

CRWS

Clay Rural Water System, Inc.

South Dakota
Rural Water System
of the Year

Quality On Tap!

July 2023 | Volume 19, Issue 1



**GET THE
LEAD OUT**

**LAWN
WATERING BEST
PRACTICES**

**5 TIPS TO PROTECT
YOURSELF FROM
CYBER CRIME**

BUUM ELECTED | ANNUAL MEETING RECAP | SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

FROM THE MANAGER

Steve Muilenburg
Manager, Clay Rural Water System, Inc.



Clay Rural Water System has been working toward some critical infrastructure upgrades for a couple of years. The first phase of these projects is well underway and on schedule for completion this fall. Nearly 20 miles of critical water mains being installed this year will help assist in bringing higher flows to many areas of our system. The costs associated with this type of construction and materials are constantly increasing. This means that the routes and locations of these installations must be carefully considered to avoid damage from future projects. We are seeing this along highway 46 east of Beresford now. In the past, many water mains were installed in the Public Right of Way. This is a quick and easy way to put pipe in the ground, and at times necessary, but it is also open to anyone else. These areas of the ditch often become a highway for many other utilities and at times they are so crowded that repairs cannot be made to existing water lines. Another problem that happens is if the state decides to rebuild the road, as they are doing with Highway 46, the utilities occupying the right of way must relocate their services at their own expense or risk being damaged. This is why we rely so much on the landowners within our boundaries for access and easements to their property.

Landowners and operators/renters have been very understanding and patient during these large projects for CRWS. Without their willingness to work with us, these projects would be more costly to the members of the water system. This type of cooperation between property owners/operators and CRWS is a blessing and helps make these large projects stay on time and on budget. It is however unfortunate that the best time for installation of water lines just happens to fall between planting and harvesting for farmers. We really do appreciate the patience and cooperation of everyone as we continue to make these necessary upgrades to CRWS.

As part of a national effort to eliminate the possibility of lead contamination in water systems the EPA has been working on a plan to create a national database of lead water lines. Even though 99% of water lines are not lead or containing any lead contamination, we must all complete some kind of list that states the materials listed for each service connection. There is a survey within this issue of *Quality On Tap* for those who wish to participate. At some point we will all be required to provide some information about our service connections. If anyone has questions about the survey and feels uncomfortable with it, please just take a photo and send it as a text to 605-670-5346 or email it to office@clayruralwater.com. In most cases we can determine the information needed with just a picture. Any information that you can provide would be greatly appreciated and helpful. Thank You!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Randy Huot, President
Randy Ronning, Vice-President
Patricia Manning, Secretary/
Treasurer
Mark Bottolfson, State Director
Dave Reiff, Director
Tim Irwin, Director
Ken Kessler, Director
Cody Merrigan, Director
Jerry Boom, Director

STAFF

Steve Muilenberg, Manager
Donna Henriksen, Office Manager
Leanne Brown, Accounting
Pam Lunning, Controller
Rob Ganschow, Chief Treatment
Plant Operator
Andy Ganschow, Chief Distribution
Operator
Phil Iverson, System Operator
Lane Severson, System Operator

CONTACT INFORMATION

30376 SD Hwy 19
Wakonda, SD 57073
Phone: (605) 267-2088
Fax: (605) 267-2085
email: office@clayruralwater.com

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Clay Rural Water System is to provide high quality water service to the consumers of the corporation at the lowest possible cost consistent with sound business practice.

CLAY MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Quarterly Calendar

JUNE 27

Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

JULY 4

Office closed in Observance of
Independence Day

JULY 25

Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

AUGUST 22

Monthly Board Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 4

Office Closed in Observance of
Labor Day

SEPTEMBER 26

Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.



LEAK REWARD

Members who report a water leak on one of the system pipelines will receive a \$50 leak reward. With over 1,350 miles of pipeline in the distribution system, members can play a key role in assisting system personnel in locating water leaks.

EMPLOYEE MILESTONES



Andy Ganschow
9 years



Leanne Brown
8 years



Steve Muilenburg
4 years

TRIVIA CHALLENGE

Three winners will be drawn from all that answer these trivia questions correctly and will each receive a \$10 water credit. Last issue winners were: Matt Dennison, Gerri Dahlin, and Sherri Zweifl.

1. **In which month are you most likely to see the Perseid meteor shower?**
a. June b. July c. August
2. **What is the nation's favorite hot dog topping?**
a. Ketchup b. Onions c. Mustard
3. **What is America's most popular ice cream flavor?**
a. Vanilla b. Chocolate c. Strawberry

Do We Have Your Number?

Changed phone numbers lately? Dropped your landline? If so, please make sure and let the water system office know. We periodically need to call members for water outages, scheduled maintenance, etc., and quite often we find we do not have a current phone number.

You can reach us at **605-267-2088** or via email at office@clayruralwater.com.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

We offer a variety of ways to pay your water bill:

- 1) Check or money order
- 2) Automatic bank deduction – no charge to customer
- 3) Online – www.clayruralwater.com – click on Member Services Tab (fees do apply)
- 4) All credit/debit card payments will be charged a 3% transaction fee

Call our office for more details on any of these options at 605-267-2088.

Lead-Free SD

(Take the survey now—it could pay off!)

Have you completed your water line survey?

