

The logo for CRWS (Clay Rural Water System, Inc.) features the letters 'CRWS' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'C' and 'R' are blue, while the 'W' and 'S' are green. The letters are stacked, with the 'C' and 'R' on top and the 'W' and 'S' below them.

Clay Rural Water System, Inc.

Quality On Tap!

April 2022 | Volume 17, Issue 4

**REMEMBER WHEN
LIFE BEFORE RURAL WATER**

**MANAGING
STORMWATER**

**SPRING GARDEN PLANTING:
GETTING A HEAD START**

FROM THE MANAGER

Steve Muilenburg
Manager, Clay Rural Water System, Inc.



Well, it looks as if the 2022-year construction season is nearly upon us. As anticipated, we have received a lot of requests for new hookups over the winter. We have also been busy with yearly maintenance projects and preparing for what looks to be another year of many small- and large-scale projects to contend with. The amount of new construction has certainly been a challenge for CRWS over the years. Our staff has been pushed to the limits and challenged on the construction side of things and the ongoing task of keeping our current customers supplied with enough water to serve their daily needs. CRWS is by no means one of the newer water systems in the state. The age and condition of an aging system seem to always amplify the normal task and make it into a significant issue to contend with. If it were not for knowledgeable and talented staff, we would not be able to keep water flowing as well as it does throughout the system. We also appreciate the patience of our consumers when we do have disruptions with water flows. Sometimes we have planned events for repairs, and often they are unexpected outages with what always seems to be the poorest timing imaginable. I can't stress enough how much that means to the staff when people understand we are doing our best to supply you with this precious commodity, "water."

As we strive to improve our ability to serve the patrons of our system, we must continue to make improvements and upgrades when and where needed. Many of you have been or will be contacted by staff or engineers working on behalf of CRWS for construction projects in your area. Some of these projects will be as simple as a new hookup for a single customer or very large projects for upgrades to our entire system.

With around 600 million dollars dumped into South Dakota from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act), we will be getting a taste of the Washington DC way of spending American tax dollars over the next few years. With the rising inflation, higher interest rates, and triple-digit increases for industrial-specific products, many industries across the nation will not see the potential impact that it may have been intended to have. Unfortunately, most of the infrastructure that is failing does happen to fall within the specific inflation category. Across the water and wastewater industries, 100-300% increases in the cost of goods are happening. The availability of products and shortage of contractors has also become a driving force for cost increases. These issues will not go away soon; they will worsen as construction ramps up and make completion timelines tough to meet and add greatly to the cost of each project. There is no way to sugarcoat this issue; it will only make things worse

...continued on page 15

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

STAFF


Steve Muilenberg, Manager
Donna Henriksen, Office Manager
Leanne Brown, Accounting
Pamela Lunning, Accounting
Tom Hollingsworth, Operations Supervisor
Phil Iverson, Operator
Rob Ganschow, Operator
Andy Ganschow, Operator
Lane Severson, 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.

 **STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION:** In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

CLAY MEMBERSHIP CORNER

Quarterly Calendar

MARCH 22

Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,
System Office

APRIL 21

43rd Annual Meeting Drive-thru, 4-6
p.m.; Wakonda Water Plant

APRIL 21

Monthly Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.,
System Office

MAY 24

Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,
System Office

MAY 30

Office closed in Honor of Memorial Day

JUNE 28

Monthly Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.,
System Office



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.

DRIVE-THRU ANNUAL MEETING

April 21, 2022
Wakonda Water Plant

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.

TRIVIA CHALLENGE

Three random names will be chosen from all callers that answer these trivia questions correctly. Each winner will receive a \$10 water credit. Last issue winners were: Joan Blatchford, Marty Erickson, and Crista Johnson.

1. What is the first day of Spring called?

- A. The Easter Equinox
- B. The Spring Solstice
- C. The Easter Solstice
- D. The Vernal Equinox

2. On the first day of Spring, it is said that the day and night are exactly what length?

- A. 12 hour day & 12 hour night
- B. 10 hour day & 14 hour night
- C. 16 hour day & 8 hour night
- D. 14 hour day & 10 hour night

3. Why does daylight increase in Spring?

- A. Because the Earth's axis is increasing its tilt toward the sun
- B. Because the Earth doesn't spin as fast on its axis
- C. Because the Earth is closest to the sun in its orbit
- D. Because the Sun moves closer to the Earth in the Spring

PAYMENT OPTIONS

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

- 1) check or money order,
- 2) automatic bank deduction or
- 3) online – www.clayruralwater.com – click on the Online Payment tab.

