

Quality  
On Tap!

**MID DAKOTA**  
**RURAL WATER SYSTEM**

# Quality On Tap!

January 2022 | Volume 17, Issue 3



**MILPA  
GARDENS**

**RURAL POWER  
LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAM**

**BACKUP WATER  
SUPPLIES FOR  
LIVESTOCK NEEDS**

**DON'T LET YOUR PIPES  
FREEZE THIS WINTER**

# FROM THE MANAGER

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



Looking in the rear-view mirror, all you can say is WOW, what a year. First, we get a lot of moisture, then no moisture. Mid-Dakota hit record highs in water produced per day most of the summer, which really puts an exclamation mark on needing to get started on improvements at our Water Treatment Plant. This process is already beginning but is a huge undertaking and will take several years to see through the process. It is my vision to tackle this monster in phases to help offset the cost of construction. Mid-Dakota is also looking at improvement throughout the distribution system. As Mid-Dakota continues to grow, we need to add additional pipe to continue our standard of service in some areas of growth. As the process is just getting started, I'll have more to report as information becomes available. I am proud to announce that Mid-Dakota's mainline project and additional water storage project is complete. When driving west of Highmore, you will notice two 1.5-million-gallon water towers on our site. This project started Mid-Dakota's expansion to the future in being able to push more water volume across our main pipeline. The next phase is, as discussed earlier, with additional distribution pipelines and water treatment expansion.

Mid-Dakota held its 29th Annual Meeting of the Membership on October 21, 2021. We again hosted the meeting using the "come & go" (open-house) format. One hundred eighty-seven members and guests visited our offices, which is higher than last year by 66. Each year following the meeting, Mid-Dakota staff compiles an "after-action" report. We try to look at what went right, what went wrong, what we can do differently etc. The end goal is to conduct an annual meeting that entices a lot of people to attend, which is fun and valuable to the people who do attend.

As everyone who was using the MiData portal is aware, it has not worked for quite some time. It has been a long-drawn-out process, but I'm ready to announce that Mid-Dakota has a new option for those of you who would want to view your water consumption. Mid-Dakota has added a feature to the "Smarthub" tab to be able to view water consumption. This tab is available through our billing program and is available to all accounts. If you need help navigating to this site, please call our Mid-Dakota office, and someone will assist you.

## Quality On Tap!

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Leslie Brown	.....District 2
Scott Oligmueller	.....District 3
Lennis Fagerhaug	.....District 4
Rick Benson	.....District 5

### Municipal Directors

Dwight Gutzmer	.....At Large
Jim McGillivrey	.....At Large
Jeff McGirr	.....Huron
Darrell Raschke	.....Huron

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Jamie Brueggeman	.....Office Administrator
Sandy Holt	.....Customer Accounts Specialist
Tammy Oligmueller	.....Customer Accounts Specialist
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Cameron Bohl	.....Membership Specialist

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Mike Polak	.....Water Treatment Plant Specialist
Steve Laird	.....Water Treatment Plant Specialist

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Horin Johnson	.....Operations Manager
Calvin Kindle	.....Water Distribution Specialist
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Ron Ramsey	.....Water Distribution Specialist
Scott Szuggar	.....Water Distribution Specialist
Randy Bauer	.....Electrical Specialist

### Gettysburg, SD

Gary Tobin	.....Water Distribution Specialist
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### Wessington Springs, SD

Mark Gran	.....Water Distribution Specialist
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### 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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Enhancing quality of life  
By providing high quality water  
And excellent service.



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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.

# 2021 ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS

Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc. held its 29th Annual Meeting using a "Come and Go" Format on the 21st day of October in 2021. Members were invited to visit any one of the following offices between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. to attend the meeting: Miller Operations and Maintenance Center, Oahe Water Treatment Plant, Gettysburg Field Office, Huron Field Office and Wessington Springs Field Office. There was an attendance of approximately 187 members and guests.

Voting members were given a form which registered them to vote; confirmed they were given the annual report and the current year's budget; approved the minutes from last year; and approved the reports of the chairperson and manager. A total of 95 Members filled out forms to vote at the annual meeting.

Those attending the meeting were given a registration gift of a pair of scissors, a Mid-Dakota calendar, a copy of the annual report and Fiscal Year 2021 budget summary. Members and guests were also given a \$5 beef gift certificate. Everyone attending was given an opportunity to register for a pair of rocking lawn chairs with a value of \$150.00 at the location where they attended the meeting. A Grand Prize which was a 28" Blackstone Griddle, hard cover, seasonings and utensils (\$500.00 value) was purchased and all who attended the meeting were given a chance to win. Winners of rocking lawn chairs were: Raymond Schaefers, Orient (Miller office); Matthew Micheel, Cavour (Huron office); Hub Kieser, Wessington Springs (Wessington Springs office); Jordan Heumiller, Hoven (Gettysburg office); and Arlan Muilenburg, Pierre (Water Treatment Plant, Pierre).

The winner of the Blackstone, hard cover, seasonings and utensils was Russell Beck, Pierre.

There wasn't a contest for the expired director position in Rural Director District 3, so Scott Oligmueller retained his seat. The City of Huron reappointed Jeff McGirr for the expired term. There was a contest for Municipal at Large director position between Dwight Gutzmer and Russell Anderson with Dwight Gutzmer as the winner.

The directors for the Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc. board are as follows: Rural Director District #1 – Mr. Steve Robbennolt; Rural Director District #2 – Ms. Leslie Brown; Rural Director District #3 – Mr. Scott Oligmueller; Rural Director District #4 – Mr. Lennis Fagerhaug; Rural Director District #5 – Mr. Rick Benson; Municipal Directors at Large – Mr. Dwight Gutzmer and

Mr. Jim McGillvrey; Huron Directors – Mr. Jeff McGirr and Mr. Darrell Raschke.



## THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS WHO FILLED OUT A VOTING FORM:

OFFICES	MEMBERS
Miller Operations & Maintenance Center .....	13
Oahe Water Treatment Plant .....	32
Gettysburg Field Office .....	3
Huron Field Office .....	41
Wessington Springs Field Office .....	6
Total Members Filling out a Voting Form .....	95

## 2021 ANNUAL MEETING PRIZE WINNERS



Arlan Muilenburg



Hub Kieser



Russell Beck



Raymond Schaefers



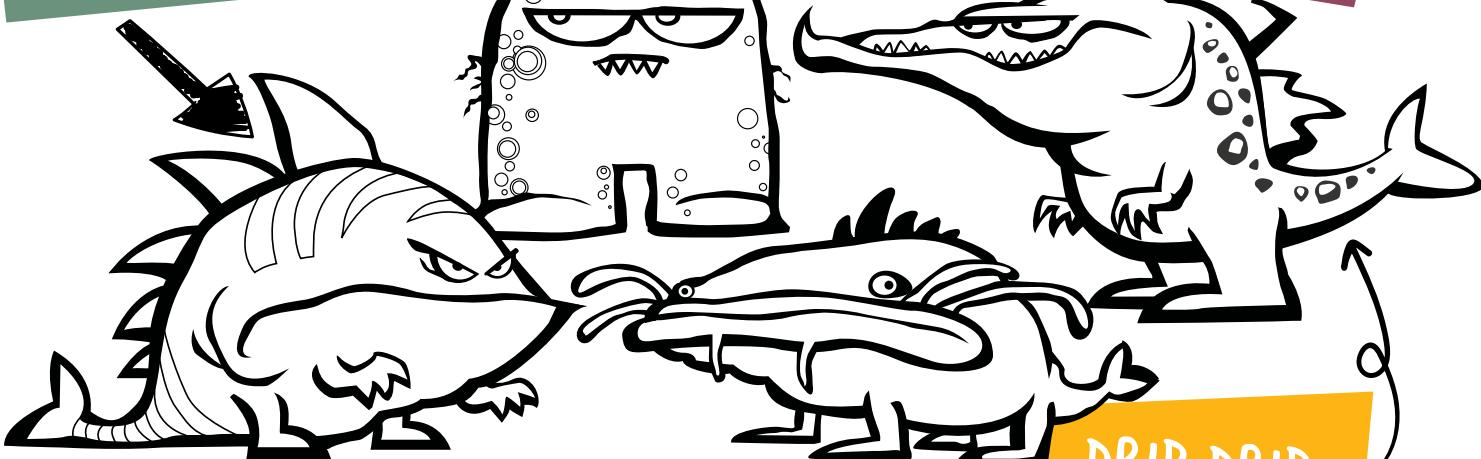
Jordan Heumiller

# DON'T BE A WATER WASTER!

Do you know how much water a family of four uses every day in the United States? Not 50 gallons, not 100 gallons, but 400 gallons! You could take up to 10 baths with that much water – but who would want to do that? Fortunately, there are many things we can do to save.

## DRAINIAK

loves to run the tap. She rinses her dishes before putting them in the dishwasher and leaves the water running while brushing her teeth.



(COLOR THESE WATER WASTERS – BUT DON'T BE ONE!)

## SoGOSAURUS

waters her lawn and garden every day. Sometimes she even forgets to turn her sprinkler off and sprays onto the sidewalk.

## DRIP DRIP

lets his sink drip all day and all night. He doesn't care that leaky faucets waste hundreds of gallons a week!

## Why Should We Save Water?

Did you know that less than 1% of all the water on Earth can be used by people? The rest is salt water (the kind you find in the ocean) or is permanently frozen and we can't drink it, wash with it, or use it to water plants.

As our population grows, more and more people are using up this limited resource. Therefore, it is important that we use our water wisely and not waste it.

## Is your toilet leaking?

Fixing a toilet leak is a great way to reduce household water use and boost water conservation. If your toilet has a leak, you could be wasting about 200 gallons of water every day. That would be like flushing your toilet more than 50 times for no reason! Try this experiment: ask your parents to help you test for leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak!



Content provided by:  
[www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-kids](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-kids)





## APPLICATIONS OPEN JANUARY 1 FOR RURAL POWER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

If you read October's *Quality on Tap!* article "Who's Watering the Next Crop of Rural Cooperative Leaders?," you learned about the new program building a pipeline of leaders in South Dakota ready to serve in rural cooperatives like your local rural water system.

The program called Rural POWER kicked off in 2021, and applications for the second class of Rural POWER leaders open January 1, 2022.

This rural initiative launched by the non-partisan, non-profit Billie Sutton Leadership Institute seeks to grow a new generation of rural leaders and encourage involvement in local cooperatives providing essential services to South Dakota communities.

Since its launch, the Sutton Leadership Institute has trained and mentored over three dozen next-generation leaders from across the state who have given back to their communities through service projects. This year, the leadership development cohort specific to rural South Dakota was added to the program offerings.

Rural POWER is a year-long leadership development opportunity focused specifically on rural South Dakota. Rural POWER participants engage in educational leadership training opportunities that emphasize community building

and serving your neighbors. They also learn from thoughtful cooperative leaders – like South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Executive Director Kurt Pfeifle – who are committed to rural development.

