



**West River/Lyman-Jones
Rural Water Systems Inc.**

Quality On Tap!

October 2020 | Volume 16, Issue 2

**WHY RURAL WATER SYSTEM
OPERATORS ARE CRITICAL**

**ALWAYS CALL
BEFORE YOU DIG**

MANAGER'S REPORT

Jake Fitzgerald
Manager, West River/Lyman-Jones RWS



Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

The AMI change-out project is over 50% complete. With every single service being upgraded, this has been a huge undertaking by the WR/LJ staff. They have done an outstanding job in balancing a very heavy workload this year.

Due to the AMI upgrade, many of you may have noticed that the online account access has been interrupted. We apologize for the temporary stoppage of this service and thank you for your patience. The new customer portal is in development and we will provide you with login information when the portal is up and running.

I'd also like to thank West Central Electric (WCE) for providing assistance and support with the AMI project. WR/LJ was able to purchase several 85' poles from WCE to be used for collector antennas. WCE also installed the poles, and allowed us to use one of their existing towers near Philip to mount an antenna.



Antenna pole installation by WCE

Cedar Butte Booster Pump Station

The Cedar Butte Pump Station project is complete. Dakota Pump, Inc. of Mitchell, SD delivered the station mid-summer and start-up took place the last week of July. This station provides service to both WR/LJ and Rosebud Rural Water customers in Mellette County.



A crane is used to unload the pump station onto the foundation platform

Wall North Well

The drilling and casing of the new well north of Wall was finished up in July. After flow and water quality testing, a new

...continued on page 14

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Dave Fuoss, Draper – President
- Richard L. Doud, Midland – Vice President
- Dodie Garrity, Hayes – Sec./Treas.
- Paul Goldhammer, Wall
- Kirk Cordes, Creighton
- Veryl Prokop, Kadoka
- Casey Krogman, White River
- Brad Smith, Vivian
- Dean Nelson, Murdo
- Quint Garnos, Presho
- Marion Matt, Philip – Liaison for West River Water Development District

MURDO PROJECT OFFICE

307 Main Street
PO Box 407
Murdo, SD 57559

- Jake Fitzgerald Manager
- Amy Kittelson..... Office Manager
- Kati Venard Billing Secretary
- Brandon Kinsley..... O & M Foreman
- Ed Venard..... O & M
- Steve Baker..... O & M
- Brian Flynn O & M

Ph: 605-669-2931 or 1-800-851-2349

Fax : 605-669-3022

E-Mail Address:

wrlj_ruralwater@goldenwest.net

PHILIP FIELD OFFICE

PO Box 144
Philip, SD 57567

- Mike Vetter O & M Foreman
- Eddie Dartt..... O & M
- John Kramer O & M
- Nick Konst O & M

Ph: 605-859-2829 • Fax: 605-859-2859

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water Systems, Inc. will be held **WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020**, at the Philip shop building in Philip, SD.

Registration will be from 4:00 to 4:30 MT followed by a brief business meeting and door prizes. Each membership will receive a \$10 water certificate at registration.

WR/L-J 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes (Draft)

The annual meeting of West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water was held at the Murdo shop building in Murdo, South Dakota on Wednesday, October 16, 2019.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Fuoss at 4:30 p.m. (CT) and a quorum was declared present.

Manager Fitzgerald read the annual meeting notice as published in the October 2019 newsletter and the local legal newspapers, and the official proof of mailing statement that indicated 1,822 newsletters were mailed from the U.S. Post Office at Madison, SD on September 20, 2019.

Manager Fitzgerald followed with introductions of WR/LJ Directors and staff.

The minutes of the October 17, 2018, Annual Meeting were published in the October 2019 issue of *Quality on Tap* newsletter that is mailed to all members. President Fuoss asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the minutes as mailed. Motion Carried.

Manager Fitzgerald congratulated the O&M staff for going without a work-related injury for more than 5 years. President Fuoss presented each of them with a safety recognition gift.

Manager Fitzgerald presented the manager's report. He provided a system overview of annual water sales and water sources. He informed members that we are in the final stages of completing a history book. He mentioned how groups formed in the mid-1960's and started to gather sign-ups, held meetings and gained federal interest in 1986. He recognized Attorney Larson and past and present directors, who have graciously contributed to the success of WR/LJ and the Mni Wiconi Project.

Attorney Larson conducted the election of Directors and declared that, having no opposition, incumbent Director Paul Goldhammer – Zone 5 was re-elected to the Board of Directors. In Zone 3A – Rural Jones County David Fuoss and Robert Louder of Draper had filed petitions. After tallying the memberships' votes, Attorney Larson declared David Fuoss re-elected to the Board of Directors.

