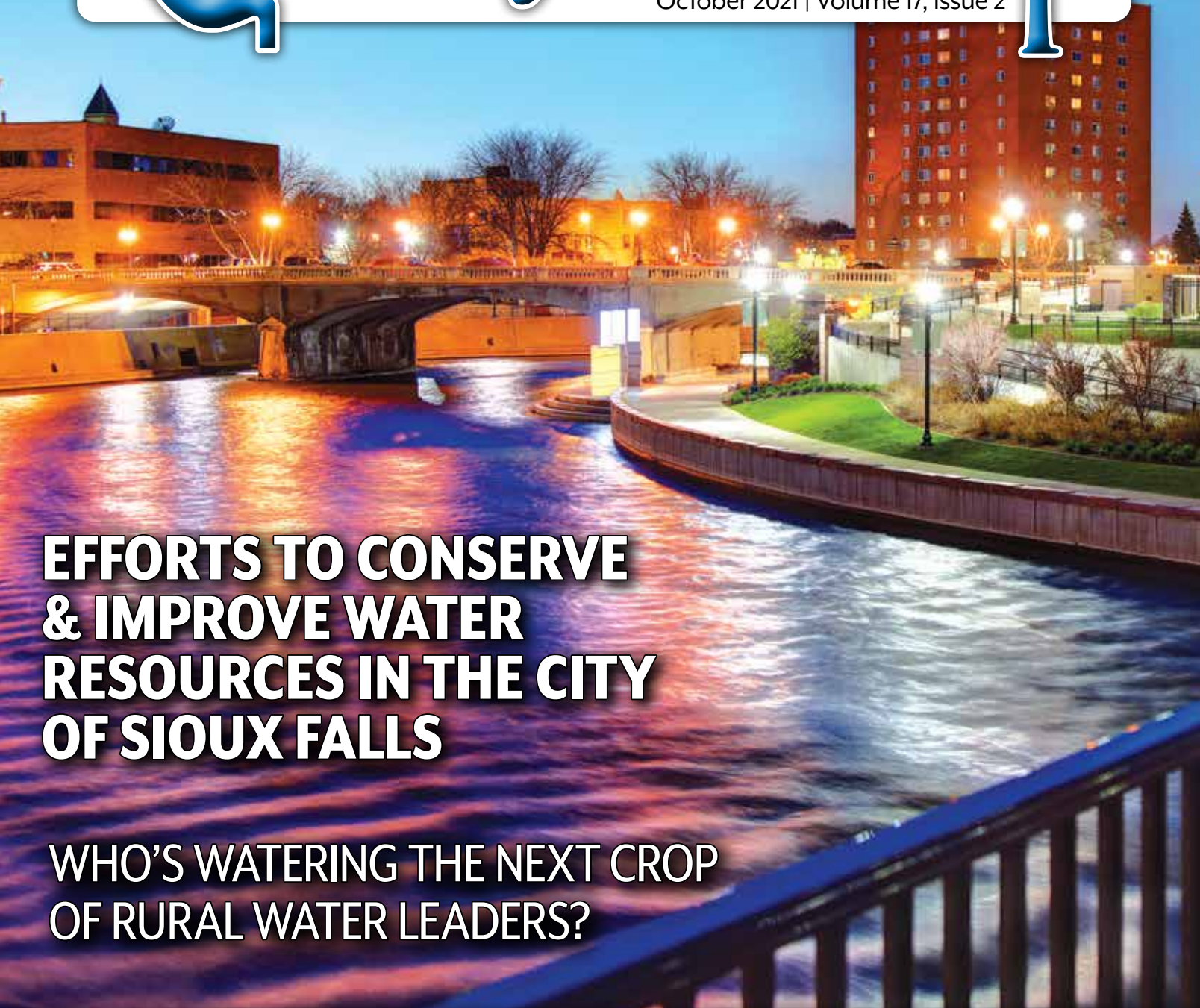




**MID DAKOTA**  
RURAL WATER SYSTEM

# Quality On Tap!

October 2021 | Volume 17, Issue 2



## **EFFORTS TO CONSERVE & IMPROVE WATER RESOURCES IN THE CITY OF SIOUX FALLS**

## **WHO'S WATERING THE NEXT CROP OF RURAL WATER LEADERS?**

**MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE MID-DAKOTA ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 21**

# FROM THE MANAGER

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



**H**ard to believe that we are into the fall months of the year already. It has been decided by the Board that a 2% increase in water rates is required to help offset rising costs of purchasing inventory to repair our aging infrastructure. If you have any questions regarding this, please call the Miller office.

This year, Mid-Dakota has had a busy construction season installing new hookups with the hot dry conditions. Last fall, Mid-Dakota finished installing the parallel mainline expansion project and this summer the tower portion of this project was substantially completed, with hopes of final completion by October 2021. Mid-Dakota has started using the new tank and pipeline while final touches are completed.

