

## Mike Wentink receives George Warren Fuller Award

Mike Wentink was named the George Warren Fuller Award recipient at the annual fall conference November 6, 2008, in Kearney. This is the highest honor given by AWWA, and is presented for outstanding service to the water industry. The award will be presented to Mike at the National AWWA Conference in San Diego, June 14-18, 2009.

A Lincoln native, Mike graduated from UNL. He joined the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services 31 years ago and is the Operator Certification and Training Coordinator.

He has been a member of the AWWA and the Nebraska Section since 1978. He received the WISA Award in 2004. Mike is a registered Environmental Health Specialist, a member of the AWWA Disinfection of Facilities Committee, the AWWA Fluoride Standards Committee, and serves on the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) Operator Certification Committee. He also has served as chair of the Section's education committee since 1996.

Mike has three hobbies: Hunting, hunting and more hunting. If there is no hunting season, he will fish. He and his spouse, Cathi, live in North Platte.



National AWWA President Mike Leonard presented Mike the George Warren Fuller Award, November 6, 2008.

## 2009 officers



2009 Board of Directors, from left: Trustee David Lathrop, City of Seward; Past-Chair Kevin Tobin, M.U.D.; Chair Dr. Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering; Director Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.

Standing: Vice-Chair Teresa Konda, HDR Inc.; Trustee Doug Woodbeck, Nebraska Health & Human Services; Secretary Eric Lee, Lincoln Water System; Treasurer Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities. Unavailable for photo: Chair-Elect John S. Olsson, Olsson Associates.

## Chair's comments

It is a great pleasure and honor to serve as your Chair for 2009. We start 2009 with new challenges and opportunities. Nationally we are facing difficult economic times and seeking available opportunities (e.g., infrastructure funding through a stimulus package). Challenges and opportunities also apply to the Nebraska Section of AWWA. For example, we need to find innovative ways to better serve the Section's members. To that end, the board has suggested several initiatives to help us better serve our members. These initiatives include the following:

- Funding a survey of the Section's membership (led by **Mike Wentink**).
- Continuing to allow board members, committee chairs, and interested members to join the board meeting by conference call. Please join us at the next Board Meeting in Columbus, Monday, March 16, at 9:30 a.m. in the Columbus City Offices, first floor conference room, or join us on the conference call by dialing the toll-free access number, 1.800.704.9804, a few minutes before the start of the meeting. When prompted, enter the participant code 252935#.
- We are considering modifying the Section's by-laws to increase the number of trustees from two to four to increase participation on the board. We anticipate providing the by-law change to the membership in the fall **Wise Water Words** and voting on the change in the Section's annual meeting in November in Kearney.



Bruce Dvorak

On the National Government Affairs front, we will send our Water Utility Council Chair, **Jerry Obrist**, and two other representatives, **Jim Shields** and **Milo Rust** to the annual Washington D.C. Fly-In to discuss various legislative bills.

As with any successful organization, the strength of AWWA is the diversity and community of its members. We have a strong committee structure within the Section, and I want to focus on several opportunities for the Section's members to participate in new and expanded committee activities. Below is a list of committees where we are seeking assistance. Please contact me, any board member, or the committee chair if interested.

- **Archives and History Committee:** Create a short publication of old photos, lists of past awardees and officers, and other historical information about the section.
- **Awards Committee:** Nominate Section members for national AWWA awards for which they are eligible (Operators Meritorious Service Award, Rising Star, etc.).
- **Fall Conference Committee:** Provide input on topic and presentation selection for the annual conference.
- **Public Information Committee:** Assist with a new "water tasting contest" at the Annual meeting in Kearney.

## Officers and Trustees

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e-mail: bdvorak@unl.edu

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402.370.3114

Mike Wentink, *Education*  
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John S. Olsson, *Fall Conference*  
402.458.5661

Chris Koenig, *Fuller Award*  
402.548.5112

Tony Bilek

*Manufacturers/Associates Council*  
402.333.9660

Rich Robinson, *Membership*  
402.255.3840

Kevin Tobin, *Nominations*  
402.504.7560

Mari Matulka, *Publications*  
402.504.7150

Mary Poe, *Public Information*  
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Jerry Obrist, *Water Utility Council*  
402.441.5930

Justin Stine, *Young Professionals*  
402.435.3080

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- **Young Professionals (YP) Committee:**  
Organize YP events.

In closing I want to thank the past and current Board members and Committee Chairs who have served the Section. I look forward to working with you all as Chair in 2009.



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## Water Utility Council

by Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System

The Nebraska State Legislature convened its 90-day session January 7. Adjournment is scheduled June 4. A total of 682 proposals are headed to committee for public hearings, 679 of which are statutory revisions or additions and three of which are proposed amendments to the constitution.

The Nebraska Section AWWA is following the proposals listed below. To see the entire bill proposal, go to the Unicameral's website: <http://nebraskalegislature.gov>.

LB 54 — (Fischer) Involves changes to integrated management plans for fully appropriated basins. The Lower Platte was just declared fully appropriated last month. *Natural Resources Committee; neutral; hearing January 28.*

LB 272 (Friend) — Sanitary and storm sewers in sanitary and improvement districts (SIDs) would be removed from the definition of "underground facilities" required to be located under the One-Call Act. Exempting SIDs from the obligation to locate their sewers would make utility work in SIDs more difficult to perform.

If the intent of the original one call bill was to protect life, limb, and property, excluding utilities from being responsible for their underground facilities seems to fly in the face of the original purpose.

Any excavator can tell you that dirt that has been previously disturbed is more unstable and prone to caving in during excavation. Having the utilities located provides a better understanding of the conditions of the excavation and the precautions that need to be in place.

Sanitary Improvement District sewer mains provide services to the owners of properties who have connected to their mains. Damage to those facilities will affect home and business owners negatively. Damage to property, dollars to repair and loss of service can cause hardship to those who depend on those services.

Stormsewers as well were put in place to provide a service – moving large amounts of water to drainage facilities equipped to deal with the run-off potentially saves damage to homes and properties. It is feasible that damage done to a stormsewer facility may not be discovered until damage to personal property causes alarm. *Transportation and Telecommunication Committee; oppose; hearing February 10, 1:30 p.m., Room 1113.*

LB 304 (Council)— The time to file a written notice under the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act would change from one to two years. This bill subjects political subdivisions to claims for an additional year. The purpose of giving the political subdivision timely notice is to allow for a timely investigation. Anything more than one year is not timely. *Judiciary Committee; oppose; hearing February 4.*

LB 336 (Friend) — Eliminates the sales tax on water supplied by a municipal water supplier. The bill's purpose is to remove the sales tax from a necessity of life. *Revenue Committee; neutral; hearing March 12, 1:30 p.m., Room 1113.*



LB 477 (Carlson) — Creates a report of title and requires it to accompany every application to appropriate water for a beneficial use. The information in the report of title already was required information for every application. New definitions are created — “certified water uses” which would encompass City of Lincoln uses. Bill requires to certify their water uses.

Empowers NRDs to approve transfers of certified water uses. Prohibits NRD powers to approve certified use transfers from owners seeking participation in “a financial or other incentive program” unless there is a report of title documentation. *Natural Resources Committee; neutral; hearing February 5.*

LB 526 (Friend) – Authorizes cities of the first and second class and villages located in counties surrounding Douglas County to annex land by ordinance even when the land is not contiguous or adjacent to the city if the land is within the cities’ zoning jurisdiction and does not add more than 25 residents. *Urban Affairs Committee; neutral; hearing February 10, 1:30 p.m., Room 1510.*

## Water suppliers receive fluoride award

Thirty-five Nebraska public water systems received the fluoridation quality award from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) at the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association (AWWA) annual conference in Kearney, November 6.

The award was presented to the utilities for their consistent and professional adjustment of the water fluoride content to the optimum level for oral health for 12 consecutive months.

The maximum amount of fluoride allowed in drinking water by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is 4 parts per million (ppm). Parts per million means one part per million (or milligram per liter) and corresponds to 1 minute in 2 years or 1 penny in \$10,000.

“Consistent, high quality water fluoridation practice, as demonstrated by these public water systems, is a safe and effective method to prevent tooth decay, improving the oral health of community residents of all ages,” according to the CDC and DHHS.

The CDC proclaimed water fluoridation to be one of the top 10 greatest public health achievements of the past century.

According to the CDC, fluoridation is an effective, safe and inexpensive way to prevent tooth decay and benefits Americans of all ages and socio-economic status. North American water systems have added fluoride to their water supplies since 1945. Since that time, tooth decay was reduced by 20- to 40-percent where fluoridation was implemented.

The public water suppliers who received the Fluoridation Quality Award included:

Village of Adams	City of Bassett
City of Albion	City of Blair
Village of Allen	City of Blue Hill
City of Auburn	Village of Cook
	Village of Emerson

City of Fairbury  
City of Falls City  
City of Fremont  
City of Gering  
City of Hartington  
City of Holdrege  
City of Kearney  
City of Laurel  
Lincoln Water System  
City of Lyons  
Village of Magnet  
Metropolitan Utilities District, Omaha  
City of Nebraska City

City of Nelson  
City of Osmond  
City of Papillion  
City of Plattsmouth  
City of Red Cloud  
City of Scribner  
Village of Stella  
City of Superior  
City of Tilden  
Village of Valparaiso  
Village of Wausa  
City of Waverly  
City of Wayne

The following communities plan to begin fluoridating by June 1, 2010.

Alma	North Bend
Ashland	Seward
Atkinson	Wahoo
Crete	Wakefield
Dakota City	Wisner
Franklin	Yutan
Gretna	

For more information, contact **Mike Wentink** (308.535.8135; e-mail: [mike.wentink@nebraska.gov](mailto:mike.wentink@nebraska.gov)) or **Andy Kahle** (402.471.2104; e-mail: [andy.kahle@nebraska.gov](mailto:andy.kahle@nebraska.gov)), both Nebraska Health & Human Services.

## Water for People

by *Craig Reinsch, Olsson Associates (402.474.6311) e-mail: [creinsch@oaconsulting.com](mailto:creinsch@oaconsulting.com)*

[Save the date for the Water For People golf fundraiser, tentatively scheduled for May 1. A tentative date for the annual Water For People trap shoot is July 17.](#)

The Section raised \$1,500 at the annual fall conference bringing the total of 2008 donations to \$5,500 for the organization.

The Section’s Water for People Committee includes: **Ben Day, Glenn Dostal, Jimmy Harding, Teresa Konda, Christian New, Arnold Radloff.** If you would like to become involved in this great group, please contact me.

### 2008 highlights:

- Water For People supported 140 schools worldwide with improved water supply, sanitation and hygiene education.
- 97,159 people benefited from improved water supplies (a 47 percent increase over 2007).
- 95,850 people benefited from improved sanitation (a 124 percent increase over 2007, and the first year Water For People supported communities with improved sanitation at a level commensurate with improved water supplies).
- 171,274 people were supported with hygiene education.
- Monitoring results from the World Water Corps that show a 97 percent success rate for water supply and sanitation initiatives for projects that are as old as 12 years. This is an unparalleled success rate in the water supply and sanitation sector.
- Opportunities to serve as advisors on key sector policy development in Malawi, Bolivia, Honduras, Guatemala and India – strong evidence of Water For People’s growing credibility in the countries where we work.



**Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.**  
 Jim McFarland  
 Roger D. Gellhaus  
 Tony Bilek

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## Director's Report

by Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.

I'll begin my first Directors report with a sincere thanks and gratitude to **Chris Koenig**, HDR Inc., for his many years of quality service to the Nebraska Section AWWA and for serving as our Section Director last year. Chris elected to resign his duties, as our Director last fall, to



Tony Bilek

tend to very significant and important family matters. The Nebraska Section has benefited from the guidance and leadership qualities that Chris has shared with us.

The Winter Board of Directors Meeting was held in Tucson, AZ. January 24-25. One of the primary functions of the Board meeting is to elect our new officers. **Joe Mantua**, formerly of the Chesapeake Section and now with Black and Veatch, was elected president and begins his term at the national annual conference

"ACE" in San Diego, June 13-18. The two available Vice-President seats were filled by **Charlie Stevens** of CDM (Texas Section) and **Debra Kaye**, California/Nevada Section. The one Director-at-Large seat will be filled by **Marie Pearthree**, Arizona Section. All candidates possess impressive resumes and qualifications for their positions. They join an outstanding slate of existing officers to lead the Association in 2009.

