



LYON & SIOUX RURAL WATER SYSTEM

Newsletter
February 2025

1107 1st Ave, Rock Rapids, IA

712-472-3755

lyonsiouxruralwater.com

Nominations and Ballots

Enclosed you will find a voting ballot for Lyon & Sioux Rural Water Board of Director nominees along with a short biography about each of the nominees on page 4. Ballots can be mailed in the enclosed envelope or dropped off at the Lyon & Sioux Rural Water Office. We must receive the ballot no later than 4:00 pm March 19, 2025. Ballots received after the cut-off time will not be counted. Please do not mail your payment with the ballot as the ballot envelopes will not be opened before payments are due.

Cover Your Pits / Avoid Frozen Lines

You may hear our staff ask you or see it stated on our water bills to cover your pits during the winter season. To prevent lines from freezing or equipment from breaking which would leave you with no water, we ask that you cover our pit and your pit if you have one. We have noticed that the frost has been going down at least three feet. If we go on-site for a service call for no or low water pressure and our equipment is working properly but your water lines are frozen, you may be assessed a service call charge. If you are not using water at your house or for livestock, we recommend that you allow some water to drip to help reduce the risk of freezing pipes. We have had a high volume of customer water lines freezing this year as pits have not been covered. You may have never covered the pits in the past, but we highly encourage you to do this. With no snow cover and cold weather, water lines are freezing. A little work to cover the pit helps keep the pit and lines warm and we do not want your water lines to freeze up.



Proper ways to cover the pit include putting plastic or tarp over the pit, extending it 2-3 feet around the lid and weighing it down with bales of hay or something to keep the tarp from blowing away. This will keep the heat from escaping from the pit. Putting snow or big round bales over the pit is ok, but if the need arises to get into the pit, it makes it difficult for our operators to access the pit quickly.

Do you have a leak?

When someone has higher usage and is looking for a leak, we hear many comments from our customers that the leak is not surfacing. Due to the drought conditions, many leaks are not coming to the surface and can be hard to find. We encourage each customer to review their monthly water bill for the number of gallons used. Each household and livestock operation will vary on how much water they consume. Typically, a household of two people will consume 2,000 – 3,000 gallons a month and a household of 5-6 people may consume 8,000-10,000 gallons a month. If your usage is above this amount, we encourage you to investigate why your usage is higher. Many times, usage is high because of a toilet or water softener. A toilet that is running constantly can use over four hundred gallons in just one day. A water softener may regenerate too often and be a culprit for consuming more water than necessary. We encourage you to look at your monthly water bill for the gallons of

water that you are being billed for. Please check for leaky faucets, toilets that are not sealing and water softeners that may regenerate too often. Also, you should check any outside spigots and hydrants to make sure they are in good working condition.

Water pooling by our pit, field, ditch?

If you notice any water that is accumulating by LSRWS' pit, or in a ditch or field, please give us a call as it may be a water line that needs to be repaired. With over eight hundred miles of pipeline, it helps us tremendously to have additional eyes looking for any unusual pool of water.

Two deep wells added near Boyden and George

Over the last couple of years, Lyon & Sioux Rural Water has added deep wells in the Boyden and George wellfields. The Boyden deep well is 560 feet deep, and the George deep well is 520 feet deep. Currently we have twelve shallow wells in use at these wellfields, but due to the dry conditions these past several years, the shallow wells have continued to drop causing us to throttle the wells back. Going with deep wells will give us the assurance of water being available until the aquifers are recharged. You may have noticed a different smell or taste with the water as deep wells typically contain more hard water components than shallow wells. However, water from a deep well is still safe to drink. Lyon & Sioux Rural Water system does water sampling every day along with submitting a monthly sample to a DNR certified lab and we continually monitor the quality of the water.

Lead Water Lines in Use?

The last couple of years Lyon & Sioux Rural Water has reached out to its customers either by phone, mail or home visits gathering information on the plumbing material that is used for the water line coming from the rural water pit into the home / building and the plumbing material used inside the structure. We appreciate your time to answer our questions or for allowing us to look inside your home at the plumbing material. Lead service lines are the largest source of lead in drinking water. Lead service lines were installed primarily during the late 1800s through the 1940s. Water systems throughout the USA are having to report the plumbing material and other information on service lines to the Environmental Protection Agency annually. Our mission is to provide safe drinking water. LSRWS does not have any lead water lines in operation. If you reported that you had a lead water line on your end, we are required to contact you and work on getting the lead water line replaced with a safe alternative material.

Water Quality Report

The Water Quality Report is required to be done annually by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and contains valuable information regarding the quality of water in our system. We are proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. It can be viewed on our website at www.lyonsiouxruralwater.com on the home page under "Latest News". If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact our office.

