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The Wyoming Connection is the official publication of The Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems. It is published quarterly for distribution to member systems, water and wastewater Operations Specialists, water related agencies and companies, legislators and government officials.

Graphic Design/Layout - Donna Uribe, WARWS

Articles, letters, and photos are welcome.

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The Association

Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems is a non-profit association that provides on-site, one-on-one technical assistance and training to small municipalities under 10,000 population and all water and wastewater systems throughout the state. Equal Opportunity Provider.

Cover Photo – Town of Wheatland water tank. Photo by Brian Linton



WARWS' Mission:

To provide the assistance necessary to meet the needs of our membership and to ensure the protection of Wyoming's water ~ our most precious resource.

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The objective is to fill in the empty squares so each row, each column, and each 3x3 block contains the numbers 1-9 with no repeats.

2026 is here, Whether We Want it or Not!

When you read this, we will be a few weeks or a month or so into 2026. Much will be changing for Wyoming and our industry.

The biggest challenge for 2026 and beyond will be dwindling local revenue sources and the need to appropriately value and price utility services. We are already seeing uninformed people and those who are not experienced in costing utility services raise inaccurate arguments against rate increases in Casper.

The chief argument is that the City has other revenue it can use or should use to replace, repair and maintain aging infrastructure. The city should have been fixing stuff all along and my favorite, there's nothing wrong with our water, they just want more money!

First, state statutes require that water and wastewater rates adequately cover the costs of all utility operations including replacement cost. Further, state law requires utility operations to be operated as if a stand alone business similar to "for profit" companies and entities.

Yes, the city could take funds from the general fund or from other sources in order to subsidize water and wastewater user fees. Any funds shifted to utility operations means other critical needs like police, fire, EMS, streets (which are funded through general fund revenue sources) would suffer.

I will agree, the city (all water and wastewater systems) should have addressed the aging infrastructure years ago. That was a political decision to, in the vernacular of government, kick the can down the road. As I have told more than a few town councils or special district boards over the years, I'm sorry prior administrations kicked the can down the road; I'm equally sorry that they are the administration at the end of the road. All of us now have to face reality, we must fix our water and wastewater systems. If we don't, without quality water, we won't have a town – just ask Flint, Michigan.

I dare anyone to go get a gallon, or quart jar full of water from the North Platte and compare it to the water coming out of their kitchen faucet. Most citizens do not understand the amount of expertise in water treatment it takes to produce potable water from raw water.

Yes, I hear people say, I've been drinking this water all my life..... Unfortunately, in the world we now live in, many of the chemicals or compounds that make our life easier have had unintended consequences to our water sources, must be treated, removed or otherwise mitigated in order for us to have drinking water that doesn't kill us or make us very sick.

This all costs money. Most of the expenses of a utility are not controlled by the utility as to cost. Utilities do not control the cost of electricity to power lights, pumps, and equipment. Utilities do not control the cost of chemicals, the cost of pipe, valves or other infrastructure needs. Utilities only cost that is controllable by management is the cost of labor for the Licensed Water and Wastewater Operator. These very skilled individuals are way better than me in math, chemistry and construction. If the dosage rates are not accurate for disinfection chemicals or flow rates are miscalculated (and yes, computer and auto feeds do a lot of that (which costs a lot) but what happens when the power is out – like that never happens, or the system is not large enough to afford auto controls and must depend on manual calculations for the volume of water in a tank, flowing through various sizes of pipe etc....) which can cause water borne illnesses especially hazardous to those typically under 8, over 65 or those with chronic illnesses.

Yes, I'm old enough that I drank out of mountain lakes, rivers, garden hoses and played in dirt. I'm glad I was able to do a lot of those things at an age where my body was able to build up a tolerance or the amount of chemicals and compounds we now have in our clothes, plastics or other manufacturing sources don't overwhelm our little human bodies. We don't know as yet about a lot of these chemicals and compounds, what or if there will be long term consequences.

The knowledge the Licensed Operators must keep up on with ever changing regulations, rules and sampling results should or would keep a citizen up at night. I'm very glad these dedicated professionals who live and work in their communities care enough to keep the water safe for them, their families, friends and those who take the water for granted.

Drinking water standards are vigorous for a reason and the skilled professionals employed by your water system to maintain the system, continually sample and maintain the chemistry of the water so it remains "Quality on Tap" costs money. Money that is well spent to keep us safe and healthy.

All of the above information is currently required by state and federal law. I really do wish the citizens and those who make the laws would take the time to really understand the industry and the needs of water utilities before they make changes that adversely affect the ability of the utilities to provide safe, affordable drinking water!!

A final note – this will probably be one of the last articles I write for the Association's magazine as the Executive Director. Plans are in motion for my eventual retirement hopefully not much longer in 2026. We are still looking for the right individual to step up and provide leadership, stewardship, educational opportunities, financial fiduciary responsibility and administration for one of the most rewarding and important careers in our state.

As the saying goes, whiskey is for drinking, water is for fighting!! Your Licensed Water and Wastewater Operators and system administrators are continually fighting to maintain safe drinking water. Mr. P

A Note From Austin Quintrall

Wastewater Specialist
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Hello!

I am Austin. I was raised in the southwest region of Wyoming. I started my career in water and wastewater as the Chief Water Operator for the Town of Superior where I spent most of my childhood.

I have a very diverse background from mining to oil and gas. In late 2019, I decided to attend Western Wyoming Community College for a certificate in Plant Operations. After graduation, I temporarily worked for the Town of Superior as the maintenance person where I was introduced to the water and wastewater industry. After some years in the Trona mines as a belt technician, I decided to switch to the water and wastewater industry fully.

In my spare time I am either in Superior working with my grandparents and father in the family business or I am online gaming with my dad and brothers. I also enjoy woodworking (although I am not very good). I have a high interest in many different subjects and study them as much as I can, then move to the next.

I have a vast collection of model cars I have amassed over the years. Many of which I built with my grandfather when I was very young. I also have a starting collection of antiques, mainly items from Wyoming history. Even though I left the mining industry, I love the history of it and the immense impact it has had on the prosperity of our state.

I look forward to working with all of you with excitement to learn as much as I can. I was once told by one of my favorite bosses "The day you stop learning is the day you go find a new job." I hope that day never comes while working with you.

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A Note From *Brian Linton*

Circuit Rider
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WaterPro 2025 Reflection

WaterPro 2025 was another unforgettable and worthwhile opportunity. I never imagined I would be able to attend such a large national conference, but as a Circuit Rider, participation is an important and necessary part of the job. This year, the event was held in New Orleans at the grand Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. WARWS was well-represented throughout the week alongside state associations from across the nation.

