

Quality On Tap!

January 2026 | Volume 21, Issue 3

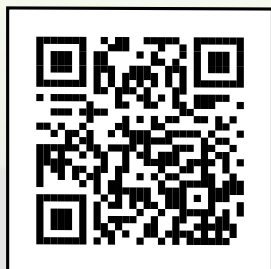
REGISTER TODAY!



**ANNUAL TECHNICAL
CONFERENCE**

JANUARY 13-15, 2026

Ramkota Hotel & Convention Center
Pierre, South Dakota



REGISTER ONLINE!

sdarws.com/ATC



**PROTECTING
SOUTH DAKOTA'S
GROUNDWATER**

**HOW CYBER THREATS
AFFECT RURAL WATER
SYSTEMS**

**2025 SOUTH DAKOTA
RURAL WATER HALL OF
FAME INDUCTEES**



ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Annual Technical Conference - January 13-15, 2026

Plans are underway for the 2026 Annual Technical Conference January 13-15 at the Ramkota Convention Center in Pierre, SD. Registration is available online at sdarws.com/atc. For more information on this year's ATC, including the agenda, please see pages 13-15



WATER TASTE TEST CONTEST

This year's Exhibit Hall will feature a public judging of the top three finalists in the SD Rural Water Taste Test. The winner chosen at this taste test will go on to represent South Dakota in the National Rural Water Taste Test held at the Rural Water Rally in Washington, DC in February of 2027. **If your water system or municipality is interested in participating in the taste test, please make sure that they bring a quart-sized glass jar filled with water from your system to the Registration Desk by 2:00pm on Tuesday, January 13th.**

FOURTH ANNUAL ATC METER CHALLENGE

We are excited to host the Fourth Annual ATC Meter Challenge. This competition will test and measure how quickly, totally, and accurately you can assemble a working water meter. There is no cost to participate, and there are prizes for the top three contestants. Timed trials will take place on Wednesday, January 14th from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM at the SD Rural Water Booth. The top 5 finalists will compete at 4:30 PM in the Exhibit Hall. A full list of rules can be found at sdarws.com/meterchallenge.



JEREMIAH CORBIN
Executive Director



ROBYN BROTHERS
Business Manager



PAUL DORWART
Field Supervisor



JENNIFER BAME
Marketing



KEVIN CHRISTENSON
Source Water



KINDRA WIESE
Apprenticeship



STEVE ATTEMA
Training Specialist



MIKE MOELLER
Training Specialist



GAVIN GRAVERSON
Training Specialist



JIM VAVRA
Training Specialist



HANNAH KAST
Training Specialist



TIM DONOVAN
Training Specialist



JEFF FOSSOM
Training Specialist



ALLEN KOCMICH
Circuit Rider



DAVE DUBA
Circuit Rider



WYATT HIX
Circuit Rider



DANNY AYERS
Wastewater Tech.

SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF RURAL WATER SYSTEMS • 203 W. Center Street • P.O. Box 287, Madison, SD 57042 • 605-556-7219 • email: info@sdarws.com • www.sdarws.com

SDARWS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- South Lincoln Rural Water System**
Lloyd Poppens, President
- Sioux Rural Water System**
Jim Thyen, Vice President
- Big Sioux Community Water System**
Jodi Johanson, Secretary
- Mid-Dakota Rural Water System**
Jeff McGirr, Treasurer
- Aurora-Brule Rural Water System**
Ron Gillen, NRW Director

SDARWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Clark Rural Water System**
Marlin Fjelland
- Clay Rural Water System**
Mark Bottolfson

- BDM Rural Water System**
Torre Raap
- Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System**
Gary Johnson
- Butte-Meade Sanitary Water District**
Bob Lewis
- B-Y Water User District**
Paul Baumiller
- Dakota Mainstem**
Kurt Pfeifle
- Davison Rural Water System**
Bob Weisz
- Fall River Water User District**
Keith Neugebauer
- Grant-Roberts Rural Water System**
Tom Frogner
- Hanson Rural Water System**
Doug Degen

- Kingbrook Rural Water System**
Doyle Renaas
- Lewis & Clark Rural Water System**
Sid Munson
- Lincoln County Rural Water System**
Joe Burns
- Minnehaha Community Water Corporation**
Lloyd Rave
- Mni Wasté Water Association**
Oren Lesmeister
- Oglala Sioux Rural Water Supply**
OPEN
- Perkins County Rural Water System**
Lynn Frey
- Randall Community Water District**
Dave Meyerink
- Rapid Valley Sanitary District/ Water Service**
Bob Phillips

- TM Rural Water District**
Greg Nugteren
- Tripp County Water User District**
Louis Kehn
- WEB Water Development Association**
Les Hinds
- Western Dakota Regional Water System**
Kristin Conzet
- West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water System**
Rick Doud
- Class B East River**
Terry Manning (Miller, SD)
- Class B West River**
Luke Clements (Bison, SD)
- Class C**
Jay Gilbertson

DOES YOUR SYSTEM HAVE THE BEST WATER IN SOUTH DAKOTA?

ENTER THE SD RURAL WATER TASTE TEST CONTEST AT THE 2026 ATC!



RULES:

- Bring your sample to the ATC registration table by 2:00 PM on Tuesday
- Samples must be submitted in a glass jar quart size or larger labeled with your system name.
- No water system can represent more than one entry from their system.
- Systems submitting samples must be members of SDARWS and meet DANR approval by having no violations of bacteriological testing or chemical monitoring for two years prior to the Taste Test.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

A panel of judges will be selected to choose the winners. Judges will consider:

- Taste
- Clarity
- Odor

PRIZES:

First place will represent all of South Dakota in the National Drinking Water Taste Test in Washington, DC in February 2027, an art-glass trophy, two Full-Conference registration passes for the 2027 Annual Technical Conference, recognition in *ServiceLine* magazine, and bragging rights for the next year!

