THE EXPLOSION IN NEODESHA, KS - IS YOUR COMMUNITY SUSCEPTIBLE?

THE ROLE OF THE HOMEOWNER
The Forgotten Link in Lead and Copper Sampling
LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I have had the honor and privilege to serve as the Midwest Assistance Program’s executive director since 2013. Recently, we have seen the lead and copper issue in our drinking water come to the forefront of public and political minds. Although this is a serious issue, the bigger issues for the communities, tribes and utilities MAP serves are still the same issues they have had for years. Their infrastructure is getting old, their water and wastewater operators are retiring and they experience too much turnover with their clerks/auditors/administrators.

The worst part is, the cost to fix it is getting higher every day. The staff at MAP continue to work with these communities to help them find solutions to their water and wastewater problems which are cost efficient, practical and timely. As a private not-for-profit, our funds are limited, but our passion to assist rural America is endless.

Mike Brownfield
Executive Director

RCAP HALL OF FAME INDUCTIONES

PHILLIP FISHBURN

Fishburn was inducted into the RCAP Hall of Fame in November, 2016. Phillip has been a Technical Assistance Provider at Midwest Assistance Program for over 20 years, all the while providing exceptional technical assistance to utility systems, mentoring staff, advising management, advocating for regulatory change, and promoting regionalization. He has been quick to advise and participate in innumerable committees, programs, councils, and boards wherever the need arises. He exhibits a genuine concern for the rural systems he has dedicated his life to preserving and assisting. His assistance to fellow staff members knows no bounds when sharing information, tools, resources, guidance, and advice that only come with a lifetime of experience, dedication to his work, and a passion to ensure that everyone is able to provide the best possible service to communities. He is a subject matter expert on management, utility rates, environmental reports, and emergency response procedures. As his nominator noted, he remains the reliable visionary he has always been. His long standing accomplishments and impact have been far reaching, establishing a standard that is a model and goal for everyone around him. He has the perfect temperament for balancing the caring, teaching, and nurturing approach needed for the numerous challenges small rural systems face, while remaining firm that regulatory and operational requirements are met. His humble, unassuming, and mirthful manner mixed with a focused determination puts all he interacts with at ease. He has developed a wealth of training materials, manuals, and templates over the years and shows no sign of letting up in any of his activities. So much more could be said about this outstanding individual who has devoted his life to rural communities in his state and region.

CHRIS FIERROS

Fierros was inducted into the RCAP Hall of Fame in November, 2015. Chris has worked in her region for 20 years in a variety of positions including TAP field manager, program director and CEO. She has continually dedicated herself to finding ways to assist rural communities in order to improve their sustainability. She has also been instrumental in training new staff and always available to answer any questions or address any concern from those that work for her. Among her many areas of expertise are state regulatory requirements, programmatic conditions, effective technical assistance and training approaches for small communities, accounting and financial management, preparation of proposals and bids, and many other areas that are necessary to the successful operation and management of an RCAP regional entity. She is universally admired and respected by all who know her, work for her or work with her. A passion for rural America and a desire to provide assistance in the best way possible are just a part of what makes her a model of the best that there is in RCAP. She has had the responsibility of training and educating three separate CEOs all while managing her region, and working with her staff. If anyone ever has a question, needs advice or support on an issue, she is relied on to give an honest, thoughtful, and direct answer. She always displays compassion and conviction to her job and to her family that are a beacon for all who know her.
Staff Profile

PAUL BREZINA
Paul Brezina joined Midwest Assistance Program in October of 2015 and brings with him over 30 years of engineering and management leadership, human resources, and management skills. Prior to MAP, Paul was employed by Augo Seed Co. and Minnmosto for over 35 years as part of their project management team. Paul has a BS degree in Agricultural Mechanization from Iowa State University including training in water and waste management, land surveying, topography, and soil management. He has experience working with the USDA in various departments including regulatory procedures, guidelines, and permit applications. He was a member of a volunteer Fire, Rescue, and Under-Water Recovery department and trained for positions for all three units of the department for over 10 years. He is currently serving in his sixth year on the Redwood Area Chamber and Tourism board of directors. He has served seven years on the Redwood Area Chamber and Tourism board of directors as a member, Chairperson, and Vice Chairperson.

