

Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

October 2020

Decaying infrastructure a concern to utilities

This great article was written by former League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Coordinator George Wolverton and was originally published in the May 1984 Utilities Section Newsletter. The powerful thoughts of 36 years ago still ring true today.

Infrastructure is an awesome word. Today, the decaying infrastructure is a concern of utilities and city governments. Repairing, replacing and maintaining existing streets, bridges, train tracks, sewer, water, natural gas and electric systems has been estimated by some in the industry to cost approximately \$3 trillion for the next 16 years. A staggering and sobering figure to think about. This figure does not include money spent on expanding those systems.

Although no figures are available, utilities upkeep must account for a large share of the estimated costs. The life expectancy of the wastewater and water system is said to be between 40 and 60 years. Parts of all systems are now at least that old and may need maintenance or replacement.

Checking the condition of a wastewater system while in service can be done by television cameras and monitors. Cameras are moved through pipes on cables and monitored by crews to locate areas needing repairs. A

television transmission can give an accurate report of the condition of lines. The crew monitoring the transmission can give exact locations of needed repairs. Still pictures can be made of located problems and repair crews then can go to the site of the repair fully prepared.

It is harder to find areas needing preventative maintenance in a water distribution system. Water leaks cost a utility money. If water is treated, the cost for each gallon sold increases to pay for those unknown leaks in the system. This past summer the Midwest Assistance Program, Inc. paid for three community water audits with funds from a grant by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Two of these water audits were conducted in villages and one in a city of the second class.

One village had unknown leaks totaling an estimated 25,000 gallons per day (gpd). Repair of these leaks could be made and could save the village an estimated \$1,860 per year – no small amount of money to a village with a population of 350.

The second village purchased its water for 60 cents per thousand. Leaks were found totaling an

estimated 27,000 gpd and, when repaired, could save the village an estimated \$59,000 per year. This village has a population of 360 so again the savings are important.

The second class city, population 1,700, had leaks totaling an estimated 59,000 gpd. Though the leakage was greater, repairs could save the city only an estimated \$5,300 per year due to the low cost of production.

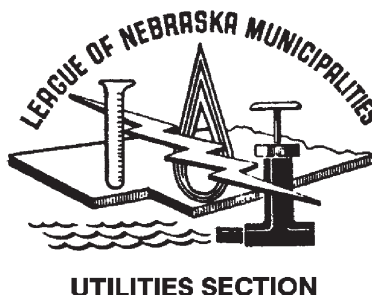
These leaks were all classed as “infrastructure” as they were found in the service taps at the mains, joints where mains were put together and joints where fire hydrants were installed. None of these leaks had surfaced before the water audits. Two of them surfaced during the water audits. A third leak was found to have washed away into a break in a wastewater line. The wastewater system was handling all the leaking water thereby increasing its cost of operation as well.

Finding and repairing these problems will neither be easy nor cheap. A street, road or bridge shows its deterioration readily and repairs can be made before an emergency exists. This is not true of underground utilities.

Too many times the old axiom “out of sight, out of mind” applies. Everyone expects the water to be there when the tap is turned, waste to disappear when flushed down the drain, the lights to come

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Lash Chaffin
Utilities Section Director
Rob Pierce
Utilities Field Representative

Decaying infrastructure a concern to utilities

Continued from page 1

on when the switch is flipped, and the streets, roads and bridges to be in usable condition when needed. This is generally true of utilities

we see easily but when a water main breaks or a wastewater line collapses or plugs, it is not seen until it surfaces or waste backs into someone's basement. Due to

age and deterioration, this may happen in older areas more frequently in the future. Let's hope it can be avoided by good maintenance programs.

Meter Conferences scheduled

The dates for future Meter Conferences have been scheduled and contracts signed with the Kearney Holiday Inn. Note the upcoming Meter Conference schedule:

Feb. 9-10, 2021 (Tuesday-Wednesday)

Feb. 8-9, 2022 (Tuesday-Wednesday)

Feb. 7-8, 2023 (Tuesday-Wednesday)

Snowball Conferences scheduled

The dates for future "Snowball" Wastewater Conferences have been scheduled and contracts signed with the Kearney Holiday Inn. Note the upcoming Snowball Conference schedule:

Jan. 27-28, 2021 (Wednesday-Thursday)

Jan. 26-27, 2022 (Wednesday-Thursday)

Jan. 25-26, 2023 (Wednesday-Thursday)

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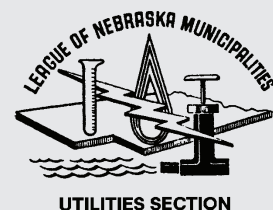
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Electric “Rubber Gloving” Workshop held

The Western Nebraska Rubber Gloving School was held Sept. 1-3, 2020 at the Don Winkelman Training Field (Wheatbelt Public Power District) north of Sidney. A total of 33 linemen attended with 12 from municipalities and 21 from rural electric systems. Nine municipal systems participated with linemen from Alliance, Chappell, Gering, Hemingford, Kimball, Lyman, Morrill, North Platte, and Haxton, Colo. Also, in attendance were Larry Oetken, Nebraska Rural Electric Association; Joel Duffeld, Northeast Community College; Rich Eymann of Nebraska Municipal Power Pool; and Rob Pierce of the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

The workshop started with all

participants at the workshop, including vendors, instructors and visitors getting a daily temperature check along with the completion of a short COVID-19 related survey. All participants were provided with personal pens to minimize the passing of items that were used for filling out the daily paperwork which included daily screening forms, group tail gate forms, pre-tail board forms, and a survey form at the end of the workshop. Participants were also provided workstation task sheets along with a map of the training field.

After the registration and screening, the workshop started with a summary of the work session protocols and emergency information should it be needed, such as first aid kits, AED units, GPS Coordinates and field address if emergency personnel need to be summoned. The general workshop housekeeping information was followed by introductions of vendors and speakers. Each gave a summary of his or her tools/material and/or vehicles that may be used at the stations.

