

JULY 2024 | Rathbun Regional Water Association

QUENCH

news by the glassful

In this Issue...

CITY OF MINDEN

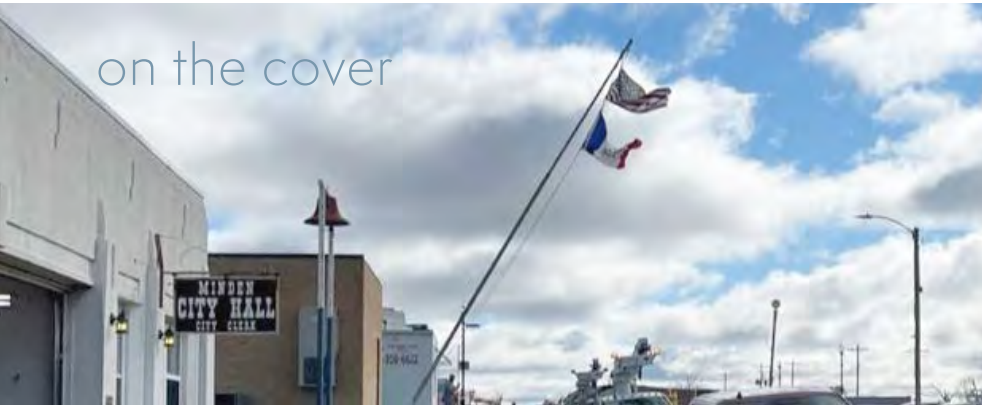
**"BENT NOT
BROKEN"**



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2023 Financial Summary for RRWA

Part of the program at the annual meeting of the membership was a financial recap of the year 2023. A summary of this financial presentation is included below:

The number of water meters that RRWA members had in service increased by 330 throughout the year and totaled 21,725 by the end of 2023. Water usage during the year from these meters increased by over 100 million gallons or 3% from 2022 numbers and totaled just under 3.4 billion gallons in 2023. This increase in water usage was the result of the additional 330 connections as well as the impact on water demand from one of the drier weather periods southcentral and southeastern Iowa have seen in years.

The 3.4 billion gallons in water sales generated revenues of \$19.6 million for the Association and when combined with \$250,000 collected from 750 wastewater customers, accounted for 85% of the total cash received during 2023. Another \$800,000 in water excise tax associated with these services was collected for the State. Construction income and hookup fees charged for new connections to the distribution system brought in almost \$1.5 million while additional construction services and material sales provided to members, customers, and other entities added \$370,000. Income from RRWA's cash investments generated \$513,000 in interest income throughout the year and all other cash received from miscellaneous sources during 2023 totaled \$680,000.

Daily operating expenses of the company during 2023 required \$8.75 million in cash and included in this segment was everything from the chemicals and electricity used to purify and pump the water to the fuel and repair costs associated with RRWA's trucks and construction equipment, or the office supplies and postage expenditures incurred throughout the year. These operating expenses increased almost 10% or \$750,000 from the prior year due to continued inflationary impacts. Another \$6 million was spent on salaries, fringe benefits, and payroll taxes for the company's 67 full-time employees. The next segment of cash expenditures was loan payments which required \$3.25 million of cash. Interest payments totaled \$1.3 million on an average loan balance of \$34.7 million throughout the year with principal payments making up the remaining \$1.9 million. Construction projects and improvements required almost \$2 million throughout the year for the funding of costs associated with new individual customer hookups and the smart meter replacement project. New capital purchases required another \$1.85 million; payments made to the State for the water excise tax totaled \$821,000; and all other uses of cash totaled \$82,250.

Total cash expenditures for the year added up to \$22,828,000, which when compared with total cash receipts of \$23,699,250, resulted in a positive cash flow during the year of \$871,250. This excess cash, being set aside in operating and capital reserve accounts, continues to build a solid base for the organization's sustainability. The company's balance sheet, cash reserves, and financial ratios continued to remain strong in 2023 with the company's net worth or members equity increasing by \$2.8 million when compared to numbers reported the previous year while long-term debt and liabilities decreased by \$1.9 million.