Dave Larson, Attorney for West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water reported to the members that WR/LJ is not in litigation. A motion was duly made and seconded to approve Manager Fitzgerald and Attorney Larson's reports. Motion Carried.

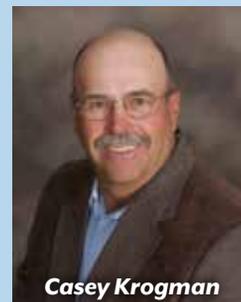
President Fuoss called for old business. There was none.

President Fuoss called for new business. There was none.

Drawings were held for door prizes.

There being no further business to address, President Fuoss adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m. (CT).

WRLJ NOTICE OF DIRECTOR VACANCIES



The West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water Systems, Inc. in accordance with Bylaws, Article VIII, Section I, hereby gives notice to its membership that the following seats upon the Board of Directors will be up for election at its Annual Meeting on October 14, 2020:

Zone 1 – Rural Stanley County north of the Bad River; current Director Dodie Garrity

Zone 2A – Rural Lyman County west of Township line between Range 75W and Range 76W; and rural Stanley County south of the Bad River; current Director Brad Smith

Zone 4 – Rural Pennington County east of the Cheyenne River; current Director Kirk Cordes

Zone 4A – Rural Mellette County; current Director Casey Krogman

Eligibility for Nomination:

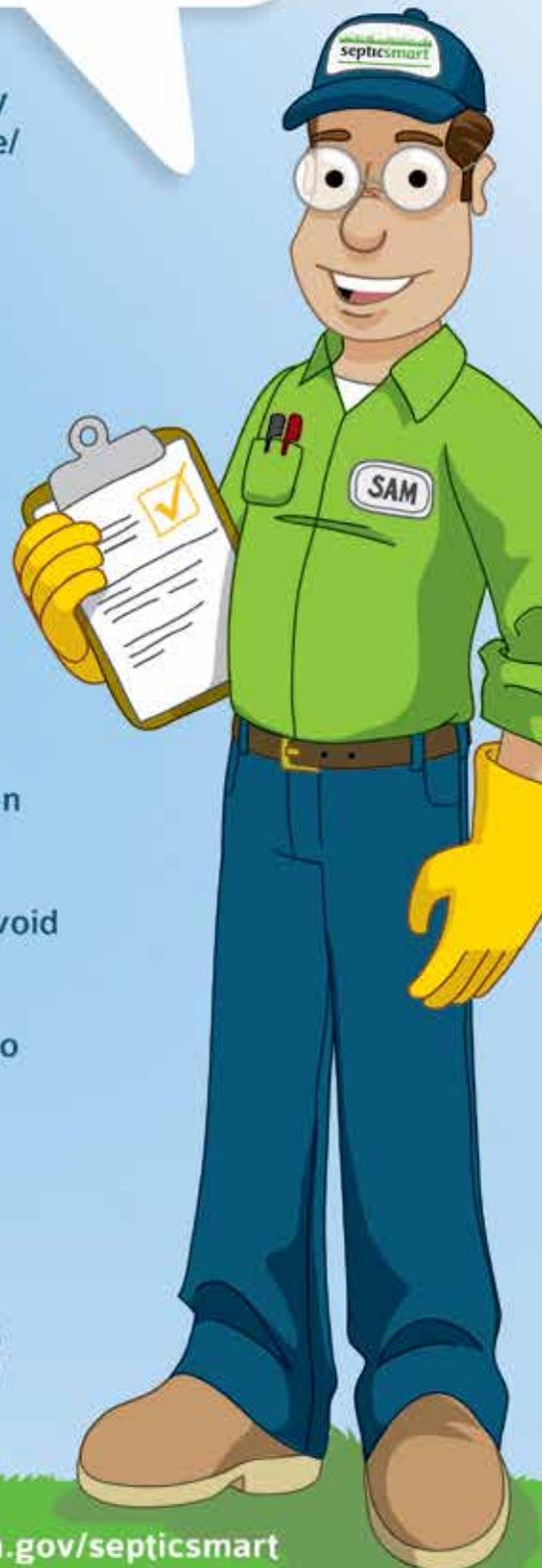
1. Must be a member of the corporation
2. Must have contracted for a service tap in area to represent
3. Must file a petition no later than 4:00 P.M. (MT) October 5, 2020, at the rural water system office in Murdo, S.D.
4. Petition must be signed by no less than 15 members
5. No proxy voting allowed
6. Nominations will not be allowed from the floor at the annual meeting unless no petitions have been filed for a directorship

