-use interests in the implementation of source water protection plans including non-point source (runoff) protection practices in agriculture regions. This initiative allows the people who benefit from environmental protection to take responsibility for achieving it—ensuring its success and eliminating local controversy.

## 3. EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Technical Assistance and Training

Since 1977, small and rural communities have relied on local/on-site technical assistance and training for compliance with the myriad of federal EPA regulations, avoiding EPA fines, and operating drinking water and wastewater supplies. According to small and rural communities, EPA-funded local initiatives are the most effective environmental protection efforts for drinking water & wastewater, ground water, source water, and compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Small communities want to ensure quality water and stay in compliance—rural water provides them the shared technical resources to do it.

## 4. EPA Clean Water Act Compliance Technical Assistance

Small and rural communities have more difficulty affording public wastewater service due to lack of population density and lack of economies of scale. This challenge is compounded by the fact that rural communities have lower average median household incomes and often have higher rates of poverty. PL 155-270, enacted in October 2018, authorized a new technical assistance program for small and rural communities to improve water quality, operate and maintain public wastewater treatment utilities and comply with federal Clean Water Act standards.

## 5. National Rural Water Apprenticeship Program

Since 2016, NRWA has collaborated with State Rural Water Associations, USDA, DOL, EPA, and local rural water utilities to build the first nationally recognized DOL Registered Apprenticeship Program for water and wastewater system operators. Employment data indicates up to 50% of the rural water workforce will leave the water industry over the next 10 years. Rural water and wastewater utilities need a pipeline of skilled workers to help ensure clean and safe water for the public and to maintain the water infrastructure necessary to keep rural service areas economically viable. To date, thirty-four State Rural Water Associations have federally approved Registered Apprenticeship Programs and are currently offering a job creation program specifically designed by industry leaders to attract, train and retain the next generation rural water workforce with over 900 apprentices enrolled or graduated so far.

**NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION  
FY2026 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST SUMMARY**

*Name of program:* **Circuit Rider Program**

*Appropriations bill:* Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

*Senate subcommittee Chairman:* TBD

*Senate subcommittee Ranking Member:* TBD

*House subcommittee Chairman:* TBD

*House subcommittee Ranking Member:* TBD

*Department:* United States Department of Agriculture

*Agency:* Rural Utilities Service (within Rural Development)

*Appropriations account:* Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account

*Authorization:* 7 USC 1926(a)(22)

*FY2026 President's budget request:* TBD

Funding History	
FY2021	\$20,157,000
FY2022	\$20,762,000
FY2023	\$21,180,000
FY2024	\$21,817,000
FY2025	TBD

***FY2026 request: \$23,562,000***

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) requests an appropriation of \$23,562,000 for the Circuit Rider Program for FY2026.

The Circuit Rider Program is a five-year competitive contract that was awarded to NRWA on November 1, 2020. The final year of that contract began on November 1, 2024, with a cost of \$22,470,000. This number, or \$22,470,000, is consistent with our FY2025 request and the number pending within the FY2025 Senate reported bill. The FY2025 House reported bill includes \$21,817,000, which is the FY2024 enacted level.

The Rural Development contracting officer requires NRWA to include a cost escalator for annual inflationary purposes necessary to maintain 132 Circuit Riders and to provide the same level of services. Also required is the establishment of a management reserve account to address unforeseen circumstances. The FY2026 request level, or \$23,562,000, is 7.9% increase (\$1,745,000) over the FY2024 enacted level of \$21,817,000. This number, or \$23,562,000, compounds the increase for two fiscal years and includes the federally required cost factors listed above.

**USDA Circuit Rider Justification: Increase the FY2024 enacted level of \$21,817,000 by 7.9%, or \$1,745,000, to \$23,562,000 for FY2026.**

**USDA Rural Development Circuit Rider:** Since 1980, the Circuit Rider Program has been one of USDA's most successful public-private partnerships, efficiently and effectively using appropriated funds to provide technical expertise, training, regulatory compliance, management and disaster assistance to rural communities through state based nonprofit organizations.

There are currently 132 full-time permanent Circuit Riders deployed in the field in all 50 states and Territories. As previously mentioned, this funding request is based on the federal contract requirements and regardless of the appropriations level, the terms and conditions of the contract require NRWA to continue to provide the same level of service, even with interrupted, delayed or reduced federal funding.

State Rural Water Associations provide non-federal matching money to cover their actual cost. In the last reporting cycle, State Rural Water Associations provided \$1,450,510 in non-federal funds to cover the full cost of delivering this program.

In addition to the core services Circuit Riders have provided for decades, demand for these critical services has increased and evolved. Included in these expanded efforts are additional emergency response and recovery efforts and requests, cyber security assistance, and increased regulatory demands to include compliance with the Lead and Copper and PFAS rules. Circuit Riders have also increased their assistance to address operator vacancies attributed to an aging workforce and addressing the increased challenges related to operating and maintaining aging infrastructure.

**Experience and Benefits:** Personnel turnover within this program is very rare. Circuit Riders have approximately 3,000 years of combined experience in the water and wastewater industry. This experience and dedication to the overall mission reaps rewards in additional cost savings provided to the communities served. With this seasoned experienced staff, salary and benefit costs are higher.

**Circuit Riders Protect Federal Investments and Public Health:** Circuit Rider assistance has become even more critical with the loss of over 1,000 USDA Rural Development staff in the field. Circuit Riders' on-site, hands-on assistance, combined with trusted peer-to-peer relationships, enhances all operations including fiscal management, disaster assistance, governance, regulatory compliance, all essential for the sustainability of water and wastewater utilities. This assistance enhances the water system's ability to repay their government debt, protects the low cost of this program while maintaining and enhancing the public health in rural communities. In addition, the Circuit Riders are considered essential employees to perform Mission Critical Services for the U.S. Government during a lapse of appropriations and public health emergencies.

**NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION  
FY2026 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST SUMMARY**

*Name of program:* **Grassroots Source Water Protection Program**

*Appropriations bill:* Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies

*Senate subcommittee Chairman:* TBD

*Senate subcommittee Ranking Member:* TBD

*House subcommittee Chairman:* TBD

*House subcommittee Ranking Member:* TBD

*Department:* United States Department of Agriculture

*Agency:* Farm Service Agency

*Appropriations account:* Grassroots Source Water Protection Program

*Authorization:* 16 U.S.C. 3839bb–2

*FY2026 President’s budget request:* TBD

Funding History	
FY2021	\$6,500,000
FY2022	\$6,500,000
FY2023	\$7,500,000
FY2024	\$7,000,000
FY2025	TBD

***FY2026 request: \$7,500,000***

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) requests an appropriation of \$7,500,000, consistent with the FY2025 Senate reported bill. The FY2025 House reported bill includes \$7,000,000, which is the FY2024 enacted level. NRWA requested, and Congress appropriated \$6.5 million to carry out this initiative from FY2016 to FY2022. For FY2023, Congress increased this account by \$1,000,000 to allow additional activities to include, but are not limited to, enhanced assistance to address nutrient runoff from highly erodible cropland; decline in water quantity and quality related to drought; chemical security mapping; and coordination implementing source water protection practices in high priority areas, as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

NRWA currently maintains 55 full-time Grassroots Source Water Protection Program Specialists in the field. Every state has one full-time Source Water Specialist with two Specialists currently provided in Colorado, California, Kansas, Minnesota, and Montana.

**FSA Source Water Justification: Increase the FY2024 enacted level of \$7,000,000 by \$500,000, consistent with FY2025 Senate reported level of \$7,500,000, to maintain current field staff, services, and activities.**

**Grassroots Source Water Protection Initiative:** Protecting public health is the top priority in every water and wastewater system in America. Since 1990, the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) and State Rural Water Associations have assisted water utilities and rural communities in identifying, controlling, and eliminating pollutants from the nation's water resources. The NRWA Source Water Protection Program is built around small water utilities, local businesses, agriculture, government, and other groups working together to develop and implement strategies to protect their drinking water sources. It is a voluntary, grassroots planning effort that builds local responsibility and creates more sustainable communities.

**Source Water Protection:** The FY2026 source water protection program appropriation of \$7,500,000 will allow NRWA to maintain 55 full-time field employees to continue to provide this essential service with enhanced activities.

**Prevention vs. Remediation:** This cooperative program has made significant progress in reducing point source pollution from industrial, agricultural, municipal, and even household sources. The program has also made progress in the challenging area of nonpoint source pollution. Nonpoint source pollution results from activities over large areas, such as runoff from agriculture, industry, and transportation that flows into water sources. In addition to protecting the health and welfare of U.S. communities, source water protection efforts save consumers money. The USDA estimates damages from soil erosion costs between \$2 billion to \$8 billion per year. The EPA estimates that public water systems spend an additional \$200 million per year just to remove excess nitrate to meet federal drinking water standards. A small community's nominal investment in implementing and adhering to a source water protection plan can avoid substantial remediation costs.

This is the only statewide local community-based initiative ensuring environmentally progressive local land-use decisions without the controversy and bureaucracy of regulatory programs. Currently there are 55 full-time specialists employed to organize and assist rural communities, farmers, and other land-use interests in the implementation of source water protection plans including nonpoint source (runoff) protection practices in agriculture regions. State Associations provided \$598,962 of non-federal matching funds to carry out this initiative from December 1, 2023 to November 30, 2024. This initiative allows the people who benefit from environmental protection to take responsibility for achieving it—ensuring its success and eliminating local controversy. Through comprehensive planning efforts that identify potential threats to the water supply, communities proactively maintain local sources of safe and clean water. Additionally, by developing and implementing a source water protection plan, communities can help minimize the future need for expensive upgrades to treatment facilities.



**NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION  
FY2026 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST SUMMARY**

*Name of program:* **EPA Safe Drinking Water Act Technical Assistance**

*Appropriations bill:* Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

*Senate subcommittee Chairman:* TBD

*Senate subcommittee Ranking Member:* TBD

*House subcommittee Chairman:* TBD

*House subcommittee Ranking Member:* TBD

*Agency:* Environmental Protection Agency

*Appropriations account:* Environmental Programs and Management

*Authorization:* Safe Drinking Water Act (42 USC 300j-1(e))

*FY2026 President's budget request:* TBD

Funding History

FY2021	\$21,700,000
FY2022	\$25,700,000
FY2023	\$30,700,000
FY2024	\$30,700,000
FY2025	TBD

***FY2026 request: \$35,000,000***

The National Rural Water Association requests report language, consistent with the House FY2025 reported bill (see below) appropriating \$35,000,000 under this account to provide \$26,000,000 dedicated to the technical assistance activities as prescribed under the Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Act. Small and rural communities rely on local/on-site technical assistance and training for compliance with federal EPA regulations, avoiding EPA fines, and operating drinking and wastewater supplies.

**Report Language:** *Environmental Protection: National Priorities.*- The bill provides \$35,000,000. The Committee directs that funds be used for a competitive grant program for qualified non-profit organizations to provide technical assistance for improved water quality or safe drinking water, adequate wastewater to small systems, or individual private well owners. The Agency shall provide \$26,000,000 for Grass roots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act, for activities specified under Section 1442(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-1(e)(8)). The Agency is directed to provide funding to the most qualified and experienced non-profit organizations in providing technical assistance to small water systems and to issue the grant awards from this program on an annual basis.

**EPA Technical Assistance Justification: Enact the House's FY2025 reported level of \$35,000,000 and follow the Congressional intent of Public Law 114-98 for FY2026.**

**EPA Technical Assistance Authorization:** The President signed the Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act into law (Public Law 114-98) on December 11, 2015. The House of Representatives unanimously passed the bill on November 30, 2015 and the Senate on June 9, 2015 (also unanimously). The authorization was modified in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (H.R.3684, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act) to ensure the funding is used in the most beneficial manner for rural and small communities.

The purpose of the Act is to require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) follow Congressional intent in administering directed appropriations to assist small and rural communities to comply with federal environmental mandates. The Act authorizes the EPA to provide technical assistance to small and rural communities to assist them with: (1) compliance with the myriad of federal regulations under the Safe Drinking Water Act; (2) operation and maintenance of their water utilities; and (3) public health protection through the supply of safe public drinking water.

**Technical Assistance Demand:** Small and rural communities often have a difficult time, due to their limited customer base and technical capacities, providing safe water and complying with federal standards. This is compounded by the fact that small and rural communities often have lower median household incomes and higher water rates compared to larger communities. As a result, the cost of compliance is often dramatically higher per household.

The vast majority of U.S. drinking water supplies are small; 91% of community water systems serve a population of fewer than 10,000 people. Some communities are so small they rely on volunteers to operate their drinking water supply. Small communities in violation of the federal rules are subject to \$25,000 per-day civil penalties. We are urging Congress to fully fund the Grassroots Rural and Small Community Water Systems Assistance Act portion at \$26,000,000 and ensure funding is limited to qualified, experienced technical assistance providers to effectively serve the needs of rural utilities

**Experience:** Since 1977, NRWA has assisted small and rural communities in providing safe drinking water and ensured access to the expertise of an experienced, trustworthy technician. This technical assistance provides for efficient system operation and maintenance and affordable compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act mandates. Small and rural communities are struggling under new federal regulations, complex funding program applications, and continuing mandatory operator training requirements. Recent EPA awards for this initiative do not adequately address the needs of small and rural communities that need help as soon as possible.

**NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION  
FY2026 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST SUMMARY**

*Name of program:* **EPA Clean Water Act Compliance Technical Assistance**

*Appropriations bill:* Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

*Senate subcommittee Chairman:* TBD

*Senate subcommittee Ranking Member:* TBD

*House subcommittee Chairman:* TBD

*House subcommittee Ranking Member:* TBD

*Agency:* Environmental Protection Agency

*Appropriations account:* State and Tribal Assistance Grants Account

*Authorization:* America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (section 4103), "Technical Assistance for Treatment Works"

*FY2026 President's budget request:* TBD

Funding History

FY2021	\$18,000,000
FY2022	\$20,000,000
FY2023	\$27,000,000
FY2024	\$25,500,000
FY2025	TBD

**FY2026 request: \$27,500,000**

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) requests \$27,500,000, consistent with the FY2025 Senate reported bill, to fund section 4103 America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. This competitive grant program provides small and rural communities with the technical assistance necessary to improve water quality, operate and maintain public wastewater treatment utilities, assist with permitting, comply with federal Clean Water Act regulations and apply for federal funding under the Clean Water State Revolving Funds. Small and rural communities strive to ensure quality wastewater stays in compliance—this initiative provides them with the technical resources to do so.

**Bill Language:** \$27,500,000 shall be for grants under section 104(b)(8) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1254(b)(8)).

**Report Language:** The Agency is directed to issue awards on an annual basis to the most qualified and experienced non-profit organizations necessary to provide quality uninterrupted training and technical assistance. The Agency is directed to allocate funds to grantees within 180 days of enactment of this Act.

**EPA Clean Water Act Compliance Technical Assistance Justification: Enact the FY2025 Senate reported level of \$27,500,000 for section 4103 of America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 in FY2025**

**EPA Clean Water Act Compliance Technical Assistance:** This technical assistance authorization, section 4103, "Technical Assistance for Treatment Works," was included in America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, and signed into law by the President on October 23, 2018.

Small and rural communities have more difficulty affording public wastewater service due to lack of population density and lack of economies of scale. This challenge is compounded by the fact that rural communities have lower average median household incomes and often have higher rates of poverty. Likewise, rural communities have a much more challenging time complying with federal Clean Water Act permits and operating complex wastewater treatment systems due to the lack of technical resources and expertise in small communities. While most rural communities have fewer resources, they are regulated in the exact same manner as a large community - and often operating similarly complex treatment systems that are smaller in scale but no less sophisticated to operate and troubleshoot. Many small communities may only have one (or one part-time) operator with multiple duties (not just wastewater treatment) - while a large community may have a team of technical experts including engineers, chemists, and highly trained operators - all as part of their full-time staff.

Many small and rural communities are currently struggling to comply with the EPA sewer permits (i.e. federal National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits), experiencing issues with inflow and infiltration of their collection systems, meeting Clean Water Act ammonia standards, biochemical oxygen demand standards, new nutrient standards, stormwater regulations and changing permits due to implementation of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulations.

This recent law provides direct on-site assistance to communities to support the efficient operation of their wastewater utilities and ensure compliance with all the federal regulations under the Clean Water Act. Funding and implementation will allow communities to comply with the federal Clean Water Act requirements, potentially save thousands of dollars, prevent the hiring of consultants to comply with the Clean Water Act and limit exposure to civil penalties. Instead of a "must" mandate from the federal government, this provision will provide small and rural communities with "how-to" guidance for cost-effective compliance with the federal government's Clean Water Act.

**NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION**  
**FY2026 APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST SUMMARY**

*Name of program:* **National Water and Wastewater Operator Apprenticeship Program**

*Appropriations bill:* Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, & Related Agencies

*Senate subcommittee Chairman:* TBD

*Senate subcommittee Ranking Member:* TBD

*House subcommittee Chairman:* TBD

*House subcommittee Ranking Member:* TBD

*Department:* United States Department of Labor

*Agency:* Employment and Training Administration

*Appropriations Account:* Training and Employment Services

*FY2026 President's budget request:* TBD

**Apprenticeship Grant  
Program Funding History**

FY2021	\$185,000,000
FY2022	\$235,000,000
FY2023	\$285,000,000
FY2024	\$285,000,000
FY2025	TBD

***FY2026 request: \$20,000,000 set-aside within the Apprenticeship Grant Program***

The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) requests \$20,000,000 for a national water and wastewater operator apprenticeship program to be funded by the available resources within the Apprenticeship Grant Program account.

**Bill Language:** \$20,000,000 shall be for national water and wastewater operator industry workforce training through apprenticeship programs registered with the Office of Apprenticeship of the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor or a State apprenticeship agency recognized by the Office of Apprenticeship pursuant to the Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the "National Apprenticeship Act"; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29 U.S.C. 50 et seq.).

**Report Language:** The Committee directs the Secretary to make \$20,000,000 in grant funding available for a nonprofit organization working with community water systems to establish, implement, expand, and administer registered apprenticeship programs consistent with the National Guideline Standards of Apprenticeship for Water and Wastewater System Operations Specialists to address nationwide shortages of qualified drinking water and wastewater operators, especially in rural America.

**DOL Rural Water Workforce Initiative Justification: Provide the FY2025 House reported level of \$20,000,000 for a national water and wastewater operator apprenticeship program.**

NRWA, State Rural Water Associations, USDA, DOL, EPA, and local rural water utilities are collaborating successfully to establish the first nationally recognized Registered Apprenticeship Program for water and wastewater system operators, while creating jobs in rural America. In July 2024, NRWA achieved a significant milestone by securing \$7,631,873 in DOL competitive grant funding to support the development and expansion of these vital rural water apprenticeships. As of January 2025, 34 State Rural Water Associations have completed the rigorous process of obtaining federally approved Registered Apprenticeship Programs and are now attracting, training, and retaining the next generation water workforce with over 573 apprentices enrolled and over 337 have completed their apprenticeship as of December 31, 2024.

To bolster this effective initiative, Congress “urged” the Secretary of Labor to make funding available for the NRWA Registered Apprenticeship Program in the FY2024 Further Consolidated Appropriations Act and the FY2025 DOL House Appropriations report includes a set-aside directing the Secretary of Labor to invest \$20 million:

*The Committee directs DOL to make \$20,000,000 in grant funding available to establish, implement, expand, and administer registered apprenticeship programs consistent with the National Guideline Standards of Apprenticeship for Water and Wastewater System Operations Specialists to address nationwide shortages of qualified drinking water and wastewater operators, especially in rural America. (page 13)*

To continue the growing, successful NRWA Apprenticeship Program, we also request a \$290 million funding level for the Apprenticeship Grant Program account, the same as the Senate’s FY2025 reported level, and \$20,000,000 for a national water and wastewater operator apprenticeship program to be funded by the available resources within that account.

Safe and effective water utility management is vital to rural America and the nation. There are currently over 50,000 community water supplies in the country, 91% serve populations of 10,000 or less. Employment data indicates up to 50% of this workforce will leave the water industry within the next 10 years. A vast majority of community water systems have been unable to attract, train and retain the next generation workforce due to the lack of an identifiable career path coupled with low salary levels and population density. Rural water utilities need a pipeline of skilled workers to ensure clean and safe water for the public and to maintain the water infrastructure necessary to keep service areas economically viable. These operators serve as public health officials and are often the only person responsible for complying with all the applicable federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act regulations and for supplying the small community with safe drinking water and sanitation every second of every day. Water and wastewater systems will be empowered to leverage workforce development activities including an identifiable career path and a modern, systematic apprenticeship model with this funding for the first time.

# Wisconsin Rural Water Association

## Impact on Wisconsin by Congressional Districts

### DISTRICT 1

Legend:
Blue - Waterworks Assistance
Green - Energy Efficiency
Yellow - EPA Water Case Studies
Teal/Aqua – Source Water Assistance
Light Brown – Wastewater Assistance

Contact Date	System Name	System Contact	Position	System Connections	Total Contact Time	Savings to System
4/22/24	Clinton Waterworks	Roger Johnson	Public Works Director	581 W / 581 WW	1.0 hr.	\$1,500
<p>Notes: Roger Johnson and Operations Specialist Mike Kahl contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden concerning a substantial water loss which had been unresolved for over two years. The utility estimated the water loss was two million gallons per month. Annetta brought leak detection equipment on-site and demonstrated the proper method of operation to Mike. Two weeks later, Annetta returned for a follow-up visit to check the progress on locating the leak. Mike had been unsuccessful and informed her that a professional leak detecting company was contracted and performed a system wide audit with no success. Annetta listened at the well source on the discharge piping with the leak detector to see if any water was back feeding through the check valve, with no sound detected. They suspected it was a billing error rather than a leak. All residential meters are measured in hundreds of gallons and all industrial accounts are measured in thousands of gallons. Mike consulted the clerk regarding the billing methods and making the necessary corrections. WRWA saved Clinton \$1,500 in the use of leak detection equipment and engineering firm fees.</p>						
9/24/24	Clinton Waterworks	Mike Kahl	Water Operations Specialist	581 W / 581 WW	2.75 hrs.	\$1,200 annually
<p>Notes: Clinton Water Utility contacted WRWA for assistance in locating a leak. WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden went to Clinton Water Utility to listen for the leak. The leak was narrowed down to a section of old water distribution pipe. Annetta demonstrated to Mike Kahl how to correlate the leak with WRWA's leak correlator and the leak was found. It was discovered there was a crack on the pipe with an estimated loss of 70 - 80 thousand gallons per day. WRWA saved the water utility \$1,200 in leak correlation and significant recovery of water resources.</p>						

**BROWNS LAKE MOBILE HOME COURT, LLC**

840 West Ryan Road  
P. O. Box 307  
Oak Creek, WI 53154

414-764-4040  
[kstyza@gmail.com](mailto:kstyza@gmail.com)

May 28, 2024

To whom it may concern,

Over 25 years ago, I first attended in-person classes with Kelly Thomas of WRWA to earn my Small Water System (OTM/NN) Operator Certification. I have learned a great deal through the years while renewing my Certification with the in-person renewal classes conducted by Kelly Thomas.

Kelly has diligently sent email reminders to take my Bacti Samples, along with the other DNR required annual tests. Kelly has made himself available to answer questions regarding my water system involving my two wells, and I value his long-term, personal knowledge of our court's system. Kelly Thomas has visited my court, and he has come to my office offering to help me with issues that might come up with my water system. Personal service goes a long way in helping me to understand issues that might arise, and to provide safe drinking water.

Since 2020, when Covid stopped in-person classes, I felt disconnected from this effective learning experience with Virtual classes. I took a few Virtual classes with the Moraine Park Technical College, but the instructors don't seem to have the same hands-on experience with the water systems in mobile home courts. The Moraine Park Technical College instructors have not reached out to me since attending their classes.

Last week, I attended the in-person WRWA class in North Fond du Lac, on "Operator Responsibilities & Sanitary Surveys" with Kelly Thomas as my instructor. The other attendees all stated that they missed attending Kelly's classes because the Moraine Park courses were like listening to someone read straight out of a textbook. Kelly's class allowed us to interact with one another, and even though I was the only attendee who had a mobile home court water system, I learned from the other attendees that we have some common concerns or issues. Kelly addressed each one of our questions from first-hand knowledge.



Last year, my nephew attended an on-line course to earn his Small Water System (OTM/NN) Operator Certification. He took his exam in a real estate office with one other person. The realtors were talking about unrelated real estate issues while they were trying to concentrate on taking the exam.

My nephew waited a week for his results before reaching out to PSI, the exam scheduler, for help. PSI told him that he should have received on-screen results and an e-mail score report printed out at the test center, but this never happened.

I reached out to Kelly Thomas at WRWA for help. Kelly checked on the results and notified me that he had failed the first exam. My nephew repeated the Virtual course for a second time, and he hopes to pass the exam on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. If he does not pass the exam in June, he will then attend Kelly's WRWA in-person course on August 8<sup>th</sup> in Janesville, WI.

Last week, Kelly came to our office to meet with me to see if I needed any help with my water system, and my nephew had an opportunity to meet him. My nephew and I both appreciate having someone so dedicated to making sure that we are providing safe water systems.

I highly recommend having WRWA be your preferred Water System course provider.

Thank you,



Catherine Styza

Member/Browns Lake Mobile Home Court LLC

# Wisconsin Rural Water Association

## Impact on Wisconsin by Congressional Districts

### DISTRICT 2

<b>Legend:</b>
Blue - Waterworks Assistance
Green - Energy Efficiency
Yellow - EPA Water Case Studies
Teal/Aqua – Source Water Assistance
Light Brown – Wastewater Assistance

Contact Date	System Name	System Contact	Position	System Connections/ Energy Savings	Total Contact Time	Savings to System
12/14/23	Rewey Waterworks	Mark Meyers	Water Superintendent	74 W / 74 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$850
<p>Notes: Mark Meyers had a driver hit and damage a fire hydrant over the weekend. He knew WRWA would be able to repair the hydrant with their expertise and contacted Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden. Annetta arrived at the village to assess the damage to the hydrant. The vehicle that hit the hydrant had rotated the hydrant one half turn. Annetta pointed out to Mark that the hydrant would have to be taken apart at grade. She demonstrated to Mark how to start at the coupling at ground level, and all the inside parts would have to be inspected for damage. She demonstrated how to put the hydrant back together to ensure proper operation. Mark had never seen a fire hydrant taken apart before, so this education was valuable to him. WRWA saved the village \$850 in costs otherwise charged by a repair contractor.</p>						
12/21/23	Merrimac Waterworks	Justin Shultz	Water Operations Specialist	0 kWh		\$1,600 annually
<p>Notes: WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed an energy efficiency assessment for the Merrimac water treatment plant. They currently have a single well to supply municipal water, and it is using an old, outdated starter. Updating to a new VFD will not save any kWh but it will be much easier on the pump, motor, and distribution system equipment. The ability of the soft start can lessen water hammer events and give operators better control of the water movement in the system. WRWA's recommendations would save Merrimac \$1,600 annually.</p>						
1/12/24	North Freedom					\$30,000
<p>Notes: North Freedom received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which protected 192 acres and saved the village \$30,000 in engineering fees.</p>						
1/15/24	Merrimac Waterworks	Justin Shultz	Water Operations Specialist	0 kWh		\$4,322 annually
<p>Notes: WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed an energy efficiency assessment for the Merrimac wastewater treatment plant. A group of individuals is looking to reduce the carbon footprint for the village and help protect the environment through education and active citizen participation. An analysis was performed by Matt using the EPA Energy Assessment tool and an Energy Savings tool provided by a private vendor. After listening to the entire group talk it was considered to install a solar array to provide a "green" approach to the current way the village attains its power. The current team of volunteer engineers has the plant working in a very efficient manner. Adding solar won't cut down on the total electrical needs of the village, but it will save a substantial amount of money for the village over the life of the solar array. WRWA's recommendations would save Merrimac \$4,322 annually.</p>						
1/17/24	Rewey Waterworks	Mark Meyers	Water Superintendent	74 W / 74 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$1,600
<p>Notes: On 1/15/24, WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden received a call from Mark Meyers that his water tower standpipe was freezing fast due to -20°F temperatures and he didn't know what to do. Mark had attempted to get warmer groundwater pumped from the well up to the standpipe to try to thaw it, but the transducer on the top of the tower was not working properly and was sending a signal that the tower was full. Mark also knew there was ice forming inside the bowl of the tower. Annetta suggested Mark call a water tank specialist to assist in thawing out the water tower. The tank company started operations to get the water tank thawed by pumping the warm ground water up the standpipe and running water out the fire hydrant next to the tower slowly. This was critical. If water from the tower was</p>						

drawn too quickly, it would cause the bowl in the water tower to collapse. On 1/17/24, Annetta stopped to assist with pumping water out of the tower. WRWA's assistance saved Rewey \$1,600 in engineering fees to assist with thawing.						
2/21/24	Browntown Waterworks	Jeff Moore	Water Operations Specialist	102 W / 102 WW	18.42 hrs.	\$1,800
Notes: Jeff Moore contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden with suspicion of a leak in the village distribution. Annetta traveled to Browntown to assist finding the leak. Annetta and Jeff went to the well house to observe the artesian well was not running as normal. Annetta and Jeff then went out into the water distribution system and listened to every hydrant with a WRWA loaner leak listening device to pick up any noise indicating a leak. They caught a louder noise on a hydrant on a specific residential block narrowing down the area of the suspected leak. Annetta demonstrated how to narrow down a leak by listening to every connection to the water main. The leak was narrowed down to a section of the utility's owned water distribution pipe. The leak was located and repaired by an excavation contractor in a timely manner. WRWA saved the village approximately \$1,800 plus the costs involved in the extra pumping of 60,000 gallons per day for 18 days, which equates to 1,080,000 gallons of water loss.						
3/19/24	Linden Township SD #1, Edmund, WI	Alan Upmann	Water Operation Specialist	0 W / 0 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$800
Notes: After a DNR sanitary survey, the DNR water engineers requested Alan Upmann contact WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden for assistance on how to properly perform a chlorine residual test, and to investigate the chlorine residual in the water system and see if it was appropriate for a water utility of that size. Annetta demonstrated to Alan how to perform a chlorine residual test. She discovered the vials he was using for the chlorine test were extremely dirty making it difficult for the spectrometer to give an accurate chlorine reading. After cleaning the vials and re-running the chlorine test, the chlorine results were now more representative of the water distribution system. Annetta made sure Alan was using the correct chlorine reagent packets. WRWA saved the township \$800, the cost of an engineering firm to come out and perform the chlorine test, and to have the assurance to stay in compliance with the DNR sanitary survey.						
3/25/24	Browntown Waterworks	Jeff Moore	Water Operations Specialist	14,386 kWh		\$1,886 annually
Notes: WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed an energy efficiency assessment for Browntown's wastewater treatment facility. Matt suggested adding a VFD on the blower and installing a premium efficiency motor at the time of the VFD install. With WRWA's recommendations, Browntown will see an estimated annual savings of \$1,886.						
3/31/24	South Wayne Waterworks	Roger Trame	Operations Specialist	34,644 kWh WW 35,672 kWh W		\$7,868 annually
Notes: WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler met with Roger Trame and performed an energy efficiency assessment for South Wayne's water and wastewater operations. Matt suggested they add a solar panel array which would benefit the water treatment plant and the wastewater treatment plant. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, South Wayne would save \$3,471 annually in their wastewater operations and \$4,397 annually in their water operations.						
5/30/24	Mineral Point Waterworks	Nate Fosbinder	Water Superintendent	971 W / 971 WW	3.75 hrs.	\$1,200
Notes: Nate Fosbinder contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden with concerns of two fire hydrants in the water distribution system that were not operable. Annetta went to the hydrants with Nate and demonstrated how to take apart and repair the hydrants. When the top of the hydrant was removed, Annetta demonstrated how to access the bottom of the hydrant by using the hydrant seat wrench. When the bottom assembly of the hydrant was removed, Annetta showed Nate the leak in the hydrant was from the bottom brass foot, and the rubber gasket had indentations in them, not allowing a complete seal allowing water to leak through. When the two parts were replaced, Annetta demonstrated how to re-assemble the hydrant. By replacing the two parts on the hydrant, the hydrant was operated to make sure it had no leaks. WRWA's assistance in repairing the two hydrants saved the city \$1,200.						
6/17/24	Browntown Waterworks	Diana Krebs	Village Clerk	102 W / 102 WW	3.50 hrs.	\$1,800
Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden stopped in to assist Water Operations Specialist Jeff Moore with generating and completing the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) due 7/1/24. Diana Krebs, the new village clerk, had no idea what the CCR was. Annetta demonstrated to Diana how to navigate the DNR website to begin generating the CCR. Diana had a binder with all the waterworks' testing enclosed along with several Notice on Non-Compliances. After carefully analyzing, Annetta discovered several incorrect state lab slips were being used for the actual date of sampling. Annetta immediately called DNR Water Engineer Lauren Belz and explained the reason why the village was receiving the						

Notice of Non-Compliances. Lauren and Annetta worked through the proper lab slips for future sampling, and with Diana's assistance, processed the CCR. WRWA's assistance saved the village \$1,800 in engineer charges.

