



Jack Daniel receives Fuller Award

Jack Daniel, administrator, Environmental Health Protection Services, Nebraska Health and Human Services, Department of Regulation and Licensure, was named the George Warren Fuller Awardee at the 2002 Fall Conference for outstanding service to the water industry. This is the highest honor given by AWWA. The award will be presented to Jack at the National AWWA Conference June 15-19 in Anaheim, CA.

According to **Don Franklin**, chair of the Fuller Award Committee, "Jack has provided leadership and direction for the State Drinking Water Program for 18 years. He consistently attempts to serve the best interests of the State of Nebraska as it pertains to drinking water regulations and public health. Jack is a champion of the small water system

and distinguishes himself through perseverance in doing the right thing for all Public Water Supply Systems. His approach has always been one of common sense. Finding a solution to the problem and then offering any help to accomplish that goal has been the first step with systems. While enforcement actions are sometimes necessary, this typically is a last resort.

"Jack Daniel has provided the Nebraska Section of AWWA with his insight and assistance for nearly two decades. His



Jack Daniel

(continued on page 14)

2003 officers



From left, front: Larry Andreasen, City of Fremont, vice-chair; Dennis Watts, City of Norfolk, chair; Kristine Ranslem, City of Albion, chairperson-elect; Chris Koenig, HGM Associates, Inc., past chair.

Back: John Miriovsky, Lincoln Water System, director; Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services, trustee; Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District, treasurer; Tony Bilek, Mc2, secretary. Trustee Paul Markowski, City of Ord, was unavailable for the photo.

Chair's comments

I hope everyone had a happy holiday and enjoyed the time off that comes with the holidays. Now that the holidays are over, it's time to get back to work. Our section continues to face many of the same issues of the past, however we also find ourselves with new topics of concern as we head into 2003. We developed the Strategic Plan (*see page 18*) in 2002 to define a list of concerns for the Section. These include:



Dennis Watts

- ✓ Membership recruitment.
- ✓ Promotion of opportunities for career development to members within the water industry.
- ✓ Provide outreach programs for small systems.
- ✓ Serve as a legislative and regulatory resource for members.
- ✓ Promote understanding of public water supply systems to the public.
- ✓ Provide continued education and training to all involved in the water industry.

Each goal includes a broad range activities, and volunteers always are needed in these areas to improve and promote safe water. I strongly urge everyone to visit our website (<http://www.awwaneb.org>) to view the Strategic Plan. Please contact a committee chair if you can help achieve these goals.

One of the newest issues facing the water industry is the potential threat of terrorist attacks or sabotage. The enactment of the Bioterrorism Act in 2002 requires vulnerability assessments for all systems serving populations more than 3,300. EPA requires vulnerability assessments be completed by June 30, 2004.

Even though EPA requires assessments only on communities serving more than 3,300, I strongly encourage all communities to look at their systems. After completion of the vulnerability assessments, each community that completes a survey needs to be aware of the importance of safeguarding this information.

The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) makes it a possibility this information could fall into the wrong hands. As National AWWA looks at ways to safeguard our water systems, it will work with state legislatures to help guide individual systems to insure this information remains safe. **A Guide to Protecting Sensitive Water Security Information**, published in 2002 by the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, is posted on the Nebraska Section AWWA website.

I look forward to chairing the Section in 2003. If you have ideas or comments to improve the Section please call me at 402.844.2210 or e-mail me at dwatts@ci.norfolk.ne.us.

Officers and Trustees

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Wise Water Words is published three times a year for members of the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association.
Editor: **Mari Matulka**, APR, 402.449.8154; fax: 402.449.8166;
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Director's report by John Miriovsky

I just returned from the Winter Board Meeting in balmy, warm southern Texas to the frigid north of Nebraska, and began to question why I want to come back here. It was wonderful to see flowers in bloom, green grass and to swing a golf club!

This year's meeting was uneventful . . . no controversial items like EfficientUtilities.com. However, we did address two issues pertaining to EU. They were:

1. Discharge the ad-hoc committee, formed to "heal the wounds" between the Association and the manufacturers and distributors.
2. Approved the "Transfer of Limited Liability Company Interest" agreement between AWWA Association Services, Inc. (AWWASI) and Environmental Network International (ENI), dated November 25, 2002.

GOOD NEWS. As a result of the dissolution of the partnership, 23 companies, who boycotted the annual conference in New Orleans, bought 65 booths for the June 15-19 conference in Anaheim.

The special session on Saturday focussed on the Strategic Planning Process. Many feel the current process needs revision as it's viewed as a top down document. Ideas and needs of sections and individual members should be incorporated into the process. We, as a Section, will be asked for ideas, probably at the next Regional Officers Meeting.

In other business, the board elected **Katie McCain**, Texas Section, president-elect for a one-year term beginning June 2003. She will assume the presidency in June 2004, and is the first woman to serve in this capacity.

Elected vice-presidents for one-year terms beginning June 2003:

Dixie Fanning	South Carolina
Andy Richardson	Arizona
Curtis Truss	Director-at-Large
Chuck Van Der Kolk	Michigan
Carlos Velazquez	Puerto Rico

Mari Garza, Texas Section, was elected director-at-large for a three-year term beginning June 2003.

Accreditation was discussed briefly. It was decided this should be a topic for the June 2003 Board Special Session. As more information becomes available, I will update you.

If you have any questions, comments, concerns or ideas to benefit the Section and membership, please let me know. My phone number is 402.441.5932 or e-mail me at miriovsk@ci.lincoln.ne.us.

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Water Utility Council by Jerry Obrist

The 98th Nebraska Legislature convened its 90-day session January 8, 2003. The Nebraska Section AWWA is following the proposals listed below. To see entire bill proposal, go the Unicameral's website: <http://www.unicam.state.ne.us>

If you have any questions, please contact me at 402.441.7571; e-mail: jobrist@ci.lincoln.ne.us

LB 30 (Schrock) Allows for a Class VI misdemeanor or civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 per day for an intentional violation against a cease and desist order by a natural resources district to enforce the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act. Fines go to the permanent school fund. Current penalty carries a maximum fine of \$500 with a minimum of \$100.

Status: Advanced for review with amendments January 31.

LB 31 (Schrock) Introduced on behalf of the Nebraska Health & Human Services, does the following:

- Allows transfer of funds the Department of Natural Resources collects for Health & Human Services Regulation & Licensure as water well registration fees back to Health & Human Services Regulation & Licensure after December 31, 2004.
- Clarifies that an operator of a public water system, who is certified under the Safe Drinking Water Act, may break the seal of a water well in the course of his/her employment.
- Defines probation as a possible disciplinary action for water operators.
- Allows the director to place a water system on probation and a water operator on probation.
- Allows Health & Human Services to use criteria other than size of system to make distinctions for the classification of water systems.
- Allows Health & Human Services to use additional criteria, such as source water treatment techniques and purpose, distribution complexity, system classification, number of persons served and the physical size of the facility to determine what a water operator needs to know.
- Operative date of January 1, 2004.

Status: Public hearing held January 24. Placed on General File January 27 with an amendment to eliminate the sunset provision and increase the water well registration fee for the Water Well Decommissioning Fund by \$10.

LB 33 (Schrock) Eliminate the sunset clause to the Department of Natural Resources for costs of well registration updates, etc.

Status: Killed January 27.

LB 34 (Schrock) Increase the application fee collected by natural resources districts from \$17.50 to \$50 for a permit to build a water well in a ground water management area.

Status: Advanced for review January 31.

Continued on page 5

Water Utility Council Report

LB 35 (Schrock) Allows a natural resources district to permit a well to be built for a beneficial use of water in a management area. Under current law, "beneficial use" is limited to wells for domestic, agricultural, manufacturing or industrial use.

Status: Advanced for review January 31.

LB 93 (Schrock) Allows natural resources districts in a Phased IV Ground Water Management Plan to use proper "rate" of fertilizer and pesticide applications as part of its best management practices.

Status: Amendment adopted to strike "and pesticide," which would have allowed the natural resources districts to regulate the rate and timing of pesticides. Pesticide applications are governed by the label requirements under federal law. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture is the lead agency for enforcement in Nebraska. Advanced for review January 31.

LB 94 (Schrock) Adopts "The Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Contractors Certification and System Registration Act." The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has rules and regulations governing the design, operation and maintenance of onsite wastewater systems. This proposal relies on those standards for work done on onsite wastewater systems by documented professionals in the industry.

Onsite wastewater systems would need to be sited, laid out, built, reconstructed, altered, modified, repaired, inspected and pumped by certified professionals under DEQ rules and regulations.

Professionals would be certified and recertified periodically following industry work "entry" tests to ensure competence and understanding of construction standards by those certified professionals. After initial certification, certified professionals would attend continuing education courses to ensure continued competence and knowledge of new technologies.

The proposal establishes an industry advisory board to work with DEQ and its council to establish certification standards, requirements, examination details, continuing education programs and practices.

The proposal also establishes a program to register newly constructed or reconstructed systems on information provided by the certified professionals completing the construction or reconstruction. The registration program would provide future reference locators to identify the systems installed after the act is in force and would ensure such systems are installed by certified professionals.

The certification and system registration program is intended to be fully funded by fees from certification, examination, education and registration activities.

Status: Public hearing held January 29.

Continued on page 6

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Board Meetings

May 22, July 17, September 18
9:30 a.m., Fremont Wastewater Plant
6235 E. Morningside Dr., Fremont
The board also will meet in Columbus
at the Rural Water Convention the week of March 17

402.644.8712; fax: 402.644.8762
e-mail: dwatts@ci.norfolk.ne.us

All members invited to attend

Nebraska Section AWWA Fall Conference
November 6-7, 2003 Holiday Inn, Kearney

Continued from previous page

LB 123 (Schrock) Clarifies that the director of the Department of Natural Resources may consider any negative impacts withdrawal of groundwater may have on ground water supplies or on surface water needed to meet present or future demands for water, including demands to meet compliance requirements for any interstate compact or decree, or to fulfill provisions of any other formal state contract or agreement.

The director may consider any adverse environmental effect of the proposed withdrawal or transportation of groundwater and the cumulative effect of the proposed withdrawal and transfer when considered with all other transfers.

The director also may consider any other factors consistent with this act to protect the health, safety and welfare of the state and its citizens.

Status: Public hearing held January 31.

LB 141 (Schrock) Relates to irrigation, and provides appropriation and requirements for certain storage reservoir structures.

- The owner of a storage reservoir built prior to December 31, 2001 for which a storage appropriation is required but has not been granted, may file an application for appropriation with the Department of Natural Resources by December 31, 2004.
- If the Department of Natural Resources finds the structure is a significant- or high-hazard structure or finds it to be in an unsafe condition, the owner shall submit an emergency action plan, allowing the Department access to the reservoir and any dam for inspection and evaluation, and may require the owner to make modifications.
- The proposal also requires that for the approval of any storage appropriation request, there shall be a rebuttable presumption of unappropriated water available.
- Public notices need to be published once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the county where the reservoir is located and in a newspaper of general circulation of the state.
- Any person who has an interest in the requested appropriation may file in support or against the application not later than two weeks after the last publication.
- The director of Natural Resources will review the filings and determine whether a hearing is warranted on the application.

Status: Public hearing held February 6.

LB 145 (Schrock) Changes provisions relating to reservoir storage facilities for irrigation, underground water storage and recovery facilities, and livestock waste control facilities.

Exempts those who intend to build an on-channel reservoir with a water storage impounding capacity of less than three acre-feet measured below the crest of the lowest open outlet or overflow, as long as there is no diversion or withdrawal of water from the

reservoir and no release of water from the reservoir for the purpose of diversion or withdrawal.

Status: Public hearing held February 6.

LB 183 (Natural Resources Committee) & **LB 527** (Louden, etc.) Allows the State of Nebraska to benefit from the transfer of its groundwater by imposing a transfer fee of 25 cents per gallon for water that is transferred outside a radius of 55 miles from the location of the well.

It also creates the Groundwater Transfer Fee Fund with one-half of the fees credited to Nebraska's general fund and one-half to the Groundwater Transfer Fee Fund. These fees will cover the costs of administering the fee, costs incurred by natural resources districts, costs for water studies directed and supervised by the director of Natural Resources.

Status: Public hearing held January 31.

LB 228 (Government, Military & Veterans Affairs) Adopts the Address Confidentiality Act to provide confidentiality of the address of a person who may be subject to domestic abuse or stalking. Such people may use the Secretary of State's office as their mailing address.

Status: Public hearing held February 5.

LB 347 (Quandahl) Extends the time to file a written claim under the Political Subdivision's Tort Claim Act from the current one year to a two-year period. This reduces the protection provided by the act relating to the time claims can be filed.

Status: Public hearing to be held March 19.

LB 395 (Brown) Amends the Recreation Liability Act to remove political subdivisions from its protection. This provides some protection for landowners from liability who invite people to use property for recreational purposes without charge.

Status: Public hearing to be held March 19.

LB 473 (Jensen) Requires fluoridation of drinking water by cities and villages with 1,000 or more population.

Status: Tentative public hearing to be held by Health & Human Services Committee, February 19, 1:30 p.m., Room 1510, State Capitol.

LB 453 (Aguilar) Imposes sales tax on engineering, architectural, legal and accounting services, effective October 1, 2003.

Status: Public hearing to be scheduled by Revenue Committee.

LB 664 (Beutler) Amends the Political Subdivision's Tort Claims Act to allow for adjustment of the liability limitation. The current limits are \$1 million for injury to one person; \$5 million for all claims arising from a single occurrence. As of July 1, 2007, the limitation would be adjusted in accordance with percentage increases in the consumer price index.

Status: Public hearing to be held March 19.

Continued on page 7

Water Utility Council Report

LB 676 (Jensen, Tyson) Imposes a one-time \$200 fee on tax-exempt motor vehicles, which includes vehicles owned by political subdivisions.

Status: Public hearing held February 5.

Sale of water to Colorado targeted

February 1, 2003, **Omaha World-Herald:** Homeland Hydra Options of Seedily, Colo., is considering drilling three water wells in the Sand Hills, at Ashby, Hyannis and Whitman. It then would ship about 7 million gallons of water a week by train to reservoirs in eastern Colorado, according to an early December letter to the State Natural Resources Department.

The Legislature's Natural Resources Committee heard testimony Friday (January 31) on several bills that could thwart those plans.

One bill (Legislative Bill 527), by Sen. LeRoy Loudon of Ellsworth, would place a fee of 25 cents a gallon for water sent to an area outside of a 55-mile radius of where it is pumped. Anyone transporting water outside that area would be required to file a report with the Natural Resources Department, which would be required to monitor such wells.

"As a rancher . . . I'm quite concerned about the sale and transport of our groundwater," he said. "This year's drought has had such a drastic toll." He emphasized that his bill was meant to restrict the selling of Nebraska's water, not encourage it. "It is not a 'For Sale' sign," Loudon said.

Another bill, (LB 183), by the committee, contains similar language but would assess a \$50,000 fine against a well owner who fails to record how much water is being transferred out of state.

The 25-cents-a-gallon surcharge would mean the company would have to pay \$1.75 million a week if it pumped 7 million gallons of water. The state currently charges a one-time permit fee that ranges from just a few dollars to \$1,500, depending on the water use.

Company President Robert Krumberger said the water pumped from Nebraska would be sold to Colorado cities such as Denver, Fort Collins and Greeley—areas hit hard by the drought. Krumberger said his company also would market the water to drought-stricken areas in Wyoming, Utah and Nebraska. The water could be used by cities, businesses and industry, including agriculture, Krumberger wrote.

Krumberger's proposal would need approval from Nebraska officials.

The drought has hit Nebraska so hard that new well-drilling has been banned in large areas of the southwest and west. Former State Sen. Loran Schmit of Bellwood proposed 20 years ago that Nebraska stake a claim to its underground water and make some money off its sale.

The Colorado company would have to obtain state permits to drill wells and take the water away from the overlying land, said Susan France, division manager for water administration with the Natural Resources Department.

The department would take into account the water supplies available in Colorado, future water needs of Nebraska and whether the permit would interfere with current and future water uses.

The committee also discussed a third bill (LB 123), by Sen. Ed Schrock of Elm Creek, which would clarify and strengthen the authority of the Natural Resources Department to take actions to protect Nebraska's water.

Water Storage Teleconference March 13

Place: Lincoln Water System, Ashland Plant, Hastings Community College and Gering Civic Center

(3 CEUs)

11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Central Standard Time

Cost: \$50, lunch included

The teleconference will focus on water tanks and provide a detailed overview of proper tank maintenance, how to determine which design is right for your utility, inspection of tanks and quality issues concerning water storage in elevated tanks and reservoirs. The program will include panel discussions, question and answer sessions, and a video case study.

Check out the links below for all the information you need about the teleconference.

<http://www.awwa.org/education/teleconf/>

<http://www.awwa.org/education/teleconf/RegistrationForm.cfm>

<http://www.awwa.org/education/teleconf/teleconfsites.cfm>

To register, complete the teleconference information on the form from the booklet you received or print from the website and fax or mail the actual form to the Nebraska Section AWWA Office 402.476.9850.

The office does not accept registrations over the phone or via e-mail. It also cannot accept credit cards.

