

Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

April 2022

Water tower inspection areas of focus

Article/Photos By Jake Dugger,
Water Tower Expert, Maguire Iron

Water towers are used as primary water storage for many communities. They are designed to provide safe, potable water, reliable water pressure and fire protection. To keep a water tower functioning properly, annual inspections should be conducted.

The American Water Works Association recommends: "Tanks should be washed out and inspected at least once every three years and where water supplies have sediment problems, annual washouts are recommended." ([AWWA Manual M42, ch. 8, paragraph "Tank Washouts," p. 88](#))

Inspection Categories

1. Sanitary Conditions
2. Structural Conditions
3. Safety Conditions
4. Coating System Conditions
5. Security Conditions

Sanitary Conditions

The sanitary conditions of a water storage tank are paramount to keeping the water supply safe inside the water storage tank from outside contaminants. The items that should be inspected to make sure they meet all OSHA and AWWA standards are:

1. **Vents** – "Frost-Proof" non corrosive screened vent of sufficient size and not open to the outside elements.
2. **Manways** – 24" opening with 4" curb and 2" overhang with weather seal.



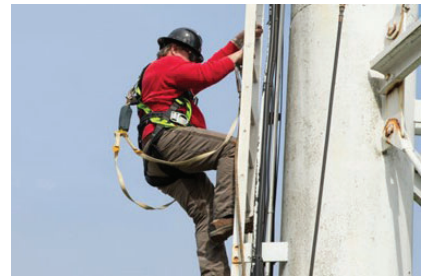
3. **Overflow Pipe** – Sufficient size, screened and/or flap-gate and 18-24" from the ground.

***Check your specific state regulations to make sure your tank is in compliance.**

Structural Conditions

The water tower's structural conditions are critical to ensure that the entire structure is safe. The inspection should ensure that the structure continues to meet the original engineers' specifications. The items that should be inspected, depending on the style of tank, are:

1. **Anchor Bolts** – Secured and tight with no gaps between the nut and foundation plate.
2. **Foundations/Grouting** – No concrete deterioration and all gaps have proper grouting.
3. **Wind Rods** – Turnbuckles properly turned to tank's engineered specifications.



4. **Metal Loss in Steel Plates** – Ensure no metal loss has taken place in metal plates.
5. **Roof Structures** – Have no metal loss, are properly secured and are structurally sound.

Safety Conditions

The water tower's safety conditions are important for keeping anyone who is on or around the structure safe. The safety items that should be inspected, based on the style of tank, are:

1. **Railings** – 42" high with a mid-rail and 4" toe plate.
2. **Ladders** – 16" wide with 12" step, 3/4" non-slip rungs, 3/8" side rails and positive safety climb device.
3. **Manways** – Confined space entry requires a minimum of two unobstructed 24" openings during renovation.

Coating System Conditions

The water tower's exterior and interior coating conditions are critical to protecting the steel from corrosion as well as protecting the potable water from the steel. Many factors effect coat-

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Water tower inspection areas of focus

Continued from page 1
ing performance. That is why it is critical to inspect all aspects of the tank for coating failures, especially areas of the tank that are exposed to moisture, both internally and externally.

Proper coating adhesion and film thickness should be measured by a

N.A.C.E certified coatings inspector to determine how the coatings are performing and what the future needs of the coatings will be.

Security Conditions

The security of a water tank is paramount for ensuring the safety and quality of the structure and the potable water

that it stores. There are multiple best practices to keep your tank and site secure based on the style of tank:

1. Install ladder gates to discourage ladder access or terminate exterior ladders around 12 feet above grade.
2. Properly fence site.
3. All doors and access hatches have proper locks.
4. Visit site on a regular basis.
5. Install alarm system.

In Summary

Safe water is the number one purpose of a water storage tank. A proper inspection performed by

a trained professional in the five inspection categories can alert you to any current issues or give you information on future issues that need to be addressed.

At Maguire Iron, we provide a full range of inspection services and maintenance plans tailored to your water tank's specific needs and budget. Call us today at 605-334-9749 to schedule an appointment with one of our water tower experts to determine your tank's condition and the best way to manage one of your most important pieces of infrastructure.

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Remember to recognize your employees' anniversary milestones. The Utilities Section provides certificates for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 and 65.

You can request them by contacting the League office by email brendah@lonm.org, fax 402-476-7052 or call 402-476-2829.

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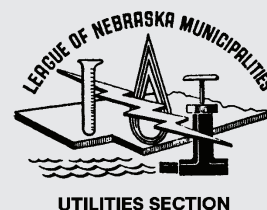
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Water tower inspection areas of focus

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Top left: Examples of a proper welded steel vent and manway that meet OSHA and AWWA standards.



Top middle: Anchor bolts improperly secured can cause structural issues.



Top right: Improper and failed grout between the foundation and the tank base plate.



Middle left: A Maguire Iron employee being trained on how to properly use a cable slider on a safety climb device.



Middle right: A coating thickness test being performed by a Maguire Iron N.A.C.E. Level 3 Coatings Inspector.



Bottom left: A coating adhesion test being performed by a Maguire Iron N.A.C.E. Level 2 Coatings Inspector.



Bottom right: A water tank site with proper fencing, signage and locked gate.



CDL license changes

New employees will need more training with the new CDL regulations. Supervisors, managers and board members may need to address

possible changes due to this added expense, added training schedules, workshops etc. involved with the changes. Other areas to address may in-

clude who needs to have a CDL, what equipment needs a CDL to operate? Can different equipment be used or can contractors be hired for some

tasks? What changes can be practical, economical, efficient, practical to get the tasks completed satisfactorily and safely for all those involved?

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Safety Award recognition

*By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./
Training Coordinator*

Have you completed an AWWA or NWEA safety application to recognize your system's safety program? Members of the American Water Works (AWWA) and the Water Environment Association are encouraged to fill out the paperwork so your system can be recognized. Just a reminder to

those systems that are members of the NS-AWWA that safety and award forms are available to nominate an individual or system for recognition.

The Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA) safety application forms are available for those who want to recognize their system for safety. The form can be acquired at the association website or contact

me at the League office and one will be sent to you.

The Nebraska Section is working on a "75th Anniversary History" book on the section and its members. Plans are to have them available by the November Conference this year. Several of the NS-AWWA member systems have been in communication with me to help collect history data on their Nebraska water systems.

Municipal Parks

The weather has been interesting to say the least this year as rain, snow, hail, occasional flooding in drought areas and drastic swings in temperature have made it a challenge to prepare the municipal parks for the summer use rush. Hopefully, the municipal employees have had time to get them ready. Many areas need to be inspected such as restrooms, bandstands, drinking fountains, shelters, playgrounds and other structures. It is good to have an inspection sheet for each area with checkoffs when the inspection was completed or any repairs or maintenance performed. One organization that can help with training, inspection forms and inspection kits is the Nebraska Recreation & Park Association (NeRPA) and its website is www.nerpa.us. Another useful site is that of the National Recreation and Parks Association with its website at www.nrpa.org.

Other organizations' websites that may be helpful when it comes to parks and recreation include the www.playgroundprofessionals.com and a group that may be helpful with grants is www.the-granthelpers.com. Some material these groups have available may require membership before getting access or the discounted rates. I hope everyone is gearing up for a summer of outdoor activities as I know I am!

The National Program for Playground Safety (NPPS) at the University of Northern Iowa works for children and safe environments for them to play. Information can be found at its website: www.playgroundsafety.org. They have information on surface material at: Fall Surfacing | National Program for Playground Safety and if you would like to self-check or rate your playgrounds, a sample checklist can be found at the Take Action | National Program for Playground Safety.

Utilities Section looking back

The first meeting of the Utilities Section was held in November 1931 and in April 1932, the first organizational meeting was held and the bylaws of the section were adopted.

