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On the Cover:

This picture was taken by Luke McLeod, husband of Heather McLeod, Membership Services Assistant, near Sharpsburg, Illinois.

Water Ways is the official publication of the Illinois Rural Water Association, P.O. Box 49, Taylorville, Illinois 62568, and is published quarterly for distribution to members as well as other industry associations and friends. Our website is www.ilrwa.org. Articles and photographs are encouraged. Advertising and submissions should be mailed to the above address or e-mail us at ilrwadb@ilrwa.org.





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Flint Michigan and It's Potential Fallout

by Frank Dunmire, IRWA Executive Director

Let me begin this edition's article with a broad, but true, statement. Almost all System Operations Specialists in the drinking water field are truly professional and make every effort to provide their customers with a safe supply of potable water that meets all of the parameters of Federal, State and Local regulations. Unfortunately, as in any industry, there is the rare occasion where the actions (or inactions) of one or more will have a profound effect on everyone else in that industry. That is the case when it comes to the events that transpired in Flint Michigan.

As we all know, last year tests revealed that Flint's drinking water contained excessive levels of lead – a problem that many of us have dealt with successfully since the implementation of the lead and copper rule. So what went wrong?

In a nutshell, it was a perfect storm of errors and omissions on the part of many people that all boiled down to cost savings. Don't get me wrong, we all need to be looking at cost savings. But when it comes to the health of our consumers, all due diligence should be taken. In this case, it seems, that it was not.

The wheels were set in motion early in 2013 when the Flint City Council voted to switch water sources from the City of Detroit to the newly created Karegnondi Water Authority (KWA). Detroit was unsuccessful in its attempts to block this change and gave Flint it's one-year termination of service notice. It would take the KWA several years to build their treatment and distribution system so Flint decided to save \$5 million

over the next two years by switching from the Lake Huron water purchased from Detroit to treating their own water from the Flint River. The Flint River had long been their emergency backup supply and they already had a treatment facility in place. Everyone thought this to be a simple solution but were slow to realize they had just created a "monster".

Early on signs were beginning to present themselves that the water was "just not the same". Many calls were coming into the Flint Water Department complaining of taste and odor problems as well as severe discoloration of the water. Flint officials initially dispelled these complaints as a short-term problem arising from the change of water sources. Flint had been purchasing Lake Huron water from Detroit for about 50 years and the distribution system was not reacting well to the change. It was not long before the press picked up on this story and it quickly became both national and global news. Something our industry did not need.

In recent conversations with Representatives and Senators from both the State and Federal levels, the topic of Flint always comes up. Their common question is can a "Flint Michigan" happen here. I am always honest in my answer and tell them that if they are looking for a 100% guarantee that it could not happen elsewhere, I could not offer that. But, what I could offer is that one thing this industry is great at is learning from mistakes (hopefully others) and that it is HIGHLY unlikely that another "Flint Michigan" could happen.

Several people at the Federal, State



and Local levels that were involved with the decisions and issues in Flint have either quit or been relieved of their duties. In April of this year, criminal charges were filed against three people (two primacy agency staff and one former water plant operator) for their parts in trying to cover up the lead problem. Coming as no surprise, several lawsuits have already been filed and I can only assume many more will follow with litigation lasting many years.

Now it is time to protect ourselves from the fallout so that legislative and regulatory reactions do not become a "knee jerk reaction" to what is most likely to become a one-time event. Several proposed changes to Federal and State legislation have already been introduced and I can see that several more will most likely follow.

One such bill is H.R.4470 the "Safe Drinking Water Act Improved Compliance Awareness Act" that passed out of the House of Representatives on February 10, 2016 and has been sent to the Senate. As a whole, the bill was not too restrictive but there was a provision in it that stated:

continued on page 5



Flint Michigan and It's Potential Fallout

continued from page 4

"If the [United States] Environmental Protection Agency develops or receives, from a source other than the State or the public water system, data... indicating that the drinking water of a person served by a public water system contains a level of lead that exceeds a lead action level promulgated under section 1412, the Administrator shall require an appropriate employee of the Agency to forward such data to the owner or operator of the public water system and to the State in which the exceedance occurred within a time period established by the Administrator. If an owner or operator of a public water system receives a notice under clause (i), the owner or operator, within a time period established by the Administrator, shall disseminate to affected persons the information described in subparagraph (C)."

