

National Rural Water Association Annual Conference & Exhibit Center Agenda

Monday, October 6

8:00 am - 9:30 am

Opening Session: Water Please

Rodney Tart, President NRWA

Dan Sweeney, Nevada Rural Water

Kick off your conference experience as we are welcomed to Nevada, a fitting place for the leaders of America's Water Industry. A place where water is precious with an average rainfall of only 7 inches annually and a state rich in mineral deposits such as Comstock Load, the largest silver deposit ever discovered in the U.S. A location that is ideal for you the leaders of our nation's water supplies to focus on the needs and solutions of the future.

10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Annual Business Meeting

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Salaries Should be Higher!

Yvonne Stedham, University of Nevada, Reno, School of Business

Is this statement true? What is the cost of employee turnover? What evaluations should be undertaken to maintain an experienced dedicated staff?

GIS Your System

Elmer Ronnebaum, KRWA

Michael Jolley, GIS Workshop

Is there GIS in your utility's future? Learn the benefits, possible costs, who, what, how and why GISing your utility system should be considered.

Just Add Water!

James Gammill, ORWA

Public Relations is a vital aspect of improving the image of water and wastewater providers, not just at the state and national level, but at the local level where the grassroots efforts can pay the biggest dividends. Learn what one state Association has done to help promote the exceptional work our water and wastewater providers have accomplished.

Boards and Financial Checks & Balances In A Small Office: Trust But Verify

David Greenwell, Cole & Reed, CPA's

Every audit addresses the separation of duties in financial transactions. Having proper checks and balances protects the utility, limits liability and ensures a clean audit will be received. Limits in staffing often prevent full separation of duties but there are techniques and processes that will satisfy most audit requirements. Take these processes home and feel a level of confidence in the financial transactions of your utility.

International Rural Water Association

Bill Kramer, IRWA

IRWA is working in five Central American and Caribbean countries with Guatemala being the latest. Despite significant advancements in technology, basic infrastructure, water, sewer, and sanitation, is overlooked in many developing countries. IRWA is working to improve the lives and health of millions of people. We will discuss our many accomplishments including the design and construction of our latest and largest water treatment plant to date.

Managing the New Generation

Dr. Gayle Kearns, University of Central Oklahoma

Dr. Kearns has been an educator for the past 34 years in public education, career tech education and higher education. Her last 17 years has been spent at the University of Central Oklahoma as a faculty member, chairperson and now as the Associate Dean for Academics in the College of Arts, Media & Design. Dr. Kearns works closely with the career tech and devotes her time to mentoring new teachers in the system. Her love is teaching, and she still continues to teach in the MED program in Adult Education/Training. Her current research interests include: Generational Trends, Management Styles, Emotional Intelligence, and Workplace Effectiveness.

Annexation and 1926(b)

Mike Keegan, NRWA

Annexation of service areas often result in an expensive legal ruling where someone wins and someone loses and both expend a lot of money on legal fees. Learn the details of this issue then learn what systems, both municipal and districts, are doing to reach a win-win agreement to benefit both parties.

3:15 pm - 4:30 pm

Angle Well Drilling

Doug Neibauer, South Central Regional Water District

Joe Bichler, Bartlett & West Engineers

Hear the whys, what's, and how's of a recently completed, innovative project which incorporates angle wells, membranes, and ozone at their treatment plant. The angle wells were drilled at 14 to 23 degrees from the ground and extend under the Missouri River. When the project is fully completed, the plant will deliver 3.5 mgd of high quality water to the northern portion of the 4,000 customer, and growing, regional water system.

Monday, October 6, continued

3:15 pm - 4:30 pm

How to Read an Audit

David Greenwell, Cole & Reed CPAs

Audits are the responsibility of the Board of Directors. Is this annual report a board tool or just a formality in your utility? Learn how to read the audit and get a through understanding of your utility's financial position.

The Future of Water in America

Mark Walker, University of Nevada, Dept. of Natural Resources & Environmental Science

Futurists spend their careers projecting the future. In the mid 80s it was projected we would see a move from the big cities to rural areas, driven by technology and the ability to work from any place in the world. For the most part that prediction came true. Twenty years later there is a different set of circumstances in society. Learn what futurists are predicting for the next 20 years in our industry.

Full Cost Pricing

Steve Saulnier, USDA, RUS

Loans and grants still exist, but are increasing tied to proper rate structure to meet future needs and maintain the utility as it ages and grows. What is meant by full cost pricing? What elements should be taken into consideration when viewing rates and structure?