Nebraska Breaktime Trivia "Just For Fun"

- Q-1.** What were the top 10 most populated Nebraska villages/cities in the 1860 Census?
- Q-2.** How many of the Nebraska villages/cities in question #1 are still in the top 10 today?
- Q-3.** Who was the first governor of Nebraska who was born in Nebraska?

Answers on page 8.

Nebraska utilities history – Potter

The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or rob@lonm.org.

*By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./
Training Coordinator*

Potter, located in Cheyenne County, saw the Pony Express mail delivery route pass through Lodgepole Creek Valley in 1860-61 with two Pony Express stations nearby. The Pole Creek No. 2 Pony Express Station was in what is now Lodgepole, while the Nine Mile station sat southeast of present-day Chappell. Before 1867, the closest thing of a settlement was the Pole Creek No. 2 Pony Express station located a few miles east of the present townsite.

By January 1867, the Union Pacific Continental Railroad arrived in the area (one source sited July 1867). The Union Pacific Railroad established a workstation named Lodgepole after the nearby Creek by July 1867. The Sidney Barracks (military post) was established as a subdivision of Fort Sedgwick in November. When the railroad passed through, a site was named after General Joseph S. Potter, a Union Pacific Railroad Director. Between 1867-1870, Cheyenne County was part

of Lincoln County. The railroad erected a (8 feet x 16 feet) station house in 1870, which for several years, was the only building. The population in the precinct by 1880 was 62 and on Aug. 14, 1885, a post office was established as Potter. The station house served as a post office, a school and the land development office until the site was platted in 1885 and the Thornburg Hotel was built. Some stores were opened and in the 1880s, a primitive water system operated, consisting of a well dug by Frank Hyde, a tank and windmill with water piped to some business buildings and homes. A school was built on the hill (1887-88) and the county was divided into Banner, Cheyenne, Duel, Kimball and Scotts Bluff Counties by 1888. In 1889, some of the businesses included two grocery stores, two hardware stores, a *Potter Press* newspaper, one hotel, one restaurant, a blacksmith shop, a furniture store and a feed store.

By 1891, the population was 176 and businesses included an implement dealer, a telegraph, a furniture store, a grocery store, a restaurant, flour/feed store, a lumber

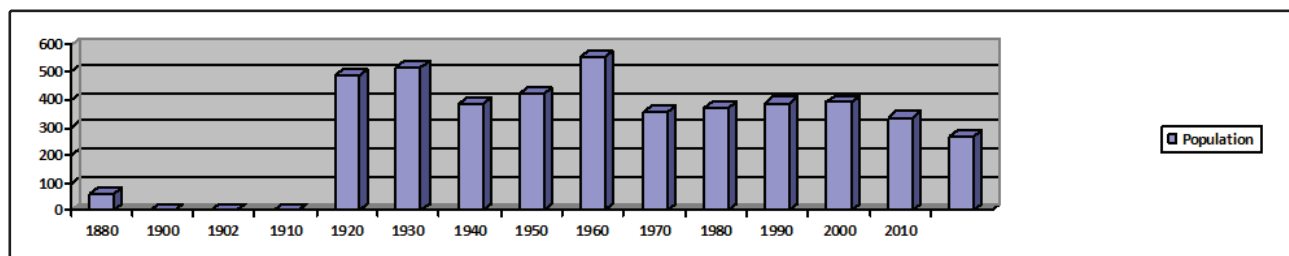


Potter standpipe. 1998 photo.

company, a barber, three churches and a pump/windmill business. In 1892, grain houses were built because of a bumper crop and in 1894, the limestone Bratt building with semi-circular windows was built. The first telephones were installed in town by 1905 and went north of town in 1906 with the top wire of the barbed wire fence used for telephone wire. A bank was organized and a structure was built and about 1907, cement sidewalks were installed.

One source noted that in 1907, the incorporation of the water and city light system was established.

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Nebraska utilities history – Potter

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A hydro plant was located south of town on Lodgepole Creek.

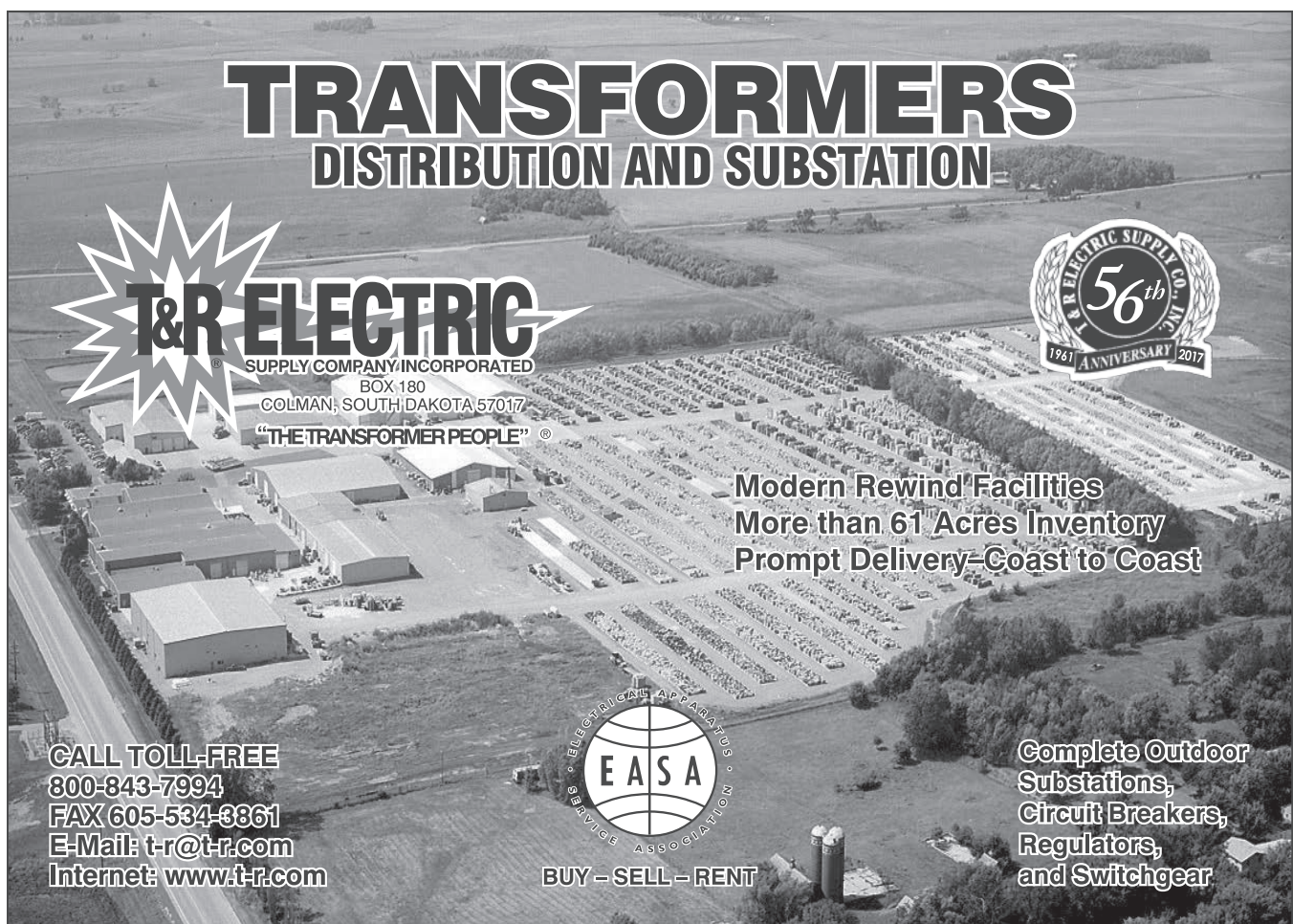
By 1910, the population was about 100, the Gunderson Hotel was built and a flour mill was operating. About 1912-1914, a vote approved bonds for municipal light and water systems to be established. Sidewalks were installed, a light plant and a school were built. The *Potter Review* newspaper was being published and in April 1912, Potter petitioned and was incorporated

as a village (one source noted incorporation in 1914). A brick schoolhouse was built in 1915, which consisted of four rooms with a basement and a gym. The first steel water storage tank was built in 1915 with a 50,000-gallon capacity. A bank was established and the light plant was operated using a 20 horsepower (HP) gas engine with a generator rating of 15 kilovolt amps (kVA). In 1917, a Community Center was built with theaters held on Saturday and a hand-painted stage curtain

was installed in 1919. By 1918, a brick automotive garage was built along with a two-story brick Citizen State Bank. An addition was made to the school in 1919 and the Main Street may have been lit by gas lamps.


