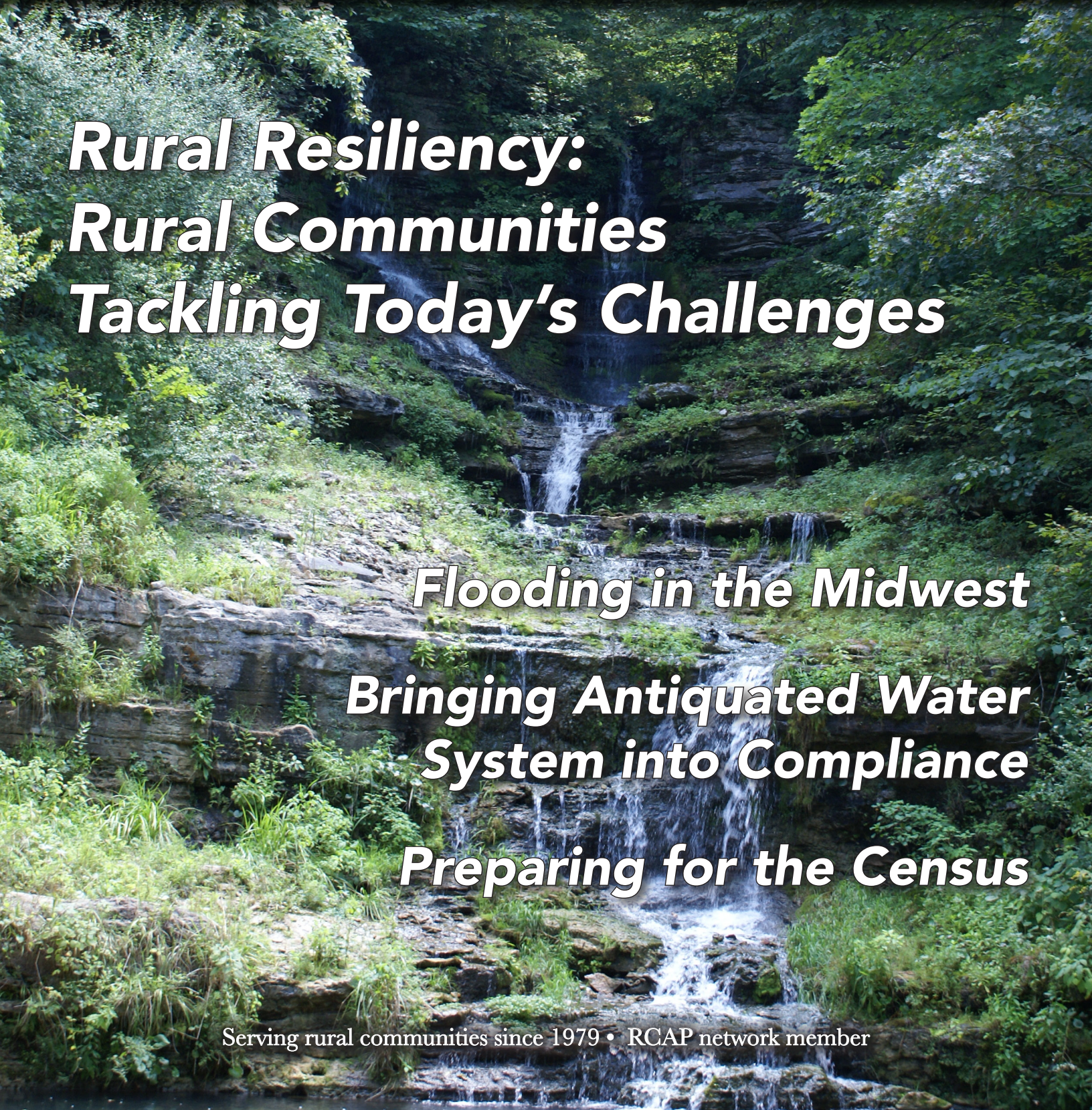


MIDWEST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

# SOURCE

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***Rural Resiliency:  
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***Flooding in the Midwest  
Bringing Antiquated Water  
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***Preparing for the Census***



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# Rural RISE Summit

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Join Rural Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Builders from around the country at the RuralRise Summit.

