

MIDWEST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, INC.

SOURCE

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

SMALL COMMUNITIES BIG IMPACT

Lead and Copper Rule Revision Compliance
Asset Management Planning for Utilities
Critical Infrastructure Project

Serving rural communities since 1979
The Midwest RCAP www.map-inc.org

SOURCE



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Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) is an approved vendor by the General Services Administration (GSA).

Pictured on the front cover: Aerial view of a rural community in the Midwest: Granite Falls, Minnesota.

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CONTENTS

4 Letter from Executive Director

6 New Staff

8 Lead and Copper Rule
Revision Compliance

10 Asset Management Plans

12 Critical Infrastructure Project

14 Fundamental Rural Resources

16 Featuring Phillip Fishburn

18 MAP Projects



Water fountain (top). Water meter cover (middle). Small Midwest community fire hydrant and park (bottom). Photos by Erin Miller.

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Letter from Executive Director

by Michael Brownfield

There is strength in numbers. Although most of the rural communities in our nation are fewer than 1000 in population, there are many of them. Thousands. They almost certainly face

the same struggles: finances, lack of staff to operate the water and wastewater systems and city hall, deteriorating houses, poor streets, falling population, etc. Many, if not most of these small towns, depend entirely on volunteers to service their communities. These volunteers are one of the most critical elements of small-town America. They do it because they love their small communities and feel a duty to them. There is a proud, rich history in our small towns. These rural communities must work together to get their rural voice heard and continue to



Michael Brownfield, Executive Director for Midwest Assistance Program, Inc.

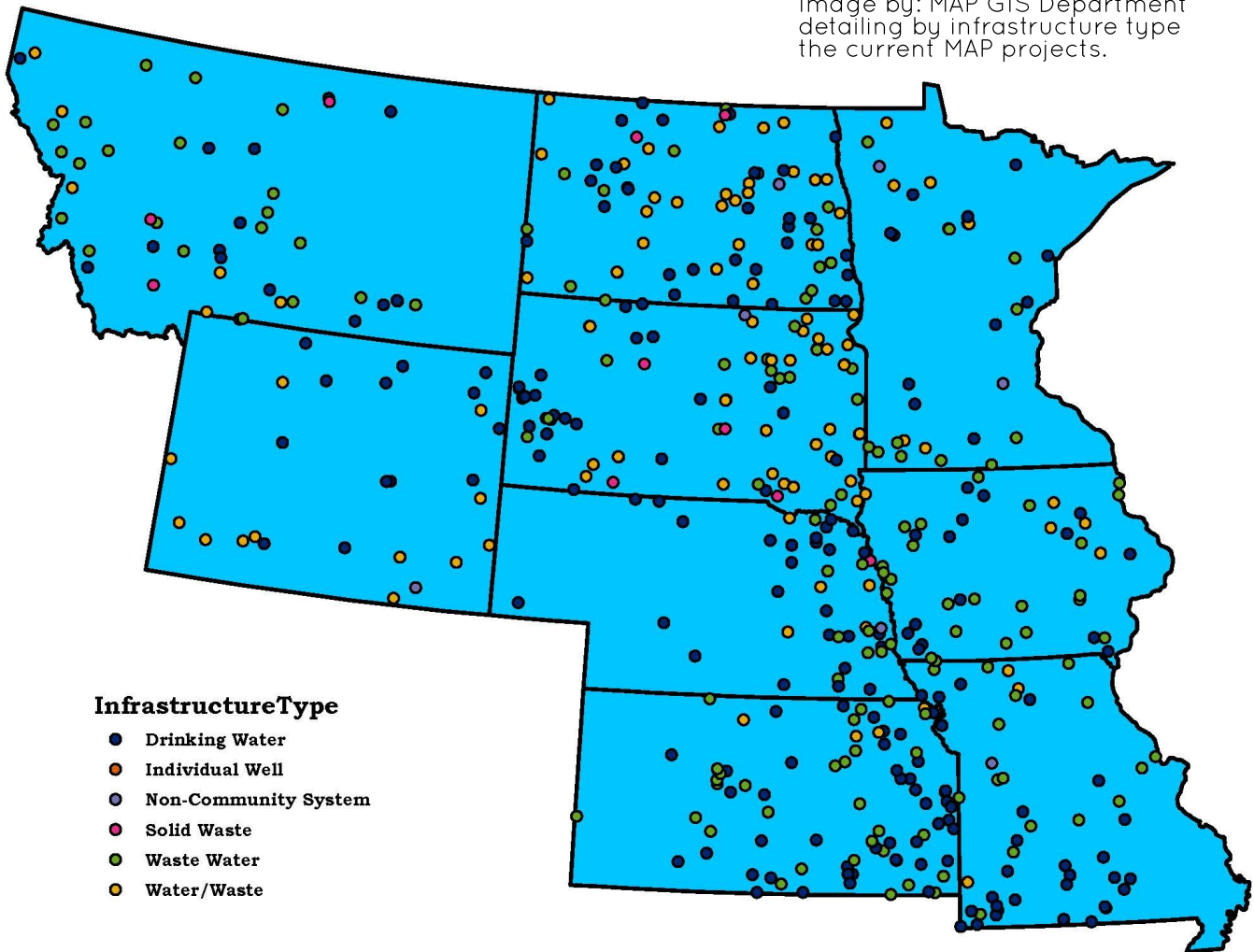
expand on that history. Midwest Assistance Program Inc. (MAP), along with its partners from Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP), work together to bring the needs and issues of rural communities to Washington DC and have been doing so since 1979. The staff at MAP work one-on-one with the smallest of the rural communities in the MAP nine-state region to help them through the issues they face and vocalize their concerns in Washington DC. There is strength in numbers; at MAP, RCAP, and partners, we continue to bring the voices together and share the stories.

