TRIPP COUNTY
WATER USER DISTRICT

OCTOBER 2026
VOLUME 22, ISSUE 2

Quality On Tap!

CLEAN WATER, BETTER GAINS: HOW RURAL WATER SUPPORTS CATTLE PRODUCTION

WORKING TOGETHER FOR CLEAN WATER

SDWARN: UTILITIES HELPING UTILITIES WHEN DISASTER STRIKES

IN THIS ISSUE:

FROM THE MANAGER

Lisa Stiehl, General Manager
Tripp County Water User District

As I do with each issue, we want to extend a warm welcome to our new customers and let you know that *Quality on Tap* is the District's way of communicating important updates and District happenings to our customers. TCWUD customers receive their copy quarterly, and for added convenience, an electronic version is also available on our website.

Our staff continues to reach out and meet with customers who still need to complete their private service line inventory, or have it verified by one of our operators. We appreciate the customers' cooperation in this continuing task and thank you for your help.

In this issue, you will find a reminder about declaration and nomination petitions for the Board of Directors election process. Anyone meeting the TCWUD requirements and wanting to run for an open Director seat must complete the appropriate paperwork within the stated timeline, as outlined in the notice. Also see the important updates concerning the elimination of proxy voting and voting procedures generally. Further information will be provided in the next *Quality on Tap*, on the District's website, and on the District's Facebook page as updates become available.

We want to remind our customers that our new rates will go into effect on January 1, 2027, and will be reflected in your February 2027 billing. The rate increase will apply to the monthly minimums and water consumption. Our last rate increase was in January 2024, and this new increase aligns with our normal every-three-year increase.

Unfortunately, the email billing process we hoped to start at the end of June had to be delayed due to technical issues. We continue to work on the process and hope to have it available to our customers by the beginning of 2027. If you would like to participate, please call our office with your information. We know that once this process is up and running, customers will receive their bills in a timelier manner, making payment smoother.

In October we will send our annual reminder call regarding winterizing your pasture taps. The District provides this service free of charge to protect the meter pit from freezing in the cold months. Please give us a couple of days' notice when you need the pit turned back on, as one of our operators will need to go back and prepare it.

TCWUD sponsored the Saturday evening meal at the Mid Dakota Fair on August 1st. There was a great turnout, and the board of directors and staff would like to congratulate the youth on their hard work and success.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, please call our office, and I would be happy to visit with you. In closing, we want to wish everyone a safe and happy fall.

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

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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
Joey Cole, Water Operator
Connie Shippy, Billing Clerk
Michelle Langenbau, Office Manager
Sherry Best, Part Time Office

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.

TRIPP COUNTY WATER USER DISTRICT

Holiday Hours

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

- OCT. 12 - NATIVE AMERICAN DAY
- NOV. 11 - VETERAN'S DAY
- NOV. 26-27 - THANKSGIVING

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

IMPORTANT UPDATES CONCERNING THE ELIMINATION OF PROXY VOTING AND VOTING PROCEDURES GENERALLY

After careful consideration and discussion over several months, the Board of Directors, at its regular meeting held on August 10, 2026, amended the Bylaws to do away with voting via proxy. The Board also repealed a now obsolete policy governing proxy voting generally.

Also at the August 10 meeting, management and staff reported on options for conducting director elections online and with the option to vote in person at the Annual Meeting. Watch *Quality on Tap*, the District's website (trippcountywater.com), and the District's Facebook page for updates on this exciting development.

TCWUD AT THE MID DAKOTA FAIR

Get Your Home Ready for Winter

Warm days may still be hanging on, but colder weather is not far behind. Taking a few simple steps now can help protect your home, plumbing and water meter before freezing temperatures arrive.

Frozen pipes can crack or burst, leading to significant water loss and costly damage. Even a small, 1/8-inch opening can release approximately 3,200 gallons of water in a single day. Preparing early is much easier than dealing with an emergency in the middle of winter.

