



MRWA Wins National Awards

MRWA Wins Prestigious State Association of the Year Award & Public Relations Award



Minnesota Rural Water Association staff recently attended the National Rural Water Association's (NRWA) 2013 H2O-XPO Conference from October 1st through the 3rd in Louisville, Kentucky.

NRWA honored Minnesota Rural Water Association at the H2O-XPO Conference by selecting and awarding MRWA for the coveted and prestigious **State Association of the Year Award** and the **Outstanding Achievement in Public Relations Award**. *Ruth Hubbard, MRWA executive director is shown at left with the awards at the conference.*

MRWA was honored for years of consistent service, including retaining 17 staff members with a combined 225 years of service. Minnesota also won the award for Outstanding Achievement in Communications, Publications and Public Relations, recognized for its monthly newsletter, quarterly magazine, and Web site. The winners were selected from 49 state associations across the nation.

The H2O-XPO Conference hosted water and wastewater professionals from across the nation. The H2O-XPO Conference offered attendees a chance to learn about many subjects pertaining to water and wastewater management and operations issues, including water and the rural economy, a nationwide peer network, an exhibit hall full of expertise in the industry, and much more.

NRWA will host the WaterPro Conference in 2014 in Seattle, Washington on October 6-8. More information is available at: www.waterproconference.org.

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November Holidays
MRWA's office will be closed November 11th, 28th, & 29th.

MRWA Financing Your Community Projects Training Session



Meeting the demands of repairing and replacing water and wastewater infrastructure is taking its toll on many small utility systems. Minnesota Rural Water Association is bringing together several entities that offer funding for small systems in this session.

Our objective is to promote awareness of funding sources, the rules, regulations, application processes, names, addresses, and "HOW TO'S" all under one roof. This is a don't miss session if you are looking to fund a project in 2014. Your attendance will greatly benefit your community for years to come.

Programs to be discussed include USDA Rural Development, Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, Clean Water Legacy Act, Clean Water Revolving Fund, Public Facilities Authority, Long Term & Interim Financing, and the grants process.

Learn how these funding entities are working together to put affordable projects together for communities. Acquiring funding for needed infrastructure improvements is time consuming and complex. Learn how to do your research and "homework".

Groups targeted for participation in these sessions are: mayors, administrators, economic development personnel, utility superintendents, engineers, water and wastewater operators, and others involved or interested in the financial stability of municipal and rural water systems.

Sponsored By MRWA Corporate Partners:

Ruby Partners: Adaptor, Inc.; AE2S; Dakota Pump & Control; DSG Metering Technology; Engineering America; HDR Engineering; KLM Engineering, Inc.; Minnesota Pipe & Equipment; MSA Professional Services; Swanson Flo-Systems; Stantec; Team Lab Chemical Corp.; Ulteig; and WSB & Associates, Inc.



Emerald Partners: Aeration Industries International; Apex Engineering, Inc.; Bollig, Inc.; Bolton & Menk, Inc.; Electric Pump; Flexible Pipe Tool Co.; Hawkins Water Treatment Group; HD Supply Waterworks; Hydro-Klean, LLC; I&S Group; Infratech; KLJ; MacQueen Equipment, Inc.; Moore Engineering, Inc.; Raymond James; Sensus USA; Servocal Instruments, Inc.; Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc.; Utility Service Co., Inc.; Visu-Sewer, Inc.; and Wiseth Smith Nolting.

Class: MRWA Financing Your Community Projects Training Session

Date: November 6, 2013 (8:00am - 3:00pm)

Location: Best Western Kelly Inn
100 4th Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN
Driving directions: www.bestwesternstcloud.com/location.php

Cost: \$125.00 members or \$150.00 non-members

Register: Mail registration form and check **by November 1st** to:
Minnesota Rural Water Association
217 12th Avenue SE, Elbow Lake, MN 56531
Phone: 800-367-6792 * Fax: 218-685-5272



Name: _____

Title: _____ **Representing:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____ **Fax:** _____

E-mail: _____

Refund policy: Full refund will not be given unless MRWA is notified 48 hours in advance. Partial credit allowance on medical or snow removal emergency only will be considered on a case by case basis.