The Source magazine is just one of the many ways we reach the decision-makers, federal and state agencies, and the many rural partners fighting to help our small rural communities survive and grow. I hope you enjoy our magazine and the messages we share.



Pictured water stand pipe.

Image by: MAP GIS Department detailing by infrastructure type the current MAP projects.



MIDWEST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, INC.

Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP), is dedicated to helping rural communities and tribal nations improve their environment, quality of life, and achieve self-sustainability.

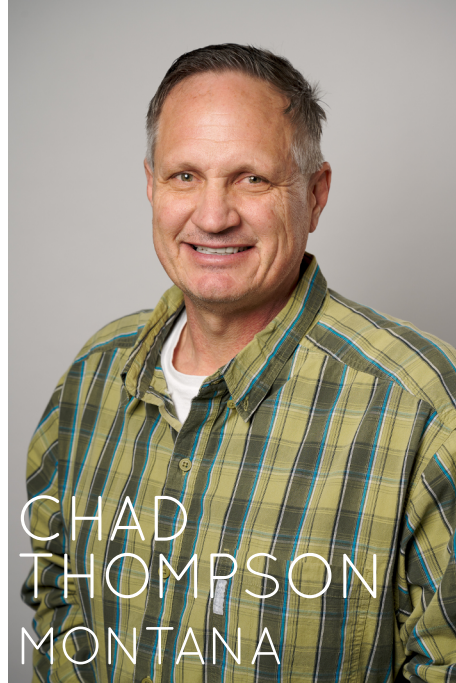
MAP EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have experience in water/wastewater operations or infrastructure? Do you enjoy providing training and guidance? Do you enjoy a flexible schedule working independently from home and traveling within your region of your state? Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) is continually seeking to expand our roster of highly-skilled staff to meet our ever-growing portfolio of project activities. Check out MAP job openings on www.map-inc.org on the EMPLOYMENT tab.

NEW STAFF



Brett has fifteen years of experience in tribal and community water and wastewater treatment. Brett has helped communities throughout the years with small to large construction projects, from inception to completion.



Chad is certified in water and wastewater operations and has been involved in every aspect of water and wastewater from maintenance, infrastructure replacements, and capital improvement projects for over 34 years.



Nancy is certified by the Iowa Municipal Finance Officers Association with more than 18 years of experience in accounting, budgeting, financial reporting, and management of water, wastewater, and distribution systems.



Kelsen graduated from the Black Hills University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology. He has gained experience with water quality while working for the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.



Sherry has extensive experience in municipal finance operations. She has managed construction projects and their respective reporting for water and wastewater projects. She is proficient in utility management and compliance.



Kevin is an experienced utility operator working in various positions from chief operator to utility superintendent for 20 years. Kevin has held numerous Missouri Department of Natural Resources certifications over his career.



Hope has a financial and accounting background with nearly five years as a City Finance Officer built on a foundation from her Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Northern State University.



Curt has over twenty years of experience in health, safety, and environmental implementation in tribal and non-tribal communities. He is a certified water plant operator and has overseen many construction projects.



Eric is a thirty year veteran of the U.S. Army serving in many positions of increasing responsibility. His prior position was the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Training for the Nebraska Army National Guard.



Dave has over twenty years of experience working with every aspect of small city utilities. He holds several Missouri Department of Natural Resource Certifications in water treatment, wastewater, & distribution.



Lance has worked in various water distribution systems in Alaska, Wyoming, & Nevada for over 20 years. He is certified in water distribution & cathodic protection testing and is experienced in water main service & repair.

MAP IS A GROWING, ENERGIZED NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. MAP VALUES THE TALENTS AND BACK- GROUND S OF EVERYONE ON THE MAP TEAM.

