



BIG SIOUX
Community Water System

Quality On Tap!

October 2021 | Volume 17, Issue 2



**MILPA
GARDENS**

**RURAL POWER
LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM**

**BACKUP WATER
SUPPLIES FOR
LIVESTOCK NEEDS**

**DON'T LET YOUR PIPES
FREEZE THIS WINTER**

FROM THE MANAGER | METER PIT GUIDELINES

FROM THE MANAGER

Jodi Johanson, General Manager
Big Sioux Community Water System, Inc.



The staff and Board of Directors at Big Sioux Community Water hope your holidays are filled with family, friends and wish you a prosperous new year!

As we are looking forward to the coming of a new year, we have been working hard on the annual budget and work plan. Pipe and materials have increased double to triple the cost from two years ago. With supplies bottlenecked on both coasts, it made 2021 a challenging year for new construction projects, new hookups, and finding materials for everyday maintenance. Costs also have gone up for chemicals, electricity, insurance, payroll, and virtually every other operating cost has risen as well. The Board will be looking to adjust water rates due to these higher costs in 2022.

2021 was a busy year of system improvements. Big Sioux CWS garnered a \$750,000 loan from Co-Bank at 1.79%. With this loan, we replaced a building under a tower, a new roof at the Egan Treatment Plant, up-to-date controls, building improvements, new shop, and distribution upgrades to continue providing quality, safe drinking water. As we approach our 50th year of service to Big Sioux CWS customers in 2022, we want to keep your System up to date, current and use the latest technologies available to always provide safe drinking water with uninterrupted service to your tap.

With the shortage of rain in the summer of 2021, we had the highest usage we ever had in June and July. That showed us the System is remarkably close to maximizing the gallons we can produce at the treatment plants. If we continue at the current usage rate and drought-like conditions continue, we will not be able to expand or give any of our consumers any extra water in the next five years or less. So with that said, Big Sioux CWS has been looking at different scenarios to see where and how we can find more water for our System. We are looking at a few different ideas, such as teaming up with a neighboring Rural Water System and have been accepted on the State Water Plan to get funding. With ARPA monies and the Infrastructure Bill, we hope to secure grant monies and low-interest SRF loans from the State when we find a project that works for us.

Just a reminder, if you plan to leave for an extended period this winter, please consider a winter disconnect. Take advantage of this program for an added insurance policy for your home and water system. With the mild fall we have had this year, it is hard to think of the below-zero temperatures and large snowfalls we will most likely incur later this winter. Living in South Dakota, we all know too well just how fast the weather can change. To set up a winter disconnect, all you need to do is call the office to make an appointment, and a Big Sioux CWS operator will physically disconnect your water supply. To get reconnected in the spring, call the office, and let us know when

...continued on page 15



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan Dannenbring, Chairman
Tom Kansanback, Vice-Chairman
Andy Groos, Secretary / Treasurer
Dan Carlson, SA Director
Tom Hagedorn, Director
Reggie Gassman, Director
Gaylen Backus, Director
Kent Whipkey, Director
Vince Nelson, Director

STAFF


Jodi Johanson, General Manager
Chad Kneebone, Chief of Distribution
Aric Olson, Chief Plant Operator
Jeff Carruthers, Small Systems Operator
Lucas Dailey, Distribution Operator
Taylor Bult, Distribution Operator
Dawn Christenson, Bookkeeper
Lehni Olson, Customer Service / Billing Clerk

CONTACT INFORMATION

23343 479th Avenue
Egan, SD 57024
Phone: 24hrs.
(605) 997-2098
Email: bscws@bigsiouxaws.com
Website: bigsiouxaws.com

OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

 **STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION:** In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

BIG SIOUX MEMBERSHIP CORNER



Pay your bill online

WITH NO EXTRA FEES!

go to
bigsiouxaws.com
to sign up!

You can contact us by phone
at 605-997-2098
or email,
bscws@bigsiouxaws.com.

Payments can be made by phone, online at our website bigsiouxaws.com, mailed to the office, put in the drop box located in front of our office, or via ACH. You can download the ACH form on our website at bigsiouxaws.com or call the office to have it mailed to you.

**REMEMBER BILLS ARE DUE
ON THE 20TH OF EACH
MONTH.**

EyeOnWater Track Your Water Usage



Click on the link:

<https://eyeonwater.com/signup>

to access the EyeOnWater customer portal where you can set up an account to track your water usage and set up a leak alert. (A leak has to be going for 24 hours before you will receive an alert.) You will need your account number and service zip code to get started. If you need assistance, please contact our office at 605-997-2098. Big Sioux CWS is not liable for managing or tracking your water use.

HAS YOUR PHONE NUMBER CHANGED?

Please call us at 605-997-2098
and update your contact information

MISSION STATEMENT

Providing quality water with excellent customer service

DON'T BE A WATER WASTER!