THE 47TH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The 47th Annual Membership meeting for Rathbun Regional Water Association (RRWA) was held at the RRWA Treatment Plant, 16166 Hwy J29, Centerville, Iowa on February 29, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Two directors were re-elected to serve a three-year term on the RRWA Board:

DISTRICT 5

Charla Warner
Bonaparte, Iowa

DISTRICT 6

Garry Schiller
Donnellson, Iowa

RRWA would like to thank members of the nominating committee for their willingness to serve. Members of the nominating committee appointed by the Board of Directors were: Dan Furlin, Jr-Numa, Gary Dustin-Albia, Richard Breckenridge-Keosauqua, Leroy Perkins-Corydon, Darrell Krehbiel-Donnellson, Douglas Schock-Bloomfield, and Bill Hillyard-Burlington.

Other items discussed at the meeting were:

- The 2023 Financial Report of RRWA
- Updates on activities and projects during 2023 and for 2024
- Tours of the original and new RRWA Treatment Plants

RRWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Randy Eddy, *Chairperson*
Denny Amoss, *Vice Chairperson*
Doug Goben, *Secretary & Treasurer*
Curt Frank
Garry Schiller
Charla Warner
Kenneth Wuthrich

Smith Family Farm:

Raising Livestock to Protect Rathbun Lake

The primary water source for Rathbun Regional Water Association (RRWA) is Rathbun Lake, an 11,000-acre body of water located in southern Iowa. RRWA is the largest rural water system in Iowa and supplies drinking water from the lake to more than 70,000 people in southern Iowa and northern Missouri. Almost all the residents in the Rathbun Lake watershed rely on the lake for their drinking water. Because most of the watershed is agricultural land, practices used by farmers can have a significant impact on water quality in Rathbun Lake. Planting and managing pasture and hay ground for livestock grazing are two of the most beneficial practices for protecting water quality in the lake.

The Rathbun Land and Water Alliance was established in 1996 from a strong local desire to protect Rathbun Lake. Alliance members and partners include more than a dozen private and public entities that assist landowners to install conservation practices in the lake's watershed. Ponds, also called grade stabilization structures, are one of the more common practices installed by landowners. These structures are frequently used as a water source in pastures for grazing livestock. Ponds and the water they supply are key to managing pastureland in a way that prevents soil erosion and stops sediment from entering Rathbun Lake.