Questions? Contact:

Dawn M. Steffen

Administrative Coordinator

Nebraska Section AWWA

825 M St., Ste. 400, Lincoln, NE 68508.2246

Phone: 402.476-2003

fax: 402.476.9850

Education Committee

by Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services
(308.535.8134)

Here is the 2003 calendar for water operator training. All workshops, with the exception of the March 13 and November 6 video teleconferences and November 4-7 Joint Conference, are co-sponsored by the Nebraska Section and the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

March

- March 13 AWWA Video Teleconference on Water Storage
(see page 7)
- March 25 Chadron
- March 26 Valentine
- March 27 Stuart

April

- April 9 Ord

May

- May 8 Fremont (Safety Workshop)

August

- August 15 Ogallala (Safety Workshop)

September

- September 9 Alliance
- September 10 Ogallala,
- September 11 McCook
- September 15 Beatrice (Backflow)
- September 16 Wayne (Backflow)
- September 17 Grand Island (Backflow)
- September 18 Ogallala (Backflow)

October

- October 7 Lexington
- October 8 Hastings
- October 9 Crete

November

- November 4-7 Kearney WEF/AWWA/APWA Joint Conference
- November 6 AWWA Video Teleconference (National AWWA presentation)

December

- December 9 Beatrice
- December 11 Fremont

For registration and cost information, contact the Nebraska Section Office, 825M St., Ste. 400, Lincoln, NE 68508; phone: 402.476.2003; fax: 402.476.9850; e-mail: nsawwa@alltel.net.

Note: The Nebraska Section AWWA realizes your budgets are tight so we offer scholarships to attend water operator seminars and workshops.

To apply, complete the application on page 10. Questions? Call Lynn Wegehaupt, 402.554.7855 or e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com

Safety Committee

by Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities
(402.476.2829)

Twenty-one Nebraska water systems received safety awards at the Annual Nebraska Section American Water Works Association banquet, November 6, 2002. The awards were for the calendar year 2001, based on statistical data submitted on the survey application.

The following 20 water systems received the “*Excellence Award*.” Those in bold print received the excellence awards the last three consecutive years.

Albion

Auburn

Bartley

Bassett

Broken Bow

Callaway

Creighton

Crete

Dawes County Rural Water District #1 (Whitney)

Gothenburg

Hebron

Indianola

McCook

Mead

Plainview

Seward

Tecumseh

Tilden

Wausa

Waverly

The “*Merit Award*” for 2001 was awarded to the Norfolk Water Department. The Norfolk Water Department also was a repeat award winner as they received the award of excellence for the year 2000.

Congratulations to all the 2001 award winning facilities and their employees for their efforts in achieving a safe work environment.

Nebraska Section AWWA 2003 budget

INCOME	2002 Actual	2003 Budget	2003 Actual
Section allotment	\$ 7,329.00	\$ 7,500.00	
Association allotment	7,671.00	7,500.00	
Multi-section allotment	440.30	600.00	
Annual meeting	\$49,871.60	12,000.00	
Director's allotment	861.00	800.00	
Interest on CD account	213.74		
Interest on T.A. Liesen CD	772.74	700.00	
Interest on reserve CDs	1,067.44	1,100.00	
Interest on school savings	5.77		
Teleconferences	3,950.34	5,000.00	
Advertising income	3,895.00	9,000.00	
Research commitment	0		
Water for People	2,506.00	1,000.00	
SRF Education Funds	0	10,000.00	
Miscellaneous	640.18	200.00	
Total Income	\$79,224.11	\$55,400.00	
EXPENSES			
Safety Committee	0	1,500.00	
Cross Connection Workshop	0	500.00	
Education and training	978.48	4,100.00	
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	1,242.00	1,500.00	
Public Information Committee/website	513.60	1,000.00	
Teleconferences	2,044.04	3,000.00	
Small Systems Committee	0	300.00	
Director's board meeting	1,152.56	1,200.00	
Publications			
Wise Water Words	7,398.01	7,500.00	
Membership Directory	3,923.59	7,000.00	
Advertising	0	100.00	
Student Activity	198.68	500.00	
Membership	0	500.00	
Awards	492.72	500.00	
Abel Wolman	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Scholarship expense	4,600.00	3,000.00	
Operator Education & Training	450.00	2,000.00	
Research Foundation	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Regional officers' meeting	1,021.01	2,000.00	
Director's spouse (<i>meeting expenses</i>)	287.00	300.00	
Annual meeting	30,015.09	2,000.00	
Training Coalition: Pre-Conference	2,090.60		
Publicity	0	2,500.00	
Water for People	4,644.97	2,500.00	
MAC Council	0	500.00	
Paid staff			
Office expense/other	1,356.65	1,500.00	
Paid staff	11,524.96	10,000.00	
Water Utility Council (<i>travel, etc.</i>)	219.94	1,500.00	
Young Professionals	0	250.00	
Top Ops Expense	0		
Research commitment	20,000.00	20,000.00	
Miscellaneous	351.30	300.00	
Total Expenses	\$96,505.20	\$59,550.00	
Net Income	(\$17,281.09)	(\$4,150.00)	

Nebraska Section American Water Works Association Leisen Memorial Education and Training Grant Application

Please type or print legibly in black ink.

PERSONAL AND EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND

Name: _____ Home phone: _____
Home address: _____ Office phone: _____

Years in water industry: _____
Current position: _____ Years in current position: _____
(Attach a copy of your job description)
AWWA membership number: _____ Type of membership: _____
Employer: _____
Address of employer: _____
Is your employer a member of AWWA? _____ If yes, indicate membership number: _____ Type of membership: _____
Your activities in the Nebraska Section AWWA (committees, positions held, etc.):

Membership in other professional organizations and your activities:

Other significant contributions to your community, etc.:

TRAINING GRANT INFORMATION

Use of grant funds: _____ Amount requested: _____
Dates of workshop, courses: _____ Employer contribution: _____
Location of training: _____

Please indicate in the space below the value to you of the proposed training for your current position and/or other water industry-related positions.

I declare that all information supplied on this application is true and accurate.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Send completed application to: Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.554.7855; fax: 402.554.7709;
e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com

Please make copies of this order form as needed

Scholarship Committee

by Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District
(402.554.7855)

Members of the Theodore Liesen Memorial Scholarship Committee for 2002 were: **Dr. Bruce Dvorak**, UNL; **Chip Haas**, HDR Engineering, Inc.; **Chris Koenig**, HGM Associates; **John Miriovsky**, Lincoln Water System, and **Lynn Wegehaupt**, Metropolitan Utilities District. **Larry Andreasen**, City of Fremont, also assisted in the review of scholarship applications.

We made scholarship awards in two areas:

1. Partial funding, \$950, to defray a portion of the expense for the 2002 Fuller Award winner, **Richard Koenig**, Nebraska Health & Human Service, to attend the AWWA Annual Conference.
2. Scholarships of \$4,100 awarded to five UNL students.

The committee sought scholarship applications from the graduate and undergraduate programs at the UNL and University of Nebraska-Omaha. The committee thanks **Dr. Bruce Dvorak**, who publicized the availability, encouraged applications, and collected them from the students.

The committee reviewed five applications, all from UNL. All five applicants had good credentials. The committee decided to award all five, however not in equal amounts. The amounts were based on the committee's judgement of the applicants from the information they submitted. We also considered that certain applicants received a scholarship from NWEA.

The Scholarship Committee distributed \$4,100 to UNL students as follows:

Amanda Fox: \$700. A student at UNL, Amanda is pursuing a Masters Degree in Environmental Engineering. Following completion of graduate school in August 2003, she'd like to work for an engineering consultant firm or governmental agency. Amanda looks forward to the challenges of maintaining and improving the environment through science.

Jodi E. Kocher: \$1,000. A student at UNL, Jodi anticipates earning a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering in May 2003. She has a Masters Degree in Health Education from the University of Arkansas and a Bachelor's degree in Nursing from the University of Oklahoma. She worked in the nursing field for several years. She plans to use her education and background to positively impact public health and safety in the field of environmental engineering, particularly in the areas of ground and surface water quality.

Junling Qiu: \$1,000. A student at UNL pursuing a Masters Degree in Environmental Engineering. Junling plans to complete graduate school in August 2003 and continue his education on the Ph.D. level. After completion of his education, Junling anticipates a return to China to teach or consult in the environmental field. He stated on his application, "China faces huge problems with maintaining and improving a very old water and wastewater infrastructure." Junling wants to provide all the expertise he can to address those problems.

Fahid Rabah: \$700. A Ph.D. student at UNL in Civil Engineering. Fahid plans to work in the water treatment and supply field or academia. His long-term goal is to form his own environmental engineering business in the U. S. or his home country.

Michael Schultes: \$700. Michael is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering and plans to graduate from UNL in May 2003. He would like to work in the water/wastewater field, and hopes to continue his education with a Masters Degree. He sees conservation of the potable water supply as a major issue of the future.

Attention Water Operators

The Nebraska Section AWWA realizes your budgets are tight so we offer scholarships to attend water operator seminars and workshops.

To apply, complete the application on page 10. Questions? Call Lynn Wegehaupt, 402.554.7855 or e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com

Membership Committee

by Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael (402.255.3840)

We have coupons to help new members offset the cost of first year membership dues. A coupon with a \$20 value toward an AWWA individual active membership (*or \$10 towards an operations membership*) is on this page. Contact **Rich Robinson**, chair of the Membership Committee, for more coupons. Only one coupon per application and one coupon per person will be accepted.

The coupon needs to be signed by a recruiter, attached to the completed application (make copies of application on next

\$20 (*individual membership*)

or

\$10 (*operations membership*)

This coupon, when attached to a completed application for membership in AWWA with payment of membership dues (*less the amount of this coupon*), entitles the bearer to a discount of \$20 (*\$10 for operations membership*) to be used towards the cost of that membership. To be valid, the following lines must be completed:

Name of applicant:

Name of recruiter:

Recruiter's membership no.

Mail coupon and application with payment to: Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102.

Compliments of the

Nebraska Section American Water Works Association

page) and payment sent to **Kevin Tobin**, Nebraska Section AWWA Treasurer, Metropolitan Utilities District. Kevin will remove the coupon from the application and add a check from the Nebraska Section for \$20 (*\$10 for operations membership*) before forwarding the application to National AWWA.

Only Nebraska Section members in good standing may sign a coupon. The recruiter should collect the application and payment (*minus the coupon amount*), attach the coupon and mail it for the applicant.

If the recruiter does not have a coupon handy, send the completed application with the payment (*minus the coupon amount*), to Kevin with a note requesting that a coupon be filled out and recorded for the Section books. This note must be signed by the recruiter to be valid. If you have any questions, please call **Rich Robinson, 402.255.3840**.

New Members: January-December 2002

James Applebee	Lincoln Water System
Dan Barrett	Crete, NE
Eric Berggren	HDR Engineering, Inc., Omaha
Alan Boyd	Arlington, NE
Thomas Correll	Layne Christiansen Co., Valley, NE
John B. Day	Olsson Associates, Lincoln
Sam Decker	HGM Associates, Inc., Omaha
Dale Drake	Simone/FCX Performance, Omaha
Jim Hager	City of McCook
Carment Jacobs	City of Creighton
Jason Janisch	American Cast Iron Pipe Co.
Curtis Kizzire	City of O'Neill
Tory Kort	Olsson Associates, Grand Island
Holly Lionberger	UNL Student
Bruce Michaelson	The Schemmer Associates, Lincoln
Timothy O'Neal	Scottsbluff
Dave Petrocchi	E & A Consulting Group, Inc., Omaha
Michael Placke	Omaha
Harley Rector	City of Norfolk
Harold Reynolds	City of Wayne
Kathy Sherman	Bert Gurney Associates, Inc.
Bruce Tait	Indeck Water Treatment Systems
Robert Todd	RD Todd Associates, Eagle

Have you ever been a member of AWWA? _____

When? _____ Member # _____

Personal Information

Preferred mailing address: _____

Mr. Ms. Business Home

Mrs. Mrs. Dr.

Name: _____

Street address: _____

Address: _____

P.O. Box or mail stop: _____

City, state, zip: _____

Business phone: (_____) _____ Business fax: (_____) _____

e-mail address: _____

Company: _____

Title: _____

Is your company a current member of AWWA? No Yes Member # (if known) _____

Please furnish company mailing address if different from above:

Company address: _____

City, state, zip: _____

Applicant's signature: _____

Date: _____

Signature of endorsing member (optional): _____

Endorsing member number: _____

Dues and Section Assessments

Active - \$114 (02) Student - \$36 (14) Operations/Administrative - \$57 (06) (will not receive Journal AWWA) International - \$150 (03)

Payment

Prepayment of one year's dues is required. No action on this application can be taken until payment is received. Dues are not transferrable or refundable. Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. Dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

Prepayment of one year's dues required. No action can be taken on this application until payment is received.

Annual Dues \$ _____

Multi-Section Option \$ _____

Total (U.S. funds) \$ _____

Payment method Check enclosed, payable to AWWA

Mastercard Visa American Express Send invoice

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ (Credit card company will add Canadian exchange amount.)

Multi-Section Option

In addition to your section membership, you also may join other AWWA section(s). This allows you to receive information on events and activities from other sections of your choice. If you would like multi-section information and fees, call 800.926.7337, and then indicate your multi-section choice(s) and fee(s) in the space below.

All applicants must complete this section.

Circle the descriptions that best describe you. The information is used in audits of AWWA readership. Circle only ONE in each group.

Business and Industry

- A. Public Water Supply—Municipally Owned
- B. Public Water Supply—Investor Owned
- C. Government—Federal, State, Local
- D. Consultant
- E. Contractor
- F. Private Industrial Systems or Water Wholesaler
- G. Manufacturer of Equipment & Supplies, including Representatives
- H. Distributors of Equipment & Supplies, including Representatives
- I. Educational Institutions, Faculty and Students, Libraries and Other Related Organizations
- J. Fully Retired
- K. Research Lab
- L. Unreported

Job Title

- A. Executive—General Manager, Commissioner, Board Member, City Manager, Mayor, President, Vice-President, Owner, Partner, Director, etc.
- B. Management—Division Head, Section Head, Manager, Chief Engineer, Comptroller, etc.
- C. Engineering/Non-managerial—Civil Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Environmental Engineer, Planning Manager, Field Engineer, System Designer, etc.
- D. Scientific/Non-managerial—Chemist, Biologist, Biophysicist, Researcher, Analyst, etc.
- E. Purchasing—Purchasing Agent, Procurement Specialist, Buyer, etc.
- F. Operations—Foreman, Operator, Maintenance, Crewman, Service Representative, etc.
- G. Marketing & Sales/Non-managerial—Market Analyst, Marketing Representative, Salesperson, Sales Representative, etc.
- H. Other: _____
- I. Professorial — Teacher, Educator, etc.

Completion of this information is optional.

AWWA maintains profile data for use in developing additional programs and services to meet the diverse needs of our members.

Birth Date: _____

Race/Ethnic Identification (Circle one)

- 1. American Indian/Alaskan Native
- 2. Asian/Pacific-Islander
- 3. African-American
- 4. Hispanic
- 5. White (Non-Hispanic)
- 6. Other

Gender (Circle One)

Female

Male

Field Served

- 5 Water Supply Only
- 7 Wastewater Only
- 9 Both
- 3 Other

Mail to:
AWWA Membership
6666 W. Quincy Ave., Denver, CO 80235
Phone: 800.926.7337; 303.794.7711
or fax to: 303.347.0804

Water Security Congress

March 23-26

National AWWA is sponsoring a Water Security Congress, March 23-26, at the Century Plaza Hotel & Spa, 2025 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles. The Congress is designed for:

- Water and wastewater utility managers
- Utility security staff
- Public officials
- Consultants

Registration fee prior to February 26 is \$595 for AWWA members. Registration fee after February 26 is \$695.

Lodging at Century Plaza Hotel & Spa prior to March 14 is \$175 night for single or double plus 14.5% tax.

To register, go to <http://www.awwa.org> or call 800.926.7337.

EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman will be a keynote speaker at the Security Congress. "This is going to be the largest security event AWWA has ever held," according to AWWA.

The program includes concurrent sessions, exhibits and will offer CEUs for attendees. Presentations include:

- Implementing results of vulnerability assessments
- Water quality monitoring
- Security and the public official
- Legal and legislative issues
- Distribution and collection system security
- Securing the source
- Crisis decision-making
- Security hardware and technology
- Emergency response planning
- Cyber security
- Crisis communications
- Threat identification and response

Daniel receives Fuller Award

Continued from page 1

participation and support of the Section's annual conferences and workshops has been key to the success of these events."

In 1967, Jack earned a bachelors degree in biology from South Dakota State University, Brookings, and added a masters degree in environmental science from the University of Oklahoma, Norman, in 1972.

Jack joined the Nebraska Department of Health in 1968 as an environmental health scientist. He was named assistant director of the Division of Housing and Environmental Sanitation in 1972, advancing to director in 1980. He was promoted to his current position in 1989.

In addition to being a member of AWWA, Jack is a past member of H.U.D. and served as President of the Nebraska Building Standards Association. He is a member of the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA). He served as EPA Region VII representative from 1994 to 1997, and is on four groups in ASDWA—Enforcement, Legislative, Small Systems and Source Water Protection.

He has received a number of awards throughout his career, including: Nebraska Section AWWA Water Industry Service Award, Friend of Rural Water and Nebraska Department of Health Manager of the Year.

In addition to establishing the Eastern Nebraska Bee Keeping Association, Jack is a member of the Saline County Pheasants Forever and the Seward County Alliance Board.

