



Right about now you might be asking yourself “what in the world is a snowmageddon”? Well, that is the name that President Barack Obama gave to the storm that shut down Washington DC recently. Unfortunately, I and several other fellow Illinoisans were in town to witness either one or both of the storms that shut the Nation’s capitol down for a few days. I thought I would take this opportunity to share with you some of the sights and my brief commentaries of the historic storm.

NRWA National Director, Steve Fletcher, and I were scheduled to fly into Washington on Friday February 5th to attend NRWA Committee meetings – just ahead of a snowstorm that forecasters were predicting to be an historic event. Now, as a general rule I don’t place a whole lot of confidence in any weather forecaster’s snow total predictions. After all, they are employed by news media and a “bad” storm is good for ratings.

Evidently the DC area has some of the better forecasters. When they said to expect 2 – 3 FEET of snow – they meant it! We were staying about 4 blocks from the Capitol at the Hyatt and by midday Saturday there was 22 inches of snow outside the front door. Twenty-two inches of snow is a bad storm – even by central Illinois standards – but most towns have the equipment and expertise to deal with it. Sadly, DC had neither of those. With what little equipment they did have, they were able to make some of the arterial streets passable (and I use that term VERY loosely).

Twenty-two inches of snow is a bad storm – even by central Illinois standards

they flew in just ahead of a blizzard that began the following evening and blew throughout most of the following day adding another 12 inches of snow to what was already on the ground.

During the Rally, appointments are made with all of the Illinois Legislators’ offices to ask for their support of rural water initiatives throughout the country. I had made these appointments for Tuesday afternoon and throughout the day on Wednesday only to start receiving emails Tuesday morning asking to reschedule.

Given the weather report, all of the offices were trying to complete business before 4:00 PM and the decision was made to split into two groups and cover all 21 offices in one afternoon and we were able to meet with all but a handful. The meetings we did have were high quality and not rushed like most years when the halls are crowded with hundreds of other people asking for support of their projects. It was during the walk from one office to another in one of the House Of-

fice buildings that my group thought I had taken leave of my senses when I stopped to take a picture of an empty hallway. When asked why I explained that in the many years I have been coming to DC this is the first time that I have seen a hallway completely void of people! Wednesday was pretty well spent sitting in the hotel looking out the window at blizzard conditions that took visibility down to zero at times.



New Jersey Avenue in front of Hyatt in DC



Empty Hallway in House Office Building

By the time Monday afternoon rolled around, the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport had reopened and was accepting flights again enabling several other IRWA Board members to get into DC to attend the Rural Water Rally scheduled for the 9th and 10th. Not to be outdone,

(continued on page 2)

IRWA’S MISSION STATEMENT

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



When Thursday finally dawned the snow had ended and the wind had finally subsided enough that by the time lunch time approached we were all ready to get a little relief from our “cabin fever” and ventured out for lunch. We started the five block trek to Union Station to see if any of the many restaurants there would be open when only two blocks from the hotel we decided to show a stranded delivery truck driver some down-home Illinois courtesy by pushing his truck out of the intersection where it had become stuck in the snow. With the feeling of satisfaction that comes from doing a good deed fresh in our minds we repeated the favor for another stranded motorist a couple of blocks up the street.

In closing I would like to pass along some of the “ingenious” solutions to problems that were actually witnessed in DC (and I swear these are all 100 % true).

Problem: Stuck in the snow

Possible Solutions: Throw your delivery ticket book under the back tires for additional traction; Use a lug wrench to try to dig out; Use an aluminum ball bat to remove snow from under your back tires (only works if your car is front wheel drive!); Use a cricket bat to dig out and probably my personal favorite for a large delivery truck – throw wooden pallets under the drive wheels. A word of caution on the final solution – don’t stand behind the vehicle when the drive wheels finally grab onto a pallet, it’s amazing how far they will fly out the back!



Know Your Water

By: Kathy Rodgers, USEPA Source Water Specialist

Hello fellow water enthusiasts. My name is Kathy Rodgers, IRWA’s new Source Water Technician. My job is to assist you in your effort to reduce or eliminate the potential risks to your community’s water supply. After meeting with several of you I was pleased to learn that most of you are embracing your role as water stewards. Good for you! I know that it is a job that goes mostly unrewarded but we in the water industry know that the potential consequences of a contaminated water source, necessitate our efforts to protect it today. So help push our grass root initiative by getting involved and becoming inventive in our approach to water protection.

The overall goal is to ensure that Illinois continues to have some of the best water in the world. To accomplish this necessary goal community support is essential. Partner with your local producers to outline voluntary programs, practices, and other preventative measures that would be co-beneficial. Research what potential contaminants that may penetrate the community’s water supply. Finally, give local organizations the chance to help to spread awareness and voice potential concerns. IRWA has partnered with the USEPA to help you get the ball rolling in your community.

An old organizing expression states: “If it ain’t written, it ain’t a plan.” IRWA will help write a plan of action based off of the needs and concerns of your community. Together, we will gather ideas while pulling from past plans and IEPA suggestions. The drafted plan is to be presented to the steering committee and be open for modifications. Once the plan has been approved by committee members it will serve as a road-map for implementing your source water protection plan.

IRWA can help you form a steering committee made up of concerned and informed citizens in your community. Think broad when selecting your committee members. Be sure to include people that have been in the area awhile. They will

remember what used to be on the land (storage tanks, abandoned wells, etc.) that may pose a potential threat and could have been otherwise overlooked. Think of a community leader or teacher that would bring creative ideas to get the community involved. Inviting local media may produce a platform to inform the community of the initiative. Finally, be sure to include an elected official that could help facilitate possible regulatory measures.