ATC KEYNOTE: JERRID SEBESTA

SDARWS is excited to welcome Jerrid Sebesta as the keynote presenter for our upcoming conference. With a compelling story and a bold message, Jerrid inspires high achievers to shift from mere success to deeper alignment – and to live lives of impact now, not “someday.”

Jerrid’s journey began in broadcast journalism, where he spent years as a TV meteorologist – a role many would call a dream career. But behind the scenes, he felt discontent: successful by outward standards, yet restless and unfulfilled. Eventually, he walked away from it all with no safety net, a radical leap that became the catalyst for his mission to guide professionals to stop deferring their lives and start stepping courageously into their potential.

At the core of his work is the belief that success without alignment can feel hollow. Many people build accomplishments, titles, and income – yet still feel like much of their potential is untapped. Jerrid challenges audiences to reframe fear as fuel, to shift their identity so that success feels natural and authentic, and to stop waiting for permission before taking bold, sometimes uncomfortable, action that creates real momentum. He emphasizes that people don’t necessarily need more strategy, information, or time – but the courage to act, now.

His message is a perfect fit for our industry, where professionals are deeply committed to service and infrastructure but often face stress, challenges, and burnout. Jerrid brings not just motivation, but practical insight that helps people reconnect with purpose, claim ownership of their lives, and lead with renewed energy. His engaging style blends storytelling with actionable takeaways, ensuring every attendee leaves with something meaningful.

When Jerrid takes the stage, his presentation promises to be a highlight of the ATC – inspiring, practical, and unforgettable.

Don’t miss Jerrid’s keynote address at 1:00 PM Tuesday, January 13th following the Awards Luncheon, and his keynote breakout at 3:00 in Amphitheater II.





OPERATOR CERTIFICATION TRAINING AND EXAMS



Register for training classes online at: web.sdarws.com/events

Classes start at 8:00 AM Tuesday through Thursday. Classes end at approximately 4:30 PM on Tuesday and Wednesday, and noon on Thursday. One-day Workshops start at 8:00 AM and end at 4:30 PM.

Basic Water Treatment	Rapid City Ramkota	January 27-29, 2026
OpCert Exam	Rapid City Ramkota @ 1:00	January 29 @ 1:00
Small Water Treatment	Zoom	February 12, 2026
Stabilization Pond Workshop	Mobridge - Grand River Casino	February 18, 2026
Intermediate Water Treatment	Pierre-Ramkota	March 10-12, 2026
OpCert Exam	Pierre - Ramkota @ 1:00	March 12 @ 1:00
Wastewater Collection	Sioux Falls	March 24-26, 2026
OpCert Exam	Sioux Falls @ 1:00	March 26 @ 1:00
Stabilization Pond Workshop	Mitchell	April 9, 2026
Basic Wastewater Treatment	Sioux Falls	April 14-16, 2026
OpCert Exam	Sioux Falls @ 1:00	April 16 @ 1:00
Water Distribution	Sioux Falls	May 5-7, 2026
OpCert Exam	Sioux Falls @ 1:00	May 7 @ 1:00
Advanced Wastewater Treatment	Rapid City	May 19-21, 2026
OpCert Exam	Rapid City @ 1:00	May 21 @ 1:00
Basic Water Treatment	Aberdeen	June 23-25, 2026
OpCert Exam	Aberdeen @ 1:00	June 25 @ 1:00

EXAM INFORMATION

All exams cost \$60.00 and must be taken “in-person.” Any exam can be taken at an exam session. You can take more than one exam at an exam session; however, the exam session remains at three hours long.

All exam applications are due no later than two weeks prior to the exam date to DANR. Questions regarding exams can be directed to Tammie Hill with DANR at 605-773-3577.

DANR OPERATOR CERTIFICATION WEBSITE

danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/OperatorCert/default.aspx

The Stabilization Pond class deals strictly with ponds/lagoons and is the best class for preparing to take the Small WW Exam. The Basic WW Treatment class deals with all types of wastewater treatment other than ponds/lagoons and is the best class for preparing to take the Class I WW Treatment exam. Small Systems that use ponds/lagoons

for treatment can come into compliance with the Operator Certification Law by passing either the Small WW System exam or the Class I WW Treatment Exam.

Water systems serving less than 500 individuals and using wells as its source can come into compliance by passing the Small Water Treatment exam. Larger systems must pass the Class I Water Treatment exam or higher depending on the facility classification.

TRAINING CLASSES

Certification Training Classes are conducted by the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems. **These classes are presented at no charge.** Certified Operators can obtain contact hours for attending all of the above classes.

For more information on certification training classes, please contact Tim Donovan with SDARWS at 605-270-4245 or email tdonovan@sdarws.com.

NOW IS THE TIME TO WINTERIZE!

A quick step outside – and a simple glance at the calendar – is all it takes to remember what’s coming. South Dakota winters are unavoidable, and for most of us, just part of life on the Plains. But taking a little time now to properly winterize your home – especially your pipes – can save you time, money, and a whole lot of stress once the cold settles in.

A broken pipe can cause significant water loss and major damage. A hole as small as 1/8 inch can leak an astonishing 296,000 gallons of water over a three-month period – roughly 3,200 gallons every day. That’s about the same amount of water one person typically uses in a month. To put it in perspective, that much water can fill an 850-square-foot basement with six inches of water in just 24 hours. Fortunately, there are several simple steps you can take now to protect your home and keep your pipes from freezing this winter.

Insulate your pipes

Burst pipes are every homeowner’s worst nightmare. Focus on pipes in unheated areas – like crawl spaces, basements, and attics. Wrap them with pre-molded foam sleeves or fiberglass insulation from your local hardware store. You can also use heat tape, which is an electrical cable designed to emit heat along your pipes. Always choose UL-approved heat tape and install it according to the manufacturer’s instructions to avoid fire hazards. Be sure to inspect old heat tape regularly – it can fail after years of use.