Awards Committee

by Steve Kelley, Beatrice Board of Public Works (402.228.5217)

The following people received the AWWA Water Industry Service Award at the 2002 Fall Conference.

Ken Ekeler

Ken joined the City of York in 1973, and held several positions prior to his promotion to water foreman in 1978. He is certified as a Grade 1 and 6 water operator. Ken was involved with the installation of more than 10 miles of water distribution mains, the addition of seven wells and the installation of a 750,000-gallon water tower. Ken and his wife, Nancy, have two sons and one grandchild.

Continued on page 15



WATER INDUSTRY SERVICE AWARDS. From left, front: Ken Ekeler, York; National AWWA Vice-President Andy Richardson of Arizona; Ross Stebbins, M.U.D. Back: Jim Sell, Holdrege; Harlan Simmerman, Elm Creek.

Unavailable for photo: Len Skala, Papillion; Dick Smith, Lincoln Water System.

Jim Sell

Jim began his 42-year career with the City of Holdrege in 1960 as a wastewater plant operator, advancing to wastewater plant foreman in 1963, and wastewater and water foreman in 1983. Jim currently serves as supervisor of water and wastewater operations. He is a certified Grade 2 and 6 water operator and Class 4 wastewater operator. He has received the William Hatfield Award and the Nebraska Certified Water Excellence Award from Nebraska Health & Human Services.

Harlan Simmerman

Harlan joined the Village of Elm Creek in 1976. He is a certified grade 4 water operator and certified wastewater operator. In addition to his water and wastewater responsibilities, Harlan maintains the parks, streets, sanitary disposal system, cemetery and serves as the building and zoning inspector. He has been instrumental in upgrading the villages water mains, two wells, water tower, and most recently, the installation of a SCADA system. Harlan is a member of AWWA, NeRWA and NWEA.

Len Skala

Len began his career in the water industry with the City of Papillion Water Plant in 1976. He is a Grade 1 water operator, and was instrumental in the implementation of added security at the Papillion water plant and booster stations. He also upgraded the computer systems. His hobbies included restoring cars and involvement with the Shriners. Len has two children, two grandchildren and a dog named "Bear."

Dick Smith

Dick retired in June 2002 after a 32-year career at the Lincoln Water System. He joined the utility in 1970 as a water plant operator 1, advancing to water plant operator 2 in 1976, and assistant superintendent of operations in 1993. Dick is a Grade 2 water operator. Highlights of his career include the building and operation of the only ozone plant in Nebraska.

Ross Stebbins

Ross began his 50-year career with M.U.D. in 1952 as a pipe layer in the Construction Division. He advanced to subforeman in 1960, and foreman in 1977. Ross, who supervises from 16 to 32 employees, oversees the installation of water mains, gas services and gas mains. He is on a rotating shift for water emergency repairs at nights and weekends. His supervisor says the District has a very dedicated caretaker in Ross. Ross and his wife, Madeline have a son and daughter and 8 grandchildren.

Brief notes

Randy McDonald has succeed Carey Pester as business development director, General Excavating Co. 6701 Cornhusker Hwy., Lincoln, NE 68507; e-mail: mcdonald@generalexexcavating.com

The Schemmer Associates and Camp Dresser McKee Inc., Kansas City, will design a pump station for M.U.D. near 142nd & State Sts. The \$1.67 million project is scheduled for completion in April 2005. The District also is installing an underground pump station at 173rd & Pacific Sts., targeted for operation in June, 2003. Both projects will improve water pressure in west Omaha.

2002 Annual Fall Conference



Dennis Watts, City of Norfolk, received the Water Operator Award from the Nebraska Health and Human Services.



Chip Haas, HDR Engineering, Inc., receives a Lifetime Member Award from National AWWA Vice-Chair Andy Richardson. Dr. Joe Sherrard, University of Nebraska-Lincoln also received Lifetime Membership Award, however he was unavailable for the photo.

FIRST PLACE TEAM IN THE TOP OPS CHALLENGE.

From left, back: Matt Helzer, City of St. Paul; Connelley Rice, City of Kearney. Front: Kirk Stocker, City of Kearney; Julie Frandsen, City of Grand Island. Each received a \$50 award.

Each member of the first place team also receives a \$500 registration fee to represent the Nebraska Section AWWA at the national competition, to be held at the National AWWA Conference, June 15-19, 2003, in Anaheim, CA.



**Mark your calendar for the 2003 Nebraska Section AWWA
Fall Conference**

November 6-7, 2003 Holiday Inn, Kearney



Second Place Team in the Top Ops Challenge, from left, back: Harold Reynolds, City of Wayne; Ron Morearty, City of Albion. Front: Paul Markowski and Rollin Davis, City of Ord. Each received a \$25 award.



Third Place Team, from left, back: Chris Logue, Gene Siadek. Front: Kevin Tobin, Dave Bellairs, all from the Metropolitan Utilities District. Each received a \$10 award.



Above: Conference attendees. Right: Dave Owsicsek and Jeannette, Hach Co., Loveland, CO.



From left: Daryl Kottwitz, program manager, HDR Engineering, Inc., Omaha, visits with Kirk Pfeffer, engineering manager, City of Omaha, Mike Arends, environmental programs engineer, City of Omaha, and Debra Leigh, president, Leigh Environmental Equipment, Inc., Omaha.



From left: Jim Condon, vice-president, Olsson Associates, Lincoln; Dave Meisinger, wastewater treatment plant supervisor, City of Plattsmouth; Jim Mahoney, sales representative, Insituform Technologies USA, Inc., Johnston, IA, and Lincoln Williams, Technical Maintenance & Service Co., Inc., Lincoln.



NEBRASKA SECTION AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION STRATEGIC PLAN

November 6, 2002

Mission Statement

The Nebraska Section of the AWWA is dedicated to promoting quality drinking water in sufficient quantity for all Nebraskans. The Nebraska Section membership is a leader in the drinking water industry through efforts in education, public awareness and other activities.

Goals

1. Nebraska Section AWWA promotes activities to retain current members and recruit new members.

- New membership growth of 2% per year
- Develop research regarding barriers to small system/operators membership.
- Develop two new activities focused on membership involvement (e.g., golf outings, etc.).
- Update and implement the Nebraska AWWA membership development plan.

2. Nebraska Section AWWA promotes opportunities for participation and career development for young industry members.

- Review committee organization.
- Create and implement a development plan.

3. Nebraska Section AWWA promotes knowledge and awareness of opportunities within the water industry.

- Review target student base.
- Review committee organization.
- Develop plan for approaching technical schools, community colleges and high schools.
- Continue and expand student activities at universities.

4. Provide small system support through a continuous outreach program.

- Effectively communicate the benefits of AWWA membership to a small system by using committee members to contact 10% of small systems.
- Expand the mentoring program to include retired members.
- Increase by 5% the number of hits to the mentoring website page. Publish once annually in Wise Water Words and Water Spouts about the mentoring information.
- Expand the AWWA teleconference accessibility for small systems by increasing the number of down-

link sites for applicable topics.

- Partner with Training Coalition members to add 10 new publications to the NSAWWA library annually.
- Assist 10 small systems in the application process for water operators reimbursements annually.
- Ensure that five on-site visitations for the mentoring program occur per year.

5. Increase Nebraska Section AWWA impact on legislative, regulatory and policy issues at all levels of government.

- Serve as a legislative/regulatory resource to section membership and others.
- Provide effective and timely information on pending regulatory issues.
- Build coalitions with other organizations at regional state and section levels.

6. Promote confidence and understanding to the public about public water supply systems.

- Provide public service announcements and news releases to the membership.
- Provide educational information at special events.
- Promote Nebraska Section AWWA and public water supply systems statewide through various media.

7. Provide a continuing education training program and assist Nebraska public water systems to improve all facets of public water system operations.

- Make conference technical sessions available through different media.
- Increase system assistance in capacity development by 5% each year.
- Investigate and implement new training opportunities.
- Continue partnership in training coalition with League, NRW, NETC and HHSS.

Reserve your advertisement space for 2003

Price is for one issue only. Include \$50 setup fee. Black and Blue are only colors of ink printed. Your ad also will appear in the publication when it is posted on our website: www.awwaneb.org

Size	Black/White or Blue/White	Black/Blue
Business card size	\$ 65	\$125
1/4 page	110	170
1/2 page	180	240
full page	250	350

Ad order form for 2003 publications

- Wise Water Words, Summer issue, 2003 (deadline for copy, etc. April 15, 2003)
- Wise Water Words, Fall/Winter issue, 2003 (deadline for copy, etc. August 1, 2003)

Size	Black ink only or Blue ink only (please specify)	Black/Blue
Business card size:	_____	_____
1/4 page	_____	_____
1/3 page	_____	_____
1/2 page	_____	_____
full page	_____	_____

- Use same copy, artwork and design for publications I marked above.

(Please print)

My name: _____

My company: _____

Address: _____

City, state, zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

e-mail: _____

Amount enclosed: \$50 setup fee + \$ _____ = \$ _____

Please make a copy of completed order form for your files. Send with ad copy, artwork and dummy layout to:

Mari Matulka, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.449.8154; fax: 402.449.8166; e-mail: mari_matulka@mudnebr.com. Ads must be prepaid. Make check payable to the Nebraska Section AWWA.

*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.*

ourfocusisyou.com

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John Ruckman
Project Manager

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Brief notes

Mark your calendar! Plan to attend the [Nebraska Section AWWA Fall Conference November 6-7 in Kearney](#). Besides P.E. exam training, seminars are planned on: Copper corrosion; Norfolk collector well design and installation; disinfection process; mentoring program; well and valve maintenance; unidirectional flushing; public notification and public awareness; vulnerability assessments; regional water systems (*Washington Co.*). A teleconference also will be held on utility case studies (see page 8).

It's also not too early to get your Top Ops Team (*water operators only*) together. Contact **Chris Koenig**, HGM Associates, for more information (e-mail: ckoenig@hgmonline.com).

Congratulations to Dr. Joseph Sherrard, UNO professor, who was awarded a Fulbright Senior Specialists Grant to teach in Guatemala. Distinguished Professor Sherrard received the grant in environmental science at the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala. He will teach public health engineering to about 25 students during a six-week summer session. (*Guatemala is the Water for People Country sponsored by the Nebraska Section AWWA.*)

Nominations Committee

by *Chris Koenig, HGM Associates (402.346.7559)*

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

Position

Chair	Kristine Ranslem, City of Albion
Trustee & Past Chair	Dennis Watts, City of Norfolk
Director	John Miriovsky, Lincoln Water System

These positions require nominations and election. Nominations also will be open at the Fall Conference Business Meeting, November 6, in Kearney.

Position

Chair-Elect	2004 Nominee Larry Andreasen, City of Fremont
Vice Chair	Tony Bilek, Mc2, Inc.
Secretary	Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services
Treasurer	Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District
Trustee	Paul Markowski, City of Ord
Trustee	John Olsson, Olsson Associates
Incoming Director	Joel Christensen, Metropolitan Utilities District



SAFE DRINKING WATER WEEK

Nebraska Governor Mike Johanns declared May 4-10, 2003 Safe Drinking Week in Nebraska.

Attending the proclamation signing at the State Capitol were, from left: Jack Daniel, Nebraska Health & Human Services; John Mencl, Nebraska Rural Water Association.

Larry Cast, Advisory Council on Public Water Supply; Johanns; Tom Goulette, Sr., Advisory Council on Public Water Supply and Nebraska Rural Water Association.

Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System; Tom Wurtz, Metropolitan Utilities District, and John Miriovsky, Lincoln Water System and Nebraska Section AWWA.

Chair's comments

As we head into the busy summer season and water usage is on the rise, it's a good feeling to wake up and hear the rain on the roof. Here's hoping everyone's water supplies are adequate this summer for each of your city's needs. Our section has been busy with several projects. The first is the possibility of a joint venture with Nebraska Rural Water.

On March 19, following the Rural Water Convention in Columbus, your board met with the Nebraska Rural Water Board to discuss working together on certain projects. It was felt both organizations have many things in common and by pooling resources some items could work more advantageously to both organizations.

Some of the current projects being reviewed are training and teleconferences. Approximately every two months representatives from AWWA and Rural Water will get together to discuss potential projects both groups can work on to hopefully benefit the entire water industry in Nebraska. Representatives from AWWA will be **Chris Koenig**, HGM Associates, and **Mike Wentink**, Nebraska Health & Human Services. We will keep everyone updated as projects are identified.

Our second project is, of course, the Fall Conference. It will again be held at the Holiday Inn in Kearney. Dates are November 6 and 7. **Kristine Ranslem**, City of Albion, is the AWWA committee chair for the Fall Conference. Check out the conference sessions that are being offered this year. Many sessions will be interesting and informative. You can find them on page 1. Be sure to mark your calendars now and plan to attend.

One last note, I would again like to emphasize the importance of security. It seems like daily we still hear of potential acts of terrorism throughout the United States. There has been talk of water systems as being potential targets and, as we all know, the loss of a water system would be very detrimental to a community.

We need to be aware of all aspects of our systems and their potential weaknesses. One item brought up at our last board meeting was that some vendors have parts of water systems identified and listed on their Internet websites. This could put some systems in jeopardy by placing information in the wrong hands. You may want to make sure your system doesn't have sensitive information listed on the Internet. Many times it can be a matter of paying attention to things out of the ordinary. We need to be as thorough as possible when reviewing our systems to ensure we are as protected as can be.

Hope everyone has a great summer and remember if you have any ideas or comments to improve the Nebraska Section AWWA. please contact me at 402.844.2210 or e-mail me at dwatts@ci.norfolk.ne.us.



Dennis Watts

Officers and Trustees

Dennis Watts, 402.844.2210
e-mail: dwatts@ci.norfolk.ne.us

Chairperson

Kristine Ranslem, 402.395.2803

Chairperson-Elect

Larry Andreasen, 402.727.2621

Vice-Chair

Tony Bilek, 402.333.9660

Secretary

Kevin Tobin, 402.554.7808

Treasurer

John Miriovsky 402.441.5932

Director

Trustees

Chris Koenig, 402.346.7559

Paul Markowski, 308.728.3595

Mike Wentink, 308.535.8134

2003 Committee Chairs

Dennis Watts, *Audit*

402.844.2210

Steve Kelley, *Awards*

402.228.5217

Kevin Tobin, *Budget*

402.554.7808

Rich Koenig, *Cross Connections*

308.370.3114

Mike Wentink, *Education*

308.535.8134 or 402.471.1005

Kristine Ranslem, *Fall Conference*

402.395.2803

Steve Kelley, *Fuller Award*

402.228.5217

Tony Bilek

Manufacturers/Associates

Council

402.333.9660

Rich Robinson, *Membership*

402.255.3840

Chris Koenig, *Nominations*

402.346.7559

Mari Matulka, *Publications*

402.449.8154

Kathleen Alexander

Public Information

402.399.1357

Dr. Bruce Dvorak, *Research*

402.472.3431

Rob Pierce, *Safety*

402.476.2829

Lynn Wegehaupt, *Scholarship*

402.554.7855

Chris Clemens, *Small Systems*

402.396.3009

Dr. Matt Morley, *Student Activities*

402.472.2057

Glenn Dostal, *Water for People*

402.399.1014

Jerry Obrist, *Water Utility Council*

402.441.5930

Joe Baxter, *Young Professionals*

402.494.7534

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

Editor: **Mari Matulka**, APR, 402.449.8154; fax: 402.449.8166;

e-mail: mari_matulka@mudnebr.com

Director's report by John Miriovsky

As I begin my final year as your Director, I ponder some of the issues we have dealt with and what the future will hold. We have weathered the storm of EfficientUtilities, began new ventures in "Young Professionals" and are looking at a new venture called, "Accreditation."

What and how this will change our roles as water utilities remains to be seen.

I recently received the agenda and all the information for the Annual Conference meeting to be held in Anaheim, June 14-19. As usual, our agenda is full.

At every meeting, we have a special one-half day session, which usually covers one specific topic. Our topic at this meeting will be "Accreditation." We will discuss why accreditation, benefits to utilities, who will administer the program and all the other issues it may present. I fully expect the Board to move slowly on this issue as we are still recovering from EU.

We have three nominations for President of the Association. They are: **Terry Rolan**, North Carolina Section, **Andy Richardson**, Arizona Section, and **David Rexing**, California/Nevada Section. Each will make a five-minute presentation on their views for the Association.

I received a preliminary word that we will be honored to have in attendance at our Fall Conference **Lynn Stovall**, the President of the Association. As many of you know, he is a native Nebraskan, born in Kearney and educated at the University of Nebraska. Let's all welcome Lynn home.

Jerry Obrist, Lincoln Water System and chair of the Water Utility Council, attended the "Fly-In" sponsored by the Association. This is the second year for the event, which involves visits with our Congressional Delegation to discuss water-related issues. The "Fly-In" was very successful as more than 200 congressional visits took place (see *Jerry's report on page 4*).

As I have said in the past, I am honored to be representing you. Please call me at 402.441.5932 or e-mail me at miriovsk@ci.lincoln.ne.us with any of your concerns. I am here to serve you.



John Miriovsky

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Water Utility Council by Jerry Obrist

I recently represented Nebraska in the National AWWA Fly-In meeting with Congressional representatives in Washington, D.C. I was able to meet individually with Senators Ben Nelson and Chuck Hagel, and Representatives Lee Terry and Doug Bereuter. Tom Osborne was unavailable.

