# MOUNTAIN STATE WATER LINE

A Publication of the West Virginia Rural Water Association

## Summer 2022

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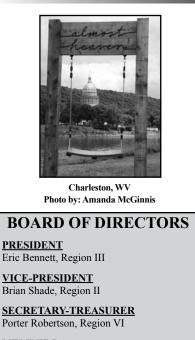
## West Virginia Rural Water Association

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## Summer 2022

## **Articles and Features**



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**IRWA**<sup>®</sup>

West Virginia Rural Water Association, WVRWA, is a non-profit organization of rural and small publicly owned water and wastewater systems. The vision of the WVRWA is to be the recognized leader and respected voice for water and wastewater systems. The mission or purpose of WVRWA is to provide and promote the highest level of utility service, technical assistance, training, and advocacy for all West Virginia water and wastewater systems.

WVRWA is affiliated with the National Rural Water Association.

experience another hot summer, but I prefer that over a long, cold winter. By now, you should have received a pamphlet for this year's annual conference, which has been rebranded "Water on the Mountain." My appreciation goes out to Todd Grinstead and the WVRWA staff for their hard work and innovative ideas to refresh the conference and make it an event that not only provides our members with much needed educational opportunities, but also provides an excellent environment to enjoy ourselves while interacting with our peers, regulators, and vendors from across our great State. I hope everyone has an opportunity to come and experience Water on the Mountain and I look forward to seeing everyone there

t appears that we are going to

I am sure that we are all experiencing the adverse impacts of the unprecedented inflationary increases in the cost of every product that we use on a daily basis to operate and maintain the water and sanitary sewer systems with which we are entrusted. Not only do we have to pay significantly more for the product, but we also have to wait an extended period of time for them to be delivered. I have heard many different reasons for why this is happening and I am not sure of the validity of any of them. But it does not change the fact that due to these issues, our ability to effectively operate and maintain our water and sewer systems is being impacted. Unlike sales taxes, our revenue does not increase with the cost of goods and services, so we must continue to provide the same level of quality service with a diminished buying power or you are forced to request a rate increase that I suspect you would not have adequate financial data to justify the actual increase needed. We look forward to working with our legislators and the WVPSC for possible financial solutions to this problem

I would also like to express my appreciation to Chairman Lane and the WVPSC for their recent release of General Orders 186.38 and 188.43 making the interest paid on deposits zero. This action following this year's legislative action that only required interest to be paid on deposits that had been retained for 18 months or longer makes it much easier for utilities to track and refund deposits when interest is not a concern. And, as we all know, the interest paid in recent years in many cases may have been higher than that earned on the actual cash deposits.

Again, I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's conference. And, you can look forward to exciting news about future conferences.

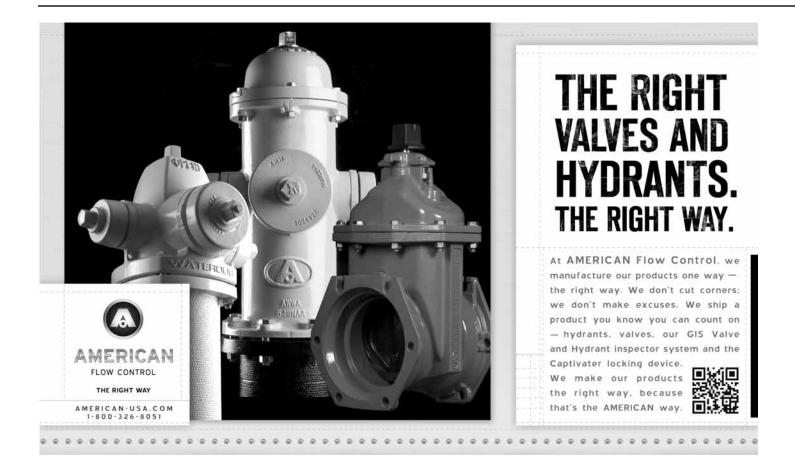
Sincerely, Eric Bennett

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## **President's Message**





#### **Online Training Classes**

WVRWA has teamed up with SunCoast Learning Systems, Inc. to bring online computerbased water and wastewater training to operators throughout the state. Through WVRWA Online Learning, you now have the freedom to learn from home, the office, or your local library. Training can be accessed directly from your personal computer using your internet connection.

Water and wastewater operators registering for e-Learning courses will have a menu of courses from which to choose. We are constantly adding and updating courseware to reflect changing industry needs and regulations. For more information, you can visit www.wvrwa.org or contact the office at 800-339-4513. Some of the available courses are shown below.

Course	<b>CEH Hours</b>	Approved for	Price
Drinking Water Mathematics	10	Water/WW	\$180
Surface Water Treatment	10	Water	\$180
Basic Environmental Chemistry	10	Water/WW	\$180
Small Water Systems I	5	Water	\$100
Chlorinator Systems & Chemical Handling	10	Water/WW	\$180
Water Transmission and Distribution	10	Water	\$180
Practical Personnel Management	7	Water/WW	\$125
Water Utility Calculations	10	Water	\$180
Pumps & Motor Maintenance	10	Water/WW	\$180

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By Todd Grinstead, Executive Director



## From Your Executive Director WVRWA Members Services

our association provides member water and wastewater systems with a variety of services to assist with practical operation and management solutions designed specifically to meet the needs of small and rural communities in West Virginia.

Here is a brief overview of services available free to WVRWA Members.

#### **Membership Services:**

• Amanda McGinnis, 304-201-1689

Provides member support with all aspects of association services and training scheduling.