Know where your master shut-off and service line valves are

In an emergency, seconds matter. If your water meter is in your basement, the master shut-off valve should be nearby. Your service line valve – which turns off water to your entire property – should be clearly marked. Make sure every adult in your home knows where these valves are located.

Inspect your meter pit

Add straw or other insulating material to help protect the meter and surrounding pipes. Mark the location of the pit so it isn’t damaged by snowplows or equipment. If anything looks damaged, contact your rural water system to take a look.

Disconnect outside hoses and faucets

Detach and drain all outside hoses. If your outdoor faucet isn’t self-draining, consider installing an interior shut-off valve and drain. Don’t forget your in-ground sprinkler system – it needs to be properly blown out before freezing weather arrives.

Seal outside openings and cracks

Cold air slipping into your home can cause pipes to freeze. Check exterior walls, foundations, sill plates, doors, windows, and basement access points for gaps. Seal them with caulk, foam, or fiberglass insulation. Make sure basement windows and access doors are closed tightly and sealed for the season.

OTHER WINTERIZING TIPS

- **Clean your gutters!** Gutters clogged with leaves and debris can form ice dams, which can cause water to seep into your house and cause damage. Also check to make sure your downspouts are carrying water away from your home’s foundation to further prevent flooding or water damage.
- **If you are going to be away from your home** for a long period of time, have your rural water system shut off your water.
- **Keep sink cabinet doors open** during cold spells or winter power outages to allow warm air to circulate around the pipes.
- **Trim trees to prevent snow and ice** from weighing them down and causing breakage – possibly damaging your home or vehicles.



PROTECTING SOUTH DAKOTA'S GROUNDWATER

How Wellhead Delineation Zones Are Designed and Why They Matter

By Kevin Christenson, Source Water Protection Specialist – South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems

In South Dakota, protecting public drinking water starts long before it reaches the tap. The effort begins deep underground, in the aquifers that supply homes, farms, and communities across the state. To keep those sources safe, South Dakota uses a proven strategy known as wellhead and aquifer protection – an approach that focuses on preventing contamination before it happens by identifying and managing the areas of land that contribute water to public supply wells.

At the heart of this effort are two critical protection areas – Zone A and Zone B – which are carefully mapped and monitored. These zones are based on how groundwater flows beneath the surface and how long it takes water, and any potential contaminants it may carry, to travel through the aquifer and reach the well. This concept, known as time of travel, plays a central role in how South Dakota protects its drinking water at the source.

Time-of-travel refers to the estimated amount of time it takes groundwater to flow from a specific point in the aquifer to the wellhead. It's influenced by the characteristics of the aquifer, including soil or rock porosity, the slope of the water table, and the volume of water pumped from the well. Using this information, hydrogeologists create detailed models that simulate groundwater movement

and help identify which areas contribute water to the well over specific periods – typically ten years. These studies form the scientific basis for delineating South Dakota's two primary aquifer protection zones.

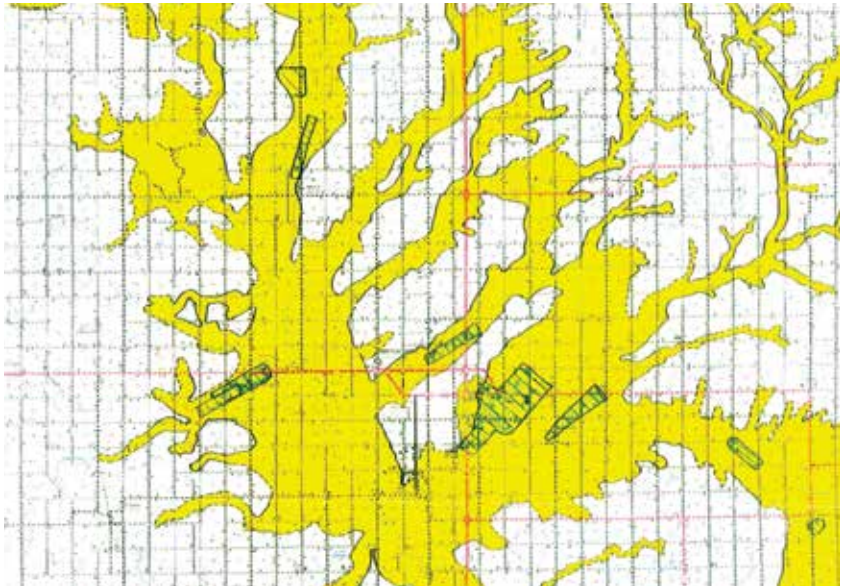
In South Dakota, the terms “Zone A” and “Zone B” are used locally by counties and municipalities to describe aquifer protection zones, not weather or agricultural regions. The specific boundaries and rules for each zone are established through local zoning ordinances and are based on the risk of groundwater contamination.

Zone A represents the most sensitive area surrounding a public water supply well or wellfield. Often referred to as the critical impact zone, capture zone, or wellhead protection area, it encompasses the land where water drains directly into the aquifer that supplies the well. This zone often represents a 10-year time-of-travel boundary, meaning it is the area from which groundwater could reach the well within ten years. Because contaminants introduced in this area can migrate quickly into the water supply, Zone A is managed with the strictest protections. High-risk activities – such as chemical storage, fuel tanks, intensive livestock operations, or waste disposal sites – are typically prohibited or tightly regulated. Protecting this zone gives communities a vital buffer, allowing time to detect and respond to potential contamination before it reaches the well.

Zone B encompasses the remainder of the mapped shallow or surficial aquifer that extends beyond Zone A. While groundwater in this zone takes longer to reach a well, it remains a vital resource for both public systems and private wells. Regulations in Zone B are generally less restrictive but still emphasize prevention and best management practices. Activities may be permitted if they adhere to standards such as secondary containment for fuel or chemical tanks, careful application of fertilizers and pesticides, and responsible land-use planning to minimize contamination risks. Because Zone B often includes a mix of residential, agricultural, industrial, and undeveloped land, management focuses on cooperation, education, and monitoring rather than outright prohibition.

