MISSION STATEMENT
To provide technical assistance, training, and a strong representative voice for the benefit of Idaho’s drinking water and wastewater utility systems.
Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization originally formed in 1987 to provide training and technical assistance to drinking water and wastewater utilities in Idaho with populations under 10,000. IRWA is currently comprised of 336 drinking water and wastewater utilities in Idaho. Those 336 utilities elect a seven-member board of directors of professionals from the member utilities that volunteer their time to govern the Association. Since its inception, IRWA has also grown to include additional membership of industry vendors and others that support the mission of the Association. Twelve employees provide statewide operational services and managerial support to the drinking water and wastewater utilities in Idaho. The services provided by IRWA are critical to the drinking water and wastewater utility systems in Idaho working to maintain compliance with stringent rules and regulations designed to protect human and environmental health. IRWA provides cost-effective services to rural utilities as our employees assist as many as 120 different utilities each month. The knowledge and expertise shared amongst these utilities could not possibly be duplicated by having such qualified employees at each and every drinking water or wastewater utility system in Idaho.

**WHAT IS IRWA?**

MEMBER BENEFITS

- Utility representation on important legislative issues
- Initial guidance and general inquiries about water rights or water-related legal questions at no cost
- Obtain our member directory for networking opportunities
- Membership discounts on training and conference registrations
- Technical resources: lending of equipment and educational material
- Receive copies of The Water Gram: our quarterly technical publication
- Participation in the Awards of Excellence: recognizing superior performance of Idaho utilities and professionals
- Eligible for scholarships in both higher learning and the operation specialist training assistance
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CARRIE GILSTRAP  
Membership & Marketing Coordinator  
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TINA MANOLOPOULOS  
Bookkeeper  
tinam@idahoruralwater.com
Dear Member Delegate:

Welcome to Idaho Rural Water Association’s Annual Business Meeting. We are happy to have you with us this year in Boise.

We hope that during this past year, your drinking water and wastewater systems were successful in all operations and construction projects, and you were able to complete all upgrades for improvements to your systems. We appreciate your support of this organization and your participation. We encourage any and all ideas to continue making IRWA more resilient and stronger as a team.

As always, IRWA will continue to seek out the newest information and latest technology through our experienced and competent team members and through all who participate in our conference. To remain unified as one voice, IRWA Board and team members participate at the federal, state, and local levels of government to help inform and educate your boards and commissions. We work hard to help them understand your roles as certified Operations Specialists, to help relieve the burden placed on you and your systems.

With our unified voice as members, Board, and staff, we are being heard through our efforts at the national and state levels.

The following is the 2020 Annual Membership Report, which includes this meeting’s agenda, all activities on IRWA’s programs for the past year, and a list of current members.

We hope you enjoy this year’s conference activities, training sessions, and your interactions with fellow professionals in our field.

Thank you for your continued support of Idaho Rural Water Association!

Sincerely,

Robert Dial
IRWA Board President

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

IRWA BOARD
IRWA Board (L to R) – Brad Andersen, Director Region IV At-large; Dan Messier, Director Region I; Bob Culver, National Director Region III At-large; Robert Dial, President Region IV; AJ Gray, Secretary/Treasurer, Legislative Director Region III; Kevin McLeod, Director Region II; Beau Ziemer, Vice-President, Director Region II At-large.
March 11, 2020 – 8:00 am MDT
The Riverside Hotel – North Star Room
Boise, Idaho

AGENDA

Call to Order
Robert Dial, President

Reading of the Notice of Meeting
AJ Gray, Secretary/Treasurer

Roll Call of Delegates
AJ Gray, Secretary/Treasurer

Approval of Minutes
AJ Gray, Secretary/Treasurer

Voting on Directors
Beau Ziemer, Vice-President

Guest Speaker: Layne Bangerter,
USDA Rural Development State Director

Committee Reports

- Finance
  AJ Gray, Secretary/Treasurer
- National Rural Water Association
  Bob Culver, National Director
- Legislative
  AJ Gray, Legislative Director
- Membership/Publications
  Brad Andersen, Director

- Personnel/Conference/Training
  Brad Andersen, Director
- Building/IRWA Support Services, LLC
  Kevin McLeod, Director

Election of Directors
Beau Ziemer, Vice-President

Unfinished Business

New Business

2019 FINANCIAL REPORT

2019 audit resulted in unqualified opinion and clean report for the Association.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY – FY 2019

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<td>Total Assets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net Assets</td>
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ANNUAL REVENUE AND EXPENSES

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<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Total Expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019 Change in Net Assets</td>
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DRINKING WATER PROGRAM

Water Circuit Riders – Jeff Cook, Gary Sievers, Kerry Huss (3rd Circuit Rider position added in March 2019)

USDA Rural Development provides funding for three Drinking Water Circuit Riders who provide technical assistance to drinking water utilities statewide. Our Circuit Riders have more than 55 years of combined experience in the field. Their primary focus is on assisting rural utilities, but our Circuit Riders will help anyone in need. Some of their services include assistance in the following areas:

- LEAK DETECTION
- LINE LOCATING
- UTILITY RATE STUDIES
- ON-SITE TRAINING
- REGULATIONS AND COMPLIANCE
- OPERATOR CERTIFICATION
- SAFETY
- WATER QUALITY
- OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF TREATMENT FACILITIES
- FINANCIAL, OPERATIONAL, REGULATORY SUSTAINABILITY
- UTILITY RATE STUDIES

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019 INCLUDE:

