

**TM** Rural Water District

# Quality On Tap!

January 2022 | Volume 17, Issue 2



**MILPA  
GARDENS**

**RURAL POWER  
LEADERSHIP  
PROGRAM**

**BACKUP WATER  
SUPPLIES FOR  
LIVESTOCK NEEDS**

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

# FROM THE MANAGER

Jay Jorgensen  
Jay.Jorgensen@tmruralwater.com



**2021** is wrapping up, and oh what a year it has been for water systems statewide trying to meet the daily demands of our customers during a time of widespread drought conditions. TM Rural Water District broke our record monthly water sales in June of this year with just over 86 million gallons consumed by our customers. Our peak day for the year was June 7th, with a single-day high of 3,442,805 gallons of water pumped into our system on a single day. June's record water sales were 10 million gallons more than the District had ever provided in a single month and was followed by July being the second-highest month on record at 79.5 million gallons. August was in the top six months of all time before demand started to drop off a bit.

The District's water supply remains secure and healthy even with the persistent drought conditions we have been seeing. TM treats groundwater pumped from our wellfields in the Dolton area and blends our finished water with supplemental water connections from BY Water User District and the city of Parker. By utilizing these supplemental connections, the District is able to properly manage the aquifers that we draw the majority of our water supply from.

TM was able to identify areas that suffered from low-pressure problems during the extremely high usage in June and July, which prompted the District to accelerate a couple of Booster Pump Station upgrades. The South Booster Station that feeds the area West and South of Marion is in the process of being upgraded with a lag pump that will kick on and keep the waterlines fully pressurized during times of high demands. This project should be completed before the Spring of 2022. The other Booster Station is located North of I-90 and feeds the Rural Salem Area. This station has traditionally only served one pressure zone, but the District will be splitting it into two pressure zones in order to increase the pressures and flow of water to all customers in this area. The District is in the process of replacing one pump with four variable speed pumps that should remedy the low-pressure problems in this area during times of high demand. This project should also be completed before the Spring of 2022.

TM Operators kept busy this year adding 29 new users to the system and completing regular system maintenance like fixing leaks and installing meter pits at existing water users' residences. The District's long-term plan is to eventually switch all users over to water meter pits in order to get water meters out of our customer's basements.

...continued on page 14

**TM** Rural Water District  
**Quality On Tap!**

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## CONTACT US

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Box 445  
Parker, SD 57053  
605-297-3334 / 1-877-242-3420  
E-mail: [tmrwd@iw.net](mailto:tmrwd@iw.net)

## OFFICE HOURS

8:00 am - Noon & 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm  
Monday - Thursday  
Office is Closed  
Friday-Sunday and Holidays

*TM Rural Water District Quality On Tap!*  
*is published quarterly by*  
*TM Rural Water District,*  
*PO Box 445, Parker, SD 57053*  
*for its water users*

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# TM Rural Water District CALENDAR

## DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>

TM Rural Water District Board Meeting in  
Parker @ 1:00 PM

## MONDAY DECEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup>

Christmas Holiday Observed (Office Closed)

## JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup>

TM Rural Water District Board Meeting in  
Parker @ 7:00 PM

## FEBRUARY 28<sup>TH</sup>

TM Rural Water District Board Meeting in  
Parker @ 7:00 PM

## MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup>

TM Rural Water District Board Meeting in  
Parker @ 7:00 PM

## TM RURAL WATER DISTRICT'S MISSION

TM Rural Water District's goal is to improve the quality of life in the rural and small community areas of our state. The District is committed to providing the highest quality drinking water possible at the lowest reasonable cost consistent with good business practices. As a water user district, the only other product that we have is the service we provide the users. The District goal is that the service is offered with the highest standards.

# NOTICE OF VACANCY TM Rural Water District

The following office of the Board of Directors of the TM Rural Water District will become vacant due to expiration of the present term of office of the following Director.