Going forward and looking to the future, Mid-Dakota continues to try to stay ahead of the curve. The next bottleneck in the system looks to be at the Water Treatment Plant, with the continued growth and vision to the future. This year with the hot dry conditions Mid-Dakota hit record highs in water produced through our Water Treatment Plant, which raises concern with our ability to continue excellent service to our customers. We have tasked our engineers with looking at different scenarios to address this issue. Mid-Dakota has a vision to look at this expansion in several stages to control the costs. Mid-Dakota is also experiencing issues with our Automatic Meter Reading system and have to administer an upgrade to keep it running. We are currently working with our provider to come up with the best fix. Also, a very serious concern is the issue of zebra mussels. As of writing this, Mid-Dakota Rural Water had an inspection of our intake and are zebra mussel free (so far).

As some of you are aware, our MiData portal for viewing your water use is not working correctly and this company has stopped supporting its use. Mid-Dakota is working through this with another provider and hope to have this resolved very soon, if not by the writing of this article. Mid-Dakota will add information in our newsletter as to the steps needed when the new portal is available. Cameron Bohl has a list started of people to contact when this new program is available. If you want to be added to this list, give Cameron a call at the Miller office. In the present time, thanks for your patience in working through this, and don't hesitate to give us a call if you have any questions on your water use.



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

## Quality On Tap!

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### Rural Directors

Steve Robbenolt ..... District 1  
Leslie Brown ..... District 2  
Scott Oligmueller ..... 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  
Sandy Holt ..... Customer Accounts Specialist  
Tammy Oligmueller ..... Customer Accounts Specialist  
Kristen Arthur ..... Customer Accounts Specialist  
Cameron Bohl ..... Membership Specialist

### Operations Staff / Water Treatment - Pierre, SD

Bill Sarringar ..... Water Treatment Plant Manager  
Mike Polak ..... Water Treatment Plant Specialist  
Steve Laird ..... 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  
Wayne Ruhnke ..... O & M Specialist  
Paige Burggraff ..... O & M Specialist  
Mike McCready ..... Small Systems Specialist  
Deric Diede ..... Hookup Specialist  
DeAnn Hargens ..... Customer & Legal Records Specialist

### Pierre, SD

Shane Bothwell ..... Water Distribution Specialist  
Ron Ramsey ..... Water Distribution Specialist  
Scott Szuggar ..... 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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(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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



# OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

## Thursday, October 21, 2021

**Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc. will be held on Thursday, October 21, 2021 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 grand prizes 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 3rd day of August, 2021.

– Scott Gross, General Manager





# SOURCE WATER CONTAMINATION

Can you help the kids sort out all of the pollutants and contaminants before they get into the water supply? (It's really a game!) Here's how to play:

**DIRECTIONS:**

1. First cover each item with a penny
2. Take turns with a friend removing two pennies at a time. If you uncover two things that are the same (like two plastic bottles), keep the pennies and take another turn. If you uncover two different things, cover them back up and let your friend have a turn. Whoever has the most pennies when the scene is cleared wins the game!

## What is Source Water Contamination?

Water systems provide communities with safe water that is critical for healthy living. That water is sourced from one of two areas: Surface water or groundwater. Surface water is more easily contaminated but can generally recover from pollution incidents much easier and more quickly.

The threat of contamination comes from both nature and human activities. Natural contaminants can come in many forms, such as floods, saltwater intrusion, or fire. Human threats result from a variety of activities.

Water systems work with landowners, local and state governments to reduce the risk of contamination to their source water. Water Systems, in conjunction with other professionals, identify priority areas for protection. Once the protection area is identified, they take measures to reduce the risk of contamination. Often these efforts are community-based and are a combination of zoning regulations and education.





# WHO'S WATERING THE NEXT CROP OF RURAL COOPERATIVE LEADERS?

October is “National Cooperative Month,” and you have reason to celebrate because many services you rely on every day like water and electricity are provided by your local rural cooperatives.

Rural co-ops are powering South Dakota communities by keeping the lights on and the water flowing! But is anyone watering the next crop of rural cooperative leaders?

A new program launched by the Billie Sutton Leadership Institute seeks to grow a new generation of rural leaders and encourage involvement in local cooperatives including rural water systems providing essential services to South Dakota communities.

*Rural POWER* is a year-long leadership development program that is building a pipeline of rural leaders ready to step up and take on leadership positions in rural cooperatives. The program will help keep the water running in small-town South Dakota for generations to come by investing in leaders ready to serve others and give back to their communities and the rural cooperatives powering our future.

*Rural POWER* participants engage in educational leadership training opportunities emphasizing community building and serving their neighbors while learning from cooperative leaders in the state like South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Executive Director Kurt Pfeifle.

Leadership Institute founder Billie Sutton explained, “There is a clear and urgent need to grow the next generation of rural cooperative leaders dedicated to providing crucial services to their communities and the people who live in

them. That’s the need *Rural POWER* is working to fill by exposing emerging leaders to opportunities for service in rural cooperatives.”

