

SUMMER 2023

MIDWEST ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, INC.

SOURCE

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

STRENGTHENING RURAL VISIONS

Santee Sioux: Drinking Water Solutions

Sampling for PFAS Contaminants

Water and Wastewater Workforce Development

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

SOURCE



Phone: 660-562-2575
Email: map@map-inc.org



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Pictured on the front cover: Water tower reflection in sun glasses of a child. Photo taken by Erin Miller.

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Water standpipe (top). Water flowing during MAP site visit to conduct sampling (middle). Worker laying underground water system (bottom).

Letter from the CEO

by Chris Jewett, CEO

As we set forth on a new chapter, as the Chief Executive Officer, I look forward to sustaining the relationships, programs, and operations while looking for new partners, initiatives, and adventures with Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP). I say "we" because MAP is not one person, one organization, or "one" anything. MAP encompasses much more. We are the MAP staff, the Board of Directors, the nine-state region, and its communities and citizens. We are the Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc. (RCAP) and the partners we collaborate with. We are a voice of the rural ecosystem.



Chris Jewett, CEO Midwest Assistance Program, Inc.

Together we will navigate the challenges and embrace the successes to ensure rural America remains vibrant, thriving, and relevant. I

often jest that a concept is "The same, just different." That is my approach to breaking ideas down to their simplest form and establishing priorities.

The landscape of rural America remains the same at the core, but progression has brought on new priorities, challenges, and terminology. For example, what used to be vulnerability and emergency response is now risk and resiliency. The concerns and challenges are the same, but the terminology and approach to mitigation and resolution have shifted.

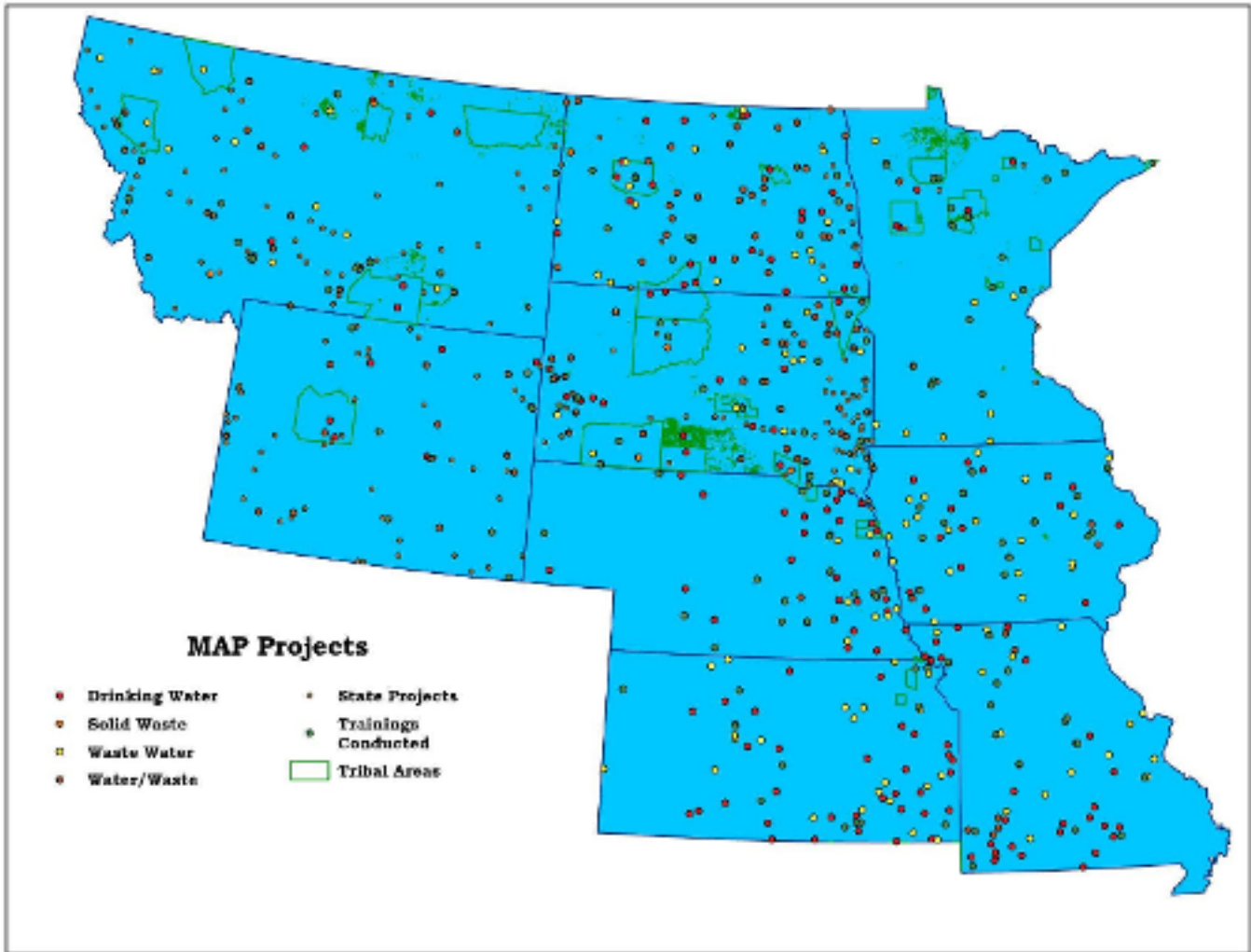
Change is constant, and MAP is ready to meet those challenges. We will continue to adjust while keeping sight of our region's core values, ethics, concerns, and needs. We will remain a constant and consistent voice and the SOURCE of assistance and guidance.

