



MID DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM

Quality On Tap!

January 2019 | Volume 15, Issue 3

**UNLOCK SECRETS
IN THE SOIL**

STEP UP AND SERVE

**YOUR RURAL WATER
MEMBERSHIP
AGREEMENT**

FROM THE MANAGER

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



Where has the summer gone? It seems like we were just digging out of winter and already a new winter season is upon us. Mid-Dakota has not progressed as fast as was anticipated on construction projects, but the main line expansion project has been bid and we are currently working with Rural Development on paperwork to proceed. It is anticipated that construction will begin spring of 2020 on the additional mainline pipeline with completion of all phases in the fall of 2020. The additional 1.5-million-gallon water storage tank that will be constructed at the Highmore tank site will also begin construction in the spring of 2020 with completion fall of 2021. The merging of the Town of Ree Heights into Mid-Dakota individual customers hit a snag, but in my opinion, is back on track and hopefully will bid soon to start construction in the spring of 2020. In October Mid-Dakota started work on an additional lagoon at the Water Treatment Plant; this will help with the water treatment process by having a place to store the wash water recovery water. In short, having this lagoon will help the Water Treatment Plant process water faster by not having to deal with the backwash water used to clean the filters, making the plant more efficient.

Mid-Dakota held its 27th Annual Meeting of the Membership on October 17, 2019. We again hosted the meeting using the “come & go” (open-house) format. Just under 200 members and guests visited our offices. 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 can we do differently etc... The end goal is that we want to conduct an annual meeting that entices a lot of people to attend, which is fun and valuable to the people who do attend.

We hope the Christmas season finds you all in good spirits and the new year is prosperous and kind to you as well!



Quality On Tap!

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Mid Dakota Rural Water System, Inc.
608 W. 14th 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

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Steve Robbennolt 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

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Jamie Brueggeman Office Administrator
Terrek Butterfield Asset Manager
Sandy Holt Customer Accounts Specialist
Tammy Oligmueller Customer Accounts Specialist
Kristen Arthur Customer Accounts Specialist

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DeAnn Hargens Customer & Legal Records Specialist
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Mike Polak Water Treatment Plant Specialist
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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. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Rate Adjustments for 2020

It is hard to believe that Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc. started serving its customers over 20 years ago. Even though it is no longer a brand new water treatment and delivery system, Mid-Dakota continues to update its facilities to take advantage of better treatment technology. New upgrades are researched and implemented to provide customers the best service possible. Repairs and replacements become more necessary as the system ages. Costs continue to rise for fuel, chemicals, personnel, electricity, etc.

After assessing the increased costs to do business, the board voted to increase rates by approximately 4%. The Class I & II Municipal and Individual bulk customers will increase from \$40.40 to \$41.40 per GPM per month and the water will raise \$0.05 cents from \$0.50 to \$0.55 per 1,000 gallons. The Class III Municipal and Individual bulk customers will increase from \$9.24 to \$9.44 per person. The water will increase from \$0.50 to \$0.55 per 1,000 gallons and the water over the user's contract will increase from \$7.00 to \$7.25 per 1,000 gallons.

The minimum bill on the Residential, Rural Household and Livestock will increase \$1.00 per month: Residential – \$43.00; Rural Household 2-Units – \$53.00; Rural Household 4-Units – \$71.00; Rural Household 6-Units – \$88.00; and Livestock – \$31.00. Water rates increase by \$0.25: \$4.75 will be \$5.00 per 1,000 gallons; \$3.75 will be \$4.00 per 1,000 gallons; and \$7.00 will be \$7.25. These new prices will go into effect January 1, 2020, but will not be reflected on your bill until the February billing when you are billed for your January water usage.

The directors and staff at Mid-Dakota take seriously their fiduciary responsibility to ensure that Mid-Dakota remains a viable utility. The customers are provided water that is safe and dependable and the staff is here to serve each one to the best of their ability. Implementing rate adjustments are necessary for the future of the water system and its ability to serve the generations to come.



Rate Table Effective January 1, 2020

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

MID DAKOTA CALENDAR

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

December 24 – Christmas Eve (closing at 3:00 PM)

December 25 – Christmas Day

January 1 – New Year's Day

February 17 – 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

or call the answering service direct at

1-888-545-7440



For online bill paying:
www.mdrws.com



GALE AUCH RETIRES

After almost 20 years of service to Mid-Dakota, Gale Auch retired on October 31. Mid-Dakota wishes Gale well in this next chapter.



*Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year*

from the
Mid-Dakota Staff
and Board of Directors

YOUR RURAL WATER SYSTEM MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT

*By Dave Larson,
Attorney for the West River/Lyman Jones
Rural Water System*



Did you know that your Rural Water System is a not for profit membership association, meaning that instead of being owned by a group of faceless stockholders with a headquarters in some far off place, the Rural Water System is owned by the people that use it, right here in our community.

Most of us have become members of the Rural Water System without giving it much thought. We met with one of the employees, signed the papers they hand us, and forgot all about it. You shouldn't. One of the papers signed, is your membership agreement, and that one document forms the entire basis of your relationship to the Rural Water System.