#### Water Circuit Riders:

- Mike Hersman, Northwestern, WV, 304-531-9881
- Bertis McCarty, Northeastern, WV, 304-695-3719
- Shane Altizer, Southern, WV, 304-660-8644
- Charlie Cooper, as needed throughout the state, 681-318-8679

Identify and evaluating affordable solutions to water system problems in rural WV. Assist systems to rapidly respond and recover after natural and manmade emergencies. Protecting the environment and public health by improving treatment processes. Improving financial sustainability through better management practices, more efficient operations, and better maintained system components. Assistance provided for all aspects of water utility management, finance, operation and maintenance, regulatory compliance, energy efficiency, and loan/grant applications. Enhance compliance with federal regulations

#### Wastewater Circuit Rider:

Jim Johnson, 304-704-3830 • Identify and evaluating affordable solutions to wastewater system problems in rural WV. Assist systems to rapidly respond and recover after natural and man-made emergencies. Protecting the environment and public health by improving treatment processes. Improving financial sustainability through better management practices, more efficient operations, and better maintained system components. Assistance provided for all aspects of wastewater utility management, finance, operation and maintenance, regulatory compliance, energy efficiency, and loan/grant applications. Enhance compliance with federal regulations.

#### Wastewater Technician:

• Elizabeth Fletcher, 304-771-4081

Collaborates with representatives of struggling wastewater systems to aid them in overcoming their challenges with a focus on bringing wastewater systems into compliance with Department of Environmental Protection requirements.

#### EPA Wastewater Quality Action Specialist:

• Shawn Strain, 304-531-4304 Develop Sustainable Management Action Plans for publicly owned wastewater systems.

**EPA Water Training and Technical Assistance:** 

• Lester Pritt, 304-704-3856

Lamar Godbey, 304-633-9980 Provide training and technical

assistance to public water systems serving less than 10,000 population.

WV Hours for Education and Learning Program (H.E.L.P.):

Heather Somers, 681-298-8353

Provides training and education for the purpose of water operator certification.

#### Workforce Development:

• Cory Weese, 304-704-0507

Provide training and on-the-job learning for the operator Apprenticeship Program.

#### **Source Water Protection:**

• Jerry Dotson, 304-483-3497 Assist public water systems to reduce or eliminate potential risk to drinking water supplies through the development of Source Water Protection Plans.

Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Water and Wastewater **Circuit Rider**:

•Danny Vestal, 304-667-7659

Identify and evaluate affordable solutions to water and wastewater system problems in rural WV, focusing on distressed counties. Help improve financial sustainability through better management practices, more efficient operations, and better maintained system components. ■



#### Chuck Breidenbach

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By Daniel Vestal, ARC Specialist



**Fredrick "Freddy" Lan Belcher** of Man, WV. Fredrick "Freddy" Lan Belcher, 63, went to be with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on Friday,



January 21, 2022, leaving from Logan R e g i o n a l M e d i c a l Center after a short illness.

He was born on June 27, 1958, at Logan, the son of the late Homer Dorothy Ethel (Crosby) and Belcher. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, Gary Belcher and Billy Joe Belcher. Freddy was a 1976 graduate of Man High School. After graduation, he went to work at the Piggly Wiggly at Man. In 1981, Freddy began his career in the water plant industry ending his career as a water plant operator in October 2021. Freddie went to work for the City of Man as a Water Treatment Plant Operator in January of 1985 through October of 2008, and at Logan County PSD in October 2008 through December of 2021. He also worked for Mountain Water Works. He met and married the love of his life Florence Vance in 1983. Their union was blessed with a baby boy in 1993 that they

## **Operators Remembered**

named Fredrick Matthew "Matt" Belcher. Freddy was a good provider, a wonderful husband, and a devoted father, but there was one thing missing from his life. In February 1998, Freddy accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and became a faithful member of the Sandlick Freewill Baptist Church. Freddy had a great sense of humor and often remarked when someone had a minor injury, "It will be alright when it quits hurtin." He will be deeply missed by those who loved him. Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 40 years, Florence (Vance) Belcher; his son, Fredrick Matthew "Matt" Belcher and his wife McKinzey Belcher of Man; his brother, Jeff Belcher of TN; his extended family, church family, and all of the wonderful friends he made along the way.

**Russell Earl Hatfield**, Sr. 66, of Nettie, WV passed away



on Thursday, January 27, 2022 at his home. Born February 4, 1955 at Iaeger, WV, he was a son of the late Virgil

and Geraldine Kennedy Hatfield. He was also preceded in death by his brother, Ernie Hatfield and by his sister, Barbara Blackburn. He

attended the Pentecostal Church of Jesus Crist at Canvas, was a retired water plant operator for the Nettie Leivasy PSD, and was a former coal miner in Mingo County for Coal Mountain Coal Company. Russell worked for Nettie Leivasy PSD from January 1, 1998 through January 31, 2020 and served as their Chief Operator. Russell's love for the drinking water industry was shown through his diligence to constantly provide safe drinking water for all his customers. Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Rhonda Hatfield; two daughters, Latrissia Faye (Billy) Cook and Joanne Marie Hatfield (Russ Dann); one son, Russell Earl (Crystal) Hatfield, Jr.; eight grandchildren, Brandon, Brianna, Braylon, Braidon, Tyler, Trey, Aiden, and Kelsey; four siblings, Gail Ball, Carolyn Lester, Virgil Hatfield, Jr., and Pat Hatfield; and a host of other family and friends.