Energy & Conservation

Dr. John Regnier, NRWA

Operation of water and wastewater systems is normally a power intensive process, frequently requiring large electric motors for pumping, mixing, and other elements of the treatment and distribution functions. In this era of rapidly increasing energy costs, minimizing this power consumption assumes significant importance both in terms of energy conservation and monetary savings.

Managing the New Generation (continued)

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Alternatives and Methods for

Win/Win Solutions in Service Area Disputes

Mike Keegan, NRWA

Some disputes end up in long and expensive legal battles, but most are resolved in a friendly business like fashion. Learn the key elements that like minded entities can undertake to meet each others needs and maintain a friendly working relationship to meet future needs.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2008

8:00 am - 8:45 am

General Session

9:00 am - 10:30 am

RUS Town Hall Meeting

Jacki Ponti-Lazaruk, USDA, RUS

Sandi Boughton, USDA, RUS

Jim Maras, USDA, RUS

Larry Smith, NV, RD

The Rural Utility Service (RUS) has financed the majority of water and wastewater systems in America. If your utility is facing growing pains, attend this session to learn of the broad array of services and programs available to enhance the economic development of your service area.

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

FSA: Protecting Our Water Supplies

The Farm Service Agency (FSA) is the lead agency in proactive protecting water sources through funding opportunities and best agriculture management practices. Take a tour on the many initiatives available through the FSA that could directly assist protect your water sources.

Distribution, Maintenance and Repair Techniques to Avoid System Shutdown.

Stephen Roehrig, Hydra-Stop

Line Tapping, line stopping and valve insertion applications and techniques that will provide a safer and more productive method of maintaining and repairing distribution systems without complete system shutdown. Benefits include; uninterrupted hydrant and valve replacement, no loss of treated water, elimination of back siphoning, elimination of boil orders, safer working conditions for the operator and increased water conservation.

Your Representative's Report

Charles Hilton, NRWA Director, SC

Phil Bastin, NRWA Director, IN

David Saddler, NRWA Director, AZ

Joe Liles, NRWA Director, KY

David Baird, NRWA Director, DE

Paul Whittimore, NRWA Director, NH

Learn how your voice is heard in the regulatory process. Hear first hand from your peers who volunteer their time to represent your industry in the regulatory circles and through coordination with other organizations. These groups include but are not limited to security, regulatory forums on the total coliform rule and the use of gaseous chlorine.

How to Handle Your Auditor's Request

Gerald Eick, Incline Village General Improvement District

Your auditor comes in and begins asking for information, what do I do? Do you really understand what he is asking for? There are so many new audit standards it is hard to keep up with them all. This session will help you know what is being asked for and why.

Tuesday, October 7 Continued

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Water Plant Sales and Mergers

Jim LaPlant, Iowa Lakes Regional Water

The number of community water supplies listed by EPA has dwindled from 55,000 in the 1980s to 52,567 in 2005. Mergers or consolidations have taken place when a resolution to a problem was financially insurmountable and consolidation or merger was in the best interest of the community and customers. This session will provide key items to consider in a merger or consolidation.

Fluoridation: What Your System Needs to Know

Kip Duchon, CDC

Attend this session to learn the key points of drinking water fluoridation for your water system: benefits of fluoridation, safety concerns and how to find the resources for an effective fluoridation program.

Homeland Security & EPA Security Division and Water Systems

John Laws, DHS

Debbie Newberry, EPA

This panel of representatives will represent their respective agencies on how security measures will impact rural and small systems in the future. Learn what NIMS compliance is and how it will impact your utility and how regulatory initiatives of EPA in the security sector will affect every water utility.

Landscaping

Learn the tricks of the trade to provide a face lift to your facilities or home in a manner that conserves water and sends a positive public relations message to your customers.

DROUGHT: The Regulatory Perspective

Jerry Biberstine, NRWA

The reality is that drought reaches every part of the nation at some point in time. Attend this session and learn the element of regulatory concern when extreme drought conditions exist. The question is not if but when it will impact your utility.

THE BOARD: Confessions of a Board President

Jim Dunlap, NRWA Director, NM

Phil Bastin, NRWA Director, IN

Dennis Schwartz, NRWA Director, KS

Bobby Scott, NRWA Director, TN

So you are elected board President, what now? Learn from this panel of past board presidents the things that worked, the things that did not and the things they would have done different to make their term more productive and satisfying.

