



**MID DAKOTA**  
RURAL WATER SYSTEM

# Quality On Tap!

October 2022 | Volume 18, Issue 2

# WASTING WATER

PICK-SLOAN PROMISES  
STILL REMAIN UNFULFILLED



MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE MID-DAKOTA ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 20TH

# FROM THE MANAGER

Scott Gross, General Manager  
Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc.



I'm not sure where the summer went, seems like it went by in the blink of an eye. New hookups are keeping us very busy at Mid-Dakota. It seems like for every one that gets installed, two more get added to the list. As of writing this article, Mid-Dakota has 173 on the waiting list to be installed. Mid-Dakota really appreciates everyone's patience through this process. Mid-Dakota is dealing with delays in delivery of PVC and brass but especially the meter pit itself. Mid-Dakota is still waiting for delivery of meter pits ordered June of 2021. So, bear with us and a big "Thank-You" for your patience. Also with the rising inflation, especially on PVC and brass and not to mention fuel and electricity, I'm confident there will be an increase in rates for 2023. We are not sure yet, but we will let everyone know as soon as we get it figured out what will be needed.

This year (2022), Mid-Dakota has been busy working on front-end documents to start an expansion project. This project will include updating our Automatic meter reading system, expansion of the water treatment plant, and approximately 140 miles of additional distribution pipeline for areas with lower pressure. This project is still just getting started, but by DANR regulation for compliance with ARPA rules, the project needs to have qualified dollars spent by 2026. With that being said, it does not give us much time to get project organized and complete.

Going forward into 2023, Mid-Dakota will be very busy with projects already stated above and continuing installation of new hookups. Don't be completely surprised if someone from Mid-Dakota contacts you about an easement for some new pipe coming through your area. We are still working on a final design of areas that need to be addressed.

Mid-Dakota's annual meeting is set for October 20th this year, and we will be using the same format as years past, the come and go format from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM and held at each of our offices throughout the system. Hope to see you there.



**MISSION STATEMENT**  
Enhancing quality of life  
By providing high quality water  
And excellent service.

## Quality On Tap!

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# OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

## Thursday, October 20, 2022

**Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc. will be held on Thursday, October 20, 2022 at the following locations:**

- Miller Operations & Maintenance Center**  
608 W. 14th St., Miller, SD  
Phone: (800) 439-3079
- Oahe Water Treatment Plant**  
29111 Holly Rd., Pierre, SD  
Phone: (605) 945-0437
- Gettysburg Field Office**  
30959 US Hwy 212, Gettysburg, SD  
Phone: (605) 765-2824
- Huron Field Office**  
1848 SW Center St., Huron, SD  
Phone: (605) 352-9008
- Wessington Springs Field Office**  
102 4th St. SE, Wessington Springs, SD  
Phone: (605) 539-9094

For the convenience of the Mid-Dakota Membership, the annual meeting will be conducted at multiple locations throughout the service area. Members are encouraged to visit one of the locations listed and receive their Annual Report, cast their vote for directors (as applicable) and vote and comment on any other issues brought before the membership. In addition to the Annual Report and other information, each visiting member can register for a grand prize, office prize and a beef gift certificate. A light lunch will be served 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM, or until food is gone.

The purposes of the meeting are to elect directors and to transact any other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Registration for the meeting will open at 10:00 AM. and close promptly at 2:00 PM.

Dated this 3rd day of August, 2022.

– Scott Gross, General Manager



# EARTH'S WATER

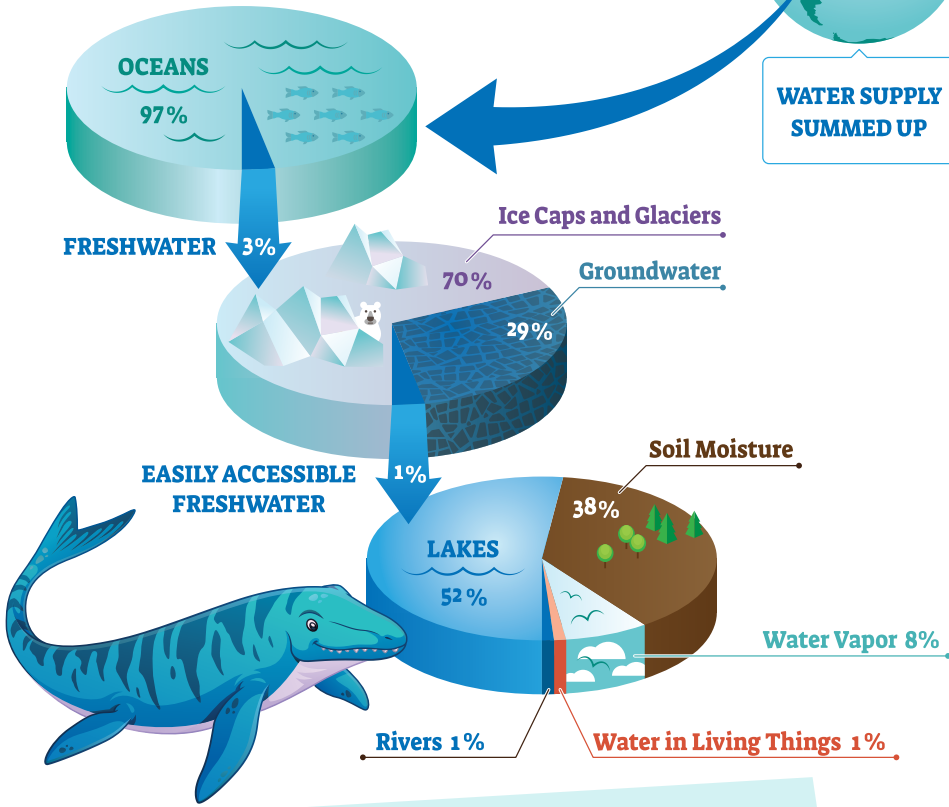


**How much of the Earth's surface do you think is covered with water?**

If you guessed about 71%, you are right! Much of that water is saltwater, 97% of it in fact. The remaining 3% is freshwater.

