

MISSOURI WATER LINES

A PUBLICATION FOR MISSOURI'S WATER AND WASTEWATER INDUSTRY

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\$1,200,000
Water Revenue Bonds

Proceeds were used for engineering design and design related services associated with the acquiring, constructing and equipping of distribution system and appurtenance facilities for the connection Cities of Laddonia and Monroe City to the system.

City of Russellville, Missouri

\$1,146,000
Junior Lien Combined Waterworks and Sewerage System Revenue Bonds

Proceeds were used to acquire and construct improvements and/or extensions to the City's Combined Waterworks & Sewerage System.



Thomas Hill PWSD No. 1 of Randolph County, Missouri

\$1,539,500
Lease Purchase Agreement

Proceeds were used to construct a metal building for office space, work and storage areas, bathrooms and four drive thru equipment bays.

City of Mansfield, Missouri

\$2,885,000
Certificates of Participation

Proceeds were used to pay the costs of construction and installation of upgrades and improvements to the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

City of Rosebud, Missouri

\$1,272,000
Combined Waterworks and Sewerage System Revenue Bonds

Proceeds from the sale of the bonds were used to extend and improve the City's Combined Waterworks and Sewerage System

City of Cameron, Missouri

\$3,050,000
Certificates of Participation

Proceeds were used to reconstruct and improve roads and sidewalks, including new asphalt pavement, curb and gutter improvements and 5-foot wide ADA compliant sidewalks.

Lake Area Waste Water Association, Inc.

\$13,028,000
Bank Loan

Proceeds of the Loan were used to pay the costs of planning, designing and constructing improvements related to a new wastewater facility.

Missouri Public Utilities Commission


\$80,000,000
Interim Construction Notes

Proceeds of the Notes were issued to provide interim funding for Missouri municipal projects being funded through the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development.

City of Windsor, Missouri

\$3,200,000
Sewerage System Revenue Bonds

Proceeds from the sale of the bonds were used for the purpose of extending and improving the City's Sewerage System.



PWSD No. 1 of Grundy County, Missouri


\$440,957
Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement

Proceeds were used to improve the District's Waterworks System to include approx. 13,200 LF of 6" HDPE water mains and appurtenances.

City of Jonesburg, Missouri

\$707,768
Equipment Lease Purchase Agreement

Proceeds from the sale of the Lease were used for the Hoelscher Sanitary Sewer Extension and costs in connection with the execution and delivery of the lease.



PWSD No. 4 of Texas County, Missouri

\$1,340,000
Junior Lien Waterworks Revenue Bonds

Proceeds were used to acquire, construct, furnish, equip, extend and improve the District's Waterworks System.

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About the Cover:

Pictured is the Missouri River from the perspective of the Katy Trail. Photo taken by Eddie Kuttenkuler, Jefferson City.

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“To be the leading source of professional services, support and representation for water and wastewater utilities.”

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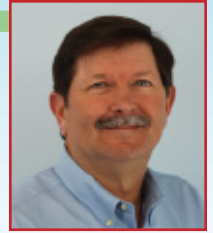
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From the Executive Director

Howard Baker, MRWA Executive Director



I have been giving out our Years of Service coins at our conferences for the last few years. This is a small way of saying thank you for the time you have put into this career. These coins start at 20 years and increase in 5-year intervals up to 45 years. They signify how long you have worked in this industry, not necessarily how long you have worked for one “company.”



Dave Waller has been with the same system for over 50 years and has served on the MRWA Board for over half of that time. I want to take this opportunity to share with you the impact Dave has had on our water and wastewater world.

Dave Waller started at a young age in 1966, helping his father at times at the City of Callao, a small town in Macon County, Missouri. I don't think it was a paying job, but this is undoubtedly how the seed of working in the water business started.

After serving in the Air Force with the Wild Weasel Squadron (a story he will have to tell you, and it's a good one), Dave took a job at his current water district, Macon County PWS #1. The year was 1974, and the job was that of a part-time inspector; they were starting the first phase of that district, and I was told that he was making \$2.50 per hour when he started. That part-time job quickly turned into a full-time job; he worked his way up and became the manager in 1982. That system now serves over 5,000 connections. He is still serving as the director for Macon County PWS #1. Dave retired from the district in 2012 but still helps part-time to this day.

That would have been plenty for most, but in 1983, he got together with others to form the Clarence Cannon Wholesale Water Commission (CCWWC). Dave has been with the CCWWC since its beginning. They provide water to member systems in 14 counties for over 74,000 people.



(continued on page 8)



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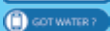
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(continued from page 4)



That is truly remarkable, but that is only part of the story. Not only did he serve his district and CCWWC, but he also joined the Missouri Rural Water Association Board in 1994. Helping to guide the association into one of the strongest state associations, working with the National Rural Water Association to serve all of Missouri's water and wastewater systems, Dave is currently the MRWA Board President. He has filled that role for 21 years. One of his many talents is his legislative knowledge, and that process affects each and every one of the water systems in the state.

Still, that is not the whole story. Not only has he served on our MRWA Board, but he also serves as Missouri's National Director for the National Rural

Water Association. Dave was elected to the NRWA Board of Directors in 2013. Since then, he has served on NRWA's Finance Committee, Membership Dues Committee, Scholarship Committee, Legislative Committee, Program Review Committee, and Long-Range Planning Committee.

Those NRWA positions have helped improve all State Water Associations serving water and wastewater systems for the entire country. Although "retired," he is still very active in improving our industry.

Someone rarely spends 50 years working in a career that most overlook its importance. It takes a special person to get up every day and do that job and put the effort into making it better for everyone, not just in his town, not just his county, not just his state, but in **every** state.

Now I can tell you that if you have been in this line of work very long, you can't make it without the support of your family. I know for a fact that when you were in the rural water business in the '70s-'80s, you did not have the luxury of cell phones. That often meant that the "emergency/after-hours number" was your home number, and your wife had to take all of the "I don't have any water" calls while you were out working on a leak and some other calls from people that, we will just say, are not very nice. There are a lot of different things the family must put up with, and because of that, I wanted to say thank you to Carlene, Dave's wife of 53 years, for helping Dave to help us.

If you happen to run into them at a conference or other MRWA event, thank both for making it better for all of us.





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Gold at The End of The Rainbow!