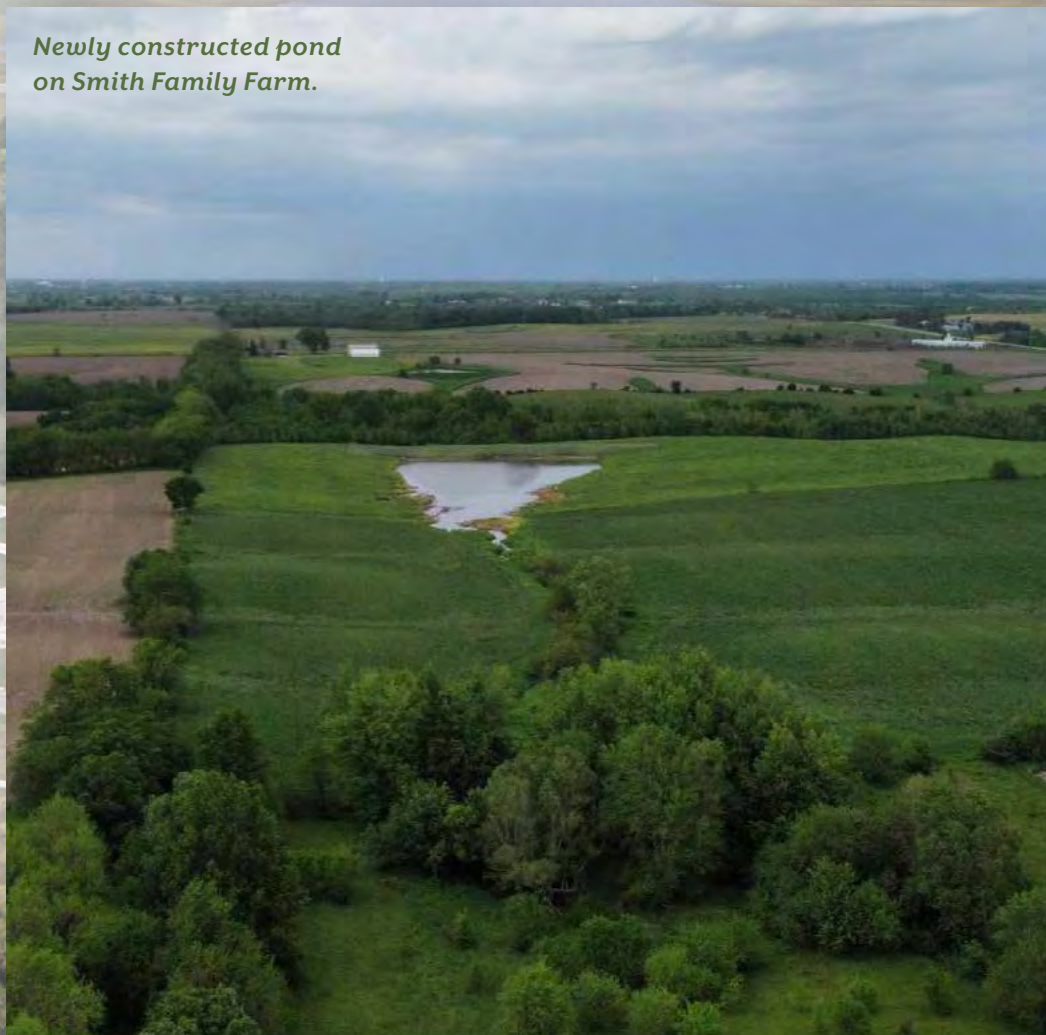
The Smith family – Dennis and Lisa Smith and Brad and Kelsey Smith – own and operate a diverse farming operation in the Lucas County portion of the Rathbun Lake watershed. The Smiths manage 480 Angus and Herford-Angus cow-calf pairs on 1,800 acres of well-managed pasture and use no-till and mulch-till to grow corn and soybeans on close to 600 acres. In addition, the Smith's farming operation includes two wean to finish swine production facilities. Conservation practices on the Smith farm include terraces, grade stabilization structures, buffer strips, nutrient management, and pasture planting and management. In 2009, the entire Smith family – which includes Dennis's father, the late W.B. Smith and his mother, Connie, and brother Doyle, received the Rathbun Lake Protector Award from the Alliance in recognition of their outstanding stewardship.

Recently, the Smiths worked with Brian DeMoss, Environmental Specialist, and Jeff Pfeifer, Soil Conservation Technician, out of the Lucas County Soil and Water Conservation District office to build a new grade stabilization structure on their farm. The newly completed pond will be an important source of water for the Smith's cow-calf herd and will enable them to better manage grazing of their pasture.

The structure will also help control gullies that Dennis Smith observed “were getting bigger and deeper every year.” The pond has a three-acre pool, 147-acre drainage area, and will prevent 300 tons of sediment and 400 pounds of phosphorus from entering Rathbun Lake each year. Funds to help build the structure were provided by the Iowa Water Quality Initiative.

Landowners in the Rathbun Lake watershed area of Appanoose, Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Monroe, and Wayne Counties who would like assistance to plant and manage pasture and hay as well as help to build grade stabilization structures should contact their local soil and water conservation district.

Newly constructed pond on Smith Family Farm.



RRWA's 2023

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORTS

The Rathbun Regional Water Association (RRWA), Inc. 2023 Water Quality Reports (also known as Consumer Confidence Reports or CCRs) are coming soon. Starting July 1st, 2024, you will be able to view your RRWA System 2023 Water Quality Report online.

If your account number begins with 01 – 30 log on to:

<https://www.rrwa.net/CMDocs/RRWA/WaterQuality/Rathbun.pdf>

If your account number begins with 33 – 34, 42, 70 – 72 log on to:

<https://www.rrwa.net/CMDocs/RRWA/WaterQuality/Ft-Madison.pdf>

If your account number begins with 35 – 38, 40 – 41, 74 log on to:

<https://www.rrwa.net/CMDocs/RRWA/WaterQuality/Burlington.pdf>

If your account number begins with 39 log on to:

<https://www.rrwa.net/CMDocs/RRWA/WaterQuality/Mt-Pleasant.pdf>

Your 2023 Water Quality Report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water. If you would like a paper copy of the CCR mailed to your home or sent as an attachment to an email, please call 800-233-8849 or email jbuckingham@rrwa.net.