All living things on Earth need water to survive, and some of those living things, including us, need the freshwater. As you can see by the diagram, most of our freshwater is in the form of ice caps and glaciers. Only about 1% of our planet's freshwater is easily accessible. In fact, less than 1% of our Earth's freshwater is available for human use. With our growing population, it is important to care for our water resources to ensure there is clean water for everyone. **Remember, all the water on the Earth is all the water that we have.**

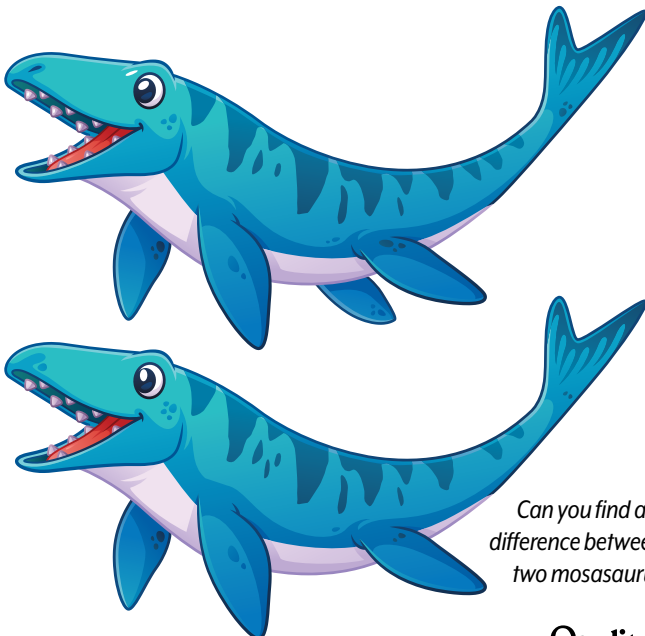
Water is constantly being recycled though our environment. This is known as the hydrologic cycle or water cycle.



## DID YOU KNOW?













The water on our Earth today is the same water that's been here for over four billion years. That means that glass of water you drank today contains the same water that the dinosaurs drank!

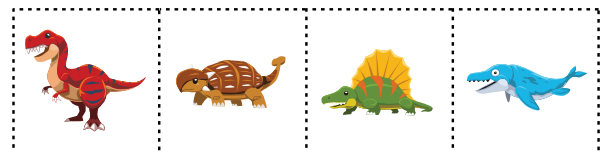
## SPOT THE DIFFERENCES



Can you find all the difference between these two mosasaurs?

## SUDOKU FOR KIDS



# Field to Table Educates Area Youth



## DONNA HENRIKSEN | CLAY RURAL WATER

The Field to Table program was started in 2001 by Burbank farmer, Ray Hall, to help educate children on the uses of crops grown in the area. Ray wanted to create an outdoor classroom for children so they could see exactly what is involved in growing a crop from the planting and harvesting of the crop to the finished product and what is done with it from there. Ray kept the program going until 2008, when Valley Ag of Gayville took over the program.

The outdoor classroom is set up into 7-9 different stations where the children spend two hours learning about a different topic ranging from planting to combining to selling the finished products. Most kids get exposure to what the value and production of livestock is in the area via the local 4-H programs; “The Field to Table” program was started to give them a similar exposure with the crop production of the area such as field corn and soybeans.

Stations that the children might go through include: Corn

By-Products, Corn Growth and Development, Soybean Growth and Development, Soybeans By-Products, Dairy, Livestock, Plant Nutrition, Soils, and Machinery, such as a planter & combine. The children receive packets of educational materials and are each given a bottle of water, supplied by Clay Rural Water System.

When the event first started Hall said, “I went out about 15 feet into the corn field and plowed down a circular area; that is what we called our classroom. We had, I suppose, about 100 students attend in 2001 from 6 or 7 area schools.” The event has grown over the years and is held over 3 days. In 2021, 623 4th & 5th graders attended from 13 different schools.

“It is just very important for the kids who don’t grow up on farms to see all of this,” Hall said. “It used to be kids grew up on farms and just knew the basics. Today, it is important to bring those kids who live in town out here and let them enjoy the farm while learning about the crops and how they are used in everyday life.”



Portions of this article were reprinted from the Sept. 12, 2008 edition of the Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan. Ray Hall passed away in 2020 at the age of 94.



Photo Credit: Sam Stukel, SD GF&P

# CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY. DO YOUR PART.

**JAKE DAVIS | GF&P FISHERIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR**

**CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.** While it's a simple message, putting these three words to use is the best way to help slow the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) within South Dakota. So, what are AIS exactly? Well, they are aquatic plants and animals that have been introduced into waterways where they do not live naturally. They can have harmful effects on the natural resources in these ecosystems and the human uses of these resources. They include fish, plants, and invertebrates and can be found in many aquatic systems across the state. They can impact recreation as well as infrastructure within a waterbody, and once established, they can be very hard to get rid of.

