MISSION STATEMENT
To provide technical assistance, training, and a strong representative voice for the benefit of Idaho’s drinking water and wastewater utility systems.
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WHAT IS IRWA?

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.

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

“IT’S very comforting to know that IRWA exists with such great individuals who will drop anything to assist our community, as well as other communities in Idaho. The level of service IRWA offers is one of a kind and absolutely #1 in our eyes. We are so grateful that IRWA is available to rural communities like Dietrich, and that IRWA has such an amazing staff.”

DON HEIKEN
Mayor & City of Dietrich Council
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Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA) is an association of drinking water and wastewater utility systems in Idaho. In addition to utility members, IRWA is supported by industry vendors and others that recognize the importance of our mission. The Association is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors comprised of volunteer professionals from member utilities. Twelve employees provide statewide operational services and managerial support to the drinking water and wastewater utility systems in Idaho.

Services provided by IRWA include on-site technical assistance for drinking water and wastewater operations, maintenance, and system management. The Association also provides assistance in the development and implementation of source water protection plans which are important for ensuring safe drinking water across our great state for existing and future generations. IRWA is the primary provider of training classes in Idaho for industry-required certification and continuing education. In addition to providing 63 total classes and 114.5 on-site hours in 2019, IRWA hosted two conferences to provide utility operators and management with professional education and networking opportunities.

Ninety-nine percent of Idaho’s drinking water and wastewater utilities are in rural communities serving populations under 10,000. These communities have the greatest difficulty providing safe, affordable public drinking water and wastewater services due to the limited economies of scale and lack of technical expertise. Because small and rural communities typically have lower median household incomes and higher utility rates compared to larger communities, the cost of compliance is often dramatically higher per household.

Services provided by IRWA are critical to rural utilities obtaining or maintaining compliance with stringent rules and regulations. Small, rural communities will tell you the dollars provided to rural water programs give a tangible, direct benefit to their quality of life. It’s simple: small communities want to ensure quality drinking water and sanitary wastewater. Local water suppliers are operated by people who are locally elected and whose families drink the water every day. However, they need commonsense assistance in a form they can understand. Funding provided to rural water programs across the country and in Idaho allow for federal spending to be more results oriented, more effective, non-regulatory and less bureaucratic than other programs.

We appreciate your support!

Shelley Roberts
Chief Executive Officer
The Rural Utilities Service’s (RUS) Water and Environmental programs (WEP) provide funding for the construction of drinking water and waste facilities in rural communities of 10,000 or less. Between 2009 and 2016, WEP funded **$13.9 billion** for **5,825 projects** that will provide utility services to **19.5 million rural Americans**.

In fiscal year 2017, USDA Rural Development funded **$1.9 billion** in loans and grants nationally, benefitting 2.5 million United States citizens. **Idaho received $14.2 million** of these funds, providing 16,950 rural Idaho residents with improved water and wastewater utilities in 25 communities.

**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
FINN COMMUNITY WATER OPERATOR
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.

"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.”

DAVID FLESHER
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY PROGRAM, USDA-RD

"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.

Rural life in Idaho is centered around agriculture. With source water delineations extending beyond city, county and state boundaries, excessive tillage, restricted crop rotation and overapplication of fertilizers have direct impacts to groundwater quality. Groundwater degradation in one area can harm a rural water utility located miles away, truly making an aquifer “everybody’s” drinking water. Idaho Rural Water coordinates with local soil and water districts to provide soil demonstrations and literature to agricultural producers on best management practices for tillage, crop rotation and fertilizer application practices. “Good” behavior change, trying to instill behavior and attitudes that are ongoing and permanent and can be measured and monitored, is the ultimate objective of a source water protection program.

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.

"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, 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.

“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

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JACK TOOTHMAN
Mayor, City of Cambridge

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.
Much 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.

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.