Drinking water is free of lead when it leaves the water treatment plant—however, water can absorb lead if it travels through lead pipes on its way to your faucet. The majority of South Dakota water pipes are free of lead, but we need to find where lead pipes still exist so they can be removed.

**We need YOU to help us find the lead pipes.
That's where the survey comes in.**



It only takes a few minutes.

To complete your quick water line survey, go to survey.SDWaterPipes.com and grab the following:



A coin or key to scratch the pipe

Lead pipes are shiny silver color when scratched.



Any magnet you have handy

Magnets don't stick to lead pipes.



And (of course) your phone

Finish up by snapping a picture of your pipe and uploading it to the survey site.

Another good reason to complete the survey...

**All participants of the
survey will be entered in
a drawing to win one of
(3) \$100 gift cards.**



Open the camera app on your smartphone,
hover over the QR code below,
and tap the link to get to the survey.

GET THE LEAD OUT

Drinking water is free of lead when it leaves the water treatment plant—however, water can absorb lead if it travels through lead pipes on its way to your faucet. The majority of South Dakota water pipes are free of lead, but we need to find where lead lines still exist so they can be removed.

As a part of a nationwide initiative, we are asking everyone to check their pipes and report their results, regardless of what they find. If your home was built after 1987, when the lead ban took effect here in South Dakota, you do not have a lead service line and you may not be asked to provide further information. However, if your home was built around or before 1987, we are looking to you. Knowing where the lead lines are is just as important as knowing where they are not.

Please take a quick survey to see if your home's water pipe contains lead.

You just need five minutes, a coin, a magnet, and a smartphone to test your pipe and help your community. We encourage you to try out the electronic survey, but a paper copy is available upon request. Ask your grandkids, a neighbor, or a friend to help.

Visit survey.sdwaterpipes.com to take this step-by-step survey to identify and record the material of the water pipe

coming into your home.

You'll be asked to follow these three simple steps:

1. Scratch the water pipe with a coin or tool to see if the scraped area is silver-colored and shiny.
2. Check to see if a magnet sticks to the pipe – any magnet will do!
3. Report your results at survey.sdwaterpipes.com. Don't forget to snap a photo of the pipe, and you're done.

Documenting your pipe helps your family, your neighborhood, and your water provider. It's a simple process that only takes a few minutes, but it can have a huge impact on community health and safety.

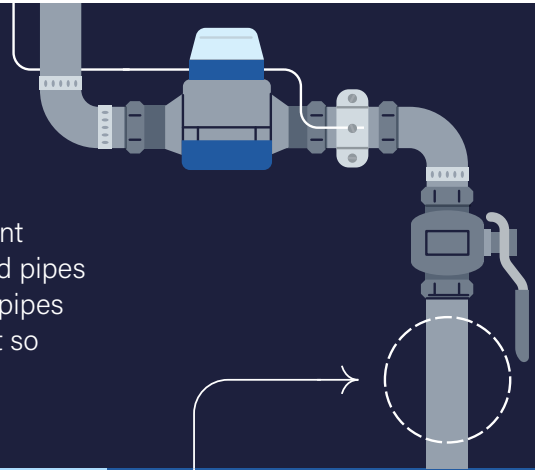
For more information and to get started on your survey, visit survey.sdwaterpipes.com

By providing this information yourself, you are contributing to our efficiency and keeping our costs down. By donating five minutes of your time, you are saving 30-60 minutes that it will take our staff to visit your home to complete the inventory of your water service line. Which, in turn, helps to keep your costs from increasing. You are making a huge impact! Thank you!



Lead-Free SD

Drinking water is free of lead when it leaves the water treatment plant—however, water can absorb lead if it travels through lead pipes on its way to your faucet. The majority of South Dakota water pipes are free of lead, but we need to find where lead pipes still exist so they can be removed.

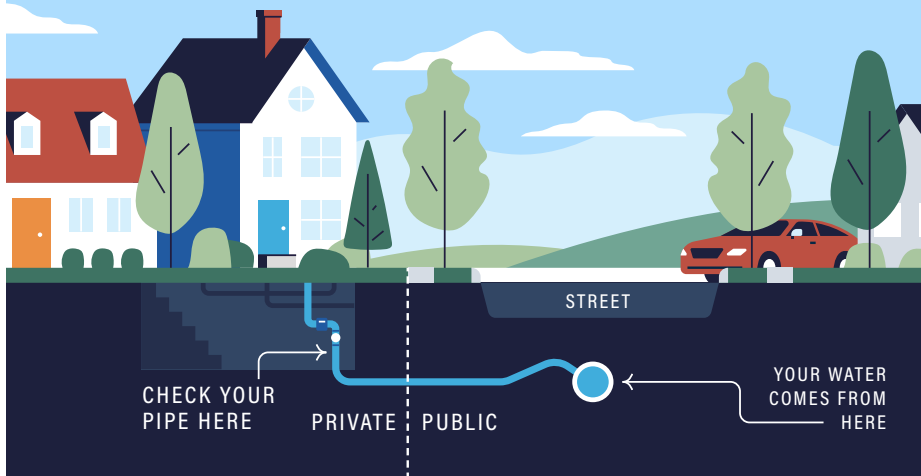


Take this quick survey to help protect your health

Your water system is asking you to help find where the lead pipes are located. It's important and easy to do.



