



Iowa Regional Utilities Association

1351 Iowa Speedway Drive, Newton, IA 50208

Phone: 641-792-7011 or 800-400-6066

Website: www.irua.net

Grundy Office: 205 C Avenue, Grundy Center, IA 50638

Phone: 319-824-5920

Waverly Treatment Plant: 1224 230th Street, Waverly, IA 50677

2017 Annual Report

“We flow that extra mile!”



President's Message

By: Ron Dunsbergen

New Logo for Iowa Regional Utilities Association

Maybe you have noticed our new logo on a water tower? Iowa Regional Utilities Association (IRUA), formerly doing business as Central Iowa Water Association, is marking over 40 years of serving customers with high quality, dependable water and the addition of rural wastewater services by reidentifying itself with a new company logo. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve more than 14,500 rural customers and over 60 communities with treated water and in addition, wastewater service in some locations.



During that 40 years, Iowa Regional Utilities Association has experienced name changes reflective of its growth and service outreach. We began our operation in 1977 as Jasper County Water Association with a service territory within Jasper County. Due to expanding service areas across many counties, our Board of Directors made the determination to change our name to Central Iowa Water Association in 1988. I don't think the original Board had anticipated the preference and demand there would be for rural water across central and northeast Iowa!

In subsequent years of operation the water utility added wastewater services to its offerings. With that addition the utility was able to serve significantly more customers and continue its water utility growth expanding into counties that were north and east of the company's beginnings in Newton. In an effort to have the company's name represent the growing service territory as well as the addition of services, the Board of Directors changed the company name in 2000 to Iowa Regional Utilities Association but continued to do business as Central Iowa Water Association.

After over 40 years of service, the Board of Directors determined it would be an opportune time to not only make the name change prominent but also identify the company with a new logo. After many months of evaluating possible logo options, the Board chose the “flowing water” design as most representative of the company and the utility services we proudly provide. Water and wastewater services are a concern for people across the nation. In some areas there are drought conditions so severe that people are struggling to meet their daily water needs. We are fortunate that is not currently the case in Iowa; however, we must be progressive in planning for both our current and future needs.

That preference and demand for rural water has not changed, with IRUA still adding approximately 350 new water services each year. Several small communities continue to partner as well, with Fairbank and Gladbrook recently evaluating alternatives and deciding to join IRUA.

IRUA now serves over 1.5 billion gallons of treated water each year and looks forward to continuing its mission of providing essential water and wastewater services to residents throughout central and northeast Iowa!

Boil Advisory FAQ's

Frequently Asked Questions

What are boil advisories?

When IRUA issues a Boil Advisory for your drinking water, it is a notification advising member-customers to boil their tap water before consuming it. Advisories are issued when an event has occurred allowing the possibility for the water distribution system to become contaminated from events such as a water main break, widespread loss of system pressure, or natural disaster.

An advisory does not mean that the water is contaminated. It means that events have created a condition that may have allowed the water to become contaminated and we can't confirm your water's quality without laboratory testing. Usually, it takes 24 - 48 hours to get the laboratory results, so we issue the Boil Advisory and leave it in effect until we have confirmation of the water quality. We prefer to be cautious when it comes to our member-customers' health, so we recommend that customers assume the water is unsafe to drink and take the appropriate precautions when an advisory is issued.

If we were to find that our water system was contaminated, we would leave the advisory in place until corrective actions were taken to restore water quality.

How are customers notified?

Depending on the circumstances, we will notify our customers of a Boil Advisory through one or more of the following means:

- Door-to-door/door hangers
- Our website - www.irua.net
- Direct calls, emails, or text messages. (For this method to work, you must be enrolled in the Swiftreach - Swift911 system with your current contact information.)

Continued on next page

CEO/Engineer's Report

By: Jim LaPlant

So Who Is IRUA?

Answer: Formerly Jasper County Water Association, Central Iowa Water Association, now IOWA REGIONAL UTILITIES ASSOCIATION, serving all or parts of 18 counties in central and northeast Iowa with quality, dependable, and affordable water services and rural sewer services in several areas. Actually, our name was formally changed to IRUA in 2000, however we continued to do business as Central Iowa Water Association for several years.

There is currently much discussion across the country about consolidation, partnering, or "regionalization" in the rural water industry. Effective partnerships are beneficial from all perspectives as customers benefit from increased reliability and lower rates, regulatory agencies have fewer rules violation/enforcement issues, and lenders can stretch limited funding for water/sewer system upgrades and improvements.

