



Bonnie Koel Retires

Lyon & Sioux Rural Water’s Manager Bonnie Koel, after 45 years of total service to the company, has retired as of December 2022. Bonnie wore many hats and advanced throughout her years at LSRWS. Bonnie started in 1977 as the billing clerk and at that time many bookkeeping tasks were done by hand. Over the years she was instrumental in upgrading to computerization of the records. Bonnie has spent countless hours in securing funds for various projects (water treatment plants and water towers) along with getting water service added to the towns of Doon, Larchwood, Boyden, Alvord, Matlock, Lester and Inwood. Bonnie has handled many contracts, applied for grants, filled out CRP applications and paperwork, assisted with the conversion to electronically reading meters instead of customers having to read the meters themselves, along with many accounting duties. Her dedication and leadership will be missed. Thank you Bonnie!

Current Staff

A big shout out and thank you to the hard working staff at LSRWS:

- Operations Manager Dave Harmsen
- Operations team members: Todd VandeKop, Waylon VandeKop, Travis Van Otterloo, Kris Ostrander and Kaden Huisman
- Office team members: Tami Schweitzer and Sharon Postma (office manager)



Front Row: Sharon, Bonnie, Tami, Todd. Back row: Kaden, Dave, Waylon, Kris, Travis.

Find your account number and win a \$10 credit

If you find your account number (as it appears on your monthly water bill) in this issue, you will receive a \$10 credit. Just call the office at 712-472-3755 before March 25 for your credit.

Household Water Usage Increase?

Please be sure to review your monthly bill and look at the gallons used each month and compare it to see if your usage has increased. The past couple of years we have had (19-06-04) drought conditions and this has

affected our well levels. We are sure you have noticed this yourself when you drive by a lake or river and notice that the water levels are way down. You can help by conserving our precious commodity, water! Please don't use water unnecessarily and check your faucets and toilets for leaks.

You will be amazed at how much water you can go through if you have a small drip with a faucet. Fix those leaky faucets! If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per second, you can expect to waste 2,700 gallons of water per year.

Two other common high usage issues relate to issues with toilets and water softeners. We encourage you to check your toilet by placing food coloring in the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear within 30 minutes. A leaky toilet can waste as much as 100 gallons/day. Check your water softener for how often it is regenerating. Typically it will regenerate after every two to three days. If it is happening more frequently, you will need to get your softener checked out.

Lead Service Line Inventory

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has mandated new Lead and Copper rules for all drinking water systems (rural water systems along with cities and towns). In order to maintain compliance with EPA and the DNR, we need to gather (09-12-02) information from you. This would include information about the type of material that is used on the pipe entry into your home/building, the year the structure was built, if you use a water softener or similar filtration/treatment, and the plumbing material that is used in the structure. We may be contacting you (whether in person or on the phone) to gather this data. We appreciate your cooperation as we gather this required data. Once we gather all this information, we will post the information on our website or you will be notified directly if you have a lead or galvanized service line requiring replacement.

Financial Report

LSRWS financial report is available in our office or on our website at www.lyonsiouxruralwater.com. We will post the 2022 financial report once it becomes available in April.

2022 in Review

We repaired 114 water leaks in 2022. The majority of the leaks were on original, solvent weld pipe. We installed 3 miles of replacement lines in 2022, and we will continue with the ongoing pipe replacement program, concentrating in areas that have recurring leak problems. We added 16 new users to the system bringing the total number of users to 2,052. We sold over 996,000,000 gallons of water.

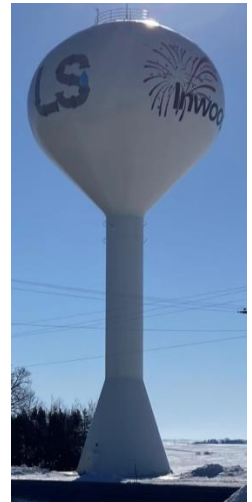
Klondike Water Treatment Plant

We are excited to announce that the new water treatment plant at Klondike is now operational. It has been a lot of work but it was much needed. The existing treatment plant at Klondike was built in the mid 1970's and was the first plant built in our system. The new plant has been built at a higher elevation one-half mile east of the current plant. As part of this project, a new Dakota Sandstone deep well, at a depth of approximately 580 feet, was constructed, and 2 miles of 12" pipe was installed to connect into the existing distribution system.