When you have five minutes to spare, visit survey.SDWaterPipes.com to complete a quick assessment of your water pipe. We'll even help you locate the pipe in your home.



- 1 SCRATCH IT.
- 2 STICK IT.
- 3 REPORT IT.
- ✓ DONE!

The survey gives you step-by-step instructions to find and test your water pipe.

- ✓ Scratch the water pipe with a coin or key to see if the scraped area is silver-colored and shiny
- ✓ Check to see if a magnet sticks to the pipe—any magnet will do!
- ✓ Report your results

As a part of a nationwide initiative, water systems are asking everyone to check their pipes and report their results, regardless of what they find. Knowing where the lead pipes are is just as important as knowing where they are not.

If you prefer a paper copy of the survey, please contact your rural water system listed on page 2.



Open the camera app on your smartphone, hover over the QR code below, and tap the link to get to the survey.

Visit sdwaterpipes.com for more information.



LAWN WATERING BEST PRACTICES

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

No matter what kind of yard or landscape you have, it's important to know exactly how much water your plants need before you turn on the sprinkler. Smart watering practices reduce runoff and may decrease the need for pesticides and fertilizers.

Contact your local water utility to find out exactly how much and when you should be watering and keep the following questions in mind when you water so that you can maintain a beautiful and healthy yard without wasting water or money.

When?

Avoid watering in the middle of the day when the hot sun will evaporate much of the water before it can get to thirsty plants.

How often?

Your landscape will typically require one inch of water a week, including rainfall, and that can vary depending on where you live, recent weather, and the plants in your landscape. Your area's Cooperative Extension Service or local water utility can provide advice on how often to irrigate shrubs, trees, and other perennials.

How long?

Give this a try! Place a few empty tuna cans around your lawn while you're watering and measure how long it takes your sprinkler to fill them with a half inch of water. Then, try watering that amount of time twice a week, gauge how your landscape responds, and adjust based on weather conditions.

If water begins to pool, turn off your sprinkler to prevent overwatering, weed growth, disease, fungus, and stormwater runoff that pollutes local waterways with fertilizers and pesticides. Watering plants or grass too frequently can drown plants or result in shallow roots. You can simplify your irrigation schedule by replacing your standard clock timer controller with a WaterSense labeled irrigation controller.

Water can easily pool on some landscapes with clay-rich soils or slopes if water is applied too quickly. These landscapes can benefit from dividing irrigation runtimes into intervals with short breaks in between to allow water to soak into the soil. Keep water in your landscape and reduce overwatering by implementing Cycle-and-Soak.

What else?

When the rain does come, saving water from storms or diverting rainwater back to the landscape is a great way to supplement your efficiency measures. Rain barrels or cisterns can be used to harvest rain water for irrigation and other outdoor water uses. Some states might have laws that prohibit collection of rainwater, so be sure to check with your state's water resource agency before implementing a rainwater collection system. Rooftop downspouts can also be diverted towards rain gardens that easily soak up the rain rather than sending it to stormwater drains.

MANAGE YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM

- **Adjust your irrigation system often.** Irrigation schedules should be adjusted based on seasonal changes. A WaterSense labeled irrigation controller uses weather or soil moisture data to determine when to water.
- **Set sprinklers to keep the water on the landscape and off the pavement.** Lots of water is wasted by poorly designed and neglected sprinkler systems that spray sidewalks, driveways, and the street. Save water by directing sprinklers toward the landscape.
- **Inspect your irrigation system monthly.** Check for leaks, broken or clogged heads, and other problems, or engage a certified irrigation professional to regularly check your system. Clean microirrigation filters as needed and correct obstructions in sprinkler heads that prevent them from distributing water evenly.
- **Play "zone" defense.** Similar plants should be planted together in an irrigation zone, and each hydrozone should account for the type of sprinkler, sun or shade exposure, and type of plants. You can save even more water outdoors by incorporating water-smart landscaping principles into your landscape design.
- **Check for WaterSense!** A certified irrigation professional can design, install, maintain, or audit your system to ensure you're using the proper amount of water to support a healthy landscape. Ask if your irrigation contractor is certified by a WaterSense labeled program.

Information provided by www.epa.gov/watersense/watering-tips



*By Rick Olivier,
Director of Strategic Growth and Innovation,
SBS CyberSecurity*

5 TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CYBER-CRIME

In South Dakota, many of us leave our doors unlocked at night, leave our car ignitions running when we stop at a convenience store, and will stop to help a stranger alongside the road if they appear to be in need. We live in a relatively safe place where we trust one another and want to help those around us – both friends and strangers. The fact that we can do these things is part of the reason we love where we live! But the question is... would we act the same way if we lived in a larger city or in another country? The answer is probably “no.” Because of the change in location, our behaviors would need to change because of the increased risk that goes along with those bigger cities or different countries. When we connect to the internet from our phones, tablets, or computers, we physically are still in South Dakota, but we are now connecting, and become accessible to the entire world. The internet is a pretty amazing tool that allows us to access a multitude of information from anywhere, but just like the real world there are dangers that can cause harm if we don't protect ourselves.