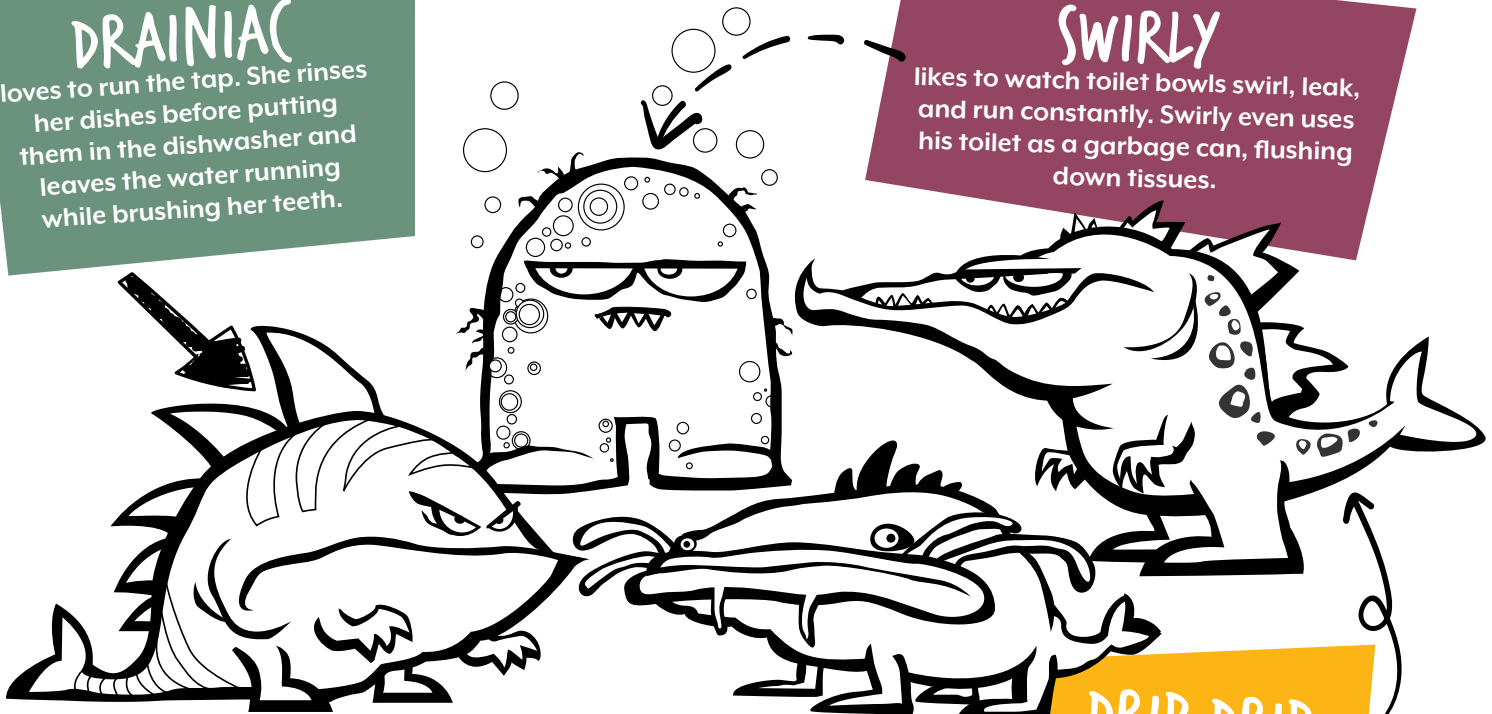
Do you know how much water a family of four uses every day in the United States? Not 50 gallons, not 100 gallons, but 400 gallons! You could take up to 10 baths with that much water – but who would want to do that? Fortunately, there are many things we can do to save.

DRAINIAC

loves to run the tap. She rinses her dishes before putting them in the dishwasher and leaves the water running while brushing her teeth.

SWIRLY

likes to watch toilet bowls swirl, leak, and run constantly. Swirly even uses his toilet as a garbage can, flushing down tissues.



(COLOR THESE WATER WASTERS – BUT DON'T BE ONE!)

SOGOSAURUS

waters her lawn and garden every day. Sometimes she even forgets to turn her sprinkler off and sprays onto the sidewalk.

DRIP DRIP

lets his sink drip all day and all night. He doesn't care that leaky faucets waste hundreds of gallons a week!

Why Should We Save Water?

Did you know that less than 1% of all the water on Earth can be used by people? The rest is salt water (the kind you find in the ocean) or is permanently frozen and we can't drink it, wash with it, or use it to water plants.

As our population grows, more and more people are using up this limited resource. Therefore, it is important that we use our water wisely and not waste it.

Is your toilet leaking?

Fixing a toilet leak is a great way to reduce household water use and boost water conservation. If your toilet has a leak, you could be wasting about 200 gallons of water every day. That would be like flushing your toilet more than 50 times for no reason! Try this experiment: ask your parents to help you test for leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If the color shows up in the bowl without flushing, you have a leak!