- Performed leak detection using IRWA equipment for many communities including Wilderness Ranch Homeowners Association, Yellow Pine Community, Castle Mountain Creek Homeowners Association, the City of Council, and Sawtooth Estates Water Users, saving upwards of $10,000 in potential costs to each of these utilities.
- Performed line location for numerous utilities such as the Indian Village Water Users Association, East Lizard Butte Water Corporation, Sawtooth Estates Water Users and on five different occasions for Castle Mountain Creek Homeowners Association saving each community thousands of dollars.
- Updated Emergency Response Plans and Security Vulnerability Assessments with the City of New Meadows, Smiley Creek, the City of Tetonia, and many others.
- Supplied information and guidance to the City of Bellevue and the City of Dayton for developing a rate study to determine expenditures and revenue flows.
- Worked with the Mayor of the City of Grandview to obtain better working conditions for the City’s water operators.
- Assisted many communities in realizing savings by reducing water loss. The community of Yellow Pine was losing 30,000 to 60,000 gallons of treated water a day. The cost of treating and losing that much water is staggering.
- Trained about the importance of underground utilities such as DigLine so water operators understand the hazards associated with digging within their water systems and how to prevent catastrophic damage to their infrastructure.
- Promoted the benefits of membership in IdWARN (an emergency network available to drinking water and wastewater utilities at no charge) to communities throughout Idaho. The benefits of membership in IdWARN is of particular interest to the smaller homeowners associations and smaller communities.
WATER CIRCUIT RIDERS AT WORK

The Mayor of Spirit Lake, Idaho called Idaho Rural Water Association Circuit Rider, Gary Sievers, requesting water rate assistance. They needed a second party, unbiased opinion regarding their rate structure as part of an application for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The CDBG will go towards a new storage tank for their water system.

On November 14, 2019, Mr. Sievers met with Mayor Renee Eastman and Treasurer Michelle Wharton at the Spirit Lake City Hall. Ms. Wharton and Mr. Sievers researched and printed several financial reports from their accounting system needed to populate data in the rate spreadsheet. This effort ended up validating the engineer’s rate study report with the suggested increase in base rate and price per thousand gallons used by each customer.

During the process Mr. Sievers was able to answer many questions the Mayor had about water rate structures. This effort has saved the City of Spirit Lake up to $15,000 considering the costs to hire an independent engineer or CPA to travel to Spirit Lake and provide a full rate study report.

“I want to express my gratitude to Jeff Cook and the guidance he has given our operators here at the City of Grand View. During my time as mayor, there have been multiple incidences of our operators needing assistance for various projects in which they had limited experience and had nowhere to turn for guidance.”

SANDY SKINNER
MAYOR OF GRAND VIEW

“Thank you Kerry Huss and Gary Sievers for coming to our little Fenn Community, for spending two hours looking for a leak we thought we had and turned out great – no leaks! I have been the water operator for ten years now, but am still learning something every time I take a class from IRWA. Thank you for showing me how to flush our system by using the fire hydrants.”

PAM SMITH
FENN COMMUNITY WATER OPERATOR

Jeff Cook helps sanitize and flush the system in Dietrich Idaho after a system malfunction.

Gary Sievers, Circuit Rider, providing leak detection services.

Rick Bird, City of Orofino, giving a tour of the facility to Kerry Huss, IRWA Circuit Rider.
WASTEWATER PROGRAM

Wastewater Circuit Riders – Craig Sturman and Paul Sifford

USDA Rural Development funds two Wastewater Circuit Riders who provide technical assistance to wastewater utilities statewide. Our Circuit Riders have more than 20 years of combined experience in the field. Their primary focus is on assisting rural utilities, but our Circuit Riders will help anyone in need. Some services offered include assistance with the following:

- Sewer Lagoon Sludge Measurements
- Sewer Line Camera Inspection
- Operator Certification
- Discharge Monitoring
- Permit Compliance
- Operation and Maintenance of Treatment Facilities
- On-Site Training
- Disinfection and Safety
- Regulations and Compliance
- Construction Inspection / Plan Reviews
- Utility Rate Studies

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019 INCLUDE:

- Provided smoke testing for the cities of Plummer, Stites, and others to identify leaks in the sewer system.
- Taught Sustainable Utility Management (SUM) classes to the Cities of Cambridge, Roberts, and Newdale.
- Performed sludge judge measuring to assess functionality of lagoon treatment in the cities of Star, Smelterville, Wilder, Georgetown, and several more.
- Performed sewer inspections by camera for the cities of Plummer, Deary, and many more.
- Located manholes for numerous utilities such as the Cities of Lapwai, New Meadows, and many more.

DAVID FLESHER
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY PROGRAM, USDA-RD

“Paul Sifford, Wastewater Technician, was working with the City of Stites as their primary well was contaminated. They had several water line leaks that were impacting system capacity, and the leaks were discovered by Paul’s work.”

“Jeff Cook and Craig Sturman offered their assistance in flushing the hydrants throughout Dietrich. Not only did they assist by doing the work hands on, they taught us about the process of properly flushing the hydrants. It was a tremendous learning experience.”

DON HEIKEN
MAYOR & CITY OF DIETRICH COUNCIL

Paul Sifford, IRWA Circuit Rider, clearing the sewer lagoon ponds at the City of Cambridge.
The USDA-Farm Services Administration Source Water Protection Program provides technical assistance and training to rural communities regarding protection of their source of drinking water. The main goal of the program is to lessen the impact of potential contaminants on public water utilities by developing a plan of action to protect the source. Assistance is also provided for public education, which is generally a strong component of protection programs. About 99% of Idaho’s drinking water utilities are considered “rural,” serving communities with a population of less than 10,000; the average water utility in Idaho serves less than 300. Idaho Rural Water’s Source Water Protection Program provides technical assistance to these rural communities as they work toward protecting vital sources of water.