7. NOMINATING PETITIONS CAN BE ACQUIRED BY CONTACTING:

West River/Lyman-Jones RWS, Inc.
PO Box 407 • 307 Main St. • Murdo, SD 57559
Phone: 605-669-2931

Top 10 Ways to Be a Good Septic Owner

- ✓ Have your system inspected every three years by a qualified professional or according to your state/local health department's recommendations
- ✓ Have your septic tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years
- ✓ Avoid pouring harsh products (e.g., oils, grease, chemicals, paint, medications) down the drain
- ✓ Discard non-degradable products in the trash (e.g., floss, disposable wipes, cat litter) instead of flushing them
- ✓ Keep cars and heavy vehicles parked away from the drainfield and tank
- ✓ Follow the system manufacturer's directions when using septic tank cleaners and additives
- ✓ Repair leaks and use water efficient fixtures to avoid overloading the system
- ✓ Maintain plants and vegetation near the system to ensure roots do not block drains
- ✓ Use soaps and detergents that are low-suds, biodegradable, and low- or phosphate-free
- ✓ Prevent system freezing during cold weather by inspecting and insulating vulnerable system parts (e.g., the inspection pipe and soil treatment area)





**ALWAYS CALL
BEFORE YOU DIG**

By Larry Janes, Executive Director, SD One Call/SD811

Have you ever thought about what it would be like not to have good tasting, clean water available when you need it? Probably not. I know I rarely do, but there's just nothing better than turning on the tap and getting a refreshing cold glass of water to quench your thirst on a hot day or having that steaming hot water ready for you in the shower. And in those rare cases when there's a water break, we just can't wait until it's repaired.

For many, having clean water available for basic human needs is just not the case. There are all kinds of figures available on the internet ranging anywhere from hundreds of millions of people to several billion people who don't have access to clean or even adequate water supplies, either on a regular basis or ever. Fortunately for those of us living here in South Dakota, we do. And we have our water suppliers, excavators and you to thank for that.

Our water suppliers work hard to learn about new technologies to keep our water clean and safe. But why thank excavators and you, you ask? That's because you contacted the South Dakota 811 Center before digging, more than ever before, in 2016. In fact last year was a record year for contacting the South Dakota 811 system, either by calling 811 or by going on-line to request utilities to locate their underground services and mark them with paint or flags before digging occurred. The 811 Center was contacted, a whopping 161,767 times last year. That's more than any other year since the service began back in 1993. With our population in South Dakota of about 882,000 people, and with

this large number of locate requests, it works out to a little over one in five people digging something, somewhere in the state all year long.

What's really cool about this is that 61% of all these requests were made online, with no hold time, even during the busiest times of the year, which are always during the spring thaw and just before freeze-up. We're constantly working to make it easier and more efficient for you to get your work projects out to the utilities in your area as quickly as possible. A call to the 811 Center takes about 7 to 8 minutes, from the time you reach a representative until you hang up, but the new, online Homeowner Portal takes only about half that time. Just go to sdhop.southdakota811.com to process your request using the South Dakota Homeowner Portal. It's a step-by-step process that's really easy to use. (Even I can do it, and that's saying something).

South Dakota 811 is there to accept your calls and on-line requests 24/7, 365 days a year, so water suppliers and other underground facility operators know to mark their lines to prevent outages. This can protect those buried services during excavation projects, such as planting trees, placing fences or drain tile, and any other projects where the earth will be disturbed and where those buried lines could accidentally be damaged. Once you've made contact with the Center all utilities in the area are notified of the work you'll be doing and when you plan to do it, so they can mark those underground lines, including your water, to ensure your safety and making sure that you won't lose your valuable services.



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

HOW TO REQUEST SD 811 LOCATES

PHONE: Make a free call to 811 (in-state) or (800) 781-7474 (outside of South Dakota).

ONLINE: Use the new South Dakota 811 Web portal for faster processing of locate requests.
Just visit: sdhop.southdakota811.com

MOBILE APP: The South Dakota 811 app is available free in the Apple App Store and Google Play.
Just search for "South Dakota 811."



WHY RURAL WATER SYSTEM OPERATORS ARE CRITICAL

by Erin Hayes, General Manager, Kingbrook Rural Water System

Water operators are the first line of defense in public health. They deliver safe, plentiful drinking water to our members. Being a water operator is a very meaningful career choice as they make a huge, positive difference in the health of our communities. Most technical operations are handled by our operators, who are probably the most important person in the overall operations of our system.

