



MID DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM

Quality On Tap!

October 2023 | Volume 19, Issue 2

**UNDERSTANDING
NON-PROFIT
BOARD OF
DIRECTOR
LIABILITY**

**WATER QUALITY
& QUANTITY
INFORMATION
SOURCES**

**NOW IS THE TIME
TO WINTERIZE**

Save the Date



ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday,
October 19, 2023

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

All Mid-Dakota offices

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFO

FROM THE MANAGER

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



Another summer has past us by in a blink of the eye. New hook-ups are still keeping Mid-Dakota staff very busy. The list is long and I appreciate everyone's patience in understanding our schedule and anticipations of installation.

2023 is a lot like 2022 in that Mid-Dakota is still working through the front-end paperwork for our ARPA project, there seems to be a lot of hurdles to be crossed to get started. Hopefully the end of the paper chase is coming soon so we can bid the project and get construction started in 2024. Mid-Dakota has started switching some service areas over to a new Automatic Meter Reading system (Sentryx). Preliminary observations of the new system are very promising with very high expectations for the customer portal. If you want to find out if your service has been switched over to new system, give our Miller office a call and someone will help you.

In the last issue and in this issue of *Quality on Tap*, we are sharing information about the Lead Service Line inventory survey. This is a requirement of all public water systems throughout South Dakota and our nation. Mid-Dakota is required to have all this information completed by October of 2024. Your input and participation in this effort would help us out in the timeline of completing this requirement. If you have any questions regarding this form, please call the Miller office and staff can answer all questions.

Mid-Dakota's Annual Meeting has been set for October 19, 2023. We will be using the same format as years past, the come and go format from 10 am to 2 pm and held at each of our offices throughout our system. Hope to see you there!

MID-DAKOTA CALENDAR

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

- October 9, 2023 - Native American Day
- November 10, 2023 - Veteran's Day
- November 23, 2023 - Thanksgiving Day
- December 25, 2023 - Christmas Day
- January 1, 2024 - New Year's Day

In case of an emergency, please call the office Toll Free at 1-800-439-3079.



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

Quality On Tap!

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Office Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m., M-F

Email: office@mdrws.com

Website: www.mdrws.com

Rural Directors

- Steve Robbennolt District 1
- Leslie Brown District 2
- Chuck Steptoe District 3
- Lennis Fagerhaug District 4
- Rick Benson District 5

Municipal Directors

- Dwight Gutzmer At Large
- Jim McGillvrey At Large
- Jeff McGirr Huron
- Darrell Raschke Huron

Office Staff - Miller, SD

- Scott Gross General Manager
- Connie Aymar Financial Manager
- Jamie Brueggeman Office Administrator
- Tammy Oligmueller Customer Accounts Specialist
- Kristen Arthur Customer Accounts Specialist
- Cameron Simons Membership Specialist

Operations Staff / Water Treatment - Pierre, SD

- Bill Sarringar Water Treatment Plant Manager
- Mike Polak Water Treatment Plant Specialist
- Scott Szuggar Water Treatment Plant Specialist

Water Transmission & Distribution - Miller, SD

- Lorin Johnson Operations Manager
- Calvin Kindle Water Distribution Specialist
- Scott Manning Water Distribution Specialist
- Michael Nicholson Main Transmission Pipeline Specialist
- Paige Gesinger O & M Specialist
- Mike McCready Small Systems Specialist
- Deric Diede Hookup Specialist
- DeAnn Hargens Customer & Legal Records Specialist
- Gage Russell Water Distribution Associate Specialist

Pierre, SD

- Shane Bothwell Water Distribution Specialist
- Ron Ramsey Water Distribution Specialist
- Travis Jones Water Distribution Specialist
- Randy Bauer Electrical Specialist

Gettysburg, SD

- Gary Tobin Water Distribution Specialist

Wessington Springs, SD


- Mark Gran Water Distribution Specialist

Huron, SD

- Troy Dorris Water Distribution Specialist
- Scott Perry Water Distribution Specialist

Consultants

- Bartlett & West Engineers
- May, Adam, Gerdes & Thompson – Law Office
- Endorf, Lurken, Olson & Co. – CPA

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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.



OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc. will be held on Thursday, October 19, 2023 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 to 2:00 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 a.m. and close promptly at 2:00 p.m.

Dated this 7th day of August, 2023.

