



Water Ways

Volume XIII — Fall 2016



MANHOLE ADJUSTMENT RING

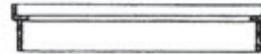
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MISSION STATEMENT

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

On the Cover:

Taken by Deputy Director Don Craig, as he was conducting a GIS mapping project in the City of Byron, located in Ogle County. The picture overlooks the Byron's school facilities, with the Byron Nuclear Generating Station in the background, nearly 5 miles to the south of town. Each cooling tower at the plant, rises to almost 500 feet over the ground below.

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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Cause and “Indirect” Effect... Benefits an IRWA Member System

*by Don Craig,
IRWA Deputy Director*

Just over a year ago, the Public Works Director from a long time IRWA member system in north-central Illinois... called and wanted to discuss our GPS/GIS mapping program, and how it could benefit their utility. So, we reviewed the aspects, process, and overall impact of doing such a project for the facility. I offered to submit a proposal to him, to do a complete project for their water system. He was glad to have the opportunity to get the plan, and present it to his full board for consideration.

A few weeks went by, and I had not heard back from the Director, so I thought I'd just contact him, to touch base in regard to the Board's reaction to the proposal. So, I called him, and we began talking about how the Board felt about doing such a potential project, and their reaction to the proposed plan that I gave to him, in regard to the overall process and of course, the cost involved.

He said the Board was very interested and wanted to move ahead with the process, and what's more, they thought that the member cost involved to complete the project was very good. But, that's as far as the 'good' news went, as they asked their attending system engineer, his opinion in regard to the proposal and the overall expense to do so by IRWA. Basically, his response was that he felt there was 'no way' that they (IRWA) could do such a project at such a low (economical) price...and went on to say that his company could not do such a process for that cost. So, in essence, he was indirectly saying that IRWA's

mapping program could not 'hold water', because our cost was lower than theirs!

I'll be honest with you, when the Director told me this, I had to chuckle, somewhat. Not because of, or at the engineer and/or his company... but, moreover at the fact, that he was forgetting that the firm that he was representing is in the business to make a good profit. We are not in that business... and to the Public Works Director's credit, he reminded the engineer and the Board of that fact.

Illinois Rural Water Association is a not-for-profit organization. Yes, we do have to charge a fee and expenses for internal programs such as GPS/GIS mapping, and our sewer video inspection service; but, that is only to sustain these, without large surplus costs being passed along to our member systems. We keep these fees/charges as low as we can, to offer good and reputable services to the utilities we serve. We strive to continue to offer the best results we can, to help the systems we're working with, achieve good results, at reasonable fees. We do understand, that we have our limitations into the services we can provide, and as such, we do not hesitate to recommend associate member companies' services, if they will help the utility to get the best results possible for the problem they need resolved, or just needing additional expertise.

Anyway, at that time, the system's Director said that the Board thought they had better wait and give the potential



project some more review and discussion. I told him, that was not any problem for IRWA, and that if they decided to move ahead with the process, to give us a call.

Honestly, time went by not hearing back from him, and I have been covered up with many internal program projects in the last year...so, I had kind of forgotten about this system. But, about a month or so ago, I was coming back from working on a large GPS/GIS mapping project in Byron near Rockford; and, I was driving by the system that had gotten that proposal I discussed above, over a year before. So, I thought I'd just go ahead and give the Director a call, and ask him what had become of that situation.

Ironically, when I told him why I was calling, he replied back, that just a few weeks before, the Board had decided to move ahead with system mapping, and thought they would give their engineering firm the opportunity to bid on the project... that we had bid on originally. (This was and is not a problem to IRWA at all.... read on, you will understand why.)

continued on page 5

Cause and “Indirect” Effect... Benefits an IRWA Member System

continued from page 4

Well, unbelievably, the firm submitted a bid that he said was lower than IRWA’s proposal, so the Board decided to go ahead with their offer. Again, that is fine....but, I find it interesting that a year before, the same firm’s representative felt our offer was so low, that it could not apparently compare to what a ‘reputable’ company’s (theirs) potential offer could be... so, indirectly, conveying that IRWA’s mapping program must not be a very good service!