Here are 5 things I recommend to protect yourself from cyber criminals:

1. Use Strong Passwords That Aren't Used for Multiple Accounts

I'm sure you're sick of hearing this advice, but there is a reason that cyber professionals keep preaching it! When you think of an account getting hacked, you are probably thinking of a movie where a hacker uses information such as important dates, pets name, address, etc. to guess a password. What hackers actually do is use computer programs to attempt tens of thousands of password options in hopes of finding the right one – and if you're using a dictionary word, even with slight modifications, as your password, it will take mere seconds for the computer program to identify it. Hackers also purchase compromised account credentials online, so if your account info (username and password) has ever been stolen from any site you've used, the hacker now has your username and password and will use computer systems to try that same username and password combo on thousands of other websites.

This means that if you are re-using passwords, they may now have access to several of your accounts. Along with using different passwords for each account, I would also recommend using password management software to help you create complex passwords that will also securely save all the passwords you have. I don't have a specific password manager that I recommend, but I encourage you to investigate your options. They'll not only make your accounts more secure, but they can actually make entering account information quicker and easier in the long run.

2. Enable Multi-Factor Authentication

Most online accounts now either require or have the option for you to enable Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), sometimes called Two-Factor Authentication. MFA requires users to prove they are who you say they are by proving it at least twice. Generally, the first factor is a username and password. The second factor for many sites is a text message, email, or app on your phone where you need to enter a code that was sent or click an approval option. This second factor means that if a cyber criminal gets your password, they would also need to get access to your text, email, or phone in order to compromise your account. MFA, while not unbeatable, is extremely effective. While hackers are quite skilled at what they do, they generally look for the easiest target and using MFA makes you a much harder target. Many online accounts require users to go into the settings and enable or turn on MFA. If you want to be more cyber secure make sure you do this for all accounts, but your priority should be on accounts with financial information, health information, or social media accounts.

3. Install Software Updates

Technology providers are in a race with hackers to find security holes in their products. Large security holes can inadvertently allow cyber criminals access to systems and data which expose both the technology provider and you – the user. When technology providers find these security holes they issue patches or software updates to fix them. As a user, you should install these software updates to fix the identified holes before they cause any significant issues. For many providers these security holes are fixed at the same time as the software is updated for functionality so you may not even know you are fixing security holes, but make sure to do this regularly on all technical devices.

4. Don't Believe That People Online Are Who They Say They Are

Cyber criminals are very good at playing on their victim's emotions. An example of one of the ways they do this is with

online dating scams. The criminal will try to make a personal connection with you and eventually try to get you to send them money. Millions of people fall victim to these dating or love scams every year, however they are not always easy to spot, as the criminals are very good at what they do and can develop those relationships for months before making their ask. Cyber criminals are also known to send emails claiming to be someone they are not (phishing) including a government agency, news organization, legal entity, etc. and then scare you into going to a site they send you to, in order to get you to send them confidential information or money. Be VERY leery of anyone online who is asking you to do something quickly, and if the ask is eliciting some sort of emotional reaction – there's a good chance this is part of a scam. If you're unsure if something online is a scam, ask someone you trust with some technical savvy or reach out to local law enforcement.

5. Keep Your "Friends" List on Facebook Private

This is a very specific security tip, but something I've seen a lot recently is where someone claims their Facebook account has been hacked and their friends are getting new friend requests from them. Generally, the accounts are not actually hacked but a hacker has "spoofed" your account by using your name and profile picture, then pretending to be you by making another Facebook account with your name. The easiest way to prevent this is to make your "Friends" list private so strangers are unable to see who your Facebook friends are. To do this, go into your Facebook account to "Settings," then "How People Find and Contact You," then "Who Can See Your Friends List." If it is set to "Public" anyone can see who your friends are and attempt to spoof them into thinking the new account is you. If you change the setting to "Friends" only your accepted Facebook friends can see your friends list – this is what I recommend. The only way that spoofing works for a cyber criminal is to trick your friends into thinking a spoofed account is actually you, which means if the criminal doesn't know who your friends are the scam doesn't work.

While these tips won't keep you safe from all cyber-crime, it will significantly reduce your risk. Following these tips will also require you to take the time to implement them and being cyber secure is not always convenient, but if you experience the headache of becoming a victim of cyber-crime, you'll wish you had proactively taken the time to complete these before the bad things happened. Enjoy the benefits of having the world at your fingertips online but be vigilant and stay safe!

WEB WATER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

WEB Water Development Association, Inc. is located in Aberdeen, SD, and was formed in December 1975 by community leaders from Walworth, Edmunds, and Brown counties looking to improve their drinking water. The acronym for WEB was taken from the names of these three counties. Within a year of development, the interest had grown to six counties, and within four years, the project had grown to 10 counties. The WEB Water project was authorized by Congress on September 20, 1980, as part of a settlement of the Oahe Irrigation Project with support from President Jimmy Carter. It took two more years of hard work, lobbying, and negotiation until Congress reauthorized the WEB Water Project. On September 22, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed WEB Water into law. The WEB Water Board of Directors then entered into a loan and grant agreement with the U.S. Department of Interior on September 29, 1983, with construction work beginning on October 20, 1983. The first WEB customers – the Keith Vojta family, who had been hauling drinking water for their farm home for 14 years – received water on May 26, 1986.