## New Staff Hire



**CHRIS MCKEE**

Project Manager /  
 Technical Assistance Provider in Iowa

Ms. McKee is joining Midwest Assistance Program as a Technical Assistance Provider with nine years of experience as a small-town City Clerk in the State of Iowa. Chris was a Certified Municipal Clerk as well as a Certified Finance Officer in the State of Iowa. Chris's expertise in city government and financing allows her to understand and provide technical assistance beneficial to the success of a variety of projects in smaller rural communities. As a small-town City Clerk, Chris can relate to the struggles that small towns in Iowa face every day. Chris's experience includes grant writing, CIP planning and execution, budgeting, financing, resolutions, ordinances, excel spreadsheets, Infrastructure maintenance and replacement. Chris has an AA from Upper Iowa University studying business management. Chris also serves on the State of Iowa City Development Board.

# Veterans Continuing to Serve

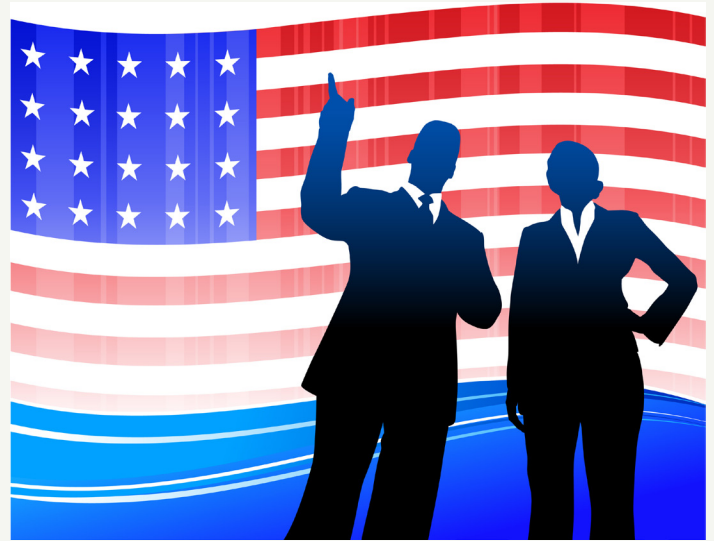
*Monte Kerchal, CSM Retired*

*Project Manager/Technical Assistance Provider*

Every year hundreds of service members fulfill their obligation to our country and are faced with integration back into the civilian workforce. Transitioning from a 20 to 30-year career in the military, regardless of the branch of service, can be intimidating to any Soldier, Sailor, Marine, or Airmen as they leave a very structured, clear and concise environment. Throughout one's career many levels of experience and training are garnered as they move through the ranks from entry level Private to the Senior ranks. One thing is certain, regardless of the individuals trained duty position, (infantryman, pilot, diver, cannon crewman and many others) the Military Member gains extensive experience that can be applied in the private sector. This experience can actually increase efficiency and understanding of business practices in a multitude of job classifications.

## Looking back:

My time in service consisted of 33 years. That's a long time for repetition and it definitely builds muscle memory into your daily life. The point is not to highlight my years of service, it's to highlight how regimented one can become and how hard it is to change your thought process after that length of time. During my military career, I was extremely lucky to serve with some of the finest Soldiers in the world and I am very thankful for what I have learned from them. I remind you, in the military, people from all over our country, with diverse backgrounds and views, must come together as a cohesive team to achieve a common goal. To see things from different views and angles helps you expand your own views and you become more open minded. My time in service allowed me to advance through the ranks and be placed in some tough and challenging assignments as well as some of the toughest schools. The two most satisfying assignments were assisting the Army of the Czech Republic (ACR) in building a Non-Commissioned Officer Corps similar to that of the U.S. Army as their army transitioned into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or N.A.T.O. During this assignment I learned the value of clear and concise guidance, communication skills and interpreting regulation. The other was as an Operations Sergeant Major for a Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron. There I learned how to balance the operational tempo of a large multi-faceted unit while completing a challenging senior leader course; the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, the pinnacle educational level for an enlisted Soldier in the U.S. Army. There were many other satisfying and challenging assignments to include long deployments to Iraq and training assignments to other countries and U.S. military installations. All of these



experiences prepared me to take the next step - retirement from the military and transition to the civilian workforce. Again, I do not want to highlight my service, only to show how that part of my life has prepared me for the future. There is a saying that a lot of service members will utter, "I wouldn't take a million dollars for the experience, and wouldn't give a nickel for a minute more".