Participants in the inaugural Rural POWER program have some powerful things to say about the initiative and its impact on them and their community:

**"I believe this program is creating tangible and actionable movement, growth, and community impact in South Dakota."**

**"Personally, I know this experience will continue to shape my growth as a leader and expose me to individuals who are movers and shakers within South Dakota."**

**"This program will benefit our communities and South Dakota as a whole."**

**"Every session was intentional and worthwhile."**

**"This group is amazing. It's a great fire-starter!"**

**"Better than I ever anticipated!"**

With applications for the next Rural POWER class opening in January, now is the time to encourage leaders in your community to apply for this opportunity. That leader just might be the next rural water system board member to serve you and your neighbors!

If you or someone you know is ready to take action, serve others, and lead in your community, apply for Rural POWER before the February 1, 2022, application deadline.

**[Visit \*suttonleadership.org/ruralpower\* to learn more about Rural POWER and to apply to participate.](https://suttonleadership.org/ruralpower)**

***Nominations for the program can also be submitted online at [suttonleadership.org](https://suttonleadership.org).***



**Rural  
POWER**



# BACKUP WATER SUPPLIES FOR LIVESTOCK NEEDS

Back before Rural Water systems were organized and built across South Dakota, private farm wells served as the main water source for farms and livestock. As farms connected to their local rural water system, wells were slowly abandoned in favor of the quality and reliability of rural water. Over the years, many of those old wells have gone bad or stopped pumping water due to age. As livestock numbers per farm have increased, farmers and ranchers often rely solely on rural water for their livestock watering needs, and don't think much about the old wells they used to rely on.

While rural water has been very reliable over the years, things can happen that cause water service areas to be down for many hours, or even days – such as leaks or breaks in the line. Because of this, rural water systems encourage livestock producers to have a backup water supply. This could be in the form of a large on-site storage tank with a pressure system, a backup well; or both.

When installing on-site storage with a pressure system, it is recommended to put in enough water storage to get through two days of maximum water use. Having onsite storage also allows for the producer during normal

operations, to take a consistent water flow over a 24-hour period thus, not taxing the water system's pressure during the peak times of the day.

Some livestock feeders have put in underground cast-in-place concrete tanks with a small building sitting on top of the tank with a submersible pump and pressure tank that provides consistent water pressure to the entire farm. (See photo above showing a pump building sitting on an 18,000-gallon concrete storage tank) Others have placed large poly tanks in a heated building with that same type of pressure system.

The fact is, that if a livestock producer can't get along without rural electric service, they need to have a emergency generator. The same goes for water; If they can't get along without rural water service, they need to have an emergency plan such as on-site storage and/or a well.

If you have questions about what you need for a backup storage solution, please give your rural water system a call. Contact information can be found on page two.

# Don't let your pipes freeze this winter

As the hot days of summer seem to be long gone, the leaves begin their annual change of color, frost starts to blanket the nighttime, and South Dakotans realize that winter is on its way. Now is the time to make sure that your home and pipes are ready for the subzero temperatures that will be sure to come. By winterizing your house, and especially your pipes, you can save yourself time, money, and unnecessary heartache.

A broken pipe can add up to big losses in water. If you look at the chart on this page you can see that an 1/8 inch hole can lose 296,000 gallons of water over a three month period of time, or about 3,200 gallons a day. That's about the same amount of water that one person will use in a month of normal use! Another comparison would be enough water to fill an 850 square foot basement with 6 inches of water in just 24 hours.

## Here are some things you can do to help keep the water in your pipes from freezing:

- 1) Insulate pipes in areas of your home that are not well heated, such as crawl spaces and attics. Pipe insulation costs can vary greatly depending upon the material. The cheapest can cost about \$1.09 for 6 foot to \$6.59 for elastomeric foam that is self sealing with a higher R-value.
- 2) Install UL-approved heat tapes according to manufacturer's instructions. Prices can vary from store to store, and by length, from around \$18.00 for a 6-foot heat tape to about \$30.00 for a 30 foot tape.
- 3) Disconnect water hoses, and if possible drain outside faucets, by installing an inside shut-off valve and drain. An outside faucet cover can be purchased for roughly \$2.00.
- 4) Locate places along sill plates, doors, and windows that may allow cold air to penetrate your home and seal with caulk, foam or fiberglass insulation. Caulk prices can vary from less than a dollar for latex caulk to just under \$5.00 for silicone, and can be even more for fire resistant caulk. Cans of spray foam insulation can run from \$4.00 - \$5.00 a can.
- 5) If you are going to be away from home for a long period of time have your rural water system shut off your water.