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

Five Things This Earth Day to Save Water



If you want to celebrate the Earth this year, don't forget to include water. More than 70 percent of the surface of our planet is water, but almost all of that is ocean water so full of salt, so we can't drink it! Because water is such a precious resource, we all need to do our part to save it. Here are five ways you can start saving water on Earth Day—and every day:

- 1. Stop the flow.** Water doesn't need to be flowing while you are busy brushing your teeth, so why not turn it off and save a couple gallons? Also, be sure that the faucet is turned off tightly when you're done washing your hands...those drips become wasted gallons.



- 2. Lose the hose, reuse those drops.** If you don't drink all the water in your glass, use it to water houseplants or flowers in the garden. Leftover ice cubes can go right into small plant pots; as they slowly melt, they will give the roots just the water they need.

- 3. Scrap the rinse, scrape instead.** If you're cleaning up after meals, scrape food scraps into the trash before loading the dishwasher. Washing and rinsing dishes in the sink uses a lot more water than the dishwasher, but only run the washer when it's full.



- 4. Take a shower instead of a soak.** A shower uses less water than filling the bathtub; just don't stand under the spray for too long! If you shorten your shower by just a minute, it will save two gallons of water. Use less shampoo, so it doesn't take long to rinse.

- 5. Don't use the toilet for trash.** Used paper towels and tissues belong in the garbage. Only flush the three Ps—pee, poop, and (toilet) paper. When you use the toilet as a trash can, you waste anywhere from one gallon of water to three gallons or more!





SPRING GARDEN PLANNING: Getting a Head Start

By Donna Rumbaugh | Extension Master Gardener

Get on your marks, get set...GO! Whether you are an avid gardener or an aspiring new gardener, this is the time to get ready! While Mother Nature isn't quite ready for us to roll up our sleeves and start breaking ground yet, planning is the key to a successful garden.

The most important thing to remember when it comes to spring gardening is to not be in a hurry. It is easy to be lured into thinking spring has sprung, only to get blown away with a late spring blizzard or freezing temperatures. According to the Farmer's Almanac, the last spring frost for our area should be around May 3rd this year. As a general rule, Mother's Day kicks off the gardening season, but even then, it can be pushing it a little.

When planning your garden, there are many things to consider now to make gardening a joy, not a chore. First and foremost, location, location, location! If a garden is close to the house, the gardener can easily check the plant's progress and provide the needed care. Water is generally more accessible near houses or other buildings as well. But if the soil is poor, drainage is inadequate, or there is too much shade, then look elsewhere.

Vegetables require regular watering, so a water source is very important. Most vegetables will need an inch or more of water a week. Inconsistent watering causes produce to crack and develop diseases. The water source should be convenient, or it will be challenging to water as often as needed and gardeners will become discouraged. If you are far from a water source, consider a drip system fed by a water tank. Not all water in South Dakota is suitable for irrigation. Artesian water is often higher in salts or sodium and may not be usable.

If space is limited, consider placing plants that require a small amount of room near the house, and put those requiring larger space where more room is available. "Pretty"

vegetables can be mixed into flower beds. Vining plants such as cucumbers can be trellised against a wall, and most bush types of vegetables can be grown in a container.

Next, let's think about the amount of sun that touches the ground throughout the day. Most vegetables need at least six to eight hours of full sunlight a day. Less light will cause your plants to grow tall and leggy. You will get leaves, but little produce. Leafy vegetables such as lettuce may be grown in shadier areas during the hottest part of the summer, as they prefer a cooler environment.

The wind is another consideration, especially here on the upper plains. If your garden is in an exposed area, consider providing some sort of windbreak. Trees and shrubs are effective, but if they are too close to the garden, they can compete for soil moisture and nutrients, and shade the garden. Tilling too close to trees or shrubs can result in rapid regrowth from the roots and cause headaches down the road. Also, keep your garden away from black walnut trees, as the roots produce a substance that will harm tomatoes and other garden plants. If trees are not an option, think outside the box. Plant three to four rows of sweet corn or sunflowers on the windward side of the garden. Snow fences can be strategically placed to block wind, or planting Sorghum-sudangrass adds interest to the garden area.

