West River/Lyman-Jones
Rural Water Systems Inc.

Quality On Tap!

January 2025 | Volume 20, Issue 3

SOUTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER HALL OF FAME

ARPA MONEY FLOWS THROUGH THE STATE

APPRENTICESHIPS ARE VITAL TO THE WATER INDUSTRY

2024 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

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ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:

FOUR – $750 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Application Deadline February 15, 2025.
See page 15 for more information.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Jake Fitzgerald
Manager, West River/Lyman-Jones RWS

2024 RECAP

- **PIPELINE IMPROVEMENTS:** Approximately 5.5 miles of pipeline were installed in Mellette County and 4.5 miles in Haakon County.
- **STORAGE IMPROVEMENTS:** A 300,000-gallon ground storage reservoir (GSR) was constructed near Vivian, and a 336,000-gallon GSR was built near Creighton.
- **NEW USER ADDITIONS:** The WR/LJ field crew installed 50 new user connections to system members.
- **PIPELINE REPAIRS:** The WR/LJ field crew quickly responded to and repaired 36 pipeline leaks throughout the system. WR/LJ operates and maintains over 3,500 miles of pipeline.
- **LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY (LSLI):** As required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the SD Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR), WR/LJ developed and submitted an LSLI inventory by the October 16, 2024 compliance deadline. We offered a water bill credit incentive to all members who participated in the LSLI survey, where we received about 25% participation, all of which were identified as "non-lead." This effort is not over, as WR/LJ will be required to send public notifications and verify the remaining 75% of privately owned service lines being listed as "unknown" material.
- **WATER QUALITY REGULATORY COMPLIANCE:** The WR/LJ operations staff does a great job keeping our system compliant with all federal and state water quality regulations.

We hope 2024 treated you well and wish you all the best as we roll into 2025!

West River/ Lyman-Jones Rural Water Systems, Inc.
MNI WICONI WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

FREE SERVICE

WR/LJ provides two free trips each calendar year to shut off/ turn on water at locations that will not be in use for a period of time. Please give advance notice by calling the main office in Murdo a couple days prior, so our field staff can make arrangements.

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

December 25, 2024 – Christmas Day

January 1, 2025 – New Year's Day

January 20, 2025 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

February 17, 2025 – Presidents' Day

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

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**

IS YOUR CONTACT INFO UP TO DATE?

If you have changed your landline, cell phone, or email address, please let us know. This will make it easier to contact members directly for water outages and high flow alerts.

Please email wrlj_ruralwater@goldenwest.net, call 800-851-2349 or fill out the form below and mail it to PO Box 407, Murdo, SD 57559. Thank you!

Name: _____ Account Number _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

THE MPEMBA EFFECT:
Why Hot Water Freezes Faster Than Cold Water

Have you ever thought about how water freezes? It seems like cold water would freeze faster than hot water because it's closer to the freezing point. But there's a surprising phenomenon called the Mpemba Effect (pronounced em-PEM-bah) where, under certain conditions, hot water actually freezes faster than cold water!

How Was It Discovered?

This effect was named after a Tanzanian student named Erasto Mpemba, who discovered it in the 1960s. During a cooking class, Erasto noticed that hot ice cream mixture froze faster than a cold one. He asked his teacher why, but no one had an answer. Erasto was curious and continued to experiment, and eventually, scientists took notice and named the effect after him!

Why Does the Mpemba Effect Happen?

Scientists are still trying to fully understand why the Mpemba Effect happens. But here are some ideas:

1. **Evaporation:** Hot water turns into steam and evaporates faster than cold water. When some of the hot water evaporates, there's less water left, which might make it freeze faster.
2. **Convection Currents:** Hot water moves around more than cold water, which could help it cool down faster.
3. **Molecular Changes:** When water heats up, the bonds between its molecules stretch and change. This might make the hot water cool down differently and freeze faster.
4. **Supercooling:** Sometimes, cold water stays liquid even below freezing, which could make it take longer to freeze than hot water.

Fun Fact:

The Mpemba Effect doesn't always happen – it depends on things like the container shape, the type of water, and even the surrounding temperature. But it's a fun and surprising twist in science that shows how there's always more to learn, even about everyday things like water!

The pictures below illustrate a fascinating phenomenon that happens when boiling water is thrown into the air in extremely cold temperatures (-7°F in this case). Due to the cold, the hot water rapidly cools down as it disperses. Many of the droplets instantly turn into steam, creating a dramatic cloud-like effect.

Experiment Time!

***NOTE:** These experiments should only be conducted under the supervision of a responsible adult. Always follow safety guidelines and use appropriate protective equipment as needed. Failure to do so could result in injury or damage. Proceed with caution and ensure a safe environment.*

EXPERIMENT #1

You need one very cold day, with an air temperature below zero degrees Fahrenheit (the colder the better). Fill a coffee mug with hot, near boiling water. Walk outside and toss the water into the air. If your water turns to snow, you have just witnessed the Mpemba Effect. That is amazing, right? Okay, now try the same experiment with a cold mug of water. What happened? ...probably not much of anything.

EXPERIMENT #2

You can do this experiment in your own freezer! Use two ice trays. Put hot water in one and cold water in the other. Check at 15 minute intervals. Which ice tray froze the fastest? If your answer is the tray with the hot water, you are right! Cold water molecules move slower in the freezer. Mainly, the outer water molecules in the tray come into contact with the cold freezer air. Hot water molecules move faster, causing more surfaces of the water molecules to be exposed to the cold freezer air – freezing them faster.