My leadership will continue to grow our influence and impact while remaining a prominent resource to the rural Midwest for technical assistance, education, training, reassurance, and rural advocacy.



Pictured rural Midwest town.

Image by: MAP GIS Department detailing current MAP projects Fiscal Year 2022 by infrastructure type.



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.

Communities served:
647

Number of People served:
934,686

\$161,693,222
Funds Leveraged

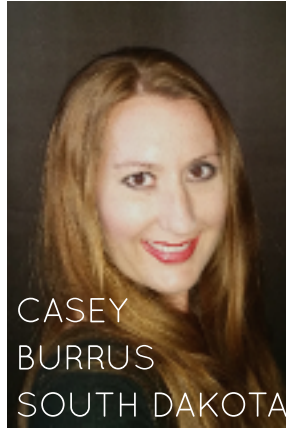
*Statistics based on Fiscal Year 2022.

NEW STAFF

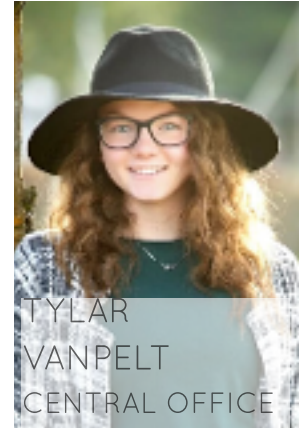
Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) is excited to feature employees hired over the past year. They bring with them a substantial knowledge base and a passion for providing guidance to small utility systems. Thank you for being part of the MAP team! We look forward to your energy and making a positive impact in the communities we serve.



Chris has over thirteen years of combined experience in billing, finance, & utility management.



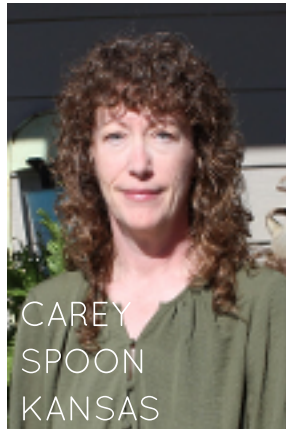
Casey has fifteen years experience working in county government & community development.



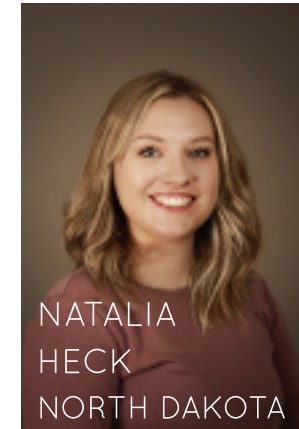
Tylar is earning her Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business from Northwest Missouri State.



Bill has over thirty-two years in designing & constructing of general municipal improvements.



Carey is an experienced grant writer & administrator. She has collaborated on many community projects.



Natalia holds a Master of Science in Management. She has experience working with nonprofits & finance.



Lee has nine years experience in municipal water, wastewater, & served as Public Works Director.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TEAMWORK

Thank you to all of the employees who make up the Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) Team. We appreciate your hard work and the positive steps you take every day to make a difference in the small communities we work and live in. We appreciate the relationships and trust you build and the irreplaceable knowledge you are able to share.

Thank you for your commitment.