**Percent of apprentices employed after completing their certification training**

| % | 87 |

**An average starting wage once qualified**

| $ | 50,000 |

**Apprentices earn a significant premium for their skills - as much as $300k more than their peers over a lifetime**

| $ | 300,000 |

**for every dollar spent on Apprenticeship employers gain**

| $ | 1.47 |

**potential shortage of middle skill workers by 2020**

| 1.6 million |

**through increased productivity, reduced waste, and greater front-line innovation**

| $1.47 |
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

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

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

Example of mapping capabilities with GIS services.
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.”
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 WORK CONTINUES

On February 26, 2019, Idaho Rural Water Association Wastewater Technician, Craig Sturman, responded to a request from the Mayor of the City of Teton regarding continuing issues with a residential lift station. The lift station has been maintained by the City under a contract when the sewer system was installed. About every two years, the City has had to hire a plumbing company to replace the pump. After researching and inspecting the lift station, it was determined that the plumbing company has been selling an inferior pump not rated for sewer use. They also quoted the city $22,000 to replace the entire lift station, claiming the concrete was deteriorating and it needed to have two pumps on a rail system.

The mayor called IRWA for a second opinion. During the inspection, it was proven that there was no deterioration of the concrete and all that was needed was the correct grinder pump to fix the problem. The research was done, and a suitable pump was found for the cost of $1,000. The city has purchased the pump, and when they receive it, the Wastewater Technician will help the city's maintenance person install it.

Savings to the city is $21,000.

Emida, Idaho has a population of 150 people with 35 active sanitary sewer connections. The local economy is logging and the only business in town is a small café. The City of Emida has a contracted full-time Wastewater Operations Specialist to operate their small single-cell lagoon. Having only 35 connections, the City of Emida operates on a very small annual budget. The City Council and Council President all volunteer their time as the City Clerk is all volunteer. On December 31, 2018, Operations Specialist, Leonard Johnson, while doing the daily facility walk-through noticed the last manhole before the lagoon was flooding over with raw sewage. Mr. Johnson could not determine the cause of the sewage overflow without help. On Wednesday, January 2, 2019, Mr. Johnson called IRWA for help.

IRWA Wastewater Circuit Rider, Paul Sifford, arrived on site and started helping troubleshoot the situation. There were three days of raw sewage that had flooded out of the manhole all over the ground. It was discovered that there was a very minimal flow being discharged. Both Mr. Johnson and Mr. Sifford discovered the effluent weir box discharging treated wastewater was almost completely plugged with weeds, cattails, and vegetation accumulated from warm weather. Mr. Sifford was able to clear the debris out of the discharge pipe and create an open discharge channel for the treated wastewater to flow free.

After a few hours of clean-up and repairing the weir box, the flooding manhole had already receded and the flow through the manhole was back to normal gallons per minute. This situation could have caused several homes to flood with raw wastewater backing up due to the sewer main collection line being plugged if flow had been obstructed any longer.

Mr. Johnson was very appreciative for the technical help and advice received from Mr. Sifford. This is another example of what Idaho Rural Water Association can achieve for the small rural communities in the great state of Idaho.


East Lizard Butte Water Corporation is a study in contrast. The water corporation is located in the center of the beautiful, Snake River Valley Viticulture Region (a specific area dedicated to the cultivation or culture of grapes especially for wine making). The water corporation is surrounded by multi-million dollar wineries; however, the system residents as a whole are very socioeconomically repressed.

Mr. Lancaster contacted Mr. Huss to see if he would be able to assist East Lizard Butte Water Corporation locating water lines along their rough, rocky, dirt roads. Mr. Lancaster mentioned they had initially contacted a couple of local engineering firms for similar assistance, however, the price quotes to do the job were all too high for their limited budget.

The Water Circuit Rider was more than happy to assist. Mr. Huss arrived later that same week with the state-of-the-art line locator that had been thoughtfully provided to him by Idaho Rural Water Association’s CEO, Shelley Roberts. Mr. Huss went right to work. The Water Circuit Rider had become very efficient in the use of the line locator and quickly completed the task. All of the lines were located and marked in a timely manner.

