

BDM

RURAL WATER SYSTEM

Quality On Tap!

January 2026 | Volume 21, Issue 3

BDM'S 46TH ANNUAL MEETING

Monday,
March 30, 2026

SAVE THE DATE!

**Britton Event Center
1203 3rd Street
Britton, SD**

SEE PAGE 15 FOR MORE INFO

PROTECTING SOUTH DAKOTA'S GROUNDWATER

HOW CYBER THREATS
AFFECT RURAL WATER
SYSTEMS

2025 SOUTH DAKOTA
RURAL WATER HALL OF
FAME INDUCTEES

FROM THE MANAGER

Rodney Kappes
Manager, BDM Rural Water System, Inc.



Greetings from the Team at BDM:

I am writing my last article for Quality on Tap. Which reminds me of a quote by Harvey MacKay "Time is free, but it's priceless. You can't own it, but you can use it. You can't keep it, but you can spend it. Once you've lost it, you can never get it back." I am retiring and my time here at BDM is ending as of December 31st. It is hard to believe that it has been a 10-year ride. I will miss and want to thank the team of Shannon, Darin, Jim (now retired), Ryan, Jared, Cole, Mark (now retired) and Brian Bergantine from AE2S. They have been an awesome team and have accomplished so much in the past 10 years. The system has invested \$25 million in capital assets over this period, building additional capacity where it was needed, increasing system redundancy over the footprint, significantly improving reliability, building a new Water Treatment Plant that will supplement the existing plant and implementing a customer friendly billing system. All of this has been accomplished while positioning BDM in a very strong financial position. None of this would have happened without the dedication, thoughts, determination and commitment of these amazing team members. In addition, I want to thank the Board and our attorney Dan Smeins for their guidance over the years to make this happen. The journey for BDM will never end and the future is bright with my replacement, Tom Jones as General Manager.

A few updates on your system. Despite the very wet summer, water sales will come close to last year's water sales. Financially we are seeing expense pressure, the same as you all are seeing in your operations. Overall, it appears to be another financially good year with many positive accomplishments. We were hoping the new water treatment plant would come online in December; however, we were recently told it will be more in the January to February timeframe. This will still work out well as it will be online for the high-volume months of May-August.

In closing, I would like to close with a couple of my favorite quotes that encouraged the thought process at BDM. John Kennedy stated, "There are risks and costs to action, but they are far less than the long-range risks of comfortable inaction," and Dave Freudenthal quoted "Inaction may be safe, but it builds nothing."

My time at BDM has been a blessing to meet many awesome people, including the staff, partners, board members and customers. John Lennon stated "Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears." I've been blessed to be part of this organization, Thank You and God Bless you during this holiday season.



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BDM MEMBERSHIP CORNER



BILLING PACKETS

Billing packets will be mailed in December to all customers not signed up for Auto-Pay.

If you haven't received yours by the end of December, please call Shannon at 605-448-5417.

THE BDM OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS:

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25TH – CHRISTMAS DAY

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1ST, – NEW YEAR'S DAY

As always, if you have an emergency, please call the office at 605-448-5417 or toll free at 1-800-448-9236. You will then receive a message with the telephone number of the employee on call. Please call that person for assistance in an emergency only.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

FROM THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF
OF BDM RURAL WATER

BDM RURAL WATER SYSTEM, INC. RATE SCHEDULE (EFFECTIVE 7/1/2025)

GENERAL USER RATES:

Debt Service monthly payment: \$46.00 per hookup per month

\$7.25 per thousand gallons for the first 2,000 gallons used per month

\$6.25 per thousand gallons for the next 5,000 gallons used per month

\$5.25 per thousand gallons for the next 8,000 gallons used per month

\$4.25 per thousand gallons for over 15,000 gallons used per month

Gallons Used Per Month	Monthly Total	Gallons Used Per Month	Monthly Total
1,000	\$ 53.25	25,000	\$ 176.25
2,000	\$ 60.50	30,000	\$ 197.50
3,000	\$ 66.75	35,000	\$ 218.75
4,000	\$ 73.00	40,000	\$240.00
5,000	\$ 79.25	45,000	\$ 261.25
6,000	\$ 85.50	50,000	\$ 282.50
7,000	\$ 91.75	55,000	\$ 303.75
8,000	\$ 97.00	60,000	\$ 325.00
9,000	\$ 102.25	65,000	\$ 346.25
10,000	\$ 107.50	70,000	\$ 367.50
11,000	\$ 112.75	75,000	\$ 388.75
12,000	\$ 118.00	80,000	\$ 410.00
13,000	\$ 123.25	85,000	\$ 431.25
14,000	\$ 128.50	90,000	\$ 452.50
15,000	\$ 133.75	95,000	\$ 473.75
16,000	\$ 138.00	100,000	\$495.00
17,000	\$ 142.25	125,000	\$ 601.25
18,000	\$ 146.50	150,000	\$ 707.50
19,000	\$ 150.75	175,000	\$ 813.75
20,000	\$ 155.00	200,000	\$920.00

ALL USERS:

No water is included in the debt service payment. All water used is in addition to the monthly debt service payment. Payments are due by the 15th of the month. A \$10.00 fee applies to all payments received after that date. Service is subject to disconnection if payment is not received by the 22nd.