Gary Webber, MRWA Wastewater Technician



If you find yourself reading this article you likely did not win the latest Powerball Jackpot. So, you are still working toward that magic day when you can retire and enjoy the golden years. For some folks, that is a long way off, perhaps inconceivable. But the years go by very fast, and I hope that day comes for you along with a ***successful career in the water/wastewater industry!***

In recent years, the Missouri Rural Water Association has been recognizing individuals serving water or wastewater utilities over time with years of service coins. MRWA's Annual Conference sets aside time to recognize those in attendance. Medallions of 20, 30, 40 years or more are handed to these professionals on the stage as appreciation for their service. There are lots of smiles at this time, reflecting many years of service.

In 1979, Kenny Dunlap began working at Milan's water and wastewater utility. As a young man, Kenny loved to hunt and fish and had a family, so along with the need for money, work and a job was necessary. A few years went by, and Kenny was elevated to Supervisor, and soon the industry started noticing him. In 1991, Kenny moved to Kearney and worked in their water and wastewater utility for nine years. One of his most memorable times was bringing a new SBR Wastewater Plant online, perhaps the first to be built in Missouri. Soon, industry professionals worldwide came to the Kearney Wastewater Utility to see the marvel of the SBR (sequencing batch reactor) wastewater plant. Folks from Russia, Australia, Mexico, Ukraine, and other countries came to visit. Kenny enjoyed showing those from the many counties as much as they enjoyed being in Missouri. Kenny, as usual, had helped make the plant treat wastewater successfully. In the year 2000, Kenny then moved back to Milan and began working at the Farmland - Smithfield Water Treatment Plant and was employed there until 2016, treating water for the corporation's needs. After 16 years, Kenny accepted a Water Plant Supervisor role at Kirksville and retired from the industry in 2020 with over 40 years of service in water and wastewater. He was dedicated to providing safe drinking water for the people who employed him. Working in the wastewater utility at times, wherever he was needed to help the utility for which he worked. Some days had long hours, but it was necessary in the situation. That is a defining career for anyone.

So, do we look to the water or wastewater utility as a career? Many people do not, for it seems like there is a lot of turnover in the industry these days. Many utilities are training operators and investing in their education and experience to lose them to other employment opportunities outside of the water and wastewater field. Small utilities face many challenges. Losing our most critical asset (people) along with the utility intelligence walking out the door damages the utility and community. So, how do we stop the *bleeding*? Perhaps we should consider how we treat and protect our staff and how we invest in them. Let's look at how we interact with, support, encourage, develop, and retain our good workers. I predict this will be extremely important for the future.

MRWA has training available in many forms:

- An apprenticeship program for advanced training
- in-class one-day training
- multi-day certification training
- virtual training
- conferences
- on-site one-on-one training

We have a field staff that can help your utility become successful and sustainable. This is your chance to retain career utility professionals and sustain a viable utility for the future.

Over more than 40 years, Kenny Dunlap had seen a lot of good days at the treatment plant and some not-so-fun days, I'm sure. Perhaps billions of gallons of safe drinking water had Kenny's signature on it—dedication, perseverance, and the willingness to give more than he took. It's the giving, those things that one leaves behind in the minds, and the time one spends developing and working with those around them that lasts.

Kenny is retired, but he has never left the water. You can find him on the lake fishing with someone new most days. Hookin-



Kenny Dunlap with his boat and 40 years of service coin.

Ain't-Easy Guide Service specializes in taking folks to the water and enjoying the out-of-doors experience. His dedication to doing his best to give you a great experience still shines through. In 2023, Kenny received his Captain status from the United States Coast Guard. And as Kenny has found, the Gold at the End of The Rainbow is there, for those willing to work for it.



Pictured: Zachary Webber and Captain Kenny Dunlap

Greg Bell, PE

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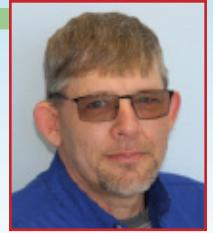

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Missouri Rural Water Circuit Rider Program

Joe Anstine, MRWA Operations Director



When I was first hired as a Circuit Rider by the Missouri Rural Water Association, I had no idea what a Circuit Rider was or what they did. I am old school, and I thought I was going to ride a horse around Missouri and preach the gospel about the ins and outs of the water industry. Well, after 20 years as a Circuit Rider, I was almost correct in my thinking. I did ride around Missouri but in a vehicle, and looking back, I guess I was speaking the ins and outs of the water industry. Hopefully, along the way, teaching a new way to get the job done.

Enough about me; this article is about the MRWA Circuit Rider Program and the Circuit Riders who provide the services to you completely FREE, and how they can assist you and your system.

The following information was provided by the National Rural Water Association (NRWA):



In 1980, the USDA Farmers Home Administration, in collaboration with NRWA, established the Rural Water Circuit Rider Program. This program provides a nationwide team of drinking water professionals to provide training and technical assistance to water utility managers, boards, and operations specialists. This training is designed as on-site, hands-on, activity-based training, where participants take ownership in learning how to resolve their current and future problems. The program is designed to protect USDA Rural Development's current water utility infrastructure investments and help them plan for a more sustainable future.

Providing Assistance

The NRWA Circuit Rider Program is made up of 50 State Rural Water Associations and Puerto Rico, totaling 132 Circuit Riders in the U.S. These Circuit Riders provide hands-on training and technical assistance to small, rural water systems on an everyday basis, 24/7. Personal, professional assistance is at the heart of the Circuit Rider program. On-site help is delivered when and where a rural community needs it. Assistance to small communities and rural utility systems serving a population of 10,000 or less has included:

- *Identifying & evaluating affordable solutions to water & wastewater problems in rural areas*
- *Assisting systems to rapidly respond & recover after natural & man-made emergencies such as hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, wildfires, ice storms and the health pandemic, COVID-19*
- *Protecting the environment & public health by improving treatment processes*
- *Improving financial sustainability through better management practices, more efficient operations & better maintained system components*
- *Enhancing compliance with federal regulations*
- *Assistance directed toward RD/RUS borrowers and potential borrowers.*
- *Assistance provided for all aspects of water utility management, finance, operation and maintenance, regulatory compliance, energy efficiency and loan/grant applications.*

Now that you know the fundamentals of the NRWA Circuit Rider program, I will share some information with you about the MRWA Circuit Rider program.