Besides the daily temperature screening, segregation of paperwork minimizing handling some other COVID-19 protocol included the required wearing of masks when inside the building or if a six-foot distance could not be obtained at the outside workstations. Buckets of sanitizer wipes and sanitizer spray bottles were available at each station along with several locations around the building.

The abnormal atmosphere for the school was accompanied by the varying temperature of the



Advanced station.

weather each day.

Each hands-on station started with a tailgate session on what was to be done along with associated safety concerns and form completion with signature. The beginner station started with PPE basics (use, care, storage), connections (ties), splicing, pin top changeout and more. The intermediate workstations included a bucket rescue with all three phases in a tree, change of a cutout and arrestor on a three riser pole, three phase cross arm changeout, cutout replacement, cross arm changeout, basics of regulator refresher. The advanced stations included a changeout of a sub-T dead end pole with three phase under build energized and a changeout of a three-phase angle structure C-2 or C-3 energized. After each participant used tools or operated equipment, the tools and equipment were wiped down with sanitizer wipes.

The last day concluded with finishing the last station, cleanup, inventory and storage of material and tools along with completing a NECC evaluation survey.

A special thanks to the instructors and their respective companies for their time and expertise.

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Rubber Glove Test

Air test for pin holes and inspect for snags, cuts, abrasion and UV damage prior to each use. Electrical lab testing recommended a minimum of every six months. Discontinue use in they fail a visual inspection, air test or electric lab test. Many high-voltage gloves may last five to eight years, dependent on use and storage care.

(Electric glove ratings – 00, 0, 1, 2, 3 and 4)

Note: Rubber sleeves should be tested every 12 months.

Electric “Rubber Gloving” Workshop held

Continued from page 3

Instructors included: **Beginners** – Justin Huston (Niobrara Electric), **Intermediate – Group #1:** Bucket Rescue by Matt Edwards (Village of Morrill); **Group #2:** Cutout Replacement by Brock Mowry (Twin Valleys PPD); **Group #3:** Arm Change-out by Tim Johnson (Midwest ECC); **Group #4** Regulators by Bill Larson (Energy Solutions); **Advanced Groups 1 & 2** – Bart Schroll (City of North Platte) and Chad Doyle (Village of Stuart).

Also, a special thanks to the City of Sidney, City of Alliance and City of Morrill for use of their bucket trucks along with Altec (2), ETI, Wheatbelt (bucket

and digger) PPD, Dawson PPD, Southwest PPD, Midwest ECC and Twin Valleys PPD who provided trucks for use at the school.

On behalf of the Utilities Section and the Rural Electric Association, a special thanks to the following companies that provided trucks, demo trailers, material and their knowledge when performing rubber gloving techniques (listed alphabetically by company name): Rick Little of Altec, Johns Marsaglia of Evans Lipka & Associates, Bill Larson of Energy Solutions Inc., Chad Duke of ETI, Brian Winfield of Moehn Electric Sales, and Paul Fregoso of Salisbury.

The 2021 Rubber Gloving Workshops are scheduled for May

at the Northeast Community College in Norfolk and September at the Don Winkelman Field on the northern edge of Sidney, barring any changes in the COVID-19 situation.

Years of Service Awards

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. Request a certificate by emailing brendah@lonm.org at the League office.

Solid Waste Screening Workshop scheduled

This year, a Solid Waste Screening Workshop was held Jan. 28 in Hastings, sponsored by the League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Section. Another Solid Waste Screening Workshop will be held Nov. 18, 2020, in Kimball at the Kimball County Transit building. These workshops cover hazardous waste identification,

the screening process, recordkeeping and common safety issues at a landfill and transfer station. These workshops meet the State of Nebraska requirements covering hazardous waste screening for employees of transfer stations and landfills. Certificates of attendance are provided to participants in attendance for their training

records. The Utilities Section also will have a Solid Waste Screening Webinar Dec. 3 at 2 p.m. CT.

Solid Waste Screening Workshops are being planned for 2021. If you or your facility is interested in a Solid Waste Screening Workshop in your area, please contact Rob at robp@lonm.org or call 402-476-2829.



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Underground Electric Training in Sidney

The Western Nebraska Electric Underground School was held Sept. 9-10, 2020, at the Don Winkelman Training Field, the Wheatbelt Public Power District's training field north of Sidney. A total of 24 linemen were in attendance with three from municipalities and 21 from the rural electric systems. Two municipal systems participated with linemen from Chappell and Haxton, Colo. Also in attendance were Larry Oetken, Nebraska Rural Electric Association; Greg Nelson, Northeast Community College; Rich Eymann of Nebraska Municipal Power Pool; and Rob Pierce, League of Nebraska Municipalities.

The workshop started with temperature checks and completing a short COVID-19 related survey by all participants at the workshop including vendors, instructors and visitors. After daily temperature checks participants were given pens to fill out the daily paperwork. Masks were required inside the

building. The outside workstations required masks only if the six-foot distancing rule could not be met. A group session followed the registration with Bill Amelse Primus Marketing covering 600-amp elbow installation, change-out and related trouble shooting and safety.

Buckets of sanitizer wipes and spray bottles were available at each station and several locations around the building. Tools and equipment were wiped down with sanitizer wipes after each participant use.

The participants were divided into work groups of five at the five hands-on stations. The work stations with instructors were:

Group #1 – secondary locating and secondary fault finding by Jim Meyer, WESCO; **Group #2** – locating and fault finding on primary by Brent Briley, Subsurface Solutions; **Group #3** – trench safety by Bob Hessler, SafetyLine Inc.; **Group #4** – 600 Amp elbows by Bill Amelse, Primus Marketing; **Group #5**



Elbow splicing station.

– terminators and inline splices by Jim Stephens, 3M, and Brian Winfield, Moehn Sales.

The workshop ended on the second day with the last station completed. NECC evaluations were completed and participants were wish a safe journey home.

