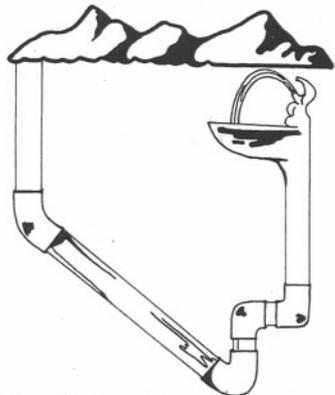


Water

Lines



Water Lines is the resource newsletter and calendar of the Nevada Drinking Water and Wastewater Training Coalition.

Volume 11 Fall 2003 issue

Inside this issue....

Spigot Q&A	2
UNR student receives \$5,000 AWWA scholarship	2
Meet us in Portland!	2
Nevada water systems: regulatory update	2
DWSRF program moves to NDEP in October	3
New Nevada operators	3
Legislature provides \$17 million for water system improvements	4
Drinking water initiative underway at Lake Tahoe	5
Resource Round-up	6
Training Calendar 2003-2004	7

Special Insert Open Meeting Law Update

Rural Community Assistance Corporation funds *Water Lines* through a contract with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection.

Editor, Abigail Johnson, RCAC

Editor and Production,
Julia Helmreich, RCAC

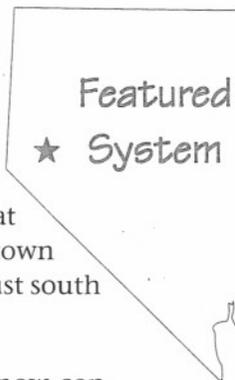
Featured System: City of Yerington

By Brent Farr, P.E., Farr West Engineering

The City of Yerington has been making improvements to all of its facilities, but lately, the water system has been in focus. The City is in the final stages of a major capital improvement project that replaced nearly all of the town of Mason's water system, just south of Yerington's city limits.

The Mason water system, now consolidated with the Yerington system, was originally developed by Mason Water, Power and Light, which was

ally successful in obtaining nearly \$4 million from the AB 198 water grant program. This funding was combined with loan and grant funds provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development. After a two year process, contractors finally broke ground in July 2002.



(Continued on page 4)

Videoconferencing magic brings training to water operators across Nevada

By Crystel Montecinos, University of Nevada, Environmental & Resource Sciences



These old water meters were replaced as part of a major capital improvement project in the town of Mason, just south of Yerington's city limits.

founded in 1931. In 1964, ownership of the water system was transferred to Don Tibbals. In 1998, the City of Yerington purchased the system. At the time of purchase, the water system was in poor condition. Among other things, the storage tank was undersized and in violation of numerous state codes; the pipe network was subject to leaks due to degrading pipe; unsuitable pipe materials were common; and fire protection was virtually nonexistent.

In July 2000, the City of Yerington sought a grant to repair the Mason water system. The City was eventu-

University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) videoconference workshops are reaching Nevada water operators from the very smallest of public water systems to the largest. In fact, 760 operators from 83 different communities have attended videoconferencing workshops since 2000.

By now, many of you are familiar with the little blue postcards in the mail announcing upcoming videoconference workshops. And by now, many of you have attended one or more videoconference workshops. These workshops provide continuing education units to operators all across Nevada.

If you haven't tried it yet, videoconferencing is little different from face-to-face instruction. Each workshop is presented in Reno on the UNR campus and broadcast to four or five remote locations simultaneously. Students in the remote locations watch the presentation on a large

(Continued on page 3)

The Spigot Q & A

Q.1. What is cavitation?

A.1. The formation and collapse of a gas pocket or bubble on the blades of an impeller. This drives water into the impeller with a terrific force that can cause pitting on its surface.

Source: Water Treatment Plant Operation Vol I and II, K. Kerri

Q.2. List four examples of stored energy that could be hazardous to operators.

A.2. Electrical power; air, gas, or steam pressure; water (hydraulic) pressure; spring tension; rotational forces in flywheels; and the energy in elevated machine parts if they suddenly swing free.

Source: Water Treatment Plant Operation Vol I and II, K. Kerri

UNR master's student receives \$5,000 AWWA scholarship

Catherine (Catie) Heine received the 2003 Thomas R. Camp Scholarship from the American Water Works Association (AWWA). She will use this \$5,000 scholarship to pursue a master's degree in environmental engineering through the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Nevada, Reno. Catie will be working with Professor Amy Childress on a project involving nanofiltration membrane processes for seawater desalination.