Franklin Lee White, 70, of



R i c h w o o d , passed away on April 15, 2022 at

Summersville Regional Medical Center, surrounded by family, after a long battle with cancer.

y Frank was born on December e 28, 1951 to the late Oscar Edward MOUNTAIN STATE WATER LINE 7 White and Bertha Ann Ramsey White. He was raised in Camden-On-Gauley, and was a loving husband. father. grandfather. great grandfather, and brother. Frank was a United States Navy veteran who worked hard over the years at various water treatment plants, and was also a certified wastewater operator. He worked for the City of Parsons as their Chief Operator over the water and wastewater treatment facilities from August of 2008 through December of 2013, worked for the Town of Richwood for 13 years, worked for the towns of Rainelle, Fayetteville, and Ronceverte, and worked at Flatwoods Canoe Run PSD from March 27, 2013 to April 15, 2022. He was kind and generous to a fault and would help anyone who asked. Survivors include his wife of 50 years, Nancy of Richwood, WV; children, Kevin (Liz) Bennett of Richwood, WV, and Sarah Roop (Ron Hammons) of Richwood, WV: grandchildren, Heather (Scott) Jackson of Mocksville, NC, Nicholas (Haley) Skaggs Ashland. KY. Franklin of (Neka) Bennett of Richwood, WV, Danielle Skaggs (Kaite Lipscomb) of Parkersburg, WV, Brenna Bennett (Brock Moore)

of Craigsville, WV, Kage Duke (Shelby Jackson) of Richwood, WV, Isabella Roop of Richwood, WV and Hunter Bennett of Richwood, WV; seven greatgrandchildren and many nieces and nephews; siblings Icy White, James White, Bill (Billie) White, Juanita Fowler (Dave Bragg), Carol Short, Gary (Donnah) White, and Alma Sue Palmieri; and mother-in-law, Goldie Webb.

These Operators will be well remembered and very missed and I count it an honor to have known them!! If I left anything out, please accept my sincerest apologies!!







## Monitoring Frequency and Sample Location in Finished Water Storage Facilities

U tilities should monitor water quality parameters in their finished water storage facilities. Monitoring water quality in storage tanks enables the utility to meet regulatory and non-regulatory compliance needs and also enhance the operation of their storage facility by knowing how a particular storage facility affects water quality.

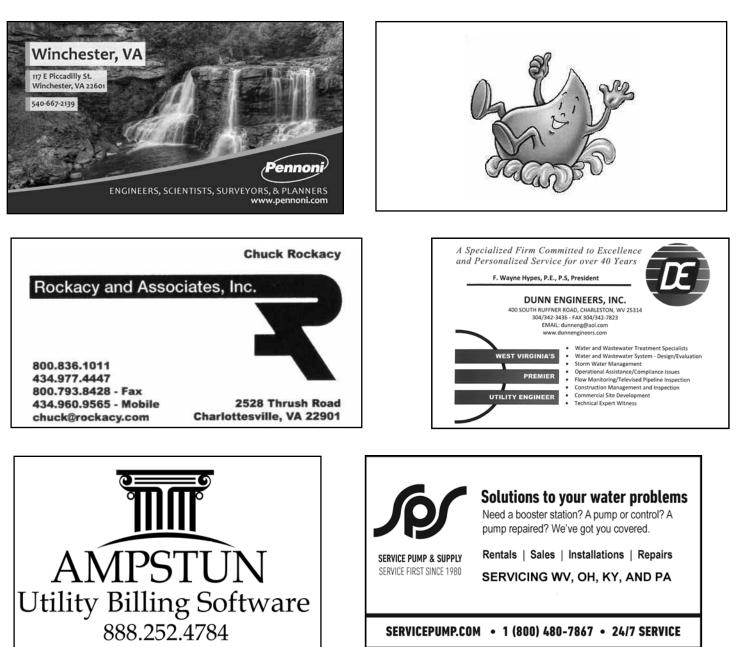
Once a utility has determined what parameters to monitor and the method of collection, two questions remain: Where should samples be collected? How often should samples be collected? Collecting one sample per year is not enough, and continuously monitoring all parameters is expensive and unnecessary. A program that takes all necessary parameters into account and schedules sampling when needed to provide adequate information is a conceptual starting point. A recommended approach to answering these questions is to further break down sampling needs into two categories of routine sampling and diagnostic sampling. Routine sampling can be defined as monitoring of parameters on a regular (continuous, weekly, monthly) basis and may include regulatory and operating parameters. Diagnostic sampling is defined as special purpose monitoring to document a condition or to determine the cause of a problem. Routine monitoring is used to document general water quality conditions, whereas, diagnostic monitoring is often more facility specific.

When applying this type of two tiered approach to a storage facility, ideally, diagnostic monitoring would be performed first. This would provide baseline information on how the storage facility is affecting water quality and would identify where in the facility problems may be occurring. If the facility is performing well, routine monitoring can be employed and augmented with diagnostic monitoring as needed. If problems are identified, such as stagnant zones or extended turnover time, then the situation can be rectified and confirmed with diagnostic sampling before moving to a more routine schedule.

