

Small Systems Bulletin

Minnesota Rural Water Association



January 2023 | Winter News

Technical Assistance

We also wanted to let you know that if you have any questions about training or are in need of onsite technical assistance, please feel free to contact us to set up an appointment.

Thank you so much for all that you do in providing safe drinking water to your consumers!



Welcome to this edition of the Small Systems Bulletin. The purpose of this bulletin is to keep you informed on issues concerning your water system. We issue this bulletin quarterly. Topics covered in the bulletin include: operation and maintenance, treatment, backflow/cross-connections, regulations, operator training, management, and many others. Dates and locations of future workshops are included.

If you have suggestions about topics that you would find helpful give us a call at 800-367-6792 or send us an e-mail at kyle.kedrowski@mrwa.com or jennifer.koenig@mrwa.com.

Watch for this quarterly newsletter and we'll see you at a future small system training workshop!

MRWA
Corporate
Partners



About Us

Visit Our Website



Feature Article:

Sometimes Water Flows Up

By: Lance Loverink, MRWA Circuit Rider



After seeing much of the state over the past 4 years, I began to realize that my hometown area is rather unique. We have a lot of water that flows “up” naturally. Artesian wells and natural springs are very common in southern Minnesota. In fact, the older generation says there are hundreds of artesian wells and springs located in just a 10 x 10- mile area. Many of the wells were drilled and began to flow; however, there are some that flow 30 gallons per minute (gpm) naturally via springs. Although there are hundreds of wells, many have been sealed as all the small 60- acre homesteads that used the flowing well water for drinking water and had a cooler box for refrigeration are now gone. Nonetheless many wells remain flowing. While many other parts of the state talk about how deep their wells are and how poor the quality of water can be, it was eye opening coming from an area of so much water just flowing out of the ground. Many of the wells have farm drainage tile that take the water directly to drainage ditches so the surrounding areas can be farmed. They also keep the roads from flooding.

Many “old timers” talk about the earthquake in Alaska in March of 1964. They say that many of the wells that were not artesian began to flow after the earthquake! Could it be true, or is it some type of wet cycle coincidence? I tend to believe them. You can see in the corresponding pictures that there is a well that just flows up in the grass. That well flows 50 gpm and has almost a roaring sound as it plunges into a culvert. In efforts to stop the water, many of the casings were raised to an elevation that provided enough head pressure to stop flows, but during the winter months the casing would just crack. Capping the wells was



also tried, but many times it would just raise the casing with the pressure. You can also see a picture of a 10" well casing that has been tapped out the side to relieve the pressure but this also allows control of the well flows to prevent freezing. When bringing the tile lines close to the artesian wells the contractors had a little trick. They would temporarily raise the casing height to prevent flow, then pack around the casing with dry ice, and wrap with insulation. This would freeze the motionless water, and the tile could be brought near without the big mess.



There are few other pictures of dug wells from west central Minnesota that I found interesting. The square concrete dug well was about 20' of concrete and 36" in diameter and then redwood planks down another 60'! That well has since been sealed due to the potential for contamination and failing wood. Another picture shows a 36" cement tile dug well that went down 90'.



Training & Technical Assistance Update:

The dates and locations for our upcoming in-person training sessions are listed below. We also have these dates posted on our *Training Calendar* page www.mrwa.com/training/trainingcalendar/.

At the top of that page, please click on the box “Go To Small Systems Training” for our Class E & D training dates and locations. For our in-person training sessions, we will mail notices to operations specialists in those areas approximately one month prior to the class.

In-Person Training:

Class E Training Workshops (8am – Noon)

January 18, 2023	Xcel Training Center 2100 West River Street Monticello, MN
February 7, 2023	Cohasset City Hall 305 Northwest 1 st Avenue Cohasset, MN
March 8, 2023	Best Western/Kelly Inn 100 4 th Avenue S St. Cloud, MN
April 4, 2023	Redwood Falls Community Center 901 Cook Street Redwood Falls, MN
May 23, 2023	Hastings City Hall 101 Fourth Street East Hastings, MN
May 31, 2023	Cologne Community Center 1211 Village Parkway Cologne, MN

Class D Training Workshop (8am – 5 pm)

April 25, 2023	S.J. Electro Systems, Inc. 22650 County Highway 6 Detroit Lakes, MN
May 9, 2023	AmericInn by Wyndham North Branch 38675 14 th Avenue

North Branch, MN

[Click Here to Register!](#)

Online Training:

We will continue to offer online remote training sessions using Zoom. If you have not received these email invites for the Zoom online training sessions, please email mrwa@mrwa.com and provide your name, public water system name, and preferred email address to us so that we can add you to our email list. If you have received emails from us in the past but not these Zoom notices, please check your Junk/Spam folder. If you use a Gmail account, you may need to check the "Promotions" folder for the email invites.



Once the online training sessions are scheduled we will post these online training session links on our website www.mrwa.com on our [Training Calendar](#) page. At the top of that page, please click on the box "Go To Small Systems Training" for our online training links. You will be notified via email of the date and time of each online remote training session. An email address will be needed to register for these online remote training sessions.

Each operations specialist must register and sign-in separately on their own device to receive credit for attending the online remote training session.

Online Training Starts at 10am

January and April 2023 – Dates and Topics to Be Determined

Jennifer Koenig

jennifer.koenig@mrwa.com

320-815-4990

Kyle Kedrowski

kyle.kedrowski@mrwa.com

320-760-1475