March 30, 2009

AWWA Section Directors
AWWA Section Chairs
NRWA Affiliates

RE: AWWA/NRWA MOU

Greetings to All:

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) and the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and a Work Plan, affirming our common goals and declaring our intent to work more closely together in the future. These common water industry goals are:

- To advance education, science and technology
- To disseminate technical information and provide training assistance
- To increase public understanding
- To promote sound public policy
- To improve trust and confidence between AWWA and NRWA

The MOU and resulting Work Plan are designed to spur greater communication, cooperation and support among AWWA, NRWA, and sections and affiliates. At a time when utility and organizational resources are tight, working together will enhance the products and services available from both our associations.

There are many exciting opportunities that will spring from this relationship, but we'd like to highlight two that are of particular interest to sections and affiliates.

- First, in recent years we've all witnessed how important it is for a utility to be prepared to offer and receive help from other utilities during times of crisis, such as in the aftermath of a hurricane. In February 2006, AWWA and NRWA, along with six other associations, signed a joint policy statement on mutual aid and assistance, titled “Utilities Helping Utilities”, to promote programs such as WARN (Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network).

- Second, the MOU invites AWWA sections to acquire publications at a discounted rate, and then to work with NRWA affiliates to sell them at a price determined by the local section and affiliate.
We hope you will take advantage of the exciting new benefits available as a result of this MOU. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Leonard at mj905@yahoo.com or Fred Sheldon at sheldonf@communitynet.org.

Michael J. Leonard, President  
American Water Works Association

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