The MRWA Drinking Water Circuit Rider team consists of three highly skilled individuals—Nate Lines, Josh Thompson, and Dustin Goodwin—who are always ready to tackle the myriad challenges that arise within a drinking water system. Whether it's a routine issue or an unexpected emergency, these experts bring unique skills and perspectives to every situation, ensuring those water systems they're assisting are staying operational and compliant.



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Josh Thompson
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Dustin Goodwin
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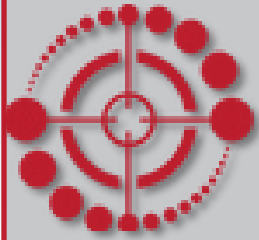
The team's work is diverse, covering a wide range of tasks that support water system operators on a daily basis. From locating water leaks, identifying lost mains, meters, and valves, to troubleshooting treatment issues at water plants, the Circuit Riders are involved in nearly every aspect of water system management. They might even assist in setting up emergency treatment processes when necessary, ensuring that the system continues to function under challenging circumstances.

The Circuit Riders are also adept at addressing more technical matters such as setting up data recorders to resolve customer complaints about pressure issues, conducting flow tests to evaluate water mains, and helping to verify the accuracy of water meters—both large and small. Their assistance extends to helping operators prepare for water certification testing and helping systems implement newly installed improvements, ensuring these updates are running smoothly from day one.

In addition to technical support, the team collaborates closely with the USDA, assisting systems with compliance requirements for the Risk, Resilience, and Emergency Response Plan (RREP), Cybersecurity Plan, and Similar System Surveys—key components for any water system with a USDA loan. The Circuit Riders' contributions are invaluable not only in technical support but also in emergency response. These professionals have been on the ground during tornadoes, floods, ice storms, electrical outages, and more, providing essential aid when disaster strikes.

The team's role also extends to assisting office professionals. They provide invaluable support in areas such as new clerk orientation, setting up financial records, drafting policies and procedures, preparing budgets, ensuring compliance with Sunshine Law, and even assisting with utility billing. Their expertise in navigating complex office tasks is critical for the smooth operation of water systems.

While the list of tasks the Circuit Riders perform is extensive, this article only scratches the surface of their role. For any Missouri water system needing assistance with drinking water-related issues, the MRWA Circuit Rider team stands ready to help. Whether you're grappling with technical challenges, compliance matters, or day-to-day operations, MRWA is committed to connecting you with the right expert to resolve your issues. Don't hesitate to reach out—your water system's success is just a call away.



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Women in Rural Water – A Recognition of Kathy Voyles

Janet Sears, past MRWA Region IV Director

Do you know someone that lives to lead? Sometimes that person doesn't even know they are, but those around them do. Kathy Voyles was one of those people.



Kathy was a career “water” woman at Public Water Supply District #8 of Jefferson County, MO serving the district for more than 40 years, most recently as General Manager. That may not sound like much of a stretch for a career spanning 40 years, but Kathy was truly a pioneer in an historically non-traditional field for women.

Kathy earned the respect of her peers by doing the work. Whether reading meters or troubleshooting a problem at a well, Kathy was not afraid to get dirty to get the job done. Kathy had a passion for the water business and the community she served, after all, she lived just down the road and customers were also friends and neighbors.

Kathy had a big heart as evidenced by her love for God, family, friends, co-workers, peers, cats, and Chris Stapleton. She was a patriot and always recognized the service of veterans she met and took the time to listen to their stories. Kathy was often an unknowing mentor whether it was to other managers and co-workers or even the occasional salesperson that visited her office.

She loved to craft and collect, and genuinely enjoyed sharing her talents with friends and family.

Not satisfied with simply serving the District #8 community, Kathy represented Missouri Rural Water Association's Region V as Regional Director for more than 20 years. In her capacity as Director, she made it her mission to stay informed at the regulatory and legislative levels so she could be an effective representative for the member systems in Region V. She was a strong and respected voice in this role.

Kathy was often found at industry conferences where she networked with a lifetime of friends and acquaintances while continuing to seek education to employ in the system she served.

It is not possible to know the depths of the impact Kathy made on the profession to which she dedicated a lifetime, but the strength of the system she managed speaks to that impact. While the past several years have seen more women choosing career paths in the water and wastewater industry, even as participants in the MRWA Apprenticeship Program, they remain outnumbered in these fields.

National Rural Water Association recognizes the impact women have made on this industry, and has implemented a *Women in Rural Water* luncheon, held annually at their Water Pro Conference. This event highlights women, like Kathy, who have overcome career

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obstacles to be contributing, respected peers in their chosen field. Attendance at this luncheon has grown exponentially since its inception a brief time ago, and attendees appreciate the opportunity to network and encourage other women, often sharing their stories of adversity and perseverance that have helped to shape a variety of successful careers.

To this end, in recognition of Kathy Voyles, one of the original *Women in Rural Water*, and others that have chosen a career in water or wastewater, Missouri Rural Water Association will recognize the contributions of women in member systems throughout the state. Watch for upcoming details that will outline how you can participate in this celebration of *Women in Rural Water* in Missouri.



A business card for Marc Pedrotti, P.E. The card has an orange background. On the right side, there is a logo for 'REP' (R.E. Pedrotti) with the text 'R.E. PEDROTTI' below it. The contact information on the left reads: 'Marc Pedrotti, P.E.', 'marcp@repedrotti.com', 'R.E. Pedrotti Company, Inc.', '5855 Beverly Avenue, Suite A / Mission, KS 66202', and 'm: 913-645-6358 / o: 913-677-3366 / repedrotti.com'.

A large advertisement for CAND pumps & supply. The background is yellow with water droplets. At the top is the 'CAND' logo in a stylized, outlined font. Below it is a black banner with 'PUMPS & SUPPLY' in white. Underneath is the slogan 'MUNICIPAL • NEW FOCUS • SAME PASSION' in red, followed by 'Engineered Solutions • Quality Products • Exceptional Service' in black. Two columns of services are listed with checkmarks: Sales, Rentals, Service, Installation, Custom Fabrication, Engineered Solutions, Stocked Warehouses, CLA-VAL Experts, On call 24/7, and Certified Electrician. At the bottom, two locations are listed: 'Marion, IL ~ 618-997-2311' with website 'candcpumps.com' and 'St. Louis, MO ~ 314-780-0185' with email 'steam@candcpumps.com'.