Several South Dakota counties have adopted local ordinances that define and manage these protection zones. In Brookings County, the zoning ordinance designates Zone A as the wellhead protection area and Zone B as the remainder of the mapped aquifer. Clay County uses a similar two-zone overlay district for groundwater protection. In the Black Hills region, hydrologically sensitive areas are designated as Zone A for comprehensive contaminant inventories, while Zone B includes the broader watershed assessment area. These local policies ensure that land-use decisions – from new construction to agricultural practices – consider their potential impact on groundwater quality.

Delineating Zones A and B typically begins with a detailed hydrogeologic study. Scientists gather data on well construction, pumping rates, aquifer structure, soil types, and groundwater flow. With this information, computer models simulate how water moves underground and estimate the boundaries of the ten-year time-of-travel zone. In South Dakota, community and non-transient non-community public water systems are encouraged to complete these delineations. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR)



Brookings County Groundwater Protection Zone Map

recommends either a ten-year time-of-travel boundary or a one-mile radius – whichever is greater – especially for unconfined or semi-confined aquifers.

Maps showing these delineations typically feature a central well surrounded by two color-coded zones. Zone A, often depicted in red, forms a smaller, high-risk area around the well, while Zone B, typically shown in blue, extends outward in accordance with the natural flow of groundwater. These maps are valuable tools for land-use planning, emergency preparedness, and public education. For example, delineations from the Big Sioux Aquifer region help local governments and water operators make informed decisions based on actual groundwater behavior.

Groundwater contamination can be extremely difficult and expensive to clean up. In some cases, it's irreversible. That's why South Dakota's focus on prevention is so important. By managing what happens on the land above and around wells, communities can greatly reduce the likelihood of pollutants reaching the aquifer in the first place.

Aquifer protection zones are more than lines on a map – they are practical, science-based safeguards for public health. They ensure that decisions regarding development, agriculture, and industry consider their impact on drinking water. With these zones in place, South Dakota communities are better equipped to protect one of their most valuable resources – clean, safe groundwater for generations to come.

Groundwater contamination is difficult – and often impossible – to clean up. Prevention is our strongest protection.



PROTECTING OUR WATER IN A DIGITAL WORLD:

How Cyber Threats Affect Rural Water Systems

Most of us turn on the tap each day without thinking about the technology behind the scenes. But today's water systems rely on more than pumps, pipes, and tanks. Much of the work that keeps water flowing safely into our homes is controlled by computers and automated systems. This modern technology makes operations more efficient, but it can also expose rural water systems to cyberattacks.

Although cyber threats may seem far away or affect only big cities, the truth is that small and rural systems can be just as vulnerable. Understanding the risk helps all of us appreciate the work our local water systems do to keep our communities protected.

How Hackers Can Target Water Systems

Many water and wastewater utilities use digital controls to run equipment, monitor treatment, and manage distribution. If any of these systems are connected to the internet without proper safeguards, cybercriminals may be able to see or change how they work.

A Cyber Intruder Could Attempt To:

- Shut down pumps or valves
- Change chemical feed settings
- Disable alarms that warn operators of problems
- Interrupt the treatment process
- Force staff to switch to slower, hands-on manual operations

Even minor disruptions can affect water quality, pressure, and system reliability. While water systems work hard to prevent these situations, the growing use of technology means the risks must be taken seriously.

Why Rural Systems Face Unique Challenges

Rural water systems provide safe, reliable water with fewer staff and smaller budgets. That same lean structure can make cybersecurity harder to manage. Challenges may include:

- Older equipment not designed with cybersecurity in mind
- Limited staff time for monitoring or training

- Budget limitations for upgrades and protective software
- Increased use of remote access for operators who cover large service areas

Despite these hurdles, rural systems across South Dakota are taking proactive steps to strengthen their defenses. Training, new policies, and state or federal support all play a role in keeping our water safe.

What Water Systems Are Doing to Protect You

Local water systems are working behind the scenes to defend against cyber threats. Some of the most important steps include:

- **Separating Networks:** They are physically and logically separating the critical operational technology network—the computers that control pumps and valves—from the standard information technology network (like office email and billing systems). This helps stop an intruder who gets into the office system from accessing the treatment controls.
- **Requiring Multi-Factor Authentication:** This is a critical second layer of defense. In addition to strong passwords, users must provide a second, verified code (often from a phone app) to log into critical systems or for remote access.
- **Disconnecting unnecessary internet-exposed devices**
- **Requiring strong passwords and secure remote-access tools**
- **Keeping software and equipment updated**
- **Monitoring system activity for suspicious changes**
- **Training staff to recognize email scams or unusual activity**
- **Preparing backup plans in case digital systems temporarily go offline**

These efforts help ensure that water service remains safe and reliable, even in the face of evolving threats.

What You Can Do as a Consumer

While your water system handles the technical side, residents can also play a part:

- Stay informed when your utility shares updates
- Support system investments in technology and security
- Be cautious of online scams pretending to be your water provider
- Ask your local water board or manager how they are approaching cybersecurity

Awareness and support from the community help strengthen the overall resilience of your local water provider.



Help is Available — Cybersecurity Support from Dakota State University

Some rural water systems in South Dakota may benefit from SecureSD, a statewide cybersecurity support program funded through the Attorney General's office and operated through Dakota State University in Madison.

What SecureSD Offers:

- Free or low-cost cybersecurity assessments
- Reviews of internet-exposed equipment and controls
- Training for operators and staff
- Help improving firewall settings and secure remote-access tools
- Assistance developing incident-response plans

SecureSD is designed to help small communities, public infrastructure, and local governments strengthen their cybersecurity — and this includes rural water systems that may not have in-house IT staff.

Why This Matters:

Programs like SecureSD give rural water systems access to expert help, allowing them to upgrade protections, improve safety, and reduce risks without overwhelming their budgets.