The opening ceremony included remarks from Phillip Coombs, President of NRW, and Matt Holmes, CEO of NRW, along with several members of the NRW executive staff. A highlight was the keynote from Glen Jacobs¹—better known to WWE fans as “Kane”—who shared powerful motivational lessons drawn from his personal and professional journey. Some of the key points I took away from his message included:

- The world owes you nothing.
- When applying for a job or refocusing on your current one, ask yourself: “What can I bring to my company?”
- Success comes from constantly looking for ways to make things better.
- Keep pursuing—those who persist are the ones who succeed.
- Do not give up on the things you love; be relentless.
- All failures lead to success if you learn from them.

There were other special guest speakers who also shared meaningful messages for life and workplace improvement—perhaps others will share reflections on those sessions.

The schedule offered a wide range of classes, including board leadership, cyber and physical security, disaster response and recovery, emerging contaminants, mapping and analytics, public relations, resilience and partnerships, sustainability, technology and innovation, and utility management.

The vendor hall was massive—filled with exhibitors offering hands-on demonstrations, helpful product information,

and plenty of swag. One popular attraction was the meter repair challenge, where participants raced to disassemble, reassemble, and test a water meter. It drew a constant crowd of competitors and spectators throughout the week.

As with any national training conference, the days were packed with learning opportunities, classroom sessions, informational tours, and valuable networking. But there was also time to enjoy the sights, sounds, and flavors of New Orleans, including fresh beignets, seafood, gumbo, and étouffée.

Why do we attend these national conferences?

My takeaway is simple: to be better prepared to assist water systems. Conferences like WaterPro help circuit riders stay trained and up-to-date so we can better support operators and communities—whether it’s troubleshooting leaks, addressing sampling or reporting issues, assisting clerks with financing or rate studies, or guiding systems through regulatory challenges.

I’ve been an operator for more than 23 years, and I’ll be the first to admit I don’t know everything. None of us do. The water industry is constantly changing, and I truly enjoy learning new things and sharing the knowledge and experience I do have with operators and systems across the state. Here are some statistics from National Rural Water on technical assistance provided nationally and Wyoming.

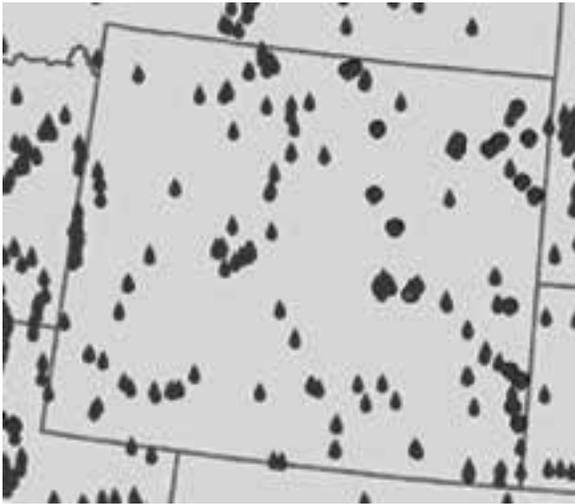
Nationally, in 2024, state associations collectively provided:

- 72,519 on-site and remote technical assistance visits (Circuit Riders only)
- 105,363 system personnel trained (classroom trainings)
- 396,330 hours spent helping systems (All field staff)
- 1,529 total trainings (classroom trainings)



Wyoming Rural Water’s impact in 2024 includes:

- 729 on-site visits (Circuit Riders only)
- 3,404 hours spent onsite helping systems (all field staff)
- 18 trainings provided (Classroom trainings only)
- 70,000 + miles driven (Circuit Riders only)



(Circuit Rider onsite visits mapped above)

Know that as an operator or staff member of a small water system—whether in Wyoming or anywhere in the United States—you are supported by dedicated, experienced professionals who are ready and eager to help.

This past year as a Circuit Rider has gone by quickly, and it has been a privilege meeting and working with so many of you. I appreciate the time you've taken to visit with me, even amidst your busy schedules. I know there are still a few systems I haven't had the chance to connect with yet,

and I look forward to meeting with you soon. Thank you for your continued dedication to your communities and for allowing me to be part of the work you do.

¹ Glen Jacobs—best known to WWE fans worldwide as “Kane”—is a former professional wrestler, actor, and the current Mayor of Knox County, Tennessee. As a motivational speaker, he draws on his 25-year WWE career to share powerful lessons on perseverance, leadership, reinvention, and overcoming adversity. Blending his larger-than-life persona with a thoughtful, grounded speaking style, Jacobs inspires audiences with practical insights rooted in discipline, resilience, and continuous self-improvement.

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DID YOU KNOW?

Quality On Tap! was created by NRWA in 1996 as the first practical, hands-on guide to better public relations for water utilities. Today, the QOT logo can be found around rural America on water towers and utility vehicles, spreading awareness to turn on the tap.



Photo taken by Aaron Schroeder near Delta, Iowa

A Note From Sunny Schell

Technical Assistance Provider
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Hello, This is Sunny Schell. So, Mr. Pepper has me attempting to write my first article for The Wyoming Connection Magazine. Bear with me as I struggle to type and punctuate correctly, as the shovel in the dirt or a wrench on it, is more up my alley.

I started my water, wastewater adventure when I began working for the Town of Pine Haven in 2012, where I stayed until 2023. 2012 was the first Wyoming Rural Water Conference I attended and met many of you operators, that to this day I still visit with and ask for advice, troubleshooting, (old school tricks) and (if that don't work try just cussing at it).

I didn't realize that having a support system in place with our peers, whether it be for a phone call to a fellow operator, one of the WARWS staff to vent, ask for guidance, troubleshoot a problem, or just see how the week is going would become such an important part of my work life.

People from Wyoming are very self-reliant and we would rather help than say we may need some help. I know ole Ross was there when I had my stuff packed ready to walk because of a mayor's less than kind words about my worth for the town. Ross said (sit down, take a breath and remember don't let him win, you will be here longer than him and you will weather the storm fine), and I did.

Jim Van Dorn always had great bits of advice, most of which would have to be edited, but most of you know what I am talking about. Over the years I have reached out to a lot of you for advice on many things, both professional and personal. Not once did any of you say you were too busy, didn't have time, or I was on my own to figure it out.

Whether we admit it or not, the job of an operator is a high-pressure environment, especially during emergencies, storms, equipment failures, power outages, the list goes on. We need to take the time to breathe, rest, try to sleep, (I know, ha-ha, that's a good one). Many of us are isolated, and long distances between towns, but we are all just a phone call away.

Operators are essential to public health and the economy, and have a significant responsibility, and added pressures that get overlooked by many of the powers that be in the community. No matter what storm may arise, together we can maybe make it just a little easier on each other.

