

January 2015



MINNESOTA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

The Technical Assistance Times

# 31st Annual MRWA Water & Wastewater Technical Conference

See new technology and discover new ideas by attending the



## 31<sup>st</sup> March 3-5, 2015 Annual MRWA Water & Wastewater Technical Conference

**Mark Your Calendars and plan to attend Minnesota's largest Water and Wastewater Technical Conference to stay up-to-date on all of the latest industry happenings!**

MRWA's 31st Annual Water and Wastewater Technical Conference will be held March 3-5, 2015 at River's Edge Convention Center (Civic Center) in St. Cloud, MN.

MRWA has put together a variety of training topics in the fields of water, wastewater, management, groundwater, source water, very small systems, finance, and water and wastewater exam refresher courses. *New for 2015:* MRWA has added a wastewater collections and ponds track to our training agenda. **16 water certification hours or 16 wastewater certification hours (or a combination) will be awarded for full conference attendance.**



Entertainment at this year's conference theme party will be provided by River Rats, Duelling Pianos (*shown above*). River Rats duelling pianos bring your favorite rock'n'roll hits to life on grand pianos as you sing and clap along. Its Rock and Pop delivered with great humor! A non-stop, interactive, mad cap, rock'n'roll experience you have to see!

MRWA will also feature keynote and breakout speaker Stefan Salmonson, PPS from PROtective Services, Inc. Back by popular demand, Stefan's sessions are fast paced, audience interactive programs that have won rave reviews from thousands of participants, including MRWA attendees. You won't want to miss Stefan; he's guaranteed to exceed your expectations!



Plan to attend and help MRWA celebrate our 31st conference!

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### Conference Hotels

Hotels closest to the St. Cloud River's Edge (Civic Center):

Kelly Inn: 320-253-0606

Le St-Germain Suites:  
320-654-1661

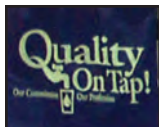
Grandstay Suites: 320-251-5400

Country Inn: 320-252-8282



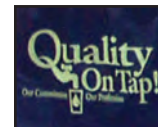
We're on Facebook!  
Become a fan today!

# MRWA 31st Annual Water & Wastewater



## TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

March 3-5, 2015 - River's Edge (Civic Center)  
St. Cloud, MN - Tentative Agenda



### Tuesday, March 3, 2015

- 8:15am Color Guard Ceremony
- 8:30am Opening Session: Quality on Tap! Our Commitment, Our Profession
- 8:45am Introduction of MRWA Diamond & Ruby Corporate Partners
- 9:00am Keynote Speaker
- 10:30am Exhibit Hall Opens - *Enjoy the latest innovations, technology, and new products in the industry!*
- 11:45am Luncheon

#### Concurrent Mini-Sessions Begin (3 tracks)

##### Water/Wastewater Track

- 1:00pm Cross Connection Control Program for Cities
- 1:30pm Fixing Broken Gate Valve Boxes Hit by Snow Plows
- 2:00pm Legal Rodent Control for Stabilization Ponds
- 2:30pm Workplace Safety Consultation
- 3:00pm Do's and Don'ts of Trace Wire Systems
- 3:30pm Trends in Wireless Data Communication Systems
- 4:00pm Refreshments, Door Prizes, Exhibitor Gift - Last Chance to Tour Exhibit Hall!
- 4:15pm Water Taste Test & Exhibitor Recognition
- 5:00pm Exhibit Hall Closes - Meet & Greet and Sports Raffle Begin in Glenn Carlson Hall

##### Booth Demonstrations

- No Dig Technology to Modernize Waterous Fire Hydrants
- Safe & Effective Use of Trench Shoring Products
- Assess Your Sewer Line in 3 Minutes or Less
- Gate Valve Operation and Exercising Program
- Drinking Water for Ethiopia
- Troubleshooting Variable Frequency Drives