APPRENTICESHIPS VITAL TO THE WATER INDUSTRY

By Sue Bergheim, Apprenticeship Coordinator – South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems

The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) is launching an Apprenticeship Program to train the next generation of skilled water and wastewater professionals. This program is designed to provide hands-on experience and technical training, creating a valuable career path in a critical industry.

If you know a young person exploring career options or someone considering a change in fields, this could be the perfect opportunity. By asking the five W's and one H – Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How – you can explore how this program could benefit them and their community while addressing the growing need for qualified professionals in the water sector.

Who participates in a successful apprenticeship?

A successful apprenticeship includes an employer, a mentor, and, of course, an apprentice.

An employer is any person or organization employing an apprentice. It is the person, business, or company responsible for providing hours of work, supervision, wages, and/or benefits to an apprentice.

A mentor is a worker who has attained a level of skills, abilities, and competencies recognized within an industry as mastery of the skills and competencies required for the occupation. Mentors play an essential role in the Apprenticeship Program being developed by SDARWS, built on national guidelines provided by the National Rural Water Association (NRWA). Mentors help provide the on-the-job training required for the program.

An apprentice is any individual employed by an employer meeting the qualifications described in the Association's Standards of Apprenticeship.

All three entities involved in an apprenticeship benefit from the experience. Employers get skilled labor, mentors pass on expertise, and apprentices receive hands-on experience and wages.

What is an apprentice?

The dictionary definition of an apprentice is: one who is learning by practical experience under skilled workers in a trade, art, or calling.

Apprenticeships combine paid on-the-job training with classroom instruction to prepare workers for highly skilled careers. Workers benefit from apprenticeships by receiving a skills-based education that prepares them for good-paying jobs. Apprenticeship programs help employers recruit, build, and retain a highly skilled workforce.

When does an apprenticeship typically take place?

SDARWS is developing an apprenticeship program that will last approximately two years and require participants to complete 4,000 hours of on-the-job training (OJT) and 288 hours of related technical instruction (RTI). Exactly when the program will start for each apprentice is still to be determined.

Interested apprenticeship participants must be at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma or GED, and have a valid driver's license.

Where does an apprenticeship occur?

An apprenticeship occurs on-site with an employer, where the apprentice works directly with a mentor for on-the-job training. The related technical training required for the SDARWS Apprenticeship Program will include a combination of in-person, classroom, and online components.

Why are apprenticeships important to the water industry?

The rural water industry faces significant workforce challenges, including an aging workforce, skill gaps, and difficulty attracting and retaining talent. The water industry is estimated to lose 30-50 percent of its workforce to retirement in the next ten years. The Apprenticeship Program helps fill this gap by training the next generation of workers, ensuring a steady pipeline of skilled professionals ready to step into critical roles.

How do I find out more about becoming an apprentice?

SDARWS has a website dedicated to information on water and wastewater careers, including the Apprenticeship Program: sdarws.com/WaterWorks.

Potential apprentices or employers with questions or interest in discussing the Apprenticeship Program can contact me via e-mail at sbergheim@sdarws.com, office phone at 605-556-7219, or cell phone at 605-501-9208.

DANR Awards More Than $105 Million in Additional ARPA Grants for Statewide Environmental Projects

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) is distributing $105,010,958 in additional federal grants to support vital water infrastructure and conservation projects.

Funded by the American Rescue Plan Act, the grants include:

- $105 million allocated to nearly 30 water districts and rural water systems to enhance drinking water services across the state.
- $65 million designated for waste and stormwater improvements in almost 20 cities and sanitary districts.
- $5 million invested in riparian buffer grants, a conservation initiative promoting vegetation along rivers, streams, and lakes to improve water quality.

These investments aim to strengthen South Dakota's water systems and protect its natural resources and are administered by DANR.

ARPA PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

AURORA-BRULE RURAL WATER received an additional $846,775 ARPA grant to install a new parallel water main, a new water storage reservoir, multiple loops within the system, a booster station, and make distribution line improvements. Previous funding for this project was awarded in April 2022

BDM RURAL WATER SYSTEM received an additional $1,738,345 ARPA grant to construct a new water treatment plant, install a water reservoir, install pipe to expand the water system and loop lines for added redundancy, and replace water meters. Previous funding was awarded in April 2022.

BLACK HAWK WATER USER DISTRICT received an additional $254,340 ARPA grant to install a new water main crossing I-90 near Exit 52. The existing crossing is undersized and not operating effectively. Previous funding was awarded in June 2022.

BROOKINGS received an additional $8,000,000 ARPA grant to construct a new lime softening water treatment facility along 34th Avenue. The new treatment plant will require the installation of raw and finished water lines to feed into the distribution system and includes the construction of six new municipal wells and a new transmission main. Previous funding was awarded in April 2022.

BROOKINGS-DEUEL RURAL WATER SYSTEM received an additional $1,357,708 ARPA grant to construct water main to interconnect the system's two primary water sources, the Joint Well Field, and the Clear Lake Water Treatment Plant. The project will also include installation of a new water main to the Lake Cochrane service area to improve low pressures around the lake during periods of peak water use. Previous funding was awarded in April 2022.

CLAY RURAL WATER SYSTEM received an additional $2,488,710 ARPA grant to construct two ground storage reservoirs near the existing Greenfield reservoir and the Wakonda Water Treatment plant. A new booster station at the Greenfield reservoir and distribution line improvements to provide additional capacity and accommodate a Highway 46 construction project is also included. Previous funding was awarded in April 2022.