Competition for this scholarship is very intense. AWWA receives applications from all over the United States. According to Dean Adams, who has served on AWWA selection committees in the past, receiving this prestigious scholarship is a credit to Catie.

For more information, contact Dean Adams at 775/784-1474. ♠

Q.3. Which water treatment process is not effective in removing microbial contaminants?

A.3. Ion exchange.

Source: AWWA's Opflow

Q.4. Where should respiratory apparatus be stored?

A.4. Respiratory apparatus must be stored outside of chlorinating, sulfur dioxide, carbon dioxide, ozone, and ammonia rooms in an unlocked cabinet. The storage cabinets must have a controlled environment to prevent equipment deterioration.

Source: Water Treatment Plant Operation Vol I and II, K. Kerri

The Spigot features Q&A on a variety of topics with typical certification exam questions. Crystel Montecinos, Program Development Specialist with the UNR Cooperative Extension, prepares The Spigot. ♠



Meet Us in Portland, Oregon!

The RCAC 2004 Conference

March 22-24, 2004

Sharing Our Gifts:

Celebrating Our Diversity

Mark your calendar for March 22-24, 2004 to attend the RCAC 2004 Conference in Portland, Oregon. The Conference will feature sessions on:

- Rural policy
- Water systems management and operations
- Organizational management and operations
- Financing & tax credits
- Leveraging resources
- And much more!

Visit our web site at www.rcac.org for more details. Call RCAC at 916/447-2854 to be added to our conference mailing list. See you in Portland! ♠

Nevada water systems: regulatory update

By Galen Denio, Bureau of Health Protection Services

The Health Division, Bureau of Health Protection Services (BHPS) is revising state regulations to conform with recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulation changes. BHPS will hold workshops this fall; final regulations will be effective by December 2003.

The changes will incorporate federal requirements into the Nevada Administrative Code and will include:

- Lead and Copper Rule revisions
- Radionuclides Rule
- Arsenic Rule
- Public Notification Rule
- Filter Backwash Recycling Rule

- Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule
- Variance and Exemption Rule



Until these changes are adopted, BHPS will cooperate with EPA to enforce the federal rules, which are effective where state regulations are not yet adopted.

BHPS is also considering changes to regulations that pertain to public water system design, construction, operation and maintenance and fee structures.

For more information, call Galen Denio, at 775/687-6615 ext.229. ♠

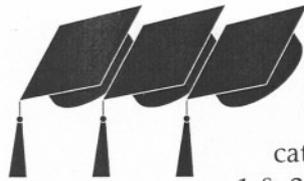
DWSRF program moves to NDEP in October

By Julie Flanagan, DWSRF Program

Have you moved lately? If so, you know what a huge undertaking it is. Plan months in advance to make sure things go as smoothly as possible. The staff of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program has been making plans since the Legislature approved its move from the Nevada State Health Division, Department of Human Resources, to the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP), Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Although the move was effective on paper July 1, the actual physical move will not take place until some time in the near future, probably early October. Finding space to accommodate the DWSRF program at NDEP has been a challenge, however, having the AB198 state water grant program and the wastewater state revolving fund program under one roof with the DWSRF program will make it easier for grant and loan applicants to seek funding. The DWSRF offices will be located at 333 West Nye Lane, Room 104, Carson City. Mail should be sent to the same street address, however, use Room 138.

For more information, contact Adele Basham, P.E., DWSRF Supervisor, at 775/687-4750, extension 265, before the move and at 775/687-9488 after the move. The fax number will remain the same: 775/687-3218. ♠



New Nevada operators certified

These operators passed entry level water certification exams for distribution and treatment grades 1 & 2. Congratulations to all!

Distribution grades 1 & 2

Eric Beers, D-1; Gary Blackwelder, D-1; Adrian Edwards, D-1; Scott Estes, D-1; Tim Farquhar, D-1; Mark Gerald, D-1; David James, D-1; Larry McKenzie, D-1; Phillip Orme, D-1; Samuel Smith, D-1; Jerome Stringam, D-1; James Ashby, D-2; Andrew Burton, D-2; Darrin Garland, D-2; Mark Vincent Gonzales, D-2; Don Grace, D-2; Josh Joyner, D-2; Scott Knecht, D-2; Eugene Rockwell, D-2; Jon Summers, D-2.