STATE MANAGERS

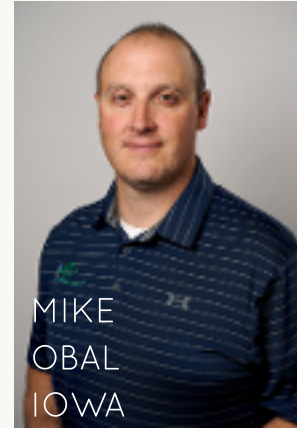
MAP is proud to feature the organization's State Field Managers who provide oversight, supervision, and collaboration with the team of Project Managers within their designated state and are also available to assist rural communities with guidance on water, wastewater, solid waste, and community development. Please feel free to contact us 660-562-2575 or map@map-inc.org



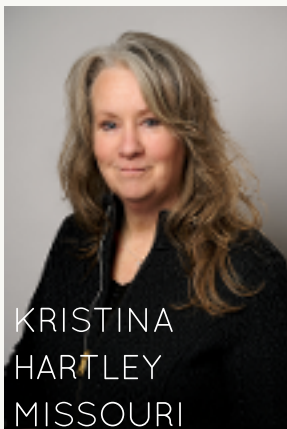
Dennis has twenty years of experience in human resources, water/wastewater management & finance.



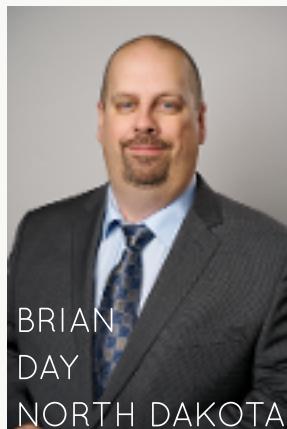
LeAnn has worked in water, wastewater, solid waste, finance & management for thirty years.



Mike has eighteen years of experience in water, wastewater, & construction management.



Kristina is an environmental specialist with twenty years of experience in utility operations & management.



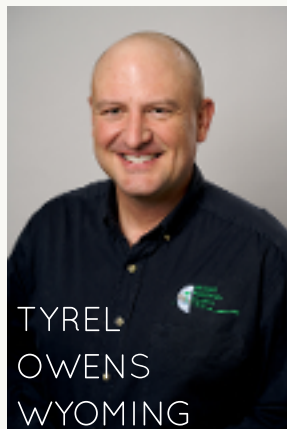
Brian has fourteen years of experience in project development, water, wastewater, & economic development.



Jason has over fourteen years of experience in water, distribution, & wastewater management.



Shelly is a certified drinking water & wastewater operator & has thirteen years of municipal administration & finance experience.



Tyrel holds four Level 2 licenses in water & wastewater. He has over twelve years of experience in municipal operations & maintenance.



Devin holds degrees in civil and chemical engineering & has worked on multiple water projects.

Santee Sioux Reservation: "Water is Life"

Santee, Nebraska: View from
hill of bluffs and Missouri River.

by Monte Kerchal, Project
Manager/ Technical
Assistance Provider and
Shayna Kernan, External
Programs Manager



"We always hear the
phrase 'water is life'
among our people, yet
we can't even fill up a
glass of water from our
kitchen sink to give to
our kids."

- - Kameron Runnels, Vice
Chairperson of the Santee Sioux
Nation Tribal Council.

Santee, Nebraska is the principal
village of the Santee Sioux
Reservation in Knox County. In
2018, the United States
Department of Agriculture Rural
Development (USDA RD)

requested Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) to provide assistance to the Santee Tribe with a Rural Development (RD) Apply application for Special Evaluation Assistance for Rural Communities and Households (SEARCH) Grant. The village has been without safe drinking water for over a decade, and they are determined to find a way to address their poor water quality. A bill was introduced to the Nebraska Senate in early 2022 to allocate federal pandemic relief funds in the amount of \$6 million to the Santee Sioux Tribe to improve and repair municipal water systems. However, it did not pass, and the funds were reallocated. Santee remains resolute in finding a permanent solution.

DRINKING WATER SOLUTIONS

MAP has worked continuously with Indian Health Services (IHS), USDA RD, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Santee Tribe to find feasible solutions to add a new water treatment facility, drill an additional well for capacity, and reconstruct delivery lines to the new facility. The new water treatment facility would treat common groundwater contaminants such as nitrates and manganese in their drinking water. Nitrates are often difficult to detect as they are generally odorless, tasteless, and colorless and are prevalent contaminants in rural water sources through fertilizers, septic systems, and manure storage. Manganese can have an off-taste or odor, turning the water brown or rusty. High levels of both nitrates and manganese can affect public health.

