



# MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM

# Quality On Tap!

July 2019 | Volume 15, Issue 1

**A DAY IN THE  
LIFE OF A WATER  
OPERATOR**

**RURAL WATER  
SYSTEM SPOTLIGHT**

**BIG SIOUX COMMUNITY  
WATER SYSTEM**

**TRU SHRIMP**

**SEEKS TO BECOME  
INDUSTRY LEADER**

# FROM THE MANAGER

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



This time of year, we at Mid-Dakota are always concerned with the weather and upcoming construction season. So far April has not been very kind with the weather; nobody needs 30 inches of new snow (or any snow) this time of year.

As of the writing of this column, Ree Heights is preparing to start advertising their town project to replace water line in their community and become individual members of the Mid-Dakota Water System upon completion. The hope is to have a bid opening towards the end of May and get this project started and completed by fall.

We continue to improve our Automatic Meter Reading system and are still striving for 100% reads every day.

Mid-Dakota is moving forward with plans to increase its transmission capacity to the eastern reaches of the System. The improvements will include paralleling 20 miles of 24" pipeline, and construction of another 1.5 million gallon water storage tank. Mid-Dakota hopes to be able to bid this project soon, but as of the writing of this column projections are still at least a month away for bidding.



## Quality On Tap!

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Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc.  
608 W. 14<sup>th</sup> St., P.O. Box 318  
Miller, South Dakota 57362-0318

Office: 605-853-3159 • Fax: 605-853-3245

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

Email: office@mdrws.com

Website: www.mdrws.com

### 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  
Terrek Butterfield ..... Asset Manager  
Sandy Holt ..... Customer Accounts Specialist  
Tammy Oligmueller ..... Customer Accounts Specialist  
Kristen Arthur ..... Customer Accounts Specialist

### Member Services Staff - Miller, SD

Susan Hargens ..... Member Services Manager  
DeAnn Hargens ..... Customer & Legal Records Specialist  
Shane Bush ..... Hookup 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  
Gale Auch ..... Main Transmission Pipeline Specialist  
Calvin Kindle ..... Water Distribution Specialist  
Craig Lunde ..... Data Acquisition Specialist  
Scott Manning ..... Water Distribution Specialist  
Michael Nicholson ..... Main Transmission Pipeline Specialist  
Wayne Ruhnke ..... O & M Specialist  
Mike McCready ..... Small Systems Specialist

### Pierre, SD

Shane Bothwell ..... Water Distribution Specialist  
Ron Ramsey ..... Water Distribution Specialist  
Al Thomas ..... 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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# Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc.

## NOTICE OF VACANCY on the Board of Directors

**M**id-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc. hereby gives notice to its membership that the following seats upon the Board of Directors will be up for election at its 2019 Annual Meeting:

**There is one expired term in Rural Director District area #1**, consisting of the following: All of Potter County; all of Sully County; all of Faulk County; and those portions of the Highmore West and Rezac Lake service areas lying in Hyde County.

**There is one expired term in Rural Director District area #4**, consisting of the following: All of Aurora County; all of Jerauld County; all of Sanborn County; all of Davison County; all of Buffalo County; those portions of the Highmore Central, Collin's Slough and Mac's Corner service areas lying in Hyde County; that portion of the Cottonwood Lake service area lying in Beadle County; that portion of the Ames service area lying in Hand County; and that portion of the Highmore West service area lying in Hughes County.

**There is one expired term for Municipal-at-Large Director.**

(Note: Contact Mid-Dakota if you question whether or not you are in Districts #1 or 4)

Rural director nominations must be made by petition. Petitions must be filed with Mid-Dakota not later than 4:00 p.m. on September 17, 2019.

Nominations for municipal-at-large director will be made by recognized member municipalities. Nominating resolutions from member municipalities shall be filed with Mid-Dakota's office not later than 4:00 p.m. on September 17, 2019.

For more information, contact the Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc. office at 605-853-3159 or 1-800-439-3079.

# Save the Date



## ANNUAL MEETING

October 17, 2019  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
All Mid-Dakota offices

## DENR RECOGNIZES MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER FOR DRINKING WATER COMPLIANCE

**T**he South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced today that the Mid-Dakota Rural Water public water system and the system's operation specialists have been awarded a Secretary's Award for Drinking Water Excellence.

"Safe drinking water is all too often taken for granted. DENR wishes to recognize the Mid-Dakota Rural Water with the Secretary's Award for Drinking Water Excellence for delivering safe drinking water to their customers for 18 consecutive years," said DENR Secretary Pirner. "Year after year the Mid-Dakota Rural Water system operation specialists have worked tirelessly to provide safe drinking water, establishing a legacy that will benefit future generations."

The system's operations specialists are Gary Tobin, Bill Sarringar, Ron Ramsey, Scott Gross, Wayne Ruhnke, Shane Bothwell, Gale Auch, Alan Thomas, Lorin Johnson, Scott Manning, Michael McCready, Randall Bauer, Scott Perry, Calvin Kindle,

Steve Laird, Mike Polak, Craig Lunde, Troy Dorris, Mark Gran and Shane Bush.