On behalf of the Utilities Section and the Rural Electric Association, a special thanks to the following companies that provided material, demo equipment/trailers, and their knowledge when performing underground installation, repairs, maintenance and locates (listed alphabetically by company name): Jim Stephens, 3M; Brian Winfield, Moehn Sales; Bill Amelse, Primus Marketing Group Inc.; Bob Hessler, SafetyLine Consultants Inc.; Brent Briley, Subsurface Solutions; and Jim Meyer, WESCO Distribution.

The next hands on Electric Underground School is scheduled in May 2021 on the Northeast Community College campus.

Nebraska Breaktime Trivia “Just For Fun”

Q-1. What is the origin of the word Halloween?

Q-2. What is the difference between a casket and a coffin?

Q-3. A carved pumpkin is often

called what?

Q-4. Is a pumpkin an example of a vegetable or a fruit?

Q-5. When did summer officially end in 2020?

Answers on page 16.

Nebraska utilities history – Hickman

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*

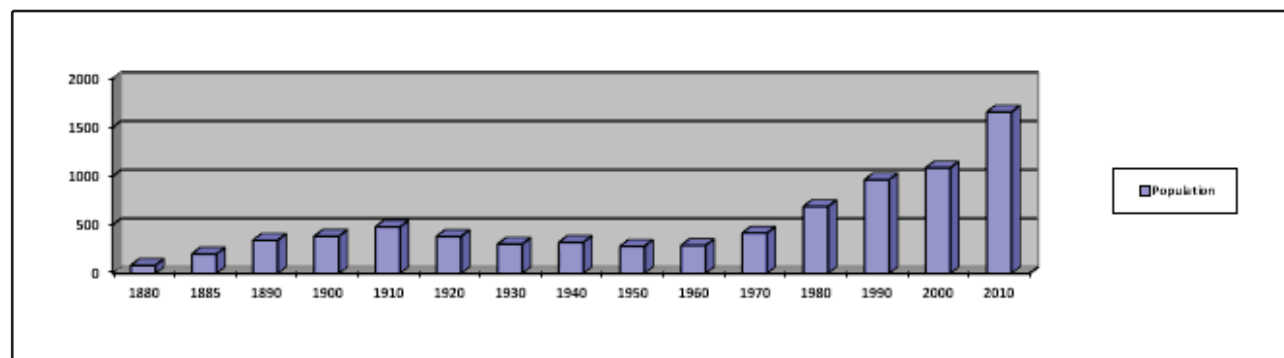
Hickman, now located in Lancaster County, was open prairie located in Clay County before 1866. In 1868, a post office was established as “South Pass” by Rev. Conrad H. Heckman, located south of the present town site. By April 1869, the South (Southe) Pass post office was operating and a settlement soon was established by 1871. In 1872, the Atchison & Nebraska (division of Burlington & Missouri River) Railroad was built through the area from Rulo to Lincoln. A plat for a townsite was filed by Conrad Heckman and Samuel Eggers. The first building was erected Nov. 1, 1872. Rev. Conrad H. Heckman deeded the railroad 40 acres for a depot and by 1872, the site had a depot and a store. On Dec. 4, 1872, the South Pass post office was moved to the new town and the name was changed to Heckman. Another plat was apparently

filed by Rev. R.C. Heckman and Samuel Egger with the intention of the name to be Heckman. In the filing procedures, the name got listed as Hickman and that is what it is today. School District #88 was organized about 1875 and school was taught in a building, which was later a hardware building. By 1878, a depot was in operation, a cemetery had been established and by August 1878, the German Presbyterian Church was organized. The population by 1880 was 83 and a Methodist Church was built by 1883. One source listed Hickman as incorporated as a village on Dec. 17, 1884, and another source listed July 23, 1885. By 1885, the village boasted a blacksmith shop, a furniture store, a grain elevator, a bank, two churches, a railroad depot and a newspaper. About 1885, a school was built and the first resolution may have been to fix the license for the sale of liquor (a license was \$600). In 1886, the *Hickman Enterprise* newspaper was published and the Missouri

Pacific railway was built through the village (which now had two railroads). In 1889, a Board of Improvement was organized.

By 1890, the population was 341 and some of the businesses included a jewelry store, a blacksmith, a harness maker, a meat market, a livery, a general store, a billiard hall, a hotel, a saloon, a tinner, and a hardware store. An early ford on the Salt Creek, located south village, and after it rains, the dirt streets often became muddy. The Bank of Hickman was operating by 1891 and a new saloon opened by 1892. In December 1893, large kerosene streetlamps mounted on eight-foot poles were installed on most street corners. The Marshal lit them each evening at dark and put them out at 10 p.m. Land was said to have been given by Steve Spencer for use as a village park. A “Southern Lancaster County Fair” was held in 1894 at the Hickman Park. On Feb. 8, 1896, the B & M Railroad depot was robbed and in August,

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Nebraska utilities history – Hickman

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the Hickman Livery was destroyed by fire. On Dec. 8, 1899, a dam was erected across the creek (ice skating in the winter). Telephone equipment and poles were installed with Hickman having telephone service with Firth and other towns.