## The Transition:

As a retired service member, I was able to transition into the Midwest Assistance Program as a Technical Assistance Provider (TAP) using skills acquired while serving in the military to help small rural communities with water, wastewater and solid waste issues. Some of the skills acquired such as discipline, adversity experience, oral and written communication, interpreting guidance and identifying intent, mediation, working with multiple entities such as local, state, and federal guidance, conducting after action reviews, and implementing force protection and risk mitigation translated directly into the civilian world. For example: Written guidance from Federal and State sources such as USDA Rural Development, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR) and others can be overwhelming in many cases and even confusing when interpreting what a Soldier refers to as "Commander's Intent" or identifying the requirement or desired outcome. Sometimes identifying intent can be puzzling, unless you know what you are looking for. Sometimes regulations may provide conflicting how-to directives but have the same end result. Wading through the gray area can be difficult but don't worry *the intent* is there. Not meeting deadlines, for example, is not acceptable in the military, therefore a Soldier sees deadlines and suspense dates as a no excuses no

*Continued on Page 3*

# Planning Ahead in a Time of Increasing Variability

By Michelle Pond, Project Manager/Technical Assistance Provider



*Aerial view of Midwest flooding, Spring 2019*

The year 2019 saw record-breaking floods in much of the Midwest, causing billions of dollars in infrastructure and property damage and lost productivity. That doesn't even begin to cover the unquantifiable human costs of displacement, stress, and even death. One of the many communities to experience damage to their utilities was Glenwood, Iowa. After the town's drinking water treatment plant was flooded, the entire community was without drinking water at the tap for 30 days. They had to truck in water from neighboring systems while they tried to dig an emergency well. After several expensive complications, that attempted well was abandoned and the community turned to bottled water. During this time, the schools nearly had to shut down due to concerns of fire suppression capacity, several coffee shops and beauty salons had to close, and restaurants and residences had to get very creative to make due under strict water restrictions, weeks after the initial flood event.

While it can't be said for certain that this particular flooding event was caused by climate change, it does fit with climate change predictions for the region. Some places received four times normal rainfall. Elsewhere, an erratic swing from freezing temperatures to warm weather melted snow before the ground or rivers thawed, leading to excessive runoff and ice jams. Soils remained saturated, increasing runoff and flooding, through much of the year. Extreme events such as this can be expected to become more common as climate

change progresses. The American Water Works Association (AWWA) states that "[c]limate variability impacts the hydrologic cycle, source water, and water demands and in turn the long-term quantity, quality, and reliability of water supplies. Addressing impacts due to climate change includes assessing risk and uncertainty as well as improving resiliency and sustainability in utility management, facilities and water sources." Symptoms of climate change such as drought, flood, wildfire, and harmful algal blooms, all affect utilities. Rural systems are often even more vulnerable to these changes than urban systems as they are smaller, have less redundancy and have less resources to fund adaptation. As water and wastewater professionals, you have the power to help mitigate the impacts to your community. Proper planning from local utilities can help protect infrastructure and, ultimately, the health, safety and livelihoods of the people that rely on it.

Risk and Resiliency (Vulnerability) assessments and emergency response plans (ERPs) are valuable tools for protecting your community. Under new congressional rules, America's Water Infrastructure Act 2018 (AWIA), EPA now requires all community water systems serving more than 3,300 people to have a new assessment and ERP. However, they are recommended for all systems. Additionally, all USDA Rural Development-funded water and wastewater systems are required to have both assessments and emergency response plans, even those

serving less than 3,300 people. The assessment is a formal evaluation of vulnerabilities, or risks, that your system faces. It's an inventory of what could go wrong for your system. This includes everything from terrorism threats and data loss to chemical spills and power outages. In the face of increasing variability and extremes, it should also consider climate change impacts to water demand, supply and quality or the impacts on wastewater collection and treatment. Is your source water vulnerable to contamination from forest fire? Is your source dependent on abundant snow pack? Can your lagoon handle a large influx of water from a flood or intense rain storm?