Both regulated and nonregulated parameters may be included in diagnostic monitoring. The purpose of diagnostic monitoring is not to meet regulatory monitoring requirements for water quality, but to gather valuable information concerning the impact of the facility and its operation on water quality so that regulatory noncompliance can be avoided. For storage facilities, diagnostic sampling locations may include, but not limited to: inlet to establish a baseline on water quality entering the storage facility; outlet to determine what changes in quality may have occurred during storage. The extreme corners, edges, or other locations where the most stagnant zones are more likely to occur; and multiple depths to help indicate if there are differences vertically. Routine monitoring is normally performed to detect water quality trends during operation that are of regulatory concern. Parameters included are those that are required by regulation or can show variation over a shorter or longer period of time and may be indicative of larger problems. Routine sampling in a storage facility normally requires sampling with greater frequency but fewer locations that can be selected following diagnostic monitoring. Routine sampling sites would likely include: The inlet, to establish a baseline on water quality entering the facility; the outlet, to determine what changes in quality may have occurred during storage; One or more locations internally determined to be "representative" of the water in the facility.

y It is important that the operation or of all storage facilities be docui- mented before and during monitor-MOUNTAIN STATE WATER LINE 9 ing; this is particularly relevant for facilities with common inlets and outlets. Sampling regimes and timing of sampling during a filling and drawing cycle needs to reflect the operation. A single sampling location may fulfill regulatory requirements but does not represent conditions throughout storage. Multiple sample locations will provide valuable information for those attempting to identify the presence or location of water quality problems in the storage facility.

In closing: weekly, monthly, or quarterly samples may prove sufficient to meet current regulations, but may lack the detail necessary to profile the true condition of the stored water or causes for water quality degradation. A properly implemented two tiered sampling program can alert a utility to acute changes in water quality, provide diagnostic information on how and where water quality degradation is occurring, and determine if operational practices or the facility itself are contributing factors. An effective monitoring schedule is designed with forethought based on water quality, sediment, and biofilm parameters, seasonal temperature variations, use patterns, changes in operations, regulatory requirements, and inspection and cleaning frequencies. A monitoring strategy can be reviewed and modified based on collected data parameters.



By Bertis M. McCarty, Water Circuit Rider



ater Valves, a.k.a. Isolation Valves.

Water Distribution Valves are one of those assets that aren't taken care



of properly in just about every system. Not only do they get lost, but, when found, they don't

work. Everyone in a distribution system, regardless of how big or small, has had to shut off an area of the water system (more customers) that wasn't near the water leak they were about to repair.

This situation should never happen!

Whether it be a wheel valve in a pit or an underground valve, they should

all be exercised or used at least twice a year. A lot of distribution operation specialists tell me "we



can't use that valve because it will break, or leak."

That statement is like leaving a fire hydrant for 30 years without turning

Water Valves in the Distribution System

it on or off. When you need it because your house is burning down, it won't work.

I found a relevant quote in an article I was reading recently.

"Sufficient valves shall be provided on water mains so that inconvenience and sanitary hazards will be minimized during repairs."

I don't believe you could say it any better than that.

Placing valves efficiently improves the reliability of a water distribution system. I'm a firm believer in the statement, "Your water system can't have too many valves."

One system, while doing a line extension, had valves placed close to every fire hydrant. A marker isn't needed because you can use the fire hydrant as the marker.

Valves should be placed on each side of every stream crossing. If the system doesn't have this, they can put them in when a leak happens at or near the stream. I've recommended several times to fix a leak with a valve. If the system doesn't have a valve near the leak, just cut the hole out where the leak is and insert a valve in its place. The picture below shows this procedure.

A lot of systems ask me "How far apart should my valves be"?

An engineer in one state explained it as follows. "Valves should be placed at no more than 500-foot intervals in commercial districts and not more than one block or 800-foot intervals in other districts. Where systems serve widely scattered customers and where future development is not expected, the valve spacing should not exceed one mile."

I hope this information helps the distribution systems in the state make better decisions for future valve placement and maintenance schedules. I would personally love to never hear the words again "we can't use that valve because it doesn't work or will leak."



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By Jim Johnson, Wastewater Technician



we enter into the warmer part of the year, my mind cannot help but to think about the safety practices we should be using in the water and wastewater industry. I would just like to take a few minutes to remind everyone to be safe out there. One of the main aspects of safety is to be diligent, pay attention to what is going on, and be aware of your surroundings. Issues such as heat, rain, lightning, hail, bites, and stings can cause a lot of issues, so be alert. I know as we get into spring, summer and even fall, we start to take care of a number of projects that need to be completed. I would just like to remind systems to be safe while you are doing these projects. One of the most important aspects of a safety program is good housekeeping. Keep your work areas clean and orderly. Keep everything picked up and cleaned up. This will make operators less vulnerable to accidents and disease. In my opinion, a clean, orderly, and well maintained work area is a must.

When operators are on the job, be sure to use proper confined

System Safety Practices

space procedures when they are necessary. Have the confined space entry permits filled out when they are necessary. Have the employee or employees who are entering the confined space on a harness for quick, safe exit if need be. Have the correct number of personnel available to do the job. Make sure to monitor the atmosphere and to get the staff to safety if one of the things being monitored gets out of the safety parameters. Watch the West Virginia Rural Water Association training schedule as Training Specialist Lamar Godbey will be offering some confined space training in many areas of the state soon. When personnel are doing deep digs, make sure to use proper trenching and shoring practices so that the dig is a safe one. If you have a long trench, make sure to have a way of egress, such as a ladder, every 25 feet. Make sure to use shoring, a trench box or sloping and benching to make the trench safe.

In all cases, use proper Personal Protective Equipment(PPE). Eye protection is a must on many jobs, as is hearing protection. When mowing, operating a weed eater, or operating a chain saw, hearing and eye protection are a must. If you need PPE, use it. If you are in an area with dust, fumes, or chemicals, use the proper respirator for the job. Protect yourself, whatever the job.

In the water and wastewater industry, falling is the number one accident that occurs in our business. Be careful when you are out and about. This is the time of year when we will be doing paint touchup and paint jobs in general. Sometimes, we must get in tight spots, over things, under things, and in all kinds of places. Just make sure when we are doing all of these jobs, proper safety practices are being performed.