Inwood Water Tower

Construction is complete on the 750,000 gallon tower near Inwood. This has been a joint project with the City of Inwood. The 50,000 gallon tower located just west of Inwood has been taken down.



Water Conservation Practices – still in effect

For most of 2022, Northwest Iowa received well below average rainfall, putting us in a severe drought situation. Thus LSRWS felt it was best to pass along many water conservation requests to our customers. Conservation (12-25-03) does not mean to prohibit the use of a natural resource for protection; but to utilize it in such a manner that is sustainable and protected for generations to come. Even though we did receive some welcome rainfalls and a winter with more snow than we normally do, the levels of our shallow wells still remain a concern. Because of the drought situation, we were not able to add-on all of the livestock facilities that requested service last year. This year, there may also be limitations for adding on livestock facilities. It is dependent upon the location where service is requested, whether it is along a larger distribution line, or in an area of service where we have an adequate supply.

If you are considering a new livestock facility this year, please contact Dave Harmsen, Operations Manager, as soon as possible to see if we are able to provide service to your potential location.

Board Members that will be retiring from LSRWS Board

Ryan Warner of Larchwood was appointed to the board in 2008 and elected in 2010. Cory Altena of George was elected in 2010. Cory has served five years during his time as the Secretary of the Board. Lyon & Sioux Rural Water System thanks Ryan and Cory for their commitment, input and insight.

Nomination Ballots

Enclosed you will find a nomination ballot and return envelope if you are eligible to vote. You can return your ballot by mail or in person at our office. The ballot must be postmarked or dropped off by Friday, March 17, 2023 in order to be counted. Please do not mail your payment with the ballot as the ballot envelope will not be opened before payments are due.

The following people have been nominated for election to the Board of Directors:

For the Big Sioux Subsystem

Gerald Den Hoed

Gerald and his wife Alyssa live southwest of Rock Rapids and keep busy with their children (ages 16, 14, 12 and 6). Gerald is a livestock trucker and also helps take care of hogs. Gerald has served on his church board.

Larry Van Roekel - Incumbent

Larry and his wife Debbie live in Larchwood and they have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Larry crop farms corn and soybeans. He also has cow/calf pairs and has hogs. Larry also works at Lester Feed & Grain in the swine production department. Larry has served on the LSRWS board since 2013. Larry is currently the President on the LSRWS board. He also has served on his church board.

For the Big Sioux Subsystem

Monte Kooistra

Monte and his wife Robbie live southeast of Larchwood and have 3 adult children and 2 grandchildren. Monte crop farms corn and soybeans and keeps busy with finishing cattle. Monte grew up by Inwood and they live on Robbie's family farm. Monte is currently serving on the Lyon County Cattlemen board and has served on his church board.

Rick Moser

Rick and his wife Lori live in Larchwood and have 5 adult children and 9 grandchildren. Rick works together with his brother, son, nephew and nephew-in-law in their family business. They farm 2,700 acres of corn and soybeans and finish out 200,000+ pigs each year. Rick's family works with 40 contract swine feeders and they have an on-farm feed mill. Rick currently is serving on the Minnesota Soybean Processors Board and has served on the board for Lyon County Pork Producers and West Lyon School Board.

For the Boyden Subsystem

Craig Van Otterloo

Craig and his wife Susan live south of Rock Rapids and have 4 children and 2 grandchildren. Craig is the groundskeeper at Dordt University. He recently retired from 33 years of service for the Lyon County Conservation and was recently their Director. Craig has 40 fall cow/calf pairs and also grows corn and soybeans. Craig currently is serving on his church board and has served on the Western Christian and Doon Christian school boards.

Wes Dolieslager

Wes and his wife Lynette live southeast of Doon and they have 3 sons. Wes keeps busy with his cow/calf pairs, show calf business, custom feeds for a hog finisher and works at Mix-Rite in Sioux Center. Wes is currently serving on his church board.

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