Content provided by:
www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-kids





APPLICATIONS OPEN JANUARY 1 FOR RURAL POWER LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

If you read October's *Quality on Tap!* article "Who's Watering the Next Crop of Rural Cooperative Leaders?," you learned about the new program building a pipeline of leaders in South Dakota ready to serve in rural cooperatives like your local rural water system.

The program called Rural POWER kicked off in 2021, and applications for the second class of Rural POWER leaders open January 1, 2022.

This rural initiative launched by the non-partisan, non-profit Billie Sutton Leadership Institute seeks to grow a new generation of rural leaders and encourage involvement in local cooperatives providing essential services to South Dakota communities.

Since its launch, the Sutton Leadership Institute has trained and mentored over three dozen next-generation leaders from across the state who have given back to their communities through service projects. This year, the leadership development cohort specific to rural South Dakota was added to the program offerings.

Rural POWER is a year-long leadership development opportunity focused specifically on rural South Dakota. Rural POWER participants engage in educational leadership training opportunities that emphasize community building

and serving your neighbors. They also learn from thoughtful cooperative leaders – like South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems Executive Director Kurt Pfeifle – who are committed to rural development.

Participants in the inaugural Rural POWER program have some powerful things to say about the initiative and its impact on them and their community:

"I believe this program is creating tangible and actionable movement, growth, and community impact in South Dakota."

"Personally, I know this experience will continue to shape my growth as a leader and expose me to individuals who are movers and shakers within South Dakota."

"This program will benefit our communities and South Dakota as a whole."

"Every session was intentional and worthwhile."

"This group is amazing. It's a great fire-starter!"

"Better than I ever anticipated!"

With applications for the next Rural POWER class opening in January, now is the time to encourage leaders in your community to apply for this opportunity. That leader just might be the next rural water system board member to serve you and your neighbors!

If you or someone you know is ready to take action, serve others, and lead in your community, apply for Rural POWER before the February 1, 2022, application deadline.

[Visit *suttonleadership.org/ruralpower* to learn more about Rural POWER and to apply to participate.](https://suttonleadership.org/ruralpower)

[Nominations for the program can also be submitted online at *suttonleadership.org*.](https://suttonleadership.org)





BACKUP WATER SUPPLIES FOR LIVESTOCK NEEDS

Back before Rural Water systems were organized and built across South Dakota, private farm wells served as the main water source for farms and livestock. As farms connected to their local rural water system, wells were slowly abandoned in favor of the quality and reliability of rural water. Over the years, many of those old wells have gone bad or stopped pumping water due to age. As livestock numbers per farm have increased, farmers and ranchers often rely solely on rural water for their livestock watering needs, and don't think much about the old wells they used to rely on.

While rural water has been very reliable over the years, things can happen that cause water service areas to be down for many hours, or even days – such as leaks or breaks in the line. Because of this, rural water systems encourage livestock producers to have a backup water supply. This could be in the form of a large on-site storage tank with a pressure system, a backup well; or both.

When installing on-site storage with a pressure system, it is recommended to put in enough water storage to get through two days of maximum water use. Having onsite storage also allows for the producer during normal

operations, to take a consistent water flow over a 24-hour period thus, not taxing the water system's pressure during the peak times of the day.

Some livestock feeders have put in underground cast-in-place concrete tanks with a small building sitting on top of the tank with a submersible pump and pressure tank that provides consistent water pressure to the entire farm. (See photo above showing a pump building sitting on an 18,000-gallon concrete storage tank) Others have placed large poly tanks in a heated building with that same type of pressure system.

The fact is, that if a livestock producer can't get along without rural electric service, they need to have an emergency generator. The same goes for water; If they can't get along without rural water service, they need to have an emergency plan such as on-site storage and/or a well.

If you have questions about what you need for a backup storage solution, please give your rural water system a call. Contact information can be found on page two.

Don't let your pipes freeze this winter

As the hot days of summer seem to be long gone, the leaves begin their annual change of color, frost starts to blanket the nighttime, and South Dakotans realize that winter is on its way. Now is the time to make sure that your home and pipes are ready for the subzero temperatures that will be sure to come. By winterizing your house, and especially your pipes, you can save yourself time, money, and unnecessary heartache.

A broken pipe can add up to big losses in water. If you look at the chart on this page you can see that an 1/8 inch hole can lose 296,000 gallons of water over a three month period of time, or about 3,200 gallons a day. That's about the same amount of water that one person will use in a month of normal use! Another comparison would be enough water to fill an 850 square foot basement with 6 inches of water in just 24 hours.

