



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 |
| | | | | \$17,831,000 | \$10,176,263 |



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 ^A | \$496,716,000 ^B | \$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 ^C | \$1,638,861,000 ^C | \$1,638,861,000 |
| | Drinking Water State Revolving Fund | \$1,126,101,000 | \$1,126,101,000 | \$883,515,000 ^D | \$1,126,101,000 ^D | \$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 |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| USDA | Chair TBD Ranking Member TBD | Chair TBD Ranking Member TBD |
| Interior (EPA) | Chair TBD Ranking Member TBD | Chair TBD Ranking Member TBD |
| Labor | 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 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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|---------|--------------------|----------|-----------------------------|-----------|--|----------------|
| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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.

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| 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

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

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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

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

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

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

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

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)

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