On its most basic level, the membership agreement serves as your application for service. Without signing it and requesting service, you are not going to get water. But, the importance of the membership agreement doesn't stop there. The membership agreement is a contract between you, the Rural Water System and the other members. As a contract, the membership agreement sets the legal framework for all of your interactions with the system.

One of the most important things the membership agreement does is establish who the member is. Is the member you? Is it your spouse? Is it your corporation, partnership, or LLC? If you are married, are you and your spouse "joint members?" Unless your name is on the agreement, you are not a member. If you are not a member, you have none of the rights of membership.

Unless you are a member, or in the case of a legal entity that is a member are authorized to vote for the entity, you have no right to vote. You have no vote in the director elections. You have no vote on the bylaws. You have no right to serve as a director of the system. In short; you have no right to participate in the governance of the system.

Unless you are a member, you have no right to obtain information regarding an account. You don't have the right to terminate service or redirect the billing. Those things can only be done by the member or their legally authorized representative.

Along with the benefits of membership, the membership agreement also establishes the basis of your obligations to the system. When you sign the membership agreement, you agree that you will be bound by the bylaws and polices of the system. Those include both the present rules, and future rules adopted by the members and board of directors, so long as you continue to be a member.

If you are the member, you are the one obligated to pay the bill, regardless of who actually lives at the meter location or uses the water. As the member, you are the one legally responsible.

Signing the membership doesn't just obligate you to pay your bill. One of the most important obligations is the requirement that you provide your Rural Water System with the easements necessary to serve both you, and other members. Because the members are all in this together, one of the requirements for members, from the very beginning, was that the members cooperate with each other in providing the necessary easements to run the water lines necessary to serve all our members.

Signing the membership agreement also obligates you to respect the right of way and the Rural Water System facilities. It obligates you not to build over the water lines, or do anything that would damage a line, relief valve, meter, or make it impossible to access and perform necessary maintenance.

Signing the membership agreement is more than just an application for service. It is the entire basis of the Rural Water System commitment to you, and your commitment to the Rural Water System and the other members.

STEP UP AND SERVE

Beyond the Coffee Shop Recruitment of Decision Makers

By Jay Jorgensen
Manager, TM Rural Water District



Here in the Midwest, it is the common practice of farmers and small-town residents to meet daily for their morning cup of Joe at the local gas station or café. Most of the time, like-minded individuals will sit and discuss local, state, and national issues once the daily discussion on the weather has concluded. Conversations discuss who's to blame for problems at all different levels of government and what needs to be done to reconcile these issues. I am certain that if anyone were taking minutes of these meetings, most would result in a plethora of quality ideas that we could wrap up and send to our local, state, and national representatives. The darker side of the coffee shop however involves

Ever thought of being a part of the change that you would like to see and be a decision maker yourself?

discussions that try to point blame at decision-makers and community leaders for anything that affects us personally in a negative way. Discussions taking this negative turn can quickly escalate out of control with wild unfounded accusations that are the result of speculation or, more likely, someone in the groups' personal dislikes of another person or group. The results of these types of discussions may hurt the community as a whole if the end result is nothing more than additional anger and frustration. Negativity is cannibalistic. The more you feed it, the bigger and stronger it grows. So what? That's just the way life is, right? Sure we all have a lot of great ideas that never go

anywhere because we are unwilling to take the next step to refine our ideas by bouncing them off of others due to fear of being criticized. Understandably we all have a fear of being singled out. Yet, most of us don't hesitate to condemn the decisions of local, state, or national Boards, Councils, or Committees, when they pass rules or policies that we feel are unfair to us. Have you ever thought about the decision-making process that those institutions went thru to create those rules or policies you disliked? Have you ever participated in the open meetings held by local Boards or Commissions looking for public input for the aforementioned rules or policies? Ever thought of being a part of the change that you would like to see and be a decision-maker yourself? Sadly, most of us would answer no. It is easier to be an armchair quarterback than to take the time to be fully informed and have to make the difficult and sometimes no-win decisions needed to keep our communities running dependably and efficiently. What would you do if you were in a position to make these rules and policies? If you had the same information, would you have agreed with the same unpopular decisions? Maybe, maybe not, you will never know unless you are willing to commit to serving on a Board or Council. What would happen if?

- What would happen if I started taking time each day to inform and educate myself by utilizing multiple news agencies to get a broad spectrum of information regarding local, state and national issues in order to gain a better understanding of the workings of all levels of my government?
- What would happen if I were to seek out differing opinions than my own and try to look at issues that concern me from another person's perspective?
- What would happen if I were to take the time to research rules and policies which I dislike and try to understand why these rules were created in order to get a better perspective?
- What would happen if I quit blaming others for something which I have within my power to change?
- What would happen if I was in a group of people where a positive conversation took a negative turn, and instead of adding to the negativity, I tried to turn the conversation positive once again.
- What would happen if I was able to sit down with a group of people that were not exactly of the same opinions and beliefs as myself to calmly and rationally research, discuss

and create rules and policies that would directly affect everyone in the community in which I live in a fair and consistent manner?