AFTER HOURS & WEEKENDS WATER EMERGENCIES:

Please call the BDM Office at 605-448-5417 or 1-800-448-9236 & a message will direct you to the employee on call.

How Does A Water Filter Work?

Have you ever wondered how water goes from muddy, yucky, or cloudy to clean and safe to drink? Water filtration is a process that removes dirt, germs, and other stuff we don't want in our water. Even though real water treatment plants use big machines and advanced science, the basic idea is surprisingly simple: we clean water by separating out the things that don't belong.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS!

1. Big Stuff Gets Taken Out First

When water first arrives at a treatment plant, it might have sticks, leaves, bugs, or even trash in it. A giant screen catches the big pieces — kind of like a spaghetti strainer catching noodles while letting water pass through.

2. Tiny Pieces Clump Together

Next, chemicals are added that help tiny dirt particles stick together. These clumps get bigger and heavier, making them easier to remove. Think of it like rolling small snowballs into one big snowball.

3. Settling Down

Those heavy clumps sink to the bottom of a large tank. The clean water at the top moves on while the gunk stays behind.

4. Filters Do the Finishing Touches

Now it's time for filtration! Water passes through layers of gravel, sand, and sometimes charcoal. These layers catch the leftover dirt and tiny particles. The water comes out much cleaner — almost ready to drink!

5. Making Sure Water Is Safe

Before the water gets sent to your home, a tiny bit of chlorine or another disinfectant is added to kill germs and keep the water clean all the way to your faucet.

And that's it! Big steps, small steps, settling, filtering, and disinfecting all work together to bring clean water to your sink, school, or water bottle.

MAKE YOUR OWN MINI WATER FILTER

You can create a simple water filter at home or school to see how filtration works. Always have an adult help you.

WHAT YOU NEED

- 1 empty plastic bottle (cut the bottom off)
- Coffee filter, paper towel, or cotton ball
- Sand
- Gravel or small rocks
- Activated charcoal (optional but awesome!)
- Dirty water (mix clean water with soil, leaves, tiny twigs, etc.)
- Cup or jar to catch the clean water

BUILD YOUR FILTER

1. Flip the bottle upside down so the top acts like a funnel.
2. Plug the neck with a cotton ball, coffee filter, or folded paper towel.
3. Add a layer of charcoal (optional) — this helps remove smells and tiny bits.
4. Add a layer of sand.
5. Add a layer of gravel or small rocks.
6. Place the bottle over a cup so the water can drip out the bottom.

READY... SET... FILTER!

1. Slowly pour the dirty water into your filter.
2. Watch how the dirty water moves through each layer.
3. Compare the water collected in the cup to the original water.
4. Try the experiment again with different amounts of sand, gravel, or charcoal to see what happens.



IMPORTANT:

Do NOT drink the filtered water from your experiment. This experiment shows how filtration works, but it does NOT make water safe to drink.

NOW IS THE TIME TO WINTERIZE!

A quick step outside – and a simple glance at the calendar – is all it takes to remember what’s coming. South Dakota winters are unavoidable, and for most of us, just part of life on the Plains. But taking a little time now to properly winterize your home – especially your pipes – can save you time, money, and a whole lot of stress once the cold settles in.

A broken pipe can cause significant water loss and major damage. A hole as small as 1/8 inch can leak an astonishing 296,000 gallons of water over a three-month period – roughly 3,200 gallons every day. That’s about the same amount of water one person typically uses in a month. To put it in perspective, that much water can fill an 850-square-foot basement with six inches of water in just 24 hours. Fortunately, there are several simple steps you can take now to protect your home and keep your pipes from freezing this winter.

Insulate your pipes

Burst pipes are every homeowner’s worst nightmare. Focus on pipes in unheated areas – like crawl spaces, basements, and attics. Wrap them with pre-molded foam sleeves or fiberglass insulation from your local hardware store. You can also use heat tape, which is an electrical cable designed to emit heat along your pipes. Always choose UL-approved heat tape and install it according to the manufacturer’s instructions to avoid fire hazards. Be sure to inspect old heat tape regularly – it can fail after years of use.

Know where your master shut-off and service line valves are

In an emergency, seconds matter. If your water meter is in your basement, the master shut-off valve should be nearby. Your service line valve – which turns off water to your entire property – should be clearly marked. Make sure every adult in your home knows where these valves are located.

Inspect your meter pit

Add straw or other insulating material to help protect the meter and surrounding pipes. Mark the location of the pit so it isn’t damaged by snowplows or equipment. If anything looks damaged, contact your rural water system to take a look.

