

We're Off to a Great New Year!

Notes from Hilary Currey, Executive Director

Water is the resource that covers almost three-quarters of the planet, and upon which all life depends. Throughout the history of the natural world, water sources have been the centers of life, providing habitat and sustenance for animals and plants alike.

Why do we do what we do? Each one of us has a role in protecting the earth's most vital resource –water. In turn why have we chosen to dedicate our professional careers to this goal? We each may have different reasons for pursuing a career in water/wastewater, however, the main goal always is to pursue public health for our communities in which we live.

As we look to the beginning of a New Year we reflect on the

progress and shortcomings of the prior year and discuss what we need to do in order to achieve better success for the upcoming year.

At the Annual Conference, we discussed growth of membership, services, and our association. We discussed advanced membership services and excellent customer service being another top focus area. Changes will come as we continue to grow and evolve as an association.

We would like the input from our members on the direction in which they would like to see the training programs of both water and wastewater develop. If you have ideas, ability to share with other operators or would like to help contribute a topic for a class, please contact Brandon LeBaron, who is transitioning from the Water Cir-

cuit Rider to the Technical Assistance and Training Program at 907-360-3999.

We would also like to encourage our member systems to submit news articles for our bi-monthly newsletter and website. Tell us your stories from the field, so we may share them with other members who may be facing similar situations. Make sure you update your email and mailing addresses, for important updates for trainings coming to your regional area, regulation changes, and technical bulletins.

To help aid in our efforts of information sharing, updates to the website will be coming soon! We have been experiencing technical difficulties with our program and server.

Help us step into the future of water and wastewater training by bringing the topics and issues that rural Alaskan operators and systems are facing to the

Special points of interest:

- Upcoming Training Program beginning in March! Please check the calendar periodically for updates .
- Please supply the office with a current email and become part of our TAT E-newsletter, featuring current dates for upcoming trainings and events.
- Conference Dates and location are set for our 10th Annual Conference! **November 3-7, Anchorage Downtown Marriott**

Networking What's This All About?

By Hilary J Currey, Executive Director

You hear it all the time, networking is a prime component to achieving success. But what exactly is networking? Why is it effective for some, but not others?

We can look to geese for some of the answers. The goose doesn't just fly south for the winter alone , he brings his friends, other geese to embark upon the adventure together. Then the geese coordinate and the whole group finds the most efficient way to get to the south as a group. Geese fly in a "V" formation each goose takes a turn in the lead position, by this formation they achieve 71% greater

flying range than if each bird flew on their own.

They rely on the sense of common direction and a sense of community because through the group they can get to where they are going more quickly.

They understand that one goose cannot carry the whole group the entire way, so they rely on teamwork. When one gets tired, he flies to the back of the wing, however he is still part of the group.

The geese honk from behind to encourage the leader to keep up the good work. However, the most amazing teamwork and networking action is that when

a goose falls out of formation, two other geese will fall out of form as well and accompany him down , until he can either fly again or dies , only then do they fly on their own or join another flock until they can join their own flock again.

Lets look to the geese and the effective way they have developed their networking skills, when one part of the group is successful the entire group achieves success. The key to effective networking is finding what groups your group has a common ground and create a setting in which you might discuss ways of supporting one another. When several individuals, agencies, and systems, work together we form groups that can affect change and create action.

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News from the Source~ by Carrie Godden, Source Water Specialist



Source Water Protection & Drinking Water Critical Needs Symposium

On January 23rd , 2008 Alaska Rural Water Association facilitated it's annual Source Water Protection & Drinking Water Critical Needs Symposium in Anchorage, AK. The purpose of this annual symposium is to get input for future trainings, technical assistance, and water protection needs from around Alaska. While the in person attendance was poor the input received prior to and after the symposium was exceptional. We have received training requests from nearly

every region of the state. Our new Training Specialist, Brandon LeBaron, is compiling all the training requests into the annual Operating Plan for the 2008 Training Program. Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation – Drinking Water and Alaska Training and Technical Assistance Center played an active role in the symposium with excellent input and recommendations for the coming year. Many of the Regional Health Corporations and ADEC Regional Environmental Specialists forwarded their input for their specific regions. Overall,

the symposium was a success and will greatly assist the Training and Source Water Protection Specialists to focus their effort to benefit rural Alaska.



Small Loans Available through National Rural Water Association (NRWA) Conjunction with USDA/Rural Development

"None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing"
~ Benjamin Franklin

The NRWA Revolving Loan Fund was established under a grant from USDA/RUS to provide financing to eligible utilities for pre-development costs associated with proposed water and wastewater projects. RLF funds can also be used with existing water/wastewater systems and the short term costs incurred for replacement equipment, small scale extension of services or other small capital projects that are not a part of your regular operations and maintenance.

Systems applying must be public entities. This includes municipalities, counties, special purpose districts, Native American Tribes and corporations not operated for profit, including cooperatives, with up to 10,000 population and rural areas with no population limits.

What are the loan amounts?

Loan amounts may not exceed \$100,000 or 75% of the total project cost whichever is less. Applicants will be given credit for documented project cost prior to receiving the RLF loan.

Where should applications be filed?

Applications, information and forms can be acquired via the internet at <http://www.nrwarlf@nrwa.org> . Information can be emailed, if available electronically, to nrwarlf@nrwa.org .

Applications and documents can also be sent by mail. Applicants can also contact any State Rural Water Association for assistance in acquiring, preparing and submitting the required documents.