To qualify for the Secretary's Award for Drinking Water Excellence, public water systems and their system operations specialists had to meet all the following requirements for ten consecutive years or more:

- Compliance monitoring and reporting,
- Drinking water standards, and
- Certification requirements.



# Mid-Dakota Scholarships Awarded

The board of directors of the Mid-Dakota Rural Water System is pleased to announce that four students have been chosen to receive a scholarship of \$500.00 each. The very deserving individuals are Christine Michlitsch, the daughter of Amy Michlitsch, from the town of Tulare; Allison King, the daughter of Lorne King from the town of Virgil; Jamie Holforty, the daughter of Jason Holforty from the city of Huron; and Derek Thompson, the son of Ryan & Melanie Thompson from the rural area near Cavour. Christine is planning to attend Lake Area Tech to pursue a career as a Medical Lab Technician. Allison plans to attend Northern State University to pursue a career in Elementary Education and Special Education. Jamie plans to attend Northern State University to pursue a career in Elementary Education. Derek will be attending South Dakota School of Mines and Technology to pursue a career in Mechanical Engineering.

The board of directors voted in the fall of 2005 to implement a scholarship program which would award a \$500.00 scholarship to four successful applicants. To qualify, a student must be attending a South Dakota Post-Secondary educational facility; have a grade point average of 2.8 or higher; and write a 250-500 word essay on what rural water has meant to the applicant or his/her community. The student must either reside in a community that is a customer of Mid-Dakota or be a child of an individual customer of Mid-Dakota.



Allison King



Christine Michlitsch



Jamie Holforty



Derek Thompson



## Rate Table Effective January 1, 2019

### 501 Residential 1-Unit

\$42.00 per month minimum bill  
 \$4.75 per 1,000 gallons 1st 33,000  
 \$7.00 per 1,000 gallons over 33,000

### 502 Rural Household 2-Units

\$52.00 per month minimum bill  
 \$4.75 per 1,000 gallons 1st 10,000  
 \$3.75 per 1,000 gallons next 56,000  
 \$7.00 per 1,000 gallons over 66,000

### 504 Rural Household 4-Units

\$70.00 per month minimum bill  
 \$4.75 per 1,000 gallons 1st 10,000  
 \$3.75 per 1,000 gallons next 122,000  
 \$7.00 per 1,000 gallons over 132,000

### 506 Rural Household 6-Units

\$87.00 per month minimum bill  
 \$4.75 per 1,000 gallons 1st 10,000  
 \$3.75 per 1,000 gallons next 188,000  
 \$7.00 per 1,000 gallons over 198,000

### 511 Livestock

\$30.00 per month minimum bill  
 \$3.75 per 1,000 gallons 1st 300,000 (per year)  
 \$4.75 per 1,000 gallons 301,000 to 700,000 (per year)  
 \$7.00 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  
 \$24.00 per GPM per month demand charge  
 \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons

### 163, 166 Special Class III

\$4.69 per Pers (equiv) per month minimum bill  
 \$4.55 per Pers (equiv) per month demand charge  
 \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons up to contract amount  
 \$7.00 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

or call the answering service direct at  
 1-888-545-7440



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





# DON'T TAKE THE BAIT!

When in doubt, check it out. If an email sent to you has any of these red flags, verify with the sender before clicking on any link or downloading an attachment.

## Message Header

Do I know the sender?

Is this from someone I usually communicate with?

Does the sender's email address have a suspicious domain?

Is this an unexpected or unusual email from this sender?

Is the email sent at an odd time, outside regular business hours?

Is the email sent to an unusual group of people?

Does the subject line match the content of the email?

## Think Before You Click

You should always take caution when clicking on a link or opening an attachment. Before you click:

1. Hover your mouse over the link and be sure the link address displayed is to a website you'd expect.
2. Take a good look at the web address displayed to be sure it doesn't contain any spelling errors.

**From:** YourCEO@yourorganization.com  
**To:** You@yourorganization.com  
**Date:** Monday, February 3, 16, 05:45am  
**Subject:** Direct Deposit System Update

Sally, You are receiving this email because you have authorized Bank payroll to pay you through direct deposit.

Due to a recent update to system, your direct deposit routing and account number will need to be updated by Tuesday. Failure to do so will result in the loss of direct deposit status and require you to pick up your pay check from payroll each pay period. Remember to save the direct deposit emails for your records.

To update your direct deposit information please click the link below and verify your account:

[Employee Portal](#)

Office of Payroll  
Your CEO

## Message Body

Is the email written in a style consistent with the sender?

Does the email contain bad grammar, odd styling, or spelling errors?

Is there a link or attachment?

Does the email just seem "off" or give you an uneasy feeling?

Is the sender asking for personal, financial, or customer information?

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# TRU SHRIMP SEEKS TO BECOME INDUSTRY LEADER

By Mary Gales Askren

## Appearances can be deceiving.

From the outside, the Tru Shrimp Balaton Bay Reef in Balaton, Minn., is as sterile as a prison. Inside, the red-lighted expanse of steel and concrete is evocative of infrastructure tunnels in futuristic movies.