3:15 pm - 4:30 pm

Comparing Alternative Disinfection Systems for Water & Wastewater

Don Van Veldhuizen, USABluebook

With increasing concern about safety and environmental issues, chlorine alternatives are becoming more popular. Learn about each alternative available today and the best application for your system. Ultra-violet (UV), ozone, and other methods and /or chemicals will be addressed.

Water Rights, Who Owns Them?

Jim Dunlap, NMRWA

Gary Williams, FRWA

Kathy Horne, ARWA

Ken Peterson, TRWA

Tracy Taylor, Div. of Water Resources, Nevada

Water war talk used to be thought of as western states where water sources were scarce. The battleground has now been expanded to the heavily populated eastern states due to drought conditions and continued growth. Learn how these issues are being addressed and if they could impact your state, your utility and your water sources.

Managers Forum: Sign Up & Cut Off Policies

Dennis Schwartz, NRWA Director, KS

John Bearman, NRWA Director, ND

Steve Wear, NRWA Director, AR

Always an interesting topic of discussion, these policies have a major impact on the board, the management and staff. Learn the pros and cons of different policy issues in the audience participation discussion of these critical policies.

The Future of Gaseous Chlorine

John Laws, DHS

Debbie Newberry, EPA

Ed Thomas, NRWA

Charles Hilton, NRWA Director, SC

Gas chlorine is dangerous, of that there is no dispute. However, security regulations are targeting water and wastewater utilities and it is anticipated there will be regulatory requirements that impact our industry. Learn the latest and how to respond to your customers about gas chlorine and security issues.

Pharmaceuticals Impact on Small Systems

Dr. John Regnier, NRWA

Pharmaceuticals, in particular, are known to have biological effects, which is what makes them useful, and they are intentionally introduced into the environment through waste streams either as a result of biological elimination from people or intentional disposal into the sewer by individuals and the medical community. This session will examine the impact on small systems.

Tuesday, October 7, continued

3:15 pm - 4:30 pm

DROUGHT: The Utility Perspective

David Kubala, Environmental Affairs Manager,

Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority, Canton, GA

This past year, the Southeastern part of the country suffered a severe drought which drove some systems back to hauling water to their consumers. Attend this interesting presentation to get a perspective that is only available from utility personnel that hand-on experienced these conditions.

THE BOARD: Robert's Rules of Order

Curt Ludvigson, RWAU

Utilize the basics of these rules of order for an effective board meeting and to bring controversial issues to solution in an orderly and friendly fashion. These are the basics that every board needs to know.

Wednesday, October 8

8:00 am - 9:30 am

The Total Utility Make Over

Elizabeth Johansen, Iowa Lakes Regional Water

Kari Graesing, Iowa Lakes Regional Water

Today's generation has never known a day without cell phones, 100 channels on the TV, computers, or a day without running water in the home. Their thoughts on value are determined by what they see from marketing campaigns. Utilities have to create their own image to project the value of their service to the public. Take this template home and do a total image make-over to project your utility and the quality of product and service to the community.

CUPSS & EPA: Capacity Development

Steve Clark, EPA

Come learn about a couple of tools that will help small systems assess their assets. One of these tools is the EPA Check-up Program for Small Systems (CUPSS). This session will be a hands on demonstration of this tool and several others that are designed to easily assist utilities in identifying potential financial or asset management issues that may arise in the short or long term operation.

Managers Forum:

Board & Management Relationships

Ed Savage, NRWA Director, VT

John Sasur, NRWA Director, MA

Sam Scarfone, NRWA Director, PA

There is certainly no relationship more important than the one between the Board and the Manager. Discuss the areas that are most critical and learn how other managers address them on a daily basis.

Funding Sources: Considerations & Cost

Jacki Ponti-Lazaruk, USDA, RUS

Kay Vermatter, NV-RD

Joe Freeman, OK Water Resource Board

Steve Gustafson, Co-Bank

Construction, upgrades and expansion far exceed the available funding resources of state and federal agencies combined. This session is designed to explore the various sources of funding available their primary purpose and what should be considered in funding process decision making.

Water Re-use

Is water reuse in your future considerations? Learn how some communities have implemented re-use programs to benefit the community and the environment. It is more common than you would expect.

DROUGHT: Take These Steps Before It's Too Late

Mel Aust, Hidden Valley Lake CSD

Drought can strike anywhere anytime. It is a natural occurrence that requires deliberate steps be taken in a timely fashion to prevent a total shutdown due to lack of supplies. This requires progressive actions and public involvement. Learn how systems in the Southwest are coping with drought.