6/27/24	Windsor Waterworks	Courtney Ziegler	Water Operations Specialist	8,200 kWh		\$1,746 annually
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Notes: An energy efficiency assessment was done by WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler for Windsor's water and wastewater operations. Matt suggested maintaining the distribution system, turning in all tax-exempt forms, and adding a timer to reduce runtime of dehumidifier. Implementing WRWA's suggestions would save Windsor \$1,746 annually.

10/15/24	Arena Well #2					\$30,000
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Notes: Arena received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which protected 247 acres and saved the village \$30,000 in engineering fees.

10/29/24	Footville Waterworks	Steve Haberman	Board Chairman	307 W / 307 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$1,000
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Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Tony Roche was contacted by Steve Haberman to assist the village with maintaining operations at the village wastewater treatment facility because the previous plant operators had abruptly quit. Tony met with village staff to observe plant operations and to formulate a strategy to maintain the recirculating media filter and stay compliant with required sampling. He advised staff to pull weeds and rotate filter beds to prevent the buildup of contaminants. Tony also advised the district staff to contact their DNR representative, inform the DNR of staff turnover, and request a copy of the village WPDES permit. WRWA's services saved the village approximately \$1,000, the engineering firm fee to formulate a maintenance strategy.

10/29/24	Hollandale Waterworks	Jerry Doescher	Water Operations Specialist	102 W / 102 WW	5.25 hrs.	\$1,600
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Notes: Jerry Doescher had noticed an increase in daily well pumping and the amount of water being pumped, up to twice the normal pumping than usual. Jerry contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden for an opinion. Annetta met Jerry at the village's water system for an evaluation of the well pumping numbers. After evaluating, the numbers have increased since August of 2004. Annetta suggested leak detection of the water system. Using the WRWA loaner equipment leak listening device, Annetta and Jerry went to every hydrant in the water system and listened for leaks. On the very last hydrant out of 38, there was a leaking noise detected. Annetta had Jerry listen to demonstrate what a leak sounded like. Then Annetta demonstrated how to narrow down the leak in the water distribution pipe by listening to valves. It was determined that the leak was in the pipe off the well house going to the water distribution system. Since it was late in the day, Jerry asked Annetta to come back the first week of November. WRWA's leak detection saved the village \$1,600, the charge for hiring a professional leak detection company to come out.

11/26/24	Monroe					\$30,000
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Notes: Monroe received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which protected 238 acres and saved the city \$30,000 in engineering fees.

11/27/24	Monticello					\$30,000
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Notes: Monticello received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which saved the village \$30,000 in engineering fees.

## Renee Koback

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**From:** publicworks@villageofarena.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 13, 2024 9:07 AM  
**To:** WRWA  
**Cc:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Water leak

To whom it may concern,

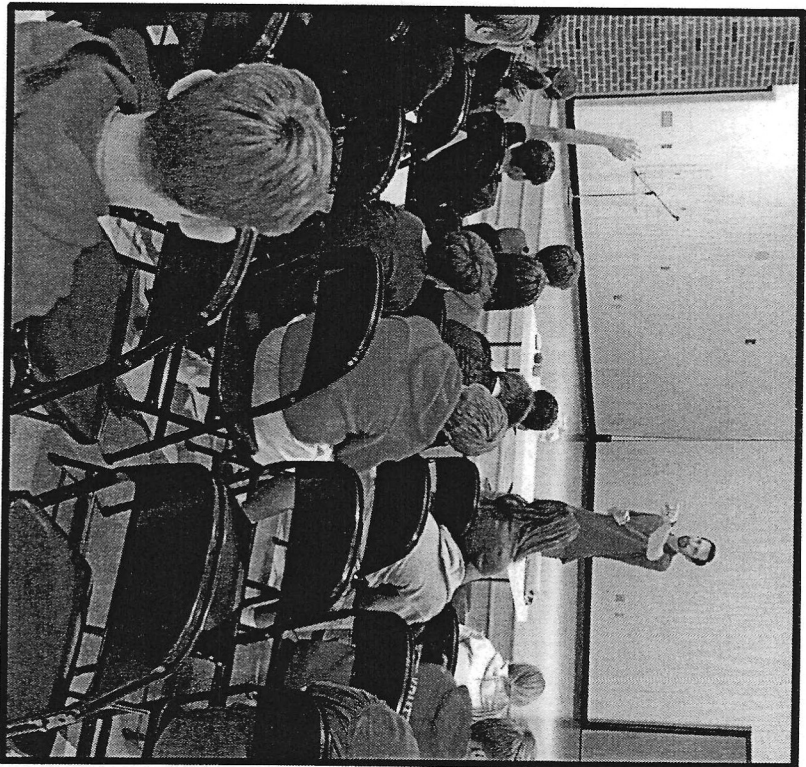
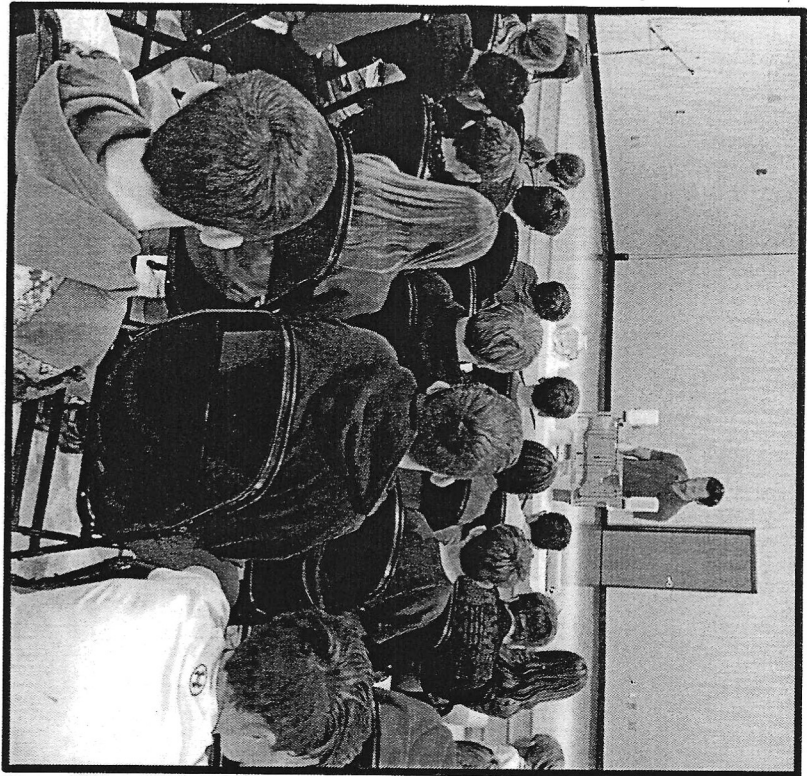
I had a water leak in my system that did not come to surface. Annie happened to be in my area and stopped down and located my problem. I have just taken over as superintendent on Oct 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, Did not have any idea how to locate something I couldn't see. We preceded to have the leak fixed, shortly after my levels went back up. I called Annie and she arranged for her and Dan Wundrow to come down and do a system survey. After a few hours of driving around they narrowed my search to a small 2 block area. I really appreciate the time that they spent in the Village of Arena, and they saved me time and money that I don't have in my budget to spend. THANKS A LOT ANNIE VON RUEDEN and DAN WUNDROW.

Thanks for everything,

Richard Meili

Village of Arena  
Public Works Superintendent  
(608) 459-5838

# Thank You, WRWA!



Argyle, Wisconsin

## **Renee Koback**

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**From:** Annetta Von Rueden  
**Sent:** Monday, December 02, 2024 4:47 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** FW: Annie from Wisconsin Rural Water Association.

**From:** Lonnie Gill <publicworks@villageofalbanywi.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 2, 2024 9:47 AM  
**To:** customersatisfaction@nrwa.org  
**Cc:** Annetta Von Rueden <AVonRueden@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** Annie from Wisconsin Rural Water Association.

Annie from WRWA came and helped the Village of Albany on 11/25/2024 to find a water leak she is very good at pin pointing the leak for the village and it save a lot of time then trying to find on my own or try to call a company that has to call that is from Milwaukee. That is very expensive and I have to work around there time they can fit me in. I can call WRWA and they try to get someone down here as so as possible to try to help. Wisconsin Rural Water Association also helped me with paper work that I needed for a loan from the USDA.

# Wisconsin Rural Water Association

## Impact on Wisconsin by Congressional Districts

### DISTRICT 3

Legend:
Blue - Waterworks Assistance
Green - Energy Efficiency
Yellow - EPA Water Case Studies
Teal/Aqua – Source Water Assistance
Light Brown – Wastewater Assistance

Contact Date	System Name	System Contact	Position	System Connections/ Energy Savings	Total Contact Time	Savings to System
12/13/23	Adams Waterworks	Brian Shekels	Operations Specialist	137,362 kWh WW 3687 kWh W		\$14,528 annually
Notes: WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed an energy efficiency assessment for Adams water and wastewater operations on 10/20/24. He followed up with Brian Shekels on 12/13/23 with his findings. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Adams would save \$13,178 annually in their wastewater operations and \$1,350 annually in their water operations.						
1/5/24	Amherst Waterworks	Dale Peterson	Wastewater Operator	470 W / 257 WW	3.25 hrs.	\$1,000
Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Jesse Hass was contacted by Dale Peterson to help update the village's phosphorus report. Dale needed to finish the phosphorus study to remain in compliance with the DNR. They looked through WWTP data and found the last report the village had done and discussed what to include in the report to send to the DNR. Jesse provided Dale with a few phosphorus reports from other communities to use as a reference. He then met with Dale a few weeks later to go over the finished report before it was submitted to the DNR. WRWA's services saved the village approximately \$1,000 for not having to hire an engineering firm to do the report.						
1/10/24	Eleva Waterworks	Troy Faulkner	Public Works Director	178 W / 178 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$1,800
Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by the Village of Eleva to help find a significant water leak on 1/8/24. Dan traveled to Eleva equipped with a portable subsurface LD-12 leak detector and met with Troy. They began testing hydrants and listening for leaks. Dan concluded the leak was located on Hilltop Lane but was unable to narrow the location further due to impending winter weather. Dan and Troy met again at Hilltop Lane and Second Avenue intersection on 1/10/24 and began to isolate additional water mains. During this process, Dan noticed increased audible detection using the ground mic of his LD-12 leak detector. He found the leak was 15 feet north of Second Avenue's intersection on a small section of dead-end water main. Troy repaired the water main and significantly reduced water loss by 60,000 gallons per day, half of the daily pumping prior. Dan taught Troy how to troubleshoot for a leaking main while performing leak detection. WRWA saved the village \$1,800, the charge for a private company to detect a leak.						
1/17/24	Prairie Du Chien Waterworks	Todd Whyte	Wastewater Superintendent	1730 W / 1730 WW	5.75 hrs.	\$15,000 annually
Notes: On 1/17/24, WRWA Wastewater Technician Kay Curtin was asked to work with the wastewater treatment plant staff on a new method of phosphorus analysis. She showed the operators how to make up standards, conduct a required linear regression calculation, and do the analysis of the kit that they had on-hand. She also showed them some other equipment and the newest Hach kit and method that they could order to save even more time for the analysis and went over that method also. She discussed the quality control requirements for the method that would be needed to maintain the current laboratory certification for the method. By using the newer, faster, and more efficient methods of phosphorus determination, the operators would be able to save at least 4 hours per day doing the analyses and would be able to have results in almost an hour. WRWA's assistance will save the system about \$15,000 annually.						
3/18/24	Prairie Du Chien Waterworks	Dylan Varo	Wastewater Operations Specialist	1730 W / 1730 WW	5.25 hrs.	\$1,000
Notes: On 3/18/24, WRWA Wastewater Technician Tony Roche visited the Prairie du Chien wastewater treatment plant to assist their operator, Dylan Varo, with phosphorus testing. The Prairie du Chien staff switched phosphorus testing						



methods and had requested that Tony visit them and assist with the new phosphorus testing method. During the visit, Tony trained Dylan on how to create a new phosphorus detection curve with the new method. The training was successful, and the staff created a new curve that met the statistical criteria set forth by the DNR. WRWA's services saved the Prairie du Chien wastewater treatment plant approximately \$1,000 in consultant charges.

3/19/24	Holmen					\$30,000
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Notes: Holmen received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which protected 1,286 acres and saved the village \$30,000 in engineering fees.

3/25/24	Blair Waterworks	Josh Greenwold	Water Manager	602 W / 492 WW	2.75 hrs.	\$1,500
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Notes: Dan Wundrow, WRWA Circuit Rider, was contacted by Josh Greenwold on Saturday, 3/23/24, around 5:15 pm, who stated that a private contractor diver was trapped within the Blair water reservoir during an inspection and cleaning. Dan told Josh the priority was getting the diver out of the reservoir. At approximately 9:15 pm, Josh contacted Dan to inform him that the incident had turned fatal. Dan instructed Josh to contact the DNR immediately. The DNR requested the water system maintain a 0.5mg/L chlorine level until a safe sample could be obtained. Dan met with Josh and the utility clerk, Debra Fremstad, on 3/25/24. They informed Dan of the issues that had developed in the past 36 hours. Dan provided additional information and guidance. He instructed them to follow the City of Blair's emergency procedures for communication with media and advised them to contact the city attorney. During the on-site visit, the Blair received contact information from the city attorney and the contractor. Blair was notified OSHA was on its way to begin their investigation. Dan further advised Josh and Debra to contact Trempealeau County for additional employee assistance resources for staff involved with this incident. During the on-site visit, Dan provided Management of Critical Public Issues. Through the services provided, WRWA saved the City of Blair \$1,500 for the assistance given.

4/10/24	Genoa Waterworks	Mike Schmitt	Operations Specialist	123 W / 123 W	6.75 hrs.	\$2,200
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Notes: Dan Wundrow, Circuit Rider for WRWA, was contacted by the Village of Genoa for his expertise in hydrant repairs. Dan met with the Operations Specialist, Mike Schmitt, on 4/10/24. Mike told Dan that over 80% of the fire hydrants within the village were inoperable. He also expressed concerns about a lack of hydrant repair and maintenance training. Dan reviewed the general components of the fire hydrants, the do's and don'ts of maintenance, parts list, and breakdown drawings. Dan and Mike worked hand in hand, meticulously examining the three different fire hydrant styles within the village. Dan then guided Mike through the process of completing an upper section breakdown, maintenance, and reassembly. Finally, Mike independently performed the same process on two additional fire hydrants, demonstrating his newly acquired skills. WRWA provided education and technical assistance, saving the Village of Genoa \$2,200.

4/11/24	Independence Waterworks	Joe Galewski	Wastewater Superintendent	298 W / 298 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$1,000
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Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Tony Roche visited the Village of Independence on 4/11/24. The village had been experiencing wastewater treatment plant upsets resulting from a school discharging high concentrations of quaternary ammonia. The school stated they ceased use of quaternary ammonia, but the Independence wastewater operator believed the school was still using it. Tony assisted the village operator with an inspection at the local school. During the inspection, they discovered large quantities of quaternary ammonia-based cleaning solutions in the school maintenance shop, and they educated school staff on the negative impacts quaternary ammonia has on a biological treatment plant. They advised the school staff to cease use of the cleaning solutions and properly dispose of them by participating in a County Clean Sweep Program. WRWA's services saved the village approximately \$1,000 in consultant fees.

5/20/24	Amherst Waterworks	Nick Lea	Water Operations Specialist	3,036 kWh		\$437 annually
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Notes: WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed an energy efficiency assessment for Amherst's water treatment plant. Matt reviewed his findings with Nick Lea. Adding a VFD to Well 2 would allow for better control and prolong the life of the motor. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Amherst would save \$437 annually.

5/21/24	Elk Mound Waterworks	Mark Levra	Director of Public Works	91 kWh		\$12 annually
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Notes: WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed an energy efficiency assessment follow-up for Elk Mound's water system. Matt compared his findings with the previous assessment from 2018. WRWA's recommendation to make a minor adjustment of running speed would save the village approximately 91 kWh and \$12 annually.

5/23/24	Etrick Waterworks	Courtney Kotlarz	Public Works Director	153 W / 153 WW	3.25 hrs.	\$2,500
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Notes: Dan Wundrow, WRWA Circuit Rider, was contacted by the Village of Etrick to assist with a significant water leak causing the water tower to drain. Dan arrived with a portable subsurface leak detector. Dan and Courtney Kotlarz meticulously examined known problem areas in the distribution system. Dan pinpointed an area of concern. After a

thorough investigation and strategic valve isolation, Courtney observed the water tower level stabilizing. He promptly fixed the leak, discovering a one-inch service had broken off from the eight-inch water main. The water loss was approximately 100 gallons per minute before isolation of the leak. WRWA's intervention not only averted a potential \$2,500 expense for leak detection for the Village of Ettrick but also equipped Courtney with new skills.