Institute Executive Director Suzie Jones Pranger said, “The mission of the Billie Sutton Leadership Institute has always been preparing the next generation of leaders to build a stronger South Dakota in communities both big and small. The new *Rural POWER* program will help ensure the next generation of rural South Dakotans are considering the possibilities of serving their friends and neighbors on rural cooperative boards.”

Jones Pranger recounts her own family’s connection to their local cooperatives: “Growing up on my family farm near Burke I knew our power and water came from local cooperatives, and I knew my family had a legacy of service to our neighbors through my grandfather’s position on the electrical cooperative board. But what I never considered growing up is the need for the next generation to become active in co-ops to continue to power our rural communities and the South Dakota way of life.”

“We’re working to water a new crop of rural cooperative leaders.” Sutton said. “The *Rural POWER* initiative is people focused, community minded, and about re-imagining rural South Dakota through servant leadership. *Rural POWER* leaders will gain the knowledge and enthusiasm to re-energize their communities.”

**Learn more about the *Rural POWER* program at [suttonleadership.org](http://suttonleadership.org). Applications for next year’s cohort open in Spring 2022.**



# Water Conservation in the Cattle Yard

**T**his past summer brought weeks of continuous high heat and humidity with no rain for relief. Understandably so, many cattle producers turned to sprinkling their cattle to keep them cool. Unfortunately many producers turned to “lawn sprinkling heads” better designed to water the lawn than to efficiently cool their livestock. The end result were water systems straining under the record water demands and wet, muddy cattle-yards.

Although South Dakota generally suffers less than the southern states in terms of temperature, humidity and lack of a breeze; with our lack of shade trees it can be difficult for cattle to avoid heat stress and find a cool place to find relief from the sun.

Rather than rely on the inefficiency of lawn sprinklers, there are other more effective products available designed specifically to keep livestock cool without wasting precious water: evaporative cooling and high pressure fogging systems.

## Evaporative Cooling Systems

Evaporative cooling involves a sprinkler system that wets the cattle, and also contains a fan to blow air across the animals' bodies to evaporate the water and cool the cattle. Such a system works very well but the amount of water sprinkled should be minimized to avoid waste as well as create foot problems for the cattle.

Sprinkling without fans, or just fans without sprinklers will not result in an effective evaporative cooling system, especially in the hottest, most humid part of summer. In order to do the system justice, some design considerations should be made. A 15-minute adjustable timer and an electrical solenoid valve

should be integrated into the system to control the length of the sprinkling cycles, as should a thermostat to shut the system on and off dependent on ambient temperatures.

Cattle should be sprinkled from 30 seconds to around three minutes – enough to soak the cows to the skin, but not enough to run off. Fans should run continuously during the sprinkling cycles. Time between the sprinkling cycles should be adjusted to match the cooling needs and avoid “over watering” the area.

## High Pressure Fogging Systems

Research has demonstrated that a high-pressure fogger system of at least 200psi is comparable to the cooling effectiveness of a fan and sprinkler system. A high-pressure fogger is essentially a fogger nozzle connected to the front of a fan – cooling the air instead of wetting the cow. Water is applied to the air where it vaporizes, absorbing the heat and cooling the air. This cooler air is then blown across the cattle to cool them.

The components in such a fogging system include a high-pressure pump and pressure regulators capable of 200psi. The foggers should be hooked to a thermostat, run continuously, and have the ability to automatically shut off when the ambient temperature drops below 78 degrees F. Each fan/fogger nozzle will require a water supply of at least 12 gallons per hour. This method of cooling will generally use less water than the evaporative cooling system.

For more information on cooling your cattle while conserving your water in times of peak demand, contact your county extension agent or local conservation district.

# A Brief Look at Water Projects of the Minnehaha Conservation District

**By Alina Krone-Hedman, Urban Conservation Education Coordinator**

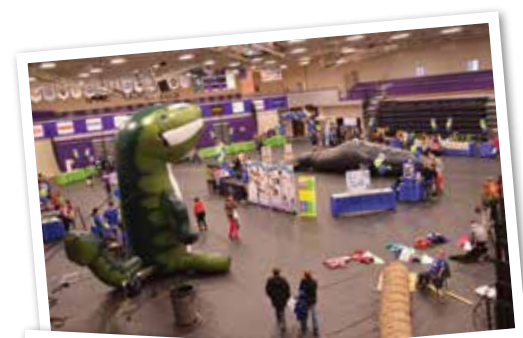
When people think of the Minnehaha Conservation District (MCD), most individuals tend to think of the work we do with trees. However, on top of that vital conservation service, there is a broad spectrum of projects we are involved in, with many having a focus around water.

Most notably, MCD works diligently every year with an amazing committee and volunteers to put on the Sioux Empire Water Festival for local fourth grade students. Typically, this event is held over a two-day period every spring at the University of Sioux Falls. During these busy days, we work to provide a wide-range of water activities and classroom presentations to over 2,000 youth. With the unique situation this past year, we embraced the challenge of not being able to meet in person through supplying our festival virtually. This required some creativity, but resulted in a variety of quality presentations and hundreds (over 700 views between our 17 presentations) of classrooms participating in the learning opportunity. Moving forward for this coming year, we are looking into our options to provide the best educational experience possible.