Look for spots that have fertile soil that is workable and easy to dig at least eight inches deep. The soil should be well-drained. Avoid spots that have a history of flooding, as floodwaters can carry pathogens or chemicals that can contaminate the plants and make them unsafe to eat. Test your drainage by digging eight to 10 inches deep and filling it with water. If, after 12 hours, there is any water left in the hole, choose a different site, or consider building raised beds.

So, when you are feeling that itch to get outside and get started, just take a stroll around your yard, and keep these factors in mind while envisioning the location best suited for producing your fall harvest.



Managing Stormwater

By John McMaine, PhD

Until there is a flood, stormwater is not often at the forefront of people's mind. When a flood comes, it is often too late to react which leads to infrastructure damage or even loss of life.

Any rain drop that falls on the ground can do one of four things – run off the ground surface, go into the ground (infiltration), return to the atmosphere (evapotranspiration), or be stored on the ground surface or in soil. Most natural landscapes are primarily infiltration dominated systems but developed areas are runoff dominated systems. Any impervious surface generates significantly more runoff and less infiltration than most pervious surfaces. Impervious surfaces could include driveways, parking lots, roofs, or sidewalks. Around 55% of precipitation in a highly urbanized area with 75-100% impervious surfaces becomes runoff and only 10% is infiltrated into the ground. In comparison, only 10% of precipitation in an undeveloped area (0-10% impervious surface) becomes runoff. This dramatic change in hydrology increases risks of localized and downstream flooding and erosion.

Storm sewers have been used to manage excess localized flooding but because storm sewers do not reduce the peak flow (highest rate of runoff) and total volume (total amount of runoff from a storm), flood and erosion risk just gets shifted downstream. Detention basins are part of the second iteration of stormwater management and were introduced to control peak flow during storm events.

Detention basins function by holding and storing water and releasing it through a controlled outlet like an orifice or a weir. While detention basins effectively reduce peak flow they do not reduce overall flow volume that is produced from impervious area. Excess volume can still lead to downstream flooding and erosion.

Green stormwater infrastructure or low impact development (LID) is a stormwater management philosophy that manages both peak flow as well as total flow volume. LID practices include rain gardens or bioretention, rainwater harvesting, permeable pavement, green roofs, and disconnection of impervious surfaces. While these practices are commonly part of the built environment across many cities in coastal states and some midsize and large cities in the Midwest, LID is not common in South Dakota. LID can be implemented by a homeowner or a municipality.

Rainwater harvesting (RWH) can be done at a small or large scale and can reduce potable (drinking water quality) water use as well as reduce peak flow and flow volume. RWH can be as simple as a 50 gallon rain barrel for watering flowers or as large and complex as a 10,000 gallon cistern with filtration that is used to flush toilets and wash vehicles in a commercial or industrial setting. For homeowners, a rain barrel is a great way to keep roof runoff from heading downstream and use that water as a resource. While it may not seem like much runoff is generated from a roof, it takes just 0.6 inches of rain on a 1,000 ft² to fill a 50 gallon rain barrel. The average rainfall in eastern South Dakota (around 25 inches) would produce almost 2,100 gallons of

runoff from a 1,000 ft² roof each year which would fill about 70 bathtubs!

Another practice that can be implemented by a homeowner is a rain garden. Rain gardens come in many shapes and sizes and can be made to look like a typical flower bed that can catch and store water. Instead of mounding a flower bed or having the flower bed even with the ground surface, a rain garden is dug out to be a little lower than the surrounding landscape. This allows water to pond for 24 to 48 hours and seep into the ground or return to the atmosphere through evapotranspiration (evapotranspiration is a combination of evaporation, water returning to the atmosphere due to the sun's energy, and transpiration, water returning to the atmosphere through plants). A rain garden is an attractive landscape feature that can also improve downstream water quality and reduce downstream flooding by reducing peak flows and flow volume. An easy rule of thumb for design is to make the rain garden about 10 times smaller than the area draining into it. For a 1,000 ft² roof, a rain garden could be about 100 ft² or 10 ft by 10 ft. This relatively small footprint allows rain gardens to be added to yards without inconveniencing the homeowner. One caveat is to stay 10-15 feet away from a building foundation so infiltrating water does not cause foundation problems. Rain gardens should also not be built over a septic system since the extra water could overload the system. Plants should be chosen that can get their feet wet but also be able to withstand dry periods. Some common rain garden plants are rudbeckia (coneflower and black eyed susan), liatris (blazing star), heliopsis (false sunflower), salvia (sage), calamagrostis (reedgrass), heterolepis (prairie dropseed), and aquilegia (columbine). Since the deepest part of the rain garden will maintain water for a longer period of time and the upper parts for a shorter period of time, plants should be placed according to their ideal conditions.