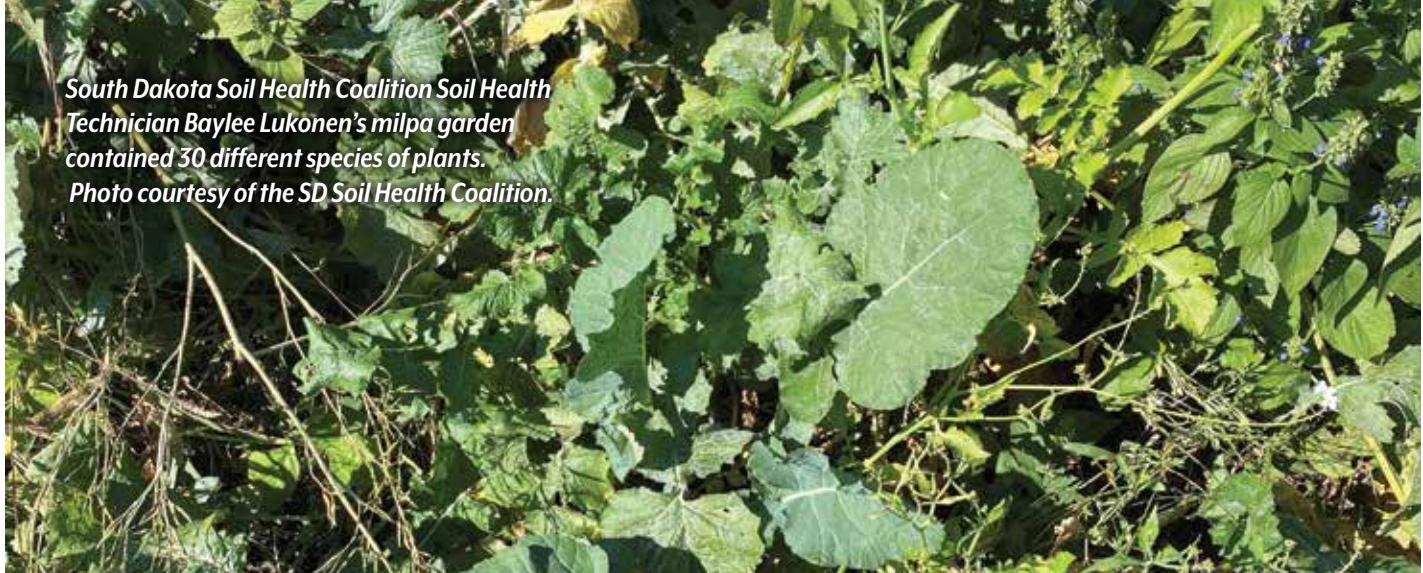


## Water Loss Chart

*A continuous leak of the sizes listed below at an average household water pressure of 60 psi would, over a three month period, result in the water loss listed.*

Diameter of Stream	Inches	mm	Water Loss in Gallons
●	1/4	6.4	1,181,500
●	1/8	3.2	296,000
●	1/16	1.6	74,000
●	1/32	0.8	18,500

*South Dakota Soil Health Coalition Soil Health Technician Baylee Lukonen's milpa garden contained 30 different species of plants. Photo courtesy of the SD Soil Health Coalition.*



# MILPA GARDENS CAN BUILD SOIL HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

**By Stan Wise, South Dakota Soil Health Coalition**

Sometimes a little chaos provides an opportunity for growth.

That's certainly the case with a chaos garden, also called a milpa garden. It's a similar concept to the three sisters garden in which the three "sisters" of corn, beans and squash are planted together because each one benefits the growth of the others. The corn provides a tall stalk for the beans to climb, the beans fix nitrogen in the soil, and the large leaves of squash shade the ground, preserving moisture and suppressing weeds.

In a milpa garden, even more types of plants are included in the mix, and rather than being planted in neat rows, the vegetables are spread evenly across the garden. The result is a chaotic tangle of produce that offers more than just food.

This year, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks District Park Supervisor Ryan Persoon discovered that a milpa garden can help bring a community together. This spring, he was approached by Dan Forgey, South Dakota Soil Health Coalition Board member and longtime Cronin Farms agronomy manager, who had a bag of seed.

"He mentioned he had this bag of seed that, at the time, he described as a milpa garden and a community garden," Persoon said. "I didn't know anything about what this was. Community kind of stuck in my head."

Persoon runs the West Whitlock Recreation Area, which is next to a resort with summer residents, and he thought he could plant the garden in the park, and the people in the resort community could help grow the garden and then reap some of the rewards by taking some produce.

"At the time I didn't really know what was in this bag of seed," he said. "It was entertaining for us to plant this, see it grow, and see what would come to fruition and how it would impact our community. And I have to say it was quite the project. It was something I was very proud to be involved in."

The community became very involved in the garden. "The excitement of the unknown was what we enjoyed the most out of it," Persoon said. "It was thick. There was a lot of stuff to sort through. People enjoyed looking through it to find what they wanted, and that adds to the excitement of it."

Persoon said the garden contained several different types of squash, pumpkins, turnips, Swiss chard, and other produce. "I saw certain people putting their names on some squash because they didn't want them picked before they were ripe," he said. "It's a community, so everybody kind of shared in it, and it was really quite neat."

In addition to bringing the community together, the garden benefitted pollinators and wildlife. "It was attractive for pollinators, for birds, and I have no doubt this winter when a lot of the brassicas and the squash, the pumpkins freeze down, the deer are going to be all over those squash and pumpkins," Persoon said.



**Led by South Dakota Soil Health Coalition Soil Health Technician Baylee Lukonen (back left), students from the Boys and Girls Club of Watertown feed plants from a milpa garden to cattle. Photo courtesy of Boys and Girls Club of Watertown.**



**Produce from South Dakota Soil Health Coalition Soil Health Technician Baylee Lukonen's milpa garden went to the students at the Boys and Girls Club of Watertown, who visited the garden during the summer to learn about soil health. Photo courtesy of the SD Soil Health Coalition.**

Next year, he said, "we're definitely going to do something like this again if not pretty much exactly the same thing again."

A milpa garden also offers soil health benefits.

"All of the soil is pretty well covered, and there's something living on almost every square inch," SDSHC Soil Health Technician Baylee Lukonen said. "When they call this a chaos garden sometimes, that's exactly what it is. The plants are all working together."

Lukonen grew a milpa garden on her farm near Watertown this year. "It was really cool to see that certain plants that have vining tendencies would actually vine up the sunflowers or the taller millet," she said. "That's how they were getting their sunlight. It's just really cool to see all of it working together aboveground, and if it's working together aboveground, there's definitely a lot happening belowground that we can't see."