NRWA has already circulated a letter to Members of the US Senate voicing our concerns on this provision.

At the State level, SB550 was passed on May 31st and sent to the House for consideration. This bill has many flaws and IRWA had asked the sponsor of the bill (Sen. Heather A. Steans D-Chicago)

to be included in any meetings held to discuss the proposed bill. Surprisingly enough, we were never notified of any of the meetings by her office but our lobbyist was able to get information on one final meeting before the bill

was called for a vote. Our written comments were submitted to the Senator's staff thinking another meeting would be held to discuss the differences that the opponents had with the bill language. That meeting did not take place and the bill passed on a 48-5 vote. It is now in the House and has been assigned to the Rules Committee. It is widely anticipated the bill will not get out of committee before

the House adjourns for the summer but will most likely get some attention during this fall's veto session. We will be watching this and other bills closely and reaching out to our members if we feel it is necessary.

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Life's Path

So here it is just a couple of months from when I should be elected President of the National Rural Water Association. How did I get to this point and where did the time go!

I started working for the Washington County Water Company in November, 1981. With no experience in the water field, I learned on the job, a couple of classes, and help from Illinois Rural Water. In 1986, I attended the Annual Meeting in Decatur where Illinois Rural Water Association (IRWA) staff person Don Craig "conned", oops, asked me if I could serve on the IRWA board. I replied that my board would have to approve it, which they did. My board President,

Phil Jones and Treasurer, Preston Carson urged me to get involved in organizations so that our water system would be recognized. Little did I know at the time, where it would lead.

While serving on the IRWA Board of Directors, I held several positions including President in the early 90's. I served with board members past and present that were passionate about Rural Water and really cared about our members in rural Illinois.

I also served on the board of the Southern Illinois Water Operator's Association and the JULIE Board of Directors. The reason I got on the JULIE



board was to try to get JULIE to require more specific geographic information from callers. Eventually, locates requested would have to provide quarter section information, thus reducing

continued on page 7



the number of locates small communities and rural systems would receive.

In 1999, I ran against fellow IRWA board member Gary King for the National Director position and narrowly won. My appointment to the National Rural Water Board of Directors began in the fall of 1999. In 2008, my good friend Rolly Olney, the Michigan National Director urged me to run for the Executive Committee. With his help, I won the election and joined him on that Committee. What a great loss for NRWA when Rolly suddenly passed away shortly afterward. Within a couple of years I was elected Treasurer of the Board and began climbing the ladder towards the top spot. In September, I hope to be the next NRWA President. The path you take in life can certainly lead to an unexpected point in life.

In closing, I want to thank a man who was responsible for urging the Washington County Water Company to take a chance on a young man with no experience as their first Manager/Operator. This man was the attorney for the water company at the time and who is now an Illinois Supreme Court Justice. Thank you, Justice Lloyd Karmeier, for everything you did and have done for me. Because of your efforts this ex-car salesman has had a wonderful career in the rural water industry. Hopefully, I have helped someone along the way.

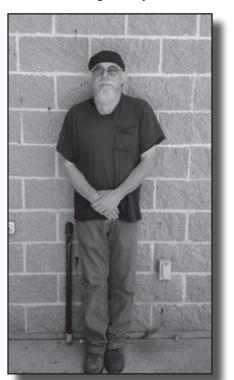


by Evan Jones, IRWA Wastewater Technician

Only 43 Years!!

That's right – Bob Carroll of Lacon is retiring after only 43 years!!!! Bob started at the Village of Lacon on July 10, 1973. He was a young man of 19 and just recently married at the time and. Bob had been doing factory work in Peoria and was working second shift which was putting a strain on the newlyweds. He answered a help wanted ad in the local paper thinking this will work until something better comes along. Little did he know that in July of 2016 he would be retiring from that job that was just supposed to be OK "for now".