Research and extension faculty in the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering department and Landscape Architecture department at South Dakota State University have recently implemented several LID practices for demonstration and research. In partnership with the Brookings Boys and Girls Club, students and faculty built a bioretention cell (engineered rain garden) with an area of approximately 2,000 ft². The bioretention cell collects runoff from about 20,000 ft² large parking lot and part of a roof. A rainwater harvest cistern was also installed to collect rainwater from a community garden shelter roof. Collected water can then be used to water plants in the community garden. It is best to apply harvested rainwater as directly to the roots as possible and to not apply to root crops such as potatoes or carrots. Though the risk is very low, there is some chance of bacteria presence in the rainwater if there are bird droppings on the roof.



Are you interested in improving water quality and reducing downstream flooding? Consider implementing easy, attractive LID practices and encourage others to consider how they manage runoff. Rain barrels benefit the homeowner by reducing the amount of potable water that is used for landscaping while also limiting the amount of water that flows downstream. Rain gardens add both beauty and function to a landscape and can also provide pollinator habitat. Remember, we are all upstream of someone and everyone has a responsibility to be a good water neighbor and consider what we send downstream.

John McMaine, PhD is the Assistant Professor/Extension Specialist-Water Management Engineer at South Dakota State University in Brookings, SD.

REMEMBER WHEN...

Life Before Rural Water in South Dakota



Before Clay Rural Water, we had to buy water as our well water was too hard to use in the house.

When we first got married, we ran out of water and couldn't get anyone to deliver water because we weren't regular customers! We had a 3 day blizzard and I had to haul 5 gallon buckets from the well for basic needs.

Then my cousin and his wife from Detroit came to visit. They had no idea about water conservation and used all our water taking showers the first morning.

On the livestock side of things, I had pressure systems on both places so there wasn't much difference, but if I had well trouble it always seemed to be on the coldest day of the year. Did seem I had less pig scours after I went to Clay Rural Water.

Thankful for Clay Rural Water!

– **John Haver, Former Director of Clay Rural Water System**

For many years, our family used water from several shallow or artesian wells on our homestead. The wells were powered by windmills or had to be pumped by hand to get any water, which was a lot of work. These wells were not fit for our family to drink, so once a week we had to haul water from town. We had a 1,000 gallon tank on a trailer and as I remember, it cost our family about \$2.00 for this tank of water. The water was used sparingly, so it would last until the next trip to town. This was very difficult especially in the winter and bad weather. It was a blessing when our family finally received rural water.

– **Dale Waters, Retired Board Member of the Tripp County Water Users District**

Before the advent of a rural water system in the area, water tanks in truck beds were a common sight on the roads around Winner, as northern residents drove to and from town hauling water for household use and

in some cases to water livestock. The southern half of Tripp County had easy and plentiful access to water for its use, while the residents of northern Tripp County historically had a lack of potable water and drilled deep artesian wells at a great expense. These wells which produced smelly, foul-tasting water were usable for livestock, but not potable for humans. Some residents collected rain water in ponds, cisterns and barrels. Whether they drilled wells or collected water, generally they had to supplement by hauling fresh water for household use. Winner offered a coin operated tap on the northeast side where folks could plunk in 25 cents for 250 gallons of fresh water to haul away. My family had three cisterns to keep full, one at our house, one at my parents who lived next door and the other at my brother's house which was five miles away. Because we had three cisterns to maintain, we kept a full tank on the truck and it seemed like we were always hauling water. Our life before the water system was a huge everyday family priority of conserving the water we needed. Once rural water arrived it raised the standard of living in rural areas to levels long enjoyed by residents of the system. Tripp County Water Users District is a prime example of the people's dedication to make rural water a success.