What would happen is you would become an excellent candidate to be on a Board, Council, or Committee. You would have the qualities required to become a Decision Maker.

I have always believed that South Dakota is filled with many rational, independent problem solvers who are the polar opposite of what we continue to see at the national level. Sadly, what we are reminded of on a daily basis is how difficult it is for the nation to get along, and sometimes that has a trickle-down effect on state and local governments. The common-sense advice I would offer decision-makers at all levels would be to listen more and talk less. The old adage, "wise people speak because they have something to say; foolish people because they have to say something," has never been truer in the world we live in today.

One of the best ways to make a difference in your community is to volunteer to serve on a local Nonprofit or Governmental Entity's Board of Directors. The Board members are in a unique position to make decisions and implement changes and policies that can affect their entire community. The policies and rules created by these Boards may not always be popular but almost always are necessary for the efficient operation of the organizations that they represent.

One of the best ways to make a difference in your community is to volunteer to serve on a local Nonprofit or Governmental Entity's Board of Directors.

Finally, an added benefit of serving on a Board, Council or Committee is the new people you'll meet, the new connections you'll make and the knowledge you will gain. By working together to solve common problems, you may end up bettering yourself in ways you never imagined. You may also learn new skills and obtain additional training, all of

which could help you discover a new career or find a better job.

One last thing and this is important; one should never attempt to serve on a Board due to your desire to change just one thing. Those that desire to serve with such a narrow personal agenda are destined to be a wrecking ball to the community they are representing. When serving on a Board every member must come into each meeting with an open mind and no preconceived notions.

Choose to serve your community.

unlock the SECRETS IN THE SOIL

Is protecting America's natural resources – our rivers, lakes and streams, groundwater, air, and wildlife habitat – and reducing use of fossil fuels part of your corporate sustainability goals?

Do your customers demand products grown using good environmental stewardship practices?

Is your company interested in sustainability gains related to water, energy, carbon and the environment?

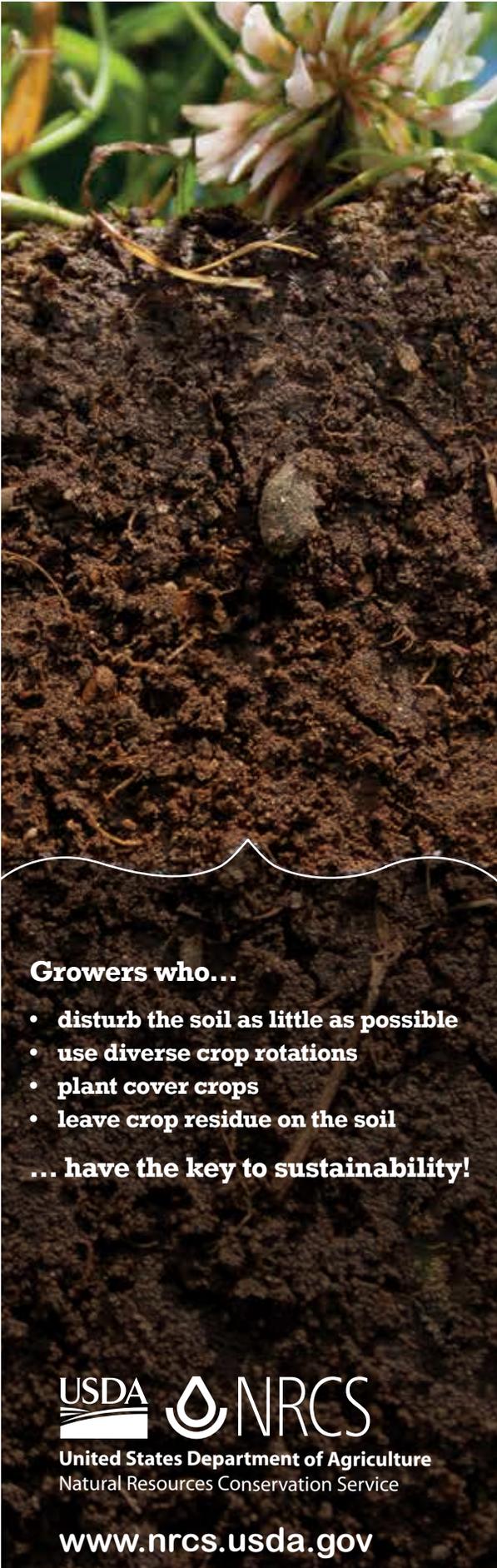
By following four basic soil health principles, producers can improve their soil health and sustainability:

1. Keep the soil covered as much as possible
2. Disturb the soil as little as possible
3. Keep plants growing throughout the year to feed the soil
4. Grow a variety of plants to diversify soil

Check in with YOUR growers about healthy, productive soils.

Soil Health Management Systems can help America's growers feed the nation and the world through sustainable conservation practices. The guide below provides an at-a-glance view of specific sustainability benefits associated with soil health improving practices. It is important to note that not all practices are applicable to all crops. Some operations will benefit from just one soil health practice, while others may require additional practices for maximum benefit.