Other key topics covered at the Winter Board of Directors meeting include:

### Section Services Survey

A copy of the Executive Summary and key findings are posted on the Nebraska Section AWWA website. The survey outperformed expectations in regards to participation. A very healthy 88 percent of respondents rated the overall relationship between their Section and AWWA as good to excellent. The five issues where respondents felt services could improve include: Communications, Education and Training, Finance, Technology and Business Operations and Leadership Support.

### Affiliation Agreements

AdHoc committee chair, **Charlie Stevens** (Texas Section) reviewed the key components of the Section Affiliation Agreements. The Affiliation Agreement first draft is posted on our website for you to review and comment. Please contact a Board member with any input. The agreements, in Charlie's words, are simply a "risk reduction" measure for the Association. The risk management includes:

1. Ensuring strong oversight for maintenance of tax exempt status.
2. Improving indemnification and the ability to maintain D&O liability insurance for all parties.
3. Strengthening "Brand" protection.
4. Protecting the intellectual property of AWWA and the Sections.

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## Strategic Plan

As with any organization, a strategic plan is a living document that requires periodic updates to keep up with the times and needs of its respective membership. President-Elect **Craig Woolard** (Alaska) explained how the committee and staff has synthesized input from the “Seven Measures of Success” and strategic plans of “Great” associations, town hall meetings at Section conferences, sessions at the Summer Workshop and Officer/Director Orientations, special sessions, various studies and reports including 2008 State of the Industry and Member Tracking Study, into five draft white papers for review and discussion by the Executive Committee. These compilations hopefully will guide the strategic plan to meet the following goals:

1. Sustainability – AWWA will be a sustainable organization by aligning staff and volunteer activities, practicing sound financial and risk management, engaging in strategic partnerships and continually improving the physical and human resources of the Association.

## Section Retreat



The Section held a retreat last August to discuss improvements and increased participation in the Section. From left, seated: Eric Obert, JEO Consulting Group; Eric Lee, Lincoln Water System; Justin Stine, JEO Consulting Group. Standing: John Mirivosky, Lincoln Water System; Rich Koenig, Nebraska Health & Human Services; John S. Olsson, Olsson Associates; Mari Matulka, M.U.D. Unavailable for photo: Doug Woodbeck, Nebraska Health & Human Services.



Also attending the retreat, from left, seated: Chris Koenig, HDR Inc., Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers, Kevin Tobin, M.U.D. Standing: Mary Poe, Nebraska Health & Human Services; Dr. Bruce Dvorak, UNL Civil Engineering; David Lathrop, City of Seward; Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services; Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities; Craig Reinsch, Olsson Associates, Teresa Konda, HDR Inc.

2. Member Engagement and Development – AWWA will be the professional association of choice by creating a vibrant and expanding environment for water professionals.
3. Knowledge Creation and Exchange – Create and exchange knowledge to benefit public health and the needs of water professionals.
4. Leadership and Advocacy – AWWA will strengthen its leadership position by increasing awareness of water issues and advocating for public policies built on sound science and best practices.

Sections are to review the material, provide input and feedback to the committee by April 1. The Executive Board and Strategic Plan Committee will review vision, mission, guiding principles and final strategic goals at the ACE in June. Reviews and revisions will be ongoing throughout the year. Ultimately, the Strategic Plan will be presented for final approval at the 2010 Board of Directors Winter Board Meeting.

Government Affairs – **Tom Curtis** voiced displeasure in the U.S. House and Appropriations proposal (titled the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) better known as the infrastructure stimulus package. The proposal includes \$2 billion for water infrastructure improvements compared to \$6 billion for wastewater and \$1.5 billion for rural projects. Two billion amounts to less than ¼ of 1 percent of the \$819 billion stimulus package. Tom and others will continue to lobby for additional fund allotment for water infrastructure. We are asking for an allotment of \$10 billion. It's not too late to contact your representative. There is a form letter on the AWWA Government Affairs web page at [www.awwa.org/Government](http://www.awwa.org/Government) that can be downloaded.

ACE Rotation Schedule – the Conference Management Committee has selected six cities for future ACE host sites. The cities are: Las Vegas and San Diego in the west region, Chicago and Denver in the central region and Orlando and Washington D.C. in the east division.

AWWA Website – A new and improved website is almost ready for launch. The site is expected to be down the weekend of March 7-8 for transition and ready to roll March 9.

I'm looking forward to representing the Nebraska Section as your Director for the next several years. As always, you are encouraged

to get involved with the Association in some manner. Your feedback and involvement are critical to the success of our Association. AWWA is an outstanding organization with abundant resources available to you. Please TAP IN.

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## Annual Fall Conference November 6-7, 2008

The Nebraska Section AWWA Annual Fall Conference was held at the Kearney Holiday Inn Convention Center, November 6-7. Eighty-six people attended.

### Lifetime Member Awards

Lifetime Members Awards were presented to **Jeff McDermott**, Union Pacific Railroad; **Dick Sklenar**, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, and **Mike Wentink**, Nebraska Health & Human Services.



Lifetime Member Awards, from left: Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services; National AWWA President Mike Leonard, and Dick Sklenar, Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District. Jeff McDermott, Union Pacific Railroad, was unavailable for the photo.

### Jeff McDermott

Jeff attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha and received a BS in Civil Engineering. He also earned a Masters in Engineering from UNL, and an MBA from Creighton University. Jeff is a Registered Professional Engineer in Nebraska, Colorado and Nevada.

He began his engineering career at The Schemmer Associates and completed projects in both civil and environmental engineering fields

Since 1981 Jeff has worked with Union Pacific Railroad where he serves as manager, Environmental Site Remediation.

His railroad career began as a design engineer where he managed the design and construction of all aspects of fixed facilities, in particular fueling facilities and utilities.

His current position involves management of investigation and remediation of Superfund, RCRA and petroleum contamination projects.

Jeff has been extensively involved in special projects such as the remediation and development of the former Union Pacific Omaha Shops property for construction of the Qwest Center and the environmental due diligence of Ferrocarriles Nacionales de Mexico (FNM, the Mexican National Railroad) for acquisition of an operating concession of the FNM.

A lifelong resident of Omaha, Jeff enjoys outdoor activities in his time away from the office with his spouse, Lisa, and three children.



## Dick Sklenar

After graduating from Omaha South High School, Dick attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha. His enrollment at the university was interrupted by the Vietnam War where he enlisted with the U.S. Navy and served in the Seabees 20th Naval Construction Regiment. Upon completion of his tour of duty, Dick finalized his education with UNO and received his bachelor's degree in 1974.

The following year, he was hired by the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District as a project manager. He has been involved in the development and right-of-way acquisition of various flood control, drainage, water supply and recreational projects within the District.

As a part of his daily responsibilities, he currently manages four rural water systems in eastern Nebraska serving one town and about 1,500 rural households in a four-county area. Together, the four rural water systems comprise more than 300 miles of pipeline, three elevated reservoirs and two pumping stations.

Dick and his spouse, Vickie, have been married for more than 30 years. They have a daughter and a son. Dick enjoys a good beer, watching professional basketball and hockey, and a good beer.

## Mike Wentink

Mike is the training and licensing coordinator for the Nebraska Public Water Supply Program within the Nebraska Health & Human Services, Division of Public Health.

His work has included inspection of public water systems and construction projects, training and educating water operators, developing water operator regulations and examinations, coordinating the efforts of water operator training providers, and early work in the Nebraska Water Well Standards Program. He chaired the Section in 2007 and currently chairs the Education Committee.



WISA Awards, from left, seated: Kirk Stocker, City of Kearney; Glenn Dostal, HDR Inc.; Dennis Smith, City of Norfolk. Standing: Christy Christensen, City of Papillion, and Dean Hauptman, Nebraska City Utilities. Peggy Young, Beatrice Board of Public Works, was unavailable for the photo.

## Water Industry Service Awards

Water Industry Service Awards (WISA) were presented to **Christy Christensen**, City of Papillion; **Glenn Dostal**, HDR Inc.; **Dean Hauptman**, Nebraska City Utilities; **Dennis Smith**, City of Norfolk; **Kirk Stocker**, City of Kearney, and **Peggy Young**, Beatrice Board of Public Works.

### Christy Christensen

Christy joined the City of Papillion March 21, 1984 as a meter reader/repair person, and advanced to water plant operator.

She began the backflow prevention program for Papillion and works in all areas of the water system. She also carries the responsibility of meter technician and snow plow operator.

Christy is a Grade 1 and 6 water operator, and serves as vice president of American Backflow Prevention Association.

Christy and her spouse, Shorty, have four children. She is very active in the National Wild Turkey Federation and is a bow hunter. She hunts bear, turkey, deer and wild boars in her spare time.

### Glenn Dostal

Glenn is a registered Civil Engineer in Nebraska and South Dakota. He received his Bachelor of Science from UNL in 1972. He worked with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Control from 1973 until he joined HDR Inc. in 1977 where he serves as senior vice president.

Glenn is an experienced project manager with substantial environmental engineering experience that includes water and wastewater facilities studies, predesign reports, drawings, specifications and contract documents, construction administration

and start-up services. His engineering expertise includes water and wastewater treatment facilities, residuals processing, interceptors, transmission mains, water supply, high-service pumping stations, Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) compliance, and financial planning.

He has also been responsible for the development of implementation plans for phased projects and rate studies

Glenn is a member of AWWA, WEF and WEA. He is past chair of the Nebraska Section AWWA Water for People Committee. He also a member of St. Vincent de Paul Men's Club, Omaha, and the Dundee Section of Kiwanis International, Omaha.

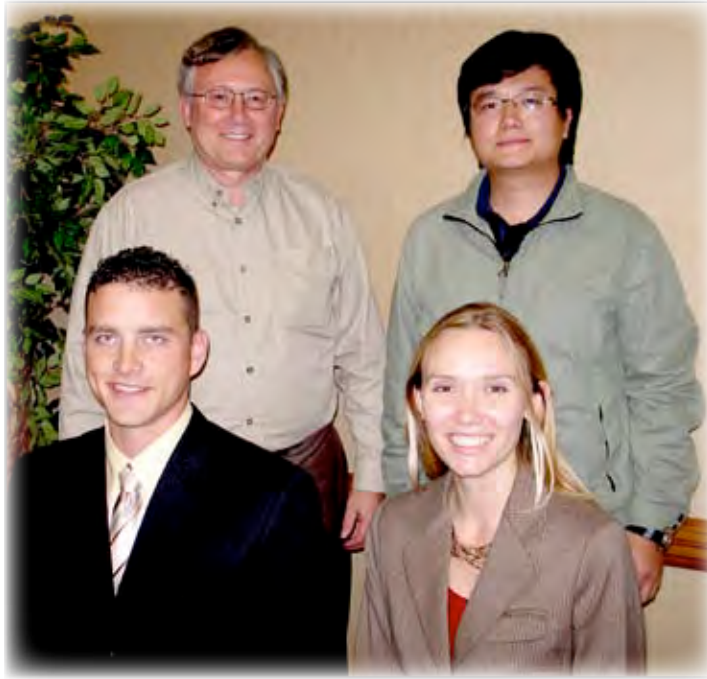
### Phillip Dean Hauptman

Dean joined Nebraska City Utilities April 17, 1972. He served as plant operator for 23 years before his promotion to water plant superintendent. Dean was responsible for plant and well maintenance as plant operator and superintendent.

## Scholarship winners

Since 1994, the Nebraska Section AWWA has provided \$29,550 in scholarships to 45 students. 2008 recipients included:

**William Alms** (\$1,400): As president of the Student Chapter of AWWA, Williams is a UNL graduate student majoring in environmental engineering. He earned a bachelor of science



Scholarship winners, from left seated: William Alms, Jennifer Gitt. Standing: Lynn Wegehaupt, M.U.D. and Scholarship Committee; Rui Ma.

in bio-systems engineering from UNL and plans to serve his country in the Army National Guard as a pilot as well as pursue a career in environmental engineering.