New Opportunity for Landowners to **PROTECT RATHBUN LAKE**

Iowa Climate Smart Switchgrass Cropping System Project

Rathbun Lake watershed landowners in Appanoose, Clarke, Decatur, Lucas, Monroe, and Wayne counties are key to protecting water quality in the lake. Landowners in these counties now have a new opportunity to conserve the soil on their farms and keep sediment and phosphorus out of Rathbun Lake. Landowners in Adair, Davis, Jefferson, Keokuk, Madison, Marion, Mahaska, Ringgold, Taylor, Union, Van Buren, Wapello, and Warren Counties are also eligible for this conservation opportunity.

A group led by FDC Enterprises, Stark Technologies, and Prairie Lands Bio-Products in collaboration with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) are assisting landowners to produce switchgrass needed to bring renewable products to market as an additional source of farm income.

Landowners whose land qualifies for this project may receive:

- 100% of the USDA soil rental rate for the first two years of switchgrass establishment;
- Some landowners may qualify for additional incentives from IDALS, which would provide a rental payment for the first two years and a one-time incentive payment; and

- Enrolled landowners will also have a contracted payment for the biomass starting on the third year after establishment of the switchgrass for years 3, 4, and 5.

[There is no cost to landowners associated with the establishment, maintenance, and harvest of the switchgrass.](#)

To find out more about this opportunity and to see if your land qualifies, contact Bill Belden by email at beldenw@starktech.com or call 641-895-9907 or contact John Murphy by email at john.murphy@fdcenterprises.com or call 641-243-3790.

Switchgrass grown for biomass production

RRWA is Committed to Staff Education and Training

ESSENTIAL TO ASSOCIATION SUCCESS

Rathbun Regional Water Association (RRWA) is committed to offering professional development opportunities for employees. Education and training provide RRWA staff with the knowledge and skills required to perform their jobs safely and effectively. In turn, these employees are better able to ensure RRWA continues to serve quality, reliable, and affordable drinking water to Association customers.

Since 2019, RRWA has cooperated with its insurance firm, Marsh McLennan, to strengthen the Association's safety program. Safety training for RRWA employees is completed throughout the year. Training sessions cover a range of topics including defensive driving, use of personal protective equipment, and safe construction practices. Marsh McLennan's safety consultant, Kyle Broesder, works with RRWA's safety committee to develop and conduct the training sessions.

RRWA has partnered with Indian Hills Community College (IHCC) to provide Association employees with formal job-specific education. Recently, members of RRWA's support services team completed courses in the IHCC Industrial Maintenance program.



Tower climbing training for RRWA staff.

RRWA has been assisted by Sarah Lind, IHCC Business Liaison, and Dan Earnest, IHCC Industrial Maintenance Instructor, to deliver quality technical instruction for employees.

Another team of RRWA employees recently completed a tower climbing and rigging certification training that was conducted by the firm, Tower One, Inc. The three-day training consisted of classroom learning followed by hands-on climbing and rigging instruction at an RRWA tower site. The ability for RRWA staff to safely climb towers and work at heights is critical for Association operations.

In addition, RRWA employees who hold state-issued operator certificates in water treatment, water distribution, and wastewater must earn continuing education units (CEUs) to maintain their certification. Employees obtain these CEUs by attending conferences and training sessions such as those offered by the Iowa Rural Water Association (IRWA). A popular CEU training is organized each year by RRWA's Shop Coordinator, Flint Salladay. Employees from RRWA and many nearby utilities attend this two-day training which is held at the Association's distribution facility in Centerville, Iowa.

Additional ways in which RRWA helps employees acquire job-related knowledge and skills include providing time to prepare for operator certification and commercial driver's license exams, supporting online learning opportunities, and encouraging participation in professional development events such as the Iowa Water Industry Leadership Institute. These actions and investments demonstrate RRWA's strong belief that knowledgeable and skilled employees are essential to Association success today and in the future.



IRWA training at RRWA distribution facility.



RRWA employees study at IHCC.



