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31st Annual MRWA Water & Wastewater Technical Conference

See new technology and discover new ideas by attending the 31st Annual MRWA Water & Wastewater Technical Conference!

Mark Your Calendars and plan to attend Minnesota’s largest Water and Wastewater Technical Conference to stay up-to-date on all of the latest industry happenings!

MRWA's 31st Annual Water and Wastewater Technical Conference will be held March 3-5, 2015 at River's Edge Convention Center (Civic Center) in St. Cloud, MN.

MRWA has put together a variety of training topics in the fields of water, wastewater, management, groundwater, source water, very small systems, finance, and water and wastewater exam refresher courses. New for 2015: MRWA has added a wastewater collections and ponds track to our training agenda. 16 water certification hours or 16 wastewater certification hours (or a combination) will be awarded for full conference attendance.

Entertainment at this year’s conference theme party will be provided by River Rats, Dueling Pianos (shown above). River Rats dueling pianos bring your favorite rock ‘n’ roll hits to life on grand pianos as you sing and clap along. Its Rock and Pop delivered with great humor! A non-stop, interactive, mad cap, rock ‘n’ roll experience you have to see!

MRWA will also feature keynote and breakout speaker Stefan Salmonson, PPS from PROtective Services, Inc. Back by popular demand, Stefan’s sessions are fast paced, audience interactive programs that have won rave reviews from thousands of participants, including MRWA attendees. You won’t want to miss Stefan; he’s guaranteed to exceed your expectations!

Plan to attend and help MRWA celebrate our 31st conference!

Confidence Hotels

Hotels closest to the St. Cloud River’s Edge (Civic Center):
Kelly Inn: 320-253-0606
Le St-Germain Suites: 320-654-1661
Grandstay Suites: 320-251-5400
Country Inn: 320-252-8282
MRWA 31st Annual Water & Wastewater TECHNICAL CONFERENCE
March 3-5, 2015 - River’s Edge (Civic Center)
St. Cloud, MN - Tentative Agenda

Tuesday, March 3, 2015
8:15am Color Guard Ceremony
8:30am Opening Session: Quality on Tap! Our Commitment, Our Profession
8:45am Introduction of MRWA Diamond & Ruby Corporate Partners
9:00am Keynote Speaker
10:30am Exhibit Hall Opens - Enjoy the latest innovations, technology, and new products in the industry!
11:45am Luncheon

Concurrent Mini-Sessions Begin (3 tracks)
Water/Wastewater Track
1:00pm Cross Connection Control Program for Cities
1:30pm Fixing Broken Gate Valve Boxes Hit by Snow Plows
2:00pm Legal Rodent Control for Stabilization Ponds
2:30pm Workplace Safety Consultation
3:00pm Do’s and Don’ts of Trace Wire Systems
3:30pm Trends in Wireless Data Communication Systems
4:00pm Refreshments, Door Prizes, Exhibitor Gift - Last Chance to Tour Exhibit Hall!

Booth Demonstrations
No Dig Technology to Modernize Waterous Fire Hydrants
Safe & Effective Use of Trench Shoring Products
Assess Your Sewer Line in 3 Minutes or Less
Gate Valve Operation and Exercising Program
Drinking Water for Ethiopia
Troubleshooting Variable Frequency Drives

Groundwater/WHP Protection Track
Documentation of WHP Plan Implementation Efforts - WHP Audit Program
Groundwater 101 - Where Does it Come From?
Communication Techniques and Resources for Drinking Water Protection
City-County Wellhead Protection Implementation
Well Sealing Techniques
Asbestos Removal Regulations You Should Know

4:15pm Water Taste Test & Exhibitor Recognition
5:00pm Exhibit Hall Closes - Meet & Greet and Sports Raffle Begin in Glenn Carlson Hall

Wednesday, March 4, 2015
8:15am Leaders in the Industry: NRWA & MRWA
   We Work For YOU! Awards & Poster Contest Winners
8:45am Protecting People, Places, and Passwords
   - Stefan Salmonson, PPS, Keynote Speaker