– **Excerpt from Ideal Pioneers: Memoirs of Martin F. Jorgensen Jr.**

Igrew up on a dairy farm in rural South Dakota. My earliest memories without rural water were getting a glass of water from a 5-gallon water jug with a spigot. My parents would go to town and fill this jug with water whenever it started running low. Aesthetically this water was not very pleasing; the color was rusty (similar to the color in of the jug) and it tasted a little funny. It was however safe which was why we used it as our drinking water. Our well provided all the other water we used; showers, toilets, washing machine, ect.

When I was around 8 years old we got rural water. I don't remember it as being a big deal when I was a kid, but looking back I remember how the water was crystal clear and had a pleasing taste. I also remember when friends and family visited there were many that commented on how good the water was. Safe, aesthetically pleasing water is something that many people never think about, but it is a big deal and a blessing we should all be thankful for.

– **Steve Attema, South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems**

How far have we come to live in rural South Dakota? In the past the only way to get water out of a pipe for a drink was to pump the water out of a cistern or fire up the well next to the cattle yard. The water that was pumped out of our well was so hard that you could walk on it in the summer as well as in the winter. Cistern water seemed to magically fall from the sky and filled the cement structure in the ground next to the house. At the time it sounded wonderful to use the free water that rolled off the roof. All you had to do was run it over some charcoal, and shazam! – we had water to use. No matter how little water we used in our daily life the cistern would run dry. Our rural community was fortunate to have two bulk water haulers that would bring a 1,200 gallon truckload of water to fill empty cisterns. I am not going to go into the difficulties of raising baby pigs or calves from the well water, or the challenges of hauling water in a steel tank in the winter.

How far have we come in rural South Dakota? If we remember to pay the bill on time, we have water to water our animals, wash our clothing, shower, and get a good drink of water almost 100% of the time we want. We are spoiled! I do not want to go back to the good old days.

– **Jeff Fossum, South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems**



Fall River Water Users District is located near the Southern Black Hills in the west half of Fall River County and the southwest portion of Custer County. The distribution system begins near the City of Hot Springs and follows Fall River east of town to the Cheyenne River where the line branches to the north and south. Water is delivered to the towns of Buffalo Gap and Oelrichs in bulk and 375 users between Buffalo Gap and the Nebraska State Line.

The system began the planning process in 1991 and began construction in 2000 with the assistance of Rural Development, State DENR, and community funding. The original system was designed around 115 hookups with a potential growth of 15%. Since 2000 the system has had several pump station upgrades and additional water mains installed to meet the growing demand. Most of the upgrades were made in 2009 through the availability of American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. Since the district was formed the board has sought an economical and reliable source for water and has worked together with the City of Hot Springs to meet the growing demand. The City has sold the district on average 100 million gallons a year the last few years.

In 2010 the district drilled a deep Madison Well which turned out to be a disappointment because of the large capital investment and low production of the well. In April of 2012 we received long awaited approval for a loan from Rural Development to drill another Deep Madison Well near Fall River and the City of Hot Springs. In April of 2013 the well was completed with capable production of 450 gallons per minute. The well was drilled to a depth near 3,500 feet and free flows around 200 gpm. Throughout the summer the free flow from the well was utilized to lessen the amount of water purchased from the city. The contracts have been let to install the well house and submersible pump and the district is excited to have the well fully on line by the end of 2013. The new well should cover 90% of the districts peak demand with the city retained as an additional source.

Fall River Water Users District is committed to providing quality drinking water at the lowest possible cost to the rural residents within our service area. The availability of quality water has made a positive economic impact in Fall River and Custer Counties. With the availability of water it has lessened the blows from drought to area ranchers the last few years and will continue to do so into the future.