One of the best ways to prevent disease and illness is to use good personal hygiene practices. Wash your hands often when working around a public utility. Make sure any time you think you may have come in contact with anything unsanitary to wash. Wear disposable gloves when working in dirty or unsanitary environments. If you wear the disposable gloves, wash your hands when you finish the job anyway. Wash your hands with plenty of soap and as hot a water as you can tolerate without causing discomfort. Eat, drink, and smoke only in areas that are sanitary. Keep designated eating areas, such as lunchrooms, clean and sanitary. This will help prevent the spread of illness and disease.

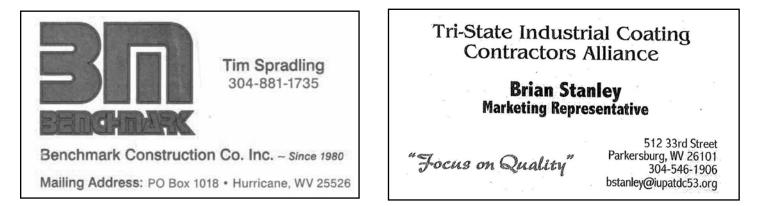
If you work on electricity, make sure everything is properly locked out and tagged out. Do not work on electricity unless you are aware of how to do so safely. If you do not know what you can touch and work on and under what circumstances, do not work on it. Electricity is a great asset to this world, but it is very dangerous if we touch the wrong thing at the wrong time. If you have not been properly trained on electricity, get someone who understands the safety aspects to work on it. If you work with chlorine and de-chlore, make sure to be careful and to know the safe handling procedures of it.

Many of you will be working along the streets or roadways at some point soon. Make sure to use proper flagging procedures when you are doing work that effects a roadway. Make sure to have all your signage out to warn people that there will be possible traffic delays and a change in the traffic pattern ahead. Make sure your flagger is in a safe place with a way of egress if something goes wrong. The flagger needs to be able to get out of the way and to safety if there is a problem. Have no vehicles beside the flagger. Make sure to have your buffer space set up and an area for traffic to transition back to normal.

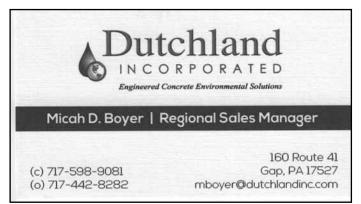
Water utility work can be very unsafe, but it does not have to be. Just know the safety procedures for any job you are doing. If you do not know the safety procedures, look it up. If you want to know more about safety, West Virginia Rural Water Association has various safety related courses within our vast schedule of training classes each year. Check out our training schedule for a class near you. Just be careful, diligent, and safe as you're doing your work out there.





















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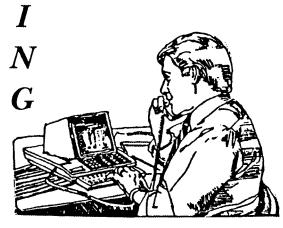
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## Sustainable Utility Management Program

I 'm pleased to let the members know that, as of May 3rd, 2022, I'm an employee of WV Rural Water Association. For those who don't know me, let me give you a little background information. I retired from the City of St. Albans MUC as the Chief Operator of the WWTP this past February. After two months short of 35 years, I felt it was time to go and I enjoyed retirement for a couple of months before this opportunity presented itself and I jumped at the chance to work for Rural Water.

Over the years with the MUC, I have attended many classes and con-

ferences presented by WVRWA and they are such a great resource for education, information, and for help when needed. I have known a lot of great people that have worked or still work here and I'm excited to try and help systems in the same manner.

EPA has established a program for Small and Rural Wastewater Systems with flows up to 1 MGD or serve a population of less that 10,000 persons. This is the first year that WVRWA is glad to provide this service to its members that fit into this category. The purpose of this program is to help in the acquisition of financing, Clean Water Act compliance, and to distribute planning, design, construction, and operational information throughout the systems in the state. The program can also help systems plan better for the future.

I will be contacting systems around the state to see if they would be interested in participating in a Sustainable Management Action Plan (SMAP). If your system would like to be involved with this program, please feel free to contact me and we will setup a date and time for me to come visit your wastewater system. Looking forward to talking with you. ■





### **NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT** Get Started on Your Water Utility Construction Project

Do you have a Water Utility Construction Project? Now is the time to act! Rates are at an all time low, and with the current pricing being opportunistic and taking action can result in benefits not only for your-self but for the customer as well. Consider the below items that detail positive reasons to act now that you can present to your governing body.

- Interest rates are at an all-time low.
- More project contractors are available, increasing the number of bids, potentially lowering project costs.
- Fuel costs are low, lowering pipe related costs.
- Most material costs for projects are down.
- Shipping costs for many have decreased.
- Road and water projects are easier to schedule due to decreased volume in traffic.
- Low construction costs and available contractors are not guaranteed to last.











USDA Rural Development is committed to helping improve the economy and quality of life in rural America. Offering loans, grants and loan guarantees are some of the ways Rural Development is supporting rural America.



By Jerry Dotson, Sourcewater Specialist



S ource Water Protection proj-ects can take all sorts of shapes. It could be adding an additional source; whether that be a new well, a new intake, raw water storage, finished water storage, or an interconnect with another system. It could also be an early warning system, or land features to prevent pollution from agricultural activities, or conservation easements to ensure adjacent lands are not used for purposes that propose a risk of contamination. It might even involve construction of a sewer facility to prevent contamination from sewage that is not adequately treated. The opportunities are as varied as the imagination allows. The question is, how are we going to pay for those protections?