Assign tasks to those who volunteer to participate. Keep the tasks small and manageable. Set deadlines for each task and follow up near the end of each deadline. This will keep the plan on track, highlight the importance of each contribution, and you will come across professional and organized. Ultimately the success of this source water protection plan is contingent upon follow through from these volunteers.

Another vital part of a good source water protection plan is disaster preparedness. Although most people assume that clean water will always be plentiful, water operators need to be prepared and plan for the worst case scenario. Just as I quoted above: “If it ain’t written, it ain’t a plan.” IRWA will assist you in writing a contingency plan to be prepared in the event a catastrophe strikes and your community’s water supply becomes disrupted or contaminated. Together, we’ll determine what information, tasks, and procedures are necessary to facilitate our leaders’ decision-making process and timely response to any disruption or contamination to your public water supply. In closing, be proud if you have: evaluated your water supply’s recharge area for potential contaminants; established a clear disaster relief or contingency plan; helped educate your community on the importance of their water supply; overall done your best to protect your community’s water supply for future generations. Otherwise, contact IRWA for help if you are interested in creating and implementing a source water protection plan.



Water Math
By: Gale Moore, Circuit Rider

1. The month of January you pumped 1,200,000 gallons of water. The clerk billed your customers for 967,000 gallons. What was your unaccounted for % of water for this month?

2. The daily pumpage at your plant is 78,800 gallons. Your reading on the scale says you used 8 pounds of chlorine. What is your calculated dosage in mg/l?

3. At a 120,000 gallon per day plant, the jar test for alum is 20 mg/l. How many pounds of alum should the operator feed per day?

4. A drilled well is 1150 feet deep and has an airline 215 feet long. With the pump off, and air added until the gauge has stabilized the gauge reads 29 psi. What is the static water level? Given- 1 psi= 2.31 ft

5. 5200 feet of 6 inch water main is installed, the operator needs to completely fill the main. How many gallons of water will he need?

Answers:

1. % unaccounted= in minus out divided by in times 100
 % unaccounted= $1,200,000 - 967,000 / 1,200,000 \times 100$
 % unaccounted= $233,000 / 1,200,000 \times 100$
 % unaccounted= $.194 \times 100$
 % unaccounted= 19.4

2. Dosage= pounds divided by million gallons per day divided by 8.34 pounds per gallon
 Dosage= $\text{lbs} / \text{MGD} / 8.34$
 Dosage= $8 / (78,800 / 1,000,000) / 8.34$
 Dosage= $8 / .0788 / 8.34$
 Dosage= 12.2

3. Pounds= dosage mg/l x million gallons per day x 8.34 pounds per gallon
 Pounds= $20 \times (120,000 / 1,000,000) \times 8.34$
 Pounds= $20 \times .12 \times 8.34$
 Pounds= 20

4. Static Water Level= Airline length (ft) minus Gauge reading (ft)
 Static Water Level= $215 \text{ ft} - (29 \text{ psi} \times 2.31 \text{ ft})$
 Static Water Level= $215 \text{ ft} - 67 \text{ ft}$
 Static Water Level= 148 ft

5. Volume= Area x Length x 7.48 gallons per cubic feet
 Area= $.785 \text{ dia}^2$
 Area= $.785 \times (6/12) \text{ ft} \times (6/12) \text{ ft}$
 Area= $.785 \times .5 \text{ ft} \times .5 \text{ ft}$
 Area= $.19625 \text{ ft}^2$

 Volume= $.19625 \text{ ft}^2 \times 5200 \text{ ft}$
 Volume= 1020.5 ft^3
 Volume= $1020.5 \text{ ft}^3 \times 7.48 \text{ gallons} / \text{ft}^3$
 Volume= 7633.34 gallons



Remember to check out our website, www.ilrwa.org, for the latest training sessions to register for!!

Upcoming Training Sessions

Water

April 21, 2010—Source Water Protection & Regulatory Update—Troy

May 5, 2010—Unaccounted for Water Loss / Leak Detection—Warsaw

May 12, 2010—Well Pump & Motor O. & M.—Aledo

Wastewater

April 22, 2010—Collection / Lagoons—Flora



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**28th ANNUAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE
Heather McLeod, Membership Services Assistant**

In case you didn't know – our 28th Annual Technical Conference was held February 16-18 at the Keller Convention Center.

A complete list and pictures of the winners is posted on our website (www.ilrwa.org), but here are some highlights:

Water Plant of the Year - Gateway Regional Water Company & City of Hamilton
Water Operator of the Year - Dave Dollinger, Village of Toluca
Wastewater Plant of the Year - City of Paxton
Wastewater Operator of the Year - Phil Brandenburg, City of DuQuoin
Associate Member of the Year - Metropolitan Industries
Person of the Year - Roger Selburg
Grand Prize Winner - Kevin Whitten - Altamont
\$1,000 Associate Member Scholarship Winners- Stephanie Winzenburger - Cobden
Gregory Long, II - Metamora
Water Taste Test Winner - Caterpillar Trail PWD

Congratulations to all the winners!!

Thank you to PDC Laboratories for sponsoring lunch on Wednesday, our Associate members who contributed to the scholarship fund, and everyone who helped the Sportsman's Raffle bring in \$8,060. \$3,500 has been sent to NRWA for the Water-pac to assist rural water efforts in Washington D.C. The rest of the money will be put towards new equipment for staff or member use.

The convention center will be undergoing some construction this year which includes adding another hotel onto the other side and a bigger meeting room for our water sessions. So, next year, we will return to Effingham, February 22 – 24, 2011.