2025 SOUTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

On November 19, 2025, three individuals were inducted into the South Dakota Rural Water Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the Ramkota Hotel in Pierre, South Dakota. This year's honorees — Morris Kurle, Larry Wasland, and Dan Carlson — were recognized for their outstanding leadership, dedication, and lasting contributions to the state's rural water community.

The South Dakota Rural Water Hall of Fame was established in 2024 to honor the visionaries and pioneers who transformed the rural water industry in South Dakota. Recognizing the humble beginnings of rural water systems — ideas born around kitchen tables and brought to life through hard work and determination — the Hall of Fame celebrates the individuals who have been instrumental in making clean, reliable water available to rural communities. These honorees played a crucial role in developing, growing, and sustaining rural water systems that now reach the state, providing essential services that improve quality of life and support agricultural and economic activities.

Located at the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems headquarters in Madison, SD, the Hall of Fame serves as both a historical record and a source of

inspiration. It is a place where visitors can learn about the dedication and perseverance of rural water leaders who faced countless challenges, from funding and infrastructure issues to logistical hurdles in sparsely populated areas. By housing the Hall of Fame at its office, the Association ensures that the stories of these rural water champions remain accessible to future generations of water industry professionals, community leaders, and the public.

The creation of the Hall of Fame reflects South Dakota's commitment to honoring its past while looking toward the future of water access in rural communities. As rural water systems have grown to support health, agriculture, and local economies, the Hall of Fame ensures that the contributions of these industry pioneers are celebrated and remembered. The inductees into the Hall of Fame represent the enduring spirit of South Dakota's rural water movement. This movement has turned a shared vision for clean water into a reality that benefits communities across the state.

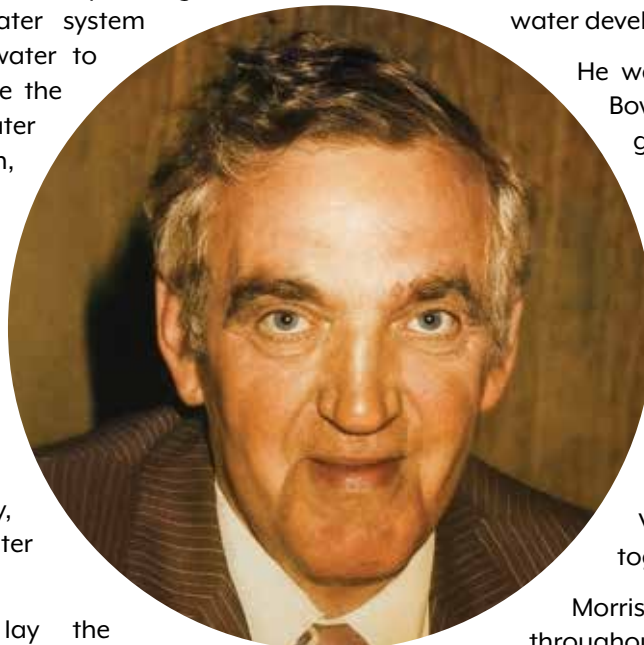
If you would like to learn more about the past South Dakota Rural Water Hall of Fame inductees — please visit sdarws.com/hof.

Morris Kurle

In the mid-1970s, as small communities and farms across northern South Dakota faced severe water shortages, Morris Kurle joined local leaders in pursuing a bold vision. This regional water system would deliver Missouri River water to rural areas. In 1978, he became the first chairman of the WEB Water Development Association, guiding the fledgling project through years of planning, coordination, and advocacy. Under his leadership, WEB Water overcame countless challenges to secure federal authorization and funding, ultimately becoming the first Bureau of Reclamation funded water project in the country, and one of the largest rural water systems in the state.

Morris' leadership helped lay the foundation for an organization that today provides water to thousands of homes, farms, and towns across northeast South Dakota. His steady

guidance, professionalism, and belief in cooperation inspired confidence among local, state, and federal partners and made WEB Water a model for rural water development nationwide.



He was born on October 23, 1926, in Bowdle, South Dakota. After graduating from Bowdle High School in 1944, Morris attended South Dakota State University, majoring in engineering, before serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. After returning home, he joined his family's business, J. Kurle and Sons, in Bowdle, where he worked for nearly 50 years before retiring at age 85. He married Patricia Venoy Schumacher in 1951, and together they raised two children.

Morris continued to support rural water throughout his life, remaining an advocate for collaboration and innovation in community water systems. He passed away on October 15, 2021, leaving behind a stronger, better South Dakota.

LARRY WASLAND

A lifelong farmer and rancher, Larry dedicated his life to strengthening rural South Dakota. His commitment to rural water spanned nearly four decades, beginning in 1984 when he joined the Clark Rural Water System Board. Over the years, he served as Treasurer and as the system's representative to the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS), where his leadership helped guide the state's growing network of water providers.

Elected Vice President of the SDARWS Board in 2004, Larry later represented South Dakota on the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) Board of Directors from 2007 to 2023. At the national level, he was a steadfast advocate for clean drinking water, sound policy, and strong rural infrastructure – ensuring South Dakota's voice



was heard in Washington, D.C.

Larry's dedication earned him the Carroll Anderson Memorial Award in 2009 and the Spirit of Rural Water Award in 2022.

His tireless service and unwavering belief in the importance of rural water left an enduring impact on communities across the state and nation.

Born on June 30, 1948, in Watertown, South Dakota, Larry grew up on the family farm near Wallace and pursued an agricultural education at South Dakota State University. He and his wife, Lorene, built a life rooted in family and community – raising two children and later welcoming three grandchildren.

Larry passed away on May 17, 2025, leaving behind a lifetime of dedication and service to rural South Dakota.

Dan Carlson

Born in Le Mars, Iowa, and raised in Paullina, Dan Carlson built a lifelong legacy of leadership and dedication to South Dakota's rural water industry. After attending Morningside College in pre-engineering, Dan transferred to South Dakota State University, where he majored in Civil Engineering before switching to Ag Engineering, specializing in Mechanized Agriculture, graduating in January 1966. While at SDSU, he met his wife, Sharon; the two married in August 1965 and later welcomed two children, Brett and Michelle, along with four grandchildren.