Fortunately, there are several options. First, there is conventional funding. There are numerous funding sources available to public water systems through various federal, state, and local agencies. At the federal level, United States Department of Agriculture - Rural Development (USDA-RD), for instance, offers low interest loans and some grants to publicly owned utilities for water and sewer projects. The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has the Small Cities Block Grant program that will contribute grant money

## Funding Source Water Protection

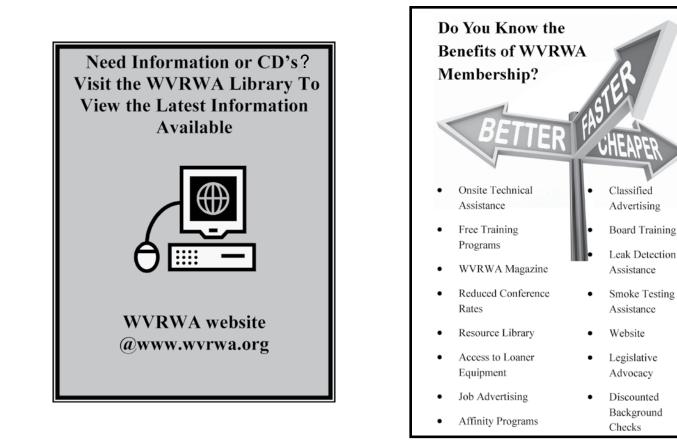
toward projects. The Appalachian Regional Commission, USEPA, and the US Army Corps of Engineers have programs if your project meets their qualifications.

On the state level, the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council (IJDC) offers loans and grants for water and sewer projects to qualified applicants. The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services (WWVD-HHR) and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) both have State Revolving Loan programs (for water and sewer projects respectively). The WVDEP also administers the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program. There are other state and federal programs available, check with your regional planning and development council for more information. There may also be funds available through your local county commission or local foundations to assist in funding projects. When all else fails, bank loans can be obtained to fund projects.

More specifically, there is some funding available specifically for source water interests. The WVD-HHR administers their own Wellhead and Source Water Protection grants program. Information regarding eligibility and requirements can be found at https://oehs.wvdhhr. org/eed/source-water-assessmentwellhead-protection/wellhead-andsource-water-protection-grants/.

Also, for source water protection measures that involve agricultural or timber elements, the USDA has programs through the Farm Services Agency (FSA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that will provide funds for qualifying source water protection efforts. Features like fences and troughs to keep livestock out of creeks and streams are eligible. They will fund riparian buffer zones to prevent chemicals and erosion from polluting waterways. Money can also be used for conservation easements to guarantee that land will be protected from uses that pose a risk of pollution in the future. The 2018 Farm Bill update made a priority of protecting drinking water sources. Your source water specialist can assist you in contacting the right agencies to explore these options.

Protecting water at the source ne is vital to providing safe, reliable for service to customers. There are re-D- sources to help provide that protection. If you have questions or need on help, contact your WVRWA Source rd- Water Specialist, Jerry Dotson at an jerrydotson@wvrwa.org. MOUNTAIN STATE WATER LINE 19



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The NRWA Rural Water Loan Fund (RWLF) is a funding program specifically designed to meet the unique needs of small water and wastewater utilities. The RWLF provides low-cost loans for short-term repair costs, small capital projects, or pre-development costs associated with larger projects. The RWLF was established through a grant from the USDA/RUS, and repaid funds used to replenish the fund and make new loans.

#### Reasons to apply

- Reasonable interest rates
- NRWA does not charge administrative or processing fees
- Straightforward application process
- Quick turnaround

#### **Eligible Projects Include**

- Pre-development (planning) costs for infrastructure projects
- Replacement equipment, system upgrades, maintenance and small capital projects
- Energy efficiency projects to lower costs and improve sustainability
- Disaster recovery or other emergency loans available

Contact your State Rural Water Association or National Rural Water Association for help with the application process.

### For More Information:

Applications, information and forms can be downloaded from the NRWA website, www.NRWA.org/loans.

Email applications to: nrwarwlf@nrwa.org Or mail to: Rural Water Loan Funds 2915 South 13th Duncan, OK 73533

For help, please call 1.800.332.8715 or email nrwarwlf@nrwa.org.



National Rural Water Association working in conjunction with US Department of Agriculture/ Rural Development



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By Shane Altizer, Water Circuit Rider



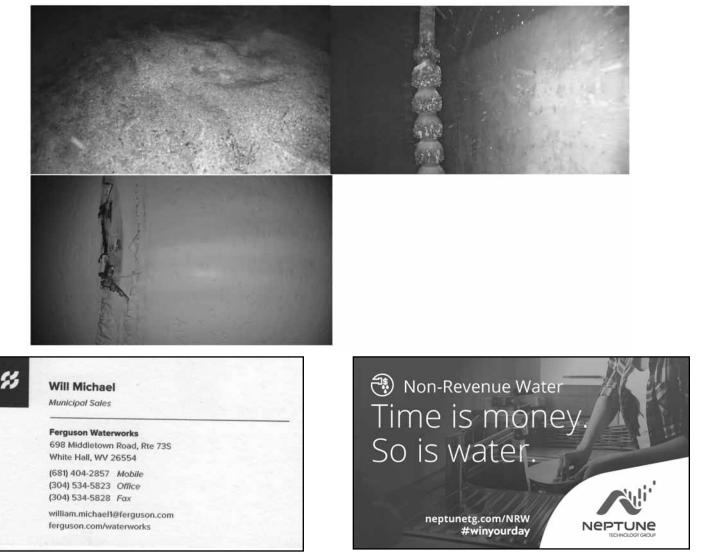
## Storage Tank Inspections

ave you ever had your tanks inspected? Water storage tanks and clear wells should be inspected at least every 5 years and cleaned to maintain good quality water. Regular tank inspections can aid in identifying small problems before they become major problems that can create health related issues or lead to costly repairs or premature tank failure. Tanks that are not cleaned periodically may cause contamination that

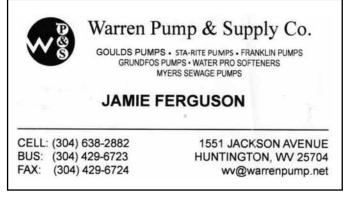
can harm human health or can contribute to discolored, bad smelling water.

