TRIPP COUNTY WATER USER DISTRICT

Quality On Tap!

October 2025 | Volume 21, Issue 2

WHERE DO ALL THE ROCKS COME FROM?

TOP 10 WAYS TO BE A GOOD SEPTIC OWNER

SMART METERS:
SAVING MONEY, CONSERVING WATER, AND PROTECTING YOUR COMMUNITY

IN THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE MANAGER

Lisa Stiehl, General Manager
Tripp County Water User District

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new customers and hope you enjoy the information in this issue of Quality on Tap – and in future editions. Published quarterly, the magazine is the District's way of keeping our customers informed about system updates and events. For added convenience, an electronic version is also available on our website.

Tripp County Water User District has had a busy summer! We've been working on several internal upgrade projects, connecting new users to the system, and celebrating 50 years of providing safe, reliable water to our community. We also launched a new customer portal, unveiled our updated logo, and refreshed our website. On August 2, TCWUD sponsored the Saturday evening meal at the Mid Dakota Fair for those participating and attending. There was a great turnout, and the board and staff would like to congratulate the youth on their hard work and success.

This issue includes a reminder about the 2026 Board of Directors election process. If you meet TCWUD's eligibility requirements and are interested in running for an open Director seat, please complete the necessary paperwork within the stated timeline outlined in the official notice. For questions or assistance, feel free to contact our office. The Directors up for election in 2026 are Craig Covey, Jason Bartels, and Brandon York.

If you have pasture taps, expect a reminder call in October about winterizing them. The District offers this service free of charge to help prevent meter pits from freezing during the colder months. When you're ready to use your tap again, please give us a couple day's notice so one of our operators can return to reopen for you.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call our office as we are here to help our customers.

WATER FACT:

Each American uses an average of **82 gallons** of water a day at home !

Source: USGS, Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2015

TRIPP COUNTY WATER USER DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Craig Covey, President
Louis Kehn, Vice-President
Roger Kingsbury, Treasurer
Steve Wonnenberg, Secretary
Bryan Jorgensen
Dan Forgey
Richard Rubel
Jason Bartels
Brandon York

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 am – 4:30 pm
Monday thru Friday

CONTACT US

1052 West 1st Street
Winner, SD 57580

Telephone: 605–842–2755
Fax: 605–842–1621
Toll–Free: 1–888–228–0738

www.trippcountywater.com
Email address: tcwud@gwtc.net

STAFF

Lisa Stiehl, General Manager
Jason Orel, Operations Manager
Craig Brown, Water Operator
Michael "Bud" Jacobsen, Water Operator
Trevor Herman, Water Operator
Chris Bartels, Water Operator
Sandy DeMers, Office Manager
Connie Shippy, Billing Clerk
Sherry Best, Part Time Office

TRIPP COUNTY
WATER USER DISTRICT

Holiday Hours

The Tripp County Water User District office will be closed on the following dates:

- OCT. 13 - NATIVE AMERICAN DAY
- NOV. 11 - VETERAN'S DAY
- NOV. 27-28 - THANKSGIVING

If you have an emergency,
Please call the office at
605-842-2755
or toll free at 1-888-228-0738.

Water Bill Payment Options

Just a reminder – we offer our members automatic bank deduction, which we process payments once a month around the 10th. We also provide other payment options on our website at trippcountywater.com.

You can pay your bill with a credit card, debit card or out of your bank account 24 hours a day. It is easy, convenient and no more worries about late fees.

NOTICE: TCWUD No Longer accepts cash in our drop box. If you prefer to pay your bill with cash, please do so inside our office. Thank you.

TCWUD board members and staff serving at the Mid Dakota Fair

DO WE HAVE YOUR PHONE NUMBER AND CORRECT ADDRESS?

We have found it difficult at times when trying to contact our members for outages or leak repairs due to wrong or disconnected phone numbers. In this day and age many people have opted to have their home phones disconnected and just use their cell phones for communicating.

Please call our office if you have recently changed your number or use a cell phone so we can notify you of a planned water outage and update our records. Also if you have moved or have a new 911 address please call or submit that to our office.

TCWUD IS ON FACEBOOK!

LIKE AND FOLLOW OUR PAGE AT

FACEBOOK.COM/TRIPPCOUNTYWATER

INTRODUCING THE H2O ANALYTICS CUSTOMER PORTAL:

A NEW WAY TO MANAGE YOUR WATER USAGE

The Tripp County Water User District is excited to announce the upcoming launch of the H2O Analytics Customer Portal. Currently in the final stages of testing, the portal is being reviewed by employees and select customers to ensure a smooth experience before it becomes widely available.