Here are some things you can do to help keep the water in your pipes from freezing:

- 1) Insulate pipes in areas of your home that are not well heated, such as crawl spaces and attics. Pipe insulation costs can vary greatly depending upon the material. The cheapest can cost about \$1.09 for 6 foot to \$6.59 for elastomeric foam that is self sealing with a higher R-value.
- 2) Install UL-approved heat tapes according to manufacturer's instructions. Prices can vary from store to store, and by length, from around \$18.00 for a 6-foot heat tape to about \$30.00 for a 30 foot tape.
- 3) Disconnect water hoses, and if possible drain outside faucets, by installing an inside shut-off valve and drain. An outside faucet cover can be purchased for roughly \$2.00.
- 4) Locate places along sill plates, doors, and windows that may allow cold air to penetrate your home and seal with caulk, foam or fiberglass insulation. Caulk prices can vary from less than a dollar for latex caulk to just under \$5.00 for silicone, and can be even more for fire resistant caulk. Cans of spray foam insulation can run from \$4.00 - \$5.00 a can.
- 5) If you are going to be away from home for a long period of time have your rural water system shut off your water.



Water Loss Chart

A continuous leak of the sizes listed below at an average household water pressure of 60 psi would, over a three month period, result in the water loss listed.

Diameter of Stream	Inches	mm	Water Loss in Gallons
●	1/4	6.4	1,181,500
●	1/8	3.2	296,000
●	1/16	1.6	74,000
●	1/32	0.8	18,500

South Dakota Soil Health Coalition Soil Health Technician Baylee Lukonen's milpa garden contained 30 different species of plants. Photo courtesy of the SD Soil Health Coalition.

MILPA GARDENS CAN BUILD SOIL HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

By Stan Wise, South Dakota Soil Health Coalition

Sometimes a little chaos provides an opportunity for growth.

That's certainly the case with a chaos garden, also called a milpa garden. It's a similar concept to the three sisters garden in which the three "sisters" of corn, beans and squash are planted together because each one benefits the growth of the others. The corn provides a tall stalk for the beans to climb, the beans fix nitrogen in the soil, and the large leaves of squash shade the ground, preserving moisture and suppressing weeds.

In a milpa garden, even more types of plants are included in the mix, and rather than being planted in neat rows, the vegetables are spread evenly across the garden. The result is a chaotic tangle of produce that offers more than just food.

This year, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks District Park Supervisor Ryan Persoon discovered that a milpa garden can help bring a community together. This spring, he was approached by Dan Forgey, South Dakota Soil Health Coalition Board member and longtime Cronin Farms agronomy manager, who had a bag of seed.

"He mentioned he had this bag of seed that, at the time, he described as a milpa garden and a community garden," Persoon said. "I didn't know anything about what this was. Community kind of stuck in my head."

Persoon runs the West Whitlock Recreation Area, which is next to a resort with summer residents, and he thought he could plant the garden in the park, and the people in the resort community could help grow the garden and then reap some of the rewards by taking some produce.

"At the time I didn't really know what was in this bag of seed," he said. "It was entertaining for us to plant this, see it grow, and see what would come to fruition and how it would impact our community. And I have to say it was quite the project. It was something I was very proud to be involved in."

The community became very involved in the garden. "The excitement of the unknown was what we enjoyed the most out of it," Persoon said. "It was thick. There was a lot of stuff to sort through. People enjoyed looking through it to find what they wanted, and that adds to the excitement of it."

Persoon said the garden contained several different types of squash, pumpkins, turnips, Swiss chard, and other produce. "I saw certain people putting their names on some squash because they didn't want them picked before they were ripe," he said. "It's a community, so everybody kind of shared in it, and it was really quite neat."

In addition to bringing the community together, the garden benefitted pollinators and wildlife. "It was attractive for pollinators, for birds, and I have no doubt this winter when a lot of the brassicas and the squash, the pumpkins freeze down, the deer are going to be all over those squash and pumpkins," Persoon said.



Led by South Dakota Soil Health Coalition Soil Health Technician Baylee Lukonen (back left), students from the Boys and Girls Club of Watertown feed plants from a milpa garden to cattle. Photo courtesy of Boys and Girls Club of Watertown.



Produce from South Dakota Soil Health Coalition Soil Health Technician Baylee Lukonen's milpa garden went to the students at the Boys and Girls Club of Watertown, who visited the garden during the summer to learn about soil health. Photo courtesy of the SD Soil Health Coalition.

Next year, he said, "we're definitely going to do something like this again if not pretty much exactly the same thing again."

A milpa garden also offers soil health benefits.

"All of the soil is pretty well covered, and there's something living on almost every square inch," SDSHC Soil Health Technician Baylee Lukonen said. "When they call this a chaos garden sometimes, that's exactly what it is. The plants are all working together."

Lukonen grew a milpa garden on her farm near Watertown this year. "It was really cool to see that certain plants that have vining tendencies would actually vine up the sunflowers or the taller millet," she said. "That's how they were getting their sunlight. It's just really cool to see all of it working together aboveground, and if it's working together aboveground, there's definitely a lot happening belowground that we can't see."