Treatment grades 1 & 2

Stephen Anderson, T-1; Scott Estes, T-1; Tim Farquhar, T-1; Mark Gerald, T-1; Mike Jackson, T-1; Bill Robbins, T-1; Fritz Peter Sawyer, T-1; Jerome Stringam, T-1; Ryan Swirczek, T-1; Andrew Weyman, Jr., T-1; Darrin Garland, T-2; Robert Hopkins, T-2; Scott Knecht, T-2; Eugene Rockwell, T-2. ♠

Videoconferencing magic

(Continued from page 1)

television. Microphones and additional cameras in each room allow all students, regardless of their location, to ask questions and interact with the instructor and students at other remote locations. Operators across Nevada can see, hear and learn from each other during the workshops.

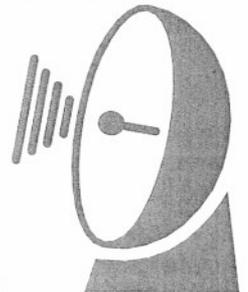
Twenty-four videoconference workshops, sponsored by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and presented by UNR, have now been held on a variety of subjects such as contingency planning, basic math, chemical safety and cross connection control. Presenters and teachers from many agencies have generously donated their time and skills to this unique partnership program. The special thanks list is too long to include here!

Regular evaluation allows UNR to continually improve classes and provide new speakers and topics to meet operator needs. Students are asked to complete an evaluation following each workshop. Results consistently show that the partici-

pants have been pleased with videoconferencing; 81 percent rated their workshops as good or very good.

Fear of math? Not in Nevada! When asked what topics students would like to see in the future, Nevada's public water system operators frequently requested more instruction time in math and state examination preparation.

So, operators and managers, keep an eye out for that blue postcard. UNR will continue to bring videoconferencing classes to your community or one nearby. Upcoming workshops include *Introduction to Disinfection, Certification Examination Review for Grade I and II Treatment and Distribution, Wellhead Protection, Fire Hydrant Basics, and Math*. All workshops are free and are approved for continuing education hours. For more information contact Crystal Montecinos at 775/784-6853. ♠



Featured System

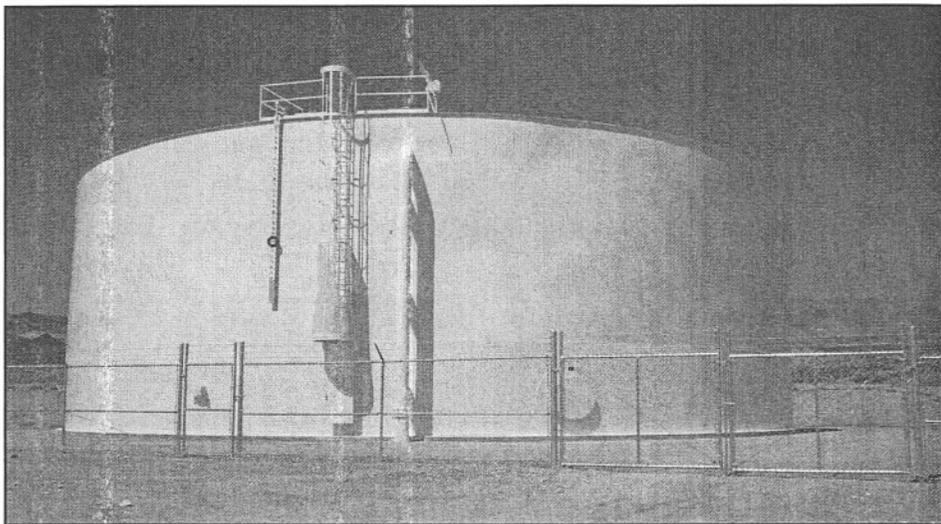
(Continued from page 1)

Local leadership should be given much credit for the progress that has been made. The City Council, Mayor, City Manager, Public Works Director and even former Assemblyman Joe Dini, a Yerington resident, all worked together to make the project successful.

The City of Yerington Department of Public Works operates and maintains the water and wastewater systems in the city of Yerington and

Almost every component of the system was replaced or upgraded. Improvements included a one million gallon water storage tank, distribution pipe, valves, hydrants, water meters and improvements to two well facilities. The residents of Mason now have reliable water service and fire protection.