**State Association Board Member Program: Part I
Tools Needed to Build a Successful Association**

Phil Bastin, NRWA Director, IN

Dennis Schwartz, NRWA Director, KS

Association's, like ships at sea, do not navigate by themselves. Today's board members are called upon to not only guide their associations to success, but to keep abreast of all the changes in rules and regulations as well as business practices. Attend this session and gain the skills needed to be a leader in the ever-changing role of a board member.

9:45 am - 10:45 am

Investments to Enhance Your Retirement

Gary Cronk, Charles Schwab Company

401Ks, Roth IRAs, stock, bonds, mutual funds, portfolio allocations, conservative. Aggressive and moderate investments, it is a language all in itself. Attend this session to determine what your portfolio should consist of depending on your own personal circumstances.

Developing State Legislative Relationships

Carmen Cernosek, Water Policy Dir., Lt. Gov. Office, Texas

Tom Duck, TRWA

This session will discuss how to develop an effective state rural water legislative program and the need to work closely with state legislative officials and their staff. Participants will be provided a list of do's and don'ts and insights into the rules of engagement between a rural water advocacy group and legislative staff. Learn how to cultivate political relationships and why it is important to do so. Hear first hand from an insider how the legislative process really works!

Wednesday, October 8 Continued

9:45 am - 10:45 am

Managers Forum: Bid Procedures

Mel Aust, NRWA Director, CA

Earl McKinney, NRWA Director, WY

Dan Sweeney, NRWA Director, NV

Learn and share in this audience discussion regarding bid procedures on how to eliminate confusing bid specs to get the best product for the best price. These frank discussions will provide you with a better understanding of the process and ways to enhance your next bid specs.

Funding Sources: The Cost of Waiting

Sandi Boughton, USDA, RUS

Should your construction or expansion project wait until additional grant money is available? Does the wait cost more in the long run? This session will provide some actual calculations for your consideration.

Badger Meter

TO COME FROM BECCA

Testing Results: Are Yours Accurate?

Take A Second Look

Dr. John Regnier, NRWA

When a test result is received back, do you assume it is accurate? Studies show the test results may vary as much as 200% from sample to sample. You need to know this before accepting that your system is out of compliance and certainly before construction is considered to provide treatment. Information is power and this is must have information for your utility.

State Association Board Member Program: Part II

Tools Needed to Build a Successful Association

Phil Bastin, NRWA Director, IN

Dennis Schwartz, NRWA Director, KS

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Crisis Management

Lessons from actual experiences are the best to learn from. Systems have to be prepared for crisis management before a crisis takes place. Whether hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires, ice storms, or man made, every system is susceptible to a crisis. Learn lessons from those who have experienced a crisis and take to heart what they recommend to be prepared in case you need crisis management.

Regulatory requirements for 2009

Ed Thomas, NRWA

This session will break down key regulatory issues that systems will experience in 2009 followed by focused group discussions on all key regulatory issues today and on the horizon. The primary rules impacting systems that will be discussed extensively is the groundwater rule, the Stage 2 DBP rule, and the Long-term 2 surface water treatment rule. As well as any new potential chemical security or vulnerability assessment requirements that may be looming.

The State Association Board Forum:

A Dialog with the Leadership

Rodney Tart, NRWA President

Fred Sheldon, NRWA Senior Vice President

Joe Liles, NRWA Vice President

This conference, in compliance with the by-laws, marks a change in the Presidency of your National Organization. Take this opportunity to have a dialog about your association, the achievements of this past year and what the future holds.

Funding Sources:

Can your Bond Rating Be Improved?

Jim Maras, USDA, RUS

Your utilities bond ratings determines the terms of your loans. Learn how that rating is determined and options your utility may consider to maximize your revenues when acquiring financing.

Wastewater in Public View

Shivaji Deshmukh, Orange County, CA WD

The wastewater operation is often hidden and is certainly taken for granted by the public. In contrast the wastewater plant and personnel are the first line of defense for environmental protection. Bring this valued service and professionalism into the public view of your customers.

Infrastructure Sustainability:

The Regulatory Perspective

Steve Clark, EPA

The water and wastewater industry's infrastructure needs are many. Old infrastructure was not sized for today's demands and in others many systems it has deteriorated by age, wear and tear. Learn the concerns from the regulatory perspective and methods to address infrastructure needs

State Association Board Member Program: Part III

Tools Needed to Build a Successful Association

Phil Bastin, NRWA Director, IN

Dennis Schwartz, NRWA Director, KS

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