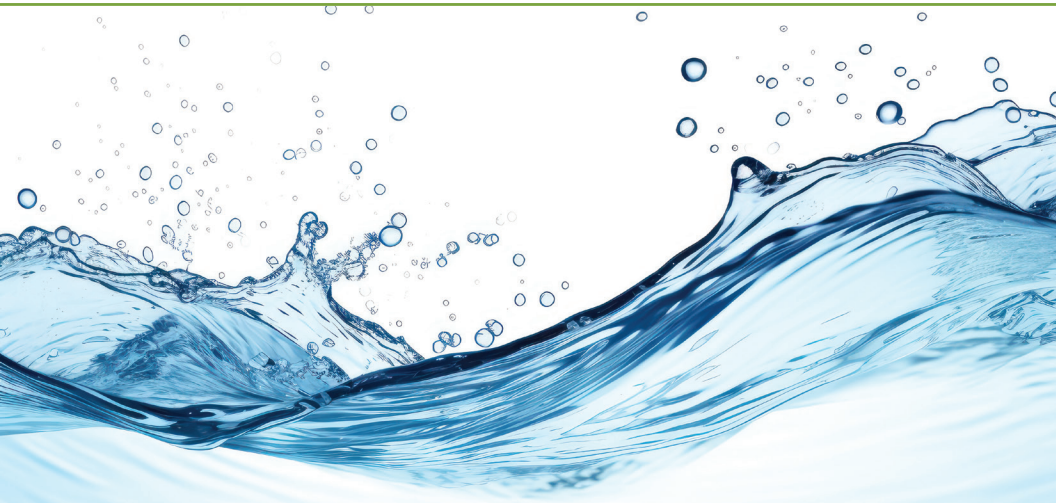


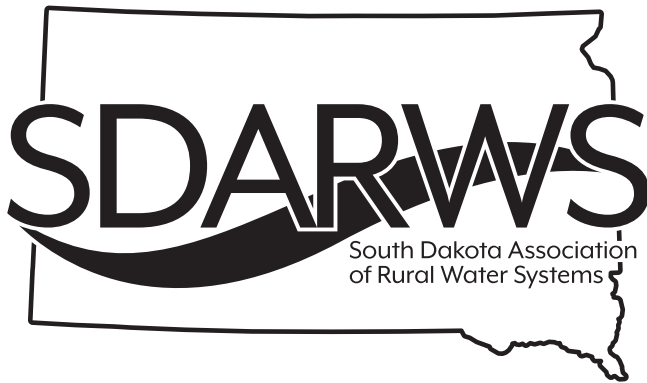
# ATC 2026

SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION OF RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

## AWARDS BANQUET

*SPONSORED BY DGR ENGINEERING*





Welcome to the South Dakota Annual Technical Conference Awards Brunch! Since the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) was incorporated on January 12, 1976, we have proudly continued the tradition of Annual Meetings and Expos. Even before incorporation, our organization functioned as a steering committee beginning in 1972 – a group determined to unify rural water voices and address shared challenges across the state. Our mission remains just as important today as it was then – to “monitor legislation, share solutions, and collaborate with state and federal agencies on funding and regulations.”

Over the decades, with more than \$1 billion invested in Regional Water Systems, we have helped “plumb” the state by working hand in hand with governors, legislators, federal agencies, and our congressional delegation. But the true heroes of this progress are the dedicated directors, rural water system employees, municipal councils, and staff who turned the vision of regional water into reality.

Each year during the Annual Technical Conference, SDARWS recognizes and celebrates the remarkable contributions of rural water professionals from across South Dakota. Past and present award recipients – featured in the following pages – exemplify the commitment and excellence that continue to drive our mission forward.

Thank you for joining us as we honor these outstanding individuals. Let’s give them the recognition they so richly deserve!

# LONGEVITY AWARDS

## 5 YEARS

**Lehni Olson**, Big Sioux CWS  
**Lucas Dailey**, Big Sioux CWS  
**Angie Hoffmann**, Davison RWS  
**Brett Young**, Davison RWS  
**Bruce Haines**, Davison RWS  
**Corey Dorhout**, Kingbrook RWS  
**Deric Diede**, Mid-Dakota RWS  
**Jordan Kocer**, Randall CWD  
**Jared Swanson**, Randall CWD  
**Rebecca Qualm**, Randall CWD  
**Tyler Volk**, Rapid Valley SD/WS  
**Danny Ayers**, SDARWS  
**Richard Rubel**, Tripp County WUD  
**Chris Bartels**, Tripp County WUD  
**Trevor Herman**, Tripp County WUD  
**Connie Shippy**, Tripp County WUD  
**Sandra Tople**, WEB WDA