That ‘chuckle’ that I had a year before, came back to me at this point....

The supervisor for the town said he hoped that we were not mad because they did not move ahead with our initial offer. I stopped him, and basically said...”Listen, we strive to give our members the best cost factor for our mapping program (and sewer video inspection service), that we can. You need to understand, that our intent is to help all rural systems with the most cost efficient processes and results. So, even though we may have not gotten the opportunity to do your mapping project.... we still helped you indirectly, by getting you a lower cost for the project. In

essence, we accomplished what we are here to do.... help small rural systems. It’s a win for you... and us!”

So, you see, there was indeed a ‘cause’ (a potential mapping project

for this system) that we addressed and offered our assistance... and the resulting ‘effect’ was just as satisfying as if we had been awarded that project.... especially for the utility, and IRWA! 💧

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IRWA Training Division Fall Update

by Phil Donelson,
IRWA Marketing and Training

Happy Fall everybody! I know it is officially fall now, not because of the weather so much but because of that time honored event that happens in my back yard every year on the last weekend in September; yes the Apple and Pork Festival!! I live in Clinton, and each year the whole town is a buzz with activity. This little town is busy with tents going up, an abnormal amount of traffic, and more crafts and antiques than you can possibly see in two days...not to mention the food...the smell of pork rinds, smoked pork chops, simmering ham and beans, and sweet apple pastries of all kinds! It is a crazy weekend around here, and I literally do live at the corner...I sit on my back deck and can watch the homestead where most of the activity takes place. Great energy surrounds this fun family

festival and the weather although hot this year was pretty good. Now that the things are back to normal in town and we all survived, it brings me to the business at hand with the upcoming sessions I have been scheduling and am looking forward to hosting for all of you. Most of you know by now that I manage training for IRWA; the USEPA sponsored sessions and the fee based classes as well. Here is a brief overview of what is being planned for our training division this fall and the first half of 2017.

The USEPA program came a little late for us this year, not being approved until early September. Since that piece of the puzzle is now ready to go, I can set up more free sessions as well as the fee base sessions. I may have a few more of the USEPA sessions this year so you



may have more opportunities to find some free classes close to you. I will have a broad array of speakers this year covering topics such as LCR, RTCR, IEMA Radioactive Materials Licensing, and possibly some classes dealing with Harmful Algal Blooms, Stage 2 DBP

continued on page 7

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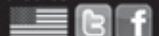
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WATER TOWER SPECIALISTS



IRWA Training Division Fall Update

*by Phil Donelson,
IRWA Marketing and Training*

rule, and Nitrates. Please keep looking to our website for classes as they become confirmed and listed so you can register. I will also have a session or two of the fee based training each month as well. They will be listed alongside the USEPA sponsored sessions on our website. We will still be sending out fliers for every session, but sometimes they don't end up on the right desk, so keep looking to the website and open emails that come from me. I try to get the word out the best I can and want to make you aware when a class is being offered in your area. Keep searching them out and hopefully you can take advantage of some opportunities in the near future.

Usually I facilitate trainings, sometimes I speak at a few, but this year I will have the opportunity to go out on some T&TA calls as well with the USEPA program. Recently we have been working with a small system that USEPA wanted us to assist with their arsenic violations. The system has four small hybrid filters that are designed to remove iron and arsenic. Chlorine residual is an essential component of the treatment process at this facility. During the first visit we had the operator increase the chlorine level to the minimum range and went back a couple of weeks later to collect samples from the effluent side of all four filters, raw water, finished water and distribution to get a base line. After

receiving the test results, which ranged from 11 ppb from one filter to a high of 22 in the distribution system we planned another round of tests to see what affect the increased chlorine dosage had on the arsenic levels. Much to our surprise, when we arrived at the treatment plant we discovered that the chlorine residual was far below the minimum level needed for the filters to operate properly. Their chlorine feed pump was just about to quit altogether and they had one filter out of service. With all of these developments, it was quickly decided it would be useless to grab additional exploratory arsenic samples as they would be higher than the last round. They are supposed to let us know when all repair parts come in so we can schedule another onsite visit to assist with the installation. Since I don't get to do this very often, it is nice to be able to get some hands on and actually go out and help some of our members in more ways than just the classroom trainings!