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- Fluoridation introduction.
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- Fluoridation technology and equipment.
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- Fluoridation system design.



2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Water Fluoridation

This course is designed to build the capability of state fluoridation programs, and to help increase knowledge and refine skills to implement and maintain community water fluoridation. It is FREE and approved for eight CEU hours towards drinking water licenses by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Participants can access the modules at cdc.gov/fluoridation/engineering/training.htm.

- Module 1. Science - history and science of fluoridation, benefits and health effects.
- Module 2. Program – state program management and oversight, and communication principles.
- Module 3: Water system overview and design.
- Module 4: Technical information for water fluoridation additives and operations.

Upon completion of the course, please email your name, operator number and course completion certificate to oralhealth@health.mo.gov for CE credits to be awarded.



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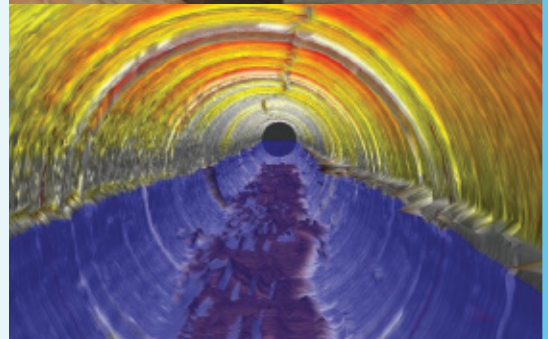
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The Importance of Generator Maintenance

Michael Bertschinger, MRWA Energy Efficiency Circuit Rider



After many years you have finally talked your board into purchasing a generator for emergency use. Congratulations are in order for all the effort and passion you put into making this purchase happen. You deserve a SUPER cookie for all your fighting for this project. Now that the generator is installed and set to start up and run for 30 minutes every Monday, we are all good to go, right? Not exactly.

Like any other piece of equipment, we now need to figure out a maintenance plan to have this new equipment in place for years to come and ensure it is ready when we need it. Maintaining a generator at a wastewater or water facility is essential to ensuring reliable operation during power outages. Generators serve as our lifeblood at a facility during emergencies, providing the necessary power to keep operations running smoothly when the primary power source fails. However, the effectiveness and reliability of a generator depends heavily on consistent maintenance and testing. Here we will explore the key maintenance tasks involved in keeping a generator in top condition and the additional benefits of running the generator during non-emergency situations.



One of the fundamental maintenance tasks is changing the oil and filters. Just like any internal combustion engine, the oil in a generator needs to be replaced regularly to ensure that all moving parts are properly lubricated. This lubrication is crucial to prevent wear and tear, which can lead to mechanical failures and costly repairs. Filters, including the oil filter, air filter, and fuel filter, must also be replaced periodically. Clean filters ensure that the generator runs efficiently, preventing contaminants from damaging the engine and compromising its performance.



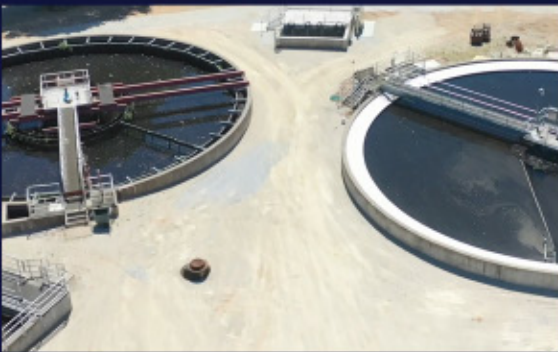
Another vital aspect of generator maintenance is periodic startups, often referred to as “exercising” the generator. Regularly starting the generator ensures that the engine remains in good working order and prevents fuel from stagnating. It also allows operators to identify potential issues before they escalate into serious problems. Routine startups provide an opportunity to monitor the generator’s performance, ensuring that it will function as expected when needed.

Battery testing and maintenance are equally important. The battery is critical for starting the generator, and routine testing ensures that it holds a charge and can supply the necessary power during an emergency. Battery terminals should be inspected and cleaned regularly to prevent corrosion, which can impede the battery’s performance. A well-maintained battery is essential for reliable generator operation, particularly during unexpected power outages.

(continued on page 28)



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(continued from page 26)

Running the generator for extended periods, even when there is no power failure, offers several significant benefits. First and foremost, it allows operators to verify the generator's capability to handle the load of the facility. By running the generator under actual operating conditions, operators can confirm that it will perform as expected during an outage, reducing the risk of surprises when the generator is needed most.

For facilities using diesel-powered generators, extended operation of the generator also helps cycle through the diesel fuel in the tank. Diesel fuel can degrade over time, leading to issues like microbial growth or fuel gelling, particularly in cold weather. By running the generator, the fuel is cycled through, ensuring that fresh diesel is always available. This practice reduces the risk of fuel-related problems during winter months when reliable generator performance is critical.



In addition to these operational benefits, running the generator for extended periods can also reduce electrical costs. By operating the facility on its own power, the facility can temporarily remove itself from the power grid. This can be especially advantageous during peak demand periods when electricity costs are higher. By reducing the facility's reliance on the grid, operators can lower the plant's electrical bill, leading to significant cost savings over time. Moreover, this practice can contribute to a more stable power grid by reducing the overall load.

Extended generator operation can also reveal potential maintenance issues that might not be apparent during shorter exercise periods. Problems such as overheating, oil leaks, or fuel system issues may only become evident when the generator is run for longer durations. Identifying these issues early allows for timely repairs, increasing the generator's overall reliability and preventing costly breakdowns during an actual emergency.

Another benefit of running the generator during non-emergency periods is that it provides valuable training opportunities for facility staff. Extended generator runs allow staff to become familiar with the generator's operation, controls, and behavior under load. This hands-on experience is invaluable during an actual emergency, ensuring that staff can respond quickly and effectively when needed.

Running the generator for extended periods also allows for system integration testing. This involves testing how well the generator integrates with the facility's systems, including automatic transfer switches and other critical infrastructure. By doing so, operators can identify any issues with synchronization, load transfer, or communication between systems, ensuring that the generator and facility systems work seamlessly together during a power outage.