Insulate Vulnerable Pipes

Check pipes located in crawl spaces, attics, basements, garages and other areas that may not receive adequate heat. Foam pipe sleeves and fiberglass insulation are inexpensive options available at most hardware stores.

Heat tape may also be used on vulnerable pipes and valves. Always choose a UL-approved product and follow the manufacturer's installation instructions carefully. If heat tape is already installed, inspect it before winter to make sure it is still working properly.

Locate Your Shut-Off Valves

Make sure everyone in your household knows where the main water shut-off valve is located. In an emergency, shutting off the water quickly can prevent extensive damage. If your water meter is located in the basement, the valve is generally nearby.

You should also know the location of the service line valve that controls water to your entire property. Contact your rural water system before operating any valve owned by the system.

Check Your Meter Pit

Inspect the meter pit for visible damage and make sure the lid is secure. Additional insulating material may be placed inside the pit if recommended by your rural water provider.

Clearly mark the meter pit's location so it can be seen after heavy snowfall and avoided by snowplows, vehicles and other equipment. Contact your rural water system if the pit, lid, meter or nearby plumbing appears damaged.

Disconnect Outdoor Hoses

Remove, drain and store garden hoses before temperatures fall below freezing. Drain exterior faucets and shut off their indoor supply valves when possible. Underground sprinkler systems should also be properly drained or blown out before winter.

Seal Out Cold Air

Inspect the areas around foundations, sill plates, doors, windows and utility openings. Seal cracks and gaps with caulk, spray foam or insulation to prevent cold air from reaching nearby pipes. Close and secure basement windows, crawl-space openings and access doors.

A Few Final Reminders

During extreme cold or a winter power outage, open cabinet doors beneath sinks to allow warmer air to circulate around plumbing.

When leaving home for an extended period, keep the heat on and arrange for someone to check the property. Contact your rural water system if the water service needs to be shut off.

Clean leaves and debris from gutters to help prevent ice dams, and make sure downspouts direct water away from the foundation. Trim weak or overhanging tree branches that could break under the weight of snow and ice.

A little preparation this fall can help keep your water flowing – and protect your home – all winter long.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR CLEAN WATER

Clean, reliable water does not arrive at the faucet by accident.

Behind every glass of water is a network of wells, pipelines, pumps, storage tanks and treatment facilities. Much of that infrastructure is out of sight, but it is essential to everyday life. It supports homes, schools, hospitals, farms and businesses in communities across South Dakota.

Building those systems has required decades of planning, local commitment and financial partnerships. For more than 60 years, South Dakota's communities and rural water systems have worked with state and federal agencies to bring dependable water service to residents throughout the state.

South Dakota's modern rural water story began in the early 1960s. Early systems responded to a basic need. In many rural areas, individual wells could not always provide enough water or the quality residents needed. Regional systems offered a more dependable solution by serving many farms, homes and communities through a shared network.

The challenge was cost. Constructing treatment facilities and laying miles of pipeline across sparsely populated areas was beyond what locals could reasonably finance alone.

Federal assistance became critical. The Farmers Home Administration—now USDA Rural Development—was the primary funding partner for 22 of South Dakota's first 32 major rural water systems. That support was combined with local contributions and assistance from the state, water development districts, Community Development Block Grants, CoBank, local lenders and other partners. No single program built South Dakota's rural water network. It was created through cooperation.

A Major State Commitment

One of the most important turning points came in 1993, when the South Dakota Legislature created a dedicated state funding mechanism for water projects.

Through the Water Environment Fund, South Dakota began providing grants and affordable financing for drinking water, wastewater, stormwater, flood-control, irrigation and other eligible water infrastructure. The programs also support large regional projects identified as important to the state's long-term water future.

From 1993 through June 2026, South Dakota obligated approximately $332.3 million in dedicated state funding through the Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program and the State Water Resources Management System.