Lastly, but certainly not least!! Fall also brings one of our two Annual Administrative Conferences. The 4th Annual IRWA Administrative Conference!! It is coming up soon! We are planning to go back to East Peoria and the ParaDice Hotel Casino on the 17th and 18th of November. There are lots of places to eat, shop, and of course there is the casino! If you are unfamiliar with the Administrative Conference, it is

a full day of speakers on Thursday, and a half day on Friday concluding by noon. We will have a well-rounded variety of topics that are directed at administrative staff, board members, city officials, and any other clerical staff who work for municipalities or water systems. The sessions are always full of wonderful Q & A to the benefit all in attendance. It has always been a great learning environment and we expect more of the same this year! I have changed up the topics and speakers quite a bit this year so please review the agenda (in this publication) and take advantage of the new speakers. We have quite a bit of fun and have made some really great memories during the hospitality hour on Thursday evening! I am not sure how we will top last spring around the firepit... but I am sure we will try!! I hope to see all those familiar faces and many new ones this year! If you have not yet made it to one of these events, you really should attend one and see for yourself! I do my best to have good food, fun raffles, giveaways, and as much fun as legally possible each year...and over the course of the two days; you just may learn a thing or two!

We really hope to see you there! Also, as we have done in the past, there will be a Buy One, Get One Half Off registration promotion. If a system pays for one regular priced registration, the second person from the same system is 1/2 off!! What a deal!

Please be safe out there as we head into hunting season!!

In closing, please keep checking our website, look for the e-mails, and respond to our fliers to register for upcoming sessions of all types. Thanks again to all of you who support the training we do, whether it is through speaking or attending as a student! See ya soon in class!!💧



Fletcher Elected NRWA President

by NRWA News,
September 22, 2016

ORLANDO, Fla. – Steve Fletcher of Illinois was elected as the President of the National Rural Water Association during meetings held at the WaterPro Conference in Orlando, Fla. Fletcher was inaugurated during a luncheon on September 14, 2016.

Fletcher will lead an executive board that includes Senior Vice President Steve Wear of Arkansas, Vice-President David Baird of Delaware, Secretary Kent Watson of Texas, Treasurer John O’Connell, III of New York, Immediate Past President Charles Hilton of South Carolina, and board members Phillip Combs of Tennessee, Wilmer Melton, III of North Carolina and Glen Womack of Louisiana.

“My original board of directors encouraged me to participate in water organizations to promote our system,” Fletcher said. “I believe that this is the pinnacle of that effort for myself and the Washington County Water Company.”

Fletcher has been the Manager and Operator for the Washington County Water Company since November of 1981. The WCWC is a not for profit rural water system that serves 5,800 customers in seven counties across southern Illinois.

Fletcher has been a member of the Illinois Rural Water Association since 1986 and was elected as the state director to the NRWA board in 1999. He was elected to the NRWA executive board in 2008.

In addition to his work in rural water, Fletcher has also been a police officer for Nashville, Ill. since 1987 and serves as the Chief Deputy Coroner for the County of Washington. His family is active with St. Paul’s United Church of Christ.

He enjoys spending time with his family, especially his grandkids, as well as playing golf, fishing and deer hunting. Fletcher has been married to his wife Jane for 41 years. His son, Brian Fletcher is the Chief of Police in Nashville, Ill. and has two daughters, Lainey and Briley. His daughter Tracy Thessing lives with her



Steve Fletcher

husband Ben in Mascoutah, Ill. with their daughter Finley and son Fletcher.

Steve Fletcher will serve as president of NRWA, the nation’s largest water utility association with over 30,000 members. He will be one of the voices representing Rural Water at industry events, with government agencies and in the halls of Congress.

“I am truly humbled and honored to be NRWA President,” he said. “There is nothing above being president of the greatest water organization in the country, maybe even the world. I will work hard to continue the success that my predecessors have achieved.”



Where in Illinois is this Located?