##### Groundwater/WHP Protection Track

- Documentation of WHP Plan Implementation Efforts - WHP Audit Program
- Groundwater 101 - Where Does it Come From?
- Communication Techniques and Resources for Drinking Water Protection
- City-County Wellhead Protection Implementation
- Well Sealing Techniques
- Asbestos Removal Regulations You Should Know

### Wednesday, March 4, 2015

- 8:15am Leaders in the Industry: NRWA & MRWA We Work For YOU! Awards & Poster Contest Winners
- 8:45am Protecting People, Places, and Passwords - Stefan Salmonson, PPS, Keynote Speaker

#### Concurrent Sessions Begin

##### Water Operation & Maintenance Session

- 10:00am Water Storage Tank Mixing System Alternatives
- 11:00am MDH Roundtable on Regulations - MDH Panel Discussion
- 12:00pm Luncheon & Door Prizes
- 1:00pm Ammonia Reduction - Pilot Plant in Onamia
- 2:00pm Collecting Quality Water Samples
- 3:00pm Smart Well Field
- 4:00pm Biofilm Removal in Water Tanks

##### Wastewater Mechanical Operation & Maintenance Session

- 10:00am Noncontact UV Disinfection
- 11:00am Regionalization of Wastewater Systems
- 12:00pm Luncheon & Door Prizes
- 1:00pm Screw Press Dewatering - Not Just for Biosolids Anymore
- 2:00pm Producing Class A Biosolids
- 3:00pm Nutrient Reduction Strategies
- 4:00pm Wastewater Disinfection Fundamentals

**2015 Sports Raffle Prize:**  
2015 Polaris Sportsman 4 Wheeler OR 2015 John Deere Lawn Mower - **YOUR CHOICE**



**This  
OR  
That**



Donated by MRWA!

Wednesday, March 4, 2015 (continued)

**Wastewater Collections Operation & Maintenance Session**

- 10:00am Sealing the Sanitary Collections System
- 11:00am O&M of Air Relief Valves
- 12:00pm Luncheon & Door Prizes
- 1:00pm Don't Surrender to Wipes

**Wastewater Ponds Operation & Maintenance Session**

- 2:00pm Ponds 101
- 3:00pm Sludge Reduction and Algae Control
- 4:00pm High pH in Wastewater Ponds

**Management Session**

- 10:00am Killing Kitchens
- 11:00am "Knock Knock" The Dangers of Vacant/Foreclosed Properties
- 12:00pm Luncheon & Door Prizes
- 1:00pm Emergency and Water Conservation Plans
- 2:00pm Understanding Asset Management
- 3:00pm Energy Realities and Conservation Opportunities
- 4:00pm Rural Water: Repeating the Past or a New Path Forward

**Groundwater Session**

- 10:00am Storage Tank Regulations and Drinking Water Protection
- 10:45am Spill Response Plans for Public Water Systems
- 11:25am Roadway Vehicle Fluid and Cargo Spill Response
- 12:00pm Luncheon & Door Prizes
- 1:00pm Factors Affecting Public Supply Well Vulnerability to Contamination
- 2:00pm Demand Reduction Measures
- 3:00pm Water Conservation Toolbox

**Exam Refresher Sessions - These sessions will run 10:00am - 5:00pm**

- 10:00am A&B Water Operator Certification Exam Refresher
- 10:00am C&D Water Operator Certification Exam Refresher
- 10:00am C&D Wastewater Operator Certification Exam Refresher

**Theme Party**

- 6:00pm Social Hour and Dinner
- 7:30pm Entertainment:  
River Rats,  
Dueling Pianos

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

**Class E & D Small Water Systems Session  
(NonTransient NonCommunity and NonMunicipal)**

**Morning Session: 8:00am - 12:00pm**

Topics covered include: Water Operations Specialist Certification, Wellhead Protection, Well Operation and Maintenance, Sampling Requirements and Reports, Storage, and Distribution Operation and Maintenance.