Once you have identified your system's vulnerabilities, and reduced them where you can, draft your ERP. This is a case by case plan of what to do when things go wrong. If the power goes out, will a back up generator automatically turn on to run your pumps, or do you need to go to the

*It may seem like a bunch of hypotheticals, but the more you think through scenarios and plan ahead, the faster and better you can respond to an issue.*

neighboring town and borrow one? How will you protect the vital components of your system from flood water? If an algal bloom is detected in your source water, how will you test to see if it is producing toxins or not? It may seem like a bunch of hypotheticals, but the more you think through scenarios and plan ahead, the faster and better you can respond to an issue. Once you have this plan set, review and update it regularly, especially after an emergency does occur and you've learned first-hand what did and didn't work. Run through scenarios with your staff and community partners to be prepared. Make sure your emergency contact list is accurate and up to date.

There are many resources to guide you through this process. Midwest Assistance Program staff are able to connect you to those resources, help you think through the vulnerabilities, and prepare a plan.

## Veterans...continued from Pg. 1

exception. This way of thinking is a valuable tool in timely completion of required tasks, documents and other instances. Other skills that directly transitioned into being a TAP were working with multiple entities and the mediation between them to acquire a common goal and not to see one or the other as "the enemy" but as an asset or a partner. The ability to overcome an "us vs. them" mentality is a huge step in accomplishing goals and desired outcomes for all parties involved. Implementation of force protection and asset protection also provided insight to effectively conducting vulnerability assessments and emergency response plans using almost identical tools to complete the task. Conducting After Action Reviews (AARs) in the military were a common practice upon completion of everything from training to actual mission outcomes. During an AAR, a unit (or in this case a community) can identify what was supposed to happen, what actually happened, things that were effective, things that were not effective and then identify what can be modified or done better next time. A very valuable tool in not making the same mistakes.

### The pay off:

After leaving the military, the desire to serve still exists. Even though there have been many easy transitions into this particular career there are many obstacles that veterans must overcome. Some of these setbacks are well known to the private sector through news articles and documentaries. Other obstacles are sometimes private in matter and may take time to overcome. For myself, serving small communities in Nebraska is one thing that helps me in the therapy process. I am proud to have served my country and believe it is the most important and selfless thing a person can do for their country and their fellow Americans. What makes me proud is that while working with MAP, I am able to meet other veterans in communities and agencies that share the same pride. Missing the opportunity to thank a fellow service member for their service is unacceptable for me; the smile it puts on their face is priceless. They must know their service is greatly appreciated. When thanked for my service, I am thankful for their support, not for myself serving but for those still serving and those that paid the ultimate price for our freedom. It is highly satisfying for me to see a community overcome obstacles, develop processes, solve problems and take ownership of their assets; a community of people looking toward the future.

### Looking forward:

Being part of Midwest Assistance Program (MAP) allows my new team to continue serving our communities and help where and when it is needed. MAP is a very professional organization and the leadership and staff are dedicated to its mission. I am proud to be a member of the organization and look forward to helping our small communities and tribal nations find solutions to their infrastructure and development needs. I do this by providing information, resource management expertise, and technical assistance to help build resiliency and improve quality of life in rural communities.

*Monte Kerchal is one of several veterans working at MAP. He has worked for MAP in Iowa and Nebraska since he retired from military service. We believe veterans will be a great source for all of our small communities in the Rural US. They would make great clerks, water and wastewater operators, mayors and council members. They tend to be dedicated and loyal to their community.*

# COLORFUL PAST, FUTURE VISION MOTIVATES MOKANE TO TAKE ON TODAY'S CHALLENGES

by *Jeff Kormann, Project Manager/Technical Assistance Provider*

It's the site of the "World's Fair" every year. Well, maybe not THE World's Fair--but a community event by that name which brings together local citizens for a common purpose. This spirit of cooperation has been put to the test over the past several years as city leaders frequently found themselves grappling with a myriad of water and wastewater issues. Some background information should be beneficial in helping understand how the community reached this point, and how they have overcome hurdle after hurdle to get where they are today.

The city of Mokane, Missouri, located on both Missouri River bottom land and the scenic bluffs of southern Callaway County, was incorporated early in the 20th century and named for the railroad that passed through it (the Missouri-Kansas-Texas). A nearby display tells the remarkable story of how the line came into existence during the golden age of the railroads and later became part of the Katy Trail State Park, the longest rails-to-trails project in the United States. The boom-and-bust cycle of economic activity connected to the railroads was evident in Mokane, as the population peaked at 726 in 1920 and then mirrored the sharp reduction in rail service as a mode of transport after World War II by steadily declining by over 10% at each census, with the population now standing at 185.