Bob started at the sewer plant in 1973 and was successful in getting his class 4 license later on in that same year. Bob didn't waste any time in getting what he needed to sign off on the plant. He then went on to get his Class 3 license in 1975 and his Class 2 license in 1977 and finally his Class 1 license in 1982. Somewhere along the way he also found



time to get his Class A drinking water license.

He has seen a lot of things change over the years when it comes to wastewater and drinking water and says they are too numerous to count. He has also seen a flood that completely inundated the sewer plant in 1979. His most memorable moment at the sewer plant was taking a row boat out over the drying beds which he said he just did to say he that he had done it (check another thing off of the bucket list). He has also seen the treatment change from the original trickling filter design to the new plant that was dedicated in 2002.

Bob like many others has been in involved with several operator groups over the years. Bob was instrumental in the startup of the Heart of Illinois Operator group and even of the naming by default as he says seeing how nobody else spoke up when they were discussing a name.

During Bob's tenure at Lacon, it wasn't just Lacon that was benefitting from his wastewater knowledge. He was the certified operator at Sparland in the 1980s and 1990s as well as working with Test Inc. at the City of Wyoming in 1993. Bob has been a mentor to many operators



over the years by quickly and accurately answering their questions and helping them through the certification process.

In his spare time over the years, Bob has taken great joy in raising two sons. He also has been instrumental in the area youth baseball league which he has been the commissioner for about the last 25 years. He also has had his own sports card business and has found time to travel the country and visit half of the states in good old U.S.A. He also considers himself fortunate to have been able to watch roughly 100 major league baseball games at 15 different stadiums.

As Bob and I sat down to do our little interview for this article, we were discussing how things have changed and how they haven't changed all that



Only 43 Years!!

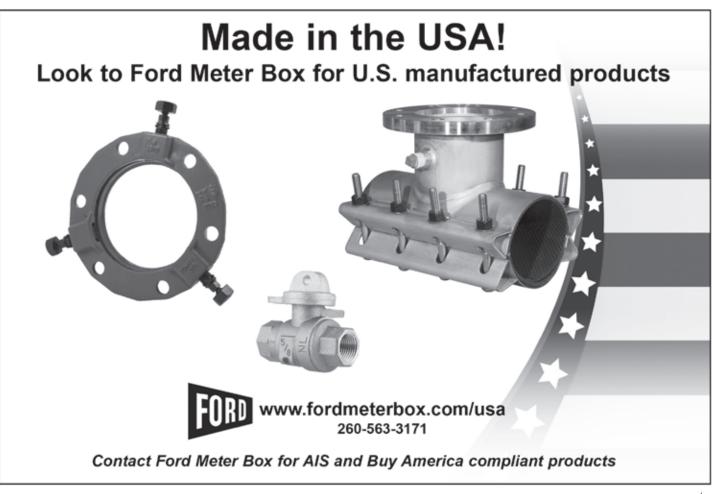
much in the last 43 years. One of the big things on not changing is he can remember when he first started he would look around at a training session or an operators group meeting and think "look at all those old guys"!! Now he is one of the old guys and he says the amount of older talent in the room never really changes. When he started at 19 the average age in the room was late 40s to early 50s and now it's roughly the same he says. No one is getting any younger and it just cements the fact that we badly need to get the younger generation involved in our field. That is the very same thing I have been told since I started in this field because in the next 5 years or so we are going to be seeing lots

more operators just like Bob retiring. And like Bob, it is only going to be a semiretirement as most stay on in a limited capacity to train the next generation.

As Bob retires he has big plans besides staying around and helping out at the wastewater treatment plant. He plans on traveling more and seeing more ballgames with his wife. He is also planning to dig out all his old sports memorabilia and get it sorted – which he thinks should keep him busy for the next 43 years.

From myself and the rest of IRWA staff we would like to wish you a happy retirement!!!!!