7:45am Registration and Introductions

Line Tracing Overview

Learn line tracing tricks of the trade, tracer wire products, installation, and specifications during this session.

Water Tower Cleaning and Paint Touch Up Options

See simple cost effective ways to keep your water tower clean and looking good. Learn about a nonabrasive cleaning method that is safe, effective, and an affordable touch up option.

Chloramination Disinfection - Controlling the Chemistry

Many communities rely more heavily on chloramination for disinfection of their drinking water for various reasons such as ammonia becoming more prevalent in Minnesota wells. This presentation will discuss the chemistry of using chloramines for disinfection, as well as the importance of tank mixing to maintain control of the chemistry.

Water Operations Specialist Retirement Options

Learn where your money is being invested and if there are going to be any changes in the retirement options in the future. Learn what you should be doing in advance to prepare for your big day.

12:00pm Lunch - (Provided)

1:00pm* Gopher State One Call Updates

See why you need to call in before you excavate, what information you need to provide to them, and what the new requirements are at Gopher State One Call.

OSHA Inspections

Discover what the most common citations are from an OSHA inspector. See what an OSHA inspector looks for when they walk in your door.

Water Treatment Telemetry and SCADA System Updates

Learn about new affordable technology for upgrading your control systems.

4:00pm Questions & Answers

End of Day

To Register For Any Training Session: Call the MRWA Office at 800-367-6792 or online at www.mrwa.com. Use the training calendar link.

November 20, 2013

City of Clarks Grove

City Shop

105 1st Street NE

Clarks Grove, MN

Course Objective: This training session is designed to give the attendee a clear understanding of retirement options, what to expect from OSHA inspections, review Gopher State One Call program, and learn about water tower cleaning and paint touch up options. Attendees will learn about chemical treatment options, upgrading control systems, understanding line tracing techniques, and tracer wire options.

Course Instructors: This training session will be taught with the assistance of Department of Labor and Industry Work Place Safety - OSHA, Electric Pump, Gopher State One Call, Infratech, Public Employees Retirement Association, Treatment Resources, Inc., Water Tower Clean & Coat, Inc., and Minnesota Rural Water Association.

Six Certification Hours
for Full Day Attendance

There is **NO** charge for this session.



*Water Operator Certification Exam will be given at 1:00pm. You must pre-register with the Minnesota Department of Health **15 days prior to the training session**. For an application form and study guide, call MRWA at 800-367-6792 or Mark Sloan, MDH, at 651-201-4652. You can also download an exam application at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/wateroperator/infoexam/opexamapp.pdf>.

Small System Management Training Session

Water and/or Wastewater Systems

You are invited to take part in informational training sessions designed to help your community prepare and manage upcoming or recently completed wastewater and/or water projects.

Who Should Attend? Mayors, Water & Wastewater Specialists, Clerks, Lake Association Members, Township Board Members, Council Members, Homeowners, and Other Interested Personnel.

To Register: call the MRWA office at 800-367-6792 or online at: www.mrwa.com (Use the training calendar link.) Additional dates and locations for upcoming Small System Management Training Sessions can also be found online. There is **no charge** for this session!

Presented by: Minnesota Rural Water Association and USDA Rural Development.



November 19, 2013 from 12:00pm--4:00pm

City Hall, 405 East 3rd Street, Thief River Falls, MN

There is no charge for this session

Program Agenda

Introductions & Overview

Wastewater & Water System Improvements

- *Regulations and rules: agencies and roles
- *Public systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act & Clean Water Act
- *Primacy agency function
- *Why do we want proper treatment?
- *How do we start the treatment process?
- *Learning the technology jargon and options

Hiring an Engineer and Preliminary Engineering Report (PER's)

- *What is the RFQ/RFP process?
- *More knowledge gained upfront may save you dollars in the long run
- *What the Board needs to know about PER's