Please Contact NRWA

For more information pertaining to the particulars of the loan terms and arrangements, please visit NRWA's Website at www.nrwa.org and look under the Revolving Loan Fund link or contact Marvin Terrell at NRWA's office 580-250-0506.

News for the Water Operator- by Laren Kowallis, Water Circuit Rider

The Circuit Riders have just finished helping Wrangell complete the Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE). It is a component of the Stage 2 Disinfection and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 2 DBPR). This sampling for trihalomethanes (TTHMs) and haloacetic acids (HAA5s) is in addition to the sampling that systems have already been doing. The EPA has established a different compliance deadline for your system based on your population served. Flow charts and software have been developed to assist systems on what steps are required to meet this regulation. Most of the small systems that serve 500 people or more have disinfection in Alaska will be required to

develop and submit an IDSE Monitor Plan or the 40/30 Certification Form, Certifying that all of the Stage 1 testing results have been 40 ppb or less for TTHMs and 30 ppb or less for HAA5s by April 1, 2008 deadline. The information and data that is needed to complete this Plan is:

- TTHM and HAA5 monitoring results
- Total Coli form results
- Stage 1 D/DBP monitoring plan
- Chlorine residual data
- Distribution system information (pipe diameter, dead ends, system map)

- Sanitary survey
- Water production logs

IDSE's are one-time studies conducted by water systems to identify distribution system locations with potentially high concentrations of TTHMs and HAA5s. Water systems will use results from the IDSE, in conjunction with their Stage 1 DBPR compliance monitoring data, to select compliance monitoring locations for the Stage 2 DBPR. The IDSE monitoring locations must be different from the Stage 1 compliance monitoring locations. These sites are not used because the goal of this plan is to find other areas in your distribution system that may have higher disinfection by-products.

The EPA web sites below have more detailed information on Stage 2DBPR:

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2/pdfs/guide_idse_ch_7.pdf
http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2/pdfs/guide_idse_app_c.pdf

News for the Wastewater Operator- Scott Lindsey, Wastewater Training and Technical Assistance Specialist

Operator networking opportunity is the topic of this month's article. As a student back in the 80's I remember wanting to be a Circuit rider.

Even back then, I knew what I wanted to be in this field, if I could ever achieve the knowledge needed to pursue this career. I wanted to talk to operators and pass that knowledge on to other operators in the field.

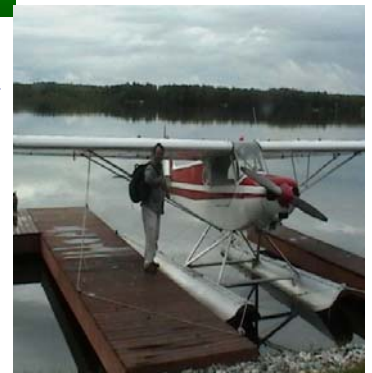
Getting operators to call each other on a regular basis and knowing that you have other professionals in your field that are able to give you advice needed in order to make good professional decisions is an invaluable networking opportunity.

For example, in January the city of Thorne Bay was able

to call the city of Craig for assistance. The city of Craig stepped up and provided Thorne bay with what they needed in order to get back on line showing that Wastewater does not have to stop when you have a plug. We also utilized the expertise of Charles Mackey from the city of Ketchikan in our attempt to assist the city of Thorne Bay with their Inflow & Infiltration problems (I&I), his assistance proved a valuable tool in our efforts. Sam Nickerson and his operator Harry from the city of Klawock were invited by the city of Thorne Bay's operator Billy Joe and their Utility Manager, Justin Somsin, to observe and obtain the knowledge they needed in order to minimize the I&I flow that had plague the city of

Klawock's wastewater system.

This was a perfect example of operator to operator professional camaraderie. This was what I envisioned many years ago for wastewater operators; this type of technician networking is effective. So call each other ask what type of system they run, learn from one another, visit one another systems because continuing education in our field is a must. Please if you have any questions for myself don't hesitate- **if I don't know the answer I know who does.**



From here to there ARWA Field Staff are ready to help Alaskan Rural Water and Wastewater Systems!

Scott Lindsey, Wastewater Training and Technical Assistance Specialist

**Were on the
Web!**
www.arwa.org

The New Year is a good time to review the Mission and the Vision of any non-profit group. I would like to share your associations with you and welcome any comments that you may have on how we are meeting our goal in providing quality services to our Members and the Community. Thank you each for allowing us to work toward these goals and for the ability to help us grow as an association.

MISSION:

The mission of the Alaska Rural Water Association is to provide water and wastewater systems with quality support services and solutions in a changing world of regulations and finance.

VISION:

The vision of the Alaska Rural Water Association is to be the premier alliance of Alaskan water and wastewater utilities providing quality training and technical assistance while representing our members with a unified voice.

Alaska Rural Water
Association

Quality Water Training and
Technical Assistance is Our
Business!



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**THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND
COLLABORATORS!**

In this fight for protection of water, we have to give thanks to all those that help us set and achieve those goals everyday!



Upcoming in Next Month's Newsletter:

- Does your agency provide services that we could spotlight for our readers? Starting next month "spotlight on community services." Please send me your information on your agency and the services they provide and your agency could be in our monthly spotlight section.
- The debate between bottled water and tap water. The pro's and con's.
- Upcoming training opportunities & a description of the new Technical Assistance & Training Program.
- Introduction to our new Circuit Rider, Dale McInnis taking over Brandon LeBaron's position. Brandon is stepping into the new Technical Assistance and Training Program.