In some cases, extended generator operation can help maintain environmental controls within the facility. For facilities where maintaining specific temperature and humidity levels is critical, extended generator runs ensure that these controls remain effective even during prolonged outages. This can prevent damage to sensitive equipment or stored materials, further safeguarding the facility's operations.

Preventing wet stacking is another important consideration for diesel generators. Wet stacking occurs when a diesel generator runs under low load or for short periods, leading to the accumulation of unburned fuel in the exhaust system. This can cause carbon buildup, reduced efficiency, and potential damage to the engine. Running the generator under a proper load for extended periods helps burn off this excess fuel, maintaining the engine's health and ensuring optimal performance.

Battery charging and health are also maintained through extended generator operation. The generator's operation keeps the starter battery fully charged and conditioned, which is especially important for older batteries or those in less-than-ideal conditions. By running the generator regularly, operators can ensure that the battery remains in good health and ready for use during an emergency.

Compliance with regulatory requirements is another potential benefit of extended generator operation. Depending on the location and regulatory framework, some facilities may be required to run generators for extended periods to comply with environmental or operational regulations. Ensuring that the facility meets these requirements helps avoid potential fines or penalties and demonstrates a commitment to responsible operation.

Finally, extended generator runs allow for testing the entire fuel delivery process, including pumps, filters, and lines. This ensures that the generator can continuously receive the necessary fuel during prolonged power outages, further enhancing the facility's reliability.

In conclusion, maintaining a generator involves routine tasks that ensure its readiness and reliability. By incorporating extended generator operation into the maintenance routine, operators can verify the generator's capability, cycle fuel, reduce electrical costs, and identify maintenance needs before they become critical. This proactive approach not only ensures that the generator will perform when needed but also offers valuable opportunities for staff training, system testing, and compliance with regulatory requirements. In the long run, consistent and thorough generator maintenance is key to safeguarding the uninterrupted operation of water and wastewater utilities, protecting both the facility and the community it serves.



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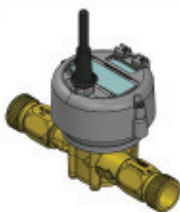
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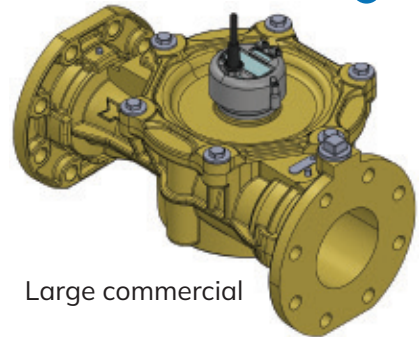
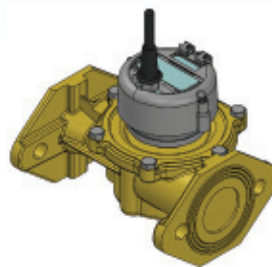
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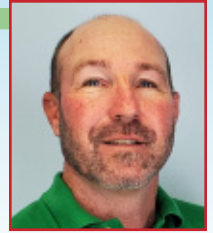
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A Bigger Bucket

Barry Barnes, MRWA Wastewater Technician



I was wondering what to write an article about as I sit and watch the rain pour down, and then I realized, “Hey, Inflow and Infiltration (I and I) might be a good topic.” This subject has been talked about

and I am sure written about many times. We will dive into why we get I and I, what it affects in our collection system and wastewater plants or lagoons, and some of the ways and steps that we can take to fix the issues.

Let us figure out what Inflow and Infiltration is. Inflow would be the water flowing in from cleanouts and holes in and unsealed manhole lids and risers. Inflow is water coming in from the top of the ground directly flowing into your system. Infiltration comes more from ground saturation. Infiltration is things like improperly constructed or aging manholes and lift stations, and cracks or separated sewer mains. Lateral taps that have never been hooked up are also culprits of infiltration. These examples are just a few of the defects that you might find in the field.

Inflow and infiltration affect many aspects of the collection system, and your wastewater treatment plants and lagoons. In plants and lagoons, the big issue is having so much I and I that you have a wash out once or twice a year. I and I can cause issues with suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand, capacity, and detention time. It can be hard to meet your percent removal sometimes if your I and I is really bad. Along with these many issues, the cost of building a “bigger bucket”, a bigger wastewater plant to handle all of this extra water, comes along with huge expenses with engineering, construction, and possibly real estate costs.

Let us fix the I and I. I am going to go through my personal list of how I would approach Inflow and Infiltration.

1. The first thing on my list would be to talk to my council or board to see if I had any support to work on the I and I issues.
2. The second thing would be to start by looking at my ordinances and see if, when I do find defects, I have legs to stand on. Once I got the political stuff done,
3. I would fix the issues that I already know I have.
4. Finding some good maps or having some GIS mapping done would be a good next step.
5. Looking at lift station hours and popping manhole lids to look at flow during rain events is the next step on my list, making sure I document it every time.
6. Calling Missouri Rural Water Association would be my next move.

We can help with planning a good strategy to go about fixing and finding these issues. Whether we have to smoke test an area or your complete system. If you know of significant issues, we might be able to camera that area for you.

If you need help with any of the things that were discussed in this article, give us a call. We can help you from beginning to end. The ultimate goal is to give your community a lower cost and safer environment. Do not hesitate to call.





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Rural Water Success Story: North Central Missouri

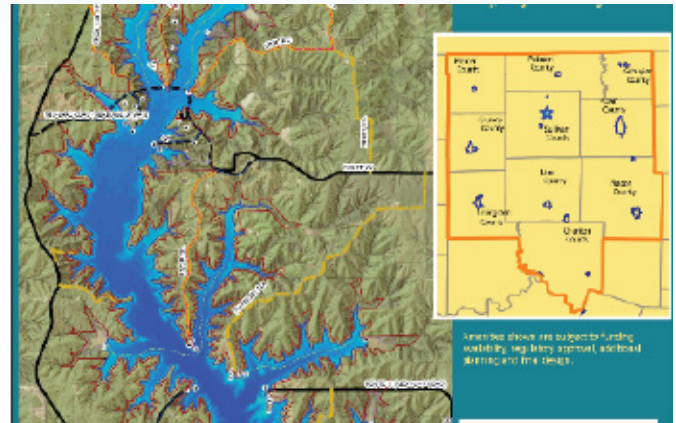
Michael Frye, USDA-RD Public Information Officer (South Dakota)



In northern rural Missouri, 10 counties have faced a continued challenge: safe, affordable drinking water. But that's about to change.