Being Smart on Using Water

In Northwest Iowa, we are in a drought pattern, and we do not anticipate being out of this drought condition soon. Water is precious! Some small measures you can take in helping reduce water usage include:

- Only use your dishwasher and washing machine when you have a full load.
- Close the tap while not in use during teeth brushing, shaving, washing hair, cleaning vegetables, and much more.
- If you must water your flowers, gardens, trees, lawns, we ask that you do this during the evening (8:00 pm – 8:00 am) due to evaporation during the heat of the day and your lawn will not get the hydration it needs.
- Do not use water to clean driveways, sidewalks, etc. Use a broom instead.
- Take short showers and avoid taking baths.
- Livestock facilities are to fill their storage tanks overnight and avoid drawing water during the hottest hours of the day. When possible, fill your water tanks for spraying the night before.
- Use well water for sprinkling livestock.

Thank you for your cooperation in conserving our valuable resource!

No water needed during the winter?

If you are not using water during the winter months, such as no livestock in the pasture, a snowbird, etc., it is the customer's responsibility to contact our office to inform us when you would like the water to be shut off. We do not automatically shut the water off or call you asking if you want your water shut off for the winter. This is the responsibility of the customer.

Automatic (ACH) Payments

Did you know that we offer the option of having your monthly water bill deducted from your checking account at no cost to you? You would still receive a monthly invoice, and the invoice would be marked "Do Not Pay – Auto Bank Paid". Each month this would eliminate you writing a check, saving the cost of a postage stamp, and avoiding past due payments and fees. This is a free service. If you are interested, please call our office at 712-472-3755 or go to our website www.lyonsiouxruralwater.com, click on Customer Information and scroll down to "automatic payment plan" and click on the link in that section.

Have a great and safe spring!

From Lyon & Sioux Rural Water Staff and Board Members:

- Operations Manager: Dave Harmsen.
- Operators: Todd VandeKop, Waylon VandeKop, Travis Van Otterloo, Kris Ostrander, Kaden Huisman.
- Office Manager: Sharon Postma.
- Bookkeeper / Receptionist: Tami Schweitzer.
- Board Members: Barry Pollema, Bruce Bonander, Craig Metzger, Craig Van Otterloo, Jeff Hoogendoorn, John Tiedeman, Larry Van Roekel, Rick Moser, and Tyler Klaassen.

Please see page 4 for information on the nominees for the Board of Directors.

Information on Nominees for the LSRWS 2025 Ballot

Enclosed is a ballot and a return envelope.

Deadline: Ballots must be received in the office no later than 4:00 pm March 19, 2025.

Please do not mail your payment with the ballot as the ballot envelopes will not be opened before payments are due.

For The Boyden Subsystem

Dillon Green

Dillon and his wife Kaitlyn live north of Boyden. They have three children (two boys and one daughter). Dillon farms with his dad and they primarily have feed to finish beef cattle, and he also has a small cow/calf operation. Dillon primarily farms corn and some soybeans. Dillon has served previously on the Sioux County Fair Board. He enjoys fishing with his children whenever they can find free time.

John Tiedeman - incumbent

John and his wife Erica live northeast of Hull. They have six children. He crop farms corn and soybeans, raises cattle and custom feeds hogs. He has served on his Church Board, Farm Committee, Hull Coop Association, and District 1 Cattleman's Association. John has been a director for Lyon & Sioux Rural Water for the past four years. John likes to hunt and fish however his time is filled first with his children and their activities.

For the Doon Subsystem

Nate Beyenhof

Nate and his wife Mace live south of Rock Rapids. Nate farms corn and soybeans and owns and operates a hog confinement. Nate also owns and operates a custom manure application business. Nate enjoys snowmobiling and has been a dirt track racer.

Troy Thiessen

Troy and his wife Allison live north of Doon. They have two adult children. Troy farms corn and soybeans and raises cattle and hogs. Troy has previously served on his church board and currently is serving as the Doon township trustee. Troy enjoys ice fishing and has a collection of antique cars.

For The Rock Rapids Subsystem

Craig Metzger - incumbent

Craig and his wife Kelly live southwest of Rock Rapids. They have four children. Craig is a swine consultant for CFE and raises sheep and hogs. He is a 4-H leader and has served on the Lyon County Extension Board. Craig has been a director for Lyon & Sioux Rural Water since 2014. In his spare time, Craig enjoys reading and gardening.

Tom Lupkes

Tom and his wife Denise live northwest of Rock Rapids. Tom grows corn, beans and alfalfa. Tom also raises hogs. Tom is currently serving on the board for the Rock Rapids Golf & Country Club and has previously served on the Rock Rapids Gun Club board. In his spare time, Tom enjoys golfing.