

# Small Systems Bulletin

Minnesota Rural Water Association



April 2024 | Spring News



**MRWA**  
**Corporate**  
**Partners**

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**Website**



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](mailto:kyle.kedrowski@mrwa.com) or [jennifer.koenig@mrwa.com](mailto:jennifer.koenig@mrwa.com)

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

## **Feature Article: Invest in Educating Our Youth About Drinking Water**

**Katie Breth, MRWA Source Water Protection Specialist**

**My two youngest boys are obsessed with water towers. They can recognize a local town by their water tower, truly this blows me away. They even request that we take pictures of water towers when we go on vacation. I might be to blame for their obsession. I try to embrace those teachable moments when we are trapped in a car. I point out things like water towers, I talk about what the purpose of a water tower is. I point out cover crops and excitedly explain to them what that is doing to protect our drinking water. Yes, at this point they are simply obsessed with water towers because they are big and noticeable but as I continue to talk with them about ways to protect drinking water the more likely they will put into practice those things they learned over the years.**

**I strongly believe in investing in the education of our youth. I think that educating our children about what each of us can do to protect our drinking water protections is very powerful. Education is also a requirement of Wellhead Protection Plans. Your Wellhead Protection Plan likely has education measure that focus on children's education. As operators, administrators, clerks and water industry representatives you hold a wealth of information about your drinking water, but are you sharing that information with the kids in your area?**

**I am going to share with you a couple ways for you to get involved with youth drinking water education.**

**MRWA Poster Contest – The Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) Poster Contest is held annually for 4th grade students to showcase their artwork through a poster drawing of 1) groundwater or drinking water protection activities, OR 2) water conservation practices that can be done at home. We are presently accepting poster drawings. However, the deadline is fast approaching, we will be excepting your local winners until February 2, 2024. We ask that public water suppliers reach out to their local schools to recruit participation. All the poster contest materials are located on our webpage. Also included on our webpage is a template letter that you can use to send to the teachers and lessons plans to share with them.**

**Water Festivals – A water festival is a one-day event organized to educate a large number of students from several schools about water resources. Students travel to many learning stations where students actively engage in hands-on water activities. Station topics include the hydrologic cycle, groundwater, water quality, wetlands, water management, water conservation, soils, and the properties of water. Water Festivals are typically organized by a Watershed District, Soil and Water Conservation District or even a municipality. This is a great opportunity for a public water supplier to be present and teach our youth about what you need to do to provide safe, reliable and economical drinking water. If you are not comfortable teaching a learning station there are many other ways be involved. It takes many hands to put on a Water Festival and it also take a large financial commitment. If you can be present maybe your system would consider donating to support the event.**

**These are only two of many ways we can help educate our youth on drinking water, if you ever want to explore more options please reach out to your Source Water Protection Specialist working with you on your Wellhead Protection Plan implementation. I will end with a quote from Ed Markey, "Education is not only a ladder of opportunity but it is also an investment in our future."**

## 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/](http://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. We are working on our training dates for July – December 2024. As soon as these dates are scheduled, we will post them on our website.

### *In-Person Training:*

#### **Class E Training Workshops (8am – Noon)**

**April 10, 2024**

**Nisswa Community Center  
25628 Main St  
Nisswa, MN**

**May 1, 2024**

**BENCO Electric Cooperative  
20946 549<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Mankato, MN**

#### **Class D Training Workshops (8am – 5pm)**

**April 3, 2024**

**Lake Elmo City Hall  
Lake Elmo Community Room  
3800 Laverne Ave N  
Lake Elmo, MN**

**[Click Here to Register!](#)**

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## 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](mailto: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.

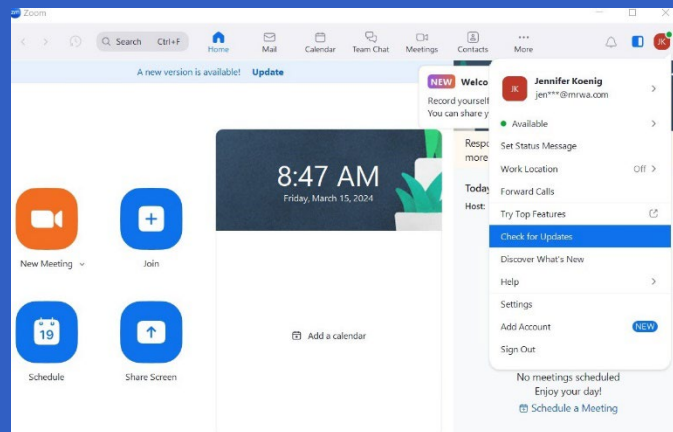


Once the online training sessions are scheduled we will post these online training session links on our website [www.mrwa.com](http://www.mrwa.com) on our [Training Calendar](#) page. At the top of that page, please click on the box "Go To Small Systems Training" for our online training links. You will 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.*

## **\*\*IMPORTANT\*\***

Please be sure to update your ZOOM app prior to May 4, 2024, in order to continue watching our online training sessions. Open the ZOOM app on your computer or phone and click on your initials in the red box on the far right, scroll down to check for updates, download/install new updates.



## **Additional Training Opportunities**

**Lead and Copper Rule Revisions/Asset Management Training  
(6 direct water CEUs available)**

More information on these training sessions can be found on our website [www.mrwa.com](http://www.mrwa.com), on our Training Calendar page. At the top of that page, please click on the box "Go To WATER Training" for training dates and locations.

**April 18, 2024**

**Thief River Electric Department  
1711 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Thief River Falls, MN**

**May 8, 2024**

**Cohasset City Hall  
305 1<sup>st</sup> Ave NW  
Cohasset, MN**

**June 6, 2024**

**Lake City – City Hall  
Second Floor Conference Room  
205 West Center Street  
Lake City, MN**

**[Register Here](#)**

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### **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 to provide safe drinking water to your consumers!

*Jennifer Koenig*

[jennifer.koenig@mrwa.com](mailto:jennifer.koenig@mrwa.com)  
320-815-4990

*Kyle Kedrowski*

[kyle.kedrowski@mrwa.com](mailto:kyle.kedrowski@mrwa.com)  
320-760-1475