In 1920, the population increased to 486, lights were said to have been installed at an airport and a community dump site was established one-and-a-half miles south of town. The Farmers Union Trading Company purchased the

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Nebraska utilities history – Potter

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old generator and engine house for \$1,200 (light plant) in 1921. The village passed a curfew ordinance in 1922 at 8 p.m. in winter months and 9 p.m. for summer months pertaining to children up to 18 years of age. The *Potter Review* newspaper was being published by 1924 and a second unit and motor was added at the light plant. Karl Friche was the engineer of the power plant. In 1925, electric rates were \$0.16 per kilowatt (kW) and the municipal water system rates were \$0.15 per 1,000 gallons. An addition was made to the school (1925) and a library was operating by 1928. The Lincoln Highway was built through town on the south side of the Union Pacific Railroad tracks in 1929. The original route changed to a bypass on the south side of the railroad tracks because nobody wanted the noise.

The population by 1930 was 515 and by September, "Potter Days" were said to have been established (one source listed 1936 as organized). By 1931, water rates for the first 2,000 gallons at \$2 and all over at \$0.15 per 1,000 gal-

lons with a minimum of \$1.50 per month. The municipal power plant operated with Fairbanks-Morse diesel engines and had light rates of first 20 kilowatt hours (kWh) at \$0.015, over 20 kWh at \$0.07 per kWh with a minimum of \$2. Service rates were for the first 30 kWh at \$3.50, all over 30 kWh at \$0.04 per kWh and a minimum of \$3.50. In July 1933, the village passed an ordinance pertaining to intoxicating beverages and by 1934, a softball association was formed as lights were added to the ballfield in the park. In the 1930s, a fire department was organized and the village was selling electric power to the Village of Dix. The municipal power plant had a capacity of 405 kW internal combustion power generation in 1936. A special water rate for 10,000 gallons was \$1.30 and \$1.80 for 20,000 gallons. In 1937, water mains were laid and summer rates (July-October) were \$1 for the first 4,000 gallons, then \$0.05 per 1,000 gallons after 4,000 gallons. By 1939, the fire department had 23 volunteer firefighters and Potter's League of Nebraska Municipalities' dues were \$12.50. Ap-

parently, the high school mascot in 1937 was the Bearcats, but by 1941, they were called the Potter Coyotes. In 1940, a new grain elevator was built, a bowling alley opened, the fire department had 24 firefighters and the population was 387. Land was purchased (40-acres) for an airport in the 1940s and by 1946, an airport was established. The Farmers' Cooperative Elevator was built in 1947. The 1940s also saw paving in the business district and street signs installed along with new lights. In the late 1940s, the Rural Electric Association came to the area and the village was planning a sewer project.

By 1950, the population was 421 and the village sold its electric light plant equipment and connected to the REA transmission lines. A new school was built in the 1950s and the fire department had 25 volunteer firefighters. The approval to construct a sewer system was voted on in 1952 with a project started in May 1956 with a contract let to C.A. Smith Company of Scottsbluff, NE. The rural electric association was installing

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Nebraska utilities history – Potter

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new Mercury Vapor streetlights from 1953-1955. In 1956, the cost of street lighting was \$151.83 per month with an increase to \$204.33 per month by 1958. The electric distribution system was supplied current by High West Energy Electric Company of Pine Bluffs, Wyoming. The cemetery, located to the south, was owned by the village and maintained by a mill levy. The municipal water plant and meters (two in service) were owned by the village with rates at \$2.50 per month, except the school and railroad whose rates are \$0.15 per 1,000 gallons in 1956. In 1958, sidewalks and streets repairs were made and street lighting installations. The population increased from 421 in 1950 to 554 in 1960, a curb and gutter project was underway and the village purchased a road grader (1960). By 1962, the water rates were a flat rate of \$3.50 per month. The municipal sewer system had a sewer charge of \$2 per month. The cost of street lighting was \$208.50 per month with a meter deposit of \$10. A new post office was erected in the 1960s and a new city/fire hall building in 1967. Paving districts were initiated

(May 1968) with projects to pave four blocks on Chestnut Street, two blocks on Sherman Street and two blocks on Front Street.

By September 1978, the street paving bonds were paid from the 1968 street projects. From 1970-1980, the population increased slightly from 356 to 369 and in 1974, a new bank was built. The natural gas system in 1985 was operated/supplied by the Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company. The Potter School System consolidated with the Dix School System

District in 1987. By 1990, the population was 388 and in 1995, the village received a \$250,000 CDBG grant for a water well, distribution and storage project with a total cost of \$687,300. By October 1996, a new (20 feet x 47 feet) harvester-style water storage tank with a capacity of 106,865 gallons was completed. The population in 2000 was 390 and the village mostly had gravel streets with Front Street paved to the school. The water system had a water de-

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“Just For Fun” Answers

- A-1.** Nebraska City 1,922, Omaha City 1,883, Bellevue 929, Salem 694, Plattsmouth 474, Falls City 473, Rulo 440, Brownville 425, St. Stephens 404 and Spezer 394.
- A-2.** Two (Omaha and Bellevue). In fact, both St.

- Stephens and Spezer are no longer settlements. They both were once port communities along the Missouri River.
- A-3.** Keith Neville from North Platte, who was born Feb. 25, 1884, was elected Governor in 1916.



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Nebraska utilities history – Potter

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posit of \$80 with a turn-on fee of \$20 and monthly rate of \$27 plus tax. The sewer fee in 2001 was \$3.50 plus tax per month. Solid waste collection was \$15.60 per month with weekly pickup. The natural gas system by 2004 was operated/supplied by KN Energy Inc. with some individual propane tanks used around the community. In 2007, the natural gas system was operated by Kinder Morgan, then later SourceGas and then sold to Black Hills Energy about 2015.

Today, Potter has a population of 266, has been incorporated 107 years and the village has been a long-time member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section. The electrical distribution system is operated by High West Energy Company of Pine Bluffs, Wyoming. The natural gas system is operated by Black Hills Energy.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990-2021; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1925, 1931, 1995; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place Names, 1925; Potter, NE Website, 2004, 2010-2021; Potter Review newspaper, 1912-1948; Aquastore, Permaglas, and Wastewater Treatment Tank Handout,

2004; Nebraska Our Towns...The Panhandle, 1988; Maps Tell Nebraska's History, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Nebraska State Business Gazetteer, 1890-91; Electric Power Development in the United States, Dept. of Agriculture, January 1916; History of Cheyenne County Nebraska, 1986, Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Reconnaissance Survey, Cheyenne County, July 1, 1994 and the Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1942, 1946.

Wastewater Operator Certification

The NWEA has a Wastewater Training Workshop scheduled for May 12 at the Columbus Fire Hall. If interested, contact Ryan Hurst at hurst@wahoo.ne.us or Lauren Balleweg at lauren.balleweg@hdrinc.com or log on to the NWEA website at www.nebwea.org.

Operators in attendance who already have a license may receive six hours credit toward their license renewal.

Test dates for new licenses will follow for those signed up with the state to test.

