

**ND WPCC**

North Dakota Water & Pollution Control Conference

# OFFICIAL BULLETIN

VOLUME 110

MAY - AUGUST 2022

NUMBERS 7-9

## CONFERENCE ISSUE





water | transportation | municipal | facilities

If you set the bar at competence,  
how do you reach excellence?





**Editor**  
*Jake Schafer*

**Business Manager**  
*Laura J Lee*

**Contributing Authors**  
*Drinking Water Program Staff*  
*NDWPCC Members*

# OFFICIAL BULLETIN

*Official Publication of the*  
*North Dakota Water and Pollution Control Conference*

**Conference Issue**

**Established 1935**

**VOL. 110**

**May-August 2022**

**NOS. 7-9**

The objectives of this Conference shall be: the advancement of the knowledge of design, construction, operation and management of water and wastewater systems; the promotion and encouragement, through annual meetings or otherwise, of an exchange of information and experience among its membership; the promotion and encouragement of the protection of public health and improved environment through the construction and efficient operation of water supply and wastewater treatment facilities; and the promotion of water and wastewater system operator education and certification programs.

*Article II of the Constitution of the*  
*North Dakota Water and Pollution Control Conference*

PRESIDENT - Jim Lennington  
PRESIDENT-ELECT - Lance Meyer  
VICE PRESIDENT - Scott Schneider  
DIRECTORS - Gabe Schell, Luci Snowden, Jeannie Schultz Mock,  
and Lisa Botnen  
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR - Joe Reiter  
SECRETARY-TREASURER - Shawn Heinle  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY-TREASURER - Jake Schafer

## INDEX TO ADVERTISERS

*The services and products of the following represented firms are deserving of your best consideration.*

<b>FIRM</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Ackerman Estvold .....	27, 35
Apex Engineering .....	Inside Cover, 27
Backflow Prevention Services .....	Inside Back Cover
Bartlett & West .....	33
Burian Associates .....	33
Core and Main .....	9, Inside Back Cover
Houston Engineering .....	2, Inside Back Cover

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
2022 Conference Activities .....	3
Joint Board Meetings Schedule .....	4
NDWPCC Tuesday .....	6
NDWPCC Wednesday .....	7
NDWPCC Thursday .....	8
2022 Operator Certification Report .....	10
NDWPCC Conference History .....	24
AWWA Fall Minutes .....	26
AWWA Spring Board Minutes .....	28
WEF Advocates .....	32
DEQ Non-Community Backflow Memo .....	34
Program Directories .....	36
2023 Surface Water Treatment Workshop .....	Back Cover

**CONFERENCE BUSINESS PHONE:** 701-328-6627

The advertising contained in the *Official Bulletin* describes the products and services offered by companies in the water and wastewater industries. The listings are paid advertising. The publishers of the *Official Bulletin*, members of the North Dakota Water and Pollution Control Conference and the water and wastewater organizations that support its publication are not responsible for the accuracy of the advertisements nor any claims made therein.

**On The Cover:** BNSF Railway Bridge Missouri River - Adobe Stock

# IMPROVING COMMUNITIES ONE PROJECT AT A TIME

Surface Water Modeling

Water Resources

Water Supply

Flood Control


Public Drainage

Stormwater

Water Quality

Environmental



 **HOUSTON**  
engineering, inc.

[houstoneng.com](http://houstoneng.com)



OFFICIAL BULLETIN, May - August 2022



**2022 ND WATER AND POLLUTION CONTROL CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES  
OCTOBER 11-13**

**REGISTRATION**

<b>Tuesday</b>	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
<b>Wednesday</b>	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
<b>Thursday</b>	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Entrance Dakota Ballroom

**pH CERTIFICATION**

<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
----------------	------------------------

Environmental Training Center  
2639 East Main Ave

**MEALS**

<b>Tuesday Lunch</b>	11:30 a.m.
Courtyard	
<b>Tuesday Buffet</b>	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Courtyard	
<b>Wednesday Free Buffett Breakfast</b>	8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Sponsored by Vendors and Suppliers	
Dakota Ballroom	
<b>Wednesday Lunch</b>	11:45 a.m.
Courtyard	
<b>Wednesday Social</b>	5:30 p.m.
Courtyard	
<b>Wednesday Banquet</b>	6:30 p.m.
Dakota Ballroom	
<b>Thursday Lunch</b>	12:00 p.m.
Courtyard	

**YP POSTER COMPETITION**

<b>Wednesday</b>	8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
------------------	------------------------

Dakota Ballroom Entrance

**TABLETOP DISPLAY PROGRAM  
Dakota Ballroom**

<b>Tuesday</b>	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Check in at the Registration Desk	
<b>Tuesday</b>	7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Setup Time	
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:00 a.m. - 7:30 a.m.
Last Chance Setup Time	
<b>Wednesday</b>	7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Display Hours	
<b>Wednesday</b>	1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Takedown Time	

**GOLF TOURNAMENT**

<b>Tuesday</b>	1:00 p.m.
----------------	-----------

**Prairie West Golf Course**  
2709 Longspur Trail  
Mandan, ND  
-Will be shotgun start with 48 golfers, otherwise tee times

**FIELD TRIPS  
Transportation will be provided**

<b>Tuesday</b>	1:30 p.m.
----------------	-----------

**Mandan Projects**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

<b>Wednesday</b>	
<b>Legacy Jazz Choir</b>	5:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.
Courtyard	

**LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE**

Allen Kemmet  
Jim Lennington  
Jennifer Malloy







12:00 p.m.                      **Business Meeting**  
NDAWWA  
Dakota Ballroom

1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.        **Concurrent Sessions**  
Heart Room, Sheyenne Room, Cannonball Room

**Thursday**

8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.        **Concurrent Sessions**  
Grand Pacific Room, Patterson Room, Lamborn Room

12:00 noon                      **Business Meetings**  
NDWEA and NDWPCC  
Courtyard

**FUTURE CONFERENCES**

**2022** – Bismarck, October 11-13, Ramkota Hotel

**2023** – Grand Forks, October 17-19, Alerus Center

**2024** – Minot, October 15-17, Clarion Hotel



11:30 a.m.  
Luncheon and Business Meeting, NDAWWA  
Courtyard  
President Jim Lennington, Presiding

**NDWPCC**  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022**  
**AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

Welcome: Bismarck Mayor Mike Schmitz and  
NDWPCC President Jim Lennington

<b>Session A</b>		<b>Session B</b>		<b>Session C</b>	
Heart Room of the Missouri Room Moderator: Troy Hall	Getting the Most out of Your Wells and Wellhouses	Sheyenne Room of the Missouri Room Moderator: TBD	Sustainability Management Action Plans (SMAPs) for Wastewater Systems	Cannonball Room of the Missouri Room Moderator: TBD	SRF Bipartisan Infrastructure Funding
1:30 p.m. Title:	Kristofer Knutson, Apex and Mike Plante, LRE Water	1:30 p.m. Title:	Julie Hein and Ward Heidbreder, NDRWSA	1:30 p.m. Title:	Shannon Fisher, NDDEQ
Speakers:	Kristofer Knutson, Apex and Mike Plante, LRE Water	Speakers:	Julie Hein and Ward Heidbreder, NDRWSA	Speaker:	Shannon Fisher, NDDEQ
2:30 p.m. Title:	Lead and Copper Rule Revisions: Funding, Inventorying, and Replacement Planning	2:00 p.m. Title:	More Than a Motorcycle Rally: New MBR WRRF for Sturgis	2:30 p.m. Title:	City Maintenance and Operations 101
Speaker:	Jared Huibregtse, Bartlett & West	Speaker:	Dustin Dale, AE2S	Speakers:	NDRWSA Circuit Riders
3:00 p.m.	Break, Courtyard	3:00 p.m.	Break, Courtyard	3:00 p.m.	Break, Courtyard
3:30 p.m. Title:	Media Filters	3:30 p.m. Title:	Mandan Master Lift Station	3:30 p.m. Title:	Sediment Control & Water Quality
Speaker:	Tyrel Clark, Moore Engineering	Speaker:	Mike Berg, Apex	Speaker:	Corydon Coppola, Flo-Water LLC
4:30 p.m.	Adjourn	4:00 p.m. Title:	Inflow and Infiltration	4:30 p.m.	Adjourn
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Buffet Dinner, Courtyard	Speakers:	Panel	4:30 p.m.	Adjourn