Lukonen also used her garden to interact with the community. She invited the local Boys and Girl Club to bring students out to her farm each week to learn about soil health and pollinators.

"We thought it was a great idea," Watertown Boys and Girls Club Prevention Coordinator Brad Drake said. "We're always looking for additional programs for the kids, particularly if there's an educational component."

"The Boys and Girls Club brought out a group of about 10-15 kids every Thursday for a good portion of the summer," Lukonen said. "We just taught them about different things in the soil, soil properties, and we also taught them about the milpa garden and how everything that is in the milpa garden can grow together without being separated and planted into rows, which is different than your traditional garden."

The students ranged in age from 8 to 12 years old.

"There was a real emphasis on soil health, of course, so they talked a lot about cover cropping," Drake said. "It wasn't always the same kids each week that went out, but some of them got to see the whole process from the planting, to learning why it was important, to how these various crops have benefitted the soil, and different nutrients they added or drew up and made available."

Lukonen said the only challenging aspect to a milpa garden is that it is difficult to harvest, but she had a suggestion on how to make it easier. "Next year I think we are going to create walkways," she said. "If we want the kids to help with the harvest, we're going to have to make walking paths throughout."

**Gardeners who are interested in trying a milpa garden can contact the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition at [sdsoilhealth@gmail.com](mailto:sdsoilhealth@gmail.com) or 605-280-4190.**

# SYSTEM SPOTLIGHT

## BEAR BUTTE VALLEY WATER



*Bear Butte Valley Ground breaking - June 24, 2015*

The first documented and recorded minutes for the formation of the Bear Butte Valley Rural Water System (BBV) located east and north of the town of Sturgis were recorded on April 2, 2009. The organizational meeting was the culmination of several telephone calls from Neal Rowett, a rural area resident, to the South Dakota Rural Water Office located in Spearfish. "If I recall the first conversation, it went something like this: 'Are you the guy who can help a bunch of rural area ranchers and homeowners start up a water system?'" said former South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems' field program supervisor George Vansco. The reason for Rowett's interest in starting a new system stemmed from a concern over poor water quality due to the local creek picking up undesirables as it weaved its way through the town of Sturgis. Bear Butte Creek has allowed some owners the benefit of drilling shallow wells near the creek while others were forced into deeper aquifers at a much higher cost.

With a desire to provide the area with quality drinking water; the next steps were getting local area residents involved and beginning to search for funds enabling them to conduct a feasibility study. After attending several Meade County Commission meetings and bringing the idea of developing another west river water system to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the steering committee decided to incorporate as a non-profit.

Five days after the first documented meeting, Bear Butte Valley Water was incorporated on May 7, 2009. At this meeting the following board members were elected: Neal Rowett, President; Robert Yantis, Vice-President; Bruce Weyrich, Secretary/Treasurer; Clair Rowett, Director; Don Chord, Director; Jesse Whitford, Director. As the years have passed, some directors dropped off the board and others were newly elected – but the majority of the board has remained the same.

While it takes most water systems about 30 years from inception to completion, Bear Butte Valley Water found itself on the fast track. After receiving their certificate of incorporation on May 7, 2009, they received funding from the state just a year later. Incorporating allowed them to get an initial \$7,500 in planning funds, which they used to pay DGR Engineering to draw up plans for the system. Total project costs in 2010 were estimated at \$5.1 million.

In April of 2010, BBV was given the go-ahead from USDA Rural Development to apply for loans after an archaeological study was conducted. A \$500,000 grant was received from the State of South Dakota through the Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program to begin the project. The initial cost for those interested in hooking up to the system was \$1,500/connection. Meetings continued to be held to determine where the best source of water would come from. Proposals came in from cities, individual landowners,

campgrounds and others, while drilling a well for the system was also looked at as an option.

USDA Rural Development awarded Bear Butte Valley Water, Inc. with a water and environmental loan in the amount of \$2,917,000, and a grant of \$2,000,000 in January of 2014. The State of South Dakota also kicked in additional funding through a \$1,500,000 grant, an additional \$500,000 was acquired from DENR, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provided significant funding through its EQIP program to provide water for livestock. Through this funding, construction was planned to expand the system to 150 miles of distribution pipeline, with water available to 220 users and 150 service locations upon completion.

A ground breaking ceremony was held on June 24, 2015 to commemorate the awarding of bids to complete the entire rural water system – including installing 110 miles of pipeline, storage reservoirs, and pumping stations. Bruce Jones – USDA Rural Development Acting State Director, and Jacqueline M. Ponti-Lazaruk – USDA Rural Development Assistant Administrator for the Water and Environmental Program in Washington, DC, were on hand at the ground breaking to announce additional funding of a \$200,000 loan coupled with a \$2,527,000 grant to complete the system. Representatives from the Congressional offices, the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems, Meade County Commissioners, the engineer, and Sturgis Economic Development were also on site for the ground breaking activities.

Said Neal Rowett, Board President of BBV Water, Inc. in October 2015, “This accomplishment is the result of many days, weeks, and years of service and perseverance by a dedicated board of directors, along with the help of professional guidance received from our engineering partners and South Dakota Rural Water. We appreciate the support of the community for the confidence these people have shown in our efforts. Bear Butte Valley Water is a community owned, non-profit corporation that will serve its members for many future generations. It is with great pride that we will be providing drinking water of excellent quality with enough volume and pressure to fulfill the needs of our members.”