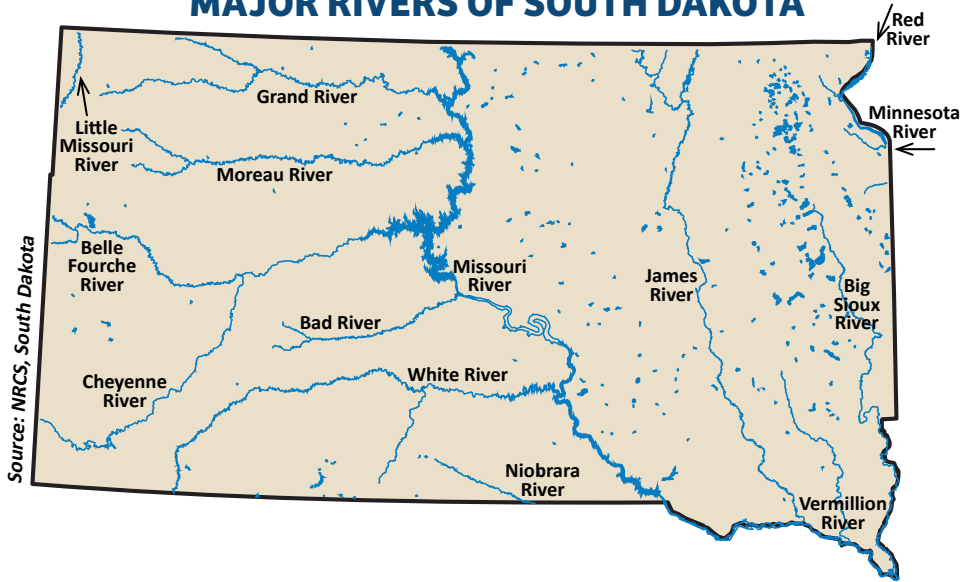
– Scott Gross, General Manager



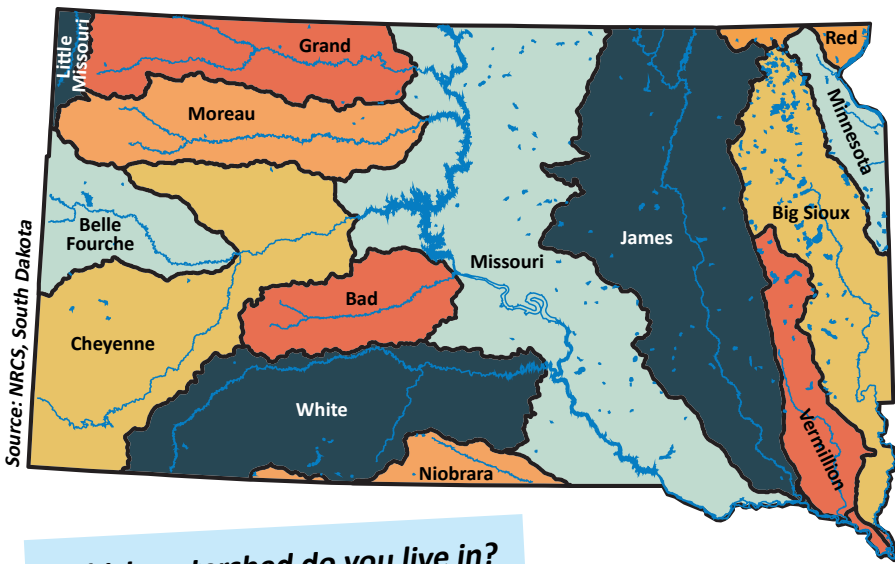
WE ALL LIVE IN A WATERSHED!

A watershed is a system of water that all comes together. For example, when it rains, you can often see little streams of water running along a street gutter or across a parking lot. These flow into larger streams and finally into puddles or sewage pipes or maybe even into a real stream or river. The watershed for the puddle or sewage pipe or stream, would include all of the small trickles and streams that flow into it, as well as all of the ground that they flow over!

MAJOR RIVERS OF SOUTH DAKOTA



MAJOR WATERSHEDS OF SOUTH DAKOTA



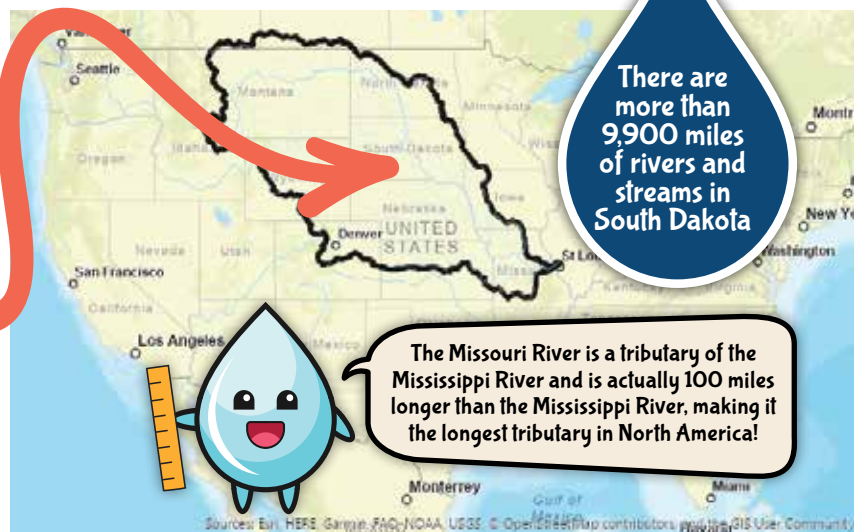
Check out the map above. How many major rivers do you see that run through South Dakota?

Looking at the map to the left, how many major watersheds cover South Dakota?

Which watershed do you live in?

Smaller watersheds come together to form larger watersheds. Most all of the watersheds you see in the map above, drain into the Missouri River, making up a larger Missouri River watershed.

The Missouri River watershed is a sub-watershed of the bigger Mississippi River watershed.



NOW IS THE TIME TO WINTERIZE!

A quick step outside and a glance at the calendar will remind you of the inevitable – colder temperatures are on their way. For South Dakotans, winter is just a way of life. Taking a little time and the proper steps to winterize your home – and especially your pipes – in preparation for the cold and snow, you can save yourself time and money, and unnecessary heartache.

A broken pipe can add up to big water losses. A 1/8 inch hole can lose 296,000 gallons of water over a three month period of time – about 3,200 gallons a day. That is equivalent to the amount of water that one person will use in a month of normal use. To put things into perspective – it is enough water to fill an 850 square foot basement with six inches of water in just 24 hours. Below are some steps you can take now to winterize your home and keep your pipes from freezing this winter.

Insulate your pipes

Pipes bursting in winter are a homeowner's worst nightmare. Insulate pipes in areas of your home that are not well heated – such as crawl spaces and attics. Wrap them with pre-molded foam rubber sleeves or fiberglass insulation – both of which can be found at your local hardware store. Another option can be to install heat tape – which is basically a special electrical cord that is wrapped around your pipes and emits heat. It is crucial to install UL-approved heat tapes according to manufacturer's instructions so as to not cause an accident or fire. The heat tape should be used on both the water pipes as well as the valves that shut off the water pipes. If you already rely on heat tape to keep your pipes from freezing, inspect it thoroughly to

make sure it is working properly as it can burn out after a number of years.