## Division III - Rob Christiansen, 3-year term, Viborg, SD

Nominating petitions may be obtained from the office of TM Rural Water District located at 110 North Main Street in Parker, South Dakota between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM, Monday thru Thursday, starting Monday January 10th. All completed petitions must be filed at the TM office no later than Thursday, February 10th, 2022 in order to be valid.

*Greg Wirth,*  
*President*  
*Board of Directors*  
*TM Rural Water District*

# TM TRIVIA

In this edition of *Quality on Tap*, be the first person to call Tanya with correct answers to the following questions below at 605-297-3334 to receive \$10 off your next water bill. A second place drawing for \$10 off your next water bill will also be taken from those people who call in after the initial winner, so don't give up.

We have just started winter, so it is a great time to test your overall knowledge with Winter Trivia. Good Luck!

## Winter Trivia

1. The word 'winter' comes from an old germanic word 'wintar.' What does it mean?
2. What is the shortest day of the year called?
3. Which months mark the beginning and the end of the winter season respectively?
4. During which season in the Northern Hemisphere does the earth reach the point in its orbit where it is closest to the sun?
5. How many sides do snowflakes have?
6. What is the largest width ever recorded of a snowflake? 1 inch, 3 inches, 5 inches, or 15 inches?

*TM Rural Water District employs six full-time employees from three different communities in the areas that we serve. Whenever possible we attempt to buy our supplies and consumables locally and prefer to hire local contractors when the need arises. We are thankful to have the ability to serve the communities and rural areas in which we live and hope that our service will continue to be a benefit to everyone in our District.*

# DON'T BE A WATER WASTER!

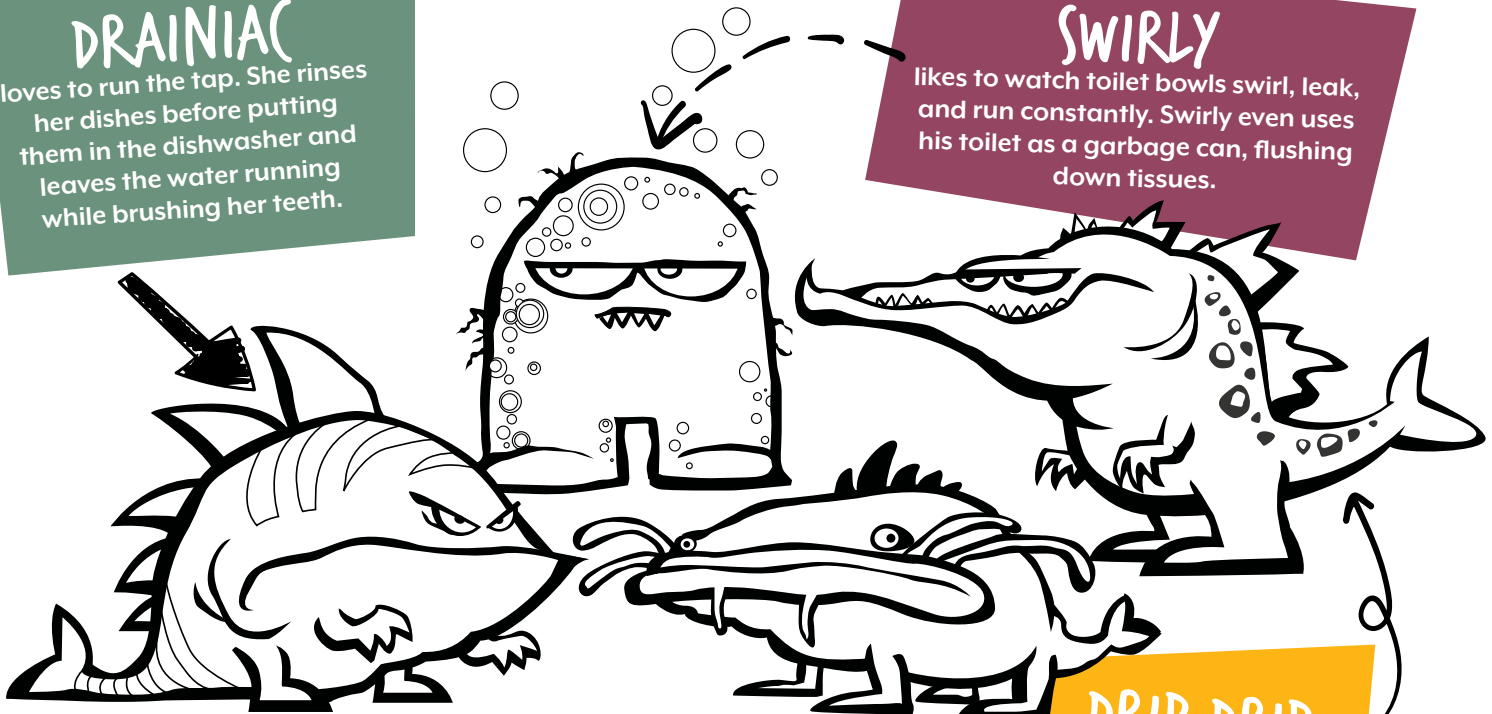
Do you know how much water a family of four uses every day in the United States? Not 50 gallons, not 100 gallons, but 400 gallons! You could take up to 10 baths with that much water – but who would want to do that? Fortunately, there are many things we can do to save.