**Jennifer Gitt** (\$800): A UNL graduate majoring in environmental engineering, Jennifer earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from UNO. She plans to pursue a career in engineering.

**Rui Ma** (\$800): A UNL PhD

student majoring in environmental engineering, Rui earned bachelor and master degrees in environmental engineering from Tsinghua University in Beijing, China.

His academic research involves reducing the amount of hormones that leach into the water supply from cattle feedlots. He hopes to further his research to the fate and transportation of nano materials, pharmaceutically-active and endocrine disrupting chemicals in the water supply and removal techniques. He plans to pursue a degree in the water treatment and supply industry.

## 2009 Fall Conference

**John Olsson**, Olsson Associates, is the planning chair for the 2009 conference, November 5-6, in Kearney. He is looking for agenda items especially topics pertaining to water operators.

Please contact John with your suggestions, 402.458.5661 or e-mail: jolsson@oacconsulting.com).

## Water Operator Award

Nebraska Health & Human Services presented a water operator award to **Marlin M. Crouse**, water operator for the Village of Haigler. Marlin received his Grade 4 water operator certification in 1991.

The Village of Haigler participated in a study concerning the effect of varying pumping speeds on arsenic and uranium levels in a well.

Marlin was able to save approximately one-half of the projected costs of the electrical portion of the project by requesting that a local electrician perform that work.

According to Nebraska Health & Human Services, "He is a very conscientious and humble individual. He truly understands the importance of safe drinking water."

## 2008 Fall Conference

*continued from page 9*

In 1999 Dean was involved with the addition of two additional wells. He was responsible for the installation of a 3900 gpm High Service Pump and VFDs.

Dean has also been involved in several other upgrades to the system including on-line turbidity monitors, on-line chlorine analyzers, installation of baffles, and installation of a new filter backwash system, replacement of filter media and the replacement of the up flow clarifier.

### Dennis J. Smith

Dennis began his employment with the City of Norfolk engineering division June 2, 1975. He was promoted to public works director with supervisory duties in the water, wastewater, street and engineering divisions in 1980. The parks and solid waste divisions were added to his supervision in 1983.

Dennis has been very active in all aspects of Norfolk's water system. He is well respected and viewed as a leader in the community.

### Kirk Stocker

Kirk joined the City of Kearney in 1981 as an engineering assistant. He was promoted to public works superintendent in 1982, and director of utilities in 1991. He is a Grade 1 water operator.

Kirk has been a member of AWWA since 1987 and also is a member of APWA and SWANA. He also has chaired the Kearney United Way.

Over the years Kirk has demonstrated an ability to assure the community that his department is providing safe drinking water. He also has brought measurable improvements and vision to the water system of Kearney.

### Peggy Young

Peg joined the Beatrice Board of Public Works in 1955. She worked as the secretary for the general manager until 1973, and then worked as secretary for the Water Department. She also answered all calls for the electric, street and sewer Departments.

Thanks to her, the utility has excellent records of water tap locations, valve and fire hydrant exercise programs and backflow testing records.

Peg was a very dedicated employee and retired in February of 2008 with 53 years of service.





**Ken Miller Award:** National AWWA President Mike Leonard presents John S. Olsson with the Ken Miller Award for his work as past chair of the Water for People Committee. John organized the first golf benefit for Water for People in 2005. The event, which he continues to oversee, has raised nearly \$9,500 for Water for People during the past four years.



**Vendors, from left:** Bill Batson, Willco, and Roy Keitel, Ford Meter Box Co.

## AWWA Heroism Award

National AWWA President **Mike Leonard** presented the Heroism Award to **Al Clark, M.U.D.**, for actions he took to save a girl's life.

The morning of January 31, Al was working near 56th and Parker Streets when a 10-year-old girl ran to his truck and said she had been sexually assaulted inside a duplex.

Al helped her into his truck, turned on the heater and called 911. Al then resisted efforts by the suspect who wanted him to return the girl to him.

When the suspect got into his car to leave, Al pulled his truck to the end of the driveway to block his exit. Soon after, several police units arrived and took the suspect into custody.

According to police reports, the girl had been abducted near 27th and Burdette Streets walking to school. She said the suspect threatened her and forced her to take a ride to his home, where she was assaulted.

In addition to rescuing the girl from the situation, Al's actions helped police immediately apprehend the suspect. Al put his own life at risk.

Al is a customer service technician who joined the District in 1997.

**Michael Zimmerman, 52**, was charged with the crime and sentenced to 55 to 70 years in prison. He won't be eligible to be released from prison until he is between 87 and 94 years old.



**AWWA Heroism Award:** From left Randy Jensen, Al Clark's supervisor; Al Clark, M.U.D., and National AWWA President Mike Leonard.

## Safety Awards



The following systems received safety awards, from left, seated: Gerardo Martinez, Lincoln Water System; David Lathrop, City of Seward; Patrick Closos, City of Gering; Ken Swanson, City of Auburn.

Standing: Jim Shields, M.U.D.; Steve Kelley, Beatrice Board of Public Works; Bob Smith, Grand Island Utilities; Dean Hauptman, Nebraska City Utilities; Jack Satur, City of Scottsbluff. Representatives from the cities of O'Neill and Norfolk were unavailable for the photo.

# Volunteer Award and Backflow Challenge

Steve Kelley, Beatrice Board of Public Works, received the Section's Volunteer Award for his work in coordinating and conducting the Section's water operator workshops throughout the State.



Steve Kelley, far left, Beatrice Board of Public Works, received the Nebraska Section AWWA Volunteer Award.

The Beatrice Board of Public Works team also won the Backflow Challenge. From left: Kelley, Dennis Langdale and Tom Rudder.

## Safety Awards

Congratulations to the following water and systems who received safety recognition at the annual fall conference.

**Safety Achievement Awards:** This award recognizes the top water system in their respective classification for safety programs and performance.

- Class I (1-5 employees)—Gordon
- Class II (6-10 employees)—Scottsbluff
- Class III (11-15 employees)—Grand Island Utilities
- Class IV (more than 15 employees)—Lincoln Water System

**Safety Recognition Awards:** This award recognizes water systems for their efforts to improve their safety programs and safety performance.

- Class I (1-5 employees)—O'Neill
- Class II (6-10 employees)—Auburn, Crete, Seward
- Class III (11-15 employees)—Gering, Norfolk
- Class IV (more than 15 employees)—Beatrice Board of Public Works, Metropolitan Utilities District, Nebraska City Utilities

## Top Ops



First place, from left: Marian Feltes, Lynn Wegehaupt, Mike Koenig, Metropolitan Utilities District.



Second place, from left: Eric Lee, John Keith, John Mirivosky, Lincoln Water System.



Third place, from left: Ron Nitz, Chad Roberts, Jerry Halsey, City of Norfolk.



## Non-Top Ops



First place, from left: Jeff Neemann, Black & Veatch; Megan Rech, Gerardo Martinez, Lincoln Water System; Susan Franceschi, National AWWA Section representative.



Second place, from left: Teresa Konda, Kathleen Alexander, HDR Inc.; Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System; Craig Wilson, Vessco Inc.



From left: Chris Egger, Lincoln Williams, TMS; Andrew Hansen, Black & Veatch.



From left: Patrick Vrbka, City of Seward; Prem Arora, Midwest Laboratory, and Lynn Longmore, Village of Callaway.



From left: Tom Dittrick, Central District Health Department, Grand Island; Crag Haggerty, Rollin Davis, City of Ord.

## Vendor Best of Show



Fifty-eight vendors provided exhibits at the Fall Conference, and 14 vendors sponsored the social hour.

Siemens Energy and Automation received the Best of Show Award for their exhibit. From left: Norm Jackman, Vulcan Industries; Russ Kaehler, Siemens Energy and Automation; and Terrance Pesek, Associated Technologies.

## Membership Committee

by Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers  
(402.255.3840) e-mail: rlr@kirkham.com

### Welcome New Members:

Alms, William	UNL Student
Billesbach, Lucas	JEO Consulting Group
Currence, Steve	USA Tank Storage Systems
De Los Santos, Jesse	HWS Consulting
Gakuria, Martin	UNL Student
Gitt, Jennifer	UNO Student
Henkel, Brian	JEO Consulting Group
Hilbert, Brian	Environmental Service Inc.
Kreifels, Cindy	Groundwater Foundation
Ma, Rui	UNO Student
Major, Fran	Lincoln Water System
Medina, Carlos	Olsson Associates
Simonsen, Dane	JEO Consulting Group
Trentman, Allison	Lincoln Water System
Yuan, Qui	UNO Student

## Brief notes

**Fred Baumert** was named water supply specialist with the Field Services and Training Program, Nebraska Health & Human Services. He operates in Field Area 1 (SE Nebraska) and works in the Lincoln Office.

**Kris Luebke** has been named environmental assistance coordinator (Water System Security Coordinator), Nebraska Health & Human Services. She previously held the position of public notification and consumer confidence report rules specialist.

Nebraska Health & Human Services has changed e-mail addresses (again). All e-mail addresses now end in "nebraska.gov." Example: jack.daniel@nebraska.gov. The division name is now "Office of Drinking Water and Environmental Health."

\*\*\*

**Eric Berggren**, HDR Inc., accepted an appointment to the State Board of Health. He succeeds **Tim Crockett**, HDR Inc.

\*\*\*

**Kenneth Imig** has joined General Excavating as project manager for the Environmental Division. His primary focus will be work involving contaminated soil and water clean-up, remediation systems construction, and the removal and installation of underground storage tanks. Kenneth earned a bachelor of arts degree in Geology and is a certified professional geologist.

\*\*\*

Governor **Dave Heineman** appointed **Steve Kelley**, Beatrice Board of Public Works, to the Governor's Advisory Council for Public Water Supply. Other members of the Council include: **Larry Cast**, Grand Island; **David Houghtelling**, City of Cambridge Utilities; **Dr. Leon Jons**, Lincoln; **Reed Miller**, Miller & Associates, Kearney; **Jerry Obrist**, Lincoln Water System, and **Jim Sheldon**, Crofton.

\*\*\*

**Tom Menke** has joined the City of Chadron as water/waste water superintendent. He succeeds **Steve Boeselager** who left the city's employment.

\*\*\*

**Leroy Meints**, assistant superintendent, Water Distribution, Lincoln Water System, retired October 15 with more than 43 years of service.

**Margaret Remmenga**, business manager for the City of Lincoln, retired October 15 with 40 years of service.

\*\*\*

**Ron Reisner** has been promoted to vice-president of Engineering and Construction, Metropolitan Utilities District. He succeeds **Paul Reed**, who retired January 10 with 43 years of service

Ron joined the District in 1981 as an engineer. He advanced to supervisory positions in Construction, Field Services and Gas

Distribution. Most recently he was superintendent of the Construction Division.

Ron earned a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University in 1981 and a master of arts degree in Business Administration from Creighton University in 1985. He is a licensed professional engineer in the State of Nebraska.

**Cory O'Brien** has been promoted to superintendent of Construction. Cory joined the District in 1986 as an engineer II. He was named assistant to the



Paul Reed



Ron Reiser



Cory O'Brien



Stephanie Henn

director of Water Pumping and Production in 1990, and advanced to design engineer and water supply engineer. He was promoted to director, Plant Engineering, in 1998.

Cory earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from UNL in 1986, and a masters in business administration from UNO in 1993. He is a licensed professional engineer in the State of Nebraska and a Grade 1 water operator.

**Stephanie Henn** has been promoted to director of Plant Engineering. Steph, who joined the District in 1994, earned a bachelor of science degree in Civil Engineering from UNL in 1994. She is professional registered engineer in the State of Nebraska and a Grade 1 water operator.

\*\*\*

The Metropolitan Utilities District's Platte West Project recently won the Grand Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies for the top engineering project in 2008. The award allows the project to be submitted to the national division, which will be awarded in April in Washington, D.C.

"It is awesome to see that the combined efforts of the HDR Team and a great client, get well deserved recognition. The performance of the total team on this project was the best I have experienced in my 31 years with HDR," said **Glenn Dostal**, HDR Inc.