Mr. Lancaster was very pleased with the results and expressed his gratitude both towards the Water Circuit Rider for his efforts and also to IRWA for being able to provide such quality service at no cost to the water corporation. This is a great example of the importance and value Idaho Rural Water Association has to offer Idaho’s rural communities.

“The Avery Water/Sewer District would like to express our appreciation for the help and support that we received from your association. We have been a member of IRWA for many years and your willingness to assist us has been of great value.”

SANDRA PICCI
Avery Water/Sewer District
TOTAL MEMBERS
481

SYSTEM MEMBERS IN IDAHO
336

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS & SPONSORS
110

SUPPORT MEMBERS
26

OUT-OF-STATE SYSTEM MEMBERS
9

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.

DISTRICT 1 SYSTEM MEMBERS
Acadia Property Management, LLC/Appaloosa Court
Ahsahka Water & Sewer District
Albeni 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.
Bogus Basin Rec Area
Bonners Ferry, City of
Bonnie Laura Water Corp
Bovill, City of
Brundage Mountain
Bruneau Water & Sewer District
Cabinet Mountains Water District
Calder Water Association
Caldwell Housing Authority
Caldwell, City of
Cambridge, City of
Cascade, City of
Cassandra Hills Owner Assn.
Castle Mountain Creeks Owners Association
Cataldo Water District
Cave Bay Community Services Inc.
Central Orchards Sewer District
Central Shoshone County Water District
Champion Home Builders
Chateaux Water Association
Clark Fork, City of
Clarkia Water & Sewer District
Clearwater Water District
Coeur d’Alene Tribal Casino
Cottonwood, City of

Cougars Creek Water Users Association
Cougars Ridge Water & Sewer District
Council, City of
Country Homes Mobile Park
Covert Water Users Association
Craigmont, City of
Crouch, City of
Crow’s Nest Coop Water Assoc
Cti-Ssi Food Services, LLC
Culdesac, City of
Dalton Water Association, Inc.
Deary, City of
Desert View Estates Water Corp
Donnelly, City of
Dover, City of
Drake Water & Irrigation
Duquette Pines Homeowners Association
Eagle, City of
East Hope Water
East Lizard Butte Water Corporation
OUR MEMBERSHIP