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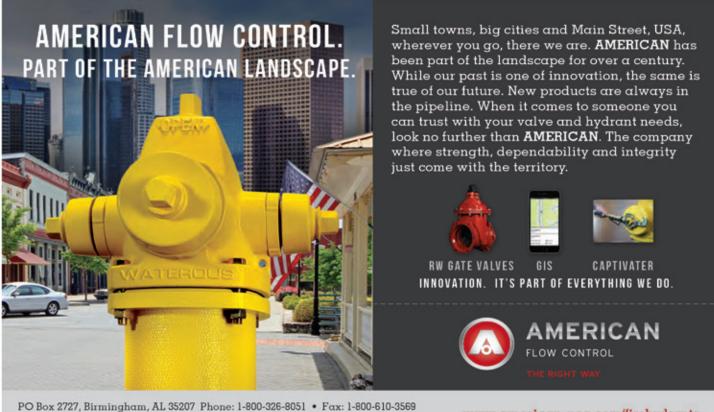
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by Chuck Woodworth, IRWA Circuit Rider

Backflow Device: Prevention or Possible Cause

Backflow is the undesirable reversal of the flow of water from its intended direction in any pipeline or plumbing system. Backflow is dangerous because it can allow drinking water in plumbing systems to become contaminated and unusable.

Backflow preventers are mechanical plumbing devices installed in a plumbing system to prevent water from flowing backward in the system. A properly installed, tested and maintained backflow preventer at the service entrance to a building or property can reliably prevent the backflow of water of an unknown quality from flowing back into the community water system.

The backflow preventer is installed to protect the public water supply against possible hazards in the customer's plumbing system. The actual or potential cross connection belongs to the property owner and not to regulatory officials or the water utility. Once the water goes beyond the meter, water quality could be altered. The water utility does not want the water back, nor do the water customers want to purchase used water. If a backflow preventer is required to keep the water safe, then the person who created the cross connection (actual or potential) should purchase, install and maintain the backflow preventer.

Any pipe, valve, fixture, etc., in a drinking water plumbing system that may allow the drinking water within the system to become contaminated or questionable in quality. Cross connections can either be eliminated or protected by an air gap or mechanical

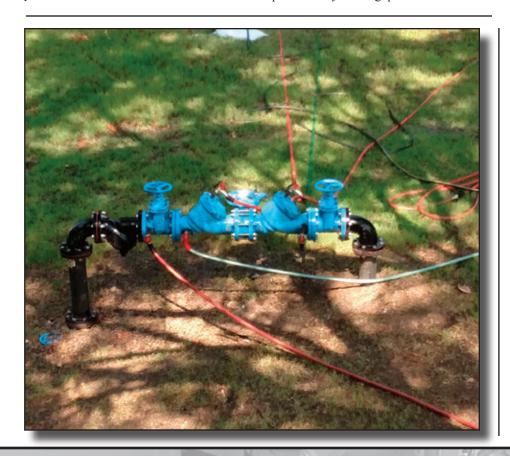


backflow preventer.

Having said that, recently the Illinois Rural staff attended our annual In-Service training in Little Rock Arkansas, the hotel we stayed at has a backflow preventer being used in a strange manner. In the picture you can see that they have five garden hoses attached to the testing ports. These hoses are feeding several sprinklers which help to keep the grass looking nice and green. Staff members from each state rural water association offices were also in attendance. The backflow device was near the outside break area and several pictures of it were taken. The pictures for this article that I took, I had to wait in line to get the shot. It was a topic of discussion during breaks with other state circuit riders.

During my eighteen years of working at Illinois Rural Water, I have seen several odd things out there but this is the first time that I have seen a backflow device used in this manner. I'm not sure if this is a good practice but I would not approve of a backflow device be used in this manner.

Be safe out there and I'll see you down the road.





The Illinois Rural Water Association (IRWA) is hosting its 13th Annual Golf Outing. This event is sponsored as a way to have a fun IRWA member activity.

The location for this event is **Piper Glen Golf Course in Springfield, Illinois**. The date for this four person scramble is **Friday, August 19, 2016**. The fee is \$60.00 which includes lunch, a gift bag, green fees and golf cart. Various prizes will be given away as well. As always, IRWA is trying to make this a fun-filled and affordable golf scramble. Your participation will ensure that this year's event will be every bit as successful as past outings. This event gives the IRWA members an opportunity to have fun and enjoy a day of golf with fellow industry professionals.