Congratulations to **Glenn**, **Eric Berggren**, **Greg Broshears**, **Roger Coffey**, **Eric Cox**, **Vince Fallon**, **Keith Froscheiser**, **Chip Haas**, **Keith Kirchner**, **Teresa Konda**, **Mary McCawley**.

Also: **Paul O'Brien**, **Larry Onnen**, **Jeff Patry**, **Dave Penner**, **Chuck Plummer**, **Kim Rasmussen**, **Bob Riede**, **Greg Shafer**, **Mike Shanahan**, **Kevin Thernes** and **Paul Trout**, all HDR Inc.; **Kevin Tobin** and **Mike Koenig**, M.U.D., and everyone who worked on the project.



## Health and Human Service, Public Health Division Contacts

Administrator Jack Daniel, 402.471.0510; Administrative Assistant Janell Miller, 402.471.6435

### Field Services and Training

Program Manager:

**Doug Woodbeck**, 402.471.0521

Area 1 (Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson Counties): **Fred Baumert**, 402.471.0519; cell: 402.440.4917

Area 2 (Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders, Washington): **Roger Rhylander**, 402.595.2123; cell: 402.679.7214

Area 3 (Burt, Cedar, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Knox, Madison, Pierce, Stanton, Thurston, Wayne): **Rich Koenig**, 402.370.3114; cell: 402.649.6243

Area 4 (Butler, Clay, Fillmore, Hamilton, Merrick, Nuckolls, Polk, Saline, Seward, Thayer, York): **Bob Byrkit**, cell: 402.432.4831

Area 5 (Adams, Buffalo, Franklin, Gosper, Hall, Harlan, Kearney, Phelps, Webster): **Ralph Naber**, 308.385.5225; cell: 308.390.2071

Area 6 (Antelope, Blaine, Boone, Boyd, Brown, Garfield, Greeley, Holt, Howard, Keya Paha, Loup, Nance, Platte, Rock, Sherman, Valley, Wheeler): **David Jundt**, 402.370.3404; cell: 402.750.0967

Area 7 (Chase, CuSate, Dawson, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Hayes, Hitchcock, Johnson Lake, Keith, Lincoln, Perkins, Red Willow):

**Tony Martinez**, 308.535.8387; cell: 308.530.4651

Area 8 (Arthur, Banner, Box Butte, Cherry, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Grant, Hooker, Kimball, Logan, McPherson, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, Sioux, Thomas): **Doug Allen**, 308.535.8216; cell: 308.530.3929

Capacity Development Coordinator  
**Scott Sprague**, 402.471.0088; cell: 402.326.4954

Water Operator training and certification, water operator reimbursement grant:  
**Mike Wentink**, 308.535.8135; cell: 308.530.3930

Water Operator training and certification,  
**Barb Eickmeier**, 402.471.0523  
Water System Security Coordinator  
**Kristin Luebbe**, 402.471.1007; cell: 402.416.2558

### Monitoring and Compliance

Program Manager:

**Howard Isaacs**, 402.471.0930

Total coliform:

**Sherry Wirth**, 402.471.0932

Lead and copper, ground water rule:  
**Steve Drda**, 402.471.1008

Nitrate, synthetic organic chemical, source water/well head protection:  
**Ralph Pulte**, 402.471.0172

Volatile organic chemical, radon, radionuclide rules:  
402.471.1009

Inorganic chemical, fluoride, arsenic, asbestos

**Andy Kahle**, 402.471.2104

Surface water treatment rules, disinfectants/disinfection byproducts for large surface water Systems, filter backwash rule:

**Elizabeth Esseks**, 402.471.1010

Regulation review/writing, unregulated contaminant rule:

**Jo Ann Wagner**, 402.471.0520

Public notification tracking, consumer confidence report, regulation review/writing:  
402.471.6571

Safe drinking water information, (SDWIS):  
**Dave Fox**, 402.471.0785

Permit to operate, water operators, update information into SDWIS:

**Helen Donlan**, 402.471.2713

Disinfectants/disinfection byproduct for ground water Systems and small surface water Systems, safe drinking water information System backup:

**Mary Poe**, 402.471.1003

### Engineering Services

Program manager:

**Chin Chew**, 402.471.0522

Plan review, MHP issues, well sites, encroachment issues, regulation development:

**Sharon Godfrey**, 402.471.1004

Plan review, design memorandums, inspections, swimming pool issues, regulation development:

**Steve Jillson**, 402.471.6448

Plan review, test well quality issues, swimming pools, regulation development:

**Kyle Tillinghast**, 402.471.0931

Plan review, swimming pools, DWSRF; regulation development:

**Angel Lowery**, 402.471.0513

Plan review, engineering reports, inspections, DWSRF, regulation development:

**Steve McNulty**, 402.471.1006

### Research and Laboratory

Manager: **Sandy Irons**, 402.471.8426

Lead Chemist: **Mary Boden**, 402.471.8441

Bio Preparedness Coordinator:

**Laurie Wieting**, 402.471.8407

Lab Attendant: 402.471.2122

Customer Service (order sample kits, inquire about status of samples): 402.471.3935

Drinking water results: 402.471.8449

Billing questions: 402.471.8432

### Federal Regulatory System Effective Dates (proposed\*)

as of November 5, 2008

Arsenic	January 2006
LT 2 (ESWTR)	October 2006 phase in
UCMR2	January 2007
Revised Lead and Copper Rule	October 2009
Effluent Guidelines for Water Treatment Plants	Canceled
Ground Water Rule	December 2009
Stage 2 D/DBP	April 2012 phase in
Revised TCR/Distribution System Rule	October 2012*
Radon	Unknown
Aldicarb & MTBE	Unknown
Sulfates	Unknown

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# Wise Water Words

Vol. 46 No. 2

Published for members of the Nebraska Section, American Water Works Association  
<http://www.awwaneb.org>

Summer 2009

## Nominations Committee

by Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District  
(402.504.7560) e-mail: [kevin\\_tobin@mudnebr.com](mailto:kevin_tobin@mudnebr.com)

These positions are not open for nominations and will be filled automatically by the following officers:

Chair	<b>John Olsson</b> , Olsson Associates
Director	<b>Tony Bilek</b> , Mc <sup>2</sup> Inc.
Trustee & Past Chair	<b>Dr. Bruce Dvorak</b> , UNL Civil Engineering

These positions require nominations and election. Nominations also will be open at the Fall Conference Business Meeting, November 4, in Kearney.

Chair-Elect	<b>Teresa Konda</b> , HDR Inc.
Vice Chair	<b>Rob Pierce</b> , League of Nebraska Municipalities
Secretary	<b>Eric Lee</b> , Lincoln Water System
Treasurer	<b>David Lathrop</b> , City of Seward
Trustee	<b>Chad Roberts</b> , City of Norfolk
Trustee	<b>Doug Woodbeck</b> , Nebraska Health & Human Services

## Golfers raise nearly \$4,000

The Water for People golf benefit, Friday, May 1, at The Pines Country Club in Valley, raised nearly \$4,000 for the organization, according to **Craig Reinsch**, Olsson Associates, event chair. A total of 72 golfers and 21 hole sponsors participated in the event.

Since the golf benefit was initiated in 2005, the Section has raised approximately \$14,000 for Water for People.

**Avery Quakenbush**, Lincoln Water System, achieved a hole in one at the event! The winning teams were divided into flights, a championship and first flight.

The first place team, championship flight, with a score of 59, included: **Avery Quakenbush**, **Jim Fogerty**, **James Moore**, Lincoln Water System, and **Ricky Greene**, Kids Planet Inc. Child Development Center, who called themselves the Water Production Kemosabes (WPKs). WPK defended last year's title.

*continued on page 3*

## Drinking water week proclamation



Lt. Governor **Rick Sheehy** signed a proclamation April 8, declaring May 3-9 Drinking Water Week in Nebraska. Attending the proclamation signing were:

Back row, from left: **Greg Bouc**, Village of Valparaiso and Nebraska Rural Water Association; **John Olsson**, Olsson Associates and Nebraska Section AWWA.

Front row, from left: **Joel Christensen**, Metropolitan Utilities District; **David Houghtelling**, City of Cambridge; **Steve Kelley**, Beatrice West Rural Water Project; **Jack Daniel**, **Dr. Joe Acierno**, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; Lt. Governor Sheehy; **Jerry Obrist**, Lincoln Water System; **Larry Cast** of Grand Island, Governor's Water Advisory Council; **Reed Miller**, Miller and Associates.

In addition, the Nebraska Section AWWA Public Information Committee has distributed public service announcements about Drinking Water Week to 69 radio station groups in the State of Nebraska.

## Membership Committee

by Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers  
(402.255.3840) e-mail: [rlr@kirkham.com](mailto:rlr@kirkham.com)

### Welcome New Members:

Baker, Jack W.  
Iwan, Russ

Baker & Associates  
Metropolitan Utilities District

## Chair's comments

Your section has had an active spring. Like so many institutions, the Section had to cut its budget, which required re-evaluating our priorities. I want to thank all board members and committee chairs for helping identify ways to cut the budget that would minimize the impact on the services we provide to the membership. Several initiatives are in the works for the late summer and fall. They are:

- The Board is working with NWEA and APWA to further define some policies related to the joint conference (refund policy, sharing of financial loss, and division of net proceeds from conference).
- The fall conference committee, lead by **John Olsson**, Olsson Associates, is finalizing the plans for November. Expect to see an expanded track of operator continuing education presentations, expanded backflow contest, and water tasting contest (*more details in the next issue of **Wise Water Words***).
- We are planning a Section retreat for late August, likely at M.U.D.'s Platte West Treatment Plant, for the Executive Board, Committee Chairs and interested members. We will discuss the Section's strategic plan and develop written practices and procedures for committees and Section functions.
- A membership survey, lead by **Mike Wentink**, Health & Human Services, should be mailed in late summer. If you receive this survey, please respond quickly.



Bruce Dvorak

There is one other important initiative related to the Section's by-laws. The Board has approved and submitted to AWWA National a proposal to make the following changes:

- Change the number of (non-Past Chair) trustees from two to four, and change the term for these trustees from one to two years (to allow greater participation on the board).
- Change the name of the trustee position for the past chair to "Past-Chair," to differentiate the Past-Chair from the other Trustees.
- Per AWWA National policy, allow multiple Section members to hold elective office and to vote in Section elections.

If the National APC approves the proposed by-law changes, these will be published in the next issue of **Wise Water Words** and will be voted upon at our annual business meeting November 4.

In closing, I thank the Section's committee chairs and members for their hard work this spring. Some examples are:

- The successful Water for People Committee golf outing;
- The Public Information Committee's promotion of drinking water week;
- The Small System Committee's training sessions;
- The Awards Committee's new awards, and
- The Publications Committee's innovation to reduce costs while maintaining good information flow to membership.

## Officers and Trustees

Dr. Bruce Dvorak, 402.472.3431  
e-mail: bdvorak@unl.edu

### Chairperson

John S. Olsson, 402.458.5661

### Chairperson-Elect

Teresa Konda, 402.926.7063

### Vice-Chair

Eric Lee, 402.944.3306

### Secretary

Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829

### Treasurer

Tony Bilek, 402.333.9660

### Director

### Trustees

David Lathrop, 402.643.3433

Doug Woodbeck, 402.471.0521

### Past Chair

Kevin Tobin, 402.504.7560

## 2009 Committee Chairs

Dr. Bruce Dvorak, *Audit*

402.472.3431

Steve Kelley, *Awards*

402.228.5217

Rob Pierce, *Budget*

402.458.5661

Rich Koenig, *Cross Connections*

402.370.3114

Mike Wentink, *Education*

308.535.8134 or 402.471.1005

John S. Olsson, *Fall Conference*

402.458.5661

Chris Koenig, *Fuller Award*

402.548.5112

Tony Bilek

*Manufacturers/Associates Council*

402.333.9660

Rich Robinson, *Membership*

402.255.3840

Kevin Tobin, *Nominations*

402.504.7560

Mari Matulka, *Publications*

402.504.7150

Mary Poe, *Public Information*

402.471.1003

Dr. Bruce Dvorak, *Research*

*and Student Activities*

402.472.3431

Rob Pierce, *Safety*

402.476.2829

Jon Zellars, *Scholarship*

402.504.7925

Rick Melcher, *Small Systems*

402.694.6992

Craig Reinsch, *Water for People*

402.458.5671

Jerry Obrist, *Water Utility Council*

402.441.5930

Justin Stine, *Young Professionals*

402.435.3080



## First Place, Championship Flight Water Production Kemosabes (WPKs)



From left: Jim Fogerty, Avery Quakenbush, Lincoln Water System; Ricky Greene, Kids Planet Inc. Child Development Center, and James Moore, Lincoln Water System.