J BUNDESON
Mr. Bunderson is a registered professional engineer and was certified as a federal Contracting Officer’s Technical Representative (COTR) with 17 years engineering experience. During his tenure with the US Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management, he was responsible for a wide array of tasks which included inspections and analysis of dam, stream conveyance, and power plant infrastructure for structural and hydraulic adequacy. He developed, implemented, and maintained an emergency management dam safety program, Standing Operating Procedures (SOP), Emergency Action Plans (EAP), Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures (SPCC) plans, and Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans. He has experience with project design specifications, contract development, contract administration, and construction inspections. Mr. Bunderson has worked with Federal, Tribal, State, County, and Local agencies.

ANN HEIDENDAL
Ann joined MAP in November 2010. She has 15 years of experience in grant funding, project management, strategic planning, technical writing, community development, compliance, and financial management. She has a successful track record in navigating the complexities of federal, state, and private funding programs as well as extramural experience with financial and programmatic compliance monitoring and audit preparation. She also brings to the table a strong working knowledge of general municipal law with hands on experience in policy development and drafting ordinances and code for rural communities. Prior to joining the MAP staff, Ann worked at the University of Iowa Colleges of Medicine & Public Health and was a professional engineer and played an instrumental role in developing a new Institute for Clinical and Transitional Science. She has also worked as a private consultant providing fundraising, project management, and grant consulting services to rural communities and for non-profit organizations.

JOSH JABALERA
Josh is a Certified Water (14E) and Wastewater (4C) operator in Montana. He has a Bachelor’s of Science degree from Rocky Mountain College. Before working for MAP, he operated multiple community water systems in rural areas. Josh has helped small communities with the development of overall long range plans, maintain compliance on water and wastewater issues as well as providing a plan for sustainability into the future. Related and extended experience includes disaster preparedness, operator training, public safety, sampling procedures, construction oversight, and environmental issues that affect public health.

JEFF KORRMANN
Jeff brings a long and varied work history to his position as a Technical Assistance Provider with MAP He will be working in Minnesota, Montana, and Wisconsin. He received his Master’s degree in Environmental Science from the University of Minnesota and his Bachelor’s degree in Environmental Science from the University of Iowa. Jeff has 15 years of experience in the water and wastewater field, including municipal & rural water systems, wells, storage tanks, pump maintenance, monitoring compliance on water and wastewater issues, as well as assisting with equipment repair and maintenance. Jeff has also worked as a Quality Assurance and Quality Control Specialist for a state and federal water monitoring program.

AMY MACKENZIE-SANDERS
MacKenzie-Sanders is licensed as a Registered Sanitarian with over 25 years of experience. Her degree is in Microbiology Chemistry. She has extensive experience with water and waste water issues, both public and private. She has worked for municipal wastewater treatment plant and operated a small drinking water system. For several years, she worked as the Water Lab Director for a private analytical laboratory, a lab at a wastewater treatment plant and the State of Montana Environmental Laboratory. MacKenzie-Sanders managed the EPA Grant for the State Emergency Response Plan/Vulnerability Assessment Program and the Total Columbian Rule Program. She has extensive experience developing and providing education to water and wastewater operators, Environmental Health Professionals and to the public.

KATIE MEGHAN
Katie joined the MAP staff in July 2015 as a Technical Assistance Provider for Minnesota & Iowa. Katie brings to the position 15 years’ experience in grant funding, project management, strategic planning, technical writing, community development, compliance, and financial management. She has a successful track record in navigating the complexities of federal, state, and private funding programs as well as extramural experience with financial and programmatic compliance monitoring and audit preparation. She also brings to the table a strong working knowledge of general municipal law with hands on experience in policy development and drafting ordinances and code for rural communities. Prior to joining the MAP staff, Katie worked at the University of Iowa Colleges of Medicine & Public Health and was a professional engineer and played an instrumental role in developing a new Institute for Clinical and Transitional Science. She has also worked as a private consultant providing fundraising, project management, and grant consulting services to rural communities and for non-profit organizations.

MIKE OBAL
Mike Obal has over 10 years of experience in the construction industry. His experience lies in developing water and waste water treatment facilities to plan and reach out to small communities to large cities. During his time developing waste water treatment facilities, he learned the details of strategic project management that drove efficiencies on the projects, leading him to deploy projects on time and on budget. He has also spent time on larger commercial and university projects, leading process improvement changes and providing technical assistance to subcontractors in order to perform work as assigned.

