



THE SPIGOT

from the NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

NDRWSA Attends WaterPro Conference 2022

By Julie Hein and Chuck Mischel

North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) attended September's 2022 WaterPro Conference in National Harbor, MD. The WaterPro Conference is known as the "Industry Event of the Year." National Rural Water Association (NRWA) upholds this standard by introducing new and informative sessions to the agenda, along with other exciting events.

This year, it hosted the annual WaterPro Feud, the Ultimate Meter Challenge, Rural Water on Display Photo Contest, State Association Awards, featured many exciting guest speakers during the opening ceremony, and membership appreciation luncheon.

The water industry is always in flux, whether it is innovative technology, new regulations or changing funding formulas. The WaterPro Conference offered a full range of educational opportunities that covered all aspects of the water/wastewater industry with options of more than 60 sessions.

The NDRWSA team networked with peers and industry experts in the exhibit hall where more than 100 companies displayed their products or ideas. When you meet with your peers, you have an opportunity to collaborate, hear new ideas or get potential answers to your problems. The team was inspired to implement policies and try new technology.



Photo courtesy of National Rural Water Association.



Photo courtesy of Rachel Takala, NDRWSA Source Water Specialist.

SURVEY SAYS ... NDRWSA was chosen as one of four teams to participate in the WaterPro Feud game. Ward Heidbreder, Nathan Olmsted, Lisa Schatz, Keith Hegney and Daniel Overmoe placed third in the event, winning \$500 credit to USABlueBook.

The third annual Women in Rural Water event brought numerous rural water champions together from across the country to network and share experiences over lunch. NRWA hosted a very special guest speaker, Rural Development Chief Innovation Officer Jacki Ponti-Lazaruk, who described her rise to success in a male-dominated industry. Lisa Schatz, finance manager, and Julie Hein, water quality action specialist, attended the luncheon.

The highlight of the event for many was the awards ceremony. North Dakota was awarded the Outstanding Achievement in Technical Assistance Award! As stated in the award nomination letter, “The association’s on-site technical assistance staff have made it their mission to be available to assist utilities 24/7/365. They pride themselves on providing hands-on assistance as often as necessary. Technical Assistance staff are particularly adept at identifying & evaluating affordable solutions to water and wastewater problems in their state.” Congratulations to the staff at NDRWSA.

Julie Hein is the water quality action specialist and Chuck Mischel is the training specialist for NDRWSA.



WaterPro
Conference