The consolidation of the Yerington and Mason water systems was another benefit of the project. The two systems are now tied together and have become the Yerington water system. The Bureau of Health Pro-



Almost every component of the Yerington system was replaced or upgraded. Improvements included a one million gallon water storage tank, (shown above) distribution pipe, valves, hydrants, water meters and upgrades on two well facilities.

the water system in the town of Mason. The department also is responsible for a multitude of other functions, such as maintaining city streets and drainage, and overseeing the parks and animal control functions. Public Works Director Roy McDonald supervises a staff of seven full-time employees. Collectively, employees of the Public Works department hold numerous certifications in water distribution and treatment and wastewater treatment. The department also has a certified Backflow Tester and Backflow Specialist.

tection Services officially approved this consolidation, which results in cost savings for the City. Consolidating water systems is a Nevada priority, and the City of Yerington has shown that it is beneficial and that it can be done.

The combined water system now serves about 4,200 people. The water rates are \$18.50 per month for a base usage of 4,000 gallons, with an additional charge of \$1 for each additional 1,000 gallons used. A customer using 22,000 gallons of water will pay \$36.50 per month.

The City now plans to rehabilitate portions of the original Yerington water system. It is in the process of completing Preliminary Engineering Reports for both the water and sewer systems and will develop a Storm Drain Master Plan next year.

The City is also involved in another water system consolidation effort in conjunction with Lyon County. Lyon County operates a small water system for the Willowcreek General Improvement District (GID), a subdivision located several miles north of Yerington. Lyon County recently received grant and loan funds to improve that system. The project will include construction of a transmission main from the Yerington system to the GID. The City of Yerington will then become the purveyor of water for the GID. ♠

Legislature provides \$17 million for water system improvements

By Lisa Thayer, Rural Community Assistance Corporation

The State Board for Financing Water Projects met in June to fund AB 198 water grants and to discuss actions of the 2003 Legislature. The Financing Board also discussed the increasing need to fund arsenic treatment.

Three new bills were passed in 2003 which affect the Financing Board and its funding.

SB 200 gives the Financing Board \$4 million to connect individual sewage systems to community sewer systems. This money was primarily made available for Spanish Springs, a community in Washoe County, which received a directive from the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) to connect to a central system because of groundwater contamination. This money also may be

(Continued on page 5)

Drinking water protection initiative underway at Lake Tahoe

By Michelle Sweeney, Nevada Tahoe Conservation District

At Lake Tahoe, a Drinking Water Protection Initiative is underway to help this complex, bi-state watershed step up to a higher level of drinking water protection.

Now that nationwide Source Water Assessments are complete, the next step will be determining how to utilize them most effectively.

Lake Tahoe is a drinking water source for Nevada tourists and residents. It is also the origin of the Truckee River, the water supply source for Reno. Management of Lake Tahoe is complex; federal, bi-state, local agencies and the public all have a stake and a large investment in the resource.

Five of the major Nevada municipal suppliers of water at Lake Tahoe operate under "Filtration Exemption" (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations, §141.70). Treating the water through ozonation, rather than filtering, saves customers considerable costs. To keep consumer costs low, the water systems must maintain a "watershed

control program" including an ambitious agenda for cooperation in watershed management.

The water suppliers, through their own expense and with a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, have taken important steps to establish partnerships. Six Nevada water supply systems have formed an independent association — The Nevada Tahoe Water Suppliers' Association. The Association

coordinates information, resource and data sharing among the systems. The Association also promotes drinking water education and will apply for

grant funds to expand drinking water education in the community.

Meanwhile, the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District is working closely with the Water Suppliers' Association to coordinate watershed management efforts with the federal, state and local agencies that plan and regulate land use and activity in the watershed. The primary goal of

the district's initiative is to integrate drinking water protection into the management plans for the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The Nevada Bureau of Health Protection Services (BHPS) is a key partner in efforts to bring the drinking water protection message "home" to residents and users of the Lake Tahoe Basin. The Source Water Assessment for the Tahoe Basin, conducted by the BHPS and the University of Nevada Reno, is an important tool to determine what monitoring and studies are needed to answer management questions. The Assessment also helps managers focus on key issues and communities where education is a priority.