Disconnect outside hoses and faucets

Detach and drain all outside hoses. If your outdoor faucet isn’t self-draining, consider installing an interior shut-off valve and drain. Don’t forget your in-ground sprinkler system – it needs to be properly blown out before freezing weather arrives.

Seal outside openings and cracks

Cold air slipping into your home can cause pipes to freeze. Check exterior walls, foundations, sill plates, doors, windows, and basement access points for gaps. Seal them with caulk, foam, or fiberglass insulation. Make sure basement windows and access doors are closed tightly and sealed for the season.

OTHER WINTERIZING TIPS

- **Clean your gutters!** Gutters clogged with leaves and debris can form ice dams, which can cause water to seep into your house and cause damage. Also check to make sure your downspouts are carrying water away from your home’s foundation to further prevent flooding or water damage.
- **If you are going to be away from your home** for a long period of time, have your rural water system shut off your water.
- **Keep sink cabinet doors open** during cold spells or winter power outages to allow warm air to circulate around the pipes.
- **Trim trees to prevent snow and ice** from weighing them down and causing breakage – possibly damaging your home or vehicles.



PROTECTING SOUTH DAKOTA'S GROUNDWATER

How Wellhead Delineation Zones Are Designed and Why They Matter

By Kevin Christenson, Source Water Protection Specialist – South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems

In South Dakota, protecting public drinking water starts long before it reaches the tap. The effort begins deep underground, in the aquifers that supply homes, farms, and communities across the state. To keep those sources safe, South Dakota uses a proven strategy known as wellhead and aquifer protection – an approach that focuses on preventing contamination before it happens by identifying and managing the areas of land that contribute water to public supply wells.

At the heart of this effort are two critical protection areas – Zone A and Zone B – which are carefully mapped and monitored. These zones are based on how groundwater flows beneath the surface and how long it takes water, and any potential contaminants it may carry, to travel through the aquifer and reach the well. This concept, known as time of travel, plays a central role in how South Dakota protects its drinking water at the source.

Time-of-travel refers to the estimated amount of time it takes groundwater to flow from a specific point in the aquifer to the wellhead. It's influenced by the characteristics of the aquifer, including soil or rock porosity, the slope of the water table, and the volume of water pumped from the well. Using this information, hydrogeologists create detailed models that simulate groundwater movement

and help identify which areas contribute water to the well over specific periods – typically ten years. These studies form the scientific basis for delineating South Dakota's two primary aquifer protection zones.

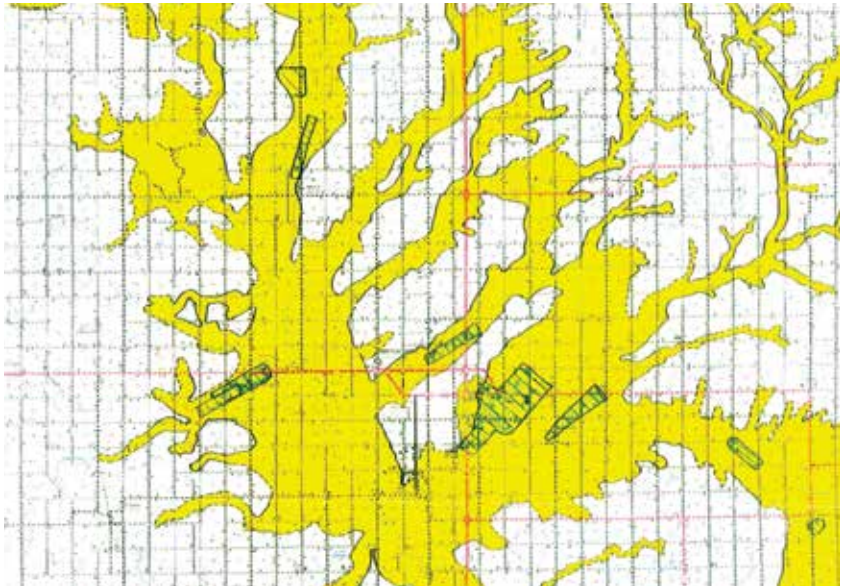
In South Dakota, the terms “Zone A” and “Zone B” are used locally by counties and municipalities to describe aquifer protection zones, not weather or agricultural regions. The specific boundaries and rules for each zone are established through local zoning ordinances and are based on the risk of groundwater contamination.

Zone A represents the most sensitive area surrounding a public water supply well or wellfield. Often referred to as the critical impact zone, capture zone, or wellhead protection area, it encompasses the land where water drains directly into the aquifer that supplies the well. This zone often represents a 10-year time-of-travel boundary, meaning it is the area from which groundwater could reach the well within ten years. Because contaminants introduced in this area can migrate quickly into the water supply, Zone A is managed with the strictest protections. High-risk activities – such as chemical storage, fuel tanks, intensive livestock operations, or waste disposal sites – are typically prohibited or tightly regulated. Protecting this zone gives communities a vital buffer, allowing time to detect and respond to potential contamination before it reaches the well.