Other areas we are working in involve planting native grasses, with over 725 acres planted this year. One of the types of the plantings that make up a significant part of that number are riparian plantings, as MCD regularly does work in riparian areas in partnership with the Big Sioux River Project (BSRP). Having native plantings near waterways helps improve water quality through slowing runoff coming in, allowing the settling and uptake of a variety of pollutants. These plantings are often done near cropland and can also assist in erosion control.

Within the last year, MCD has also been venturing into new venues to educate individuals on green infrastructure, or practices that mimic natural processes to reduce stormwater. Several webinar series were given on subjects like rain gardens, alternatives to traditional gardens that direct water to a yard depression traditionally filled with native plantings. Both series were advertised through print media and online, with the first happening throughout February and March, and second done this past July. These subjects were chosen as a result of a survey conducted earlier in the year where people discussed a barrier they had in wanting to try one of these practices was needing information of where to begin. It is hoped to continue having regular webinar series throughout the year, along with providing in-person workshops around these subjects in the future.

MCD, as another way to continue its part in conservation, also works with the city of Sioux Falls through the Urban Conservation Education Coordinator position. Through this work, MCD is assisting in several ongoing projects, including the Central Sioux Falls Green Infrastructure Improvements Project and the Sustainability Master Plan (SMP). With the position being newly developed in 2020, it is exciting to see what other possibilities are to come.



*Exhibit Hall at the Sioux Empire Water Festival held at the University of Sioux Falls*



*Poster from MCD July webinar series.*



*Mary Lou Lacey of NRCS gives her virtual presentation on why trees love water.*

# EFFORTS TO CONSERVE AND IMPROVE WATER RESOURCES IN THE CITY OF SIOUX FALLS

**By Holly Meier, City of Sioux Falls Sustainability Coordinator**

In the City of Sioux Falls, water is top of mind for many this year. With below normal rainfall and above normal temperatures, the Big Sioux River has a drastically reduced flow of water compared to recent years. The severe drought affecting not only Sioux Falls but much of the state sheds a brighter light on the importance of water conservation. And this is something the City has been working on for years and continues to prioritize.

Leading the conservation effort is the Water Purification Department, which has been treating and distributing about 43 million gallons of water per day to the almost 200,000 residents of Sioux Falls. Since 2003, the department estimates it has reduced water use by 5 billion gallons through its Water Conservation Program that provides rebates on low-flow toilets and high-efficiency washing machines (latter now ended). Other efforts include partnering with community groups to provide rain barrel making workshops to the public. Rain barrels help people utilize rain water for their plants and yard and thereby reduce the amount of water they draw from the tap for these purposes. These types of measures are especially important in a drought year to help ease water demand.

The City of Sioux Falls has dedicated programs to improve water quality as well. The City has two Environmental Analysts whose focus is to provide proper oversight of the City's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer (MS4) Permit. Among their list of duties is monitoring water quality along the Big Sioux River to better understand the impact of City drainage and checking all outfalls from the City system into

the Big Sioux during periods of dry weather to catch any illicit discharges.

The City is also a partner on the Big Sioux River Project (BSRP), a multijurisdictional collaboration aimed at restoring and protecting the Big Sioux. The City's main role to date involves providing financial assistance to the BSRP in their

efforts to push producers to join the Riparian Area Management (RAM) and Seasonal Riparian Area Management (SRAM) programs. This provides the opportunity for the City to invest in water quality improvements upstream in the Big Sioux River watershed. It also demonstrates one example of the City working to tackle the issue of water quality in the most holistic way possible.

An upcoming and exciting water quality initiative for the City involves green infrastructure, which is an approach to water management that utilizes nature-based solutions to capture rain where it falls and cut down on the amount of flooding and polluted runoff that can reach the Big Sioux River. Green infrastructure provides numerous environmental, economic, and health benefits that traditional gray

infrastructure (e.g., storm drains, concrete, and pipes) usually does not. Benefits include recharging groundwater, supporting wildlife and pollinator habitat, providing opportunity for recreation and education, supporting mental and physical health, and promoting community identity and a sense of place.