Following graduation, Dan and Sharon moved to Lake Madison, where he began working in the Engineering Department at Sioux Valley Energy. It was there that Dan attended an organizational meeting led by Loren Paulsen about the Big Sioux Water Project. When Dan inquired about extending service to Lake Madison – four miles beyond the proposed boundary – Paulsen



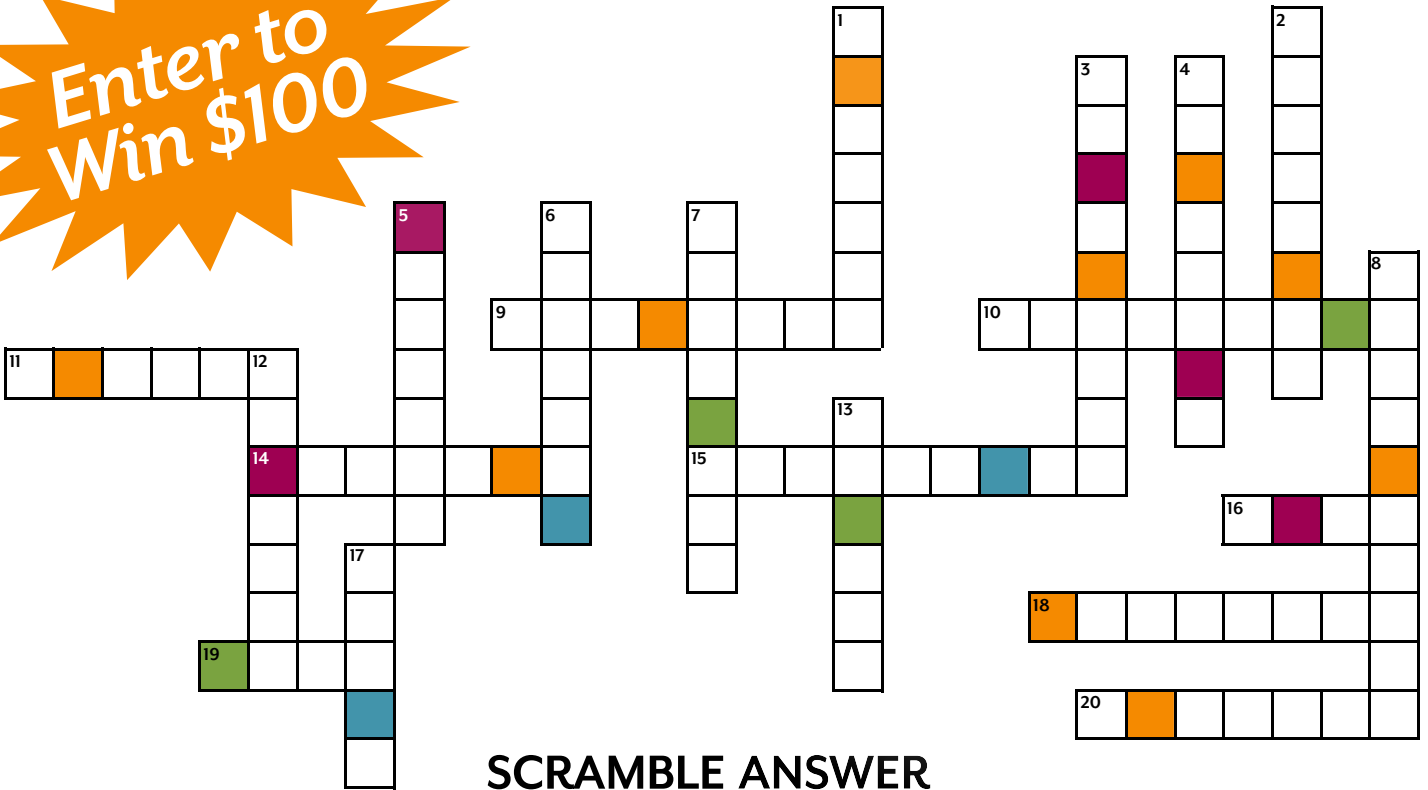
agreed but noted they also needed a director. Dan stepped up, beginning what would become an extraordinary 50-year tenure on the Big Sioux Community Water System Board, serving as its president for many years.

Dan's leadership extended statewide through his service on the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board of Directors. Elected Vice President in 2007 and President in 2008, he guided the Association for seven years, overseeing tremendous growth, including facility expansions, financial stability, new safety and emergency response programs, and strengthened legislative advocacy.

His dedication was recognized through numerous honors, including the 2008 Carroll Anderson Memorial Award and the Spirit of Rural Water Award in both 2016 and 2022. Dan Carlson's commitment to rural water and his community continues to inspire all who follow in his footsteps.

RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

LEGISLATIVE TERMS



SCRAMBLE ANSWER



Across

- 9. Official schedule of bills to be considered
- 10. Smaller group that studies bills in detail
- 11. Meeting of members of the same party or group
- 14. To formally end a legislative meeting
- 15. Current officeholder running for reelection
- 16. Proposed law under consideration
- 18. Person who tries to influence legislation

- 19. Governor or president's rejection of a bill
- 20. Legislator who introduces a bill

Down

- 1. One of the houses in a legislature
- 2. More than half of a group's members
- 3. Formal change or addition to a bill or law
- 4. What a legislature does to nullify a veto
- 5. Official period when the legislature meets

- 6. Public meeting to gather information on a bill
- 7. Party or group with fewer members
- 8. Elected member of a lawmaking body
- 12. Law that has been formally passed
- 13. Minimum number of members needed to do business
- 17. Main chamber where full legislature meets

RULES: Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See page 2 for contact information) or **enter online at www.sdarws.com/crossword.html** with the correct phrase by October 15, 2025 to be entered into the \$100 drawing.