*Bear Butte Valley Water's pipe arriving by the truckload in 2015.*

## BEAR BUTTE VALLEY WATER

### DIRECTORS:

**Bruce Weyrich** – President

**Ed Blair** – Vice-President

**Bob Kaufman** – Secretary/Treasurer

**Clair Rowett** – Director

**Rich Grosch** – Director

**Brook Looby** – Director

### STAFF:

**Dennis Kinslow** – Manager

**Lisa Symonds** – Bookkeeper

### STATISTICS:

**Hookups** – 275

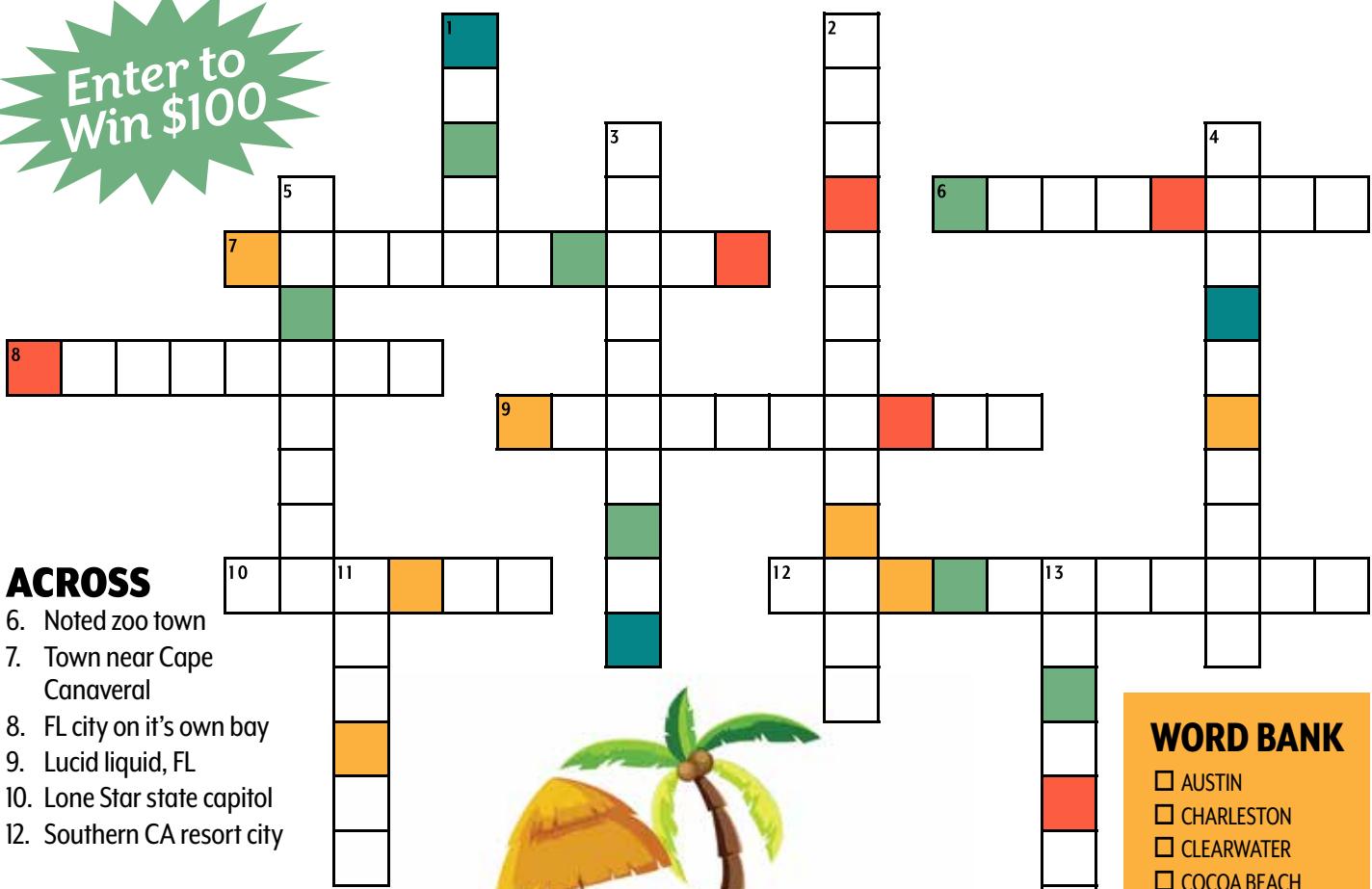
**Miles of Pipeline** – 3,100

**Water Source** – wells

**Counties Served** – Meade

# RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

## SNOWBIRD DESTINATIONS



### WORD BANK

- AUSTIN
- CHARLESTON
- CLEARWATER
- COCOA BEACH
- HONOLULU
- NEW ORLEANS
- PALM SPRINGS
- PHOENIX
- SAN DIEGO
- SARASOTA
- SEDONA
- TAMPA
- VIRGINIA BEACH

### 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 January 10, 2022 to be entered into the \$100 drawing.

Only one entry allowed per address/household. You must be a member of a participating rural water system to be eligible for the prize.

Your information will only be used to notify the winner, and will not be shared or sold.

Congratulations to Perry Fischer with Mid-Dakota Rural Water who had the correct phrase of "HARD WORK BEATS TALENT" for January 2022.

# SDARWS NAMED STATE ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR



The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) was recently named State Association of the Year by the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) at the 2021 WaterPro Conference in Milwaukee, WI. 2021 is the sixth year in a row SDARWS has been recognized by NRWA. SDARWS has previously received this award in 1993, 2011, and 2017.

