



## Minnesota Rural Water Association Operations Specialist Response Request

The current state of response to the COVID-19 virus means that water and wastewater systems must commit themselves as first responders to the protection of the public's health. The uninterrupted continuation of water and wastewater service within all communities is vital.

There may be systems that due to an outbreak of COVID-19 require operational assistance. Accordingly, Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) is compiling a pool of certified water and wastewater operations specialists who might be available to provide emergency on-site assistance to other systems.

MRWA recommends working closely with neighboring systems and retired operations specialists that may live in town or neighboring towns to assist in operations, but if the need arises, MRWA will have the pool of operations specialists willing to help available. Water systems and the responding operations specialists should be prepared to keep detailed records of their response for reimbursement either through the requesting system or other available funding.

To stay ahead of this emergency, MRWA will administrate this among its members. Communications regarding this matter should therefore be through the MRWA office. Your system need not be a member of MnWARN to respond to this message.

If an operations specialist is available for this effort their **name, address, contact information (including e-mail and cell phone) and certification levels** should be sent by email to [lori.blair@mrwa.com](mailto:lori.blair@mrwa.com) or [mrwa@mrwa.com](mailto:mrwa@mrwa.com). There is no requirement that you respond if you reply to this request.

If your system is already a member of MnWARN, you will be contacted by MnWARN Directors on possible response situations, as an emergency event will qualify as a MnWARN event. **If your system is NOT a MNWARN member, please consider responding ASAP to this request for assistance list.**

Thank you for your attention and assistance,

Lori Blair – 800-367-6792

MRWA Executive Director