## DRAINIAC

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

## SWIRLY

likes to watch toilet bowls swirl, leak, and run constantly. Swirly even uses his toilet as a garbage can, flushing down tissues.



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

## SOGOSAURUS

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

## DRIP DRIP

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

### Why Should We Save Water?

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

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

### Is your toilet leaking?

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



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





## APPLICATIONS OPEN JANUARY 1 FOR RURAL POWER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





# BACKUP WATER SUPPLIES FOR LIVESTOCK NEEDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Don't let your pipes freeze this winter

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

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

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

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



## Water Loss Chart

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

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

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

# MILPA GARDENS CAN BUILD SOIL HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

*By Stan Wise, South Dakota Soil Health Coalition*

**S**ometimes a little chaos provides an opportunity for growth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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



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

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

A milpa garden also offers soil health benefits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## BEAR BUTTE VALLEY WATER



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## DIRECTORS:

- Bruce Weyrich – President
- Ed Blair – Vice-President
- Bob Kaufman – Secretary/Treasurer
- Clair Rowett – Director
- Rich Grosch – Director
- Brook Looby – Director

## STAFF:

- Dennis Kinslow – Manager
- Lisa Symonds – Bookkeeper

## STATISTICS:

- Hookups – 275
- Miles of Pipeline – 3,100
- Water Source – wells
- Counties Served – Meade