Thanks in part to Rural Development's Water and Environmental Program (WEP), these 10 counties will no longer wonder if their water will continue flowing from their taps.

"This area of North Central Missouri is the most drought-stricken area in the state of Missouri," said Brad Scott, General Manager of the North Central Missouri Rural Water Commission (NCMRWC). "The water is there, but scattered across little 100-acre lakes throughout the 10 counties. When we're in a drought, the problems set in really quick."



A map outlining the coverage area of the new Roy Blunt Reservoir.

Evaluation of the project has been ongoing since the late 1980s. It's no small feat to address drinking water affecting such a large area.

"It's not as simple as digging wells around the area because the aquifer is very briny and untreatable," Scott stated. "We need to build a reservoir and dam, an intake system, water lines, while at the same time we need to relocate utilities, install a 17-mile sewer line, and so much more."

To be certain the new reservoir remains a viable source of quality drinking water, the Commission received zoning rights to the entire surrounding watershed. By maintaining a large area around the reservoir, the Commission can control any contaminants that might otherwise threaten the supply.

Both Brad Scott and Craig Davis, NCMRWC's General Council, agree that, while this project wouldn't have been impossible without the aid of the USDA Rural Development loans and grants, having the federal partners involved has made many of the goals more attainable.

"Applying for federal dollars brings its own set of challenges," Scott said. "But the staff made sure we knew what needed to be done and how we needed to document the goals and parameters of the project to attain that funding." Craig Davis added, "The Rural Development staff have been incredible to work with. Clark, David, Shawna, Kyle, and all the predecessors. This project wouldn't be happening if it weren't for all the Rural Development staff that have been a part of it since the very beginning, and they'll be a part of it for years to come."

Kyle Wilkens, Missouri's State Director for USDA-RD, credits the Commission's work to address any areas that will be affected by the new reservoir.

(continued on page 38)

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(continued from page 36)

“They worked closely with local residents to be sure roads will be available to get around the new reservoir,” Wilkens shared. “(Missouri) Department of Natural Resources had to review any land that would be flooded as part of the new reservoir, and homeowners had to be willing to give up land that would be impacted.”

Scott highlighted the willingness of homeowners to help make the project possible. “We did this all without eminent domain. I want to amplify that. This is almost unheard of. It took massive collaboration between residents and state and federal government agencies. It goes to show how important this is to everyone involved.”

Wilkens is quick to point out that his Rural Development staff have remained diligent and committed to seeing this project become a reality.

“The Missouri Rural Development staff have worked hard to navigate through the issues and worked closely with local and state agencies to keep this moving forward,” Wilkens stated. “I can’t take all the credit for this. The work has continued for years before this, and my State Director predecessors have all been involved. Now that the funding has been approved, we are staying committed, assigning one of our staff to see this project through in perpetuity. This project will succeed because of the commitment by the team in rural Missouri.”

But it goes beyond the federal partnerships and financial support. The state, counties and rural residents came together to make this possible. A ballot measure proposing a half-cent retail sales tax was passed with 82 percent of voters supporting the new tax.

“We were doing everything we could to show we had skin in the game,” Davis said. “And the residents knew this was just part of what needed to be done. This is just one of the many achievements that has helped make this project possible.”

The project is expected to take years to complete. Initially, the Commission will build the reservoir and dam, an intake facility, and begin laying the connections for the first of 10 counties. In all, the project is set to deliver more than 7 million gallons of fresh drinking water to 68,000 rural residents across Adair, Chariton, Grundy, Linn, Livingston, Macon, Mercer, Putnam, Schuyler, and Sullivan counties.

NCMRWC has received USDA Rural Development Water and Environmental Program loans and grants totaling \$53,771,554.

Obligation Amount: \$45,754,554

Year of Obligation: 2022

Congressional District: Missouri, District 6

USDA-RD would like to further recognize NRCS for the funding provided for this project.



Pictured l to r: Roy Blunt, Kyle Wilkens, USDA NRCS State Conservationist Scott Edwards



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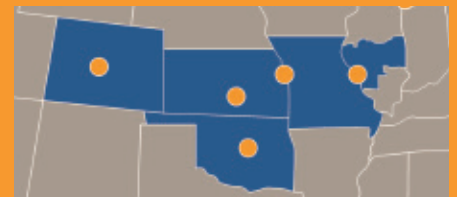
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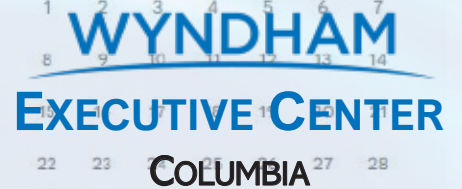
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So God Made a Water Operator

John O'Connell, III, Immediate Past President, NRWA



In 1978, Paul Harvey delivered a speech at a Future Farmers of America Convention titled “So God Made a Farmer.” You may have heard it, especially from a well-known Super Bowl commercial. As a farmer myself, I have always appreciated this wording. I got to thinking about the message behind it, the workforce challenges Rural Water is facing, and the critical importance rural water employees play across the country. And I asked myself, how would this sound if it were “So God Made a Water Operator”?

And on the 9th day, God looked down on his planned paradise with its pristine, flowing rivers and vast lakes and said, “I need a public servant.” So God made a water operator.

God said, “I need somebody willing to get up before dawn, check water lines, work all day in the community, check water meters, eat supper, and then go to town and stay past midnight at a meeting of the city council.” So God made a water operator.

“I need somebody with arms strong enough to open a fire hydrant valve and yet patient enough to close a stubborn water valve, somebody to check for water leaks, tame cantankerous machinery, and come home after letting the elderly customer know to give him a call about anything and he would be there to help — and mean it.” So God made a water operator.

God said, “I need somebody willing to be up all night fixing a water main break and watch as the leak finally is stopped, then wipe his hands as he gets a call from the neighboring community when they need help, and not hesitate to go. I need somebody who can take one look and know what is wrong with a treatment plant, memorize the entire layout of the system’s meters and pipes, and communicate anything to do with the community’s water system to anyone, from the doctor to the grocery store owner to the mayor. I need somebody who, through any weather, day or night, will not only serve the water system but volunteer at the fire station, assist with the lawncare of the cemetery, and

coach his son’s little league baseball team because he is invested in his community.” So God made a water operator.