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

If there is an emergency, you will need to know where your master shut off valve is in a hurry. If your water meter is in your basement, the valve should be close by. Your service line water valve shuts off water to your entire property ahead of your water meter – and should be marked with a sign.

Inspect your meter pit

You can cover the pit with straw or other insulating material if desired to further protect the meter and pipes. Also remember to mark the location of your meter pit to avoid damage from snowplows and other equipment. If it looks damaged, contact your local rural water provider to come and check it out.

Disconnect outside hoses and faucets

It is very important to disconnect and drain your outside hoses. You should also drain your outside faucets by installing an inside shut-off valve and drain if the outside faucet is not self-draining. In-ground lawn sprinklers also need to be drained before winter hits.

Seal Outside Openings and Cracks

Locate places along outside walls, foundations, sill plates, doors and windows that may allow cold air to penetrate your home – and seal with caulk, foam or fiberglass insulation. Close any basement windows and access doors and make sure they are properly sealed.

OTHER WINTERIZING TIPS

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



WATER QUALITY & QUANTITY INFORMATION SOURCES

Many South Dakotans participate in a range of water-based recreational activities, like swimming, fishing or boating. For some, their home or cabin might be located adjacent to a lake or stream. For the rest of us, access comes by way of our many public parks and beaches. In any case, people are frequently asking questions about our surface water resources. The questions typically center on concerns over water quality (Is it safe?), but questions about quantity also arise (especially during times of flood or drought).

The references below are intended to provide links to a few of the available sources of water information where many the basic questions can be answered.

WATER QUANTITY INFORMATION SOURCES

USGS Stream Gages — The United States Geological Survey (USGS) maintains a network of over 170 stations that monitor stream flows across the state. In many instances, the records go back over fifty years, so they provide a good, long-term perspective. The stations record the river level (stage) on a continuous basis, and the readings can be accessed via the Dakota Water Science Center website at www.usgs.gov/centers/dakota-water. Click on Water Data for South Dakota under the DWSC column, then click

on Statewide Streamflow Current Conditions Table for the latest information on South Dakota rivers and streams.

Smart Phone Applications — In the past few years, smart phone applications have been developed that provide access to real-time stream flow information. The information they provide is similar to what is available from more formal, web-based platforms, i.e., real-time stream stage and discharge information. One example is a product called Rivercast™, developed by Juggernaut Technology, Inc., which is available for both Apple and Android platforms.

DANR Water Rights Lake Level Site — The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) Water Rights Program maintains an interactive database map that provides information on lake levels within the state (Measured Lakes). The site provides water level data, along with established elevations for lake outlets and the ordinary high and low water marks. The site can be accessed by selecting “Data & Mapping” on DANR’s homepage at danr.sd.gov under the “Quick Links” heading.

WATER QUALITY INFORMATION SOURCES

Annual Consumer Confidence Reports — Every year, public water suppliers are required to provide a consumer

confidence report (CCR) to their customers describing the quality of the water they are providing. This requirement applies to rural water systems and municipal water utilities. This report typically comes out in the spring, with many rural water systems publishing their CCR in this magazine.

305(b) & 303(d) Integrated Report – Every two years, DANR publishes the Integrated Report for Surface Water Quality Assessment. Prepared under requirements of Sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act, the report provides a status report on the condition of rivers, lakes and streams across the state. The report identifies the designated beneficial uses of each water body, such as swimming, fisheries, or drinking water, along with a determination of whether the uses are supported. A variety of water quality standards have been established to determine whether a water body supports a particular use. If more than ten percent (10%) of samples fail to meet the standard, the water is considered impaired. Water quality data used in the biannual Integrated Reports come from a broad range of public sources. The most recent report can be found on the DANR website at: danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/SurfaceWaterQuality/docs/DANR_2022_IR_approved.pdf

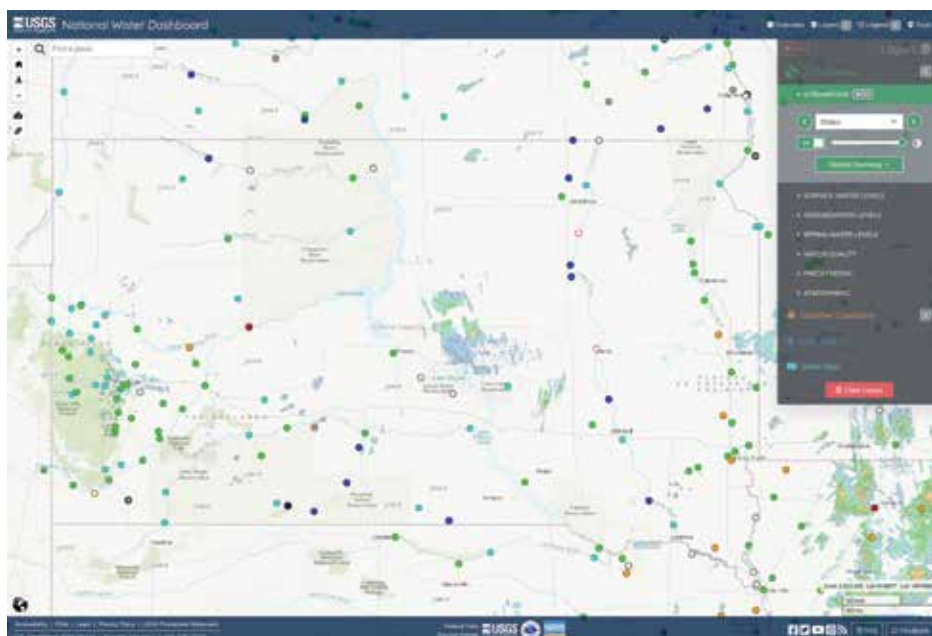
Water Quality Monitoring Access Portal – A few years back, DANR launched a new interactive database map providing the public internet access to water quality data for South Dakota’s lakes and streams. This is the same data on which the Integrated Reports are based. The Water Quality Monitoring Access Portal Map (WQ Map) provides water quality data collected during the past 50 years from DANR’s Statewide Water Quality Monitoring Network, intensive water quality monitoring surveys, Total Maximum Daily Load assessments, regional lake surveys, and citizen monitoring. Altogether, WQ Map contains data for over 3,600 water quality monitoring stations and includes results for more than 140,000 water chemistry samples, 2,500