## 10 YEARS

**Paul Hettinger**, Aurora-Brule RWS  
**Tom Geppert**, Aurora-Brule RWS  
**Mary Brainard**, Aurora-Brule RWS  
**Tom Hagedorn**, Brookings-Deuel CWS  
**Greg Marx**, Clark RWS  
**Don Patzlaff**, Hanson RWS  
**Norman Andenas**, Kingbrook RWS  
**Chad Bjerke**, Kingbrook RWS  
**William Osterberg**, Kingbrook RWS  
**Jeremy Hult**, Lewis & Clark RWS  
**Shawn Anderson**, Lewis & Clark RWS  
**Jamie Brueggeman**, Mid-Dakota RWS  
**Jordan Heumiller**, Mid-Dakota RWS  
**Tess Mogensen**, Minnehaha CWC  
**Megan Bergin**, Randall CWD  
**Ricky Bergin**, Randall CWD  
**Jason Krumbach**, TM RWD  
**Shane Phillips**, WEB WDA  
**Dean Nelson**, WRLJ RWS

## 15 YEARS

**Scott Tolzin**, Kingbrook RWS  
**Tabitha Duffy**, Kingbrook RWS  
**Todd Giffin**, Lewis & Clark RWS  
**Daniel Schleusner**, Sioux RWS  
**Torrey Wahl**, WEB WDA

## 20 YEARS

**Kent Whipkey**, Big Sioux CWS  
**Shane Bothwell**, Mid-Dakota RWS  
**Tanya Schmidt**, Minnehaha CWC  
**Eric Newman**, Perkins Co. RWS  
**Scott Cameron**, South Lincoln RWS  
**Josh Swanson**, South Lincoln RWS

## 25 YEARS

**Terry Kaufman**, Clark RWS  
**Phil Iverson**, Clay RWS  
**Dennis Kiner**, Davison RWS  
**Scott Manning**, Mid-Dakota RWS  
**Tammy Oligmueller**, Mid-Dakota RWS  
**Connie Olson**, Rapid Valley SD/WS  
**Rusty Schmidt**, Rapid Valley SD/WS  
**Veryl Prokop**, WRLJ RWS  
**Mike Vetter**, WRLJ RWS

## 30 YEARS

**Darin Roehr**, BDM RWS  
**Jodi Johanson**, Big Sioux RWS  
**Lori Seten**, Lewis & Clark RWS  
**Connie Aymar**, Mid-Dakota RWS  
**Brian Morris**, Perkins Co. RWS  
**Terry Koupal**, Randall CWD

## 35 YEARS

**Ron Ramsey**, Mid-Dakota RWS

## 40 YEARS

**Terri Anderson**, Brookings-Deuel RWS  
**Laurie Robbins**, Brookings-Deuel RWS  
**John Carda**, Randall CWD

## 45 YEARS

**Darrell Seefeldt**, Clark RWS

*To be included in the longevity awards, your water system must submit its information to SDARWS by November 15.*

# RURAL WATER OFFICE PERSON OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to an administrative employee of a Rural Water System for excellence in office management and procedures.*

1984	..... Leona Stapp, Butte-Meade SD	2005	..... Susan Hargens, Mid-Dakota RWS
1985	..... Dorothy Millette, Kingbrook RWS	2006	..... Cheryl Schuman, Davison RWS
1986	..... Sharon Armfield, Service Center	2007	..... Connie Aymar, Mid-Dakota RWS
1987	..... Lora Berndt, Tri-County WA	2008	..... Patty McElhaney, Minnehaha CWC
1988	..... Jolene King, Kingbrook RWS	2009	..... Trudy Konda, TM RWD
1989	..... Jean Sorum, South Lincoln RWS	2010	..... Diane Burns, Clark RWS
1990	..... Mary Gunderson, Big Sioux CWS	2011	..... Cindy Kuiper, South Lincoln RWS
1991	..... Brenda Frost, Sioux RWS	2012	..... Angie Hammrich, WEB WDA
1992	..... Diane Wookey, Clark RWS	2013	..... Jolene King, Kingbrook RWS
1993	..... Donna Henriksen, Clay RWS	2014	..... Jolene King, Kingbrook RWS
1994	..... Bev Johnson, Lincoln County RWS	2015	..... Dawn Christenson, Big Sioux CWS
1995	..... Janice Lyso, Clay RWS	2016	..... Lori Seten, Lewis & Clark RWS
1996	Laurie TeGantvoort, Brookings-Deuel RWS	2017	..... Sarah Bruinsma, Sioux RWS
1996	..... Terri Anderson, Brookings-Deuel RWS	2018	..... Georgia Andersh, Randall CWD
1997	..... Diana Frank, Tripp County WUD	2019	..... Amy Kittelson, WR/LJ RWS
1998	..... Lori Seten, SDARWS	2020	..... Donna Henriksen, Clay RWS
1999	..... Judy Fritz, Big Sioux CWS	2021	..... Kati Venard, WR/LJ RWS
2000	..... Donna Grogan, Mid-Dakota RWS	2022	..... Megan Bergin, Randall CWS
2001	..... Sheila Hart, Lincoln County RWS	2023	..... Mary Brainard, Aurora-Brule RWS
2002	..... Linda Bunker, Kingbrook RWS	2024	..... Shannon Wegleitner, BDM RWS
2003	..... Jodi Johanson, Big Sioux CWS	2025	..... Jamie Brueggeman, Mid-Dakota RWS
2004	..... Cindy Kuiper, South Lincoln RWS		