Here are some of the messages I delivered on behalf of our section:

Chemical Security Legislation:

- Congress should ensure vulnerability assessments and emergency response plans prepared in compliance with the Bioterrorism Act satisfy chemical security legislation and do not result in duplicate requirements.
- If utilities are required to periodically review their vulnerability assessments and plans, they should certify to that effect, not send in their work.
- Congress should ensure vulnerability assessments and emergency response plans are exempt from disclosure under federal and state freedom of information laws.
- Congress should transfer vulnerability assessments to the Department of Homeland Security.

Department of Defense (DoD) Legislation:

- Oppose provisions of pending DoD legislation that exempts DoD from environmental laws that protect local drinking water supplies from contamination. Example: Perchlorate, a component of rocket fuel, has been found in water supplies serving large and small communities near DoD-related sites. Burden for clean-up and treatment would fall on communities.
- Oppose provisions in pending DoD legislation that removes jurisdiction over federal agencies from state courts in drinking water cases.

Drinking Water Security Funds:

- We need \$450 million in FY2004 to help small- and medium-size water utilities perform vulnerability assessments and update emergency response plans.

Water Infrastructure:

- Congress should expand and reform the existing Drinking Water State Revolving Fund to provide at least \$15 billion over the next five years to help replace/repair and aging water infrastructure.
- The new age of security awareness, plus capital costs of compliance of federal regulations, contribute to the need for more investment in water-related infrastructure now.

MTBE and Ethanol:

- Ensure the final version of energy legislation under consideration does not contain a liability "safe harbor" for fuel additives, thereby protecting petroleum producers from liability in the contamination of water.
- Ensure that MTBE is phased out of use.

Drinking Water Standards:

- There is a trend to have drinking water standards set by 12 jurors in a courtroom. Utilities are being sued for allegedly

Water Utility Council Report

delivering contaminated water even though they are in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

- Support legislation that shields water utilities that are in compliance with federal and state regulations.



The 98th Nebraska Legislature convened its 90-day session January 8, 2003, and adjourned May 30.

Unless otherwise noted, the following laws become effective 90 days after the Legislature adjourns, which would be August 29, 2003.

LB 30 (Schrock) Allows for a Class VI misdemeanor or civil penalty of not more than \$5,000 per day for an intentional violation against a cease and desist order by a natural resources district to enforce the Nebraska Ground Water Management and Protection Act. Fines go to the permanent school fund. Current penalty carries a maximum fine of \$500 with a minimum of \$100.

LB 31 (Schrock) Introduced on behalf of the Nebraska Health & Human Services, does the following:

- Allows transfer of funds the Department of Natural Resources collects for Health & Human Services Regulation & Licensure as water well registration fees back to Health & Human Services Regulation & Licensure after December 31, 2004.
- Clarifies that an operator of a public water system, who is certified under the Safe Drinking Water Act, may break the seal of a water well in the course of his/her employment.
- Defines probation as a possible disciplinary action for water operators.
- Allows the director to place a water system on probation and a water operator on probation.
- Allows Health & Human Services to use criteria other than size of system to make distinctions for the classification of water systems.
- Allows Health & Human Services to use additional criteria, such as source water treatment techniques and purpose, distribution complexity, system classification, number of persons served and the physical size of the facility to determine what a water operator needs to know.
- Operative date: January 1, 2004.

LB 34 (Schrock) Increase the application fee collected by natural resources districts from \$17.50 to \$50 for a permit to build a water well in a ground water management area.

LB 35 (Schrock) Allows a natural resources district to permit a well to be built for a beneficial use of water in a management area. Under current law, "beneficial use" is limited to wells for domestic, agricultural, manufacturing or industrial use.

LB 93 (Schrock) Allows natural resources districts in a Phased IV Ground Water Management Plan to use proper "rate" of

Continued on page 6

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Board Meetings

July 17, September 18

9:30 a.m., Fremont Municipal Bldg.
400 E. Military St., Fremont

402.644.8712; fax: 402.644.8762
e-mail: dwatts@ci.norfolk.ne.us

All members invited to attend

Nebraska Section AWWA Fall Conference
November 6-7, 2003 Holiday Inn, Kearney

Water Utility Council by Jerry Obrist

Continued from previous page

fertilizer and pesticide applications as part of its best management practices.

LB 94 (Schrock) Adopts "The Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Contractors Certification and System Registration Act." The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has rules and regulations governing the design, operation and maintenance of onsite wastewater systems.

This proposal relies on those standards for work done on onsite wastewater systems by documented professionals in the industry.

Onsite wastewater systems would need to be sited, laid out, built, reconstructed, altered, modified, repaired, inspected and pumped by certified professionals under DEQ rules and regulations.

Professionals would be certified and recertified periodically following industry work "entry" tests to ensure competence and understanding of construction standards by those certified professionals. After initial certification, certified professionals would attend continuing education courses to ensure continued competence and knowledge of new technologies.

The proposal establishes an industry advisory board to work with DEQ and its council to establish certification standards, requirements, examination details, continuing education programs and practices.

The proposal also establishes a program to register newly constructed or reconstructed systems on information provided by the certified professionals completing the construction or reconstruction. The registration program would provide future reference locators to identify the systems installed after the act is in force and would ensure such systems are installed by certified professionals.

The certification and system registration program is intended to be fully funded by fees from certification, examination, education and registration activities.

LB 228 (Government, Military & Veterans Affairs) Adopts the Address Confidentiality Act to provide confidentiality of the

address of a person who may be subject to domestic abuse or stalking. Such people may use the Secretary of State's office as their mailing address.

KILLED:

LB 33 (Schrock) Eliminate the sunset clause to the Department of Natural Resources for costs of well registration updates, etc.

LB 123 (Schrock) The director of the Department of Natural Resources may consider any negative impacts withdrawal of groundwater may have on ground water supplies or on surface water needed to meet present or future demands for water.

LB 141 (Schrock) Relates to irrigation, and provides appropriation and requirements for certain storage reservoir structures.

LB 145 (Schrock) Changes provisions relating to reservoir storage facilities for irrigation, underground water storage and recovery facilities, and livestock waste control facilities.

LB 676 (Jensen, Tyson) Imposes a one-time \$200 fee on tax exempt motor vehicles, which includes vehicles owned by political subdivisions.

HELD OVER TO 2004 SESSION

LB 183 (Natural Resources Committee) & LB 527 (Louden, etc.) Allows the State of Nebraska to benefit from the transfer of its groundwater by imposing a transfer fee of 25 cents per gallon for water that is transferred outside a radius of 55 miles from the location of the well.

It also creates the Groundwater Transfer Fee Fund with one-half of the fees credited to Nebraska's general fund and one-half to the Groundwater Transfer Fee Fund. These fees will cover the costs of administering the fee, costs incurred by natural resources districts, costs for water studies directed and supervised by the director of Natural Resources. (Public Hearing, January 31)

LB 347 (Quandahl) Extends the time to file a written claim under the Political Subdivision's Tort Claim Act from the current one year to a two-year period. This reduces the protection provided by the act relating to the time claims can be filed. (Public Hearing, March 19)

LB 395 (Brown) Amends the Recreation Liability Act to remove political subdivisions from its protection. This provides some protection for landowners from liability who invite people to use property for recreational purposes without charge. (Public Hearing, March 19)

Continued on page 7

**Mark your calendar for the 2003 Nebraska Section
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e-mail: tony.mc2inc@att.net**

Water Utility Council Report

LB 453 (Aguilar) Imposes sales tax on engineering, architectural, legal and accounting services, effective October 1, 2003. (Public Hearing, February 20)

LB 473 (Jensen) Requires fluoridation of drinking water by cities and villages with 1,000 or more population. (General File, February 28).

LB 664 (Beutler) Amends the Political Subdivision's Tort Claims Act to allow for adjustment of the liability limitation. The current limits are \$1 million for injury to one person; \$5 million for all claims arising from a single occurrence. As of July 1, 2007, the limitation would be adjusted in accordance with percentage increases in the consumer price index. (Public Hearing, March 19)

INTERIM STUDIES

Senators also introduced resolutions to study during the interim session (Summer 2003):

LR 92 To examine Nebraska's plan for the continuity of government in periods of emergency. (Select Committee)

LR 99 To examine problems associated with disposal of used electronic equipment. (Natural Resources Committee)

LR 102 To examine the status of the Department of Natural Resources since the merger and issues regarding regulation of surface water and ground water. (Natural Resources Committee)

LR 114 To examine the cost effectiveness of upgrading the Nebraska Building Energy Conservation Standard. (Urban Affairs Committee)

Nick Johnson retires

Burton A. "Nick" Johnson, JEO Consulting Group, retired December 31, 2002 with 45 years of service. He began his career with Price, Johnson & Erickson in 1957. He went on active duty with the Army in 1958, and rejoined the group in 1959 after he was discharged from the service.

Nick served as CEO from 1978 to 1998, and was chairman of the Board from 1989 to 2001.

Nick has seen many changes in JEO. In 1965, the group changed its direction from construction and bridge work to engineering and survey services, later adding architecture and planning. The company, which began with six people, has 120 employees and eight offices.

Nick's work focused on subdivision design, flood control, utility rate analysis, power supply analysis, gas systems and airports. Memorable projects include the Pender and Wakefield Levees.

Nick is a member of the American Council of Engineering Companies, past chair and director of the Water Environment Federation and the Nebraska Section AWWA. He received the Fuller Award in 1990. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Omaha Home for Boys.

Nick plans to enjoy his retirement at his lake home, continue with his flying interest, sing in his family quartet, and travel.

LR 173 To consider steps that can be taken to enhance, support and develop the recreational value of Nebraska's lakes and rivers. (Natural Resources Committee)

LR 182 To examine the administrative and personnel structure of the Health & Human Services System. (Health & Human Services)

When the dates, times and places for the public hearings on these resolutions are established, they will be posted on our website, <http://www.awwaneb.org>.

To see entire the law or bill and its history, go the Unicameral's website: <http://www.unicam.state.ne.us>. If you have any questions, please contact me at 402.441.7571; e-mail: jobrist@ci.lincoln.ne.us



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Education Committee

by Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services
(308.535.8134)

The Section bought four sets of AWWA Standards on CDs for the Nebraska Health and Human Services offices in North Platte and Grand Island, and the Nebraska Rural Water Association. See those offices to borrow the resources.

We are working with National AWWA to bring the Sandia National Laboratories (SNL) Risk Assessment Methodology for Water to Nebraska before the end of the year. The program will be tailored to mid-sized and small systems.

A total of 134 people attended 10 seminars, sponsored by the Section and the League of Nebraska Municipalities from January through April. Here's the remaining schedule for 2003:

August

August 15 — Visitor Center, Lake McConaughy SRA, 1475 Hwy. 61, North Ogallala (**Safety Workshop — Last one this year!** Covers trenching, shoring and confined space; cost: \$50; 5 CEUs for grades 1-4 water operators; 2 CEUs for grade 6. To register, send fee to League of Nebraska Municipalities, 1335 L St., Lincoln, NE 68508; make checks payable to League Utilities Section. For more information, contact Rob Pierce, 402.476.2829 or e-mail: info@lonm.org)

September

September 9 — Alliance
September 10 — Ogallala
September 11 — McCook
September 15 — Beatrice (Backflow)
September 16 — Wayne (Backflow)
September 17 — Grand Island (Backflow)
September 18 — Ogallala (Backflow)

October

October 7 — Lexington
October 8 — Hastings
October 9 — Crete

November

November 4-7 — Kearney WEF/AWWA/APWA Joint Conference
November 6 — 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., AWWA Video Teleconference "Utility Case Studies," focusing on interaction (call-ins); presents everyday situations (main breaks, etc.) and describes ways of addressing these situations.

December

December 9 — Beatrice
December 11 — Fremont

Unless noted, for registration and cost information, contact the Nebraska Section Office, 825M St., Ste. 400, Lincoln, NE 68508; phone: 402.476.2003; fax: 402.476.9850; e-mail: nsawwa@alltel.net.

Note: The Nebraska Section AWWA realizes your budgets are tight so we offer scholarships to attend water operator seminars and workshops.

To apply, complete the application on page 10. Questions? Call Lynn Wegehaupt, 402.554.7855 or e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com

National AWWA Conferences

Annual Conference and Exposition

June 15-19, 2003 — Anaheim, CA
June 13-17, 2004 — Orlando, FL
June 19-23, 2005 — San Francisco, CA
June 18-22, 2006 — San Antonio, TX
June 17-21, 2007 — Toronto, Canada

Customer Service Conference and Exposition

April 4-6, 2004 — San Diego, CA

Distribution and Plant Operations Conference and Expo

September 28-October 1, 2003 — Portland, OR
September 26-29, 2004 — Chicago, IL

Information Management and Technology Conference

April 19-21, 2004 — Baltimore, MD

Water Quality Technology Conference

November 2-5, 2003 — Philadelphia, PA
November 14-17 — San Antonio, TX

Water Sources Conference and Exposition (AWWA/WEF)

January 11-15, 2004 — Austin, TX

Money for Seminars!

The Nebraska Section AWWA realizes your budgets are tight so we offer scholarships to attend water operator seminars and the Fall Conference, November 6-7 in Kearney.

To apply, complete the application on page 10. Questions? Call Lynn Wegehaupt, 402.554.7855 or e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com

Nebraska Section AWWA 2003 budget (May 15, 2003)

INCOME	2002 Actual	2003 Budget	2003 Actual
Section allotment	\$ 7,329.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,017.00
Association allotment	7,671.00	7,500.00	7,983.00
Multi-section allotment	440.30	600.00	141.10
Annual meeting	\$49,871.60	12,000.00	0.00
Director's allotment	861.00	800.00	806.50
Interest on CD account	213.74		
Interest on T.A. Leisen CD	772.74	700.00	147.62
Interest on reserve CDs	1,067.44	1,100.00	159.09
Interest on Leisen savings	5.77		.21
Teleconferences	3,950.34	5,000.00	3,350.00
Advertising income	3,895.00	9,000.00	1,780.0
Water for People	2,506.00	1,000.00	0.00
SRF Education Funds	0.00	10,000.00	2,559.00
Miscellaneous	640.18	200.00	0.00
Total Income	\$79,224.11	\$55,400.00	\$23,943.52
EXPENSES			
Safety Committee	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
Cross Connection Workshop	0.00	500.00	0.00
Education and training	978.48	4,100.00	4,785.10
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	1,242.00	1,500.00	0.00
Public Information Committee/website	513.60	1,000.00	214.00
Teleconferences	2,044.04	3,000.00	1,109.91
Small Systems Committee	0.00	300.00	0.00
Director's board meeting	1,152.56	1,200.00	1,068.26
Publications			
Wise Water Words	7,398.01	7,500.00	2,890.66
Membership Directory	3,923.59	7,000.00	0.00
Advertising	0.00	100.00	220.00
Student Activity	198.68	500.00	0.00
Membership	0.00	500.00	102.00
Awards	492.72	500.00	190.18
Abel Wolman	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Scholarship expense			
Operator Education & Training	450.00	2,000.00	0.00
Other	4,600.00	3,000.00	500.00
Research Foundation	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Regional officers' meeting	1,021.01	2,000.00	0.00
Director's spouse (<i>meeting expenses</i>)	287.00	300.00	339.50
Annual meeting	30,015.09	2,000.00	0.00
Training Coalition: Pre-Conference	2,090.60	0.00	0.00
Publicity	0.00	2,500.00	0.00
Water for People	4,644.97	2,500.00	0.00
MAC Council	0.00	500.00	0.00
Paid staff			
Office expense/other	1,356.65	1,500.00	844.84
Paid staff	11,524.96	10,000.00	4,166.65
Water Utility Council (<i>travel, etc.</i>)	219.94	1,500.00	0.00
Young Professionals	0.00	250.00	0.00
Research commitment	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	351.30	300.00	183.98
Total Expenses	\$96,505.20	\$59,550.00	\$16,615.08
Net Income	\$17,281.09	-\$4,150.00	\$7,328.44

Nebraska Section American Water Works Association Leisen Memorial Education and Training Grant Application

Please type or print legibly in black ink.

PERSONAL AND EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND

Name: _____ Home phone: _____
Home address: _____ Office phone: _____

Years in water industry: _____
Current position: _____ Years in current position: _____
(Attach a copy of your job description)
AWWA membership number: _____ Type of membership: _____
Employer: _____
Address of employer: _____
Is your employer a member of AWWA? _____ If yes, indicate membership number: _____ Type of membership: _____
Your activities in the Nebraska Section AWWA (committees, positions held, etc.):

Membership in other professional organizations and your activities:

Other significant contributions to your community, etc.:

TRAINING GRANT INFORMATION

Use of grant funds: _____ Amount requested: _____
Dates of workshop, courses: _____ Employer contribution: _____
Location of training: _____

Please indicate in the space below the value to you of the proposed training for your current position and/or other water industry-related positions.

I declare that all information supplied on this application is true and accurate.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Send completed application to: Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.554.7855; fax: 402.554.7709;
e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com

Please make copies of this order form as needed

Water for People

by Glenn Dostal, HDR Engineering, Inc. (402.399.1014)

The Water for People Raffle at the Fall Conference November 6 will include three cash prizes in the amounts of \$250, \$150 and \$100. Contact me to get tickets to sell in your community or business (e-mail: gdostal@hdrinc.com).