Crow Line: A line of positive communication that all can share

Congratulations! Incorporation Anniversary Recognition: 110 years – **Lyman** (April 1922 village); 115 years – **Morrill** (April 11, 1907 village) and Brady (1907 village); 120 years – Concord (April 30, 1902 village); 130 years – Bennington (April 15, 1892 village); and 135 years – **Daykin** (April 17, 1887); 140 years – **Blue Hill** (1882 village), **Arlington** (April 10, 1882 village) and **Albion** (April 19, 1882 village)

I only have the years listed for the following cities/villages so they were all lumped into the

month of April since this is the anniversary month for the Utilities Section celebrating 90 years as an association: 110 years – Cowles (1912 village); 130 years – Cordova (1892 village); 135 years – Belvidere (1887 village); and 140 years – **Bradshaw** (1882 village).

Congratulations to **Loup City** for being selected best tasting water in Nebraska at the 2022 Rural Water Annual Conference “Best Tasting Water” contest held in Kearney March 15, 2022. Other systems in the competition included **Aurora, Cortland,**



Maxwell and Scottsbluff.

Utilities Section members and associate members are bolded.

Do you, your department or facility have something to crow about – new hires, promotions, awards, certifications, anniversaries/milestones, accomplishments or grants/funding and projects? Let us help you celebrate the events and accomplishments!

Nebraska utilities history – Sutherland

The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or robhp@lonm.org.

*By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./
Training Coordinator*

Sutherland, located in Lincoln County, had settlers and road ranches in the area by 1860. The railroad arrived in the area by 1867 and a town site was surveyed in 1880-81. Initially, founded as Cody Siding in 1891 when platted by the railroad, the community later was named for Mr. Sutherland, a railroad official. On March 9, 1892, a post office was established and businesses included a grocery store, a grain elevator and a school. The Bank of Sutherland was built in 1893, a hardware store was in operation and by 1895, the Sutherland Cemetery District was established. The cemetery was located in the northeast part of the community. On May 5, 1897, the *Freelance* newspaper was published. By this time, a blacksmith was operating and a sod stable was built at the school. A new school was under construction by Dec. 15, 1898, and the Farmers Hotel and Opera House were in operation.

The population by 1900 was 406

and on Jan. 18, the first telephones were installed – one at the drug store and one in Blackmores. Dan Titterington set up a gasoline engine-driven water pump, believed to be the first powered water pump in town, on Nov. 15, 1900. In 1904, the Paxton Opera House building was moved to Sutherland and used as an Opera House. Sutherland was incorporated as a village April 12, 1905, and the first two ordinances soon were passed. The first village election with 60 voters participating occurred April 3, 1906. A wooden bridge across the North Platte River was built and in May 1907, the first tennis courts were installed just east of the park. A franchise was granted in 1908 to the Sutherland Telephone Company to construct and maintain telephone lines in the village. In 1909, a major fire occurred in the downtown area and fire fighting equipment included a double handled pump and 200 feet of hose stored at the southwest corner of block 5.

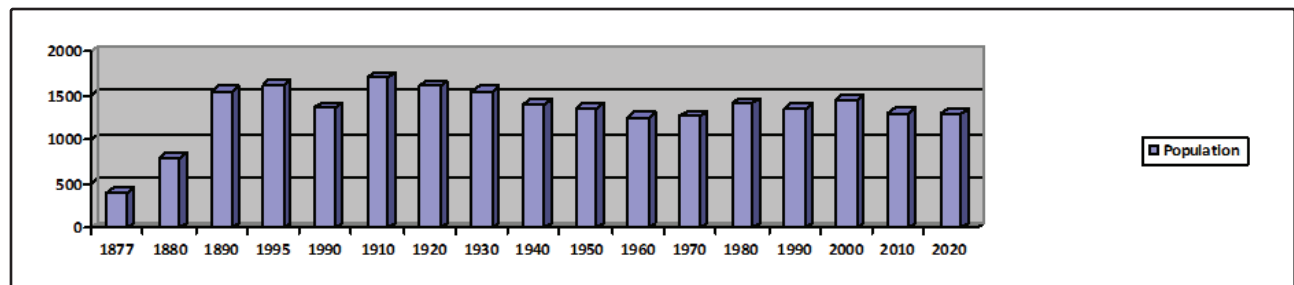
The population increased by 1910 and in February 1911, an



Sutherland water storage tank. 2000 photo.

election was held to construct a new high school. In April 1911, the future volunteer fire department purchased a pressure tank, an engine and several hundred feet of hose. About 1912, land south of town was donated to establish a new cemetery (Riverview Cemetery). A major fire July 11, 1912, destroyed about one third of the businesses (frame buildings) west of Walnut Street. On Sept. 19, 1912, an ordinance passed setting the speed limit in village at 8 miles per hour (mph). On Aug. 1, 1912, plans were being made to install a water system for fire protection. The first Fairbanks-Morse engine was purchased for the plant and in use

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Nebraska utilities history – Sutherland

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by 1912. In 1914, discussions were held to approve a franchise for Platte Valley Light & Power to provide electric service. The village instructed the marshal to notify all parties running any games of chance to discontinue the same (1914). That year, a contract for a concrete bridge (one mile west of the old bridge) was to be built for \$36,345. The bridge opened Oct. 7, 1915. On Aug. 26, 1915, a fire brigade was organized, consisting of a double-handle pump, 200 feet of one-inch hose and an O.J. Childs Utican Type D chemical fire wagon, which was purchased in May. A library was established by the Women's Improvement Club of Sutherland and the school's first 12th grade class graduated. Storm sewer drainage began in 1915 as the village worked with the county to install a drainage ditch east of town under the railroad tracks to the river. The village decided to have a municipal light plant in 1916 and a \$9,000 bond was issued with Hollie H. Thew hired as the engineer/electrician for the village. The Sutherland Telephone Company began operating with stock issued in 1918. The *Sutherland Free Lance* newspaper was being published and a new brick school costing \$40,000 was built (1917-18). Work began in January 1917 on the municipal power plant building, which was completed in August 1917. Electric streetlights now were available. In July 1918, it was announced that the plant would run from 1-11 pm. This was amended in September to power being furnished during the forenoon on Mondays

and Tuesdays, pending vote on which half days patrons would rather use electricity for washing and ironing. The fire truck was moved to the powerhouse.

By 1920, the population was 651, a creamery was operating and a movement began to establish a free library. On April 1, 1920, a notice went out that the speed limit was 12 mph and 6 mph on corners and crossings. The village approved plans for a waterworks (1921) and the electric power plant was operating. In 1921, Ernest E. Brownell was hired to oversee the light plant. The village voted to build a transmission line in conjunction with Hershey and Paxton. On June 14, 1922, an application was filed to authorize construction of transmission lines to Hershey, Paxton, and Sutherland from North Platte. The municipal power plant was shut down with current to be purchased from North Platte via transmission line. In April 1922, a public library opened and a village park system was started by leasing land (\$5 per year) along the railroad tracks. The village purchased a Besseman Prison Steel Lattice Jail cage, which was housed at the powerhouse to serve as the jail. An electric fire alarm was purchased (1922) and in 1924, the library moved into the north front room of the Opera House building.

On June 28, 1928, an ordinance established the first curb and gutter district (first curb on northwest corner of Lincoln County Lumber Yard to the southeast corner of A.W. Hoatson and Son's Garage). Next, both sides of Walnut Street from 1st to Uhligs Station and

from 1st Street on the east side of Locust to the Pastime Theatre and East on 2nd to Walnut. On Feb. 25, the village announced it would be installing streetlights on Front Street, estimating 25 electrolights. By August 1929, a new library building was under construction and was opened Oct. 26, 1929. The Fox Theatre opened in 1929 and on Sept. 12, the village secured a dump site to the northeast establishing the first village dump.