"The most prestigious and most honored award is the State Association of the Year," said Tom Speer, the NRWA Awards Committee chair. "It is presented to the state association that projects a team effort in all areas of professional association operations and membership service. SDARWS has excelled in all categories of the award, accomplished by teamwork, strong leadership, and member support."

Whether assisting a municipality with a water leak, troubleshooting lagoon issues, or conducting high-quality training, the staff at SDARWS work hard to serve their members. When it comes to training and technical expertise, no other entity in South Dakota comes close to the magnitude and value of their work.

SDARWS' staff has decades of experience in the industry, allowing them to do everything from one-on-one certification training to hands-on operation and maintenance training. They work as a team to assist our members with their needs, ranging from finding leaks to applying for RD loans and grants and completing Risk and Resiliency Assessments and VA/ERPs. Staff is encouraged to pursue training to remain experts in their fields. Three staff are FAA Drone Pilot certified to assist with tank inspection and leak detection. Five staff are certified through the American Backflow Prevention Association to assist with cross-connection and backflow prevention programs and seek further certification as trainers/proctors for backflow prevention programs.

Leak detection assistance has increased SDARWS' membership base. Thanks to a strong partnership with their

state primacy agency, they have cost-shared equipment to convert our technical assistance trailers into emergency response vehicles. SDARWS also serves as the headquarters for South Dakota's Water Agency Response Network (WARN) to assist with equipment and manpower in an emergency.

SDARWS' public relations efforts include the *Quality on Tap!* consumer magazine that reaches over 35,000 households and communicates the rural water message, and a technical magazine, *ServiceLine*, that reaches all system operations specialists, regional rural water systems, and decision-makers in our state. Members and NRWA routinely ask SDARWS to assist with special projects to promote water; this year's highlights include developing a magazine to use at the Big Sioux and Sioux Empire Water Children's Water Festivals, and creating specialty graphics to share information regarding water and COVID-19 on social media.

SDARWS has three registered lobbyists in the state capitol. Under the leadership of Executive Director Kurt Pfeifle, they monitor and support important issues to rural water systems, including battling the Corps of Engineers over water rights and supporting continued funding of South Dakota's state Water Omnibus bill.

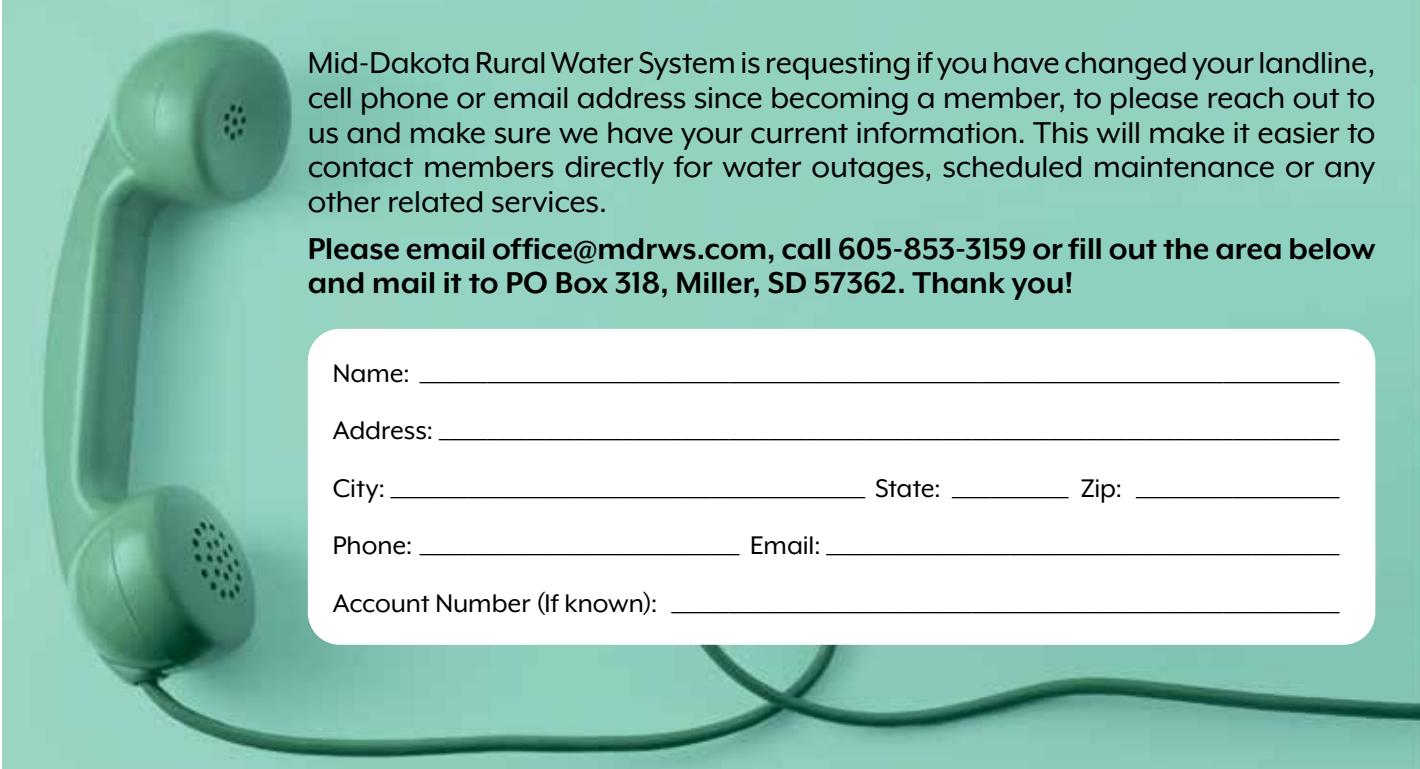
Headquartered in Madison, SD, SDARWS is a nonprofit membership organization committed to helping communities provide safe drinking water and wastewater services through on-site technical assistance, specialized training, and legislative support. SDARWS has 13 staff who work under the direction of Executive Director Kurt Pfeifle. SDARWS members are rural and municipal water and wastewater systems and affiliated businesses that provide safe, clean drinking water. Since its founding in 1976, SDARWS is an affiliate of the National Rural Water Association, America's largest utility membership organization representing over 31,000 public water and wastewater systems nationwide.