Soil Health Management Systems include:		How does it help environmentally and economically?								
		DECREASES PEST PRESSURES	IMPROVES NUTRIENT USE EFFICIENCY	IMPROVES WATER QUALITY	CONSERVES WATER	IMPROVES PLANT HEALTH	IMPROVES WATER EFFICIENCY TO CROPS	SAVES NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES	IMPROVES AIR QUALITY	INCREASES PLANT POLLINATION
Conservation Crop Rotation <small>Growing a diverse number of crops in a planned sequence in order to increase soil organic matter and biodiversity in the soil.</small>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cover Crop <small>An un-harvested crop grown as part of planned rotation to provide conservation benefits to the soil.</small>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
No Till <small>A way of growing crops without disturbing the soil through tillage.</small>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mulch Tillage <small>Using tillage methods where the soil surface is disturbed but maintains a high level of crop residue on the surface.</small>				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mulching <small>Applying plant residues or other suitable materials to the soil surface to compensate for loss of residue due to excessive tillage.</small>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Nutrient Management <small>Managing soil nutrients to meet crop needs while minimizing the impact on the environment and the soil.</small>			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Pest Management <small>Managing pests and promoting the growth of healthy plants with strong defenses, while increasing stress on pests and enhancing the habitat for beneficial organisms.</small>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Soil health matters.

Soil is made up of air, water, decayed plant residue, organic matter from living and dead organisms, and mineral matter, such as sand, silt, and clay. Increasing organic matter typically improves soil functions including nutrient cycling and water infiltration. Healthy soils are porous, and allow air and water to move freely through them.

Healthy, fully functioning soil provides an environment that sustains and nourishes plants, soil microbes, and beneficial insects. Crops grown in healthy soil are more resilient because they resist pest pressure and use nutrients more efficiently. Managing for soil health is one of the easiest and most effective ways for farmers to increase productivity and profitability while also improving the environment.

Sustainability Solutions in the Soil

Crops grown in healthy, productive soil provide a wide range of on- and off-the-farm sustainability benefits. Whether you do business with large-scale operations or small farms, healthy soil practices can be applied to all.

When farmers manage their land to maintain or improve soil health, we all harvest the benefits of improved sustainability.

Healthy soil...

Saves farmers money – since reducing or eliminating tillage means fewer passes over fields, and healthy soils use inputs like water and nutrients more efficiently, production costs are lower.

Boosts production – plants thrive because more organic matter and soil organisms improve soil structure, aeration, water retention, drainage, and nutrient availability.

Protects against drought – because healthy soil has greater water infiltration and holding capacity, more water is available to plants when they need it, like during periods of drought.

Safeguards resources – runoff that causes flooding or carries nutrients and pesticides into lakes, rivers, and streams is reduced. There is less leaching into groundwater. And, fewer trips across fields with farm machinery mean less fuel used and fewer emissions to harm air quality.

Growers who...

- **disturb the soil as little as possible**
- **use diverse crop rotations**
- **plant cover crops**
- **leave crop residue on the soil**

... have the key to sustainability!



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

www.nrcs.usda.gov

Ask your growers if they know about NRCS' Soil Health Management Systems.

Contact us: For more information, contact Jeff Zimprich, Soil Conservationist, NRCS South Dakota State Office, (605) 352-1200, jeffrey.zimprich@usda.gov, or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov

MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM, INC.

In December of 1987, four individuals serving on an interim board sat in a conference room at the office of May, Adam, Gerdes and Thompson in Pierre, SD and signed the Articles of Incorporation for Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc. It was their hope that by forming this corporation they would see relief from the water problems experienced within the area by constructing a rural water system similar to other systems in the state of South Dakota. Thanks to the help from many volunteers, government agencies, staff and the board of directors, many are now enjoying a clean and dependable supply of drinking water.

The majority of the aquifers in the 7,000 square mile service area of the Mid-Dakota Rural Water System contain bacteria, nitrates, sulfates, sodium, iron and total dissolved

solids far above acceptable standards. These contaminants posed a health hazard to humans and animals alike. Those drinking the water from the aquifers with these contaminants could experience such conditions as diarrhea and diuresis in adults, blue baby syndrome, and high blood pressure, infant mortality in livestock, loss of production in dairy cattle, or loss of gain in feeder stock. Not only did some experience inadequate water quality, but some people were not even able to drill a well and receive any water. These people had to haul all the water for their own needs and livestock needs.