7:30 - 11:30 a.m. Tabletop Display Program,  
Dakota Ballroom  
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Free Breakfast Buffet  
Dakota Ballroom

**NDWPCC**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2022**  
**AFTERNOON CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

12:00 p.m. Luncheon and Business Meetings, NDCAPWA,  
Courttyard President Jennifer Malloy, Presiding

**NDAWMA Session**

Heart Room of the Missouri Room  
Moderator: David Bruschwein

1:30 p.m. Title: Basics of Corrosion & Protections  
For Ductile Iron Pipe

Speaker: John Johnson, McWane Ductile

**NDWEA Session**  
Sheyenne Room of the Missouri Room  
Moderator: TBD

1:30 p.m. Title: Bismarck WWT Facility

Speaker: Travis Carufel, City of Bismarck and  
DelRon Peters, HDR

2:00 p.m. Title: Fargo ERF Expansion

Speaker: Ryan Grubb, AE2S

**NDCAPWA Session**  
Cannonball Room of the Missouri Room  
Moderator: TBD

1:30 p.m. Title: English Coulee Case Study

Speakers: Savana Schrauer and Meredith  
Quinn, AE2S

2:30 p.m. Title: Impacts of PFAS

Speaker: Bill Gefroh, City of  
Bismarck

2:30 p.m. Title: Bismarck's Hay Creek Interceptor  
and Lift Station

Speaker: Mike Berg, Apex

2:30 p.m. Title: Tools for Designing Successful Pump  
Station Wet wells

Speaker: Gabe Bladow, Houston Engineering

3:00 p.m. Break, Courtyard

3:00 p.m.

Break, Courtyard

3:00 p.m.

Break, Courtyard

3:30 p.m. Title: Horizontal Directional Drilling for  
Ductile Iron

Speaker: John Johnson, McWane Ductile

3:30 p.m. Title: Electrical Design Considerations

Speakers: Adam Wahler, AE2S

3:30 p.m. Title: Backflow Prevention

Speaker: Mitch LeBas, Backflow

4:30 p.m.

Adjourn

4:30 p.m.

Adjourn

4:30 p.m.

Adjourn

5:30 p.m.

Social Hour, Courtyard  
Entertainment: Legacy Jazz Choir

6:30 p.m.

Banquet: Dakota Ballroom  
Invocation: TBD  
Master of Ceremonies: TBD



**NDWPCC  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2022  
MORNING CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

<b>Session A</b>	<b>Session B</b>	<b>NASECA-ND Session</b>
<p>Heart Room of the Missouri Room Moderator: Alan Kemmet</p>	<p>Sheyenne Room of the Missouri Room Moderator: TBD</p>	<p>Cannonball Room of the Missouri Room Moderator: TBD</p>
8:00 a.m. Title: Managing PFAS	8:00 a.m. Title: Wastewater Speed Dating	8:00 a.m. Title: Introduction to Microsurfacing
Speaker: Jacob Strombeck, AE2S	Speakers: NDWEA	Speaker: Thomas Wood, Astech Corp.
8:30 a.m. Title: Nitrification Control Strategies for Water Distribution Systems		8:30 a.m. Title: Funding Water Infrastructure
Speaker: Dean Sletten, Apex		Speaker: Abby Ritz, AE2S
9:00 a.m. Title: Ceramic Membranes		9:00 a.m. Title: Strategies to Mitigate Inflation and Supply Chain Impacts
Speakers: Tyson Decker and Jack Fletcher, Bartlett & West		Speaker: Nate Weisenburger, AE2S
10:00 a.m. Break, Courtyard	10:00 a.m. Break, Courtyard	10:00 a.m. Break, Courtyard
10:30 a.m. Title: Developing a Plan for Water Main and Lead Service Line Replacement Case Study - Dickinson	10:30 a.m. Title: Cybersecurity 101	10:30 a.m. Title: New Flood Mapping Changes
Speakers: Scott Schneider and Kristofer Knutson, Apex	Speaker: Kyle Koterba, Apex	Speakers: Apex/KLJ
11:00 a.m. Title: Water Operations Panel		
Speaker: Ward Heidbreder, NDRWSA		
11:30 a.m. Adjour	11:30 a.m. Adjour	11:30 a.m. Adjour
12:00 noon Joint Luncheon and Business Meetings, NDWEA and NDWPCC, Courtyard NDWEA Chair Sarah Waldron Feld and NDWPCC President Jim Lennington Presiding		



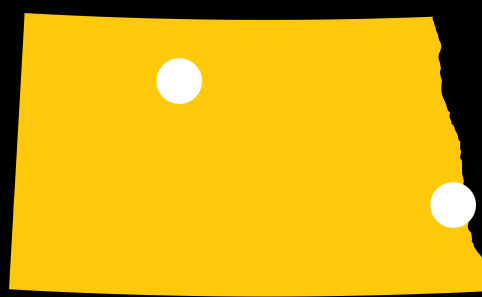


# WE'RE ALL ABOUT *North Dakota*

Water is our expertise. Excellent customer service is our passion. We are the voice on the other end of the line, ready to answer any of your waterworks questions. No matter your project, Core & Main has the solution. Give us a call to get started.

**A Leading Specialized Distributor of Water, Wastewater and Storm Drainage Products, and Related Services.**

**[coreandmain.com](http://coreandmain.com)**



**Minot**  
701-852-6878

**Fargo**  
701-219-7480

**Local Knowledge | Local Experience | Local Service, Nationwide®**



North Dakota Operator  
Certification Program  
2022 Annual Report to the  
U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency

July 29, 2022

# Table of Contents

Introduction .....	3
Authorization .....	3
Classification of Systems, Facilities, and Operators.....	4
Public Water Systems.....	4
Certified Operators.....	4
Table 1.....	5
Table 2.....	5
Operator Qualification .....	5
Grade Qualification Requirements.....	5
Grade I.....	5
Grade II.....	6
Grade III.....	6
Grade IV.....	6
Active Operators.....	7
Table 3.....	8
Exam Pass Rates.....	8
Table 4.....	8
Operator Certification - Capacity Development Partnership.....	9
Grandparenting.....	9
Enforcement.....	10
Facility Enforcement.....	10
Operator Disciplinary Action.....	10
Certificate Renewal.....	10
Certificate Renewal and Professional Development.....	10
Table 5.....	11
Resources Needed to Implement the Program.....	11
Recertification.....	12
Stakeholder Involvement.....	12
Rulemaking.....	12



Drinking Water Meeting Groups.....13  
Water Newsletter.....13  
Program Review..... 13  
Conclusion/Summary.....13

Appendices

Appendix A

*Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Certification State Law*

Appendix B

*Water and Wastewater Facility Operators State Administrative Code*

Appendix C

*Attorney General's Certification of Enforceability*

## Introduction

In 1999, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued operator certification program guidelines specifying minimum standards for certification and recertification for the operators of community and non-transient non-community public water systems. The goal of the operator certification program is to protect human health by ensuring that skilled professionals are overseeing the treatment and distribution of safe drinking water. Operator certification is a crucial step in promoting and maintaining compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), and oversight of the program ensures that these steps are taken.

The State of North Dakota's Operator Certification Program was approved as consistent with the *Final Guidelines for the Certification and Recertification of the Operators of Community and Non-Transient Non-Community Public Water Systems*, on September 27, 2000.

This is North Dakota's annual program report to EPA for state fiscal year 2022. In accordance with the guidelines, this report addresses the status and continued implementation of North Dakota's program for the 9 baseline standards for both community and non-transient non-community water systems. The nine program components include:

1. Authorization
2. Classification of systems, facilities and operators
3. Operator qualifications
4. Enforcement
5. Certification renewal
6. Resources needed to implement the program
7. Recertification
8. Stakeholder involvement
9. Program review

## Authorization

The State of North Dakota's Department of Environment Quality (NDDEQ), Division of Municipal Facilities (DMF), has been delegated responsibility for the oversight of public water systems in the State of North Dakota to ensure compliance with and enforcement of the provisions of the North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Title 23.1 and the North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) Article 33.1-19.