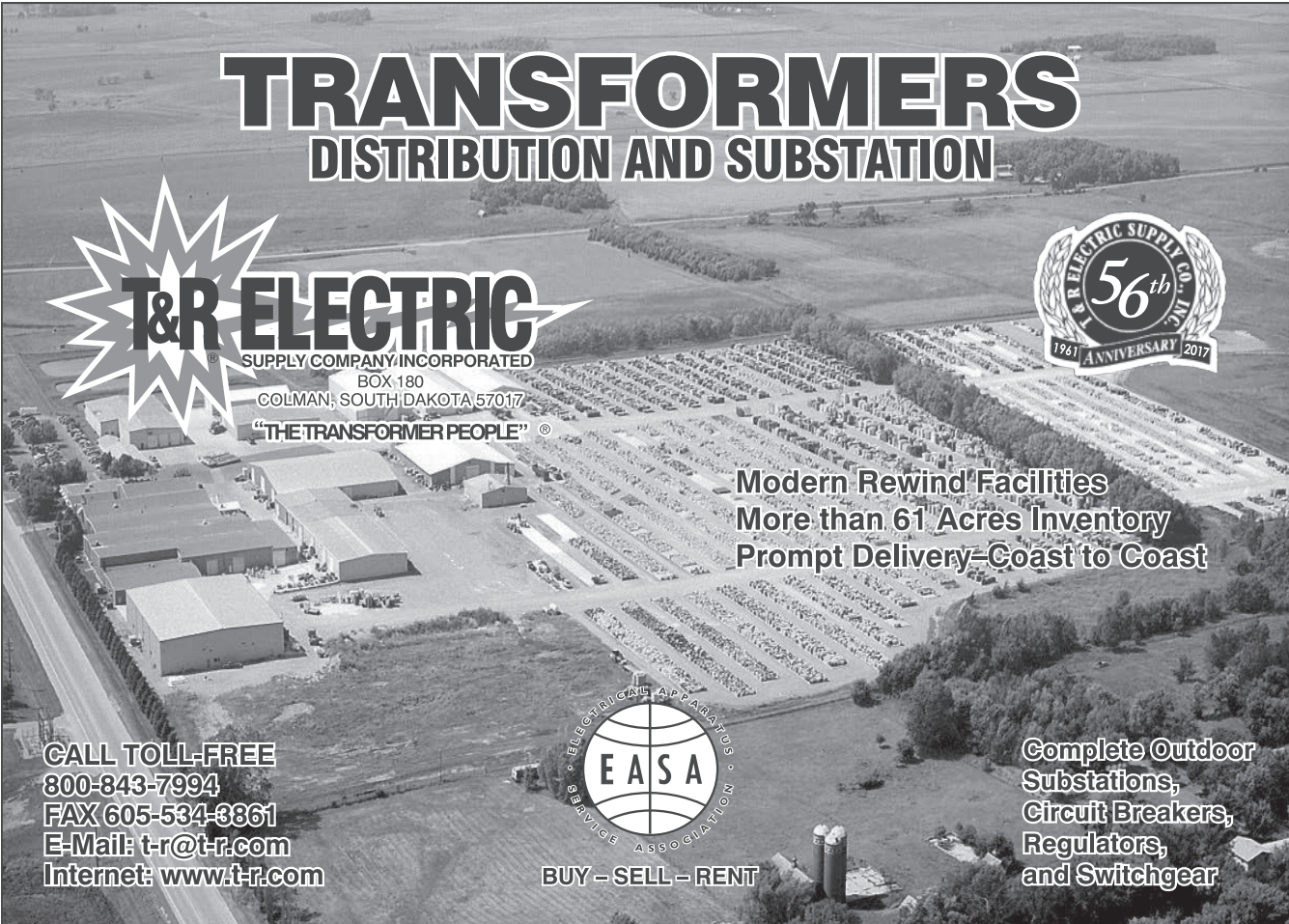
By 1900, the population was 382 and the school occupied a two-story frame school building, which was remodeled in 1903. In January 1903, the Slote-Buel Ice Company merged with the Grote

Ice Company and by September, a rural mail route was established outside of town. A new brick auditorium hall was built and completed by October. In May 1904, an enclosure for a brick kiln was completed. By June 24, some 130,000 brick had been fired by Hoch & Morrison with another kiln to be built. On July 28, 1905, the Hickman Telephone Exchange was incorporated and a new Bank of Hickman was built in 1906. In 1907, a new concrete sidewalk was installed around the bank. A

21-room hotel was operating in 1907 and a cement rock plant was in business by 1909. Andy Moser installed an acetylene gas plant and laid gas mains to light the streetlights and most homes and businesses.

By 1910, the village population was 478 and a village auditorium was in use. In 1911, many residential wells ran dry thus many shared water with their neighbors. In 1913, the high school went up to 10th grade, by 1914, 11th

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Nebraska utilities history – Hickman

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grade was included and by 1915, the first 12th grade graduates. The *Hickman Enterprise* newspaper was printed (1916), the hitching posts and wooden awnings were removed from Main Street (1917) and a flagpole was erected in the center of the square at the four corners of the business area in 1918. In 1919, a contract was accepted for \$72,000 to build a new school and on April 25, a move was made to secure electric lighting from Lincoln by the Lincoln Traction Company.

The population by 1920 was 380 and in March, electric lines were completed in the village and awaiting electricity from the main lines. On Oct. 1, Friday night electric lights turned on for the first time and in 1925, electric rates were \$0.08-\$0.15 per kilowatt. In 1926, a two-story brick school building was built for \$32,000 and dedicated Nov. 20, 1926. That same year, grading work on 14th Street resulted in an addition of gravel. On Sept. 30, 1927, Ordinance No. 69 passed for \$24,000 in bonds for a water system to be operational by 1927-28. The popu-

lation decreased to 302 in 1930, a fire department was formed and by September 1932, water barrels were placed between businesses in preparation of a fire. The electric distributions system was supplied by transmission lines from Lincoln, owned by Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Company. In 1933, the village ordered 14 kerosene streetlamps for street lighting and a newly dammed pond in the park was stocked with fish in 1934. On Jan. 1, 1935, the electric distribution system was operated by the Village of Hickman. Fire destroyed the *Hickman Enterprise* newspaper office building in 1935. Some 190 voters voted on a water system (147-51). Bonds were issued for \$14,000 to purchase, erect and maintain a village water system. In May 1936, a contractor drilled a well in the city park. The minimum water rate was \$0.50 per month, which would include several hundred gallons to the customer. Installation of 80 feet of copper piping, meters, valves etc., in basement (cellar) or a lot cost approximately \$50 if taken to the main and closed/under pressure. A WPA contract was available to

cover some of the funding. By Aug. 14, water main installation was completed, and ditches filled. Then began work on the 95-foot aluminum painted water standpipe (tower), which had a 40,000-gallon capacity. In October, the fire department purchased a new fire truck in Beatrice. By January 1937, a fire department was organized with 14 people signing up. A siren was installed Jan. 22, 1937, with the switch located in the telephone office. The village had a library by Nov. 26, 1937 and in 1939, the village rented the old bank building for use as a recreation room. In July, a drinking fountain was installed at the old well site north of the bank building.