## **ZEBRA MUSSELS (*Dreissena polymorpha*).**

One species that gets a lot of attention, and rightfully so, is the zebra mussel. This small shellfish is native to the Black, Caspian, and Azov Seas; however, after hitching a ride in ballast water in ships, they became established in the Great Lakes and have continued to spread.

The first detection in South Dakota was within Lewis and Clark Lake in 2015. Since that time, they have spread upstream in the Missouri River to Lake Sharpe below Oahe Dam. Additionally, they have been detected in other eastern South Dakota waters including McCook, Yankton, Cochrane, Pickerel, Kampeska, and Mitchell Lakes, as well as Dahme Quarry. Two new waters have been identified as infested as of 2022 and those waters would include Enemy Swim Lake in the Northeast as well as Pactola Reservoir in the Black Hills, which is the first positive water west of the Missouri River.

These small mussels attach to hard surfaces, such as watercraft, docks, and plants, using special structures called byssal threads. While this is an easy way to identify them as a non-native mussel, unfortunately, it is also how they can be transported from one waterbody to another. When they are juveniles, also known as veligers, they are microscopic and can be invisible to the naked eye. This is one of the primary reasons that lake and stream water cannot be transported, as the water could have zebra mussel veligers floating in it, and a person would never know.

Adults reproduce rapidly and can impact the aquatic food web by filtering high volumes of water and outcompeting native mussels. Additionally, they can impact water infrastructure by attaching to any hard surface and can reach densities where they foul equipment and clog submerged pipes.

## **INVASIVE CARP**

Another AIS that folks often think of are invasive carps. These are the ones that jump out of the water when startled and fly through the air. The two primary species include bighead carp and silver carp. At present, they exist in South Dakota in the Missouri River below Gavins Point Dam, as well as in the James River, the Big Sioux River below Falls Park in Sioux Falls, and the Vermillion River below East Vermillion State Recreation Area.

While they look very different than any native fish as adults, as young fish they resemble other small native fish, such as gizzard shad. Because of the similar appearance of these species and due to the popularity of gizzard shad as baitfish, areas where both species occur are closed to

noncommercial take of bait as someone may easily mistake a juvenile invasive carp for a legal baitfish and move it to another water.

## OTHER AIS

Additional AIS species include plants such as curlyleaf pondweed, Eurasian watermilfoil, purple loosestrife, flowering rush, and brittle naiad, as well as other fish species such as European rudd and common carp. Other AIS invertebrates within the state include rusty crayfish, red swamp crayfish, Asian clam, New Zealand mudsnail, and red-rimmed melania.

Several other species are not currently found in South Dakota, but occur in neighboring states and as such, are classified as AIS. Examples of these include spiny water flea, round goby, white perch, and several snakehead species. Due to the proximity of their current distribution, GFP has classified them as AIS, so possession of these species is prohibited to help prevent them from becoming established within the state. A full list of AIS and known infested waters can be found in the 2022 Fishing handbook or online at [sdeastwanted.sd.gov](http://sdeastwanted.sd.gov).

## SLOW THE SPREAD

So, what is South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) doing to slow the spread of AIS? The GFP AIS program utilizes a combination of outreach and education along with direct engagement with boaters as the primary methods of approach. A diverse group of users exist when it comes to South Dakota's aquatic resources, and these can range from anglers to recreational boaters. As such, every individual who recreates on the water in South Dakota is included in the target audience. The outreach and education program uses a combination of targeted emails, news releases, signage in the field, and social media posts to help spread the message of AIS awareness. Additionally, information cards are printed annually and provided to users during inspections and provided to businesses and GFP offices for distribution.

In recent years, GFP has partnered with Lawrence and Schiller, a marketing and advertising agency located in Sioux Falls, to utilize two additional outreach programs that could not be produced by the department. These include short, informational videos that are played on gas station TVs around the state. While the video is only 30 seconds long, this has shown to be an effective method to relay the message of AIS through effective audio and video content. The second approach that this partnership has provided is through the use of "Instant Experience" on Facebook and Instagram. These are short but initially, they can also be shared with an individual's family and friends on their pages to help increase viewership.

## INSPECTIONS

Annually, GFP conducts roadside inspections of watercraft users and partners with local County Conservation Districts

and Lake Associations to conduct watercraft inspections at boat ramps, also known as "access-based" inspections. In western South Dakota, access-based inspections take place at Angostura, Deerfield, Pactola, Sheridan, Belle Fourche, and Shadehill Reservoirs. This direct engagement with users allows for the sharing of information, inspection for AIS on watercraft, and enforcement of AIS regulations. In central and eastern South Dakota, roadside inspections are the primary method used, as the sheer volume of boat ramps makes access-based inspections unrealistic.

The goal with the roadside inspections is to maximize contacts by setting up in areas that see a high number of watercraft being transported. Whether roadside or access-based, watercraft inspections are meant to be short interactions that determine the risk that AIS are present on a watercraft. One way for users to speed up the inspection process is to make sure there is no water in any compartments within the watercraft and all vegetation has been removed.