algae samples, and 8,400 fish flesh samples. WQ Map can be accessed by selecting “Data & Mapping” on DANR’s homepage at danr.sd.gov under the “Quick Links” heading.

The sources listed above are by no means all of the available resources, but they are some of the most commonly searched. It is also important to note that information is not likely to be available for every water body, and even if there is data, it may not be from exactly where you’d like. If you’d like

to learn more about potential sources of water quality and/or quantity data for your area, feel free to contact your local public water supplier, DANR, USGS or the East Dakota Water Development District at the numbers listed below.



- **USGS Dakota Water Science Center** – 605-394-3200
- **DANR Water Rights Program** – 605-773-3352
- **DANR Surface Water Quality Program** – 605-773-3351
- **DANR Watershed Protection Program** – 605-773-4254
- **East Dakota Water Development District** – 605-688-6741, eastdakota.org



By Mike McGill, Attorney At Law

UNDERSTANDING DIRECTOR LIABILITY FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION BOARDS IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Navigating the intricacies of Director liability is crucial for individuals serving on the Board of Directors of a Not-for-Profit Corporation in South Dakota. While pursuing the mission of the organization, Directors must also be aware of potential risks and liabilities they may be exposed to. This article aims to shed light on the exposure to risk for Director liability under South Dakota law, ensuring board members are well informed and equipped to make informed decisions while conducting board business.

DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF DIRECTORS

Members of a Not-for-Profit Corporation Board of Directors in South Dakota owe fiduciary duties to the organization and its stakeholders. Those duties encompass loyalty, care,

and good faith in the Board's decision-making processes. Directors must act in the best interest of the organization and avoid conflicts of interest that may compromise their impartiality.

LIABILITY FOR BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTIES

Directors can be held liable for breaching their fiduciary duties, which could result in legal consequences. South Dakota law recognizes two main types of actions against **Directors for breach of fiduciary duties:**

1. Derivative actions; and
2. Direct actions.

In a derivative action, filed by a patron or member representing the entity rather than themselves personally, the claim alleges harm to the organization by the Directors' actions or omissions. For example, if a Board of Directors fail to supervise the activities of management resulting in damage to the corporation regarding business operations, patrons may have a cause of action against the Board of Directors.

Direct actions, on the other hand, are filed by individuals personally harmed by a Director's breach of fiduciary duty, allowing them to seek remedies and damages directly. These claims require establishing a direct relationship between the Director's action and the individual's personal injury or loss.

Directors found to be in breach of their fiduciary duties can face various legal remedies, such as monetary damages and equitable relief. The courts may order Directors to reimburse funds misappropriated, prevent further harm by issuing injunctions, or even removing Directors from their position.

EXCULPATION PROVISIONS AND INSURANCE COVERAGE

If a board member served a Not-for-Profit Corporation under South Dakota law without receiving any compensation, they are immune from suit. However, most Water Systems compensate their Directors for expenses related to attending the meeting in addition to compensation for their services. In that case, where a Director is compensated, the Director is not entitled to absolute immunity for their actions under South Dakota law.

However, South Dakota law provides as follows with respect to indemnity of a Not-for-Profit Board Member:

SDCL 47-23-27 A nonprofit corporation may indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened pending or completed action, suit, or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative other than an action by or in the right of the corporation by reason of the fact that that person is or was a Director, officer, employee, or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a Director, officer, employee, or agent or another corporation, limited liability company, partnership, joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, against expenses including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines, and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by that person in connection with the action, suit, or proceeding if that person acted in good faith and in a manner that person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe such conduct was unlawful.

Essentially, a Director is entitled to indemnification from the non-profit corporation if they acted in good faith. This means that the Director adhered to a reasonable standard

of conduct in doing business for the corporation. South Dakota law does not define a standard of care for Directors and officers. However, based on the rules in other states the best guidance is for Directors to act in a manner the Director reasonably believes to be in the best interest of the corporation, to become and to remain informed of the business of a corporation to properly provide an oversight function of management, disclose any conflict of interest to other board members and management and to utilize the services of competent professionals with respect to accounting and legal affairs of the corporation. The Director should actively participate in board meetings, make sure management retains record keeping, investigate any warnings, properly manage real and personal property, and exercise independent judgment for the best interest of the corporation. The Director must avoid conflict of interest, self-dealing, and must maintain confidentiality of business affairs of the corporation.

Good governance practices also means that Directors must require that their entity implement a conflict-of-interest policy, require auditing the books of the corporation, utilize professionally managed investments, and to assure that tax returns are filed annually.

DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS LIABILITY POLICY

Moreover, Directors should consider securing adequate Director and Officers (D and O) liability insurance coverage. This insurance can help offset costs related to potential claims or damages arising from a breach of fiduciary duty. Careful review and consultation with legal professionals can ensure the insurance coverage is comprehensive and suited to the organization's needs.