Only one entry allowed per address/household. You must be a member of a participating rural water system to be eligible for the prize. Your information will only be used to notify the winner, and will not be shared or sold.

Congratulations to Beverly Paulsen from Clark Rural Water who had the correct phrase of "Smiles spoon up hope" for October 2025.



51st ANNUAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

JANUARY 13-15, 2026 | RAMKOTA HOTEL

920 W. SIOUX AVENUE, PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA

REGISTER TO ATTEND TODAY!



Register online at sdarws.com/ATC or scan the QR Code

CLIENT MEETING ROOMS

We have a limited number of rooms available for client meetings. Call 605-556-7219 to reserve.

HOTEL INFORMATION

DAYS INN – 605-224-0411

GOVERNOR'S INN – 605-224-4200

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS – 605-223-9045

BAYMONT INN & SUITES – 605-224-4140



ATC ATTENDEE INFORMATION



MEMBER REGISTRATION

FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: \$375

TUESDAY ONLY: \$250

WEDNESDAY ONLY: \$300

AWARDS BANQUET ONLY: \$40

NON-ATTENDEE PARTNER PASS: \$60

(NOTE: This pass is for guests of Registered Attendees only and grants access to the Exhibit Hall and meal functions. This pass is not valid for industry professionals or employees of water/wastewater systems, and no contact hours will be awarded.)

NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION

FULL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: \$475

TUESDAY ONLY: \$330

WEDNESDAY ONLY: \$400



CONFERENCE AGENDA



TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

8:00 AM
LOBBY REGISTRATION DESK OPEN (8AM - 4PM)
LOBBY WATER TASTE TEST DROP OFF (8AM - 2PM)
LOBBY WATERPAC RAFFLE (8AM - 4PM)
LOBBY BREAK TABLE – Sponsored by HR Green

9:30 AM
GALLERY D-E DAKOTA MAINSTEM – APPRAISAL STUDY UPDATE
 – Gabe Laber, HDR

GALLERY F WASTEWATER REGULATORY UPDATE
 – Kyle Doerr, South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources

GALLERY G CORPS, CURBS AND SERVICE FITTINGS – INSTALLATION AND BEST PRACTICES
 – Calvin Williams, A.Y. McDonald Mfg. Co.

LEWIS & CLARK CHLORINATORS: OPERATION, MAINTENANCE, & TROUBLESHOOTING
 – Bill Thorson, Regal Systems, Inc.

L. FRANCIS CASE HOW UTILITIES ARE WINNING THE NON-REVENUE WATER BATTLE
 – Graham Mattison, Kamstrup Water Metering

10:30 AM
GALLERY D-E WESTERN DAKOTA REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT UPDATES
 – Kristin Conzet, Western Dakota Regional Water System, and Cory Chorne, AE2S

GALLERY F PFAS TREATMENT – THE BEST PROCESS DEPENDS ON THE WATER
 – Bryan Kumfer, WaterSurplus, Inc. (Hawkins)

GALLERY G CORPS, CURBS AND SERVICE FITTINGS – INSTALLATION AND BEST PRACTICES, CONTINUED
 – Calvin Williams, A.Y. McDonald Mfg. Co.

LEWIS & CLARK METERING READING TECHNOLOGY
 – Paul Hurley, Sensus

L. FRANCIS CASE MID DAKOTA BACKWASH RECOVERY PROJECT
 – Brian L. Hoellein, Bartlett & West

12:00 PM
GALLERY A-B-C AWARDS LUNCHEON
 Sponsored by DGR



1:00 PM
GALLERY A-B-C KEYNOTE ADDRESS
 – Jerrid Sebesta

2:30 PM
LOBBY BREAK TABLES
 – Sponsored by Foth



3:00 PM
GALLERY D-E DUCTILE IRON PIPE: BASICS, INSTALLATION, AND CORROSION
 – David Emmerich, US Pipe

GALLERY F MAINTAINING YOUR SCADA SYSTEM: HOW TO EXTEND THE INVESTMENT
 – Anthony Bramante, In Control, Inc.

GALLERY G MITIGATING FRAZIL ICE IMPACTS ON A MISSOURI RIVER SURFACE WATER INTAKE
 – Adam Norman, PE, DGR

LEWIS & CLARK POO PIT – THE NEXT GENERATION OF MANHOLES
 – Mitch Tyler, PooPit

L. FRANCIS CASE WELL DRILLING: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY
 – Casey Skillingstad, AE2S

AMP. II KEYNOTE BREAKOUT
 – Jerrid Sebesta

3:45 PM
GALLERY D-E SOLVING RURAL WATER PROBLEMS WITH HDPE PIPING SOLUTIONS
 – Garry Bouvet & Scott Pick, ISCO

GALLERY F TOOLS FOR YOUR NET RATE STUDY
 – Dane Ekdorn, ISG, and Steve Attema, SDARWS

GALLERY G DISTRIBUTED SCADA SYSTEMS FOR RURAL WATER DISTRICTS
 – Josh Schoenberg, AE2S

LEWIS & CLARK OUR MISSOURI RIVER. PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS TO USE
 – Ken Royle, Missouri River Joint Water Board

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS SPONSORED BY: **Bartlett & West**

L. FRANCIS CASE PILOT STUDY OF OZONE TREATMENT FOR SURFACE WATER

– Sam Cotter, HR Green

AMP. II KEYNOTE BREAKOUT, CONTINUED
– Jerrid Sebesta

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

8:00 AM

LOBBY REGISTRATION DESK OPEN (8AM - 4PM)

LOBBY WATERPAC RAFFLE (8AM - 4PM)

SDARWS BOOTH METER CHALLENGE (8AM - 2PM)

LEWIS & CLARK PROPER PLANNING PREVENTS POOR PERFORMANCE: USING BENCHMARKING DATA TO SUPPORT PLANNING
– Miranda Kleven, AE2S

