

Small Systems Bulletin

Minnesota Rural Water Association



October 2024 | Autumn News



**MRWA Corporate
Partners**

About Us:

Visit Our 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 or jennifer.koenig@mrwa.com

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

Feature Article: Preventative Maintenance Versus Reactive Maintenance

By: Kyle Kedrowski, MRWA Non-Municipal Technical Advisor

Maintenance is a term that most of us know very well; we all have tasks to do to maintain our equipment, vehicles, and pretty much everything with working parts in our industry. We add the adjective 'preventive' before the term maintenance and it always seems like a terrific idea, but where do we find the time?



It takes time, it takes organization, active record keeping, thinking and being ahead in productive planning. The question is “fixing or repairing something now, when its warm out and you have time OR fix it when it breaks?” In other words, if you and your staff keep up with routine maintenance as required and stay on top of things, it is a much better scenario than to let it get run down, crossing your fingers that things are going to keep working. It turns into a problem when something breaks down, and it is usually happens at the wrong time, day, or week.

Budgets are tight, most of us are frugal and watch our money and/or the workplace budget. Some advice: when it comes to buying products that we bury in the ground or products that we rely on every day, purchase the best, longest lasting product you can afford. To be required to dig up a street or work on one of the well pumps or pull the drop pipe just because some inexpensive part failed is not a cost savings, in fact many times it costs twice as much.

Wells are a very large part of your water system. As we all know, the well is the heart of your water system. The well is often referred to as one thing ‘The Well’, but there are a lot of parts or pieces to the well including the casing, the drop pipe, the screen, the well cap, the vent, and the system controller. It is highly recommended that an occasional scheduled observation of the well be performed. Not just once a year or when you mow around it, but plan to check it out occasionally. Below are a couple of pictures for a reference. Make sure the well is in good working condition and that it did not get hit by some thing like a snow plow or a mower. Make sure the well cap is attached firmly and the vent screen is still attached and working properly. Remember, some wells do need to be vented to breathe when the well pumps turn on and off.

Well Maintenance: Well drilling companies and MRWA highly recommend an annual well inspection. This annual inspection could correlate or is similar to an employee going to the doctor for a physical or a check-up. There are baseline assessments (starting points) when you have your initial doctor’s visit (as we age, things change). Medical records of your health is documented and a medical history is produced for you and the medical team as time passes. The analogy is much the same with a well. The well log and annual inspection report will document the well information and keeps track of things that are changing with age. An annual or periodic inspection by the well driller will cost around two to three hundred dollars. It less expensive if you have multiple wells and they are already on-site. The inspection will observe and record: the static water level, pumping level and draw down, voltage check, amp draw, well cap, electrical conduit, electrical connections, pressure gauge, flow rate and storage tank. On a Vertical Turbine Pump the vibration, oil levels, and packing are observed and the appearance recorded. These are all very important preventative maintenance well checks, and if the monitors report a change, it can be taken care of sooner than later. The well driller can let you know if things are changing and if a problem is suspected in the near future. They will give you a documented report full of useful information and they can give you recommendations if they notice any changes or upcoming problems.

Another very important piece of information for your files for the Well Log or some people call it the Well and Boring Report. This well log contains information on when the well was drilled. This well log is full of useful information about your well. Its basically the birth certificate of your well. The report tells you where the well was drilled, where its located on the lot, the well depth, and the casing diameter. The well log also tells about the well screen size, the screen length and slot size. It tells you the static water level, the pumping level and the draw down, the gallons per minute it was test pumped and for how long, and the type of pump that was installed along with the horsepower of the pump.

This is all very useful information, so comparisons of the results will assist in detecting any problems. The well log can be useful when a problem does come up. Very useful information can be given to the well driller and hopefully saving time and money. For example it is helpful to know the voltage and horsepower

of the pump and how deep the well is which is useful information so the well driller can bring along a pump and possibly electrical wire and then they do not have to make numerous trips back and forth to the repair shop.

Preventative Maintenance versus Reactive Maintenance.....Preventative 100%

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 January – June 2025. As soon as these dates are scheduled, we will post them on our website.

In-Person Training:

Class E Training Workshops (8 am-Noon)

October 1, 2024

**Cloquet Forestry Center
175 University Road
Cloquet, MN**

November 20, 2024

**Scandia City Hall
14727 – 209th Street North
Scandia, MN**

Click Here to Register!

Online Training:

We will continue to offer online remote training sessions using Zoom during the winter months. 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.

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, 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.

October 2, 2024

**Two Harbors Community Center
417 South Avenue
Two Harbors, MN**

November 7, 2024

**Zimmerman/Livonia Fire Hall
26140 – 136th Street NW
Zimmerman, MN**

December 4, 2024

**Cologne Community Center
1211 Village Parkway
Cologne, MN**

[Register Here](#)

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

320-815-4990

Kyle Kedrowski

kyle.kedrowski@mrwa.com

320-760-1475