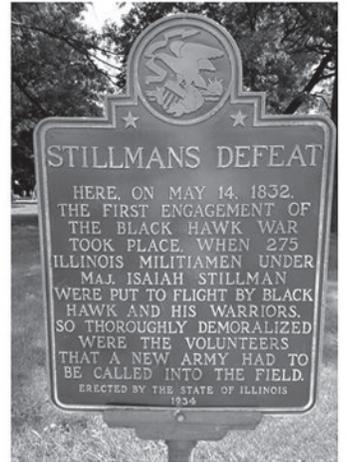
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4th Annual Fall Administrative Conference

November 17-18, 2016

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Sessions and Topics



Featured Sessions

"Using ArcGIS Online for Organizations"

Jon Hodel with Cloudpoint Geographics will discuss the issues of how organizations have some type of GIS in place but many have a difficult time sharing their data internally or externally. Learn how to create new maps, groups for sharing, and making maps available to others.

"Insure from Water Loss"

Kris Schultz and Gerry Harstine from Servline, will be speaking about a new and unique insurance program that covers water loss with no deductible, as well as repairs or replacement of a customer's water and sewer line in a timely fashion.

"Human Capitol Management"

Brian Jablonski from CBIZ Benefits and Insurance will be updating us on recent insurance issues, retirement, and discussing Human Capitol Management.

"IEPA Forms and Documents"

Mark Britton with the Public Water Supplies Compliance section of the IEPA, will be speaking with us about paperwork, forms, and the NORP form. He can also field questions about advisory and non-compliance letters, or violation notices as well.

"IMRF Pension Plans"

Randy Stevens, a field representative with IMRF, will be speaking with us about the basics of the IMRF program and taking questions to help understand issues you may have.

"Manage Delinquency and Collections"

Charli Jo Ledgerwood with CUSI will lead discussions and point out some general support to limit delinquency and collection issues. Please bring your own examples of what works and what doesn't.

"Irate and Cranky Customers"

Michael Antoline, from the Law Office of Michael Antoline, will be discussing how to deal with irate, angry, and problem customers. He will give tips and go over ways to defuse issues.

"Proactive HR Audits and Compliance"

Joy Duce from Sikich will be covering information about performing a successful HR audit. She will include ways to gather facts and set the stage for moving forward in a compliant "best practices" fashion. Joy will show us how audits can be a useful tool and not a dreadful experience.

"NRWA Healthy Benefits Program"

Jeanie Cunningham from MKi will be giving an overview of the NRWA Healthy Benefits Program and how this unique program relates to your utility systems and staff. Explore the in's and out's of insurance and how it relates to your state and utility system.



Conference Agenda

Thursday November 17th

7:30-8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:00-8:30 a.m.	Registration and Welcome
8:30-9:30 a.m.	Using ArcGIS Online
9:30-9:45 a.m.	Break
9:45-10:45 a.m.	Insure from Water Loss
10:45-11:00 a.m.	Break
11:00-12:00 p.m.	Human Capitol Management
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Lunch Provided
1:00-1:50 p.m.	IEPA Forms and Documents
1:50-2:00 p.m.	Break
2:00-2:50 p.m.	IMRF Pension Plans
2:50-3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00-3:50 p.m.	Delinquency and Collections
4:00-7:00 p.m.	Hospitality Reception

Friday November 18th

7:30-8:30 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet
8:30-9:30 a.m.	Angry and Irate Customers
9:30-9:40 a.m.	Break
9:40-10:40 a.m.	Proactive HR Audits and Compliance
10:40-10:50 a.m.	Break
10:50-11:45 a.m.	NRWA Healthy Benefits Program
11:45-12:00 p.m.	Drawings and Recap

Thanks For Your Participation!
Have a Safe and Blessed Holiday Season!



Registration Information - November 17 & 18, 2016

Host Hotel :

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All Hotel Block Rates are open until: 10/26/2016

Registration Hours:

Thursday, November 17, 2016 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Registration:

Registration and badges are required for all conference attendees.

Pre-Registration:

To pre-register just complete the registration form and mail with payment to:

IRWA

PO Box 49

Taylorville, IL 62568

Or on-line at www.ilrwa.org for credit card or PayPal payments only.

