

Small Systems Bulletin

Minnesota Rural Water Association



January 2025 | Winter 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: City of Adrian Seeing Success!!

Aaron Meyer, MRWA Source Water Specialist



The City of Adrian is a small farming community located in Nobles County, in the southwest part of Minnesota. Adrian has experienced elevated levels of nitrates in their drinking water, prompting the city to treat groundwater to reduce nitrate levels to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Standard of 10 parts per million. The City of Adrian collaborated with Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to develop and implement a Wellhead Protection Plan aimed at addressing nitrates in their drinking water.

Adrian operates three drinking water wells which are located down gradient of agricultural fields. In an effort to lower nitrates in their aquifer the city worked closely with farmers in the wellhead protection area to implement soil health practices. The City used Clean Water Funds to provide financial incentives to farmers to plant cover crops. Planting cover crops helps scavenge up left over nitrogen not utilized by crops.

Perennial vegetation is also an effective tool to mitigate nitrate levels in groundwater. Staff from Minnesota Rural Water Association, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and Nobles County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) collaborated to enroll three separate parcels into perpetual easements in key locations within the wellhead protection area. Enrolling these parcels into the BWSR Partner Protection Grant Program and planting perennial vegetation provides long-term protection from nitrate contamination. These easement areas provide important treatment for tile lines laden with elevated nitrates.

Close cooperation with local farmers has had a profound impact on Adrian's efforts to decrease nitrate levels in their drinking water. Collaborating with farmers and landowners on the benefits of using cover crops and perennial vegetation for nitrate reduction has been essential for achieving the shared goal of safe drinking water.

Currently, project partners are working together to identify the watersheds within the Drinking Water Source Management Area contributing the greatest amount of nitrate to the aquifer by monitoring tile lines and streams. Subsequent watersheds with the highest nitrate contributions will be the highest priority areas for the installation of future Best Management Practices such as saturated buffers and bioreactors, in addition to non-structural practices such as side dressing nitrogen fertilizer and cover crops.

Through collaborative efforts involving farmers, landowners, MRWA, BWSR, MDH and Nobles County SWCD, the city has seen a successful reduction of nitrates in their primary wells. Well #6 has seen the greatest reduction in nitrates over recent years. Through the continued cooperation with local partners, Adrian hopes to build upon this progress with even greater reductions in nitrates in their water supply.

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)

January 15, 2025

SCALE Regional Public Safety Training Facility
Great Room
17706 Valley View Drive
Jordan, MN

March 5, 2025

Best Western/Kelly Inn
University A Room
100 4th Avenue S
St. Cloud, MN

May 6, 2025

Willmar Fire Department
515 2nd St SW
Willmar, MN

Class D Training Workshops (8 am – 5 pm)

February 12, 2025

Roseau City Center
Trapper Room
121 Center Street East
Roseau, MN

April 9, 2025

School Sisters of Notre Dame
Teresa Hall
170 Good Council Drive
Mankato, 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.

Next online training session: January 28, 2025 – “What Does A Small System Water Operations Specialist Do?” [CLICK TO REGISTER HERE](#)

Additional Training Opportunities

Lead and Copper Rule Revisions/Lead Copper Rule Improvements Training

(5 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.

January 9, 2025

**Crookston City Hall
124 North Broadway
Crookston, MN**

February 13, 2025

**Ranier City Hall
2099 Spruce Street (Co State Hwy 20)
Ranier, MN**

April 3, 2025
Stewartville Fire Department
417 South Main St
Stewartville, MN

May – Bemidji (Date TBD)

June 18, 2025
Staples City Hall
122 6th St NE
Staples, MN

July 24, 2025
Hinckley Community Center
102 Dunn Ave N
Hinckley, MN

August 27, 2025
Detroit Lakes City Hall
Community Room
1025 Roosevelt Avenue
Detroit Lakes, MN

September 4, 2025
Lake City – City Hall
Ballroom
205 West Center Street
Lake City, MN

October 8, 2025
Fayal Township Town Hall
4375 Shady Lane
Eveleth, MN

November 19, 2025
Redwood Area Community Center
Conference Center Room #3A
901 Cook Street
Redwood Falls, MN

December 11, 2025
Tonka Bay City Hall
4901 Manitou Road

Tonka Bay, MN

Asset Management Training (9am – 2pm) 4 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 more information.

February 5, 2025
Kandiyohi Fire Department
404 Atlantic Avenue
Kandiyohi, MN

June 24, 2025
Thief River Falls City Hall
405 3rd Street East
Thief River Falls, MN

December 18, 2025
North Mankato Police Annex
1001 Belgrade Avenue
North Mankato, 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!

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