Of that amount, approximately $178.5 million supported drinking-water projects. About $135.4 million went specifically to regional and rural water systems or projects directly connecting to them.

Funding That Keeps Working

South Dakota expanded its funding tools through state revolving loan programs. These are federal funds that are allocated to the EPA, then directed to the state for funding eligible water projects.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund began supporting wastewater and water-quality projects in 1989. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund followed in 1998.

The idea is straightforward. Communities and water systems receive affordable, long-term loans to complete projects. As those loans are repaid, the money returns to the fund and can be loaned again.

In that way, the same dollars can support multiple generations of water infrastructure. Some projects also qualify for grants or principal forgiveness, which means a portion of the loan does not have to be repaid.

From the beginning of the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in 1998 through June 2026, South Dakota obligated approximately $1.457 billion. Of that total, approximately $641.6 million supported rural and regional water systems.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund has provided even more assistance. Since the program began in 1989, approximately $1.99 billion has been obligated for wastewater and other eligible clean-water projects.

That funding is an important part of the water story. Supplying safe drinking water is essential, but communities must also be able to properly collect, manage and treat the wastewater produced after that water is used.

A Historic Surge in Investment

South Dakota entered another important period of water investment following the COVID-19 pandemic. The state directed a significant portion of its federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding toward drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure.

Through June 2026, approximately $695.2 million from South Dakota's share of ARPA funding had been allocated through the Board of Water and Natural Resources for eligible water-related projects.

Of that amount, approximately $394.6 million supported drinking-water projects. About $283.3 million went to regional and rural water systems or projects directly connecting to them.

Those investments allowed communities to replace aging infrastructure, expand treatment and storage capacity, improve wastewater systems and extend service to growing areas.

They also showed the scale of South Dakota's continuing water needs.

Why the Need Continues

One-time funding can accomplish a great deal, but it cannot replace a long-term strategy. Water infrastructure does not last forever. Pipes corrode. Pumps wear out. Treatment equipment must be replaced. Communities grow, regulations change and construction costs rise.

These challenges are especially difficult for small communities. A project costing several million dollars may have to be supported by only a few hundred customers. Even an affordable loan can result in a significant increase in household water bills.

That is why grants, principal forgiveness and state matching funds matter. They do not eliminate the local responsibility to maintain a water system. Instead, they help keep essential projects within reach.

State dollars can also leverage federal investment. Many federal programs require matching funds, completed planning or evidence that a project is ready to proceed. A dependable state commitment gives South Dakota a stronger opportunity to bring additional federal resources home.

An Investment in Every Community

Reliable water supports nearly every part of community life.

It protects public health, allows businesses to operate, supports housing development and provides the water needed for emergency services. Effective wastewater treatment protects rivers, lakes and groundwater.

South Dakota's water systems were not built through one funding source or one historic investment. They are the result of more than six decades of local leadership and state and federal partnership.

That history offers an important lesson for the future.

One-time funding can help meet urgent needs, but long-term progress requires a dependable state commitment. Consistent investment allows communities to plan responsibly, keep projects affordable and make the best use of available federal funds.

Investing in water is not simply about pipes, pumps and treatment plants. It is an investment in public health, economic opportunity and the future of every South Dakota community.

BUILDING REGIONAL SYSTEMS

Some of South Dakota's water projects have been too large to build through local and state resources alone.

Major regional systems such as WEB Water, Mni Wiconi, Mid-Dakota Rural Water System, Perkins County Rural Water System and Lewis & Clark Regional Water System required significant federal investment through the Bureau of Reclamation.

These projects were designed to serve large areas where local supplies were limited, unreliable or unable to support future growth. They also demonstrated what can happen when communities cooperate across county and even state boundaries.

CLEAN WATER, BETTER GAINS:
HOW RURAL WATER SUPPORTS CATTLE PRODUCTION

For many rural South Dakota households, raising cattle is part of daily life. Whether a family manages a large cow-calf operation or keeps a smaller herd on an acreage, dependable water is one of the most important resources available to those animals.