Fall River Water Users District

DIRECTORS:

- Cam Seger – Chairman
- Jeff Davidson – Vice-Chairman
- Lesta Conger – Secretary
- Matt Dunbar – Treasurer
- Josh Rickenbach – Director
- Carl Sanders – Director

STAFF:

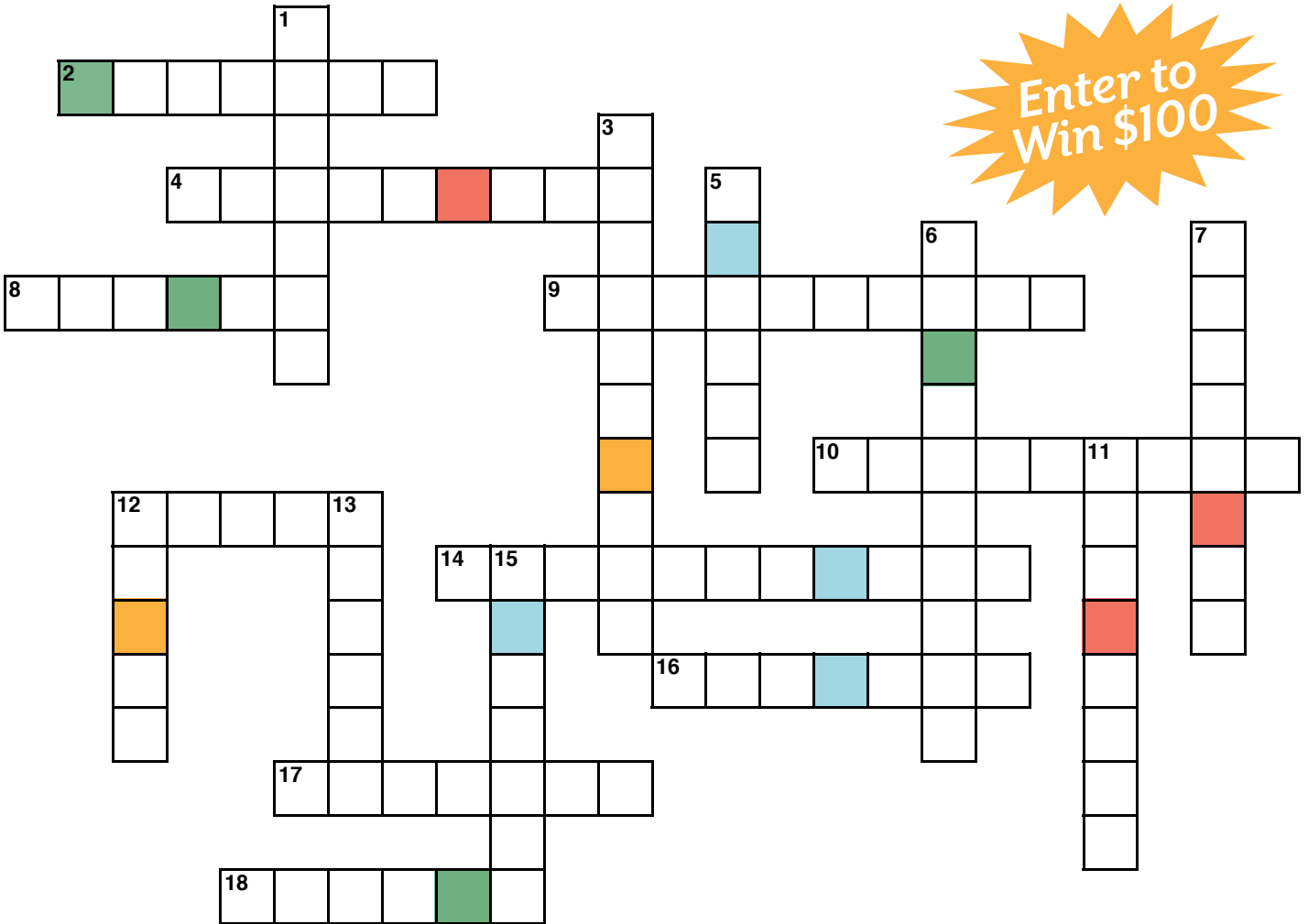
- Keith Neugebauer – General Manager
- Mark Siebenthal – Operator
- Misti Cantrell – Office Assistant

STATISTICS:

- Hookups – 297
- Miles of Pipeline – 300
- Water Source – City of Hot Springs
- Counties Served – Fall River
- Towns Served Individual – Oral and Smithwick
- Towns Served Bulk – Oelrichs

RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

GARDENING



ACROSS

- 2. Gardener's chore
- 4. Cabbage, carrots or beans
- 8. Where the dirty work is done
- 9. Sweet fleshy red fruit
- 10. Big bloom with edible seeds
- 12. Nature's aerators

- 14. Gardener's pushover
- 16. DIY Fertilizer
- 17. Daisies and marigolds
- 18. Water carrier

DOWN

- 1. Done with a shovel or spade
- 3. Yield booster

- 5. Foliage
- 6. Nursery of sorts
- 7. Plot-tender
- 11. Where to spend a sunny day
- 12. Key component to irrigation
- 13. Digging tool
- 15. Season's yield

SCRAMBLE ANSWER



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 April 10, 2022 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 Judy Anderson with Kingbrook Rural Water who had the correct phrase of "COLLECT MOMENTS NOT THINGS" for January 2022.