## SELF-INSPECTION

Users should perform a self-inspection of their watercraft after every trip on the water using the acronym H.E.A.D.

- **Hull:** examine both sides of the hull below the waterline and the trailer.
- **Engine:** inspect the engine, look for AIS in dark areas, right angles, and rough spots, and drain water from your lower unit.
- **Anchor:** examine interior compartments, anchor, and ropes.
- **Dry:** pull all plugs and leave them out until your next launch.

## REGULATIONS

A number of regulations are aimed at slowing the spread of AIS. Examples of these include the requirement of having all boat/drain plugs removed unless a watercraft, including jet skis, is in a boat ramp parking area, on the water, or being launched/loaded. Additionally, fish and bait cannot be transported in lake or stream water, and unused baitfish need to be disposed of properly.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

In the end, it comes down to the actions of every user of South Dakota's aquatic resources to help take steps to minimize the risk of spreading AIS. One of the ultimate goals of the GFP AIS program is to provide individuals with the tools and information needed to help them implement best management practices when using the water. Additional information on how to help slow the spread of AIS, current species distributions, and regulations can be found at [sdeastwanted.sd.gov](http://sdeastwanted.sd.gov) or by contacting your local GFP office or representative. Aquatic invasive species affect all water users. That is why it will take the efforts of everyone to help make an impact. **CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY. EVERY TIME.**

# WASTING WATER

PICK-SLOAN PROMISES STILL REMAIN UNFULFILLED

TROY LARSON | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM





**W**hat does it mean to waste water? To “waste” water for most of us means to consume it unnecessarily or excessively. Maybe leaving a faucet or hose running when it could be turned off, or seeing sprinklers running while it is raining or has just rained. I often think about wasting water when running the shower or faucet waiting for the water to get hot. How many gallons does that total each year? For the rural water industry though we need to think of wasting water as “letting it flow unimpeded and undiverted down rivers,” which is a quote from Mark Reisner in his book “Cadillac Desert.”

In our case it is Missouri River water flowing by us that was promised to the state as part of the Pick-Sloan Program that was first authorized in the Flood Control Act of 1944 (P.L. 78-534). This legislation called for the construction of six dams along the Missouri River; four of those are located in South Dakota. Senators Joseph O’Mahoney (D-WY) and Eugene Millikin (R-CO) successfully included amendments to Pick-Sloan that thankfully provided for the interests of people in the upper basins. The amendments created an emphasis on irrigation over river navigation and gave precedence to arid states for the use of basin water.

South Dakota gave up 520,390 acres, which was 30.4% of the land needed for the six dams.

Much was promised to the state in return such as flood protection, electric power and recreation, but I will just focus on water. South Dakota was promised 972,510 acres of irrigation from the Missouri River. According to Ken Royse, Program Manager of the Missouri River Joint Water Board, this equals about 622.4 billion gallons per year.

A number of irrigation projects were planned. The most well-known, the Oahe irrigation project, was going to bring water to 16 counties in northcentral and northeast South Dakota. Construction started on the irrigation channel, but landowner opposition eventually resulted in the Carter Administration defunding it in the late 70’s. Other irrigation projects also fell by the wayside. South Dakota currently only has about 24,100 acres of irrigation, which using Ken’s calculations equals about 15.4 billion gallons per year.

After irrigation fell by the wayside, what happened next? To realize the promise of Pick-Sloan the state pivoted to rural water. WEB Rural Water System was the first to tap into the Missouri River for drinking water and others followed. There are currently 11 regional rural water systems drawing water either directly from the Missouri River, or like in the case of Lewis & Clark RWS drawing water from an aquifer that is recharged by the river. This does not include the other systems who are buying water from these 11 systems.

These projects are a partial fulfillment of what was promised by Pick-Sloan, but even so collectively they are a proverbial drop in the bucket. It is estimated the 11 rural water projects are currently drawing about 19 billion gallons per year. Add in the approximately 15.4 billion gallons of irrigation and that brings the total

to roughly 34.4 billion gallons, which equals about 5.5 % of what was promised.

More projects are on the drawing board to utilize the Missouri River – Western Dakota Regional Water System and Water Investment in Northern South Dakota (WINS), which is a partnership among Aberdeen, WEB RWS and BDM RWS. Even so, the drought has made it abundantly clear that we have a great need in many parts of the state for much more water and

we need to start taking action now. Considering how long large scale water projects take to complete, we likely are already behind the 8-ball.

What is the federal interest though in terms of helping to fund future water projects? The federal interest is the roughly 588 billion gallons and the subsequent direct and indirect economic activity still remaining for South Dakota to get what was promised as part of the Pick-Sloan promise.

There are already rumblings of projects in states like California, Colorado, Nevada and Utah trying to tap into the Missouri River. In reality any of the western states could be looking at that possibility if they are not already doing so. The sooner we get started locking up what was promised to the citizens of South Dakota the better. Let’s not continue to waste water by letting it flow by us.

**The drought has made it abundantly clear that we have a great need in many parts of the state for much more water and we need to start taking action now**

## LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM

The exact year has been lost to history, but the idea for a regional wholesale supplier of water started around 1987. Parachute pants were still popular back then, so that shows how long this project has taken!

After the idea was planted by what is now known as the South Dakota Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources, several key people led the charge to move forward, including SDARWS' Denny Davis. With a concept in hand, which at the time was called the Southeastern South Dakota Water Supply System (quite the mouthful!), SDARWS' Bill Dempsey started beating the bushes to see which cities and rural water systems may be interested in joining.

