



# Illinois Rural Water Association

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## Take the Time By: Don Craig, Deputy Director

Too often, we all go through life, without taking time to thank those that help to make a difference in who we are, what we do, and what we accomplish. That kind of help can be from many various individuals throughout our short time on this earth, and encompass quite an array of different topics and solutions.

Within our Association, our Field Staff travel many, many miles each year across this large and great state; providing technical, management and training assistance to public water and wastewater facility personnel, in any way they possibly can within their limits.

Each of those individuals has many years of background experience in the water and/or wastewater field(s). This comes not only from their own experience, prior to working for IRWA, but also, grasping and using information and problem solving ideas learned from many of you that work in the systems they are assisting. That is the 'beauty' of being an Association... to be able to associate information and solutions from one system to another. Many times, our Field Staff personnel, are in some ways, the middle-man (or woman), in making sure that this kind of help is associated and put to use at other utilities they may work with. Also, the bigger benefit is we are just one state affiliate within the National Rural Water Association. NRWA is made up of state associations,

throughout the United States. As such, through those state affiliates, including Illinois, the NRWA represents nearly 32,000 rural water and wastewater facilities across the nation... and, is the largest utility membership organization in the USA. That bond we have with all State Associations and their employees, through the national organization, is another asset to Field Staff personnel,

to gain insightful and useful information and solutions to apply in the field within the state they are from.

In Illinois, each IRWA Field Staff, spends many hours and travels what

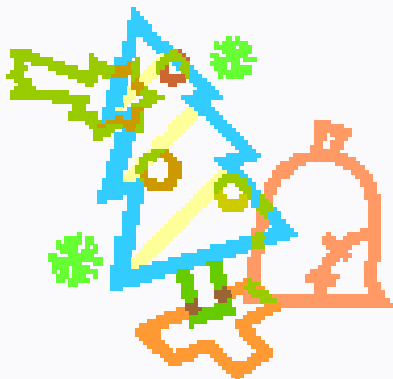
seems like endless miles, on the road each month to provide the assistance and training this organization has been conducting since 1979. I don't believe, any of our assistance providers and trainers, would profess they know everything there is to know about all aspects of the water and wastewater fields...but, I do believe that each one of them will bust their rear, helping you out to find a solution to your problem or answer to your question. That is one mark of quality, of an assistance providing entity such as Illinois Rural Water Association. We have grown and succeeded over the years, because we have continued to strive to not only assist, help, and train those systems and personnel to the best of our ability; but also, have taken the time to '

In Illinois, each IRWA Field Staff, spends many hours and travels what seems like.....

**Website: [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org)**

## **IRWA'S MISSION STATEMENT**

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



learn ourselves from the people and systems we serve.

Our Circuit Riders, Wastewater Techs, Training Specialist, and Source Water Specialist, are dedicated and committed to continuing to be the best they can be in regard to providing various services to all rural water and wastewater system personnel throughout the state. I know they appreciate all of those utility people they encounter throughout the year. So please, take the time, to thank each and every one of them for the hard and devoted work they do, to make things better for

rural systems in Illinois. Also, one footnote, as many of you know, each of those IRWA employees work through programs funded through NRWA, by the USDA and EPA. As such, taking the time to pass along any good comments about the help you receive from IRWA Field Staff and IRWA as a whole... on to Rural Development, FSA, and IEPA, would be greatly appreciated.



## **Rates, Budgets, - - It's About That Time Again** By: **Bill Dowell, Wastewater Technician**

The last few years has seen quite a number of systems expand or up-grade their service areas. In order to accomplish that work, their rate structures were analyzed, and then adjusted to cover the costs. System financial management requires frequent monitoring several budget items. Using the last fiscal year data as a basis for the new fiscal year budget usually provides a good start. The stability developed over several years of varied experiences is built into that budget, making it possible to manage expenditures and forecast revenues. This process should help define any adjustments needed for the future.