Lukonen also used her garden to interact with the community. She invited the local Boys and Girl Club to bring students out to her farm each week to learn about soil health and pollinators.

"We thought it was a great idea," Watertown Boys and Girls Club Prevention Coordinator Brad Drake said. "We're always looking for additional programs for the kids, particularly if there's an educational component."

"The Boys and Girls Club brought out a group of about 10-15 kids every Thursday for a good portion of the summer," Lukonen said. "We just taught them about different things in the soil, soil properties, and we also taught them about the milpa garden and how everything that is in the milpa garden can grow together without being separated and planted into rows, which is different than your traditional garden."

The students ranged in age from 8 to 12 years old.

"There was a real emphasis on soil health, of course, so they talked a lot about cover cropping," Drake said. "It wasn't always the same kids each week that went out, but some of them got to see the whole process from the planting, to learning why it was important, to how these various crops have benefitted the soil, and different nutrients they added or drew up and made available."

Lukonen said the only challenging aspect to a milpa garden is that it is difficult to harvest, but she had a suggestion on how to make it easier. "Next year I think we are going to create walkways," she said. "If we want the kids to help with the harvest, we're going to have to make walking paths throughout."

Gardeners who are interested in trying a milpa garden can contact the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition at sdsoilhealth@gmail.com or 605-280-4190.

BEAR BUTTE VALLEY WATER



The first documented and recorded minutes for the formation of the Bear Butte Valley Rural Water System (BBV) located east and north of the town of Sturgis were recorded on April 2, 2009. The organizational meeting was the culmination of several telephone calls from Neal Rowett, a rural area resident, to the South Dakota Rural Water Office located in Spearfish. “If I recall the first conversation, it went something like this: ‘Are you the guy who can help a bunch of rural area ranchers and homeowners start up a water system?’” said former South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems’ field program supervisor George Vansco. The reason for Rowett’s interest in starting a new system stemmed from a concern over poor water quality due to the local creek picking up undesirables as it weaved its way through the town of Sturgis. Bear Butte Creek has allowed some owners the benefit of drilling shallow wells near the creek while others were forced into deeper aquifers at a much higher cost.

With a desire to provide the area with quality drinking water; the next steps were getting local area residents involved and beginning to search for funds enabling them to conduct a feasibility study. After attending several Meade County Commission meetings and bringing the idea of developing another west river water system to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the steering committee decided to incorporate as a non-profit.

Five days after the first documented meeting, Bear Butte Valley Water was incorporated on May 7, 2009. At this meeting the following board members were elected: Neal Rowett, President; Robert Yantis, Vice-President; Bruce Weyrich, Secretary/Treasurer; Clair Rowett, Director; Don Chord, Director; Jesse Whitford, Director. As the years have passed, some directors dropped off the board and others were newly elected – but the majority of the board has remained the same.

While it takes most water systems about 30 years from inception to completion, Bear Butte Valley Water found itself on the fast track. After receiving their certificate of incorporation on May 7, 2009, they received funding from the state just a year later. Incorporating allowed them to get an initial \$7,500 in planning funds, which they used to pay DGR Engineering to draw up plans for the system. Total project costs in 2010 were estimated at \$5.1 million.

In April of 2010, BBV was given the go-ahead from USDA Rural Development to apply for loans after an archaeological study was conducted. A \$500,000 grant was received from the State of South Dakota through the Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program to begin the project. The initial cost for those interested in hooking up to the system was \$1,500/connection. Meetings continued to be held to determine where the best source of water would come from. Proposals came in from cities, individual landowners,

campgrounds and others, while drilling a well for the system was also looked at as an option.

USDA Rural Development awarded Bear Butte Valley Water, Inc. with a water and environmental loan in the amount of \$2,917,000, and a grant of \$2,000,000 in January of 2014. The State of South Dakota also kicked in additional funding through a \$1,500,000 grant, an additional \$500,000 was acquired from DENR, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service provided significant funding through its EQIP program to provide water for livestock. Through this funding, construction was planned to expand the system to 150 miles of distribution pipeline, with water available to 220 users and 150 service locations upon completion.

A ground breaking ceremony was held on June 24, 2015 to commemorate the awarding of bids to complete the entire rural water system – including installing 110 miles of pipeline, storage reservoirs, and pumping stations. Bruce Jones – USDA Rural Development Acting State Director, and Jacqueline M. Ponti-Lazaruk – USDA Rural Development Assistant Administrator for the Water and Environmental Program in Washington, DC, were on hand at the ground breaking to announce additional funding of a \$200,000 loan coupled with a \$2,527,000 grant to complete the system. Representatives from the Congressional offices, the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems, Meade County Commissioners, the engineer, and Sturgis Economic Development were also on site for the ground breaking activities.