Safety training for RRWA staff.

RRWA EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

SCOTT JACKSON

One Call Coordinator



Scott is the One Call Coordinator for Rathbun Regional Water Association (RRWA) and has been with the Association for 21 years. He feels fortunate to have worked in three different departments within RRWA. Scott started out in 2003 as part of RRWA's wireless internet company, Southern Iowa Regional Internet Services (SIRIS). After the sale of SIRIS in 2005, he became certified in water treatment and became a treatment plant operator for 10 years until he took on the responsibility of One Call Coordinator in 2015. Some of his daily tasks consist of answering locate request tickets in the Iowa and Missouri One Call online ticketing system as well as initiating work orders to RRWA's field area representatives to flag water lines. Every year, Scott receives approximately 12,000 locate requests and clears as many as two-thirds of the requests, submitting the remainder for the field area representatives to mark at the excavation locations. Scott enjoys working with RRWA system mapping daily as well as working with the field area representatives.

Scott was born and raised in Centerville, Iowa where he currently resides with his wife Kelly, of nearly 35 years. They have three children, Bethany, Brent, and Bailey as well as five grandchildren and one due in October. Scott and Kelly own and operate J&L Flooring in Centerville, which requires most of Scott's free time. Most people may not know Scott is one of The Beach Boys' biggest fans and has attended nine of their concerts over the last 25 years.

FLINT SALLADAY

Shop Coordinator/
Inventory Control



Flint has worked at Rathbun Regional Water Association (RRWA) for nearly 37 years, starting in August of 1987 and has been a committed employee serving a critical role in RRWA's distribution system. Flint's wide range of duties can include ordering all RRWA's construction and maintenance materials, inventory control, assisting with vehicle and construction equipment purchases, processing monthly vehicle reports, and fielding customer water leak or construction phone inquiries. One part of his job he really enjoys is the tracking of all materials used in RRWA construction activities. He also takes pride in the responsibility he has in making sure inventory parts are always available for staff as well as keeping costs down on those parts and supplies, contributing to the affordable water rates RRWA customers experience.

Flint and his wife of 38 years, Penny, live outside of Udell, Iowa and have two children, Austin Salladay and Autumn Starr. Austin and his wife, Zoe, have one child, Grayson. Autumn and her husband, Justin, have two children, Bentley and Gentry. When not spending time with his three grandchildren, Flint also enjoys taking cruises with his wife, tending to his cattle, and watching college basketball and St. Louis Cardinals' baseball. Being an avid sports fan and working with numbers daily, most people may not know Flint once thought about pursuing the profession of sports statistician.



LAST CALL! to Earn a Chance to Win a \$50 Gift Card!

RRWA is required to identify water lines made of lead that serve our customers.

THREE WAYS to TELL RRWA about YOUR WATER SERVICE LINE and EARN a CHANCE to WIN!

1. Complete the water service line survey on RRWA's website at:
<https://www.rrwa.net/lead-service-line-survey.aspx>



2. Complete the survey by scanning the QR Code
3. Call RRWA at 800-233-8849 to speak with a customer service rep.

RRWA customers who complete the survey will be entered into a monthly drawing for a \$50 gift card. Please only complete one survey for each RRWA account. **We have had thirteen \$50 gift card winners!!**



RRWA encourages healthy lifestyles by staying active!

RRWA's inaugural volleyball team first row L to R:
Tesa Hinton, Jane Glosser, Renee Foster, April Kirkland, Nicole Brown.
Second row L to R: Chad Butler, Rod Glosser, Jon Foster, Rachel Clark.

CITY OF MINDEN

BENT NOT BROKEN

By Zeb McFarland, Iowa Rural Water Circuit Rider East

Minden is a small southwest Iowa town located in Pottawattamie County. Minden has a population of six hundred residents and is home to many thriving businesses, which is a rarity in most small towns. On April 26th, the city of Minden was hit by an EF3 tornado. The tornado caused damage to 120 homes and businesses of which 40 to 50 homes were completely destroyed and sadly one life claimed. Minden's Volunteer Fire Department was tracking the storm that produced the tornado and was able to give warning before the destruction hit. The fire department helped to rescue everyone they could and then played a vital role in recovery, direction, and organization for the next several weeks.