## Second Place Championship Flight HD Supply Waterworks



From left: Dave Dunning, HD Supply Waterworks; Shane Wegner, Troy Cumpston, Midlands Contracting, and Doug Mitchell, Marcotte Insurance, Kearney.

## Water for People Golf

from page 1

Second place, championship flight, with a score of 61, went to: **Dave Dunning**, HD Supply Waterworks; **Shane Wegner**, **Troy Cumpston**, Midlands Contracting, and **Doug Mitchell**, Marcotte Insurance, Kearney

The first place team, first flight, with a score of 67 included: **Gary Pickering**, Pickering Creative Design; **Jake Hansen**, City of Omaha, and **Kent Rohren**, **Matt Larson**, Olsson Associates.

The second place team, first flight, with a score of 68, went to: **Bruce Dreesen**, Griffin Pipe Products; **Joe McLaughlin**, HD Supply Waterworks; **Steve Thompson**, Thompson Construction, and **Adam Rutjens**, Rutjens Construction.

The following individuals won hole/flag prizes: **Shane Wegner**, Midlands Contracting; **Tony Bilek**, MC<sup>2</sup>, Inc; **Gerry Bowen**, Papio-Missouri River NRD; **Jim Fogerty**, **John Miriovsky**, **Nick McElvain**, Lincoln Water System; **Scott Aurit**, HDR Inc., and **David Gilmore**, Gilmore Associates.

Special thanks to **Matt Pelton** and **Zhongtian Li**, UNL, and **Tracey Christensen**, M.U.D. who assisted at the event.

Thank you to all the participants, sponsors, flag prize donors, and committee members for helping the Nebraska Section AWWA support Water For People as they work towards their millennium goals.

The Section's Water for People Committee includes: **Reinsch**, **Ben Day**, Olsson Associates; **Glenn Dostal**, **Teresa Konda**, HDR Inc.; **Jimmy Harding**, The Schemmer Associates; **Christian New**, Waste Cap Nebraska, and **Arnold Radloff**, Lincoln Water System.



First Place, First Flight, from left: **Matt Larson**, Olsson Associates; **Jake Hansen**, City of Omaha; **Gary Pickering**, Pickering Creative Design, and **Kent Rohren**, Olsson Associates.



Second Place, First Flight, from left: **Adam Rutjens**, Rutjens Construction; **Joe McLaughlin**, HD Supply Waterworks; **Bruce Dreesen**, Griffin Pipe Products, and **Steve Thompson**, Thompson Construction.

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**Chris Johnson  
Don Franklin  
Larry Wieckhorst**

(402) 551-7995

(402) 553-5879 Fax

### Office Location:

4428 South 108th Street  
Omaha, NE 68137

## Water Utility Council

by Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System

The Nebraska State Legislature adjourned May 29. New laws without the emergency clause go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, which would be August 27. If a bill still is process, it will be carried over to the 2010 session.

The Nebraska Section AWWA followed the proposals listed below.

To see the entire bill/law, go to the Unicameral's website: <http://nebraskalegislature.gov>.

LB 54 — (Fischer) Involves changes to integrated management plans for fully appropriated basins. The Lower Platte was just declared fully appropriated last month. *Approved by the Governor, May 13*

LB 272 (Friend) — Sanitary and storm sewers in sanitary and improvement districts (SIDs) would be removed from the definition of "underground facilities" required to be located under the One-Call Act. *Killed February 25.*

LB 304 (Council)— The time to file a written notice under the Political Subdivisions Tort Claims Act would change from one to two years. This bill subjects political subdivisions to claims for an additional year. The purpose of giving the political subdivision timely notice is to allow for a timely investigation. Anything more than one year is not timely. *General File, April 3.*

LB 336 (Friend) — Eliminates the sales tax on water supplied by a municipal water supplier. *Killed March 23.*

LB 477 (Carlson) — Creates a report of title and requires it to accompany every application to appropriate water for a beneficial use. The information in the report of title already was required information for every application. New definitions are created — "certified water uses" which would encompass City of Lincoln uses. Bill requires to certify their water uses.

Empowers NRDs to approve transfers of certified water uses. Prohibits NRD powers to approve certified use transfers from owners seeking participation in "a financial or other incentive program" unless there is a report of title documentation. *Approved by the Governor April 22.*

LB 526 (Friend) – Authorizes cities of the first and second class and villages located in counties surrounding Douglas County to annex land by ordinance even when the land is not contiguous or adjacent to the city if the land is within the cities' zoning jurisdiction and does not add more than 25 residents. *General File, February 24.*

## Washington Fly-In

**Jerry Obrist**, Lincoln Water System; **Milo Rust**, City of Chadron, and **Jim Shields**, Metropolitan Utilities District, met March 24-25, Nebraska Congressional representatives to discuss long-term water infrastructure financing tools (*proposed national water infrastructure bank*), security, climate change and appropriations.

The Nebraska group met with **Alan Feyerherm**, deputy chief of staff for First Congressional District Representative Jeff Fortenberry, and **Monica Jirik**, legislative director for Third Congressional District Representative Adrian Smith. The group also visited with Nebraska



congressman and senators at the “Nebraska Breakfast,” and visited the offices of Representative **Lee Terry**, and U.S. Senators **Ben Nelson** and **Mike Johanns**.

Here are the topics they covered:

#### **Infrastructure**

- AWWA began sounding early warnings in 2001 about the nation’s need to invest in drinking water infrastructure. These needs are large and we need federal help and leadership.
- The SRF program – loans to water systems that revolve to other water systems as they are paid back – is a sound approach, but needs more capital and some other improvements.
- AWWA also completed a study of a proposed national water infrastructure bank, and such a bank looks very promising.
- The SRF and a water infrastructure bank can significantly lower the cost of financing water projects and at very low cost to the federal government. Steps to lower the cost of financing water projects are really important: Saving two percent on interest rates is about the same as getting a 25 percent grant.
- We strongly oppose a federal water tax to support a trust fund.

#### **What we need:**

- Active support for legislation that would:
  - \* Appropriate at least \$1.5 billion to the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund for FY 2009, as the President has requested.
  - \* Create a national water infrastructure bank. Allow states and larger water systems to apply for infrastructure bank loans.
  - \* Make repair and replacement of worn-out infrastructure and security improvements specifically eligible for SRF and infrastructure bank loans.



From left: Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System; Jim Shields, Metropolitan Utilities District, and Chris Giglio, Washington DC lobbyist for the City of Lincoln.

- \* Allow long repayment periods for SRF and infrastructure bank loans.

#### **Chemical Facility Security**

- Drinking water utilities have performed vulnerability assessments, updated emergency response plans, and performed other security measures under existing laws.
- A drinking water utility is a public safety and public health service, and generally is an instrument or agency of local government. Congress therefore exempted water utilities from chemical facility law of 2006.
- Legislation is being developed to include water utilities in chemical facility security regulation even though a number of provisions would be inappropriate for water utilities.
- A particular concern is a provision that allows federal officials to “second guess” local decisions on which chemicals to use.
- Choice of disinfectants and other chemicals reflects characteristics of local waters and infrastructure to ensure public safety and health is protected.
- The choice of disinfectants has to be made locally.

#### **What we need:**

- Support to see that chemical facility security legislation would:
  - \* Exclude public water systems from federal orders to use “inherently safer technology.”
  - \* Exclude public water systems from federal shutdown orders (basic fire protection and sanitation services would be lost).
  - \* Apply to drinking water systems only if they have chemicals of concern above identified threshold levels.

#### **Climate Change**

- Global climate change is having an impact on water resources:
  - \* Precipitation patterns are changing.
  - \* Decreased snowpacks and varying stream patterns can affect recharge of storage reservoirs.
  - \* These and other changes affect water availability, water resource management, water quality, water capture, and water storage.
- Water managers need predictive and adaptive tools for managing these challenges.

#### **What we need:**

- Support for legislation that would direct some of the proceeds from greenhouse gas emissions allowance auctions or other revenues to:
  - \* Authorize drinking water-focused climate change research;
  - \* Support development and implementation of climate change adaptation projects by water utilities.

#### **Federal Appropriations Requests**

- \$1.5 million for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund.
- \$5 million for Water Research Foundation.
- \$60 million for drinking water health effects research at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Drinking water research and sound science are the foundations for good decisions on drinking water regulations.
- \$200 million for the State Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) grants. Utilities need states to make system-specific (not “cookie-cutter”) decisions, and that is expensive.



## Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.

Jim McFarland  
Roger D. Gellhaus  
Tony Bilek

---

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Omaha, Nebraska 68130-2511

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e-mail: [info@mc2h2o.com](mailto:info@mc2h2o.com)

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## Director's Report

by Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.

Happy Summer Everyone!

I trust everyone is in full summer mode as this issue of **Wise Water Words** hits your desk. It is with sincere hope that everyone enjoys a safe and productive summer.



**Tony Bilek**

The Executive Board and Committees have been busy with many activities to ensure opportunities of education and career enhancement for our members.

### Fall Conference

Committee Chair **John Olsson**, and the Planning Committee, developed what should be another outstanding technical session for the Annual

Fall Conference. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Kearney, November 4-5, 2009.

### By-laws

The Executive Board submitted a revision to our section by-laws to national for approval. The revision will allow our section to appoint or elect additional trustees to serve on the Executive Board.

The bylaw revision will be voted on at the National Directors' Winter Board meeting next January. Currently, our Executive Board consists of two trustees. Upon approval of our by-laws, we will incorporate up to four.

The Board, if it chooses, may appoint the additional two trustees once the by-laws are approved. Therefore, I encourage anyone who is interested in a trustee position to contact a Board member for details.

### Affiliation Agreement

Our section Affiliation Agreement with National AWWA has been signed and returned as accepted. The agreement protects our association's tax-exempt status, officer indemnification and intellectual property.



Only Tap W



## Water for People

Congratulations to **Craig Reinsch** of Olsson Associates, for conducting another very successful fund raiser-golf outing. I was fortunate enough to participate in the outing held at the Pines Golf Course in Valley.

## 2009 AWWA-ACE

The AWWA National Annual Convention and Exhibition (ACE) will be held in San Diego, June 13-18. At the time of this writing, I am looking forward to attending. By the time you receive this publication, I'll be glad to be home. There are many activities that take place at the ACE and I do look forward to reporting the goings-on in my next report.

That's all for now friends. Be safe and have fun this summer. Remember that there are abundant resources for you to utilize as an AWWA member. The national website, section website, mentors, section library and other resources are conveniently accessible for your use.

## Brief notes



**Orville Davidson**

In retirement Orville plans to fish, travel and spend time with his family. He and his spouse, Sharon, have eight children, 21 grand children and nine great-grandchildren. Orville's e-mail address: odavidson@neb.rr.com.

**Orville Davidson** retired May 31 as public works director for the City of York. He is a lifetime member of the American Water Works Association. He received the Fuller Award in 1992.

Orville also was president and a house delegate of the American Public Works Association. He served as president of the League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Section from 1993-1994. In addition, he served on the Board of Examiners for County Highway and Street Superintendents.

\*\*\*

**Dr. Bruce Dvorak**, received the 2009 ASCE Samuel Arnold Greeley Award for research which relates to options for minimizing the cost of granular activated carbon at Mead where the US Army Corp of Engineers is treating a plume of TCE and RDX contaminated groundwater.

\*\*\*

**Art May**, 74, of Winnebago, died April 9. Art was a long-time member of the Nebraska Section AWWA. He joined the Midwest Assistance in 1986 as training director, and retired in 2007 with 21 years of service.



## Water operator workshops

August 11	Cambridge
August 12	Hastings
August 13	Crete
September 24	Fremont
November 18	West Point
December 10	Columbus

### Safety Seminars

October 14	North Platte
October 29	Lincoln

### Backflow Seminars

September 15	Ogallala
September 16	Grand Island
September 22	Beatrice
September 23	Wayne


Participants attending the backflow seminars receive 5 contact credit hours for backflow re-certification PLUS hours toward both water and wastewater operator license recertification.