If constructing a new water treatment facility to treat their current water source is not feasible, the tribe plans to derive a water solution from an alternate source that would provide treated water to the current facility – eliminating the nitrate and manganese issues. With the help of Brosz Engineering, the tribe hopes to continue the long path of finding safe drinking water by incorporating the current project into an existing expansion plan to lower the cost of water. The need for safe drinking water is a



"Having an organization like MAP to utilize is a tremendous asset and absolute necessity. Our ability to operate, comply [with regulations] and ensure our community sustains a healthy environment is more dependent on organizations like MAP with each passing day.

Key aspects of our operation that MAP has assisted with are as follows: organized workshops to identify issues with water quality and quantity in the Santee area, assisted with financial and managerial aspects towards future water projects, facilitated between federal organizations as well as state and local agencies, conducted research and feedback to the community, identifying solutions to Santee water quality issues." -- Mike Crosley, Land Manager, Santee Sioux Nation

primary concern for many in the surrounding area. This momentum has the potential to become a regional water solution and provide water quality and quantity solutions for many communities, not just the tribal lands.

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITATION

In addition, MAP has been working with the Santee Tribe to add an alternative solid waste facility to increase capacity and reconstruct the existing facility. IHS completed its report and approved \$7.5 million in funding for the solid

waste collection point project. The facility will allow the tribe to keep their land free of debris dumping and contaminating the groundwater. MAP offered to assist the tribe in obtaining a grant/loan through USDA RD to cover their portion of the project with the hopes of receiving a 75% grant, and a 25% loan to ease the burden on the community.

MAP has created engagement and facilitated at all levels in developing a strategy specific to the tribe's infrastructure and desired goals and continues to work closely with the leaders of Santee to identify solutions.



Pictured left to right: Dave Henry, Treasurer; Kameron Runnels, Vice Chairman; Jon Johnson, Bazile Creek; Carrie Rouillard, Howe Creek; Stuart Redwing, Council Secretary



PFAS Sampling: Protecting Drinking Water

Water sampling container.

by Brett Brehm, Project
Manager/ Technical
Assistance Provider

Over the past several years, concerns about per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have made news headlines worldwide. PFAS is a man-made chemical considered a lifetime chemical that will never degrade. The chemical makes products resistant to stains, grease, soil, and water. You can find PFAS in non-stick cookware, Teflon tape, fast food packaging, Tyvek suits, stain-resistant carpet, fire-fighting foam, sunscreen, insect repellent, and metal plating to list a few. According to recent research, more than nine thousand manufactured chemicals include PFOA and PFOS formulas today, which is a

guesstimate. Labs can complete many types of analysis, but the two contaminants of most concern are PFOA Perfluorooctanoic acid and PFOS Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid. The following two are known to be in over 95% of blood samples in humans and animals across the globe. PFOA and PFOS are linked to increased cholesterol, thyroid disruption, low birth weight, reduced immune response, and cancer. Currently, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working to implement lower health advisory limits. The current health advisory limit would be equivalent to 3.5 drops of water in an Olympic-sized swimming pool that contains 660,000 gallons. Scientists are working on solutions to dispose of such chemicals properly but have little to no answers besides using an incinerator that will reach over one thousand degrees Celsius due to PFAS being thermally stable.

PROPER SAMPLING OVERVIEW

Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) has helped small communities across Midwest states with PFAS sampling. One of the major steps is preparation prior to sampling to ensure your sample is not rejected. Communication is required with the lab to ensure they do PFAS sampling. What is the timeline that samples must be received at the lab? Does the sample need overnight shipping to meet the timeline? Where is the closest shipping store, and what is the



latest drop time? Some labs may allow longer hold times but the sample must be received at a proper temperature, or it will be rejected. Once the sample is collected, how long before it must be on ice? Check with your lab for complete instructions, however, you should be using wet ice only. Do not open the cooler before collecting the sample to lessen the risk of contamination.

The individual taking the sample has many requirements to follow to ensure the sample does not result in a false-positive test: No new clothing or boots containing Gore-Tex, no materials containing Tyvek, wash clothes a minimum of 5 times if new, do not use fabric softener or dryer sheets, no cosmetics such as moisturizers, hand cream, hair gel or hair spray, no sunscreen, no perfume or cologne, no insect repellent, do not interact with pre-wrapped food or snacks, carryout food, fast food, post-it notes, permanent markers, no plastic clipboards, binders, spiral hardcover notebooks, no adhesives, no aluminum foil, no blue ice packs. Be sure to have powder-free nitrile gloves during sampling. If anyone accompanies you to the testing site, ask them to step out during the sample collection process. Ensure your sampling location is the point of entry to your system.

It is also best to have a sampling tap that is thread-free and Teflon-free.