On April 27th Phil Bintz Minden's water supply superintendent contacted me. Phil relayed that their water treatment plant was destroyed along with their sewer lift station. One of the things Iowa Rural Water Association (IRWA) offers to cities is emergency response. Phil asked if there was a temporary treatment plant of sorts available to them. I asked Phil some water quality questions. It was determined that Minden really needed a plant for iron and manganese removal. I started calling contacts and located a plant within the hour. Fortunately for Minden, the city has a preexisting connection with Regional Water out of Avoca, Iowa. Regional Water generously agreed to supply Minden with water in their time of need. However, due to severe drought conditions in their service area Regional Water could only offer a limited amount for a limited time.

On April 29th I arrived in Minden, Iowa and went to the site of the water treatment plant. It was unreal the amount of damage that I observed in town. It was difficult to even drive to the water treatment plant. The plant that was once a solid concrete block building was now just a pile of rubble. Along with many volunteers, such as the neighboring Avoca Fire Department and Neola city employees, Minden city employees Phil and Jake and I cleaned up the destruction and salvaged what we could. The cleanup needed to be done to have a place for a new temporary filter plant.

On April 30th I went back to Minden and spoke with the city's engineer about the plans to set up a temporary water plant. I also explained to him the importance of developing a plan on building the new water treatment plant. On this day, I also spoke with USDA's Dee Fisher and received the great news that Minden qualified to get some emergency funding. Following those conversations, most of the same volunteers and myself started cleaning up the area of the city sewer lift station and much like the water treatment plant everything was destroyed. The building was gone, all the controls were destroyed, and the generator was mangled. Over the next several days I took many trips to Minden to join the others in doing the work needed to prepare for the temporary plant. John Lins, IRWA Training Specialist and IOWARN Representative, also came to Minden to assist. John helped direct contractors, relay information to the state and help with insurance claims.

The first week of May, the detention tank was cleaned, and the filter plant was delivered. Several companies were sought out and voluntarily helped with this work and the start up. Water Surplus rented the city a mobile filter plant.



BENT NOT BROKEN
MINDEN STRONG



Electric Pump helped get controls setup for the wells that had been destroyed as well as control programming for the plant and pump trailer. Baker Group did all the plumbing and mechanicals. Graham Construction built a roof for the detention tank. Zimmerman Sales and Services was instrumental in getting control wires run and electrical panels set up for power. Mid-American Energy worked very hard to restore power to the city. The IHSEMD Emergency Potable Water Pump Trailer that is a state owned asset housed and maintained by IRWA was brought in. The trailer was the idea and project of John Lins with IOWARN. After months of working on securing funding for the trailer, it just recently became a functional reality. Electric Pump designed the trailer and the plumbing and mechanicals was done by the Baker Group. The emergency potable water pump trailer funded by Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management is available at no cost to communities during emergencies within the state of Iowa. The trailer contains two 15 hp vfd pumps capable of assisting a community of 2000 population or less that has lost the ability to pump potable water to their system. Exactly two weeks after the water plant was destroyed the city was pumping their own water again.

A special note of appreciation is needed for the Mayor of Minden Kevin Zimmerman. Without his help along with his son Wes and his business employees the town wouldn't be as far as they are in recovery. All of the volunteers were amazing. There were several fire departments, several surrounding municipalities and many religious organizations. It just goes to show that the communities of Iowa are "Iowa Strong". Following this disaster and after viewing the flag pole outside of city hall, the town of Minden adopted a new slogan...

"Bent Not Broken".

Iowa Drought

RECOVERY SUMMARY

In 2018 and 2019 the state of Iowa saw its two wettest back-to-back years on record, with over 88 inches of precipitation falling during that period (21 inches more than normal). Then in 2020 the weather started getting drier, and over the next four years, from 2020 through 2023 the state was nearly 20 inches short of precipitation — in essence “giving back” all of the surplus of those record setting wet years. Now we find ourselves in another very recent wet pattern, and thinking about when the drought will be over, and when conditions will return to “normal.” At the time of writing this piece, late May 2024, Iowa is on track for six of the last eight months to be wetter than normal, and for a spring that could be one of the top ten wettest on record for some parts of the state.