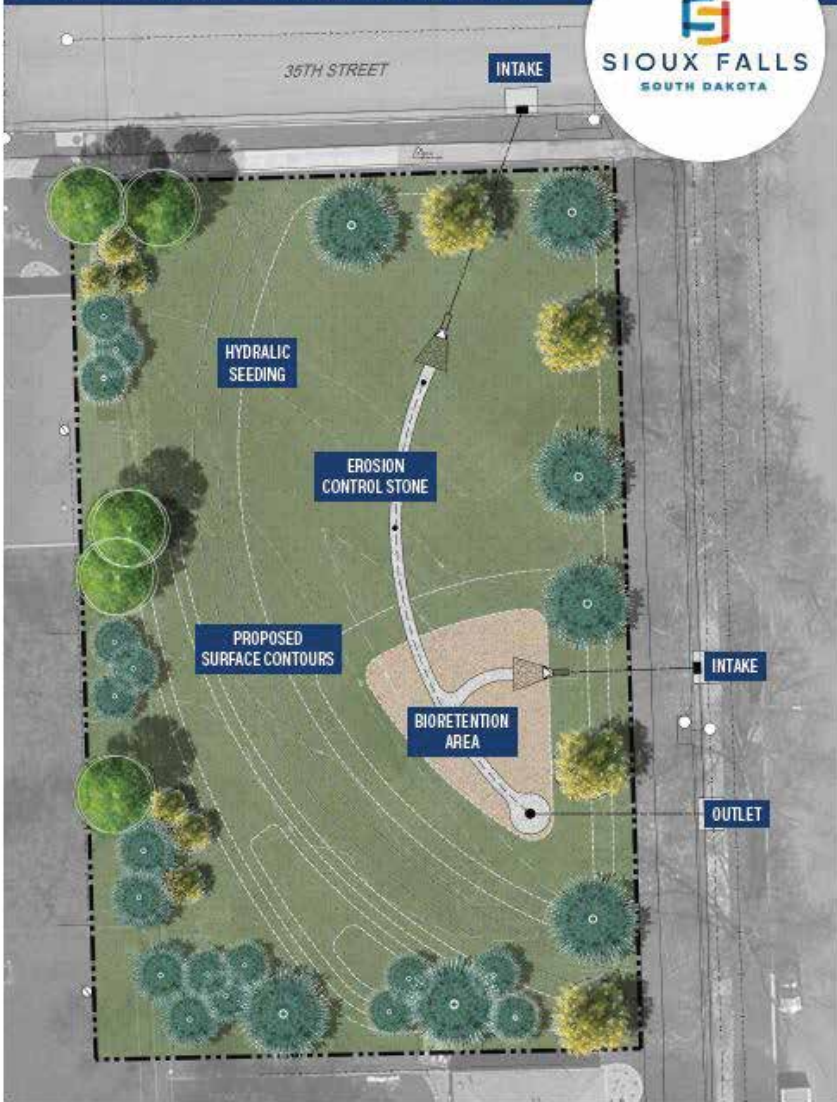
The Central Sioux Falls Green Infrastructure Improvements project will be the City's largest green infrastructure project to date. The project is designed to improve drainage and stormwater management, stormwater quality, and site



*Rain barrel made in one of the Sioux Falls workshops*



# 35TH + DULUTH CONCEPTUAL SITE PLAN



aesthetics, and will serve as a place to educate the public on green infrastructure benefits and opportunities. The City has engaged with the community on this project, finalized design, and groundbreaking on the project will be this fall. The City aims to continue implementing more green infrastructure practices on City-owned property and demonstrate their benefits to the community with the ultimate goal of broader community-wide adoption.

In order to reach water quality and conservation goals, community education and engagement is imperative. One of the most highly visible programs from the City is the annual Downtown Storm Inlet Art Project. Local artists' paintings on the downtown storm drains draw attention to the storm drainage system and educate the public that stormwater runoff in Sioux Falls goes into the Big Sioux River with little to no treatment. This helps strengthen the "only rain to drain" message so as a community we can further protect our river.

Finally, the City has also engaged the public in the development of its Sustainability Master Plan (SMP) that is currently underway. In this process, we have heard the concern about and importance of the Big Sioux River and water resources to the community. The SMP will be finalized in 2022 and will include new strategies that will build upon the City's dedicated efforts to improve and protect our water resources.

*The conceptual site plan for one of the properties in the Central Sioux Falls Green Infrastructure Improvements project.*



*Stormwater inlet painted in 2021*



## RANDALL COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT

On January 17, 1972, an organizational meeting of the twenty-one member Steering Committee was held in Lake Andes. Randall Community Water District (RCWD) became the new water district for Charles Mix County. Initial funds were given in the form of a loan from the State Planning Agency.

A motion was passed at the December 19, 1972 meeting to begin the Randall Community Water District project. The district boundaries were to include all of Charles Mix County, a portion of Douglas County south of Highway 44, and parts of Aurora, Bon Homme, Brule and Hutchinson Counties as needed upon signup. The engineering firms of Bartlett & West, and Foster Van Gundy and Associates were hired to complete the design of the Randall Community Water District project.

A resolution was passed on April 4, 1974 with the purpose of forming a rural water district to provide and distribute water

to rural homes, pastures, and cities in Charles Mix and surrounding counties. The project was divided into three phases. Water for the first phase was purchased from the city of Lake Andes. Once operational, Phase I of the project served 148 rural customers.

The government site of the former radar station near Pickstown was obtained to build storage with adequate elevation to insure proper water pressure, and a site near the city of Pickstown was secured for a pumping facility for Phase II of the RCWD project. Phase II would supply water to the southern portion of Charles Mix County and portions of surrounding counties.