The Management Side

- *Role of Council as owner of the system
- *Making your own decisions
- *Information, reports, & files you need
- *Ordinances & setting policies
- *Ownership of service lines

The Financial Side

- *Setting rates for your system
- *Financial considerations for the system

The Technical Side

- *Hiring and supporting the operation specialists
- *Operation & maintenance considerations
- *Security Vulnerability Assessment & Emergency Response Plans
- *Technical assistance--services provided to you at no charge

Questions and Open Discussion



State of Minnesota
Department of Public Safety
Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management
445 Minnesota Street, Suite 223
St. Paul, MN 55101-6223

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP)

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides funding with the aim to reduce or eliminate risk to property and loss of life from future natural disasters. HMGP funds become available after a Presidential disaster declaration. Mitigation funding is available to all eligible entities in the state; however priority is given to those in the declaration. The amount of HMGP funds availability is based on a percent of Public Assistance provided by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). HMGP is a 75%/ 25% cost share program. The federal share is 75% of total eligible project reimbursement costs. The local applicant is responsible for 25% of the project costs.

Who is eligible for grant funding?

All applicants must have or be covered under an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan. Eligible applicants include:

- State and local governments
- Certain private non-profit organizations or institutions

What types of projects can be funded?

All projects must be eligible, technically feasible, and cost-effective. All projects are subject to environmental and cultural resource review. Examples of projects include:

Infrastructure Retrofit - Measures to reduce risk to existing utility systems, roads, and bridges.

Minor Localized Flood Reduction Projects - Projects to lessen the frequency or severity of flooding and decrease predicted flood damages, such as the installation or modification of culverts, and stormwater management activities, such as creating retention and detention basins. These projects must not duplicate the flood prevention activities of other Federal agencies and may not constitute a section of a larger flood control system.

Generators - Emergency equipment to provide a secondary source of power. Generators and related equipment (e.g., hook-ups) are eligible provided that they are cost-effective, contribute to a long-term solution to the problem they are intended to address, and meet other program eligibility criteria.

5 % Initiative Projects - These projects, which are only available pursuant to an HMGP disaster, provide an opportunity to fund mitigation actions that are consistent with the goals and objectives of the State or local mitigation plan and meet all HMGP program requirements, but for which it may be difficult to conduct a standard Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) to prove cost-effectiveness.

How do I apply? Submit a Notice of Interest, available on HSEMs website at: <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/hsem>

Where can I obtain further information?

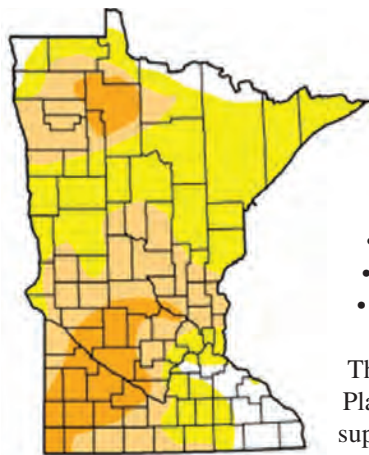
For additional information about the HMGP grant program, you can refer to the FEMA website:

<http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program>

For additional information contact:

- Jennifer Nelson, State Hazard Mitigation Officer at (651) 201-7427 or Jennifer.E.Nelson@state.mn.us
- Jim McClosky, Hazard Mitigation Planner at (651) 201-7455 or James.McClosky@state.mn.us
- Matti Gurney, Hazard Mitigation Planner at (651) 201-7443 or Matti.Gurney@state.mn.us
- Nycole Lodahl, Hazard Mitigation Planner at (651) 201-7423 or Nycole.Lohdal@state.mn.us

HMGP is authorized by Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (the Stafford Act), and Title 42, United States Code (U.S.C.) 5170c. The Minnesota Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) administer the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program for the State of Minnesota.



The Department of Natural Resources is contacting Minnesota's community public water suppliers in follow-up to last fall's communication about drought response actions. Dry, hot conditions in both 2011 and 2012 have posed challenges to many public and private water supplies. Much-needed winter precipitation has helped alleviate drought intensity across most of the state, but additional rain is needed to provide recharge to our aquatic systems.