*Mokane Katy Trailhead*

The rapid growth of Mokane in the last century eventually led to development of a central drinking water system, but even this process had an unconventional twist. The needs of an industry along the railroad served as the catalyst for development of the Mokane Water Co-operative, formed along the models already being used successfully in agricultural commodities and rural electrification. In contrast to those efforts, however, the member-ownership model did not establish a professional management team to guide operations and implement plans for growth and modernization when needed. By 2016, the leadership void and longstanding focus of the members to keep rates low at the expense of nearly everything else had caused the situation to deteriorate to the point where Missouri DNR-Northeast Regional Office Director Irene

Crawford described Mokane's water system as "really unacceptable. I can't think of another town in my 30 counties...in that bad a shape."



*Old Wellhouse*

At this point, the city found itself forced to consider improvements to the central wastewater system which was initially installed in the 1970s. Facing new State Operating Permit requirements to add a disinfection process to the conventional three-cell lagoon treatment facility, the city initially procured an area engineering firm to design a UV disinfection system but was then encouraged by MO DNR to include a plan for compliance with the pending limits on ammonia which would go into effect in 2023. An application was submitted to the DNR Financial Assistance Center and funding was approved for a Small Communities Engineering Assistance Program (SCEAP) grant, leading in turn to development of a full-scale Facility Plan by Engineering Surveys and Services, Inc. of Wildwood, MO.

In the meantime, momentum began building at the local level to address the water system problems head-on. As longstanding customer resistance weakened during 2017, a public meeting of the co-op was called in November of that year and attendees approved a motion for the organization to formally disband, with the assets of the water system given to the Board of Aldermen for the city of Mokane. This decision was a major step forward, but at the same time the city found itself accepting an antiquated system with no meters, leaking cast-iron mains, numerous non-working valves, a borrowed chlorination system which literally fell apart in pieces at one time, and a dilapidated wood-frame wellhouse that was barely large enough to cover the controls it was intended to protect. The \$25 per month flat rate structure in place at the time

paid the monthly bills, but provided little cushion for even basic repair efforts.

While all of that was going on, the local government faced the first of several upheavals. In May of 2017, while the city was dealing with significant river flooding, there were several changes in the governance, but led the charge for the community to take over control of the water system, thereby qualifying for various potential sources of public financing which the co-op was not eligible to access. Several Board members resigned at that time, leaving at one point a newly-appointed Alderman as the lone city official holding office. Other changes during 2017, included the retirement of the longtime city clerk, along with the departure of the certified water and wastewater operator.

As MAP continued to assist to the city with developing a Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance (CMOM) plan for the wastewater system, and an Emergency Operating Plan for drinking water, the city's leadership carousel continued. The previously appointed Mayor was elected as a write-in candidate in the April 2018 election, only to resign again for health reasons leaving the city not only without a Mayor, but she was also the person responsible for taking daily water samples. This time, she was joined by the departure of the City Clerk and three other Board members, once again leaving one Alderman as the lone member of the Board and Mayor Pro Tem. Temporary appointees were not sworn in, and for a time Mokane city government seemed to take on the character of a "banana republic" with no one truly certain who was in charge. At the next regular Board meeting in July (which featured standing room-only attendance), some order was restored as new Board members were appointed and sworn into office. With the appointment of two additional Aldermen to fill vacancies, and one more change in city clerks, city leadership has now been in place for several months and appears to be working more effectively than at any time in recent memory.



*Mokane Standpipe*



*New Wellhouse*

Meanwhile, based on DNR's recommendation, the city had agreed to place a higher priority on the drinking water system as a more imminent threat to public health. Toward that end, the city applied for a Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (SEARCH) grant from USDA-RD for a water study while discussions took place involving the agency and neighboring Callaway County PWS #2 on the possibility of the District's providing management services for the utility. However, the lack of meters and substandard overall condition of the system proved to be a "non-starter" in negotiations at that point. During one of these meetings, a frustrated DNR Official brought up the possibility of the State having to take the water system into receivership if the city remained at such a high level of dysfunction.