Lake Tahoe is a tremendous natural resource and a "harbor" for many opportunities and challenges. As

THE ASSESSMENT ALSO HELPS MANAGERS FOCUS ON KEY ISSUES AS WELL AS COMMUNITIES WHERE EDUCATION IS A PRIORITY.

...THE PRIMARY GOAL OF THE DISTRICT'S INITIATIVE IS TO INTEGRATE DRINKING WATER PROTECTION INTO THE MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN.

Legislature

(Continued from page 4)

available to other communities in similar circumstances.

SB 233 increases the financing authority of the board by \$17 million to help fund drinking water infrastructure, conservation and source water protection.

AB 473 authorized transferring the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program from the Nevada State Health Division to NDEP.

At the meeting, the Financing Board also made it known that it considers

AB 198 a grant of last resort. As such, the Financing Board will expect more proof of need from AB 198 grant applicants in the future. The Board suggests communities include evidence of cash flow, expenses, and future needed capital improvements in the grant packet. The Board also encourages communities to provide documentation of efforts to secure other funding and in-kind match.

For information about the AB 198 water grant program, contact Bill Coughlin, NDEP, at 775/687-9422. ♠

long as people are drawn to its shores for livelihood and recreation, the Lake will continue to be vital to human life on its shores. All of those individuals and agencies involved in the protection of this drinking water resource play a role in its wise use and management.

For more information on the Nevada Water Purveyors Association and the Nevada Tahoe Conservation District Drinking Water Protection Initiative, contact Michelle Sweeney at 775/586-7212, or by e-mail at michelle-sweeney@ca.nacdnet.org; or contact Sarah Tone at Incline Village General Improvement District by e-mail at sarah_tone@ivgid.org. ♠

RESOURCE ROUND-UP

NvRWA offers free aid to systems on Vulnerability Security Assessments

Need help or just don't have the time to complete your Vulnerability Security Assessment? Let Nevada Rural Water Association (NvRWA) know. They will help you complete it at no charge. Contact NvRWA at its toll free number, 888/884-2055, to schedule an assessment.

AWWA training guides offered

The AWWA **Operator Certification Study Guide** has been revised. The previous version is no longer available from the AWWA Bookstore. The revised edition came out in August with a new catalog number, #20517, and a new price — \$42 for members.



AWWA's most popular water operator training book on source water also is now in a fully revised edition. *Water Sources, 3rd edition: Part one of the Principles and Practices of Water Supply Operations Series*. To order, call 800/926-7337 or go to www.awwa.org.

Web Sites

www.regulations.gov

EPA launched this online rulemaking web site to give web-savvy citizens a way to be involved in federal rulemaking.

www.groundwater.org

The Groundwater Foundation web site is a source of information and educational materials on groundwater.

Free job listings on the Internet

The University of Nevada lists water-related job opportunities in Nevada on the Source Water Protection web site. *The listing is free!* If your drinking water or wastewater system has a job opening, let us know. The Source Water Protection web site, sponsored by the Nevada Bureau of Health Protection Services through the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, is at www.unce.unr.edu/swp. To list an opening or for more information, please contact Crystel Montecinos at 775/784-6853 or at xtelle@cabnr.unr.edu.



UNR – Colleges of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources & Cooperative Extension

Videoconference Training Calendar 2003

UNR videoconference classes on water systems operation, maintenance and management — Reno and rural locations — Continuing Education units earned — For information, registration and locations call Crystel Montecinos at 775/784-6853 or email: xtelle@cabnr.unr.edu.

October 17 — Wellhead Protection

November 21 — Review for Grade I & II water operator treatment and distribution exams

Community College of Southern Nevada Wastewater & Water Technology Program

Info: LeAnna Risso, 702/434-6600 ext. 6418.

WWET training in Clark County

Info: Gladys Alford, 702/258-3834; see www.wwet.org for a current training calendar.

State of Nevada Water Certification Exams

All exams will be proctored some time during the week of the date listed. Applications are due to the state (Steve Brockway) 30 days before exam dates. A proctor will contact examinees to schedule testing. 2003 exam date is Sept. 8. Info: Debra Kaye, 775/834-8114.

Wastewater Certification Board testing

Wastewater certification exams will be given the second Thursday in October; call for locations. Info: 702/433-1498 or www.nvwea.org.