RURAL WATER

ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA

RURAL WATER AWARD WINNERS

The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) held their Annual Technical Conference in Pierre this past January. Each year SDARWS recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations that have served the water and wastewater industry and the citizens of South Dakota. Below is a list of this year's winners.

RURAL WATER SYSTEM OF THE YEAR

– Mid-Dakota Rural Water System

WATER/WASTEWATER SYSTEM OF THE YEAR

– City of Delmont

MUNICIPAL OFFICE PERSON OF THE YEAR

– Sheila Gerhold, City of Castlewood

RURAL WATER OFFICE PERSON OF THE YEAR

– Megan Bergin, Randall Community Water District

RURAL WATER OPERATIONS SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR

– Dave Viet, TM Rural Water District

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR

– Victor Huber, City of Sioux Falls

RURAL WATER OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

– Brandon Kinsley, West River/Lyman-Jones RWS

MUNICIPAL MANAGER OF THE YEAR

– Brad Mohror, City of Chamberlain

RURAL WATER MANAGER OF THE YEAR

– Terry Kaufman, Clark Rural Water System

ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE YEAR

– Hawkins

DONALD B. POSPISHIL MEMORIAL AWARD

– Terry Koupal, Randall Community Water District

FRIEND OF RURAL WATER

– Mark Mayer, SD DANR

CARROLL ANDERSON AWARD

– Lloyd Rave, Minnehaha Community Water Corp.

SPIRIT OF RURAL WATER

– Larry Wasland, Clark Rural Water

– Jesse Christianson, Brookings-Deuel RWS

– Guy Gronewold, Sioux Rural Water

– Bruce Jennings, DGR Engineering

– Andy Groos, Big Sioux Community Water

– Dan Carlson, Big Sioux Community Water

– Harold Haber, Brookings-Deuel Rural Water

– Dale Thompson, Kingbrook Rural Water

– Nick Jackson, SDARWS

– Jim Zeck, SDARWS

BEST TASTING WATER IN SOUTH DAKOTA

– City of Sioux Falls



Megan Bergin



Sheila Gerhold



Terry Kaufman



Lloyd Rave



Mid-Dakota RWS



Terry Koupal



Mark Mayer



NOT PICTURED:
DAN CARLSON
JIM ZECK



Dave Viet



Brandon Kinsley



Victor Huber



Brad Mohror



City of Sioux Falls



Hawkins



City of Delmont



Larry Wasland



Jesse Christianson



Guy Gronewold



Dale Thompson



Andy Groos



Bruce Jennings



Harold Haber



Nick Jackson

43RD DRIVE-THRU ANNUAL MEETING THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022



The 43rd Annual Meeting has been set to be a drive-thru event again this year and will be held Thursday, April 21 from 4-6 p.m. at the Wakonda Water Plant. All members attending will receive the 2021 Annual Report, a brown bag meal, a \$10 water credit, and a chance to win door prizes.



CLAY RWS HIRES NEW EMPLOYEE



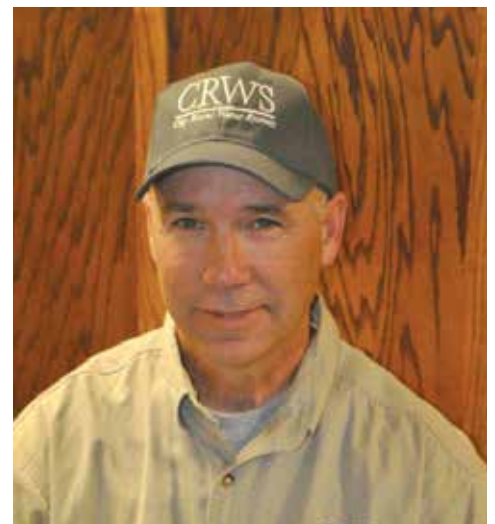
Pam Lunning

Pam Lunning was recently hired as an additional accounting clerk at Clay RW. Her responsibilities include Payroll, bookkeeping and other accounting duties.