# MUNICIPAL OFFICE PERSON OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to an administrative employee of a municipality (i.e. clerk, finance officer, etc.) for excellence in office management and procedures.*

2015	..... Roxie Ebdrup, Madison	2021	..... Jill Johnke, Harrisburg
2016	..... Dawn Murphy, Tea	2022	..... Sheila Gerhold, Castlewood
2017	..... Jennifer Mollman, Spearfish	2023	..... Shannon Decker, Sioux Falls
2019	..... Karla Nordyke, Timber Lake	2024	..... Lynn Meyer, Sioux Falls
2020	..... Debbra Houseman, Lake Andes	2025	..... Casey Van Beek, City of Irene

# RURAL WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

*Awarded to a South Dakota Certified Operator in a supervisory role for exceptional leadership and achievements in drinking water.*

2016	..... Ryan Allen, Minnehaha CWC	2021	..... Mike Vetter, WR/LJ RWS
2017	..... Chad Anderson, Randall CWD	2022	..... Brandon Kinsley, WR/LJ RWS
2018	..... Scott Gross, Mid-Dakota RWS	2023	..... Jim Auen, Lewis & Clark RWS
2019	..... Travis Steffensen, Sioux RWS	2024	..... Aric Olson, Big Sioux CWS
2020	..... Jeff Carruthers, Big Sioux CWS	2025	..... Brian Callies, Kingbrook RWS

# RURAL WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR

*Recognition for a State of South Dakota Certified Operator who is actively working for a Rural Water System with outstanding leadership ability and/or accomplishments in drinking water.*

<b>1984</b> ..... Don Devoe, Brookings-Deuel RWS	<b>2006</b> ..... Mike Headrick, Big Sioux CWS
<b>1985</b> ..... Jim Plahn, Minnehaha CWC	<b>2007</b> ..... Shawn Bastian, Sioux RWS
<b>1986</b> ..... David Bennett, Big Sioux RWS	<b>2008</b> ..... Heath Thompson, Kingbrook RWS
<b>1987</b> ..... Jerry Guide, Aurora-Brule RWS	<b>2009</b> ..... Tom Hollingsworth, Clay RWS
<b>1988</b> ..... Kim Verhey, Kingbrook RWS	<b>2010</b> ..... Vince Cordell, Sioux RWS
<b>1989</b> ... Bernard Larson, Brookings-Deuel RWS	<b>2011</b> ..... Jeff Carruthers, Big Sioux CWS
<b>1990</b> ..... Gail Schoffelman, TM RWS	<b>2012</b> ..... Ron Ramsey, Mid-Dakota RWS
<b>1991</b> ..... Jeff Bonn, WEB WDA	<b>2013</b> ..... Terry Kaufman, Clark RWS
<b>1992</b> ..... Tim Gregoire, Clay RWS	<b>2014</b> ..... Loren Geerdes, Aurora-Brule RWS
<b>1993</b> ..... Jim Evans, Minnehaha CWC	<b>2015</b> ..... Dan Schwarz, Lincoln County RWS
<b>1994</b> ..... Layne Burgess, South Lincoln RWS	<b>2016</b> ..... Jason Orel, Tripp Co. WUD
<b>1995</b> ..... James Holm, Clark RWS	<b>2017</b> ..... Todd Goodfellow, Sioux RWS
<b>1996</b> ..... Jim Zeck, Minnehaha CWC	<b>2018</b> ... Lyle Skorseth, Brookings-Deuel RWS
<b>1997</b> ..... Mike Baragary, Big Sioux CWS	<b>2019</b> ..... James Holm, Clark RWS
<b>1998</b> ..... Tom Hollingsworth, Clay RWS	<b>2020</b> ..... Kraig Sinclair, Aurora-Brule RWS
<b>1999</b> ..... Kevin McCann, South Lincoln RWS	<b>2021</b> ..... Marty Hertel, WEB WDA
<b>2000</b> ..... Travis Steffensen, Kingbrook RWS	<b>2021</b> ..... David Vogel, WEB WDA
<b>2001</b> ..... Harvey Aberle, Mid-Dakota RWS	<b>2022</b> ..... Dave Viet, TM RWS
<b>2002</b> ..... Roy Graff, Rapid Valley SD/WS	<b>2023</b> ..... John Kramer, WR/LJ RWS
<b>2003</b> ..... Bill Sarringar, Mid-Dakota RWS	<b>2024</b> ..... Darin Roehr, BDM RWS
<b>2004</b> ..... Gene Wilts, Brookings-Deuel RWS	<b>2025</b> ..... Joe Priebe, Aurora-Brule RWS
<b>2005</b> ..... Gary Tobin, Mid-Dakota RWS	

# MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR

*Recognition for a State of South Dakota Certified Operator who is actively working for a municipality with outstanding leadership ability/accomplishments in water.*

<b>2015</b> ..... Grant Groos, Colman	<b>2021</b> ..... Greg Schuler, Sioux Falls
<b>2016</b> ..... Tom Lesselyoung, Redfield	<b>2022</b> ..... Victor Huber, Sioux Falls
<b>2017</b> ..... Miles Burtzclaff, Spearfish	<b>2023</b> ..... Troy Loudenburg, Howard
<b>2018</b> ..... Kevin Kuiper, Platte	<b>2024</b> ..... Matt James, Sioux Falls
<b>2019</b> ..... Josh Lewis, Sioux Falls	<b>2025</b> ..... Dana Horn, City of Tripp
<b>2020</b> ..... Dave Duba, Ethan	

# MUNICIPAL UTILITIES MANAGER OF THE YEAR

*Recognition for a municipal manager for outstanding performance in managing a municipality.*

<b>2015</b> .. Francis Toscana, Lead-Deadwood SD	<b>2021</b> ..... Greg Powell, Chamberlain
<b>2016</b> ..... Brad Lawrence, Fort Pierre	<b>2022</b> ..... Brad Mohor, Chamberlain
<b>2017</b> ..... Jerry Przybylski, Keystone	<b>2023</b> ..... Terry Manning, Miller
<b>2018</b> ..... William Selland, Salem	<b>2024</b> ..... Kyle Ramynke, Lennox
<b>2019</b> ..... Roger Thomas, Lead	<b>2025</b> ..... Janel Ellingson, Aberdeen
<b>2020</b> ..... Robert Morrison, Custer	

# RURAL WATER SYSTEM MANAGER OF THE YEAR

*Recognition for a manager of a Rural Water System for outstanding performance in operating a Rural Water System.*

<b>1982</b> ..... John Buss, Minnehaha CWC	<b>2004</b> ..... Jim Jester, Rapid Valley SD/WS
<b>1983</b> ..... Pat Gilligan, Brookings-Deuel RWS	<b>2005</b> ..... David Wade, BDM RWS
<b>1984</b> ... Leonard Heinemann, Big Sioux CWS	<b>2006</b> ..... Pat Gilligan, Brookings-Deuel RWS
<b>1985</b> ..... Greg Merrigan, Clay RWS	<b>2007</b> ..... Mike Kurle, WR/LJ RWS
<b>1986</b> ..... Willis Nelson, Kingbrook RWS	<b>2008</b> ..... Scott Buss, Minnehaha CWC
<b>1987</b> ..... Dennis Larson, Lincoln County RWS	<b>2009</b> ..... Curt Hohn, WEB WDA
<b>1988</b> ..... John Sievers, South Lincoln RWS	<b>2010</b> ..... Duane Stokes, Clark RWS
<b>1989</b> ..... John Buss, Minnehaha CWC	<b>2011</b> ..... Kurt Pfeifle, Mid-Dakota RWS
<b>1990</b> ..... Anders Christensen, Clark RWS	<b>2013</b> ..... Troy Larson, Lewis & Clark RWS
<b>1991</b> .. Lorraine Weimer, Rapid Valley SD/WS	<b>2014</b> ..... Gene Wilts, Brookings-Deuel RWS
<b>1992</b> ..... Ken Pedersen, TM RWD	<b>2015</b> ..... Martin Jarrett, Big Sioux CWS
<b>1993</b> ..... Neil Frank, Tripp County WUD	<b>2016</b> ..... Wade Blasius, Aurora-Brule RWS
<b>1994</b> ..... Dale Knutson, Butte-Meade SWD	<b>2017</b> ..... Jake Fitzgerald, WR/LJ RWS
<b>1995</b> ..... Duane Stokes, Clark RWS	<b>2018</b> ..... Russ Phillips, Tripp County WUD
<b>1996</b> ..... Wade Blasius, Aurora-Brule RWS	<b>2019</b> ..... Heath Thompson, Sioux RWS
<b>1997</b> ..... Kurt Pfeifle, Mid-Dakota RWS	<b>2020</b> .... Rusty Schmidt, Rapid Valley SD/WS
<b>1998</b> ..... Buzz Mason, Hanson/Davison RWS	<b>2021</b> ..... Angie Hammrich, WEB WDA
<b>1999</b> ..... Greg Merrigan, Clay RWS	<b>2022</b> ..... Terry Kaufman, Clark RWS
<b>2001</b> ..... Martin Jarrett, Big Sioux CWS	<b>2023</b> ..... Rod Kappes, BDM RWS
<b>2002</b> .... Dennis Larson, Lincoln County RWS	<b>2024</b> ..... Heath Thompson, Kingbrook RWS
<b>2003</b> ..... Randy Jencks, Kingbrook RWS	<b>2025</b> ..... Troy Larson, Lewis & Clark RWS