The smell, though, is the smell of the sea and life, like a major aquarium where the teeming life of the ocean is opened for visitors to see.

Even employees of the fledgling company are a little in awe of the newest development in their quest for a product which will set new standards for shrimp production in the nation – the reef which took their concept from innovation tanks and a pilot basin to a full, though scaled back, stack of tidal basins.

"It doesn't have the same taste as other shrimp," Jamie Brink-Thordson, director of sales and marketing, said about the crustaceans which have been raised there.

The shrimp is said to be firm and sweet and fresh – not sweet like fruit, but without the fishy taste of much shrimp purchased by consumers in the United States. That taste is the result of the way shrimp is raised, harvested and processed.

"A lot of people believe the shrimp they eat comes from the Gulf and is freshly caught," said Robert Gervais, senior director of operations.

Instead, it comes from Asia or South America. In fact, according to Tru Shrimp, 90 percent of the 1.9 billion pounds of shrimp consumed by Americans is imported and has been frozen and thawed several times as it makes its way to American tables.

Tru Shrimp wants to change that. By constructing harbors and producing shrimp in the Midwest, they intend to make Tru Shrimp a brand

as recognizable as Farmland bacon, Blue Bunny ice cream and Chicken of the Sea tuna.

## Problem solving is important

The company announced in January they intend to build their first commercial harbor in Madison, SD. The facility will include two hatcheries, a nine-acre reef with 256 basins, and a water reclamation facility. Within the first year, Tru Shrimp plans to raise 7.5 million pounds of shrimp.

At present, the projected cost of the facility is \$300 million. That is subject to change, in part because Tru Shrimp is breaking new ground and is literally inventing the wheel as they go.

Gervais talked about one cost-saving change that has already been developed since the steel basins and concrete walls of the Balaton Bay Reef were put in place with cranes last year. In their natural environment, shrimp are bottom feeders.

"They're called the pigs of the sea," Gervais said.

They digest what they eat in less than an hour and eat continuously. Consequently, the feeding system developed for the shallow water basins is an important element of the facility. Unfortunately, the feed spreader originally designed worked but proved to be expensive when scaled for a commercial operation.

Then, Gervais had a brainstorm. What if

they developed something similar to a broadcast spreader used for turf building? That modification was both cost-effective and efficient.

Finding solutions to problems by thinking in terms of the familiar has been a proven approach at Tru Shrimp.



"We're not 34 people with shrimp expertise," Brink-Thordson said about the company's current roster of employees.

Gervais actually has a background in economic development and moved into the private sector after working as an economic development director in Tracy, Minn. The company also has individuals with backgrounds in biology, chemistry and engineering, and frequently draw from the agriculture industry in developing solutions to problems.

"We've taken things that work in chicken, swine and cattle production and said, 'Why can't we use part of that here?'" Brink-Thordson said.

## Unexpected beginning

The company which has set for itself the goal of becoming an industry leader is the result of a happy accident. Brian Knochenmus, president of Ralco, a company which specializes in animal health and nutrition, was





in Ecuador visiting a farm that uses the company's products for livestock when he learned the farmer was also using feed for shrimp production.

When he returned to the States, Knochenmus started looking for a partner who could test the product's effectiveness when used for that purpose. He learned that Texas A&M actually had developed a new approach for shrimp production and acquired the patented technology.

In 2015, Ralco built a lab with 144 research tanks in an old school building in Balaton, Minn. They began conducting feed trials and started to explore other factors — such as light and water quality — which could affect shrimp growth.

“You name it and we have probably tested it four or five times,” Brink-Thordson said.

In 2016, a pilot basin was constructed. In a shallow rectangular tray, warm salt water was circulated to mimic the movement of the sea. A whole new set of problems was identified and solved. What can be done to prevent the water from creating an eddy? How can the molted shells and waste be removed to keep the environment clean and productive?

“Our philosophy is control the water and the shrimp will do fine,” Gervais said.

### Model for commercialization

No longer a division of Ralco, Tru Shrimp is now ready to begin producing shrimp on a commercial scale. The model developed includes hatcheries where pairs of Pacific white shrimp, flown in from Hawaii, will produce eggs.

In the hatcheries, these eggs will hatch and go through larval stages. When they reach the post-larval stage and are about the size of an eyelash, they will be transferred to the reef. Over a million post-larval shrimp will be produced daily.

The reef will contain stacks of shallow basins holding carefully regulated sea water. Together, the basins will hold 14.5 million gallons of water and create 43 acres of feeding ground for the shrimp which will be fed on a carefully regulated schedule.

Initially, the feed will be as fine as powder, but as the shrimp grow, the nature of the feed will change. In addition, like a tree farm, as the shrimp grow, some will be harvested to give others room to grow.

“We'll start by harvesting salad shrimp and end up with a final harvest of jumbo

shrimp,” Brink-Thordson explained.

Based on the research conducted and on the conditions they are able to maintain, Tru Shrimp can currently raise jumbo shrimp in 140 days, a significant improvement over the 210 days Texas A&M recommended as their target.