Through hard work, Mid-Dakota received its authorization in 1992 in a bill signed by President George H. W. Bush entitled P.L. 102-575 and funding was administered through the Bureau of Reclamation. Construction on



MID-DAKOTA STATISTICS:

Hookups: 6,067 • **Miles Of Pipeline:** 3,835 • **Water Source:** Oahe Reservoir on the Missouri River

Counties Served: (All of) Beadle, Hand, Hughes, Hyde, Jerauld, Potter, Sully. (Portions of) Aurora, Buffalo, Davison, Kingsbury, Sanborn, Faulk, Spink

Towns Served Individual: Agar, Broadland, Cavour, Harrold, Lane, Lebanon, Oahe Plains Development, Orient, Polo, Storla, Virgil, Yale

Communities Served Bulk: Alpena, Blunt, Gettysburg, Highmore, Hitchcock, Hoven, Huron, Miller, Onida, Ree Heights, St. Lawrence, Spring Creek Sanitary System, Tolstoy, Tulare, Wessington, Wolsey

Individual Bulk Customers: Agtegra Cooperative, Agtegra-Wolsey, Agtegra-Miller, Agtegra-Tulare, Jasen Albrecht, B&B Equipment, Barber Farm Services, Neal & Linda Bartel, Brown Agronomy Center, Cannon River Ranches (2), Cheyenne Ridge Lodge, Christensen Farms A, Christensen Farms B, Christensen Farms A C, Christensen Farms D, Christensen Farms and Feedlot, CHS, Inc., Maxon & Linda Conkey, Consolidated Ready Mix, Mark & Delilah Cotton, Cowan Ranch, Crete Ready Panel, Crop Production Services, Das Agri Genetics, Del Acres Trailer Park, Michael S. DeRouche Inc., DNA Genetics, Eagle Pass Lodge LLC, Fulton Ranch, Harrold Housing, Heartland Pork, Huron Continental Marketing, The Junction, Stan Kopfmann A, Stan Kopfmann B, Doug Kroepelin Farms, Amy Lake, Liberty Farms LLC, Links Snacks Inc., Mayer Ranches Inc., Mid-Dakota WTP FO, Miller Dale Colony, M & K Farms (2), Doyle Musick, Nachtigal Farms Inc., Our Home Inc., Paul Nelson Farms, Peoria Flats Cattle Co., Potter County Oahe Water Association, Red River Grain, Ringneck Energy LLC, River Crossing Resort, Rivers Edge Landing LLC, David Runge, Sal Roseland, Scattergun Lodge, Robert Schlechter, Spencer Livestock, Spring Valley Colony, SD GF&P- Lake Louise, SD GF&P-Little Bend, SD GF&P Okobojo Point, SD Soybean Processors, Tim & Melanie Stampe (2), Sunshine Bible Academy, Sutton Bay LLC A, Sutton Bay LLC B, Sutton Bay LLC C, Chad & Sara Thompson, Twisted Land and Cattle, US Corps of Engineers, Mark & Terri Undeberg (TMT), West Whitlock Resort, Matthew Wiebe

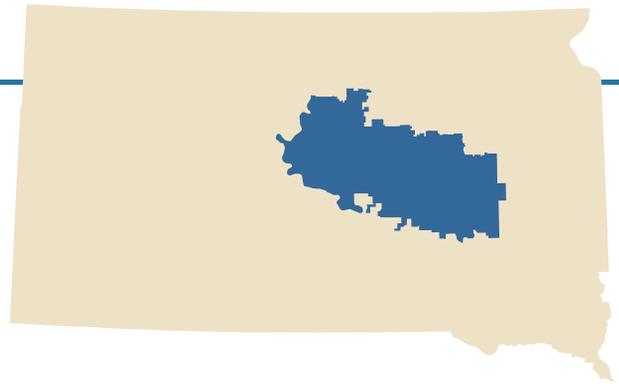
the project engineered by Bartlett & West Engineers of Topeka, KS began in September of 1994 on the Oahe Water Intake on the Oahe Dam north of Pierre, SD. Every year, directors and staff went to Washington, DC to request funding for the project and completion of the authorized project was in 2006.

The customers of Mid-Dakota are currently being served by a system which consists of: a water intake with four 400-hp pumps and a caisson that is 108' deep connected to a pipeline that is bored and jacked 1,100' into Corps Bay on Lake Oahe; a water treatment plant that can produce 13 ½ million gallons of water per day using a state-of-the art ultrafiltration submerged membranes treatment system which uses four 500-hp pumps to send the water to the distribution system; 4,700 miles of pipeline in sizes ranging from 1 ½" to 36"; 5,500 meters; 16 treated water storage tanks ranging from 100,000 to 2,500,000 gallons capacity, 2 raw water storage tanks; 14 booster stations; and a state-of-the art SCADA system which allows every aspect of the rural water system to be monitored. In order to get more water past Highmore, Mid-Dakota will see construction starting this spring on a mainline extension. This includes an additional 1.5 million gallon tank to the west of the existing tank. It will also include additional pipeline parallel to Hwy 14.

Ree Heights is having their mains and services replaced or repaired. The project will then be turned over to Mid-Dakota once it is complete.

Mid-Dakota serves a population of approximately 31,000 which includes 25 communities and towns, the largest of which is Huron. The residents of eleven smaller communities are currently served on an individual basis which has allowed those communities to get out of the drinking water business. Mid-Dakota also has Administrative Agreements with several towns which provide that town with the services of Mid-Dakota's operators to do the day-to-day operations and the billing department sends out and collects their bills. The system has 28 full-time employees and is governed by a nine-member board of directors.