WELCOME TO MAP!



Lead & Copper Rule

Child next to water fountain.
Photo by Erin Miller.

by Shelly Underwood,
Project Manager/ Technical
Assistance Provider

For the last 50 years, it's been a well-known fact that exposure to lead is harmful to infants, children, nursing mothers, and those individuals with a compromised immune system. Exposure to elevated lead levels can affect almost every organ in the human body, especially the brain, our most sensitive central nervous system. Lead can be present in our drinking water in two forms, dissolved lead and particulate lead. One might ask, "What is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) doing to combat exposure to elevated lead levels in our drinking water?" The answer to this question is the long-awaited Lead and Copper Rule Revision (LCRR).

Over the past year, utility operators have been anxiously awaiting the final publication of the LCRR. On December 16, 2021, the Biden-Harris Administration released its Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan, which included more than 15 actions to ensure families and children across the United States receive clean, safe drinking water from the faucet. This action plan supports EPA's LCRR, which significantly changes compliance requirements for utility operators.

ACHIEVING COMPLIANCE

What does this mean for you? The answer is simple. Start working towards compliance NOW! The effective date of the LCRR published in the Federal Register (86 FR 31939) identifies a compliance deadline of October 16, 2024. While it may seem like that date is far into the future, the Rule Revision is complicated! The LCRR has changed utility operator's responsibilities at every level, including:

- Requiring Lead Service Line Inventories (LSLI) for every Community Water System (CWS) and Non-Transient Non-Community Water System (NTNCWS) within the United States;
- Changes sample site selection protocols and sample collection procedures depending on the type of plumbing materials present;
- Strengthens treatment requirements for corrosion control and



establishes a new trigger level of 10 ppb (parts per billion);

- Requires utility operators to take a find-and-fix approach if a lead service line is detected within their water distribution system;

- Significantly strengthens public education requirements and public outreach methods;

- And for the first time, it requires systems to test for lead in schools and childcare facilities.

These new requirements are a lot to wrap your mind around! Let's talk about the first step in complying with the LCRR: Conducting a Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI). Developing a LSLI will take some investigation on the utility operators' part to determine the materials used throughout the drinking water distribution system. Utility operators will most likely need to utilize several different sources of

information to complete the LSLI. Some examples of source materials could be: distribution maps and drawings, meter install records, inspection and maintenance records, operation and maintenance manuals, county property records, interviewing senior personnel, etc.

THE SOLUTION

Once a utility operator has gathered the required data to complete the CWS/NTNCWS's LSLI, the question becomes, "How do they manage the data?" ArcGIS (Geographic Information System) is a leading-edge software solution for creating Lead Service Line Inventories and managing system data for compliance with the LCRR. ArcGIS allows the utility operator to handle and analyze geographic statistics through a layer building mapping process. Once the materials' data is

entered into the software, utility operators will be able to identify areas throughout their distribution system composed of lead service lines, goosenecks, galvanized steel pipe downstream of a lead source, or any connection with lead solder.



Utilizing the ArcGIS software, utility operators can then place greater emphasis on replacing lead service lines. Midwest Assistance Program Inc. (MAP) has capable staff throughout our nine-state region available to assist you with ArcGIS mapping as a solution to the New Lead and Copper Rule Revision inventory requirement. If we work together, we can continue to better protect our youth and community members from the risks of harmful lead exposure!

Site Id	Locational Identifier	Connector (Gooseneck / Pigtail) Material	Connector (Gooseneck / Pigtail) Currently Present?	Current Public Service Line Material	Was Public Service Line Material Ever Previously Lead?	Public Service Line Size (length/diameter)	Public Service Line Install Date	Current Private Service Line Material	Private Service Line Size (length/diameter)	Private Service Line Install Date	Building Type	Point-of-entry Or Point-of-use Treatment Present?	Building Plumbing Material 1	Building Plumbing Material 2	Building Plumbing Material Install Date	Part of LCR Sampling Plan?				
LC000K Used for LCR Sampling Plan	ADDRESS/BLOCK	L LEAD	YES - KNOWN WITH CERTAINTY	L CONFIRMED LEAD	YES	3/8"	YYY	L	3/8"	YYY	SF SINGLE-FAMILY	YES	L LEAD	L	YYY	ROUTINE				
		C COPPER		C CONFIRMED COPPER		1/2"			1/2"								MF MULTI-FAMILY			
		B BRASS		G CONFIRMED GALVANIZED		5/8"			5/8"								SCH/OC SCHOOL/CHILD CARE	C COPPER	C	ALTERNATE
		S STEEL		P PLASTIC		3/4"			3/4"								RES/OC RESIDENTIAL & IN-HOME CHILD CARE	CLS COPPER W/LEAD SOLDER	CLS	N/A NOT APPLICABLE
		P PLASTIC		D DUCTILE IRON		1"			1"								NONRES NONRESIDENTIAL NON-SCHOOL NON-CHILD CARE	O OTHER - DOES NOT CONTAIN LEAD OR LEAD SOLDER	O	
		O OTHER - DOES NOT CONTAIN LEAD OR LEAD SOLDER		CI-L LINED CAST IRON		1 1/4"			1 1/4"								MIX MIXED RESIDENTIAL & NONRESIDENTIAL	UNK UNKNOWN	UNK	
		UNK UNKNOWN		CI-U UNLINED CAST IRON		1 1/2"			1 1/2"								O OTHER			
				CI-L LINED CAST IRON		1 3/4"			1 3/4"											
				CI-U UNLINED CAST IRON		2"			2"											
				UNK-NOLG UNKNOWN - DEFINITELY DOES NOT CONTAIN LEAD OR GALVANIZED		2"			2"											