Draft of One-Call regulation now available

Staff of the Public Utilities Commission has been working for the past two years to develop a first regulation for implementing Nevada's One-Call law (NRS 455). Commission staff worked with the Underground Service Alert North and stakeholders representing various utilities and excavators to develop a document that describes extension and renewal procedures, remark requirements, and formal and informal complaint resolution procedures. To obtain a copy of the draft document, or to determine where it is in the approval process, call Melissa Swan, PUC Safety Division, at 775/687-6004.



Training Calendar 2003-2004

September 25-27—Laughlin—Tri-State Seminar on the River. Security; surface and ground water; distribution; wastewater treatment and collection; and other topics. Info: Annette Duarte, 520/740-6539, or www.tristateseminar.com.

September 26—Laughlin—Operator Certification Advisory Board Meeting, 9 a.m. at Big Bend Water District Office. (CEUs available.) Info: Steve Brockway at 775/687-6615, ext. 235 or <http://health2k.state.nv.us/bhps/phe/cert.htm>.

October 1—Eureka—NvRWA System Security Assessments/Emergency Response, 9 a.m. - noon, (3 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.

October 6-10—San Diego, CA—CA-NV AWWA Fall Conference at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina. Info: 909/481-7200.

October 10—San Diego, CA—CA-NV AWWA Smaller Utilities Day. Info: 909/481-7200.

October 8—Tonopah—NvRWA Wellhead Protection, 1-3 p.m., (2 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.

October 9—Yerington—NvRWA Cla-Val, 8 a.m. - noon, (4 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.

October 29—Panaca—NvRWA Fire Hydrant Repair & Maintenance, 9 a.m. - noon, (3 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.

November 5—Wells—NvRWA System Security Assessments/Emergency Response, 9 a.m.-noon, (3 hours); Engineering & Construction, Grants Procurement/Mgmt., 1-3 p.m., (2 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.

November 6—Reno—CA-NV AWWA Water Quality Satellite Teleconference, UNR Getchell Library projection room. Info and registration: Stephanie Mendoza, 909/481-7200.

November 18—Winnemucca—RCAC Financial management training: budgets, audits, rate setting, reading financial statements. Info: Steve Palmer 775/882-8887.

November 19—Winnemucca—RCAC Operator Certification Exam Preparation Grade 1 & 2, Water distribution and treatment. Info: Steve Palmer 775/882-8887.

November 19—Eureka—NvRWA Pump Curves & Pump Efficiency, 9 a.m.-noon, (3 hours); Electrical Troubleshooting, 1-3 p.m., (2 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.

December 10—Hawthorne—NvRWA Arsenic, 8-10 a.m., (2 hours). NvRWA Radon, 10 a.m.-noon, (2 hours); Fire Hydrant Repair & Maintenance, 1-3 p.m. (2 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.

December 12—Reno, Las Vegas, Elko—Videoconference sites for the Operator Certification Advisory Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m. (CEUs available.) Info: Steve Brockway, 775/687-6615, ext. 235 or <http://health2k.state.nv.us/bhps/phe/cert.htm>.

December 17—Pioche—NvRWA Consumer Confidence Reports, 9 a.m.-noon, (3 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.

2004

January 7—Round Mountain & Hadley—NvRWA Consumer Confidence Reports, 9 a.m.-noon, (3 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.

January 20—Reno—RCAC Using QuickBooks. Info: Steve Palmer 775/882-8887.

January 21—Pahrump—NvRWA System Security Assessments/Emergency Response, 9 a.m. - noon, (3 hours); Solid Waste Management/Groundwater Protection, 1 - 3 p.m., (2 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.

January 29—Laughlin—NvRWA Fire Hydrant Repair & Maintenance, 9 a.m. - noon, (3 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.

February 19—Pahrump—NvRWA Fire Hydrant Repair & Maintenance, 9 a.m. - noon, (3 hours). Info: 775/783-7225.

February 26—Fallon—RCAC Operator Certification Exam Preparation Grade 1 & 2 - Water distribution and treatment. Info: Steve Palmer 775/882-8887.

March 9-12—Sparks—NvRWA annual technical conference. Info: 775/783-7225.

March 22-24—Portland, OR—RCAC national rural development conference. Info: 916/447-2854.

March 24-26—Reno—Nevada Water Environment Association Annual Conference. Info: <http://www.nvwea.org/>

April 22—Las Vegas—RCAC Understanding financial statements, budgets and audits. Info: Steve Palmer 775/882-8887.

