



SOUTHERN IOWA RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF ADAIR, ADAMS, CASS, CLARKE, DECATUR, MADISON, MONTGOMERY, TAYLOR, RINGGOLD AND UNION COUNTIES

Dan McIntosh, Manager

2008 Holiday Newsletter

Current Projects

With 2008 coming to a close we would like to take this opportunity to not only wish you a safe and happy holiday but also to update you on our current projects as well as our future projects.

Sewer Systems

Thayer and Macksburg Wastewater Systems - These are now completed.

Wastewater System for Ringgold Towns (Delphos, Maloy, Benton & Redding) - Projects are being re-assessed due to funding cuts from United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development (USDA –RD). Due to these cuts, available grant dollars for wastewater systems went from 75% to 50%. This means the minimum bill for sewer would go from \$30 to \$50 per household. After talking with all the cities, it was decided to put the projects on hold and look for more grant funding to help reduce these monthly rates.

Ellston Wastewater System – This project is facing the same issue as above.

Brooks Wastewater System - Due to the funding cuts, we have not met with the citizens of Brooks and will wait until more funding becomes available.

Water Projects

Southwest Cass Rural Water System - Again, with the current tight funding situation, we are not pursuing new customers in this area at the present time.

Taylor County Tower - SIRWA is building a 300,000 gallon elevated water storage tower just North and East of Conway. This will help with water quality and pressure problems in Taylor County. This tower has already been to bid and should be operational by the fall of 2009.

Creston Water Treatment Plant Upgrade - SIRWA and the Creston Water Works (CWW) are in the process of upgrading the treatment process to membranes as well as increasing the capacity of the treatment plant. The membranes have already been to bid and Zennon was the successful bidder. Fox Engineering is working with the bidding documents to hire a general contractor to install the membranes right now. We are on schedule to go to bid in March or April with completion of the project nearing the end of 2010.



From all of us at SIRWA

Future Projects

Lakes

Gooseberry Lake in Ringgold County - The sponsor's vote is to let the project go "Dormant" in July of this year. They also decided that due to the increased cost it undesirable to build the lake at this time. All the documents and plans will be put on the shelf and the project will be "Dormant" until sometime in the future. The good news is that 3-Mile Lake was placed in a "Dormant" stage for over ten years before it was constructed. It is now a large source of our drinking water, as well as a recreational hot spot for SW Iowa.

Clarke County Lake - The Clarke County Reservoir Commission (CCRC) is moving forward with their lake plans. The floods this year forced the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to move all their work force over to help evaluate damage from the flooding they are just now getting back to the CCRC project. Hopefully CCRC will start purchasing the land sometime in 2009.

Madison County Lake - The Madison County Lake Commission's (MCLC) plan for their lake has also been on hold this year because of the flooding throughout the state. The NRCS is hoping to have a watershed of sufficient capacity by the fall of 2009.

Taylor County Lake - Same story, different lake. The 102-River Valley Authority (102-RVA) is also waiting for the NRCS to identify a watershed in Taylor County of sufficient capacity. Hopefully this will also happen by the end of 2009.

Summit Lake (Just West of Creston) - SIRWA is exploring the option of renovating Summit Lake to use as an emergency source of water in case of a severe water shortage. Currently the Creston Water Works owns the water rights to Summit and a portion of Green Valley. They will transfer these water rights to SIRWA if we choose to renovate Summit Lake. We will then install a wastewater system around the lake to ensure the water would not be contaminated by wastewater from the homes around the lake that are currently using septic tanks.

Miscellaneous

System Wide Hydraulic Study - Garden and Associates has been working throughout 2008 to model our complete system. This study has identified weak areas in our systems and we are making plans for upgrading them before any of our customers experience any low pressure problems. We are currently in the process of installing new pipelines to several areas of our distribution system because of information we received from this study.

SIRWA Storage Area - In 2006 SIRWA purchased ten acres of land one mile West of our office for a storage area for our equipment and materials. We installed a fence around it last year and are currently building a 80' x 150' metal building to get our equipment out of the elements. Eventually, the South side will be heated to just above freezing so the two trucks and backhoes will be ready to go no matter how cold the weather outside is. Look for pictures of the new area on our web site www.sirwa.org.