Operators provide one of the most valuable services to Rural Water members. They work in vital jobs that we cannot do without a tremendous amount of knowledge and fortitude. They keep us supplied with a necessity of life 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Water keeps us alive and is delivered or treated to protect our health as well as the environment.

It is important for everyone to understand how as leaders we need to support and equip operators with the skills and financial resources to do their job and help the operator keep the community's system running well.

Every state requires water operators to pass certification exams to show they are capable of overseeing critical aspects of water operations; it is no different in South Dakota.

Water operators run the equipment and control the process that cleans drinking water. They maintain and repair the pipes, valves, pumps, controls, engines, generators, and other equipment used to produce water. They sample and test the water at various points during treatment and distribution to ensure the treatment processes are working correctly to maintain water quality.

Once water leaves the treatment plant, it is stored in a tank or distributed directly to members through the distribution system. This is a network of pipes and pumps that carry water from the treatment system to the homes, businesses, schools, pasture taps for livestock, etc.

Rural water operators generally work on their own in a specified geographic area and are supported by an entire team of operators throughout the organization. ***"A successful team understands that regardless of how different each person on the team is, they all share a common goal."***



Rural water operators monitor the miles of different size pipes daily within their respective service area. An operator begins their day by looking at the overnight activity of water in their service areas using a technology called SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition). This is a system of software and hardware elements that allow rural water organizations to directly interact with devices such as sensors, valves, pumps, motors, and more. To simplify this, the operator looks for any anomalies that may have occurred throughout the night that may have caused potential leaks, or other related issues.

Every day the operator reviews their work orders and other service work the office may have scheduled for them. The workload generally consists of adding new services, repairing leaks, maintaining customer meters, responding to utility locates, assisting at treatment plants, obtaining easements for pipe routing, collecting GPS points on valuable assets, servicing

pasture taps, taking equipment from one site to another to assist other operators and so on. These individuals also serve on an on-call duty rotation six times a year where they are expected to know every aspect of our footprint and what their responsibilities are for each community we serve.

This may sound like “all in a day’s work,” but to understand how your system operates is essential. The type of work an operator does is ever changing. Automation and digital technologies are requiring operators to be able to do more with data.

The most rewarding factor an operator can do to achieve their goals in rural water, is to stay focused on the plan, the action, and be better than the day before. Every day in this profession, is an opportunity to provide safe drinking water for families, our members, and our communities. Having a winning career in the water industry creates a long-lasting ripple effect that any operator can and should be proud of.



CLARK RURAL WATER SYSTEM

In 1976, the worst drought in South Dakota's history was beginning to dramatically impact the lives of rural Clark county residents. Wells and dugouts were going dry and livestock was sold due to the lack of feed and water. Knowing that a guaranteed water source could break the back of drought cycles and help both the farmer and main-street prosper was a motivating factor in the development of Clark Rural Water System.

The original idea for the Clark Rural Water system started with a group of farmers from southern Clark County gathered around a kitchen table. By 1977 a steering committee was formed and began the daunting task of developing interest in rural water among the county residents. Although there were setbacks, the committee secured nearly 400 sign ups by 1978 and the Clark Rural Water System was put on the State Water Plan in 1981.

By 1982, the Clark Rural Water Board of Directors had secured \$5.2 million dollars in loan and grant funds. Funding for Clark Rural Water primarily came from Rural Development (called FmHA in those days) with a combination of loan and Grant funds. The state of South Dakota also contributed loan and grant funding to the system. The grants Clark received included a HUD Community Development grant, Oahe Subdivision grant, Oahe exploratory Grant, and a small grant from the East Dakota Water Development District. The developing membership also contributed nearly \$160,000 towards the project.

Construction started on Clark Rural Water in October of 1982 with work starting on the first well; the final distribution lines were installed December 1983. 525 rural users and five municipalities were part of the original project with the final cost of the original construction of Clark Rural Water totaling around \$5,250,000.

The design of the system called for the source to be developed, the

treatment plant constructed and the distribution lines installed at nearly the same time. As a result, there was no treated water available to pressure check the distribution lines being installed. The process of using untreated water worked great at the time for verifying that the newly constructed lines were leak free, but now whenever there is any disruption to the lines they need to be flushed as the iron that settled out of the water from that initial construction can dirty the water.

Clark's first expansion project began in 1984 after the system acquired some grant funding. After the initial project, there were some monies left over – so a small project was developed to connect 20 additional rural users and several miles of distribution main line. The next expansion occurred in 1989 when the system expanded to the east connecting hookups to the north side of Lake Kampeska. The project included a storage tank, pumping station and added 125 new members to the system.