As of April 30th, the U. S. Drought Monitor displayed that in Minnesota:

- 91% of the state is Abnormally Dry or worse
- 46% is experiencing Moderate Drought or worse
- 15% remains in Severe Drought

The DNR encourages water suppliers to do the following 3 things: 1. Review the state's Drought Plan Matrix (on the DNR website); 2. Implement the drought response measures in your public water supply plan, if you have one, and the applicable steps in the Drought Plan Matrix for water suppliers; 3. Promote water conservation to your customers and clients

1. Review Minnesota's Drought Plan Matrix

Minnesota has a statewide Drought Plan that provides a framework for responding to droughts. It is an important resource for all public water suppliers. It outlines five drought phases, which correlate to the U.S. Drought Monitor. It identifies the actions public water suppliers must take as each drought phase is reached. At this point, 91% of Minnesota is experiencing some level of drought, with notable portions of the state in the moderate and severe categories. All public water suppliers should be aware of their planned drought response, and the majority should begin implementing specified actions contained in the Drought Plan.

2. Implement Drought Contingency Measures and Prepare Communications to Users

If you serve over 1,000 people, you should have a Water Supply Plan that includes sections related to your drought preparedness, drought response and water conservation programs. Now is the time to review those sections and implement the planned actions. If you do not have a Plan, you can still ask your customers/clients to reduce their use of water and you can implement at least basic conservation measures.

91% of Minnesota is in at least the Drought Watch Phase. That means public water suppliers need to be providing conservation information to their customers and requesting them to implement voluntary measures to reduce water use. Please work on preparing these communications and sharing them with your customers throughout the coming months. Just over 15% of the state is at the Drought Warning Phase. In accordance with the Plan, suppliers implement the water use restrictions covered in their water supply plans, and implement water use reduction actions with a goal of reducing water use to 50% above January levels.

3. Promote Conservation

Water conservation will reduce the demand placed upon groundwater and surface water resources, and on municipal water supply systems. DNR encourages you to actively communicate with your customers on the importance and benefits of water conservation.

Given the severity of the fall drought in both 2011 and 2012, communities all recognize the value of protecting water supplies for the long-term. Additionally, communities may undertake water audits and leak detection, which often leads to significant reductions in water loss as well as cost savings. Drought highlights the challenges we face as water supplies are stressed and recent increased media and public attention has been focused on water resources, all across the state. The need for clean and robust supplies exists at all times, and underscores the need for planning for long-term sustainable water supplies for all communities and homes.

More Information and Contact Resources

Visit the DNR website (www.dnr.state.mn.us) to find the latest information and fact sheets on the drought. Additionally, please direct specific questions to: Princessa VanBuren Hansen, Water Use Specialist, princesa.hansen@state.mn.us, 651-259-5731 or Greg Spoden, State Climatologist, gregory.spoden@state.mn.us. 651-296-4214

The DNR seeks to maintain an open partnership with you in providing safe, reliable drinking water sources to the citizens of our state. When facing the challenges posed by a drought, we must work together to ensure the public understands the implications of their individual actions and how everyone can take steps to ensure we are prepared to adapt in case dry weather patterns persist. We appreciate your participation and engagement in achieving these goals



Minnesota Rural Water Association
217 12th Avenue SE
Elbow Lake, MN 56531

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We're Going 'Back to the Future'

30th Annual

MRWA Water & Wastewater
Technical Conference

Mark Your Calendar and Plan to Join Us!

March 4-6, 2014

Don't miss this training opportunity

***Industry and keynote speakers**

***16 water or wastewater certification hours**

***Regulatory and legislative updates**

(or a combination of both for full attendance)

***Exhibit Hall featuring new products and services**

***The Industry Event!**

***Many training opportunities and sessions**

*Plan to attend now! Come and help us celebrate our 30th Technical Conference.
We're going back to the future and it will be THE don't miss event!*