Feed, genetics and pasture management often receive the most attention when producers look for ways to improve cattle performance. However, water can be just as important. Cattle need an adequate supply of clean water to maintain their health, regulate body temperature, digest feed and support milk production and weight gain.

According to SDSU Extension, research has found that cattle provided with clean water may spend more time grazing and less time resting than cattle drinking directly from a pond. Calves may gain as much as one-quarter pound more per day when their mothers have access to clean water. Cattle drinking clean water from tanks have also gained as much as one-half pound more per day than cattle relying on lower-quality water from ponds or dugouts. *[SDSU Extension (1)]*

Over an entire grazing season, even a modest improvement in daily gain can make a noticeable difference.

Water Quantity Matters

Cattle require significant amounts of water, and their needs change with their size, stage of production and the weather. A common guideline is that dry cows and bulls need approximately one gallon of water per 100 pounds of body weight each day. Lactating cows may require about two gallons per 100 pounds. *[SDSU Extension (2)]*

That means a 1,300-pound lactating cow could require approximately 26 gallons of water per day. During periods of extreme heat, cattle may drink even more. University of Minnesota Extension reports that cattle under heat stress can consume more than 20 gallons per day and emphasizes that watering systems must refill quickly enough to keep up with demand. *[University of Minnesota Extension (3)]*

A dependable rural water connection can help provide a consistent supply during dry summers, when shallow wells, dams and dugouts may become unreliable. Producers should make sure pipes, tanks, valves and floats are sized to meet the herd's peak demand – not merely its average daily use.

Quality Matters, Too

A pond may appear to contain plenty of water, but cattle entering the water can reduce its quality. Manure, urine, stirred-up sediment and damaged banks may introduce bacteria, nutrients and other contaminants. Warm temperatures and reduced water levels can make these problems worse.

High concentrations of certain minerals can also affect

cattle performance. For example, excessive sulfate in drinking water may reduce average daily gain and feed efficiency and can contribute to serious health problems. University of Minnesota Extension notes that water containing less than 1,000 parts per million of sulfate is generally considered safe, although the animals' total sulfur intake from both feed and water must be considered. *[University of Minnesota Extension (3)]*

Water that has an unusual color, odor or taste – or a source that changes during drought – may need to be tested. A veterinarian, livestock nutritionist or Extension specialist can help interpret livestock water-test results.

Better Water Distribution Benefits the Pasture

Reliable water can also improve how cattle use available grass. SDSU Extension reports that cattle spend 77% of their grazing time within 1,200 feet of water. When only one water source is available, cattle may overgraze nearby areas while leaving more-distant forage underused. *[SDSU Extension (1)]*

Pipelines and strategically placed stock tanks can distribute cattle more evenly across a pasture. More-uniform grazing can improve forage use, spread manure nutrients across a larger area, reduce pressure around ponds and streams, and help protect grass and soil health.

For households served by a rural water system, that reliable supply can provide benefits extending well beyond the home. Where system policies and capacity allow, rural water delivered to properly designed livestock tanks can help cattle drink more consistently, graze more efficiently and remain productive during South Dakota's hottest and driest conditions.

Before adding or expanding a livestock connection, contact your rural water system to discuss available capacity, rates, metering requirements and backflow protection. A well-planned watering system is an investment not only in convenience, but also in healthier cattle, better pasture use and the long-term productivity of the operation.

(1): extension.sdstate.edu/water-quality "Water Quality"

(2): extension.sdstate.edu/weather-and-water-intake-beef-cattle "Weather and Water Intake in Beef Cattle - SDSU Extension"

(3): extension.umn.edu/beef-feedlot/managing-heat-stress-feedlot-cattle#sources-847910 "Managing heat stress in feedlot cattle"

SDWARN

UTILITIES HELPING UTILITIES WHEN EMERGENCIES STRIKE

Clean drinking water and reliable wastewater service are essential to every South Dakota community. These services protect public health and allow homes and businesses to function normally.