May 13-14—Eureka—RCAC Water Fair: Funding options for small communities; capital improvement planning, rate setting and budget analysis, financial management of a small utility. Info: Steve Palmer 775/882-8887.

May 27—Las Vegas—RCAC Operator Certification Exam Preparation Grade 1 & 2 - Water distribution and treatment. Info: Steve Palmer 775/882-8887.

August 26—Elko—RCAC Operator Certification Exam Preparation Grade 1 & 2 - Water distribution and treatment. Info: Steve Palmer 775/882-8887.

Correction: In the Summer issue of *Water Lines*, the Nevada Rural Water Association training in Panaca on Fire Hydrant Report and Maintenance was listed incorrectly. The correct date for the training is October 29, as shown in this calendar.

* Please note that one hour of training is .1 ceu.

◆ This symbol designates training pre-approved by the Nevada State Health Division for continuing education units (CEU) credit. Other training may be eligible for CEUs but is not yet pre-approved. Before attending any training, contact the Health Division at 775/687-6615 ext. 235 for approval. Ten hours of approved training equals 1 CEU. A different ratio applies for safety training. Contact Steve Brockway at 775/687-6615 ext.235 for details.

Nevada Drinking Water and Wastewater Training Coalition

American Water Works Association California/Nevada Section

www.ca-nv-awwa.org
Philip Walsack, Smaller Utilities
Committee Chair, 775/841-3131
Nicole Schreuder, Education Mgr., 909/291-2101

Indian Health Service

Dominic Wolf, 775/784-5327

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

www.ndep.nv.gov/index.htm
Adele Basham, DWSRF, 775/687-9488
Bill Coughlin, AB 198 Water Grant Program,
775/687-9422
Nevan Kane, Wellhead Protection,
775/687-9426

Nevada Rural Water Association

www.nvrwa.org
John Allred, 888/884-2055
Jon Anderson, 888/884-2055
Curtis Duff, 888/884-2055
Bob Foerster, 775/721-7972
Georgia Greenrod, 888/884-2055
David Miller, 888/884-2055
John Scovil, 888/884-2055

Nevada State Health Division

www.state.nv.us/health/bhps
775/687-6615
Jim Balderson, SWAP, ext. 228
Steve Brockway, CEU approval, ext. 235
Galen Denio, ext. 229
Dana Pennington, ext. 237

Nevada Water Environment Association

www.wef.org
Starlin Jones, 775/861-4104
Eric Leveque, 702-792-3711

Public Utilities Commission of Nevada

www.state.nv.us/puc
Steve McGoff, Utility Engineer, 775/687-6040

Rural Community Assistance Corporation

www.rcac.org
John Dailey, 775/882-8887
Abby Johnson, 775/882-0296
Steve Palmer, 775/882-8887
Lisa Thayer, 775/882-8887

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9

www.epa.gov/region09
Marvin Young, 415/972-3561

USDA-Rural Development

www.usda.gov/rus/water/index.htm
Mike Holm, 775/887-1222, ext. 26
Kay Vernatter, 702/262-9047 ext. 113

University of Nevada, Reno Dept. of Civil Engineering

Dean Adams, 775/784-1474

UNR Environmental & Resource Sciences and Nevada Cooperative Extension

www.unce.unr.edu/swp
Crystel Montecinos, 775/784-6853
Mark Walker, 775/784-1938

Water/Wastewater Education and Training Consortium of Southern Nevada — WWET

www.wwet.org
Marie Pollack, Chair, 702/298-3113
Gladys Alford, Registrar, 702/258-3834

NDWWTC Board Members

2001-2003

Adele Basham
775/687-9488
abasham@ndep.nv.gov

Dean Adams
775/784-1474
vdadams@unr.nevada.edu

Bob Foerster
775/783-7225
foerster1@pyramid.net

Russell Rocha
775/861-4105
rrocha@ci.sparks.nv.us

Philip Walsack
775/841-3131
pwalsack@sbcglobal.net

Articles in Water Lines may be reprinted with permission from RCAC. Please note that the article originally appeared in Water Lines, the newsletter of the Nevada Drinking Water and Wastewater Training Coalition. For permission, call 916/447-9832 extension 108.