While all this was occurring, the SCEAP-funded engineering report for wastewater improvements was finally completed and submitted to DNR for approval, featuring recommendations to address I & I through refurbishment of manholes, repair of lift stations and other malfunctioning aspects of the collection system, and then lagoon improvements. By January of 2019,

an article in the Jefferson City News-Tribune indicated that Mokane was "on the mend". Supplemental funding from the Mokane Lions Club helped provide the opportunity to upgrade the pumphouse, and working in cooperation with the public water supply district the distribution lines received their first thorough flushing in many years.

End of story? Well not quite, for now the Missouri River decided to re-enter the picture by flooding the entire lower portion of town throughout the spring and early summer of 2019. Without a doubt, city leaders probably felt the sense of taking "one step forward, and two steps back" as the lagoon was swamped for a time, along with one of the lift stations located within the 100-year flood plain.

*Continued on Page 9*

# Why Should You Participate in the 2020 Census?

*Aubrey Neussendorfer, Technical Assistance Provider*

Beginning April 1, 2020 your community will have the opportunity to participate in the US Decennial Census. Every 10 years, the United States conducts a Census to provide a mark in time of where every person is located throughout the country. If your community is preparing to apply for any funding, accuracy in this count is vital. Communities will not be able to conduct income surveys for several years in order to qualify for grants because the federal agencies will be required to use this Census data. It is in your benefit, as a community, to ensure complete and accurate results.



When mentioning the Census, many people are quick to respond with negative comments and believe the information provided to them will come back to impact them in a harmful way or it is simply a breach of personal privacy. But actually, non-participants are hurting themselves and their communities by not taking the time to complete their census. If after 3 attempts to collect the data fail, someone else (proxy could be neighbor, real estate agent, caretaker, etc.) will fill out the information to the best of their ability which may or may not be accurate. The best solution is for the actual household to complete the survey.

The National League of Cities (NCL) supports the Census Bureau's mission to "serve as the nation's leading provider of quality data about its people and economy." They also have stated, "Municipal governments have an important relationship with the census – both as consumers of the invaluable data it gathers and as partners in ensuring the complete and accurate count of our cities."

## Why the Census Matters to Municipalities:

- **An accurate census helps ensure fair representation at all levels of government.** The primary purpose of the census every ten years is to determine how many congressional representatives each state will have for the next decade and to ensure equal representation in the redistricting process. Congressional districts and the boundaries of your local district are determined by census numbers.
- **The census directly impacts the funding your municipality will receive over the next decade.** Population counts and statistics obtained from the census every ten years, will determine the allocation of more than \$800 billion in federal investments across states, counties, and municipalities. These types of financial assistance programs and block grants include Community Block Development Grant (CDGB), which also combined with data collected from the American Community Survey (ACS) is then used to aid in the selection process for funding to communities.
- **The census provides the most reliable and complete data for research, decision making and planning for both the public and private sectors.** Academic institutions, medical facilities, businesses of all sizes and all levels of government rely on census data to inform their research, decision making and planning. The census every ten years only asks a few questions but with the data collected it produces a benchmark for most other current statistics that help us gain a deeper insight into our communities.

## Census Objectives and Process:

- **Participating in the 2020 Census is a civic duty and good for your community.** Having a count of all persons living in the United States is a responsibility of the federal government under the U.S. Constitution. This count will allow for the allocation of seats within the house of U.S. Representatives among the states. This count also will impact a wider range of decisions such as where future roads will be built or maintained or how to distribute the \$800 billion in federal funding each year.
- **Numerous ways have been provided in order to make your census information count.** In early 2020, postcards will be delivered to a household's physical address, they will not go to PO Boxes. The Census is a popula-

*Continued on Page 9*



## Is water operations the career for you?

Clean water is the most valuable resource on the planet, and keeping drinking water clean and safe is the job of water operators. This brochure describes:

- the benefits and opportunities for water-operations professionals.
- what water treatment and distribution are.
- the types of work that water operators perform.
- where to get the training necessary to perform this vital work.

### Benefits of being a water-operations professional

Water operators are the first line of defense in public health. They deliver safe, plentiful drinking water to their customers and ensure that fire hydrants have enough water to fight fires. Being a water operator is a very meaningful career choice—you make a huge, positive difference in the health of your community.