DAVISON RURAL WATER SYSTEM received an additional $189,255 ARPA grant to install a water line to parallel and loop existing mains and make upgrades to its automatic meter reading technology. Previous funding was awarded in April 2022.

FALL RIVER WATER USER DISTRICT received an additional $1,400,007.62 ARPA grant to install a submersible pump and finish piping at the existing Fairburn well, construct a pump station and well house, a control building/pump station, a ground storage reservoir at the well site, pipeline to connect the Fairburn well to the existing distribution system in two locations, and a ground storage reservoir along the new pipeline route. Previous funding was awarded in June 2022.

GRANT-ROBERTS RURAL WATER SYSTEM received an additional $1,023,690 ARPA grant to add transmission capacity allowing the system's two reservoirs to fill during high water use periods. Additional pipeline looping and parallels will be completed to distribute water to existing and new customers and improve the reliability of the water system. The project also includes installation new pipeline and other appurtenances to allow the town of Corona to access the Grant-Roberts Rural Water System. Previous funding was awarded in April 2022.

HANSON RURAL WATER SYSTEM received an additional $548,388 ARPA grant to install water lines to parallel and loop of existing mains and make upgrades to its automatic meter reading technology. Previous funding was awarded in April 2022.

JOINT WELL FIELD, INC. received an additional $1,440,459 ARPA grant to construct a new gravity filtration water treatment plant including aeration, detention, filtration, transfer pumping, raw water supply wells, and generation equipment. Previous funding was awarded in April 2022.

KINGBROOK RURAL WATER SYSTEM received an additional $4,972,298 ARPA grant to upgrade the Badger pump station, DeSmet water treatment plant, Chester water treatment plan, Oakwood pump station, and the Orland pump station. The project also involves construction of an elevated tank near Arlington and booster pump station near Bryant, and relocation and resizing of pipeline segments along Highway 25 north of DeSmet. Previous funding was awarded in April 2022.

LEAD-DEADWOOD SANITARY DISTRICT received an additional $339,623 ARPA grant to abandon the Hanna raw water transmission pipeline and install new ductile iron or steel pipe. Both low- and high-pressure lines will be re-routed to bypass the Englewood power generation facility, and a portable backup power generator will be purchased for use at multiple locations. Previous funding was awarded in June 2022.

LEAD-DEADWOOD SANITARY DISTRICT also received an additional $136,662 ARPA grant to make improvements to the wastewater treatment plant serving Lead, Deadwood, Central City, and other unincorporated areas. Improvements include replacement of five aeration blowers, installation of fine bubble diffusers and aeration piping, and installation of a blower control system. Previous funding was awarded In June 2022.

LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM received an additional $5,000,000 ARPA grant to construct two solids contact units, a sludge thickener, three lime sludge drying beds, and a three million gallon clear well and high service pump station to increase the treatment plant capacity. Previous funding was awarded in April 2022.

SOUTH LINCOLN RURAL WATER SYSTEMreceived an additional $2,444,355 ARPA grant to make system wide improvements including installing an elevated water tank, a new pump station, and a new water treatment plant. This project addresses capacity issues in portions of the distribution system and increasing demands within the existing service area. Previous funding was awarded in April 2022.

SOUTHERN BLACK HILLS WATER SYSTEM received an additional $542,432 ARPA grant to extend the existing water system main from the two wells at Paramount Point Subdivision approximately 5 miles northeast to the Spring Creek Acres Subdivision to provide redundancy. The project will also construct a new well, booster pump station, new elevated storage reservoir, chlorination and SCADA systems, and new pressure reducing valve stations. Previous funding was awarded in April 2022.

TM RURAL WATER DISTRICT received an additional $1,272,908 ARPA grant to install four miles of parallel 12-inch water main to address low water pressure situations during high water demand periods. Previous funding was awarded in April 2022.

TRIPP COUNTY WATER USER DISTRICT received an additional $2,034,121 ARPA grant to replace two storage tanks, to parallel and loop water lines to increase the water pressure within the system, and to develop a new well field to address water supply issues. Previous funding was awarded in April 2022.

WEB WATER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION received an additional $10,500,000 ARPA grant. The funding is part of a much larger project to increase water capacity for WEB and to provide a bulk water connection for Aberdeen and BDM Rural Water. The project is known as the Water Investment in Northern South Dakota or WINS project, undertaken by all three entities with WEB acting as the lead contracting entity at this time. Previous funding was awarded in June 2023.

WESTERN DAKOTA REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM received an additional $2,165,000 ARPA grant for a feasibility study to explore the use of its Missouri River water to supply a large portion of western South Dakota with a bulk water transmission line conveying Missouri River water to various communities, tribes, and water systems. The current funding will be used to hire an engineering firm to complete facilities plan and preliminary design for the project. Previous funding was awarded in April 2022.

WEST RIVER/LYMAN-JONES RURAL WATER SYSTEM received an additional $602,702 ARPA grant to install PVC water mains serving areas in Mellette, Haakon, and Lyman counties. A new ground storage tank and necessary electrical controls would also be installed in Pennington County. Previous funding was awarded in April 2022.

ARPA GRANT UPDATES

Several water systems in South Dakota are making progress on projects funded through the most recent allocation of $105 million in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) grant monies. The funding supports critical water and wastewater infrastructure improvements, including upgrades to distribution systems and treatment facilities. Below is an update highlighting the advancements and current status of a few of these projects.