I have also discovered that it takes a unique dedication for everyone that works in this field. Every day brings opportunities to learn, share and have a great story to tell. I feel very blessed that I have this opportunity to work with the WARWS staff and with the operators throughout Wyoming. Kathy has said more than once, when someone starts in this field, they either have it or they don't, and if they have it, they will stay dedicated with their time and effort to making sure the system runs smoothly and safely.

In the short time I have been with WARWS, this work has reinforced my belief that we must not only maintain our existing systems, but also find ways to adapt to changing needs of each community.

Our state has so many unique challenges such as weather, landscape, soil, board members, councils, and mayors that require a level of ingenuity and resilience from its water professionals. A lot of these words are the same words that I have heard from WARWS staff and from operators through the years. The message has stuck with me, and I hope I can relay that message as I navigate my way through assisting systems.

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A Note From Victor Spencer

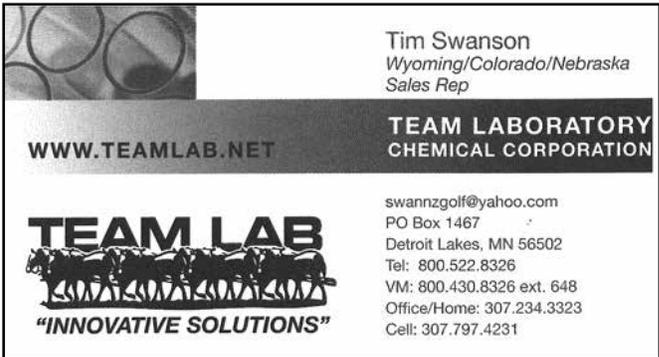
Water Quality Action Specialist
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I grew up in San Leandro and Fremont, on the Oakland side of the San Francisco Bay. Before my senior year, I visited my aunt and uncle in Cheyenne—my uncle was a wastewater operator there—and mentioned to my parents that I was interested in moving somewhere like Cheyenne. Hoping for a better environment and to be closer to my mother's sister, my parents decided to relocate our family to Cheyenne, Wyoming, in 1992, where I finished high school.

My career started as a summer help that year at the Cheyenne Board of Public Utilities, first with the Collection crew, then as a temporary wastewater operator and maintenance person. However, they had to let me go due to budgetary issues. After a brief stint as a car detailer for a local car dealership, I rejoined the Board in 1993 as a Water Treatment Plant Operator until 2000, when I transitioned to the well field and became Lead Operator in 2005.

With over 33 years in the water industry, I've held multiple roles and now have a Level 3 water license and Level 2 distribution license. My journey shows that with support, you can achieve anything, even if spelling and speaking are challenging.

I'm excited to return to the field where I began and support my fellow operators. For 20+ years, I've been active in the Wyoming Water Quality and Pollution Control Association and completed the AWWA Managerial program along with many other industry courses and hope to be able to help others with their pursuit of licenses and troubleshooting issues in their systems.



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Photo taken by Aaron Schroeder near Delta, Iowa

Check Your Capacity Development

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality has developed a really excellent and easily understood list of screening questions to help a system determine where a utility falls in the spectrum of capacity development. If you answer no, not sure, or don't have enough information to answer any of these questions then you may want to consider using the full capacity development questionnaire. Below are the questions from DEQ's new screening tool:

Managerial:

- 1) Is your utility in compliance with the Wyoming Operator Certification Program?
- 2) Does your utility have cross connection control or back-flow prevention measures in place that are tested regularly?
- 3) Does your utility have a current Emergency Response Plan (ERP) that addresses how to meet demand during drought, natural disasters, power outages, or supply chain disruptions?

Financial:

- 4) Does your utility have an annual budget that contains a

separate reserve account to fund equipment replacement and/or capital improvement costs?

- 5) Does your utility operate on at least a break-even basis?
- 6) Does your utility have a plan to implement rate increases to ensure that operation and maintenance expenses are covered as they increase?

Technical:

- 7) Do you have adequate adjudicated water rights to exceed your daily peak demand and allow for future growth? For consecutive water systems, does the public water system that you obtain your water from have adequate supply?
- 8) Does your utility have disinfection equipment that is functional and tested regularly?

- 9) Does your utility have a redundant/emergency power supply that is functional and tested regularly?

Asset Management:

- 10) Does your utility have a current asset management plan that contains, at a minimum, a map of the system showing critical assets, an inventory of critical assets, and a replacement plan for these items?

If you need help answering any of these questions, need to fill out a full capacity development plan or would like some assistance presenting information to your decision makers, Rural Water staff can help. Give me a call and get your capacity on!

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Data Centers - A Shallow Dive

Where to Begin? At the beginning of November, I fully intended to write an article about data centers and water usage. After several weeks of googling and reading articles, I realized that the water that data centers use is fraught with opinions, horrific stories, green-washed corporate webpages and very little concrete information. This didn't help my article writing plans. So – what is the truth about data centers and water usage?

What are data centers? Why would anyone from Wyoming care about them? Data centers are facilities that house information technology (IT) infrastructure like servers, storage, and networking equipment to store, process, and manage an organization's data and applications like Artificial Intelligence.

This infrastructure supports search engines, social media, GIS systems, and basically anything else that is cloud-based or online. All those nifty apps you can use to organize your life or amuse yourself? Yep, some data center is working overtime manipulating your selfie to look like an alien. As we move information, technology and our hopes and dreams to the cloud, these facilities generate heat. Building these facilities in cooler climates makes operational sense. Wyoming has said climate, with the additional benefits of open space and low humidity.

Regardless of a generally cooler climate, Wyoming still gets hotter than the 64-80 degrees F that data centers like to operate at. So, these facilities still require cooling. When it's an appropriate temperature outside, air cooling is an option. Otherwise, technology such as liquid cooling or geothermal cooling must be used. Evaporative cooling is an option for dry climates like Wyoming. Think massive swamp cooler. This isn't the most efficient option as most of the water gets lost through evaporation. Other liquid options include chilled water systems where cold water is pumped through heat exchangers or immersive cooling.

These technologies require water. Water usage depends on the method that is used. Some methods such as chilled water systems allow for water to be recycled. Water used in chilled water systems must meet specific water quality standards (pH and hardness). As the water is reused, it becomes more mineralized and the hardness increases. When the water no longer meets the water quality standards, it must be dis-

charged and replaced. The efficiency of the cooling system depends on the incoming water quality, cooling method used as well as other local factors.