IRUA has been built on the foundation of beneficial partnerships since its inception in 1977. An initial partnership with Newton Water Works for water supply has benefited the city in increased water sales and lower rates for its citizens, while providing IRUA with a quality source of water supply without the challenge and expense of owning, operating, and maintaining a treatment plant. This successful partnership relationship is the model IRUA has used not only for additional water supply from Marshalltown, Pella, and others, but for the over 60 communities that partner by purchasing water from IRUA.

In 2017, IRUA continued to expand service in existing system territories and explore expansion to new communities and customers along our northern border. The following are highlights of the past year:

- We now serve safe, quality water to 14,635 farms, rural residences, and small communities through over 4,625 miles of pipe.
- 262 new services were installed in existing service areas.
- The communities of Frederika in Bremer County, Ira in Jasper County, and Gladbrook in Tama County received IRUA water service.
- A new wastewater lagoon was completed near Harvester development in Marshall County.
- New water mains and a water tower were completed near Radcliffe and Buckeye in Hardin County.
- Four of the original IRUA water towers in Jasper County were re-coated.

In 2018, several projects are planned to upgrade and improve service in existing service areas and add the communities of Fairbank and Westgate to our system.

JUST A REMINDER ...

Member-customers are reminded that you may only serve one household or dwelling unit per water meter. If you are in violation of this rule, your membership may be terminated. Those with combined households on one water meter should contact the office immediately for assistance in separating service connections.

Boil Advisory FAQ's—Continued

What precautions should member-customers take during a Boil Advisory?

Boil tap water vigorously for at least one full minute prior to using it for drinking or cooking (that minute starts when the water begins to bubble). This includes water used for brushing teeth, making ice, washing raw foods, and preparation of beverages. Once the water is cooled, you can store it in the refrigerator for later use.

Once the advisory is lifted...

The water may be discolored due to flushing so IRUA recommends that you flush from your first cold water faucet until the water runs clear. This step usually takes about 10 minutes but can vary depending on the length of your service line. Then flush remaining cold water faucets, ice makers, etc.

prior to using for drinking or cooking for approximately one minute. Flushing simply means letting the water run to ensure that you bring fresh water into your pipes.



How will I know when the Boil Advisory is lifted?

We will update and notify you that the advisory/notice is lifted through the same means we used to notify you of it being in place. We will also provide you with any additional instructions or information at that time. Please assume that the advisory is still in effect until you hear otherwise from us. If you are unsure if the advisory has been lifted or have questions, please check our website or call our office.



Planned or Emergency Notification System

Iowa Regional Utilities Association has contracted with Swiftreach Networks for the use of Swift911. The Swift911 system provides IRUA with the ability to quickly deliver voice, text or e-mail messages to our member-customers about planned or unplanned water outages and other important information.

We encourage you to log on to our website – www.irua.net – and register with Swiftreach – Swift 911 if you would like to receive notifications in the future or update your information. Please note: This will only be used for IRUA notification purposes.

Those without internet access may call IRUA's office during regular office hours to provide their information. Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions regarding the SwiftReach system.

Welcome New Communities!

We are pleased to welcome 5 new community members that have decided to partner with IRUA for water supply:

- Ira, population 80, Jasper County
The Ira Community Service Association (ICSA) contacted IRUA in the spring of 2017 concerning a possible partnership. The existing Ira well supply established in the 1960's needed extensive upgrades and repair. The members of ICSA approved Agreements with IRUA in July 2017, and began receiving IRUA water in November.
- Gladbrook, population 889, Tama County
The community of Gladbrook has struggled with water quality and capacity issues for several years. They recently evaluated the feasibility and risk of exploring for an additional well supply and decided to purchase water from IRUA. Connection upgrades have been completed and Gladbrook is now in service.
- Fairbank, population 1114, Buchanan and Fayette County
Fairbank has evaluated issues with water radium levels and long-term capacity for many years. In December 2017, after citizen input at several council meetings, the City Council voted in favor of connecting to IRUA. Currently, system upgrades necessary to serve Fairbank have been designed and are under construction. Full service to the city is expected late in 2018.
- Westgate, population 202, Fayette County
Preliminary Engineering Studies to extend IRUA service to Westgate have been completed and USDA-Rural Development funding applications have been made. Hopefully, necessary funds will be awarded for construction starting later this year.