The Directors and Officer's policy includes two types of protection. First, the insurance company has a duty to defend and provide attorney's fees to the company and the Board of Directors individually. Second, the insurance company has a duty to pay indemnity costs or damages for the lawsuit. In many cases the most important duty to implicate with respect to the insurance policy is the duty to defend because this includes the provision of an attorney and expenses of attorney's fees to investigate and defend the action. Many times that investigation leads to a settlement without the filing of suit as a result of mediation and compromise.

CONCLUSION

Serving as a member of Not-for-Profit corporation Board of Directors is a rewarding opportunity. However, it is crucial for Directors to understand and appreciate the exposure to risk for Director of liability under South Dakota law. By diligently fulfilling their fiduciary duties, adhering to ethical standards, considering exculpation provisions, and obtaining appropriate insurance coverage, Directors can significantly mitigate potential liabilities and contribute the growth and success of the organization.

SIOUX RURAL WATER SYSTEM

Rural residents of Hamlin, Codington and Deuel Counties in eastern South Dakota joined together in early 1972 forming Sioux Rural Water Association. These areas were in need of a safe reliable water supply for household and livestock consumption. This region of South Dakota receives an average annual rainfall of about 20 inches with 16 inches falling during the crop growing season.

The engineering firm of DeWild Grant Reckert & Associates Co. (DGR) was engaged in March 1972 to perform a system feasibility study and preliminary design work. The study was financed by \$25.00 good intention fees collected from all association members. The feasibility study was completed late in September 1972 and indicated favorable conditions for developing the proposed water system. The Association's Board of Directors approved the study and directed the engineer to proceed with final design and preparation of Plans and Specifications. Following approval of the Association Board and funding agencies, successful bid lettings were held



in May and September 1972, and June 1975. Construction work began in the fall of 1974 with work essentially complete by early fall of 1976.

At that point, the Sioux System served 632 members at 670 pipeline connections; that number has grown to 1,728 members. Projected water use for the system is approximately 500,000 gallons per day or over 180 million gallons per year; 373,493,000 gallons were pumped in 2022. Ninety percent of the potential users with the system's service area who joined the Association are receiving water. The System has a density of 1.8 connections per mile of pipe, with approximately 1,400 miles of pipe in the ground.

Final construction cost for the original system was \$3,962,000 with 76% of this cost for construction of the distribution pipeline. Total project cost including legal, engineering and administrative cost is \$4,440,000. The cost was paid for by a partial grant and a 40-year construction loan from the Farmers Home Administration, a grant from the State of South Dakota, and by user membership fees. The cost of operation and repayment of loans will be made through water use revenues.

Projects and Upgrades

The 1979 User Add-on Project: After original system construction and continued requests for service, funding was secured and a few hundred new users became members of the Sioux Rural Water System.

1983 Water Source: A new water source was needed in Division II, so after a year of research a new well, pump station and storage at the Castlewood Pumping Station. Moreover, 12.5 miles of main line were added and the system began to serve the Town of Hayti.

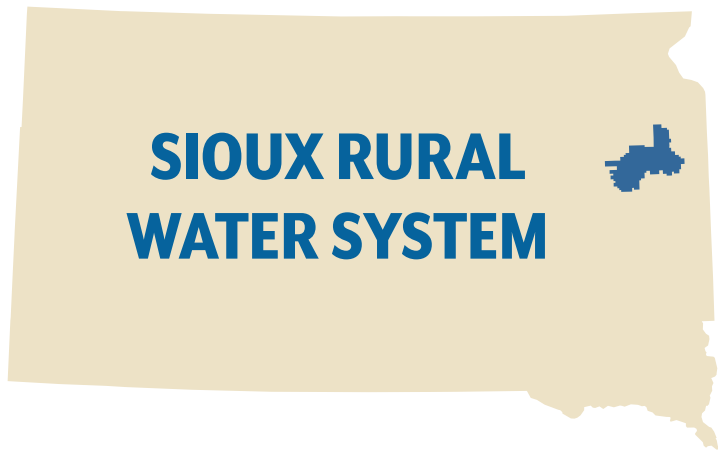
1988 Phase I Construction: Deteriorating water quality became a priority prior to 1988, coupled with the system outgrowing portions of original design. These factors prompted the construction of 8.5 miles of main line, added storage, a new well at Castlewood and piping upgrades at the Sioux plant.

1990 Phase II Construction: Phase II constructed two water filtration plants and 20.3 miles of main line piping with treatment plants located at the Castlewood well site and the Sioux well site. Plant improvements remedied issues caused by iron and manganese found in raw water sources.

1991 User Add-on (Phase III): Sioux Rural Water System obtained 130 new members through an expansion project. The project was engineered and designed to provide water to individuals experiencing a lack of water or poor water quality.

1996 Well Relocation / System Upgrade: Nitrate contamination required Sioux to look for a new water source. A year-long search culminated in the purchased 60 acres of land near existing wells by the Castlewood Treatment Plant (Division II). Additional efforts, along with the help of surrounding land owners, created a wellhead protection area. Furthermore, the project included the implementation of a SCADA control systems allowing operators to monitor and control the system remotely.

1999-2000 User Add-on Project: Continued requests for water to areas miles away from other water systems prompted a study of those areas. The process identified 150 new members system wide and another mainline expansion.



2009 Office Project: In 2009 Sioux Rural Water constructed a new office near the original office at the Sioux Treatment plant location. The construction of this efficient building will adequately meet Sioux Rural Water's needs for years to come.

2015 Water System Improvement Project: Construction of approximately 31 miles of new distribution system pipeline and individual meter services in Kranzburg. One existing booster pumping station will be replaced due to equipment being made obsolete by distribution system changes.

The City of Kranzburg distribution system will be improved with 14,950 feet of pipeline and appurtenances size 3-inch through 6-inch, and with new service pipelines and meter pits. The 72 existing customers of the City of Kranzburg water utility will be customers of Sioux Rural Water, and the City will no longer operate a water utility.