The committee also arranged the silent auction item for the National AWWA Conference, June 15-19, in Anaheim, CA. It is a big gift package of steaks and couple cookbooks from Omaha Steaks with a retail value of \$250-300. We prepared the poster for the Silent Auction and sent it to the coordinator.

Scholarship Committee

by Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District (402.554.7855)

The Nebraska Section AWWA contributed \$500 to the 2003 Stockholm Junior Water Competition Award, the most prestigious international youth award for water science research projects. The award is designed to increase students' interest in water-related issues and research, and to sensitive them, as future leaders, to global water challenges.

Brook Young of Eustis-Farnam, won the Central Nebraska Science and Engineering Fair in Wilcox, with her "Sickly Snails Project," which dealt with the affects of livestock lagoon water on snails.

Kelly Sinzer of Columbus, won the Nebraska City Science Fair, judged by **Jim Condon**, Olsson Associates, and **Todd Boling**, City of Norfolk. In her project, "Analysis of Glass Polishing Wastewater," she used glass plates and rods to remove copper ions from water. Kelly was named the overall state winner, however she was unable to attend the national competition.

The joint AWWA and NWEA Judging Committee then named **Emily Gubbles** of Laurel, the state winner for her project, "The Biohazardous Effects Cigarette Filters Have on Daphnia Magna." Emily received \$1,000 to help defray expenses to the national competition, June 5-7, in Dallas, TX. The winner of the national competition moves to international competition, representing the United States in Stockholm, Sweden, August 9-15, 2003, in conjunction with World Water Week.

Last permit approved for M.U.D. plant

(May 17, 2003, Lincoln Journal Star) The Metropolitan Utilities District in Omaha has received the last permit it needs to proceed with a \$300 million water treatment plant and wellfield along the Platte River.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers granted the Section 404 permit on Friday. It was signed by **Col. Kurt Ubbelohde**, district commander, and M.U.D. General Manager **Tom Wurtz**. The federal permit was needed because the project would disturb wetlands.

The project would straddle the Platte River in Saunders and Douglas Counties. Water would be pumped from up to 46 wells on both sides of the river and taken to an Omaha treatment plant.

The Platte West facility would provide an additional 100 million gallons of drinking water daily. The utility currently pumps about 234 million gallons during summer and averages about 97 million gallons daily at other times of the year.

Local landowners have criticized the project because it would lower water levels of lakes, ponds and wells, including Two Rivers State Recreation Area. At least one landowner has filed a complaint with the state Department of Natural Resources asking it to void state permits granted for the project. M.U.D. received those permits in 1998.

Saunders County officials also have challenged M.U.D.'s state application and permits, citing concerns over lost farmland productivity, declines in property values and damage to wildlife habitat.

More recently, fears have been raised about possible contamination from the former Nebraska Ordnance Plant near Mead. The EPA has found elevated levels of radioactivity in water samples taken from groundwater on the site.

Corps officials have said they will put conditions in place on the permit to protect public health and safety if there is a contamination problem. Meanwhile, the EPA plans to conduct more tests to determine the source of the contamination.

Jill Solberg, a spokeswoman for the corps, said there are conditions in the permit, but they are not specifically related to radioactivity or other contamination.

"Certain milestones during planning, design and construction have to come through the corps," Solberg said. "They have to monitor the wellfield and avoid any adverse impacts on the Mead site."

Said Wurtz: "There are conditions attached to the permit that we have worked on with the corps and the EPA that fully protect all interests."

Wurtz said it will take two years to design and three years to build the facility.

"During this five-year period, we will work with the EPA, the corps and adjoining landowners," he said. "We will manage the resource of the Platte River water and operate in an environmentally sound manner that does not harm agricultural or recreational interests."

"The Platte West facility will be an economic growth engine for the metro area and adjacent counties for the next 50 years," Board Chairman **Mark Doyle** said.

M.U.D. has a moratorium on new water connections outside its franchise area. Wurtz said it is the district's intent to lift the moratorium "so we can get the economy moving again."

The M.U.D. board met May 30 to ratify Wurtz's signature on the permit and approve a design consultant (HDR Engineering, Inc.), valued at \$11.5 million.

Membership Committee

by Rich Robinson, Kirkham Michael (402.255.3840)

The Nebraska Section AWWA currently has 332 members. We are the 33rd largest section of 43 sections in North America. The largest is California with 7,255 members, followed by Texas with 3,157 members. The smallest section is Mexico, with 100 members. The Iowa Section has 662 members.

We have coupons to help new members offset the cost of first year membership dues. A coupon with a \$20 value toward an AWWA individual active membership (or \$10 towards an

\$20 (individual membership)

or

\$10 (operations membership)

This coupon, when attached to a completed application for membership in AWWA with payment of membership dues (*less the amount of this coupon*), entitles the bearer to a discount of \$20 (*\$10 for operations membership*) to be used towards the cost of that membership. To be valid, the following lines must be completed:

Name of applicant:

Name of recruiter:

Recruiter's membership no.

Mail coupon and application with payment to: Kevin Tobin,
Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102.

Compliments of the

Nebraska Section American Water Works Association

operations membership) is on this page. Contact **Rich Robinson**, chair of the Membership Committee, for more coupons. Only one coupon per application and one coupon per person will be accepted.

The coupon needs to be signed by a recruiter, attached to the completed application (make copies of application on next page) and payment sent to **Kevin Tobin**, Nebraska Section AWWA Treasurer, Metropolitan Utilities District. Kevin will remove the coupon from the application and add a check from the Nebraska Section for \$20 (*\$10 for operations membership*) before forwarding the application to National AWWA.

Only Nebraska Section members in good standing may sign a coupon. The recruiter should collect the application and payment (*minus the coupon amount*), attach the coupon and mail it for the applicant.

If the recruiter does not have a coupon handy, send the completed application with the payment (*minus the coupon amount*), to Kevin with a note requesting that a coupon be filled out and recorded for the Section books. This note must be signed by the recruiter to be valid. If you have any questions, please call **Rich Robinson, 402.255.3840**.

Welcome New Members: January-April 2003

David L. Baumeister	Paxton, NE
Steve Bavelhymer	Ponca, NE
Amanda L. Fox	Lincoln, NE
Matt Frey	Gretna, NE
Carolyn Gigstad	Nebraska Section AWWA
Kelly M. Guerrero	CAS Construction, Topeka, KS
George C. Haberman	Nebraska Game & Parks
Jim Hicks	Palisade, NE
Nathan Johnson	Lincoln, NE
Adam Kosmicki	Norland International
Mike Kreitman	Bassett, NE
Eric D. Musselman	Mellen & Associates, Omaha
Ken Pohlman	Midwest Laboratories
Tim Rutledge	Midwest Assistance
Gary Sasse	Nebraska City, NE
Michael Schultes	Hastings, NE
H. Alan Slater	Fairbury, NE
William J. Taylor	Sidney, NE
Doug Woodbeck	Nebraska Health & Human Services

Have you ever been a member of AWWA? _____

When? _____ Member # _____

Personal Information

Preferred mailing address: Business Home
 Mr. Ms. Mrs. Dr.

Name: _____
 Street address: _____
 Address: _____
 P.O. Box or mail stop: _____
 City, state, zip: _____

Business phone: (_____) _____ Business fax: (_____) _____

e-mail address: _____

Company: _____
 Title: _____

Is your company a current member of AWWA? No Yes Member # (if known) _____

Please furnish company mailing address if different from above:

Company address: _____
 City, state, zip: _____

Applicant's signature: _____

Date: _____

Signature of endorsing member (optional): _____

Endorsing member number: _____

Dues and Section Assessments

Active - \$114 (02) Student - \$36 (14) Operations/Administrative - \$57 (06) (will not receive Journal AWWA) International - \$150 (03)

Payment

Prepayment of one year's dues is required. No action on this application can be taken until payment is received. Dues are not transferrable or refundable. Dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for income tax purposes. Dues may be considered ordinary and necessary business deductions.

Annual Dues \$ _____

Multi-Section Option \$ _____

Total (U.S. funds) \$ _____

Payment method Check enclosed, payable to AWWA
 Mastercard Visa American Express Send invoice

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ (Credit card company will add Canadian exchange amount.)

Prepayment of one year's dues required. No action can be taken on this application until payment is received.

Multi-Section Option

In addition to your section membership, you also may join other AWWA section(s). This allows you to receive information on events and activities from other sections of your choice. If you would like multi-section information and fees, call 800.926.7337, and then indicate your multi-section choice(s) and fee(s) in the space below.

All applicants must complete this section.

Circle the descriptions that best describe you. The information is used in audits of AWWA readership. Circle only ONE in each group.

Business and Industry

- A. Public Water Supply—Municipally Owned
- B. Public Water Supply—Investor Owned
- C. Government—Federal, State, Local
- D. Consultant
- E. Contractor
- F. Private Industrial Systems or Water Wholesaler
- G. Manufacturer of Equipment & Supplies, including Representatives
- H. Distributors of Equipment & Supplies, including Representatives
- I. Educational Institutions, Faculty and Students, Libraries and Other Related Organizations
- J. Fully Retired
- K. Research Lab
- L. Unreported

Job Title

- A. Executive—General Manager, Commissioner, Board Member, City Manager, Mayor, President, Vice-President, Owner, Partner, Director, etc.
- B. Management—Division Head, Section Head, Manager, Chief Engineer, Comptroller, etc.
- C. Engineering/Non-managerial—Civil Engineer, Mechanical Engineer, Environmental Engineer, Planning Manager, Field Engineer, System Designer, etc.
- D. Scientific/Non-managerial—Chemist, Biologist, Biophysicist, Researcher, Analyst, etc.
- E. Purchasing—Purchasing Agent, Procurement Specialist, Buyer, etc.
- F. Operations—Foreman, Operator, Maintenance, Crewman, Service Representative, etc.
- G. Marketing & Sales/Non-managerial—Market Analyst, Marketing Representative, Salesperson, Sales Representative, etc.
- H. Other: _____
- I. Professorial — Teacher, Educator, etc.

Completion of this information is optional.

AWWA maintains profile data for use in developing additional programs and services to meet the diverse needs of our members.

Birth Date: _____

Race/Ethnic Identification (Circle one)

- 1. American Indian/Alaskan Native
- 2. Asian/Pacific-Islander
- 3. African-American
- 4. Hispanic
- 5. White (Non-Hispanic)
- 6. Other

Gender (Circle One)

- Female
- Male

Field Served

- 5 Water Supply Only
- 7 Wastewater Only
- 9 Both
- 3 Other

Mail to:
AWWA Membership
6666 W. Quincy Ave., Denver, CO 80235
Phone: 800.926.7337; 303.794.7711
or fax to: 303.347.0804

White Paper Review

AWWA Accreditation Program

From the New England Section, AWWA, January 3, 2003

In September 2002, the Trustees of NEWWA, A Section of AWWA, appointed an ad hoc committee to review the accreditation program under development at AWWA and to report their findings to the Board of Trustees at their December meeting.

The ad hoc committee consisted of individuals with backgrounds in various issues associated with accreditation. Committee members included: The head of a state public drinking water program; peer reviewers for both QualServe and the Partnership for Safe Water; the head of one of the few utilities in the country with a water treatment plant that has completed Phase IV of the Partnership; a member of the AWWA Water Treatment Standard Committee, and the International Director.

The ad hoc committee was assisted by the NEWWA staff member charged with developing and maintaining training programs in conformance with IACET standards for continuing education.

The ad hoc committee reviewed the Accreditation power point presentation sent to the Board of Directors, the Accreditation Manual of Policies and Procedures (Draft 9/01), the draft AWWA Standard for Distribution Systems Operation and Management, the June 17, 2002 and November 21, 2002

Minutes of the Accreditation Policy Committee, various other minutes and committee highlights from the Executive Committee and APC, the RMSO highlights for Regions I, II, V, VI, and VII, and the AWWA and QualServe websites. Committee members also discussed accreditation with members of the Executive and Finance Committees and the Board of Directors.

The ad hoc committee reported its findings to the NEWWA Board of Trustees December 18, 2002. An active discussion of the accreditation program followed.

The Trustees concluded accreditation can significantly impact the membership and the Association, that the work of the Accreditation Policy Committee is incomplete, and a thorough debate of the issues associated with accreditation needs to take place by the Board of Directors before any substantial allocation of funds to the program can go forward.

To promote this debate, the Board of Trustees voted to forward the ad hoc committee's findings through the AWWA Communication Tree to the Board of Directors.

The NEWWA ad hoc committee on AWWA accreditation reached the following conclusions:

The concept of accreditation of water utilities has merit and is worthy of exploration. The ad hoc Accreditation Policy Committee has spent a great deal of time putting together the benefits of accreditation for water and wastewater utilities. Those benefits, as found on the AWWA website, are described as follows:

The accreditation program will serve water and wastewater utilities and their customers, owners and government regulators, by promoting improvements in the quality of services and efficient management through establishment of standards and formal recognition of accrediting bodies and work to advance a degree of self-regulation through accreditation. To realize this mission, the program:

- Establishes the value of accreditation on behalf of all water and wastewater utilities;
- Seeks government recognition in the form of regulatory support, financing availability, and other substantial incentives;
- Promotes the value of accreditation on behalf of the water and wastewater industry to governments, regulators, civic leaders, stakeholders, and customers;
- Educates utilities, customers, civic leaders and all stakeholders regarding the meaning and benefits of accreditation;
- Coordinates research, analysis, debate, meetings and other activities and processes to improve accreditation;
- Accepts the support and participation of all appropriate water and wastewater organizations to add credibility to the program and to ensure all views are considered;
- Develops accreditation program elements that can facilitate worldwide application.

The Committee also worked extensively to develop the framework of an accreditation program that:

- Develops standards for water and wastewater utility operation and management (and policies for applying the standards) that are used as a basis for conferring accreditation;
- Coordinates the standards approval process, in conformance with the recognized ANSI procedures, to ensure the input of all stakeholders in water and wastewater as appropriate;
- Establishes the guidelines for development of consistent standards in water and wastewater utility operation and management;
- Establishes policies, procedures, and protocols used to accredit water and wastewater utilities;
- Develops criteria used to recognize accrediting bodies that may provide services under the program;
- Mediates disputes between utilities and accrediting bodies;
- Coordinates the development and use of tools to help utilities prepare and maintain accreditation.

The Accreditation Standards are proposed as follows:

Distribution (released for comment)
Treatment plant (under development)
Source water/watershed protection (under development)
Customer relations
Business and planning
Management
Conservation, reuse
Bio-solids handling
Emergency preparedness and security
Asset management
Wastewater activities

Ultimately, the success of an accreditation program will depend on utility recognition that the benefits outweigh the costs. However, the Accreditation Policy Committee has spent very little time identifying and quantifying these costs. Clearly this is a critical aspect of accreditation that must be addressed.

Experience from QualServe and Phase IV of the Partnership program has shown that many utilities are reluctant to spend substantial amounts of money for third-party review of their operations. The range of costs for utilities to participate in the accreditation program will certainly be substantial, particularly for small- and medium-sized water and wastewater systems.

Similarly, the cost for the Association to administer the accreditation program must be developed. The Committee is looking for other organizations such as Underwriters Laboratories or the National Sanitation Foundation to become involved in the program. The services from these third parties could range from providing independent review of utility operations and reporting their findings, up to complete administration of the program. However, even if the accreditation program is entirely administered by another organization, there will still be a financial impact on AWWA's QualServe and Partnership programs.

Many of the benefits ascribed to accreditation by the Committee are conjectural. One such claimed benefit is improving bond ratings to water utilities.

As water utility managers, we know the cost of borrowing is a multi-faceted issue. Most borrowing by water utilities is done through general obligation bonds, which would be unaffected whether the applying utility was accredited or not.

For the financial community to approve accreditation as beneficial, the financial markets would need to see a comparative analysis of the involved accredited utilities, and over time this would guide them in determining the financial stability of each utility.

Other stated financial benefits such as insurance ratings, and economic development are extremely speculative, and should not be used to sell the program to water utilities until such benefits are clearly defined, documented, and approved for water utilities.

The concept of regulatory relief for accredited utilities has been discussed extensively by the Committee and EPA. EPA's position has been that accreditation may be an alternative way to determine compliance with some regulations, but it is unlikely that any utility would receive a broad waiver from regulatory compliance regardless of their accreditation status.

For accreditation to be viewed as a regulatory alternative, a substantial demonstration project with multiple participants will be needed. There must be some way to measure and report continued compliance with accreditation standards.

Any attempt to qualify accreditation as an alternative to traditional regulatory compliance would be subject to public review and comment as with any proposed regulation.

EPA also has said accreditation operational standards eventually could be required by regulation. Clearly there is much work to be done in this area, but while accreditation may change the way

regulatory compliance is measured, to term those changes as regulatory relief may be a misnomer.

Along with EPA, state primacy agencies also will need to be involved in any alternative compliance protocols for accredited utilities. The acceptance of accreditation as an alternative regulatory compliance method will likely vary from state to state.

Many states may see accreditation as a means to reduce or even eliminate sanitary surveys and inspections, thus relieving a substantial burden on state resources.

There are several Canadian provinces considering making accreditation of water utilities a regulatory requirement. Some of these provinces are looking to AWWA to provide them operating standards.

Many utilities are concerned that accreditation might put an additional regulatory burden on them. Despite the fact the program is intended to be voluntary, utilities may feel pressured to seek accreditation. At a time when there are many additional regulatory requirements in the works, accreditation may drain limited resources from other worthy projects.