There was a statutory and/or regulatory change that required a new Attorney General's Certification for the North Dakota's Operator Certification Program. The fees collected for taking an exam and for operator recertification were increased in the NDAC. The new Attorney General's Certification is attached to this report.



# **Classification of Systems, Facilities, and Operators**

## **PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS**

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for classifying all public water system's treatment and distribution facilities in accordance with the provisions of NDAC Article 33.1-19-01-08 and 08.1. Treatment classification is based on specific design features that include treatment processes and their complexity, source water type, and design capacity. Distribution systems are classified based on the population they serve. Water treatment facilities are classified as Class 1A, Class I, Class II, Class III, or Class IV. Class IV is the highest level of classification.

## **CERTIFIED OPERATOR**

NDAC Article 33.1-19-01-03 and 11 requires every water and wastewater facility to be operated under the supervision of a certified operator in direct responsible charge who holds a certificate equal to or greater than the classification of the facility. An operator holding a Class II classification or higher is considered to have direct responsible charge. All operator certifications, names, identification and the classification of the PWSs, are tracked in a Microsoft Office Access Database System. The regulation also leaves all process control and system integrity decisions to the certified operator in direct responsible charge or another operator holding a certificate equal to or greater than the classification of the facility in accordance with the North Dakota New Water System Capacity Assessment Manual. The certified operator in direct responsible charge or another operator who holds a certificate equal to or greater than the classification of the facility must always be available during operating hours of a water treatment or distribution facility.

Compliance with operator certification requirements is North Dakota's Safe Drinking Water Program's priority (Table 1).

Non-compliance is a result of one of the following circumstances:

1. A certified operator has not been designated by the system's owner.
2. The operator's certificate has expired.
3. The operator's certificate is not at the correct level for the facility they are operating.

In SFY2022, 125 letters were sent out to operators that were out of compliance with operator certification requirements. In SFY2022, there were no instances where NDDEQ staff wrapped operator certification deficiencies in with other possible system violations.

**Table 1.** This table shows the number of facilities in community water systems (CWS) and non-community systems (NCWS), and non-transient non-community (NTNC) water systems. It also shows the number of facilities in compliance in each of these categories and their respective compliance rates.

Water System Matrix						
Water System Types	Total Number of Facilities	Facilities in Compliance	Compliance Rate (%)	Grade	Number of Water Treatment Facilities	Number of Water Distribution Facilities
CWS	420	287	68.3	1A	31	183
NCWS				I	7	73
				II	30	49
				III	36	7
NTNCWS	9	5	55.6	IV	10	3
Total	429	292	61.9	Total	114	315

**Table 2.** This table breaks down compliance rates between CW treatment and distribution and NTNC treatment and distribution and their respective compliance rates.

Systems Compliance Rates			
System Types	Number of Facilities	Facilities in Compliance	Compliance Rate (%)
Community Treatment	111	78	70.3
Community Distribution	309	209	67.6
NTNC Treatment	3	2	66.7
NTNC Distribution	6	3	50.0
Total	429	292	68.1

## Operator Qualification

### GRADE QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

33-19-01-12. Operator qualifications. The following grade qualifications are intended to be as nearly compatible as possible to the corresponding facility or system classification. 1. Grade IA. a. Completion of high school or equivalent, and a minimum of six months of acceptable operation of a facility or system of class 1A or higher. b. A combination of education qualifications and experience that will be satisfactory to the department. No substitute may be permitted for minimum experience requirements, unless an exception is granted under section 33-19-01-07. 2.

#### GRADE I.

- A) Completion of high school or equivalent, and a minimum one year of acceptable operation of a facility or system class I or higher; or
- B) A combination of education qualifications and experience that will be satisfactory to the department. No substitute may be permitted for minimum experience requirements, unless an exception is granted under section 33-19-01-07. 3.



## **GRADE II.**

- A) A four-year college degree and a minimum one year of acceptable operation of a facility or system of class I or higher, one year of which must have been in a position of direct responsible charge;
- B) Two years post high school education and a minimum two years of acceptable operation of a facility or system of class I or higher, one year of which must have been in a position of direct responsible charge;
- C) Completion of high school or equivalent, and a minimum three years of acceptable operation of a facility or system of class I or higher, one year of which must have been in a position of direct responsible charge; or
- D) A combination of education qualifications and experience that will be satisfactory to the department. No substitute may be permitted for the minimum experience requirement, unless an exception is granted under section 33-19-01-07. 4. Grade

## **GRADE III**

- A) A four-year college degree and a minimum two years of acceptable operation of a facility or system of class II or higher, two years of which must have been in a position of direct responsible charge;
- B) Two years post high school education and a minimum three years of acceptable operation of a facility or system of class II or higher, two years of which must have been in a position of direct responsible charge;
- C) Completion of high school or equivalent, and a minimum four years of acceptable operation of a facility or system of class II or higher, two years of which must have been in a position of direct responsible charge; or
- D) A combination of education qualifications and experience that will be satisfactory to the department. No substitute may be permitted for the minimum experience requirement, unless an exception is granted under section 33-19-01-07. 5.

## **GRADE IV**

- A) A four-year college degree and a minimum three years of acceptable operation of a facility or system of class III or higher, two years of which must have been in a position of direct responsible charge;
- B) Two years of post-high school education and a minimum four years of acceptable operation of a facility or system of class III or higher, two years of which must be in a position of direct responsible charge;

- C) Completion of high school or equivalent and a minimum five years of acceptable operation of a facility or system of class III or higher, two years of which must have been in a position of direct responsible charge; or
- D) A combination of education qualifications and experience that will be satisfactory to the department. No substitute may be permitted for the minimum experience requirement, unless an exception is granted under section 33-19-01-07.

**ACTIVE OPERATORS**

The State of North Dakota requires that each operator must have a High School Diploma or GED and have a defined minimum of on-the-job experience before taking an examination. Each operator must also pass an exam appropriate for the classification of the system to which they are applying. The state requires separate treatment and distribution certificates, and many operators hold multiple certificates. North Dakota has a group of field inspectors, operators, staff engineers, rule managers and management that discuss changes to the exams when new rules are implemented or when significant changes to the base knowledge, skills and abilities of any classifications of operators are made. Annually, the Op-Cert. coordinator works with operators to get feedback on exams and the training courses that were provided throughout the year.

There were 1,124 active certificates with a total of 442 treatment certificates and 682 distribution certificates (Table 3).

In North Dakota, an operator holding a Level II classification or higher is considered to have direct responsible charge, and in state fiscal year 2022 there were 281 water treatment and 266 water distribution operators with a Level II or higher certification.

**Table 3.** The table shows the number of active operator certificates within the different system grades and differentiates between the water treatment systems and water distribution systems.

Active Operator Certificates		
Grade	Water Treatment	Water Distribution
1A	71	171
I	90	245
II	123	146
III	58	82
IV	100	38
Total	442	682

**EXAM PASS RATES**

Successfully passing exams is vital to maintain a steady workforce of certified operators, and for this reason, DEQ has chosen not to utilize third party sources to conduct examinations.

The average pass rate for treatment exams was 47% percent, and the average pass rate for distribution exams was 51% percent. The overall pass rate for water treatment and distribution for state fiscal year 2022 was 49% percent, and the overall pass rate for water treatment and distribution for state fiscal year 2022 was 58% (Table 3). The program has not made any changes to requirements that would explain the 9% drop in exam pass rates for the reporting year. The drop can be correlated with system size. Approximately 98% of the PWSs in North Dakota are small systems (i.e., PWSs with populations  $\leq$  3,300 customers). These small systems employ only one water operator with water operations being only one fraction of their overall responsibilities (e.g., mowing, clearing roads, and animal control). Operators are generally lost due to retirement or resignation with recruitment of qualified operators hampered by declining population and financial constraints.

**Table 4.** This table shows the number of exams given for each grade of water treatment and water distribution, and the pass rates associated with them.