Most days, local water and wastewater professionals manage these responsibilities quietly and effectively. But a major storm, flood, equipment failure, power outage, contamination event, or other emergencies can quickly exceed the personnel and resources available to a single utility.

When that happens, South Dakota utilities can turn to the South Dakota Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (SDWARN).

What Is SDWARN?

SDWARN is a statewide mutual assistance network founded on a straightforward principle: utilities helping utilities.

The network helps water and wastewater systems prepare for natural and human-caused emergencies, organize their response, and share personnel, equipment, supplies, and technical expertise when assistance is needed. Its purpose is to help utilities respond to emergencies and restore essential services as quickly and safely as possible.

Participation is open to public and private water and wastewater utilities operating in South Dakota. A utility becomes a member when the Mutual Aid Agreement is signed by an official with legal authority to enter into contracts on behalf of the utility, such as a mayor, board chair, or president. There is no cost to participate.

Why a Specialized Water Network Is Needed

Water and wastewater emergencies often require knowledge and equipment that are not commonly available from other responding organizations.

A neighboring utility may have:

- A certified operator who can assist with treatment or system operations
- A specialized pump, generator, valve, or repair tool
- Leak-detection, excavation, or sewer-cleaning equipment
- Laboratory, sampling, or water-quality expertise
- Personnel experienced with a particular treatment process
- Replacement materials or emergency supplies
- Operators who understand state and federal water-quality requirements

Another utility is often best positioned to understand the problem, identify the correct equipment, and work safely within a water or wastewater facility. SDWARN also works in conjunction with the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems, whose field staff regularly assist communities with operational, technical, and emergency related challenges.

Emergencies Covered by SDWARN

The SDWARN agreement defines an emergency broadly. It may include a natural or human-caused event that threatens life, property, public health, or a utility's ability to continue operating.

The agreement is intended for situations that are, or could reasonably become, beyond the affected utility's ability to manage with its own personnel, equipment, and facilities.

How Mutual Assistance Works

Before an emergency occurs, each SDWARN member identifies an authorized official such as the manager or assistant manager who may request, offer, decline, or withdraw assistance. Members also maintain emergency contact information and identify resources that may be available to help another utility.

When an emergency occurs, the authorized official may contact another participating utility and request personnel, equipment, or supplies.

The responding utility evaluates the request and determines whether it has resources available. Membership does not require a utility to respond. Each utility retains complete discretion to decide whether it can safely assist without jeopardizing service to its own community.

If assistance is available, the responding utility communicates what resources it can provide and when those resources are expected to arrive.

SDWARN and SDARWS Working Together

SDWARN provides the mutual aid network that allows water and wastewater utilities to assist one another during emergencies. That response is strengthened by the technical resources of the South Dakota Association of Rural Water Systems.

SDARWS Circuit Riders, wastewater technicians, source water protection specialists, and trainers work with utilities across the state and can help assess problems, troubleshoot system failures, locate leaks, protect drinking water sources, and connect communities with needed personnel and equipment.

SDWARN also maintains a limited inventory of emergency response equipment, including portable pumps. When those resources are combined with SDARWS field expertise and equipment, utilities are often able to respond more quickly, reduce damage, and restore service sooner.

Together, SDWARN and SDARWS provide communities with both a formal mutual aid network and experienced technical support when the unexpected occurs.

Preparation Before the Emergency

The strongest mutual aid programs are built before disaster strikes.

SDWARN helps participating systems:

- Develop relationships with neighboring utilities.
- Maintain current emergency contact information.
- Identify available personnel, equipment, and supplies.
- Establish procedures for requesting and providing assistance.
- Coordinate with emergency-management agencies.
- Support training and emergency-response planning.
- Reduce administrative delays during a crisis.