Pre-registration must be postmarked by November 5, 2016

On-Site Registration:

All conference attendees must obtain a name badge and conference material at the registration desk. If you do not pre-register, please make sure that you register as soon as possible after you arrive at the Convention Center. Please note that on-site registration is \$25.00 higher than pre-registration.

Cancellation & Refunds:

Refunds are issued only in the event of an emergency or hospitalization. We must have a **written notice of cancellation** to issue a refund.

Hospitality Reception:

Thursday, November 17th 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Please join us after the days sessions for munchies, beverages, and a good time sure to be had laughing with your peers! It should be a good time to get warmed up for a night out shopping and dining in the area.



2016 Annual Fall Administrative Conference

REGISTRATION FORM

Must be completed for all attendees

(Please photo copy for each additional attendee)

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EMPLOYER: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ST. _____ ZIP: _____

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REGISTRATION:

Includes Sessions, Meals, and Activities for both days

Pre-Registration

Member: \$165.00 = \$ _____

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2nd Member: \$82.50 = \$ _____

2nd Non-Member \$95.00 = \$ _____

On-Site Registration

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Chrysler Group Fleet Program



The National Rural Water Association and the Chrysler Group have created a partnership to offer a Volume Incentive Program (VIP) to State Rural Water Associations and their utility system members. This partnership combines the buying power of 31,000 individual utilities to provide reduced fleet pricing on utility vehicles. You will have access to special fleet benefits as a preferred Chrysler Group customer.

The Rural Water Fleet Program is a valuable member benefit for water and wastewater utilities. State Rural Water Associations determine eligibility for their members, and provide a fleet code that allows access to substantial vehicle discounts to fill the need for reliable work vehicles. Fleet vehicles must be registered in the name of a member system or company.

Member utilities should contact their State Rural Water Association to access the Rural Water Fleet Program. Vehicles may be purchased at your local dealer or through the national fleet auto group, details are online at:

www.nrwafleet.com. Incentive discount pricing is available on Jeep SUVs and Ram trucks. Systems can save up to \$6,750 off factory invoice per vehicle. Happy shopping!



2016 Program Details

- Entities must be current members of State Rural Water Associations to be eligible
- There is no limit to the number of vehicles that can be purchased under the program
- Incentive pricing is deducted off the factory invoice
- Call your State Association today to get your Fleet Account Number (FAN)

Eligible Vehicles	Incentive	
Ram 1500 Quad/Crew	\$6,000	2WD 4WD
Ram 1500 Regular Cab	\$3,000	2WD 4WD
Ram 2500 Crew/Mega	\$6,750	2WD 4WD
Ram 2500 Regular Cab	\$6,750	4WD
Ram 2500 Regular Cab	\$4,500	2WD

Eligible Vehicles	Incentive	
Ram 3500 Chassis Cab	\$2,500	2WD 4WD
Ram 3500 Crew/Mega	\$3,500	2WD 4WD
Ram 4500 & 5500	\$2,500 to \$3,500	2WD 4WD
Ram Promaster	\$5,500	2500 2500
Jeep Patriot	\$3,000	2WD 4WD

Example incentives only. Many other option or powertrain items can be utilized under the VIP program.



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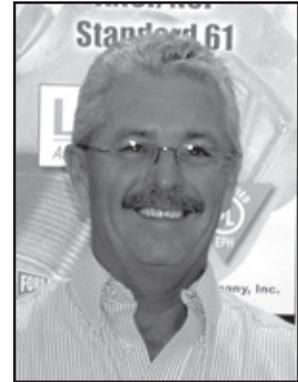
Village of Avon

by Gale Moore,
IRWA Circuit Rider

Avon is located in northwestern Fulton County and is twenty miles north of Galesburg. Illinois Route 41 passes through the village. Due in part to the Railroad, Avon was a thriving community as it served as a method of transporting cattle to Chicago and was also a stop between Chicago and Quincy.