This growth is possible not only due to carefully regulated conditions but also because the company places an emphasis on biosecurity. By creating and maintaining a disease-free environment, they can breed shrimp for growth rather than disease resistance, Gervais explained.

Employees are not allowed to wear street shoes in any of the production areas, and washing is a nonnegotiable requirement for entering. Visitors are only allowed to view the production areas through windows to ensure these areas are not contaminated.

### Managing water is important

The final component of the Madison Bay Harbor is a water reclamation plant.

“Our wastewater facility could probably handle a small town, Gervais said.

approximately what a typical household might use in 40 months or 40 households might use in a month.

Gervais said the water will be used to replenish water in the basins which is lost through evaporation and for washing out the basins following a harvest, among other things.

### Work in progress

Currently, the company is engaged in problem-solving on two fronts. First, Tru Shrimp is working with another company to develop technology to de-head, shell and de-vein the shrimp. Currently, that is done by hand in the industry, which creates delays the company is seeking to eliminate.

Second, the company has not selected a location for processing the shrimp. Since construction of the first harbor is expected to take between 18 and 24 months, they do not feel that is urgent at this point, but they know it must be addressed before the harbor can enter production.

No date has been set for the ground-breaking of the Madison Bay Harbor. Brink-Thordson said that as soon as all



The in-house operation is beneficial to both the company and the community. The company will be able to return the sea water to its system and to harvest some of the waste products such as the molted shells, which can be used for a variety of products from medical to cosmetic.

The community benefits because Tru Shrimp will not be discharging wastewater into the system that Madison is not prepared to handle.

“We will not discharge any salt water into the Madison system,” Gervais said. “We are not out to pollute anything.”

The company will use about 300,000 gallons of water per day. This is

of the financing has been secured, the company will move forward.

Before the project was announced in January, both the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Heartland Consumers Power District had provided support in the form of low-interest loans. At the time, Madison's designation as an Opportunity Zone was expected to help the company secure additional funding. However, Gervais indicated the IRS is still working out guidelines for projects such as theirs, so it has not helped as much as anticipated.

*Article reprinted with permission from the Madison Daily Leader.*



# THE DAY IN A LIFE OF A RURAL WATER OPERATOR

*By Georgia Andersh, Randall Community Water District*

**R**outine, something we all have and normally don't give it a thought. Most mornings, I wake up, grab my water glass, and turn on the faucet. Whether just a quick drink to rinse out a good night's sleep or to take your morning vitamin, that first glass of water begins your daily routine.

Have you ever really thought about the water you are drinking? Do you ever wonder if it's safe to drink or if you should worry about contaminants? After scares all over the country of unsafe drinking water, how do you really know?

Trust your water treatment plant operators. They are ultimately in charge of making sure your water is safe for consumer consumption. From the time it leaves its source, whether your system utilizes shallow or deep wells or surface water, your water has been treated and tested to ensure its quality.

Working for a rural water system, sometimes I forget exactly what our plant operators do daily. I've come to know that they have the needs and concerns for each of us covered. From the time they clock in each morning until check-out time at the end of the day, they are continually checking the quality of your drinking water. The following is a shortened version of a water treatment plant operator's day.

Most plants have some form of computer or SCADA system (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition). These SCADA systems record the process used to pump, treat, and distribute the water to your faucet, and is an operator's first stop in the morning. Here he/she will check the data collected during the last 24 hours, check any alarms that may have been noted and the levels of any treatment process used.

Next is a physical walk-through of the treatment facilities where the operator visually checks the analyzers, chemicals, and pumps to confirm all is well. Any adjustments or possible repairs needed



can be made at this time. Depending on your filtration system, backwashing of the filters may be required at this point. If multiple filter banks, this could be done on a rotation.

Paperwork, a necessary evil, or in today's world computer work. Now is the time to check for any correspondence (emails) that need attention. Placing orders, checking order status, or returning calls are completed while at the computer.

The next step of the day involves a mop or possibly a screwdriver. Daily maintenance, although mundane, is an absolute necessity. At this point, a check of the chemical pumps and flow will determine if any adjustments are needed.

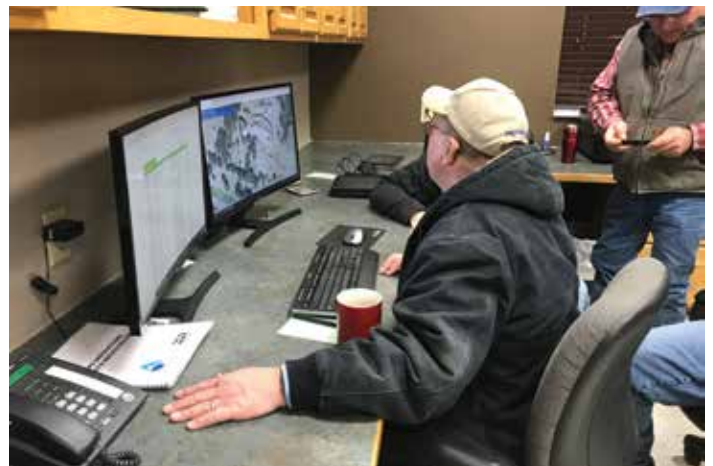
Daily samples are taken on the treated water. Free Chlorine, Total Chlorine, Free Ammonia, and Monochloramines are checked to maintain levels determined by the EPA. Weekly samples are taken at the plant and in the distribution system for

the mandatory discharge reports to the state.