Grade	Exam Pass Rates			
	Water Treatment		Water Distribution	
	Exams Given (#)	Pass Rate (%)	Exams Given (#)	Pass Rate (%)
1A	17	58.8	31	93.5
I	29	48.3	53	58.5
II	22	54.5	39	28.2
III	6	33.3	6	50
IV	5	40	4	25

The amount of fluctuation can be attributed to several factors. First, many of the systems are small and purchase their water, so they are only required to have a certified operator for water distribution. Second, for many operators the care of the systems is not their primary employment, especially in smaller systems, and they feel it is not worth getting certified. Finally, many systems' certified operators have retired or taken other jobs and their replacements are working with NDDEQ to become compliant. These factors combined influence operator certification numbers now and for the foreseeable future.

**OPERATOR CERTIFICATION-CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP**

MAP (Midwest Assistance Program) and NDRWSA (North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association) work in partnership with NDDEQ. The partnership between these two entities impacts operators and system owners on a grassroots level to improve compliance, enhance water quality, help managerial, financial, and technical efforts for the systems future, and to protect public health. MAP and NDRWSA's purposes are to provide technical, managerial, and financial assistance, by conducting one-on-one and/or group trainings to public water systems



so they can strengthen their knowledge and ability to supply safe drinking water to the public and to protect their source water.

The division has increased outreach to operators to address the identified areas of concern:

- The Division sponsors no or low-cost trainings offered in multiple sites across the state with a focus on operations, math, and regulations.
- MAP and NDRWSA provided 63 on-site, individual operator training sessions at no cost, and classroom-style training sessions and presentations.
- Division compliance, operator certification, and engineering staff regularly present at conferences, seminars, and other training venues throughout the state on various regulatory compliance topics.
- MAP provides support for North Dakota's Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (NDWARN) and works with NDDEQ to provide systems and operators with emergency preparedness and response training.

As stated previously, operators need a minimum amount of experience (time with the system) to qualify for exam testing. When operators apply for an exam, the operator certification database verifies that the minimum amount of experience has been met. This is calculated using the operator's application information like the start date for the operator. Letters of acceptance or rejection for exam testing are then sent to the applying operator.

## **GRANDPARENTING**

North Dakota did not implement the provisional, temporary, or grandparenting options. North Dakota requires that all affected PWSs employ operators certified at an appropriate level under North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) Article 33.1-19-01-03 and 11.

## **Enforcement**

### **FACILITY ENFORCEMENT**

Article 33-17, North Dakota Public Water Supply Systems, of the NDAC and NDCC Chapter 61-28.1 provide the statutory authority to issue an Administrative Order for violations of SDWA regulations. The Department has the authority to bring this action pursuant to NDCC Chapter 61-28.1-03.

In state fiscal year 2022, there were 1,124 certifications, 138 certifications were revoked.

Lastly, North Dakota does not suspend licenses. In the program, operators are either active or revoked. Certificates can be revoked for multiple reasons including, the operator is deceased, lack of continuing education credits (CECs), or the non-payment of fees.

### **OPERATOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION**

In state fiscal year 2022, no enforcement action was needed based solely on operator certification.

# Certificate Renewal

## CERTIFICATE RENEWAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NDCC Chapter 23.1-07 provides the Department the legal authority to promulgate rules necessary to administer an operator certification program. A certificate issued under these provisions is valid for one year and expires the first of July the following year.

The Department is authorized to charge an examination fee not to exceed \$50 for initial certification, or more than \$25 for annual renewal. Certification fees are currently set at \$50 per examination and \$25 per certificate of renewal. Renewal notifications, reimbursement cards, and six-month reminder letters are sent each renewal period. Operators have one year to make a payment or return a signed reimbursement waiver before certification is revoked. Operators are required to earn twelve continuing education credits (CECs) by attending training programs, seminars, and workshops developed or officially recognized by the NDDEQ within three years of certification date. The credits are good for a three-year period from the date the operator obtained the credits.

If any operator fails to meet any condition of these requirements, then, NDDEQ will revoke their certification. NDDEQ does not suspend certifications. The NDDEQ ensures that all trainings, seminars and workshops are appropriate if operators are to receive credit for the course.

**Table 5.** This table shows the number of operators that have renewed their certificates in either water treatment or water distribution at each grade.

Operator Certificate Renewal		
Grade	Water Treatment	Water Distribution
1A	70	170
I	89	245
II	121	145
III	57	81
IV	99	37
Total	436	678

Sixty-two courses were approved for operator professional development, and approximately 830 operators attended the training courses. Many of these classes were held multiple times within state fiscal year 2022. The price for each course varies from no charge to several hundred dollars for multiple day training events.

Trainers submit applications for CECs training courses to be approved by NDDEQ, and upon completion of the training courses, the course is entered into the database. Trainings that we know about in advance (e.g., MAP and NDRWSA) are provided on our website at <https://deq.nd.gov/MF/> and on our website calendar at <https://deq.nd.gov/calendar.aspx>.

## **RESOURCES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM**

Program resources continue to be provided through the collaborative effort of existing NDDEQ programs and stakeholder involvement. The experience and expertise of program staff, technical assistance providers, and the many professional organizations involved contribute to and enhances program success.

The NDDEQ continues to provide financial assistance through State funded Operator Expense Reimbursement, Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) two percent (2%) set-aside, and Public Water System Supervision Program.

NDCC 23.1-07-05 allows NDDEQ to charge a fee for certificates issued under this chapter, but the fees may not exceed \$50 for the initial certificate, or \$25 for the annual renewal certificate. All receipts from the fees must be deposited in the state treasury to be credited to a special fund to be known as the "operators' certification fund," to be used by the department to administer, enforce and financially assist the department in conducting operator training programs. Any surplus at the end of the fiscal year must be retained by the department for future expenditures.

Operator certification fees help fund agency staff. All agency staff funding is provided through state general funds, general program fees, and various federal grants. The division has one full-time employee dedicated to operator certification. In addition, compliance is checked by the drinking water and enforcement staff during on-site field inspections (i.e., sanitary surveys). Facility classification is done at the time of design review by engineering section staff. The division's data system, management, and administrative staff members provide necessary support for the program as well. In total, there are three division staff members with responsibilities or input related to the certified operator program, and there has not been a decrease or increase of the mentioned staff members. Under the current organization, North Dakota has sufficient resources to implement its operator certification program now and into the future.

## **Recertification**

Certificates are valid for one year from the date of issue. Once an operator's certificate has expired, they are no longer certified. A certificate may be restored, through renewal, for up to one year after the expiration date. A certificate is automatically revoked after one year from the expiration date of the certification (July 1 on any year). Subsequently, if a person desires to re-certify they are treated as a new applicant in the certification process and must sequentially re-test.

## **Stakeholder Involvement**

### **RULEMAKING**

Stakeholder involvement continues to be a critical element instrumental to program success.



North Dakota DEQ and the North Dakota Water and Pollution Control Conference (NDWPCC) continue to offer annual training sessions at the Department's environmental training center. The NDWPCC also jointly sponsored the 90th Annual NDWPCC conference with the North Dakota Water Environment Association (NDWEA), the North Dakota Chapter of the American Water Works Association (NDAWWA), the North Dakota Chapter of the American Public Works Association (NDCAPWA), and the North Dakota Chapter of the North American Stormwater and Erosion Control Association (NASECA). The North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) and North Dakota Environmental Health Association (NDEHA) also continue to provide annual training, conferences, and expositions.

The Department continues to contract with the North Dakota State Plumbing Board, local/district health units, and technical assistance providers such as the North Dakota Rural Water System Association (NDRWSA) and the Midwest Assistance Program (MAP). Contracts with the State Plumbing Board and health units provide continued support to the public water supply and inspection programs. Contracts continue with technical assistance providers to help systems with system start-ups, fiscal management reports, capacity development, sanitary survey follow-up visits, operator certification, compliance monitoring in accordance with Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule, and RTCR Level 1 and Level 2 Assessments. Also, the NDRWSA, MAP, and NDAWWA will continue to provide additional training events for operators.