L. FRANCIS CASE VFDS IN WATER & WASTEWATER
– Bob White, Electric Pump

AMP. II PROJECT MANAGEMENT FOR EVERY DRINKING WATER PROFESSIONAL
– Nathan Brandenburg, PE, DGR Engineering

8:15 AM

AMP. I 51ST ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

8:45 AM

LEWIS & CLARK LEAD TESTING IN SCHOOLS
– Erin Steever, Bartlett & West

L. FRANCIS CASE SOLVING MANHOLE AND MANHOLE JOINT INFLOW AND INFILTRATION
– Lee Haessig & Jason Thoennes, Jet Line

AMP. II NAVIGATING FINANCIAL SHIFTS: FUNDING WATER PROJECTS IN A CHANGING LANDSCAPE
– Austin Claeys and Abby Ritz, AE2S

9:30 AM

LOBBY BREAK TABLES
– Sponsored by Hawkins



10:00 AM

LEWIS & CLARK OPERATOR ETHICS: FOUNDATION FOR PROPER DECISION MAKING
– Lloyd Rawlings, USABlueBook

L. FRANCIS CASE HIGH PERFORMANCE GRAPHICS – ENHANCING YOUR SCADA SYSTEM
– Andrew Ring, HDR

AMP. II SHARED RESOURCES UPDATE – “OPEN SPACE” A CONSTRUCTION ADMIN SOFTWARE TOOL
– Joe Munson, Banner Associates, Inc.

AMP. I RURAL WATER CENTER ANNUAL MEETING

10:45 AM

LEWIS & CLARK RURAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE
– Brian Ring, USDA Rural Development

L. FRANCIS CASE WASTEWATER INHIBITORS - CONSEQUENCE OF CLEANING COMPOUNDS
– Rachel Kloos, ISG

AMP. II

SRF UPDATE

– Tina McFarling, South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources

11:30 AM

LUNCH

LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)

1:00 PM

LEWIS & CLARK ASSET MANAGEMENT 101
– Brad Lawrence, Brosz Engineering

L. FRANCIS CASE LOCATING AND GPS MAPPING
– Evan Beran, Subsurface Solutions

AMP. II LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY – USING INTERPOLATION METHOD TO ELIMINATE UNKNOWNNS
– Jared Huibregtse, Bartlett & West, Erin Fagnan and Mark McIntire, SD DANR

AMP. I

LEGISLATIVE PANEL

– Staff of Senator Thune, Senator Rounds, and Representative Johnson

2:00 PM

LOBBY

BREAK TABLE
– Sponsored by ISCO



2:30 PM

LEWIS & CLARK LIFECYCLE OF COATINGS ON TOWERS
– Dewey Prinzing, KLM Engineering, Inc

L. FRANCIS CASE PRACTICAL USES OF AI IN WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES
– Ken Hayes, Core and Main

AMP. II

CONNECTING NEIGHBORS: THE CRITICAL NEED FOR SUSTAINABLE RURAL WATER DEVELOPMENT ROUNDTABLE
– Chad Hanisch, PE, (ConsultH); Scott Pick, (Randall CWD); Jake Jones, (Davison RWD); Wade Blasius, (Aurora-Brule RWS); Joe Schroeder, PE, (City of Mitchell); Blake Harms, (Pinpoint Corp.)

AMP. I

LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

– Lindsey Riter-Rapp, SDARWS Lobbyist

3:30 PM

GRAND GALLERIA

EXHIBIT HALL & LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

4:30 PM – METER CHALLENGE FINALS

6:00 PM – WATERPAC RAFFLE CLOSES

6:30 PM – RURAL WATER TASTE TEST FINALS

7:15 PM – WATERPAC WINNERS ANNOUNCED

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

7:30 AM

GALLERY A-B-C

SD LEGISLATURE OPEN FORUM BREAKFAST
– Sponsored by Brosz Engineering

8:00 AM

GALLERY A-B-C

LEGISLATIVE PANEL

– Sponsored by Brosz Engineering





P.O. Box 287
 Madison, SD 57042
www.sdarws.com
 605-556-7219

Presort Standard
 US Postage
 Paid
 Permit #32
 Madison, SD



WATER MATTERS

WHAT IF?



You often hear folks talk about, “hoping for the best, but planning for the worst.” This old adage can be applied to a broad range of activities and issues, and provides the foundation for pretty much all forms of insurance (medical, life, property, crop, etc..). Nobody wants bad things to happen, but it doesn’t hurt to be prepared.

So, how does this apply to water? If you are receiving this publication, you are likely provided water from a public water supply (PWS), be it a rural water system or a municipality. A common goal of all PWSs is to deliver to their customers a quality product in a consistent and reliable manner. By and large, this goal is met on a day-to-day basis, and if there are unexpected interruptions to service, they are of short duration and limited extent.

But what would happen if your PWS was unable to provide service for an extended period of time? Are you prepared to get along without being able to just turn on the tap for water? For most domestic users, bottled water might suffice for drinking and cooking, but getting enough water for general sanitation (bathing and cleaning) might be tougher. These may require going to locations where water service has not been disrupted.



Another water supply ‘hiccup’ could come from the PWS not being able to meet increasing demand. The amount of water that can be distributed and delivered is limited by the pumps, pipes and tanks that make up the system. Often as not, the system was built with the largest capacity the PWS could afford, but once that level of service is met, upgrades and/or expansion are the only way to deliver more water. If a customer suddenly might desire more water, say during a period of drought, there are no guarantees that the PWS will be able to deliver. The same applies to regions within a PWS coverage area where totally new customers may wish to gain service. Just because someone wants water at particular location doesn’t mean that it will be available.

If your home, farm or business are dependent on water, and we all pretty much are, having a plan for What If...? isn’t a bad idea. Consider what you might do if your primary supply was not available for a day or two. As noted earlier, your PWS strives to provide dependable service, but sometimes bad things happen. Are you prepared?

BACK PAGE CONTENT PROVIDED BY:



132B Airport Avenue
 Brookings, SD 57006
 605-688-6741
eastdakota.org