# MUNICIPAL WATER/WASTEWATER SYSTEM OF THE YEAR

*A municipality who puts forth exceptional efforts to properly manage, operate, and maintain their drinking water and wastewater system.*

1993 .....	Lake Madison Sanitary District	2010 .....	Edgemont
1994 .....	Lake Cochrane Sanitary District	2011 .....	Clear Lake
1995 .....	McCook Lake Sanitary District	2012 .....	Fort Pierre
1996 ...	Colonial Pine Hills Sanitary District	2013 .....	Box Elder
1997 .....	Lead-Deadwood Sanitary District	2014 .....	McLaughlin
1998 .....	Black Hawk WUD	2015 .....	Gregory
1999 .....	Harrisburg	2016 .....	Colman
2000 .....	Town of Spencer	2017 .....	Oelrichs
2001 .....	Murdo	2018 .....	Geddes
2002 .....	Wall	2019 .....	Piedmont
2003 .....	Hartford	2020 .....	Alexandria
2004 .....	Plankinton	2021 .....	Winner
2005 .....	Wasta	2022 .....	Delmont
2006 .....	Alcester	2023 .....	Keystone
2007 .....	Wessington Springs	2024 .....	Sioux Falls Water Reclamation
2008 .....	Tyndall	2025 .....	Newell
2009 .....	Miller		

# ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

*An industry partner who goes above and beyond to help serve the needs of water and wastewater systems across South Dakota.*

1997 .....	Howalt-McDowell Insurance	2012 .....	American Flow Control
1998 .....	Sioux Pipe & Equipment	2013 .....	CoBank
1999 .....	Plainsco	2014 .....	Milbank WinWater
2000 .....	DGR & Associates	2015 .....	AE <sub>2</sub> S
2001 .....	Maguire Iron	2016 .....	AI Sewer & Drain
2002 .....	Banner & Associates	2017 .....	HR Green
2003 .....	Hawkins	2018 .....	Great Plains Structures
2004 .....	Engineering America	2019 .....	Dakota Supply Group
2005 .....	Bartlett & West	2020 .....	Maguire Iron
2006 .....	Treatment Resources	2021 .....	Dakota Pump, Inc.
2007 .....	Dakota Pump & Control	2022 .....	Hawkins
2008 .....	Dakota Pump, Inc.	2023 .....	A.Y. McDonald
2009 .....	A-Tech Sewer	2024 .....	Sioux Valley Environmental
2010 .....	Energy Laboratories	2025 .....	Core & Main
2011 .....	SPN & Associates		

# DONALD B. POSPISHIL MEMORIAL

*The Donald B. Pospishil Award honors individuals who demonstrate exceptional leadership, professionalism, and dedication in operating and maintaining small water systems, continuing Don Pospishil's legacy of service to South Dakota communities.*

<b>2005</b> .....	Rueben Vollmer, Midland	<b>2016</b> .....	Greg Merrigan, Clay RWS
<b>2006</b> .....	Dan Fink, Harrisburg	<b>2017</b> .....	Randy Asleson, DeSmet
<b>2007</b> .....	Ray Erikson, Murdo	<b>2018</b> .....	Mike Kyte, Spearfish
<b>2008</b> .....	Dan Andre, Beresford	<b>2019</b> .....	Robert Durham, Randall CWD
<b>2009</b> .....	Adrian Rumpza, Webster	<b>2020</b> .....	Danny Ayers, Winner
<b>2010</b> .....	Dennis Sparks, Armour	<b>2021</b> .....	Don Ebbers, Clear Lake
<b>2011</b> .....	B. Jon Ganje, Eagle Butte	<b>2022</b> .....	Terry Koupal, Randall CWD
<b>2012</b> .....	Vern Hill, Plankinton	<b>2023</b> .....	Vernon Thorson, Ft. Pierre
<b>2013</b> .....	Ed Black Cloud, Standing Rock MR&L	<b>2024</b> .....	Kyle Kampshoff, Alexandria
<b>2014</b> .....	Blair Healy, Langford	<b>2025</b> .....	Brian Sohl, Hudson
<b>2015</b> .....	Duane Walters, Freeman		

# FRIEND OF RURAL WATER

*This distinguished honor recognizes agencies, organizations, or individuals who have significantly contributed to the collective effort of providing essential water services to South Dakota's citizens.*