Operators had the opportunity to attend one annual conference, 9 water treatment and distribution workshops, 6 wastewater treatment and collection training sessions, 3 backflow bootcamp workshops, 2 RCAP/AWWA small systems training, the Rural Water Expo, 5 EPA trainings, 7 MAP half-day regional training, 26 NDRWSA training sessions and 6 trainings through colleges and universities. The Rural Water Expo and NDRWSA sessions were attended by a total of 436 operators. NDRWSA sessions included: operator certification, exam training, operations and maintenance training, NDDEQ Regulatory training, wastewater training, system viability, and funding training.

One-hundred and sixty-eight small system operators requested operator expense reimbursement for 36 events in state fiscal year 2022.

## **DRINKING WATER MEETING GROUPS**

DEQ holds two meetings annually. One is internal that is conducted in September of every year, and its members consist of seven NDDEQ staff members. The external meeting is held in October of every year, and its members consist of four water/wastewater operators, NDDEQ staff members, a utility manager, a conference representative, a representative of the public, and a technical assistance provider.

## **WATER NEWSLETTER**

DEQ publishes the Official Bulletin (OB) three times a year (i.e., beginning of July, end of September, and beginning of January of each state fiscal year), and the publication is sent to approximately 800 individuals that consists of regulators, consulting firms, communities, and a handful of colleges and universities.

Each newsletter contains at least one article specifically focusing on operator certification topics of interest and any changes to regulation. Other articles are provided by consulting firms. The OB also provides the minutes from internal and external board meetings.

## **Program Review**

The North Dakota Operator Certification Advisory Committee completed an external review October 13, 2021, in association with the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual NDWPCC Conference. An internal review by NDDEQ Drinking Water and Operator Certification Program staff was held September 27, 2021. Minutes of both meetings are attached. DEQ continues to work toward developing a standardized approach to conducting both internal and external reviews.

## **Conclusion/Summary**

The State of North Dakota's facility operator certification program is meeting the requirements for the nine Baseline Standards for community and non-transient non-community water systems in accordance with the guidelines. During covid, the state of North Dakota had no discernible impacts on training, exams, or staffing. The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality sent out letters to operators, and scheduled exams with limited capacity at our training center. Operator training was given for education credits through Bismarck State College online in 2021 and 2022. Within our workforce, two new inspectors have been hired. Our department is back in the office full time.

# CONFERENCE HISTORY

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Host City</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>President's Residence</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Host City</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>President's Residence</u>
2026	Bismarck						
2025	Fargo						
2024	Minot						
2023	Grand Forks						
2022	Bismarck	Jim Lennington	Bismarck				
2021	Fargo	Michael Quamme	Fargo				
2020	Minot	Wei Lin	Fargo				
	(Cancelled)						



<u>Conference</u>	<u>Host City</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>President's Residence</u>	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Host City</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>President's Residence</u>
2019	Bismarck	Mike Berg	Bismarck	1973	Jamestown	Russell Kain	Neche
2018	Grand Forks	Tracy Eslinger	West Fargo	1972	Williston	John Muus	Grand Forks
2017	Fargo	Joe Ferguson	Grand Forks	1971	Fargo	Donald Wenaas	Jamestown
2016	Minot	Seth Lynne	Fargo	1970	Minot	Harry Hanson	Bismarck
2015	Bismarck	Dan Jonasson	Minot	1969	Bismarck	Clarence Johnson	Garrison
2014	Fargo	Dean Sletten	Moorhead	1968	Dickinson	Bevan Shaw	Williston
2013	Grand Forks	Bill Getfroh	Bismarck	1967	Grand Forks	A.E. Forsman	Grand Forks
2012	Minot	Karla Olson	Fargo	1966	Mandan	Avin Mickelson	Casselton
2011	Bismarck	Chuck Abel	Bismarck	1965	Fargo	Ken Ruby	Fargo
2010	Fargo	Miranda Kleven	Grand Forks	1964	Minot	Al Swanson	Jamestown
2009	Minot	Lisa Ansley	Bismarck	1963	Valley City	Carl Torkelson	Grafton
2008	Bismarck	Terry Rust	West Fargo	1962	Williston	Glenn Berg	Minot
2007	Fargo	Mark Bionigen	Fargo	1961	Jamestown	Richard Fuller	West Fargo
2006	Minot	Tom Welle	Moorhead	1960	Bismarck	Frank Orthmeyer	Grand Forks
2005	Bismarck	Jack Long	Bismarck	1959	Grand Forks	Herbert Arnold	Williston
2004	Fargo	Rick Gillund	Endeclin	1958	Dickinson	L.W. Veigel	Dickinson
2003	Minot	Mike Schneider	Bismarck	1957	Fargo	Erik Peterson	Jamestown
2002	Bismarck	Pat Denne	West Fargo	1956	Mandan	Edwin Ostlie	Grand Forks
2001	Fargo	Charles Jaszowski	Bismarck	1955	Williston	Paul Hays	Minot
2000	Dickinson	Randal Loeslie	Thompson	1954	Grand Forks	C.M. Hagen	Oakes
1999	Minot	Paul Lachna	Valley City	1953	Minot	C.T. Stephenson	Jamestown
1998	Bismarck	Mel Bullinger	Bismarck	1952	Jamestown	Ed Booth	Bismarck
1997	Fargo	Wayne Tunseth	Mayville	1951	Fargo	H.H. Behlmer	Fargo
1996	Minot	Don Olatson	Valley City	1950	Bismarck	A.F. Hulteng	Grand Forks
1995	Bismarck	Waide Kritsky	Jamestown	1949	Dickinson	George Toman	Mandan
1994	Fargo	Byron Thronson	Minot	1948	Minot	R.J. Lockner	Cooperstown
1993	Minot	Joe Manning	Fargo	1947	Grand Forks	John Kleven	Grand Forks
1992	Bismarck	Tom Little	Mandan	1946	Mandan	S.K. Svenkeson	Minot
1991	Fargo	Richard Wannier	Bismarck	1945	Fargo	F.W. Pinney	Fargo
1990	Williston	Richard Resell	Williston	1944	Bismarck	Dave MacDonald	Bismarck
1989	Minot	Dwight Wurzbacher	Grand Forks	1943	Grand Forks	Joe Morrissey	Jamestown
1988	Grand Forks	Phil Furraus	Harvey	1942	Williston	Elmer Pearson	Minot
1987	Dickinson	Dale Hanson	Valley City	1941	Jamestown	R.M. Jensen	Grand Forks
1986	Bismarck	Dan Boyce	Grand Forks	1940	Wahpeton	William Nordley	Edgeley
1985	Fargo	Lyle Weeks	Minot	1939	Dickinson	William Yegen	Bismarck
1984	Williston	Kenneth Reynolds	Bismarck	1938	Minot	S.S. Calvelage	Jamestown
1983	Minot	Dale Townsend	Carrington	1937	Mandan	Ora Ayiffe	Fargo
1982	Mandan	Peter Blistad	Fargo	1936	Fargo	S.P. Ravnos	Mandan
1981	Jamestown	Don Cuskelly	Dickinson	1935	Grand Forks	H.T. Hintgen	Wahpeton
1980	Grand Forks	Don Erikson	Wafford City	1934	Bismarck	W.H. Robinson	Williston
1979	Bismarck	Ken Skuza	Fargo	1933	Jamestown	O.N. Bergman	Valley City
1978	Dickinson	Gerald Zander	Mandan	1932	Minot	E.L. Liium	Grand Forks
1977	Fargo	Keith Cornell	Grand Forks	1931	Fargo	W.P. Tarbell	Fargo
1976	Minot	Peter Mellmer	Bismarck	1930	Grand Forks	E.J. Thomas	Minot
1975	Mandan	Lyle Mitzel	Wahpeton	1929	Bismarck	A.L. Bavone	Bismarck
1974	Grand Forks	Daniel Reiter	Minot				

**Draft Minutes of the Business Meeting**  
**North Dakota Section of AWWA**  
**October 14, 2021**

The Business Meeting of the North Dakota Section of the American Water Works Association was held at the Holiday Inn, in Fargo, October 14, 2021.