Additionally, two new wells and accessories will be constructed at the Castlewood wellfield to replace declining capacity in existing wells. The obsolete water system SCADA control system will be replaced.

2018 Water System Improvement Project: SRWS staff is installing 1,700 automatic read meters (AMR) in the system. Approximately 9 miles of 3"-10" distribution pipeline and a new pump station was installed at the Kones Reservoir to improve system pressure and delivery flows. There was also a new control vault installed at the Hazel Tower site.

The City of Hazel was changed from a bulk customer to individual rural water customers. Meters were replaced and isolation valves were installed at each service. Some water pipeline improvements were made to the city distribution system.

Both the Sioux and Castlewood Water Treatment Plants had major upgrades. New electrical rooms, office and lab space, chemical feed rooms, filter cells, and other miscellaneous equipment to both treatment plants. Water Treatment capacity was increased from 500 gpm to 750 gpm at the Sioux WTP and from 900 gpm to 1,500 gpm at the Castlewood WTP. New larger generators were installed at both Water Treatment Plants.

Hazard Mitigation: Our Kones Reservoir and Hayti Boosters both have backup generators thanks to our past manager pursuing funding through FEMA.

2023 Water System Improvement Project: The foundation has been dug at the Bryant Tower site for a new 300,000 gallon water tower. This new 300,000 gallon tower will replace the 50,000 gallon water tower on the existing Bryant Water Tower site along with the 50,000 water tower at the Hazel Tower site. Approximately 14 miles of 4" – 10" distribution pipeline will be added in this project.

The City of Castlewood and the City of Estelline are in the process of becoming bulk water users of Sioux Rural Water System Inc.

DIRECTORS:

Darwin Mack – President

Kent Roe – Vice-President

Todd Moritz – Secretary

Jon Hegge – Treasurer

Jim Thyen – Director, SDARWS Director

Brad Jongeling – Director

Betsy Oleson – Director

Daniel Schleusner – Director

Keith Smith – Director

STAFF:

Travis Steffensen – General Manager

Sarah Bruinsma – Office Manager

Todd Goodfellow – System Operations
Specialist

Guy Groenwold – System Operations
Specialist

Jesse Foreman – System Operations
Specialist

Brandon Benike – System Operations
Specialist

Brandan Spiering – System Operations
Specialist

Angie Larson – Billing Clerk

STATISTICS:

Hookups: 1,728

Miles of Pipeline: 1,400

Water Source: 6 wells and 2 standby wells
Counties Served: Codington, Clark, Deuel,
Hamlin

Towns Served Individual: Bemis, Grover,
Naples, Thomas, Vienna, Waverly

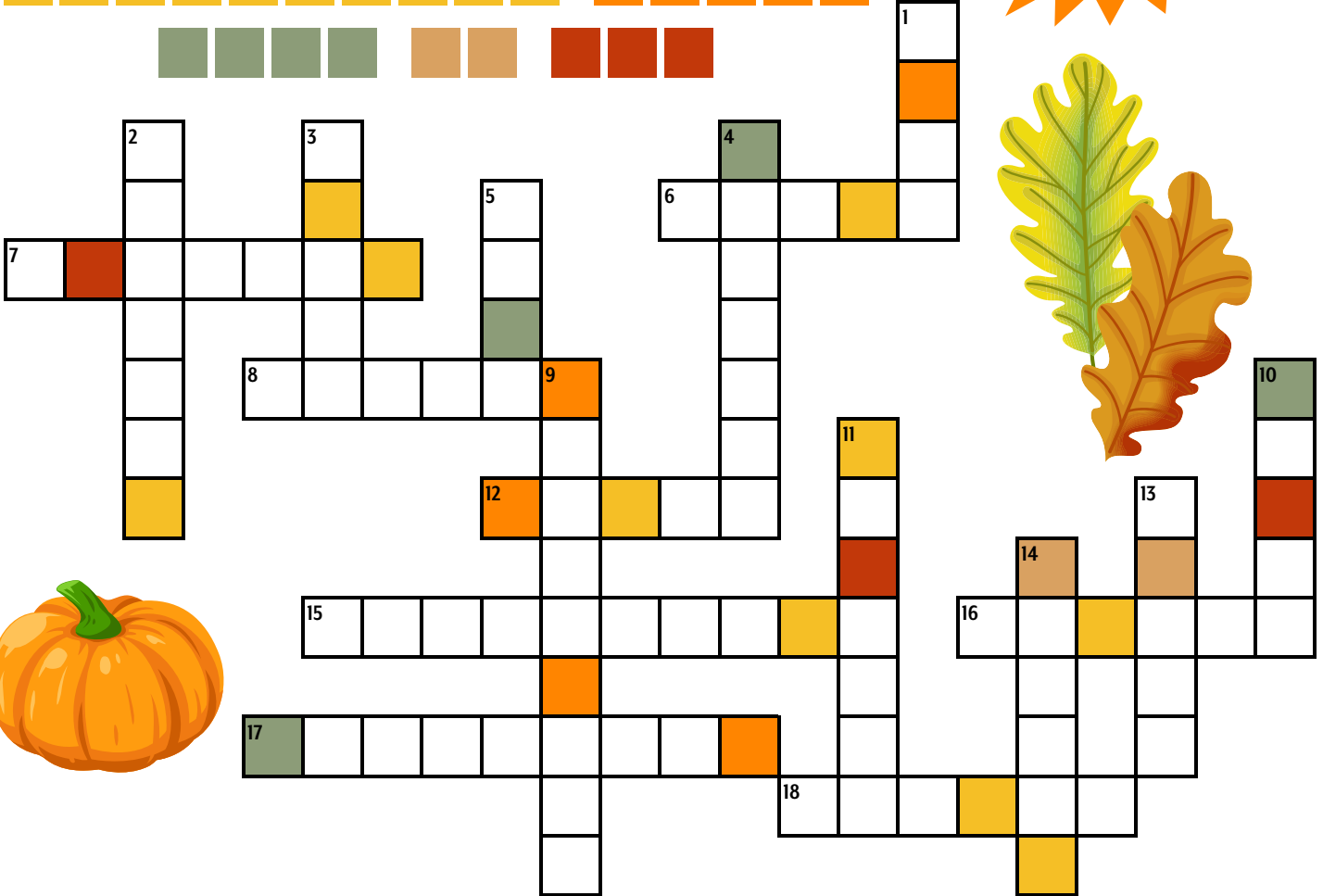
Towns Served Bulk: Bryant, Hayti, Hazel,
Kranzburg; Standby Bulk - Castlewood

RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

HARVEST TIME



SCRAMBLE ANSWER



Down

- 1. Under a quilt, say
- 2. Harvester
- 3. Crunchy, brittle, or fresh
- 4. Outdoor blaze

- 5. Leaf mover
- 9. Hay dummy
- 10. Squirrel snack
- 11. Tractor-drawn excursion
- 13. Squash, for example
- 14 Thanksgiving roast

Across

- 6. Hazy skies
- 7. Carved in October
- 8. Bobbing goals
- 12. Native corn

- 15. Orchard beverage
(2 words)
- 16. Harvest season
- 17. Hot dish
- 18. Fall ground cover

RULES: Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See page 2 for contact information) or enter online at www.sdarws.com/crossword.html with the correct phrase by October 15, 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 Kay Zeigler with Mid-Dakota RWS who had the correct phrase of "In summer, the song sings itself" for October 2023.

RURAL WATER

ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA

CITY OF MADISON NEARS FULL INTEGRATION WITH LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL WATER

By Zac Zwaschka, *Madison Daily Leader*

Madison's integration into the Lewis & Clark Rural Water System (L&C) is on its home stretch, and according to L&C Executive Director Troy Larson, residents can expect the city to be fully connected by around this time next year.

Madison — along with 19 other member cities across South Dakota, Iowa and Minnesota — joined L&C more than 30 years ago, and with Madison being one of the last to be incorporated, this is a welcome completion to a lengthy project.

Larson explained that there are three items remaining for Madison's integration, all of which are making significant progress. Among these are two 16-mile segments of 16-inch diameter PVC pipe that will connect Madison to the broader L&C system.

"Both of them expect to be substantially complete by the end of this year," Larson said, adding that between the two, nearly 90% of piping has been placed.

Construction on these segments began in April and May, respectively, with Halme Construction of Lake Norden handling the southern end and Carstensen Contracting of Dell Rapids working to the north.

On top of this, Larson said that additional pumps will be needed to ensure the water flows smoothly to its destination.

"We're adding pumps to a pump station just a mile west of Crooks that is needed to get the water pumped up to Madison. That contract is progressing very well, and we expect that it will hopefully be completed in the next couple months," Larson added.

The final item is a million-gallon ground storage reservoir to be built east of Madison's Water Sanitation Plant. Construction on the reservoir kicked off in May, and Larson said that it's set for completion in August of next year.

Larson described the reservoir as the "final piece of the puzzle," as its completion date will signify Madison's full

integration with L&C.

Once completed, the L&C system will deliver 44.19 million gallons per day (gpd) to its 20 members from an aquifer adjacent to the Missouri River, which is pumped to a treatment plant near Vermillion. From this total, Madison is slated to receive a million gpd.

Madison has technically been receiving water since 2017 via a wheeling plan where Madison receives water from the Big Sioux Community Water Corporation (BSCWC), who purchased it from the Minnehaha Community Water System (MCWC).

While this wheeling plan has helped Madison maintain its water needs over the last half-decade, it was always meant to be temporary.

Part of the reason Madison's integration has taken so long is L&C's reliance on federal funding for 80% of the project's costs, with the other 20% being evenly divided between the member cities and states they inhabit.

Larson explained that at times, federal funding was "minimal at best, leading to small, incremental progress." However, a recent surge in federal spending has resulted in a boost of efficiency, as L&C has a record 17 active contracts throughout its service area.

This is an all-time high for L&C, and Larson noted that previously, three to four consecutive contracts was the best they could hope for.

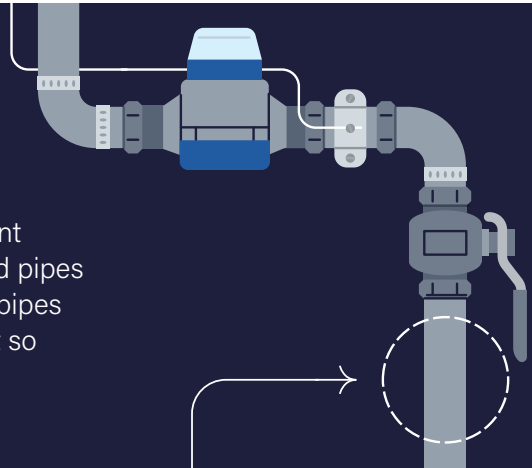
"Fortunately, we've seen an influx of funding, and that's really helped us make a push to get to the finish line," he added.

Madison's integration into the original project is a critical milestone, as water of increased quality and quantity will finally be available to residents. As completion nears and expansion plans gain momentum, further information will be forthcoming.

Reprinted with Permission from the Madison Daily Leader

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.