Accomplishments in 2019 include:
• Coordinating with communities, local partners, and state agencies to create steering committees or “planning teams” whose goal is protecting drinking water sources.
• Assisting rural communities with developing source water protection plans that are affordable, realistic, and designed to be ongoing and sustainable.
• Assisting utilities and rural communities with the development and implementation of their contingency plans.
• Increasing communication between County Emergency Managers, Local Emergency Planning Teams, and the water/wastewater systems in their area.

Idaho Rural Water’s FSA program has been working to build its partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service and local Conservation Districts. Our goal is to help identify practices that support the conservation and quality of our source water sites throughout Idaho. For source water protection to be successful it is vital that community residents, local land use agencies, and city and county planning and zoning committees are involved in the planning process.

Source Water Protection Specialist, Chris Johnson, explains the dangers of high nitrate in drinking water and how to protect aquifers from anthropogenic nitrate loading.

“... The Ola Sewer District would like to extend its sincere appreciation to IRWA for the technical assistance and support. Ola is a small, rural community, and the sewer district is tiny – with only five members. Our thanks to Shelley Roberts – CEO, Adrianna Hummer – Water Source Manager, Paul Sifford – Wastewater Circuit Rider, and Kerry Huss – Water Circuit Rider.”

ALAN JACOBUS
SECRETARY/TREASURER OF THE OLA SEWER DISTRICT
Under the Idaho State Revolving Fund, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality funds a Source Water Protection Specialist position to help meet the goals set forth by EPA’s Safe Drinking Water Act. The scope of the SRF Source Water Protection Program is to assist communities in meeting source water protection goals by developing and implementing plans, participating in trainings, public education, and workshops. The goal of this program is to provide on-site technical assistance to utilities regarding protection and preservation of their drinking water source. Utilities are prioritized based on emergency requests and Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violations.

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019 INCLUDE:**

- Assisted in the creation and implementation of Source Water Protection Plans for the City of Stites, the City of Juliaetta, the Pinehurst Water District, the City of Kuna, City of Grand View, City of Lewiston, and the City of McCall.
- Developed and distributed outreach material for numerous public water systems including the cities of Juliaetta, Gooding, Murphy, Paul, Stites, Deary, Potlatch, Teton, Elk City, Yellow Pine, and Kamiah.
- Taught more than 60 students at Shadow Butte Elementary the importance of aquifers and drinking water protection through a fun activity.
- Helped drinking water systems prepare for and respond to emergencies by ensuring they have a Contingency Plan that is current and comprehensive.
- Participated in nitrate testing events in the Emmett Bench and Grand View Nitrate Priority Areas.
- Taught a class to Drinking Water Operators at the IRWA Annual Conference in Boise, Idaho. This class focused on how to identify potential sources of contamination within source delineation areas and how to use that information to protect the public source.
- Participated in the Source Water Protection Collaborative meeting at the State DEQ office on February 28.
- Responded to a drinking water emergency in Harvard that involved loss of their single source drinking water well. Assisted in obtaining alternate sources of water for the community, public notification, facilitated contact with the County Emergency Manager.
- Taught best practices for protecting groundwater to the students enrolled in a “Living on Small Acreage” class, hosted by the University of Idaho Agriculture Extension Office.
- Hosted an exhibitor booth at DEQ’s Water Quality Conference with a display on source water protection and groundwater degradation in Idaho.
- Taught a full-day course for operators on emergency management. Class included participation from state and county agency representatives and a simulated exercise about public utility emergencies.
- Participated in the Source Water Workshops hosted by DEQ in each region of the state. Created a display detailing water quality challenges and solutions for each region of the workshop.
- Collaborated with the DEQ state office to teach a Contingency Plan class to the DEQ Regional Source Water Protection staff and the IRWA Source Water Protection staff.
- At the request of the City Water Department, participated in the City of Meridian’s “Public Works Expo” where information was provided to the public about source water protection and public utilities.
- Assisted in training regional DEQ Source Water Protection staff how to use the online Source Water Protection Plan and Contingency Plan application.
- Hosted a source water protection and nitrate education booth at county fairs in Gooding, Caribou, Payette, and Owyhee counties.
- Collaborated with Natural Resources Conservation Service to improve cross-jurisdictional source water implementation. Began working with NRCS to promote source water protection to new audiences and local planning groups.
IRWA provides training and technical assistance for drinking water and wastewater operations specialists statewide. Training is provided in two formats: informal, on-site training requests and formal classroom settings. Our training services are available for both Association members and non-members, and are hosted in all geographic regions of the state. It is our goal to provide affordable, viable technical assistance in the areas of rule implementation, regulation and compliance, safety, capacity development, utility operations and maintenance, sustainability, and environmental protection. We take pride in ensuring a well-educated workforce will be protecting the communities of Idaho through the operation of our drinking water and wastewater utilities.

Our training is a crucial resource for drinking water and wastewater operations specialists to obtain CEUs and keep the licenses required for them to do their jobs and continue providing safe drinking water and sanitary wastewater for Idaho residents.

IRWA has received funding intermittently through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its training program. However, due to the uncertainty of these funds, IRWA has continued its dedication to serving the needs of operations specialists in Idaho by relying on membership fees and internal funds for its training program. When EPA funds are made available, that money is utilized to supplement training.

Due to numerous requests IRWA was proud to partner with Northwest Backflow Educators in 2019. IRWA and Northwest Backflow Educators were able to offer 5 Backflow Assembly Tester (BAT) certification courses and 4 BAT license renewal classes. Each class featured hands-on learning in a wet lab coupled with classroom instruction. Classes were spread throughout the state to ensure all of Idaho had access to this important educational opportunity.