Zone B encompasses the remainder of the mapped shallow or surficial aquifer that extends beyond Zone A. While groundwater in this zone takes longer to reach a well, it remains a vital resource for both public systems and private wells. Regulations in Zone B are generally less restrictive but still emphasize prevention and best management practices. Activities may be permitted if they adhere to standards such as secondary containment for fuel or chemical tanks, careful application of fertilizers and pesticides, and responsible land-use planning to minimize contamination risks. Because Zone B often includes a mix of residential, agricultural, industrial, and undeveloped land, management focuses on cooperation, education, and monitoring rather than outright prohibition.

Several South Dakota counties have adopted local ordinances that define and manage these protection zones. In Brookings County, the zoning ordinance designates Zone A as the wellhead protection area and Zone B as the remainder of the mapped aquifer. Clay County uses a similar two-zone overlay district for groundwater protection. In the Black Hills region, hydrologically sensitive areas are designated as Zone A for comprehensive contaminant inventories, while Zone B includes the broader watershed assessment area. These local policies ensure that land-use decisions – from new construction to agricultural practices – consider their potential impact on groundwater quality.

Delineating Zones A and B typically begins with a detailed hydrogeologic study. Scientists gather data on well construction, pumping rates, aquifer structure, soil types, and groundwater flow. With this information, computer models simulate how water moves underground and estimate the boundaries of the ten-year time-of-travel zone. In South Dakota, community and non-transient non-community public water systems are encouraged to complete these delineations. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR)



Brookings County Groundwater Protection Zone Map

recommends either a ten-year time-of-travel boundary or a one-mile radius – whichever is greater – especially for unconfined or semi-confined aquifers.

Maps showing these delineations typically feature a central well surrounded by two color-coded zones. Zone A, often depicted in red, forms a smaller, high-risk area around the well, while Zone B, typically shown in blue, extends outward in accordance with the natural flow of groundwater. These maps are valuable tools for land-use planning, emergency preparedness, and public education. For example, delineations from the Big Sioux Aquifer region help local governments and water operators make informed decisions based on actual groundwater behavior.

Groundwater contamination can be extremely difficult and expensive to clean up. In some cases, it's irreversible. That's why South Dakota's focus on prevention is so important. By managing what happens on the land above and around wells, communities can greatly reduce the likelihood of pollutants reaching the aquifer in the first place.

Aquifer protection zones are more than lines on a map – they are practical, science-based safeguards for public health. They ensure that decisions regarding development, agriculture, and industry consider their impact on drinking water. With these zones in place, South Dakota communities are better equipped to protect one of their most valuable resources – clean, safe groundwater for generations to come.

Groundwater contamination is difficult – and often impossible – to clean up. Prevention is our strongest protection.



PROTECTING OUR WATER IN A DIGITAL WORLD:

How Cyber Threats Affect Rural Water Systems

Most of us turn on the tap each day without thinking about the technology behind the scenes. But today's water systems rely on more than pumps, pipes, and tanks. Much of the work that keeps water flowing safely into our homes is controlled by computers and automated systems. This modern technology makes operations more efficient, but it can also expose rural water systems to cyberattacks.

Although cyber threats may seem far away or affect only big cities, the truth is that small and rural systems can be just as vulnerable. Understanding the risk helps all of us appreciate the work our local water systems do to keep our communities protected.

How Hackers Can Target Water Systems

Many water and wastewater utilities use digital controls to run equipment, monitor treatment, and manage distribution. If any of these systems are connected to the internet without proper safeguards, cybercriminals may be able to see or change how they work.

A Cyber Intruder Could Attempt To:

- Shut down pumps or valves
- Change chemical feed settings
- Disable alarms that warn operators of problems
- Interrupt the treatment process
- Force staff to switch to slower, hands-on manual operations

Even minor disruptions can affect water quality, pressure, and system reliability. While water systems work hard to prevent these situations, the growing use of technology means the risks must be taken seriously.

Why Rural Systems Face Unique Challenges

Rural water systems provide safe, reliable water with fewer staff and smaller budgets. That same lean structure can make cybersecurity harder to manage. Challenges may include:

- Older equipment not designed with cybersecurity in mind
- Limited staff time for monitoring or training

- Budget limitations for upgrades and protective software
- Increased use of remote access for operators who cover large service areas

Despite these hurdles, rural systems across South Dakota are taking proactive steps to strengthen their defenses. Training, new policies, and state or federal support all play a role in keeping our water safe.