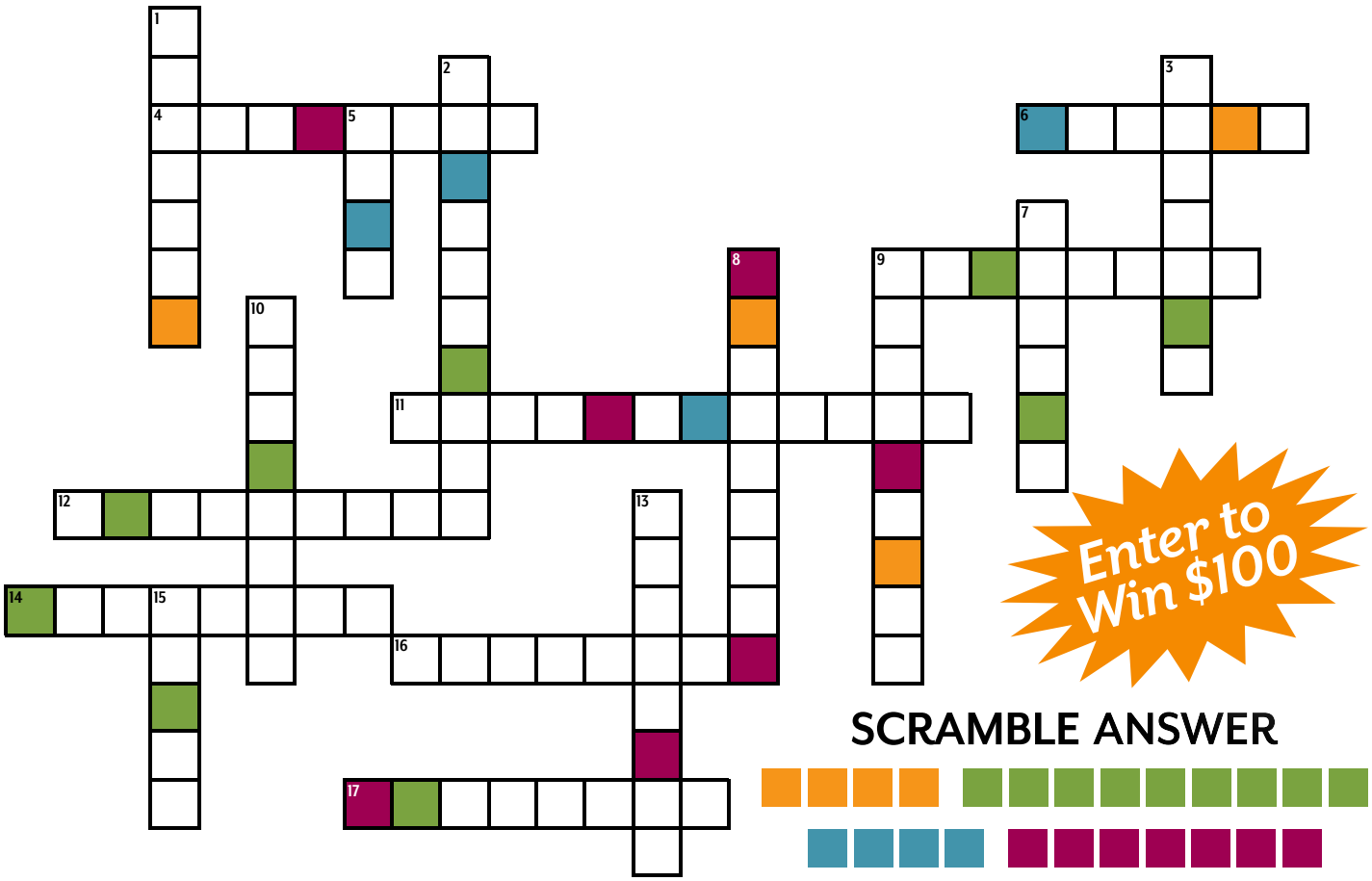
What SDWARN Means for Consumers

SDWARN reflects a tradition familiar throughout South Dakota: neighbors helping neighbors. By establishing a dependable process for utilities to share personnel and resources, the network strengthens the resilience of water and wastewater systems and the communities that depend on them.