A mid-sized data center could use up to 110 million gallons per year. Smaller facilities use less. The data center in Cheyenne used an average of almost 54 million gallons in a year. Because of their water usage, data centers have received a bad rap. Accused with drying up aquifers from direct usage for cooling as well as indirect usage from power generation, the estimated water usage by data centers in 2023 reached 400 million gallons per day (including power generation). Since then, data centers have made efforts to reduce water usage through improved efficiency, increased water reuse and alternative cooling systems. Using these techniques has increased water usage efficiency for large data centers from .25 L/KWH to .19 L/KWH. In 2022, large data center customers like Amazon, Microsoft, Meta and Google pledged to improve water usage efficiency by 2030.

The term “water positive” was thrown about quite a bit on webpages and articles. Basically, the term means that they put more water back into the system than they are using. This is where my skeptic Stetson got put on. How exactly does a company “put more water into the system”? Goals amongst these companies are to improve water use efficiency, use water from sustainable sources (recycled water), runoff collection and use, and support sustainable water projects within communities.

One sustainability practice is to send discharge water to agriculture in the area, reducing the overall withdrawal from



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a stream or groundwater resource. Other practices include using free-air cooling when temperatures permit or using recycled water. Regardless of these lofty goals and practices, data centers do increase the amount of water used within the community.

Before the data centers (or any industry) come calling, it's imperative your water system understands their resources and needs. How much water does your community need? (This question leads to additional questions like, "Do you meter your raw water?" "Do you meter all of your customers?" "What is your water loss?") Do you have the rights and permits to that amount of water? Do you have the infrastructure to access that water and provide it to your customers? (Wells, pumps, reservoirs, diversions, pipelines, treatment facilities, tanks, fire hydrants, etc.) Do you know your static water level and pumping levels so you can determine if an industry is affecting your water supply? Do you know what your maximum daily demand is, as well as what the industry's maximum daily demand is? Can you supply both at the same time?

This is a great opportunity to educate decision makers on the needs of the community, and how an industry can affect them. Communities and stake holders must decide wheth-

er the water resources in the area can withstand additional use. Reviewing the available water resources and supplies of an area is a great place to start. Differentiate between potable and non-potable water. While all water resources can be treated to potable standards, sometimes it's just not cost effective. Domestic, agricultural and industrial uses will have different water quality needs. Moving a water use from one source to another may allow multiple needs to be satisfied. An example would be to use industrial wastewater discharge for agriculture or other irrigation (assuming it meets water quality standards). This could take pressure off a stressed water source while providing for the needs of the community. Yes, it may take additional infrastructure, but that's part of sustainable development.

So... what is the truth? Data centers are a necessary part of modern life as well as a way to diversify a community's economy. They, like any other industry, use water. Making sure that their development is sustainable and aligns with a community's goals and resources is a critical discussion. If you have questions about water usage and development, I can't guarantee I'll have answers, but I'm happy to learn alongside you and support you and your system along the way.

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To get started with IRIS, go to <http://www.useiris.com/index.htm>.



Spring Conference is Just Around the Corner

These are challenging times, but we are all in this together, which is the theme for this year's spring conference. For pre-conference we are going to do a whole day of orientation for our new operators. Things in our profession have gotten considerably more complicated and it is important to start these new operators out right. If you have a new operator in your system, make sure to get them to pre-conference.

Our "Things You Need to Know," will also be virtual. If you can't attend in person, just let us know on the registration form and you will be sent a link so that you can attend virtually. We have divided it up into two-hour chunks. Feel free to attend as many of the two-hour blocks as you would like. This track will cover everything from what the future may hold to acronyms that we need to know.

Operating a sustainable utility is difficult in the best of times, and these are not the best of times. State and Federal funds for capital projects are questionable, costs are rising and our customers don't understand why their water and wastewater bills are more than they are used to paying. This is a hands-on class. Come prepared to work and participate. If you do, you will leave the class with 3 things that your utility can implement to make improvements that are achievable.

There will also be a 4-hour class on PFAS both from a national and Wyoming perspective. PFAS is not going away, but there are resources available to help us with sampling and if necessary, clean-up.

Our regular conference will highlight new technologies, new and existing rules, both from the state and federal perspectives. along with case studies of innovative things that have worked right here in Wyoming.

There will be plenty of time for us to socialize and learn from each other. That is one of the most important things about attending conference. It helps you realize you are not alone out there. We are all in this together.

Looking forward to seeing you in Casper.

Board of Director Openings

Every year, the Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems has Board of Director elections depending on the Region of the state of Wyoming for Board seats that are at the end of their term. These are 3 year terms and there are currently no term limits. Board members must be employees, elected officials or designated representatives of a voting member system (PWS's that are eligible for USDA RD funding typically serving populations under 10,000). The organization's By Laws define voting member as Non-profit public water, wastewater, associations, districts, municipalities and (or) other types of public utilities of any size with 10,000 or fewer population, engaged in the transportation, distribution and/or sale of public utility services in the rural areas of the State of Wyoming.

Board members provide oversight of and direction to the Executive Director on policy issues/items including budgetary, program, legislative and professional direction. Board members receive no direct compensation for serving. Board members are reimbursed for travel expenses to attend official association meetings, can attend in person conferences and training sessions at no cost including hotel and per diem. Board members can attend virtual training sessions at no cost.

For 2026, two region board seats are up for election. The Central region includes Fremont and Natrona counties. The Southwest region includes Teton, Lincoln, Sublette, Uinta and Sweetwater counties.

Those interested can contact Mark Pepper, Executive Director for more information. A letter of interest must be received by March 31st to be included in Business Meeting materials distributed to voting member delegates. The Annual Business Meeting does entertain floor nominations for Board seats as well. Announcements for the Annual Business Meeting will be made during the first two weeks of April per the By Laws.

The Best Tasting Water in Wyoming

We invite every system attending conference to enter "The Best Tasting Water in Wyoming" contest. The winning system will be hosted (airfare, room, and meals, for one representative) in Washington D.C. at the National Rural Water Rally 2026 by the Wyoming Rural Water Executive Director and Wyoming's National Director. The delegation will meet with officials from the USDA Rural Development, USEPA and will visit with Wyoming's US Senators and Representative to discuss water issues facing systems in Wyoming. To enter, bring 1/2 gallon of your water, in glass and on ice to the registration booth when you check in.

Exhibit Hall

Set up can begin Tuesday 3-5pm. Official opening Wednesday at the 10am break. Tear down will be after the 3pm break on Thursday, or you can stay until the end, if you choose.

Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems
35th Annual Training Conference – BOOTH REGISTRATION
April 21st - 24th, 2026 Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center, Casper, WY

Please print legibly or type:

Company Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Type of Product/Service: _____

Name(s) and emails of those attending: _____

Exhibit Hall – 8' x 8' space, 6' skirted table, pipe and drape, 2 chairs, wireless internet, meals for two. If you have more than 2 representatives, a fee of \$40 per representative will be charged.