The position of water operator has an average nationwide salary of \$40,000 per year, but experienced water operators can earn around \$80,000 per year in large communities—more in supervisory positions. Many utilities offer excellent benefits and opportunities for career advancement.

Many water operators are retiring, and there is expected to be an operator shortage in the near future. It's a great time to enter this industry, whether you're just starting your career or looking for a career change!

## Training to be a water operator

Most states and some tribes require water operators to pass certification exams to show they are capable of overseeing aspects of water operations. Many have their own certification programs. Requirements typically include a combination of training and experience performing the duties of a water operator. Some utilities hire “trainees” who do not yet have the experience and training but are interested in acquiring them.

To learn more about this exciting career opportunity, visit the following websites:

- [Water Operator.org](http://WaterOperator.org)
- [American Water Works Association  
www.awwa.org](http://AmericanWaterWorksAssociation.com)
- [Association of Boards of Certification  
www.abccert.org](http://AssociationofBoardsofCertification.org)

Or search for “water operator” on your state’s website.

## Water OPERATOR



### a world of career opportunities

- Jobs that offer:
- stability
  - work in places all over the country
  - advancement opportunities
  - being part of a “green” industry
  - a chance to make a difference in your community



#### Rural Community Assistance Partnership

##### National Office

1701 K St. NW, Suite 700  
Washington, DC 20006  
202/408-1273 or 800/321-7227

[www.rcap.org](http://www.rcap.org)

[info@rcap.org](mailto:info@rcap.org)



[www.rcap.org](http://www.rcap.org)

## How is water treated and distributed?

Have you ever wondered how drinking water gets to your home's faucets? Drinking water originates in lakes, rivers, or streams (surface water) or comes from formations under the ground (groundwater).

- Surface water travels through pipes (usually by gravity) to a water-treatment system. Groundwater is pumped up from the ground to the treatment system. The treatment system is designed to remove contaminants that may be harmful to human health or to the system's components. Contaminants may be:
- biological, such as algae or microscopic organisms.
  - non-organic metals, radionuclides, and minerals.
  - organic chemicals that come from fertilizers, pesticides, or other sources.



The first step in drinking water treatment is contaminant removal. For surface water, this step consists of:

1. coagulation and flocculation: causing contaminants to clump together
2. sedimentation: where the heavier particles settle out of the water
3. filtration: where the water passes through a filter to remove particles remaining in the water

Groundwater usually has fewer of the contaminants requiring clumping and settling, and so it often does not require these steps. In some cases, however, groundwater may have naturally occurring minerals or industrial contaminants that require specific treatment processes to remove them.

After treatment to remove contaminants, all drinking water—whether from surface or ground sources—is disinfected to kill any biological contaminants still remaining. Disinfection can be done with chlorine, ozone, or ultraviolet light, and regulations require additions of a small amount of chlorine chemical to ensure the water stays free of disease-causing organisms while it's being transmitted from the treatment plant to customer's taps. Once water leaves the treatment plant, it may be stored in a tank or distributed directly to customers through the distribution system, a network of pipes and pumps that carries water from the treatment system to homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and other customers.



## What would I be doing?

Water operators run the equipment and control the processes that clean drinking water. They maintain and repair the pipes, valves, pumps, controls, gates, engines, generators, and other equipment used to produce drinking water. They sample and test the water at various points during treatment and distribution to ensure the treatment processes are working correctly to maintain drinking water quality.

Water operators also protect the security of the water supply, treatment, and distribution system before, during, and after natural or human-caused emergencies.

Want to see the process in action?

View videos explaining each of the steps at RCAP's dedicated video library. Go to <https://vimeo.com/rcap> and search "drinking water".

## Census...continued from Pg. 6

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tion count on where people *live* on Census Day. These postcards will provide instructions on how to submit your data online, by phone, or by postal mail. Later on in 2020, if your information has not been received then in-person visits will be conducted to collect the remaining information.

- **Your personal data is protected by law and cannot be shared outside of the Census Bureau.** Employees of the Census Bureau are sworn to uphold the confidentiality of your data for life. Your responses can only be used to produce statistical information, and your information cannot be seen or used by any other governmental agencies or courts. Also, all online submissions are secured through multiple layers of encryptions.
- **You do not have to know English in order to complete the census.** The online census will be available in 12 different languages but guides will be available in 59 non-English languages, plus Braille.