By 1940, the population was 320 and the electric system was supplied current in 1941 by the Consumers Public Power District. In January 1944, a new fire house was erected and on Feb. 16, 1945, a fire damaged the jail roof. The village experienced flooding in 1947 and 1950, the population decreased to 279 and on March 28, 1952, the last *Hickman En-*

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Nebraska utilities history – Hickman

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terprise newspaper was printed. The population increased slightly to 291 in 1956 as the electricity system was owned by the village and supplied by Consumers Public Power District. The electric system had 130 meters in service as rates were: first 13 kWh at \$1, next 12 at \$0.06, next 25 at \$0.04, next 500 kWh at \$0.03, all over 50 at \$0.02 with a minimum of \$1. The meter deposit was \$10 with the cost of street lighting at \$28 per month and the cost of pumping water was \$14 per month. In 1959, an approval to construct a pollution control project for about \$26,656 with the construction project contracted to Dobson Brothers of Lincoln. The municipal sewer project was completed and operating by 1962. The municipal water system had 125 meters in service with a meter deposit of \$5 with rates of the first 3,000 gallons at \$1.50, all over 3,000 gallons at \$0.25 per 1,000 every three months. The cost of pumping water amounted to \$14-\$20 per month. The village-owned

electricity distributions system, which had 173 meters in service, was supplied by Consumers Public Power District. The cost of street lighting amounted to \$30 per month as the population by 1967 increased to 400. A new fire barn was built on 68th & Hickman Road in 1968 (completed in August) with the fire department containing 28 volunteer firefighters. By 1967, the village-owned electric system was supplied by the Lincoln Electric System (LES) and a tornado damaged parts of town. The post office moved to the former Heckman Feed Store in 1961 and on August 17, 1962 a lighted athletic field and park was dedicated.

The Hickman (Bulldogs) High School closed in 1964 and became a part of the Norris (Titans) School District #160. A Norris school complex was built south of Hickman, which began operation in June. A new Norris Elementary School was completed by August 1969. The population by 1970 increased to 415 and in July 1971, the Capital Telephone Company

was purchased by the Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph. In August, new playground equipment was installed at the park and a new subdivision was being constructed adding another 40 homes. By 1974, the electrical system was owned/operated by the village and supplied by Norris Public Power District. The population increased and by 1978, work began on a new sewer treatment facility.

The population by 1980 was 687 and by the mid 1980s, new water transmission lines were installed. In 1987, a sanitary improvement district (SID) was annexed, a new fire hall was built and Hickman became a city of the second class with a population over 1,000.

New members were sworn in as

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the city changed to a mayor-city council form of government in 1988. In the 1980s, about one mile of unlined CIP transmission water line was installed. By 1991, the population was 1,081 and sewer rates increased with infrastructure updated at the wastewater treatment plant (1998). A new subdivision was under construction and in 1999, six blocks of streets were paved (cost to residents was between \$35-\$45 per foot of property line). The public-owned wastewater treatment facility consisted of an activated sludge oxidation ditch system designed for 0.17 mgd aerobic digester sludge treatment.

In 2000, a sewer project consisted of boring an 1,815-foot long hole through Hickman hill and installing an 18-inch interceptor sewer line through the hill to eliminate the need for a lift station. The cost of \$650,000 was funded through a 40-year loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, to serve future community growth. A street resurfacing and a water main replacement project in the downtown area was underway in 2003. The council discussed a sewer rate increase in 2006 due to an estimated \$1 million cost to upgrade. A January vote of 13 percent was approved and the new base rate was \$20 with a \$1.75 per 1,000-gallon usage fee. A rate increase of 30 percent was discussed due to aging infrastructure as it was the first-time rates had been increased in nine years. The population increased from 1,084 in 200 to 1,650 in 2007. Since 2000, the city has had a total of

five annexations in the past seven years and added another 220 acres in 2007. A 32-unit assisted living facility was built as the Lutheran Hills added a \$1.8 million addition to its facility in April. A new \$2-million oxidation ditch wastewater treatment facility was being constructed in 2007, which would have a capacity for 6,000 residents. New municipal water wells were dug in 2006-2007 and again in 2008-2009. The city now has a total of four wells located south of town, north of Norris High School. In 2009, a new water treatment plant was built and new water mains were replaced to remedy the iron, manganese, and coliform issues. An \$8,500 Community Enhancement Program Funding (CEP) grant for entrance sign landscaping was received in 2008. An open house was held in 2008 for the new \$2.4 million water treatment plant located south of town, which can support a population of 5,000 with treated water. By 2010, water meters were changed out and/or installed in 2010 and in 2011, an open house was held for the new \$1.2 million water treatment plant located about three miles south of the city. The plant was installed to address the iron and manganese in the source well water. By 2015-2016, construction began on a new community center/city hall facility.

Today, Hickman has a population of 1,657, has been incorporated for 136 years in December and is a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section member. The water system consists of a 300,000-gallon elevated water tower (inspected

2017), sampling stations, about 150 fire hydrants, 18-19 miles of four to 10-inch mains. The average daily consumption is 202,800 gallons per day (gpd). Future plans include a possible second water tower along with new water mains laid in a subdivision on west edge of the city. Private companies provide solid waste collection services and the electrical system is owned/operated by the city and supplied (wholesale) by Norris Public Power District. Natural gas has been provided by Black Hills Energy since 2009.