It was determined early on that to get congressional authorization would require political support from Iowa and Minnesota, so the project was expanded into those states and renamed. Lewis & Clark RWS was incorporated in January 1990 and the first board meeting was held in April 1990. Banner Associates was hired in August 1990. Lewis & Clark shared an office with the SDARWS for a few years.

There were originally over 50 member cities and rural water systems, but in 1993 the rubber met the road in terms of signing on the dotted line, reserving a specific capacity and paying an annual cost share. Many members dropped out at that time, a decision most have deeply regretted. Brandon being the highest profile community due to their well-documented water issues, but also rural water systems like Big Sioux CWS, Clay RWS, Kingbrook RWS and TM RWS just to name a few.

After many congressional hearings, congressional authorization for Lewis & Clark was finally approved and signed into law in July 2000 for a 23.5 million gallons a day (MGD) system. Generally speaking the grant dollars for construction are 80% federal, 10% from the three states and 10% from the 20 members. No federal or state funding for operations, which are covered 100% by water rates.

Several years had passed since the members reserved their capacities, so after the project was authorized they were given the opportunity to request additional capacity but needed to pay 100% of the incremental cost to upsize the system. The capacity of what is often referred to as the "base system" was eventually increased to 44.19 MGD.

After a Final Engineering Report was completed, a Finding of No Significant Impact was eventually issued in March 2003. This was the final environmental hurdle before construction could begin. A well-attended groundbreaking ceremony was held on the banks of the Missouri River near

Vermillion in August 2003.

Water began flowing to the first 11 members on July 30, 2012, so Lewis & Clark just celebrated its 10 year anniversary of operations. Fifteen of the 20 members are currently connected, with Sioux Center and Hull expected to come online by the end of this year. Only Sheldon, Sibley and Madison will be left to connect. Lewis & Clark's water source is a series of wells that tap into an aquifer adjacent to the Missouri River. The treatment plant is a few miles north of Vermillion.

Construction of the base system is an estimated 93% complete. Based on recent federal appropriations and funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, it is anticipated all 20 members will be connected by 2025. This includes repaying the "federal funding advances" the three states generously approved to help keep construction moving forward when federal funding dropped to extremely low levels for seven consecutive years starting in 2011.

Lewis & Clark is designed to expand to 60 MGD in the future, with the members needing to cover 100% of the remaining cost to expand the system. The future is now. The drought has been a real eye opener for the members in terms of the sustainability of their water supplies. Construction is beginning this year on the expansion and completion is anticipated by 2030. No additional capacity can be generated until the expansion is fully completed.

In today's dollars the expansion is estimated to cost \$114 million. Thankfully South Dakota and Iowa recently approved \$15 million and \$12 million respectively from the American Rescue Plan Act funding to help offset a portion of the expansion, which directly benefits homes and businesses by keeping water rates as low as possible. This leaves the members with a remaining cost share in today's dollars of \$87 million.

Like our namesake explorers, the journey has been very long and arduous. Countless challenges and obstacles along the way. Through it all we have kept the faith and persevered. This has been a team effort and there have been many incredible key partners along the way. SDARWS has certainly been one of those key partners. Everyone at Lewis & Clark is very grateful to the SDARWS for all the support and advocacy through the years. Thank you!

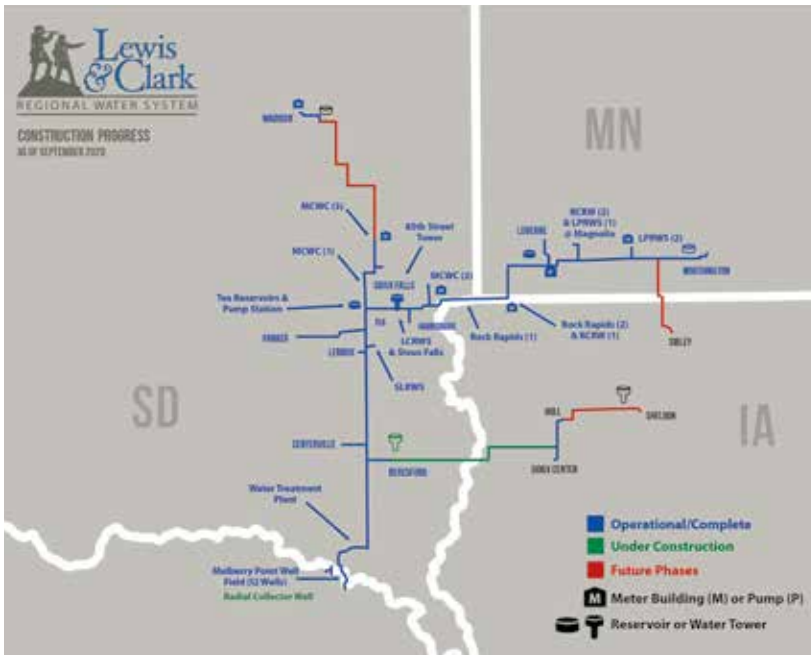


## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

- Murray Hulstein**, Sioux Center – Chairman
- Scott Hain**, Worthington – Vice Chairman
- Jim Hoyer**, Rock Rapids – Treasurer
- Todd Uhl**, Sheldon – Secretary
- Jerry Lonnenman**, Lincoln Pipestone RWS – At-Large Member
- Scott Buss**, Minnehaha CWC – At-Large Member