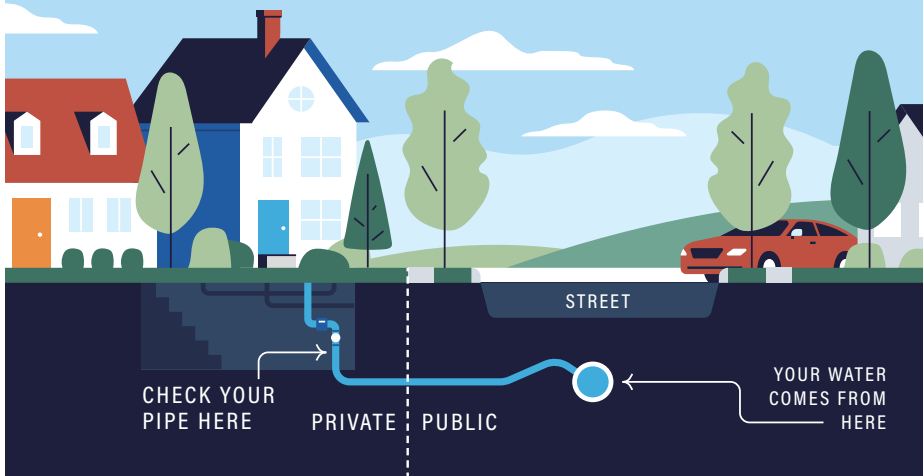


Take this quick survey to help protect your health

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.

A paper copy of this survey can be found on page 15.

If you have questions, please contact the Mid-Dakota office in Miller office at 605-853-3159.



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.

MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM LEAD-FREE SD WATER CUSTOMER SURVEY

Please take the survey below to see if your home's water pipe contains lead. If you have a smartphone we encourage you to try out the electronic survey at survey.SDWaterPipes.com as an alternative to the paper form. The electronic survey uses smart technology to tailor the questions to your specific case. You may even find a relative, a neighbor, or a friend to help.

Part A

Physical street address: (P.O. Box not acceptable) _____

Account/Hookup number: _____ Year home was constructed: _____

If structure is other than a residential home, indicate it here: _____

NOTE: There is no need to fill out a survey for livestock taps not serving human residences.

Was your water pipe from the street to the house constructed at a time different from when the home was constructed? **Yes** **No** **Unknown**

If so, what year was the water pipe constructed: (the oldest date applies) _____

Locate the water pipe coming into your home, take a picture and send it to your water system with your account/hookup number at: **605-290-7711 (text), or office@mdrws.com (email)**

NOTE: The pipe in question is the drinking water pipe that comes into your home from the street. It is typically located in a utility room on the lowest level of your home. It could also be accessed in a crawl space if your home has one. We're interested in the first 18 inches of pipe coming through the floor or exposed in the crawl space.

Part B

What is the diameter of your water pipe? _____ inch

NOTE: Measured from top of pipe to bottom of pipe in a straight line, it is generally less than 2-inches in diameter.

What color is your water pipe? (indicate with an X)

Black **Gray/Silver** **Orange/Copper**
 White **Other, indicate color here:** _____

If the water pipe is gray/silver, move to Part C.

Part C

Items Needed: Key or coin, magnet, protective gloves, dust pan and broom, garbage can

Within the first 18 inches of pipe coming out of the floor of the lowest level of your house (or within a crawl space below your home, if applicable), perform the following simple test:

1. Is the pipe **dull** or **shiny** before it is scratched with a key or coin?
2. Is the pipe **dull** or **shiny** where it was scratched with a key or coin?
3. Does a magnet stick to the gray pipe. **Yes** **No**

NOTE: Lead is dull, very soft, and will turn shiny silver color when scratched. Magnets will only stick to steel, they will not stick to lead pipe. If you answered dull, shiny and no in that order to the questions above in Part C, your pipe is likely lead. Questions can be directed to your water provider at this time, you may also find more information at SDWaterPipes.com.

PLEASE RETURN SURVEY TO:

Mid-Dakota Rural Water
608 W. 14th Street
PO Box 318
Miller, SD 57362-0318

Part D

Please send this survey to your water provider. We also urge you to email a photo of your water pipe along with the address and account/hookup number listed above for tracking and coordination purposes to your water system, or include a printed picture with this survey.

Survey submitted by:

Print first and last name

Signature

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY.

Don't forget to send a picture of your service line to your water system with your name and account/hookup number.



Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc.
608 W. 14th Street | P.O. Box 318
Miller, South Dakota 57362-0318
www.mdrws.com • 605-853-3159



WATER MATTERS

Observation Wells



Driving around rural South Dakota, it is not uncommon to see a piece of plastic pipe sticking out of the ground in the road ditch. Most (hopefully) will be flanked by a couple of steel fence posts and some will have a cap secured with a padlock. Sometimes the pipe is encased in a steel housing. These are ground water observation wells, and they are used to monitor the nature and condition of the aquifers on which we all depend.

Most observation wells are used to measure the water level over a period of time. During times of drought or high demand, water levels will drop. When use declines, or when precipitation replenishes the aquifer, water levels rise. The overall goal is to insure that water use does not exceed the aquifers capacity. The Water Rights Program within the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) maintains a network of over 1,550 observation wells across the state for this purpose.

By comparing the water levels across an aquifer, it is possible to determine the direction of water movement. If a public water supplier knows where its water comes from, it can develop protection strategies and programs.

Observation wells can also be used to monitor the quality of the water in an aquifer. Such wells might assess conditions in the area around a known contamination event, or simply monitor long-term conditions and trends. The Statewide Ground Water Quality Monitoring Network, maintained by the DANR Geological Survey Program, monitors 25 critical shallow aquifers across the state.



If you see a well that is in poor condition, or if you just have questions about what the well might be used for, you can contact the following entities:

DANR Geological Survey Program, (605) 677-5227

DANR Water Rights Program, (605) 773-3352

East Dakota Water Development District, (605) 688-6741

BACK PAGE CONTENT PROVIDED BY:



**EAST DAKOTA
WATER
DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT**

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