Wastewater Project Updates

Green Mountain

The Marshall County Board of Supervisors and Board of Health are moving forward with efforts to secure the necessary lagoon site for the project.

IRUA is moving forward with funding applications which have basically been on hold until the lagoon site issue was resolved. In anticipation of funding, IRUA will authorize final project design and submit plans for USDA-Rural Development and Iowa DNR approvals.

\$\$\$ REWARD \$\$\$

The Association places a high priority on fixing leaks but we need your help!

IRUA will pay \$10.00 to the first person who reports a verifiable water main leak! Leaks may appear as a wet spot along the water main. If you suspect a possible leak, please contact our office at (800) 400-6066.

Water Project Updates

Northern Bremer County/Frederika

Twelve miles of water transmission main were completed from the Waverly area to Frederika in 2016. In 2017, water distribution mains were installed in the community and over 40 new services were installed and activated.

We are currently in the process of completing USDA-Rural Development funding application for a water tower that will provide enhanced fire protection for the city of Frederika and allow IRUA to connect more local customers with adequate water storage and pressures.

Hardin/Hamilton Phase II/Buckeye

In 2017, IRUA completed a new water tower near Radcliffe, a new booster station southeast of Garden City, and several miles of water transmission main from the Garden City area to Buckeye. Water distribution mains will be installed in Buckeye this spring, with project completion expected late in 2018.

The new Radcliffe water tower has greatly improved water storage and pressure demands of existing Hardin/Hamilton and NW Marshall County member-customers, in addition to serving the future water needs of Buckeye.

New Framework Study Project Underway

To align IRUA with rural America's trend toward consolidation in the water industry, we have determined that new engineering studies are necessary across many of our service areas. The new studies are intended to update our water supply capacity in existing or new adjacent service areas and determine the most efficient way to make quality water available to everyone in these areas. Allowances for future expansion and economic development will also be considered.

This new planning initiative is especially important in the northern area of our system. For example, our Waverly membrane treatment plant is only 9 years old and has 3.0 million gallons per day (mgd) capacity. The plant could be expanded to 6.0 mgd, but currently only runs at around 1.0 mgd. The study would identify additional future demands that could be served from the plant in existing IRUA service areas, as well as new service areas and potential customers that could benefit from our Waverly source.

The primary objective of this initiative is to leverage economies of scale and available capacity into unserved or underserved areas within our existing boundaries or areas adjacent to our northern boundaries. IRUA has existing regional system neighbors to the south, east and west. The study will help unite stakeholders and bring focus into regional alternatives for water supply. It will also help define future boundaries of our system, and help small communities with short-term and long-range planning concerning water supply and distribution challenges.

IRUA plans to use a combination of in-house engineering and outside consultants to develop a work plan and proceed with the study later this year.

Iowa Regional Utilities Association System Facts

CORPORATION - Jasper County Water Association was organized in 1977 as a corporation not-for-profit under the provisions of Iowa Code Chapter 504. Due to expanding service areas across many county boundaries, the Association changed its corporate name to Central Iowa Water Association in 1988. In 2000, due to the addition of rural sewer services, the Association changed its name to Iowa Regional Utilities Association. The Association is member-owned and headed by a nine-member Board of Directors.

TOTAL MILES OF PIPELINE - 4,625 miles in the ground, with sizes from 2" - 20" in diameter, 1" and 1 1/2" service lines.

ELEVATED WATER TOWERS - 27 towers which are located near Prairie City (200,000 gallons), Baxter (200,000 gallons), Laurel (200,000 gallons), Sully (300,000 gallons), State Center (150,000 and 300,000 gallons), Marshalltown (100,000 gallons), Gladbrook (150,000 gallons), McCallsburg (400,000 gallons), Collins (500,000 gallons), Wellsburg (2,000,000 gallons), Colo (300,000 gallons), Lincoln (300,000 gallons), Otley (500,000 gallons), Marshall County Jail (300,000 gallons), Newton (2,000,000 and two 500,000 gallons), LeGrand (300,000 gallons), Aurora (300,000 gallons), Waverly (1,000,000 gallons), Greeley (300,000 gallons), Quasqueton (300,000 gallons), Rowley (300,000 gallons), Oakland Acres (300,000 gallons), Dike (300,000 gallons) and Radcliffe (300,000 gallons) with a total storage capacity of 12,300,000 gallons.