“...I just wanted to once again say how grateful I am for IRWA and EVERYTHING that Paul and Carrie have done to help me with my job transition. You guys have been a really great asset to me and the City of Lapwai.”

BILL SKILES
PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, CITY OF LAPWAI
Idaho Rural Water Association hosts two conferences annually for the benefit of Idaho’s drinking water and wastewater operations specialists. The conferences provide an opportunity for operations specialists to obtain their required on-site continuing education credits (CEUs) over the course of a few days. Exhibitors are on site to present cutting-edge products and technology in the drinking water and wastewater field. IRWA’s conferences also offer a venue for operations specialists to discuss issues that affect their profession and to network with other industry professionals. Classes cover a variety of topics, including Operator Safety in the Workplace, GIS Mapping, Trenching Safety, Planning Successful Projects, and Water Law for Utilities.
Safe, plentiful, and affordable drinking water, environmentally sound wastewater treatment, and the people who maintain the systems are some of Idaho’s most precious resources and something many people take for granted.

“We are encouraging our members to plan for the future,” said Kelsie Cole, apprenticeship coordinator for the Idaho Rural Water Association. “More than half the professionals who oversee or operate Idaho’s drinking water and wastewater facilities are within 10 years or less of retirement. One-third are more than 55 years old. Another 30% are over age 45.”

Cole’s job is to meet the demand for future operators by pairing quality job candidates with a new statewide apprenticeship program involving Idaho cities and communities that operate drinking water and wastewater systems throughout the state.

The association is using a $30,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to recruit job candidates interested in a career managing Idaho’s drinking water or wastewater systems. What they need is more Idaho cities and communities willing to step up and offer the on-the-job training component of the apprenticeship program.

Six Idaho communities have stepped up so far – the city of Buhl hired two apprentices, and the cities of Carey, Preston, New Plymouth, and Grand View each hired one.

The Idaho Rural Water Association wants to sign up a few more communities to participate and hopes to place an additional 35 people in registered apprenticeships.

“Some of our cities say they don’t know where to find people,” Cole said. “We can help them find apprenticeship candidates. People from all walks of life have expressed interest. What we need are more Idaho communities willing to step up and offer the hands-on training and work experience.”

The association’s apprenticeship program includes two years of training for job candidates through paid positions, typically offering a wage of $12 to $20 per hour, depending on location.

Buhl Water Department manager A.J. Gray seized the opportunity to hire apprentices for his community. He also oversees the water systems in Castleford, Hollister, and Rogerson and has two quality people on the job.

“They’re both great kids,” Gray said of his apprentices. “When I saw the apprenticeship program come up, I jumped in quickly. It is a great way for kids to get a foot in the door for a promising career. The experience they gain on the job is so valuable — it’s priceless.”

The College of Southern Idaho – a project partner – offers certificate programs in Water Resource Management. The curriculum includes the classroom training necessary for certification in operating wastewater and drinking water systems, Gray said.

In remote locations, where a community college is not nearby, apprentices complete the classroom training online.

CSI’s location in nearby Twin Falls works well for the city of Buhl’s apprentices. The city pays the apprentices to work full time and for the time they spend in the CSI classroom.

“CSI’s water resource management program produced 20 graduates last May, and all 20 found a job right out of school,” Gray said.

Garrett Williams, 20, signed up for Buhl’s water apprenticeship opportunity last year. The city of Buhl pays Williams to learn on the job. Once he completes the program, Williams will receive a Level 2 certification in two years instead of three.

“Yeah, it’s an excellent way to get into this field,” William said. “I like being able to go to CSI and not worry about how I’m going to pay for it.”

Once an apprentice completes an apprenticeship, many host companies hire them full time. Nationally, apprenticeship sponsors hire 87% of the people who participate in their training programs.

According to John Russ, former state apprenticeship coordinator at the Idaho Department of Labor, the number of registered Idaho apprenticeships has doubled in the last two years. Today, these registered apprenticeship programs produce competent, job-ready workers with detailed knowledge, specific skill sets, and job proficiency.

Drinking and wastewater systems are complex to manage, Cole pointed out, and they require a great deal of experience and expertise to maintain 24 hours a day.
day, seven days a week. Communities that run drinking water and wastewater systems need to plan ahead to ensure they can train qualified people to keep their systems running.

“It takes years of on-the-job experience and education to obtain the skills, knowledge, and licensure to properly operate a drinking water or wastewater utility,” Cole said. “New advancements in water treatment and supply technology increase the skills and training necessary for protecting public health and the environment. A combination of on-the-job training and classroom education makes the registered apprenticeship program an excellent fit for our industry.”

According to Russ, the Association’s apprenticeship program is a great opportunity for job seekers interested in a career protecting Idaho’s environment and water. Apprenticeships can lead to a long-term job in an industry that generally pays well and has a history of employees who work there for many years or even decades.

“Sponsored apprenticeships are good for rural Idaho,” Russ said. “They allow Idahoans to work in scenic mountain locations where good-paying jobs are not always easy to find.”

“It’s a gateway to a great career,” Cole said. At a minimum, Cole said applicants need a high school degree or equivalent to participate in the association’s program, which includes 288 hours of classroom instruction and 4,000 hours of on-the-job training to become a certified journey-level operations specialist.

Successful candidates are responsible for finding their own housing. Those with military experience can use the GI bill to help with housing costs.

Businesses that wish to sponsor a registered apprentice should visit ApprenticeshipIdaho.gov.