Concurrent Sessions Begin
Water Operation & Maintenance Session
10:00am Water Storage Tank Mixing System Alternatives
11:00am MDH Roundtable on Regulations - MDH Panel Discussion
12:00pm Luncheon & Door Prizes
1:00pm Ammonia Reduction - Pilot Plant in Onamia
2:00pm Collecting Quality Water Samples
3:00pm Smart Well Field
4:00pm Biofilm Removal in Water Tanks

Wastewater Mechanical Operation & Maintenance Session
10:00am Noncontact UV Disinfection
11:00am Regionalization of Wastewater Systems
12:00pm Luncheon & Door Prizes
1:00pm Screw Press Dewatering - Not Just for Biosolids Anymore
2:00pm Producing Class A Biosolids
3:00pm Nutrient Reduction Strategies
4:00pm Wastewater Disinfection Fundamentals

2015 Sports Raffle Prize:
2015 Polaris Sportsman 4 Wheeler OR 2015 John Deere Lawn Mower - YOUR CHOICE

Donated by MRWA!
Wednesday, March 4, 2015 (continued)

**Wastewater Collections Operation & Maintenance Session**
10:00am Sealing the Sanitary Collections System  
11:00am O&M of Air Relief Valves  
12:00pm Luncheon & Door Prizes  
1:00pm Don’t Surrender to Wipes

**Wastewater Ponds Operation & Maintenance Session**
2:00pm Ponds 101  
3:00pm Sludge Reduction and Algae Control  
4:00pm High pH in Wastewater Ponds

**Management Session**
10:00am Killing Kitchens  
11:00am “Knock Knock” The Dangers of Vacant/Foreclosed Properties  
12:00pm Luncheon & Door Prizes  
1:00pm Emergency and Water Conservation Plans  
2:00pm Understanding Asset Management  
3:00pm Energy Realities and Conservation Opportunities  
4:00pm Rural Water: Repeating the Past or a New Path Forward

**Groundwater Session**
10:00am Storage Tank Regulations and Drinking Water Protection  
10:45am Spill Response Plans for Public Water Systems  
11:25am Roadway Vehicle Fluid and Cargo Spill Response  
12:00pm Luncheon & Door Prizes  
1:00pm Factors Affecting Public Supply Well Vulnerability to Contamination  
2:00pm Demand Reduction Measures  
3:00pm Water Conservation Toolbox

**Exam Refresher Sessions - These sessions will run 10:00am - 5:00pm**
10:00am A&B Water Operator Certification Exam Refresher  
10:00am C&D Water Operator Certification Exam Refresher  
10:00am C&D Wastewater Operator Certification Exam Refresher

**Theme Party**
6:00pm Social Hour and Dinner  
7:30pm Entertainment:  
River Rats, Dueling Pianos

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2015 Sports Raffle
**Prize:** Ultimate Deer Stand donated by Team Lab!

2015 Keynote Speaker:
Stefan Salmonson, PPS PROtective Services, Inc.

Entertainment:
RIVER RATS - Dueling Pianos  
Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 7:30pm
Friday, March 5, 2015

Water Operation and Maintenance Session
8:30am Dead End Danger Zone
9:15am Energy Conservation (Combined Session with Wastewater Track)
10:00am Break
10:15am Prevention Plan for Frozen Service Lines (Combined Session with Wastewater Track)
11:00am Security Intelligence Sharing (Combined Session with Wastewater Track)
11:45am Wrap-Up and Drawings
12:45pm MRWA Annual Meeting

Wastewater Operation and Maintenance Session
8:30am eDMR: New Updates for Reporting
9:15am Energy Conservation (Combined Session with Water Track)
10:00am Break
10:15am Prevention Plan for Frozen Service Lines (Combined Session with Water Track)
11:00am Security Intelligence Sharing (Combined Session with Water Track)
11:45am Wrap-Up and Drawings
12:45pm MRWA Annual Meeting

Exam Prep Refresher Session Offered at Technical Conference

The Minnesota Rural Water Association will be sponsoring an Exam Refresher Session on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, as part of the MRWA Technical Conference. The exam refresher session will give the attendee an opportunity to review information that will be part of the certification testing. The certification test will be given Thursday, March 5, 2015, at 8:30am.