A significant factor that is easily overlooked in the budget process is the erosion to revenues caused by inflation. For example, if your water bill was \$25.00 in 2007, and it had been adjusted using the Consumer Price Index inflation calculation for 2012, it should cost \$27.89 now. That's only \$2.89, but it's an 11.56% increase in just 5 years. In an effort to hold their own with inflation, systems should consider an annual adjustment, based on inflationary changes over the previous year, as a useful aid in the budget process. The following is an example method:

Assume the minimum user-rate is charged monthly per metered service -

Minimum water usage = 1500 gallons, @ \$4.75 per 1000 gals. = **\$7.125**

Minimum sewer usage charge

based on water consumption of 1500 gallons, at \$3.58 per 1000 gals. = **\$5.37**

Total monthly minimum: \$7.125 + \$5.37 = \$12.495 or **\$12.50**

1.) Adjustment to water and sewer rates at the beginning of your fiscal year based on the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous 1 year period, an example calculated as:

(Assuming fiscal year begins May 1, 2009)  
CPI as of March 1, 2008 = 2.52  
CPI as of March 1, 2009 = 2.60

Percentage change =  $2.60/2.52 \times 100 = 103.17\%$

If the minimum user-rate was \$12.50 per month, then

$\$12.50 \times 1.0317 = \$12.90$  as the new minimum per month.

If a graduated rate is used, then the change is applied to each step in the rates also. Say \$4.80 for the next 1000 gallons of water, and \$3.63 for sewer, then:

$\$4.80 \times 1.0317 = \$4.95$   
 $\$3.63 \times 1.0317 = \$3.745$

Therefore a metered service using 2500 gallons per month would be adjusted as follows:

Current Minimum

### Adjusted Minimum

Water & Sewer – 1500 gallons = \$12.50  
Water & Sewer – 1500 gallons =

\$12.90

Add'l. Water – 1000 gallons = \$ 4.80

Add'l. Water – 1000 gallons = \$ 4.95

Add'l. Sewer – 1000 gallons = \$ 3.58

Add'l. Sewer – 1000 gallons = \$ 3.745

**Total Current Billing \$20.88**

**Total Adjusted Billing \$21.60**

Adjustment to rates using a pre-selected rate annually is also common. If the Board or Council sets the annual rate-increase at 3%, then the adjustments are made, as above, by multiplying through by 103%.

**Minimum \$12.50 X 1.03 = \$12.875 new minimum charge.**

***Note: Changing rates at the start of each fiscal year will provide consistent audits for those funds, and allow constant monitoring of the effects of the changes.***

The following link will take you to the Bureau of Labor Statistics website and the CPI calculator:

[http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation\\_calculator.htm](http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm)