Mr. Adam Zach called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

The minutes of the October 13, 2020, Business Meeting were sent to membership with the Business Meeting notice in September of this year. Mr. Zach asked for any corrections to the minutes. There were none. Motion to approve; seconded; motion carried. [Alan Kemmet/Fred Goetz]

Mr. Zach presented the Treasurer's Report. As of October 1, 2021, the section had income of \$22,084.03 and expenses of \$3,106.25. This leaves a net income for the year-to-date of \$18,977.78. The section has \$75,936.10 in the checking and money market accounts. The section also has \$86,446.48 in student support endowments and reserve accounts. There are no liabilities. Motion to accept; seconded; motion carried. [Troy Hall/Alan Kemmet]

Mr. Zach covered the 2020 audit report has been completed by Mr. Kemmet and Mr. Kershaw. Motion to accept; seconded; motion carried [Jim Lennington/Fred Goetz]

Tyrel Clark and Daniel Overmoe were brought forward by the nominating committee for the positions on the Board of Trustees. Mr. Zach presented biographies for Mr. Clark and Mr. Overmoe. No other nominations were submitted by petition as required by the Section's By-Laws. Motion to cast unanimous ballots for Mr. Clark and Mr. Overmoe; seconded; motion carried. [Fred Goetz/Troy Hall]

Mr. Zach presented Operator Certificates to AWWA members that either became certified or increased their certification level within the past 2 years. Those operators include: Josee Bitzan, Noah Cook, Erin Dammann, Charlie David, Jeff Lutz, Cal Oldenburg, and Janet Parton. James Anderson, Lisa Ansley, Troy Hall, Darrel Hournbuckle, Brett Jochim and Brian Weiss received the Silver Water Drop certificate for 25 years of continuous membership with AWWA in 2020. Wayne Gerszewski, Kevin Johnson and Dean Sletten received the Silver Water Drop certificate for 25 years of continuous membership with AWWA in 2021.

There was no other unfinished business.

The new business presented by Mr. Zach was that the vote on the Bylaw changes was postponed to a later date as there were still some issues needing to be addressed by the board before a vote could be held.

Mr. Zach announced that Brad Krogstad, Joe Zauner, Alan Kemmet, and Tim Freije were the winners of the Golf Tournament.

Incoming Section Chair, Mr. Jim Lennington, thanked out-going Section Chair Adam Zach for his work on the Board and as Chair.

Mr. Lennington adjourned the meeting at 12:11 p.m. Motion to adjourn; seconded; motion carried. [Jim Kershaw/Alan Kemmet]

Respectfully Submitted

Mitchell Murray  
Secretary/Treasurer

**We're setting the standard  
for engineering in North Dakota.**



**701.837.8737**  
**www.ackerman-estvold.com**

Minot, ND | Williston, ND



Fresh thinking. Practical solutions.

www.ApexEngGroup.com | info@ApexEngGroup.com



**Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**North Dakota Section of AWWA**  
**January 20, 2022**  
**Corrected May 17, 2022**

The winter meeting of the North Dakota Section of the American Water Works Association was held on January 20, 2022. Present at the meeting were Chair, Jim Lennington; Chair-Elect, Troy Hall; Past-Chair, Adam Zach; Director, David Bruschwein; Trustees, Jim Kershaw, Dan Overmoe, Tyrel Clark, and Alan Kemmet; Secretary/Treasurer, Mitchell Murray; Assistant Treasurers, Greg Wavra and Shawn Heinle. Others in attendance were Tami Madsen, Maggie Vaulman, Tyler Fode, Miranda Kleven, Maggie Sahr, Marisha Lunde and Dean Sletten.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lennington at 12:00 P.M.

The Secretary's Report was presented by Mr. Murray. Mr. Bruschwein moved to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2021, Fall Board Meeting, October 14, 2021, Fall Business Meeting, and October 22 and 29, 2021, Special Bylaws Board Meeting. Mr. Kemmet seconded, and the motion carried.

Mr. Wavra presented the Treasurer's Report. As of December 31, 2021, the Section had income of \$27,646.54 and expenses of \$10,287.27. This leaves a net income for the year-to-date of \$17,359.27. The Section has \$74,322.75 in the checking and money market accounts. The Section also has \$86,446.48 in student support endowments and reserve accounts. The 2022 budget is still being finalized as we are waiting to receive the final bank statement for December of 2021. NDAWWA received \$1,700 per USDA training held as opposed to the projected \$1,500 for the USDA trainings that were held in 2021. A vote was held to approve \$6,000 into the budget for the contract employee that will be working with NDAWWA. Mr. Hall moved to approve \$6,000 into the 2022 NDAWWA budget for the contract employee. Mr. Zach seconded, and the motion passed. Mr. Wavra noted that web fee increases will be incorporated into the budget. The NDAWWA Section uses QuickBooks to keep track of finances and the desktop version is no longer available, so the online version is the only available option and comes with increase costs.

#### Committee Reports

##### Education & Research

Ms. Lunde reported that they are working on planning the 2023 Surface Water Treatment Workshop, getting operator scholarships, reaching out to representatives for the regional and state fairs, and providing prizes and potentially judges for those fairs as well. Ms. Lunde volunteered to be a judge at the state fair this year.

##### Membership

Mr. Kershaw recommended that another round of cybersecurity training should be scheduled, and he has been in contact with Bismarck cyber security looking into this. Mr. Kershaw stated that he has been in contact with BSC on scholarship availability and there have been no applicants up to this point. There are 3 weeks of operator training in March and the trainings dealing with water and wastewater will be combined this year. There will be a new version of the Membership Newsletter coming soon. Some articles included in the newsletter include Dr. Lin's retirement, upcoming trainings, updates on the Lead Service Line Replacement Rule, etc.

#### Water for People

Charlie Vein retired so we are looking for someone to chair the Water for People Committee. Ms. Klevens volunteered to chair the Water for People Committee. No solicitations for donations were held in 2021. The Board recognized the 2020 donations. Mr. Kemmet volunteered to help out on the Water for People Committee.

#### Water Utility Council

Mr. Bruschwein reported that the D.C. fly-in is planned to return to normal this year.

#### Young Professional and Student

Discussion was held about combining the Young Professional and Student Committee with the Education and Research Committee.

#### Investment Committee

Mr. Sletten reported that the Investment Committee met with a representative from Wells Fargo about investments and noted that we do not currently have any investment policies. There was discussion held on opening an account with Wells Fargo and what kind of flexibility would be included with that account. Multiple emails can be added to a Wells Fargo account that will send out notifications of any activity occurring with that account. Mr. Sletten mentioned that the Investment Committee is looking into investing a portion of the NDAWWA Section's funds. The Committee would like to get permission from the Board to move \$20,000 from the Section's Money Market account into a Wells Fargo account and invest it. Mr. Sletten also recommended that the Board forms a team to manage this account. Ms. Vaulman mentioned that the Section's insurance does have crime coverage for directors and officers. Mr. Clark motioned to open a Wells Fargo account as recommended by the Investment Committee. Mr. Hall seconded, and the motion carried.

#### By-Laws Committee

Mr. Bruschwein reported that the Bylaws have been sent to the Executive Committee for review and comments. Ms. Vaulman reported that the Executive Committee approved the Bylaws with 2 minor changes. The Bylaws, including the 2 minor changes, will be sent to Mr. Lennington, Mr. Bruschwein and Mr. Murray for further review.

#### Public Relations Committee

Mr. Kemmet requested a mailing list for the NDAWWA membership to have all the contact information to send things out. The Social Media Policy is included with the Policies and Procedures manual.

#### Policy and Procedures Committee

Mr. Lennington mentioned that the Policy and Procedures Committee used examples of Policies and Procedures sent by Ms. Vulman from the Arizona Section as the template for NDAWWA's Policies and Procedures manual.