Sample Lead Service Line Inventory



Old homestake mine wooden water pipe in Lead, South Dakota. Photo by Kevin Coldsmith.

Asset Management Planning

by Jascha Pettit, Project Manager/
Technical Assistance Provider

Does your state or primacy agency require your community to complete an asset management plan? Do you continually delay completion or updates to your plan? Or perhaps the undertaking seems overwhelming? Here we will break down a simplified approach to tackling and managing asset management.

CORE PRINCIPLES

The core principles of asset management include.

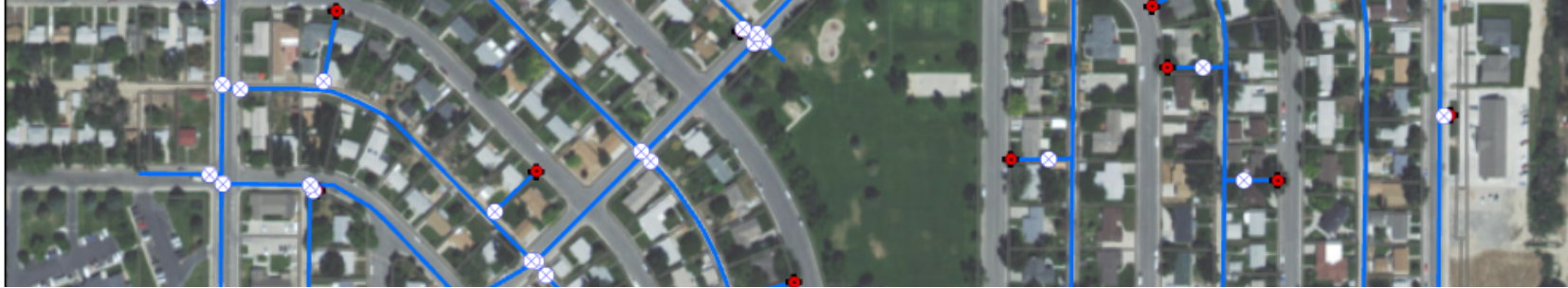
1. Inventory - Recording system components, mapping, or location identification.
2. Service or personnel needs - Assigning levels of service (LOS) and required operation and maintenance needs.
3. Forecasting - Life cycle costing and budgeting.

OPTIONS

When considering asset management, there are fundamentally two options: a pre-planned approach or a passive approach (non-centralized, specific to technology, software, order, or timeline). There can be advantages to each method.

A passive approach has the advantage of requiring less investment of time and money; you collect and use data as time permits and utilize your existing technology resources. The main disadvantages are that the data is less interactive/integrated, may require more input to maintain, and is less effective for long-term management, updating, and sharing.

A pre-planned approach has these advantages: one system or software for everything allows for data interaction and computing. Some disadvantages are higher initial monetary and personnel investment, plus some ongoing costs of software and hosting.



Sample Water Distribution GIS Mapping

MAP ASSISTANCE

Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) can assist rural utilities with either approach. MAP utilizes geographic information systems (GIS) as the best option for a pre-planned approach for successful long-term asset management. MAP provides GIS basic mapping, data collection and asset management, production of maps, and GIS training of system staff at no cost to the rural community. Additional ongoing services may be fee-for-service.

MAP will conduct an on-site preliminary assessment of the current status of the system. MAP can assist with organizing and collecting GIS mapping, which integrates the core principles of asset management. MAP will work with community staff to identify and locate all relevant system infrastructure items. After compiling and organizing the inventory, each item will be assessed on its condition, its criticality, and service and personnel needs will be quantified through various resources and the previous history of components. The final step is to forecast each asset's life cycle and monetary requirement. The advantage of the pre-planned

approach is that you can easily organize the data in spreadsheets and add columns for each category.