☐ YES, I will be attending the WATER Exam Refresher A&B, March 4, 2015, from 10:00am - 5:00pm.
☐ YES, I will be attending the WATER Exam Refresher C&D, March 4, 2015, from 10:00am - 5:00pm.
☐ YES, I will be attending the WASTEWATER Exam Refresher Class, March 4, 2015, from 10:00am - 5:00pm.
☐ YES, I will be attending the entire Technical Conference

(If not, please fill out the registration information below)

☐ Yes, Please send me an exam application - circle one: Water or Wastewater
☐ Yes, Please send me a Minnesota Department of Health Class D WATER Study Guide.

There is no charge for this session if you are attending the Technical Conference (See Technical Conference registration form.) If you are NOT attending the Technical Conference, there is a fee of $120.00 for the Exam Refresher Session. The following registration is required. There is no charge to come and only take the test on Thursday, March 5.

WEDNESDAY EXAM REFRESHER ONLY: Includes Refresher Class & Luncheon - $120.00

Please make check payable to Minnesota Rural Water Association or pay online at: www.mrwa.com (use the Pay Online button)

Name (please print) ____________________________________________________________

Address ______________________________________________________________________

City ___________________________ State _________ Zip _____________________________

Employer _____________________________________________________________________

E-mail: ______________________________________________________________________

If you have any questions, call 800-367-6792, fax 218-685-5272, or e-mail: mrwa@mrwa.com. Register online at www.mrwa.com (use the fast track training button)

*You MUST fill out and mail an exam application to the Minnesota Department of Health (Water Exam) OR the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (Wastewater Exam) 15 days prior to the exam date. The exam fee, payable to MDH is $32.00 and to MPCA is $55.00. Exam applications can be downloaded at: www.mrwa.com. (Use the water or wastewater resources link.)
MRWA TECHNICAL CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

This form must be received no later than February 23, 2015, for pre-registration rates to apply.
Mail to: Minnesota Rural Water Association, 217 12th Avenue SE, Elbow Lake, MN 56531.
Please complete one form for each registrant. Guests may use the same registration form.

First Name ___________________________  Last Name ___________________________

System or Company Name ___________________________

System or Company Address ___________________________

City ___________________________  State ______  Zip ___________________________

E-mail ___________________________  Phone ___________________________

Guest’s Name (if registering) ___________________________

Please check one of the following:
Manager/Operator ________  Council/Board Member ________  Mayor ______
Administrative/Clerk ________  Industry ________  Guest ________  Other ______

Full Registration
Includes access to all sessions, Exhibit Halls, luncheons, and theme party.

$_____MRWA Associate Member $225.00 (per person)  $250.00 (per person)
$_____Non-Member $275.00 (per person)  $300.00 (per person)
$_____Guest $  60.00  $  65.00
$_____Total Due (make checks payable to: Minnesota Rural Water Association)

Don’t Miss This Special!
$15.00 discount registration for Mayors, Clerks, Board Members, or Councilpersons attending for the first time. Must be accompanied by system operator or manager.

Copy registration form and mail with payment to the MRWA Office.
Register online at: www.mrwa.com (use the fast track training button).

Payment Method:
MRWA Now Accepts Credit Cards Online! Visit www.mrwa.com and use the “pay online” button.
MRWA accepts VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, and eCheck through our online pay site.

2014 Sports Raffle
4 Wheeler Winner

Cancellation Policy: Fees will be refunded if written request is received prior to February 23, 2015.
MRWA & MDH Looking for Source Water Award Nominees

Looking for SWP Award Nominees...

MRWA and the Minnesota Department of Health are again looking for nominees for the 2015 MRWA & MDH Source Water Protection Award. Each year, MRWA and MDH jointly present an award to the individual, public water system, or organization that have made a notable contribution in the area of source water protection at our technical conference in March.

1) Was initiative taken and demonstrated by the candidate to protect or improve the source of drinking water resources?
2) Was leadership shown by the candidate in his or her ability to achieve success through effort?
3) Has there been a long-term commitment to source water protection efforts?
4) Were activities completed which resulted in the protection or improvement of the source water resource?
5) Has the award candidate shared his or her success with others?