Last year's event sold out so you are encouraged to submit your registration forms prior to the **Wednesday, August 10, 2016** deadline. Please make checks payable to Illinois Rural Water Association. You can also go online and sign up and pay by credit card at www.ilrwa.org.

This will be a four-person scramble with a **10:00 a.m. shotgun start.** Participants are encouraged to be at Piper Glen Golf Course and check in at the registration table no later than 9:45 a.m. Lunch will be served as you make your way by the club house while playing golf.

It is IRWA's hope that you will be able to attend this event. Please feel free to contact **Denise Burke** at 1-217-287-2115 with any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,



Board of Directors & Staff

WHAT: 13th Annual IRWA Golf Outing

WHO: Water & Wastewater Operators, Board Members, Councilmen, Mayors, Vendors, Others

> WHEN: Friday, August 19, 2016

WHERE: Piper Glen Golf Course— Springfield, IL

FEE: \$60.00 for operators (includes lunch, gift bag, green fees & golf cart)



ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION 13TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

The 13th Annual Illinois Rural Water Association Golf Outing will be held on Friday, August 19, 2016 at Piper Glen Golf Course located in Springfield, Illinois. Directions to the course are located on the last page. The golf format will be a shotgun start at 10:00 a.m. Please check in at the registration table no later than 9:45 a.m. Please fill out the registration form below and send it along with your check to the address listed below. You may also pay by credit card online at www.ilrwa.org. Registration must be received and paid by Wednesday, August 10, 2016 in order to reserve your spot. We are limited to 144 golfers for this event.

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If you have any questions, please contact Denise at Illinois Rural Water Association at 1-800-762-3547 or email her at: ilrwadb@ilrwa.org .			

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BEVERAGE CART SPONSORSHIP: Beverage cart sponsors will have their sponsorship sign on the courtesy carts that will be on the golf course driving around with bottled water, beer and soda compliments of your company. They will also receive two free registrations to participate in the golf outing.

<u>HOLE SPONSORSHIP:</u> Hole sponsors will have their sponsorship sign **off the tee**. This is a great opportunity for visibility.

HOLE IN ONE SPONSORSHIP: Hole in one sponsors will have their sponsorship sign displayed off the tee and will be recognized prior to the shotgun start of the outing.

GIFT BAG SPONSORSHIP: If your company wishes to provide an item for each gift bag (approximately 144), please contact Denise to discuss.

PRIZE SPONSORSHIP: If your company wishes to bring a door prize the day of the golf outing or send it in prior to outing, please contact Denise to let her know.

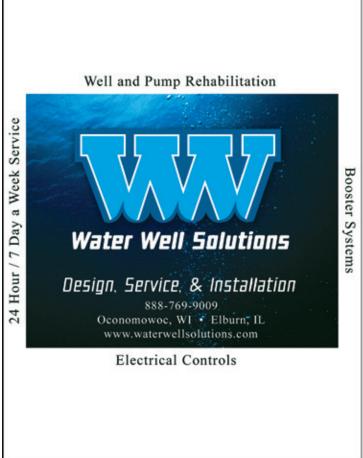
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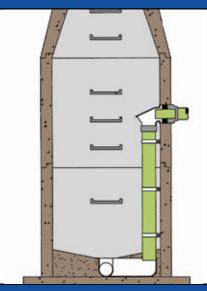
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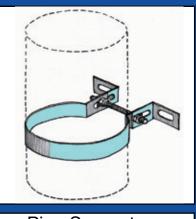




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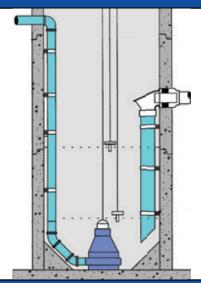


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by Roger Noe, IRWA Circuit Rider

Water Treatment Plant Unintentionally Installs Skylight

On the night of June 25th, 2015 a storm was heading Wayne City's way. I didn't think much of it. Its southern Illinois and the weather is always unpredictable. It was approximately 10 o'clock that evening and I was sitting in my living room when I get a call from the water operator's wife. The roof of the Wayne City Water Treatment Plant had landed scarcely close to a neighboring house. At the time we were all unsure of what the weather was actually doing. Was it a tornado? A thunderstorm? Or just straight-lined winds? According to the National Weather Service, no type of weather warning was issued for our area even after the storm had passed. After I had gotten the call, I arrived at the scene ten minutes later hoping I could help with the situation. Upon looking at the damage, I noticed the roof over the settling basin was almost completely gone, the part of the roof covering the first three filters was missing, the scada from the water treatment plant to the

water tower was out, and the power pole to the water plant was snapped off due to the flying roof.