STAYING COMPLIANT

What if the results come back positive? MAP recommends contacting your lab to obtain further sampling bottles and take a repeat sample from the previous sampling point and each well individually. Ensure you flush each well for a minimum of 15 minutes prior to collecting samples. During your water plant inspection, if there is a pretreatment sampling tap, collecting a sample from this location would be recommended. Several treatment options are currently available, including carbon filtration and ion exchange that can be added to water treatment plants. Other options include drilling a new well or a transmission line from a neighboring community with no PFAS detects. MAP can provide guidance and pursue grants and

funding options to help with PFAS removal.

Recently, the Biden Administration announced proposing the first-ever national drinking water standard for six per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Through this proposal, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking a significant step to protect public health from PFAS pollution by establishing legally enforceable levels for six PFAS known to occur in drinking water. This proposal leverages the latest science & complements state efforts to limit PFAS.

MAP continues to focus on rural development issues and remains current on all applicable government regulations and policies and their impact on small communities. Technical assistance and training are available to small systems through MAP to promote compliant and sustainable infrastructure.



Pictured: water flowing during a MAP site visit to conduct PFAS Sampling

Small Community Workforce Development

by Sherry Schmidt, Project Manager/
Technical Assistance Provider

The role of a municipality clerk is crucial in ensuring the proper functioning of a city. Often, the clerk is the only employee of the city entrusted with the responsibility of being the official record keeper, financial manager, and liaison between the council and the public. In some cases, small towns and rural clerks are also responsible for managing the water and wastewater departments, which directly impacts the city's ability to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), the Clean Water Act (CWA), and maintain the overall financial stability of the system.

Unfortunately, training opportunities for clerks are often limited due to the variety of work that needs to be done and the lack of available training resources. To address this issue, the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) and representatives from each of the six RCAP regions have collaborated to develop a training curriculum and certification program focusing on leadership and management training for drinking water and wastewater clerks.



Small town street and city hall sign pictured above.

EMPOWERING MUNICIPAL CLERKS

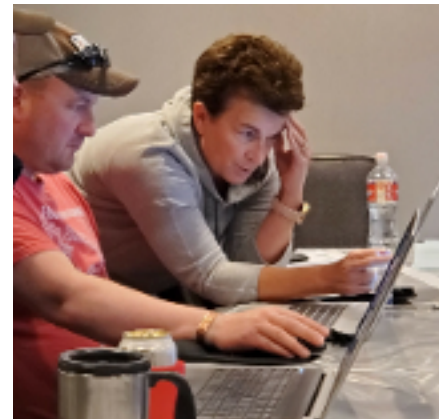
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Workforce Development Program was initiated to develop this training curriculum and certification program. In November of 2022, subject matter experts from each of the six regions of the RCAP national network of nonprofit partners met at the RCAP national office in Washington, D.C. The group used the psychometric process to determine the knowledge, skills, and abilities that drinking water and wastewater clerks need to assume leadership and management roles within their operations. First, the group identified core duties water and wastewater clerks perform to ensure compliance and financial stability. The next step was to break down each core duty into tasks requiring completion. Once these functions were identified, definitions

of how a clerk would specifically complete each task were detailed. The final result was the formation of a comprehensive list of duties and tasks, along with directions on how to complete each of them.

BLUEPRINT FOR TRAINING CURRICULUM

In January 2023, each region sent a survey to clerks working throughout the nation. The survey received an overwhelming response and validated the accuracy of the duties and tasks identified in the EPA Workforce Development Program. Psychometricians analyzed the results of the survey also to determine reliability and validity. The outcomes of the EPA Workforce Development Program include increasing the overall knowledge base of water and wastewater clerks to maintain system compliance, increase employee retention, a better appreciation of clerks, and an increased number of systems working towards system compliance. This program will benefit small towns and rural areas where clerks have a broader range of responsibilities and limited training opportunities.

Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) expresses its gratitude to all those who participated in the survey and contributed to the program. The core duties and tasks identified by the program will serve as a blueprint for the training curriculum and certification exam, which will be developed in the program's later stages. As this training program continues to develop MAP will provide updates to the clerks within their region.



Pictured: Small Town street with water tower and stop sign (top)

MAP Staff working at computers during training session (bottom).

Pictured below: The EPA Workforce Development Workgroup during their meeting in Washington D.C. November of 2022.





Worker repairing water main.
Photo by Sherry Schmidt.

Water & Wastewater Recruiting Approaches

by Lonnie Kevin Clark, Project Manager/ Technical Assistance Provider

Water and wastewater utilities have a growing need for qualified operators to maintain our communities' safe drinking water and help to protect our environment and resources for the future. With the growing number of retiring operators from the baby boomer era, the utility profession is struggling to keep up.