What Water Systems Are Doing to Protect You

Local water systems are working behind the scenes to defend against cyber threats. Some of the most important steps include:

- **Separating Networks:** They are physically and logically separating the critical operational technology network—the computers that control pumps and valves—from the standard information technology network (like office email and billing systems). This helps stop an intruder who gets into the office system from accessing the treatment controls.
- **Requiring Multi-Factor Authentication:** This is a critical second layer of defense. In addition to strong passwords, users must provide a second, verified code (often from a phone app) to log into critical systems or for remote access.
- **Disconnecting unnecessary internet-exposed devices**
- **Requiring strong passwords and secure remote-access tools**
- **Keeping software and equipment updated**
- **Monitoring system activity for suspicious changes**
- **Training staff to recognize email scams or unusual activity**
- **Preparing backup plans in case digital systems temporarily go offline**

These efforts help ensure that water service remains safe and reliable, even in the face of evolving threats.

What You Can Do as a Consumer

While your water system handles the technical side, residents can also play a part:

- Stay informed when your utility shares updates
- Support system investments in technology and security
- Be cautious of online scams pretending to be your water provider
- Ask your local water board or manager how they are approaching cybersecurity

Awareness and support from the community help strengthen the overall resilience of your local water provider.



Help is Available — Cybersecurity Support from Dakota State University

Some rural water systems in South Dakota may benefit from SecureSD, a statewide cybersecurity support program funded through the Attorney General's office and operated through Dakota State University in Madison.

What SecureSD Offers:

- Free or low-cost cybersecurity assessments
- Reviews of internet-exposed equipment and controls
- Training for operators and staff
- Help improving firewall settings and secure remote-access tools
- Assistance developing incident-response plans

SecureSD is designed to help small communities, public infrastructure, and local governments strengthen their cybersecurity — and this includes rural water systems that may not have in-house IT staff.

Why This Matters:

Programs like SecureSD give rural water systems access to expert help, allowing them to upgrade protections, improve safety, and reduce risks without overwhelming their budgets.

2025 SOUTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

On November 19, 2025, three individuals were inducted into the South Dakota Rural Water Hall of Fame during a ceremony at the Ramkota Hotel in Pierre, South Dakota. This year's honorees — Morris Kurle, Larry Wasland, and Dan Carlson — were recognized for their outstanding leadership, dedication, and lasting contributions to the state's rural water community.

The South Dakota Rural Water Hall of Fame was established in 2024 to honor the visionaries and pioneers who transformed the rural water industry in South Dakota. Recognizing the humble beginnings of rural water systems — ideas born around kitchen tables and brought to life through hard work and determination — the Hall of Fame celebrates the individuals who have been instrumental in making clean, reliable water available to rural communities. These honorees played a crucial role in developing, growing, and sustaining rural water systems that now reach the state, providing essential services that improve quality of life and support agricultural and economic activities.

Located at the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems headquarters in Madison, SD, the Hall of Fame serves as both a historical record and a source of

inspiration. It is a place where visitors can learn about the dedication and perseverance of rural water leaders who faced countless challenges, from funding and infrastructure issues to logistical hurdles in sparsely populated areas. By housing the Hall of Fame at its office, the Association ensures that the stories of these rural water champions remain accessible to future generations of water industry professionals, community leaders, and the public.

The creation of the Hall of Fame reflects South Dakota's commitment to honoring its past while looking toward the future of water access in rural communities. As rural water systems have grown to support health, agriculture, and local economies, the Hall of Fame ensures that the contributions of these industry pioneers are celebrated and remembered. The inductees into the Hall of Fame represent the enduring spirit of South Dakota's rural water movement. This movement has turned a shared vision for clean water into a reality that benefits communities across the state.

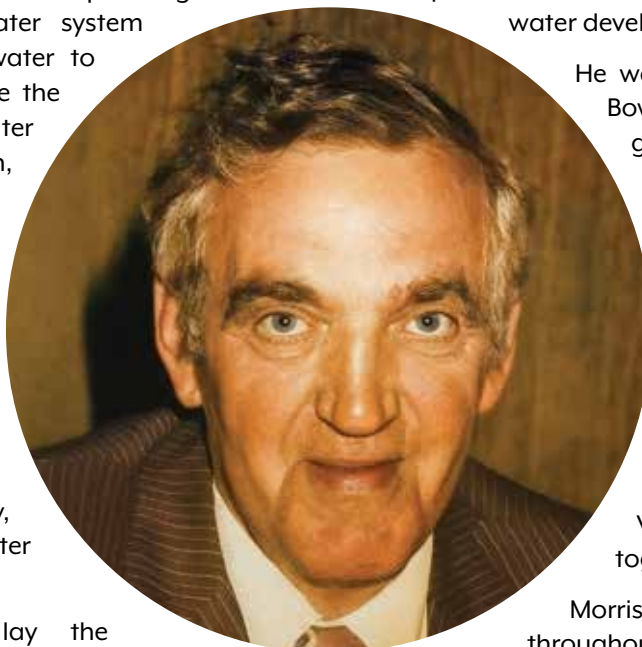
If you would like to learn more about the past South Dakota Rural Water Hall of Fame inductees — please visit sdarws.com/hof.