The day at the treatment plant ends with the same routine: computer check, plant walk through and logging data collected on the filtration system.

Of course, there are those days when the routine changes. A leak in the distribution system may require additional assistance. Construction projects may require observation and direction from the operator. Staff meetings, board meetings, and safety meetings need attendance. Training and certification are state and federal requirements.

As you can see, plant operators wear many hats. Regardless of the hat worn on any given day, our plant operators take each job seriously with you, the consumer, and the quality of the water you drink in mind.



## BIG SIOUX COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM

In 1972 a steering committee met in the offices of Sioux Valley Energy in Colman to discuss the feasibility of developing a rural water system to serve Moody and Lake Counties. Two of our present Board Members, Dan Carlson and Andy Groos, were part of that historic group. DeWild Grant Reckert and Associates (DGR) completed the preliminary engineering report, and upon approval of the committee, forwarded it to the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) for funding consideration.

Starting off with around 700 sign-ups, the first water was sold in 1975. A well-field was created in the Big Sioux River valley east of the City of Egan, and three production wells were drilled along the north-south township road just to the South of the Treatment Plant. One of those original wells is still producing drinking water today.

Treatment in the early years was minimal, basically disinfection and fluoridation. Compared to the well water found in Moody County outside of the Big Sioux River valley, this water was still vastly superior. The erection of towers, additional wells, the first treatment plant at Brant Lake and the installation of more mainline all added to the system's infrastructure in the 1980's.

Surpassing 1,000 customers by 1979, an added user project and better reliability with our SCADA monitoring in 1989 pushed us past 1,350 hookups by 1990. Growth continued steadily to 1,550 through 1994, and then increased after the construction of our new lime softening treatment plant in 1994. The better water sold itself, and by 2010 we surpassed 2,000 hookups.

In 2000, the system gained tremendously by adding Flandreau as a bulk customer, and also supplying

over 200 million gallons annually to Dakota Ethanol. By 2006 it became evident that summer demand from the Lake Madison and Lake Brant areas was straining our capacity, so plans were drawn up by Banner and Associates for a smaller membrane plant that could satisfy those demands around the lakes on holiday weekends. That plant came on line in 2010. In 2017 we completed a new pipeline from Minnehaha Community Water giving us added capacity and service to the Cities of Madison and Chester. In 1980 annual sales were around 150 million gallons per year. By 2021, if current plans follow through, annual sales will exceed one billion gallons.



Big Sioux prides itself in delivering the best tasting, best quality water they can. Aggressive wellhead protection policies have improved our raw water quality. Since the inception of the system, over \$20 million has been invested in infrastructure. The system today has over 2,180 services and works hard to be the area's water source of choice, whether for domestic, commercial or industrial use. The offices are located at our Egan Treatment Plant site just across the Big Sioux River from the City of Egan.

Big Sioux Community Water System recently celebrated its forty-seventh year at its Annual Meeting held in Colman on April 9th, 2019. "Rural water is probably the most precious commodity we have on the farm, especially given the quality we enjoy," said Andy Groos, Director of 47 years.

"Having quality rural water at my home gives me many of the advantages of city living while getting to enjoy the benefits of country living," said Daniel Carlson, Director of 47 years.



# BIG SIOUX COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM



**2019 Big Sioux Board of Directors:**

**Back row left to right - Reggie Gassman, Gaylen Backus, Tom Hagedorn, Vince Nelson, Kent Whipkey, Dan Carlson. Front row left to right - Martin Jarrett (Manager), Andy Groos (Secretary/Treasurer), Dan Dannenbring (Chairman), Thomas Kansanback (Vice Chariman)**



**Aerial view of the Big Sioux Community Water System plant near Egan, SD.**

## DIRECTORS:

- Dan Dannebring** – Chairman
- Thomas Kansanback** – Vice-Chairman
- Andy Groos** – Secretary / Treasurer
- Daniel Carlson** – State Association Past President
- Gaylen Backus** – Director
- Vince Nelson** – Director
- Reggie Gassman** – Director
- Tom Hagedorn** – Director
- Kent Whipkey** – Director

## STAFF:

- Martin Jarrett** – General Manager
- Jodi Johanson** – Corporate Accounts
- Dawn Christenson** – Customer Service / Billing
- Dave Bennett** – Chief Plant Operator
- Mike Headrick** – Chief of Distribution
- Garrett Carr** – Distribution Operator
- Aric Olson** – Distribution Operator
- Chad Kneebone** – Distribution Operator
- Brant Membrane Plant**
- Jeff Carruthers** – Small Systems Water / Wastewater Operator