Asset management is a valuable tool to help your community plan and budget. Not all events can be foreseen. However, the goal is to be equipped and utilize these principles and tools to establish a general overview. Even collecting the information in a notebook will allow you to have a mechanism for sharing the information with community officials, operators, and staff. Use the resources available to you. Having a good plan does not always require a significant amount of time or money. Utilize your experience and judgment; you are the one who works on the system daily. You have the best knowledge of what is needed. Enter the information you currently have into a spreadsheet and use those winter months to review and improve.

MAP staff have experience creating asset management plans and can provide templates. Often, these can be put together within a short time frame. MAP also has the resources to collect prices, estimates, and maintenance needs. MAP's objective is to create a plan that fits your community and system.

Sample Asset Management Plan Template

Date Worksheet Completed: 8/24/18									
Asset	Quantity	Expected Useful Life	Condition	Service History	Adjusted Useful Life	Age	Remaining Useful Life	Initial Cost	Replacement Cost
Well 1#	1	35	Good	Installed @ 1995	9	26	9	Unknown	\$ 35,000
Well 2#	1	35	Good	Installed @ 1995	9	26	9		\$ 35,000
Submersible Pump-Well 1	1	35	Good	Installed @ 1995	9	26	9		\$ 10,000
Submersible Pump-Well 2	1	35	Good	Installed @ 1995	9	26	9		\$ 10,000
Pump Controls & Electrical	1	10	Fair	Installed @ 1995	-16	26	-16		\$ 51,000
Mechanical Valves	3	25	Fair	Installed @ 1995	-1	26	-1		\$ 4,500
Flow Switches	2	10	Fair	Installed @ 1995	-16	26	-16		\$ 1,200
Fan	1	10	Good	Installed @ 2014	3	7	3		\$ 400
Chlorine Equipment	1	10	Good	Installed @ 1997	-14	24	-14		\$ 4,625
Hand Valves	4	30	Good	Installed @ 1995	3	27	3		\$ 8,000
Storage Tank	1	60	Good	Installed @ 1995	33	27	33		\$ 400,000

Critical Infrastructure Project

by Sherry Schmidt, Project Manager/ Technical Assistance Provider

Root ball pictured (below) in the city of Flasher vitrified clay pipe. Picture provided by the city of Flasher, ND.

The city of Flasher is a small rural town located in Morton County, in southwest North Dakota. With a population of 220, the town has approximately 148 sewer and water connections serving residents and businesses. Located in the heart of Bulldog Country, the city is home to the Flasher Public School, whose enrollment trumps the city's population with approximately 255 students and employs 48 faculty during the school year.



As with almost all small towns throughout the nation, critical infrastructure is aging and beginning to fail, and the city of Flasher is no exception. The city's water distribution system was replaced in the early 1990s, earning it a "fair to good" rating by the city's engineer. The wastewater system, on the other hand, needed repair. Installed in 1958 using a network of 6" and 8" vitrified clay piping, the approximately 15,000 linear feet of mains began to fail. City personnel jet the sewer mains yearly but had problems in several areas due to severely offset pipes, line sagging, and persistent clogging of lines due to tree roots.



MAINLINE SEWER REPLACEMENT

Being right on the edge of coal country and counties away from the Bakken Oil Patch, the city does not receive any revenue for North Dakota's vast natural resources, making the budget highly restrictive for funding projects. The city commission voted for a conservative approach to remedy the failing sewer lines instead of launching a high-cost project. City officials worked closely with their engineer and the Lewis & Clark Development Group, which is the local administrator for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Over five years, the project had three phases. The first phase was sewer line televising and a preliminary engineering report to determine the system's overall health and assess potential options to remedy. A city-wide assessment funded this project phase at the cost of \$54,000. At this point, the city commission made careful decisions on moving forward with limited funds.

The city commission submitted an application to CDBG and was awarded an grant. The commission voted to go ahead with the second phase of installing cured-in-place-pipe (CIPP) lining 2,351 linear feet of lines deemed very poor but fixable. This phase of the project cost \$96,000. The city of Flasher received a \$69,000 grant from CDBG, and the city funded the remainder out of the sewer fund and special assessments. After another successful CDBG grant application and award, the commission voted to go forward with the last phase of the project. The third and final stage included CIPP lining of 6,348 linear feet, complete replacement of 600 feet of collapsed sewer line, and manhole rehabilitation. The final phase of work cost \$282,000 and was funded by a \$195,000 grant from CDBG. The city did a sewer rate study, adjusted sewer rates, and took out a short-term loan for \$87,000 to fund the rest of the expense.