Avon has four wells ranging from 60 to 100 feet in depth and produces from 30 to 170 gallons per minute. Average daily pumping is 54,000 gallons per day. Water

is first pumped through the aeration, into a small upper detention tank then through the filters. After going through the filtration cells, it is then pumped to a 50,000 gallon ground storage. Chlorine, fluoride, and phosphate is added and pumped approximately three miles to town. As with any shallow well, iron is a problem. With Avon's raw water at 3.5 mg/l Water, Superintendent Greg Fulkerson decided it was time to replace the media in the filters. Being a four cell



filter, preparation before replacement was very important and time consuming (we all know the paperwork). First, a core sample of the existing media was needed to test the radium levels for proper disposal and also to check media sizes, preparation for a boil order, and all the other details that we hope “doesn’t pop up”. Since all cells are tied together the replacement needed to be done in one day as the thought of running out of water is every operator’s worst nightmare! Greg’s determination for the media being replaced was short runs, long backwash time, and increased iron levels in the finished water. After a long day the underdrain system was repaired, support gravel was replaced along with new anthracite media, and then the filter was put back on line. Finished iron levels are now back within operating parameters and Avon is back in business. A special thanks to Greg Fulkerson for taking the time to explain the replacement process!

photos continued on page 20



FALL



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Just For Fun: Fall Crossword Puzzle

FALL

Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

F O K T C X D B D B C N O V E M B E R K
J C N L N F Z J L H R P R H G Z V M L W
J T B N P L P W E A E L A B Y A H D R G
C O M V R F W S W J N R T W J P V F M K
X B N W C C T T Q J V K O Q U W X G C H
Z E W K O N R L T E J R E M Y L L I H C
T R B E U L V E S R C K P T D S K Z Z H
K T L T D Q L T D E W K N R H H L N Q C
N H S Q G I T A R I I L R Q M Y R E Q Y
H A G L L N R A M N C V O Q Q R R Y E N
K N P R W N C Y P H Z D C N L X B V F T
M K B K M S M N A J S Y A L H K O G N R
P S M A U T U M N H Q R A M A J N P R G
N G F F O O T B A L L F A L L P F R N Z
E I O S E P T E M B E R N M L B I T S H
K V N U J K J H B R E N E D O E R Z E G
A I Y K R B N G D L D Z G Z W W E W V N
R N X N T D Z U P Z I H F Y E B D Y A P
Q G X D P R V P T A K G V T E O N T E T
Z T L I U Q A Y M S M T T M N C J X L T

Acorn	Football	Nuts
Apple	Gourd	October
Autumn	Halloween	Pumpkin
Blanket	Harvest	Quilt
Bonfire	Hay Bale	Rake
Chestnuts	Hayride	Scarecrow
Chilly	Leaves	September
Cider	Maize	Sleet
Cobweb	Marshmallow	Thanksgiving
Fall	November	

Fall Crossword Puzzle
Answer Key is on page 20



Ford Fleet Program



The National Rural Water Association and the Ford Motor Company have created a partnership to offer special fleet discounts to State Rural Water Associations and their utility system members. This partnership combines the buying power of 31,000 individual utilities to provide reduced fleet pricing on utility vehicles. The Ford Fleet Team is #1 in commercial fleet customer satisfaction according to surveys.

The Rural Water Ford Fleet Program is a valuable member benefit for water and wastewater utilities. State Rural Water Associations determine eligibility for their members, and provide a fleet code that allows access to substantial vehicle discounts to fill the need for reliable work vehicles. Fleet vehicles must be registered in the name of a member system or company.

Member utilities should contact their State Rural Water Association to access the Rural Water Ford Fleet Program. Vehicles may be purchased at your local dealer or through the national fleet auto group, get all the details you need online at: www.nrwafleet.com. Incentive discount pricing is available on fuel efficient cars, vans, SUVs and trucks. Systems can save up to \$5800 off factory invoice per vehicle. Happy shopping!