The question is this:

How could some parts of Iowa still be classified as “drought” in light of these recent wet months?

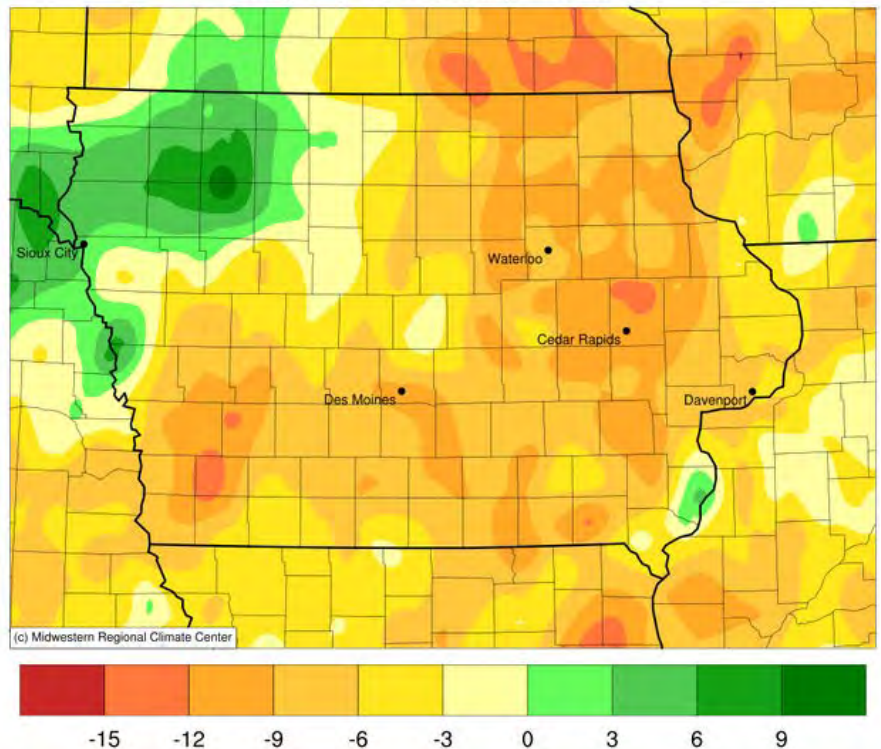
The answer lies in considering just how pervasive and significant the drought was for parts of Iowa. In Tama and Benton Counties, for example, May 2021 through April 2024 were the driest three years on record. Drier than the drought years of the 1950s. Drier than the Dust Bowl years of the 1930s. There are some reporting stations in those counties that missed out on the equivalent of nearly a year’s worth of rain during those years. From an agricultural perspective, that missing rain was a significant problem. The figure below shows the departure from normal for precipitation in Iowa over the last 12 months. The green colors in northwest and southeast Iowa indicate more precipitation than normal going back to May 1, 2023. Other areas of the state show a deficit of more than a foot of precipitation over that same time period. This map includes the recent wetter than normal months of April and May 2024.

Over the past four years soils dried out and shallow groundwater was depleted.

As streamflow diminished, the groundwater available in alluvial shallow aquifers along those streams also diminished.

Recent rains have certainly helped to replenish and restore water in our ecosystem, but just as it took several years to dry out these subsurface water sources, it will take some time to restore them. Perhaps not years, but certainly many months. The state is well on its way to full drought recovery, but it will take some time. Parts of Iowa are already “drought free” — and those areas that are not yet could see full recovery by this fall, if the pattern of rain continues.

Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from 1991-2020 Normals
May 01, 2023 to May 29, 2024