JASCHA PETTIT
Jascha Pettit attended St. John’s University and has a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies. Previously employed by Natural Systems Utilitates, he advanced his knowledge and ability significantly by operating many unique wastewater systems. He was responsible for client communication, site evaluations, trouble shooting, repair & maintenance, sampling, reporting, and treatment adjustment. He was an operator of the systems as well as a manager. Jascha was raised in the central Minnesota lakes area, and has a great respect for the environment. He is married to Laura and has a daughter, Aurora. In his free time he enjoys being outdoors, especially hunting and fishing with his brothers. Jascha looks forward to using his knowledge and experience to assist rural and tribal communities in Minnesota.

JERRY PPOP
Jerry Popp brings his many years of engineering experience to MAP as a Technical Assistance Provider in Wyoming. He has designed and provided construction management for a wide variety of public works projects including municipal & rural water systems, wells, share tanks, pump stations, control systems, wastewater facilities, underground utilities, streets, storm water management, site grading and subdivision development. He has industrial and land surveying experience as well, including most recently working with Sperry Drilling, providing design and monitoring of directional drilling for oil & gas production. Jerry has a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wyoming and is a Registered Professional Engineer. He lives in Glenrock, Wyoming.

ANDREW NORDBY
Andrew Nordby completed a double major at Northwest Minnesota State University in Business Management and Marketing. At Northeast, Andrew was the president of two organizations, the Northeast Fishing Club and Campus Crusade for Christ. He is currently serving MAP as the Program Assistant. He started working for MAP as an intern and has been with MAP since May 2014.

KAREN THOMAS
Karen Thomas has over 20 years of business experience. She has owned and operated several businesses giving her extensive knowledge in budgeting, creating action plans, and client communications and customer service.

ANN VOLZ
Emma Volz is the Regional GIS Coordinator for MAP and is concurrently a Technical Assistance Provider for Minnesota. She is excited to have joined the team in Minnesota and will be working out of her home in Marshall, MN. Emma has a Bachelor’s of Science in Ecology, Environmental Sciences, and Geography, and a Master’s of Sciences in Wetland Biogeography. Prior to MAP, she has worked with Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Mapping on computer in various fields, including utilities, land records, GIS addressing, watershed/settlement management, and homeland security/emergency management. She has also worked in various levels of government, primarily municipal and county levels in data management, city administration, and financial management. She enjoys working with those in the public service and helping them meet the needs of the citizens in the most economical and efficient ways possible. “I have lived in the Cities and made the choice to move to rural Minnesota. I love the community of small town USA and look forward to helping small communities become more sustainable and improve their ability to serve their own.”

EMMA VOLZ
Emma Volz is the Regional GIS Coordinator for MAP and is concurrently a Technical Assistance Provider for Minnesota. She is excited to have joined the team in Minnesota and will be working out of her home in Marshall, MN. Emma has a Bachelor’s of Science in Ecology, Environmental Sciences, and Geography, and a Master’s of Sciences in Wetland Biogeography. Prior to MAP, she has worked with Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Mapping on computer in various fields, including utilities, land records, GIS addressing, watershed/settlement management, and homeland security/emergency management. She has also worked in various levels of government, primarily municipal and county levels in data management, city administration, and financial management. She enjoys working with those in the public service and helping them meet the needs of the citizens in the most economical and efficient ways possible. “I have lived in the Cities and made the choice to move to rural Minnesota. I love the community of small town USA and look forward to helping small communities become more sustainable and improve their ability to serve their own.”