5/23/24	Vesper Waterworks	George Brandl	Public Works Director	171 W / 171 WW	2.50 hrs.	\$5,500
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Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was contacted to assist George Brandl in repairing a fire hydrant within the municipality. Todd met George at the village shop. George was flushing fire hydrants when a hydrant broke, and it needed to be repaired. The hydrant would not shut off and would not stop flowing water. He was able to shut the flow of water off to the fire hydrant by using the isolation valve. Todd believed the fire hydrant seat was not sealed. Todd made sure the hydrant was still isolated. He disassembled the fire hydrant and explained why it was leaking. The lower and upper valve washers and the valve gasket were cleaned and replaced and the hydrant reassembled. The water supply was turned on and the fire hydrant was tested and put back online. WRWA saved the system \$5,500 by repairing the hydrant and not replacing it, as well as stopping the water flow from the broken hydrant.

5/24/24	Amherst Waterworks	Dale Peterson	Wastewater Operations Specialist	201,800 kWh		\$21,259 annually
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Notes: WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed an energy efficiency assessment for Amherst's wastewater treatment plant. Matt reviewed his findings with Dale Peterson. Reduced aeration time in sludge storage tanks to 6 hours per day and adding a solar array was suggested. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Amherst would save \$21,259 annually.

6/21/24	Altoona					\$30,000
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Notes: Altoona received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which protected 1,061 acres and saved the city \$30,000 in engineering fees.

6/24/24	Fennimore Waterworks	Justin Tollefson	Wastewater Operations Specialist	718 W / 718 WW	2.50 hrs.	\$1,000
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Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Tony Roche was contacted by the village to assist with troubleshooting foaming issues with an aerobic digester. Tony visited with the operator and reviewed process data in troubleshooting the digester foaming issues. The operator and Tony sampled the aerobically digested sludge and analyzed microbial characteristics with a microscope. The microscopy did not yield any conclusive evidence for foaming due to filamentous bacteria. Tony advised the Fennimore staff to add a de-foaming agent to the digester and to reduce digester decant volumes until the foaming had subsided. WRWA saved the village approximately \$1,000 in consultant fees.

7/30/24	Whitehall					\$30,000
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Notes: Whitehall received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which saved the city \$30,000 in engineering fees.

7/31/24	Fennimore Waterworks	Justin Tollefson	Water Utility Superintendent	718 W / 718 WW	3.25 hrs.	\$2,500
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Notes: Justin Tollefson along with Operations Specialists Zach McLimans and Braxton Wilson were isolating a stretch of water distribution pipe when the control valve on the west tower closed with both wells running. The time-lapse was two to five minutes and the pressure within that time caused a water main break. The west tower got a low-pressure alarm calling for water. The valve slammed open causing two more water main breaks. One of the main breaks had a 58-inch crack down the ductile pipe, ripping off a water service. The second main break was a baseball-sized hole in the distribution pipe. The third main break was a golf ball-sized hole in the distribution pipe, causing pressure in the distribution system to fall below the required limits and prompting a city-wide boil water notice. The first set of bacteria samples were taken. Justin, Zach and Braxton were all newly hired. Justin immediately reported the loss of system pressure and then reached out to WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden for assistance. Justin posted the water boil notice via social media, texting, door-to-door notices, and traffic signs at each end of the highway coming into town. Annetta arrived at the utility and met with Justin and Zach. The other Operations Specialists were taking the required chlorine residual samples through fire hydrants at the ends of the distribution system. The main breaks were repaired, and the required bacteria samples were taken. The goal now was to increase the residual chlorine to 0.50mg/L to all endpoints of the distribution system. By 7/31/24, Annetta had assisted the system with obtaining the goal of fresh water throughout the distribution system. A second round of bacteria sampling was the last task to be completed from the event. WRWA's assistance saved the city \$2,500 compared to the cost of an engineering firm.

8/19/24	Fennimore Waterworks	Justin Tollefson	Water Utility Superintendent	718 W / 718 WW	5.25 hrs.	\$1,700
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Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden scheduled a follow-up meeting with Justin Tollefson to develop GIS mapping on the distribution system with risk zones due to smaller areas with four-inch pipes connecting to areas with larger pipe sizes. This resulted in bottlenecks or areas that could create water hammer conditions. These conditions within the distribution system can create water main breaks resulting in costly repairs. Annetta worked with Justin to develop a simple Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to help mitigate this problem in the future. After the GIS mapping and SOP were completed, Annetta assisted in repairing a hydrant that had broken during the extensive hydrant flushing event from the water boil notice. Annetta demonstrated how to disassemble and rebuild a Mueller fire hydrant. WRWA's assistance saved Fennimore an estimated \$1,700 compared to hiring an engineer.

8/27/24	Gays Mills Waterworks	Bob Robinson	Wastewater Operations Specialist	227 W / 227 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$1,000
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Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Tony Roche was contacted by Bob Robinson to help with pH testing as required in their discharge permit. Tony trained Bob how to correctly sample wastewater effluent and conduct a pH test to maintain compliance with the DNR. After conducting pH testing, Tony did a plant walk through and trained Bob how to waste sludge from the wastewater treatment plant aeration basin to maintain a consistent mixed liquor concentration. Tony explained the importance of regular wasting to avoid operational problems with the treatment plant. Bob was very appreciative because he had not been trained in how to operate the wastewater treatment plant by the previous operator. WRWA's services saved the village approximately \$1,000 in contract operations firm charges.

8/28/24	Amherst Waterworks	Dale Peterson	Wastewater Operator	470 W / 257 WW	3.0 hrs.	\$10,000
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Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Jesse Hass was contacted by Dale Peterson to develop a Sludge Management Plan (SMP) for the village. Jesse helped Dale gather data for an initial SMP and helped him submit it to the DNR. Dale's DNR representative said the village needed a more in-depth SMP and provided him with a template. Jesse and Dale looked through wastewater treatment plant information and organized pertinent data to incorporate into the report. They discussed what to include in the SMP to send into the DNR and created a more comprehensive plan with hopes they had met the criteria. Surrounding systems from other communities were contacted by Amherst to use as a reference of what the final plan should look like. Jesse met with Dale again for a final review and to ensure an accurate plan was submitted to the DNR. WRWA's savings to the village is approximately \$10,000 for not having to hire an engineering firm.

9/25/24	La Valle					\$30,000
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Notes: La Valle received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which protected 29 acres and saved the village \$30,000 in engineering fees.

9/27/24	Yuba Waterworks	Rich Hoskins	Water/Wastewater Operator	2,500 kWh		\$375 annually
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Notes: WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed an energy efficiency assessment for the Village of Yuba's water system. Matt suggested insulating the well house to reduce electrical energy use. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Yuba would save \$375 annually.

10/18/24	Eleva					\$30,000
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Notes: Eleva received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which saved the city \$30,000 in engineering fees.

11/11/24	Village of Rockland Waterworks	Keegan Erickson	Water Operations	172 W / 172 WW	3.25 hrs.	\$7,500
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Notes: Dan Wundrow, WRWA Circuit Rider, was contacted on 10/30/24 by the Village of Rockland for his input regarding fire hydrant replacement. After a comprehensive discussion, Dan reassured the village that a total replacement was unnecessary. On 11/11/24, Dan journeyed to Rockland and met with Keegan Erickson, the third new operator in the last six months. During the inspection of the fire hydrant in question, Dan provided Keegan with hands-on training on how to dismantle and maintain the upper section of the fire hydrant. With a few parts on hand, they successfully restored the hydrant to working order. Keegan noted that several other hydrants within the village would also need attention. He committed to inspecting all the other hydrants and making repairs as necessary. WRWA's services saved Rockland \$7,500, by avoiding the initially planned dig-up and replacement of the hydrant. With the knowledge gained from WRWA, the village can maintain its existing hydrants and avoid costly replacements.

11/20/24	Readstown					\$30,000
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Notes: Readstown received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which protected 138 acres and saved the village \$30,000 in engineering fees.

**Renee Koback**

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**From:** dpw@fennimore.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 05, 2024 2:43 PM  
**To:** WRWA  
**Cc:** Chris Groh  
**Subject:** Extended Thank You

Good afternoon,

I'm reaching out to thank the WRWA crew with your assistance on our DNR issued Boil Water Advisory. It wasn't long into our issues (I believe before we were officially under a boil notice) that Herschel our district board member reached out offering assistance through the Wisconsin Rural Water Association. He was very thoughtful with his call and made it clear that he didn't want to come off as intrusive, instead asking if it was okay for him to send resources. He was in contact with Annie, and she was down here within a couple of hours to start flushing hydrants in our system. Annie also returned the next day to continue flushing with our crew and testing chlorine residuals throughout. I just wanted to take a minute to thank the entire staff at Wisconsin Rural Water for being such an outstanding resource at times like this. Keep up the great work and dedication to educating Wisconsin on safe drinking water.

Sincerely,  
The City of Fennimore

*Jordan Fritche*

Director of Public Works  
City of Fennimore  
860 Lincoln Avenue  
Fennimore, WI 53809  
608-822-6119  
[dpw@fennimore.com](mailto:dpw@fennimore.com)

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ST. JOSEPH SANITARY DISTRICT 1  
N1800 TOWN HALL ROAD  
LA CROSSE, WI 54601  
608-788-4152 stjoesandist1@gmail.com

President Chuck Schams, Secretary Barry Nelson, Treasurer Mike Flaten

September 23, 2024

Wisconsin Rural Water Association  
350 Water Way  
Plover, WI 54467

Renee Koback:

I am writing to let you know how much we appreciate the help we receive from WRWA especially Brooke Klingbeil. Her experience and lab knowledge has be extremely helpful. She has been a great, great help in getting our phosphorus level down and keeping it under control.

We hope to continue benefitting from her expertise.

Yours truly,

PP 

Larry Wuensch  
Chief Operator.

**Renee Koback**

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**From:** Bridgeport Sanitary District <bridgeportsd1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 13, 2024 9:24 PM  
**To:** WRWA  
**Subject:** Thank you!

My name is Kate Krachey, Utility Clerk for the Town of Bridgeport, Crawford County. At the beginning of the year I took over for the Utility Clerk and noticed that our water usage was much higher than we were billing out. I was told to reach out to WRWA to get some help. When I called I was directed to a person right away that came out and checked our meters to see if they were the issue. When he couldn't find anything wrong with the meters he gave us the name of someone to check for leaks. This person found the leak right away. It has been wonderful to now see our billing usage match our water usage. Thank you for your wonderful help in getting this situation resolved so quickly.

The township appreciates you.

Thanks again.

Kate Krachey, Utility Clerk

Dear Susan,

I just wanted to send this email thanking Tony Roche, Wastewater Technician from Wisconsin Rural Water Association for helping me with the transition to the HACH TNT843 phosphorous test method. I reached out to Tony and he was able to make it to our facility in a timely manner. Tony was very personable and great to work with. Fast forward a few weeks he was able to make another trip to assist with other issues I was having, once again resolving those issues. I have reached out via phone multiple times and Tony has had great response time. Tony does a great job of making contact time to time just checking in to see how operations are going and to see if I have any questions. As a newly lead operator it is a great feeling to know I have someone to count on if I have technical questions. I just wanted to say thanks again for all your hard work and dedication it was very appreciated.

Thanks,  
Dylan Varo  
Lead operator  
Prairie du Chien WWTF

## Renee Koback

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**From:** Jesse Hass  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2024 2:44 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback; Chris Groh  
**Subject:** Fwd: From Dale Peterson - Village of Amherst

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Jodi Patoka <jpatoka@villageofamherst.wi.gov>  
**Date:** Nov 14, 2024 1:57 PM  
**Subject:** From Dale Peterson - Village of Amherst  
**To:** Jesse Hass <JHass@wrwa.org>  
**Cc:**

Jesse,

I wanted to thank you for all the help on my Sludge Management Report. After you gave me that first template to use, I thought it was done. Well, as we know it wasn't. Thank you for devoting so much time to help me get this thing done and have it look professional. We both know if I would have done it myself it wouldn't have looked half as good. I hope helping me and having it as a template for other WWTP's will cut down the time for other people to write their report.

Dale Peterson  
Wastewater Operator

Village of Amherst  
160 Mill St., P.O. Box 36  
Amherst, WI 54406  
Phone: (715) 824-5613  
Fax: (715) 824-5713



**Renee Koback**

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**From:** Leonard Hasz <lhasz@townofcampbellwi.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 04, 2024 11:52 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback; Chris Groh  
**Subject:** Re: Rural Water E-News 12/4/2024

Hey Guys and Gals,

Thank you for everything you've done, everything your doing, and everything your planning on doing in the future. specially PFOS related things. My water to PFOS level is 2,100 PPT in my house! So I'm counting the days till I get a permanent solution for drinking water to my home.

Thanks again and have a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely, Lenny Hasz

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**From:** Renee Koback <RKoback@wrwa.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 4, 2024 11:40:04 AM  
**To:** Chris Groh  
**Cc:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Rural Water E-News 12/4/2024



**Wisconsin Rural  
Water Association**



Like and Follow us on

Facebook!

## **RURAL WATER E-NEWS**

.....  
.... **12/4/2024**

**We always jokingly say our only "charge" for our service is a thank you letter.** Have you written one to us for a service one of our staff helped with? All these thank you notes go to our representatives in Washington DC and help us fund USDA Rural Development and our services. Please and thank you for a thank you!

**2024 Training winding down; 2025 Training winding up.** Please go to our website for registrations and agendas for your training needs this winter.

**Juneau's wastewater treatment plant upgrades promises cost effective, efficient operations - A \$13 million wastewater treatment plant upgrade promises cost effective and efficient operations.** Work on

## **Renee Koback**

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**From:** Kelly Thomas  
**Sent:** Friday, December 13, 2024 7:13 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Fw: HELP AT PIRCO MHP ON 11-5-2024

Sent from Kelly's mobile device.  
(Misspellings likely)

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**From:** Lee Spencer <l.spencer51@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 12, 2024 10:26:31 PM  
**To:** Kelly Thomas <KThomas@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** HELP AT PIRCO MHP ON 11-5-2024

To Kelly Thomas

yes, I know it took me long enough to E-mail you! But I'm getting it done now.

I appreciated you so much, helping me with all the paperwork on my federal service line inventory and my lead & copper test forms, after driving for a couple of hrs. to come to Wi. Rapids, to sit down and explain all of the forms.

Oh! when you need some good cake again, come on down.

Thank you, Lee Spencer

# Wisconsin Rural Water Association

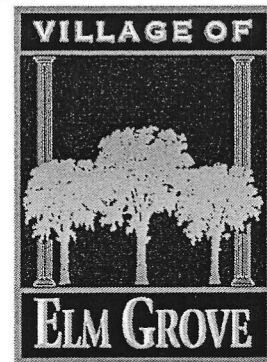
## Impact on Wisconsin by Congressional Districts

### DISTRICT 5

<b>Legend:</b>
Blue - Waterworks Assistance
Green - Energy Efficiency
Yellow - EPA Water Case Studies
Teal/Aqua – Source Water Assistance
Light Brown – Wastewater Assistance

Contact Date	System Name	System Contact	Position	System Connections	Total Contact Time	Savings to System
11/11/24	East Troy SD #3	Jean Loth	Clerk	20 W / 0 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$1,200

Notes: East Troy Sanitary District #3 was unaware of the EPA mandatory lead and copper rule and inventory that was due 10/16/24 until they received a Tier II enforcement letter from the EPA. They contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Annetta Von Rueden. Annetta arrived for an evaluation and found the sanitary district did not have the mandated lead inventory started for the water system and did not have any idea how to execute the process. Annetta demonstrated to Jean Loth, and the water operator Todd Scheel how to start the lead materials inventory with the EPA lead materials template that was given to every water utility by the DNR. Annetta also showed Jean and Todd the glossary of terms that defined the required categories to be completed. After Jean and Todd understood how to fill out the EPA lead materials inventory, they were well on their way toward inventory completion. WRWA saved the sanitary district \$1,200, the cost of an engineering firm assisting them with the same work.



Dear Kelly,

I would like to thank you for your hands-on help with all of my 24 water samples I needed to take today. Taking a mass sampling, like this, can be an extremely time intensive task. Knowing that I can always rely on you and WRWA to help me is such a reassurance. Also, thank you again for the recommendation for our pumps' mechanical issues.