For information about registration, etc., contact **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities, 402.476.2829; e-mail: [robp@lom.org](mailto:robp@lom.org) or **Mike Wentink**, Nebraska Health & Human Services, 308.535.8135; e-mail: [mike.wentink@dhhs.ne.gov](mailto:mike.wentink@dhhs.ne.gov).

**Wise Water Words** is published three times a year for members of the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association.

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## National AWWA Vice-President to speak at fall conference

National AWWA Vice-President **Charles F. Anderson** of Arlington, TX, will be the guest speaker at the Nebraska Section AWWA Fall Conference in Kearney, November 4-5.

In his 36 years of employment in the public sector, Anderson has been involved in several aspects of the water business. In 2005 he retired from the City of Arlington after serving



**Charles Anderson**

as assistant director and director of Utilities for about 28 years, and as deputy city manager from 2003 to 2005.

Anderson currently works for Camp Dresser & McKee as a management consultant.

He joined AWWA in 1972 and currently serves as director and vice-president of the Texas Section AWWA.

He has served as section chair, chair-elect, past-chair, management division chair and trustee. He has been a member of the Coagulation-Filtration, Management Development and Landmark Award committees.

National AWWA President Mike Leonard appointed Anderson to chair the ad hoc Committee on Affiliation Agreements.

Anderson is a life member of AWWA and recipient of the George Warren Fuller Award. He also is a member of the Water Environment Federation, Water Environment Association of Texas and the American Chemical Society.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in Chemistry from Texas Wesleyan University.

## In this issue

<i>Fall conference program . . . . .</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Water tasting contest . . . . .</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Bylaw changes . . . . .</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Shotgun benefit photos . . . . .</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Ad order form for directory and 2010 publications . . . . .</i>	<i>12</i>

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## Shotgun benefit raises \$1,400

*by Craig Reinsch, Olsson Associates  
(402.474.6311) e-mail: [creinsch@oaconsulting.com](mailto:creinsch@oaconsulting.com)*

The Water for People (WFP) Committee raised more than \$1,400 at its second annual shotgun benefit July 17 in Kearney.

The event drew seven participants from Baker & Associates, David City Utilities, HD Supply, League of Nebraska Municipalities, Midwest Labs and Olsson Associates.

The three trap high scores were: **Tim Mundorf**, Midwest Labs - 25; **Tobey Krajewski**, Baker & Associates -23, and **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities -22 . They received Cabela's gift certificates provided by Maguire Iron and Stetson Building Products.

Other sponsors included: Coca-Cola of Kearney, Diamond Plastic Pipe, EA Engineering, Grosch Irrigation Inc., Garney Construction Hawkins Inc., Horizontal Boring and Tunneling, JM Eagle, Judds Brothers Construction, Olsson Associates, Schmidt-Greteman Associates.

In 2008, Water For People benefitted nearly 92,000 people with safe drinking water, nearly 93,000 with improved sanitation facilities, and nearly 154,000 in hygiene education in their various country programs. These are great statistics, and each of us played a part in achieving this great success.

*See photos on page 10*

## Nominations Committee

*by Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District  
(402.504.7560) e-mail: [kevin\\_tobin@mudnebr.com](mailto:kevin_tobin@mudnebr.com)*

These positions are not open for nominations and will be filled automatically by the following officers:

<i>Chair</i>	<b>John Olsson</b> , Olsson Associates
<i>Trustee &amp; Past Chair</i>	<b>Dr. Bruce Dvorak</b> , UNL Civil Engineering

These positions require nominations and election. Nominations also will be open at the Fall Conference Business Meeting, November 4, in Kearney.

<i>Chair-Elect</i>	<b>Teresa Konda</b> , HDR Inc.
<i>Vice Chair</i>	<b>Rob Pierce</b> , League of Nebraska Municipalities
<i>Secretary</i>	<b>Eric Lee</b> , Lincoln Water System
<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>David Lathrop</b> , City of Seward
<i>Trustee</i>	<b>Chad Roberts</b> , City of Norfolk
<i>Trustee</i>	<b>Doug Woodbeck</b> , Nebraska Health & Human Services
<i>Director</i>	<b>Tony Bilek</b> , Mc <sup>2</sup> Inc.

## Chair's comments

**T**his has been an active and busy late spring and summer for the Nebraska Section. We had a very successful shotgun benefit July 17 which raised more than \$1,400 for Water for People.

**John S. Olsson** has led the annual conference planning committee in putting together an excellent program (*see page 3*) for November. The program will include some new items, including a Water Tasting Contest, a "Nuts and Bolts" track on Wednesday aimed for continuing education for water operators, and an expanded "Ultimate Backflow Challenge" event.

**Mike Wentink** has led our survey ad hoc committee in preparing an operators survey to better understand the needs of operators, as well as to quantify the degree to which Nebraska will experience a workforce loss through retirements in the near future. If you receive this survey in the mail, please respond quickly. The data will be very helpful in gaining the attention of Nebraska decision-makers to these important workforce issues.

**Teresa Konda** led the planning of an August board retreat to develop written practices and procedures for committees and Section functions, and to identify new Section initiatives.

The NS-AWWA Board and AWWA National's APC have both approved the proposed changes to the Section's by-laws. The proposed changes will be voted upon in our annual business meeting November 4. The text of the changes is on page 8.

The proposed changes are:

- Change the number of (non-Past Chair) trustees from two to four and change the term for these trustees from one to two years (to allow greater participation on the board).
- Change the name of the trustee position for the past chair to "Past-Chair," to differentiate the Past-Chair from the other Trustees
- Change the quorum from a specific number of officers to at least 50 percent of officers.

These changes are recommended by the NS-AWWA Board for the following reasons:

- Use conference calls for Nebraska Section board meetings may allow more people to participate on the Section's board. By increasing the number of trustees, the Section may be able increase the board's diversity (geography, job function, gender, etc.). This change will particularly allow for representation on the board from the Western part of Nebraska and from smaller systems.
- Trustees will no longer be selected with the expectation that they will go through the entire officer track (e.g., through chair position).
- Some housekeeping changes are needed to make by-laws simpler (name change for past chair) and to come into compliance with AWWA National policies (e.g., allow multiple Section members to hold elective office and to vote in Section elections)

In closing, I want to thank the past and current Board members and Committee Chairs who have served the Section and made my year as chair an enjoyable one. I know **John S. Olsson**, who takes over in November, will do an excellent job.



**Bruce Dvorak**

## Officers and Trustees

Dr. Bruce Dvorak, 402.472.3431  
e-mail: bdvorak@unl.edu

### *Chairperson*

John S. Olsson, 402.458.5661

### *Chairperson-Elect*

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Doug Woodbeck, 402.471.0521

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## 2009 Committee Chairs

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402.472.3431

Steve Kelley, *Awards*  
402.228.5217

Rob Pierce, *Budget*  
402.458.5661

Rich Koenig, *Cross Connections*  
402.370.3114

Mike Wentink, *Education*  
308.535.8134 or 402.471.1005

John S. Olsson, *Fall Conference*  
402.458.5661

Chris Koenig, *Fuller Award*  
402.548.5112

Tony Bilek  
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402.333.9660

Rich Robinson, *Membership*  
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Kevin Tobin, *Nominations*  
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Mari Matulka, *Publications*  
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Jerry Obrist, *Water Utility Council*  
402.441.5930

Justin Stine, *Young Professionals*  
402.435.3080



# 2009 Fall Conference — November 4-5, Kearney

(as of July 21, 2009)

## Wednesday, November 4

### Session I

8:30-9:30 A.M.	Opening Session and Member Survey <b>Charles F. Anderson</b> , AWWA vice-president <b>Mike Wentink</b> , Nebraska Health & Human Services
9:30-10 A.M.	Sanitary Surveys <b>Doug Woodbeck</b> Nebraska Health & Human Services
10-10:30 A.M.	Break and Tour Exhibits
10:30-11 A.M.	Broadwater Point of Use Devices <b>Jack Baker</b> , Baker & Associates
11-11:30 A.M.	Water and Wastewater GIS Conversion: City of York <b>Mark Christensen</b> , City of York <b>Mike Preston</b> , Kirkham Michael Consulting Engineers
11:30 A.M.-NOON	Preserving Institutional Memory in Your Utility <b>Brian Gongal</b> , DJ Gongol & Associates
NOON-1:30 P.M.	<b>Joint AWWA and APWA Lunch</b> <b>Lori Geres</b> , Water for People
1:30-3 P.M.	AWWA Business Meeting (board meeting follows business meeting)
3-3:30 P.M.	Break and Tour Exhibits
3:30-5 P.M.	Top OPS and Non-Top OPS Competitions
5-6 P.M.	Young Professionals Water Tasting Contest
6-7 P.M.	Social Hour and Tour Exhibits
7-9 P.M.	Banquet

### Session II

8:30-9:30 A.M.	Opening Session and Member Survey <b>Charles F. Anderson</b> , AWWA vice-president <b>Mike Wentink</b> , Nebraska Health & Human Services
9:30-10 A.M.	Natural Disaster Preparedness: Lincoln Water System <b>John Miriovsky</b> , Lincoln Water System <b>Ken Fairchild</b> , Olsson Associates
10-10:30 A.M.	Break and Tour Exhibits
10:30-11 A.M.	Greenwood Transmission Main: Lincoln Water System <b>Nick McElvain</b> , Lincoln Water System <b>Andrew Hansen</b> , Black & Veatch <b>Ben Day</b> , Olsson Associates
11-11:30 A.M.	Water Line Replacement: UNL <b>David Wiggins</b> , HDR Inc.
11:30 A.M.-noon	Trenchless Water Line Rehabilitation (cleaning and lining) <b>Rob Biase</b> , J. Fletcher Creamer & Son Inc.
NOON-1:30 P.M.	<b>Joint AWWA and APWA Lunch</b> <b>Lori Geres</b> , Water for People
1:30-3 P.M.	Extreme Backflow Challenge <b>Rich Koenig</b> , Nebraska Health & Human Services
3-3:30 P.M.	Break and Tour Exhibits
3:30-5 P.M.	Top OPS and Non-Top OPS Competitions
5-6 P.M.	Young Professionals Water Tasting Contest
6-7 P.M.	Social Hour and Tour Exhibits
7-9 P.M.	Banquet

## Nuts and Bolts Water Operator Session

9:30-10:15 A.M.	Noted Deficiencies in Sanitary Surveys <b>David Jundt</b> , Nebraska Health & Human Services
10:15-10:30 A.M.	Break and Tour Exhibits

10:30-11 A.M.	Best Practices for Maintenance <b>Brian Gongal</b> , DJ Gongol & Associates
11-11:30 A.M.	Water Hardness <b>Eric Lee</b> , Lincoln Water System
11:30 A.M.-NOON	Fundamentals of Hydraulics <b>Chris Miller</b> , Miller Associates

## Thursday, November 5

7:30-8:30 A.M.	Water Operator Breakfast
7:30-8:30 A.M.	Past-Chairs Roundtable Breakfast

### Session I

8:30-9:30 A.M.	Appropriations and Endangered Species in the Lower Platte — What does the future hold? <b>Jaron Bromm</b> , Fennemore Craig
9:30-10 A.M.	Automated Meter Reading System: City of Seward <b>David Lathrop</b> , City of Seward
10-10:30 A.M.	Break and Tour Exhibits
10:30-11:45 A.M.	Drinking Water Regulatory Update <b>Jack Daniel</b> , Nebraska Health & Human Services
11:45 A.M.-NOON	DWSRF ARRA Funding Update <b>Steve McNulty</b> , Nebraska Health & Human Services

### Session II

8:30-9 A.M.	Dismal River Country Club Water System <b>Tyler Hevlin</b> , JEO Consulting Group
9-9:30 A.M.	Water Tower Renovations <b>Dana Daniels</b> , Miller Associates
9:30-10 A.M.	Construction Procedures for Wire Wound Tanks <b>Dave Ornduff</b> , Natgun Corporation
10-10:30 A.M.	Break and Tour Exhibits
10:30-11 A.M.	Ultrafiltration Membranes for Surface Water Treatment <b>Rod Kirkland</b> , Olsson Associates
11-11:30 A.M.	Updating Ozone for Increased Capacity and Efficiency <b>Eric Lee</b> , Lincoln Water System <b>Andrew Hansen</b> , <b>Jeff Neemann</b> , Black & Veatch
11:30 A.M.-NOON	M.U.D. Platte South Contact Basin <b>Jeff Kohn</b> , Metropolitan Utilities District

### CEUs

Grades 1-4: AWWA Program = Up to 6.5 hours
Grades 1-4: Top Ops Participation = 1.5 hours
Grade 6: Extreme Backflow Knowledge = 1.5 hours

### Conference Fees (pre-registration = prior to October 20)

Pre-Registration for AWWA (includes Thursday lunch and banquet), \$70
Pre-Registration for Full Conference (includes all lunches and banquets), \$140 (\$150 on-site)
PAWWA Operator's Breakfast, \$10
Additional Banquet Tickets, \$20 each

### Cancellations not accepted after October 28, 2009

For more information, contact:

**Kathleen Alexander**, HDR Inc.  
8404 Indian Hills Dr., Omaha, NE 68114-4049  
phone: 402.399.1357; fax: 402.399.4918  
e-mail: kathleen.alexander@hdrinc.com

### Lodging

Hotel reservations: 308.237.5971; reservations must be made by October 6 for the conference rate (Holiday Inn: \$76.95 for single or double), plus tax.