This new online platform is designed to give customers secure, convenient access to their water usage data, account information, and more—all from one easy-to-use interface.

Getting Started: How to Register

Customers interested in joining the portal can contact our office for assistance with registration. To create a profile, you'll need a valid email address and a mobile phone capable of receiving text messages.

To register:

- Visit **https://getmymeter.info** or scan the QR code with your smartphone
- On the homepage, select the option to create a new profile
- Enter your utility name (Tripp County Water User District) and your utility account number exactly as it appears on your billing statement
- Provide your first and last name, email address, and choose a username and password
- Agree to the terms of service and click "Register Account"

Once submitted, you'll receive a confirmation email. Simply click the link in the email to activate your account and begin using the portal.

What You'll Find Inside

After logging in, customers will have access to a range of features designed to enhance transparency and convenience:

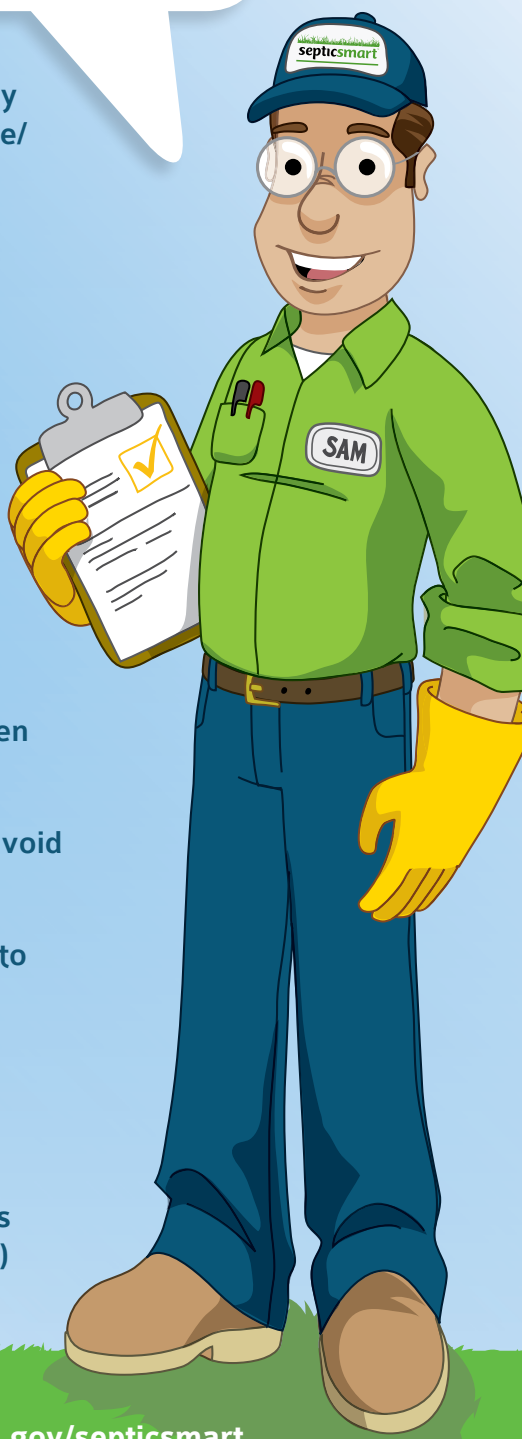
- **Account Summary:** View your billing and payment history
- **Usage Data:** Monitor your water consumption over time
- **Weather Data:** See how local weather may impact usage
- **Notification History:** Review alerts and updates
- **Preferences:** Customize your notification settings
- **Online Payments:** Make secure payments directly through the portal

Mobile Access Made Easy

For added convenience, the H2O Analytics Portal is also available as a mobile app. Customers can download the app from the Apple Store or Google Play and link it to their registered account for full access on the go.

Top 10 Ways to Be a Good Septic Owner

- Have your system inspected every three years by a qualified professional or according to your state/ local health department's recommendations
- Have your septic tank pumped, when necessary, generally every three to five years
- Avoid pouring harsh products (e.g., oils, grease, chemicals, paint, medications) down the drain
- Discard non-degradable products in the trash (e.g., floss, disposable wipes, cat litter) instead of flushing them
- Keep cars and heavy vehicles parked away from the drainfield and tank
- Follow the system manufacturer's directions when using septic tank cleaners and additives
- Repair leaks and use water efficient fixtures to avoid overloading the system
- Maintain plants and vegetation near the system to ensure roots do not block drains
- Use soaps and detergents that are low-suds, biodegradable, and low- or phosphate-free
- Prevent system freezing during cold weather by inspecting and insulating vulnerable system parts (e.g., the inspection pipe and soil treatment area)