If you are involved in or aware of a project to protect source water resources that meet the majority of the above criteria, we would love to hear from you! Please send entries to MRWA’s office (or e-mail at mrwa@mrwa.com) by January 15, 2015.

Taste Test: March 3, 2015

MRWA is looking for the best tasting water in the state!

The Minnesota Rural Water Association TASTE TEST competition will be held March 3, 2015, as part of the 31st Annual Water & Wastewater Technical Conference. We hope to have several entries from across the state. This is a good way to showcase the pride we have in the work that our utilities do.

This will be great fun! Remember, if you are attending the Technical Conference........Please BRING A ONE QUART WATER SAMPLE from your system’s water in a glass container if you wish to participate.

Lyle Trautman Scholarship

MRWA will be awarding two Lyle Trautman Scholarships at the 31st Annual Water & Wastewater Technical Conference on March 4, 2015, in St. Cloud. These scholarships of $500.00 each will be made to a student to defray the cost of tuition, books, or room and board to an accredited institution of higher learning approved by MRWA. Scholarship money will be paid directly to the student upon presentation of the winner’s college invoice as proof of enrollment. Decisions are final. No transfer of scholarship is permitted. Applicants must be currently enrolled in college. For the scholarship application, call the MRWA office at: 800-367-6792 or download from our web site at www.mrwa.com. Postmark deadline: February 23, 2015.
MRWA Sustainable Management Workshop

Sustainable Management Workshop for Small
& Rural Systems

Minneapolis Rural Water Association in conjunction with
the US EPA and USDA Rural Development, invite you to attend this Sustainable Management Workshop.

Workshop Agenda

- Introductions & Workshop Objectives
- Overview of Key Management Areas
- Utility ‘Self Assessment’ Exercise
- Self Assessment Results Discussion
- Working Lunch
- Improving Outcomes Exercise Practices, Tools, and Measures Discussion
- Action Plan Discussion / Exercise
- Workshop Feedback

Objectives:

- How to deliver increasingly efficient, and higher quality services.
- How to improve long-term sustainability and increase resiliency.
- How to use the Small Systems Guidebook to Effective Utility Management to make improvements at your system.

Workshop Details:

Date: January 7, 2015
Time: 8:30am—3:30pm (working lunch provided)
Location: Community Building,
35 E. Main Street, Dodge Center, MN
Fee: $20.00 working lunch fee
Register: Call 800-367-6792 or online at:
www.mrwa.com/wf6.html

Hurry and register: Class is limited to 35 attendees!

This workshop will help utilities address a full range of challenges and improve the management of their operation and infrastructure.

Utilities will learn to make improvements in the ten key management areas, focusing first on their most pressing challenges.

Ten Key Management Areas:
1. Product Quality
2. Customer Satisfaction
3. Employee Leadership & Development
4. Operational Optimization
5. Financial Viability
6. Operational Resiliency
7. Infrastructure Stability
8. Community Sustainability
10. Customer Understanding & Support

6 credit hours awarded for full day attendance.
Upcoming Water U Webinars
Know Your Septic System - Save Money
December 18th, 2pm - FREE Webinar.

Despite their simple design, common septic tanks rely on a number of complex chemical and biological processes to function properly. Septic tanks require regular care and maintenance to ensure they can adequately handle waste products while protecting the health of the household and the environment. Regular care can include everything from restricting the kinds of chemicals put down the toilet to how often laundry is washed. The National Rural Water Association has developed the Septic Insight App so that property owners can quickly assess the status of their septic practices and get helpful information about septic care. The Septic Insight App condenses information gathered from EPA’s Septic Smart program, university extension offices, engineering firms, and septic pumpers to offer a full range of relevant information in a quick, easy format.

This webinar will cover aspects of the free Septic Insight app, including the information within the app and how to operate the app.

Register for this session at: www.mrwa.com/wateru.html

Have you tried an NRWA Mobile App? Visit: http://nrwa.org/initiatives/apps/

Water Operations App - This App contains a series of calculators to assist System Operations Specialists with both water and wastewater operations.

Septic Insight - Designed for septic owners. Locate aseptic tank, get sizing and pumping schedules and perform a septic inspection.

Effective Utility Management - Assessment and Benchmarking tools to ensure sustainable, effective utility operation.