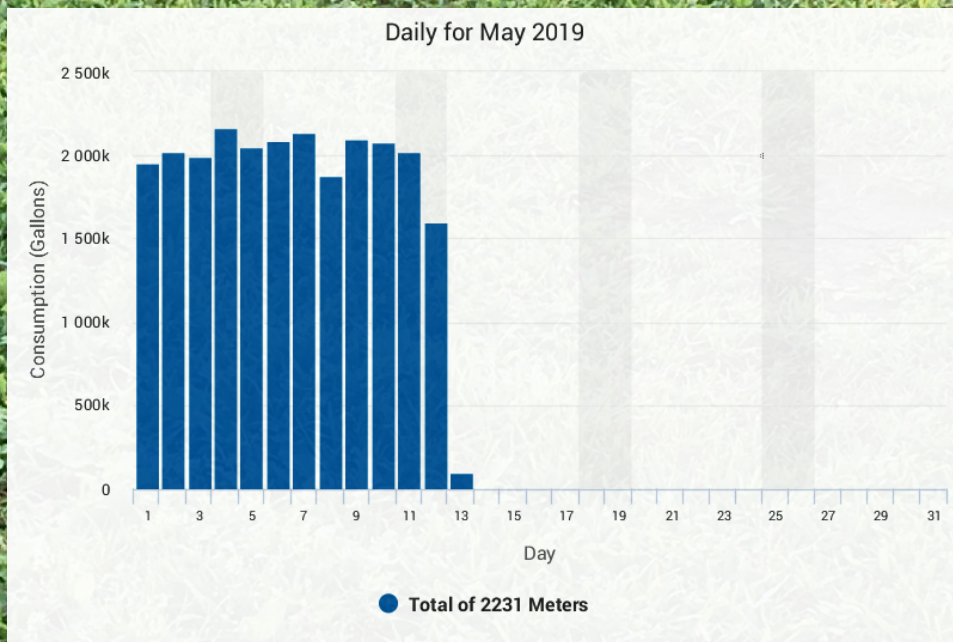




NEWSLETTER

2019 - Volume 17

WWW.LPRW.COM



HOURS: 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Phone: 507-368-4248 or 800-462-0309

Thank You Ron Carr



39 Years of Dedicated Service

Very few people dedicate themselves to their job the way Ron had.

Over the years Ron has worked countless hours not only during the week, but also on weekends and on overnight calls. LPRW would like to thank Ron for his service and commitment not only to our organization but also to each of our customers. We hope that Ron enjoys retired life as much as we enjoyed working with him! Thank you for 39 years of service to Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water.

Stay young at heart, kind in spirit, and enjoy retirement living.

Congratulations on your retirement!



OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS

(From left to right) Keith Johnson is from the Worthington area and is our operator for the South part of the system, Barry Berkenpas our operator in the central part of the system is from the Verdi area, Matt Wieme is from the Balaton area and our operator in the South central part of the system and Shaun Slegers is from Lake Benton and is our newest maintenance technician.

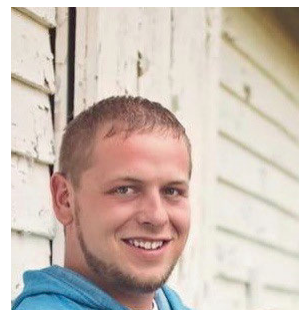
Ken Buysee Retires from LPRW Board



Ken started on the LPRW board in 1999. Ken was involved in several board committees during his time with LPRW. Thank you for your years of service and leadership.

New LPRW Board Commissioner - Glen Grant

Glen was appointed to replace Ken Buysse. Glen will represent the district encompassing southwest Lyon County.



Welcome everyone to the 2019 Newsletter.

Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water (LPRW) System has been very busy since the last publication of the newsletter. The first thing I would like to mention is the new, modern logo design (on front cover) for our organization. The greatest achievement in the last year has been the ability to take our full allocation of 1.1 million gallons of water per day from the Lewis and Clark Regional Water System (L&CRWS). As of May 2019, we now have the flexibility to convey great quality water at two delivery points in the southern part of our distribution system.

LPRW continues with system improvements . One project that impacts all of our customers is the deployment of automatic metering infrastructure (AMI), or automatic meter reading (AMR) system. At the time of newsletter publishing, LPRW staff will have over half of the system transitioned over. Customers have already commented on its ease of use, its ability to recognize and catch leaks sooner saving money, and availability of payment options. If you haven't received your AMR equipment yet, you should be getting a call soon. More information can be found on our website at WWW.LPRW.COM, or calling our main office.

Other activities include: construction of a new pump station and 1 million gallon water storage at our Verdi Water Source; designing and integrating a new system-wide monitoring platform; pursuit of a new permanent water source on the northern portion of our system; and actively participating in wellhead protection efforts, such as our Kernza Pilot Project with the University of Minnesota. All these activities are necessary to meet the goals of our mission statement: *"committed to enhancing the quality of life for the people in southwest Minnesota by acquiring and providing reliable, high quality, affordable water in an environmentally responsible manner through a publicly-owned system"*.