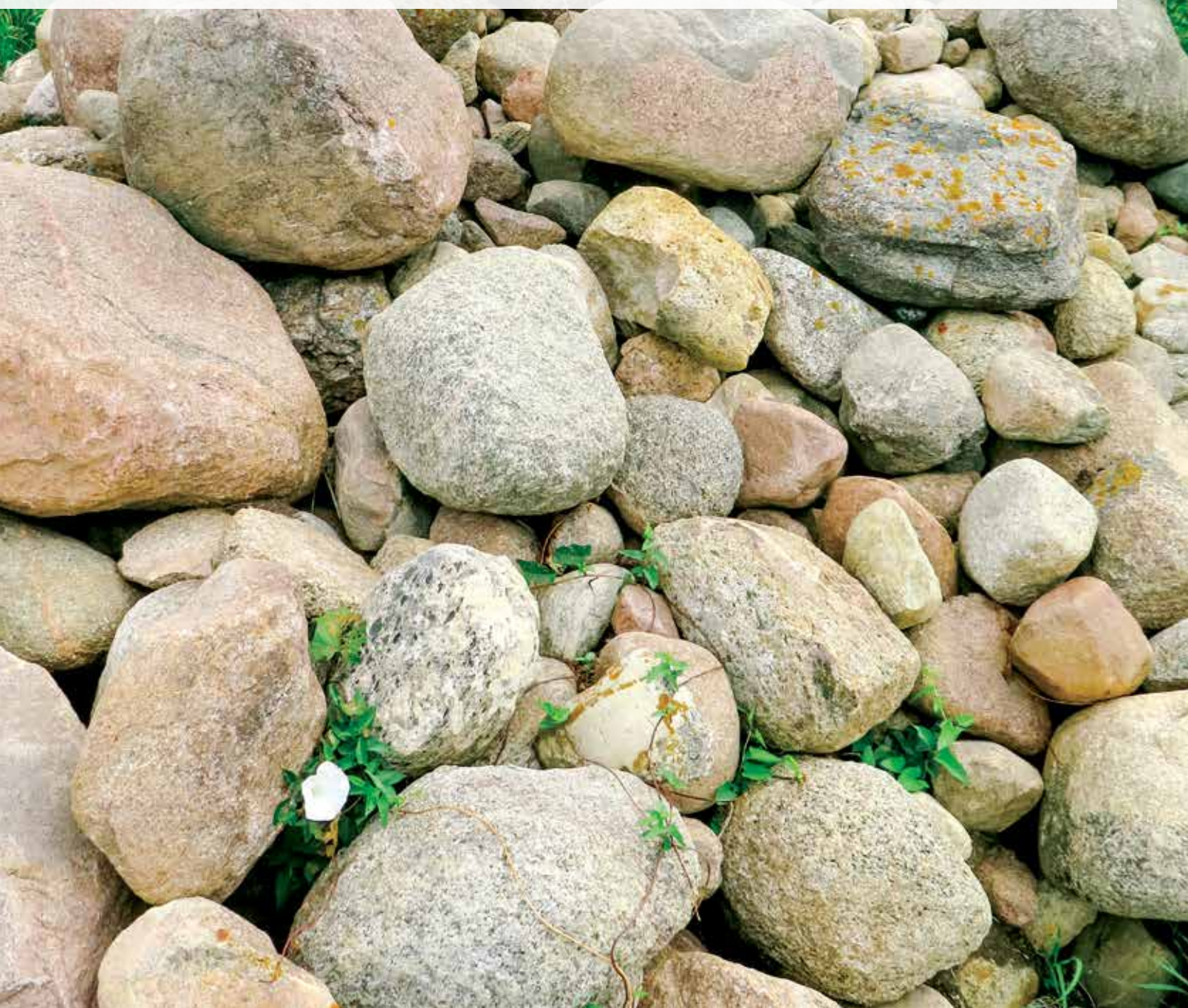
septicsmart
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

For more SepticSmart tips, visit **www.epa.gov/septicsmart**

EPA EPA-832-F-16-010 | July 2016

WHERE DO ALL THE ROCKS COME FROM?

By Jay Gilbertson, East Dakota Water Development District



Piles of rocks are a common sight in and around farm fields all across eastern South Dakota. These piles represent the result of years, and sometimes generations, of effort to rid farm fields of stones and boulders so that plows can move more smoothly through the earth. Did you ever wonder where all these rocks came from?

The last significant geologic event to impact eastern South Dakota was the Great Ice Age, which began about two million years ago and ended(?) about 10,000 years ago. During that time, massive sheets of ice, called glaciers, advanced out of Canada and into this part of the world. Detailed studies of the materials left behind by the ice, collectively referred to as glacial drift, suggests that there may have been over a dozen distinct ice advances during this time.