In 1992 Clark Rural Water joined forces with Codington-Clark Electric to save costs and increase service reliability for both organizations. Clark Rural Water installed a 150 kW backup generator at the treatment plant to help with load management. This agreement was the first between a Rural Water System and a Rural Electric for load management. The agreement allowed the rural electric utility to reduce their wholesale power costs, and as a result Clark Rural Water received a reduced rate on electricity – which in turn reduced the cost of delivering water to the membership.

By 1993 the demand on the system had exceeded the original plant design capacity. A second filtration unit was added that doubled the system capacity from 600 gpm (gallons per minute) to 1,200 gpm. With this added capacity, the system was able to expand to the northwest from Raymond to Crocker and north



to another 125 people who were requesting water service. A small storage tank and pumping station were constructed to serve the members. Three additional wells have been constructed since 1991 to serve the main treatment plant, bringing the total number of wells to six. Land around the wells has been purchased over the years for wellhead protection. Currently, 675 acres are rented to local farmers or dedicated to the CRP program, while giving Clark Rural Water control over the activities and practices around the well field.

Another dry cycle in 2006 demonstrated the limits of the distribution system, with tanks running very low or dry. A tanker truck was used for three days to keep members in water during August by delivering over 136,000 gallons to keep the Kampeska storage tank from going dry. In October the staff at Clark RWS began construction of a 200 gpm nitrate removal plant, storage tank and wells to serve the area north of Watertown. The plant went online in 2007 and has eliminated the shortage that was experienced the year before, and enabled the system to provide water to a 48 home development and the Joy Ranch facility for Lutheran Outdoors. By building the plant with system personnel, the system saved over \$300,000 in construction costs. An additional 137 acres was purchased around the wells at the Kampeska Plant for well protection.

The original treatment plant had a design life of 20 years. 2007 took the plant five years beyond that figure with a couple more years to do something about it, after evaluating the condition it was in. Engineering reports and design proposals took a couple of years to approve, and when the project was ready to look at funding resources the Stimulus Program was announced. Shovel ready projects were the qualifier and we had a shovel ready project. A lime softening treatment plant with a total cost of \$7,820,000 was approved with a great ratio of 36.6% Grant, or \$2,862,000 grant money and a loan of \$4,958,000 at a 2.75% interest rate. It would be hard to imagine that the system will ever outgrow this facility with a treatment rate of 2200 gallons per minute, and the construction of the plant and the process equipment inside will have an extremely long life cycle and will be able to provide good water for decades. The ongoing evolution of the system has brought us to over 1,200 members and six municipalities that use nearly 300 million gallons annually, and now with capacity for future development in our service area.



CLARK RURAL WATER SYSTEM



DIRECTORS:

- Steve Arnesen – President
- Mark McHenry – Vice President
- Darrell Seefeldt – Secretary
- Arlen Boehnke – Treasurer
- Larry Wasland – State Association Director
- Marlin Fjelland – Director
- Michelle Birkholtz – Director
- Myron Hanson – Director
- Ryan Helkenn – Director

STAFF:

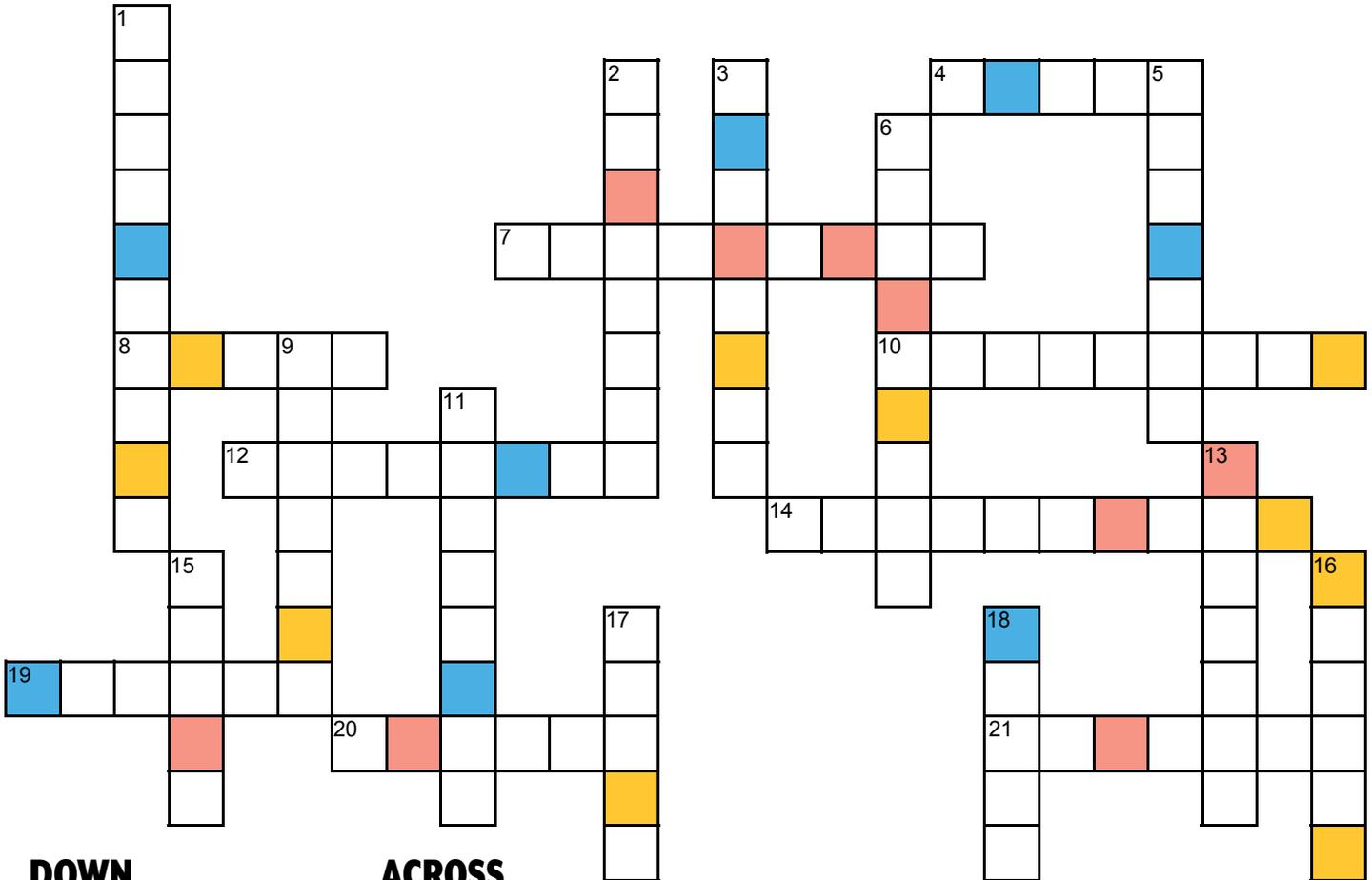
- Terry Kaufman – Manager
- Diane Spieker – Office Manager
- Greg Marx – Operations Specialist
- Jeff Hoffman – Operations Specialist
- Scott Hovde – Operations Specialist

STATISTICS:

- Hookups: 1,200
- Miles of Pipeline: 1,150
- Water Source: East Fork Vermillion Aquifer, Big Sioux Aquifer (North Unit)
- Counties Served: Codington, Day, Grant, Hamlin, Clark
- Towns Served Bulk: Dakota Sioux Casino, Nature's Deli, Clark, Florence, Henry, Wallace, Raymond, Bradley

RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

Back to School



DOWN

1. Temporary educator
2. Loose-leaf or bound
3. Little learners
5. Class that dwells on the past
6. School boss
9. Homework assigner
11. Putting letters in the right order
13. Colorful wax sticks
15. Vocal or instrumental
16. Grade school break
17. Measuring device
18. Student's stations

ACROSS

4. Boxed, bagged, or on a tray
7. Educational excursion (2 words)
8. Midterm and final
10. Teacher's domain
12. Carryall
14. Clean when black and dirty when white
19. Mistake eliminator
20. Of the number 2 variety
21. Biology or chemistry

Enter to Win \$100

SCRAMBLE ANSWER



RULES: Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See page 2 for contact information) or **enter online at www.sdarws.com/crossword.html** with the correct phrase by October 12, 2020 to be entered into the \$100 drawing.

Only one entry allowed per address/household. You must be a member of a participating rural water system to be eligible for the prize. Your information will only be used to notify the winner, and will not be shared or sold.

Congratulations to Doug Kiesz who had the correct phrase of "The first wealth is health" for July 2020.

RURAL WATER

ACROSS SOUTH DAKOTA

MID-DAKOTA PROJECT

2020 is a big construction year for Mid-Dakota Rural Water System. A new lagoon, which is bigger than the other three on location, finished construction in the late spring. The addition of the lagoon will help to improve the output of the water treatment plant by increasing the amount of sludge that can be released speeding up the water treatment process.

The Town of Ree Heights wanted Mid-Dakota to take over their water system. There were old water lines and service lines in the town and they really needed to be replaced. Ree Heights applied for funding and advertised bids. Once the project is completed, the Town of Ree Heights intends to turn the town's water system over to Mid-Dakota and get out of the water business.