Idaho cities, counties, and job seekers interested in Idaho Rural Water Association’s apprenticeship program should contact Kelsie Cole at 208-343-7001 or kcole@idahoruralwater.com or visit idahoruralwater.com.

IRWA SUPPORTS THE RURAL WORKFORCE THROUGH APPRENTICESHIP

Similar to many industries, the drinking water and wastewater industry is facing a shortage of workers due to job growth and the retirement of the baby boomers. Over the next decade, the water sector is expected to lose between 30% and 50% of its workforce to retirement. However, Idaho’s statistic is even worse than the national average.

In 2016, 33% of Idaho’s licensed drinking water and wastewater operators were over 55 years of age. Another 29% were over age 45. Many of these employees have worked at the same utility for the majority of their careers, and they will depart with decades of valuable institutional knowledge.

It takes more than 380,000 highly skilled drinking water and wastewater personnel in the nation to ensure the public supply of safe drinking water and to protect our lakes, streams and groundwater. Advancements in water treatment and supply technology have increased the skills and training required of this workforce. Water professionals are ultimately responsible for meeting stringent regulatory standards, replacing aging infrastructure, recruiting and training new operations specialists, and responding to and recovering from disasters.

Many citizens and community leaders do not realize the time, knowledge, and commitment needed to obtain the proper licensing to ensure our communities have access to clean, safe drinking water. It takes years of on-the-job experience as well as education to obtain the proper knowledge and licensure to safely operate a public drinking water or wastewater utility. In addition, recent advancements in water treatment and supply technology have increased the skills and training needed to protect public health and the environment. The combination of on-the-job training and classroom education make the registered apprenticeship program an excellent fit for our industry.

“Recently, the City of Cambridge entered into an agreement with IRWA to contract with the city to provide water & wastewater operations services as we were unable to hire a public works employee with certifications. They were able to help our small community with limited funds continue services to our citizens. Additionally, we signed up for their Apprenticeship Program to help our new employee get the critical knowledge needed to provide water and wastewater services.”

JACK TOOTHMAN
Mayor, City of Cambridge
APRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

IRWA has 11 apprentices in the program:
- American Falls
- Buhl (2)
- Cambridge
- Carey
- Fairfield (2)
- Genesee
- New Plymouth
- Nez Perce
- Smelterville

For more information, you can contact IRWA’s Apprenticeship Coordinator, Kelsie Cole, at kcole@idahoruralwater.com.

Many of the theory, chemistry, and mathematical concepts are best learned in the classroom. However, there is also knowledge to be gained from working in the field that cannot be gained from the classroom alone. For example, tasks like water line inspection, troubleshooting mechanical equipment and heavy equipment excavation are more likely to be mastered in the field than in the classroom.

PROGRAMS OFFERED:
**Apprenticeship Program:** Prepares apprentices to sit for Class II license testing at the completion of the two-year program.

**Advanced Apprenticeship Program:** Prepares apprentices to sit for Class III license testing at the completion of the two-year program.

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**87%**  
Percent of apprentices employed after completing their certification training  
*Source: White House Summit on American Apprenticeship*

**$50,000**  
An average starting wage once qualified  
*Source: White House Summit on American Apprenticeship*

**$300,000**  
Apprentices earn a significant premium for their skills - as much as $300k more than their peers over a lifetime  
*Source: White House Summit on American Apprenticeship*

**1.6 million**  
Potential shortage of middle skill workers by 2020  
*Source: McKinsey Global Institute*

**$1.47**  
Employers gain through increased productivity, reduced waste, and greater front-line innovation  
*Source: White House Summit on American Apprenticeship*
IRWA Support Services, LLC was formed in 2014 to provide more extensive technical assistance and industry-related services than our funded programs were able to offer. IRWA members can contract with IRWA Support Services for economically priced, mission critical services such as:

- GIS mapping and leak detection*
- Water audits and conservation planning
- Water and wastewater utility rate reviews and analysis
- Budgeting assistance and peer review of system rate analysis
- Financial/treasury services including initial set-up and special projects
- Periodic financial oversight to facilitate segregation of duties
- Financial audit preparedness assistance
- Back-up operations (dependent on location, licensing level, and level of service)
- Emergency service assistance and program development
- Policy and procedure set-up, training, and assistance
- Transitional training for new or existing operators due to plant upgrades or turnover
- System evaluation and investigation
- Confined space entry assistance and/or equipment rental

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2019 INCLUDE:**

- Provided bookkeeping services and customer service for Malad and Hilton Water Company
- Performed utility rate study for the City of Cambridge
- Provided GIS mapping services for King Hill Domestic Water & Sewer Users Association Inc.
- Completed Consumer Confidence Reports for 30 water utilities to satisfy a requirement of the Safe Drinking Water Act and to help keep customers informed about their drinking water
- Provided duck weed removal service to Syringa Mobile Home Park and the City of Cambridge

*IRWA Support Services is proud to offer GIS mapping services to help our member utilities operate more efficiently.

**Example of mapping capabilities with GIS services.**
OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

IRWA BREAKS GROUND FOR TECHNICAL TRAINING FACILITY
By Carol Booth (https://www.nrwa.org)

Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA) broke ground on its almost 11,000 square foot Technical Training Center located in Boise, Idaho on August 8, 2019.

This facility will be used to train incoming apprentices and help with emergency response hands-on education that will benefit small communities and rural areas all across Idaho. It will house both indoor and outdoor areas to accommodate classroom-style coursework and practical field training.

“By establishing a workforce training center, Idaho’s rural communities will have a dedicated source of trained workers prepared to take on the management and challenges associated with rural water infrastructure,” U.S. Senator Mike Crapo said as he previously commended IRWA for putting together a highly-merited proposal deemed worthy of investment by the Economic Development Administration.