Glaciers are extremely effective earth movers, and each ice advance dramatically rearranged the landscape it encountered. In the eastern Dakotas, the pre-glacial landscape was developed on comparatively soft rocks, like shale, marl (a type of limestone) and poorly-consolidated sandstones. The ice movement ground most of these rocks to fine particles, which are now the basis for the clay-rich soils of the region.

And yet there are numerous large rocks and boulders found today scattered across the countryside. The rocks that 'survive' transport by a glacier tend to be hard, crystalline varieties, like granite or quartzite. With a few notable exceptions, there are really no 'native' sources of actual hard rocks in eastern South Dakota. As such, pretty much all of the rocks and boulders found across the landscape were brought here from other places, like Canada (mostly) and northern Minnesota, by the various ice advances, and then left behind when the ice melted. The transported rocks may have traveled a few tens of miles, or in some instances, well over 1,000 miles before coming to a final resting spot. Geologists refer to rocks that have been transported in such a way as glacial erratics.

So, if someone finds a big rock out in the field, where did it come from? The quick and simple answer is, "up north." Determining exactly where a particular glacial erratic originated from can be difficult. The mineral composition and physical characteristics of rocks are highly variable, and as such a 'granite' from one region can look markedly different from a 'granite' from another. The ability to locate a point of origin usually requires that your rock 1) has relatively unique and readily identifiable characteristics and 2) geologists have previously identified a unique location where this particular rock type is found in place.

For example, the Sioux Quartzite, which is exposed at various places in southwestern Minnesota and southeastern South Dakota (including at the Falls of the Big Sioux River in Sioux Falls), is one such rock. Boulders of this distinctive pink rock are common in glacial deposits south of Interstate 90 in South Dakota, having been picked up by glaciers advancing across the region from the north. with some found in remnant glacial deposits as far away as northeast Kansas.

Another, more traveled example are rocks known as omars. Omars are derived from the Omarolluk Formation, part of a group of rocks limited to the Belcher Islands, which are located in the southeastern part of Hudson Bay. The rock is typically dark- to medium-gray in color, with a distinctive oval-shaped inclusion of lighter gray material The rock is a variety of sandstone (graywacke), and the lighter spots are calcareous concretions. If exposed to weathering, the light spots will wear away, leaving a rounded cavity in the stone. Omars are found all across the northern United States, from Michigan to Montana. Each example started out at the same place, and was subsequently moved, often in multiple steps, to it's final resting place.

So, the next time you see a rock laying out in a local field, or in a rock wall built from such stones, imagine the long and arduous journey it had to make to get here.

SMART METERS:
Saving Money, Conserving Water, and Protecting Your Community

In recent years, rural water systems across South Dakota have been making major investments in technology. But this technology isn't hidden away in a treatment plant or tucked inside an office – it's right where you might least expect it: in the water meter at your home.

Today's smart water meters are packed with advanced features that provide enormous benefits to both customers and utilities. By pairing these meters with software that interprets the data, water systems can save time, reduce costs, conserve water, and even prevent costly leaks before they spiral out of control.

Smart meters come in a wide range of models, from simple designs that measure basic usage to advanced meters that can detect leaks or abnormal patterns in real time. Many rural water systems in South Dakota use cellular networks to transmit meter data – working much like a safe and secure text message that can reach even the most remote locations. In more populated areas, utilities may rely on strategically placed radio antennas to gather and deliver the information. Smart meters meet strict safety standards and use secure, low-level radio signals – far lower than most common household electronics. They're not only safe, but they also deliver better service, transparency, and reliability for customers.

Regardless of the method, the data is invaluable. A smart meter can track gallons used, water temperature, flow volume, and even the time and duration of water use. While that may sound like a lot of detail for something as simple as filling a glass of water, it allows utilities to bill accurately

without sending staff house to house. That efficiency saves countless hours and reduces costs – savings that ultimately benefit customers.

Perhaps one of the most exciting features of smart meters is leak detection. When unusual usage patterns are detected, utilities can notify a customer quickly – sometimes even before the customer realizes there's an issue. With a little investigative work, operators can often pinpoint the source of the leak, whether it's a dripping faucet, a running toilet, or a broken irrigation line.

Many systems also offer customer portals, where households can log in and monitor their own water use. This empowers customers to identify leaks early, track conservation efforts, and avoid the shock of an unexpectedly high bill.

Utilities also benefit from smarter planning. With access to real-time usage data, rural systems can better predict demand, prioritize upgrades, and make smarter investments for the future.