Resources: Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper, 1956-58, 1960-62, 1964, 1966-75, 1977-87, 1990-2020; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1925, 2011; Utilities Section Newsletter, 1959; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990-2019; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Public Power Magazine, Vol. 51, Number 1, January-February 1993; Nebraska Our Towns...East Southeast, 1992; Maps Tell a Story, 1991; West Union Gazette newspaper, 1898; Hickman Website, 2013-2019; NEDED Website, 2005; Wikipedia website, 2018-2019; Nebraska Fast Facts-Community Profile, NPPD.com Internet site, 2010; Nebraska Blue Book, 1918, 1928, 1946, 1978; Nebraska Historical Building Survey in Selected Portions of Lancaster County, August 2008; Hickman Centennial Year Booklet 1872-1972, 1972 and Hickman Nebraska Centennial 1866-1967, 1967.

Classifieds

POSITIONS.

Public Works Director. The City of York has a key leadership position open. This position is responsible for directing the public works department including the divisions of water, wastewater, streets, landfill, airport and parks. This position also administers building, zoning and flood plain regulations.

Requirements include: a minimum of five years of progressive public works experience and responsibilities in municipal engineering or public works management. Possession of or ability to obtain, street superintendent and responsible charge certifications. Must possess a valid driver's license. Registered Professional Civil Engineer in the State of Nebraska is preferred.

Send resume and application to: City Administrator, City of York, PO Box 276, York, NE 68467 or email to jfrei@cityofyork.net. Job description and Applications are available on the City's website (www.cityofyork.net) or by contacting the City office at (402) 363-2600. Position open until filled.

Electrical Lineman/Foreman. The Village of Morrill is accepting applications for a full-time Electrical Lineman/Foreman. The ideal candidate would have at least five years or more previous experience in construction, repair, maintenance and operation of the electric system. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen and possess a valid driver's license with the ability to obtain CDL within 6 months of hire.

Applications are available at Village of Morrill 118 S. Center St, Morrill, NE 68358 or online at www.villageofmorrill.com.

Completed applications, along with a cover letter and resume, should be emailed to electrical@villageofmorrill.com or delivered to the Village office address above or mailed to PO Box 305, Morrill, NE 69358 and will be accepted until position is filled.

Salary package negotiable DOE, with excellent fringe benefits, including vacation, sick time, retirement, medical, and holidays.

Village of Morrill does not discriminate on basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or provision of services. EOE

Electrical Lineman: The City of Ord Utilities, Ord, NE is currently seeking applicants for a lineman position. It is desirable that candidates be graduates of a lineman program, but it is not required. Duties include working on both energized and de-energized distribution lines; building and maintaining underground and overhead systems; and installation of new services. Requirements include graduation from high school or equivalent, a valid Nebraska driver's license and residency in the City of Ord. Applications must be received by Dec. 11, 2020. Sal-



ary based on experience and qualifications; competitive benefits.

Applications may be requested from the Ord City Office, 201 So. 17th, Street, PO Box 96, Ord, NE 68862 or 308-728-5791. EOE

FOR SALE.

The Village of Marquette has the following items for sale:

- Wisconsin Air Cooled motor. VG4D 154 Cubic Inches 37 HP;
- GM Motor - propane, 3.0 L 2.2 Hours;
- 125 Gallon Propane tank, 5 feet long 24" diameter; and
- Mosquito Sprayer for parts use only, sprayer for sale only trailer not included - Clarke Covgar 8HP Briggs & Stratton Engine Purchased 7-23-97.

[Click here](#) for pictures of the items. Send questions and/or bid(s) to Haley Bamesberger, Marquette Clerk/Treasurer, at villofmarquette@hamilton.net.

Milestone celebration recognition

Is your municipality or utility celebrating a historic milestone? We are encouraging members to provide any information on milestones being celebrated such as 75 years of operating the electric system.

About 1942, private electric systems were phased out in Nebraska and several municipalities took

over the systems in the 1940s.

When was your water, wastewater, electric, power generation system established? When were facilities built, improvements made, etc. If your utility is celebrating a 25, 50, 75, 100-year milestone, let the Utilities Section help you celebrate by recognizing it in the newsletter.

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

Congratulations! Incorporation Anniversary Recognition: 110 year – Nickerson (1910); 130 years – **Winside** (October 1890); and 135 years – **Rushville** (1885).

Congratulations! Bob Lockmon of **Stuart** was among 19 individual and 10 utilities recognized for service to the American Public Power Association and the public power industry during the American Public Power Association's Power Connect:

Virtual Summit and Business Meeting. Bob has been the Utility Superintendent at Stuart since 1996 and a Past President of the League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Section. Congratulations, Bob!

Utilities Section members and associate members highlighted in bold.

Do you, your department or facility have something to crow about? Received an award, had an article written highlighting an



event or person? Do you have a project worthy of acknowledgment in the *Utilities Section Newsletter*?

If so, please send your information to any of the League/Utilities staff so we can share your excitement with other members.

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SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

October was national fire prevention month

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

Be sure to review and practice safe evacuation procedures (fire drills) and inspect all municipal buildings (facilities) for fire safety concerns and make any needed precautions to eliminate fire hazards. Make sure electrical connections are not overloaded or loose and are properly grounded.

In the early years, many of our municipalities across the state lost businesses, courthouses, city halls and schools due to fire. Be sure to inspect the working order of all smoke alarms (batteries), and check electrical wiring, breakroom kitchens and flammable storage areas. Fire extinguishers should be checked monthly and serviced annually.

There are five general classes of fire extinguish-

ers which include: **Class A** – for ordinary combustibles (paper, wood, cloth); **Class B** – for flammable liquids (gasoline, grease, oil); **Class C** – for electrical equipment (appliances, tools); **Class D** – for combustible metals (most often found in factories); and **Class K** – for cooking combustibles (vegetable and animal oils and fats, which are found in most commercial kitchens).

Employees should be trained to use the P.A.S.S. method to extinguish a fire.

Pass Method

Pull the pin
Aim the nozzle
Squeeze the lever
Sweep the nozzle
A fire extinguisher

should be provided within 100-feet of employees for each 3,000 square feet of building. Make fire prevention month (October) and fire prevention week (Oct. 4-10, 2020) special and meaningful as you celebrate fire prevention all year.