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- Brad Preheim**, Centerville – Director
- Nolan Meyer**, Harrisburg – Director
- Nathan Vander Plaats**, Lennox – Director
- Robin Dykstra**, Lincoln Co. RWS – Director
- Ryan Hegg**, Madison – Director
- Adam Jans**, Parker – Director
- Gavin Graverson**, Sioux Falls – Director
- Ralph Hammer**, South Lincoln RWS – Director
- Sid Munson**, Tea – Director



## STAFF:

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- Jim Auen** – Operations Manager
- Lori Seten** – Business Manager
- Mike Duchscher** – Plant Supervisor
- Todd Giffin** – Maintenance Foreman
- Clint Koehn** – Construction Administrator
- Shain Becker** – Electronics Maintenance Technician
- Roger Adam** – Industrial HVAC Technician
- Justin Walsh** – Distribution Operator
- Jay Nelson** – Distribution Operator
- Jon Anderson** – Water Operator
- Mike Rath** – Water Operator
- Jeremy Hult** – Water Operator
- Shawn Anderson** – Water Operator
- Cody Schultz** – Water Operator
- Jim Andersen** – Water Operator
- Jon Johnson** – Custodian (part-time)

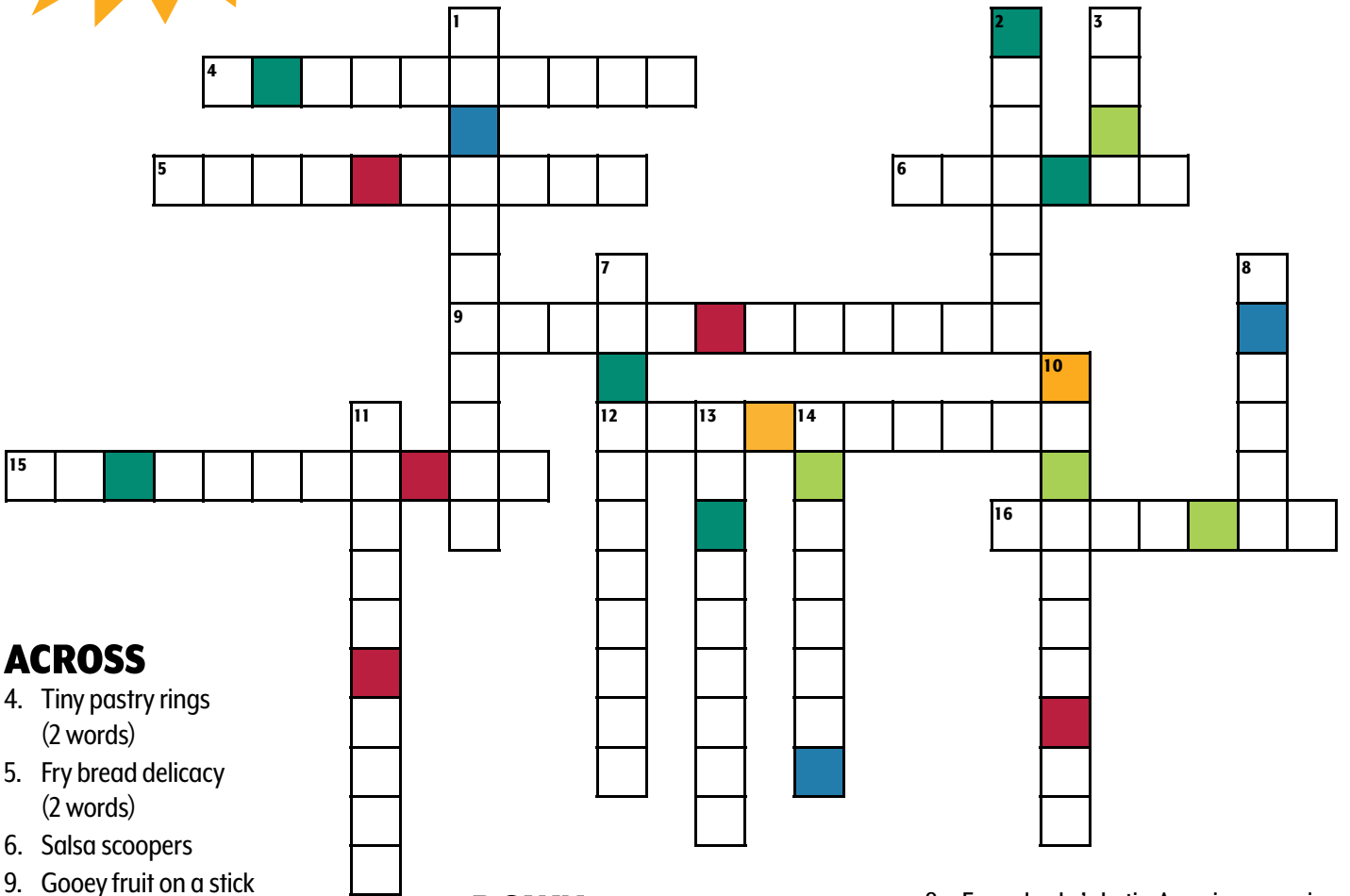


# RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

## FAIR FOODS



SCRAMBLE ANSWER



### ACROSS

- 4. Tiny pastry rings (2 words)
- 5. Fry bread delicacy (2 words)
- 6. Salsa scoopers
- 9. Goopy fruit on a stick (2 words)
- 12. Sweet and salty snack made in a kettle (2 words)
- 15. Deep-fried dairy chunks (2 words)
- 16. Frank on a stick (2 words)