Every day people in the United States rely on drinking water and wastewater plant operators. They depend on turning on their faucet and getting a glass of safe drinking water or watering their gardens or crops that go into the nation's food chain. Operators keep the public and environment safe by ensuring raw sewage does not contaminate waterways and aquifers. The importance of the service these operators provide is enormous.

According to the USDA Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) signed in February 2020, "More than 97% of the nation's 153,000 public water systems serve fewer than 10,000 persons, and 78% of the nation's 15,000 wastewater treatment plants treat less than 1 million gallons per day." The communities that fall into these categories suffer a considerable challenge of keeping the water and wastewater services affordable while maintaining a sustainable utility. Out of these systems, it has been estimated by the U.S. Department of Labor "that a projected 8.2% of existing water operators will need to be replaced annually between 2016 and 2026."

WORKING HAND-IN-HAND

Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) works hand-in-hand with small communities on administrative functions and tackling tough questions such as how to fill the vital role of an operator or clerk. MAP can assist the utility by reviewing job descriptions and evaluating compensation considerations for employees requiring certifications or working in hazardous conditions. MAP evaluates budget constraints and compares different recruiting approaches. MAP can facilitate



Worker fixing water main.

conversations with local organizations such as the chamber of commerce, regional planning commissions, veterans associations, or vocational schools to seek candidates who reside within or near the community. The system can also consider discussing contract agreements with neighboring communities to share a certified operator. MAP offers continuing education training to operators to retain their certifications and can provide preparatory materials for studying for certification exams. MAP can work closely with newly hired operators or clerks to train them on job duties.

Small systems have unique needs and share the nation's struggle to fill critical roles. Jodi Hilsabeck, Internal Programs Manager's advice to these challenges is, "It's all about having your toolbox and reaching in to grab those resources that are available to you, such as assistance from MAP, which will allow you to continue to find opportunities, grow, and benefit the community in which you live."

VIRTUAL TRAINING AVAILABLE!

MAP hosted a virtual online Lead and Copper Workshop early this year with nearly 200 attendees. The workshop provided an overview of the revised Lead and Copper Rule (LCRR) and service line inventory requirements. In addition, the training also discussed the tools and resources available to assist with creating the service line inventory and the funding options available for lead service line replacement. Another virtual online training focused on hydrant flushing, spring preparedness, and coliform sampling drew over 150 operators. Instructors provided best practices for fire hydrant unidirectional flushing, preparing hydrants for spring, proper water sampling, and taking monthly coliform samples. These virtual online workshops are offered at no cost to the attendee and provide an opportunity to reach operators, clerks, board, and council members throughout MAP's nine-state region.



CHECK OUT
UPCOMING
TRAINING!

Featuring Kristina Hartley

by Erin Miller, HR/
Communications
Coordinator

Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) is proud to feature Kristina Hartley, Missouri Field Manager, who has been with the organization for 15 years. Kristina has over twenty years of operations experience in the water and wastewater industry, with a strong emphasis on environmental safety and health. Kristina manages day-to-day operations for MAP Project Manager/Technical Assistance Provider staff in Missouri and leads sizable projects simultaneously from initiation to final execution. She is responsible for scheduling and facilitating regulatory and funding partner coordination meetings and maintaining outreach and reporting with environmental programs, policies, and regulations. She determines project scopes, requirements, and deliverables. Kristina provides technical assistance to small community systems, including facility evaluations, reviewing operational issues, and providing emergency management and capital improvement project planning. She is responsible for reviewing plans and specifications before final approval and ensuring



compliance with state and federal regulatory agency requirements. Kristina is a Certified Water Operator holding Missouri 6200 Distribution and Backflow Tester Certification ASSE 22292. She has produced multiple articles featured in the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) publications Drop of Knowledge and Rural Matters and MAP's Source magazine. Kristina has conducted training throughout her tenure with MAP on the subjects of backflow, board and council training, clerk and operator recertification, water, and wastewater training. She has also worked closely with the American Water Works

Association (AWWA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide training supporting small community systems. Kristina has developed several materials, including operator and board training manuals, a user-cost-rating evaluation study, and a walk-through facility evaluation form.