The board and staff wanted to push more water to the eastern portion of the Mid-Dakota service area. To do that there were projects that needed to be completed. First, extra storage was needed so another 1.5 million gallon tank is being built to the west of the existing tank west of Highmore. Landmark Tank was the winning bidder on this tank project. Completion of the construction of this tank is in the summer of 2021. The other project is the paralleling of 21 miles of 24" mainline pipe in three different sections from Highmore to east of St. Lawrence. Carstensen was awarded the bids on the first two sections of pipeline and S.J. Lewis was awarded the last section. Pipeline completion is set for this fall.



AMR NOTICE

WR/LJ Rural Water utilizes an automatic remote meter reading system (AMR) to facilitate customer billing. This system is available to our customers to view daily meter readings. The customer shall not rely upon the AMR system, utilized by WR/LJ for billing purposes, as a substitute for their own diligence in monitoring their water usage. The customer is responsible for all water loss on the customer's side of the meter, whether or not detected by the AMR system. The customer is required to make a physical inspection of the customer's own system on a regular basis to avoid unintended water loss.

AUTOMATED PHONE CALLS



WR/LJ has started using an automated system to contact our members by phone, text or email with matters regarding your accounts. Some examples of these communications are notifications of planned outages, delinquent accounts, and disconnect for non-payment.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

In observance of the following holidays, WR/LJ Rural Water offices will be closed on the following days:

October 12, 2020
Native American Day

November 26, 2020
Thanksgiving Day

November 27, 2020
Day after Thanksgiving

In case of an emergency, please call the Murdo area at 530-0932 or the Philip area at 530-1136 for assistance.

MANAGER:
continued from page 2

control station will be constructed and a few miles of pipeline will be installed to connect the well to the existing distribution system.

Oglala Sioux Rural Water Supply System (OSRWSS) Water Tower

Construction of the OSRWSS 800,000 gallon water tower near Murdo is almost complete. The tower should be put into service by the end of the year.

A paint crew is lifted to the top of the OSRWSS Tower



PAYMENT OPTIONS



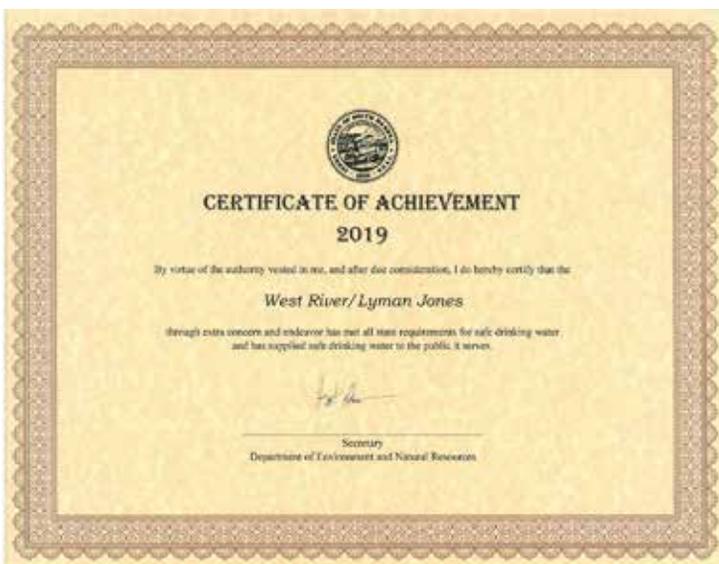
1. **Online Payment:** Go to www.wrlj.com (accepts Visa, MasterCard, Discover and Electronic Check)
2. **Pay-By-Phone:** Call 1-855-325-8898 to use our automated bill payment option.
3. **Pay-By-Phone:** Call 1-800-851-2349 and a WR/LJ customer representative will take your payment information over the phone.
4. **Electronic Direct Payment:** Your payment is automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the 10th of each month.
5. **US Mail:** Mail payment along with the bottom portion of your bill.
6. **Pay-in-Person:** During regular business hours you may bring your payment to our office.
7. **24-Hour Drop Box:** Available at the Murdo office near the main entrance.

For forms or more information on these payment options, please call 1-800-851-2349.

Visit us online at: www.wrlj.com

DENR RECOGNIZES WEST RIVER/LYMAN-JONES FOR DRINKING WATER COMPLIANCE

THANK YOU NOTES



Thank you so much for selecting me as the recipient of the WR/LJ Scholarship. I am very honored and the money will be very useful as I continue my education at MTI next fall.