I look forward to seeing you in upcoming classes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Naylor". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Brian Naylor**

Building Maintenance Supervisor

# Wisconsin Rural Water Association

## Impact on Wisconsin by Congressional Districts

### DISTRICT 6

Legend:
Blue - Waterworks Assistance
Green - Energy Efficiency
Yellow - EPA Water Case Studies
Teal/Aqua – Source Water Assistance
Light Brown – Wastewater Assistance

Contact Date	System Name	System Contact	Position	System Connections/ Energy Savings	Total Contact Time	Savings to System
12/14/23	Fredonia Waterworks	Eric Paulus	Wastewater Superintendent	843 W / 545 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$500
<p>Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Jesse Hass arrived at Fredonia for a routine stop and spoke to Eric Paulus, Director of Public Works. He had recently moved to Fredonia from Kewaskum. Upon becoming the DPW at Fredonia, Eric was trying to implement his vision for the utility. Eric stated he was considering hiring an outside firm to do his GPS work and discussed the price quoted by the firm. Jesse said he could show them how they could do it on their own with the help of WRWA and save some money. He showed them some options online where they could do their own mapping and have control over their map. Jesse discussed stopping out when the weather was warmer to set up a free trial to a map and bring with him a GPS device to plot some points in a map. WRWA's intervention will save the village \$500 for consulting fees with the possibility of thousands in savings if WRWA helps them develop their own map.</p>						
2/27/24	Montello Waterworks	Fred Logemann	Wastewater Operations Specialist	420 W / 420 WW	1.0 hr.	\$1,000
<p>Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Jesse Hass was contacted by Fred Logemann and Rodney Kratz to help troubleshoot problems with poor treatment in the wastewater facility. They discussed possible issues and causes of the plant upset and suspected the cause of the plant upset was coming from somewhere in the collection system. Jesse suggested talking with the industries in town to see if they were using any new chemicals that could be affecting the plant. He also offered a sampler to help find sources of high strength waste in the collection system and suggested sludge judging the clarifier. The city's sludge judge was not working properly so Jesse said he will bring one down to help gather data. WRWA's efforts saved Montello approximately \$1,000 for consulting fees and buying a sludge judge.</p>						
3/7/24	Pardeeville Waterworks	Roy White	Water Superintendent	566 W / 566 WW	2.50 hrs.	\$2,500 annually
<p>Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was contacted by Roy White to assist him with fire flows within his municipality. Todd met with Roy and Aaron Torgerson, the Water Operation Specialists, at the wastewater plant. Roy had a request for some fire flows because the city has replaced several hydrants and water mains due to new development. Todd explained the information needed for calculating fire flows. They went out into the system and performed several different fire flows from different hydrants. Aaron was on the down flow hydrant with the pitot gauge / diffuser and Todd then set up his pressure gauge on the test hydrant. Todd and Aaron tested several different areas within the distribution system that was requested. Todd explained to Roy and Aaron that the area tested had passed the requirements set by the DNR. WRWA's technical assistance saved the village \$2,500 quoted by the engineering firm to perform the task.</p>						
4/4/24	Wycena Waterworks	Ramsey Bobzin	Public Works Director	340 W / 340 WW	2.50 hrs.	\$8,000
<p>Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was contacted by Ramsey Bobzin to assist him in performing leak detection within his municipality. Todd met with Ramsey and Henry Deboer. They had a leak within the water system and had narrowed it down to a street. Todd explained that the next step to leak detection was to go out into the system and listen to some hydrants with the LD-12 leak detection listening device. Todd gathered the equipment needed for the testing. Todd, Ramsey, and Henry went to the area where Ramsey believed he had a leak. Todd could hear a leak from the fire hydrant they were listening to. Todd had Ramsey listen also, so he could understand what Todd was hearing. Todd explained they needed to listen to the services nearby to narrow the leak down. Todd, Ramsey, and Henry listened to a nearby service and discovered the leak was on that service. On 4/11/24, Todd returned at the request of Ramsey to assist them in repairing the leak. Ramsey estimated WRWA saved the village about \$8,000 in water loss.</p>						

4/8/24	Random Lake Waterworks	Peter Lederer	Wastewater Supervisor	448 W / 448 WW	1.50 hrs.	\$1,000
Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Jesse Hass was contacted by Peter Lederer to help with sampling in the collection system to find out the strength of waste from an industry and other sources of high strength waste. The village was in the process of gathering data to upgrade the wastewater treatment plant. Jesse and Peter discussed options for placing the sampler in various points throughout the collection system. Jesse showed the operators how to set up the sampler and instructions on how to use it. The sampling process will be used to test the strength of concentrated waste within the collection system, and the data will help the village negotiate a fair deal with the industries to pay for the waste being discharged to the treatment plant. WRWA's services saved the village about \$1,000 for not having to rent a sampler or treat the high strength waste in the future.						
6/19/24	Harmony Grove Sanitation District (Lodi)	Marty Lasco	Operations Specialist	773 W / 773 WW	4.50 hrs.	\$1,200
Notes: Dan Wundrow, Circuit Rider for WRWA, was contacted by Harmony Grove Sanitation District to assist in locating a significant water leak. Dan traveled to Harmony Grove SD equipped with a portable subsurface LD-12 leak detector and met with Marty Lasco. They started looking extensively at problem areas in the distribution system. Dan located a possible leak, and curb stops to isolate the leak. Dan and Marty then identified the leaking corporation. WRWA's services saved the district from a potential \$1,200 expense for leak detection and empowered Marty with new skills.						
6/28/24	Hancock Waterworks	Max Schoenstene	Water Operations Specialist	7,759 kWh		\$1,262 annually
Notes: An energy efficiency assessment was done by WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler for Hancock Waterworks. Matt suggested turning the thermostats down at Well 2 in the winter, running Well 1 75% of the time since it produces water at 1/3 the cost of Well 2, and optimizing the current VFD for best pump rate to energy use. WRWA's recommendations would save Hancock \$1,262 annually.						
7/29/24	Cascade					\$30,000
Notes: Cascade received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which saved the village \$30,000 in engineering fees.						
7/30/24	Liberty Sanitary District	Randy Steinbruecker	Sanitary District Commissioner	0 W / 132 WW	1.0 hr.	\$1,000
Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Jesse Hass was contacted by Randy Steinbruecker, to help with issues in the collection system and drop off a sewer camera. Jesse helped train Randy to use the camera to check problem areas within the system. Upon televising the sewer line, Randy did not find a blockage in the line. He did, however, find a slimy substance in the line. Jesse discussed possible causes of the slime and discussed talking with property owners on the main and discussing grease trap ordinance with the only business on the line. Jesse will follow up with Randy after he contacts the property owners. WRWA's savings to the sanitary district is approximately \$1,000 for renting a camera.						
9/27/24	Redgranite Waterworks	Jim Fredrick	Public Works Dept.	18,122 kWh		\$3,245 annually
Notes: WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician performed an energy efficiency assessment follow-up for Redgranite's water treatment system. Matt compared the previous assessment done in 2023 to the current rates and kWh's used in the system for 2024. Two recommendations from 2023 have been implemented so far. Implementing all the recommendations from WRWA would save Redgranite approximately \$3,245 annually.						



April 12, 2024

Bureau of Drinking Water & Groundwater  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Dear Member of the WI DNR,

I am writing to strongly encourage the Wisconsin DNR to retain the services of the Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA).

As the Water System Owner and Certified Operator for my business, I have utilized the services of the WRWA for the last 20 years. I have received all my required Continuing Education credits from courses taught by members of the WRWA. I have also called upon them to assist me with interpreting and complying with Federal and State regulations as they apply to my water system.

Should an unexpected event occur with my water system, the WRWA is who I call first. The WRWA employs extremely knowledgeable, helpful staff whose mission it is to ensure that all Water Operators have the information, tools, and support they need to ensure that their water systems are safe and comply with all regulations. To this end, I receive monthly reminders to send our quarterly drinking water samples for evaluation. These reminders include not only instructions on how to submit the test results to the DNR but also contact email and phone numbers of WRWA personnel who are available to assist.

We also receive frequent notices of continuing education classes and certified operator exam review classes. Additionally, of our new team members received personal assistance from our WRWA Circuit Rider to help him prepare for his certification exam.

Lastly, I would like to note that I have known our area's WRWA Circuit Rider, Kelly Thomas, currently the Technical Assistance Director at WRWA for the last 20 years. He is one of the most committed, experienced, and supportive individuals I know. He is a tremendous representative of the WRWA organization.

I am happy to provide you with any additional information to assist you in your evaluation of the value and impact of the WRWA. Please feel free to contact me at [maryi@genmet.com](mailto:maryi@genmet.com) or 414-331-6045.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Isbister  
Owner, GenMet Corp

Superior Safety, Quality and On Time Delivery  
Supported by Employee Led Continuous Improvement and State of the Art Technology  
Resulting in Profitable, Long Term Relationships.  
ISO 9001 - 2015 Certified

## Renee Koback

---

**From:** Kelly Thomas  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2024 11:32 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** FW: Water Operator's Class

Here you go.

*Kelly C. Thomas*  
Technical Assistance Director  
(715) 204-0488  
[www.wrwa.org](http://www.wrwa.org)



**From:** Martin J. Biller <billerm@edenstone.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2024 9:31 AM  
**To:** Kelly Thomas <KThomas@wrwa.org>  
**Cc:** 'Moeller, Gregory J - DNR' <Gregory.Moeller@wisconsin.gov>  
**Subject:** Water Operator's Class

Kelly,

Just thought I'd drop you a line to say how much I enjoyed and benefitted from the Water Operator's Responsibilities class you presented yesterday in North Fond du Lac. As always, your many stories were informative, amusing, and entertaining. Never a dull moment. The class was a great refresher and I learned a few new things as well.

It was great to have an in-person class once again. I absolutely hate the virtual classes that seem to be an ever growing method of instruction these days. Hope to see you when I recertify again in three years.

Marty

Martin J. Biller, P.G.  
Water System Operator's License #62197  
(920) 251-4931 Cell



## **Renee Koback**

---

**From:** Eric Carley <ecarley@omro-wi.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024 1:37 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Re: Outdoor expo credits

Thank you for looking into that. We looked it up this morning and it was not on there. So, I will let him know that it is on there now.

Also, I would like to send out a huge thank you to Todd Weich. He came to Omro on Oct 24 and helped me track down a service leak. We were having a hard time pin pointing where the leak was, and Todd changed his schedule to come down and help me. We had an area that we thought the leak was and by using Todds tools, we actually found the leak in a totally different location. This saved us a lot of time, money, and wasted resources. I would like to thank everyone at WRWA for everything they do to help support smaller municipalities.

Thank you,  
Eric Carley  
City of Omro Utilities  
(920)685-7025

---

**From:** Renee Koback <RKoback@wrwa.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024 11:40 AM  
**To:** Eric Carley <ecarley@omro-wi.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Outdoor expo credits

From what I see on his training history he did receive his credit for the 2024 Outdoor Expo. Please see attached.

Renee J. Koback  
WRWA Member Services Coordinator  
(715) 344-7778  
[rkoback@wrwa.org](mailto:rkoback@wrwa.org)  
[www.wrwa.org](http://www.wrwa.org)

**From:** Eric Carley <ecarley@omro-wi.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 29, 2024 11:32 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback <RKoback@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** Outdoor expo credits

Hello Renee. One of my operations hasn't received credit for attending the WRWA Outdoor expo on 8/24/24. What do I have to do to correct this? His name is Travis Pomplun his op # is 38881. He received a confirmation email from the DNR on 9/18/24 but the credits haven't shown up on the operator credit look up on the DNR web site.

# Wisconsin Rural Water Association

## Impact on Wisconsin by Congressional Districts

### DISTRICT 7

Legend:
Blue - Waterworks Assistance
Green - Energy Efficiency
Yellow - EPA Water Case Studies
Teal/Aqua – Source Water Assistance
Light Brown – Wastewater Assistance

Contact Date	System Name	System Contact	Position	System Connections/ Energy Savings	Total Contact Time	Savings to System
12/12/23	Neillsville Waterworks	Kyle Friemoth	Operations Specialist	765 W / 765 WW	2.50 hrs.	\$4,500
<p>Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow met with Public Works Director Luke Friemoth and Operations Specialist Kyle Friemoth to discuss the functions and applications of GIS mapping. The system needed capital improvements, asset management, historical data tracking, and lead and copper inventory to be integrated within the GIS mapping program. Dan was able to import previous GIS coordinates for the city's water system. He also provided detailed training for building map layers, layer calculations, layer filters, and new user accounts. Multiple maps with multi-functioning layers were also set up. During the on-site visit, Dan was able to import existing GIS points and teach the functionality of GIS mapping. Through the service provided, WRWA saved the City of Neillsville \$4,500 for GIS program set up and training.</p>						
12/27/23	Roberts Waterworks	John Bond	Public Works Director	600 W / 600 WW	1.0 hour	\$40,000
<p>Notes: Mr. Bond asked Kay Curtin, WRWA Wastewater Technician, for assistance with a problem at his wastewater plant. A very thick slime resembling glue had been developing in the first reactor and was interfering with the dissolved oxygen and oxidation reduction potential probes and operations. Kay examined the slime under a microscope at the plant and suspected a nutrient deficiency. Kay suggested operational changes to the treatment to better provide food for the system. Mr. Bond did as Kay asked, and the amount of slime had subsided within one day. WRWA's actions prevented severe problems with the plant and especially the sensitive algae system, saving the city approximately \$40,000.</p>						
1/30/24	Eagle River Waterworks	Mike Sanborn	Utility Manager	96,500 kWh		\$5,780 annually
<p>Notes: WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician performed an energy efficiency assessment follow-up for Eagle River's wastewater system. He compared the previous assessment done in 2019 to the current rates and kWh's used in the system for the year 2023. The 2019 assessment recommended adding a VFD to each of the 50 hp air blowers for the aerobic digester. In 12/2022, the city decided to replace the entire blower assembly with newer efficient blowers and VFDs. According to the data, the blowers alone have outperformed the old equipment by approximately 3800 kWh, saving approximately \$385 each month. This comes out to a savings of \$4,625 per year. All improvements and process changes since 2019 have saved approximately 96,500 kWh per year and \$2,634 in savings, when adjusted for the increase in energy costs. WRWA's recommendations have saved Eagle River approximately \$5,780 annually.</p>						
2/6/24	Prentice Waterworks	Dale Andreae	Public Works Director	242 W / 242 WW	2.50 hrs.	\$11,000
<p>Notes: Todd Weich, WRWA Circuit Rider, was contacted by Dale Andreae to assist in performing leak detection within the municipality. Todd arrived on-site and met with Dale and Kyle Steliga, Assistant Fire Chief, to listen to hydrants in the system with the leak detection listening device. About halfway through the distribution system, noise was detected on a hydrant. Todd explained they needed to listen to the services nearby to pinpoint the leak. They narrowed the leak down to an adjacent street. The leak detection continued and was completed. On 2/9/24, Dale called Todd stating there was another leak, and water was running down the road. At 8:00 a.m., Todd arrived and assisted with locating two different water main breaks. The leak with water running down the road was able to be isolated by turning off a valve because it was at a dead-end, preventing the excavation of the road. The second leak was located and repaired on the other side of the village. WRWA saved the Prentice \$11,000 for leak detection services and preventing road damage.</p>						
2/8/24	New Auburn Waterworks	Ardith Story	Village Administrator	210 W / 183 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$1,000
<p>Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Tony Roche visited New Auburn and met with Ardith Story. The village had hired two operators in the last six months but both operators quit and left the village without an operator. Tony showed Ardith</p>						

how to operate the collection system and the pond system. He was able to show her the tasks that needed to be performed to keep the village in compliance. He showed her how to read flow meters, document daily flows, collect samples, and operate the blowers at the pond system. WRWA's services saved the village \$1,000 in consultant fees.

2/12/24	Curtiss Waterworks	Larry Swarr	Operations Specialist	31,401 kWh		\$5,578 annually
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Notes: An energy efficiency follow-up assessment was done by WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler for Curtiss Waterworks. Matt compared his current findings with the previous assessment done in 2019. New VFDs were recommended. WRWA's services would save Curtiss an additional \$5,578 annually.

2/22/24	Three Lakes Sanitary District					\$30,000
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Notes: Three Lakes Sanitary District received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which protected 231 acres and saved the district \$30,000 in engineering fees.

2/27/24	Hurley Waterworks	Gary Laguna	Operation Specialist	726 W / 0 WW	6.50 hrs.	\$4,600
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Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by the City of Hurley to assist in finding a significant water leak. Equipped with a portable subsurface leak detector, Dan met with Gary Laguna. They began testing hydrants and looking for leaks. Dan identified one hydrant that was leaking and another leak near an abandoned water main. After further investigation, it was determined the valve leading to the abandoned water main was leaking past the valve seat. They exercised the valve and continued to listen to the valve. After many attempts, Gary was able to stop the water's movement past the valve seat. Dan suggested Gary exhume the valve in the spring, remove the valve and t-pipe, and replace it with a section of pipe. WRWA saved Hurley \$1,200 for leak detection and \$3,400 for lost water charges.