Pam graduated from Central Lyon HS in Rock Rapids, IA and attended Stewart's School and Western Iowa Tech. She and her husband, Conway, are parents to three children, Brayden, Ainsley, and Cordell and reside in Centerville.

Pam is a Girl Scout Brownie Troop leader, is the financial secretary of Scandia Lutheran Church, and in her spare time loves to attend sporting events of her children, nieces & nephews. She also loves crafting with her Cricut.

EMPLOYEE MILESTONE



Phil Iverson recently marked 22 years as a water system operator with the Clay Rural Water System.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2021 DRIVE-THRU ANNUAL MEETING/OPEN HOUSE

Clay Rural Water held their 42nd annual meeting as a Drive-Thru style Open House on April 22, 2021 at the Wakonda Water Plant. Members who drove through received a 2020 Annual Report, a \$10 water credit, and a meal to go.

67 members registered and 125 'meals to go' were given out. Pork loin sandwiches were prepared by Clay Rural Water System staff and were a big hit! Eight cash door prizes were given out and the lucky winners were: Norman Erickson, Wanda Young, Arlyn Abrams, Mary Hesla, Carol Welch, Curt Fickbohm, Gene Nelsen, and Larry Blatchford.

Plan to attend your 43rd Annual Meeting, in the same format, on Thursday, April 21, 2022, 4-6 p.m. at the Wakonda Water Plant – 30376 SD Highway 19, Wakonda, SD.

A few photos from last year's Drive-Thru Open House are shown below.



Manager: continued from page 2

if we try. The only way to take advantage of any federal funding available to our system is to be creative and make every attempt to get out in front of these cost increases at every turn. We are not alone; most water systems in SD are attempting to do the same. Some systems have even been working on joint ventures to help offset the cost of projects and utilize volume purchasing of products for additional savings. We, as managers, understand the challenges of

the situation ahead and are working together to get the most benefit from what has become available from your tax dollars. If I said things are perfect, I would be lying, so I won't. We do have a lot of challenges ahead, but also much to be thankful for. I will tell you that we here at CRWS will strive to keep our customers supplied with the product we serve them and always look for ways to improve your water system.

Clay Rural Water System, Inc.
30376 SD HWY 19
Wakonda SD 57073-6416
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WATER MATTERS

Aquatic Invasive Species: Zebra Mussels

WHAT IS AN AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES?

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are organisms that invade ecosystems outside of their natural or historic ranges. They are also known as exotic, non-native, or non-indigenous. They have spread outside of their ranges due to intentional or unintentional introductions. Ways they are spread include emptying aquariums into lakes or streams, by way of watercraft and sea planes, or by recreational activities like fishing, diving, and hunting.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SD GF&P

AIS SPOTLIGHT: ZEBRA MUSSELS

The impacts of AIS vary greatly, depending on the organism. One of South Dakota's most harmful AIS is the Zebra Mussel. Zebra mussels were first discovered in 1988, in the Great Lakes. They were brought to the United States from Europe in the ballast water of ocean-going ships. They likely made their way to South Dakota as hitchhikers on recreational watercraft. Zebra mussels have caused considerable damage to native ecosystems around the country as well as to industries, such as power plants and water suppliers. Zebra mussels can filter a vast amount of water altering entire aquatic food webs. They also have the ability to attach themselves to hard surfaces such as rocks and swim rafts, thus impeding water recreation. They also smother native mollusks as well as wreak havoc on irrigation intakes and boat motors. Zebra mussels currently infest Lewis & Clark Lake and McCook Lake in South Dakota.

3 WAYS YOU CAN HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AIS!

1. DO NOT RELEASE YOUR AQUARIUM PETS INTO THE WILD
2. DO NOT MOVE WATER, ANIMALS, OR PLANTS FROM ONE WATER BODY TO ANOTHER
3. LEARN HOW TO IDENTIFY THE COMMON INVADERS AND REPORT ANY SIGHTING TO SD GFP AT 605-223-7660



PHOTO COURTESY OF SD GF&P

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SOUTH DAKOTA'S AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES VISIT: SDLEASTWANTED.COM

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