**Afternoon Session: 1:00pm - 5:00pm**

Topics covered include: MDH Updates, Plan Review, Chlorination, Plumbing Requirements and Cross Connections, Emergency Planning, and Asset Management.

4 water certification hours awarded for morning or afternoon session attendance. 8 water certification hours awarded for full-day session attendance

**2015 Sports Raffle**

**Prize: Ultimate Deer Stand donated by Team Lab!**



**2015 Keynote Speaker:**

**Stefan Salmonson, PPS  
PROtective Services, Inc.**



**Entertainment:**

**RIVER RATS - Dueling Pianos  
Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 7:30pm**

2014 winner



Thursday, March 5, 2015

**Thursday, March 5, 2015**

**Water and Wastewater Exams  
will be given at 8:30am.**

**Water Operation and Maintenance Session**

- 8:30am Dead End Danger Zone
- 9:15am Energy Conservation (Combined Session with Wastewater Track)
- 10:00am Break
- 10:15am Prevention Plan for Frozen Service Lines (Combined Session with Wastewater Track)
- 11:00am Security Intelligence Sharing (Combined Session with Wastewater Track)
- 11:45am Wrap-Up and Drawings
- 12:45pm MRWA Annual Meeting

**Wastewater Operation and Maintenance Session**

- 8:30am eDMR: New Updates for Reporting
- 9:15am Energy Conservation (Combined Session with Water Track)
- 10:00am Break
- 10:15am Prevention Plan for Frozen Service Lines (Combined Session with Water Track)
- 11:00am Security Intelligence Sharing (Combined Session with Water Track)
- 11:45am Wrap-Up and Drawings
- 12:45pm MRWA Annual Meeting

**New This Year:**

3 tracks of mini-sessions offered on Tuesday, March 3rd.

Wastewater Operations Specialists: don't miss the wastewater collections and ponds track on Wednesday, March 4th.

**Exam Prep Refresher Session Offered at Technical Conference**

The Minnesota Rural Water Association will be sponsoring an Exam Refresher Session on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, as part of the MRWA Technical Conference. The exam refresher session will give the attendee an opportunity to review information that will be part of the certification testing. The certification test will be given Thursday, March 5, 2015, at 8:30am.

- YES, I will be attending the **WATER Exam Refresher A&B**, March 4, 2015, from 10:00am - 5:00pm.
- YES, I will be attending the **WATER Exam Refresher C&D**, March 4, 2015, from 10:00am - 5:00pm.
- YES, I will be attending the **WASTEWATER Exam Refresher Class**, March 4, 2015, from 10:00am - 5:00pm.
- YES, I will be attending the entire Technical Conference  
(If not, please fill out the registration information below)
- Yes, Please send me an exam application - circle one: Water or Wastewater
- Yes, Please send me a Minnesota Department of Health **Class D WATER** Study Guide.

**There is no charge for this session if you are attending the Technical Conference (See Technical Conference registration form.)** If you are **NOT** attending the Technical Conference, there is a fee of \$120.00 for the Exam Refresher Session. The following registration is required. *There is no charge to come and only take the test on Thursday, March 5.*

**WEDNESDAY EXAM REFRESHER ONLY: Includes Refresher Class & Luncheon - \$120.00**

Please make check payable to Minnesota Rural Water Association or pay online at: [www.mrwa.com](http://www.mrwa.com) (use the Pay Online button)

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, call 800-367-6792, fax 218-685-5272, or e-mail: [mrwa@mrwa.com](mailto:mrwa@mrwa.com). Register online at [www.mrwa.com](http://www.mrwa.com) (use the fast track training button)

**\*You MUST fill out and mail an exam application to the Minnesota Department of Health (Water Exam) OR the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (Wastewater Exam) 15 days prior to the exam date.** The exam fee, payable to MDH is \$32.00 and to MPCA is \$55.00. Exam applications can be downloaded at: [www.mrwa.com](http://www.mrwa.com). (Use the water or wastewater resources link.)