In October 2018, U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded a $1.4 million grant to IRWA. The remaining financial support is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development’s Community Facilities Loan Program.

When the announcement of the award came out, U.S. Senator James Risch (ID) stated, “This investment will create jobs and energize rural water in Idaho and the industries it supports. I look forward to seeing the positive impact it has on our community and business development for years to come.”

Excitement builds at the Groundbreaking Ceremony on August 8, 2019.
Sen. Risch’s Regional Director, Rachel Burkett, attended the Groundbreaking Ceremony alongside Casey Atteberry, State Director of Agriculture for U.S. Senator Mike Crapo, and Dirk Mendive, Regional Director for U.S. Representative Russ Fulcher.

“After many years of hard work and determination by the IRWA staff and Board of Directors, the vision of providing superior training opportunities for professionals in the drinking water and wastewater industry can now become a reality,” Shelley Roberts, IRWA CEO, stated as she thanked everyone who has been a part of this dream.

Those who have been most involved in this project participated in the ceremonious groundbreaking with shovels that includes: William (Brad) Richy, Director of the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, Idaho Military Division; Layne R. Bangerter, State Director of Idaho, USDA Rural Development; Shelley Roberts, CEO, Idaho Rural Water Association; Robert Dial, Board President, Idaho Rural Water Association; Silvia Morrow, VP Branch Manager, D.L. Evans Bank; Scott Henderson, Construction Manager, Pacific Source Construction; John Russ, former Area Manager, Idaho Department of Labor; and Martin Hahle, AIA, President, CSHQA.

“We are currently looking to upgrade facilities to make the system more sustainable and have once again turned to Idaho Rural Water for help. Completing the labyrinth of various loan applications is tricky and confusing. Having Idaho Rural Water as a resource is critical.”

ED KATZ, CHAIRMAN
Cabinet Mountains Water System
OUR MEMBERSHIP

481
TOTAL MEMBERS

336
SYSTEM MEMBERS
IN IDAHO

109
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS & SPONSORS

14
SUPPORT MEMBERS

13
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

9
OUT-OF-STATE
SYSTEM MEMBERS

REGION 1 SYSTEM MEMBERS

Acadia Property Management, LLC/Appaloosa Court
Albion Falls Dam (US Army Corps of Engineers)
Alpine Meadows Water District
Athol, City of
Avery Water & Sewer
Avista Corp Cabinet Gorge Dam
Avondale Irrigation District
Bayview Water & Sewer District
Bennett Lumber Products, Inc.
Bonners Ferry, City of
Bovill, City of
Cabinet Mountains Water District
Cataldo Water District
Cave Bay Community Services Inc.
Central Orchards Sewer District
Central Shoshone County Water District
Chateau Water Association
Clark Fork, City of
Clarkia Water & Sewer District
Clearwater Water District
Coeur d’Alene Tribal Casino
Cottonwood, City of
Cougar Creek Water Users Association
Cougar Ridge Water & Sewer District
Country Homes Mobile Park
Craigmont, City of
Crow’s Nest Coop Water Assoc
Culdesac, City of
Dalton Water Association, Inc.
Deary, City of
Dover, City of
East Hope Water
East Shoshone County Water District
Eight Mile Prairie Homeowners

Elk City Water & Sewer Association
Elk River, City of
Emerald Estates Water Association
Emida Water & Sewer
Farragut State Park
Federal Cartridge Company
Fenn Water & Sewer District
Ferdinand, City of
Genesee, City of
Grangeville, City of
Greenferry Water & Sewer District
Harbor View Estates Water & Sewer District
Harrison, City of
Hauser Lake Water Association, Inc.
Hayden Lake Irrigation District
Hecla Limited Lucky Friday Mine
Helmer Water and Sewer District
Hidden Village Mobile Home Court
Highway 54 Water Association
Hoodoo Water & Sewer District

Each red marker on this map represents the location of an IRWA member within our state. Note that multiple markers may not be entirely visible where there are multiple members at the same location.
OUR MEMBERSHIP

Hope, City of
Judgetown Water & Sewer District
Kamiah, City of
Kellogg, City of
Kendrick, City of
Kidd Island Bay Lots Sewer District
Kingston Cataldo Sewer District
Kingston Water District
Kooskia, City of
Kootenai County Water District #1
Kootenai-Ponderay Sewer District
Laclede Water District
Lacon Water Co Op
Lapwai, City of
Lawyers Creek Water District
Leisure Park Home Owners Association
Lewiston, City of
Mcguire Estates Water Users Association Inc.
Moose Draw Association Inc.
Moscow, City of
Mountain Springs Water Corp
Moyie Springs, City of
New Hope Water Corp
Nez Perce Tribe
Nezperce, City of
North Kootenai Water and Sewer District
North Tomer Butte Water & Sewer District
Onaway Water & Sewer Association
Orofino, City of
Outlet Water Association
Panhandle Village Water
Paradise Valley Water Association, Inc.
Peck, City of
Pierce, City of
Pine Ridge Water & Sewer District
Pinehurst Water District
Pleasant Acres Water & Sewer
Plummer, City of
Post Falls, City of
Potlatch, City of
Priest River, City of
Princeton-Hampton Sewer District
Rapid River Water & Sewer District
Rathdrum, City of
Remington Water District
Riggins, City of
Riverside Water & Sewer District
Rose Lake Water Association Inc.
Sagle Valley Water & Sewer District
Salmon River Ranger District
Santa-Fernwood Water and Sewer District
Schweitzer Utility Company