CLAY RURAL WATER SYSTEM

Clay Rural Water System was awarded $7,443,810 in ARPA grant money. The funds from this grant were used to help with costs of our current project, the "Chapter Project." This funding helped to install close to 85,000 linear feet of pipe in the north part of our system. These new main lines will help improve pressure, add additional capacity, and correct water loss issues with deteriorating water lines.

Clay Rural Water System is also in the process of adding two new water storage reservoirs, also in the north part of the system. These two tanks will be a great benefit because they will add additional capacity to serve current customers. One new tank will be built in the same location as the future water plant, which will also help to serve future customers.

Clay Rural Water System also is in the process of replacing our Spink booster. This booster was originally installed in early 1979. Upgrades being built into this new booster will help monitor water loss more effectively, along with increasing pressure zones in the Akron and Spink area.

MID-DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEM

The Mid-Dakota Rural Water System has made significant progress on its improvement projects, with all phases bid and remaining within budget. Numerous enhancements have been combined into a comprehensive project. The Automatic Meter Reading upgrade is approximately 50% complete, while the construction of the Backwash Filters and associated building is ahead of schedule and is projected to be operational by late summer 2025.

The parallel distribution pipeline upgrade is divided into three separate contracts. Schedule 1, covering 70 miles of pipeline, is around halfway completed. Construction on Schedules 2 and 3, which include 50 miles of pipeline, one booster station replacement, and two booster station rehabilitations, is scheduled to begin in 2025.

The project is supported by $13,867,250 from an ARPA grant, $2,000,000 from a Consolidated grant, and $29,467,750 from a State Revolving Fund loan. Additionally, a second ARPA grant of $6,830,882 brings the total expansion project funds to $52,165,882.

WINS PROJECT (Water Investment In Northern South Dakota)

The WINS project received just over $49 million dollars of ARPA funding. All ARPA funded projects will be completed and ARPA funding will be 100% expended by the end of 2026.

During 2024, construction was ongoing for the 13.5-mile, 49.5" raw and treated water main project that connects WEB's Missouri River intake to the water treatment plant, and the water treatment plant to the distribution system near the intersection of Highways 83 and 12. Thus far, about 6 miles of water main have been installed.

Bids are scheduled to be opened in November for the next phases of the WINS project, which includes about 17 miles of 30" and 36" water main. These pipeline segments are anticipated to be complete by the end of 2026.

WEST RIVER/LYMAN-JONES RURAL WATER SYSTEM

The West River/Lyman-Jones (WR/LJ) Rural Water System has made significant infrastructure improvements with the support of ARPA funding. In 2022, the Board of Water and Natural Resources approved a $1,200,000 ARPA grant for WR/LJ, followed by an additional $602,702 grant in 2024, bringing the system's total ARPA funding to $1,802,702. These funds were used to construct a 300,000-gallon reservoir, a 336,000-gallon reservoir, and 10.5 miles of PVC water pipelines, serving areas in Mellette, Haakon, and Lyman counties. A new ground storage tank and necessary electrical controls were also installed in Pennington County.

The projects were completed in 2024, with ARPA grant funding covering 45% of the total costs for the storage and pipeline improvements. This investment has enhanced the system's capacity to provide reliable water service to its service area.

RURAL WATER HALL OF FAME

The South Dakota Rural Water Hall of Fame, established in 2024 by the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems, honors the visionaries and pioneers who transformed the rural water industry in the state. Celebrating the humble beginnings of rural water systems – ideas born around kitchen tables and brought to life through determination – the Hall of Fame recognizes individuals instrumental in providing clean, reliable water to rural communities. Their contributions have helped develop and sustain water systems that now enhance the quality of life and support agriculture and local economies across South Dakota.

Located at the Association's headquarters in Madison, SD, the Hall of Fame serves as a historical record and a source of inspiration, highlighting the dedication of rural water leaders who overcame challenges like funding, infrastructure, and logistics in sparsely populated areas. The inaugural class of honorees was inducted on November 13th in Pierre, SD, marking a milestone in celebrating the enduring spirit of South Dakota's rural water movement. By honoring these pioneers, the Hall of Fame ensures their contributions – turning a vision of clean water into a statewide reality – are celebrated and remembered.

RAY KUHL

Born on August 8, 1933, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Ray Kuhl was a dedicated advocate for rural community development and improvement. A St. Thomas College baseball scholarship recipient, Ray completed his degree at South Dakota State University while serving as an ROTC officer, eventually joining the Air National Guard.

Ray began his life with his wife, Jacqueline, in Waco, Texas, where he trained as an Airborne Combat Navigator during the Cold War. Veterans Affairs recognized his commitment to service, reflecting his pride in his military contributions.

Ray's passion for community service led him to East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison, South Dakota, and later to Sioux Valley Empire Electric. Over his 12 years at Sioux Valley, Ray became a prominent public relations director and helped establish the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems. He advised the association from its inception and served as the management coordinator for the Big Sioux Community Water System.

In 1977, Ray was named Executive Manager and Training Director of the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems, pioneering a statewide training program for rural water management. His leadership connected countless farmers with clean, reliable water sources, enhancing livestock health and quality of life for rural families. Ray's efforts laid the foundation for rural water systems across South Dakota, collaborating with local leaders to drive community and economic development.

Ray's lifelong dedication to rural water systems profoundly impacted South Dakota's water landscape. Ray Kuhl passed away on December 9, 2023, leaving a legacy of community dedication and service.