Since 1922, Fire Prevention Week (FPW) has been observed on the Sunday through Saturday period in which Oct. 9 falls to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, which began on Oct. 8, 1871 and caused devastating damage. More information can be found at: <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/Stay-ing-safe/Preparedness/Fire-Prevention-Week>.

2020 Public Natural Gas Week

Public Natural Gas Week (PNGW) is a nationwide observance, which enables your gas system the perfect opportunity to

showcase the benefits of your public natural gas systems.

Public Natural Gas Week this year was Oct. 4-10, 2020.

Public Power Week

Did your municipality celebrate or highlight any special events during “National Public Power” week (Oct. 4-10, 2020), which is honored nationwide? Nebraska is unique as it is the only public power state in the United States. There are over 100 municipalities in Nebraska that own their electric system. The tradition of providing safe reliable electric

service along with some of the lowest rates in the nation have been a value to the residents of Nebraska.

The American Public Power Association member utilities had access to sample resources and templates to spread the word and help celebrate in your communities. This is the 50th year of the American Public Power Association.

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Nebraska utilities history – Stapleton

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*

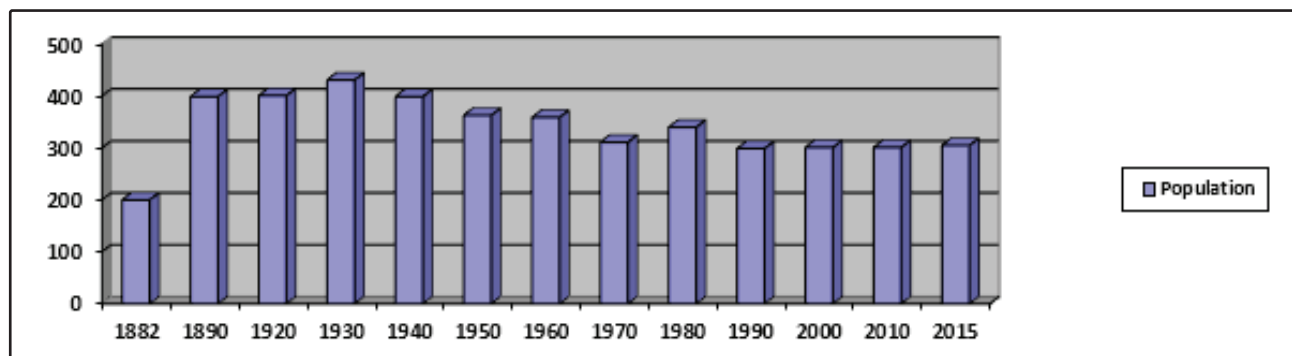
In the summer of 1873, Thomas Kirby, a hunter/trapper, built the first house in what would later become Logan County. The dwelling, part dug and part of cedar logs, was located on the north bank of the Loup River about three-quarters of a mile north of what would become the community of Logan. About 1876, Charlie Ewing, a part owner of a cattle company from Columbus, brought some Texas cattle to the north side of the Loup River one mile east of Logan on land later known as the Laughler farm. A store was established at the Logan community. Logan County was organized Feb. 24, 1885, named for General John A. Logan, a Civil War Veteran and Illinois Senator. Gandy was awarded the county seat to Gandy July 25, 1885. In November 1890, the railroad company laid railroad tracks from Kearney to Callaway where it stopped. The St. John's Catholic

Cemetery was established in 1890 on the hill southeast of the current Gandy community and by 1897, the McCain Cemetery Association met with a cemetery located southeast of **Stapleton**. In 1911, property owners donated right-of-way for Union Pacific tracks to be extended from Callaway northward through Logan County. The railroad was completed in May 1912 about three miles west of the community of Gandy and a new townsite plat was located along the tracks. The townsite, which was named Stapleton, which one source noted was suggested by Harry O'Neill for a friend of his who helped promote the townsite. A 100 feet by 50 feet hotel was erected and a post office was established June 8, 1912. Telephone lines, which had been installed (1906-07) from North Platte to Gandy, were extended in August (1912) to Stapleton. On Sept. 16, 1912, the first mail arrived by train to Gandy. Previously, mail was delivered by stage from North Platte to Gandy and

then to Stapleton. By Jan. 30, 1913, Stapleton was incorporated as a village with elections held by April 1. One ordinance that passed defined the corporate limits and another called for a 9 p.m. curfew for all under age 15. A two-room elementary school and the Tri-County Telephone Company were in operation. The Farmers State Bank of Gandy was relocated to Stapleton by 1913 and a railroad depot was erected. A jail was built (1913-14) for \$197.50 on the west side of Main Street. By September 1914, school began in the new two-and-one-half-story brick building, which used a bond issue for \$9,275 with 11th and 12th grades added by 1919.

The population in 1920 was 401 and in 1921, the dirt streets had concrete sidewalks and cross walks. The streets north to south were named A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J and east to west were 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th Streets and Main Street. Gandy and

Continued on page 15



Nebraska utilities history – Stapleton

Continued from page 14

Stapleton were the only incorporated villages in Logan County, which were supplied by the City of North Platte via a 13,200-volt transmission line. Only 230-115 voltage was available to residents at that time. In 1925, the electric rates were \$0.15 per kilowatt hour (kWh). The people petitioned for an election to move the seat of government, held by Gandy since 1885, to Stapleton. The election, held May 2, 1929, favored Stapleton (vote was Stapleton 636 and Gandy 370). An appeal followed in December 1929 with the Supreme Court ruling in favor of Stapleton. The hotel building constructed in 1912 was then used as a courthouse. With the county seat matter settled Feb. 24, 1930, the records were finally transferred to the old Nicholas Hotel. When Stapleton became the county seat, Gandy decreased in size.