*Thanks again,
– Lexy Dunker, Wall*

Thank you so much for choosing me as a recipient for your scholarship. It means a lot and it will go to great use! I can't wait for college and to see what is in store!

*Thanks again!
– Josie Rush, Philip*

Thank you for the opportunity to apply and receive this scholarship! It is very much appreciated!

*Thanks again!
– Ella Hand, Stanley County*

Thank you for your generous gift. My plan for the next 2 years is to attend Western Dakota Tech in Rapid City and study diesel technology.

– Jarred Hicks, Kadoka

The South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) announced that the West River/Lyman-Jones public water system and the system's operation specialists have been awarded a Drinking Water Certificate of Achievement Award.

“Most customers do not realize what it takes to meet all of the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act and all too often take for granted the behind the scene efforts of these unsung heroes to provide their communities with safe drinking water. We are especially grateful for these essential employees during the current COVID-19 pandemic,” said DENR Secretary Hunter Roberts. “DENR is excited to award West River/Lyman Jones Rural Water and its system operation specialists with a Drinking Water Certification Award for their diligence in providing safe drinking water to their customers in 2019 and throughout the pandemic.”

The system's operations specialists are Jake Fitzgerald, Michael Vetter, Ed Venard, Brandon Kinsley, Eddie Dartt, John Kramer, Steven Baker, Nicholas Konst and Brian Flynn.

To qualify for the Drinking Water Certificate of Achievement Award, public water systems and their system operations specialists had to meet all of the compliance monitoring and reporting requirements, drinking water standards, and certification requirements for 2019.



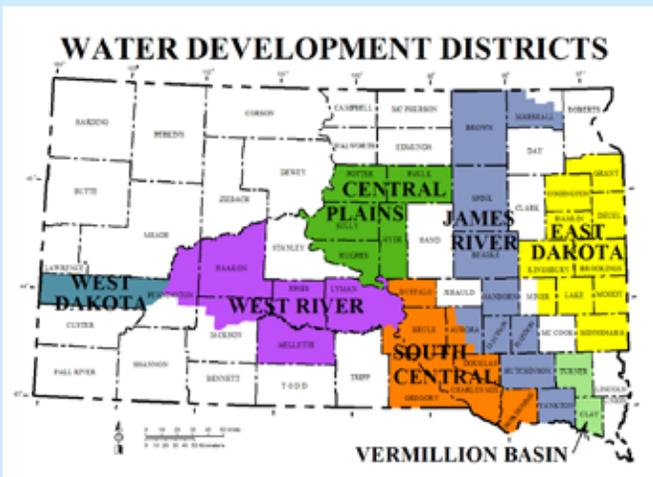
**West River/Lyman-Jones
Rural Water Systems Inc.**
PO Box 407
Murdo, SD 57559
605-669-2931 • www.wrlj.com

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #32
MADISON, SD



WATER MATTERS

Water Development Districts



Water Development Districts (WDDs) are political subdivisions of the State. WDDs promote the conservation, development, and proper management of water resources according to district priorities. They can provide technical, organizational, and financial assistance to prospective and existing projects and activities. While sharing many common efforts, each of the seven existing WDDs (see map) have developed programs and expertise designed to address those issues most important to their area.

Each WDD is governed by an elected Board of Directors, consisting of 5, 7, or 9 members, depending on population. The Board hires or contracts for staff and other services as necessary. WDDs have a limited taxing authority, being able to levy a tax of no more than thirty cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation (0.3 mill). They also pursue external grant support for priority activities.

If an organization, entity, group or individual has a project or activity that needs technical, organizational, or financial assistance, contact the WDD for that area. Staff has extensive experience in developing and supporting projects. They can assist in preparing an application to include a project on the State Water Plan, an important step if a project needs state or federal assistance. They can also help project sponsors search for funds from other sources.

WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION

East Dakota WDD - Jay Gilbertson
605-688-6741 • edwdd@brookings.net

Vermillion Basin WDD - Brad Prehiem
605-563-2883 • vbwdd@hotmail.com

James River WDD - Dave Bartel
605-352-0600 • davebartel@midconetwork.com

Central Plains WDD - Lynette Eckert
605-280-6763 • cpwdd@midconetwork.com

South-Central WDD - Peg Haenfler
605-724-2624 • scwdd@unitelsd.com

West River WDD - Jake Fitzgerald
605-669-2931 • jfitzgerald@wrlj.com

West Dakota WDD - Daniel Mullaly
605-394-2685 • wdwdd0@outlook.com



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East Dakota Water Development District
132B Airport Drive • Brookings, SD, 57006
(605) 688-6741 • <http://eastdakota.org>