For consumers, that can mean shorter service interruptions, reduced damage, continued protection of drinking water quality, and a faster return to normal.

RURAL WATER CROSSWORD & WORD SCRAMBLE CONTEST

LOCAL MASCOTS



Enter to Win $100

SCRAMBLE ANSWER

ACROSS

4. Miller's mascot sounds like someone rounding up cattle
6. Watertown teams compete under this sharp-pointed nickname
9. Gregory athletes take their name from this powerful primate
11. Aberdeen Central teams soar under this two-word mascot
12. Aberdeen Roncalli athletes use this knightly nickname
14. Rapid City Central teams share a name with someone who repairs shoes
16. Madison athletes proudly answer to this tough canine name
17. Hamlin teams compete under this energetic mascot name

DOWN

1. This Mitchell mascot is a nod to South Dakota agriculture
2. Newell's unusual mascot reflects the importance of water to agriculture
3. Brookings athletes share their name with this wild feline
5. Brandon Valley teams are named for this elusive wild cat
7. Huron athletes take the field with this striped mascot
8. Redfield teams are named for South Dakota's famous game bird
9. Pierre's mascot fits perfectly for South Dakota's capital city
10. Yankton girls are represented by this speedy animal
13. Sturgis Brown has one of South Dakota's most unusual mascot names
15. Yankton boys compete under the name of this male deer

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), **scan the QR code, or submit online at www.sdarws.com/crossword** with the correct phrase by October 15, 2026 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 Joshua Anderson from BDM Rural Water who had the correct phrase of "ADVENTURE BEGINS OUTSIDE" for July 2026.

Share your favorite recipe with us by mail or email!
If it gets printed, you'll be entered into a year-end prize drawing!
(mail) Tripp County Water User District 1052 W 1st Street Winner, SD 57580 • (email) tcwud@gwtc.net

Zucchini Monster Cookies

- 2 cups peanut butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup white granulated sugar
- 3 eggs
- 3 cups rolled oats
- 2 cups quick oats
- 2 1/2 tsp baking soda
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 1/2 cups M&M candies
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 1/4 cups chocolate chips
- 1 1/2 cups shredded zucchini

DIRECTIONS: Preheat the oven to 350°F and line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. In a large mixing bowl, cream together the peanut butter, brown sugar, and granulated sugar, then mix in the eggs, vanilla, and salt. Add the baking soda, rolled oats, quick oats, and zucchini, stirring until well combined. Fold in the chocolate chips and M&M's by hand. Using a large cookie scoop or spoon, drop about 2 tablespoons of dough at a time onto the prepared cookie sheet, spacing the cookies about 2 inches apart. Bake for 11–12 minutes. The cookies will be soft when they come out of the oven, so let them cool on the cookie sheet for about 15 minutes before transferring them to a cooling rack. Allow them to cool completely, about 30 minutes, as they will firm up as they cool.

Baked Zucchini Casserole

- 3/4 cup short grain rice
- 12 ounce colby-jack cheese
- 6 medium zucchini
- 1 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup yogurt, plain
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 4 large egg
- 1/2 teaspoon Italian Seasoning
- 1/2 cup chives, fresh, chopped
- 1 1/2 cup rice chex cereal
- 2 tablespoon butter, salted

DIRECTIONS: Preheat the oven to 400°F and grease a 9×13-inch baking dish. Cook the rice according to the package directions and set aside. Grate the cheese and zucchini. Place the zucchini in a colander, toss with 1 teaspoon of salt, and let it sit over a bowl for 10 minutes to drain. Squeeze out any remaining moisture, then place about 4 cups of zucchini in a large mixing bowl. Add the sour cream, yogurt, baking powder, and eggs and mix well. Stir in the cooked rice, 2 cups of cheese, chopped chives, ½ teaspoon salt, and Italian seasoning. Spread the mixture evenly in the prepared baking dish and sprinkle with the remaining cheese. Crush the cereal, combine it with the melted butter, and sprinkle over the top. Bake for 30–35 minutes, or until heated through.