God had to have somebody willing to drive two hours south to help a community get their treatment plant running after being hit by a hurricane and then, after spending a week, turn back around and head home to work on a planned meter replacement because water never stops flowing. So God made a water operator.

God said, “I need somebody strong enough to clear trees and heave boulders, yet gentle enough to calculate finite chemical measurements, evaluate microscope slides, and mentor the young apprentice; somebody who will stop his mower for an hour to move a nest after a momma rabbit found the water tower base to be the safest spot for her young’uns. It has to be somebody who’d lay lines deep and straight and not cut corners; somebody to test, monitor, treat, and distribute nature’s most precious resource and repair the lines, replace the meters, clear the grass from fire hydrants, and finish a hard week’s work with a five-mile drive to church.

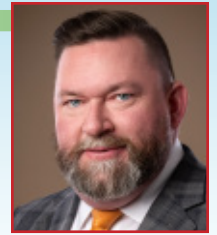
“I need somebody who’d bring a community together with strength and steadfastness, just as a flowing river. Somebody who would with a grateful heart and fondness in their eyes smile when their little one says they want to serve their community just like dad.” So God made a water operator.

While it is not nearly as eloquent as Mr. Harvey’s original speech, I’d like to think this version conveys the sense of respect our nation’s water and wastewater operators deserve. And I hope, in the future, this could motivate someone to consider joining this industry, dedicating themselves to the service of their community, and continuing the legacy of providing the top-quality water rural America deserves.

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Around the Capitol: The Pro Tempore

Trent Watson, MRWA Lobbyist



The Missouri State Senate has a rich history dating back to its establishment in 1821, coinciding with Missouri's admission as a state. Initially composed of 12 members, the senate's membership expanded as the state's population grew. Today, the senate comprises 34 members, each representing a district with an average population of 181,000.

Notable figures in the Missouri Senate's history include Dick Webster, who was known for his wit, oratory skills, and mastery of the legislative process. Ron Richard, who was the first and only person to have been elected Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate. Mary Gant, the first woman to serve in the Missouri Senate. She was elected in 1972 and sworn into office in January of 1973. Gwen Giles who was the first African-American woman elected to the Missouri Senate. She was elected in 1977 and took office January of 1978. And Michael Kinney, who holds the record for the longest tenure, serving from 1912 to 1968 and retiring at the age of 93. A portrait of Senator Kinney hangs in the Senate Lounge.



Pictured above:
Mary Gant

The President of the Senate is the lieutenant governor, but the real power in the senate lays with the president pro tempore or pro tem as it is referred. The role of the pro tem in the Missouri State Senate has evolved significantly since its inception, but the pro tem is elected by the members of the senate to manage procedural functions and rule on parliamentary matters. The pro tem establishes legislative committees and assigns senators to both serve as chair and as members on those committees. In the state's history there have been 79 senators who have been honored with this title by their peers.

Two Senators, J.O. Morrison and James L. Mathewson each served as president pro tempore of the senate for eight years, the longest tenure in Missouri's history. Since Missouri voters implemented term limits in 1992, restricting state legislators to two four-year terms in the senate, that record of eight years can never be broken. Of all the senators elected to the office of pro tem since our state's inception that position has never been held by a woman. Until now.



Pictured above:
Missouri Senator
Cindy O'Laughlin

In November of this year, just after the November general elections, the Senate Majority Caucus elected Senator Cindy O'Laughlin, R-Shelbina, to serve as president pro tempore of the Missouri Senate for the 103rd General Assembly. Senator O'Laughlin made history as the first woman in Missouri to serve in the upper chamber's top leadership position. This history making event comes just two years after Senator O'Laughlin made history as the first woman to hold the position of Majority Floor Leader in the Senate. The history-making event will officially happen on January 8th, when the senate gavel in to start the First Regular Session of the 103rd General Assembly and the entire senate will vote on the pro tem. The republican leadership vote also brought two other women into leadership positions. Senators Jill Carter and Sandy Crawford were also elected to two of the five leadership positions within the Majority Caucus.

Only 39 women have ever served in the Missouri State Senate. The most at one time was in 2021, nearly 50 years after the election of its first woman, when 11 women served in the senate together. Senator O’Laughlin was one of those 11 or “The Eleven” as they called themselves. The Eleven became a bipartisan group of women legislators who tried to put their differences aside and instead focus on solutions. Senator O’Laughlin’s leadership style emphasizes respect and collaboration, aiming to overcome the gridlock that has previously stalled legislation in the senate.

I had the opportunity to speak with Senator O’Laughlin about the significance of being the first woman elected pro tem of the senate. She said she was honored to be elected among her peers and although she didn’t want the focus of her election to be that she was the first woman to hold that position; she recognizes the significance. She went on to say that she hoped that this would help to inspire other women to get involved in government and run for office.



Pictured above: 18 of 39 of the women to serve in the Missouri State Senate (Mary Gant is pictured front middle.)



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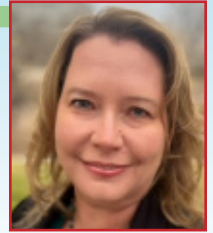
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Ammonia – Forging a Path for Missouri

Heather Peters, MoDNR Water Pollution Control Branch Chief



In 2013, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) updated their recommended criteria for ammonia for the protection of aquatic life. These changes, driven by a petition filed ten years earlier by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, added over 50 new species to the dataset used to create the criteria recommendation. Mussels and other mollusks, like snails and clams, were included in the updated research. The resulting 2013 ammonia recommendation (often called mollusk or mussel ammonia) will likely lower the water quality criteria and associated effluent limitations to protect these important taxa.

What does that mean for Missouri?

Missouri waters provide habitat for a variety of mollusk species, including nearly 70 freshwater mussel species. This diversity is a reflection of Missouri's many different river ecosystems. Freshwater mussels serve as a "liver of the river," providing a living water filtration system to help maintain the health of our streams. Many freshwater mussels are imperiled due to water quality degradation and ecosystem alteration, with 29 species of conservation concern.