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
Evans Water Corporation & Home Owners Assoc.
Farragut State Park
Federal Cartridge Company
Fenn Water & Sewer District
Ferdinand, City of
Fernwood Water District
Fruitland, City of
Garden City, City of
Garden Valley School District
Genesee, City of
Glenns Ferry, City of
Grand View, 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
Homedale, City of
Hoodoo Water & Sewer District
Hope, City of
Horseshoe Bend, City of
Idaho City, City of
Indian Village Water Users Association
Judgetown Water & Sewer District
Jug Mountain Ranch Subdivisions
Juliaetta, City of
Kamiah, City of
Kaney Lakes Club, Inc.
Kellogg, City of
Kendrick, City of
Kidd Island Bay Lots Sewer District
King Hill Domestic Water & Sewer Users Assoc., Inc.
Kingston Cataldo Sewer District
Kingston Water District
Kooska, City of
Kootenai County Water District #1
Kootenai School District #274
Kootenai-Ponderay Sewer District
Kuna, City of
Lacled River Water District
Lakeview Water Co., Inc.
Lapwai, City of
Lawyers Creek Water District
Leisure Park Home Owners Association
Lewiston, City of
Lowman Ranger Station
Malad And Hilton Water Co. Inc.
Marsing, City of
Mcguire Estates Water Users Association Inc.
Meadow Creek Pooa
Meadows Water Co., LLC
Melba, City of
Meiden Subdivision Water District
Meridian Water Department
Middleton, City of
Midvale, City of
Moose Draw Association Inc.
Mores Creek Rim Ranches Water District
Moscow, City of
Mountain Home, City of
Mountain Shadows HOA
Mountain Springs Water Corp
Moyle Springs, City of
Murphy Water System/Owyhee County
Nampa, City of
New Hope Water Corp.
New Meadows, City of
New Plymouth, City of
Nez Perce Tribe
Nezperce, City of
North Kootenai Water and Sewer District
North Tonner Butte Water & Sewer District
Notus, City of
Onaway Water & Sewer Association
Oroville, City of
Orofino, City of
Outlet Water Association
Panhandle Village Water
Par Estates Homeowners Association
Paradise Valley Water Association, Inc.
Parma, City of
Payette Lakes Recreational Water & Sewer District
Payette, City of
Peck, City of
Pierce, City of
Pine River 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
Project Patch
Rapid River Water & Sewer District
Rathdrum, City of
Red Pheasant Water Company
Remington Water District
Riggins, City of
Riverland Terrace Nonprofit Water Corp.
Riverside Water & Sewer District
Rose Lake Water Association Inc.
Roswell Water Users
Sagle Valley Water & Sewer District
Salmon River Ranger District
Sawtooth Estates Water Users Association, Inc.
Scenic Properties Water Association
Schweitzer Utility Company
Scriber Woods Homeowners Association
Shamrock Villa Water Association
Silver Sage Real Estate Property Owners
Simple Land & Livestock
SM Utilities
Smelterville, City of
South River Water Association
Southside Water & Sewer District
Southwest Idaho Treatment Center
Spirit Bend Water Association
Spirit Lake, City of
Splendid Acres Water Association
St Maries, City of
Star Sewer & Water District
Stites, City of
Stoneridge Utilities
Sunnyridge Water Corporation #3
Syringa Heights Water District
Tensed, City of
Tetelespam Lakes Water Company
The Amalgamated Sugar Company LLC
The Jughandle Corporation
Troy, City of
University of Idaho/Physical Plant
USFS North Idaho Forests
Vallivue School District #139
Village 21 Water District
Waha Glen Water District
Wallace, City of
Weippe, City of
Weiser, City of
West Bonner County School District 83
West Bonner Water & Sewer District
White Bird, City of
Wild, City of
Wilderness Ranch Owners Association
Winchester, City of
Woodview Acres Property Owners
Worley, City of
Yellow Pine Water Users Association
OUR MEMBERSHIP