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## Nebraska Section AWWA 2009 budget

(April 21, 2009)

INCOME	2009 Actual	2009 Budget
Section allotment	11,050.00	\$11,050.00
Association allotment	3,950.00	3,950.00
Multi-section allotment	364.65	650.00
Annual meeting	.00	10,500.00
Interest on Accounts	687.95	1,300.00
Advertising income	6,075.00	7,000.00
Water for People		
Raffle — Fall Conference	0.00	1,600.00
Golf Event	7,670.00	5,000.00
Trap Event	0.00	2,000.00
Special Projects—Survey	1,000.00	0.00
WARN	0.00	0.00
Small Systems	0.00	0.00
Safety Committee	0.00	500.00
Miscellaneous	20.00	100.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$30,798.00</b>	<b>\$43,650.00</b>
EXPENSES		
Safety Committee	66.40	500.00
Cross Connection Workshop	1,100.00	1,250.00
Education		
Education Committee	0.00	300.00
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	4,100.00	4,000.00
Special Project Expense	3,000.00	3,000.00
Website	0.00	0.00
Public Information Committee	87.50	750.00
Small Systems Committee	0.00	600.00
Director's spouse meeting expense	0.00	250.00
Publications		
Wise Water Words	7,213.20	8,550.00
Membership Directory	0.00	8,400.00
Advertising	248.00	250.00
Student Activity	75.00	150.00
Membership	20.00	150.00
Audit, tax preparation	0.00	500.00
Awards	171.43	600.00
Research Foundation	0.00	0.00
Regional officers' meeting/officer training		
Summer Leadership Workshop	0.00	0.00
Membership Summit	0.00	0.00
WFP Workshop	1,107.88	750.00
Regional officer meetings	2,484.24	2,500.00
Annual meeting	0.00	1,500.00
Water for People		
Raffle — Fall Conference	0.00	700.00
Golf Event	3,596.18	2,500.00
Trap Event	0.00	900.00
Water for People — Payment to WFP		
Raffle — Fall Conference	0.00	900.00
Sustaining Membership	0.00	0.00
Golf Event	4,073.82	2,500.00
Trap Event	0.00	1,100.00
MAC Council	0.00	100.00
Scholarships		
Abel Wolman	0.00	0.00
Stockholm	500.00	500.00
Top Ops	0.00	0.00
Conference	0.00	1,800.00
Students	0.00	1,000.00
Young Professionals	0.00	50.00
Water Utility Council (travel, etc.)	0.00	0.00
WARN	0.00	1,500.00
Washington Fly-In	1,755.92	1,500.00
Board conference calls	106.43	500.00
Miscellaneous	20.00	500.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$29,726.49</b>	<b>\$50,050.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$1,071.11</b>	<b>-\$6,400.00</b>



# Water tasting contest

The Young Professionals Committee will sponsor a water tasting contest at the fall conference 5 p.m., November 4, at the Kearney Holiday Inn. **Eric Obert**, JEO Consulting Group Inc., is coordinating the event. The City of Seward has issued a challenge to all public water suppliers to participate, said Board Trustee **David Lathrop**.

## Eligibility:

1. Water sample entries must be submitted by a Nebraska public water supply system.
2. The system may not have federal or state drinking water violations (MCL, monitoring, record keeping, etc.) violations for the previous calendar year.

## Submission of Water Samples:

1. One entry per public water supply system.
2. One or more samples should be submitted to equal the volume of one gallon. Glass containers are preferred, however utilities may use a container of their choice.
3. Each sample should be clearly identified with the name of the water system and contact person.
4. Samples should be collected no more than 48 hours prior to the contest and continuously stored at a temperature between 40-70 degrees F.
5. Samples will be stored at room temperature.
6. Water samples shall be submitted in person at the AWWA registration desk, Kearney Holiday Inn by noon, November 4, 2009.

## Judges:

The water tasting contest will be judged by water industry representatives and the general public as follows:

1. Nebraska Section AWWA past chair;
2. National AWWA representative;
3. Nebraska Health and Human Services representative;
4. Local media representative, and
5. Other.

Depending on availability, judges may be altered the day of the competition.

## Contest Categories:

All water samples will be judged in a single category.

## Contest Judging:

1. Samples will be presented to the judges anonymously and in random order.
2. Each judge will be given one 8 oz. water sample. Water samples will be judged by taste on a 10-point scale from good (1) to best (10).
3. In case of a tie, additional water samples will be presented to the judges for final selection.
4. The water sample with the highest cumulative score will be the winner and declared the "Best Drinking Water in Nebraska 2009."
5. Only the winning sample will be announced — samples will not be ranked nor will scores be released.
6. The Nebraska Section AWWA winner will be nominated to compete in the National AWWA Water Taste Test at the National AWWA Conference, June 20-24, 2010 in Chicago, if the winner meets the National AWWA eligibility requirements.



The "Best Drinking Water in Nebraska" **TASTE TEST** will be held Wednesday, November 4 at 5 p.m. at the Nebraska Section AWWA Fall Conference in Kearney.

The winning public water supply will be presented a plaque and nominated to compete in the National AWWA Water Taste Test.



For more information, contact Eric Obert, JEO Consulting Group Inc., phone: 402.443.8006 or e-mail: [eobert@jeo.com](mailto:eobert@jeo.com)



## Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.

Jim McFarland  
Roger D. Gellhaus  
Tony Bilek

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2320 S. 156 Cir.  
Omaha, Nebraska 68130-2511

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## Director's Report

by Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.

It's difficult to believe summer has come and gone so fast. It's always good to hear rainfall was plentiful, severe storms were minimal and our state reservoir levels continue to rise and

many are maintaining full capacity. We need to appreciate having an abundant supply of quality water in Nebraska.



**Tony Bilek**

Early this summer I was fortunate enough to attend the AWWA-ACE in San Diego. As always the conference offers many opportunities for attendees. The technical sessions covered most all aspects of water supply, treatment, distribution and management.

The activities covered in the special session and Board of Directors meeting included: (*Board of Directors meeting minutes are posted on the website.*)

- The six-city AWWA-ACE rotation was approved. Beginning in 2013 the cities include: West – Las Vegas and San Diego, Central – Chicago and Denver and East – Orlando and Washington D.C.
- The consent agenda was discussed and approved.
- Three President-elect candidates provided campaign speeches. President-elect, along with Vice-President, and Director-at-Large elections will be held at the Directors' Winter Board meeting.
- At the time of the meeting, 16 of the 43 sections had signed and returned the affiliation agreements (Nebraska is one).
- Strategic plan and mission statement are being redrafted and will be presented at the winter board meeting.

It was an honor and pleasure to join **Mike Wentink** and his wife Cathi at the Fuller Award breakfast and induction ceremony.

**Charlie Anderson** of the Texas Section, will join us as our dignitary at the annual conference in Kearney. Charlie currently is a Vice-President of AWWA and has been an AWWA member for 30 years. Charlie has been instrumental

Only Tap W





Mike Wentink, Health & Human Services, received the George Warren Fuller Award at the National AWWA Conference, June 14-18, in San Diego.

From left: Past Fuller Award Winner Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System; Cathi and Mike Wentink; Past Fuller Award Winners Joel Christensen, Metropolitan Utilities District, and Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc.

in the crafting, execution and implementing of the Section Affiliation Agreements.

Chair-Elect **John Olsson** and the program committee, have prepared what should be another impressive annual conference program (*page 3*). This is an excellent opportunity for members to advance their skills in our industry. The technical sessions, networking, access to manufacturers and other activities should prove to be beneficial to all who attend.

We anticipate approval to amend our section by-laws at the Board of Directors' winter board meeting in January 2010. The amendment will allow our section to carry up to four trustees. Currently we carry two.

The Nominations Committee published the 2010 slate of officer nominees for election to the board (*page 1*). The election will be held at our business meeting at the annual conference. Individuals who are interested in serving on the board can be nominated from the floor at the business meeting.

Once the Section by-law amendment is approved in January 2010, the board can (and most likely will) appoint two additional trustees. Please keep this in mind and speak to me or any board member if you are interested in serving on the board. This is a great association that depends on volunteers who want to make a difference.

I hope to see many of you at the annual conference in Kearney, November 4-5.

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## Bylaw changes

To be voted on at the fall conference business meeting November 4, 2009

### ARTICLE V — ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

- 5.1 All members of the Section in good standing, except multi section members, are eligible to vote.

### ARTICLE VII — SECTION OFFICERS AND GOVERNING BOARD

- 7.1 The Officers of the Section shall be as follows:

- a. Chair.
- b. Chair-Elect.
- c. Vice-Chair.
- d. Secretary.
- e. Treasurer.
- f. Past-Chair — the last living Past-Chair of the Section not already serving on the Board.
- g. Representative on the Association's board of directors, hereinafter called the "Director."
- h. Up to four trustees — One of whom shall be the last living Past-Chair of the Section.

- 7.2 The above Officers shall constitute the Section Governing Board, hereinafter call the "Board," which shall be the governing body of the Section.

- 7.3 The Officers of the Section shall execute its business in accordance with the Bylaws of the Section and the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws and Governing Documents of the American Water Works Association

- 7.4 Terms of Office for Section Executive Board of Trustees.

- 7.1.1 The Director shall be elected for a term of three (3) years or as otherwise required by the Bylaws of the American Water Works Association.

- 7.4.2 The term of the Chair, Chair-Elect, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past-Chair shall be one (1) year. These terms shall commence following the turning over of the gavel of office during the Section annual conference at which they are elected or succeed to office, and shall terminate at the turning over of the gavel of office at the annual conference at which their term expires.

- 7.4.3 The term of office of a Trustee shall be two (2) years. There are up to four (4) trustees with up to two (2) elected each year.

- 7.5 Any member of the Section shall be eligible to hold Section elective office, except multi-section membership.

- 7.6 Two or more offices may not be held by the same individual, with the exception of the Offices of Secretary and Treasurer.

- 11.3 A quorum of the Board shall consist of at least five 50 percent of its members.

AMENDED: *Date resolution is passed* (Changed number of trustees from two to four with associated modifications to terms and quorum.)

### Summary of Changes:

- Change the name of the trustee position for the past chair to "Past-Chair," to differentiate the Past-Chair from the other trustees in the bylaws and Section's practices and procedures.
- Change the number of (non-Past-Chair) trustees from two to four and change the term for these trustees from one to two years.
- Per AWWA National policy, allow multiple section members to hold elective office and to vote in section elections.