3/13/24	Crandon Waterworks	Ross Crum	Director of Utilities	617 W / 617 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$5,000
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Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Jesse Hass was contacted by Ross Crum to assist with some reports the DNR was requiring. Ross had just received his permit and was required to complete a Land Management Report for the city's seepage cells. He called Jesse and asked what steps he would need to take to complete the Land Management Report. Jesse was able to obtain a couple completed reports from a few municipalities and scheduled a visit with Ross. Jesse stated it would be possible for Ross to complete the report utilizing the templates rather than hire a consultant. Jesse said he would stop back in a month to go over the completed reports before Crandon sent them to the DNR. WRWA saved the system approximately \$5,000, the charge to have a consultant complete the report.

3/19/24	Iron River					\$30,000
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Notes: Iron River received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which saved the town \$30,000 in engineering fees.

5/17/24	Maine Waterworks	Chris Jensen	Wastewater Superintendent	60 W / 75 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$60,000 annually
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Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Jesse Hass was contacted by Chris Jensen to discuss Maine's wastewater treatment plant. The Village of Maine had been tasked with absorbing the now defunct Village of Brokaw's utility. The Village of Maine met with Jesse to discuss options for the wastewater plant. Jesse recommended operating the plant and finding a new operator. The village wanted to shut down the plant and truck the waste to a neighboring community, which Jesse felt would be more expensive. The village decided to haul their wastewater to Merrill and hired Chris shortly after the plant had shut down. Jesse and Chris met every few months to discuss the positives and negatives of hauling the waste and later discussed the process for starting the plant back up. Chris started the plant back up in early spring and has been in contact with Jesse about the process and possible savings so far to the village. Jesse and Chris know this isn't a long-term fix. The plant needs upgrades and repairs but will save expenses in the short term. The village was spending over \$20,000 a month hauling their sludge to Merrill. With WRWA's advice, the village put their plant back online and the overall estimated savings are \$5,000 to \$10,000 a month.

5/30/24	Ladysmith Waterworks	Travis Vollendorf	Wastewater Operations Specialist	1637 W / 1093 WW	2.50 hrs.	\$1,000
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Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Tony Roche visited Ladysmith and assisted the wastewater operator with measuring the sludge blanket depth and collecting sludge samples in the wastewater lagoon system. They successfully measured the sludge blanket depth and collected sludge samples to keep the village in compliance with their wastewater discharge permit. WRWA's assistance saved the village approximately \$1,000 in consultant fee.

6/18/24	Glidden Sanitary District	Todd Schmidt	Dept. of Public Works	43,802 kWh		\$7,384 annually
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Notes: An energy efficiency assessment was done by WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler for Glidden Sanitary District. Matt suggested equipment repairs to increase efficiency and installation of a solar array which would

benefit the office/shop, and water system, along with turning in tax exempt form for the water tower. Implementing WRWA's recommendations would save Glidden approximately \$7,384 annually.

6/20/24	Hatley Waterworks	Brian Janikowski	Wastewater Operator	268 W / 120 WW	2.50 hrs.	\$10,000
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Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Jesse Hass was contacted by Brian Janikowski to develop a chloride reduction plan to remain in compliance with the DNR. Jesse and Brian looked through wastewater treatment plant data and organized pertinent information to put into a report. They discussed what to include in the plan to send to the DNR. Jesse provided Brian with a few chloride reduction plans from other communities to use as a reference. He met with Brian a few weeks later to go over the finished plan before it was submitted to the DNR. After finishing the chloride reduction plan, Brian asked Jesse to help develop a sludge management plan as well. Jesse obtained reports from a few other communities, and they sat down and finished a sludge management plan as well. WRWA's services saved the village approximately \$10,00 for not having to hire an engineering firm to do the chloride reduction plan and sludge management plan.

7/15/24	Mercer Sanitary District	Rick Graser	Superintendent/Lead Operator	220 W / 220 WW	1.75 hrs.	\$1,800
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Notes: Dan Wundrow, Circuit Rider for WRWA, was contacted by the Mercer Sanitation District to assist in locating a significant water leak. Dan traveled to Mercer equipped with a portable subsurface LD-12 leak detector and met with Rick Graser. Dan and Rick started looking extensively at known problem areas in the distribution system. They worked together to identify an area of concern and isolated the area into three residential services. After further investigation and pressure testing, Dan identified which service and the leak's location on the service line. WRWA's services saved Mercer \$1,800 for leak detection and empowered Rick with new skills.

7/16/24	New Auburn Waterworks	Joe Koteris	Wastewater Operations Specialist	210 W / 183 WW	3.0 hrs.	\$1,000
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Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Tony Roche visited New Auburn on 7/16/24 to assist the wastewater operator with measuring the sludge blanket depth and collecting sludge samples in their aerated lagoon system. The operator and Tony successfully measured the sludge blanket depth in the wastewater lagoon system and successfully collected sludge samples to keep the village in compliance with their wastewater discharge permit. WRWA's services saved the village approximately \$1,000 in consultant fees.

7/22/24	Mercer Sanitary District					\$30,000
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Notes: Mercer received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which protected 124 acres and saved the district \$30,000 in engineering fees.

8/14/24	Dallas Waterworks	Adam Davis	Water Operation Specialist	118 W / 118 WW	3.0 hrs.	\$2,800
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Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by the Village of Dallas for his expertise in hydrant repairs. He traveled to the Village of Dallas and met with Adam Davis on 7/23/24. Adam stated that seven of their fire hydrants were inoperable. Dan and Adam examined the seven fire hydrants and developed a parts list. Adam ordered the needed parts, and on 8/14/24, Dan met with Adam to teach and assist him in repairing the upper section of the fire hydrants. During the training, Dan noticed some of the fire hydrants had been repaired in the past. He pointed out some of the repairs to Adam and gave guidance on how the previous repairs were completed incorrectly. After several repairs, Dan then observed Adam complete the repairs needed on the next fire hydrant. WRWA's services provided education and technical assistance on fire hydrant repairs and maintenance, saving the village \$2,800.

8/26/24	Hayward Water Utility	John McCue	Public Works Director	103,201 kWh		\$10,858 annually
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Notes: WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed an energy efficiency assessment for Hayward's water and wastewater operations. For the wastewater treatment operations, Matt suggested they install new synthetic material filter elements to lower suction restriction, maintain particulate removal, turn in tax-exempt forms, and reduce VFD speed by 2 Hz at the main lift station. For the water treatment operations, Matt suggested increasing the VFD speed at Well 7 from 52 to 53 Hz. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Hayward would save \$10,249 annually in their wastewater operations and \$609 annually in their water operations.

9/6/24	Chelsea Sanitary District	Sue Jensen	Bookkeeper	0 W / 12 WW	1.50 hrs.	\$1,000
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Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Tony Roche was contacted by Sue Jensen to assist with a problem they were experiencing in needing lower phosphorus levels in their treatment plant effluent to stay in compliance with their permit regulations from the state. Chelsea Sanitary District uses a recirculating sand media filter for treatment. Tony met with Chelsea's staff to observe plant operations and to formulate a strategy to lower effluent phosphorus concentrations. He advised staff to maintain the media filter by pulling weeds and rotating filter beds to prevent the buildup of

contaminants. He also suggested increasing their effluent recirculation ratio to achieve greater phosphorus treatment and removal. WRWA's services saved Chelsea \$1,000 in engineering firm fees.

9/12/24	Glen Flora					\$30,000
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Notes: Glen Flora received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which protected 62 acres and saved the village \$30,000 in engineering fees.

9/20/24	Florence Utility Commission	Eric Lorensen	Water/Wastewater Lead	6,570 kWh		\$966 annually
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Notes: WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed an energy efficiency assessment for Florence water and wastewater operations. Matt suggested changing air filter media to a high efficiency media for the wastewater system. For the water system, he suggested increasing the speed on the VFD at Well 4 to 58.6 Hz. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, Florence would save \$573 annually for their wastewater operations and \$393 annually for their water operations.

9/24/24	Star Prairie Waterworks	Nate Licht	Public Works Director	170 W / 170 WW	11.0 hrs.	\$4,500
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Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Dan Wundrow was contacted by the Village of Star Prairie to assist with a 10-year tower drain down and inspection. On 9/23/24, Dan traveled to Star Prairie to meet with Nate Licht, and the Utilities Specialist, Mike Hesselink. Nate had never embarked on completing a full tower drain-down inspection. They took time to overview the system, strategize where pressure relief valves should be placed for optimal operation, record pressures at various places throughout the water system, and discuss the operating process that would take place the following day. On 9/24/24, Dan provided hands-on technical assistance with the tower drain down. During this time, he provided a plethora of training for Nate and Mike. Dan reviewed the DNR requirements for full draw-down inspection, addressed missing sample taps, mitigating the risk of water hammer, identified pressure zones, and provided mathematical equations tailored for their system, refilling procedures, and sampling requirements. WRWA's services saved Star Prairie \$4,500 by not hiring a private consultant.

9/25/24	Hawkins Waterworks	Matt Boehmer	Public Works Director	188 W / 188 WW	2.75 hrs.	\$2,500
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Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was contacted by Matt Boehmer to assist him in performing hydrant flushing. Todd met with Matt and John Burkman. The village had been going through a water upgrade and had to start chemical addition of polyphosphates to sequester the iron and manganese. Todd explained the process of flushing the fire hydrants to remove sediment. They went over the detailed water distribution map to determine what hydrants would be key hydrants to flush. Todd determined there were several hydrants that could be flushed based on location and distance from the water tower to optimize volume and pressure to move the sediment out of the pipes. They started flushing key hydrants in a systematic way. After flushing a few of the hydrants, it was clear the process was working. Todd explained the process might take several days or weeks to completely remove the sediment and for the polyphosphate to start working correctly. Matt estimated WRWA saved the village about \$2,500 instead of hiring an outside firm.

10/9/24	Colby Waterworks	Al Raatz	Water Superintendent	640 W / 640 WW	1.50 hrs.	\$3,000
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Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was contacted by Harland Higley, the Director of Public Works, to assist him in performing leak detection. Todd met with Harland and Al Raatz, the water superintendent. Al told Todd he had a leak within his water system and had it narrowed down to 3 blocks. Todd explained that the next step to leak detection was to go out into the system and listen to some hydrants with the LD-12 leak detection listening device. WRWA provided the equipment needed for the testing. Todd and Al narrowed the leak down to one block, then correlated the leak. The correlation gave a spike of the location of a possible leak. Todd provided training on how to use the LD-12 acoustic listening device on the roadway to confirm the leak. Harland estimated WRWA saved the city about \$3,000 dollars if the leak could not have been found, which would have meant digging up a larger area of a brand-new roadway.

10/17/24	Dallas Waterworks	Adam Davis	Water Operation Specialist	118 W / 118 WW	3.75 hrs.	\$45,000
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Notes: Dan Wundrow, WRWA Circuit Rider, was contacted by the Village of Dallas and informed that 12 of their 27 hydrants were inoperable. He met with Operation Specialist Adam Davis. During the first initial on-site visit, Dan informed Adam of the general review of the fire hydrants, the do's and don'ts of maintenance, the parts list, and breakdown drawings. They fixed several of the fire hydrants and Dan advised Adam of the parts needed to fix the remaining hydrants. Once the lower assembly parts arrived, Dan returned, and he guided Mr. Davis through the process of repairing the lower assembly. Adam showcased his prior knowledge by effectively disassembling and reassembling the upper section of the hydrant independently. WRWA's services provided valuable education and technical assistance on fire hydrant repairs and maintenance, saving the village \$45,000. This cost-saving was crucial, as the village had initially planned to dig up and replace six hydrants this year and another six next year.

11/18/24	Unity Wastewater Treatment Plant	Joe Geiger	Wastewater Operations Specialist	0 W / 127 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$1,000
<p>Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Tony Roche visited the Village of Unity to assist the operator with measuring the sludge blanket depth and collecting sludge samples for their aerated lagoon system. Tony and Joe successfully measured the sludge blanket depth in the wastewater lagoon system and collected sludge samples to keep the village in compliance with their wastewater discharge permit. WRWA's saved the village \$1,000 for not having to hire a consultant.</p>						
11/27/24	Edgar Waterworks	Bill Tess	Water Superintendent	415 W / 415 WW	3.25 hrs.	\$5,000
<p>Notes: On 11/26/24, Bill Tess contacted WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich to assist him in pinpointing a leak. Bill had narrowed down the leak to one block and would close some valves. Todd arrived early on 11/27/24 and met with Bill. They decided to dig last night in several areas to see if they could locate the leak, but the leak was not located. Todd explained the equipment needed for a correlation of the area. Todd and Bill placed the leak detection equipment on distribution valve and fire hydrant. The correlation gave a spike of the location of the leak. Todd also used the LD-12 acoustic listening device on the roadway to confirm the leak. Unfortunately, the location was about 80 feet from where they started digging the night before. The crew moved their excavating equipment to the new location Todd marked. Valves were closed so they would not lose water pressure or drain the water tower completely, but despite their efforts, the water system did lose enough pressure to cause a water boil notice. Bill estimated WRWA saved the city about \$5,000 after locating the correct spot to dig and told Todd he would wait for WRWA before digging next time.</p>						

## **Renee Koback**

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**From:** Roger Secrist <rsecrist@florenceutilitieswi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2024 2:16 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Thank you!

Hi Renee,

I would like to express my appreciation to Matt Rettler and the entire WRWA organization for all the help and training that is offered along with the loaner equipment program. Florence is a small community that could never have accomplished the task such as the most recent Energy assessment that Matt had conducted or be able to purchase equipment that is offered for us to use in order for us to be able to do our jobs safely and efficiently. The top notch training that is offered to us is second to none in our opinion. So again Florence would like to thank you all for the great things that WRWA offers to communities like ours!

Thank you

Roger Secrist  
Utility Manager



PO Box 109  
501 Spring Ave  
Florence, WI 54121  
(715) 528-3330

Please note my new email address, [rsecrist@florenceutilitieswi.gov](mailto:rsecrist@florenceutilitieswi.gov)

## **Renee Koback**

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**From:** Kay Curtin <kaycurtin@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 12, 2024 11:10 AM  
**To:** Chris Groh; Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Thank you note

**Kay Curtin**  
**715.340.8827**

**Hey Kay, I just heard you are retiring. I want to thank you for all the many times I've been at your trainings or just talking to you. The knowledge you have is unmatched. You will certainly be missed. Also, I want to tell you that you are not allowed to retire!!!! Hopefully I will get to talk to you before you are officially retired Thanks for everything, Nate from the Village of Star Prairie**





Indian Health Service  
129 North Brown Street  
Rhinelander, Wisconsin 54501-3450  
715-365-5145  
FAX: 715-365-5113

February 23, 2024

Kelly Thomas, Technical Assistance Director  
Wisconsin Rural Water Association  
350 Water Way  
Plover, WI 54467

Dear Mr. Thomas,

As the Tribal Utility Consultant for the Indian Health Service (IHS) to the Wisconsin Tribes for over 15 years, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the work conducted by Mrs. Brooke Klingbeil in her position as an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) contracted Wastewater Technician through the Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA). In the short time she has been providing assistance to the tribes, she has gained the respect of the tribal utility staff with her knowledge of wastewater treatment and testing and has proven her integrity by providing timely, quality deliverables.

Brooke approached me with an enthusiastic drive to provide technical assistance to the tribal wastewater utilities. An area of great need for the tribal wastewater systems is in the development and maintenance of administrative documents such as Emergency Response Plans. Brooke pulled together several templates to develop a format that incorporates not only the necessary emergency response information to meet the EPA and IHS recommendations, but also lends to the development of an asset management program. She completed the data collection and population of the template for a simple utility in a matter of days and provided a high quality draft to the Utility for review in 10 business days, a very impressive feat!

She has also been an invaluable resource for wastewater treatment and laboratory procedures. During site visits to the Oneida Nation and to the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Brooke fully enveloped herself into the wastewater treatment operations of the labs and treatment processes. She has extensive knowledge of lab procedures, reporting, and treatment process adjustment and is willing to help the utilities in tasks from developing Standard Operating Procedures to recommending process adjustments to increase treatment efficiency. She is very hands on and her sincere desire to assist the utilities is evident in her communication with the tribal staff.

Brooke has an infectious personality and displays a high level of respect for the native cultures. The tribal staff trust her and appreciate the resources she brings to the table. These attributes coupled with the provision of timely, high quality deliverables has made Brooke an invaluable asset for the Wisconsin Tribes and I truly appreciate the services she provides.

Sincerely,

Shane Hoffmann, PE  
Wisconsin Tribal Utility Consultant

## Renee Koback

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**From:** Chris Groh  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 03, 2024 9:02 AM  
**To:** Seth Petersen  
**Cc:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Fw: WRWA

Good job Seth. Always good to get a thank you from the board president!

Rene, We can use this for a thank you in the journal?