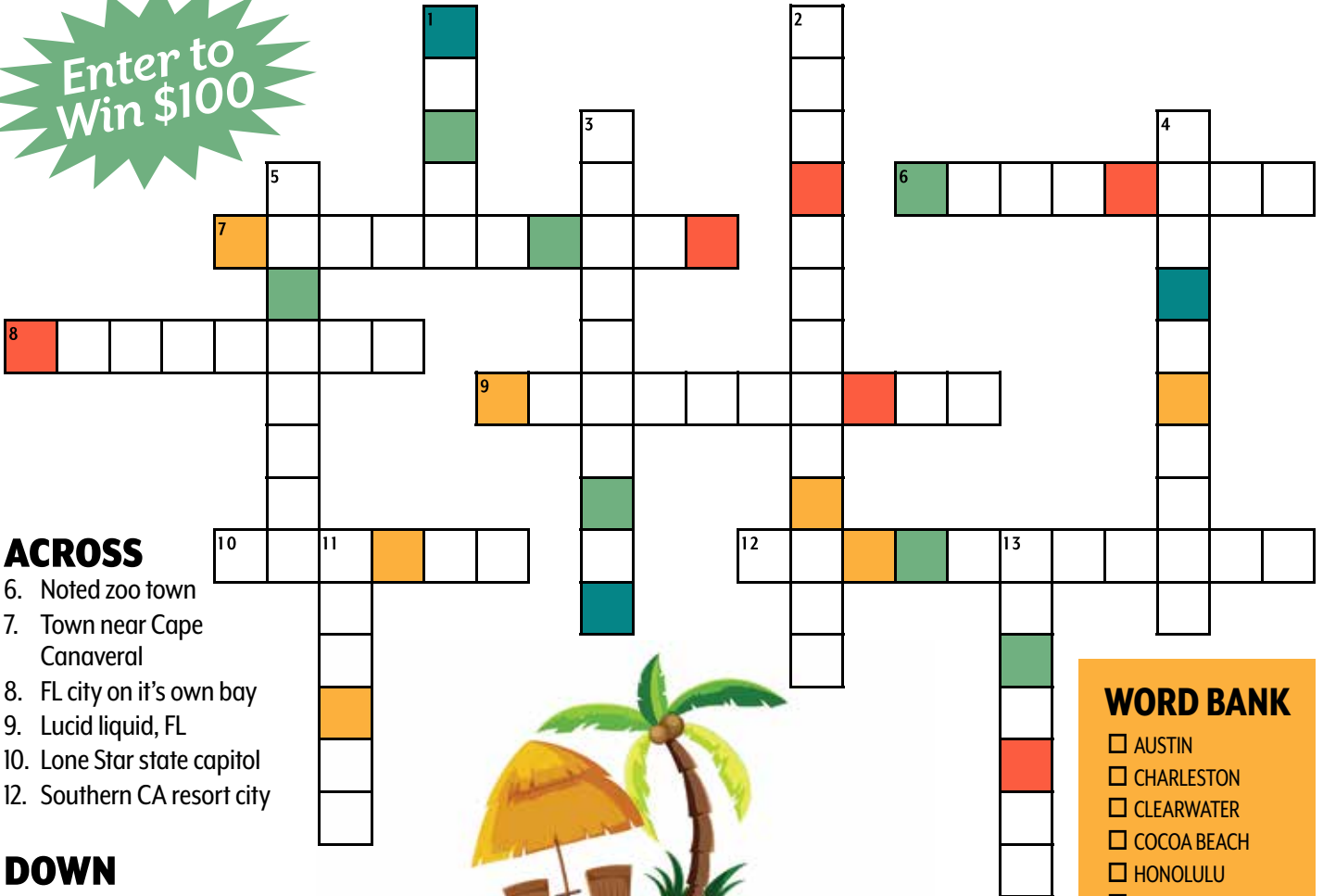


*Bear Butte Valley Water's pipe arriving by the truckload in 2015.*

# RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

## SNOWBIRD DESTINATIONS

Enter to  
Win \$100



### ACROSS

- 6. Noted zoo town
- 7. Town near Cape Canaveral
- 8. FL city on it's own bay
- 9. Lucid liquid, FL
- 10. Lone Star state capitol
- 12. Southern CA resort city

### DOWN

- 1. Buccaneer base
- 2. Atlantic resort
- 3. SC city
- 4. City of Saints
- 5. Pearl Harbor site
- 11. Red Rock city
- 13. Most populous state capitol



### WORD BANK

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

### SCRAMBLE ANSWER



**RULES:** Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See page 2 for contact information) or enter online at [www.sdarws.com/crossword.html](http://www.sdarws.com/crossword.html) with the correct phrase by January 10, 2022 to be entered into the \$100 drawing.