Morris Kurle

In the mid-1970s, as small communities and farms across northern South Dakota faced severe water shortages, Morris Kurle joined local leaders in pursuing a bold vision. This regional water system would deliver Missouri River water to rural areas. In 1978, he became the first chairman of the WEB Water Development Association, guiding the fledgling project through years of planning, coordination, and advocacy. Under his leadership, WEB Water overcame countless challenges to secure federal authorization and funding, ultimately becoming the first Bureau of Reclamation funded water project in the country, and one of the largest rural water systems in the state.

Morris' leadership helped lay the foundation for an organization that today provides water to thousands of homes, farms, and towns across northeast South Dakota. His steady

guidance, professionalism, and belief in cooperation inspired confidence among local, state, and federal partners and made WEB Water a model for rural water development nationwide.



He was born on October 23, 1926, in Bowdle, South Dakota. After graduating from Bowdle High School in 1944, Morris attended South Dakota State University, majoring in engineering, before serving in the U.S. Army during World War II. After returning home, he joined his family's business, J. Kurle and Sons, in Bowdle, where he worked for nearly 50 years before retiring at age 85. He married Patricia Venoy Schumacher in 1951, and together they raised two children.

Morris continued to support rural water throughout his life, remaining an advocate for collaboration and innovation in community water systems. He passed away on October 15, 2021, leaving behind a stronger, better South Dakota.

LARRY WASLAND

A lifelong farmer and rancher, Larry dedicated his life to strengthening rural South Dakota. His commitment to rural water spanned nearly four decades, beginning in 1984 when he joined the Clark Rural Water System Board. Over the years, he served as Treasurer and as the system's representative to the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS), where his leadership helped guide the state's growing network of water providers.

Elected Vice President of the SDARWS Board in 2004, Larry later represented South Dakota on the National Rural Water Association (NRWA) Board of Directors from 2007 to 2023. At the national level, he was a steadfast advocate for clean drinking water, sound policy, and strong rural infrastructure – ensuring South Dakota's voice



was heard in Washington, D.C.

Larry's dedication earned him the Carroll Anderson Memorial Award in 2009 and the Spirit of Rural Water Award in 2022.

His tireless service and unwavering belief in the importance of rural water left an enduring impact on communities across the state and nation.

Born on June 30, 1948, in Watertown, South Dakota, Larry grew up on the family farm near Wallace and pursued an agricultural education at South Dakota State University. He and his wife, Lorene, built a life rooted in family and community – raising two children and later welcoming three grandchildren.

Larry passed away on May 17, 2025, leaving behind a lifetime of dedication and service to rural South Dakota.

Dan Carlson

Born in Le Mars, Iowa, and raised in Paullina, Dan Carlson built a lifelong legacy of leadership and dedication to South Dakota's rural water industry. After attending Morningside College in pre-engineering, Dan transferred to South Dakota State University, where he majored in Civil Engineering before switching to Ag Engineering, specializing in Mechanized Agriculture, graduating in January 1966. While at SDSU, he met his wife, Sharon; the two married in August 1965 and later welcomed two children, Brett and Michelle, along with four grandchildren.

Following graduation, Dan and Sharon moved to Lake Madison, where he began working in the Engineering Department at Sioux Valley Energy. It was there that Dan attended an organizational meeting led by Loren Paulsen about the Big Sioux Water Project. When Dan inquired about extending service to Lake Madison – four miles beyond the proposed boundary – Paulsen



agreed but noted they also needed a director. Dan stepped up, beginning what would become an extraordinary 50-year tenure on the Big Sioux Community Water System Board, serving as its president for many years.

Dan's leadership extended statewide through his service on the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems (SDARWS) Board of Directors. Elected Vice President in 2007 and President in 2008, he guided the Association for seven years, overseeing tremendous growth, including facility expansions, financial stability, new safety and emergency response programs, and strengthened legislative advocacy.

His dedication was recognized through numerous honors, including the 2008 Carroll Anderson Memorial Award and the Spirit of Rural Water Award in both 2016 and 2022. Dan Carlson's commitment to rural water and his community continues to inspire all who follow in his footsteps.

RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

LEGISLATIVE TERMS



SCRAMBLE ANSWER



Across

- 9. Official schedule of bills to be considered
- 10. Smaller group that studies bills in detail
- 11. Meeting of members of the same party or group
- 14. To formally end a legislative meeting
- 15. Current officeholder running for reelection
- 16. Proposed law under consideration
- 18. Person who tries to influence legislation

- 19. Governor or president's rejection of a bill
- 20. Legislator who introduces a bill

Down

- 1. One of the houses in a legislature
- 2. More than half of a group's members
- 3. Formal change or addition to a bill or law
- 4. What a legislature does to nullify a veto
- 5. Official period when the legislature meets

- 6. Public meeting to gather information on a bill
- 7. Party or group with fewer members
- 8. Elected member of a lawmaking body
- 12. Law that has been formally passed
- 13. Minimum number of members needed to do business
- 17. Main chamber where full legislature meets

RULES: Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See page 2 for contact information) or **enter online at www.sdarws.com/crossword.html** with the correct phrase by October 15, 2025 to be entered into the \$100 drawing.