### DOWN

- 1. Fluffy sweet treat (2 words)
- 2. Icy dessert (2 words)
- 3. Greek pita sandwich
- 7. Tex Mex in a bag (2 words)
- 8. Funnel cake's Latin American cousin
- 10. Circular fried root veggie (2 words)
- 11. Deep-fried batter (2 words)
- 13. Limb of a gobbler (2 words)
- 14. Classic sidewalk stand beverage

**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](http://www.sdarws.com/crossword.html) with the correct phrase by October 15, 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 Dixie Ball with Mid-Dakota RWS who had the correct phrase of "After Rain Comes Fair Weather" for July 2022.

# RURAL WATER

## ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA

On August 10, 2022, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Tanya Trujillo joined Bureau of Reclamation leaders at a ribbon cutting event to celebrate a \$75.5 million investment from President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law into the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System. The funding was allocated in March 2022, as part of a \$420 million investment in rural water.

"The Biden-Harris administration is steadfast in our commitment to investing in rural America and to ensuring that every family and every community has sufficient access to safe, clean, reliable water," said Assistant Secretary Trujillo. "Through this \$75.5 million investment provided through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the tremendous partnership of Lewis & Clark, this project will eventually benefit 300,000 people in the tri-state area, supporting families, farmers, wildlife and furthering our work to tackle historic drought conditions."

Assistant Secretary Trujillo was joined at the event by Reclamation's Missouri Basin and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf Region's Regional Director Brent Esplin, and Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Executive Director Troy Larson.

The Lewis & Clark Regional Water System is a non-profit 501(c)4 organization incorporated in 1990 and authorized by Congress in 2000. It is a wholesale provider of water to 20 member cities and rural water systems in a 5,000 square miles area in southeast South Dakota, northwest Iowa, and southwest Minnesota. The initial ground-breaking was on

August 21, 2003, construction began in earnest in 2004, and operations started on July 30, 2012. Water is currently being delivered to 15 members: Beresford, Centerville, Harrisburg, Lennox, Lincoln County Rural Water System, Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water System, Luverne, Minnehaha Community Water Corp, Parker, Rock County Rural Water Department, Rock Rapids, Sioux Falls, South Lincoln Rural Water System, Tea and Worthington.

The project is currently 86% completed, with funding for construction provided through federal, state and local grants. The states and members have paid 100% of their cost share, and the \$75.5 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will go toward constructing the remaining 32 miles of pipeline for the Madison service line, the 17 miles of pipeline to Sheldon, meter buildings, a pump station and a new water storage reservoir.

When completed, the system will distribute treated water through 337 miles of pipeline. The capacity of the completed system will be 45 million gallons of water per day with the ability to expand to 60 million gallons of water per day in the future. The system utilizes a series of wells to tap into an aquifer adjacent to the Missouri River near Vermillion, South Dakota. In addition to a traditional lime softening treatment facility, the non-looped system also includes a series of wells, meter buildings, pump stations and water storage facilities.



# DANR RECOGNIZES MID-DAKOTA FOR 21 YEARS OF DRINKING WATER EXCELLENCE



The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) has announced that Mid-Dakota Rural Water public water system and the system's operation specialists have been awarded a Secretary's Award for Drinking Water Excellence.

"Consistent success is a true measure of excellence," said DANR Secretary Hunter Roberts. "With more than 21 years of consecutive compliance, the Mid-Dakota Rural Water has demonstrated its commitment to providing its customers with safe and reliable drinking water." The system's operations specialists are Gary Tobin, Bill Sarringar, Ron Ramsey, Scott Gross, Wayne Ruhnke, Shane Bothwell, Lorin Johnson, Scott Manning, Michael McCready, Randall Bauer, Scott Perry, Scott Szuggar, Calvin Kindle, Steve Laird, Mike Polak, Troy Dorris, Mark Gran, Michael Nicholson and Deric Diede.

To qualify for the Secretary's Award for Drinking Water Excellence, public water systems and their system operations specialists had to meet all of the compliance monitoring and reporting, drinking water standards, and certification requirements for ten consecutive years or more.