RRWA

Customer Reminders

- **“Like” and “Follow” RRWA on Facebook** “Rathbun Regional Water Association – RRWA” where you can find important information regarding your water utility.
- **Protect your remote or smart meter antenna** to avoid unnecessary charges for recurring preventable damages to RRWA equipment.
- For traditional self-read meters, please **read the meter in the pit periodically and compare it to the remote reading**. Insects or environmental conditions can affect the accuracy of the remote.
- **Always report to RRWA** anytime you believe the meter or remote are not working correctly.
- **Services are subject to disconnection for non-payment** by the first day of the following month after a payment is past due.
- **A \$250 tampering fee plus material and labor** can be assessed for any fraudulent tampering to RRWA property such as water meters or meter pits.
- **Sign-in to your smart meter account** at www.waterscope.us (Metron/WaterScope) or www.beaconama.net (Beacon/EyeOnWater) to make sure your smart meter is registered to receive leak notifications.
- **For AutoPay or Epay payments:** PayPal may appear or be included in the description on your bank or credit card statement next to your payment amount. RRWA uses Braintree, a division of PayPal, Inc., to securely process automatic or online payments.
- **Please visit www.rrwa.net to fill out the Lead Service Line Survey** for a chance to win a \$50 gift card, drawn monthly.
- **Report a verifiable leak or an exposed pipe** in a ditch or stream on a RRWA waterline and receive a \$25 leak report reward.
- **RRWA staff can be reached at 1-800-233-8849** from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and 24/7 for **emergencies at 1-800-233-8849**.

STILL SEARCHING FOR REASONS TO GET YOUR SMART METER?

SEARCH FOR:

- CALL RRWA NOW FREE SMART
 METER LEAK NOTIFICATION AUTO PAY

F	A	I	L	F	I	D	J	N	D	D	J	Y	S	C
M	C	Y	U	T	X	L	B	O	R	R	W	A	N	A
E	V	A	H	U	W	V	N	I	T	S	E	R	I	A
T	G	N	L	H	B	V	A	T	P	C	M	J	T	V
E	T	O	P	L	B	U	Y	A	S	U	G	A	D	I
R	K	W	M	K	T	C	J	C	V	F	E	N	R	Y
V	X	A	J	O	O	M	E	I	D	N	J	K	E	T
U	F	S	E	K	P	E	S	F	Y	N	O	E	F	J
D	O	B	S	L	R	G	M	I	O	P	B	C	C	P
F	Z	Q	X	F	A	U	I	T	G	L	B	N	F	X
B	J	L	W	B	N	F	G	O	A	W	D	J	B	C
Y	A	P	M	C	U	U	P	N	B	O	H	O	T	J
Y	T	X	H	S	P	T	M	H	E	Q	L	A	B	E
N	C	A	R	I	A	Z	Q	X	D	X	G	C	S	M
F	W	L	N	Z	Y	H	V	G	C	W	D	K	P	V

CALL RRWA NOW!
800-233-8849

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

SEARCH

"Rathbun Regional Water Association – RRWA"

TO "LIKE" AND "FOLLOW" OUR PAGE.

YOU CAN FIND IMPORTANT NEWS REGARDING:

- Important notifications on your water service
- Annual Water Quality Reports
- Water treatment and distribution activities
- New smart meter technology
- Conservation tips
- Employee recognition
- Rathbun Lake protection efforts
- Annual meeting notification





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www.rrwa.net

WATER MATTERS

Governor Kim Reynolds will sign a proclamation soon declaring August 18th through August 24th as Water and Wastewater Workers of Iowa week. This marks the 14th year that a governor has signed a proclamation honoring the water and wastewater workers of Iowa. Governor Terry Branstad signed the first proclamation in 2011 at a ceremony at the Ames wastewater plant. It is a week set aside for Iowans to honor those workers in the water and wastewater industry for their commitment to their community, to public health, and to the environment. Water and Wastewater Operators throughout the state of Iowa are unsung heroes in our communities. We take for granted the work they do each and every day to provide rural Iowans with safe, affordable drinking water.



We are asking all rural Iowans to look for ways to honor and thank Iowa water and wastewater workers. Here are a few suggestions:

- Have young Iowans make Thank You notes and Cards.
- Provide breakfast, lunch, or a snack by bringing it to city hall or the treatment plant.

- Have bright colored t-shirts (think construction and safety) made for your workers.
- Bring a thank you basket with an assortment of Refillable Water Bottles, Work Gloves, Carabiners, Hand Sanitizer, Sunglasses, and other popular swag.

During the Water and Wastewater Workers of Iowa week, IRWA will share social media posts. Feel free to use and/or forward these posts to your community.

Please join Iowa Rural Water Association and other industry leaders in celebrating Iowa Water and Wastewater Workers Week August 18th through 24th, 2024.