1st, 2nd, 3rd request for booth # _____, _____, _____

Note: A few booths are numbered the same as the sleeping room right behind it. If you choose one of those booths, you must also take that sleeping room. Reserve the room by emailing Celeste Asheim casheim@ramkotacasper.com.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER – EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION by 3/15/26:

Member Exhibit Hall ___ x \$475 _____

ASSOCIATE MEMBER – REGISTRATION after 3/15/26

Member Exhibit Hall ___ x \$625 _____

NON-MEMBERS – EARLY BIRD by 3/15/26 (Includes non-advertising membership through 12/31/26 @ \$395)

Non-Member Exhibit Hall ___ x \$870 _____

NON-MEMBER – REGISTRATION after 3/15/26 (Includes non-advertising membership through 12/31/26 @ \$395)

Non-Member Exhibit Hall ___ x \$1,020 _____

NON-MEMBER (Does not include membership)

Non-Member Exhibit Hall ___ x \$1,200 _____

SPONSORSHIPS Available – You do not have to be an Exhibitor to be a sponsor

(Company names will be listed in conference program and on signage)

Break/Food Sponsor _____ x \$250 = _____

Game Night (Food and prizes): _____ x \$125 = _____

Meals for representatives _____ x \$ 40 = _____

Sponsorships packages available: email Mark Pepper – markp@warws.com

• Donations for door prizes will be accepted and appreciated **Total \$** _____

• Refund Policy: No refunds after 3/15/26 (will carry over to a future event)

If paying with a credit card, please complete the following:

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Return this form with payment to:

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Fax: (307) 436-8441 or Register on-line: www.warws.com
For more information call our office at (307) 436-8636



CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

35th Annual Technical Conference

April 21st-24th, 2026

Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center, Casper WY

Name for Badge: _____ Daytime Phone: _____

Your Employer: _____ 5 Digit Operator ID# REQUIRED _____

Your Title or Position: _____ PWS#: _____

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City/State/Zip: _____

Bill my employer: _____ Pay with credit card: _____ E-mail confirmation to: _____

Personal address to receive our magazine: _____

Email to receive training registrations and other notifications: _____

I plan to attend only the Pre-Conference ‘Things You Need to Know’ virtually on the 21st (No Fee) _____

I plan to attend only the Pre-Conference in-person on the 21st (No Fee) _____

FULL REGISTRATION April 21st - 24th, 2026

(Includes Pre-Conference, all classes, Exhibit Hall, meals and breaks, and **Certification processing**)

Member – Early Bird, payment included (By 3/15/26)	\$405	_____
Member – After 3/15/26	\$455	_____
Non-Member Early Bird, including a new <u>Individual Membership</u> through 12/31/26.....	\$555	_____
Non-Member after 3/15/26, including a new <u>Individual Membership</u> through 12/31/26.....	\$595	_____
Decision Maker / Clerk	\$150	_____

I plan to bring a water sample for the ‘Best Tasting Water in Wyoming’ contest (circle one) – YES NO

One-day only registrations

	Member	Non-member
Wednesday only: (classes, lunch, Exhibit Hall, Game Night)	\$265	\$280 = \$ _____
Thursday only: (classes, lunch, Exhibit Hall).....	\$235	\$265 = \$ _____
Friday only: (classes)	\$155	\$185 = \$ _____

Refund policy: No refunds after 3/15/26. Amount can be credited to a future event

Total \$ _____

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Operator's Corner

Water Questions by Brian Linton:

- Estimate the chlorine demand of a water that is dosed at 2.0 mg/L. The chlorine residual is 0.2 mg/L after 30-minute contact period.
 - 2.2 mg/L
 - 0.8 mg/L
 - 1.2 mg/L
 - 1.8 mg/L
- What makes up a "mixed media" filter?
 - Sand, gravel, coal
 - Garnet, sand, anthracite
 - Pea gravel, sand, charcoal
 - Anthracite, garnet, pebbles
- What could cause a pump to draw too much power?
 - Impellers not properly adjusted
 - Well is pumping sand
 - Crooked well causing pump shaft binding
 - Worn bearings or bent shaft
 - All of the above
- What conditions can cause variations in the chlorine demand of a particular water?
 - Dose, contact time, pH
 - Oils, dirt, pipe materials
 - Temperature, Organics, Reducing agents
 - pH, ammonia, temperature
 - All the above
 - A and C
 - A, B and D
 - B, C and D
- What is the accepted method used to measure turbidity?
 - Candle
 - Jackson
 - Light
 - Nephelometric

Wastewater Questions by Michelle Christopher:

- Combined sewers collect both storm water and sanitary wastewater. They are ___
 - Always a good idea because the storm water will dilute the wastewater.
 - Recommended where communities can't afford separate sanitary and storm water collection systems.
 - Never recommended engineering practice
 - Acceptable where mechanical wastewater treatment is available.
- Excessive detention time in collection system wet wells increases solids settling and corrosion. To reduce this, operators should
 - Flush the distribution system into the collection system to dilute the wastewater.
 - Throttle the discharge pump rate by partially closing the discharge valve.



- Adjust the pump controls to reduce the drawdown depth and shorten pumping cycles.
 - Install a larger pump.
- When the algae population and its activity increases, the pH can be expected to
 - Remain neutral
 - Increase
 - decrease
 - remain the same
 - Facultative ponds are:
 - Aerobic on the top and anaerobic at the bottom
 - Ponds behaving badly
 - Very shallow evaporative ponds
 - Full of blue-green algae
 - A lagoon cell is 500 feet wide and 1000 feet long at the surface, and 450 feet wide and 950 feet long at the bottom. The average pond depth is 6 feet. Assuming the pond is empty, if the flow into the lagoon cell is 750,000 gallons per day, how many days of storage does this lagoon cell hold?
 - 4.6 days
 - 20.9 days
 - 3.7 days
 - 27.7 days

- Volume of a trapezoid = $2,778,750$ cubic feet
- Convert cubic feet to gallons $2,778,750$ cubic feet $\times 7.48$ gallons/cubic feet = $20,785,050$ gallons
- Divide volume by flow = 27.7 days

1. C 2. C 3. B 4. A 5. D

Wastewater answers:

1. D 2. B 3. E 4. H 4. D

Water answers:

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A Note From Randy Rumpler

Circuit Rider
randy.rumpler@warws.com
307-921-2844

Safe Winter Travel

As all you know, we, as Circuit Riders travel year-round and winter can and will cause issues. I just wanted to pass on what I carry in my vehicle in case I get stranded. First off, I carry a duffle back with insulated bibs, heavy winter coat, sorel boots, couple pair of gloves, and a stocking cap. In the bag, I also carry 3-4 candles, which will help put heat into the vehicle. I also carry a cooler with water, lunch meat, cheese, bread, and mayonnaise.