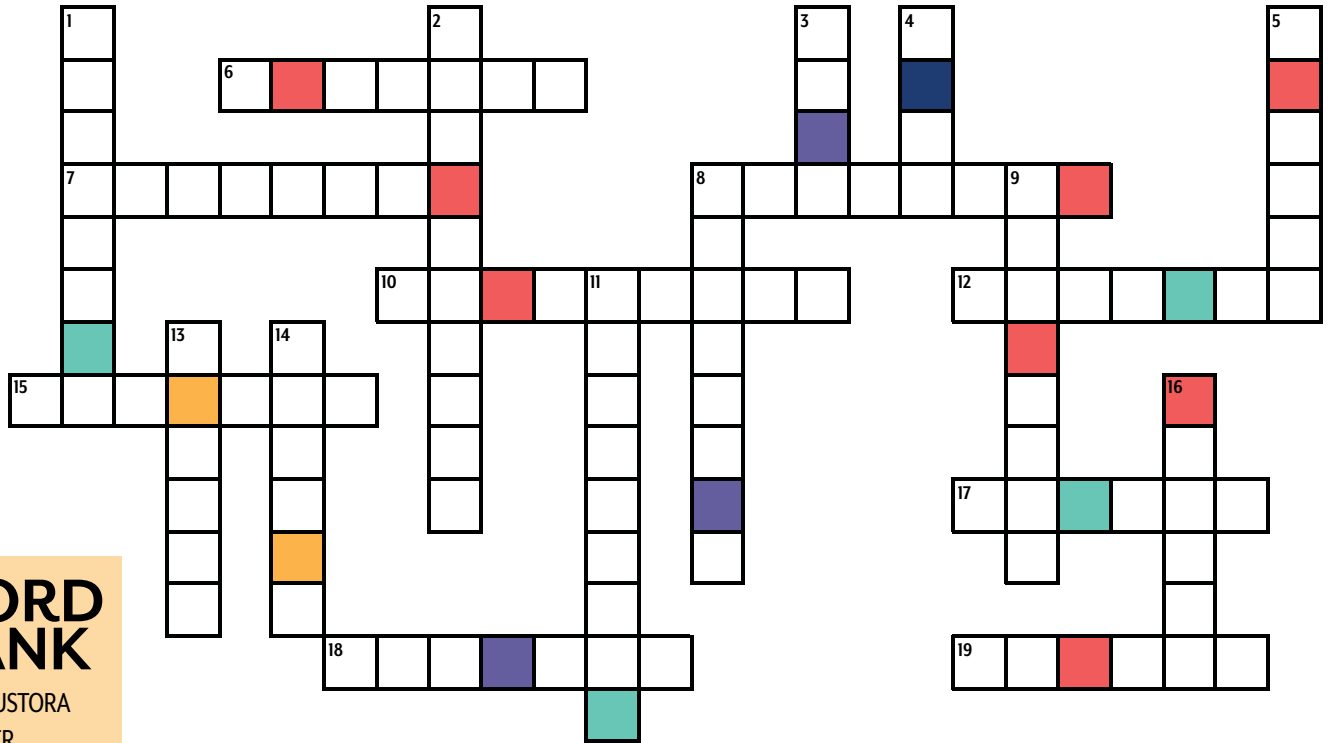
## STATISTICS:

- Service Connections:** 2,180
- Miles of Pipeline:** 800
- Water Source:** Wells – Big Sioux Aquifer, Skunk Creek Aquifer, Minnehaha Community Water Corporation
- Counties Served:** Moody, Lake and portions of Brookings and Minnehaha
- Towns Served Individual:** Rutland
- Towns Served Bulk:** Madison, Flandreau, Egan, Trent, Colman, Wentworth, Chester
- Contracted Management Wastewater Systems:** Egan, Wentworth, Chester Sanitary District
- Contracted Management Water Systems:** Chester, Dakota Ethanol, Golden Dakota Dairy, Egan, Wentworth, Wildwood Dairy

# RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

## Lakes of South Dakota

Enter to Win \$100



### WORD BANK

- ANGUSTORA
- BITTER
- COTTONWOOD
- LOUISE
- MADISON
- MINA
- OAHE
- OAKWOOD
- PACTOLA
- PELICAN
- POINSETT
- SHADEHILL
- SHARPE
- SHERIDAN
- SYLVAN
- THOMPSON
- TRAVERSE
- WAUBAY
- WILLOW

### DOWN

1. Located in northeast, SD, it the most urban developed lake in the state. Its name means "Lake of the Shining Shells" in Dakota.
2. There are several lakes in SD that boast this name – given for the trees with the fluffy seeds that grow around them.
3. One of the first man-made lakes in northeast South Dakota, was originally named Shake Maza, a Lakota name for "shaped like a horseshoe."
4. Fourth largest reservoir in the United States.
5. Picturesque lake located in Custer State Park, also featured in the movie National Treasure: Book of Secrets.
8. Kingsbury County lake which appears in several Laura Ingalls Wilder novels.
9. The Black Hills mining town formerly known as Golden City lies at the bottom of this lake.
11. Located in Perkins County, this lake shares a name with the dam that created it.
13. Clark county lake named for the droopy trees that line its shores.
14. Encompassed by a state park of the same name, 14 miles north of Miller.
16. Named after the 17th Governor of South Dakota, this lake boasts 200 miles of shoreline and features a "big bend."