June 1975 brought approval to negotiate for the purchase of land south of Platte as the location of the Phase III Treatment plant. This plant would serve Platte and the surrounding areas in northern Charles Mix, Douglas, Aurora and Brule Counties. The total original cost of RCWD was \$9,350,000.

# RANDALL COMMUNITY WATER DISTRICT

A resolution was signed in October to obtain water from Lake Francis Case and enter into an agreement with the US Department of the Army Corps of Engineers to purchase water for the purpose of treatment and distribution to its customers.

Over the years Randall has grown from 148 to 2,865 rural customers, including 15 bulk users. The water system now has two intake structures, two water treatment plants and fifteen storage facilities (tanks). Water sales for 2020 totaled 1 billion gallons.

As the need for potable water has expanded, so has the district. In an effort to maintain its service to all customers, lines have been extended to the north to serve Davison and Aurora-Brule Rural Water Systems. Three new transmission tanks have been constructed and both treatment plants have been upgraded; the most current upgrade was completed on the Platte Treatment Plant which now utilizes a state-of-the-art membrane filtering system.

Providing quality, affordable drinking water to rural customers and communities remains the goal of the Board of Directors and staff of Randall Community Water District.



## DIRECTORS:

- David Meyerink – Chairman
- Scott Holbeck – Vice-Chairman
- Christopher Slaba – Secretary
- John Carda – Treasurer
- Tom Travis – Director
- Joel Lau – Director
- Trent Beltman – Director
- Vance Qualm – Director
- Mike Kuhlman – Director
- Eric DeWaard – Director

## STAFF:

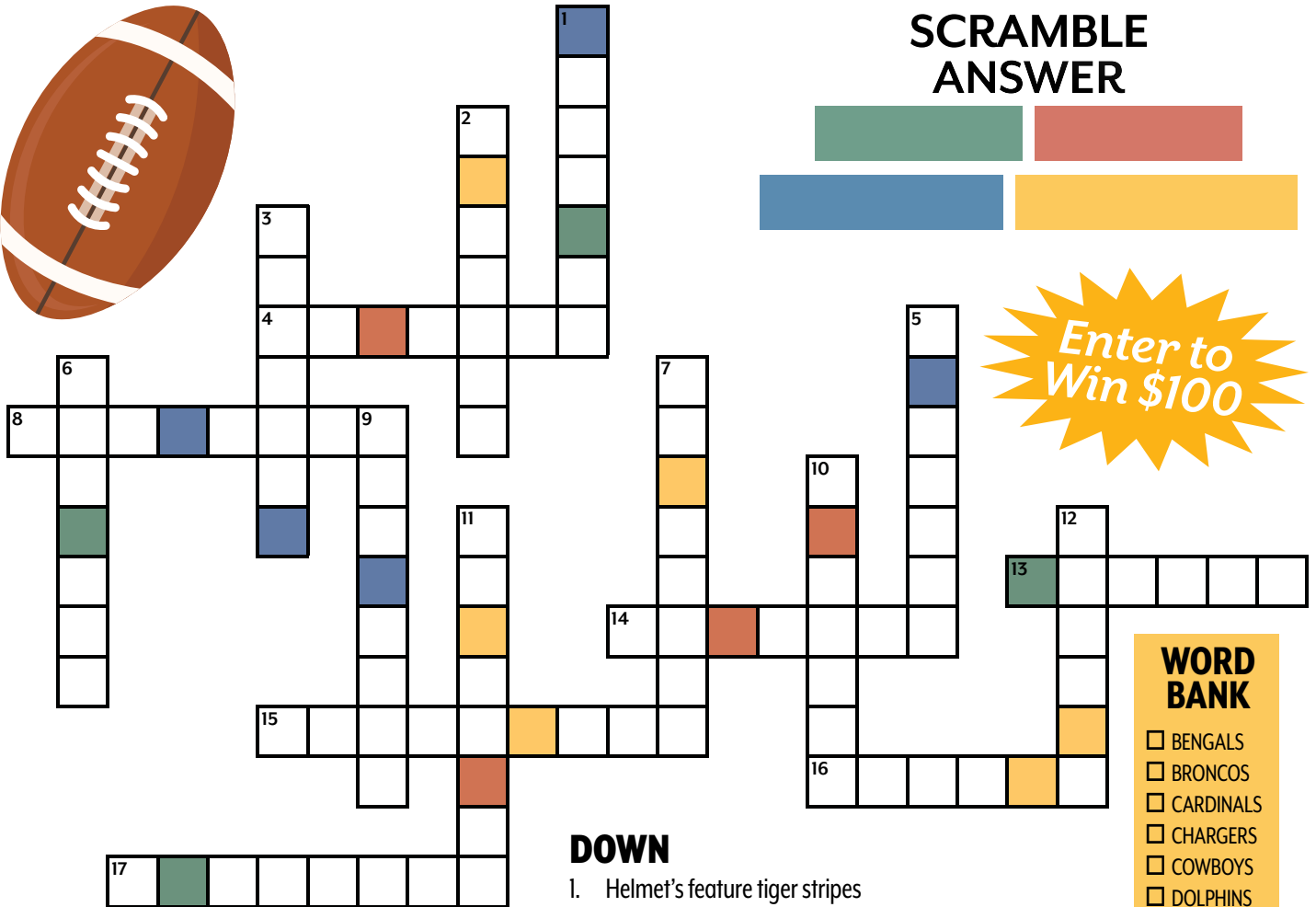
- Scott Pick – General Manager
- Megan Bergin – Chief Financial Officer
- Mollie Petrik – Billing Specialist
- Becca Qualm – Accounting Assistant
- Mason Wright – Distribution Manager
- Ricky Bergin – Plant Manager
- Jordan Kocer – Electrician-Scada Sup't-Plant Operator
- Robert Durham – Plant Operator
- Clayton Lau – Scada Operator
- Tyler Swanson – Plant Operator
- Jason Wright – Plant Operator
- Corey DeBey – Distribution Operator
- Jeff Podzimek – Distribution Operator
- Grant Petrik – Distribution Operator
- Jared Swanson – Distribution Operator
- Trent Wright – Distribution Operator
- Jay Kafka – 811 Line Location Operator