PROJECT CHALLENGES

Over the course of the project, the most valuable tools were the preliminary engineering report and sewer line televising. The results of the televising were dismal at best. Of the approximately 15,000 linear feet of sewer line, 20% of the lines were not able to be televised due to being collapsed, root infiltration, or severely offset pipes. These lines immediately became a priority. Approximately 50% of the lines earned a grade of "very poor" and were recommended for immediate replacement due to significant cracking, water inflow and infiltration, or offset joints. Only three of the thirty-nine manholes inspected needed quick repair due to cracked risers and broken rings.

As with any project, there were bumps along the way. The most significant problem was the bidding process during the third phase, which was initially a complete replacement of the most severely damaged lines. However, when the bids came in, the project was over budget by double the original estimate. The commission rejected all bids. The cause of the higher than anticipated bids was the location of the sewer lines in proximity to water lines, buried fiber optics, and overhead power lines. Unlike most cities, Flasher has all utilities located in the alleys. The apparent risk and time needed to navigate the utilities in the alleys proved to be very costly and unaffordable for the city.

At the end of the almost five-year project, the city was able to replace more than 50% of its failing lines, leaving only those in "fair" condition at the time of the inspection. Although the city of



Welcome sign to Flasher, ND (top)
Courtyard little library (bottom).
Photo by Sherry Schmidt.

Flasher did not do a complete wastewater collection system replacement, significant deficiencies in the system were identified and fixed. The community's long-term outcome is to continue providing dependable wastewater services to businesses and residents.

Small systems do not have to navigate these types of issues without support. Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) can provide technical assistance to communities with infrastructure projects and repairs, rate studies, funding options, asset management, and project guidance.



Fundamental Rural Resources

by Hope Block, Project Manager/
Technical Assistance Provider

Starting a career in a municipality can be a daunting experience. These professions face many associated responsibilities and often have challenges accessing proper training for the individuals who fill these roles. There can be a variety of reasons why the training may seem incomplete. Maybe the predecessor was unavailable for training, or there was no "how-to" manual left behind. New to this role, employees may feel disoriented as they begin to tackle the job requirements. The lack of training resources can significantly affect a small community system. Finding a training program that is effective and provides development is essential.

EXPERT TRAINING

Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) provides knowledgeable training focused on meeting the needs of your community. On-site, regional, and web-based training options are available to benefit a wide range of individuals, including utility operators, board members, clerks, and elected officials in the areas of water, wastewater, solid waste, and management. MAP will secure a location, schedule the training, notify potential attendees, perform registration, conduct the presentation, arrange for proctoring of any required exams, garner approval for all continuing education units (CEU) or continuing education credits (CEC), and report attendance and/or credits to applicable agencies.

Recently, MAP's Project Manager/Technical Assistance Provider, Jackie Luttrell, provided a training titled "Managing Long Term Debt, Loan Obligations & Rates" to a group of municipal employees from South Dakota's Northeast Finance Officer's Group. Luttrell partnered with Valerie Jensen, a Loan Specialist from the United States Department of Agriculture, to present valuable information regarding municipal debt and rate studies. The presentation also covered loan requirements and the application process. Luttrell has conducted many training events such as this one. MAP's staff are available to help provide engaging training throughout the MAP nine-state region.

Jackie Luttrell, Project Manager/Technical Assistance Provider during the training Managing Long Term Debt, Loan Obligations & Rates at the K.O. Lee Aberdeen Public Library. Photo taken by April Abeln, Groton City Assistant Finance Officer.



Jackie Luttrell, Project Manager/Technical Assistance Provider (left) and Valerie Jensen, Loan Specialist United States Department of Agriculture (right) during training. Photo by April Abeln, Groton City Assistant Finance Officer.

NETWORKING

The training offered through MAP is not just for new employees but can accommodate all skill levels. The city of Groton's Assistant Finance Officer of fourteen years, April Abeln, was one of the attendees from Luttrell's "Managing Long Term Debt, Loan Obligations & Rates" training. Abeln enjoyed the training and said, "It's always nice for us finance officers to gather together and learn about the many programs available for municipalities. I was glad to hear about the services MAP offers and surprised that MAP offers rate studies at no cost to the community!"

Attending training sessions is a great way to sharpen your skills and allow for exchanging information and developing professional or social contacts (networking). Vickie Schulkosi, Finance Officer for the city of Selby with thirty-two years of experience, stated, "Networking is important because your peers have had the same issues that you have, and asking their advice will allow for fewer mistakes in your future." Gaining knowledge through training and networking is fundamental in developing a solid foundation for your career in a municipality.

"I was glad to hear about the services MAP offers and surprised that MAP offers rate studies at no cost to the community!" -- April Abeln, Assistant Finance Officer for the city of Groton

UPCOMING TRAINING

MAP training events, both virtual and in-person, are updated regularly on the MAP website www.map-inc.org. The MAP training page features many resources, including self-guided online workshops for business and community development enabling learning at your own pace with the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) Open for Business Hub. In addition, MAP can also provide one-on-one system-specific training.



