



These Men Deserve Our Gratitude!

By: Don Craig, Deputy Director

June 2018
Newsletter

Protecting and preserving the water and wastewater resources of Rural Illinois through education, representation and on-site technical assistance

I've written in the past about our dedicated staff here at Illinois Rural Water Association...and they truly are. Also, I have reminded readers, the importance our members are to the continued viability and strength of our organization. And that is even expanded, when considering the strength we have as a unified entity within the National Rural Water Association, and all of the state rural water affiliates that comprise it.

But, so often, the forgotten ones are our IRWA Board Members. They give the structured ability and support for our organization to move forward in a positive and profound fashion. These nine men, which make up our present Board, continue to involve themselves in overseeing and insuring how our association is run, with continued backing and action to allow our Executive Director, Frank Dunmire, and myself, to administer the overall day to day workings, operation, and management of the organization. Just as our members and our staff, their main interest is to insure the continued growth, direction, and longevity of IRWA; and assure our mission never changes to the rural water and wastewater systems across the state.

Leading our Board is long-time President, Greg Bates of Jersey County Rural Water, located in southwestern Illinois. He, represents the "At Large" position, and has been an active and dedicated asset to the organization. Vice-President Dale Hanner has also been a long time and devoted member, and represents District 6, from the Village of Oakland in Coles County. Both Greg and Dale have been on our Board since 1997. Our present Treasurer, and a board member since 2004, is Jeff Tumiati from Stonington, just up the road from our office in Taylorville...and he represents the 5th District. Jay Bell, rounds out the officers of the Board...serving since 2000. He is our present Secretary, and is from the Village of Forrest in Livingston County, representing District 4.

Moving on to the five remaining members...First, and the veteran of the group, is Steve Fletcher of Washington County Water Company, located in Nashville. Steve represents District 7, and is also the President of the National Rural Water

Association. He has been IRWA's National Director on NRWA's Board for many years, and became President in 2016. He has served on our Board, in various positions, since 1986...just one year after I started with IRWA. Oh yeah, I 'may' have been the one to have him come on to the Board! I really can't remember if I tricked him into it, or not... (That's my story, and I'm sticking to it.)

Rounding out the present IRWA Board is Wayne Dixon of the City of Mason City, representing District 3. Also, member Perry Musgrave of Lake Egypt Water District in southern Illinois near Marion represents District 8. Wayne and Perry have been on the IRWA Board since 2006 and 2008, respectively. Next, is Jacques Plese, representing the Village of Wilmington in Will County and District 2...he has been on the Board since 2010. Finally, our newest board member is Vince Newton of Geneseo in Henry County, and he represents District 1. Vince came on in 2017, to replace Jeff McCready of Woodhull, who now works as a Wastewater Tech for IRWA.

These nine men, which make up our present Board, continue to involve themselves...

Needless to say, all of these gentlemen, and all those people preceding them, deserve a huge "thank you" from our staff, our system members, and all rural water and wastewater systems throughout Illinois, that benefit from the many hours, miles, and oversight that they put forward year after year, to help insure IRWA's stability and ability to "do what we do"! And, each system they are from, and the governing boards of those entities, also deserves a thank-you as well. They allow and encourage these men, and indirectly their system, to be a part of the overall administration of IRWA's success...and in doing so; they become a 'spoke in wheel' in the strength and continuance of our organization! From me personally, thank you ALL so very much!

As you all probably know, this organization means everything to me...because it means so much, for so many more!

IRWA'S MISSION STATEMENT

"Protecting and preserving the water and wastewater resources of Rural Illinois through education, representation and on-site technical assistance"



By: Mark Mitchell, USDA Source Water Protection Specialist

“Professional Responsibility” is defined as “Legal and moral duty of a professional to apply his or her knowledge in ways that benefit his or her client, and the wider society, without causing any injury to either.”

As we continue to work with “skeleton crews” in all areas of public works, many water systems have turned to contracting a “Responsible Operator in Charge” as opposed to hiring a full time on site, responsible operator. This is driven by the fact that there are simply not enough certified operators to fill the need. This article is intended for all water system operators, certified or not, contract or full-time.

The flip-side of this dilemma is that state and federal government agencies are working short-handed as well. IEPA Division of Public Water Supplies has been working with empty positions, even the 6 IEPA Public Water Supplies Field Operations Sections only having 3 managers between them.

So far, I have only stated the obvious, but my topic being professional responsibility as it applies to us, (the certified water/wastewater responsible operators of Illinois) and applying the definition of professional responsibility as it applies to each of us on a personal level, we have the burden of making sure that every decision we make, fits the strict guidelines of that definition. It very well may mean taking extra time outside of our normal working hours to read and understand the rules and regulations that have been established to protect the best interest of our customers.