#### Section Staff

Mr. Sletten reported that we do have an interested applicant. An example contract for this position was sent to Mr. Sletten and he forwarded it on to a couple Board members and Ms. Vulman for review. Ms. Vulman gave a couple recommendations on how to improve the contract including changing the notice period to state the specific person who receives the notice of termination, adding the hours that the contractor will work, include a data acceptable use policy, add a place for the contractor to electronically store NDAWWA records, state if this contractor can sign other contracts on behalf of the Section or approval processes, add spending limits that the contractor has using NDAWWA funds and include a portion on taxes and insurance for the contractor. The contractor should get their own insurance and file taxes using a 1099 form. Discussion was held on how the contractor will be managed and who they should report to. The contract price would be estimated to cost \$4,800 to \$6,000 a year. Mr. Murray reported that he will be resigning from the NDAWWA Secretary Treasurer position on February 10, 2022.

#### Director's Report

Mr. Bruschwein reported that the next president-elect for the AWWA Board is Mr. Pat Kurr. In 2021, AWWA operated at a loss. The loss was projected to be around 4 million dollars but ended up only being a 1-million-dollar loss. AWWA received less income as membership was down and everything was being held virtually as opposed to in-person. AWWA is projecting to operate at a loss of 2 million dollars in 2022, and then be back in the positive in 2023. AWWA will be providing input into cybersecurity and training for people in the water sector. EPA will continue to put cyber security information into sanitary surveys.

#### Old Business

Mr. Bruschwein reported that we may look into doing Conflict of Interest forms in January of every year due to the new trustees that come to the Section.

Discussion was held on moving the Strategic Planning session to a 5-year rotation. The Board recommended having a meeting on this 1 year from now.

#### New Business



Mr. Zach, Mr. Kershaw, and Mr. Sletten volunteered to be on the Trustee Committee. The Fuller Award Committee is comprised of the previous 5 winners of the Fuller Award. Of the previous 5 Fuller Award Winners, 2 have retired. Mr. Sletten and Ms. Klevens will reach out to Mr. Brett Jochim to ask if he would be interested in volunteering on the Fuller Award Committee. Mr. Sletten, Mr. Wavra and Mr. Heinle volunteered to be on the Operator Meritorious Committee. Ms. Lunde and Ms. Madsen volunteered to be on the Education and Research Committee, with Ms. Lunde as Chair. Ms. Klevens volunteered to be Chair of the Water for People Committee. Mr. Wavra, Mr. Lennington, and Mr. Kemmet volunteered to be on the Water for People Committee. Mr. Kemmet moved to accept the nominations for the Chairs on the aforementioned committees. Auditing Committee Chair is Mr. Kemmet, with Mr. Wavra and Mr. Heinle as volunteers on this committee. Mr. Kemmet amended his motion to include the statutory positions on the committees. Mr. Wavra seconded, and the motion carried.

Mr. Kershaw, Mr. Talley and Mr. Sletten were on the Donations Committee last year. Mr. Sletten recommended that the Section stays with the current donations. Mr. Sletten also recommended that the Section makes a \$1,000 donation to the River Keepers Association in Fargo. Since the UND Section is not currently active, and extra \$1,500 will be available to the NDSU Section. It was recommended that the Section increases their donation amount by \$250 for the Grand Forks Science Center and keep all other donation amounts the same as they were last year. Mr. Hall motioned to make the aforementioned donation adjustments. Mr. Kemmet seconded, and the motion carried.

Ms. Lunde reported the committee roles for the Education and Research Committee, and they include running the meeting ahead of the NDWPCC, gather volunteers for NDAWWA events, help with the drinking water taste test booth, assist with the YP poster competition, and present winners at the banquet during the NDWPCC. Other Education and Research Committee roles include awarding the operator scholarship, helping with State and Regional Science Fairs, and planning the Surface Water Treatment Workshop. Mr. Kershaw reported the committee roles for the Membership Committee, and they include retaining existing members, gaining new members, engaging members to be active within the Section, and providing webinar topics of interest.

Discussion was held on the Section's Zoom account and how limited the use has been so far. It was decided to continue with the Zoom subscription for 2022 and table the discussion on if the Section should continue with this subscription for a future meeting.

Chair Lennington thanked all for the work they do to keep the Section moving forward.

Mr. Zach moved, and Mr. Clark seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted  
Mitchell Murray Secretary/Treasurer

Water  
Environment  
Federation

BECOME A  
**WATER  
ADVOCATE**



## WEF Members are the Experts When it Comes to Challenges Facing the Water Sector!

Speak up and share your knowledge with those who are making decisions on funding and regulations. Aging infrastructure, new and updated regulations, resiliency issues, coupled with economic pressures are placing unprecedented stress on local governments and agencies that provide essential water services. With reduced revenues, federal elected officials are being called upon to make tough choices that will impact water quality and the viability of our communities for generations to come.

As water professionals, we can create a better path—a path that leads to public appreciation for the value of water, investment in our essential water infrastructure, and a better quality of life for our states and communities. [WEF's Water Advocates Program](#) is a simple and effective way for you to become more involved with engaging elected officials, the public, and other interested stakeholders on important water issues. The Water Advocates Program provides training and engagement to promote grassroots advocacy with the goal of creating a network of trained water advocates not only in every member association, but also in every state and U.S. Territory.



Please visit the Water Advocates website at <http://bit.ly/wef-water-advocates> and let your voice be heard, or email Amy Kathman at WEF to join the Water Advocates program: [akathman@wef.org](mailto:akathman@wef.org)

Include your name, title, organization, address, e-mail, and telephone number. After you sign up, you will be in the Water Advocates program and receive important announcements about bite-size actions you can take to help, right from your computer.



**EDUCATE**



**ENLIGHTEN**



**ENGAGE**



It sometimes takes  
a fresh perspective  
to bring complex  
challenges into focus.  
We're here to help.

From conceptualization  
through construction, we  
offer services at all stages  
of the project life-cycle.

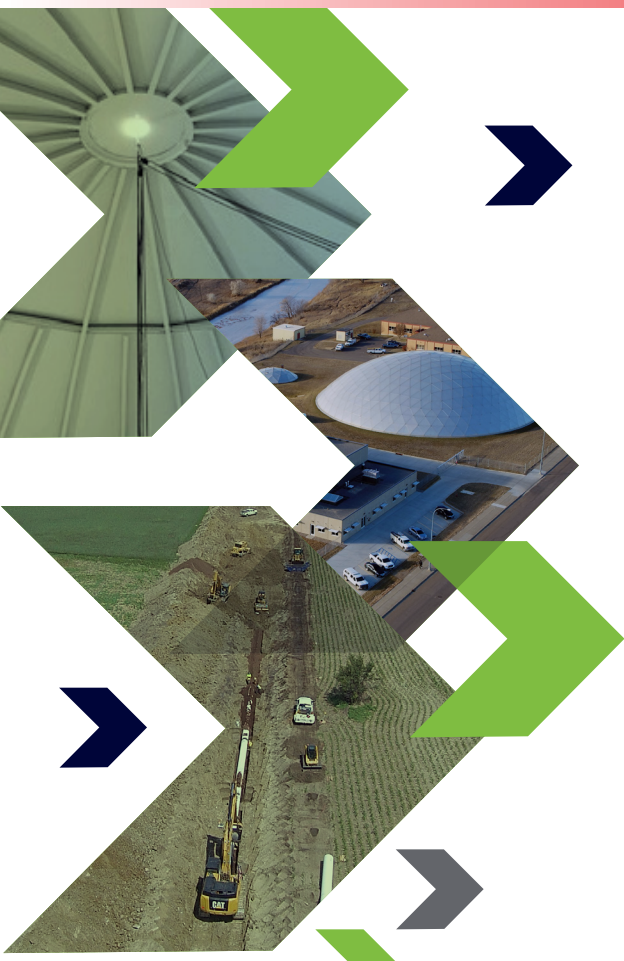
**water**  
**wastewater**  
**water resources**  
**municipal**

**BURIAN**   
& ASSOCIATES LLC



Fargo | Grand Forks | Mandan  
701-478-7999

[burianassociates.com](http://burianassociates.com)



**Bartlett  
& West**

## Water Solutions for community growth

For 70 years, Bartlett & West has worked with our clients to advance water infrastructure by offering a variety of water-related services.