Stapleton's population increased to 431 by 1930. A library was in the basement of the former Nicholas Hotel building and the *Stapleton Enterprise* newspaper was published. The electric distribution system by Jan. 1, 1935, was operated by the Stapleton Municipal System. In 1935, a new school was built (WPA project) with a \$26,000 bond issue approved by a vote of 225-39. The total cost of the project was \$50,172.97. By 1940, the population was 399 and in 1946, the Custer Public Power District acquired the Stapleton electric distribution system. In 1949, the old transmission lines were replaced by the Crawford Electric Company of North Platte with a better 34,500-volt line from North Platte to the new 750 kVA

substation, which was four miles south of Stapleton. The population by 1950 was 363 and that fall, the entire electric distribution system was rebuilt along with many services. By 1950, the telephone company had 296 subscribers and in 1951, the farmers organized the Logan-Lincoln Telephone Company. The electric distribution system was supplied by Custer Public Power District (1956) with the cost of street lighting at \$900 per year and the cost of current for pumping water was about \$650 per year. The village-owned water system, which had 155 meters in service, had rates at first 10,000 gallons at \$2.25, next 10,000 gallons at \$0.10 per 1,000 gallons, next 10,000 gallons at \$0.08 per 1,000 gallons with a minimum of \$2.25 (these are quarterly rates). The village-owned sewer disposal plant and collection system were maintained from a sewer charge of \$2 per month for residential and \$3 per month for businesses.

By 1960, the population was 359, the cost of street lighting amounted to \$75.50 per month and the Hoagland school building was moved to the school ground and used for two classes. The system had 160 meters with rates at first 10,000 gallons at \$2.25 per quarter. On March 13, 1962, the first courthouse was destroyed by fire. A new one-story brick building was constructed in 1963 and dedicated in August 1964. The population decreased to 311 in 1970 and the railroad discontinued service by 1977. In 1979, a sewer disposal facility project was underway. The population by 1980 was between 340-350 with gas provided to individual propane

tanks supplied by Frey's Propane. The village operated a three-cell facultative retention lagoon system designed for 0.031 million gallons per day (mgd) located on the northeast edge of town.

Stapleton was listed in a section of Author Berton Rouché's book "Special Places: In Search of Small Town America" published in 1982. Berton Rouché was a writer for the New Yorker Magazine and an article in 1971 included a section of his book.

From 1990-2000, the population held steady at 299-301 and the village had a few gravel streets, but most were paved/curbed with street signs. In 1999, a K-12 school system served Logan, Lincoln and McPherson Counties. A nine-hole Augusta Wind golf course was located to the southwest along Highway 83. The village had a park with camping facilities, a tennis court, playground equipment, a picnic shelter and an arboretum. Water rates in 2003 were \$15 per month with a minimum of 2,000 gallons and \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons thereafter. Sewer rates were \$7.50 per month for residential and \$8.17 per month for businesses. Solid waste rates in 2004 were \$12 per month for a shared dumpster and \$33.60 per month for a private dumpster.

Today, the village of Stapleton has been incorporated for 107 years (1913) with a population of 305 and has been a Utilities Section member since 1991. The village park has a shelter, basketball and sand volleyball courts, playground equipment and camper hookups. The electric system has been supplied by Custer Public

Continued on page 16

Nebraska utilities history – Stapleton

Continued from page 15
Power District since 1946 (74 years).

References: *Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials*, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1964-67, 1971-90, 1992, 1996-2004, 2006-2007, 2009-2019; *Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine*, 1925; *Water Resources of Nebraska*, December 1936; *Perkey's Nebraska Place Names*, 1995; *Nebraska Place Names*, 1925, 1960; *Ne-*

braska Traveler Magazine, 2003; *Stapleton Internet Website*, 2003; *Logan County Through the Years 1885-1985*, 1985; *Nebraska Our Towns...Central & North Central*, 1989; *Maps Tell Nebraska's History*, 1991; *NEDED Website*,

2005; *Wikipedia website*, 2017-2018; *History of Hamilton & Clay Counties, Nebraska*, 1921; and *Nebraska Historic Building Survey Reconnaissance Final Report of Logan County*, August 31, 1990.

“Just For Fun” Answers

- A-1.** The word Halloween is derived from the term, "All Hallows Eve," which occurred Oct. 31. "All Saints Day" or "All Hallows Day" was Nov. 1. Therefore, Halloween is the eve of All Saints Day. *Reference:* www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hallowe%27en
- A-2.** A coffin has six sides while a casket has four. *Refer-*

- ence: Wikipedia*
- A-3.** A jack-o-lantern.
- A-4.** Fruit. According to Encyclopedia Britannica, "Fruit, in its strict botanical sense, [is] the fleshy or dry ripened ovary of a plant, enclosing the seed or seeds."
- A-5.** Summer began June 20, 2020 and ended Sept. 22, 2020.



Eagle State Bank clock.

Daylight Savings
Time 2020: began
Sunday, March 8 and
ended Sunday, Nov. 1.

Writing an article for the Utilities Section Newsletter

Are you interested in writing an article for the *Utilities Section Newsletter*? We are interested in articles on the past, present, and future of your municipal utilities.

Articles can be written on a specific department or an overview of the history of the entire utilities department. Items of interest may be information on the first well in your community, number of services, service fees, the equipment used, and also the employees that worked in the various utilities departments. Photos would enhance the articles and will be returned unless otherwise instructed.

When writing an article, just an-

swer the simple who, what, when, where, why and how questions. Some examples are:

- *When did the utility begin offering service?*
- *Who were the employees?*
- *Why was the utility/department started?*
- *Where is the facility, office, warehouse or utility located?*
- *What service does the utility offer to the public?*
- *How does the utility or department operate?*

These are just some of the questions to be answered in order to write an article highlighting your utility's past, present and future.

Training calendar

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

**Due to COVID-19 guidelines, future workshops and conferences
may have to be rescheduled or cancelled.**

November

Nov. 17Solid Waste Workshop Kimball County Transit Building, Kimball

December

Dec. 2Water Operator Training Workshop Fremont

~~Dec. 3Water Operator Training Workshop Crete~~ **Cancelled**

Dec. 3Solid Waste Screening Workshop Webinar

Dec. 3Water Tower Operation and Maintenance Webinar