# MRWA TECHNICAL CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

This form must be received no later than **February 23, 2015**, for pre-registration rates to apply.

**Mail to:** Minnesota Rural Water Association, 217 12th Avenue SE, Elbow Lake, MN 56531.

Please complete one form for each registrant. Guests may use the same registration form.

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
System or Company Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
System or Company Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Guest's Name (if registering)

**Please check one of the following:**

Manager/Operator \_\_\_\_\_ Council/Board Member \_\_\_\_\_ Mayor \_\_\_\_\_

Administrative/Clerk \_\_\_\_\_ Industry \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Don't Miss This Special!**  
\$15.00 discount registration for Mayors, Clerks, Board Members, or Councilpersons attending for the first time. Must be accompanied by system operator or manager.

**Full Registration**

Includes access to all sessions, Exhibit Halls, luncheons, and theme party.

**Postmarked prior to February 23, 2015**

**On-site Registration**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ MRWA Associate Member

\$225.00 (per person)

\$250.00 (per person)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Member

\$275.00 (per person)

\$300.00 (per person)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Guest

\$ 60.00

\$ 65.00

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Due (make checks payable to: Minnesota Rural Water Association)

**Copy registration form and mail with payment to the MRWA Office.  
Register online at: [www.mrwa.com](http://www.mrwa.com) (use the fast track training button).**

**Payment Method:**

**MRWA Now Accepts Credit Cards Online! Visit [www.mrwa.com](http://www.mrwa.com) and use the "pay online" button.**

**MRWA accepts VISA, MasterCard, American Express, Discover, and eCheck through our online pay site.**



**Cancellation Policy: Fees will be refunded if written request is received prior to February 23, 2015.**



## Looking for SWP Award Nominees...

MRWA and the Minnesota Department of Health are again looking for nominees for the 2015 MRWA & MDH Source Water Protection Award. Each year, MRWA and MDH jointly present an award to the individual, public water system, or organization that have made a notable contribution in the area of source water protection at our technical conference in March.

- 1) *Was initiative taken and demonstrated by the candidate to protect or improve the source of drinking water resources?*
- 2) *Was leadership shown by the candidate in his or her ability to achieve success through effort?*
- 3) *Has there been a long-term commitment to source water protection efforts?*
- 4) *Were activities completed which resulted in the protection or improvement of the source water resource?*
- 5) *Has the award candidate shared his or her success with others?*

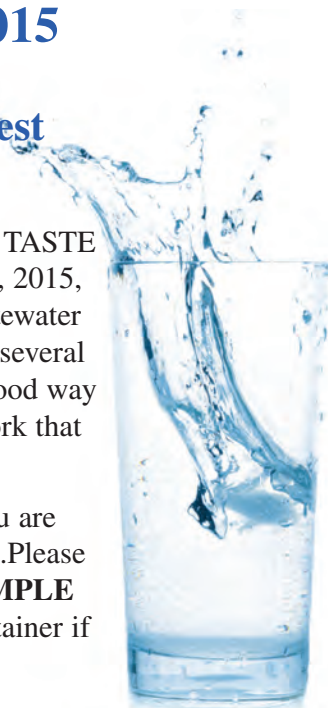
If you are involved in or aware of a project to protect source water resources that meet the majority of the above criteria, we would love to hear from you! Please send entries to MRWA's office (or e-mail at [mrwa@mrwa.com](mailto:mrwa@mrwa.com)) by **January 15, 2015**.

## Taste Test: March 3, 2015

### MRWA is looking for the best tasting water in the state!

The Minnesota Rural Water Association TASTE TEST competition will be held March 3, 2015, as part of the 31st Annual Water & Wastewater Technical Conference. We hope to have several entries from across the state. This is a good way to showcase the pride we have in the work that our utilities do.

This will be great fun! Remember, if you are attending the Technical Conference.....Please **BRING A ONE QUART WATER SAMPLE** from your system's water in a glass container if you wish to participate.