## STATISTICS:

- Hookups – 2,865
- Miles of Pipeline – 3,100
- Water Source – Missouri River
- Counties Served – Charles Mix and portions of Aurora, Bon Homme, Brule, Douglas, Hutchinson
- Towns Served Individual – Dante, Harrison, New Holland, Ravinia
- Towns Served Bulk – Armour, Aurora-Brule RWS, Corsica, Davison RWS, Delmont, Fort Randall Casino, Geddes, Greenwood, Lake Andes, Marty, North Wagner Housing, Pickstown, Platte, Wagner, YST Truck Plaza

# RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

## NFL FOOTBALL TEAMS



### SCRAMBLE ANSWER



### ACROSS

4. Wealthiest team in the NFL
8. Logo loosely represents the outline of NC and SC.
13. One of two NFL teams to have a marching band – the largest in the NFL
14. Stadium resembles a ship
15. Named for the color of their jerseys
16. Logo features a fleur-de-lis
17. Unofficial mascot is “Boltman”

### DOWN

1. Helmet’s feature tiger stripes
2. This Atlanta team is for the birds
3. Major pro team with the smallest home city
5. Named for an animal not native to the team’s home state
6. Moved from California to Nevada
7. Featured in the movie “Ace Ventura, Pet Detective.”
9. Fans like to wave “the terrible towel”
10. Stadium is a mile high
11. Have the longest winning streak in NFL football history
12. Team color is “midnight green.”

### WORD BANK

- BENGALS
- BRONCOS
- CARDINALS
- CHARGERS
- COWBOYS
- DOLPHINS
- EAGLES
- FALCONS
- JAGUARS
- PACKERS
- PANTHERS
- PATRIOTS
- RAIDERS
- RAVENS
- SAINTS
- STEELERS
- VIKINGS

**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 10, 2021 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 Mary Rockino with Kingbrook Rural Water who had the correct phrase of "A CHAMPION IS MADE OF HEART" for July 2021.



# COMMON CUSTOMER QUESTIONS

## **Q: Why is my water milky or have bubbles?**

A: When there is a water leak and repair is made to the leak site, air gets into the line and causes the cloudiness and bubbles. If you notice cloudiness in your water, we recommend calling your water provider to see if they had a break in your area. In most cases if the customer runs some water and lets it sit, the water will clear up. There are some cases your provider may need to come and flush the line to remove the air and restore your water back to normal.

## **Q: Why is my pressure lower than normal?**

A: We recommend checking faucets, valves and toilets to make sure nothing is leaking or running. Also check outside hydrants and around the yard to make sure no water is coming up from the ground. If you live on a farm, consider how many livestock tanks are being filled at the same time, especially on a hot day.

Do you have a water softener? If so, put it in the bypass mode and see if your pressure improves. If it does improve, then call to have your water softener serviced.

## **Q: Is there a way to turn my water pressure up or down?**

A: Yes, there is a pressure regulating valve in your meter pit. Your water provider can adjust the pressure to your home from there.

## **Q: Why is my water cloudy?**

A: This is from air being pushed through the line. This occasionally happens after fixing a leak and the water being turned off. Your water is still safe to drink.

## **Q: How can I check my toilet to see if it is leaking?**

A. If you cannot hear or see any water running in your toilet, simply place 15-30 drops of food coloring into the toilet tank – enough to visibly change the color of the water, and then wait 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, check the color of the water in your toilet bowl. If any dye has made it into your toilet bowl, then there's a leak at the flapper or a crack in the overflow tube, and a fix is required.