### Justification:

- Using conference calls for Nebraska Section board meetings may allow more people to participate in the board. The goal of increasing the number of trustees is to increase the diversity of the board diversity (geography, employer, job function, gender, etc.). This change will particularly allow for representation on the board from the western part of Nebraska and from smaller systems.
- Trustees no longer will be selected with the expectation that they will go through the entire officer track (e.g., through chair position). This will allow some individuals to serve on the board whom otherwise were unable to serve.
- Changes were kept simple as suggested in the AWWA document "How to Revise Your Section Bylaws," with guidance for implementation included in the Section's practices and procedures (*see suggested guidance below*).

### Time line:

- Board approve proposed bylaws changes in March 2009 meeting.
- Send to AWWA Section Services Representative (SSR) for approval.
- Revise to address AWWA Section Services changes and obtain board approval (if needed).
- Send to AWWA APC for approval at least six weeks prior to ACE (approximately May 5) for approval. Should receive feedback by early July.
- Publish proposed bylaw amendments in **Wise Water Words** (deadline August 1, 2009).
- Vote on bylaw amendments at annual meeting at fall conference (November 2009).
- At November 2009 meeting, elect two provisional trustees (two-year terms) which will go into effect if bylaw amendments are approved by AWWA National in January 2010. Also elect two trustees (one-year term) in November 2009. These two trustees will be replaced in November 2010 with two trustees on two-year terms.



- Forward for approval by AWWA Board of Directors in January 2010 meeting.
- If approved, the two provisional trustees (on two-year terms) elected in November 2009 will join board.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Proposed Narrative for Section's Practices and Procedures

### Guidance for Nomination Committee

- Trustee nominees should be selected to provide greater diversity on the board in terms of:
  - a. Geographic diversity (e.g., representation from western Nebraska),
  - b. Employer, job function ([1] Manufacturer representative/ education/regulatory agency, [2] large utility, [3] small system, and [4] consulting engineer, with at least one operator represented), and
  - c. Gender and ethnic background.
- Trustees, who are not nominated to start through the chair's track (e.g., secretary or treasurer), may be nominated for a second two-year trustee term, if the individual is interested in continuing as trustee and in taking on increased duties.
- Individuals should be nominated for no more than two terms (four years) as trustee before being nominated for a position that starts the nominee through the chair's track. This will allow others to serve on the board.
- At least half of the trustee nominees will be open to the option of going through the chair's track, although going through the chair's track is not required.
- The Nominations Committee should nominate the current trustee who is best prepared to start through the chair's track for openings (e.g., secretary, treasurer). This may mean nominating a trustee in the middle of a two-year term. If that trustee is elected to a higher office, the board will then appoint another individual to serve the last year of the two-year trustee term. At that time, the Nominations Committee will be asked to recommend an individual to the board in that event.

### Duties of Trustees:

- First-year trustees will serve as a liaison to one or two committees, or serve as a committee chair, attend board meetings, and attend a national meeting related to section officers.
- Second-year trustees will assist committees that need proactive assistance from the board, serve as a committee chair, and/or lead ad hoc initiatives to help the section.
- Second-term trustees will take on a larger work load than first-term trustees, focusing on assisting committees that need proactive assistance from the board, serving as a committee chair, and/or leading ad hoc initiatives to help the Section.

## MAC Committee

by Tony Bilek, Mc<sup>2</sup> Inc. (402.333.9660) e-mail: [tony@mc2h2o.com](mailto:tony@mc2h2o.com)

Fall conference invitations and contracts were mailed the first week in August. These documents also are posted on the Section website: <http://www.awwaneb.org>.

Exhibitor fee remains at \$450. Fee includes one set of lunch and dinner tickets and two social hour drink tickets.

There are 52 booths available in Loper Hall where the exhibits traditionally are on display. We will offer a limited number of booth spaces in the registration area near the west entrance if Loper Hall sells out. All exhibits are available on a first-come first-served basis.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

## Careers

**Mark Christiansen** has been promoted to director of Public Works, City of York, succeeding Orville Davidson who retired May 31 with more than 37 years of service.

Mark previously held the position of staff engineer for the city.

\* \* \*



Mark Christensen

**Matt Frey** has been named utility superintendent for the City of Cedar Bluffs, succeeding **Clarence Thurlow**. Frey previously was the utilities superintendent for the City of Gretna. **Richard Andrews** succeeds Frey as utilities superintendent for the City of Gretna.

\* \* \*

**Eric Berggren**, water section manager, HDR Inc., has been promoted to water and wastewater section manager in the Chicago office.

Eric joined HDR Inc. nine years ago. His new mailing address is 30 N. LaSalle St., Ste. 3220, Chicago, IL 60602-3348. There is no change to his e-mail address: [eric.berggren@hdrinc.com](mailto:eric.berggren@hdrinc.com)



Eric Berggren

## Water operator workshops

September 24 Fremont  
November 18 West Point  
December 10 Columbus

### Safety Seminars

October 14 North Platte  
October 29 Lincoln

### Backflow Seminars

September 15 Ogallala  
September 16 Grand Island  
September 22 Beatrice  
September 23 Wayne

Participants attending the backflow seminars receive 5 contact credit hours for backflow re-certification PLUS hours toward both water and wastewater operator license recertification.

For information about registration, etc., contact **Rob Pierce**, League of Nebraska Municipalities, 402.476.2829; e-mail: [rbp@lom.org](mailto:rbp@lom.org) or **Mike Wentink**, Nebraska Health & Human Services, 308.535.8135; e-mail: [mike.wentink@dhhs.ne.gov](mailto:mike.wentink@dhhs.ne.gov).

## YP Water System Coatings “Free” Presentation

**2 p.m., August 28, Lazlo’s, Lincoln**  
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*(all ages welcomed)*

Go to the Nebraska Section website  
(<http://www.awwaneb.org>) for more information or  
call Rory Sudbeck, 402.333.1511/cell: 402.981.5992

## UNL Water Website

by Sharon Skipton, UNL Extension

(402.472.3662) e-mail: [sskipton@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:sskipton@unlnotes.unl.edu)

Do you find yourself in the position of providing information to customers who are trying to find answers to their drinking water questions?

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension drinking water publications have been developed with this need in mind. Information is unbiased and based on research and science.

Authors collaborated with Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services staff, industry professionals and others to develop the publications, and Nebraska-specific information is included when possible.

Publications are reviewed and updated a minimum of every five years, but usually more often. This assures the latest research findings, public policy actions and regulations will be reflected.

Access the drinking water publications via the website: [water.unl.edu/drinkingwater](http://water.unl.edu/drinkingwater). Publications can be viewed on-line or printed for use. Additional drinking water information can be found on the website, including information on pharmaceuticals in water supplies, risks from plastic water bottles and more.

## Emergency planning seminar

### September 22-23, Gering

Plan to attend the emergency planning seminar in Gering, September 22 and 23, hosted by Region 22 Emergency Management in conjunction with the Department of Homeland Security and Texas A&M University.

15 CEUs (grades 1-4 water operators; 16 CEUs for wastewater operators)

Deadline to register, noon September 11; seating is limited.

See information on the Nebraska Section AWWA website: <http://www.awwaneb.org> or contact Jerry Bretthauer in Gering, phone: 308.436.6689; e-mail: [jbrett@scottsbuffcount.org](mailto:jbrett@scottsbuffcount.org).

## Shotgun benefit July 17



From left: Tobey Krajewski, Baker & Associates; Tim Mundorf, Midwest Labs; Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities; Dave Dunning, HD Supply, and Ray Schroeder, Olsson Associates.



From left: Scott Boyd, David City Utilities; Tobey Krajewski, Baker & Associates, and Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities.



## Ad order form for directory and 2010 publications

Price is for one issue. Your ad also will appear in the publication when it is posted on our website: [www.awwaneb.org](http://www.awwaneb.org).  
Paper circulation: 500, including all U.S. and state legislative representatives.

Whenever possible, please submit advertisements electronically in a high resolution pdf. Publication is produced in InDesign for Mac.

- ☐ 2010-11 Directory (deadline for copy, December 1, 2009)
- ☐ Wise Water Words, Spring issue, 2010 (deadline for copy, January 20, 2010)
- ☐ Wise Water Words, Summer issue, 2010 (deadline for copy, April 15, 2010)
- ☐ Wise Water Words, Fall issue, 2010 (deadline for copy, August 1, 2010)

Size	One Color: Black ink or Pantone 293 Blue ink (please specify)	4-color
Business card size (3 1/2 x 2 3/8 inches):	_____ \$150 each issue	_____ \$275 each issue
1/4 page (3 1/2 x 4 7/8 inches):	_____ \$300 each issue	_____ \$400 each issue
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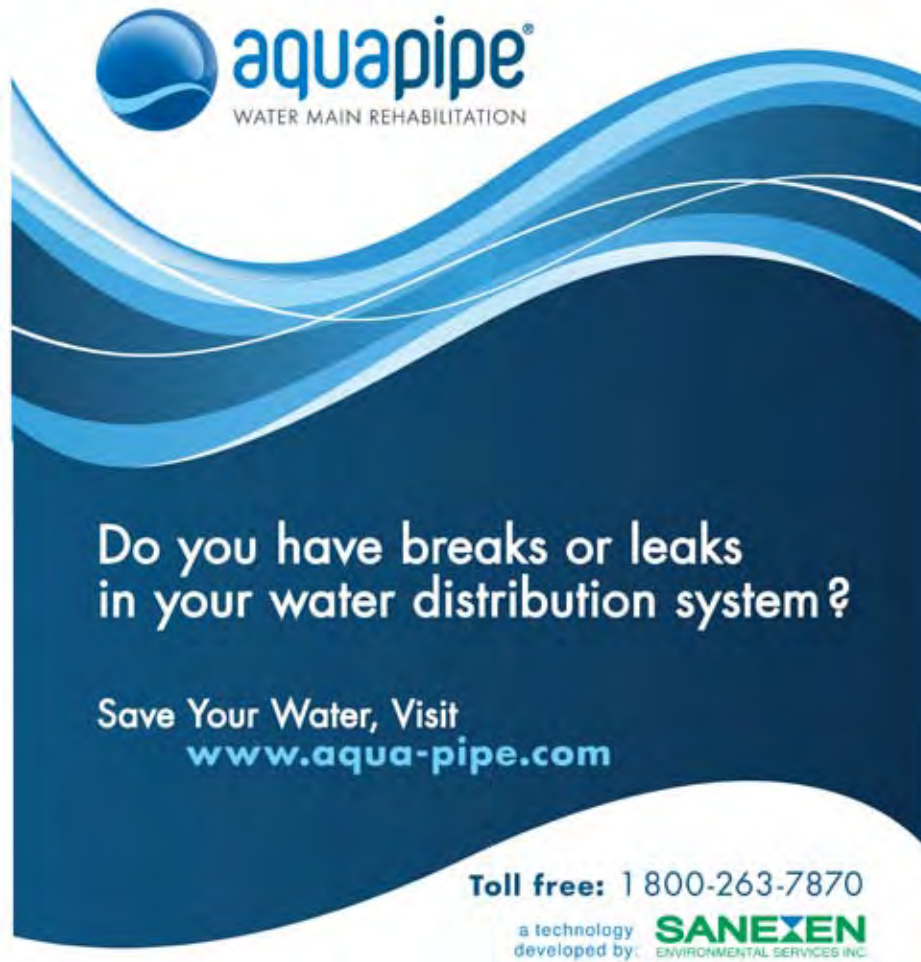
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*Acceptance of advertising by the Nebraska Section AWWA does not constitute endorsements of the advertiser, its products or services, nor does **Wise Water Words** make any claims or guarantees as to the accuracy or validity of the advertiser's offer.*

**Wise Water Words** is published three times a year for members of the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association.

Editor: **Mari Matulka**, APR, 402.504.7150;  
fax: 402.504.7020

e-mail: mari\_matulka@mudnebr.com



The advertisement features a blue and white wavy background. At the top left is the Aqua-pipe logo, which consists of a blue sphere with a white wave inside, followed by the text "aqua-pipe®" and "WATER MAIN REHABILITATION" below it. The main text in the center reads "Do you have breaks or leaks in your water distribution system?" in white. Below this, it says "Save Your Water, Visit" followed by the website "www.aqua-pipe.com" in blue. At the bottom right, it says "Toll free: 1 800-263-7870" and "a technology developed by: SANEXEN ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INC." with the SANEXEN logo in green.

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