Before joining MAP, Kristina worked as a utility operator and worked her way to the Director of Public Works. Kristina maintained daily operations, budgeting, and managing the water, wastewater, streets, and parks department. She also spent many years in industrial and municipal water and wastewater treatment and management. In 2008, Kristina joined MAP as a Technical Assistance Provider working with project communities and utilities to provide guidance, training, and technical assistance to improve or develop water, wastewater, and solid waste systems. In 2022, Kristina was promoted to State Field Manager in Missouri: "I am



"The ever-increasing changes and demands on our time and resources can create immense stress on our personnel. MAP and Kristina Hartley, in particular, make our work and our working lives much easier to bear. The vast resources she has and the knowledge she offers help us navigate a sometimes dark and long trail. It may just be a simple question, or a form, or a large project or major undertaking and we know that help is a phone call away. We are amazed at the depth of knowledge and patience that Kristina, especially, but all the staff has." – Sherrie Anderson, Village Manager, Bull Creek, Missouri



"Kristina completed a user rate study to help the board understand the cost of our daily and annual operations. Our board feels they have an improved understanding and increased knowledge base for our future needs of our system and daily operations and management." -- Donna L. Jackson, Utility Manager. Village of Flemington, Missouri

proud of the strong team we are creating. Teamwork makes all the difference."

Kristina reflects that her most fulfilling experience working with MAP is "watching a community break ground on a project that was years in the making. Driving by communities I've worked with that are now compliant or have state-of-the-art facilities is very rewarding." Kristina has consistently provided the highest quality service and attention to detail throughout her career. She demonstrates a steadfast partnership when working with communities: "The nature of my work isn't always demonstrated with a large impact. Often my rewards are in the steps taken, and knowing I was there to support the process." Kristina's advice to people who are just beginning their careers, "Don't get discouraged. In almost every industry, there is a learning curve, you just need to be open."

In her free time, she also enjoys a cup of coffee on her porch, visiting with neighbors and watching her plants grow. She enjoys spending time with her dogs and gardening.

MAP recognizes the resilient efforts Kristina has provided throughout her career. She embodies the spirit of dedication and leadership that creates momentum for impact and sustainability. Her ability to pinpoint precisely where to direct efforts

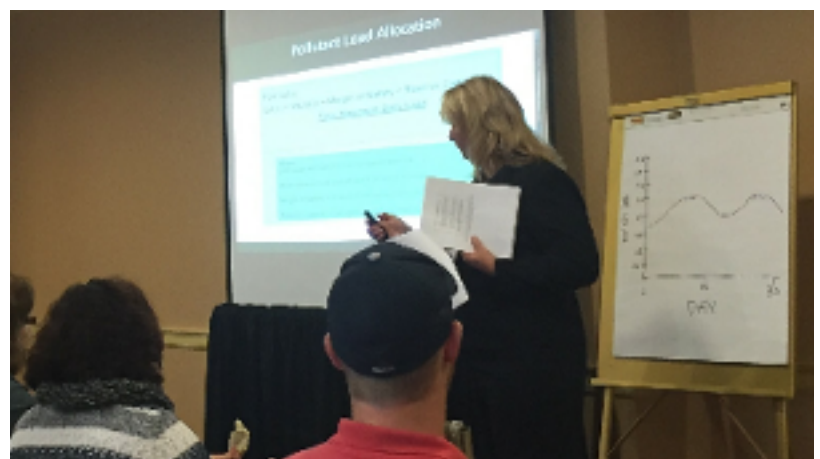


Kristina working in Linn County, Missouri collecting GIS points.

allows for leverage of the most successful outcomes. Kristina's best advice to small communities about the challenges they face with their water and wastewater infrastructure is, "You've inherited a system that has most likely outlived its useful life. Surround yourself with a strong team and take advantage of the resources around you."



"Kristina is a seasoned member of MAP. She has encountered many changes during her long-standing service, and has demonstrated the ability to adapt to changing times, while preserving the tried and true methods that still get results. She displays a deep and sincere commitment to serving the drinking and wastewater systems of Missouri, and has impacted a significant number of communities and citizens during her tenure with MAP. I have respect and admiration for Kristina's direct approach to her work, as well as her candor and willingness to be a team player. She is a joy to work with, and I appreciate the confidant and reliable colleague she is." Chris Jewett, MAP CEO



Kristina presenting during a water operator training.

Rural Partnership



Corsica water tower.

by LeAnn Kerzman,
Programs Director & Interim
South Dakota Field Manager



Corsica Mayor
with city
employee.

As a grant recipient of the Rural Community Development (RCD) program within the Office of Community Services (OCS), Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) provides technical assistance to build capacity, create, expand, and maintain safe, affordable water and wastewater systems in rural areas. With support from this program, Jackie Luttrell, Project Manager/ Technical Assistance Provider (PM/TAP) for MAP, has been working with the town of Corsica, population 563, located in the southeast region of South Dakota. Jackie has assisted Corsica with annual financial

reporting, loan compliance, conducted a rate study, surcharge tracking, annual budget preparation, Finance Officer training, and conversion to a new financial/billing software system. Most recently, she returned to assist with Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. Corsica is receiving continued support from MAP GIS department to ensure their maps are available electronically.