## How can you as a City Official help with the Census process?

- **Form a committee that can help ensure that EVERYONE is counted, including the homeless, residential care facilities, transitional housing, military barracks and even jails/prisons!** Get the community involved to make sure that no one is left out. Funding for essentials like education, transportation and infrastructure and federal representation are based on these numbers.

Please help yourself and your community by spreading the word on why participation in the Census is important and all the various ways it can affect them and their communities moving forward. Spread information in as many ways as possible to reach your residents is key. If you would like more information or would like fact sheets to send to your residents please contact your local Technical Assistance Provider with Midwest Assistance Program by visiting the website [www.map-inc.org](http://www.map-inc.org) or by calling our Central Office (660) 562-2575.

## Mokane...continued from Pg. 5

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At this point, however, local community pride and perseverance rose to the forefront as volunteers rallied together to sandbag around key facilities such as the Lions Club building that housed city operations at the time, and later spent many hot, tedious, dirty hours taking on the cleanup process. Eventually local services returned to full operation with one notable exception, as the flooded lift station (along with three others on the system) began demonstrating various levels of malfunction. Although the problems continue at present, the situation is being properly managed through manual operation by city personnel. A hazard mitigation grant from FEMA is being sought to pay for 75% of work taking place in the flood plain, most likely to be matched by a private bank loan covering the local share.

The mutual desire of the city and the various government entities to discuss concepts for addressing continuing utility needs led to a joint meeting on October 11, 2019 involving the Board of Alderman, the Callaway County Commission, the consulting engineer, representatives from DNR, USDA-RD, DED-CDBG, MAP, the Mid-Missouri Regional Planning Commission, etc. The positive dialogue stemming from this event has generated additional momentum to the point that the city recently placed a \$2.5 million

*Local community pride and perseverance rose to the forefront as volunteers rallied together.*

bond issue on the April 2020 ballot to fund both water and wastewater improvements.

So where does Mokane go from here? Capacity Development Board and Clerk training conducted in January of this year has helped MAP's relationship with the city to grow stronger and a mutually-beneficial arrangement is in place to see both utility projects through to completion. Like the "World's Fair" they host each year, the city of Mokane is its own unique creation and will continue to be called home by folks who seek out the special quality of life found in our rural communities.

# SOURCE

## Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. Central Office

303 N. Market St., Suite 2.  
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### Source Mission:

To provide information for the clients of the Midwest Assistance Program so they better understand the programs and services MAP offers to help them improve their communities and tribal associations; and to showcase the expertise of MAP employees.

## FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

MAP Source is funded through a grant from the HHS/Office of Community Services and prepared by the Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. Material not otherwise attributed was written or redacted by the editor.

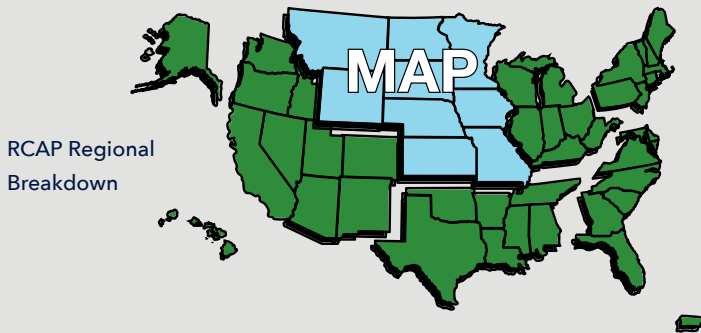
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**The Midwest Assistance Program (MAP) is a member of The Rural Community Assistance Partnership (network). RCAP is made up of a total of six regional partners including MAP.**



MAP has been helping communities and tribal nations meet their infrastructure and development needs through information, resource management, expertise and technical assistance since 1979. MAP provides solutions to more than 400 such communities each year in Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North and South Dakota and Wyoming. Through individualized support from MAP staff, residents are given the knowledge and tools to revitalize their communities. MAP staff members live in the communities served and have a deep commitment to the strength, vitality, and future of rural America.



*Midwest Assistance Program has been designated and approved vendor by the General Services Administration, which means:*

- MAP is a GSA-approved contract holder
- Agencies can bypass the full request-for-proposal process and come directly to MAP
- Less delay getting projects underway

*MAP is the first member of the RCAP network to receive this designation.*