The newest generation of smart meters takes things a step further with acoustic leak detection technology. Don't worry – these meters aren't "listening" to conversations. Instead, they pick up on the distinct frequencies that leaks produce as water escapes into the ground. With the right software, utilities can locate leaks down to within a few feet.

This breakthrough is a game changer. While it's relatively easy to spot leaks after water passes through a customer's meter, leaks on the utility's side of the system are much harder to find. Acoustic-enabled smart meters give utilities the ability to stop water loss at its source, saving money, reducing wasted water, and protecting vital infrastructure.

Water is one of our most valuable resources, and rural water systems are committed to managing it wisely. By reducing water loss and improving efficiency, smart meters not only keep customer bills affordable but also ensure that rural water systems remain strong and sustainable for years to come.

Smart water meters save money, conserve water, and improve service, making them a win-win for customers, communities, and the environment.

Through the customer portal, smart meter users can view real-time water usage, track daily and monthly trends, set up leak alerts, and manage their accounts – all from their smartphone, tablet, or computer.

SYSTEM SPOTLIGHT

BIG SIOUX COMMUNITY WATER

For more than half a century, Big Sioux Community Water has been providing safe, reliable drinking water to Moody and Lake Counties, and portions of Brookings, Minnehaha, and Pipestone, MN. From its beginnings in the early 1970s to today's modern, expanding system, Big Sioux has been built on community vision, steady growth, and a commitment to delivering the best water possible.

The story began in 1972, when a steering committee met at Sioux Valley Energy in Colman to explore the idea of a rural water system. Two of those early leaders, Dan Carlson (now retired after 50 years) and Andy Groos (retired after 52 years), went on to serve decades on the Board of Directors. With support from DeWild Grant Reckert and Associates (DGR), a preliminary engineering report was developed and submitted to the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) for funding. With around 700 original sign-ups, the system delivered its first water in 1975. A well field was established east of Egan in the Big Sioux River valley, and three production wells were drilled. Remarkably, one of those original wells is still producing water today.

Big Sioux Community Water tower next to the Dakota Ethanol plant in Wentworth, SD

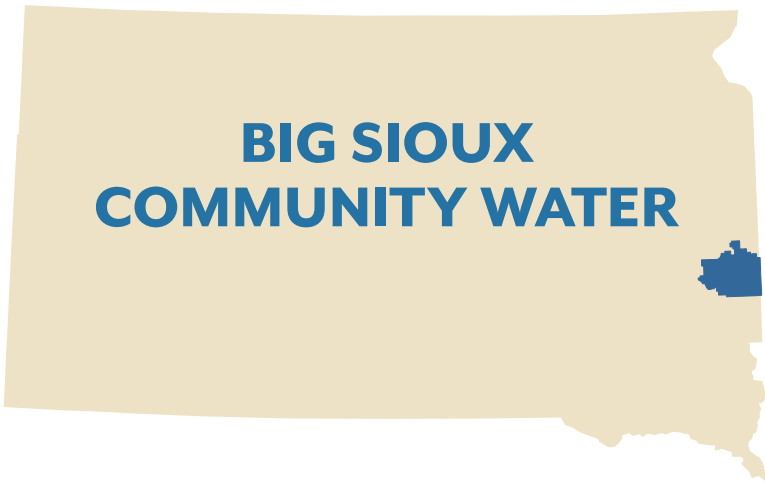
In the early years, treatment was simple – primarily disinfection and fluoridation – but it was still a major improvement over the private wells many families had relied on. Through the 1980s, the system grew steadily with new towers, wells, the first treatment plant at Brant Lake, and additional pipelines. By 1979, the system surpassed 1,000 members. The addition of SCADA monitoring in 1989 improved reliability, and by 1990, membership had reached 1,350. The construction of a lime softening treatment plant in 1994 raised water quality even higher and helped push membership past 2,000 by 2010.

Growth also came through partnerships. In 2000, Big Sioux began supplying bulk water to Flandreau as well as more than 200 million gallons annually to Dakota Ethanol. Demand around Lake Madison and Lake Brant led to the construction of a smaller membrane treatment plant, which began operating in 2010. In 2017, a new pipeline connection with Minnehaha Community Water provided additional capacity and extended service to Madison and Chester. The results have been striking: in 1980, annual sales were about 150 million gallons; by 2021, they had grown to over one billion gallons.

Today, Big Sioux is part of the Shared Resources project, a major collaboration with Minnehaha Community Water Corporation. Together, the two systems are building a new eight million gallon-per-day water treatment plant near Trent, along with new wells, reservoirs, a booster station, and 15 miles of treated water pipeline. Backed by a $110 million funding package provided through the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) and federal ARPA funds, this project is designed to provide added capacity and reliability while keeping costs efficient through shared resources. It is one of the most significant rural water collaborations in South Dakota.