*Chris Groh*  
**Executive Director**  
**Wisconsin Rural Water Association**  
[cgroh@wrwa.org](mailto:cgroh@wrwa.org)  
(715) 340-2055

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**From:** Dean Bergstrom <[dean@cmutility.com](mailto:dean@cmutility.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 8:49 AM  
**To:** Chris Groh <[CGroh@wrwa.org](mailto:CGroh@wrwa.org)>  
**Subject:** WRWA

Hi Chris, I want to thank WRWA and Seth especially, for the training that was provided to two of our employees who took the water training classes for water distribution and ground water. Seth even stopped by our offices and went over the material again with my guys before they took the tests at the WRWA Convention. The guys are confident they did well.

Thanks again!!

**Dean Bergstrom**  
Utility Manager  
**Office:** 715-822-2595  
**Cell:** 715-671-8072  
**Email:** [dean@cmutility.com](mailto:dean@cmutility.com)



August 15, 2024

Ms. Tammy Baldwin  
US Senate

RE: Support for USDA -RD Program

Ms. Baldwin,

I write this letter to show my support for the USDA-Rural Development program. RD's loan/grant program has allowed the City of Eagle River complete multiple projects over the years to extend and upgrade the City's sewer and water system. The combination of the grants and 40-year, low interest loans made it more feasible to replace aging infrastructure and install new infrastructure bringing in new businesses and housing to our area, while keeping water and sewer utility costs as low as they can be.

Ms. Baldwin, I urge you to continue supporting the USDA-RD program to allow the same funding for future upgrades to enhance the growth of our city along with other cities like ours. Thank you for what you do for Northern Wisconsin!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Sanborn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike Sanborn, Utility Manager  
Eagle River Light & Water Utility  
Eagle River, WI  
715-479-8121

August 15, 2024

Mr. Ron Johnson  
US Senate

RE: Support for USDA -RD Program

Mr. Johnson,

I write this letter to show my support for the USDA-Rural Development program. RD's loan/grant program has allowed the City of Eagle River complete multiple projects over the years to extend and upgrade the City's sewer and water system. The combination of the grants and 40-year, low interest loans made it more feasible to replace aging infrastructure and install new infrastructure bringing in new businesses and housing to our area, while keeping water and sewer utility costs as low as they can be.

Mr. Johnson, I urge you to continue supporting the USDA-RD program to allow the same funding for future upgrades to enhance the growth of our city along with other cities like ours. Thank you for what you do for Northern Wisconsin!

Sincerely,



Mike Sanborn, Utility Manager  
Eagle River Light & Water Utility  
Eagle River, WI  
715-479-8121

August 15, 2024

Mr. Tom Tiffany  
7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Wisconsin  
US House of Representatives

RE: Support for USDA -RD Program

Mr. Tiffany,

I write this letter to show my support for the USDA-Rural Development program. RD's loan/grant program has allowed the City of Eagle River complete multiple projects over the years to extend and upgrade the City's sewer and water system. The combination of the grants and 40-year, low interest loans made it more feasible to replace aging infrastructure and install new infrastructure bringing in new businesses and housing to our area, while keeping water and sewer utility costs as low as they can be.

Mr. Tiffany, I urge you to continue supporting the USDA-RD program to allow the same funding for future upgrades to enhance the growth of our city along with other cities like ours. Thank you for what you do for Northern Wisconsin!

Sincerely,



Mike Sanborn, Utility Manager  
Eagle River Light & Water Utility  
Eagle River, WI  
715-479-8121

## Renee Koback

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**From:** Ken McNinch <ken.mcninch@scc-nsn.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 10, 2024 10:53 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback; Brooke Klingbeil  
**Subject:** RE: WRWA Appreciation letters

Good Morning

This Email is support of the WRWA and the amazing employees that have helped me in the past. So far I have only had the pleasure of meeting Brooke Klingbeil and Todd Weich but I will tell you they are amazing. Having Todd to help with the water side and Brook on the wastewater side. Its nice knowing that I have help and help can be on site within a few days or less. Its nice having the technical help too, Because I am not an advanced computer person. Brook has helped me so much this summer with my emergency response plan and my wastewater assessment. I just can't even begin to explain. But she is a treasure. I work on a small Rez and I only have one coworker to run 2 departments. We try are best but having that extra help is awesome. I truly hope this great organization keeps up the great work cuz us small departments really appreciate it.

Ken McNinch  
Public Works Director  
Sokaogon Chippewa Community

**From:** Renee Koback <RKoback@wrwa.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 6, 2024 7:18 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback <RKoback@wrwa.org>  
**Subject:** WRWA Appreciation letters

Warning - Sent from outside the organization. Be cautious with links or attachments.

**Did you get some exceptional help from our EPA, Wastewater, Energy Efficiency and Source Water Programs or the WRWA Office?**

We are looking for thank you letters from our members for support of these programs. These letters go to our funding agencies and state/federal agencies to show how we help our systems in Wisconsin. Your support keeps our state and other states across the US (and your neighbors that may also need these services) funded and able to render any help that you may need.

Thank you for your help on this.

Have a great weekend!!

Renee J. Koback  
WRWA Member Services Coordinator  
(715) 344-7778  
[rkoback@wrwa.org](mailto:rkoback@wrwa.org)  
[www.wrwa.org](http://www.wrwa.org)

**OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
VILLAGE OF NEW AUBURN**

130 Elm St E | PO Box 100 | New Auburn, WI 54757-0100  
Phone: 715-237-2223 | Fax: 715-237-2334 | [www.newauburn-wi.com](http://www.newauburn-wi.com)

October 3, 2024

The Village of New Auburn (Village) had one of the greatest experiences with the Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA) in late 2023 through mid-2024. We are a small community with approximately 570 residents after our recent annexation, and as many communities can also echo, with limited budgets. Due to some unknown circumstances that occurred prior to the arrival of the current staff with the Village, both Public Works staff members left employment with the Village. This trend continued with the retirement of the long-standing part-time staff member in the office and the resignation of my predecessor.

Prior to my arrival the Village Board were able to retain the services of two bright individuals for the vacated Public Works positions. Both individuals had zero municipal experience, and thereby, no water or wastewater utility experience. Thereby, neither of them had the respective required training, experience or certificates to manage the Village's utilities. The Village was also able to retain an experienced Clerk and new Treasurer with appropriate financial, accountant and public service minded individuals to guide the development and growth of the Village as a whole.

WRWA staff worked closely with all the Village's new staff and retained consultant to ensure the Village did not have any preventable violation of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) regulations. Furthermore, if we had a violation, the WRWA was there to assist us with the reporting requirements and steps to ensure to alleviate and correct the situation. In addition, WRWA provided low-cost training opportunities throughout the State with locations near our community for reduced travel burdens. Other small communities that I have worked for have relied heavily upon WRWA for similar situations and training needs.

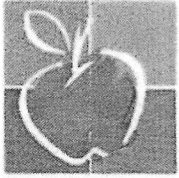
It is these services that are paramount for all small communities in the State of Wisconsin and would be an unfillable void if they were not here to assist us all when needed or required.

Sincerely,



Bradley J Hanson

Village Administrator-Clerk-Deputy Treasurer



**GAYS MILLS**  
**W I S C O N S I N**

VILLAGE OF GAYS MILLS  
16381 STATE HWY 131, STE. 1  
GAYS MILLS, WI 54631

October 25, 2024

Susan Poe  
Wastewater Program Manager  
National Rural Water Association  
2915 S. 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Duncan, OK 73533

I am writing on behalf of the Gays Mills Village Board and our Public Works Department regarding your recent request for letters of support for the Wisconsin Rural Water Association.

In July of 2024 our Director of Public Works choose employment elsewhere. A current employee stepped up and needed immediate assistance for Wastewater. Tony Roche, WRWA Wastewater Technician, was able to provide assistance to us with multiple site visits to our wastewater treatment plant along with assistance by phone and email. Tony has helped with recommendations on purchasing equipment, lab supplies, and also has provided instructions on performing wastewater testing and sampling.

The village appreciates the service and continued support that is provided by Wisconsin Rural Water Association in order to operate our wastewater treatment plant efficiently.

Sincerely,

Harry Heisz  
Village President





Brooke,

Thank you for helping the Village  
of Bay City with my Landspreading  
Plan and the WPOES permit application.  
Your help was greatly appreciated,

Chris Zeman

Director of Public Works

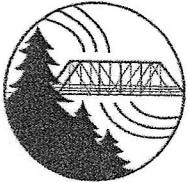
## Renee Koback

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**From:** Candice Grunseth <clerk@GILMANWI.GOV>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2024 8:37 AM  
**To:** Chris Groh; Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Thank you

I just want to send this email telling you guys how much help Brooke Klingbeil has been to our small community! She has been reviewing our past permits for Wastewater and sat in on our meeting with the DNR. She is knowledgeable and very easy to engage with. I don't feel stupid calling or emailing her my questions as she is always willing to look into things. I don't know where we would be at right now in the DNR publication process without Brooke's help. I have had a rough few years and this past year there has been more and more work with trying to get grants and save money for our small village. Without Brooke's assistance throughout the whole process I really don't know where we would be! I really appreciate all of her time on the permit process and trying to get us up to date with our ordinances. THANK YOU BROOKE and THANK YOU WRWA for allowing her to help small communities! We appreciate each person from WRWA that has helped us!  
Take care  
Candice

*Candice Grunseth, WCMC  
Village Clerk  
Village of Gilman  
715-447-8650  
[clerk@gilmanwi.gov](mailto:clerk@gilmanwi.gov)*



## Renee Koback

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**From:** Roger Secrist <rsecrist@florenceutilitieswi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 26, 2024 2:16 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Thank you!

Hi Renee,

I would like to express my appreciation to Matt Rettler and the entire WRWA organization for all the help and training that is offered along with the loaner equipment program. Florence is a small community that could never have accomplished the task such as the most recent Energy assessment that Matt had conducted or be able to purchase equipment that is offered for us to use in order for us to be able to do our jobs safely and efficiently. The top notch training that is offered to us is second to none in our opinion. So again Florence would like to thank you all for the great things that WRWA offers to communities like ours!

Thank you

Roger Secrist  
Utility Manager



PO Box 109  
501 Spring Ave  
Florence, WI 54121  
(715) 528-3330

Please note my new email address, [rsecrist@florenceutilitieswi.gov](mailto:rsecrist@florenceutilitieswi.gov)

**Renee Koback**

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**From:** website@wrwa.org  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 04, 2024 1:13 PM  
**To:** WRWA  
**Subject:** New submission from General Contact Form

**Name**

Ryan Ellis

**Employer**

mellen municipal utilities

**Email**

[utilities@cityofmellen.org](mailto:utilities@cityofmellen.org)

**Phone**

(715) 681-0609

**I would like to receive training notifications via email**

Yes

**Comments Or Question**

I just want to say thank you to my circuit rider, Dan Wundrow for answering my calls and helping with valve box lowering as well as bringing me the Data Loggers every summer.

I would like to also give a big thanks to Tony Roche for helping me with my Discharge permit application. The WRWA team is a life saver to new and inexperienced operators.

Thank You,

Ryan Ellis  
OIC- Mellen Municipal Utilities

## Renee Koback

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**From:** John McCue <pw3@centurytel.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 05, 2024 1:12 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback; Chris Groh  
**Subject:** City of Hayward Thanks You

I would like to thank WRWA so much for your hard work on the numerous projects the City of Hayward's had over the past year The Water and Sewer Utility Electrical Assessment from Matt Rettler. Dan Wundrow's Water Technical advice and tool loaner program. Tony Roche's Wastewater Technical advice and training.

I am really proud of the effort WRWA put into these projects and wanted to give you a shout-out for all your hard work. It's great to see how much you've grown as an association and team members, and it was my pleasure to work with WRWA on these projects.

Keep up the great work! I don't know what we would do without your help/service!

Thanks John

--

John McCue  
Public Works Director  
City of Hayward  
15889 W 3rd Street PO Box 969  
Hayward, WI 54843  
Phone: 715-634-4612  
Fax: 715-634-5868  
[pw3@centurytel.net](mailto:pw3@centurytel.net)  
[www.cityofhaywardwi.gov](http://www.cityofhaywardwi.gov)

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## **Three Lakes Sanitary District No. 1**

P.O. Box 325

Three Lakes, Wisconsin 54562

I am writing to express our appreciation for all you do, not just for Three Lakes, but for all your members.

If not for your organization, small districts, like ours, would struggle to survive. From your support staff in Plover helping with administrative questions, and keeping us up to date on pending legislation, and rule changes. Your Technical Conference, as well as the Outdoor Expo, create a chance for members to meet vendors we otherwise might not, as well as touching base with current vendors for new ideas.

Andrew was outstanding in helping us with, not only our Wellhead Protection Plan, but also a draft of our Wellhead Protection Ordinance. Andrew was instrumental in heading us in the correct direction and making sure we completed our task in a timely fashion.

Your Circuit Rider program is unequalled in professionalism and the knowledge they provide. They are always available by phone to answer questions, and in person when extra help is needed. Helping us with leak detection is one of the areas that still leaves me in amazement. Neither Ed Hendezel nor Todd Weich have been off the mark by more than a bucket of an excavator bucket. When our local repair contractor knows they have a locate by Rural Water, they are very quick to respond.

Helping with setting up our GIS Mapping was another remarkably easy process when Todd came to demonstrate and help us begin.

The use of loaner equipment provided by you is an additional area which allows access to equipment small districts would never be able to afford, or own, but desperately need. Making this equipment available, and having personnel to deliver it, and demonstrate operation, is extremely invaluable.

Please find our enclosed donation to your loaner equipment fund and keep up the good work.

See you in March.

Again, Thank You.

Three Lakes Sanitary Dist. #1

Dear Representatives,

The City of Owen would like to Thank WRWA for all their services through the 2024 year. Todd Weich always answers his phone when called. He is always here when we have issues with our water system.

WRWA now has Brooke, an amazing EPA Wastewater Technician on board now and Tony their Wastewater Technician This will also help small towns in the future.

Its is sure nice knowing we are not alone in this world when we have any kind of issues. Its also nice when they all just check in and just stopping to update us on upcoming EPA or DNR stuff coming down the chain.

Thank You all at WRWA for everything you all do. We could not do our best job without you all!!

Chad J Smith  
Director of Public Works  
City of Owen.



## Village of Almena

131 Soo Ave. East - PO Box 277  
Almena, WI 54805-0277  
715-357-6600

December 10, 2024

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

**RE: Training and Technical Assistance for Small Public Water Systems to Achieve and Maintain Compliance with the SDWA**

To Whom It May Concern,

Your U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant program in PY24 has played an integral role in providing training and technical assistance (T/TA) for our small public water system in Almena by achieving and maintaining compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Your drinking water Training Specialist, Seth Petersen with WI Rural Water Association, provided comprehensive guidance to ensure our system can attain and maintain financial and managerial capacity.

Specifically, this important program assisted us to complete our lead service line inventory and send out customer notification letters. Furthermore, your Specialist assisted in providing advanced training to our operators, giving them confidence, and better equipping them with the knowledge to ensure the system maintains quality drinking water while remaining in compliance with regulatory requirements.

This service is invaluable to our community and communities like ours who lack the resources to ensure the protection of safe drinking water and public health. The continuation of this program for our system into PY25 and beyond is imperative, as there are additional needs, such as providing T/TA to help continue to update our lead service line inventory and find funding to confirm and remove lead service lines in Almena that can be addressed through this program and cannot be resolved by a community with a population of 704 and Median Household Income (MHI) of \$44,000.

Thank you for your continued support in assisting us with our small public water system. Your T/TA continues to improve water quality for the residents of Almena.

Sincerely,

Alan Gabe, Village President



To Whom it may concern,

I'm a new trustee to the Village of Tony. I moved to this area 15 months ago. Never been a member of any village, have ran mfg. companies all my life. Since moving I was "voluntold" to be on the board. Since being on board, I have discovered many things. I am currently working becoming the water/wastewater operator. So extremely new to everything. Seth and his team have been to me life savers. Getting me information for everything. Also being very patient with my dumb questions. With his help we will make this village better.

Jeffrey W Hurlebaus  
Village of Tony

December 11, 2024

Chris Groh

Wisconsin Rural Water Association

RE: Assistance with updating our Emergency Response Plan

Hello Chris,

I am writing this letter to express my gratitude for the assistance our circuit rider, Todd Weich had given us in updating our Emergency Response Plan. With this task and like so many things Wisconsin Rural Water Association does for us is priceless. From assisting with plan updates and all the training WRWA provides, our small water and wastewater utility could not keep up with the demands without WRWA.

Thank you for all you do for us!!