Said Neal Rowett, Board President of BBV Water, Inc. in October 2015, “This accomplishment is the result of many days, weeks, and years of service and perseverance by a dedicated board of directors, along with the help of professional guidance received from our engineering partners and South Dakota Rural Water. We appreciate the support of the community for the confidence these people have shown in our efforts. Bear Butte Valley Water is a community owned, non-profit corporation that will serve its members for many future generations. It is with great pride that we will be providing drinking water of excellent quality with enough volume and pressure to fulfill the needs of our members.”



DIRECTORS:

- Bruce Weyrich – President
- Ed Blair – Vice-President
- Bob Kaufman – Secretary/Treasurer
- Clair Rowett – Director
- Rich Grosch – Director
- Brook Looby – Director

STAFF:

- Dennis Kinslow – Manager
- Lisa Symonds – Bookkeeper

STATISTICS:

- Hookups – 275
- Miles of Pipeline – 3,100
- Water Source – wells
- Counties Served – Meade

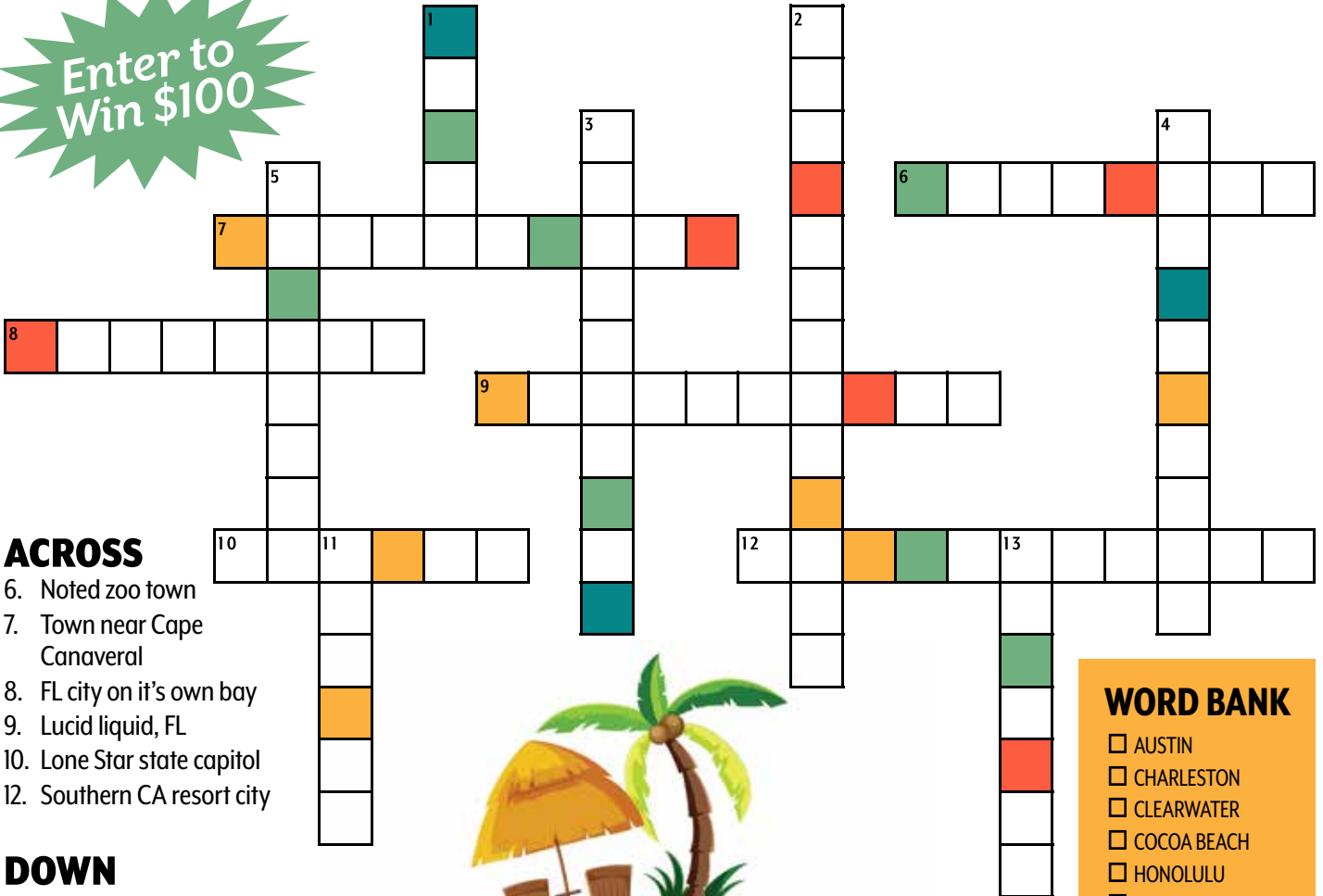


Bear Butte Valley Water's pipe arriving by the truckload in 2015.

RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

SNOWBIRD DESTINATIONS

Enter to
Win \$100



ACROSS

- 6. Noted zoo town
- 7. Town near Cape Canaveral
- 8. FL city on it's own bay
- 9. Lucid liquid, FL
- 10. Lone Star state capitol
- 12. Southern CA resort city

DOWN

- 1. Buccaneer base
- 2. Atlantic resort
- 3. SC city
- 4. City of Saints
- 5. Pearl Harbor site
- 11. Red Rock city
- 13. Most populous state capitol



WORD BANK

- AUSTIN
- CHARLESTON
- CLEARWATER
- COCOA BEACH
- HONOLULU
- NEW ORLEANS
- PALM SPRINGS
- PHOENIX
- SAN DIEGO
- SARASOTA
- SEDONA
- TAMPA
- VIRGINIA BEACH

SCRAMBLE ANSWER



RULES: Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See page 2 for contact information) or enter online at www.sdarws.com/crossword.html with the correct phrase by January 10, 2022 to be entered into the \$100 drawing.

Only one entry allowed per address/household. You must be a member of a participating rural water system to be eligible for the prize. Your information will only be used to notify the winner, and will not be shared or sold.

Congratulations to Perry Fischer with Mid-Dakota Rural Water who had the correct phrase of "HARD WORK BEATS TALENT" for January 2022.

SDARWS NAMED STATE ASSOCIATION OF THE YEAR



The South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) was recently named State Association of the Year by the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) at the 2021 WaterPro Conference in Milwaukee, WI. 2021 is the sixth year in a row SDARWS has been recognized by NRWA. SDARWS has previously received this award in 1993, 2011, and 2017.

“The most prestigious and most honored award is the State Association of the Year,” said Tom Speer, the NRWA Awards Committee chair. “It is presented to the state association that projects a team effort in all areas of professional association operations and membership service. SDARWS has excelled in all categories of the award, accomplished by teamwork, strong leadership, and member support.”

Whether assisting a municipality with a water leak, troubleshooting lagoon issues, or conducting high-quality training, the staff at SDARWS work hard to serve their members. When it comes to training and technical expertise, no other entity in South Dakota comes close to the magnitude and value of their work.

SDARWS’ staff has decades of experience in the industry, allowing them to do everything from one-on-one certification training to hands-on operation and maintenance training. They work as a team to assist our members with their needs, ranging from finding leaks to applying for RD loans and grants and completing Risk and Resiliency Assessments and VA/ERPs. Staff is encouraged to pursue training to remain experts in their fields. Three staff are FAA Drone Pilot certified to assist with tank inspection and leak detection. Five staff are certified through the American Backflow Prevention Association to assist with cross-connection and backflow prevention programs and seek further certification as trainers/proctors for backflow prevention programs.

Leak detection assistance has increased SDARWS’ membership base. Thanks to a strong partnership with their

state primacy agency, they have cost-shared equipment to convert our technical assistance trailers into emergency response vehicles. SDARWS also serves as the headquarters for South Dakota’s Water Agency Response Network (WARN) to assist with equipment and manpower in an emergency.

SDARWS’ public relations efforts include the *Quality on Tap!* consumer magazine that reaches over 35,000 households and communicates the rural water message, and a technical magazine, *ServiceLine*, that reaches all system operations specialists, regional rural water systems, and decision-makers in our state. Members and NRWA routinely ask SDARWS to assist with special projects to promote water; this year’s highlights include developing a magazine to use at the Big Sioux and Sioux Empire Water Children’s Water Festivals, and creating specialty graphics to share information regarding water and COVID-19 on social media.

SDARWS has three registered lobbyists in the state capitol. Under the leadership of Executive Director Kurt Pfeifle, they monitor and support important issues to rural water systems, including battling the Corps of Engineers over water rights and supporting continued funding of South Dakota’s state Water Omnibus bill.

Headquartered in Madison, SD, SDARWS is a nonprofit membership organization committed to helping communities provide safe drinking water and wastewater services through on-site technical assistance, specialized training, and legislative support. SDARWS has 13 staff who work under the direction of Executive Director Kurt Pfeifle. SDARWS members are rural and municipal water and wastewater systems and affiliated businesses that provide safe, clean drinking water. Since its founding in 1976, SDARWS is an affiliate of the National Rural Water Association, America’s largest utility membership organization representing over 31,000 public water and wastewater systems nationwide.



METER PIT GUIDELINES

- Please consider marking or flagging your meter pits in some way so they can be found under the snow this winter. If you should have a leak, this will reduce the time it takes for our operators to get your water shut off, saving you time and wasted gallons.
- If the pit is properly marked, there is no need to remove snow from the top of your pit as the snow provides extra insulation to help keep your meter and regulator from freezing up.
- Do not dislodge the frost pillow that is inside the pit cover. It is there to help prevent your meter and regulator from freezing up in the winter by providing insulation.
- Beware of damaging pits and curb stops during snow removal and lawn mowing. If you do hit and damage one, please call right away so we can make the necessary repairs. Keep in mind you may be liable for the damages incurred.
- **DO NOT LANDSCAPE OVER OR COVER YOUR METER PIT IN ANY WAY!** Meter pits must be accessible to our operators at all times. Should they need to move objects or landscaping to service the pit, Big Sioux Community Water System will not be held liable for any damages.