Silverwood Theme Park
SM Utilities
Smeltenville, City of
South River Water Association
Southside Water & Sewer District
Spirit Bend Water Association
Spirit Lake, City of
St Maries, City of
Stites, City of
Syringa Heights Water District
Tensed, City of
Trow Creek Water Association
Troy, City of
University of Idaho/ Physical Plant
USFS North Idaho Forests
Village 21 Water District
Waha Glen Water District
Wallace, City of
Weippe, City of
West Bonner County School District 83
West Bonner Water & Sewer District
White Bird, City of
Winchester, City of
Worley, City of

REGION 2 SYSTEM MEMBERS

Bogus Basin Rec Area
Bonneville Water Corp
Brundage Mountain
Bruneau Water & Sewer District
Caldwell Housing Authority
Caldwell, City of
Cambridge, City of
Cascade, City of
Castle Mountain Creeks Owners Association
Champion Home Builders
Council, City of
Covert Water Users Association
Crouch, City of
Cti-Ssi Food Services, LLC
Desert View Estates Water Corp
Donnelly, City of
Drake Water & Irrigation
Duquette Pines Homeowners Association
Eagle, City of
East Lizard Butte Water Corporation
Evans Water Corporation & Home Owners Assoc.
Fruitland, City of
Garden City, City of
Garden Valley School District
Glens Ferry, City of
Grand View, City of
Homedale, City of

Horseshoe Bend, City of
Idaho City, City of
Indian Village Water Users Association
Jug Mountain Ranch Subdivisions
Karney Lakes Club, Inc.
King Hill Domestic Water & Sewer Users Assoc., Inc.
Kuna, City of
Lakeview Water Co, Inc.
Lowman Ranger Station
Malad and Hilton Water Co. Inc.
Marsing, City of
Meadows Water Co., LLC
Melba, City of
Mellen Subdivision Water District
Meridian Water Department
Middleton, City of
Midvale, City of
Mores Creek Rim Ranches Water District
Mountain Home, City of
Mountain Shadows HOA
Murphy Water System/Owyhee County
Nampa, City of
New Meadows, City of
New Plymouth, City of
Notus, City of
O.K. Water Association
Par Estates Homeowners Association
Parma, City of
Payette Lakes Recreational Water & Sewer District
Payette, City of
Project Patch
Riverland Terrace Nonprofit Water Corp
Roswell Water Users
Sawtooth Estates Water Users Association, Inc.
Scenic Properties Water Association
Scrivo Woods Homeowners Association
Shamrock Villa Water Association
Silver Sage Real Estate Property Owners
Southwest Idaho Treatment Center
Splendid Acres Water Association
Star Sewer & Water District
Sunridge Water Corporation #3
Terrace Lakes Water Company
The Amalgamated Sugar Company LLC
The Jughandle Corporation
Vallivue School District #139
Weiser, City of
Weiser, City of
Wilderness Ranch Owners Association
Woodview Acres Property Owners
Yellow Pine Water Users Association
REGION 3 SYSTEM MEMBERS
Albion, City of
Arco, City of
Aspen Hollow Homeowners Association
Atlanta Water Association, Inc.
Bellevue, City of
Bliss, City of
Buhl, City of
Burley, City of
Carey, City of
Cassia County School District #151
Castleford, City of
Challis Joint School District #181
Challis, City of
Clover Trinity Lutheran Church
Declo, City of
Dietrich, City of
Eden, City of
Elk Bend Mutual Water Co. Unit #1
Evaqua Farms LLC
Fairfield, City of
Filer, City of
Gooding, City of
Hagerman, City of
Hailey, City of
Hansen, City of
Hazelton, City of
Heyburn, City of
Hollister, City of
Jerome, City of
Ketchum, City of
Kimberly, City of
Mackay, City of
Minidoka County Schools #331
Minidoka, City of
Murtaugh, City of
Oakley, City of
Paul, City of
Picabo Livestock Co Inc.
Richfield, City of
Rogerson Water District
Rupert, City of
Salmon River Meadows Mutual Water
Salmon, City of
Shoshone, City of
Springdale Acres HOA
Stanley Sewer Association
Sun Valley Water & Sewer District
Sunset Heights Water District
Twin Falls, City of
Valley Club Owners Association
Wendell, City of
Williams Lake Water & Sewer District

REGION 4 SYSTEM MEMBERS
Aberdeen, City of
American Falls, City of
Ammon, City of
Arino, City of
Ashton, City of
Atomic City, City of
Bailey Creek Community Association
Bancroft, City of
Basalt, City of
Bear Lake West Property Owners Association
Bennington Water System
Birch Creek Culinary Water Company
Bloomington, City of
Bonneville Joint School District #93
Caribou Acres Water Company
Dayton, City of
Downey, City of
Driggs, City of
Dubois, City of
Fairview Water District
Falls Water Company, Inc.
Firth, City of
Franklin, City of
Fremont County Sewer
Georgetown, City of
GPOD of Idaho
Grace, City of
Greenfield Water & Sewer District
Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections – St. Anthony
Idaho Supreme Potatoes
Inkom, City of
Iona, City of
Island Park Village Association
Lacey’s Vista Acres Water Corp
Lava Hot Springs, City of
M & T Water & Sewer
Madison School District #321
Malad, City of
Marsh Valley School District #21
McCammon, City of
Menan, City of
Montpelier, City of
Newdale, City of
Paris, City of
Preston, City of
Reed’s Dairy, Inc.
Rigby, City of
Ririe, City of
Ritewood, Inc.
Roberts, City of
Rockland, City of
Shelley, City of
Shoshone Bannock Tribe, Attn: Tribal Utilities
Simplot Food Group
Simplot Food Group
Snake River School District
Soda Springs, City of
South Park Estates Water and Sewer
St Anthony, City of
St Charles, City of
Strawberry Mink Creek Water Association
Sugar City, City of
Teton, City of
Tetonia, City of
Thunder Canyon Estates
Owners Association
Township Park Estates
Ucon, City of
Valley View Estates Water Users Association
Victor, City of
West Jefferson School District/
Teton High School
Weston, City of