It has not been an easy road but it has been well worth the effort. The system has experienced problems such as: a moratorium on new hookups when capacity was sold out; mainline washouts caused by flooding; funding shortages during initial construction; power outages during storms, etc. Even so, the staff and the board of directors have been able to assess the problem and maintain a dependable supply of water to Mid-Dakota customers. Mid-Dakota Rural Water System is a prime example of how big things can get done when people dare to dream of a better quality of life for all.



DIRECTORS:

- James McGillvrey** – Chairman/SA Director
- Dwight Gutzmer** – Vice Chairman
- Jeff McGirr** – Secretary/Treasurer
- Rick Benson** – Director
- Leslie Brown** – Director
- Lennis Fagerhaug** – Director
- Scott Oligmueller** – Director
- Darrell Rashcke** – Director
- Steve Robbenolt** – Director

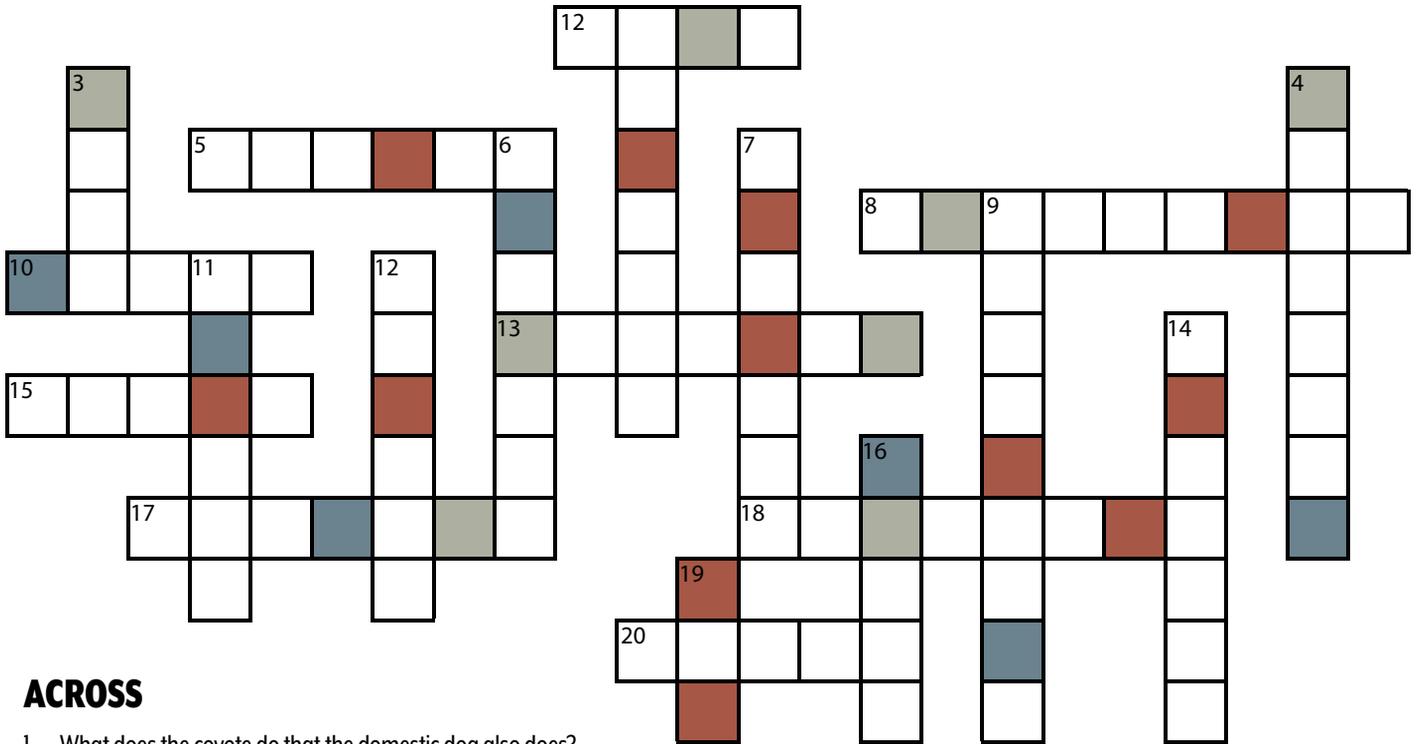
STAFF:

- Manager** – Scott Gross
- Operations Manager** – Lorin Johnson
- Water Treatment Plant Manager** – Bill Sarringer
- Member Services Manager** – Susan Hargens
- Financial Manager** – Connie Aymar
- Water Treatment Specialists**
 - Mike Polak, Steve Laird
- Electrical Specialist** – Randy Bauer
- Main Transmission Pipe Specialist** – Michael Nicholson
- Water Distribution Specialists** –
 - Shane Bothwell, Troy Dorris, Calvin Kindle, Scott Manning, Mark Gran, Scott Perry, Ron Ramsey, Al Thomas, Gary Tobin
- Small Systems Specialist** – Mike McCready
- Operations & Maintenance Specialist** – Wayne Ruhnke
- Data Aquisition Specialist** – Craig Lunde
- Hookup Specialist** – Shane Bush
- Office Administrator** – Jamie Brueggeman
- Customer & Legal Records Specialist** – DeAnn Hargens
- Customer Accounts Specialists** –
 - Sandy Holt, Tammy Oligmueller, Kristen Arthur

RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

THE HUNT

Enter to Win \$100



ACROSS

1. What does the coyote do that the domestic dog also does?
5. A spread of these range in sizes from standard to super magnum
8. Breed of gun dog good for pheasant hunting
10. Snows and Blues
13. Jakes and Jennies
15. Cover device for hunters
17. Deer meat
18. Process of looking for a good hunting spot
20. Like many bird species, the males of this breed of waterfowl often have more colorful feathers than their female counterparts.

DOWN

2. Type of hunting using a bow
3. Deer, but not related to a Donkey
4. Ring Neck
6. Weapon popularly used for bird hunting
7. Popular hunting outfitter in southeast South Dakota
9. Open or enclosed platforms used by hunters
11. Waterfowl and pheasant hunting hours typically end at _____
12. Ruffed, Sage, Blue, Spruce
14. Moving a lure to attract fish
16. This spooks game very easily
19. Deer breeding season

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 with the correct phrase by January 10, 2020 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 Kathy Gilbert of Hitchcock who had the correct phrase of "luck is not a strategy" for October 2019.

RURAL WATER

ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA

NEW WATER MAINS COMING TO OLDHAM

Many of our South Dakota rural communities are facing aging water pipe infrastructure and significant water loss. Oldham has been a bulk customer of Kingbrook Rural Water System, Inc., dating back to October 1988.

The City of Oldham received a Small Community Planning Grant to study its water utility and make recommendations for improvements. Funding for the engineering study came from the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SD DENR), East Dakota Water Development District, and Kingbrook Rural Water. The report identified three alternatives for the Community. The Town selected the alternative that would allow continued operation of their existing elevated tank and replacement of all its existing pipe.

Kingbrook submitted the funding application to the SD DENR and was awarded \$1,245,000 in funding. \$945,000 is “principal forgiveness” leaving \$300,000 to be paid back by Kingbrook Rural Water at 2.25% interest for 30 years. There is \$44,000 in “local contribution”, which is generally from a \$500 signup fee collected from the individual customers in Oldham.

The City water distribution system was built in the mid-1960’s and is composed of 4,” 6,” and 8” mainlines. The pipe material is reported to be asbestos cement (AC) pipe.

By the time of the publication DGR will be approaching 80% design of Oldham’s new water system. Kingbrook began performing a team review of the new design with our management team and the operator(s) that support Oldham, SD. By doing this, we found it gives the team a sense of true ownership. When construction is ready to begin, the team is 100% clear of the expectations and outcome of the project.

Kingbrook Rural Water Systems Inc., and the City of Oldham will benefit immensely with the installation of “The BEACON® Advanced Metering Analytics” (AMA) managed solution from Badger Meter. Each meter will be located outside the home for easier access and brings a new level of utility-optimizing information to light.

With any new construction, there are many obstacles to overcome when you’re putting new water mains in an entire community. It is critical to identify these early on and find solutions before the project begins.

For example, poor cell service exists in this area and will require an additional booster in order to work efficiently for cell phone, GPS equipment and GIS mapping. GIS can work offline but not

very effectively.

Another example is how does one locate the existing water and sewer lines as they are today? How Kingbrook plans to resolve this issue is to write an RFQ (request for quote) that will outline our expectations of locating and mapping both systems (water & sewer) to approximately 50’ outside the home before the project starts and provide this data to the contractor awarded the bid. As we all know, working around unmarked utilities is challenging, time consuming and can be extremely dangerous. Every nine minutes an underground utility is damaged. This is one way to prevent the unknown, but it also comes at a cost.

Anytime you have a large-scale project, utility coordination is critical, so each utility is made aware how to staff their locating teams to support the project. Generally, these conversations take place in early January prior to spring/summer construction by contacting them individually and making each utility aware of the size, scope of the project, months construction is expected and weekly production to assure they are staffed accordingly.

Communication on a project of this nature is instrumental to its success. Public meetings will start in March prior to contractor selection and once contractor selection has been made, a preconstruction meeting will be held where all parties will be included. Weekly safety meetings are held that include Kingbrook staff, contractor, utilities and landowners are invited to attend. This allows an opportunity to discuss production rates, utility locating issues, landowner concerns, etc.

With any new construction comes the concern of concrete, asphalt, lawn and multiple other types of damages. What Kingbrook plans to do is pre-record the specific area that will be worked in prior to any construction using a GoPro high resolution camera to ensure the areas constructed will be restored to it’s original if not better condition. These videos will be archived for future needs.

Setting the expectations up front drastically reduces the volume of calls your office will take during construction of this nature. By identifying a Project Manager and Operator to lead the project and lay out these expectations, these calls can be avoided or at least minimized.