### ACROSS

6. Brookings County glacial lake that borders state park with the same name.
7. One of the largest lakes in SD, named after a U.S. Secretary of War, located on Highway 81
8. Lies between the South Dakota and Minnesota border and means "across the lake" in French.
10. Reservoir located on the Cheyenne River and means "narrows" in Spanish.
12. Named after a pouch-beaked bird that can be found in the springtime
15. Popular boating lake located in Lake County.
17. Means "a place where numbers of birds make their nests" in the Dakota language.
18. The largest reservoir in the Black Hills; is used for flood control, irrigation, and domestic water use.
19. Tripling in size since the 1990's, this former shallow alkaline slough was named after its taste.

### SCRAMBLE ANSWER



**RULES:** Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See page 2 for contact information) or enter online at [www.sdarws.com/crossword.html](http://www.sdarws.com/crossword.html) with the correct phrase by July 5th, 2019 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 William Janssen of Castlewood who had the correct phrase of "focus on the future" for April 2019.



# RURAL WATER

ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA

## MEDICINE CREEK WEIR

**M**arch of 2011 was a time of flooding much like we have been experiencing this year. Towns, farms and roads were flooding in several areas and sandbagging activities were at a frantic pace. Medicine Creek near Blunt, SD flooded, sending a virtual tsunami down a small creek bed without the capacity to handle the large amount of water. The flood went through the diversion channel that was built in 2004 and crossed Mid-Dakota's 24-inch diameter main transmission pipeline. The water found a foothold and began to erode the diversion channel, eating the earth away in front and behind the pipeline which is a "main artery" for the rural water system. Had the flood washed out the pipeline, Mid-Dakota water service would have been interrupted in an area of approximately 5,000 square miles. The Mid-Dakota staff, Morris Irrigation, Dahme Construction, Bartlett & West Engineers, and even some of the public worked together to save the pipeline and keep it in place. The solution to the problem after the flooding was over was to construct a weir just downstream of the pipeline to protect it.

This year there again was flooding along the Medicine Creek near Blunt, but this time the story ended differently. The weir was successful in providing protection for the pipeline and the water flowed downstream with no issues for the pipeline.



*Medicine Creek before the weir was constructed.*



*Construction of the weir.*



*The completed weir.*

## What Mid-Dakota Has Done for My Community

By Allison King

People can easily forget how lucky they are to have the things that they do. Something as simple as access to clean water is something that people should not take for granted. I personally cannot recall a time in my life without Mid-Dakota water. All throughout my life, Mid-Dakota has supplied my family and me with a fresh water supply. I decided the best way to understand how lucky I am to have Mid-Dakota is to interview people who remember tougher times; times without a great water source.

When debating whom to interview, one special person came to my mind, my grandma. My grandma was full of interesting stories. One of these stories was how she had to get water to her house. When my grandma was younger, she did not have water that just comes out of the faucet; this is something that I am lucky to have. In order to get water into her house, my grandma had to go outside no matter the weather, and catch water in buckets. She would then have to carry these full buckets of water into the house.

My grandma and her family didn't just have to worry about getting water for themselves. Living on a farm, my great-grandparents had to figure out how to give water to their cattle, as well. My great-grandparents had a windmill that ran a pump that would then fill the water tanks. Having indoor plumbing and easier access to water

has been very beneficial to farmers as well.

Going a generation forward, I decided to ask my mom about her experiences without Mid-Dakota Rural Water Systems. My mother has lived in Virgil, SD, her entire life. During the tough time before Mid-Dakota, the water mains in the town would break down frequently.

This was because the mains were old, and the cold weather affected them negatively. It could take up to a couple of days before the water mains could get fixed. During these times, my mother's family would have to gather water in the bathtub. The water that they collected had to be used for any different purposes.

After all this time of struggle for the town of Virgil, the town and the inhabitants of the town were very fortunate to become signed up with Mid-Dakota Water. Mid-Dakota replaced all the water mains and the pump house. Also during this time, my dad became involved in replacing the

pump house. Eventually, once the main water lines could be brought into the Virgil area, the town became directly hooked to Mid-Dakota Rural Water Systems.

In interviewing two generations of my family, I realized how much times have really changed; I realized how lucky I am to have the water source that I do. I would just like to thank Mid-Dakota for everything that they have done for the town of Virgil and everyone else's lives they have made a difference in.



## What Mid-Dakota Has Done for Me and My Community

By Christine Michlitsch

When my family and I moved here to Tulare awhile back, we were just starting to settle into our new house. However, when we were just starting to move in, we noticed a white crusty buildup in our sinks, bathtubs, and dishwasher. We weren't totally sure at the time what it was but we were told by the previous owner that all that gross buildup was from the well water that used to run to our new home. We were so pleased when we were informed that the city, since previous owners, had switched to Mid-Dakota. The members of Tulare can now have confidence knowing that the water they are consuming and using for daily activities is both safe and has refreshingly light taste.