**JUST FOR FUN! THOUGHT I'D SHARE  
SOME OF MY FAVORITE QUOTES, THOUGHTS AND ONE - LINERS!**

**By: Pat Gammill, Circuit Rider**

- **The true sign of intelligence is not knowledge but imagination.** Albert Einstein
- **Mistakes are part of the dues one pays for a full life.** Sophia Loren
- **I've learned that people will forget what you said, they will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.** Maya Angelou
- **I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody.** Bill Cosby
- **Action is the antidote to despair.** Joan Baez
- **If you're not failing every now and again, it's a sign you're not doing anything very innovative.** Woody Allen
- **The person who knows how to laugh at himself will never cease to be amazed.** Shirley MacLaine
- **The brain is a wonderful organ, it starts working the moment you get up in the morning and doesn't stop until you get into the office.** Robert Frost
- **Don't compromise yourself. You're all you've got!** Janis Joplin
- **There are some things you learn best in calm and some in storm.** Willa Cather
- **The only time to eat diet food is while you're waiting for the steak to cook.** Julia Child
- **Because things are the way they are, things will not stay the way they are.** Bertolt Brecht
- **Without a struggle, there can be no progress.** Frederick Douglass
- **We all live with the objective of being happy, our lives are all different and yet the same.** Anne Frank
- **Fashions fade, style is eternal.** Yves Saint Laurent
- **Curve: The loveliest distance be-**
- **tween two points.** Mae West
- **If only we'd stop trying to be happy, we'd have a pretty good time.** Edith Wharton
- **The worst part of success is trying to find someone who is happy for you.** Bette Midler
- **Whatever you are, be a good one.** Abraham Lincoln
- **Reflect upon your present blessings, of which every man has plenty, not on your past misfortunes of which all men have some.** Charles Dickens
- **I really don't think I need buns of steel. I'd be happy with buns of cinnamon.** Ellen DeGeneres
- **It is easier to stay out than get out.** Mark Twain
- **It's hard to beat a person who never gives up.** Babe Ruth
- **Life is not measured by the breaths we take but rather by the things that take our breath away.**
- **Happy people aren't necessarily thankful, but thankful people are always happy.**
- **Good friends are like stars, you don't always see them but you know they're there.**
- **Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, but rather learning to find joy in the rain.**
- **Don't ask God to guide your footsteps, if you're not willing to move your feet.**
- **If you settle for less than you deserve, you'll get even less than you settled for.**
- **Wrinkles only go where the smiles have been.** Jimmy Buffet
- **The more I get to know people, the more I like my dog.** Mark Twain
- **Where there's a will...I hope I'm in it.**
- **Worry looks around, sorry looks back, faith looks up.**
- **After all is said and done, usually more is said than done.**
- **It's nice to be important, but it's more important to be nice.**
- **You shouldn't have to sacrifice who you are just because somebody else has a problem with it.**
- **I just want to be the type of person my dog thinks I am.**
- **"Be Yourself", is about the worst advice you can give some people.**
- **Today is the oldest you've ever been, yet the youngest you'll ever be.**
- **You don't stop laughing when you die, you die when you stop laughing.**
- **Aspire to Inspire before you Expire.**
- **Let your efforts exceed your excuses.**
- **Destiny is not a matter of chance it is a matter of choice. It is not something to be waited for, but rather something to be achieved.**
- **Life is not about your circumstances, it's about your choices.**

**I May Not Be Someone's First Choice  
But I'm A Great Choice  
I May Not Be Rich, But I'm Valuable  
I Don't Pretend To Be Someone I'm Not  
Because I'm Good At Being Me  
I May Not Be Proud Of Some Things  
I've Done  
But I'm Proud Of Who I Am Today  
I May Not Be Perfect But I Don't Need  
To Be  
Take Me As I Am Or Watch Me As I  
Walk Away!**

**Hope you enjoyed! See ya in my travels  
and have a Fabulous New Year!**



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM  
THE BOARD AND STAFF OF IRWA!**





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**QUALITY ON TAP**

Illinois Rural Water strives to provide training opportunities to our membership so you can not only stay informed of new trends and products, but also to satisfy required education credits. It is with that in mind that we have added a new member to our staff. Phil Donelson is our new Fee Based Training Manager and will be responsible for adding a number of new training opportunities to our existing curriculum. Phil will be setting up several sessions throughout the state, adding a conference or two, as well as organizing an Equipment Expo in the future.

Stay tuned for more information about those projects!

We are asking for your feedback so we can target sessions

and topics that are pertinent to your needs and interests.

For your convenience we are placing a small survey on the web site at [www.ilrwa.org](http://www.ilrwa.org) Click on the training survey and we will take your responses and feedback to use as platforms to build new courses.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS.....  
31ST ANNUAL IRWA CONFERENCE  
FEBRUARY 19—21, 2013**

**THELMA KELLER CONVENTION CENTER  
EFFINGHAM, ILLINOIS**

**PLEASE CHECK YOUR MAILBOXES SHORTLY FOR AGENDAS OR GO ONLINE  
AND REGISTER AT [WWW.ILRWA.ORG](http://WWW.ILRWA.ORG).**