## Rate Table Effective January 1, 2022

<b>501 Residential 1-Unit</b>	
\$43.00	per month minimum bill
\$5.15	per 1,000 gallons 1st 33,000
\$7.40	per 1,000 gallons over 33,000
<b>502 Rural Household 2-Units</b>	
\$53.00	per month minimum bill
\$5.15	per 1,000 gallons 1st 10,000
\$4.12	per 1,000 gallons next 56,000
\$7.40	Per 1,000 gallons over 66,000
<b>504 Rural Household 4-Units</b>	
\$71.00	per month minimum bill
\$5.15	per 1,000 gallons 1st 10,000
\$4.12	per 1,000 gallons next 122,000
\$7.40	per 1,000 gallons over 132,000
<b>506 Rural Household 6-Units</b>	
\$88.00	per month minimum bill
\$5.15	per 1,000 gallons 1st 10,000
\$4.12	per 1,000 gallons next 188,000
\$7.40	per 1,000 gallons over 198,000
<b>511 Livestock</b>	
\$31.00	per month minimum bill
\$4.12	per 1,000 gallons 1st 300,000 (per year)
\$5.15	per 1,000 gallons 301,000 to 700,000 (per year)
\$7.40	per 1,000 gallons over 700,000 (per year)
<b>161, 162, 164, 165 Special Class I &amp; II</b>	
\$16.40	per GPM per month minimum bill
\$26.00	per GPM per month demand charge
\$0.57	per 1,000 gallons
<b>163, 166 Special Class III</b>	
\$4.69	per Pers (equiv) per month minimum bill
\$5.05	per Pers (equiv) per month demand charge
\$0.57	per 1,000 gallons up to contract amount
\$7.40	per 1,000 gallons over contract amount

1 Minimum & demand charges do not include any water.  
 2 Livestock (511) water allocations are annual use, not monthly.  
 3 "equivalent" population "person" = contract GPD ÷ 270

After Hours or Emergencies  
 Call Mid-Dakota  
 TOLL FREE at: 1-800-439-3079



For online bill paying:  
[www.mdrws.com](http://www.mdrws.com)



## MID-DAKOTA CALENDAR

The Mid-Dakota Rural Water System offices will be closed on the following dates:

**October 10, 2022 - Native American Day**

**November 11, 2022 - Veteran's Day**

**November 24, 2022 - Thanksgiving Day**

**December 26, 2022 - Christmas Day (Observance)**

**January 2, 2023 - New Year's Day (Observance)**

*In case of an emergency, please call the office  
 Toll Free at 1-800-439-3079,  
 or call our After Hours answering service direct  
 at 1-888-545-7440.*



**LiveTicket.tv**  
...YOUR TICKET TO THE GAME

## ATTENTION LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS FANS

Mid-Dakota Rural Water is happy to announce our partnership with LiveTicket.TV to be able to watch the Miller Rustlers and Highmore-Harrold Pirates events for FREE! (More schools are also available). You are able to search by sport or by school to find a certain event. You can either visit <https://liveticket.tv/> or download the app.

Save the Date



## ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday,  
October 20, 2022  
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM  
All Mid-Dakota offices



Mid-Dakota Rural Water System is requesting if you have changed your landline, cell phone or email address since becoming a member, to please reach out to us and make sure we have your current information. This will make it easier to contact members directly for water outages, scheduled maintenance or any other related services.

Please email [office@mdrws.com](mailto:office@mdrws.com), call 605-853-3159 or fill out the area below and mail it to PO Box 318, Miller, SD 57362. Thank you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number (If known): \_\_\_\_\_



**Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc.**  
608 W. 14th Street | P.O. Box 318  
Miller, South Dakota 57362-0318  
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# WATER/WASTEWATER ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN SOUTH DAKOTA



**A**s we all know, everyone needs water to exist. However, for most people, our water is provided to us by some outside source, such as a public water supplier (PWS) such as your rural water system. In turn, PWSs pass along the costs of acquiring, treating and delivering this water, in the form of monthly water charges, to its customers. No matter how critical, some customers may, from time-to-time, have trouble paying for the water they need.

The South Dakota Department of Social Services has received funding to assist low-income individuals and families whose water/wastewater service has been disconnected or who are at risk of losing access to water service. If your water/wastewater service has been disconnected; or if you have been notified of pending service disconnection; or if you have overdue water service bills, there may be help available.

Eligibility for Energy Assistance is based on the number of people and income of everyone in the home. To apply contact the Community Action Agency serving your County. Applications are being accepted now.

## TO APPLY, CONTACT THE COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY SERVING YOUR COUNTY:

### Inter-Lakes Community Action

605-256-6518

[www.interlakescap.com](http://www.interlakescap.com)

serves Brookings, Clark, Codington, Deuel, Grant, Hamlin, Kingsbury, Lake, McCook, Miner, Minnehaha, and Moody counties.

### Grow South Dakota

605-698-7654

[www.growsd.org](http://www.growsd.org)

serves Beadle, Brown, Campbell, Day, Edmunds, Faulk, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, McPherson, Marshall, Potter, Roberts, Spink, Stanley, Sully, and Walworth counties.

### Rural Office of Community Services

605-384-3883

[www.rocsinc.org](http://www.rocsinc.org)

serves Aurora, Bon Homme, Brule, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Clay, Davison, Douglas, Gregory, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Jones, Lincoln, Lyman, Mellette, Sanborn, Todd, Tripp, Turner, Yankton, and Union counties.

### Western South Dakota Community Action

605-348-1460

[www.wsdca.org](http://www.wsdca.org)

serves Bennett, Butte, Corson, Custer, Dewey, Fall River, Haakon, Harding, Jackson, Lawrence, Meade, Perkins, Oglala Lakota, Pennington, and Ziebach counties.

**The South Dakota Department of Social Services is dedicated to strengthening families to foster health, well being, and independence. For more information, please visit [dss.sd.gov](http://dss.sd.gov).**

## BACK PAGE CONTENT PROVIDED BY:



EAST DAKOTA  
WATER  
DEVELOPMENT  
DISTRICT

132B Airport Avenue  
Brookings, SD 57006  
605-688-6741  
[eastdakota.org](http://eastdakota.org)