<b>1997</b> .....	Rob Johnson, NRW	<b>2013</b> .....	John Madden, DGR & Associates
<b>1998</b> .....	Rural Development	<b>2014</b> .....	Jacqueline Ponti-Lazaruk, USDA
<b>1999</b> .....	Tom Daschle, US Senator	<b>2015</b> .....	Charles Hoffman, SD State Rep.
<b>2000</b> .....	Bureau of Reclamation	<b>2015</b> .....	Corey Brown, SD State Rep.
<b>2001</b> .....	Bill Janklow, SD Governor	<b>2015</b> .....	Elsie Meeks, USDA
<b>2002</b> .....	Dale Kennedy, South Lincoln RWS	<b>2016</b> .....	Pat Hemen, USDA
<b>2003</b> .....	Tim Johnson, US Senator	<b>2017</b> .....	Roger Lamp, Lincoln County RWS
<b>2004</b> .....	John Loucks, SD Board of Water & Natural Resources	<b>2017</b> .....	Dave Odens, Banner
<b>2005</b> .....	South Dakota DENR	<b>2018</b> .....	Tim Conner, Banner
<b>2006</b> .....	Charles Kuehl, South Lincoln, Lewis & Clark RWS	<b>2018</b> .....	East Dakota WDD
<b>2007</b> .....	Mike Rounds, SD Governor	<b>2019</b> .....	Julie Gross, USDA
<b>2008</b> .....	T. Loren Christianson, Brookings-Deuel RWS	<b>2019</b> .....	Red Arndt, Lewis & Clark RWS
<b>2009</b> .....	Joe Hieb, WR/LJ RWS	<b>2020</b> .....	John Thune, US Senator
<b>2010</b> .....	J.E. 'Jim' Putnam, SD State Rep.	<b>2020</b> .....	Edna Primrose, USDA-RD
<b>2011</b> .....	Stephanie Herseith Sandlin, US Rep.	<b>2021</b> .....	Tim Potts, USDA-RD
<b>2012</b> .....	Pat Hemen, USDA	<b>2022</b> .....	Mark Mayer, SD DANR
		<b>2023</b> .....	Mike Perkovich, SD DANR
		<b>2024</b> .....	Riter Rogers, LLP
		<b>2025</b> .....	Kristi Noem, SD Governor

# CARROLL ANDERSON MEMORIAL

*The Carroll Anderson Memorial Award is a tribute to the exemplary work of Carroll Anderson, who gave generously of his time, talents, and efforts to the Kingbrook RWS and the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems. At the time of his death in December 1977, Carroll Anderson served as Vice-Chairman of both organizations.*

*This award represents the greatest tribute the Association can bestow on an individual to recognize contributions to both the member system and to SDARWS.*

