



# THE SPIGOT

from the NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

## NDRWSA Leadership Retreat at its Finest...

By Lisa Schatz

Historic Medora, North Dakota's number one vacation location, hosted more than 100 attendees for the North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association's (NDRWSA) Rural Water Board Meeting and Leadership Retreat. Board members, rural water managers, and operators were inspired and educated by outstanding presenters during the 2012 Leadership Retreat held July 18-20. Three presenters addressed the group with various topics of discussion.

Business Consultant Tony Richards discussed, "What Successful Leaders Do Differently" and "Succession Planning for Boards." A seasoned panel of managers and board members were selected from the audience and asked to answer questions of the protocol used when dealing with various situations within their rural water systems.

Lynn Helms, director of the North Dakota Industrial Commission's Oil & Gas Division, gave the presentation, "Water Usage in the Oil Patch." Expertise, planning, and history play a huge role when attempting to develop and provide water service to an area of great need while keeping future developments in mind.

Cory Chorne, engineer and project manager with AE2S, gave an update on the Western Area Water Supply (WAWS). WAWS will provide drinking water from the Missouri River to people in rural areas of northwestern



Cal Thelen, AE2S, Keith Nilson, president-NDRWSA, Cory Chorne, AE2S

North Dakota and bring excess capacity water closer to the area's oil fields.

After the work was done, attendees had an opportunity to partake in the attractions historic Medora has to offer. Spouses were entertained by professional actors presenting "Recollections of Murder and Mayhem" and enjoyed a guided walking tour of downtown Medora. The picturesque Badlands and roaming elk were among the topics of discussion as dinner was being served at the Tjaden Terrace. The opportunity to attend the "Greatest Show in the West," the Medora Musical after dinner, was considered the "icing on the cake," many participants said.

"On behalf of the board of directors and NDRWSA staff, I would like to thank our sponsors for their generosity and dedication to promoting leadership training among rural water systems" says NDRWSA Executive Director Eric Volk.

Tony Richards presented during the Leadership Retreat.



Attendees participation during the Leadership Retreat.

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