Sincerely,

Mike Sanborn, Utility Manager  
Eagle River Light & Water

**Renee Koback**

---

**From:** Julie Benson <jbensonsandist@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2024 8:58 AM  
**To:** Renee Koback  
**Subject:** Re: Rural Water E-News 12/4/2024  
**Attachments:** image003.jpg; image005.png; image006.jpg; image001.jpg; image002.png

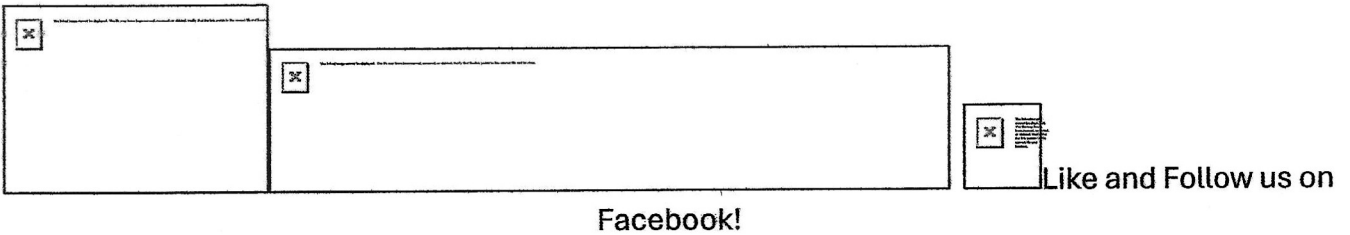
Hello Renee,

I wanted to write to you and let you know that Tony Roche came to our office to help me study for my wastewater general basic test and I did pass that test! It was immensely helpful, Tony is a great teacher and explained things very well. I was very appreciative that he was able to come to me to help me. Big thanks to Tony!!!

Have a good day!

Julie *Lakeland Sanitary District No 1*

On Wed, Dec 4, 2024 at 11:41 AM Renee Koback <[RKoback@wrwa.org](mailto:RKoback@wrwa.org)> wrote:



## **RURAL WATER E-NEWS**

.....

..... **12/4/2024**

**We always jokingly say our only "charge" for our service is a thank you letter.** Have you written one to us for a service one of our staff helped with? All these thank you notes go to our representatives in Washington DC and help us fund USDA Rural Development and our services. Please and thank you for a thank you!

# Wisconsin Rural Water Association

## Impact on Wisconsin by Congressional Districts

### DISTRICT 8

Legend:
Blue - Waterworks Assistance
Green - Energy Efficiency
Yellow - EPA Water Case Studies
Teal/Aqua – Source Water Assistance
Light Brown – Wastewater Assistance

Contact Date	System Name	System Contact	Position	System Connections/ Energy Savings	Total Contact Time	Savings to System
12/26/23	Freedom Sanitary District	Nicole Keckhaver	Operator	1700 W / 1700 WW	3.0 hrs.	\$1,500
<p>Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was contacted by Nicole Keckhaver for technical assistance in how to operate the water quality testing equipment. Todd met with Nicole at the water plant. She operates an iron removal and Zeo-lite softening water plant and had questions about what testing is required and how to adjust some of the operations of the water plant. Todd explained how the iron filter works and where to take testing samples from. He also showed Nicole how the valves worked in auto and hand operations. He explained backwashing procedures of the iron filter. Next, they went over the softening filters and discussed operation and regeneration of those filters. Once all three samples were tested, Todd explained the results and how the filter processed worked. Todd told Nicole based on the results for the iron concentration that the iron filters are not functioning properly. To her knowledge, the iron filter had not been serviced since it was installed in 2008. Todd told Nicole that she is required to do 1 iron test per week. They discussed how to record the samples, the importance of recording the results, and how it will help trend the effectiveness of the filters. Todd explained the water plant would need further technical assistance down the road. WRWA saved the system approximately \$1,500 in engineering fees.</p>						
1/22/24	Combined Locks Waterworks	Ryan Swick	Public Works Director	0 W / 0 WW	1.25 hrs.	\$800
<p>Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was contacted by Ryan Swick for technical assistance with an Emergency Chlorination Plan (ECP) required by the DNR. Todd met with Ryan and gathered the information needed to complete an ECP. Due to their system specifications, the ECP necessary is different than what the DNR requires so Todd needed to do some research. The Village of Combined Locks has no injection points, water reservoir, or tower for dosing of chlorine, which is a unique situation. On 1/23/24, Todd completed an ECP and sent it to Ryan. Ryan approved the plan and submitted it to the DNR for approval. The plan was approved by the DNR and implemented. WRWA saved the village approximately \$800, the estimated cost of having the village engineer complete the plan.</p>						
3/11/24	Goodman Sanitary District #1	Nikki Millian	Wastewater Operations Specialist	13,923 kWh		\$1,693 annually
<p>Notes: WRWA Energy Efficiency Technician Matt Rettler performed an energy efficiency assessment. The Wastewater Operations Specialist, Nikki Millian, took Matt through the entire wastewater process. By implementing WRWA's recommendations, the Goodman Sanitary District can save 13,923 kWh and \$1,693 per year in energy costs.</p>						
6/26/24	Black Creek Waterworks	Michael Caler	Water Operation Specialist	356 W / 356 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$2,500
<p>Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was contacted by Steve Hackl, Water Superintendent, to assist him with fire flows within his municipality. Todd met with Michael Caler, the Water Operation Specialists, at the wastewater plant. Scott Sassman and Michael explained to Todd they had a request for some fire flows because the village has some construction project planned. Todd explained the process of obtaining information needed for the calculations for fire flows. Todd and Michael went out into the system and performed several different fire flows from different hydrants. They tested several different areas within the distribution system that was requested then went back to the wastewater plant to discuss the results. Todd explained that the area tested had passed the requirements set by the DNR, but one area was very close to not meeting the requirements and should be looked at in the future. WRWA's technical assistance saved the Village of Black Creek \$2,500 by not having an engineering firm perform the task.</p>						

7/10/24	Niagara Waterworks	Jim Stachowicz	Public Works Director	586 W / 586 WW	2.75 hrs.	\$5,000
Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was contacted by Jim Stachowicz to assist him in performing leak detection. Jim had a leak within his water system but had not been able to locate it. The water loss was at about 45%. Todd explained the next step to leak detection was to go out into the system and listen to some hydrants with the LD-12 leak detection listening device. Todd gathered the equipment needed for the testing and they started to listen to fire hydrants. Todd discovered six fire hydrants that were leaking and determined that one could possibly be a main break. Todd and Jim decided they could either isolate the fire hydrants or shut them off all the way. In the area of the possible main break, the main valves needed to be cleaned out so the leak could be pinpointed. On 7/22/24, Todd returned, and they were able to pinpoint the location of the leak. Later that week the leak was repaired, but there was still some water loss. More leak detection is scheduled for the future. WRWA's services saved the village about \$5,000 in water loss from the leak.						
7/23/24	Kewaunee					\$30,000
Notes: Kewaunee received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which saved the city \$30,000 in engineering fees.						
7/30/24	Coleman					\$30,000
Notes: Coleman received a wellhead protection plan from WRWA which saved the village \$30,000 in engineering fees.						
8/12/24	Kewaunee Waterworks	Tony Sinkula	Water Superintendent	819 W / 819 WW	2.75 hrs.	\$6,000
Notes: WRWA Circuit Rider Todd Weich was contacted by Tony Sinkula to assist in performing leak detection. On 8/6/24, Todd met with Tony and explained the next step in the leak detection efforts was to go through the system and listen to hydrants with the leak detection listening device. He gathered the equipment needed for the testing. They went to the intersection where they suspected the leak and opened the valve cover. Todd had Tony put a valve wrench on the valve. It was determined the leak was close by. They listened, narrowed the leak location down, and then correlated the leak. Correlation gave a spike for the location of the leak. Excavation was scheduled for repairs and Todd vowed to return and continue leak detection efforts if the excavation did not produce the leak location. On 8/12/24, Todd returned and met with Tony for the digging and repair of the leak. The location of the leak was confirmed to be where they had marked the location. WRWA's services saved the system about \$6,000 for leak detection and not having to excavate the roadway.						
9/26/24	Bowler Waterworks	Aaron Gutt	Wastewater Superintendent	80 W / 80 WW	3.50 hrs.	\$1,000
Notes: Aaron Gutt asked WRWA Wastewater Technician Jesse Hass to help with a duckweed problem at the treatment lagoon. They had tried a few options in the past including a trash-pump, which can cause process problems in the lagoons. The trash pump pumped too much water and there was no way to screen out the duckweed as it was pulled. Aaron purchased an elevator to remove the duckweed and asked Jesse to return to help try out the new process. Aaron also purchased a 250-foot roll of drain tile to move the duckweed to the corner where the elevator was located. Once the duckweed was concentrated in the corner, Aaron and Jesse shoveled duckweed onto the conveyer. They filled 2 loader buckets full. Jesse and Aaron will meet again to discuss more efficient removal plans. WRWA's assistance saved the village approximately \$1,000 in labor costs.						
10/9/24	Manawa Waterworks	Nick Weed	Wastewater Operations Specialist	450 W / 450 WW	3.50 hrs.	\$5,000
Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Jesse Hass had met with the Manawa public works crew a few times since a flood in July. During the flood, plastic disks to help facilitate bug growth within the treatment process escaped the tank they were confined to and entered every other tank in the wastewater plant. Jesse met and discussed this problem with the Director of Public Works, Josh Smith, and Wastewater Operation Specialists, Nick Weed and Wayne Wendt. Jesse suggested getting a few more operators from other towns to figure out a plan to remove the disks from the treatment process. Jesse invited operators from five treatment plants Amherst, New London, Waupaca, Iola, and Clintonville. He explained the problem and led a tour of the plant. The group offered ideas to remove the disks. Once the meeting was over, Josh contacted his hauler and the farmer. The city was able to spread sludge with a few disks in the sludge. From there his crew was able to remove most of the disks. WRWA saved the city approximately \$5,000 in consulting fees and not having to screen out all the disks.						
11/25/24	Gresham Waterworks	Ryan James	Wastewater Superintendent	153 W / 153 WW	2.25 hrs.	\$15,000
Notes: WRWA Wastewater Technician Jesse Hass was contacted by Ryan James to help with a few reports due by the end of 2024. Jesse and Ryan met at his office and began by reading over his permit and deciding what was required for the utility to complete. The first report was an Operation Evaluation Report for E-Coli testing. This report is due by 11/30/24.						

Jesse contacted Amy Garbe and Heidi Schmidt-Marquez from the DNR to clarify what was needed for Gresham's report. The DNR requested a short report for this year, and the subsequent reports would be waived. Next Jesse and Ryan discussed the utility's upcoming phosphorus operation evaluation report. Jesse provided Ryan with a phosphorus operation report from another community to use as a template. Jesse asked Ryan to gather the information, and he would help Ryan finish the report in December. WRWA saved the village approximately \$15,000 in engineering firm fees.

May 3, 2024

Kelly Thomas, Technical Assistance Director  
Wisconsin Rural Water Association  
350 Water Way  
Plover, WI 54467

Dear Mr. Thomas,

I am writing to express my appreciation for Brooke Klingbeil and all of her hard work for the Oneida Utility to train a new wastewater lab coordinator.

A recent retirement of our seasoned lab coordinator left us with questions on proper lab procedures and reporting. Brooke stepped in and seamlessly assessed our lab, reviewed our procedures and worked with our staff to develop new bench sheets, recommend new lab equipment and provide procedural training for wastewater compliance testing and reporting. Brooke has a unique way of breaking down complex regulations and procedures into a language someone other than a regulator can understand. She has made several site visits over the period of a few months and is always available via phone to answer any questions we have. She is also very personable and works well with all of my staff.

Brooke is truly a valuable asset to the Oneida Nation. Thank you for supporting the work she does and I look forward to working with her in the future.

Sincerely,



Scott Cottrell  
Utility Manager  
Oneida Nation



June 20, 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the hard work and commitment that Kelly Thomas and his colleagues at Wisconsin Rural Water Association have with assisting and educating businesses regarding different areas of water testing and compliance. I have been in the Ready Mix Concrete industry for approximately 8 years and have worked with Kelly and his team to ensure I stay up to date on anything dealing with Small Water Systems, testing and the operator certification. I have attended several classes by Kelly and his team and they are extremely valuable with excellent teachers. Kelly answers his emails timely and never hesitates to come to our office to ensure we complete tasks accurately and timely for the DNR. We appreciate Kelly and his team at WRWA.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 920-731-9771 ext 116.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cassie Krause".

Cassie Krause  
Director of HR & Safety





June 20, 2024

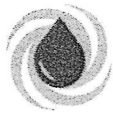
To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the hard work and commitment that Kelly Thomas and his colleagues at Wisconsin Rural Water Association have with assisting and educating businesses regarding different areas of water testing and compliance. I have been in the Ready Mix Concrete industry for approximately 25 years and have worked with Kelly and his team to ensure I stay up to date on anything dealing with Small Water Systems, testing and the operator certification. I have attended several classes by Kelly and his team, and they are extremely valuable with excellent teachers. Kelly answers his emails timely and never hesitates to come to our office to ensure we complete tasks accurately and timely for the DNR. We appreciate Kelly and his team at WRWA.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 920-216-0613.

Thank you!

Jake Stelter  
Carew Concrete and Supply Co., Inc.



**WISCONSIN PUMP WORKS**  
-a UFT Company-

507-645-8004  
[info@wisconsinpumpworks.com](mailto:info@wisconsinpumpworks.com)  
[wisconsinpumpworks.com](http://wisconsinpumpworks.com)  
1720 Fire Lane Drive , Green Bay,  
WI 54311

September 6, 2024

Wisconsin Rural Water Association (WRWA)  
350 Water Way  
Plover, WI 54467

Dear WRWA Team,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the exceptional support provided by your programs. As a small business, we rely heavily on the resources and connections made possible through WRWA, and your ongoing efforts have been invaluable in helping us better serve our customers.

The conferences you organize are consistently well-attended, and we truly appreciate the opportunity to share water/wastewater/pump knowledge with fellow industry professionals. These experiences not only help us grow as a business but also allow us to contribute to the larger mission of providing clean, efficient, and sustainable water solutions in Wisconsin.

Thank you again for your continued support and dedication. WRWA's work ensures that businesses like ours can stay informed, connected, and empowered to make a difference.

Sincerely,

Janice Peterson  
Marketing Manager  
Wisconsin Pump Works

## Renee Koback

---

**From:** Brenda Staudenmaier  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 31, 2024 1:24 PM  
**To:** WRWA; Renee Koback; Chris Groh; Kelly Thomas  
**Subject:** FW: Winter operations course

Not sure if you want to see emails like this or not.

Brenda Staudenmaier  
Training Specialist  
(608) 338-6634 Cell  
[brenda@wrwa.org](mailto:brenda@wrwa.org)  
[wrwa.org](http://wrwa.org)



---

**From:** Erik Schutzius <[eschutzius@villageofbellevuewi.gov](mailto:eschutzius@villageofbellevuewi.gov)>  
**Date:** Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 1:20 PM  
**To:** Brenda Staudenmaier <[Brenda@wrwa.org](mailto:Brenda@wrwa.org)>  
**Subject:** Winter operations course

Hi, I recently attended the Winter operations training with two of my operators at the WRWA Technology center. We all enjoyed the class and my operators felt it was very knowledgeable. We appreciate all that your organization does for this industry and hope you continue to host these sessions as time goes on.

Thank You,



Erik Schutzius | **Utility Superintendent**  
Village of Bellevue | 2828 Allouez Avenue | Bellevue, Wisconsin 54311  
☎ (920) 593-5503 | 📠 (920) 468-4196 | ✉ [eschutzius@villageofbellevuewi.gov](mailto:eschutzius@villageofbellevuewi.gov)

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Save money and the environment; think twice before printing this email.

To Whom it may concern,

I am a water/wastewater operator for the village of Black Creek. I have 3 years of experience in the wastewater field. Being fairly new to this, Jesse, and the whole crew at WI Rural Water, have been more than helpful to me. Black Creek is planning a wastewater plant upgrade. Jesse has helped me prepare for this upgrade, and has given me questions to ask from our engineers. We have also discussed together different operation choices for the new plant. In closing I think WI Rural Water is valuable to the water and wastewater operators in our state.

Scott Sassman

## Renee Koback

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**From:** Jesse Hass  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 14, 2024 5:03 PM  
**To:** Renee Koback; Chris Groh  
**Subject:** Fwd: GPS Assistance

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Ryan James <rjames@villageofgresham.us>  
**Date:** Nov 14, 2024 4:36 PM  
**Subject:** GPS Assistance  
**To:** Jesse Hass <JHass@wrwa.org>  
**Cc:**

Dear Jesse,

I wanted to extend my heartfelt thanks for all the help you provided with the GPS mapping of our water and sewer system. Your expertise and willingness to assist made a huge difference in moving this project forward smoothly. Your guidance in navigating the technical aspects saved us so much time and ensured we have a reliable and accurate map.

I truly appreciate your support and collaboration. Thanks again for going above and beyond to help us out!

Warm regards,  
Ryan James  
Operator Gresham Utilities

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