IEPA staff are always willing to assist us with questions we have, but in a larger sense, we must

continually educate ourselves on the intricacies contained within the rules and regs that we are professionally and morally bound to uphold. Maintaining our professional responsibility will help to assure that our water and wastewater systems are in compliance.

A passing statement by an IEPA employee in regards to a situation under review that I have been involved with, got me thinking of this topic and how to approach the writing of this article. The IEPA employees we deal with, do as much as possible to help us keep our systems in compliance with all the rules and regs, but we must take personal responsibility for our professional responsibility. If we skimp on the tiniest unknown/unseen responsibilities, it will begin to bleed over into the things that will sooner or later, come to the surface for all to see.

I do believe we have seen enough in the news to support my writing this article to remind us all to make sure that everything we do, write, log or say in private; may as well be done, written, logged or said in an open room full of people, as it may very well; be so.

I digress a bit, but just paying close attention to what that “R” stands for in “ROINC” will make us all better partners with IEPA and other agencies for protecting our citizens who have been given reason, in some areas of our country, to not trust the quality of their drinking water.

Responsibility requires reading, relating, remembering and always doing the RIGHT thing.

UPCOMING IRWA TRAINING SESSIONS

July 10, 2018	IEPA Update and Control Panels	Springfield
July 11, 2018	Fe, Mn, As and Radium Removal	Rochelle
July 12, 2018	Basics of Control Panels & Lince Locating Technology	Mt. Zion
July 17, 2018	Meters and Effective Data Collection	Vandalia
July 24, 2018	Meter Tech, Chlorination and Water Clarification	Caseyville
July 25, 2018	Mesh Technology, Chlorination and Jar Testing	Carterville

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

15TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

WHEN: FRIDAY, AUGUST 17, 2018

10:00 A.M. SHOT GUN START

**PIPER GLEN GOLF CLUB
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**



PLEASE JOIN US FOR ANOTHER FUN FILLED DAY WITH PEERS!
Look for more information this month on our website at www.ilrwa.org and in the mail.

Happy July 4th

THE IRWA OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 2018 TO OBSERVE INDEPENDENCE DAY.

**Illinois Rural Water Association
3305 Kennedy Road
P.O. Box 49
Taylorville, IL 62568
217-287-2115**

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QUALITY ON TAP



Staff Members

- Executive Director**
Frank Dunmire (dunmire@ilrwa.org)
- Deputy Director**
Don Craig (craig@ilrwa.org)
- Membership Services Assistant**
Heather McLeod (ilrwahm@ilrwa.org)
- Administrative/Program Assistant**
Denise Burke (ilrwadb@ilrwa.org)
- Circuit Rider #1**
Evan Jones (jones@ilrwa.org)
- Circuit Rider #2**
Roger Noe (noe@ilrwa.org)
- Circuit Rider #3**
Chuck Woodworth (ilrwacw@ilrwa.org)
- Wastewater Technician #1**
Jeff McCreedy (mccreedy@ilrwa.org)
- Wastewater Technician #2**
John Bell (ilrwajb@ilrwa.org)
- USDA Source Water Protection Specialist**
Mark Mitchell (mitchell@ilrwa.org)
- Training & Marketing**
Phil Donelson (donelson@ilrwa.org)

Website: www.ilrwa.org

GPS/GIS MAPPING SERVICES

Through the implementation of GPS & GIS technology, IRWA can effectively produce hard copy and digital maps. With this service available from IRWA, utilities can attain new and accurate maps to better manage their water, wastewater, and storm sewer assets.

The printed maps can be large-scale wall maps up to 36"x48" showing utility features with the desired layers (aerial photos, streets, topography, etc.).

The digital map files on a CD, can be viewed and printed with free software that IRWA will provide and install on a utility computer. The software allows you to view and click on a system feature (such as a valve, hydrant, meter pit, curb stop, manhole, lift station, treatment facility, etc.), and pull up attribute data about each...as well as several other capabilities such as printing, zooming, etc.

Also, IRWA has a working relationship, with DiamondMaps.com, to put your IRWA project maps, on their server, for mobile viewing with a smartphone or cellular capable tablet....including editing capability. This is at no extra charge to the system for the first year's subscription. Continuance of the Diamond Maps service after the first year, is at the utility's discretion.

Payment for GIS services, is a set charge per feature, with IRWA members receiving an automatic 30% discount, and even more of a reduction with bigger projects. More information is also posted on our website at: www.ilrwa.org, or you may call our office at 217-287-2115.