Elected officials who played a major role in the development of WEB Water were US Senator Tom Daschle (D), who was working with the Carter Administration, and U.S. Senator Jim Abdnor (R), who was working with the Reagan Administration. Other elected officials also involved were Senator Jim Abourezk, Senator Larry Pressler, Congressman Clint Roberts, Senator George McGovern, Governor George Mickelson, and Governor Bill Janklow.

WEB Water now serves more than 8,500 meters, averaging 6,376,500 gallons/day. Besides rural hookups, WEB Water serves 112 bulk services through 6,800 miles of pipe in Walworth, Edmunds, Brown, Day, Spink, Hand, Hyde, Campbell, Faulk, Potter, McPherson, Beadle, Clark & Marshall counties in South Dakota; Emmons, Dickey, and McIntosh counties in North Dakota.

WEB Water is overseen by a nine-person Board of Directors, including a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Each Director can serve a total of four 3-year terms. They also employ 47 people throughout the WEB Water system.

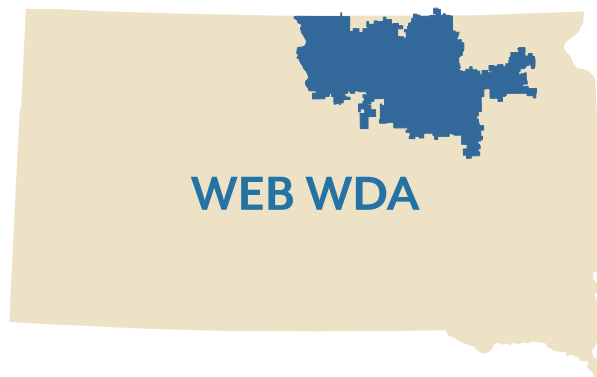
The success of the WEB Water system is an example of what communities can do when they work together. Like

the Rural Electric Cooperatives, the development of Rural Water has been a grass-roots effort that has served South Dakota well. Hundreds of local leaders and citizen volunteers donated their time, helped sign up their neighbors, attended meetings, served on Steering Committees, served on the WEB Water Board, traveled to Pierre and Washington, DC, to present testimony, and went

door-to-door explaining to Congressmen, Senators, and federal officials why a rural water system was needed in South Dakota.

Over thirty years ago, WEB Water was the first water project of its kind. Funding a regional pipeline project by federal authorization through the Interior Department had never been done before. The idea of piping Missouri River water through thousands of miles of pipelines to farms, homes, and towns seemed outlandish to many in government – and looked almost impossible to many in South Dakota. Regional water systems are commonplace today because of the precedence WEB Water set. Other South Dakota projects have benefited from the precedent set by WEB Water; Mid-Dakota Rural Water, Lewis & Clark Regional Water, Perkins County Rural Water, West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water, BDM Rural Water, and Mni Wiconi.

As of 2023, WEB has embarked on its Moratorium Improvements project, which includes upgrading its Water Treatment Plant by six million gallons daily. The work has started with a completion date of 2025. This summer, WEB will begin the Mainline Parallel project that will bring a 49.5" pipe from WEB's intake to the corner of Highway 83 and 12. The completion date is also scheduled to be done in 2025. The PVC Pipe project, which will include 100 miles of pipe throughout their system, is set to go to bid this summer.





DIRECTORS:

- Tim Van Hatten** – Chair (*Bulk*)
- Craig Oberle** – Vice-Chair (*Spink, Beadle, Hand*)
- Lori Goldade** – Secretary (*Brown*)
- Les Hinds** – Treasurer/State Association Director (*Bulk*)
- Allan Walth** – Director (*Walworth, Potter*)
- Bob Whitmyre** – Director (*Day, Clark, Marshall*)
- Dick Werner** – Director (*Campbell, McPherson, Emmonds, Dickey, McIntosh*)
- Jeff Stoecker** – Director (*Edmunds, Faulk, Hyde*)
- Henry Orth** – Director (*Bulk*)

STAFF:

- Angie Hammrich** – General Manager
- Clayton Larson** – Water Treatment Plant Manager
- Shane Phillips** – Operations Manager
- Eric Hansen** – Construction Manager

STATISTICS:

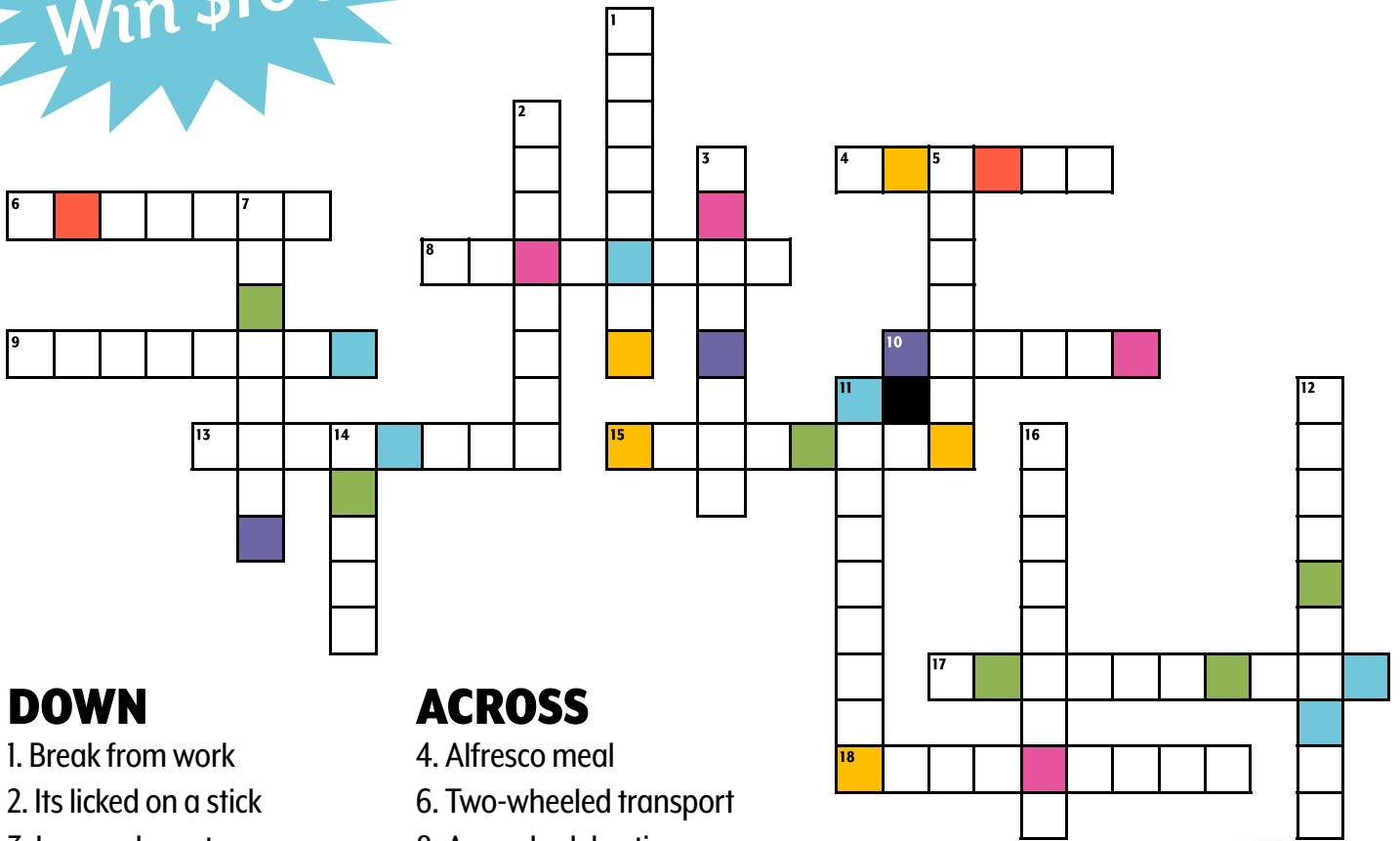
- Hookups:** 8,500
- Miles of Pipeline:** 6,800
- Water Source:** Oahe Reservoir
- Counties Served:** (SD): Beadle, Brown, Campbell, Clark, Day, Edmunds, Faulk, Hand, Hyde, McPherson, Marshall, Potter, Spink, Walworth. (ND): Emmons, Dickey, McIntosh
- Towns Served Individual:** Akaska, Andover, Athol, Ashton, Barnard, Bath, Butler, Columbia, Ferney, Frankfort, Glenham, Hillsview, Holmquist, Lily, Lowry, Loyalton, Mansfield, Mina, Miranda, Mound City, Rockham, Turton, Verdon, Zell
- Towns Served Bulk:** Bowdle, Brentford, Bristol, Chelsea, Conde, Cresbard, Doland, Eden, Eureka, Faulkton, Forbes, Frederick, Grenville, Groton, Herreid, Hosmer, Ipswich, Java, Leola, Long Lake, Mellette, Northville, Onaka, Pollock, Redfield, Roscoe, Roslyn, Selby, Seneca, Stratford, Warner, Webster, Wecota, Westport, Wetonka, Zeeland

RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

SUMMERTIME FUN

Enter to
Win \$100

SCRAMBLE ANSWER



DOWN

1. Break from work
2. Its licked on a stick
3. Journey by auto
5. It's in tents
7. Drink from a stand
11. Flashy Display
12. Juicy fruit
14. Sandy spot
16. Horticulture pasttime

ACROSS

4. Alfresco meal
6. Two-wheeled transport
8. Annual celebration
9. Sandal-less, say
10. Nature Walk
13. Outdoor cookout
15. Taking a dip
17. Shades
18. Watering Device



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 July 15, 2023 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 Lori Kingsbury with the Tripp County Water User District who had the correct phrase of "Every Action has a reaction" for April 2023.

JERRY BUUM ELECTED AS NEWEST CLAY RURAL SYSTEM DIRECTOR



At our recent District Election, the Clay Rural Water System elected a new member to their Board of Directors, Jerry Buum. Jerry will represent District II, replacing Nick McKee who stepped down from the Board.

Jerry Buum resides with his wife Laurie at rural Beresford. They have two children, Katie & Casey Winquist, and Kyle & Brooke Buum, and two grandchildren.

Jerry has been the Union County Highway Superintendent since July 2017. He worked at Union County for 10 years prior 1990-2000. In between he worked for the City of Elk Point as Street Supt. and PWD for 17 years. Jerry's hobbies

include golfing, gardening, and hunting.