<b>1978</b> .....	<b>William Dempsey</b> , NRWA Director	<b>2002</b> .....	<b>John Buss</b> , Minnehaha CWC
<b>1979</b> .....	<b>Loren Paulson</b> , Big Sioux CWS	<b>2003</b> .....	<b>John D. Jensen</b> , Kingbrook RWS
<b>1980</b> .....	<b>Rich Lommen</b> , Lincoln County RWS	<b>2004</b> .....	<b>Virgil Christensen</b> , TM RWD
<b>1981</b> .....	<b>Loren Christianson</b> , Brookings-Deuel RWS	<b>2005</b> .....	<b>Dale Waters</b> , Tripp County WUD
<b>1982</b> .....	<b>Donald Ries</b> , Sioux RWS	<b>2006</b> .....	<b>Bernie Kayser</b> , Hanson RWS
<b>1983</b> .....	<b>Dale Kennedy</b> , South Lincoln RWS	<b>2007</b> .....	<b>Rick Doud</b> , WR/L-J RWS
<b>1984</b> .....	<b>Gerald David</b> , B-Y RWS	<b>2008</b> .....	<b>Dan Carlson</b> , Big Sioux CWS
<b>1985</b> .....	<b>Art Rave</b> , Minnehaha CWC	<b>2009</b> .....	<b>Larry Wasland</b> , Clark RWS
<b>1986</b> .....	<b>Dennis Davis</b> , SDARWS	<b>2010</b> .....	<b>Dale Thompson</b> , Kingbrook RWS
<b>1987</b> .....	<b>William Hugelmann</b> , Tripp Co. WUD	<b>2011</b> .....	<b>Robert Jones</b> , Mid-Dakota RWS
<b>1988</b> .....	<b>Bert Terveen</b> , Hanson RWS	<b>2012</b> .....	<b>Rick Peterson</b> , Clay RWS
<b>1989</b> .....	<b>Hobert Storer</b> , Big Sioux CWS	<b>2013</b> .....	<b>Greg Rahm</b> , WEB WDA
<b>1990</b> .....	<b>Alec Vedvei</b> , Kingbrook RWS <b>Warren Hannah</b> , Kingbrook RWS	<b>2014</b> .....	<b>Lynn Frey</b> , Perkins County RWS
<b>1991</b> .....	<b>Pat Gilligan</b> , Brookings-Deuel RWS	<b>2015</b> .....	<b>John Weidler</b> , Kingbrook RWS
<b>1992</b> .....	<b>Larry Sterling</b> , Kingbrook RWS	<b>2016</b> .....	<b>Bob Peplinski</b> , Southern Black Hills WS
<b>1993</b> .....	<b>Don Hentges</b> , Minnehaha CWC	<b>2017</b> .....	<b>Ron Gillen</b> , Aurora-Brule RWS
<b>1994</b> .....	<b>Bob Milbauer</b> , TM RWD	<b>2018</b> .....	<b>Tom Frogner</b> , Grant-Roberts RWS
<b>1995</b> .....	<b>Franklin Olson</b> , BDM RWS	<b>2019</b> .....	<b>Glen Gilbertson</b> , Clay RWS
<b>1996</b> .....	<b>A. H. Rose</b> , WR/LJ RWS	<b>2020</b> .....	<b>Merlyn Smeenk</b> , Lincoln Co. RWS
<b>1997</b> .....	<b>Don Pospishil</b> , SDARWS	<b>2021</b> .....	<b>Jim Thyen</b> , Sioux RWS
<b>1998</b> .....	<b>Dan Grosz</b> , Davison RWS	<b>2022</b> .....	<b>Lloyd Rave</b> , Minnehaha CWC
<b>1999</b> .....	<b>Otto Hagedorn</b> , Lincoln County RWS	<b>2023</b> .....	<b>Jim McGillvrey</b> , Mid-Dakota RWS
<b>2000</b> .....	<b>J.R. Holloway</b> , Tri-County WA	<b>2024</b> .....	<b>Louis Kehn</b> , Tripp Co. WUD
<b>2001</b> .....	<b>Robert Gregoire</b> , Clay RWS	<b>2025</b> .....	<b>Les Hinds</b> , WEB WDA

# RUSS PHILLIPS MEMORIAL

*The Russ Phillips Memorial Award honors Russ Phillips, whose leadership and dedication shaped the rural water industry. Starting as a water operator in 1995, he became the respected manager of the Tripp County Water Users District in 2006, serving until his passing in 2019.*

*This award honors individuals who exemplify Russ's legacy of leadership, dedication, and impact in ensuring sustainable water solutions for rural communities.*

<b>2024</b> .....	<b>Gene Wilts</b> , Brookings-Deuel RWS	<b>2025</b> .....	<b>Wade Blasius</b> , Aurora-Brule RWS
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# SPIRIT OF RURAL WATER

*Established in 2010, the Spirit of Rural Water award honors individuals, businesses, or groups who go above and beyond to support rural water systems or causes. It recognizes exceptional advocates whose passion and commitment to rural water issues set them apart. Awardees include water consumers, employees, directors, lawmakers, businesses, or anyone who has made a significant effort to advance rural water.*

## 2010

Jerry Backes, Bartlett & West  
John Weidler, Kingbrook RWS

## 2011

Bill Altfillisch, Clark RWS  
John Buss, Lewis & Clark RWS

## 2012

Rosemary Sterling, Kingbrook RWS  
Ivy Holloway, Tri-County Mni Wašté

## 2013

Roger Lamp, Lincoln County RWS  
Dale Waters, Tripp County WUD

## 2014

Larry Sterling, Kingbrook RWS  
Irvin Dykstra, TM RWD

## 2015

Donald Hloucha, Aurora-Brule RWA  
Clifford Dekker, Clark RWS

## 2016

Virgil Vreughenhil, Aurora-Brule RWS  
Dave Odens, Banner Engineering  
Dan Carlson, Big Sioux CWS  
Andy Groos, Big Sioux CWS  
Harold Haber, Brookings-Deuel RWS  
Ted Hall, Bureau of Reclamation  
Bruce Alexander, Davison RWS  
Tom O'Connell, Mobridge  
Ray Bartels, Tripp County WUD

## 2017

Tim Conner, Banner  
Brian Christensen, Kingbrook RWS  
Marty Swallow, Oglala Sioux RWSS  
Brandi Baysinger, Perkins Co. RWS  
John Boyles, Rosebud RWS  
Mike Neuharth, WEB WDA

## 2018

Neal Rowett, Bear Butte Valley Water  
Dennis Weeldreyer, Lewis & Clark RWS  
Morris Elcock, SDARWS  
Jerry Hemeyer, SDARWS  
Sid Munson, SDARWS  
Thomas Kramer, TM RWD