WATER SUPPLY CAPACITY - 90 million gallons per month provided by IRUA Waverly Treatment Plant. Also, 90 million gallons per month provided by the City of Newton, 90 million gallons per month available from the City of Marshalltown, 3 million gallons per month available from the City of Pella, and 7.5 million gallons per month available from the City of Nevada. Current average demand is approximately 130 million gallons per month.

HIGH SERVICE PUMPING - Water purchased from the City of Newton is stored in an 86,000 gallon reinforced concrete surface reservoir under the high service pumping station and pumped by three 500 gpm pumps to elevated towers. There are also twenty-six booster pump stations capable of pumping a total of 16,520 gpm.

TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST - Including the main office, pump stations, towers, water lines, etc. was approximately \$202,451,774. To finance the construction, IRUA received numerous USDA-RD/CoBank loans and \$24,902,462 in RD/CDBG grants. Customer contributions accounted for \$23,326,314 with interest and other income providing the balance of funds.

TOTAL METERS IN SERVICE - 14,635 including larger meters which monitor water served to city customers.

CITY INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMER METERS (41) - Attica, Aurora, Austinville, Bangor, Clyde, Dillon, Dunbar, Dundee, Farrar, Ferguson, Fernald, Frederika, Galesburg, Garden City, Green Mountain, Greeley, Haverhill, Iowa Center, Ira, Kesley, Killduff, Lamoille, Lincoln, Littleton, Marietta, Metz, Morrison, Newburg, Oakland Acres, Otley, Park Hills, Pershing, Quarry, Quasqueton, Reasnor, St. Anthony, Valeria, Van Cleve, Vandalia, Voorhies, and Whitten.

CITY BULK PURCHASE METERS (24) - Beaman, Clemons, Collins, Colo, Conrad, Dike, Garwin, Gilman, Gladbrook, Grundy Center, Holland, Janesville, Laurel, LeGrand, Liscomb, Lynnville, McCallsburg, Melbourne, Mingo, Monroe, Rhodes, Sully, Wellsburg and Zearing.

EMERGENCY CONNECTIONS (15) - Communities of Albion, Baxter, Cambridge, Eldora, Hazleton, Lamont, Maxwell, New Hartford, Prairie City, Reinbeck, Roland, State Center, Stout, and Union. Interconnections have been established with Poweshiek Water Association and Rathbun Regional Water Association.

WASTEWATER SERVICES - Provided to Whitten (1998), Hunter's Ridge near Pella (1999), The Harvester (2000), Pine Lake near Eldora (2001), Rustic Ridges near Grinnell (2001), IDOT-Grinnell rest area (2001), IDNR-Rock Creek State Park (2001), Lakeview Heights, Diehl's Acres and Homesites Subdivisions near Rock Creek (2003-2004), Colo Business Park (2003), Haverhill (2003), Lincoln (2004), Pollard Development near Grinnell (2004), St. Anthony (2005), Morrison (2006), Grundy County Industrial Park (2006), Oakland Acres (2007), Park Hills (2009), I-35 Dows Interchange (2009), Stout, Camp Wallashuck (2011), Butler Logistics Park (2014), North Overlook Lake Red Rock (2015), and Red Rock Marina (2016).

CONSTRUCTION DATES - Construction began on the original Jasper County System in April 1980 and was completed in December 1981. Major expansions to the system have occurred each year, beginning with Marshall-Story Counties (1983-1985), Northeast Marshall System (1986-1987), Northeast Polk County (1987-1988), Northwest Tama County (1989-1990), Story County (1991-1994), Grundy County (1994-1997), Southwest Black Hawk County (1997-1998), Northern Grundy County (1998-2001), Northwest Black Hawk County (2000-2002), Hamilton and Hardin Counties (1999-2002), Southern Butler County (2001-2004), Southeast Butler County, Newton to Marshalltown transmission main, and Garden City (2005), Bremer, Black Hawk, Buchanan County projects, cities of Aurora and Dundee (2007-2008). Delaware County projects and cities of Greeley and Quasqueton, I-35 Dows Interchange (2009), City of Rowley (2010) Stout sewer, Camp Wallashuck sewer (2011), City of Littleton (2013) Bremer Station (2014), and North Overlook Sewer (2015), Red Rock Marina (2016), Frederika supply main (2016-2017), and Hamilton and Hardin Counties II (start 2017).