2016 Program Details

- Entities must be current members of State Rural Water Associations to be eligible
- There is no limit to the number of vehicles that can be purchased under the program
- Incentive pricing is deducted off the factory invoice
- Fleet vehicles must be in service for a minimum of 12 months or 20,000 miles
- Vehicles must be registered and operated in the United States
- Call your State Association today to get your Fleet Identification Number (FIN)

Eligible Vehicles	Incentive	Exclusions
Focus	\$1400	BEV
Fusion	\$2400	Hybrid Energi
Taurus	\$3300	Police Interceptor
Econoline	\$4500	
Edge	\$2500	
Escape	\$1800	
Expedition	\$4000	

Eligible Vehicles	Incentive	Exclusions
Explorer	\$2700	Police Interceptor
F-Series Super Duty F250-F550	\$5800	
F150	\$5500	
F150 4x2 Reg Cab	\$3900	
Transit	\$3500	
Transit Connect	\$1500	

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The Do's and Don'ts of Toilet Flushing

by Perry Musgrave,
IRWA District 8 Board Member

Over my twenty-seven year career, I have seen a lot of things flushed in a toilet, which should have not been. As wastewater operators, we must continually strive to educate the customers we serve, to better understand what should and should not go into a sanitary sewer system.

The only thing that should be flushed is human waste and toilet paper. Toilet paper is specifically made to break down, and not cause problems in your sewer. This is not the story with flushable wipes, which do not break apart the same way; and when they reach the pump at a lift station or wastewater plant, they may entangle themselves together causing problems and or damage. This is probably why, you have most likely heard about them lately in the news.

Often times, small kids are fascinated by the process of a toilet flushing, and throw their toys in the bowl to watch them disappear. As cute as that may sound, it is the wastewater operator that will likely have to contend with it

from that point on. Such an action could lead to the possibility of it stopping up the gravity sewer system or getting in a pump, causing it not to function properly. Also, that situation may throw it out of balance, causing vibration and possible damage.

Next is underwear...they are to be worn, not flushed down the toilet. Most operators can tell you nightmares about pulling a pump that has quit pumping due to having underwear in it. It is not an easy task trying to remove the elastic waist band out of a pump after it has been wound around the impeller. Another item that should never be flushed is feminine products. Sometimes they will go through a pump, but when one gets caught on the impeller as it spins, the next one gets caught on the first one and so on until you have a large entangled ball that will cause the unit to quit pumping. This again requires the pump to be pulled and the removal of the obstruction. I once removed ten gallons of that type of entangled mess from one pump.



The last item that I would like everyone to remember is to never flush needles and syringes. As you can imagine when trying to get debris removed from a pump, the last thing you want is to be pricked with a needle.

So please remember and implore to all customers and users, that anything you flush down the commode, the wastewater operator has to dispose of it somehow. So if it is not biodegradable don't flush it. The best rule again is to only flush human waste and toilet paper. 💧

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

Friday, November 11	-	Veteran's Day
Thursday & Friday, November 24 & 25	-	Thanksgiving
Friday, December 23	-	Christmas Eve
Monday, December 26	-	Christmas



IRWA is now accepting resumes for the position of Wastewater Technician. It is anticipated that the start date for this position will be January 1, 2017. The successful candidate will be responsible for servicing the needs of small system (< 10,000 population) wastewater plants in the northern half of Illinois. Requirements for this position include:

- Multiyear employment (5 years' experience preferred) in working for, operating, maintaining, or managing a rural/community water/wastewater system.
- A well-rounded technical knowledge of rural and small system needs and methods of meeting those needs.
- Technical knowledge of operating, maintaining, and managing a rural/community water/wastewater system.
- Knowledge of the financial, managerial and operational characteristics of effectively run utility systems.
- Ability to communicate effectively, orally and in writing, with operators, decision makers, regulatory agencies and other professionals.
- Ability to identify and describe financial, managerial and operational issues to field personnel and decision makers.
- Knowledge and understanding of regulations, monitoring, and reporting requirements.
- Willingness to travel extensively.

As a full-time employee you will qualify for health insurance, dental, vision and 401k retirement plan. IRWA is an equal-opportunity employer. Salary Commensurate to experience.

If you wish to apply, please send resume (along with salary history) to Frank Dunmire, Illinois Rural Water Association, PO Box 49, Taylorville, IL 62568.



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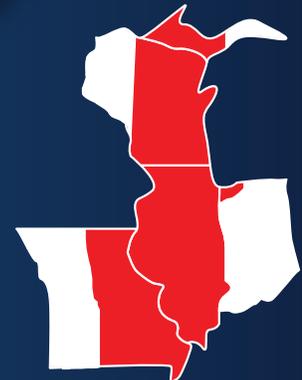
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