## 2019

Otto Hagedorn, Lincoln Co. RWS  
Paul Goldhammer, WR/LJ RWS  
Marlin Fjelland, Clark RWS  
Greg Merrigan, Clay RWS  
Randy Jencks, Kingbrook RWS  
Lyle Schumack, Bartlett & West

## 2020

Martin Jarrett, Big Sioux CWS  
Russ Phillips, Tripp County WUD

## 2021

Ralph Hammer, South Lincoln RWS

## 2022

Dan Carlson, Big Sioux CWS  
Andy Groos, Big Sioux RWS  
Jesse Christianson, Brookings-Deuel RWS  
Harold Haber, Brookings-Deuel RWS  
Larry Wasland, Clark RWS  
Bruce Jennings, DGR Engineering  
Dale Thompson, Kingbrook RWS  
Nick Jackson, SDARWS  
Jim Zeck, SDARWS  
Guy Gronewold, Sioux RWS

## 2023

Andy Groos, Big Sioux CWS  
Diane Spieker, Clark RWS  
Jolene King, Kingbrook RWS  
David Meyerink, Randall CWD  
JR Holloway, Mni Wašté Water Co.

## 2025

Kirk Cordes, WRLJ RWS  
Rodney Stormo, Kingbrook RWS  
Marvin Antonen, Kingbrook RWS  
Gene Jones, Jr., Magiure Iron  
Angie Hammrich, WEB WDA  
Kirk Cordes, WRLJ RWS

# RURAL WATER SYSTEM OF THE YEAR

*A member system who puts forth exceptional efforts to properly manage, operate, and maintain their drinking water system.*

1986	Tripp County WUD	2006	Grant-Roberts RWS
1987	Minnehaha CWC	2007	Kingbrook RWS
1988	Clay RWS	2008	Tri-County/Mni Wasté WC
1988	South Lincoln RWS	2009	Mid-Dakota RWS
1989	Sioux RWS	2010	Clark RWS
1990	Clark RWS	2011	Big Sioux CWS
1991	Rapid Valley SD/WS	2012	Clay RWS
1992	South Lincoln RWS	2013	Kingbrook RWS
1993	Brookings-Deuel RWS	2014	WR/LJ RWS
1994	WR/LJ RWS	2015	WEB WDA
1995	Kingbrook RWS	2016	Grant-Roberts RWS
1996	Clark RWS	2017	Tripp County WUD
1997	Clay RWS	2018	Lewis & Clark RWS
1998	Mid-Dakota RWS	2019	Rapid Valley SD/WS
1999	BDM RWS	2020	Randall CWD
2000	Big Sioux CWS	2021	Minnehaha CWC
2001	Lower Brule RWS	2022	Mid-Dakota RWS
2002	Aurora-Brule RWS	2023	Clay RWS
2003	Kingbrook RWS	2024	Mni Wašté Water Co.
2004	Davison RWS	2025	Kingbrook RWS

# SOUTH DAKOTA WATER TASTE TEST

2001	Rapid Valley SD/WS	2015	Sioux RWS
2002	Grant-Roberts RWS	2016	Lewis & Clark RWS
2003	South Lincoln RWS	2017	Lincoln County RWS
2004	Hanson RWS	2018	City of Harrisburg
2005	Rapid Valley SD/WS	2019	Mid-Dakota RWS
2006	Kingbrook RWS	2020	City of Harrisburg
2007	Tripp County WUD	2021	City of Harrisburg
2008	Clay RWS	2022	City of Sioux Falls
2009	Tripp County WUD	2023	City of Tea
2010	Sioux RWS*	2024	WEB WDA
2011	Sioux RWS+	2025	City of Colome
2012	WEB WDA		
2013	Aurora-Brule RWS		
2014	Aurora-Brule RWS		

*\*National Rural Water Taste Test Winner*

*+ National Rural Water Taste Test Finalist*

# SDARWS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**LLOYD POPPENS**  
President  
South Lincoln RWS



**JIM THYEN**  
Vice-President  
Sioux RWS



**JODI JOHANSON**  
Secretary  
Big Sioux CWS



**JEFF MCGIRR**  
Treasurer  
Mid-Dakota RWS



**RON GILLEN**  
NRWA Director  
Aurora-Brule RWS

## SDARWS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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### 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, NRWA Director

### 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

VACANT

### 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

Cheryl Chapman

### 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

## SDARWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### 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

### Clark Rural Water System

Marlin Fjelland

### Clay Rural Water System

Mark Bottolfson

### 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

**SDARWS' MISSION:** *To provide the highest quality services that meet the needs and supports the collective efforts of our water and wastewater membership.*

# SDARWS STAFF



**JEREMIAH CORBIN**  
Executive Director



**ROBYN BROTHERS**  
Business Manager



**PAUL DORWART**  
Field Supervisor



**JENNIFER BAME**  
Marketing



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Training Specialist



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**WYATT HIX**  
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