Upcoming MAP Training Events
are updated regularly!

www-map-inc.org

Featuring Phillip Fishburn

by Dennis Carroll,
Regional Field Manager &
Erin Miller, HR/Facility/
Communications
Coordinator

Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) is honoring Phillip Fishburn, Project Manager/ Technical Assistance Provider, who joined the organization in 1995. Phillip has always been public-service-minded with the mission of addressing rural issues, "...(I) wanted a career in which I (could) help improve the lives of people." He graduated from Kansas State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Education. Early in his career, he worked as Secretary of Agriculture for the Kansas State Task Force Chair and was the Legislative Assistant to U.S. Congressman Daniel Robert Glickman. Phillip was involved in administration, executive management, creation and initiation of new programs, team building, and budgeting.

During his career with state government, a rural water district contacted Phillip to get help correcting their infrastructure operations. Phillip had previously received a brochure detailing MAP's technical assistance and decided to arrange a meeting between the community and MAP staff.



MAP was able to assist the water district and help them complete an application for funding. Phillip was impressed by this interchange, and when he left state government, he saw a MAP help-wanted ad in the regional newspaper. He quickly applied and joined the company in November of 1995.

During his twenty-seven years of tenure with MAP, Phillip has helped serve Kansas rural water and wastewater systems to secure project development funding, improve utility operations, stewardship, and management. He is a subject matter expert on capacity building, management, utility rates, environmental reports, and emergency response procedures.



Phillip has provided numerous training to operators, boards, councils, and clerks. Since 1996, he has been helping communities apply for funding from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD) and registering them for the Federal Systems for Awards Management. A requirement of this application is the completion of an environmental report and assessment. Such documents can range from 200 – 1500 pages depending on the size of the scope. A private consultant may charge \$5,000 - \$20,000 for such services. MAP can help a community with limited resources complete an environmental assessment, often at no cost.

Phillip has been heavily involved in pioneering the Life of Loan Guide – Meeting and Adhering to Your Obligations as a Rural Development Borrower. USDA RD funds an improvement project; then, over time, the community board, staff, and council members who were first on the project are no longer involved. The institutional knowledge for adhering to the loan requirements is thereby lost. There are typically up to seven loan instruments (documents and forms) that must be agreed to and signed by the borrower. If the covenants are not performed or met, RD can declare the borrower in default. These are in effect for the life of the loan. The Life of Loan manual is an educational tool explaining what covenants a borrower

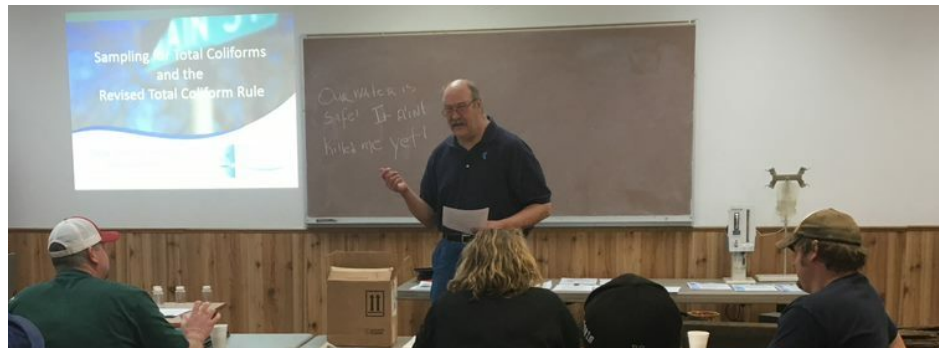
Pictured on 16 and 17, Phillip Fishburn during training & throughout MAP career.

must meet and why the loan covenants are needed.

In 2016, Phillip was inducted into the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) Hall of Fame, a prestigious award given for helping many rural communities achieve life-changing and generational improvement for their communities. Phillip has also received a MAP honorary award for his dedication, passion, and unwavering assistance.

Building infrastructure that helps a community to remain viable and a good place to live is at the heart of what Phillip does and where he feels he has made the most impact. When asked what led to Phillip's longevity in working with rural communities, he responded, "Pride of doing meaningful and long-lasting work and the desire to help people. It is fun to drive by a community and know that I helped that community, and it is still thriving because they have a good drinking water or wastewater system." He has always worked with the philosophy of providing information to the community staff and leaders so they could solve those problems independently in the future.