LOREN PAULSEN

Born near Ward, South Dakota, on October 16, 1932, Loren Paulsen dedicated his life to agriculture, education, and public service. After graduating from South Dakota State University with a degree in agricultural education, Loren's studies were interrupted by the Korean War. He enlisted in the Navy, serving with distinction in Japan. Upon his return, Loren resumed his studies, married his wife, Lucille, and became a high school agriculture teacher, inspiring students in Elkton, Garretson, and Colman.

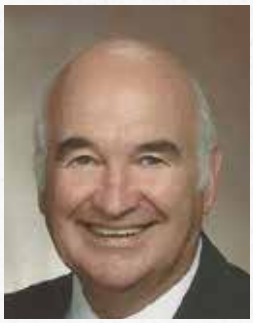
Loren's passion for leadership and public policy led him to play a pivotal role in rural water development. In 1971, he helped organize the Big Sioux Community Water System, serving as chairman of its first steering committee. He became president of the board in 1972 when the system was officially incorporated, guiding its early development.

Loren's commitment to rural water extended beyond his local community. He was a founding figure in the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems, serving as its first president in 1974. His leadership and vision helped lay the foundation for the organization's success.

Recognized for his expertise, Loren was appointed by South Dakota Governor Richard Kneip to serve on a special advisory committee for rural water systems under the Old West Regional Commission. Working with governors from neighboring states, Loren contributed to the planning and advancing of rural water infrastructure across the region.

Loren Paulsen passed away on December 23, 2018, in Flandreau, leaving behind a legacy of service and dedication to his community and state.

BILL DEMPSEY



Affectionately known as Bill to friends and Bud to family, Bill Dempsey was pivotal in pioneering rural water development in South Dakota. Born near Athboy, SD, in 1932 Bill graduated from White High School in 1950. In 1951, he joined the Air Force, serving as a radio operator during the Korean War. After his honorable discharge, he returned to South Dakota and married his wife, Ellen, in 1954. Together, they settled on the family farm near White, where they raised cattle, hogs, and row crops for over 30 years.

Bill's journey in rural water began in 1972 when he convened with local leaders around his kitchen table to address water issues in their community. This grassroots effort led to the formation of the Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System, with Bill serving as its first chairman and establishing a solid foundation for its success. He was also present at the organizational meeting for the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) in Madison, SD, in October 1972. He later served as President of SDARWS for three years, secretary for three years, and developed an insurance program for rural water systems.

In 1976, Bill attended the inaugural meeting of the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) in Oklahoma City. There, he was elected to its Board of Directors and represented South Dakota for 11 years. In recognition of his contributions, Bill was awarded the first Carrol Anderson Award in 1978. He also held leadership roles with the East Dakota Water Development District and the South Dakota Conservation Commission.

After retiring in 2002, Bill's legacy of service continues to benefit communities across the state. He passed away on March 29, 2018, leaving behind a remarkable impact on South Dakota's rural water landscape.

DALE KENNEDY

Raymond Dale Kennedy was born on April 8, 1925, in Beresford, SD, and graduated from Beresford High School in 1943. He worked at a California aircraft parts plant during WWII, served in the U.S. Army in Germany post-war, and briefly attended SDSU before returning to farming. As a young man, Dale was invited to try out for the Brooklyn Dodgers, but farm duties took priority.

Dale played a pioneering role in bringing rural water to Lincoln County and became a charter director when the system launched in 1976. In 1977, Dale joined the SDARWS Board, representing South Lincoln Rural Water System. Serving as secretary for the South Dakota Board of Water and Natural Resources, he helped allocate state funds and shape the state water plan across three gubernatorial administrations.

In 1987, Dale was nominated and elected as South Dakota's director on the National Rural Water Association Board at the NRWA Annual Meeting in Charleston, SC. Known for his initiative and vision, Dale chaired fifty board meetings, twelve annual meetings, and many executive sessions. His volunteer advocacy in Pierre during legislative sessions was instrumental in advancing rural water initiatives.

A friend and champion of rural water in South Dakota, Dale was known for his "political" touch – earning the playful nickname "Governor" among friends. Dale Kennedy passed away on October 30, 2010, leaving a legacy of dedicated service to South Dakota's rural water community.

JIM FEENEY

Jim Feeney, a native of Mount Vernon, South Dakota, and an alumnus of South Dakota State University with a degree in Political Science, began his public service career in 1978 with the Highway Safety Program located in the Department of Public Safety and later the Department of Commerce and Regulation. In 1989, he found his calling at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) as a Policy Analyst in the Water and Waste Funding program. His dedication led to promotions, first to Administrator of the Water Resources Assistance Program in 1996, and later to Director of the Division of Financial and Technical Assistance in 2013.

One of Jim's most significant achievements was incorporating dedicated water funding into an annual Omnibus Water Funding Bill, which provided essential funding to water projects across the state. This process provided critical support for systems such as Fall River Water User District, Lewis & Clark Regional Water System, Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Mni Wiconi/West River Lyman-Jones Rural Water System, Perkins County Rural Water System, and Southern Black Hills Water System. His efforts enabled these projects to leverage federal support, ensuring successful completion.