I also carry a small waterproof ammo can with flares, flashlight, batteries, and lighters. You should carry a fold up shovel and a small bag of kitty litter for traction. Make sure the vehicle is ready to go, check the oil, tires in good shape and aired up, antifreeze filled, windshield fluid is full, and battery checked and good to go. I also carry a battery jump box, cordless air compressor, and a windshield scraper and brush.

Remember, always stay with and in the car, do not walk anywhere. Keep the hazards on and start the car every now and then to keep the battery charged. Get out once in a while and brush off your lights so they can be seen, and keep the exhaust pipe clear of snow. While brushing off the hazard lights, move your arms and legs around to keep the blood flowing. Someone will come by sooner or later, plow trucks, state troopers, or just a good Samaritan to help.

Be prepared and safe. Carry the supplies you think you might need to stay safe and warm. You can even throw in a heavy sleeping bag, food, water, and of coarse toilet paper. Keep starting the vehicle to keep the battery charged and again stay with the vehicle.

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Hearty Hodgepodge

By Randy Rumpler

This is my mother's recipe and my favorite soup.

- 1.5- pounds of ground hamburger
- ¾- cup of chopped onions
- 1- clove of garlic-minced
- 3- cans of Minestrone soup
- 1-28 oz can of pork and beans
- 1.5-cups of chopped celery
- 1-tbsp of Worcestershire sauce
- ½-tsp. oregano

Cook the hamburger and onions until brown and onions are tender. Stir in Minestrone soup, pork and beans, 3 cups of water, celery, Worcestershire sauce, Oregano. Simmer covered for 15 to 20 minutes. Makes 12-14 servings.

Very tasty and filling. Enjoy!

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Our Western Heritage

by Kathy Weinsaft

Gratefulness in the Middle of Winter

We are in the hush of a Wyoming winter. I love the quiet. For me winter in Wyoming is a time to reflect. While it takes some endurance, it also is beautiful. I think about the pioneers who faced these same winds, drifts and challenges without the luxuries that modern life affords us. Then and now Wyoming winters are rooted in community and while we pride ourselves on self-reliance, I give thanks for my friends who share their ham and vegetable broth for my pinto beans, or those that give me part of the bounty of their hunt so my freezer is full of game to last through the year. We look after one another and I give thanks for that this winter.

The snow in Wyoming never arrives quietly. It comes with the wind. When it is snowing and blowing there is no better time to escape to your craft room or shop. We get projects done that have been waiting over the summer. For me that means immersion in diamond art, stained glass and crocheting or knitting. For other of my friends, they have all sorts of quilting projects, or they are knee deep in wood working. I give thanks that creativity and craftsmanship is alive and well in this state.

Realizing that one cannot live by crafts alone, I listen to the call of the kitchen. One of my favorite meals to share is homemade tomato soup with green chili grilled cheese. Just the thought of the times I have trundled over to friends to deliver this meal makes me smile. I think this tomato soup recipe came from "A Taste of Home," and the green chili grilled cheese was inspired by a special at Glenrock's very own Rosie's café. If you would like the same kind of smile to spread over your face here are my recipes.

BEST Ever Winter Tomato Soup

- Butter and olive oil (enough to sauté vegetables)
- 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- 3 large carrots, peeled and chopped
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 teaspoons dried basil
- 3 cans (28 ounces each) whole peeled tomatoes, undrained
- 1 container (32 ounces) chicken stock
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 3 teaspoons sugar

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream, optional

I use a big stock pot to make this but a dutch oven would work as well. Heat oil and butter and pepper flakes over medium heat until butter is melted. Add carrots and onion; cook, uncovered, over medium heat, stirring frequently, until vegetables are softened, 8-10 minutes. Add garlic and basil; cook and stir 1 minute longer. Stir in tomatoes, stock, tomato paste, sugar, salt and pepper; mix well. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, to let flavors blend, 20-25 minutes.

It is ready to eat if you want it textured or you can remove from the heat and use a blender, if you want it smooth. Do it in batches. If you happen to have an immersion blender that works great too. If you want it even smoother now is the time to slowly stir in heavy cream, stirring continuously to incorporate. Return pan to stove to heat through.

Green Chili Grilled Cheese

I get a bushel of roasted Pueblo Chiles every year in September. I air vacuum seal them in gallon bags and freeze so that I have them for cooking. I use these chilis for this recipe, but other chilies will work and if worse comes to worse you can always use a can of green chilies.

- 4 slices of bread
- 2 -4 tablespoons butter, softened
- 4 slices of cheddar cheese
- 2-4 chilis or 1 (4oz) can green chilies drained

Butter one side of all 4 slices of bread. Top unbuttered sides of bread with one slice of cheddar each. Lay the chilies on the cheese then lay the other 2 slices of cheese on top of the chilies. Top with last 2 slices of bread, buttered side out. In a large skillet over medium heat, cook sandwiches on both sides until golden brown and cheese is melted.

I am grateful for cozy home-made food and friends to share it with. So, this season make winter a time of gratitude and gratefulness.

It is, after all, part of our Western Heritage

How to Get Fair Rates, Part 1

Carl Brown, President GettingGreatRates.com

This is a long story, so I will tell half this time and the other half in the next issue. The fair rates issue is important everywhere there are rates, so let's deal with it and not ignore it.

How complicated can rate setting be? Consider the water pump.

What is it pumping? From where? To where? What is its power supply? Does the pump pump all the time? Intermittently by timer? Sensor? Is it old? New? Soft start?

A pump does one thing – it pumps. But it is complicated.

Rates are affected by almost everything, and they affect almost everything. Now that is complicated.

Here is a synopsis before doing a deep dive into rate setting. After deducting all other “bankable” revenues, over the long run rates must be adequate to pay all costs and should be in a fair structure. Cost-to-serve rates are the “poster child” of such rates. Now, let's dive.

Adequate rates enable the utility to be sustainable. But the utility is not funded only with rate revenues. The utility should assess other fees and charges for services and materials it provides, too. Some utilities are subsidized with sales tax revenue and other sources. And system improvements will likely be partially funded with outside sources like grants and interest-subsidized loans. But once all those other revenue sources are factored in, yes, rates need to be adequate to pay all costs, keep the utility sustainable and build prudent reserves. Surprise, surprise, convincing customers they should pay more to keep the utility sustainable can be ... difficult.

Let's assume you can pull that off. Now let's add rate structure fairness to the mix.