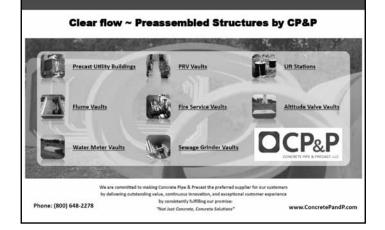
Inspection and cleaning can be done by draining the tank, hiring a dive team to enter the tank, or using a submersible drone and cleaning robot. West Virginia Rural Water has purchased a submersible drone for inspection purposes and we would be happy to help. Our drone has a 4k HD camera that allows us to view the tank with top quality and also gives us the ability to record video and take pictures that might be needed. From paint pealing off the wall causing rust to sediment or pumps, it's important to know what your storage looks like from the inside.

Don't procrastinate inspecting your tanks. You never know what issues you might already have inside the tank. Contact your circuit rider to schedule your inspection. ■













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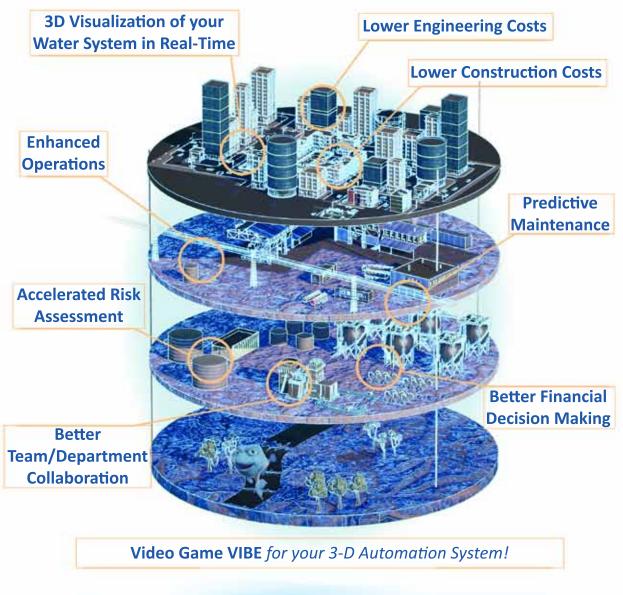


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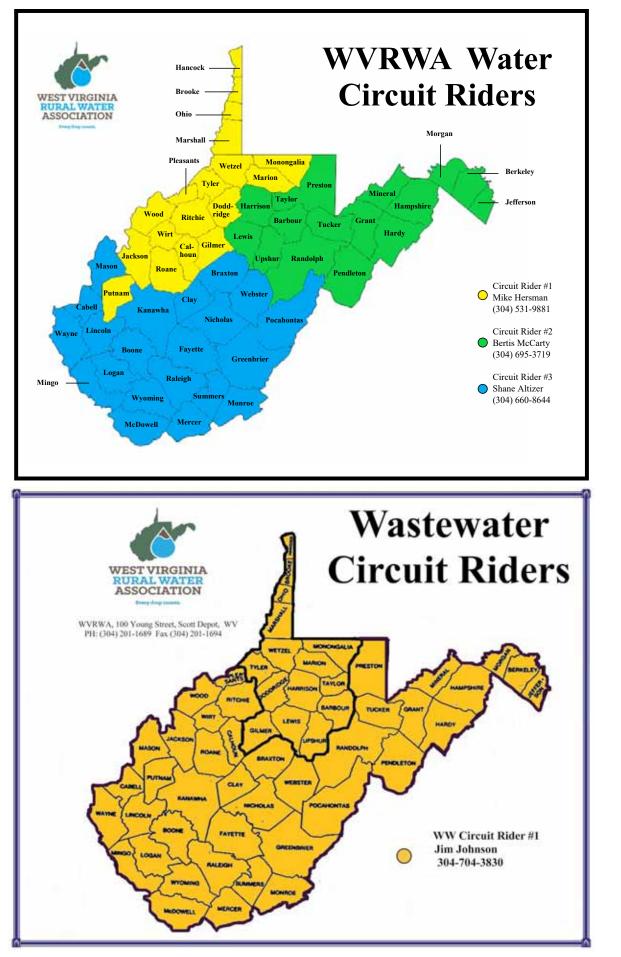












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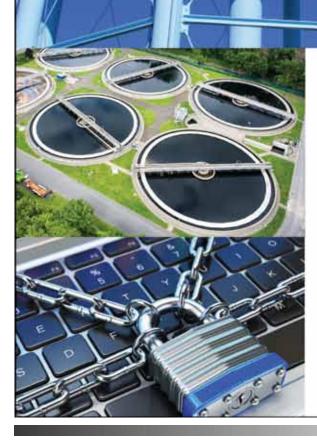
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Recently, WVRWA published its new e-Newsletter, *News Droplets. News Droplets* provides information on new programs and benefits, training classes, conference, legislative news, and much more. If you are currently not receiving *News Droplets*, but would like to, please send your name and email address to connect@wvrwa.org to be added to the mailing list.