## Lyle Trautman Scholarship

MRWA will be awarding two Lyle Trautman Scholarships at the 31st Annual Water & Wastewater Technical Conference on March 4, 2015, in St. Cloud. These scholarships of \$500.00 each will be made to a student to defray the cost of tuition, books, or room and board to an accredited institution of higher learning approved by MRWA. Scholarship money will be paid directly to the student upon presentation of the winner's college invoice as proof of enrollment. Decisions are final. No transfer of scholarship is permitted. Applicants must be currently enrolled in college. For the scholarship application, call the MRWA office at: 800-367-6792 or download from our web site at [www.mrwa.com](http://www.mrwa.com). **Postmark deadline: February 23, 2015.**

## Sustainable Management Workshop for Small & Rural Systems



**This workshop will help utilities address a full range of challenges and improve the management of their operation and infrastructure.**

*Utilities will learn to make improvements in the ten key management areas, focusing first on their most pressing challenges.*

### Ten Key Management Areas:

1. Product Quality
2. Customer Satisfaction
3. Employee Leadership & Development
4. Operational Optimization
5. Financial Viability
6. Operational Resiliency
7. Infrastructure Stability
8. Community Sustainability
9. Water Resource Adequacy
10. Customer Understanding & Support

**6 credit hours awarded for full day attendance.**

Minnesota Rural Water Association in conjunction with the US EPA and USDA Rural Development, invite you to attend this Sustainable Management Workshop.

### Workshop Agenda

- \* Introductions & Workshop Objectives
- \* Overview of Key Management Areas
- \* Utility 'Self Assessment' Exercise
- \* Self Assessment Results Discussion
- \* Working Lunch
- \* Improving Outcomes Exercise Practices, Tools, and Measures Discussion
- \* Action Plan Discussion / Exercise
- \* Workshop Feedback

### Objectives:

- ◆ *How to deliver increasingly efficient, and higher quality services.*
- ◆ *How to improve long-term sustainability and increase resiliency.*
- ◆ *How to use the Small Systems Guidebook to Effective Utility Management to make improvements at your system.*

### Workshop Details:

- Date: January 7, 2015
- Time: 8:30am—3:30pm (working lunch provided)
- Location: Community Building,  
35 E. Main Street, Dodge Center, MN
- Fee: \$20.00 working lunch fee
- Register: Call 800-367-6792 or online at:  
[www.mrwa.com/wf6.html](http://www.mrwa.com/wf6.html)

Hurry and register: Class is limited to 35 attendees!





Minnesota Rural Water Association  
217 12th Avenue SE  
Elbow Lake, MN 56531

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## Upcoming Water U Webinars

### Know Your Septic System - Save Money

December 18th, 2pm - **FREE** Webinar.



Despite their simple design, common septic tanks rely on a number of complex chemical and biological processes to function properly. Septic tanks require regular care and maintenance to ensure they can adequately handle waste products while protecting the health of the household and the environment. Regular care can include everything from restricting the kinds of chemicals put down the toilet to how often laundry is washed. The National Rural Water Association has developed the Septic Insight App so that property owners can quickly assess the status of their septic practices and get helpful information about septic care. The Septic Insight App condenses information gathered from EPA's Septic Smart program, university extension offices, engineering firms, and septic pumpers to offer a full range of relevant information in a quick, easy format.

This webinar will cover aspects of the free Septic Insight app, including the information within the app and how to operate the app.

Register for this session at: [www.mrwa.com/wateru.html](http://www.mrwa.com/wateru.html)

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**Have you tried an NRWA Mobile App?** Visit: <http://nrwa.org/initiatives/apps/> learn more about these apps.

**Water Operations App** - This App contains a series of calculators to assist System Operations Specialists with both water and wastewater operations.

**Septic Insight** - Designed for septic owners. Locate a septic tank, get sizing and pumping schedules and perform a septic inspection.

**Effective Utility Management** - Assessment and Benchmarking tools to ensure sustainable, effective utility operation.