Most rate analysts (this one included) and other folks who provide help with rate setting favor the notion of “cost-to-serve” rates as a good measure of fair rates. You are not required to have cost-to-serve rates, but they are a great benchmark of fairness and a great place to start. So, what are cost-to-serve rates?

The notion of “**cost-to-serve**” or “**cost-of-service**” utility rates is simple:

1. User charge rates should be high enough to sustain the utility, and
2. Rates should be structured such that customers pay for he service based on the costs incurred to serve each customer - be fair.

The concept is simple. The math and politics are often far from it.

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) published and periodically updates what you have probably heard called the “M1 Manual.” More completely, it is entitled “Principles of Water Rates, Fees, and Charges.” Google it. You might want a copy.

The M1 is considered by many to be the “Bible” of cost-to-serve water rates but the principles apply to all utilities. This analyst applies the notions in the M1, along with variations to fit each client's situation and preferences. You could say, I view the M1 “Bible” as a set of helpful guidelines, not rules.

I have analyzed rates for hundreds of utilities, most owned by cities and towns but some districts, too. Later I call them all “towns” to use fewer words. I have seen lots of styles and personalities of mayors and others who are somehow involved in rate setting. If part of your job or elected position is to calculate or adopt rates, you are in this group. So, find where you best fit in the following:

1. Maybe you have a strong personality and ideas about what is fair, you are good at “convincing” the council or board to follow your lead, and you effectively convince citizens and ratepayers to accept a certain rate structure, with the council or board's approval, of course. While this is a heavy-handed approach, it is common. It can be very effective at getting rates adopted. But fairness can be a problem.
2. Maybe you approach rate setting from the facilitator, team-player angle where you help the council or board and ratepayers “talk it out” and arrive at a structure that serves many people and businesses well. That approach can be ponderous. Sometimes it kills a rate increase in its tracks. But being involved often makes people feel better about the resulting rates.
3. Maybe you favor having an outside “expert” calculate and justify a rate structure and level and then you work at getting the council or board, and ratepayers to accept the reasoning of the analyst.

I do not work with many Approach 1 folks, for obvious reasons. Approach 3 folks are my “people.” Many Approach 2 folks become Approach 3 folks, after Approach 2 fails them.

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Maybe you are thinking, “Well, I like this about Approach 1, and that about Approach 2, and Approach 3 can keep me from being blamed for everything. You are on to something! To do rates well in a given situation, you need to blend useful parts of each approach into a strategy that will work for your utility and your ratepayers. You just need to figure out the right blend of tactics for what is going on now.

Back to the notion of a cost-to-serve rate structure, what does that look like? How might you do it?

To follow the M1 Manual, you would list out all the utility’s functions and calculate (estimate, really) their costs. That cost estimating is not guessing. You start with the utility’s expense statement, or a future budget or projection of that string of costs in the future, which of course, are estimates. But these are real dollars or at least projections of real dollars. Since expense statements are not organized like a functional schematic of the utility, you must slice and dice expense statement cost items into functional categories.

What are functional categories? Engineers and operators work with this all the time. Functions include sourcing of water, treating it, storing it, transporting it, distributing it, metering and calculating bills for it, doing “administration” of it, and so forth. You need to estimate how much each function costs. Then you need to calculate the rates each customer, or class of customers, should pay to recover their share of the cost of each function.

Here is a quick example. If you estimate the cost of the function of sourcing water at \$100,000 and you estimate the “commercial” class of customers is responsible for 10 percent of the sourcing function, the commercial class should pay \$10,000 of the sourcing cost.

Sure, that example was very simple. But even in that simple example, you had to assume the commercial class was responsible for 10 percent of that function. How did you arrive at that percentage? And how should the commercial class pay that \$10,000? Classes do not pay rates. Customers pay rates. There is more math to do.

Functionalizing many costs and attributing them to customers or customer classes is complex. Doing that requires consideration of many things and you must make some reasonable judgment calls about distribution of costs, the time value of money and future system needs. You need to be fair. And if you want folks to believe you and accept those rates, you must “show your work.”

Rate Analysis and Training for Environmental Systems

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Wow, lots and lots of theory. Too much? Know that the M1 Manual is hundreds of pages long. The writers know this stuff inside and out and they added no “fluff.” It is all important information and guidance.

In the next issue I will cover a shortcut to cost-to-serve, or other rates, and the math needed to calculate them.

Carl Brown is President of GettingGreatRates.com, which specializes in water, sewer, and other utility rate analysis. The firm serves as the RATES Program rate analyst for the Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Virginia, and Wyoming rural water associations. Contact: (573) 619-3411; Carl1@gettinggreatrates.com

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Scrawny Girl's Chukar Chili

by Michelle Christopher

It's been a rough few years to be a deer hunter in my neck of the woods. Since 2008, the mule deer population has survived several winters of epic proportions interspersed with drought (sometimes in the same calendar year!) as well as competition from an increasing elk population, a skyrocketing feral horse population and increased disturbances from construction activities. While the population is slowly recovering, I just don't have the heart to take out the last buck that had enough energy to branch its antlers. This forms the foundation for my excuse why I haven't pulled the trigger on a deer since 2020. So, how does a deer hunter stay sharp? John and I've taken up hunting birds. Slightly different mentality, but it's an excuse to get outside, look for animals that

are crackerjack at camouflage and remember how to get a sight picture. Specifically, we've been targeting chukar partridge, a small bird that was introduced from Europe in the early 1900s.

Since we've taken to hunting chukar, I've had to learn to cook them. Like most wild birds, they are a lean meat that requires gentle handling. Cook too long or let it get dry and you'll be chewing rubber bands. On one of my longer runs, I was thinking about food (not an uncommon occurrence) and came up with this recipe based on a white chili that uses chicken. It was a success and now we just need to get out and hunt more birds before the winter or season dates shut us down. Get outside folks! It's good for you.

Chukar Chili (serves 2 with leftovers)

One chukar, deboned (I use breast meat and legs) you could probably use 2 chicken thighs if you haven't been successful harvesting a chukar

1 tbsp oil

1 clove garlic, minced

1 tsp poultry seasoning (or use a mix of sage, rosemary and thyme – Simon and Garfunkel song not included)

1 tsp salt

1 can green chilis – I used the last of my garden jalapenos – use the amount and heat level that you prefer

1 box chicken stock, separated

1 cup frozen corn – or canned corn or fresh – whatever's available

1 can white beans – Cannellini, Great Northern...