*Merry Christmas  
& Happy New Year!*

From the Mid-Dakota Staff  
and Board of Directors



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

# JIM MCGILLVREY PRESENTED 2021 SOUTH DAKOTA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Jim McGillvrey of Wolsey has been awarded the 2021 Upper Missouri Water Association Distinguished Service Award for the state of South Dakota. The award is presented annually to a person or group from each of the four states within the association: North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. Award winners are recognized for their distinguished service in the field of water resource development and a quality environment.

McGillvrey was born and raised in Wolsey and attended Wolsey School. He worked with his father in the family business, "Dean's Standard," and later purchased and ran the business for 46 years. McGillvrey was dedicated to giving back to the community that he cared for deeply. He served 25 years on the volunteer fire department, 20 as the chief. He served on the Wolsey School Board for 31 years.

In 2005, McGillvrey was elected to the board of directors of the Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, acting as chairman from 2014 to 2020, while at the same time serving as representative on the State Association Board. The Upper Missouri Water Association is proud to honor him for his dedication to water and his community.



*Jim McGillvrey*



## Rate Table Effective January 1, 2022

### 501 Residential 1-Unit

\$43.00	per month minimum bill
\$5.15	per 1,000 gallons 1st 33,000
\$7.40	per 1,000 gallons over 33,000

### 502 Rural Household 2-Units

\$53.00	per month minimum bill
\$5.15	per 1,000 gallons 1st 10,000
\$4.12	per 1,000 gallons next 56,000
\$7.40	Per 1,000 gallons over 66,000

### 504 Rural Household 4-Units

\$71.00	per month minimum bill
\$5.15	per 1,000 gallons 1st 10,000
\$4.12	per 1,000 gallons next 122,000
\$7.40	per 1,000 gallons over 132,000

### 506 Rural Household 6-Units

\$88.00	per month minimum bill
\$5.15	per 1,000 gallons 1st 10,000
\$4.12	per 1,000 gallons next 188,000
\$7.40	per 1,000 gallons over 198,000

### 511 Livestock

\$31.00	per month minimum bill
\$4.12	per 1,000 gallons 1st 300,000 (per year)
\$5.15	per 1,000 gallons 301,000 to 700,000 (per year)
\$7.40	per 1,000 gallons over 700,000 (per year)

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

\$16.40	per GPM per month minimum bill
\$26.00	per GPM per month demand charge
\$0.57	per 1,000 gallons

### 163, 166 Special Class III

\$4.69	per Pers (equiv) per month minimum bill
\$5.05	per Pers (equiv) per month demand charge
\$0.57	per 1,000 gallons up to contract amount
\$7.40	per 1,000 gallons over contract amount

1 Minimum & demand charges do not include any water.

2 Livestock (511) water allocations are annual use, not monthly.

3 "equivalent" population "person" = contract GPD ÷ 270

## MID-DAKOTA CALENDAR

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

**December 24 – Christmas Day (Observed)**

**December 31 – New Year's Day (Observed)**

**January 17 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

**February 21 – President's Day**

*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.*

**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

## State Navigable Streams

Navigable streams in South Dakota are considered public highways and the right of the public to use such streams can not be prohibited or unduly restricted. Under State law, a stream, or portion of a stream, is considered navigable if it can support a vessel capable of carrying one or more persons throughout the period between the May 1st and September 30th, inclusive, in 2 out of every 10 years (SDCL 43-17-34).

In 1990, legislation was enacted to allow fencing of certain navigable streams provided that a gate be installed in the fence crossing the stream. Rivers and creeks in the state where gates are required in fences include portions of the Bad, Big Sioux, Cheyenne, East Vermillion, Elm, Grand, Little White, Moreau, Redwater, Vermillion, and White Rivers; and Flandreau, Firesteel, Moccasin, Splitrock, and Turtle Creeks.

The Missouri River, James River, Boise des Sioux River, and the lower five miles of the Big Sioux River are designated as navigable rivers pursuant to federal law and may not be fenced under any circumstances.



**Gate and Fence Requirements.** Fences constructed across navigable streams are required to have a gate with a minimum opening size of 6-feet high by 6-feet wide and the opening must be outlined with reflective tape or other highly visible material. In addition, reflectors or highly visible material must also be attached to the fence connecting the gate with the stream bank, and the reflectors must be no more than 25 feet apart and visible from both up and downstream. If no livestock are present, then the gates need to be removed or kept open.

A “Guide to Fencing of Navigable Streams” brochure is available online at: [danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/WaterRights/docs/StreamFencingGuide.pdf](http://danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/WaterRights/docs/StreamFencingGuide.pdf). This brochure outlines the responsibilities of landowners and recreationists as well as fencing requirements. In addition, a complete listing of applicable statutes and rules are available for review in South Dakota Codified Laws 43-17-34 through 43-17-41, and Administrative Rules of South Dakota Chapter 74:02:10.



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