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9				3	1	8		
3	6			8				
1				7			8	
	9				2		5	
	3					2		1
6	7	9				3		
					7		2	
2							4	8

The aim of the canonical puzzle is to enter a numerical digit from 1 through 9 in each cell starting with various digits given in some cells (the "givens"). Each row, column, and region must contain only one instance of each numerical. Completing the puzzle requires patience and logical ability.

Answers can be found on page 38.



RODMAN G. LOWE C.P.A.

rlowe@lowecpas.com

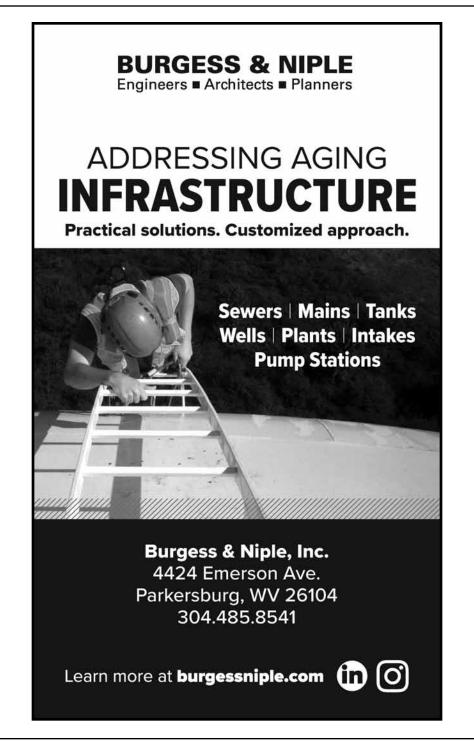
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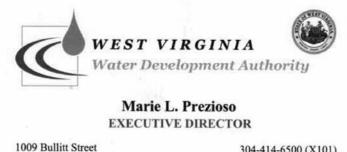


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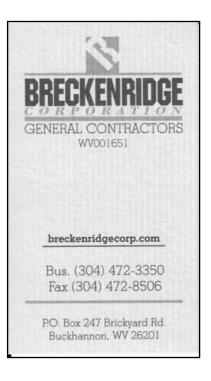
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# Answers to Soduko Puzzle

7	4	8	2	9	5	1	3	6
9	5	2	6	3	1	8	7	4
3	6	1	7	8	4	5	9	2
1	2	4	5	7	6	9	8	3
8	9	6	3	1	2	4	5	7
5	3	7	8	4	9	2	6	1
6	7	9	4	2	8	3	1	5
4	8	3	1	5	7	6	2	9
2	1	5	9	6	3	7	4	8







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\*\*American Cast Iron Pipe/ American Flow Control 2257 Clairmont Drive Suite 220-222 Pittsburgh, PA 15241 Phone: (412) 721-9509 See Our Ad Page 3

\*Ampstun Corporation P.O. Box 784 Richmond, KY 40476 Phone: (888) 252-4784 See Our Ad Page 10

\*\***Appalachian Software, Inc.** 44 Amber Way Scott Depot, WV 25560 Phone: (304) 757-1260 *See Our Ad Page 16* 

\*Aquafix, Inc. P. O. Box 8682 Madison, WI 53708 Phone: (608) 729-6617 \*Aulick Chemical Solutions, Inc. 111 Patton Ct. Nicholasville, KY 40356 Phone: (859) 881-5422 See Our Ad Page 17

\*Benchmark Construction Co., Inc. P. O. Box 1018 Hurricane, WV 25526 Phone: (304) 881-1735 See Our Ad Page 15

\*BissNuss, Inc. 7 Court Street, Suite 260 Canfield, OH 44406 Phone: (330) 533-5531 See Our Ad Page 17

\*Buchanan Pump Service & Supply Co., Inc. P.O. Box 827 Pound, VA 24279 Phone: (276) 796-5473 See Our Ad Page 17

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\*\*\***Extreme Endeavors** 1063 Hickory Corner Rd. Philippi, WV 26416 Phone: (304) 457-2500 *See Our Ad Page 26* 

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\*Gilson Engineering Sales, Inc. 535 Rochester Road Pittsburgh, PA 15237 Phone: (304) 342-0012

\*Golden Equipment Co., Inc. P.O. Box 873 Mars, PA 16046 Phone: (800) 242-1494

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\*\*National Road Utility Supply, Inc. P.O. Box A Valley Grove, WV 26060 Phone: (304) 547-0101 See Our Ad Page 30

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P.O. Box 19688 Birmingham, AL 35219 Phone: (800) 639-2435

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117 E. Piccadilly St. Winchester, VA 22601 Phone: (540) 771-2091 *See Our Ad Page 10* 

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\*Quality Water Services, LLC 160 John Street Weston, WV 26452 Phone: (304) 452-9883 See Our Ad Page 20

\*Romac Industries, Inc. 21919 20th Ave. SE, Suite 100 Bothell, WA 98021 Phone: (412) 295-7167

\*Sequoyah Software 8415 Easley Place Leawood, KS 66206 Phone: (314) 210-8922 See Our Ad Page 6

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P.O. Box 2097 Huntington, WV 25721 Phone: (304) 429-6731 See Our Ad Page 10

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97D Monocacy Blvd. Frederick, MD 21701 Phone: (301) 682-3390

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Contractors Alliance 512 33rd Street Parkersburg, WV 26101 Phone: (304) 546-1909 See Our Ad Page 15

\*United Systems & Software, Inc. P.O. Box 547 Benton, KY 42025 Phone: (800) 455-3593 See Our Ad Page 6

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