As the new year approaches, the Big Sioux Board of Directors and staff are looking ahead to growth and expansion in 2026 and beyond. Future upgrades and maintenance are top priorities, along with planning for added capacity to ensure uninterrupted, reliable service for all customers.

At the 47th Annual Meeting in 2019, longtime Director Andy



Groos said, "Rural water is probably the most precious commodity we have on the farm, especially given the quality we enjoy." Retired Director Dan Carlson added, "Having quality rural water at my home gives me many of the advantages of city living while getting to enjoy the benefits of country living."

Now under the leadership of Manager Jodi Johanson, Big Sioux Community Water continues to carry forward that vision – protecting water resources, investing in infrastructure, and ensuring the best quality water for the communities it serves.

Big Sioux Community Water Headquarters in Egan, SD

Progress photo of the Shared Resources plant near Trent, SD

DIRECTORS:

Chairman – Dan Dannenbring
Vice Chairman – Vince Nelson
Secretary/Treasurer – Gaylen Backus
Director – Tom Hagedorn
Director – Reggie Gassman
Director – Kent Whipkey
Director – John Mousel
Director – Rick Olivier
Director – John McCorkle

STAFF:

General Manager – Jodi Johanson
Chief of Distribution – Chad Kneebone
Chief Plant Operator – Aric Olson
Small Systems Operator – Jeff Carruthers
Distribution Operator – Lucas Dailey
Distribution Operator – Taylor Bult
Bookkeeper – Kim Hansen
Office Manager – Lenhi Olson

STATISTICS:

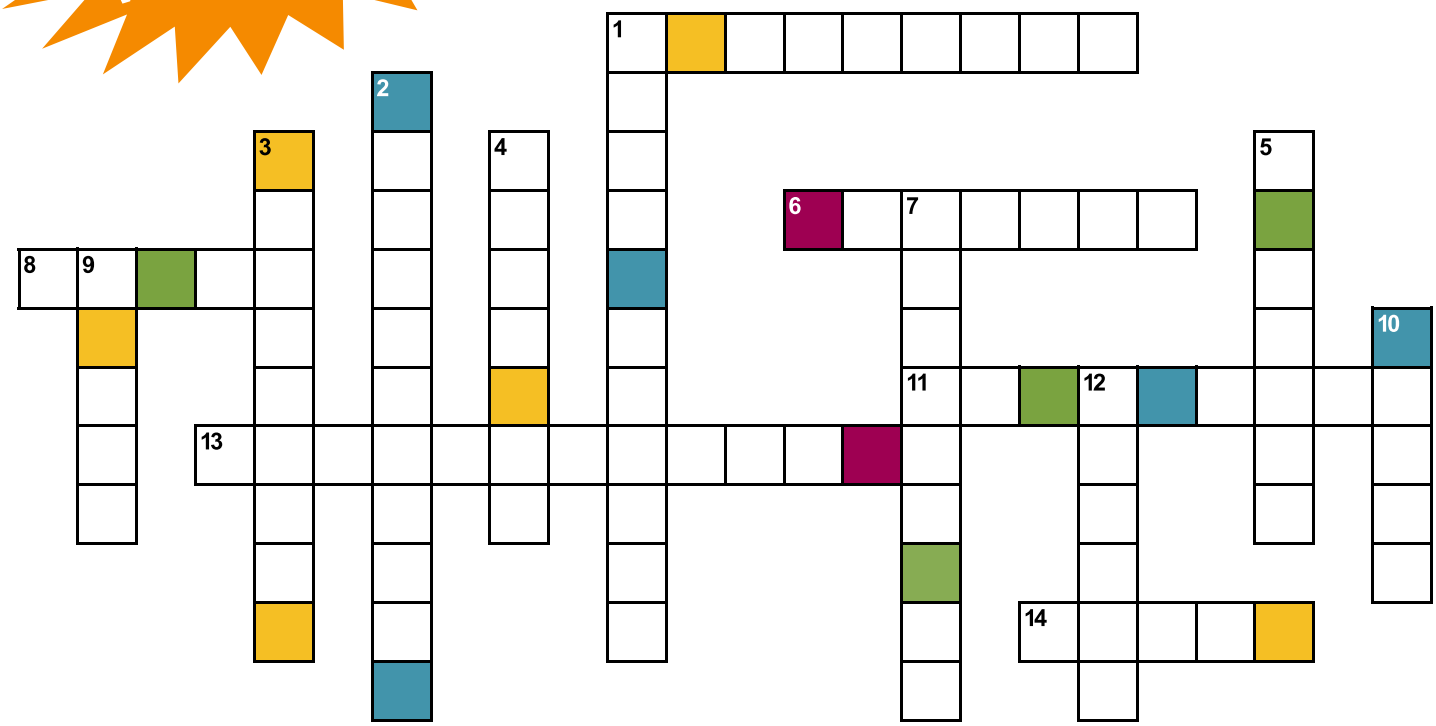
Service Connections: 2,395
Miles of Pipeline: 900
Water Source: Wells – Big Sioux Aquifer, Skunk Creek Aquifer
Counties Served: Moody, Lake and portions of Brookings and Minnehaha; Pipestone, MN
Towns Served Individual: Rutland
Towns Served Bulk: Flandreau, Egan, Trent, Colman, Wentworth, Chester
Contracted Management Water Systems: Egan, Wentworth, Chester

RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

PIES

Enter to Win $100

SCRAMBLE ANSWER



Across

1. Sweet purple fruit-filled pie
6. Traditional Thanksgiving dessert
8. Classic American pie made with spiced fruit
11. Rich dessert pie for cocoa lovers
13. Tart citrus filling with a fluffy topping
14. Pie filled with custard and topped with whipped topping

Down

1. Custard pie with slices of yellow fruit
2. Creamy orange pie, often mistaken for pumpkin
3. Savory pie topped with mashed potatoes
4. Tart green citrus dessert from Florida
5. Tangy stalk used in spring pies
7. Traditional pie with spiced fruits and sometimes meat
9. Southern favorite made with nuts and corn syrup
10. Summer fruit pie popular in the South
12. Tart red fruit often paired with a lattice crust

RULES: Use the colored squares in the puzzle to solve the word scramble above. Call your Rural Water System (See page 2 for contact information) or **enter online at www.sdarws.com/crossword.html** with the correct phrase by October 15, 2025 to be entered into the $100 drawing.

Only one entry allowed per address/household. You must be a member of a participating rural water system to be eligible for the prize. Your information will only be used to notify the winner, and will not be shared or sold.

Congratulations to Idell Moritz from Sioux Rural Water who had the correct phrase of "Savor sunshine and smiles" for July 2025.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF SERVICE:
TRIPP COUNTY WATER USER DISTRICT'S ANNIVERSARY OPEN HOUSE

On July 11, 2025, the Tripp County Water User District marked a major milestone – its 50th Anniversary – with a vibrant Open House celebration held at the district shop. The event drew a crowd of nearly 190 guests, all welcomed with hearty hospitality, a delicious meal, and a generous spread of giveaways.

Attendees received commemorative gifts including branded hats, leather gloves, magnetic chip clips, and flyswatters. A specially prepared 50th Anniversary booklet was also handed out, capturing the district's rich history and its impact on the region.

State Representative Jim Halverson joined the celebration, delivering heartfelt remarks on the district's legacy and its vital role in supporting local communities. His presence underscored the importance of the agency's work and its enduring commitment to public service.

Kevin Christenson from South Dakota Rural Water Association and Nathan Danner of Bartlett West also gave informative presentations.

The excitement continued with door prizes donated by Marsh McLellan Agency, Bartlett & West, Farm Credit Services of America, and the Tripp County Water User District. Lucky winners included:

- Eric Connot
- MJ Waters
- Linda Brunmeier
- Donna Duffy
- Megan Cahoy
- Moni Stiehl
- Kim DeMers
- Ada Kucera
- Roger Evans
- Ron DeMers
- Darlene Shattuck
- Brad Whitley
- Bob Kucera
- Keri Lindwurm
- Tyler Kucera
- Jack Frantz
- Donna Sharkey
- Ross DeMers
- Sarah Aid
- Alice Jacobsen

The Board of Directors and staff worked together to make the day memorable, serving guests and sharing stories that reflected five decades of dedication and progress. It was more than just a celebration – it was a tribute to the people and partnerships that have shaped the district's journey.

VISION STATEMENT

Improving the quality of life, one person at a time.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide quality water to the patrons of Tripp County Water User District.

Easy Halloween Trail Mix

INGREDIENTS:

- Brach's candy corn or autumn mix
- Popcorn or kettle corn, popped
- Deluxe mixed nuts, or individually: pecans, cashews, walnuts, almonds, and peanuts *(Optional: Toss the mixed nuts with a gently melted mixture of 3/4 cup brown sugar, 1/4 cup granulated sugar, 1/4 cup water, and pumpkin pie spice.)*
- Mini pretzels or Halloween pretzels

ADDITIONAL ADD-INS:

- Bugles
- Chex Mix
- M&M's
- Reeses Pieces

DIRECTIONS: Pour all ingredients in a large bowl and mix. That's it!