Join MAP’s team of Technical Assistance Providers in the Midwest!
For more information, visit our website, www.map-inc.org. You may also send your resume and cover letter to map@map-inc.org.
Neodesha Kansas was established in 1871 with the name meaning “between two rivers”, the Fall River and Verdigris River. Neodesha obtains water from Fall River. An intake structure located approximately half a mile north of the City’s water treatment plant (WTP) had been used until recent damage at the intake. Raw, untreated water was drawn from the river utilizing pumps located in the intake structure. The water was conveyed in a 12-inch waterline to the WTP located directly south of US-75. In July of 2007, a flood of record occurred on the Fall River. The intake structure was submerged resulting in the need to replace the pump motors and electrical equipment contained therein. While this equipment is relatively insensitive to recondition or replace, the structure itself was recently condemned. This intake structure was constructed in 1909. The original design involved two independent suction pipes which extend into the river channel. The pipes were adjustable through the use of a caisson system. Both pipes have been damaged to the extent that they are no longer operational. This leaves the system with no redundancy for raw water supply and operating an emergency pumping operation. This emergency pumping is labor intensive, unreliable, and costly to operate. As of September 5, 2013, the City is under an order from Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to address the problems with the intake structure. The water level at the Raw Water Intake Structure is maintained by a concrete low water dam located approximately 0.4 river miles south and west of the intake structure. While this structure is also close to 100 years old, it is in relatively good overall condition. However, erosion has been occurring on the river bank at the southeastern end of the dam. Water has been piping through the soil around that location for a number of years. Past efforts to stabilize the bank included placement of rock gabions in metal baskets. The metal baskets have begun to deteriorate; some to the point that the rock is no longer contained. The river bank is therefore exposed to additional damage from both the piping of water through the soil and from continued erosion during high river flows. The primary elements of the water distribution system are ground storage at the WTP, high service pumps (which take water from the ground storage at the WTP), two elevated storage tanks, an automatic control system, approximately 32 miles of water lines, and approximately 155 fire hydrants. Based on the deterioration of the utility and the primacy mandate, Neodesha hired Professional Engineering Consultants Bruce Remsburg and Sarah Unruh and worked with MAP to submit a grant application with USDA Rural Development.

Neodesha Fire and Water Crisis
A Learning Experience

Neodesha City Administrator Ed Truelove

November 22, 2016, a private industrial user in Neodesha, Arkansas, experienced an explosion. One hundred and twelve emergency responders, various police and volunteers in Neodesha and the surrounding community depleted the city water supply. Water loss exceeded 1.8 million gallons at a cost estimated over $1 million. Water was hauled from the river using City trucks, mutual aid, and many volunteers. November 23, 2016, Governor Sam Brownback signed a State of Disaster Emergency Proclamation. KDHE provided State of Disaster Emergency Proclamation. KDHE provided an authorized alternate water source for the city. Emergency Manager Terry Lyons continues to work with Kansas Department of Emergency Management on appeals for Neodesha to recoup the losses. Water Superintendent Jay Bair and water operators at the treatment plant are prepared for the new treatment plant intake. Administrator Ed Truelove and City Clerk Bobby Busch work with elected officials to provide a safe, reliable water utility with a balanced budget after taking on this considerable unforeseen cost and always placing safety first. Key points are realizing you can never predict emergencies and you must document everything as Neodesha did. They are sharing this experience if you are willing to learn from them.

Plan today with awareness of key players both local and an extended network. Work with your emergency managers, professionals and your state agencies as well as your neighbors. Those who may be your enemy on game day may be a saving grace in an emergency. While you’re at it, re-think your approach to government communication, healthy communication is a positive relationship for a community and your community is better when all levels of government find a way to work together. Elected Officials provided support from the initiation of the USDA RD application and continue to do so and the support is appreciated from Senator Moran, Senator Roberts and Representative Hibbard. Neodesha Mayor Terry Harper, Commissioners J. D. Moffatt and Devin Johnson are acknowledged for their leadership. A special thanks to those not named who served, whether paid or greater still volunteers who stepped up in the hour of need to protect and serve the community when the need was greatest. We all work together to preserve the entrusted natural resources.

“The taking of something of this scope, of this magnitude...it is critical to acquire the expert assistance of engineering and Midwest Assistance Program. This could be considered overwhelming. MAP has helped in navigating with USDA Rural Development.”

-Neodesha City Administrator Ed Truelove

“It was a learning process for us to know how to do the eAuthorization, so it is best to learn to do that process early.”

-Neodesha City Clerk Bobby Busch

The photo at the commission meeting includes (left to right) Stephanie Ross, City Administrator Ed Truelove, Commissioner JD Moffatt, Mayor Tony Harper, Commissioner Devin Johnson and City Clerk Bobby Busch.

Source: - SOURCE - 5
GENERAL DUTIES CHECKLIST

☐ Review of City Council Meeting Schedule
  Look for potential conflicts with holidays.

☐ Orientation of newly elected city officials
  Include city policy, meeting rules, city budget, and possible tour of city facilities.

☐ Appointments and Reappointments of Boards, Commissions, Committees, and City Officials

☐ Annual Wage Publication
  Follow state laws and regulations regarding the publication of city employee wages.

☐ Insurance Renewals
  Make sure all new city personnel are covered, as well as all persons that handle city money, and that all city-owned property including buildings, equipment, and vehicles are covered.