Just because 2013 ammonia criteria is listed by EPA as a "recommendation" does not mean it is optional. Quite the opposite. If the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (the department) fails to promulgate the new criteria, legal challenges and/or EPA would likely force the change. The department is currently working to build a rule to incorporate this new criteria alongside flexibility to fit Missouri. In short, if we in Missouri want to design the path for ourselves in a way that fits the unique needs of our state's citizens and communities, now is the time.

Building Multiple Paths

In this case, more is better. The department is proposing flexibilities that can be used independently or in combination to help facilities determine the best, most efficient, and most cost-effective path to compliance.

- Staggered Implementation Dates: The smaller the wastewater treatment facility, the later the rule sets the new ammonia criteria implementation date. Staggered implementation dates reflect the department's understanding that smaller facilities may have more obstacles to securing funding and implementing changes.
- Template Schedules of Compliance: The department is currently working with representatives of the Missouri Rural Water Association and any other interested parties to develop template plans or concepts for potential system evaluations, possible operational improvements, interim steps, and other tools for specific types of wastewater treatment systems, such as lagoons. Additionally, the department is helping to identify some potential funding sources for these incremental improvements.
- Variations: State and federal regulations allow variances from specific regulatory requirements for certain qualifying systems. EPA has released a *First Stop Toolbox for Lagoons* that can be used in conjunction with other regulatory support resources to assess



Photo by Ryan Hagerty

potential variances for a system. The following EPA webpage provides additional information: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-releases-new-tools-help-small-rural-and-tribal-communities-lagoons-manage>.

- Optimization Tools, Studies and Research: Optimization is using operational or less costly structural changes to enhance nutrient treatment and reductions at a facility. The department is currently conducting a nutrient optimization pilot project through grant funding to implement and evaluate optimization plans and tools at participating municipal wastewater treatment facilities. The results of these studies, as well as other related research and data, will be available on our webpage: <https://dnr.mo.gov/water/business-industry-other-entities/technical-assistance-guidance/nutrient-reduction-wastewater-treatment-optimization>.

Getting Involved

The department continues to build the pathways for the regulations and implementation of the new ammonia criteria. Interested parties can get involved by reviewing and providing feedback on pre-draft rule language, template schedules of compliance, proposed permit implementation guides, and technology and optimization strategies for nutrient removal. The department values active participation and input! For more information, please visit our website: <https://dnr.mo.gov/about-us/forums-stakeholder-groups/water-quality-standards>.



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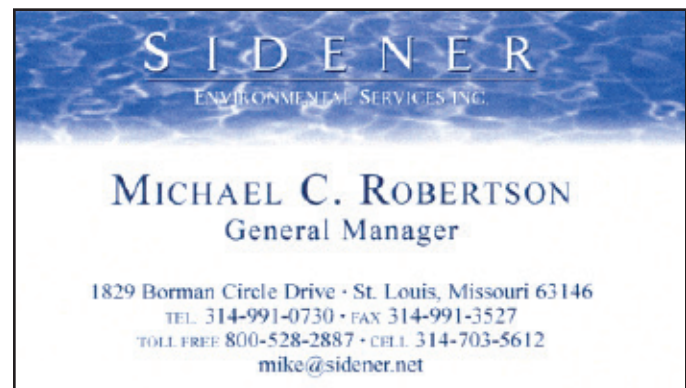
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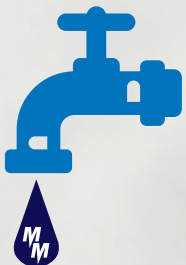
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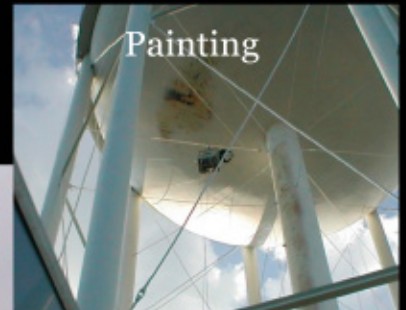
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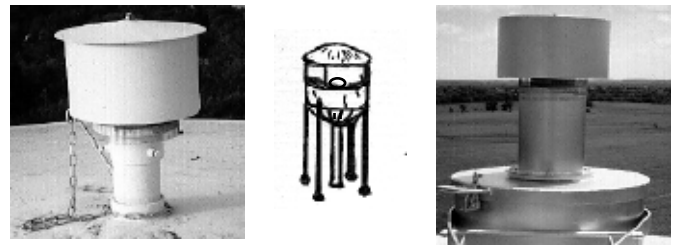
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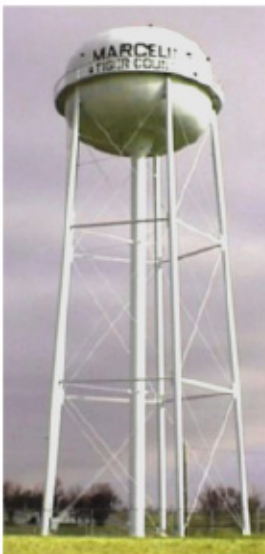
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- 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
MRWA Office CLOSED
- 21 NW Wastewater Apprenticeship Class
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- 23 NW Water Apprenticeship Class
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February



- 1 First Day of Black History Month/
National Freedom Day
- 3 – 5 National Rural Water Rally Washington, D.C.
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 17 Presidents' Day
MRWA Office CLOSED

March



- 1 First Day of Women's History Month
- 4 – 6 MRWA Annual Conference Branson
- 9 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 17 St. Patrick's Day

April



- 15 TAX DAY
- 18 Good Friday
MRWA Office CLOSED
- 23 Show-Me Rural Water Rally Jefferson City

May



- 1 First Day of Asian American/
Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 11 Mother's Day
- 21-22 MRWA Clerk's Workshop Columbia
- 26 Memorial Day
MRWA Office CLOSED

June



- 2 - 5 NRWA In-Service Training Reno, NV
- 15 Father's Day
- 19 Juneteenth
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July



- 4 Independence Day
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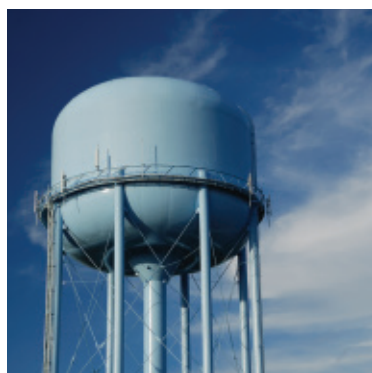


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