



## **Tribal operators receive water-system training**

Participants from tribal nations across Minnesota gathered in mid-June for an intensive, three-day water-system operator training program presented by Midwest Assistance Program. The sessions were held at the Safe Water for All Minnesota People training facility near Ely.

The nine trainees represented Leech Lake Tribal Utility, Bug-o-nay-ge-shig School, Northern Lights Casino, 7-Clans Casino, Bois Forte, Fond du Lac and Lower Sioux Community. They ranged in experience from entry level to Class A-licensed, 17-year veterans. All licensed attendees earned 16 contact hours towards renewal requirements of their licensing, and at the end of the class, two operators tested for Class D Minnesota Department of Health water certification.

The training sessions were conducted by Jason Gorr, MAP resource development advisor and Minnesota EPA tribal circuit rider; Mike Boyd, resource development advisor from Nebraska; Jordan Vandal, resource development advisor in Minnesota; and Dennis Siders, MAP regional director. The agenda was developed through operator recommendations, Gorr's observations from working with tribal operators and EPA guidance. It included:

- Day 1: filtration, chemical safety and water;
- Day 2: sampling; an EPA presentation on implementing new groundwater, coliform and disinfection byproduct rules; utility budgeting; and GPS training; and
- Day 3: review of the service line manual and directional flushing plan; tips on working with utility boards and tribal councils; ordinance development; emergency response planning and a hands-on demonstration of the HACH test kit.