Kingbrook Rural Water Systems Inc. is looking forward to successfully bringing new water mains to Oldham, SD in 2020. If there are any questions related to upcoming construction in Oldham, SD, please feel free to contact Erin Hayes at 605-983-5074.



2019 ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS

Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Inc. held its 27th Annual Meeting using a “Come and Go” Format on the 17th day of October in 2019. 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 194 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 72 Members filled out forms to vote at the annual meeting.

Those attending the meeting were given a registration gift of a plastic cutting mat, a Mid-Dakota calendar, a copy of the annual report and Fiscal Year 2020 budget summary. Members were also given their choice of a beef or pork gift certificate. Members attending were given an opportunity to register for a NuWave 10-qt. Digital Air Fryer with a value of \$150.00 at the location where they attended the meeting. A Grand Prize which was a KitchenAid Pro 600 Series 6-qt Bowl-Lift Stand Mixer (\$500.00

value) was purchased and all who attended the meeting were given a chance to win. Winners of NuWave 10-Qt. Digital Air Fryers were: Delmar VanZee, Miller (Miller office); Leif Andol, Huron (Huron office); William Stoll, Pukwana (Wessington Springs office); Tim Gruis, Onida (Gettysburg office); and Bryon Reiser, Pierre (Water Treatment Plant, Pierre). The winner of the KitchenAid Pro 600 Series Mixer was Bernard Putnam, Pierre.

There wasn’t a contest for the expired director position in Rural Director District 1, so Steve Robbennolt retained his seat; no contest for the expired director position in Rural Director District 4, so Lennis Fagerhaug retained his seat; nor were there any additional nominating resolutions from Municipal Customers for Municipal at Large Director, so Jim McGillvrey retained his seat.

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.

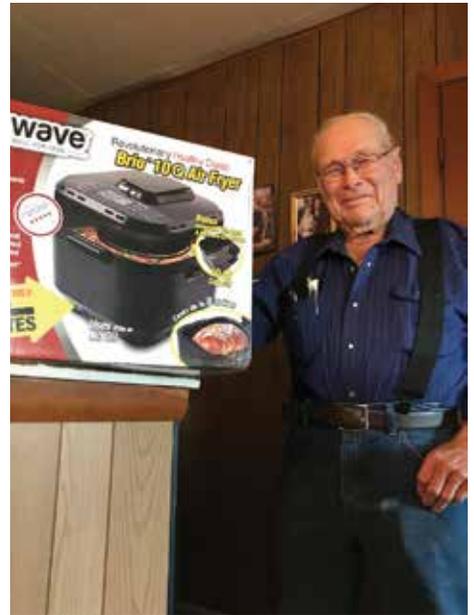




Delmar VanZee



Bernard Putnam



William Stoll



Leif Andol



Byron Reiser



Tim Gruis

THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES WERE:

OFFICES	MEMBERS
Miller Operations & Maintenance Center	19
Oahe Water Treatment Plant	23
Gettysburg Field Office	4
Huron Field Office	20
Wessington Springs Field Office	6
Total Members Filling out a Voting Form	72

WATER MATTERS

Recurrence Intervals for Water Events

When flood conditions occur because of a heavy rain or rapid spring snow melt, you might hear the radio or TV meteorologist say something like "This has resulted in a 100-year flood on the (your river name here), which crested at a stage of 20 feet." Obviously, this means that the river reached a peak stage (height) that happens only once every 100 years, right? Further, since this just happened, we do not have to worry about an event like this happening again for a very, very long time.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Hydrologists really don't like to hear a term like "100-year flood" because it represents a misinterpretation of terminology that often leads to a misconception (see interpretations above) of what a 100-year water event really is.

Statistical techniques, through a process called frequency analysis, are used to estimate the probability of the occurrence of a given event, such as rainfall or a flood level. The recurrence interval (sometimes called the return period) is based on the probability that the given event will be equaled or exceeded in any given year. For example, there is a 1 in 25 chance that 4.50 inches of rain will fall in Brookings County in a 24-hour period during any given year. Thus, a rainfall total of

4.50 inches in a consecutive 24-hour period is said to have a 25-year recurrence interval. In common language, this is likely to be called a 25-year rainfall event.

Likewise, using frequency analysis, there is a 1 in 100 chance that a stream flow of 33,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) will occur during any year at the Big Sioux River near Dell Rapids. Thus, a

peak flow of 30,000 cfs at the river flow gage near Dell Rapids is said to have a 100-year recurrence interval. This gets translated into calling this event a '100-year flood.'

Ten or more years of data are required to perform a frequency analysis for the determination of

recurrence intervals. More confidence can be placed in the results of a frequency analysis based on, for example, 30 years of record than on an analysis based on fewer data points.

So, the next time you hear someone refer to something as a 100-year flood, remember that this is just a statistical prediction. 100-year events, be they rainfall or flood, can occur whenever the conditions are right. This can include multiple occurrences within a single year. Just because something happened yesterday is no guarantee it will not happen again tomorrow.



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(605) 688-6741 • <http://eastdakota.org>