OUT-OF-STATE SYSTEM MEMBERS
Aspens Pines Water & Sewer District
Bear Lake East, Inc.
East Shore Water Company
Fairfield Water Department
Harmon Property Owners Association
Rockford, City of
Shoshone-Paiute Tribe of The Duck Valley Indian Reservation
Teton Village Water & Sewer District
Trapper Trails Council, BSA:
Camp Aspen Ridge (#6210008),
Camp Bartlett (#6040008)

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS & SPONSORS
Ackerman Estvold
Advanced Control Systems
Advanced Pump & Equipment, Inc.
Ambiente H2O Inc.
American Flow Control
American Leak Detection of Boise
American Leak Detection of The ILNW (Inland Northwest)
Ameriwest Water Services Inc.
Analytical Laboratories, Inc.
Anatek Labs
Apsco LLC
Aquadrone Marine Services
AY McDonald Manufacturing Company
BioLynceus Environmental Solutions
OUR MEMBERSHIP

Black Mountain Software, Inc.
CH Spencer & Company
Cascade Earth Sciences
CiMCO
Clearwater Economic Development Association
Consolidated Supply
Convergint Technologies
Copperhead Industries LLC
Core & Main
Cues
Diamond Maps
Digline, Inc.
Ditch Witch of The Rockies
DN Tanks, Inc.
Dorsett Technologies
Drake Mechanical Inc.
EA Tanks
EJ
Emerson Automation Solutions
Energy Management
Enviro-Clean Intermountain, LLC
Ferguson Waterworks
Ford Meter Box Co.
Forsgren Associates Inc.
Furrow Pump
GC Systems, Inc.
General Pacific, Inc.
Goble Sampson Associates
Great West Engineering, Inc.
H D Fowler Company
Harper-Leavitt Engineering Inc.
Heco Engineers
High Country Fusion Company
Hose Solutions
Hydro Specialties Company
Hymax By Krausz
ICRMP
Idaho Central Credit Union
Integrity Inspection Solutions, Inc.
isiWest
J-U-B Engineers, Inc.
Keller Associates
Lamb Weston/Conagra Foods
Laura Schroeder Law Offices PC
M & H / Kennedy Valve
Maguire Iron, Inc.
Master Meter, Inc.
McWane Ductile
Mission Communications
Mountain Waterworks
Mountain West Waterworks
Neptune Technology Group
Nicol, Inc.
One.7, Inc.
Oxarc
Pipeline Inspection Services, Inc.
Precision Pumping Systems
Prestige Worldwide Technologies LLC
Probiotic Solutions
PumpTech, Inc.
Rain For Rent
Robertson Supply, Inc./The Pump House
Rocky Mountain Valves & Automation
Romac Industries
RootX
Rubicon Applied Divers
Sage Supply
Sensus USA
Sherwin Williams
SpectraShield Liner Systems
SPF Water Engineering
Subsurface Leak Detection
SWS Equipment, Inc.
TAP Master Inc.
TC Sales & Service
TD&H Engineering
Tnemec - Call Coating Consultants
T-O Engineers
United Rentals Trench Safety
USABlueBook
Utility Management Systems
Utility Services Associates, LLC
Val Kotter & Sons, Inc.
Vermeer Rocky Mountain, Inc.
Vision Municipal Solutions
Water Utility App
Waterford Systems
W-Cubed
Western Engineering
Western States Automation
Western States Cat
Western Systems and Fabrication
Wetco Inc.
Xylem Dewatering Solutions
Zenner USA
SUPPORT MEMBERS
Basic American Foods
Betaseed Inc.
Blackfoot, City of
Chubbuck, City of
Clear Springs Foods, Inc.
Coeur d’Alene, City of
Eastern Idaho Regional Wastewater Authority
Idaho Falls, City of
Idaho National Laboratory
Idaho Power Company
Lewiston Orchards Irrigation District
Pocatello, City of
Sandpoint, City of
Water Systems Management
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS
Scott Archibald
Carla Berg
Jack Brown
Bill Carr
Michael Curtis
Mike Galante
Shelly Hammons
Matt Hightree
Duwayne Kimball
Thomas Krasowski
Keith Miller
Robert “Reid” O’Connor
Greg Wood

Sunset in Emmett Valley. Photo by IRWA Staff.
ADDITIONAL PUBLICATIONS BY IRWA

THE WATER GRAM (QUARTERLY MAGAZINE)
Our magazine is distributed to all our members, with additional copies available for everyone attending our annual conferences. Approximately 1,400 copies are printed and distributed every three months. An interactive digital version of The Water Gram is shared via email, and is always available online at www.idahoruralwater.com/Publications/TheWaterGram.

TRAINING & EVENTS CALENDAR
These calendars are mailed to every licensed water and wastewater operations specialist in the state! We recently distributed 3,300 copies for 2020.

IRWA MEMBER DIRECTORY
The directories offer a convenient resource for our members to contact one another, agencies like DEQ and EPA, as well as local and federal legislators. In 2019, we provided 925 copies of this resource to our membership.

FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT US ONLINE AT
WWW.IDAHORURALWATER.COM
THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!