Only one entry allowed per address/household. You must be a member of a participating rural water system to be eligible for the prize. Your information will only be used to notify the winner, and will not be shared or sold.

Congratulations to Beverly Paulsen from Clark Rural Water who had the correct phrase of "Smiles spoon up hope" for October 2025.



COMMON CUSTOMER QUESTIONS

Q: Why is my water milky or have bubbles?

A: When there is a water leak and repair is made to the leak site, air gets into the line and causes the cloudiness and bubbles. If you notice cloudiness in your water, we recommend calling your water provider to see if they had a break in your area. In most cases if the customer runs some water and lets it sit, the water will clear up. There are some cases your provider may need to come and flush the line to remove the air and restore your water back to normal.

Q: Why is my pressure lower than normal?

A: We recommend checking faucets, valves and toilets to make sure nothing is leaking or running. Also check outside hydrants and around the yard to make sure no water is coming up from the ground. If you live on a farm, consider how many livestock tanks are being filled at the same time, especially on a hot day.

Do you have a water softener? If so, put it in the bypass mode and see if your pressure improves. If it does improve, then call to have your water softener serviced.

Q: Is there a way to turn my water pressure up or down?

A: Yes, there is a pressure regulating valve in your meter pit. Your water provider can adjust the pressure to your home from there.

Q: Why is my water cloudy?

A: This is from air being pushed through the line. This occasionally happens after fixing a leak and the water being turned off. Your water is still safe to drink.

Q: How can I check my toilet to see if it is leaking?

A: If you cannot hear or see any water running in your toilet, simply place 15-30 drops of food coloring into the toilet tank – enough to visibly change the color of the water, and then wait 30 minutes. After 30 minutes, check the color of the water in your toilet bowl. If any dye has made it into your toilet bowl, then there's a leak at the flapper or a crack in the overflow tube, and a fix is required.

NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



We are almost finished with the construction of our new Water Treatment Plant! The last of the electrical components we were waiting for have arrived, and the contractors are working on tying those in and building the controls. We hope to have the plant up and running in early 2026.

CHECK OUT OUR CONVENIENT BILLING OPTIONS!



CUSTOMER WEB PORTAL

We have a Customer Web Portal (CWP) available for your convenience! You can check your current balance, look up and print past bill amounts and usages, and make payments by credit or debit cards. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and Discover. A 2.5% service fee will apply. You may choose to Quick Pay your balance without creating an account, or if you create an account you can sign up for automatic payment of your water bill each month.

Visit www.bdmruralwater.com and click on the "PAY MY BILL" button to be taken to the portal (you do not need to make a payment to visit the CWP). You will need your account number to sign into the portal.

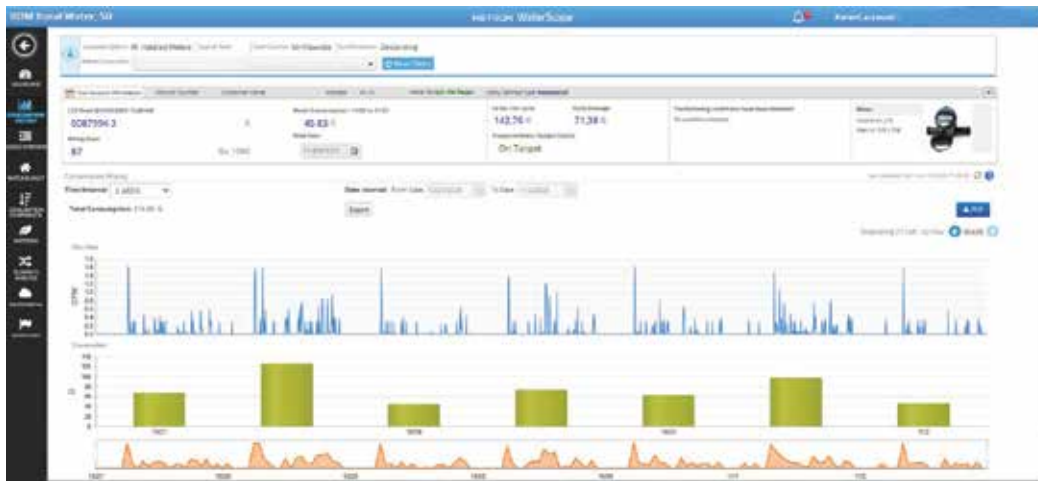
E-BILLS ARE AVAILABLE!!

You can now get your monthly water bill statements emailed to you! If you are interested in this option, call Shannon or send an email to shannonw@bdmruralwater.com. Be sure to specify if you want emailed bills only, or both email and printed forms.

ACH (BANK DRAFT) AUTO-PAYMENTS

Call the office or download the Authorization Form from our website if you would like to have your monthly payments taken directly from your checking or savings account. There are no fees for this service.