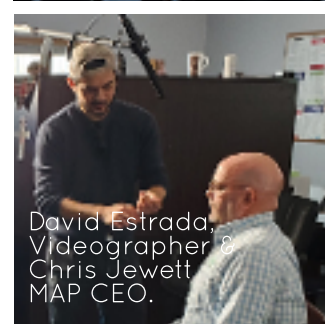
MAP received a request from national leaders in the Office of Community Services to create a personal, telling, and timely story relating to the work MAP performs to assist communities through RCD funds. Jackie was quick to volunteer the project of Corsica for this unique spotlight. MAP confirmed the event with Corsica management and staff, who were receptive to being included in a recorded interview featured in the national OCS RCD Grant Recipient Spotlight Video Campaign.

MAP's Chris Jewett, CEO; LeAnn Kerzman, Field Manager; Jackie Luttrell, PM/TAP met on-site in Corsica with

Interviewer Shannon Kring, Videographer David Estrada, and Corsica staff to create a video shoot. Shannon and David directed all aspects of the process, from site selection, shot angles,



Corsica Mayor
Austin Luebke
during interview.



David Estrada,
Videographer &
Chris Jewett
MAP CEO.

backgrounds, and verbiage. Kring utilized pre-phrased questions to assist with supportive answers. A driving tour was completed and additional footage was shot with a drone. Corsica Mayor Austin Luebke was instrumental in

his availability, input, expertise, storytelling, and securing additional interviewees. MAP issued thanks to the city and Mayor Luebke for their willingness to share their story. Because of the financial support of the RCD program through OCS, MAP is able to provide technical

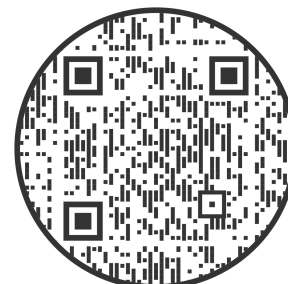
assistance to financially disadvantaged communities at no cost.



Jackie Luttrell,
MAP Project
Manager/TAP
during interview.



Shannon Kring,
Interviewer.



WATCH
THE VIDEO!

Central Montana Water Project

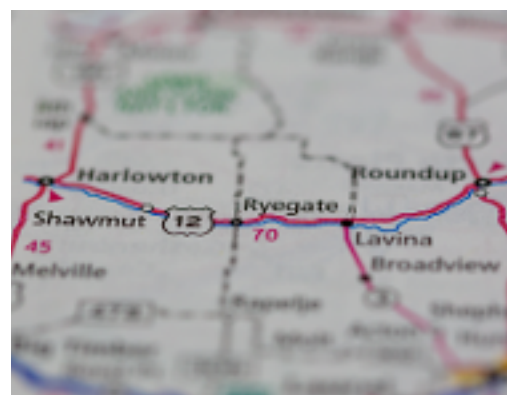
by: Josh Jabalera, Project Manager/
Technical Assistance Provider

Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. (MAP) has assisted the Central Montana Water Project, a regional water system consisting of a core transmission line of about 230 miles, to supply water for many Montana communities and initially serve 5,800 residents. The project began Phase 1 construction in 2022. Harlowton, Montana is the first town to receive a connection to utilize the service. During 2023, Phase 2 of the project will connect Roundup, Montana to the system. MAP has assisted with community outreach meetings and provided guidance on the funding available for the systems planning to connect to the regional system.

Approximately 60 million dollars has been approved for funding at the state and federal levels through Phase 2. Subsequent phases will connect systems to the regional system that includes: Melstone, Hobson, Broadview, Ryegate as well as Shawmut, Montana. MAP is currently assisting with compliance required by the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA RD) under the letter of conditions, including budget reporting and developing an emergency response plan. MAP has also assisted many communities within this rural region with operator training and reviewing system requirements for sampling and monitoring as well as operation and maintenance. MAP will continue to provide assistance to small system utilities to find solutions for their water and wastewater systems.



Worker laying underground water system (pictured above). MAP of Highway 12 between Harlowton and Roundup, Montana (pictured below).



SOURCE

Midwest Assistance Program, Inc.
Phone: 660-562-2575
Email: map@map-inc.org
Website: www.map-inc.org

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.
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MARYVILLE, MO 64468

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