IN AN EMERGENCY

Do You Know Where Your Water Shut Off is?

Imagine being woken in the middle of the night by the sounds of running water. Upon further investigation, you find a broken pipe underneath a sink. Your first thought is to turn off the main water supply... but where? It is a good idea to know where your main water shut off valve is located for just such an emergency.

A good number of Big Sioux Community Water System's members have their water meter located in their basement. All basement services have a master valve located just after the service pipe enters the basement and just before the water meter. The accompanying picture illustrates this installation. BSCWS has used several meter configurations over the years so your valve may vary slightly. Some basement services may also have a shut off valve located after the meter if it was installed by the owner.

Some members have their meter located in a meter pit outside of the house. In this situation, a shut off valve should be located where the pipe from the pit enters the house. Often times if a meter pit was installed when the water service was constructed, there was no basement to place the meter and you may have a crawl space or other space underneath the home that the water line passes through.

Once you locate your master valve, it is a good idea to mark it with tag or other identifier. The valve should be periodically exercised so it is in good working order. A gate valve will take multiple turns to close in the clockwise direction. A ball valve will turn $\frac{1}{4}$ of a turn in the clockwise direction.

If you are unsure of where your meter is located, please call the system office.



Gate Valve



Ball Valve



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

- From the Board of
Directors and Staff
of Big Sioux
Community Water

Manager: continued from page 2

you can meet one of our operators at your residence to turn it back on. You will only be charged \$30.00 in the spring when it is turned back on. Please remember if you have a winter disconnect, your monthly minimum is still due each month.

Please take advantage of this affordable service and have peace of mind throughout the winter months. This is cheap insurance for what otherwise could be a devastating mess at your home while you are away. Only Big Sioux CWS employees can get into the pit. Anyone else, such as a homeowner or private plumber turning valves or getting into Big Sioux CWS pit nullifies any liability on Big Sioux's behalf. Big Sioux will not blow out your private lines but are required to be there to shut the service down.

If you have any questions about your account, billing, or service, please call the office at 1-605-997-2098. Lezni or Dawn are always happy to help you with any questions you may have.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Big Sioux CWS office will be closed on the following dates:

DECEMBER 24, 2021

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 31, 2021

NEW YEAR'S EVE

In case of an emergency, please call the office at 605-997-2098 or toll free at 1-888-487-5891 and you will be forwarded to our after-hours answering service.

Big Sioux Community Water System

23343 479th Avenue
Egan, SD 57024

605-997-2098 | bigsiouxaws.com

PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #32
MADISON, SD



WATER MATTERS

State Navigable Streams



Navigable streams in South Dakota are considered public highways and the right of the public to use such streams can not be prohibited or unduly restricted. Under State law, a stream, or portion of a stream, is considered navigable if it can support a vessel capable of carrying one or more persons throughout the period between the May 1st and September 30th, inclusive, in 2 out of every 10 years (SDCL 43-17-34).

In 1990, legislation was enacted to allow fencing of certain navigable streams provided that a gate be installed in the fence crossing the stream. Rivers and creeks in the state where gates are required in fences include portions of the Bad, Big Sioux, Cheyenne, East Vermillion, Elm, Grand, Little White, Moreau, Redwater, Vermillion, and White Rivers; and Flandreau, Firesteel, Moccasin, Splitrock, and Turtle Creeks.

The Missouri River, James River, Boise des Sioux River, and the lower five miles of the Big Sioux River are designated as navigable rivers pursuant to federal law and may not be fenced under any circumstances.



Gate and Fence Requirements. Fences constructed across navigable streams are required to have a gate with a minimum opening size of 6-feet high by 6-feet wide and the opening must be outlined with reflective tape or other highly visible material. In addition, reflectors or highly visible material must also be attached to the fence connecting the gate with the stream bank, and the reflectors must be no more than 25 feet apart and visible from both up and downstream. If no livestock are present, then the gates need to be removed or kept open.

A “Guide to Fencing of Navigable Streams” brochure is available online at: danr.sd.gov/OfficeOfWater/WaterRights/docs/StreamFencingGuide.pdf. This brochure outlines the responsibilities of landowners and recreationists as well as fencing requirements. In addition, a complete listing of applicable statutes and rules are available for review in South Dakota Codified Laws 43-17-34 through 43-17-41, and Administrative Rules of South Dakota Chapter 74:02:10.

BACK PAGE CONTENT PROVIDED BY:



EAST DAKOTA
WATER
DEVELOPMENT
DISTRICT

132B Airport Avenue
Brookings, SD 57006
605-688-6741
eastdakota.org