The quality of the water has also changed dramatically since switching to Mid-Dakota. There has been a long-standing joke in the community about how the community is so pleased they can use glass glasses again. A member of our community once told me that the well water that they had before switching to Mid-Dakota was so hard it could break the glass glasses.

The taste of the water that Mid-Dakota provides is absolutely pleasing to the taste buds. I remember during all sports seasons in school, the players would make sure to fill all their water bottles

from the school or their homes because the water quality and taste of the other towns we traveled to couldn't even compare.



# What Mid-Dakota Rural Water Means to My Family

By Derek Thompson

Mid Dakota water has made my life and my family's life much safer and more convenient. Before we got Mid Dakota water, we had to use our well water for everything. Our well water is naturally soft, but it is high in sodium and sulfates, which causes it to smell like rotten eggs. The smell was very noticeable whenever we would drink it or take a shower. It also caused the racks in our dishwasher to rust out. When my parents moved to our house, all my mom's houseplants died from the well water. Now that we have Mid Dakota, we can water our houseplants and garden without worrying about the water killing the plants. Before we had Mid Dakota, we rented a reverse osmosis unit to make our drinking water. This meant my parents had to add fluoride drops to the water when my sister and I were babies. When we got Mid Dakota water, my parents didn't need to worry



about that anymore since Mid Dakota already has the right amount of fluoride added to the water. If our well water would have become contaminated, we probably wouldn't have realized it until it caused health problems. Mid Dakota water gets sampled regularly, so we don't need to worry about water quality issues. There have been several times when we have lost power, which means our well pump's pressure system quickly stops working. But since we have Mid Dakota, we still have good pressure and can get water until power comes back on. Our family raises sheep and gamebirds, and we usually water them with well water. But one time when our well pump failed, we had to give them Mid Dakota water until we could get the pump replaced. If we didn't have Mid Dakota water, we might have lost some of our livestock. Because of Mid Dakota, my family has access to clean and safe water, and for this I am very thankful.

## Get Out of the Pool, Rusty!

By Jamie Holforty

I have to admit that I really took for granted the benefits of having rural water. That is, until the day I met "Rusty."

For the first four years of my life, I lived within the city limits of Huron, where clean water flowed freely. We then moved just outside of the city limits. I remember my dad being happy about "getting on the list for rural water". I had no idea what that meant, all I know is that by the time we moved in, the water was hooked up and we were once again receiving clean, free-flowing water. Since I had never experienced artesian well water, to me, this clear tap water didn't really mean that much. It was clean and good, but it was like all of the water I had ever drank.



After a few years of living out in the country, my family decided to get a pop-up Intex pool. Thinking she could save a little money, my mother decided to fill the pool with well water instead of the sparkly, clear, free-flowing water that Mid-Dakota provided. The water looked pretty clear until she checked her pool filter. That was when I met "Rusty." That filter

and what was on it was disgusting! She sprayed the filter and added more chemicals to the pool, and again, Rusty appeared. After several attempts, we finally drained the pool and said goodbye to Rusty. His image was hard to escape though. I started imagining drinking that water, washing clothes and dishes in that water and bathing in that water! That is when I asked my dad what it was like having well water growing up. He said that it would corrode and stain your appliances as well as your tubs, sinks, and clothes. You also needed a pressure pump to get the water to your house and if your electricity went out, you would have no water flow. He did admit that he kind of missed the taste of the artesian water. That is when I truly realized the advantages of having Mid-Dakota water! WATER IS NOT SUPPOSED TO TASTE!

Thanks to Rusty and stories from my dad, I can now say I am truly grateful to Mid-Dakota for providing clean, healthy water to my family as well as other rural families!

# WATER MATTERS

## Water Festivals



### PROMOTING AWARENESS AND INSPIRING CONSERVATION

South Dakota Water Festivals have been providing hands-on activities about water to 4th grade students for more than 25 years. At this free event, students have the opportunity to interact with water resource professionals who lead many of the activities. Topics include water conservation, water history, uses of the resource, and current water issues. Students investigate how water impacts their lives and the importance of having clean water. They discover how everyone has a role in water conservation and in the protection of the environment. Each festival relies on the support of local residents and community businesses who give generously by volunteering their time or through donations and monetary contributions.

### VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED! HOW YOU CAN HELP...

South Dakota Water Festivals need volunteers to:

- Present activities about our water resources
- Guide small groups to designated activities
- Help with setting up and taking down displays
- Assist activity leaders or supervise exhibits
- Become committee members & help plan a festival

### SOUTH DAKOTA WATER FESTIVALS CONTACT A FESTIVAL NEAR YOU!

This is a great opportunity to support your local community and to help educate kids about South Dakota's water resources!



**FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF WATER FESTIVALS  
HELD IN SOUTH DAKOTA GO TO:  
[SD-Discovery.org/Watershed-Outreach](http://SD-Discovery.org/Watershed-Outreach)**



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East Dakota Water Development District  
132B Airport Drive • Brookings, SD, 57006  
(605) 688-6741 • <http://eastdakota.org>