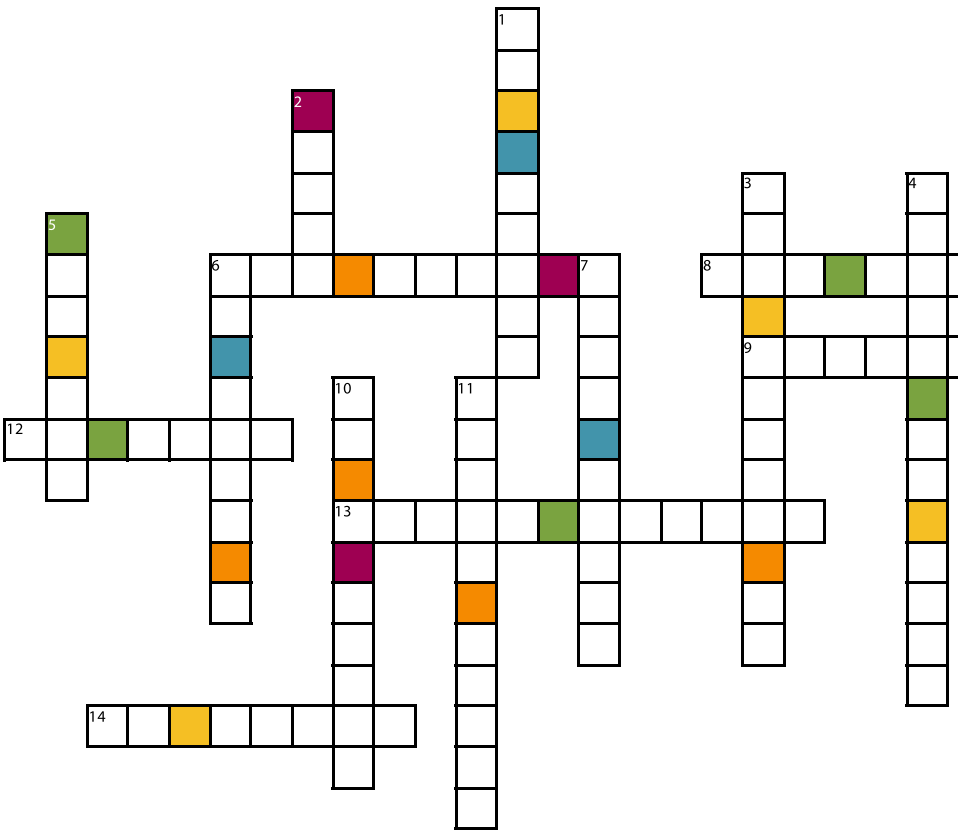
Jim also implemented the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) program, and administered the Clean Water SRF and state Consolidated program. These programs continue to impact South Dakota's water quality and water infrastructure. After retiring from DENR in 2018, he continued his service with the South Eastern Council of Governments (SECOG) retiring in 2023.

Jim's nearly five-decade legacy is one of leadership and dedication, bringing lasting improvements to water quality, public health, and quality of life across South Dakota.

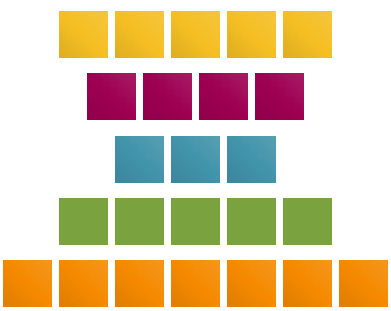
RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

WINTER ACTIVITIES

Enter to Win $100



SCRAMBLE ANSWER



Across

6. Crafting pretty shapes by folding and cutting paper.
8. Popular winter drink with marshmallows on top. (2 words)
9. Winter fun on a board, sliding down a snow-covered hill.
12. Activity involving building a jolly figure with a carrot nose.
13. Exciting winter ride powered by a snow machine.
14. Seasonal activity of sliding down a snowy slope on a sled.

Down

1. Fast-paced sport on ice involving a stick and a puck. (2 words)
2. Building a home out of blocks of snow, often dome-shaped.
3. Style of skiing done across flat or gently rolling snowy terrain. (2 words)
4. Competition or casual event for throwing frozen projectiles. (2 words)
5. Sport that involves sweeping in front of a sliding stone on ice.
6. Creating a figure on the ground by lying in the snow and moving your arms and legs. (2 words)
7. Fun activity where you glide down a hill on an inner tube (2 words)
10. Event involving figure eights and spins on ice. (2 words)
11. Mountain activity of following trails in deep snow with special footwear.

RULES: Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See page 2 for contact information) or **enter online at www.sdarws.com/crossword.html** with the correct phrase by January 15, 2025 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 Rita Hilgedick from Mid-Dakota Rural Water who had the correct phrase of "hope shines bright under fair lights" for October 2024.

RURAL AMERICA RELIES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

NRWA

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER PROGRAMS DRIVE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

ECONOMIC VITALITY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Critical infrastructure, including adequate water service, is a basic requirement for a healthy economy, encourages employment opportunities and makes a community a desired place to live and work. The nearly 45,000 water systems in rural America are anchor institutions in their communities.

In many rural communities water infrastructure is past its useful life. Without adequate water and sanitation services, businesses move out of our rural communities, forcing the next generation to leave to find better opportunities. Those left behind are robbed of hope for a prosperous future.

Rural America's economy is driven by entrepreneurship, and made of a diverse range of operations through over 700,000 businesses. Rural areas produce most of the food we consume, provide lumber and other forest products used to build our homes and furniture, and supply the energy we consume daily.

Rural economies are deeply connected to their urban counterparts

USDA RD WEP not only provides essential services to the families that live in rural America, but also all business activities. These include small businesses, farming, manufacturing, emergency services, and more. In rural America, nearly 85% of all business establishments are small. These small businesses are critical to local economies, employing 54% of workers in their communities. Rural communities need access to funding through USDA RD WEP to thrive.

Today's Congressional policies and funding decisions are jeopardizing the economic vitality of every community in rural America. Budget cuts will leave USDA WEP unable to accomplish its mission. WEP is instrumental in helping rural America increase economic opportunities for all rural people.