Save the Date



# ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday,  
October 21, 2021  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
All Mid-Dakota offices

## DANR RECOGNIZES MID-DAKOTA FOR 20 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.

"Access to safe and reliable water sources is crucial for all South Dakotans," said DANR Secretary Hunter Roberts. "It is my honor to present the Secretary's Award for Drinking Water Excellence to Mid-Dakota Rural Water who, through hard work and dedications, has achieved 20 consecutive years of Safe Drinking Water compliance." 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, Calvin Kindle, Steve Laird, Mike Polak, Troy Dorris, Mark Gran and Michael Nicholson.

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.

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): \_\_\_\_\_

# NEW EMPLOYEE AT MID-DAKOTA

Terrek Butterfield resigned to pursue a career with UPS in Huron. Mid-Dakota advertised the vacancy and was able to fill the position in a short amount of time. Paige Burggraff was hired as an Operations and Maintenance Specialist. Paige is from Dell Rapids, South Dakota. She graduated from Lake Area Technical Institute in 2020 with a Business Marketing and Management degree. After moving to Miller in April of 2020, she accepted a job at American Bank and Trust. Paige commented, "I am very excited to be working at Mid-Dakota and doing something different. I am looking forward to learning all of the aspects of rural water distribution."



Paige Burggraff



Terrek Butterfield

## MID-DAKOTA CALENDAR

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

**October 11, 2021 - Native American Day**

**November 11, 2021 - Veteran's Day**

**November 25, 2021 - Thanksgiving Day**

**December 24, 2021 - Christmas Day (Observed)**

**December 31, 2021 - New Year's Day (Observed)**

*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.*



### Rate Table Effective January 1, 2021

#### 501 Residential 1-Unit

\$43.00 per month minimum bill  
\$5.00 per 1,000 gallons 1st 33,000  
\$7.25 per 1,000 gallons over 33,000

#### 502 Rural Household 2-Units

\$53.00 per month minimum bill  
\$5.00 per 1,000 gallons 1st 10,000  
\$4.00 per 1,000 gallons next 56,000  
\$7.25 Per 1,000 gallons over 66,000

#### 504 Rural Household 4-Units

\$71.00 per month minimum bill  
\$5.00 per 1,000 gallons 1st 10,000  
\$4.00 per 1,000 gallons next 122,000  
\$7.25 per 1,000 gallons over 132,000

#### 506 Rural Household 6-Units

\$88.00 per month minimum bill  
\$5.00 per 1,000 gallons 1st 10,000  
\$4.00 per 1,000 gallons next 188,000  
\$7.25 per 1,000 gallons over 198,000

#### 511 Livestock

\$31.00 per month minimum bill  
\$4.00 per 1,000 gallons 1st 300,000 (per year)  
\$5.00 per 1,000 gallons 301,000 to 700,000 (per year)  
\$7.25 per 1,000 gallons over 700,000 (per year)

#### 161, 162, 164, 165 Special Class I & II

\$16.40 per GPM per month minimum bill  
\$25.00 per GPM per month demand charge  
\$0.55 per 1,000 gallons

#### 163, 166 Special Class III

\$4.69 per Pers (equiv) per month minimum bill  
\$4.75 per Pers (equiv) per month demand charge  
\$0.55 per 1,000 gallons up to contract amount  
\$7.25 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)



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# WATER MATTERS

## What If?



**Y**ou often hear folks talk about “hoping for the best, but planning for the worst.” This old adage can be applied to a broad range of activities and issues and provides the foundation for pretty much all forms of insurance (medical, life, property, crop, etc.). Nobody wants bad things to happen, but it doesn’t hurt to be prepared.

So, how does this apply to water? If you receive this publication, you are likely provided water

from a public water supply (PWS), be it a rural water system or a municipality. A common goal of all PWSs is to deliver a quality product to their customers consistently and reliably. By and large, this goal is met on a day-to-day basis, and if there are unexpected interruptions to service, they are of short duration and limited extent.

But what would happen if your PWS was unable to provide service for an extended period of time? Are you prepared to get along with being able to turn on the tap for water? For most domestic users, bottled water might suffice for drinking and cooking, but getting enough water for general sanitation (bathing and cleaning) might be more challenging. These may require going to locations where water service has not been disrupted.



Another water supply ‘hiccup’ could come from the PWS not being able to meet increasing demand. The amount of water that can be distributed and delivered is limited by the pumps, pipes, and tanks that make up the system. Often as not, the system was built with the largest capacity the PWS could afford, but once that level of service is met, upgrades and/or expansion are the only way to deliver more water. If a customer suddenly might desire more water, say during

a period of drought, there are no guarantees that the PWS will be able to deliver. The same applies to regions within a PWS coverage area where new customers may wish to gain service. Just because someone wants water at a particular location doesn’t mean that it will be available.

If your home, farm, or business are dependent on water, and we all pretty much are, having a plan for “What If...?” isn’t a bad idea. Consider what you might do if your primary supply was not available for a day or two. As noted earlier, your PWS strives to provide dependable service, but sometimes bad things happen. Are you prepared?

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EAST DAKOTA  
WATER  
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DISTRICT

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