Phillip has hundreds of memories during his time with MAP; however, two stories stood out as his favorite. Phillip guided three small public water systems in developing a regional cooperative solution to continue having a viable, long-term drinking water supply. Today, the



wholesale water district is a success, providing drinking water to the bulk of the population in Chase County. Currently, MAP is helping the district with the completion of an environmental assessment to allow the development of new wells to be climate resistant during periods of drought. The second story took place in the early 2000's, Phillip helped the city of Maize, Kansas organize a development team to explore options to finance the development of a modern public drinking water system. The team decided on a design-build approach where the engineer who designs the system is also the contractor, thus ensuring quality remains maintained throughout the utility's design, construction, and start-up. Since 2003 when the drinking water utility project began, the city has grown 100.8%. The population growth resulted in building two large high schools and a destination shopping center. Phillip recalls, "...I learned that input from MAP staff can have a profound impact on any sized community as having adequate water and sewer services is vital to the long-term survivability and livability of any community or rural area."

During his free time, Phillip enjoys being with family and friends and playing a good board or card game. He lets his supervisor Dennis Carroll win at pitch occasionally. Phillip is also very involved in his local church.



Phillip's best advice to small rural communities is to ensure their utilities remain working in good repair by meeting regulatory standards and providing proficient funds administration. He recommends they place importance on retaining operators and business managers/clerks. Utilities should fix issues promptly and keep a long-term regular maintenance schedule, such as cleaning out a water tower or replacing a pump. It is imperative to provide good communication to boards and councils regarding rates to sustain sufficient revenue to protect the public infrastructure investments.

Thank you, Phillip, for your humble, solid dedication to strengthening rural foundations. Your commitment is awe-inspiring. MAP thanks you for your twenty-seven years of service and values your everyday steadfast goal of making a difference.



MAP Projects

working in the field

Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) staff work side-by-side with small rural communities and tribal nations to find creative, innovative and local solutions to the challenges faced. MAP helps to provide customized assistance for infrastructure capacity building, compliance, disaster management, finance, operations and management, planning and development, and more. Here are just a small handful of projects MAP is honored to have been a part of.

Pictured (above) Hope Block & Monte Kerchal, Project Manager/Technical Assistance Providers for MAP working in the field in Burden, Kansas obtaining GIS collection points to provide an updated system map to the community utility. Pictured (right) Jesse Campbell, Private Well Coordinator during training presentation. Photos by Erin Miller.



"Midwest Assistance Program has provided valuable technical assistance by updating the Red Lake Solid Waste Management and Recycling Plan as well as providing valuable input in the decision-making process of our overall Solid Waste program. Our continuing partnership (with) Midwest Assistance Program, is vital to our efforts as we move forward with development and sustainability. Tribal systems, like ours, need the assistance and support of Midwest Assistance Program, and other Rural Community Assistance Program affiliates, to support our efforts to provide clean, safe solid waste management practices in a way that protects public and environmental health. Support for this application will provide critical assistance to the vital infrastructure of tribal communities." --Director Red Lake Sanitation MN



"The City of Braymer greatly appreciated Midwest Assistance Program during the smoke test. We now have knowledge as to where a lot of ground water and unnecessary volumes of storm water is going in to the sewer system. It was an honor and privilege to work with MAP during this project, this organization went above and beyond their professionalism benefiting our small community. We would not hesitate to recommend them for their programs."
 --Mike Gray, Braymer Operator



MAP staff from Missouri, Kansas, and Nebraska gathered on-site for three days to test 187 manholes and locate infrastructure issues. (Pictured above). MAP also completed a capacity, management, operations, and maintenance plan (CMOM) and assisted with an application for grant funding. Photos by Stephanie Ross.

Jodi Hilsabeck, MAP Internal Programs Manager acknowledged, "A significant challenge small communities face is financial hardships related to decreasing populations and lack of sustainable utility management over previous years. Additionally, as community board and council leaders retire, finding replacements for that invaluable leadership can be difficult." MAP can bridge that gap and provide solutions focused on revitalizing rural America.



Lone Rock, Iowa partnered with MAP to finalize a new drinking water treatment facility (pictured above). MAP also assisted the community with their wastewater system, provided training during transition of new city staff/leader changes, and continues to provide assistance with annual reporting, budgeting, financial, management, and administrative processes. Photos by Chris McKee.

SOURCE

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Source Mission:

To provide information for the clients of the Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) to better understand the programs and services offered, help improve their communities and tribal associations, and showcase the expertise of MAP employees.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) is a member of the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP).

Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP), the Midwest RCAP, assists rural drinking water, wastewater, and solid waste utilities in finding solutions to their infrastructure needs. Since 1979, MAP has been helping rural utilities and tribal nations in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming to build financial managerial and operational capacity. Through MAP's individualized support, rural communities, tribal nations, water and wastewater districts, homeowner's associations, lake associations, and other small utilities find solutions to sustain infrastructure safely and efficiently while revitalizing the communities. MAP's professional and competent staff are committed to rural America's strength and future vitality.

MAP'S NINE-STATE REGION