DISTRICT 2 SYSTEM MEMBERS
Aberdeen, City of
Albion, City of
American Falls, City of
Ammon, City of
Arco, City of
Arimo, City of
Ashton, City of
Aspen Hollow Homeowners Association
Atlanta Water Association, Inc.
Atomic City, City of
Bailey Creek Community Association
Bancroft, City of
Basalt, City of
Bear Lake West Property Owners Association
Bellevue, City of
Bennington Water System
Birch Creek Culinary Water Company
Bliss, City of
Bloomington, City of
Bonneville Joint School District #93
Buhl, City of
Burley, City of
Carey, City of
Caribou Acres Water Company
Cassia County School District #151
Castleford, City of
Challis Joint School District #181
Challis, City of
Clover Trinity Lutheran Church
Dayton, City of
Decl, City of
Dietrich, City of
Downey, City of
Driggs, City of
Dubois, City of
Eden, City of
Elk Bend Mutual Water Co Unit #1
Evaqua Farms LLC
Fairfield, City of
Fairview Water District
Falls Water Company, Inc.
Filer, City of
Firth, City of
Franklin, City of
Fremont County Sewer
Georgetown, City of
Gooding, City of
GPOD of Idaho
Grace, City of
Greenfield Water & Sewer District
Hagerman, City of
Hailey, City of
Hansen, City of
Hazelton, City of
Heyburn, City of
Hollister, City of
Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections – St. Anthony
Idaho Supreme Potatoes
Inkom, City of
Iona, City of
Island Park Village Association
Jerome, City of
Ketchum, City of
Kimberly, City of
Lacey’s Vista Acres Water Corp.
Lava Hot Springs, City of
M & T Water & Sewer
Mackay, City of
Madison School District #321
Malad, City of
Marsh Valley School District #21
McCammon, City of
Menan, City of
Minidoka County Schools #331
Minidoka, City of
Montpelier, City of
Murtough, City of
Newdale, City of
Oakley, City of
Paris, City of
Paul, City of
Picabo Livestock Co Inc.
Preston, City of
Reed’s Dairy, Inc.
Richfield, City of
Rigby, City of
Ririe, City of
Ritewood, Inc.
Roberts, City of
Rockland, City of
Rogerson Water District
Rupert, City of
Salmon River Meadows Mutual Water
Salmon, City of
Shelley, City of
Shoshone Bannock Tribe – Tribal Utilities
Shoshone, City of
Snake River School District
Soda Springs, City of
South Park Estates Water and Sewer
Springdale Acres HOA
St Anthony, City of
St Charles, City of
Stanley Sewer Association
Strawberry Mink Creek Water Association
Sugar City, City of
Sun Valley Water & Sewer District
Sunset Heights Water District
Teton, City of
Tetonia, City of
Thunder Canyon Estates Owners Association
Township Park Estates
Twin Falls, City of
Ucon, City of
Valley Club Owners Association
Valley View Estates Water Users Association
Victor, City of
Wendell, City of
West Jefferson School District / Terreton High School
Weston, City of
Williams Lake Water & Sewer District

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 H20 Inc
American Flow Control
American Leak Detection of Boise
American Leak Detection of The ILNW (Inland Northwest)
Analytical Laboratories, Inc
Anatek Labs
Apesco LLC
Aquadrone Marine Services
AY McDonald Manufacturing Company
BioLynceus Environmental Solutions
Black Mountain Software, Inc
C H 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
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.
Great West Engineering
Goble Sampson Associates
H D Fowler Company
Harper-Leavitt Engineering Inc.
Heeco Engineers
High Country Fusion Company
Hose Solutions
Hydro Specialties Company
Hymax By Krausz
ICRMP
Idaho Central Credit Union
Integrity Inspection Solutions, Inc.
isiWest, Inc.
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
Metroquip
Mission Communications
Mountain Waterworks
Mountain West Waterworks
Neptune Technology Group
Nicom, Inc.
One.7, Inc.
Org Name
Oxarc
Pipeline Inspection Services, Inc.
Precision Pumping Systems
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
Spectra Shield Liner Systems
SPF Water Engineering
Subsurface Leak Detection
SWS Equipment, Inc.
Tap Master Inc.
TC Sales & Service
T&DH 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.
Water Utility App
Waterford Systems
W-Cubed
Western Engineering
Western States Automation
Western States Cat
Western Systems And Fabrication
Wetco Inc.
Xylem Dewatering Solutions
Zener USA

INDIVIDUAL AND SUPPORT MEMBERS
Basic American Foods
Berg, Carla
Betaseed Inc.
Blackfoot, City of
Brown, Jack
Carollo Engineers, Inc.
Chubbuck, City of
Clear Springs Foods, Inc.
Coeur d’Alene, City of
Curtis, Michael
Eastern Idaho Regional Wastewater Authority
Hammons, Shelly
Hightree Residence
Idaho Falls, City of
Idaho National Laboratory
Idaho Power Company
IES Waterworks
Lewiston Orchards Irrigation District
Management & Training Corp
McCain Foods USA, Inc.
Pocatello, City of
Rexburg, City of
Sandpoint, City of
Sawtooth National Forest
Sunrise Engineering
Water Management Consulting, LLC
Water Systems Management
Woodgrain Millwork

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!