The population increased to 753 by 1930 and in April, the village board voted to take over the library with an elected board. In 1931, a village hall building with a power plant portion on the east side was built. The village purchased two diesel engine generator units and extended electric transmission lines to area farms. It also provided Paxton with electricity and later supplied the Sarben area. The village purchased a 375 HP diesel engine from Fulton & Formen. The modern municipal power plant, built in 1931-32, paid for itself in four years out of savings. The plant power was provided by two Fairbanks-Morse Engines. Highway #30 was rerouted (Dec. 1) to pass through the village on Front Street with road work to begin in 1933. The Sutherland Reservoir started officially Aug. 23, 1933 and in 1934, three bids were opened by officials of less than \$800,000 for the construction of the Platte Valley Public Power and Irrigation District. In January 1923, a new brick Central Nebraska Telephone office was built and the Lincoln Highway was being paved. On Jan. 1, 1935,

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Nebraska utilities history – Sutherland

Continued from page 11

the electric distribution system was operated by the Sutherland Municipal Light & Power Plant. The power plant had a capacity of 37 kilowatts (kW) using internal combustion power generation. Initial operation of the newest Fairbanks-Morse engine occurred in May 1937. A new brick school gym was being built north of the school building in May 1936. The fire department purchased a new fire truck with a booster pump increasing pressure to 110 pounds (lbs.). In May 1937, a new ball-park was leased and in June, work started on the City Park Lily Pool. New playground equipment was purchased in 1939 and the village was having problems with boys shooting streetlights

The population again increased in 1940 to 955 and by October, the Varner Sugar Beet dump was opened (one mile east). Sutherland had one of the lowest water rates in Nebraska in 1941, with rates of 7,000 gallons at \$1 with additional at \$0.05 per 1,000 gallons. Discussions were held in 1947 on the installation of a sewage system and the population by 1950 was 875. In 1951, \$100,000 in electric bonds were issued for Fairbanks-Morse to expand the electrical system with a diesel engine installed in 1952. The village installed a second municipal well in 1952 as a backup for fire protection. In 1953, an addition was made to the school and the Sutherland Reservoir Park Golf Course was organized, officially opening in 1954. In May 1957, a new dial telephone system was installed, starting May 15. In September, construction began on a new

telephone building at 210 Walnut Street. A preliminary survey was done for a sewage system in 1956 with bids let in October 1958. On Nov. 13, 1958, construction began on a new sewer system. By 1958, the water system had 300 meters in service with rates of 21,000 gallons (gals.) at \$3.30 minimum for three months and over 1,000 gals. at \$0.05 plus 10 percent. The power plant installed another diesel unit in 1959 with \$212,000 in electric bonds.

By 1960, the population was 867, horseshoe pits were installed at the park and the municipal water works had rates of 7,000 gallons (gals.) at \$1 and \$0.05 for each additional 1,000 gals. A new gymnasium was built at the school for \$225,000 in 1962, sewer lines were extended to the people and improvements were made to the treatment facility. A private company operated the natural gas system and the fire department had 25 firefighters. The electric generation and distribution systems were owned and operated by the city. The publicly owned sewer system and disposal plant were maintained by a tax levy of \$2.86 and a sewer charge of \$2.50 per resident and \$5 per business in 1960. The sewer mill levy was increased to 3-mill by 1962 with a water project in progress by 1963. Electric bonds of \$211,347 were issued in 1963 to enlarge the generation plant and a new diesel unit was installed in 1964 (one source noted electric bonds of \$333,000). The Sutherland Riverview Cemetery was maintained by a levy of 0.6 mills. A vote failed to construct a swimming pool in 1965 by a 98-110 vote.



Sutherland welcome sign. 2021 photo.

The population was 840 in 1970, a new addition was built at the school and the railroad depot closed by 1971. Discussions were held in 1971 and in 1973, the primary earth work was completed on the Gerald Gentleman Power Plant. The village discussed leasing its electric system to Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) in 1975. By 1976, the electric system and generators were leased to NPPD. Land was dedicated for a swimming pool in 1972 and on Sept. 11, 1972, bids were opened. On June 1, 1973, the swimming pool opened for the first time.

The Gothic Art Museum was opened to the public and a new fire hall was built in 1972. Work on the wastewater treatment lagoon facility began in 1973 and the school made another addition in 1975. In November 1878, a new library/municipal building was completed.

All houses in the village were numbered by 1980 and the population dropped from 1,238 in 1980 to 1,032 in 1990. A major water project was underway in 1981 to overhaul the water distribution system with new mains and a new water storage tank was built on

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Nebraska utilities history – Sutherland

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the hill. The natural gas system was operated by the Natural Gas Distributing Company and supplied by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company. In October 1985, the city library's name was changed to the Maxine White Public Library. A new pumper fire truck was ordered in 1985 and a new fire rescue unit was ordered in 1991. The natural gas system was operated by KN Energy Inc. and supplied by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company in 1990. Sewage treatment in 1998 consisted of a facultative retention lagoon system designed for 0.1 million gallons per day (mgd). The municipal power plant had four diesel generators in 1998 installed in 1935, 1952, 1959 and 1964 with a total of 2.70 megawatt of generation.

In 2000, the population was 1,129 and a private company provided solid waste collection. A \$250,000 water/street project began to install 2,500 linear feet of water distribution lines, re-surface asphalt on five blocks of residential and new concrete curbing and gutters. A new water well field (three wells) was installed in 2009-2010 along with new transmission mains to remedy nitrate and uranium issues. The natural gas system was operated by SourceGas and supplied by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas in 2010. The power plant had a capacity of 1.60-megawatt generation in 2001 and by 2013, with costs of emission controls and operation, the engines were decommissioned and sold for scrap. The sewer charge was a flat rate of \$20

per month and by 2016, the natural gas system was operated by Black Hills Energy and supplied by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas. In July, ground was broken for a new metal three-door fire hall building to be completed in 2021.

Today, Sutherland has a population of 1,292, has been incorporated since 1905 and is a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section Member. The village maintains a network of streets, a park, a swimming pool, ballfields, a nine-hole gold course and a water and wastewater system. The electric distributions system is a retail customer of Nebraska Public Power District and the natural gas system is owned/operated by Black Hills Energy.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1985-87, 1990-2016, 2018-2021; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1925, 2005, 2019; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Department of Energy Website, 2004; One Hundred Years Sutherland Centennial

1891-1991, 1991; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper, 2004; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Maps Tell Nebraska's History, 1991; Department of Interior; General Land Office State of Nebraska Map, 1879; NEDED Website, 2005; Wikipedia website, 2018; The Crete Democrat Newspaper, 1891-92; Nebraska State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1917; Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1942, 1946, 1978; Eleventh Annual Report of the Nebraska State Railway Commissioner, 1918; Annual Report of Nebraska State Railway Commission to the Governor, Issue 15, 1922; Directory of Electric Utilities in the United States, Federal Power Commission, 1941; Municipal Ownership and the Electric Light & Power Industry, National Electric Light Association, 1923; and the Federal Power Consumers Electric Rate Survey, Domestic and Residential Electric Rates in Effect January 1, 1935 in the state of Nebraska, 1935.

Power Equipment Show scheduled

The Power Equipment Show is scheduled for July 27-28, 2022, at the Norfolk Community College – Pohlman Ag Complex in Norfolk.

To register, visit the website at www.northeast.edu/2018/power-show. For more information, call (402) 844-7216.

New this year! Throughout the show, 10-minute presentations

and demonstrations will be given by manufacturers.

The Power Equipment Show is sponsored by Northeast Community College in Cooperation with Nebraska Rural Electric Association Suppliers Group, Nebraska Rural Electric Association and the League of Nebraska Municipalities-Utilities Section.

West Point Water Treatment Facility Open House

An open house was held April 14, 2022, from 3-5 p.m. at the West Point Water Treatment Facility. The open house allowed the public to see the new filter system and how it works. The event was attended by Jim Macy and Rich Koenig, officials from the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE); Rob Pierce, Utilities Section representative; and area system water operators and members of the general public.



Pumps.

Refreshments were available as well as tours with explanations of how the system works to supplement the mapping diagrams and



West Point Water Treatment Facility. 2022 photo.

schematics posted.