Once I got to the plant and investigated the damage, I met with the water operator and all the other employees to try and set up a plan of action. At this point you're probably thinking something along the lines of "emergency response plan". Unfortunately, ours has been sitting on the shelf untouched since the plant was ever required to have one. And was it up to date? Of course not! Due to the emergency response plan not being current, it made the whole process much more challenging and ended up complicating the entire process of calling for assistance.

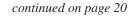
During the first few hours much needed to be accomplished. IEPA was notified about the damage immediately and responded that they would report to the plant first thing in the morning. Then



the water operator made a call to Western Wayne Water District informing them of the situation and notifying them that water will not be distributed until further notice. Then all the electronic equipment was covered to protect it from the rain, and all the circuit breakers were shut off. Supplies, smaller equipment and records were moved to a dry area of the plant. The last thing we did that night was, contact our local construction company about roof repairs. We ended up calling it a night after this because nothing

else could be done until daylight.

Early the morning,
I went back to the water
plant. Upon arriving, I
noticed the local news
station was already on
the scene. They were
interviewing and taking
multiple pictures of the
damage. Due to the lack
of power, a generator was
needed to be located as
soon as possible. A Wayne
City employee rented
a generator and power





continued from page 19

Water Treatment Plant Unintentionally Installs Skylight

was restored to the treatment plant. IPEA showed up early that morning surveyed the scene and advised us to make arrangements with Western Wayne Water District to supply us with water from Gateway Regional Water. This was relatively complex to accomplish, Western Wayne Water District employees took it upon themselves to make changes at the pumping station so Wayne City would be able to receive water into their clear well. After this, water was able to be pumped into Wayne City's water tower.

Over the course of the next few days, a new pole was set and power was restored to the plant. the local construction company installed a temporary roof on the water plant as employees worked to clean up the debris. Later on, a permeant roof was installed and communication between the water plant and the water tower was restored. During this entire process, Wayne City's residents were never in any danger due to unsafe water or the lack of water. All of these companies and employees working

together and collaborating as team made the restoration of the Wayne City Water Treatment to go off without a hitch!

In conclusion, a nasty storm that blew into the little town of Wayne City resulted in the water plant being shut down for nearly thirty days and roughly \$35,000 of damage was accumulated. As I look back on this event, it is apparent to me that all facilities need an updated Emergency Response Plan. If you need help updating or revising your Emergency Response Plan make sure you give one of the field staff a call. If you ever have an emergency in your area call one of the Circuit Riders or Wastewater Techs for help. We are here to help in any way we can.



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The IRWA Office Will Be Closed the Following Holidays For the 2016 Year:

Monday, September 5 - Labor Day

Friday, November 11 - Veteran's Day

Thursday & Friday,

November 24 & 25 - Thanksgiving

Friday. December 23 - Christmas Eve

Monday, December 26 - Christmas





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Two Drips Per Second

1 MINUTE LOSS = 1/12 OUNCE 1 HOUR LOSS = 6 OUNCES 1 DAY LOSS = 1 GAL. & 1 PINT 1 WEEK LOSS = 8 GALLONS 1 MONTH LOSS = 34 GALLONS 1 MINUTE LOSS = 1/3 OUNCE 1 HOUR LOSS = 20 OUNCES 1 DAY LOSS = 3 2/3 GALLONS 1 WEEK LOSS = 26 GALLONS 1 MONTH LOSS = 100 GALLONS

Drops Breaking To Stream

1/16" Stream

1 MINUTE LOSS = 2 OUNCES	
1 HOUR LOSS = 1 GALLON	
1 DAY LOSS = 24 GALLONS	
1 WEEK LOSS = 175 GALLONS	
1 MONTH LOSS = 700 GALLONS	