VANDERWERFF & MATHIS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS

Asia VanDerWerff

Tripp County Water User District Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Asia VanDerWerff of Gregory High School has been selected as the Martin and Mary Jorgensen Scholarship recipient. The scholarship is sponsored by Tripp County Water User District in honor of Martin and Mary Jorgensen and their family for the support given to the District over the years.

Asia will receive $1,000.00 to assist with her college education for the 2026-2027 academic year. Asia is a 2026 graduate from Gregory High School and plans to attend South Dakota State University where she will pursue a degree in Exercise Science/Physical Therapy. Asia's parents are Chris and Jamie VanDerWerff.

Parker Mathis

Tripp County Water User District Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Parker Mathis of Winner High School has been selected as the Wagner Family Scholarship recipient. The scholarship is sponsored by Tripp County Water User District in honor of Lawrence and Sedonia Wagner and their family for the support given to the District over the years.

Parker will receive $1,000.00 to assist with his college education for the 2026-2027 academic year. Parker is a 2026 graduate from Winner High School and plans to attend Southeast Technical College to pursue a degree in plumbing. Parker Mathis' parents are Tom Mathis and Nicle DeSloover.

TRIPP COUNTY
WATER USER DISTRICT

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.

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 2, 2026, and no later than December 1, 2026. Nominating petitions must be submitted no later than December 15, 2026.

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

The Board of Directors has not yet established a date for the 2027 Annual Meeting.

Tripp County Water User District Bylaws, as amended, 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 Tripp County Water User District Board of Directors positions which will be up for election in 2027 are currently held by Dan Forgey, Richard Rubel, and Steve Wonnenberg.

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

trippcountywater.com
605–842–2755

WATER MATTERS
LAKES IN SOUTH DAKOTA

According to Webster's Dictionary, a lake is "a considerable inland body of standing water." Our neighbor to the east (Minnesota) is commonly referred to as the "Land of 10,000 Lakes," but the real count is closer to 15,000. By contrast, lakes are a relatively rare commodity in South Dakota, and even the smallest bodies of water can be treasured recreational resources.

South Dakota lakes fall into two basic categories. In the eastern part of the state, lakes exist where there are natural depressions in the land surface. In most cases, these depressions formed when one or more large chunks of the last glaciers that covered the area were left behind. When they finally melted, the resulting "hole" in the landscape filled with water and a lake was formed. Pickerel Lake in Day County, Lake Kampeska near Watertown, Wall Lake near Sioux Falls, along with all of the Round and Mud Lakes (most eastern SD counties have at least one of these!) formed in this manner.

In western South Dakota, natural depressions are quite rare, and most lakes owe their existence to human efforts. In order to create bodies of standing water, barriers have been built across the valleys of streams and river to hold back water that would otherwise flow away. These can range in scale from small stock dams holding back a few acres of water for livestock, all the way up to the Lake Oahe on the Missouri River, which covers over 370,000 acres and backs up water as far as Bismarck, North Dakota. Sheridan and Deerfield Lakes in the Black Hills, along with Lake Sharp and Lake Francis Case on the Missouri River were formed in a similar manner.

In a state where water is often a scarce resource, lakes provide opportunities of residents and tourists alike to enjoy a peaceful day or two away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. What's your favorite South Dakota lake?


Lake Herman, Madison, SD


Lewis & Clark Lake, Tabor, SD

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EAST DAKOTA WATER DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT

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