



# THE SPIGOT

from the NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

## NDRWSA Thanks Andy McDonald for Years of Service

By Lisa Schatz

Andy McDonald, North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association's (NDRWSA) source water protection specialist, has accepted a position as an environmental scientist with Montana Dakota Utilities.

McDonald wore many hats throughout his employment with NDRWSA. In 2009, he was hired as NDRWSA's source water protection specialist, but due to funding cuts from the National Rural Water Association, the position was no longer offered and he became the Association's technical advisor for its Training and On-site Assistance Program. In 2013, the Source Water Program was reinstated and McDonald resumed his position as source water protection specialist. During his tenure with NDRWSA, he has traveled thousands of miles to assist municipalities and rural water systems to preserve and protect water resources and wellhead protection areas from contamination. His ability to educate and inform stakeholders on prevention and preventative measures was an invaluable asset.

McDonald served five years as a board member for NDWARN, a water and wastewater response network. In

2010, he played an integral role in developing Bismarck State College's Water and Wastewater Technology Program, which is offered to students interested in the water industry. He was a committee member for NDRWSA's Rural Water Expo, helping to organize training and educational sessions for those involved in the water environment.

Rural water staff enjoyed giving him a hard time about his favorite teams (Cincinnati Bengals and Atlanta Braves) and often encouraged him to "jump ship," but he would not hear of it. His outgoing personality and team-oriented attitude will be greatly missed.

The NDRWSA board of directors and staff wish McDonald well as he continues his career and thank him for his years of dedication and hard work.



## NDRWSA Welcomes Bailey Elkins

Bailey Elkins joined the North Dakota Rural Water Systems team in January as its new source water protection specialist. She is a North Dakota native who attended school at the University of Montana, where she earned a bachelor's degree in geoscience. She has a strong background in geochemistry, as well as hydrogeology.

Her prior experience includes work in oil and gas exploration, and environmental engineering and she was involved with environmental assessment and remediation in geotechnical investigations. She has also been involved in storm water infiltration studies, geophysical investigations,

and environmental compliance work with power generation, oil and gas production, and transportation and small business clients.

NDRWSA is excited for Bailey to be a part of the rural water team.



# NDRWSA Holds Legislative Social

By Lisa Schatz

NDRWSA and rural water systems throughout North Dakota hosted a legislative social in Bismarck on Jan. 22. Numerous state legislators attended the event to visit with rural water system managers, water operators, and board members. “This social was a great opportunity for rural water systems to educate and inform state legislators about rural water funding needs. The state plays an important role in rural water development and it is important that all legislators are aware of this,” says NDRWSA Executive Director Eric Volk.

Exhibit booths and table-top displays outlined the perimeter of the event, depicting the areas of recent development and the areas that need development. Rural water systems supply more than 200,000 rural residents with potable drinking water. “The continued development and expansion of these systems are significant to rural growth, property value, and quality of life,” says Jon Nelson, NDRWSA president.

## NDRWSA Legislative Social Sponsors

Agassiz Water Users District  
All Seasons Water Users District  
Barnes Rural Water District  
Garrison Diversion Conservancy District  
Grand Forks-Trail Water District  
McKenzie County Water Resource District  
McLean-Sheridan Water District  
Missouri West Water System  
North Prairie Rural Water District and  
North Central Rural Water Consortium II  
Northeast Regional Water District  
South Central Regional Water District  
Southeast Water Users District  
Southwest Water Authority  
Stutsman Rural Water District  
Trail Rural Water District  
Tri-County Rural Water District  
Walsh Rural Water District  
Western Area Water Supply Authority  
Williams Rural Water District

## Upcoming Events

### Rules, Regulations, and Compliance Standards Training

Earn up to four Continuing Education Units while attending this interesting and informative training session! Sessions will be held April 28-30 and May 5-7 in a town near you. Watch your mail for more information.



### Leadership Retreat

Join us at the Chieftain Conference Center in Carrington on June 23-25. A golf scramble will be held on June 23. Rooms have been reserved at the Chieftain (701-652-3131) and Carrington Inn (701-652-3982). Watch for the schedule of events in the May edition of *North Dakota Water!*



### Mueller Training Trailer Demos Coming to Bismarck and Fargo in July

Witness a hands-on experience with innovative water distribution products while earning up to four Continuing Education Units. Fire hydrants, curb boxes, and water meters are just a few of the product demonstrations you will see.