TRACK YOUR WATER USAGE ONLINE WITH WATERSCOPE



Metron-Farnier, our meter manufacturer, provides our members with an online portal called WaterScope. Here you can monitor your water usage for leaks, unexpected usage, and other water events. BDM does not monitor your meter for unusual usage. We strongly recommend that you sign up for this useful tool, as all leaks that go through the meter are the responsibility of the customer. Please call Ryan at 605-448-5417 to sign up, or send him an email at ryanv@bdmruralwater.com. He will need your email address.



OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, March 30, 2026

BDM Rural Water System, Inc. will hold its 46th annual meeting on Monday, March 30th, 2026 in the Britton Event Center at 1203 3rd Street in Britton. The business meeting will be called to order at 6:00 pm.

The director position for District Two is up for election in 2026. Terry Leonhardt has served this position for three terms and is seeking re-election.

Donnell Ogren's director position in District Five is also up for

election. He has served three terms and is seeking re-election.

DIRECTOR DISTRICTS UP FOR ELECTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

DISTRICT TWO: *Putney, Riverside, Groton, Cambria, and Henry Townships in Brown County*

DISTRICT FIVE: *Lowell, Waverly, Pleasant Valley, Hickman, Victor, Nordland, Wismer, Hamilton, Sisseton, and Fort Townships in Marshall County; and Tewaukon Township in North Dakota*

DIRECTIONS TO THE EVENT CENTER: *From Hwy 10 (Vander Horck Street), go north on 12th or 13th Avenues for 5 blocks to 3rd Street. Additional parking is available across the street south of the Event Center.*

Please see the Notice below for the rules and requirements regarding the election of director positions. If you wish to seek election to a director position or nominate someone to that position, please call or visit the BDM office to request a nominating petition. Petitions must be filed by Friday, February 13th, 2026.

Financial and operations reports will be available. Door prize drawings will be held. Only BDM members are eligible to vote and enter the drawings. Supper will be served following the meeting. In case of inclement weather, the meeting will be held on Monday, April 6th at the Britton Event Center.

RULES GOVERNING ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

An amendment to Article VIII, Section 3 of the By-Laws of BDM Rural Water System, Inc. was adopted on December 28, 2020, and states:

“Each year prior to the annual meeting of members, anyone including incumbent directors seeking election shall file with the Secretary of the Corporation a nominating petition stating the District Director position which they are seeking, signed and dated by at least 15 members of the corporation. The members signing the petition do not have to reside in the district for which the director candidate resides or is seeking election. Petitions shall be filed at least 45 days before the scheduled annual nominating meeting. If only one nominating petition is filed for a director position they shall be considered elected and the election reported to the annual meeting or special meeting of members and as part of the Notice of Member Meeting. If more than one nomination petition is filed as required herein then an election will be held at the member meeting and names or lists of candidates included as part of the Notice of Meeting. No further nominations shall be made at the member meeting called for election of directors. If no nominating petitions are filed it shall be the duty and responsibility of the Board of Directors to appoint a director to serve the full term of such director position up for election.”



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WATER MATTERS

WHAT IF?



You often hear folks talk about, “hoping for the best, but planning for the worst.” This old adage can be applied to a broad range of activities and issues, and provides the foundation for pretty much all forms of insurance (medical, life, property, crop, etc..). Nobody wants bad things to happen, but it doesn’t hurt to be prepared.

So, how does this apply to water? If you are receiving this publication, you are likely provided water from a public water supply (PWS), be it a rural water system or a municipality. A common goal of all PWSs is to deliver to their customers a quality product in a consistent and reliable manner. By and large, this goal is met on a day-to-day basis, and if there are unexpected interruptions to service, they are of short duration and limited extent.

But what would happen if your PWS was unable to provide service for an extended period of time? Are you prepared to get along without being able to just turn on the tap for water? For most domestic users, bottled water might suffice for drinking and cooking, but getting enough water for general sanitation (bathing and cleaning) might be tougher. These may require going to locations where water service has not been disrupted.



Another water supply ‘hiccup’ could come from the PWS not being able to meet increasing demand. The amount of water that can be distributed and delivered is limited by the pumps, pipes and tanks that make up the system. Often as not, the system was built with the largest capacity the PWS could afford, but once that level of service is met, upgrades and/or expansion are the only way to deliver more water. If a customer suddenly might desire more water, say during a period of drought, there are no guarantees that the PWS will be able to deliver. The same applies to regions within a PWS coverage area where totally new customers may wish to gain service. Just because someone wants water at particular location doesn’t mean that it will be available.

If your home, farm or business are dependent on water, and we all pretty much are, having a plan for What If...? isn’t a bad idea. Consider what you might do if your primary supply was not available for a day or two. As noted earlier, your PWS strives to provide dependable service, but sometimes bad things happen. Are you prepared?

BACK PAGE CONTENT PROVIDED BY:



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