West Point first installed a water distribution system about 1885-86 for \$9,870. In the 1960s, a water treatment facility was built to filter out iron and manganese from the source water. The water treat-



Filtration tank.

ment plant, built about 1964, was expanded in the 1970s with a new storage tank, aerators and filters in 1984-85.

The water treatment filter system plans were approved Jan. 23, 2020, with \$310,000 in modifications to be constructed. The project consisted of a new LayneOX filtration system using three capsules with two filter units in each. The new system increased the plant capacity from two to three million gallons. The average water usage in the winter is about 900,000 gallons per day (gpd) and the summer is about 1.6 million gpd.

Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo results

The results from the 2022 Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo that was held in Kansas City can be found on the American Public Power Association (APPA) website at www.publicpower.org. The Apprentice Competition included a 90-degree crossarm relocation; double dead-end bell change out; pole top pin change out; a hurtman rescue; and a written test. The Journeyman Competition included a suspension insulator change out;

transformer banking; an obstacle course; a hurtman rescue; and a 4 kV crossarm change out.

Also on the website, information can be found on its 2022 APPA National Conference & Public Power Expo – American Public Power Association, which will be held at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee June 10-15. Lineman Appreciation Day was April 18, 2022.

Wastewater Workshops scheduled

Two Wastewater Workshops are scheduled for May 25 in Sidney and June 9 in Atkinson. Topics will include basic operation, record keeping, communication skills, a confined space refresher, current industry issues and a regulatory update. Be sure to register early so room and meal arrangements can be made.

Nebraska utilities history – Wallace

The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or robp@lonm.org.

*By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./
Training Coordinator*

Wallace is located in Lincoln County, which was first organized as Shorter County in 1860.

A general election was held in September 1866 to reorganize the county and rename it as Lincoln County. The county seat was located at Cottonwood Springs and in 1867, was moved to North Platte. An area was founded as Kains Corner, located on the property of William and Mary Kain about one-half mile south of where Wallace is currently located.

The railroad was extended through the area in 1887 and the Lincoln Land Company platted a townsite. One source stated the new site was named Wallace in honor of a son-in-law of either a land company or railroad official. Another noted it was named for Frank Wallace, a homesteader who lived south of town. On Dec. 20, 1887, a post office was established and by 1888, a Methodist Episcopal Church had been built.

The *Wallace Herald* newspaper was established in 1889-90 and the *Wallace Mail* newspaper was being published by 1890. The population was estimated to be 300 by 1890 and some of the businesses consisted of two drug stores, two hotels (Wallace House, Burnett Hotel), two millinery stores, two blacksmith shops, three general stores, a real estate business, three banks (Wallace Savings Bank, Wallace Security Savings Bank, State Bank of Wallace), two implement dealers, a livery barn, two hardware stores, a meat market, a harness maker, a saloon, a furniture store and a restaurant. Area schools included District #65 and District #69, located to the northwest of town. The Wallace station was located on the Burlington Railroad tracks and the *Wallace Star* newspaper was established in 1891. The dry years of 1893-95 caused many to move and by the early 1900s, the population decreased to about 42. The population was 130 in 1900 and by 1909, a Catholic Church was built.

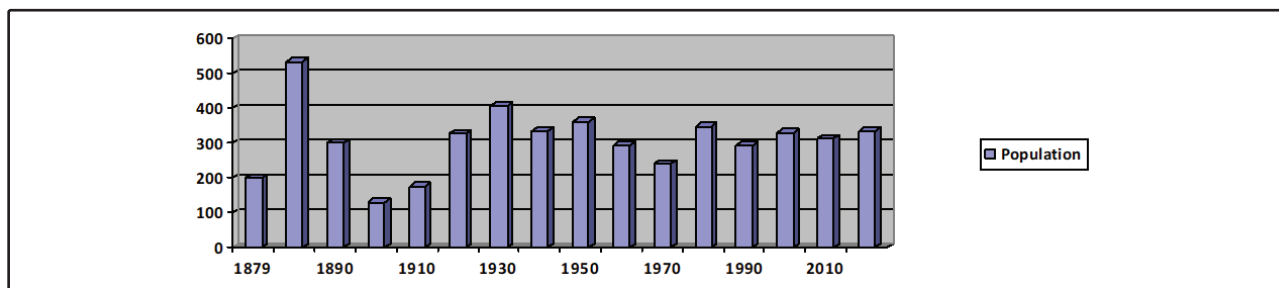
By 1910, the population was 175



Wallace water storage tower. 2000 photo.

and an Opera House/Town Hall was built. By 1912, the population rebounded with an estimated 300-400 citizens. A brick Citizens State Bank building was in operation in 1912 and the telephone exchange was started in 1914. A brick school was built in 1917 and the population was 327 in 1920. The village had about 40 businesses operating and in 1921, the J.R. Johnson Memorial Hall was built, which was later donated as a community building. A municipi-

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Nebraska utilities history – Wallace

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pal electric light plant was built in 1920 with rates of \$0.08-\$0.18 per kilowatt hour (kWh) in 1925. In the mid-1920s, a water system was installed and by 1925, the rates were \$0.12-\$0.25 per 1,000 gallons with a minimum \$2.25 per quarter for 9,000 gallons. On Dec. 22, 1926, the Northwestern Public Service Company filed an application to erect, operate and maintain an electric transmission line from Wallace to the Village of Grafton, which was granted Jan.

4, 1927.

In 1930, the population was 406 and the brick two-story Ferrell building was built in 1931 and the Assembly of God Church was organized in 1932. On Jan. 1, 1935, the Northwestern Public Service Company operated the electric system. The population in 1940 was 335 and in July, the Consumers Public Power District purchased Nebraska properties of the Northwestern Public Service Company.

The population increased to 361

by 1950 and a municipal airport was established south of town in 1952, used mainly for aerial crop spraying. A school was built in 1956, the United Methodist Church was built in 1958 and the fire department had 18 volunteer firefighters and eight rural firefighters. The village auditorium was maintained from one mill tax levy and the water system had 123 meters in service and a fire hydrant rental of 0.25 mills. The cost of electric current to pump water

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Nebraska utilities history – Wallace

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averaged \$35 per month in 1958. The cost of current for street lighting was \$170.50 per month. The electrical distribution system was operated and supplied by Midwest Electric Membership Corporation. In 1959, a dial telephone system was installed.

The population decreased to 293 in 1960 and in 1962, the cost of current for pumping water averaged \$40 per month. The cost of street lighting was \$176.75 per month and in 1964, the Morning View Cemetery's perpetual care fund was started via donation. The water system had 120 meters in service, a meter deposit of \$6 and rates of first 10,000 gallons (gals.) at \$2, next 5,000 gals. at \$0.75, next 10,000 gals. at \$1.20, and all over at \$0.10 per 1,000 gallons. The population by 1970 was 241 and on June 19, 1973, the railroad depot closed. During the building of the power plant (1975-79) in Sutherland, the community served as a bedroom community for workers. An addition was built on to the school and work on the wastewater treatment system was underway in 1975.

The population decreased from 349 in 1980 to 292 in 1990 and in 1997, the old cone-topped water storage tower was replaced with a 75,000-gallon single pedestal water tower. The \$1.2 million project also included replacing several water mains and fire hydrants. In 1997-99, a \$90,000 street project consisted of replacement or repaving.

The community hall was renovated in 1999 and the village operated a facultative retention wastewater lagoon system de-

signed for 0.028 million gallons per day (mgd). By 2000, the population was 329 and a private company provided solid waste collection service. The primary business street had newer sidewalks with some blacktop-paved streets. The village park was located along Highway #23 and the gas system consisted of individual propane tanks.

In 2010, the population was 314 and the volunteer Wallace Rural Fire Department provided fire protection. The village had a Johnson Memorial Community Hall and a Faith Memorial Library operating. The water system had two municipal wells with 30 commercial and 146 residential customers, all metered (2020). The village operated a sewer collection system to lagoon treatment facility. Today, Wallace has a population of 334 and has been a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities since 1997 and the Utilities Section since 1998.