When asked why Jerry wanted to serve on the Board, he stated, "I have been a public servant for over 27 years and enjoy giving back to my community, and I figured that serving on the Clay Rural Water Board would be another way to serve my community." Welcome Jerry!!

In the other Districts, Randy Ronning was re-elected in District I for his 4th term; Mark Bottolfson was re-elected in District II for his 2nd term; and Ken Kessler was re-elected for his second term in District III.

CRWS 44TH ANNUAL MEETING HELD

The Clay Rural Water System held their 44th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 21st at the Vermillion National Guard Armory. The meal was prepared and served by Heck's Barbeque to 102 guests, including 62 registered members.

Members registering each received a \$10 water credit, received a copy of the Systems financial statement, and were signed up for door prizes. Members enjoyed a great meal and a short meeting outlining the future projects of the Water System. Members also voted on two proposed changes to the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation.



Clay Rural Water SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Clay Rural Water System Board of Directors has announced that Macy Quartier, Irelyn Fickbohm, and Sophia Giorgio are recipients of the water systems annual scholarship program – the Jack and Arlene DeVany Scholarship Program.

MACY QUARTIER will graduate from Beresford HS in 2023 and plans to attend SDSU but is undecided on her major at this time. She is the daughter of Randy & Christina Quartier.

IRELYN FICKBOHM will graduate from Beresford HS this spring and has plans to attend USD to major in social work. Irelyn is the daughter of Ryan and Melissa Fickbohm.

SOPHIA GIORGIO, the daughter of Amy & John Giorgio of Elk Point, will graduate from Elk Point-Jefferson HS in May of 2023. She plans to major in Social Work and get a minor in criminal justice, catholic studies, or women and gender studies at Avila University in Kansas City.

The Clay Rural Water System scholarship is named in honor of the water systems long-time attorney, the late Jack DeVany and his wife Arlene, a long-time educator. This is the 31st year of the program.

As part of each application, each student was asked to submit an essay entitled, “What Rural Water Means to Me.” Following are the essays of the three recipients.

What Rural Water Means to Me | Irelyn Fickbohm

Living in a first world country, you don't always take into consideration the necessities you often take for granted. We have the consistent availability of food, water, shelter, clothing, etc., but when it is taken away, we freeze, not knowing what to do. Confronted with the scarcity of resources, it can be quite shocking and most definitely an eye-opener! We must learn to be flexible and ready for whatever obstacle might come our way next. You never know when something as small as a sudden pipe leak or a natural disaster will strike and make significant changes to your lifestyle.

I remember when a pipe burst at my house, and we didn't have water for a few days. This meant no showers, laundry, washing dishes, drinking water, etc. This did not only affect my family, but also the animals we have. We had to figure



out different avenues to make sure our needs and the needs of our animals were met. Signs were posted around the house as a reminder not to use the water or bathroom facilities, as it was just a natural conditioned response to be able to use those conveniences. My family had to drive to my grandparents' house to be able to do our everyday activities that we took for granted in our daily lives. This most definitely interfered with our daily routines and was extremely inconvenient.

It was an incredible feeling when the water was eventually turned back on and it was safe for us to use, making it easy to access and making our lives much less stressful. Our daily lives and the lives of our animals depend on having quality access to clean and sanitary water, and I am thankful and grateful to the Clay Rural Water System for providing me this opportunity.

What Rural Water Means to Me | Macy Quartier



When I sat down to think about what rural water means to me, I realized that I have not had to consider what it means before now. Growing up, I have known no difference and have been fortunate enough to have water, one of the most essential pieces of living, readily available at all times. Most importantly, not

only is it readily available, it is also top-notch quality, and because of this writing prompt, it is at the forefront of my thoughts.

I drink water. Even as society has seemed to switch to pop, energy drinks, tea, coffee, and other prepackaged drinks to “hydrate” their bodies, I solely use water. Without thought, every day I fill my water bottle multiple times a day from our tap. I have never had to think about it being cloudy or having a bad taste or smell. I do not have to have bottled water on hand or worry about having clean water to drink.

I have been fortunate enough to travel. On these trips, I can only drink bottled water. We need to be careful not to drink tap water, or we risk getting sick. I witnessed a family who had become ill while we were traveling. It ended up being the ice cubes they were pouring their bottled water and soda on that was causing the illness. The ice cubes were made from well water that was tested and found to have bacteria. Something like this I would not have even conceived of happening because of the rural water we have.

I live on an acreage that just 17 years ago did not have rural water. When my parents built our home, Clay Rural Water extended water lines so we could have access. Within a few years of the construction, Clay Rural Water added more pressure. I realize now, after talking to my parents, how lucky I am to have this available at my home. Not only do I have access to rural water, but we are also supported by a company that is always looking to better our quality, meet our ever-growing demands, and keep our rates affordable.

What does rural water mean to me? I will be honest; it means more than I realized when I started writing this essay. By sitting down and actually thinking about all I take for granted whenever I turn on my faucet for quality water, to drink, or to take a shower with plenty of pressure, I become even more grateful for everything I have and for what others may not have access to.