Rural Community Assistance Corporation

3120 Freeboard Drive, Suite 201
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2418
Sacramento, CA

JON PALM
NDEP
333 W NYE LN
CARSON CITY NV 89706-3802



SEP 29 2003

Nevada Drinking Water and Wastewater Training Coalition

Water Lines

Fall 2003

RECEIVED



This issue of *Water Lines* is printed on recycled and recyclable paper.



Water Lines Special Insert

Nevada's Open Meeting Law: New Developments

An effective compliance plan can protect systems

By Jim Smith, Deputy Attorney General

Jim Smith is a deputy attorney general who works with general improvement districts and local governments. This article provides general information and is not an opinion of the Attorney General.

Effective compliance plans protect systems from legal trouble

The Nevada Open Meeting Law (OML) was enacted to protect the public's right to know how government works and to prevent decision-making behind closed doors. The Nevada OML, Chapter 241 of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) applies to a quorum of a public body. As public bodies, districts are subject to the Nevada OML. The Nevada OML was enacted to ensure that all public bodies deliberate and take action openly, because all public bodies exist to aid in the conduct of the public's business.

Violation of the OML can result in severe penalties, including removal from office and criminal sanctions, and can expose board members to civil actions by the Attorney General. A board compliance plan protects the rights of the public and allows the board to function economically and effectively. Compliance plans fall under a board's ministerial, discretionary and fiduciary duties.

- NRS 241.036 — Actions taken in violation of the OML are void.



Recent OML developments

The Nevada Legislature recently adopted Chapter 76, 2003 Nev. Stat. (AB 409). This statute became effective July 1, 2003. Download a copy of the chapter from the legislature's web site at <http://leg.state.nv.us>. This statute defines minimum public notice to include providing a copy of the notice to any person who has requested notice of the meetings of a public body. The statute also allows a public body to transmit public notice and other information to the requester by electronic mail sent no

later than 9 a.m. of the third working day before the meeting. The statute allows boards to e-mail the agenda and exhibits to persons

requesting notice under NRS 241.020(3), (5) and (6). Use of this statute may save boards the expense of copying and mailing voluminous documents, which is an important consideration in these difficult economic times.

The Nevada Supreme Court recently decided *Sandoval vs. Board of Regents* — 119 Nev. Adv. Op. 19 (May 2, 2003). This OML case recognizes the "clear and complete

**A BOARD COMPLIANCE PLAN
PROTECTS THE RIGHTS OF THE
PUBLIC AND ALLOWS THE BOARD
TO FUNCTION ECONOMICALLY
AND EFFECTIVELY.**

statement of the topics scheduled to be considered during the meeting” as the standard for board agendas — NRS241.020(2)(c)(1). While this require-

...THE COURT REINFORCED
THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCURATE AND
COMPLETE AGENDAS
TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS
OF THE PUBLIC.

ment has been a part of the OML for some time, the Court reinforced the importance of accurate and complete agendas to protect the rights of the public.

Legal requirements and training are important parts of OML compliance

Attention to the details of the law and training are two important components of an effective OML compliance plan. Compliance with the OML is an essential board duty. The State Bar of Nevada and private companies offer training to board members and board attorneys on basic requirements of the OML, including notice, clear agendas, public comment, and accurate meeting minutes. Training can prevent boards from making common mistakes in conducting the public’s business. Compliance with the OML is an important board risk management activity that will save legal costs and expenses.



Board members should consult an attorney for more complex OML questions, including closed litigation meetings, confidential matters and contract procurement questions.

When questions arise, board members and attorneys also can consult the *Nevada Open Meeting Law Manual*, which is published on the Nevada Attorney General’s Office web site at <http://ag.state.nv.us>. The Nevada Attorney General’s web site also contains recent OML opinions and other useful information, including guidelines and frequently asked questions. The Attorney General’s Office will assist boards informally with OML issues. Correct responses can save time and money. For example, if

BOARD MEMBERS MUST RECOGNIZE
THAT THE OML IS PART OF THEIR
OVERALL RISK MANAGEMENT AND LEGAL
COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS.

an OML error has been made, a board may re-notice an agenda item and correct it at a later properly-noticed meeting.

Board members must recognize that the OML is part of their overall risk management and legal compliance programs. Board members should not attempt to hold secret meetings, take action or do anything listed in NRS 241.040 as illegal or criminal. The OML is stringent and effective, and violation can result in sanctions for board members and their systems. ♠