☐ Drivers Licenses
  Annually check that all city employees are properly licensed for the city vehicles they will be operating.

☐ 1099’s/W-2’s
  File 1099’s and W-2’s according to tax-year guidelines, traditionally January 31st.

☐ Review Contracts
  Governmental, County, State, Private

☐ Cyber Security
  Review anti-virus subscriptions and performance updates for all city owned computers, tablets, and phones.

☐ Review County Emergency Response Plan
  Invite the county emergency management coordinator to a council meeting for help reviewing.

WASTEWATER

NPDES Permit – National Pollution Discharge Elimination System—Analytical samples of the wastewater system dates and times

Monthly Sampling

Quarterly Sampling

DMR (Discharge Monitoring Report) – Find out when it is due in your state

Pump Reading – Daily of main lift stations.

Licensed Operator – System operator licensed for your system

Type 4 Bio – Solids

Certification Hours – Operator maintain license

WATER

Monthly Samples

Daily Sample – Fluoride

Main Well Readings – Daily

Daily Pump Reading – Daily water usage readings

Licensed Operator – System operator licensed for your system

Certification Hours – Operator maintain license

CCR (Consumer Confidence Report) – Due in July of each year

DNR Water Appropriation – Permits annually

If your community needs assistance, please contact Midwest Assistance Program.
TheLead and Copper Monitoring program for most small communities involves homeowners collecting the samples to be tested. Failure to prepare homeowners for this important task can lead to the improper collection of samples, resulting in a compliance violation.

Homeowner assistance with sampling is sought because a sample is to be collected after water has been sitting in the pipes for an extended period of time, at least six hours, and no water is used during this period even for flushing a toilet. Your operator could ring your doorbell at 6 a.m. or meet you when returning from work to collect the samples, but this is not practical. So your assistance is needed from homeowners listed on your site sampling plan.

The homeowner must have a vested interest in the process. This is accomplished by telling them the testing results of the sample they collected will be provided to them, and if excessive lead and/or copper levels are found in the sample, they will be notified by your water department directly and given information on procedures that will help limit exposure.

Midwest Assistance Program can assist a community with developing an educational plan to prepare homeowners to be proficient collectors.

Education is the key to proper sampling.

A system cannot expect a homeowner to properly collect a sample unless you teach them how to do it and provide a guide for them to follow. Consider the following points:

- Secure a sampling collection procedure guide from your state primacy agency.
- Develop a guide for the homeowner that explains the reason why they are involved, the collector’s responsibilities, the procedures for sampling, and how to prepare the sample for pick up.
- Meet with the homeowner prior to when the sample must be collected, and provide instruction using the procedure guide and your homeowner guide. A video about collecting samples is available from RCAP at www.vimeo.com/rcap/videos.

Cedar Gulch II, South Dakota

The Cedar Gulch community, in western South Dakota near the Black Hills, is split into two subdivisions, Cedar Gulch I and Cedar Gulch II. Cedar Gulch II is an unincorporated community, located in Pennington County, where the drinking water supply regularly exceeds the Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for total radium and gross alpha particles. Radium and gross alpha particles are known to cause cancer. Lab results for Cedar Gulch II drinking water for radium and gross alpha levels are five times the Maximum Contaminant Levels set by the EPA. The community has not been in EPA compliance since 2011.

MAP began assisting the Cedar Gulch II Community in 2014 to help them resolve their EPA compliance issues. With MAP’s assistance, Cedar Gulch II has been able to secure engineering services under the new AWWA Community Engineering Corps (CEC) non-profit group. The CEC has provided no cost engineering services to evaluate the water resource and provide treatment alternatives for the community to consider. Cost, treatment technologies, constructability, and long term ability to meet regulatory requirements were addressed by the CEC. Also, with MAP’s assistance, the CEC has been able to collaborate with the South Dakota State University (SDSU) Engineering Department, allowing students to perform supervised site visits and complete field work on behalf of the CEC.

Some of the challenges in this project include resolving the lack of water rights, well ownership, and distribution system ownership, and with the recommended ion exchange treatment, the lack of wastewater disposal rights and lagoon ownership. MAP is using the final CEC engineering report to recommend grant and loan options available to the Cedar Gulch II.

With EPA funding, MAP is able to continue assisting the community with resolving its drinking water violations and to ensure that the system is brought back into compliance.
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.

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