PROMOTION BY THE NATIONAL RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS (WEP)

In 2023, USDA RD WEP funded over $1.7 billion in projects to small and rural communities.

The average median household income for communities that received WEP funding was $37,029, half of the national average household income of $74,580.

In 2023, 308 WEP projects addressed health and sanitary challenges and 28,326 new connections provided drinking water to residents for the first time, resulting in over 400,000 individuals and households benefiting from this funding.

TELL CONGRESS NOW

KEEP RURAL AMERICA STRONG!

Scan the QR Code to learn more about how you can help keep Rural America Strong!

35TH ANNUAL MEETING

West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water Systems, Inc. held its 35th annual membership meeting on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at the Philip shop building in Philip, SD. Registration began at 4:00 pm (MT).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance. Board President Dave Fuoss called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm (MT) and declared a quorum present.

Manager Fitzgerald read the annual meeting notice and official proof of mailing statement that was published in the October 2024 issue of Quality on Tap newsletter. He then introduced WR/LJ board of directors, staff and consultants.

In his report, Manager Fitzgerald mentioned that WR/LJ maintains 3,500 miles of pipeline and operates 16 storage reservoirs, 4 wells, and 17 pump stations. He explained that WR/LJ gets 80%-85% of its water from the Mni Wiconi Water Treatment Plant in Ft. Pierre, and the other 15%-20% comes from 4 wells located in the Creighton, Quinn, and Wall areas.

He updated the members on completed projects which include a 300,000 gallon reservoir near Vivian and a 336,000 gallon reservoir near Creighton. We also completed 4.5 miles of pipeline to improve service in Haakon County and 5.5 miles in Mellette County. He thanked the Oglala Sioux Rural Water Supply System and the Bureau of Reclamation for securing funding for an additional 5.8 million gallons of storage on the Mni Wiconi core system. "He stated, these storage improvement projects will increase operational flexibility and redundancy to effectively reduce risks and system vulnerability during future leak repairs and times of high usage."

Manager Fitzgerald informed the members that effective January 1, 2025, the water rate will be increasing from $2.60 to $2.70 per 1,000 gallons.

He concluded by recognizing Director Kirk Cordes for serving on the board for 42 years. Cordes has served on the board through the planning, authorization, funding, and completion of the project.

Attorney Jessica Hegge presented her legal report and stated West River/Lyman Jones has no pending lawsuits against it and is legally sound. She then announced that four incumbent directors were appointed to three-year terms: Quint Garnos – Zone 1A, Richard L. Doud – Zone 2, Veryl Prokop – Zone 3, and Dean Nelson – Zone 5A.

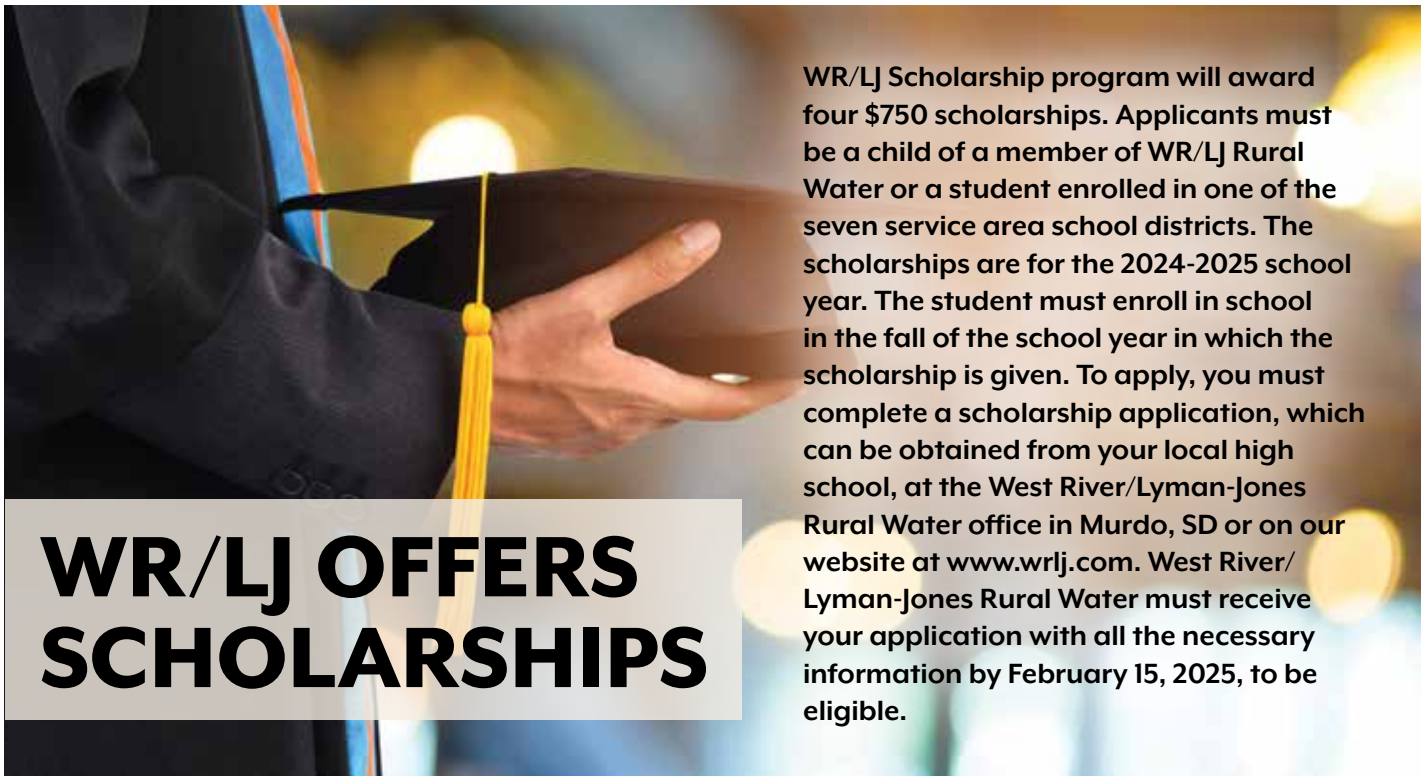
Drawings for door prizes were held at the end of the meeting.