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

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

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

# SDARWS NAMED STATE ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**Manager:** continued from page 2

This is just a reminder that TM's website is up and operational and you can access it by typing [www.tmruralwater.com](http://www.tmruralwater.com) into your internet browser. On this site, you will be able to access forms and documents relating to the District, and you also have the option to pay your water bill online utilizing a debit/credit card or an e-check. Repairing leaks is a big part of the maintenance that TM performs each year, and we rely on our users to call in if they see a potential leak. Please do not hesitate to call if you suspect a leak, and the sooner, the better; fixing leaks early reduces expenses to the system, which benefits all users in the District. If in doubt, call us out.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us here at TM Rural Water District, and May God Bless you and your families in the New Year.**

And once again, thank you for choosing TM Rural Water District for your source of clean, reliable drinking water.

## ***Just for Laughs:***

**Ole and Lars go ice fishin. Ole pulls out his new thermos and Lars says to him, "Ole, whatcha got der?"**

**Ole says, "Vell Lars, dis here's a thermos. It keeps hot tings hot, and it keeps cold tings cold."**

**After awhile, Lars gets curious and says, "Vell Ole, whatcha got in dat der thermos?"**

**Ole says, "Vell Lars, I got a popsicle, and two cups a coffee."**



## **UPDATED LATE FEES & DISCONNECT FEES**

Payments for your monthly water bill are due on the 20th of each month. A 10% late fee with a \$5.00 minimum charge will be added to your account for any payments received after the 20th of each month that payment is due. Service is subject to disconnection if payment is not received within 30 days of the due date.

If we are forced to disconnect your service due to non-pay, a \$50.00 fee will be charged for disconnecting the service and added to your outstanding amount. To reconnect your service, the entire outstanding amount must be paid in full which will also include a \$50.00 reconnection fee along with the collection a \$50.00 deposit to be posted to your account.

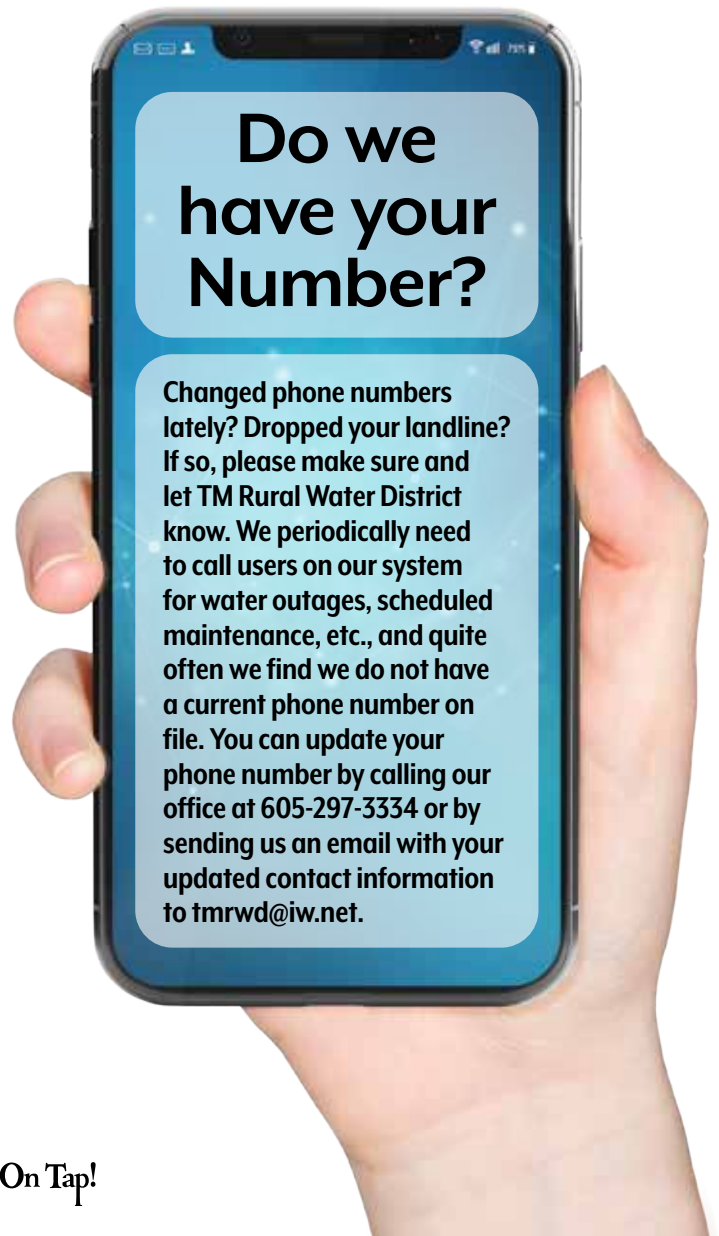
## **MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS**