1 MINUTE LOSS = 7 1/2 OUNCES 1 HOUR LOSS = 3 1/2 GALLONS 1 DAY LOSS = 64 GALLONS 1 WEEK LOSS = 575 GALLONS 1 MONTH LOSS = 2500 GALLONS

1/8" Stream

3/16" Stream

1 MINUTE LOSS = 23 OUNCES
1 HOUR LOSS = 11 GALLONS
1 DAY LOSS = 260 GALLONS
1 WEEK LOSS = 1800 GALLONS
1 MONTH LOSS = 7800 GALLONS

1 MINUTE LOSS = 39 OUNCES 1 HOUR LOSS = 18 GALLONS 1 DAY LOSS = 425 GALLONS 1 WEEK LOSS = 3000 GALLONS 1 MONTH LOSS = 12,750 GALLONS

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Illinois Rural Water Association

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Taylorville, IL 62568

Phone: 217/287-2115 Fax: 217/824-8638

12th Annual Northern Conference OCTOBER 25 & 26, 2016

The "official" registration information for the conference will be mailed out soon, but here is a preliminary run down of the basic information you need to know and a registration form in case you already know that you would like to attend. You may fill this registration form out and mail it back to IRWA with your check, or you may pay with your credit card on our website: www.ilrwa.org. Just follow the Northern Conference link on the left side of the home page.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Holiday Inn of Rockford 7550 E. State Street (Business 20) (across the street from Giovanni's) Rockford, IL 61108

Std. Room: \$89.95 tax Suites: \$159.95 + tax Phone: 815-398-2200



CONFERENCE LOCATION

Giovanni's Restaurant and **Banquet Convention Center** 610 Bell School Road Rockford, IL 61107 815-847-7836

As in the past, we will have water and wastewater topics. These topics include: Overcoating Water Storage Tanks, IEPA Updates (on both sides), New Operator Certification Rules, Utility Work Zone Traffic Control, Temporary Treatment When Your Treatment Plant is Rehabbed, Rate Structures, SCADA, Proper Use of Hydrants for Flushing, Tower Repair and Maintenance, Proper Lab Equipment and Techniques, Nitrogen Removal Techniques, and Tank Coatings. There will be a total of 10.00 credit hours available.

RECUSTRATION FORM

Please print or type

Pre-Registrations will not be accepted and no refunds will be made after October 14, 2016

NAME:	E-MAIL ADDRESS:	E
SYSTEM REPRESENTING:	and the second second	To Can Box 5
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	_STATE:	ZIP:
	(PLEASE CIRCLE REGISTRATION TYPE)	

FULL REGISTRATION: (Includes Technical Sessions, Meals, Activities & Exhibit Hall for both days).

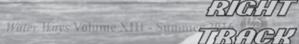
MEMBER \$150.00

NON-MEMBER \$190.00

ONE DAY REGISTRATION: (Includes Technical Sessions, Meals, Activities & Exhibit Hall for ONE DAY ONLY -circle day) MEMBER \$125.00 -attending Tuesday or Wednesday NON-MEMBER \$165.00 attending Tuesday or Wednesday

ALL fees must be paid when registering— we cannot do purchase orders or special billings.

Please make check payable to: Illinois Rural Water Association, P.O. Box 49, Taylorville, IL 62568



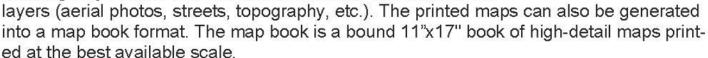


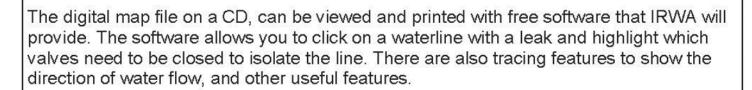
Member Services

GPS/GIS MAPPING SERVICES

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Payment for services is determined by a charge per each system feature located. The amount charged for a Map Book will be \$50 plus \$5 per page; and a wall map is billed at \$100 per map. More information is also posted on our website, or you may call our office.

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Service to our members. The normal fee for this service is \$350.00 for small projects, larger projects requiring more than 1 day will be based on cost per foot.

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