References: Nebraska Directory

of Municipal Officials, 1956-58, 62-65, 1967-69, 1970-71, 1975-79, 1990-91, 1993-1998, 2000-2011, 2013-2021; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1925; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Pages of History, Nebraska High Schools, Past & Present, 1854-1994; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place-Names, 1925, 1960; Maps Tell Nebraska's History, 1991; Nebraska Map, 1894; NEDED Website, 2005; DHHS website, 2019; Wikipedia website, 2018-2019; Nebraska State Gazetteer & Business Directory, 1890-1891; Nebraska Historical Building Survey Reconnaissance Survey Final Report of Lincoln County, Nebraska, Aug. 1, 1993; Annual Report of Nebraska State Railway Commission to the Governor, Issue 20, April 15, 1928; Federal Power Consumers Electric Rate Survey, Domestic and Residential Electric Rates in Effect Jan. 1, 1935 in the State of Nebraska, 1935.

Fall Water Workshop schedule

The last spring Water Workshop for 2022 was held at the fire hall in Burwell April 28. Eleven water operators were in attendance from seven municipalities. Topics included antennae installation and management, corrosion control and an industry and regulatory update.

Participants received five credit hours for water grades 1-4 (no grade 6 hours) and five credit hours toward wastewater licenses. The spring 2022

workshops were held in Kearney, South Sioux City, Blair, Beatrice, Schuyler Hastings, Gering, Sidney, North Platte and Burwell.

The fall Water Workshops are scheduled for McCook, Holdrege, Hebron, Lexington, Broken Bow, Norfolk, Red Cloud, York, Lincoln and Grand Island. See the training calendar posted on the NDEE website. *(The water operator license link is no longer on the DHHS site.)*

Drinking Water Week recognition

On April 4 at 11 a.m., Lt. Gov. Mike Foley, on behalf of Gov. Ricketts, proclaimed this year's drinking water week as May 1-7, 2022.

The proclamation ceremony was held at the Nebraska State Capitol Building in Lincoln. Water is a valuable resource and tap water helps to deliver public health and fire protection while supporting our economy and quality of life.

From left: Steve Goans-NDEE, Donna Garden-Lincoln, Ryan Hurst-Wahoo, Mike Koenig-Metropolitan Utilities District, Craig Reinsch-Olsson (current NS-AWWA chairman), Lt. Gov. Mike Foley, Marc Rosso-Lincoln, Rob Pierce-LNM Utilities Section, Chin Chew-NDEE, Andy Kahle-NDEE and Bruce Dvorak-University of Nebraska. Photo by Jim Buehler.



Electric Lineman Appreciation Day

April 18 is recognized as National Lineman Appreciation Day. It is a time to express appreciation to the great men and women who work so hard in the electric industry. After the 2012 Hurricane Sandy event, Congress passed a bill designating April 18 as National Lineman Appreciation Day. The bill became law in 2013. It is our honor to celebrate the hard work, innovation and dedication of our public power employees in Nebraska.

Is your system a "Tree City USA" member?

Trees provide clean air, shade (energy conservation) and aesthetic benefits to communities across Nebraska. Basic maintenance may include planting, tree removal, trimming or pruning, watering and public education. Proper tree selection, planting, care and storm damage are components that need to be incorporated into budgets, especially now with the emerald ash borer affecting many of the state's ash trees. Treatment and/or removal can become costly.

To become a "Tree City USA" community, there are five requirements: 1) standards for tree care; 2) annual worker training

in quality tree care practices; 3) participate in/sponsor tree planting and public education; 4) tree-based energy conservation program; and 5) participate in an Arbor Day Celebration.

Arbor Day, which originated from Nebraska, is observed on the last Friday in April, which in 2022 was April 29. Information on Arbor Day, the "Tree City USA or Tree Line USA" membership or basic tree maintenance can be found at www.arborday.org/programs/treecityusa/reasons. It has growth awards, sample tree ordinances, a variety of maintenance checklists and sample Arbor Day Proclamations.

Solid Waste Screening Workshop

A Solid Waste Screening Workshop was held at the Scottsbluff Library April 26, 2022. Eleven participants from four systems were in attendance. The workshop meets the state training requirement for initial training for new employees and those looking for annual refresher training concern-

ing hazardous waste identification and random load inspections.

Note: A one-hour taped webinar on "Hazardous Waste Identification and Random Load Inspection" still is available for preview. Contact the League office to get registered. Once registration is completed, a link to the webinar

will be sent to be viewed at your convenience. Is your landfill, transfer station, collections personnel ready for the spring cleaning or cleanup day events? Many villages and cities get involved in cleanup events in the spring, which benefit but may need some added scheduling this year.

Classifieds

Water/Wastewater Apprentice/Operator. The City of Broken Bow Water/Wastewater Department is accepting applications for full-time employment. This position involves, but not limited to, construction of new water and sewer mains, tapping services, maintain city infrastructure, clean-up of job sites, and assisting other departments as needed. Multiple skill levels are needed. Department of Health and Human Services certification and NDEE certification preferred, but not required. CDL not required, but must be able to obtain CDL within 6 months. Willing to train the right person. Wage dependent on qualifications and a better than average benefit package. Applications and job description are available at the City of Broken Bow located on the main floor at 314 S 10th Avenue or www.cityofbrokenbow.org. Submit application and related information to the City of Broken Bow, 314 S 10th Avenue, PO Box 504, Broken Bow, NE 68822, or via email at ccranwell@cityofbrokenbow.org. Broken Bow is an EOE. For more information, please contact Water/Wastewater Superintendent Craig Cranwell at (308) 870-1203.

Journey Lineman/Electric Foreman. The Bridgeport Municipal Utility System has an immediate opening for a Journey Lineman/Electric Foreman. Applicants must have a strong journeyman rating and must be able to perform all duties with regard to overhead and underground electric line construction and maintenance. Must be willing and capable to work on water, wastewater, and street operations. Must be or able

to become a Grade 3 water operator and Class L wastewater operator if so required. Must live or be willing to live within 15 minutes of Bridgeport, comply with on-call requirements and possess and comply with Nebraska CDL regulations. Paid vacation, sick days, holidays, 401K and employer-paid health insurance are included with the benefits package. To obtain the position description and an application, contact City Hall at 809 Main Street (308.262.1623) or visit www.cityofbport.com. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications. Resumes and applications will be accepted until position is filled and may be emailed to lheinrich@cityofbport.com. The City of Bridgeport is EOE and Veteran Preference. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Send a resume and completed application to City of Bridgeport, NE; 809 Main Street, PO Box 280; Bridgeport, NE 69336 or to lheinrich@cityofbport.com. NO phone calls, please.

Parks Foreman/Facility Maintenance. The City of Bridgeport has an immediate opening for a Park Foreman/Facility Maintenance person. Applicants must have a strong background in building maintenance and park department operations and maintenance and must be able to perform all duties with regard to operation and maintenance of park system. Will also be responsible for maintenance items at the Prairie Winds Community Center that Center staff is unable to perform. Must be willing and capable to assist the electric, water, wastewater, and street operations. Must be or able



to be become a Grade 3 water operator and Class L wastewater operator if so required. Must live or be willing to live within 30 minutes of Bridgeport, comply with on-call requirements as required and possess and comply with Nebraska CDL regulations. Paid vacation, sick days, holidays, 401K and employer-paid health insurance are included with the benefits package. To obtain the position description and an application, contact City Hall at 809 Main Street (308.262.1623) or visit www.cityofbport.com. Salary negotiable depending on qualifications. Resumes and applications will be accepted until position is filled and may be emailed to lheinrich@cityofbport.com. The City of Bridgeport is EOE and Veteran Preference. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Send resume and completed application to City of Bridgeport, NE; 809 Main Street, PO Box 280; Bridgeport, NE 69336 or to lheinrich@cityofbport.com. NO phone calls, please.