**Cash, Check, E-Check, Credit Card  
or Money Order  
Automatic Bank Deductions (ACH)**

**[www.tmruralwater.com](http://www.tmruralwater.com)  
(click "Pay Online Now" button)**

## **Do we have your Number?**

**Changed phone numbers lately? Dropped your landline? If so, please make sure and let TM Rural Water District know. We periodically need to call users on our system for water outages, scheduled maintenance, etc., and quite often we find we do not have a current phone number on file. You can update your phone number by calling our office at 605-297-3334 or by sending us an email with your updated contact information to [tmrwd@iw.net](mailto:tmrwd@iw.net).**





# Water Conservation in the Cattle Yard

**T**his past summer brought weeks of continuous high heat and humidity with no rain for relief. Understandably so, many cattle producers turned to sprinkling their cattle to keep them cool. Unfortunately many producers turned to “lawn sprinkling heads” better designed to water the lawn than to efficiently cool their livestock. The end result were water systems straining under the record water demands and wet, muddy cattle-yards.

Although South Dakota generally suffers less than the southern states in terms of temperature, humidity and lack of a breeze; with our lack of shade trees it can be difficult for cattle to avoid heat stress and find a cool place to find relief from the sun.

Rather than rely on the inefficiency of lawn sprinklers, there are other more effective products available designed specifically to keep livestock cool without wasting precious water: evaporative cooling and high pressure fogging systems.

## Evaporative Cooling Systems

Evaporative cooling involves a sprinkler system that wets the cattle, and also contains a fan to blow air across the animals’ bodies to evaporate the water and cool the cattle. Such a system works very well but the amount of water sprinkled should be minimized to avoid waste as well as create foot problems for the cattle.

Sprinkling without fans, or just fans without sprinklers will not result in an effective evaporative cooling system, especially in the hottest, most humid part of summer. In order to do the system justice, some design considerations should be made. A 15-minute adjustable timer and an electrical solenoid valve

should be integrated into the system to control the length of the sprinkling cycles, as should a thermostat to shut the system on and off dependent on ambient temperatures.

Cattle should be sprinkled from 30 seconds to around three minutes – enough to soak the cows to the skin, but not enough to run off. Fans should run continuously during the sprinkling cycles. Time between the sprinkling cycles should be adjusted to match the cooling needs and avoid “over watering” the area.

## High Pressure Fogging Systems

Research has demonstrated that a high-pressure fogger system of at least 200psi is comparable to the cooling effectiveness of a fan and sprinkler system. A high-pressure fogger is essentially a fogger nozzle connected to the front of a fan – cooling the air instead of wetting the cow. Water is applied to the air where it vaporizes, absorbing the heat and cooling the air. This cooler air is then blown across the cattle to cool them.

The components in such a fogging system include a high-pressure pump and pressure regulators capable of 200psi. The foggers should be hooked to a thermostat, run continuously, and have the ability to automatically shut off when the ambient temperature drops below 78 degrees F. Each fan/fogger nozzle will require a water supply of at least 12 gallons per hour. This method of cooling will generally use less water than the evaporative cooling system.

For more information on cooling your cattle while conserving your water in times of peak demand, contact your county extension agent or local conservation district.

TM Rural Water District  
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# WATER MATTERS

## State Navigable Streams



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

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

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



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

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



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DEVELOPMENT  
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