President Fuoss welcomed the crowd to Philip.

Manager Fitzgerald presented his manager's report.

The winner of the beef certificates was Sandy Gittings.

Dick Hudson was the winner of the flat screen tv and his wife Gene won beef certificates.



WR/LJ OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS

WR/LJ Scholarship program will award four $750 scholarships. Applicants must be a child of a member of WR/LJ Rural Water or a student enrolled in one of the seven service area school districts. The scholarships are for the 2024-2025 school year. The student must enroll in school in the fall of the school year in which the scholarship is given. To apply, you must complete a scholarship application, which can be obtained from your local high school, at the West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water office in Murdo, SD or on our website at www.wrlj.com. West River/ Lyman-Jones Rural Water must receive your application with all the necessary information by February 15, 2025, to be eligible.

DIRECTOR CORDES RETIRES

After 42 years of dedicated service and leadership, Kirk Cordes retired from the WR/LJ board in November 2024. Kirk, a rancher in eastern Pennington County, joined the West River Rural Water board in 1982. When West River Rural Water merged with the Lyman-Jones Water Development Association in 1994 to become WR/LJ, Kirk was elected the organization's first board president. He continued to serve as chairman until 2008. He was instrumental in helping guide WR/LJ through some of its most impactful moments. His duties took him on countless trips around western South Dakota and Washington, DC. Kirk served through planning, design, authorization, funding, construction, and completion of the WR/LJ Rural Water Project. Kirk received the WR/LJ Trailblazer Award in 2013 and was presented with a WR/LJ Lifetime Achievement Award in 2022.

WE THANK YOU KIRK, JOB WELL DONE!

Hard to believe I received a great lounging chair at the annual meeting! As a lady of leisure, it fits me prefect. Thank you!

– Marsha Sumpter

Thank you so much for the step stool I won at the annual meeting. The presentation was very informative. Kudos to the field crews that ensure the quality and availability of our precious resource!

– Fay Hauk

West River/Lyman-Jones
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WATER MATTERS

AQUIFERS 102

For most South Dakotans, the water that comes out of your tap started out in the ground and has been drawn from things called aquifers. As such, the importance of aquifers to all of us cannot be exaggerated. In the last issue (October 2024), we learned what an aquifer is, how water gets into them and how it is drawn from them. Let's touch on a few more key points:

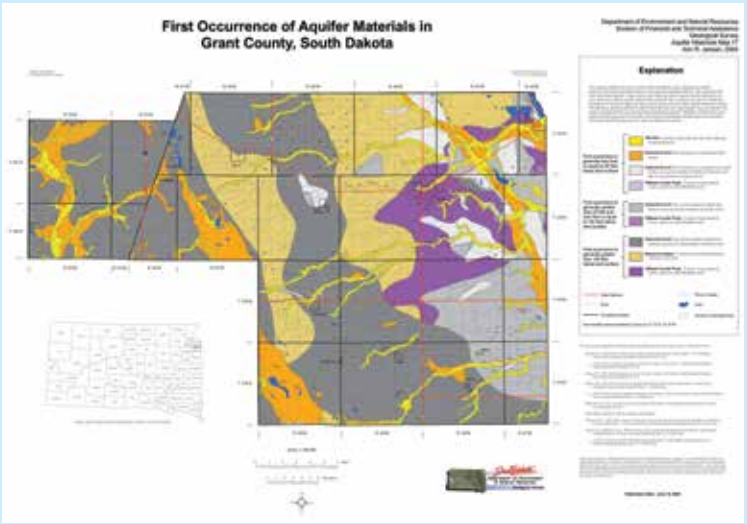
HOW DO WE FIND AQUIFERS?

Because aquifers (water bearing geologic materials) are underground, locating them in any detail often requires the drilling of exploratory (test) holes to see what is down below. Each new test hole in an area helps define where aquifers are, and how extensive they may be. In some cases, the aquifers are large and expansive, covering parts of many counties. In others, an aquifer found in one test hole may not appear in a hole drilled just a few tens or hundreds of feet away.

To learn more about an aquifer, wells are sometimes installed after a test hole is completed. These observation wells allow hydrologists and engineers to measure the amount and level of water in the well, and hence the aquifer. They can also be used to gather samples from the aquifer to assess its suitability for various uses, and monitor changes in quantity and quality over time.

WHERE ARE THE AQUIFERS IN SOUTH DAKOTA?

In South Dakota, the Geological Survey Program of the Department of Agriculture & Natural Resources has been working to define the State's ground water resources for many years. They have drilled roughly 23,800 test holes to help define the extent of our aquifers. Maps and publications have been prepared that can be used by anyone interested in learning more about these critical resources. To find these documents, visit their website, **www.sdgs.usd.edu**, to find information on aquifer resources in your area.



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