2 TBSP masa or all-purpose flour

¼ cup sour cream

Brown chicken with oil, garlic and seasonings. If you're using fresh jalapenos, slice them up and sauté them too – same goes for fresh corn. Just remember that if you don't remove the seeds and white membranes of peppers, the oils in them just get hotter the longer they cook. Add most of the chicken stock and allow everything to simmer. When the meat is cooked through, pull it apart with a fork. (You could just cube the meat before you cook it, but I prefer it shredded.) Now add the corn if you haven't already. While it's simmering, thicken the broth and make it creamy, in a separate bowl mix the masa and sour cream until smooth. Add water or chicken broth until you get a nice slurry. Whisk this mixture into the chili and stir constantly to thicken. Don't let it boil – weird things happen to dairy when it boils!

Serve with Fritos and pepper jack cheese. This is a great soup for dreary cold days. It also reheats well. If you have wild game recipes you think Scrawny Girl should try, send them my way!

Regulatory Update, Quarter 2, 2025

By John DeGour, DrPH

The 2025 Regulatory Activates

2025 has seen many changes across the federal government, including the Environmental Protection Agency. While no new water-related regulatory initiatives have been introduced this year, those rulemaking activities previously set in motion are still grinding forward.

The **Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI)** was published by EPA on 7 October 2024 and will take effect at the end of 2027. NRWA submitted substantial comments on the rule, which received over 200,000 comments total, illustrating that flaws and concerns were identified universally across the Water Sector. This rule, however, was finalized without significant change. NRWA joined AWWA, AMWA, and other partners in petitioning the EPA to halt LCRI implementation pending the release of the new rule, but the EPA denied this request. The Lead and Copper Rule Revisions required lead service line inventories to be completed and submitted to state primacy agencies by 16 October 2024. The new LCRI regulation ambitiously requires the replacement of all lead service lines identified in those inventories within 10 years. The LCRI lowers the lead action level from 15 ugl to 10 ugl. Sampling for the ninetieth percentile now requires a first and fifth-liter draw, of which the system must use the higher result. This new mandate requires systems with exceedances to offer filtration, provide public notification, and impose additional Consumer Confidence Report requirements. EPA has indicated that funding will be available through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act grants.

The EPA released the final **PFAS rule** on April 10, 2024. Although EPA received over 120,000 comments in response to the proposed rule, the final rule was largely unchanged. The rule requires water systems to complete initial PFAS monitoring by 2027, followed by ongoing compliance monitoring. Systems must provide the public with information on the levels of PFAS in their drinking water beginning in 2027. By 2029, systems must implement solutions to reduce PFAS if an MCL exceedance occurs during initial monitoring. Beginning in 2029, systems having one or more PFAS MCL exceedances must take action to reduce PFAS levels in their drinking water and provide public notification of the violation. Lastly, the rule set individual MCLs of 4ppt for PFOA and PFOS, MCLs of 10 ppt for PFHxS, PFNA, and HFPO-DA, and Hazard Index of 1 Mixtures containing two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS.

On April 17, the NRWA Regulatory Committee submitted written comments to EPA on the proposed regulation for perchlorate in drinking water. Additionally, on January 16, 2025, NRWA participated in the Federalism Consultation for the proposed perchlorate National Primary Drinking Water Regulation and provided comments provided comments. On January 9, 2025, during the National Drinking Water Advisory Council consultation for perchlorate, Alaska Rural Water Association's Janna Littlewood also commented to the EPA on the proposed rule. EPA will publish the proposed rule for public comment by November 21, 2025, and promulgate a final rule by May 21, 2027.

The NRWA Regulatory Committee convenes regularly to review proposed federal regulations with public drinking water and/or wastewater implications and develops positions within the parameters of board-approved regulatory principles and policy. The committee recommends to the NRWA Board of Directors on regulatory issues that circumvent association policy or regulatory principles. The Regulatory Committee draws from its vast wealth of experience and practical knowledge to offer real-world information/insight and provide small and rural water system perspectives.

NRWA also maintains a national presence by leveraging the extensive experience possessed by State Rural Water Associations, which currently have over 31,000 utility system members across all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Members provide practical expertise and small system perspectives to inform national policy. The following National Rural Water representatives sit on national committees, workgroups, and taskforces.

- Jana Littlewood (Alaska Rural Water Association): EPA National Drinking Water Advisory Council
- Paul Fulgham (Rural Water Association of Utah): AWWA Water Utility Council
- John Jones (New Mexico Rural Water Association): EPA Small Advocacy Review Panel: Proposed Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances National Primary Drinking Water Regulation

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- Randy Pleima (Iowa Rural Water Association): Lead Service Line Removal Collaborative
- David Peterson (Kentucky Rural Water Association): Water ISAC Board
- Jeff Ford (Arkansas Rural Water Association): Voting member of the Water and Wastewater Sector Coordinating Council
- Matt Odermann (North Dakota Rural Water Association): Voting member of the Water and Wastewater Sector Coordinating Council
- Arianna Lageman (Kentucky Rural Water Association): Small Business Advocacy Review Panel: current Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts (MDBP) National Primary Drinking Water Regulations
- John Jones (New Mexico Rural Water Association): Small Business Advocacy Review Panel: National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Perchlorate
- John Covington (California Rural Water Association): Small Business Advocacy Review Panel: National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Perchlorate
- Matt Odermann (North Dakota Rural Water Association): 2024 CIPAC Water Sector Cybersecurity Task Force
- John DeGour (NRWA): 2024 CIPAC Water Sector Cybersecurity Task Force
- Charles Stephens (NRWA): Lead Service Line Collaborative Steering Committee
- Charles Stephens (NRWA): Local Government Environmental Assistance Network

NRWA will continue to monitor and engage in national-level regulatory activities to stay informed about potential and upcoming regulations as well as to understand new and existing regulatory requirements. NRWA seeks to influence proposed regulatory activities and advocate/champion small and rural water system needs and perspectives on the state and national stage. NRWA leverages over 31,000 utility system members across all 50 states and Puerto Rico to amplify its voice and the interests of its members and rural America on regulatory and policy issues.

NRWA will continue to train, support, and promote water and wastewater professionals who serve our small and rural communities.

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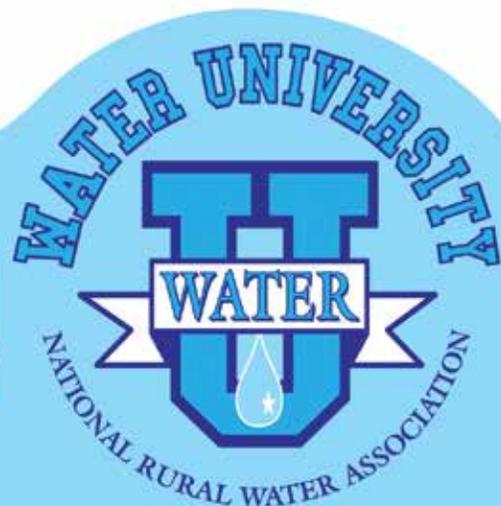
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