What Rural Water Means to Me | Sophia Giorgio

Rural Water has greatly affected my family and I. Having safe and reliable water is one thing that I often take for granted. Water is essential to live, but having good tasting and healthy water is something that not everybody gets to experience. With the development of rural water, I no longer have to worry about what bad chemicals are in my water. I know that when I go to the sink, I am able to drink good tasting and safe water. When I shower, I know that what is cleaning my body and hair is clean water. I also know that I don't have to worry about chlorine residue in my showers and sink.

My family and I greatly appreciate the development of rural water. Water is

something that we use every single day. I use water for my dogs, cats, and flowers. I use water to stay hydrated, take a shower, and clean my house.

Before rural water was developed, people had to use their own well water. Every day people would have to get up in the morning and get dirty water from the well. They were responsible for making sure their water was clean for their families. I have the luxury of no longer having to go out in the cold or scorching hot weather to get my water for the day. I am now able to go to my sink whenever I need a drink. My family relies on water to keep us healthy and clean. The development of rural water has meant so much to my family and I.

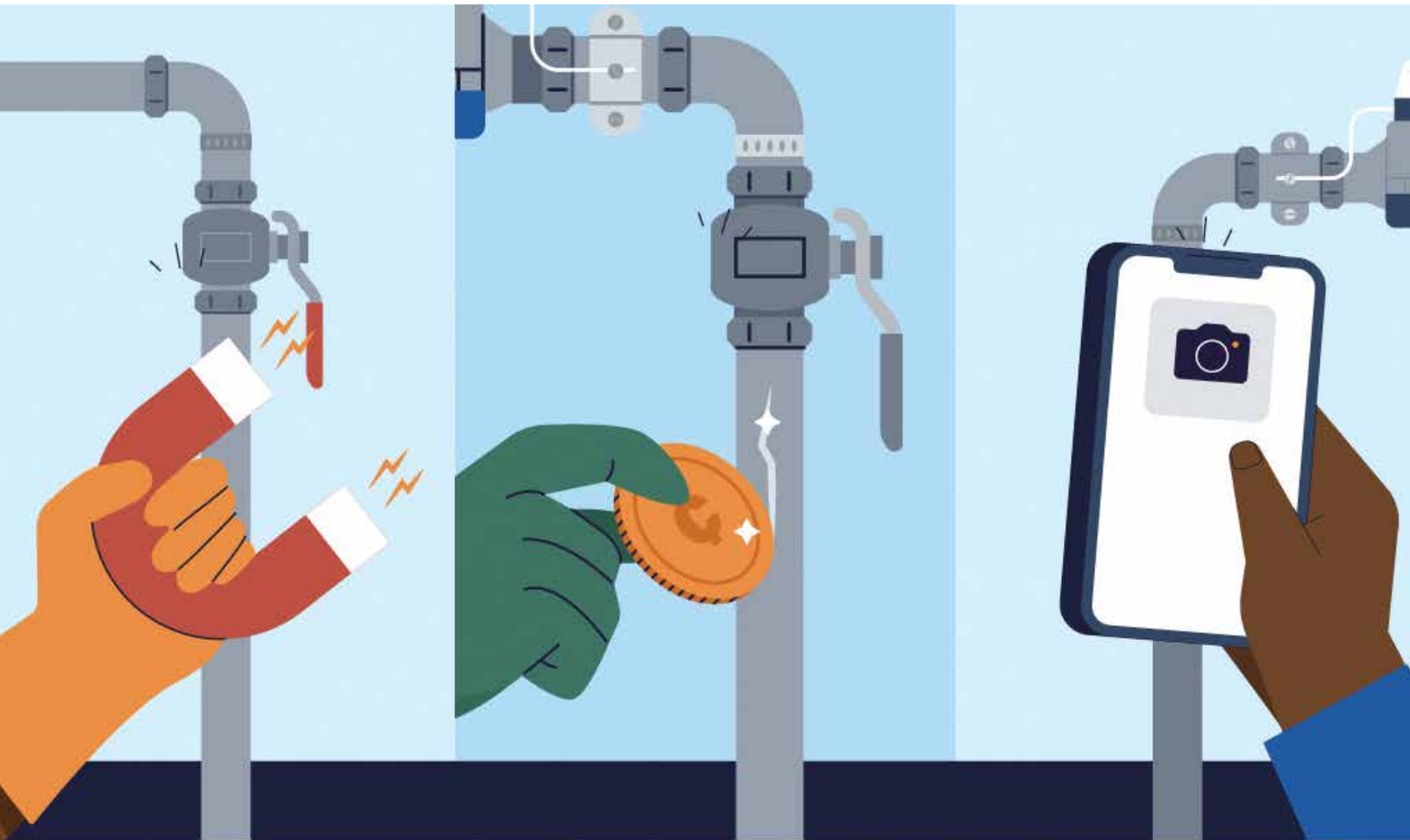


Clay Rural Water System, Inc.
30376 SD HWY 19
Wakonda SD 57073-6416
605-267-2088 | clayruralwater.com

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #32
MADISON, SD

Address Service Requested

LEAD FREE SD



It's up to you!

Unlock the mystery of your property's water pipe material with the step-by-step survey at

survey.SDWaterPipes.com

SEE PAGE 5 FOR MORE INFORMATION

BACK PAGE CONTENT PROVIDED BY:



EAST DAKOTA
WATER
DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT

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