Moreover, even an accredited utility can run into problems that result in a regulatory violation. Will that utility face loss of accreditation in addition to public notice and other prescribed responses to the violation?

Also, utilities that currently are members of QualServe and/or the Partnership could well be faced with a duplicative layer of performance and accreditation standards leading to redundant and overlapping efforts and incurring additional costs.

It also should be noted there has been no great support for or need seen by member utilities for accreditation; indeed most utilities are likely unaware the program is being actively considered by AWWA.

The Accreditation Policy Committee has sent mixed messages of which direction it wants the accreditation program to go; to be the gold standard of utility operation or to be generally achievable operating procedures.

The promotional material prepared by the Committee implies accredited utilities will perform at the highest possible level; the PowerPoint presentation prepared for Directors is loaded with visual images of crowns, gold-plated trophies and banners flying from the mountain top.

Yet, the only standard presently available for comment, "Distribution system operation and maintenance," presents more of a common sense approach that seeks to attain a consensus of the water supply profession.

Indeed, comments from Committee members during discussions at Regional Meetings of Section Officers (RMSO) have stated that accreditation must be achievable by the majority of utilities and will be less than the standards of best practice or best management. If such is the case, is accreditation a step below QualServe, the promotional material notwithstanding?

Continued on page 16

The Accreditation Policy Committee is looking to set water supply operational standards applicable throughout North America. Yet, there are substantial regional differences in water works operations that argue against such an approach. State and provincial regulators vary widely in their views towards accreditation.

While EPA is willing to discuss accreditation as an alternate means to achieve regulatory compliance, its approach is unlikely to relieve utilities of any substantial burden. There is no indication the Committee has considered any role for the Sections in accreditation.

However, it might make sense for Section leaders, supported by AWWA staff and volunteer experts, working with state and provincial regulators interested in accreditation as a regulatory requirement, to develop regional standards of generally achievable operating practices. In so doing, QualServe and the Partnership programs could remain as the gold standard of utility operations for those who are interested. Certainly such an approach should at least be discussed.

There has been concern expressed by some AWWA members that the accreditation program is on a track similar to Efficient Utilities, i.e. the program is being developed by a small group of volunteers and staff and will be presented to the general membership as a fait accompli. To be fair, AWWA is proceeding slowly on accreditation.

It has not budgeted any substantial dollars for program development in 2003 and the Accreditation Committee has attempted to reach out to members through presentations at RMSO and through materials given to the Board of Directors.

However this communication has been less than effective and its approach to the program has been strictly from an advocacy position.

Indeed, there is discussion in the Committee minutes of the need to "sell" the program to the membership. Additionally, it appears a decision has been made by AWWA leadership to make the Accreditation Committee permanent (it is presently an ad hoc committee formed under the Executive Committee) as the Administrative and Policy Council is considering where to place the committee within the AWWA structure.

There is much more work for the ad hoc Accreditation Policy Committee and AWWA leadership to do before moving forward with accreditation.

A better program to communicate the accreditation concept that promotes an honest and active debate of accreditation's merits and drawbacks is needed. The range of costs to a utility to become accredited must be developed. The benefits of accreditation must be clearly defined and they must be clearly achievable.

A business plan for AWWA to develop and administer an accreditation program must be created, effectively communicated to the Board of Directors, debated and approved before the Association makes any substantial financial commitment.

Most importantly, member utilities, which are facing an onslaught of new regulatory requirements and needed capital improvements, must see accreditation as a real benefit and not just another drain on resources.

QualServe

Long-awaited benchmarking clearinghouse available to utilities of all sizes

Affordable Clearinghouse Provides Insight into Industry Performance Standards

(DENVER) – January 27, 2003 – The American Water Works Association (AWWA), the authoritative resource on safe drinking water, today announced the release of the Benchmarking Clearinghouse, which includes water and wastewater utility performance benchmarks.

Established in 1881, AWWA is the oldest and largest non-profit scientific and educational organization dedicated to safe drinking water in North America. AWWA has over 56,000 members worldwide and its 4,500 utility members serve 80 percent of America's population.

Benchmarking Clearinghouse is a joint program of AWWA and the Water Environment Federation (WEF). These two organizations, with support from AWWA Research Foundation, utility volunteers, and research funding, created the program to provide a suite of products and services unmatched by any other program. This is the first time that such a clearinghouse is available to utilities of all sizes.

"Through the Benchmarking Clearinghouse, we were able to learn how each of our water treatment plants was maximizing electrical efficiencies, and then adopt those practices at our other plants, all for a relatively low price," said John Schultz, Supply Operator for Aquarion Water Company.

"As a result, our plant operators are now always looking for creative ways to continue reducing their electrical costs."

Benchmarking Clearinghouse provides 22 key performance indicators in five areas of water and wastewater utility operation, including Organizational Development, Customer Relations, Business Operations, and Water and Wastewater Operations. In creating the benchmarks, AWWA and WEF worked closely with the American Productivity & Quality Center (APQC), an internationally recognized organization that focuses on process and performance improvement. APQC also worked with the program to help test the performance indicators by conducting a pilot survey.

"By having access to the most complete, accurate, and current water and wastewater data available, utilities are able to measure their performance against industry outstanding practices and make improvements where necessary," said Scott Haskins, chair of the QualServe Benchmarking Subcommittee and deputy director for Seattle Public Utilities' Field Operations Branch.

More information on the Benchmarking Clearinghouse is available online at <http://www.awwa.org/science/qualserve/benchmarking.cfm>

AWWA is the authoritative resource for knowledge, information and advocacy to improve the quality and supply of drinking water in North America and beyond. AWWA is the largest organization of water professionals in the world. AWWA advances public health, safety and welfare by uniting the efforts of the full spectrum of the drinking water community. Through our collective strength we become better stewards of water for the greatest good of the people and the environment.

...

Founded in 1928, the Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization with members from varied disciplines who work toward the WEF vision of preservation and enhancement of the global water environment. The WEF network includes more than 100,000 water quality professionals from 79 Member Associations in 32 countries.

Water utilities to Congress

Don't let water polluters off the hook

Communities throughout America could be forced to cough up \$29 billion in MTBE water contamination cleanup costs

WASHINGTON (May 22, 2003) – Communities across America would be forced to pay in excess of \$29 billion in MTBE water contamination cleanup costs if Congress approves legislation to offer liability immunity to the petroleum and MTBE industry.

Four of the nation's largest water utility associations today sent a letter urging the U.S. Senate to oppose the liability immunity legislation (H.R. 6 and S.791) expected to reach the Senate floor the week of June 1, following Congress' Memorial Day recess.

The associations also asked Congress to oppose clauses in the same legislation granting liability immunity to the producers of ethanol. The associations believe more scientific research needs to be completed to determine the environmental impacts of ethanol in water supplies.

The letter to the U.S. Senate was signed by the **American Water Works Association**, the **Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies**, the **National Association of Water Companies** and the **Association of California Water Agencies**.

Ironically, MTBE was first used as an inexpensive fuel additive to help clean the air. But hundreds of cities throughout America soon found the chemical contaminating their water supply. The EPA has identified MTBE as a possible human carcinogen that renders water undrinkable due to its foul taste and odor of paint thinner. MTBE is now banned in 17 states.

Moreover, the MTBE industry knew of the additive's environmental dangers long before it was put in use to meet the oxygenate requirement. While MTBE was the most inexpensive solution at the time of the oxygenate requirement, documents uncovered in a lawsuit by the South Tahoe Public Utility District against eight oil companies demonstrate the MTBE industry's knowledge since the early 1980s that the product spread rapidly in groundwater and was difficult to clean up.

MTBE enters groundwater primarily from leaking underground storage tanks at gas stations and because MTBE is extremely soluble, it moves much farther and faster in water than the other ingredients in gasoline, making it difficult to clean up.

Gasoline leaking from underground storage tanks has been responsible for contaminating drinking water wells across the country with MTBE.

Recent studies estimate it would cost \$29 billion to clean up more than 500 public drinking-water wells and 45,000 private wells throughout the nation that are contaminated with MTBE.

Several lawsuits brought against the producers of MTBE by local communities, whose water supplies were contaminated have been successful, but without legal protection, water utilities fear producers will have little incentive to clean up contaminated water supplies. The contamination also leaves local communities' with the costs for acquisition of new sources of water, such as new pipelines and wells.

Congress is proposing to let the petroleum industry and the MTBE producers off the hook, leaving communities to pay for the clean up.

"The ultimate victims of product liability immunity will be the American people, who will lose their aquifers to contamination and lose their money to cleanups and acquisition of new sources of water," the water associations stated in their letter to the Senate.

"Contrary to claims by oil companies and ethanol producers, product defect liability immunity is not narrowly tailored. In a major way, these provisions shift liability for clean up away from producers to water consumers.

"They also shift liability to retailers and distributors, who are in no way responsible for the decision to produce a product that has as much capacity for environmental harm as MTBE and who are likely to lack the resources necessary to remedy the problems created by MTBE in the first place."

NEBRASKA SECTION AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATION STRATEGIC PLAN

November 6, 2002

Mission Statement

The Nebraska Section of the AWWA is dedicated to promoting quality drinking water in sufficient quantity for all Nebraskans. The Nebraska Section membership is a leader in the drinking water industry through efforts in education, public awareness and other activities.

Goals

1. Nebraska Section AWWA promotes activities to retain current members and recruit new members.

- New membership growth of 2% per year
- Develop research regarding barriers to small system/operators membership.
- Develop two new activities focused on membership involvement (e.g., golf outings, etc.).
- Update and implement the Nebraska AWWA membership development plan.

2. Nebraska Section AWWA promotes opportunities for participation and career development for young industry members.

- Review committee organization.
- Create and implement a development plan.

3. Nebraska Section AWWA promotes knowledge and awareness of opportunities within the water industry.

- Review target student base.
- Review committee organization.
- Develop plan for approaching technical schools, community colleges and high schools.
- Continue and expand student activities at universities.

4. Provide small system support through a continuous outreach program.

- Effectively communicate the benefits of AWWA membership to a small system by using committee members to contact 10% of small systems.
- Expand the mentoring program to include retired members.
- Increase by 5% the number of hits to the mentoring website page. Publish once annually in Wise Water Words and Water Spouts about the mentoring information.
- Expand the AWWA teleconference accessibility for small systems by increasing the number of down-

link sites for applicable topics.

- Partner with Training Coalition members to add 10 new publications to the NSAWWA library annually.
- Assist 10 small systems in the application process for water operators reimbursements annually.
- Ensure that five on-site visitations for the mentoring program occur per year.

5. Increase Nebraska Section AWWA impact on legislative, regulatory and policy issues at all levels of government.

- Serve as a legislative/regulatory resource to section membership and others.
- Provide effective and timely information on pending regulatory issues.
- Build coalitions with other organizations at regional state and section levels.

6. Promote confidence and understanding to the public about public water supply systems.

- Provide public service announcements and news releases to the membership.
- Provide educational information at special events.
- Promote Nebraska Section AWWA and public water supply systems statewide through various media.

7. Provide a continuing education training program and assist Nebraska public water systems to improve all facets of public water system operations.

- Make conference technical sessions available through different media.
- Increase system assistance in capacity development by 5% each year.
- Investigate and implement new training opportunities.
- Continue partnership in training coalition with League, NRW, NETC and HHSS.

Reserve your advertisement space

Price is for one issue only. Include \$50 setup fee. Black and Blue are only colors of ink printed. Your ad also will appear in the publication when it is posted on our website: www.awwaneb.org

Size	Black/White or Blue/White	Black/Blue
Business card size	\$ 65	\$125
1/4 page	110	170
1/2 page	180	240
full page	250	350

Ad form for Fall Wise Water Words

Deadline for copy, etc. is August 1, 2003.

Size	Black ink only or Blue ink only (please specify)	Black/Blue
Business card size:	_____	_____
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1/3 page	_____	_____
1/2 page	_____	_____
full page	_____	_____

(Please print)

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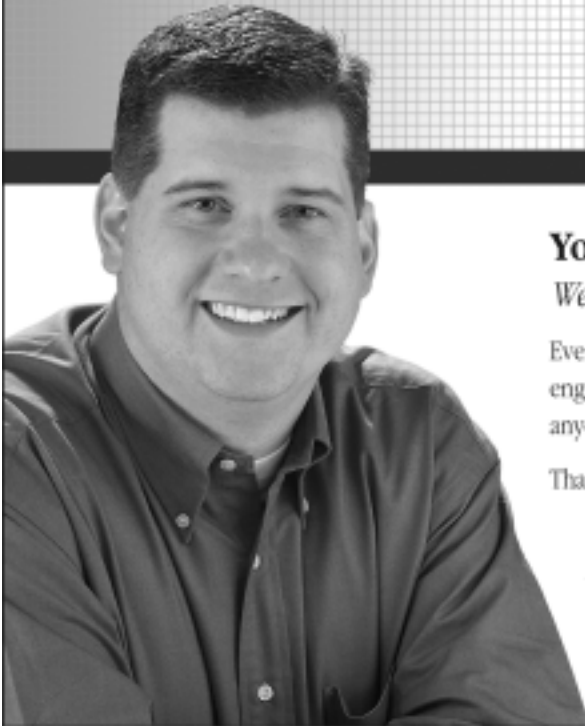
Mari Matulka, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.449.8154; fax: 402.449.8166; e-mail: mari_matulka@mudnebr.com. Ads must be prepaid. Make check payable to the Nebraska Section AWWA.

*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.*

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Brief notes

Now's the time to get your Top Ops Team (*water operators only*) together for the competition at the annual conference, November 6. You receive 1.5 CEUs for participation. Contact **Chris Koenig**, HGM Associates, for more information (e-mail: ckoenig@hgmonline.com).



The Section will publish a 2004-2005 membership directory with distribution targeted at the end of the year.

Please look at the current directory and send changes to your name, title, company, address, phone number, e-mail address to mari_matulka@mudnebr.com. The directory is posted on the Section's website (<http://www.awwaneb.org>) under the "News" section.

To advertise in the directory, complete the ad order form on page 15.



A total of 9,407 people visited the Section website between September 1, 2002 and July 31, 2003. The highest visitor month was July 2003 with 1,220 visitors, followed by April, with 1,144 visitors. The most visited page in July was the "mentor" section. October 2002 had the least visitors — 216.

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Advertisers help pay for the printing and mailing costs of this publication.

Section Board Meeting September 18

9:30 a.m., Fremont Municipal Bldg.
400 E. Military St., Fremont
All members are invited to attend.

Fall conference highlight

National Past President to speak at lunch

Lynn Stovall, immediate past president of National AWWA, will be the featured speaker at the Fall Conference Joint AWWA-NWEA lunch, November 6 at the Holiday Inn, Kearney. He joined AWWA in 1978, and is general manager of the Greenville Water System, Greenville, SC. The utility provides safe drinking water to more than 140,000 customers.



Lynn Stovall

A graduate of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Lynn holds a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering. He served as AWWA Director of the South Carolina Section and currently serves on the following National AWWA Committees: Abel Wolman Award of Excellence, Administrative and Policy Council, Award of Merit, Manufacturers/Associates Council, Outstanding Service to AWWA, Public Interest Advisory Forum, Standards Council. Lynn received the George Warren Fuller Award in 1997.

He was appointed to two South Carolina advisory committees on the Safe Drinking Water Act, and served as an AWWA representative for the South Carolina Environmental Training Center. Lynn also is involved with the Water Environment Federation and South Carolina Water Environment Association.

He and his wife, Susie, live in Simpsonville, SC. They have two children.

Nominations Committee

by Chris Koenig, HGM Associates (402.346.7559)

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

Position

Chair	Kristine Ranslem, City of Albion
Trustee & Past Chair	Dennis Watts, City of Norfolk
Director	John Miriovsky, Lincoln Water System

These positions require nominations and election. Nominations also will be open at the Fall Conference Business Meeting, November 6, in Kearney.

Position

Chair-Elect	Larry Andreasen, City of Fremont
Vice Chair	Tony Bilek, Mc ² , Inc.
Secretary	Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services
Treasurer	Kevin Tobin, Metropolitan Utilities District
Trustee	Paul Markowski, City of Ord
Trustee	John Olsson, Olsson Associates
Incoming Director	Joel Christensen, Metropolitan Utilities District

2004 Nominee

Chair's comments

Wow, it's difficult to believe our busiest season is nearly over! Most of Nebraska has received adequate rainfall — good news for us. It's always a good feeling to get this far into the summer season and know water supplies are adequate. The Fall Conference will be held November 6-7 in Kearney. The agenda on page 3 also is posted on the Nebraska Section website (<http://www.awwaneb.org>). **Kristine Ranslem** led the committee which put the program together this year. The committee selected a variety of topics for everybody in the water profession. Room reservations need to be made by October 3 to get the conference rate.



Dennis Watts

The Young Professionals Committee continues to be an area of concern. This committee was established two years ago to encourage young people to join the AWWA. We still are trying to obtain more interest in this committee. AWWA membership throughout the U.S. lacks young professionals. To ensure AWWA remains a strong organization, we need to continue to bring young professionals into the organization. A development plan, implemented by our Section, outlines goals to involve younger people. The plan is posted on our website. Every water system and engineering firm should review the plan and encourage their younger (under age 35) employees to join the committee.

In the Spring issue of **Wise Water Words**, I discussed the Strategic Plan. This plan was developed in 2002 to address the concerns the Section felt needed attention. Many of the goals have been met, however there is a long way to go in meeting ALL the goals and objectives. The plan is posted on our website. I strongly encourage everyone to review it.