Stored in a mason jar or other air-tight container, this easy recipe is a great snack that will taste amazing for weeks.

Separate into airtight or Halloween-themed to create single serving holiday snack mixes for trick-or-treaters or party guests. This kind of snack mix can easily be used as a topping to make Halloween dessert unforgettable.

Share your favorite recipe with us by mail or email! If it gets printed, you'll be entered into a year-end prize drawing!

Tripp County Water User District | 1052 W 1st Street
Winner, SD 57580 | (email) tcwud@gwtc.net

Halloween Cheesecake Bars

COOKIE CRUST

- 20 - 25 chocolate sandwich cookies
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter melted

CHEESECAKE FILLING

- 3 – 8 ounce packages of cream cheese softened
- 3/4 cup sour cream
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 3 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- Orange and Black Food Coloring
- 1 pinch salt

DIRECTIONS: Preheat oven to 325°F with a pan of water on the bottom rack. Crush cookies and mix with butter and sugar, pressing into a parchment-lined 9×13 pan. Beat cream cheese with sugar, salt, eggs, sour cream, and vanilla until smooth. Divide a small portion of filling to color orange and black. Pour remaining white filling over crust, then layer and swirl the orange and black colors on top using the back of a knife or a chopstick. Bake 50–55 minutes until set (when the center is no longer wobbly). Turn off oven, open door and let bars cool in oven for 1 hour, then refrigerate overnight. Lift from pan, cut into squares, and serve.

TRIPP COUNTY
WATER USER DISTRICT

REMINDER CONCERNING DECLARATIONS AND NOMINATING PETITIONS

Persons desiring to stand for election as a member of the Board of Directors of Tripp County Water User District are reminded of the procedure and deadlines for submitting a declaration of candidacy and a nominating petition. Declarations of candidacy must be submitted no sooner than November 1, 2025, and no later than December 1, 2025. Nominating petitions must be submitted no later than December 15, 2025.

Interested parties are referred to Article 4, Section 3 of the District's Bylaws (below) for more specific information.

Tripp County Water User District Bylaws, Article 4, Section 3:

No sooner than November 1 and no later than December 1 of each year immediately preceding an election year, persons desiring to stand for election as director shall submit a properly-executed declaration of candidacy in the form adopted by the Board of Directors. No later than December 15, said persons must submit a nominating petition, in the form adopted by the Board of Directors, with no fewer than ten (10) valid signatures of persons eligible to vote in district elections. Only those persons timely filing a valid declaration of candidacy and timely filing the required nominating petition are eligible to stand for election as director. Prior to March first of each year, on dates established by the Board, an election shall be held to elect directors to succeed those whose terms are about to expire. Newly elected directors shall assume office at the first board meeting following their election and shall continue for a period of three (3) years thereafter and until a successor is duly elected and qualified.

The Board of Directors has not yet established a date for the 2026 Annual Meeting.

The Tripp County Water User District Board of Directors who will be up for reelection in 2026 are Craig Covey, Brandon York and Jason Bartels.

Tripp County Water User District
1052 West 1st Street
Winner, SD 57580

trippcountywater.com
605–842–2755

WATER MATTERS

LONE ROCK

About 8 miles, as the crow flies, southeast of Flandreau, and just a mile from the Minnesota border, sits Lone Rock, the largest glacial erratic yet identified in South Dakota. With a diameter of over 25 feet, and standing roughly 20 feet above the prairie surface, this rock has been a local landmark for ages. As testimony to its uniqueness, a local church, cemetery and the township in which it resides all bear its name.

Lone Rock is a block of pink granite, carried to the area by glaciers many tens of thousands of years ago. Although it's exact point of origin is unknown, the nearest rocks of similar composition are found in the valley of the Minnesota River, some 90 miles to the northeast. Here, ancient crystalline rocks, ranging in age from 1.5 to 3.5 billion years, are exposed, and could have been the source of Lone Rock. Another large glacial erratic, the Three Maidens at Pipestone National Monument, has a similar composition and likely a comparable origin story.

The rock sits in a pasture near the corner of 487th Avenue and 235th Street. This is private property, so visitors are encouraged to admire the feature from afar. But don't worry, it's big enough to be seen from the road. The Lone Rock Lutheran Church and the Lone Rock Cemetery are located less than a mile west of the intersection.

BACK PAGE CONTENT PROVIDED BY:

EAST DAKOTA WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

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Brookings, SD 57006
605-688-6741
eastdakota.org