JUST A REMINDER ...

Bills are due by the 10th of each month. If not paid by the 10th, the bill becomes delinquent and will be subject to late fees and possible disconnection of service.

IRUA is not responsible for the mail service. Failure to receive a bill does not exempt you from monthly payment, late fees, or disconnection. Please contact our office for the total due prior to the 10th if you believe you did not receive your monthly statement.

For your convenience, we offer automatic withdrawal, a night drop box at both the main office and branch office, and online or over the phone payments through Official Payments.

Iowa Regional Utilities Association

This Institution is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider

Board of Directors

Ron Dunsbergen, President
Dan Brandt, Vice President
Delwin Van Zante, Secretary
Virtus Brockman, Treasurer
Don Struthers, Director
Gene Wiemers, Director
Curt Mackie, Director
Doug Enyart, Director
Kevin Nessa, Director

James R. LaPlant, P.E., CEO/Engineer

Frank Smith, Attorney



Iowa Regional Utilities Association Annual Meeting Notice

Dear Member:

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting of Iowa Regional Utilities Association on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. This meeting will be held at the Main Office which is located at 1351 Iowa Speedway Drive, Newton, IA.

If you cannot attend, please exercise your right to vote by signing the enclosed proxy card and returning it to the Association no later than Friday, March 16, 2018. Should you wish your tenant or another person to vote on your behalf, you must visit the Association office at 1351 Iowa Speedway Drive, Newton at least five (5) days prior to the Annual Meeting and execute a General Proxy form.

This year's Annual Meeting will include a report on the Association's 2017 business activities. The audited financial statements, which are comprised of the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2017, and the related statements of activities and cash flows, will be presented at the Annual Meeting. Refreshments will be served.

In case of inclement weather, please tune in to KCOB (FM 95.9), KFJB (AM 1230), KOEL (FM 98.5 & AM 950), or KCRR (FM 97.7) radio for rescheduling information.

Please mark your calendar now and plan to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting of your Association on March 19th.

Delwin G. Van Zante, Secretary
February 26, 2018

Nominees For Board of Directors—2018

The nominating committee has selected three nominees for the Board of Directors of Iowa Regional Utilities Association with a term of three years each.



Delwin Van Zante, Otley - Delwin and his wife Nancy live on a small farm three miles northeast of Otley in Marion County. His support of the Jasper County Water Association was instrumental in establishing rural water in northern Marion County and he became a rural water member in 1981. They are the parents of two sons: Dale and Craig. Delwin is a graduate of Pella Community High School and was formerly a part owner of D & D Pump & Pipe Service in Pella. He was employed at Two Rivers Cooperative from 1983-2007 and retired in December 2007. He now enjoys woodworking, antique tractor shows and traveling to see their sons' families.



Dan Brandt, Marshalltown - Dan and his wife Donna live on an acreage four miles northwest of Marshalltown. Dan is a graduate of North Tama (Traer) High School and attended the University of Northern Iowa. He worked at Fisher Controls as a Senior Tool Designer and retired as the Tooling Supervisor. Dan volunteered many hours in development of Phase IV of the Central Iowa Water Association rural water system in Northeast Marshall County and has served on the Board for the past twenty-seven years.



Gene Wiemers, Melbourne - Gene and his wife Jane live on a farm north of Melbourne. Gene has farmed all his life after graduating from AIB. He is a member of Marshall County Farm Bureau, St. Henry's Catholic Church, Knights of Columbus, and a former board member of Mid-Iowa Cooperative. He enjoys meeting and visiting with people and working in his shop.

Annual Meeting Door Prize Drawing

To be eligible for the Annual Meeting door prize drawing, please bring the enclosed purple card to the Annual Meeting. You could win a \$25.00 credit on your water and/or wastewater bill or another door prize donated by several of Iowa Regional Utilities Association's business partners. We would like to thank the following business partners for their door prize contributions for the Annual Meeting:

Vermeer Sales and Service
Two Rivers Co-op
Municipal Supply

Key Cooperative
Titan Machinery
Scot's Supply
Core & Main

Napa Auto Parts
Barney's Wrecker
Bauer Built Tire

If you are unable to attend, please return the purple card by mail with your proxy to be eligible for the \$25 credit drawings. You will be notified by mail if you are a winner.