To meet all the goals and objectives, we need more support within the Section. "Getting involved" is what this plan is all about. It's our way of promoting the water industry and assuring safe water for the entire state. Look at the different areas of the plan and consider volunteering in an area that interests you. If you'd like to volunteer, contact the committee chair or any of the board members. The Fall Conference is a good time to talk with members of a committee that you might be interested in.

This is my last article as Chair. Thank you all for your support the past year. I know the water industry will continue to grow and improve within our Section due to the commitment of its members.

I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Conference.

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Wise Water Words is published three times a year for members of the Nebraska Section American Water Works Association.
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2003 Fall Conference — November 6-7, Kearney

Pre-Conference Session, Wednesday, November 5

1:30-3:30 P.M. PE Exam Training, **Dr. Bruce Dvorak**, UNL

Thursday, November 6

7:30 A.M. Registration

Session I Moderator: **Chris Koenig**, HGM Associates

8:30-9 A.M. Primer Concerning Copper in Drinking Water
Dr. Bruce Dvorak, UNL

9-9:30 A.M. Impact of Phosphates on Copper Corrosion for
Two Nebraska Communities

Juling Qui, UNL

9:30-10 A.M. Washington County Rural Water System Study
Chris Koenig, HGM Associates

10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
Moderator: **Dennis Watts**, City of Norfolk

10:30-11:15 A.M. Norfolk Collector Well Design and Installation
Bill Knoll, Black & Veatch

11:15 A.M.-NOON Update on M.U.D.'s Disinfection Process and
Facilities

Jim Shields and **Mike Koenig**, M.U.D.

NOON-1:30 P.M. **Joint AWWA and NWEA Lunch**
Immediate Past President of AWWA, **Lynn
Stovall**

1:30-3 P.M. AWWA Business Meeting

3-3:30 P.M. Break and Tour Exhibits

3:30-5 P.M. Top OPS Competition

5-6 P.M. New Member/Young Professional Mixer

6-7 P.M. Social Hour and Tour Exhibits

7 P.M. Banquet

Session II Moderator: **Kevin Tobin**, M.U.D.

8:30-9:30 A.M. Public Notification for Violations
Howard Isaacs, Nebraska Health & Human
Services, Lincoln

9:30-10 A.M. Public Awareness
Mari Matulka, M.U.D.

10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
Moderator: **Rich Koenig**, Nebraska Health &
Human Services, Norfolk

10:30 A.M.-2:30 P.M. Teleconference — Utility Case Studies
(lunch served during the teleconference)

2:30-3 P.M. Mentoring Program, **Rich Koenig**, Nebraska
Health & Human Services, Norfolk

3-3:30 P.M. Break and Tour Exhibits

3:30-5 P.M. Top OPS Competition

5-6 P.M. New Member/Young Professional Mixer

6-7 P.M. Social Hour and Tour Exhibits

7 P.M. Banquet

Friday, November 7

7-8:30 A.M. Nebraska Section AWWA Board Meeting

7:15-8:30 A.M. Water Operator Breakfast

7:30 A.M. Registration

Session I Moderator: **Larry Andreasen**, City of Fremont

8:30-10 A.M. Vulnerability Assessments
Art May, Midwest Assistance Program

10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
Moderator: **Paul Markowski**, City of Ord

10:30 A.M.-noon Drinking Water Regulatory Update
Jack Daniel, Nebraska Health & Human
Services, Lincoln

Session II Moderator: **Mike Wentink**, Nebraska Health &
Human Services, North Platte

8:30-10 A.M. Well Records
Chris Miller, Miller & Associates

10-10:30 A.M. Break and Tour Exhibits
Moderator: **Paul Markowski**, City of Ord

10:30 A.M.-noon Drinking Water Regulatory Update
Jack Daniel, Nebraska Health & Human
Services, Lincoln

CEUs

Nebraska Health & Human Services

Grades 1-4: AWWA Program = 6.5 hours

Grades 1-4: Teleconference = 3 hours

Grades 1-4: Top Ops Participation = 1.5 hours

Fees

Pre-Registration for AWWA

(includes Thursday lunch and banquet), \$65

Pre-Registration for Full Conference

(includes all lunches and banquets), \$130

Pre-Registration = Prior to October 22

AWWA Operator's Breakfast, \$10

Additional Banquet Tickets, \$20 each

For more information, contact:

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

Lodging

Hotel reservations: 800.248.4460; reservations must be made
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Director's report by John Miriovsky

I attended the National AWWA Conference and Exposition in Anaheim, June 15-19. It's a great experience, but the pain one has to go through upon return really makes one wonder if it's all worth it. I'm just now able to find my desk.

As usual, the Conference was well attended with more than 500 exhibitors. I think everyone was pleased with the attendance especially from the exhibitors as many of the "old" exhibitors chose to return after boycotting the conference in New Orleans. (Remember EU?) There also were a number of first-time exhibitors.



John Miriovsky

The Board of Directors meeting was rather tame compared to the last couple I attended. The only item drawing much discussion was Accreditation, which was the subject of the Special Session on Saturday afternoon. A special Ad Hoc Committee, formed to study accreditation, made a presentation to the Board on the pros and cons of the issue.

It was very apparent they had done a great deal of work. But the more they got into it, the more questions they had. Apparently, Canadian officials are serious about accreditation as a result of the Walkerton incident and are going to proceed.

Most of the Board thought a standard for operation of different aspects of a water system was a good idea and since the Canadians were going to proceed, we could assist them in the development and let them pilot the program. A motion was passed to:

- Charge the Standards Council with development of the remaining accreditation drinking water standards as soon as reasonable.
- Request the Finance Committee work with the Standards Council to put funding in place for accreditation drinking water standards development.
- Charge the Standards Council with working with OWWA, an AWWA section, and other potential utilities to pilot the utilization of the accreditation drinking water standards and to monitor results.
- Combine quality programs under one umbrella.

A second motion was passed to approve the final report of the Administrative & Policy Council Ad Hoc Committee on Placement of the Accreditation Committee. This creates an administrative committee to include quality programs and approved amendments to Governing Documents Article XVI -- Administrative, Awards, Ad Hoc Committee and Task Forces.

It's been a pleasure to serve the Nebraska Section as director. If there is anything I can do for you or the Section, do not hesitate to let me know. Call me at 402.441.5932 or e-mail me at miriovsk@ci.lincoln.ne.us.

Water Utility Council by Jerry Obrist

The EPA Inspector General (IG) recently sent a "Survey of Water Security" to a number of city auditors. Five water organizations sent an objection letter to the IG, saying the survey "raises several serious concerns," among them implications that:

- There is a federal requirement for particular approaches to security, such as that "some type of detection system needs to be in place to alert a water utility that an asset has been compromised."
- Certain approaches to security are required, and
- The EPA must demonstrate changes in the security status of community water systems.

The organizations asserted, even though the law requires utilities to engage in certain assessment and planning processes, it does not require any specific outcome. "These choices are highly local in character and no federal official is equipped to make them," stated the letter.

The letter was signed by AWWA's deputy executive director of Governmental Affairs, the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, the National Association of Water Companies, and the National Rural Water Association.

The organizations stated that because vulnerability assessments (VAs) are highly sensitive, they should be made available only to individuals on a need-to-know basis.

"We would be extremely concerned if the misunderstandings concerning federal authority (in the IG survey) were reflected in any review of the VAs themselves," the letter said.

The EPA defined six elements of a VA in a December 2002 fact sheet. The only judgment the EPA can now make about a VA is whether those elements are addressed, said the organizations.

"We do not think it legitimate for any federal official to make judgments about the decisions made by water utilities in the assessment process, or to measure changes in water system security that result through the review of VAs," the letter concluded.

Water utilities are required to perform a VA and submit it to EPA and to certify to EPA that they updated their emergency response plan (ERP). A schedule, based on utility size and deadlines is outlined below:

Utility serving more than 100,000 — VA due date, March 31, 2003; ERP due date, September 30, 2003.

Utility serving 50,000 to 99,999 — VA due date, December 31, 2003; ERP due date, June 30, 2004.

Utility serving 3,300 to 49,999 — VA due date, June 30, 2004; ERP due date, December 31, 2004.

More information about the VA and ERP can be found at EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/security/community.html>.

(Continued on next page)



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As utilities, we need to ensure EPA obtains the sound science before setting MCLs. Statutory deadlines need to be adjusted to realistic timeframes to use completed scientific studies.

Finally, the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality is preparing Source Water Assessments for the state's water suppliers, as required by the 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments. Public notification regarding the availability of your report will need to be addressed in your 2004 CCR in addition to a secondary notification tool (i.e., public notice in newspaper, etc.).

Regulatory update

by Jo Ann Wagner, Nebraska Health & Human Services.
(402.471.0520); e-mail: joann.wagner@hsss.state.ne.us

In June, the Department received primacy for the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rule as well as the Public Water System definition and Administrative Penalties Authority.

Proposed regulations at the Attorney General's office for review and approval include:

- Lead and Copper Minor Revisions
- Radionuclides
- Filter Backwash
- Arsenic Rule
- Public Notification
- LT 1 (ESWTR)
- Revisions to IESWTR and D/DBP

Proposed regulations drafted – hearing expected this Fall. Rules should be final early next year.

Operation and maintenance

The operation and maintenance requirements will be separated into two chapters, so transient non-community systems have their requirements separated from the community and non-transient non-community water systems.

The regulations, the result of several stakeholders meetings, are designed to be minimum requirements for proper operation and maintenance of a public water system. Transient systems must:

- Provide continuous water service during periods of operation;
- Notify those served of imminent and substantial health hazards;
- Have an emergency contact list and update it annually;
- Have no unprotected physical connections with contaminant sources;
- Secure facilities to prevent contamination, unauthorized entry and vandalism;
- Have an O & M Manual;
- Maintain applicable screens;
- Maintain a positive pressure of 20 psi;
- Inspect and clean accessible facilities at least once every five years, and
- Maintain water system appurtenance housing facilities.

Additional requirements for those who have water treatment plants:

- Maintain records of customer complaints, chemical use, quality control records, control test results, test equipment

calibration and storage facility inspection, cleaning repair, painting or other maintenance.

A summary of some proposed changes applicable to community and non-transient non-community systems is as follows:

- **Encroachment** is defined as a potential source of contamination located less than a specified minimum horizontal separation distance from a public water supply source. Those distances applicable to community systems are specified in Attachment 1 of 179 NAC 2-007. Those applicable to non-transient, non-community systems are specified in 178 NAC 12.
- Disinfection of new or serviced storage facilities, wells and water mains in accordance with referenced AWWA Standards or, alternate methods approved by the director after consultation.
- Emergency plan updated at least every three years. Current language requires every four years.
- Dual check valves no longer recognized as part of a cross-connection control program unless the water system enacted provisions (*part of the system's documented cross-connection control program*) for their use prior to the effective date of these regulations.
- Test results of backflow protection devices are to be certified to the public water system no more than 30 calendar days after the test and on-going public education on cross-connections no less often than once per year.
- Have arrangements made for obtaining disinfection equipment within 24 hours of an incident that impacts the microbiological quality of the drinking water. If disinfecting, have equipment available for accurate measurement of disinfectant residual.
- Record gallons pumped at least once per week. Measure static and pumping water levels in the wells once per month from May 1-September 30, and once every three months from October 1-April 30.
- Operate to maintain a distribution system pressure of at least 20 psi. (*Exceptions are extraordinary conditions-main breaks, major fire, etc.*) Loss of pressure will require a specified number of water samples to be collected.
- Record treatment chemical use at least five days per week, and gallons pumped from each treatment plant at least once per week.

Variance and exemption highlights

(Adopting Sections 1415 and 1416 of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Subpart K of CFR 40 Part 142.)

Exemptions allow a public water system extra time to comply with a new drinking water standard or treatment technique requirement.

- To receive an exemption, there must be compelling factors, which may include serving a disadvantaged community, that make it impossible for a public water system to comply with a contaminant level or treatment technique, or to implement measures to develop an alternative source of water supply.

- An exemption may be granted if management or restructuring changes (*or both*) cannot reasonably be made that will result in compliance, or if compliance cannot be achieved, that will improve the quality of the water.
- A system must establish that it is taking all practicable steps to meet the standard.
- If a system has entered into an agreement to obtain financial assistance or has entered into an agreement to become part of a regional system and the work cannot be completed within the allotted time frame, an exemption may be granted
- An exemption may not be given if a variance has been granted.

Variances allow a public water system to deviate from the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of a drinking water standard or a treatment technique under certain conditions when exceptionally poor source water conditions prevent compliance. A variance may only be granted on condition that the system install the best technology, treatment techniques or other means and based on an evaluation that indicates that alternative sources of water are not reasonably available to the system.

Small system variances may be granted to public water systems serving fewer than 3,300 people or, with the approval of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Administrator, to a system serving 3,301 to 10,000 people.

- EPA must identify a variance technology that is applicable to the size and source water quality conditions of the public

(Continued on next page)

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Regulatory update

(from previous page)

water system. The system must be financially and technically capable of installing, operating, and maintaining the treatment technology, treatment technique, or other means, in accordance with guidance or regulations issued by EPA.

- A variance is available only to a system that cannot afford to comply with a drinking water standard through treatment, alternative source of water supply, or restructuring or consolidation.
- A variance requires compliance with the conditions of the variance within three years from the date the variance is granted, except that an additional two years may be allowed if the additional time is necessary for capital improvements or for the system to obtain financing.
- Variances will be reviewed at least every five years to determine if the system remains eligible for the variance and is following the terms of the variance.
- No variance is allowed for MCLs for microbial contaminants or nitrates.

When operating under variances or exemptions, water systems still must provide drinking water that protects public health.

Coming soon

- **Water operator fee changes** (due to passage of LB 242 in 2003). The Credentials Division of the Department of Health

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and Human Services Regulation and Licensure issues licenses and certificates to people in many different occupations and professions.

Because not all professions contribute equally to the upkeep of the database and personnel needed to do the credentials, LB 242 was passed to have all credentialed people pay fees that reflect the actual cost to the Department. More than 50 professions and occupations are affected by the passage of LB 242, which becomes operative July 1, 2004.

Water operators have received a real bargain for many years with the cost of their certificate at \$10 for a three-year period. At this point, the new cost has not been determined, however, we are quite certain there will be a substantial increase.

- **Probation** will be added as a possible disciplinary action for water operators due to the passage of LB 31.

Regulation effective dates

Radionuclides	December 8, 2003 (initial monitoring completed by December 31, 2007)
Filter Backwash Recycling Reporting	December 8, 2003* June 8, 2004 Compliance June 8, 2006 (if capital improvements needed)
Enhanced Surface Water Treatment 1 (LT1)	January 2004
Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts, Phase II	July 2005
Long-Term Enhanced Surface Water Treatment 2 (LT2)	Summer 2005*
Analytical Methods	November 2005
Groundwater Rule	December 2005*
Sulfates	2005?????*
Arsenic	January 2006
New Unregulated Contaminants	September 2006
Radon	December 2006*
Aldicarb, Aldicarb Sulfone, Aldicarb Sulfoxide	August 2007*
Total Coliform Distribution System	June 2008*

*Exact date to be determined by the date of the final rule.

These dates represent two years after EPA is expected to promulgate the rules, which is the amount of time EPA gives us to adopt them. It usually is when the maximum contaminant level (MCL) must be met, however, not always.

Education Committee

by Mike Wentink, Nebraska Health & Human Services
(308.535.8134) e-mail: mike.wentink@hss.state.ne.us

Here are the remaining water operator workshops for 2003, unless otherwise noted:

September

- September 9 — Alliance
- September 10 — Ogallala
- September 11 — McCook
- September 15 — Beatrice (Backflow, Grade 6)
- September 16 — Wayne (Backflow, Grade 6)
- September 17 — Grand Island (Backflow, Grade 6)
- September 18 — Ogallala (Backflow, Grade 6)

October

- October 7 — Lexington
- October 8 — Hastings
- October 9 — Crete

November

- November 4-7 — Kearney WEF/AWWA/APWA Joint Conference
- November 6 — 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., AWWA Video Teleconference "Utility Case Studies," focusing on interaction (call-ins); presents everyday situations (main breaks, etc.) and describes ways of addressing these situations.

December

- December 9 — Beatrice
- December 11 — Fremont

For registration and cost information, contact the Nebraska Section Office, 825M St., Ste. 400, Lincoln, NE 68508; phone: 402.476.2003; fax: 402.476.9850; e-mail: nsawwa@alltel.net.

Note: The Nebraska Section AWWA realizes your budgets are tight so we offer scholarships to attend water operator seminars and workshops. To apply, complete the application on page 12. Questions? Call Lynn Wegehaupt, 402.554.7855 or e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com

AWWA and other conferences

For more information about these conferences, go to the National AWWA website: <http://www.awwa.org/calendar>.