Public Works & Utilities Director. Gretna, Nebraska is a booming city of the first class located in Sarpy County and the Omaha Metro. With the expansion of the city's corporate limits including additional streets, sewer lines, and sewer lift stations, the city is seeking a highly skilled person to oversee all aspects of

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Classifieds

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the Gretna Public Works Departments on a day to day basis. The Public Works & Utilities Director is directly responsible for supervision of staff, functionality of all aspects of the department and performance of senior-level professional work. This person is also accountable for various administrative and managerial duties including evaluating projects to maintain budgetary restrictions, ensuring compliance with all city policies, procedures and codes, and reviewing plans and specifications for infrastructure construction. The following education and experience is preferred:

1. Must possess a valid driver's license.
2. Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering, Project Management, Construction Engineering, or related field.
3. Minimum 7 years' experience in local government, specifically public works, of which 3 years must be in a supervisory role.
4. Class 3 Water Certification.
5. Class 2 Street Superintendent License.
6. State of Nebraska On-Site Wastewater Treatment Certification, not currently required.
7. Must be willing to

obtain further education, training, and certifications as deemed appropriate and within time-frame as established by the employer.

Candidates should have working knowledge of all municipal public works and utilities activities including streets, storm sewer, traffic control, water, and wastewater operations, building and asset management systems, and engineering principles. Please see the full job description for information about this position. This is an exciting time to join the City of Gretna team to aid in the future of Gretna. The Public Works & Utilities Director position range is \$71,281-\$95,097 with initial starting salary at \$71,281 DOQ, with excellent benefits. Application and Job Description is available from the Gretna City Clerk, 204 N McKenna Avenue, PO Box 69, Gretna, NE 68028-0069 or at www.gretnane.org. This position remains open until filled. Initial review of applications begins May 2, 2022.

Utility Employee. The City of Cambridge, EOE, is now accepting applications for a full-time utility employee. Successful candidate must possess or be able

to obtain, within one year, a grade IV water operator license through the State of Nebraska. General maintenance duties in water, wastewater, parks, streets, and equipment. Will train the right person. Must have a valid driver's license. Drug test required. Wage negotiable based on experience. Applications can be picked up at the Cambridge City Office between the hours of 7:30-4 M-F. For more information, contact David Houghteling, Utility Supervisor, 308-340-3213. Benefits include health insurance, vacation, sick leave, holidays and retirement investment.

Apprentice Lineman. City of Benkelman is accepting applications for the position of Apprentice Lineman in the Electric Department. This position's

responsibilities include, but aren't limited to: Construction and maintenance of overhead and underground electric distribution systems; Sets poles, lays cable, and installs wire, installs and repairs transformers and installs primary and secondary conductors; Troubleshoots faulty circuits and transformers; trims trees as required; ability to use electrical test equipment; Operates a high lift bucket truck, digger derrick, and other equipment; assists other City operations and perform other duties as required; available for 24-hour emergency calls. Requirements include high school graduation, experience working with secondary and high voltage electric circuits and/or post-secondary electric training preferred, but not required.

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Classifieds

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Additional consideration may be given to those who have completed a DOL Line Program, ability to obtain a CDL license issued by the State of NE within 1 year of hire, understanding of basic electrical theory including working voltages of 120V to 480V Secondary Y & Delta and 2400V to 12.470V Primaries Y & Delta, math abilities to support reporting, metering and calculations of amps, volts, watts, and other electrical formulas. Excellent benefits package is included. Employment is contingent upon successful completion of a post-offer physical and drug test. The City of Benkelman is an EOE. Return completed application to: City of Benkelman, 126 7th Ave E, PO Box 347, Benkelman, NE 69021; 308-423-2540.

Maintenance Supervisor. Village of Davenport, NE, is accept-

ing applications for a full time maintenance worker. Grade IV water and pesticide certification preferred, but will send right person for training. Responsibilities include, but not limited to, water, sewer and street maintenance, mowing, spraying etc. Electrical system owned by village so electrical knowledge a plus. List of duties available at Village Office. Must have a valid drivers license. Wage negotiable based on experience. Contact Village Clerk at 402-364-2292 or davenportvillage@hotmail.com. Applications accepted until position filled. EOE.

Utilities/Street/Maintenance Operator. The Village of Clearwater is accepting applications for a full-time utilities/street/maintenance operator. Grade IV Water, Sewer I and pesticide certifications preferred but will send

the right individual to training. Base wage of \$21/hr. with substantial increase negotiated with certifications. Benefits included. Responsibilities include water and sewer system operations, maintenance, and testing; water leak repairs and meter installation, street repairs, mowing, snow removal, mosquito spraying, and tree dump maintenance. A comprehensive list of duties is located at the Village office or online. Must have a valid driver's license. Mechanical and large equipment experience a plus. Applications may be found at the Village office, or www.clearwaterne.com, under Village Info, Forms and Applications. For more information, contact the Village Clerk at 402-485-2365 or email clerk@clearwaterne.com. Send applications to 626 Main St., PO Box 116, Clearwater, NE 68726.

Backflow Workshops scheduled

Backflow Workshops are scheduled for Beatrice, Wayne, Stuart, Ogallala and Grand Island. Also still available are Utilities Section "Backflow Webinars," which are one hour or one-and-a-half hour sessions for up to five credit hours. These can be watched individually or as a group as long as the verification forms are completed.

Did you know there were changes in the backflow sections of the Uniform Plumbing Code? Has your system sent

your surveys and or public education yet? One of the most noted items on the state's sanitary surveys have to do with annual tests not being performed or paperwork not returned along with surveys or public education not being sent. Where is your system on these issues? Does your system have the current AWWA M-14 Manual (4th Edition out in 2015). Be sure to get registered in advance for the live workshops as space may be limited in some locations.

Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials now available

The 2022 *Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials* now is available. This is an excellent source for information about each municipality and those who govern it. Information listed includes population, form of government, county, class, mailing addresses, telephone numbers and each administrative position matched with the name of the individual who manages it. [Click here](#) for an order form.

If you wish to become a member, email Brenda at brendah@lonm.org or call 402-476-2829.

2022 Training calendar

Visit our website at www.lonm.org
for a complete list of workshops and conferences.

May

May 17-19..... Rubber Gloving WorkshopNECC Training Field, Norfolk
May 25 Wastewater WorkshopCity Hall Council Chambers, Sidney

June

June 9 Wastewater WorkshopAtkinson Community Center, Atkinson
June 15-17..... Municipal Accounting & Finance Conference...Younes Conference Center South, Kearney

August

Aug. 9..... Water Operator Training Workshop.....McCook
Aug. 10..... Water Operator Training Workshop.....Holdrege
Aug. 11..... Water Operator Training Workshop.....Hebron
Aug. 16..... Backflow WorkshopBeatrice
Aug. 17..... Backflow WorkshopWayne
Aug. 18..... Backflow WorkshopStuart
Aug. 23..... Backflow WorkshopOgallala
Aug. 24..... Backflow WorkshopGrand Island
Aug. 25..... Water Operator Training Workshop.....Grand Island
Aug. 30-Sept. 1 ... Rubber Gloving WorkshopDon Winkelman Training Field, Sidney

September

Sept. 7-8 Electric Underground SchoolSidney
Sept. 14-16 League Annual ConferenceCornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln
Sept. 27 Water Operator Training Workshop.....Lexington
Sept. 28 Water Operator Training Workshop.....Broken Bow
Sept. 30 Water Operator Training Workshop.....Norfolk

October

Oct. 11 Water Operator Training Workshop.....York
Oct. 12..... Water Operator Training Workshop.....Red Cloud

December

Dec. 7 Water Operator Training Workshop.....Lincoln
Dec. 8 Water Operator Training Workshop.....Hastings