



# THE SPIGOT

from the NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

## NDRWSA Shows Commitment to Members

By Lisa Schatz

The North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) exists to enhance the quality of life in small communities by providing training, technical assistance, and representation to public water and wastewater utilities. The NDRWSA team is committed to the vision of reliable, quality water on tap for all citizens of North Dakota, which will enable economic growth by helping to stabilize the state's population and increase property values for residents. NDRWSA offers several types of memberships. Without membership support, many of our programs, events, and services would no longer be available. If you are not a member and would like to join, contact the NDRWSA at 800-349-6951 or at [www.ndrw.org](http://www.ndrw.org).

### Associate Membership

The \$250 cost of an associate membership in the NDRWSA is minimal compared to the benefits of belonging to the only organization in North Dakota that works exclusively with water and wastewater utilities.

Benefits as a member include:

- ◆ A listing on our website with a link to your site
- ◆ An annual listing in the *North Dakota Water* magazine
- ◆ An opportunity to participate in NDRWSA's training sessions as instructors
- ◆ Participation in NDRWSA's annual Water Expo
- ◆ An electronic list of NDRWSA's water and wastewater system members

Exhibit booths at NDRWSA's trade shows are available only to associate members. Expo 2014 will be held on Feb. 18-20 at the Ramada Plaza and Suites in Fargo. Visit [www.ndrw.org](http://www.ndrw.org) for more details.

### City Membership

The cost of a city membership is \$200. With just one phone call, you are in contact with drinking water, wastewater, training, groundwater, and source water specialists. The staff of NDRWSA is ready, willing, and able to help 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

### Onsite Training and Technical, Managerial, and Financial Assistance

- ◆ Leak detection
- ◆ Rate analysis and financial planning
- ◆ Curb stop and valve location
- ◆ Conservation /drought planning
- ◆ Hydrant repair and flow testing
- ◆ Operator certification preparation
- ◆ Poly-pigging (water and sewer)
- ◆ Wastewater system troubleshooting
- ◆ Meter testing and repair
- ◆ Lagoon sludge testing
- ◆ Consumer Confidence Reports
- ◆ Rule and regulation updates
- ◆ Sewer smoke testing\*
- ◆ Sewer camera work\*
- ◆ Gate valve exerciser\*
- ◆ Use of equipment\*

\* There is a small fee to cover the cost of maintenance and repairs of the equipment.

### Training and Operator Certification

- ◆ Annual Expo training and conference
- ◆ Leadership retreats
- ◆ Operator certification classes
- ◆ National Rural Water Association leadership forum and tech conference

### Source Water Protection

- ◆ Source Water Protection Plan development
- ◆ Contingency planning
- ◆ Contaminant source inventory
- ◆ Classroom demonstrations

### Individual Membership

Show your support for rural water by taking this opportunity to become an individual member of NDRWSA. For \$30 a year, the benefits as an individual member include:

- ◆ A free subscription to the *North Dakota Water* magazine
- ◆ A legislative report published during each legislative session
- ◆ Membership certificate suitable for framing that identifies you as an individual member
- ◆ A free gift, compliments of the NDRWSA



# A Message from John C. Padalino

*Administrator, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service*

Sustainable water and wastewater infrastructure is a critical foundation of economic development, but in uncertain economic times it is even more critical. Rural economic activity depends on sustainable infrastructure, making it the first rung on the ladder of opportunity for rural and economically challenged communities. Without basic infrastructure such as rural water systems that provide safe, dependable, and efficient wastewater and drinking water services, there would be no support for the economic activities that are necessary for continued success and growth as a nation. The work carried out by rural Americans stands as the backbone to the strength of our nation.

USDA Rural Development and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have joined forces to provide resources to the nation's small and rural communities' water and wastewater systems to increase levels of sustainability. Both USDA and EPA have worked closely with rural and small systems, with input from rural operators and managers, to develop flexible, user-friendly tools to help rural and small system managers and operators ensure their communities are strong, safe, and sustainable. USDA and EPA are rolling out the two new tools that are designed specifically for rural and small water and wastewater system operators and managers.

The first tool is, "Rural and Small Systems Guidebook to Sustainable Utility Management." This guidebook takes small systems through a series of steps to assess their current operations based on 10 key management areas developed using best practices. The guidebook allows rural and small systems to assess their strengths and priorities for improvement, which will lead to an action plan to address those priorities and challenges. The guidebook also contains an extensive inventory of other utility management tools to help rural and small systems.

The second tool is called, "Workshop in a Box." The workshop contains a series of materials and instructions to help both small systems and technical assistance providers market and conduct workshops on their own based on the guidebook. These materials can be used either in a group setting with several systems, or on-site with a team of individuals from a single system.

With more sustainable water and wastewater systems in rural communities, the rungs on the ladder of opportunity will become closer together and afford those communities greater environmental protection and economic opportunities.