9th World Filtration Congress

April 18-22, 2004 — New Orleans, LA (by AFS Society)

9th Xeriscape Conference

October 17-18, 2003 — Albuquerque, NM (by Xeriscape Council of New Mexico)

31st Annual Eastern Utility Rate School Seminar

September 21-26 — Clearwater Beach, FL (by NARUC Committee on Water & Institute of Public Utilities, Michigan State University)

Annual Conference and Exposition

- June 13-17, 2004 — Orlando, FL
- June 19-23, 2005 — San Francisco, CA
- June 18-22, 2006 — San Antonio, TX
- June 17-21, 2007 — Toronto, Canada
- June 8-12, 2008 — Atlanta, GA
- June 14-18, 2009 — San Diego, CA
- June 20-24, 2010 — Chicago, IL
- June 12-16, 2011 — Washington, DC
- June 10-14, 2012 — Dallas, TX

Continuous Water Quality Management Seminar

- November 20, 2003 — Xenia, OH
- December 15, 2003 — Roswell, GA

Customer Service Conference and Exposition

- April 4-6, 2004 — San Diego, CA

Distribution and Plant Operations Conference and Expo

- September 28-October 1, 2003 — Portland, OR
- September 26-29, 2004 — Chicago, IL
- August 16-22, 2005 — Tampa, FL

Effective Compensation Management in Water Utilities: A Human Resources Issues Seminar

- September 18-19, 2003 — Marietta, GA

Financial Management: Cost of Service Rate-Making Seminar

- September 24-26, 2003 — Philadelphia, PA
- November 12-14, 2003 — Austin, TX

Financing Capital Water Projects Seminar

- October 16-17, 2003 — Holliston, MA

Gravity Filter Maintenance Seminar

- December 8-9, 2003 — Fort Worth, TX

Securing Our Systems: How to Save Time and Money When Conducting Your Water System's Vulnerability Assessment

(by Association of California Water Agencies)

- September 18, 2003 — Ontario, CA
- September 25, 2003 — Sacramento, CA

Information Management and Technology Conference

- April 19-21, 2004 — Baltimore, MD
- April 17-20, 2005 — Denver, CO

(Continued on next page)

Money for Seminars!

The Nebraska Section AWWA realizes your budgets are tight so we offer scholarships to attend water operator seminars and the Fall Conference, November 6-7 in Kearney.

To apply, complete the application on page 12. Questions? Call Lynn Wegehaupt, 402.554.7855 or e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com

AWWA and other conferences

(from previous page)

Maintaining and Securing Your Water Distribution System

September 25-26, 2003 — Portland, OR

November 6-7, 2003 — North Little Rock, AR

Membrane Technology Conference and Exposition

March 6-9, 2005 — Phoenix, AZ

Ultraviolet and Membrane Technologies Seminar

September 22-23, 2003 — Arlington, TX

October 2-3, 2003 — Las Vegas, NV

Water Supply Scarcity: "Who Gets the Last Drop?"

November 12-15, 2003 — Las Vegas, NV (*Groundwater Foundation*)

Water and Wastewater Utility Emergency Planning and Security (by Washington Environmental Training Center)

October 29-30, 2003 — Snohomish, WA

November 13-14, 2003 — Tacoma, WA

Water Quality Technology Conference

November 2-5, 2003 — Philadelphia, PA

November 14-17, 2004 — San Antonio, TX

November 6-10, 2005 — Quebec City, Quebec, Canada

Water Reuse Seminar

September 15, 2003 — Kansas City, MO

Water Sources Conference and Exposition (AWWA/WEF)

January 11-15, 2004 — Austin, TX

World Watershed Summit

October 30-November 1, 2003 — Washington, DC (by ACWF in partnership with USEPA, USDA, USGS and NOAA)

Water for People

by Glenn Dostal, HDR Engineering, Inc. (402.399.1014); e-mail: gdostal@hdrinc.com

National Water for People received a \$1,000 donation from the Nebraska Section AWWA, June 27, 2003. Water for People partners with developing countries to empower communities to take ownership of projects via funding of sustainable water projects and sanitation systems built by local communities.

The Water for People Raffle at the Fall Conference November 6 will include three cash prizes in the amounts of \$250, \$150 and \$100. Contact me to get tickets to sell in your community or business.

The committee also arranged the silent auction item for the National AWWA Conference, June 15-19, in Anaheim, CA. It was a big gift package of steaks and couple cookbooks from Omaha Steaks with a retail value of \$250-300. We prepared the poster for the Silent Auction and sent it to the coordinator.

MAC Report

by Tony Bilek, Mc2, Inc. (402.333.9660); e-mail:

tony.mc2inc@att.net

The Nebraska Section (Manufacturers/Associates Council) MAC will sponsor a "Best of Show" award at the Fall Conference, November 6-7, at the Holiday Inn in Kearney, NE.

The "Best of Show" award will be presented to the exhibit/exhibitor who is judged "Best" by a panel of judges. Look for more details in your contract acknowledgment/receipt.

The number of participating exhibitors continues to grow every year and space is limited. Reserve your booth as soon as possible. Contracts are honored on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cities affected by water shortages

Scottsbluff Herald, July 20, 2003

Though most people don't think of cities as business entities when it involves water, they are.

They are affected financially by water supply and quality issues in their areas. Nobody knows that better than Sidney City Manager **Gary Person**.

Last summer, the town suffered a major water crisis when a main well came dangerously close to going dry and residents were placed under stringent usage restrictions while some businesses went without water temporarily.

Two significant developments have evolved from that situation.

First, the city is working to build a new \$9 million wellfield north of the city, with 10 new wells. A 22-mile pipeline will be constructed from the field to the city in two phases. The first portion is expected to be complete by late Fall and will service the industrial area outside of town, which currently houses 27 companies employing 1,000 workers. The second phase will be finished in Spring 2004, reaching city limits.

The city also is pursuing a \$4 million solution to a nitrate contamination problem. Person said when residents and businesses get their future water bills, 60 to 65 percent of the rates they pay will go to pay for those two projects.

However, he said, after last summer's shortage, consumers seem to understand.

"The community as a whole seems really on board with this new project," he said. "They understand the seriousness of the situation."

In fact, he said, consumers are so conscientious they are saving so much water that the city's income is suffering. Customers have used 70 million gallons less this year than last.

"When you sell that much less water, it starts to hurt economically," he said. "We become our own worst enemy."

(Continued on next page)

Cities affected by water shortages

(from previous page)

Despite the problems, Person remains optimistic about Sidney, which has been the Panhandle's fastest growing city.

"We want to reassure not only our citizens, but those people looking at investing in Sidney in the future. It's still a wise investment," he said. "We've got a great plan in place, and we're going to make a lot of things happen."

Handling the water problems by installing a new field will prove to be a sound decision, Person said.

"If we would have continued to let the water crisis bog us down, it would have caused serious economic problems," he said. "With this, I think the outlook is extremely good for Sidney's future. It's a tough, tough situation, and we are very comfortable and very confident that this is a long-term solution that's going to set our community in exceptionally good shape for a long time to come."

Communities can pass laws to protect water supplies

By Butch Mabin, Lincoln Journal-Star, August 9, 2003

Nebraska communities can pass their own laws to protect local water supplies against large livestock operations, the State Supreme Court ruled Friday (*August 8*).

The court ruled in *City of Alma v. Furnas County Farms* that anti-pollution ordinances, passed by the town after Furnas announced plans to build a large hog operation nearby, were not pre-empted by the state's environmental protection law.

"It's great," **Lash Chaffin**, utilities section director for the League of Nebraska Municipalities, said of the ruling. "What it says is that communities can protect their water supplies out to 15 miles."

Mike Fitzgerald, a spokesman for Nebraska Cattlemen, said the ruling will require livestock operators to meet varying sets of environmental regulations.

"We're disappointed by the verdict," he said. "We think local control should be limited to matters of nuisance."

"Cities should be able to protect their resources," he continued, but "producers already have to meet state and federal guidelines."

Furnas in 1997 announced plans to build a 36,000-capacity hog farm about eight miles outside Alma, which is in south-central Nebraska.

In response, the city hired an environmental engineer to assess the proposed farm's possible impact on the water supply. Based on the engineer's findings, Alma enacted several ordinances that, among other things, established construction standards and required city permits for large livestock operations within 15

miles of the town. The ordinances exempted operations with not more than 2,500 animals.

Furnas, in legal proceedings in Harlan County District Court and in the State Supreme Court, argued the ordinances were in conflict with the Nebraska Environmental Protection Act, which, the business argued, reserved pollution control for the state.

Chief Justice **John V. Hendry**, writing for the court, disagreed.

"(I)t is clear that the Legislature contemplated that municipalities would continue to enact ordinances on the subject of pollution control after the enactment of the NEPA," he wrote. Furnas' "contention that the NEPA pre(-)empts the field of pollution control is without merit."

Hendry said the court could not consider whether the ordinances were at odds with the State Livestock Waste Management Act because that issue was not properly raised on appeal.

Lincoln attorney **David Jarecke**, who represented Furnas, said any possible conflict between local pollution ordinances and the Waste Act could be decided in a future case.

"You need the right case and the right set of facts," he said. He called the ruling disappointing. "I think we know as little today as we did yesterday in terms of that act," he said.

Furnas, a division of Sand Livestock Systems, had proposed to construct adjacent to the farm waste lagoons capable of holding up to 145 million gallons of liquidized hog manure.

Under the ordinances, the company would have been required to do soil analysis at the site and to line the lagoons with a synthetic, impermeable material that Sands later argued would cost an additional \$500,000, making the project too expensive.

The ordinances were in addition to the State Department of Environmental Quality's standards.

Sands eventually built a facility with a capacity of under 2,500 animals.

Large livestock farms in Nebraska have been the subject of a number of lawsuits. Unlike the Alma case, most have been centered on "nuisance" and "quality-of-life" issues stemming from the odors generated by the operations.

"This was not a nuisance issue," former Alma City Attorney **Doug Walker** said. Walker was city attorney from 1987 to early this year.

"Our expert said it would be a threat to our drinking water."

Section Board Meeting September 18

9:30 a.m., Fremont Municipal Bldg.
400 E. Military St., Fremont
All members invited to attend.

Nebraska Section American Water Works Association Leisen Memorial Education and Training Grant Application

Please type or print legibly in black ink.

PERSONAL AND EMPLOYMENT BACKGROUND

Name: _____ Home phone: _____
Home address: _____ Office phone: _____
_____ Years in water industry: _____
Current position: _____ Years in current position: _____
(Attach a copy of your job description)
AWWA membership number: _____ Type of membership: _____
Employer: _____
Address of employer: _____
Is your employer a member of AWWA? _____ If yes, indicate membership number: _____ Type of membership: _____
Your activities in the Nebraska Section AWWA (committees, positions held, etc.):

Membership in other professional organizations and your activities:

Other significant contributions to your community, etc.:

TRAINING GRANT INFORMATION

Use of grant funds: _____ Amount requested: _____
Dates of workshop, courses: _____ Employer contribution: _____
Location of training: _____

Please indicate in the space below the value to you of the proposed training for your current position and/or other water industry-related positions.

I declare that all information supplied on this application is true and accurate.

Applicant's signature: _____ Date: _____

Send completed application to: Lynn Wegehaupt, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.554.7855; fax: 402.554.7709;

e-mail: lynn_wegehaupt@mudnebr.com

Please make copies of this order form as needed

Nebraska Section AWWA 2003 budget (June 30, 2003)

INCOME	2002 Actual	2003 Budget	2003 Actual
Section allotment	\$ 7,329.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,017.00
Association allotment	7,671.00	7,500.00	7,983.00
Multi-section allotment	440.30	600.00	202.30
Annual meeting	\$49,871.60	12,000.00	0.00
Director's allotment	861.00	800.00	806.50
Interest on CD account	213.74		
Interest on T.A. Leisen CD	772.74	700.00	184.22
Interest on reserve CDs	1,067.44	1,100.00	159.09
Interest on Leisen savings	5.77		.26
Teleconferences	3,950.34	5,000.00	3,350.00
Advertising income	3,895.00	9,000.00	1,940.00
Water for People	2,506.00	1,000.00	0.00
SRF Education Funds	0.00	10,000.00	2,558.00
Miscellaneous	640.18	200.00	0.00
Total Income	\$79,224.11	\$55,400.00	\$24,201.37
 EXPENSES			
Safety Committee	0.00	1,500.00	0.00
Cross Connection Workshop	0.00	500.00	0.00
Education and training	978.48	4,100.00	4,785.10
LONM/NSAWWA Seminars	1,242.00	1,500.00	2,504.50
Public Information Committee/website	513.60	1,000.00	256.80
Teleconferences	2,044.04	3,000.00	1,109.91
Small Systems Committee	0.00	300.00	0.00
Director's board meeting	1,152.56	1,200.00	1,068.26
Publications			
Wise Water Words	7,398.01	7,500.00	6,416.36
Membership Directory	3,923.59	7,000.00	0.00
Advertising	0.00	100.00	220.00
Student Activity	198.68	500.00	0.00
Membership	0.00	500.00	102.00
Awards	492.72	500.00	190.18
Abel Wolman	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Scholarship expense			
Operator Education & Training	450.00	2,000.00	0.00
Other	4,600.00	3,000.00	500.00
Research Foundation	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Regional officers' meeting	1,021.01	2,000.00	707.09
Director's spouse (<i>meeting expenses</i>)	287.00	300.00	339.50
Annual meeting	30,015.09	2,000.00	2,245.80
Training Coalition: Pre-Conference	2,090.60	0.00	0.00
Publicity	0.00	2,500.00	0.00
Water for People	4,644.97	2,500.00	1,000.00
MAC Council	0.00	500.00	0.00
Paid staff			
Office expense/other	1,356.65	1,500.00	1,053.31
Paid staff	11,524.96	10,000.00	4,999.98
Water Utility Council (<i>travel, etc.</i>)	219.94	1,500.00	741.94
Young Professionals	0.00	250.00	0.00
Research commitment	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00
Miscellaneous	351.30	300.00	183.98
Total Expenses	\$96,505.20	\$59,550.00	\$24,739.41
Net Income	\$17,281.09	-\$4,150.00	-\$ 538.04

AWWA Manuals

These manuals are scheduled for publication the third quarter of 2003:

- M22 Sizing Water Service Lines and Meters
- M11 Steel Pipe, A Guide for Design and Installation

These manuals are scheduled for publication the end of 2003:

- M7 Problem Organisms in Water: Identification and Treatment
- M14 Recommended Practice for Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control

These manuals are scheduled for publication in 2003 and 2004:

- M4 Water Fluoridation Principles and Practices
- M5 Water Utility Management
- M9 Concrete Pressure Pipe
- M17 Installation, Field Testing and Maintenance of Fire Hydrants
- M20 Water Chlorination Principles and Practices
- M24 Dual Water Systems
- M27 External Corrosion — Introduction to Chemistry and Control
- M32 Distribution Network Analysis for Water Utilities
- M33 Flow Meters in Water Supply
- M45 Fiberglass Pipe Design

Water conservation brochures

The UNL Cooperative Extension Office recently developed water brochure templates for yard and home for you to use to inform your customers about water conservation techniques.

The templates are designed to be photocopied, front and back, and tri-folded to fit a standard #10 envelope. You may print the brochure in any one color.

Before copying/printing, include your local information in the blank space in the center of the back page (after folded). Simply type, cut and paste your information/logo to the original prior to copying/printing.

The templates can be downloaded from the Nebraska Section AWWA website (<http://www.awwaneb.org>). Go to the "News" Section, "2003." There also is a color template to show how your brochure would look if taken to a printer and printed in three colors (*more costly*).

The templates were developed in partnership with the Nebraska Health & Human Services Regulation & Licensure; Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality; National Drought Mitigation Center; League of Nebraska Municipalities; Nebraska Rural Water Association; Nebraska Well Drillers Association, and UNL Conservation & Survey.



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Advertisement rates for newsletter

Price is for one issue only. Include \$50 setup fee. Black and Blue are only colors of ink printed. Your ad also will appear in the publication when it is posted on our website: www.awwaneb.org.

Size	Black/White or Blue/White	Black/Blue
Business card size	\$ 65	\$125
1/4 page	110	170
1/2 page	180	240
full page	250	350

Advertisement rates for 2004-2005 directory

Include \$50 setup fee. No setup fee charged if the same copy and artwork is run in the newsletter. Black is the only color of ink printed. Your ad also will appear in the publication when it is posted on our website: www.awwaneb.org.

Size	Black/White
Business card size	\$195
1/4 page	330
1/2 page	540
full page	750

Ad order form for 2004 publications

An ad in 2004 newsletters and 2004-2005 membership directory gives you a link on our website to your company's home page.

- 2004-2005 Membership Directory (deadline for copy, etc. November 15, 2003)
- Wise Water Words, Spring issue, 2004 (deadline for copy, etc. January 15, 2004)
- Wise Water Words, Summer issue, 2004 (deadline for copy, etc. April 15, 2004)
- Wise Water Words, Fall/Winter issue, 2004 (deadline for copy, etc. August 1, 2004)

Size	Black ink only or Blue ink only (please specify)	Black/Blue
Business card size:	_____	_____
1/4 page	_____	_____
1/3 page	_____	_____
1/2 page	_____	_____
full page	_____	_____

- Use same copy, artwork and design for publications I marked above.

(Please print)

My name: _____

My company: _____

Address: _____

City, state, zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Fax: (_____) _____

e-mail: _____

Amount enclosed: \$50 setup fee + \$ _____ = \$ _____

Please make a copy of completed order form for your files. Send with ad copy, artwork and dummy layout to:
Mari Matulka, Metropolitan Utilities District, 1723 Harney St., Omaha, NE 68102; phone: 402.449.8154; fax: 402.449.8166;
e-mail: mari_matulka@mudnebr.com. Ads must be prepaid. Make check payable to the Nebraska Section AWWA.

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