- Regional and Rural Water Systems
- Preliminary, Feasibility and Design Reports
- Rate Analysis, Studies and Reports
- Short and Long-range System Planning
- Regulatory Compliance Strategies and Planning
- Public Information and Funding Application Aid
- Water Source - Well, Intake, Purchase Contracts
- Water Treatment Design
- System Analysis, Design and Modeling Including Piping, Pump Stations, Controls and Storage
- Construction Phase
- Federal, State and Local Permitting
- GIS and GPS Data
- Survey and LiDAR

3456 E Century Avenue

Bismarck, ND

(888) 200-6464

[www.bartlettwest.com](http://www.bartlettwest.com)

## MEMORANDUM

TO: North Dakota Public Water Systems (PWS)

FROM: Division of Municipal Facilities – Drinking Water Program

RE: North Dakota Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control Program

DATE: September 1, 2022

As you know, North Dakota Administrative Code states that all public water systems need to provide cross-connection control within their water supply systems. The DEQ has been more flexible in enforcing this regulation in the past, however, effective April 1, 2023, the state will increase its emphasis on compliance and enforcement of this regulation. In the future, compliance (or lack of) will be indicated on your sanitary surveys.

All Non-Community and Transient PWSs will need a written Backflow Prevention and Cross Connection Control (BPCCC) containment program. This same requirement went into effect for Community and Non-Transient PWSs April 1, 2022. The BPCCC containment program will help protect drinking water from backflow hazards. In addition to the required containment program, PWSs may voluntarily develop a BPCCC comprehensive program, which is industry standard best practice, to protect against all backflow hazards. Details about the required and voluntary programs, as well as available trainings and dates are available at NDDEQ's website at <https://deq.nd.gov/MF/BPCCC/>

North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) 33.1-17-01-19 (Protection of Public Water Systems) requires that water suppliers provide cross-connection control within their water supply systems. Commercial and residential facilities are required to protect the potable water supply in accordance with the local jurisdictional plumbing codes. If there is no local code, then the North Dakota Plumbing Code applies. The BPCCC program will ensure that PWSs are compliant with the regulations in NDAC 33.1-17-01-19.

NDAC 33.1-17-01-19 prohibits the installation or permitting of cross connections **except** when approved by the authority having jurisdiction and suitable protective devices are installed, tested, and maintained on a yearly schedule to ensure proper operation.

To develop their mandatory BPCCC containment programs, PWSs will be required to survey their systems to identify all potential cross connections that occur within publicly owned buildings or properties (city hall, fire station, etc.). They must then ensure all such hazards are protected through the proper backflow prevention device or assemblies. **This will enable the PWS to meet the basic containment program requirement.** PWSs may elect to develop even more robust BPCCC comprehensive programs on a voluntary basis.

If you have any questions concerning this memorandum, contact Jacob Schafer (701) 328-6375 or Shawn Heinle (701) 328-6627.





## MAKING YOUR SAFETY A REALITY EVERY DAY

Ackerman-Estvold are the regional experts who have been re-shaping the landscape in an effort to protect our community from future catastrophes. Part of this work includes innovative and new concepts for flood control, while other solutions rely on proven, time-tested components of engineering like placing rip-rap along river banks to protect the land from scour and erosion.

Whether pursuing the future of engineering or relying on the proven past, Ackerman-Estvold will make your safety a reality.

CIVIL ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE

MINOT, ND | FARGO, ND | WILLISTON, ND | BOISE, ID

[WWW.ACKERMAN-ESTVOLD.COM](http://WWW.ACKERMAN-ESTVOLD.COM)

## Drinking Water Program Directory

<b>Program Administrator</b>	Greg Wavra	701-328-5257
Acrylamide and Epichlorohydrin Rule	Josh Seerup	701-328-5257
Arsenic Rule	Stacey Herreid	701-328-5287
Backflow Prevention and Cross-Connection Control Program	Jake Schafer	701-328-6375
Consumer Confidence Reports	LeeAnn Tillotson	701-328-5293
Disinfectant/Disinfection Byproducts Rule (TTHM, HAA5) Stage 1 and Stage 2 Rule	Olivia Griffith	701-328-6624
Electronic Reporting Information System (ERIS)	All Staff	701-328-5211
Filter and Backwash Recycle Rule	Roxela Friesz	701-328-5297
Fluoride Addition	Stacey Herreid	701-328-5287
Groundwater Rule	Roxela Friesz James Uhlman	701-328-5297 701-328-5163
Inspections: Northeast	Vance Wingerter	701-328-5175
Inspections: Northwest	Bryce Peters	701-328-5209
Inspections: Southeast	Jake Schafer	701-328-6375
Inspections: South Central	Marlon Bell	701-328-6623
Lead and Copper Rule	Sandy Washek	701-328-5190
Surface Water Treatment Rule: Interim Enhanced, Long Term 1 Enhanced, Long Term 2 Enhanced	Greg Wavra	701-328-5224
Microscopic Particulate Analysis (MPA)	All Staff	701-328-5211
Nitrate/Nitrite Program	Stacey Herreid	701-328-5287
Operator Certification	Craig Bartholomay	701-328-6626
Operator Expense Reimbursement/Public Notice Rule	LeeAnn Tillotson	701-328-5293
Operator Training	Shawn Heinle	701-328-6627
Pesticides (SOCs)	Olivia Griffith	701-328-6624
Primary and Secondary Inorganics	Olivia Griffith	701-328-6624
Public Water System Updates (changes to source, treatment, contact, etc.)	David Christianson	701-328-5178
Radionuclide Rule: Gross Alpha, Total Radium, Uranium	Stacey Herreid	701-328-5287
Total Coliform Rule	Maggie Siebel Josh Seerup	701-328-5231 701-328-5257
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring	LeeAnn Tillotson	701-328-5293
Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs)	Olivia Griffith	701-328-6624

**Central Phone: 701-328-5211**

**Fax: 701-328-5200**

## North Dakota Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program Directory

<b>Program Administrator</b>	Marty Haroldson	701-328-5234
Animal Feeding Operations	Brady Espe Rachel Strommen Julianna Kari	701-328-5228 701-328-5244 701-328-5285
Biosolids	Sarah Waldron-Feld	701-328-5237
Construction Stormwater	Dallas Grossman Sam Devries Kylee Harrison	701-382-5242 701-328-5236 701-328-5187
Dewatering and Hydrostatic Testing	Sarah Waldron-Feld	701-328-5237
Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs)	All Staff	701-328-5210
DMR Quality Assurance (QA) Study	Marty Haroldson	701-328-5234
Industrial Pretreatment	Montana Kruske Lawrence Hanson	701-328-5172 701-328-5291
Inspections	All Staff	701-328-5210
Lagoon Overflows/Releases/Spills	All Staff	701-328-5210
MS4 Stormwater	Dallas Grossman Sam Devries	701-328-5242 701-328-5236
Public Notices/NDPDES Permits	All Staff	701-328-5210
Septic Pumper	Sam Devries Julianna Kari	701-328-5236 701-328-5285
Wastewater Discharge Approvals	All Staff	701-328-5210

# BACKFLOW

## PREVENTION SERVICES

Training

Consulting



Software Solutions

14617 Perkins Road  
Baton Rouge, LA 70810

225-763-6960  
bps@bpsbr.com

[www.backflowpreventionservices.com](http://www.backflowpreventionservices.com)



**WE'RE  
ALL ABOUT**

*North Dakota*

Fargo 701-219-7480 | Minot 701-852-6878

[coreandmain.com](http://coreandmain.com)

**HOUSTON**  
engineering, inc.

Proudly serving North Dakota  
communities with water solutions.

[houstoneng.com](http://houstoneng.com)

North Dakota Offices

Bismarck | Dickinson | Fargo | Grand Forks | Minot



**Official Bulletin**

N.D. Water & Pollution Control Conference  
Environmental Training Center  
2639 East Main Avenue  
Bismarck, ND 58501

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #433  
BISMARCK, ND  
ZIP CODE 58501



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**2023**  
**SURFACE WATER**  
**TREATMENT WORKSHOP**

April 18-20 | Hilton Garden Inn | Fargo, ND

Abstracts Due: August 31, 2022

[www.awwand.org/SWTW](http://www.awwand.org/SWTW)



SPONSORED BY MNAWWA, NDAWWA, AND SDAWWA