Lastly, the mission would be difficult to achieve without the commitment from all the people involved. From the LPRW Board and staff, to its consultants and agencies we work with, to the rural residents, business and communities we serve – as they say "it takes a village". We celebrate those that have departed, and welcome those who are new.

Jason Overby, General Manager

2019 Water Rates

Effective June 1, 2019 - Payable July 1, 2019

\$32.53 - Minimum rate, no water used

\$2.66 per thousand 0 to 5,000

\$2.73 per thousand 5,001 to 10,000

\$2.78 per thousand for every thousand above 10,000

Please refer to the Retail Water Rates card in your billing packet for further information or visit www.lprw.com under billing tab. You can also call the LPRW office if you have any questions.



2018 Annual Water Quality Report

Making Safe Drinking Water

Your drinking water comes from the following groundwater sources: Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System purchases water from Brookings-Deuel Rural Water System, Osceola Rural Water System, Lewis and Clark Regional Water System, and your system has twenty-five wells ranging from 32 to 453 feet deep, that draw water from the Quaternary Undifferentiated, Quaternary Buried Unconfined, Quaternary Buried Artesian and Quaternary Water Table aquifers.

Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System works hard to provide you with safe and reliable drinking water that meets federal and state water quality requirements. The purpose of this report is to provide you with information on your drinking water and how to protect our precious water resources.

Contact Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water, at 507-368-4248 or 800-462-0309 if you have questions about Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System's drinking water. You can also ask for information about how you can take part in decisions that may affect water quality.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sets safe drinking water standards. These standards limit the amounts of specific contaminants allowed in drinking water. This ensures that tap water is safe to drink for most people. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulates the amount of certain contaminants in bottled water. Bottled water must provide the same public health protection as public tap water.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System Monitoring Results

This report contains our monitoring results from January 1 to December 31, 2018.

We work with the Minnesota Department of Health to test drinking water for more than 100 contaminants. It is not unusual to detect contaminants in small amounts. No water supply is ever completely free of contaminants. Drinking water standards protect Minnesotans from substances that may be harmful to their health.

Learn more by visiting the Minnesota Department of Health's webpage [Basics of Monitoring and Testing of Drinking Water in Minnesota \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/sampling.html).

How to Read the Water Quality Data Tables

The tables below show the contaminants we found last year or the most recent time we sampled for that contaminant. They also show the levels of those contaminants and the Environmental Protection Agency's limits. Substances that we tested for but did not find are not included in the tables.

We sample for some contaminants less than once a year because their levels in water are not expected to change from year to year. If we found any of these contaminants the last time we sampled for them, we included them in the tables below with the detection date.

We may have done additional monitoring for contaminants that are not included in the Safe Drinking Water Act. To request a copy of these results, call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Definitions

- **AL (Action Level):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency
- **MCL (Maximum contaminant level):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.
- **MCLG (Maximum contaminant level goal):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.
- **Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.
- **MRDL (Maximum residual disinfectant level):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG (Maximum residual disinfectant level goal):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **NA (Not applicable):** Does not apply.
- **NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity Units):** A measure of the cloudiness of the water (turbidity).
- **pCi/l (picocuries per liter):** A measure of radioactivity.
- **ppb (parts per billion):** One part per billion in water is like one drop in one billion drops of water, or about one drop in a swimming pool. ppb is the same as micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/l}$).
- **ppm (parts per million):** One part per million is like one drop in one million drops of water, or about one cup in a swimming pool. ppm is the same as milligrams per liter (mg/l).
- **PWSID:** Public water system identification.
- **TT (Treatment Technique):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.
- **Variations and Exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

Monitoring Results – Regulated Substances

LEAD AND COPPER - Tested at customer taps.

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA'Ss Action Level	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	90% of results were less than	Number of Homes with High Levels	Violation	Typical Sources
Copper (6/22/16)	90% of homes less than 1.3 ppm	0 ppm	1.03 ppm	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.
Lead (6/22/16)	90% of homes less than 15 ppb	0 ppb	4.7 ppb	0 out of 30	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing.

INORGANIC & ORGANIC CONTAMINANTS - Tested in drinking water.

Contaminant (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Nitrate	10.4 ppm	10 ppm	6.7 ppm	0.55 - 6.70 ppm	NO	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Arsenic	10.4 ppb	0 ppb	1.21 ppb	N/A	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Runoff from orchards; Runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.

CONTAMINANTS RELATED TO DISINFECTION - Tested in drinking water.

Substance (date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Limit (MCL or MRDL)	EPA's ideal goal (mclg or mrdlg)	Highest average or highest single test result	Range of detected test results	Violation	Typical Sources
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs)	80 ppb	N/A	33.3 ppb	1.80 - 44.60 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA)	60 ppb	N/A	16.9 ppb	1.40 - 19.40 ppb	NO	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Chlorine	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	1.56 ppm	1.37 - 1.83 ppm	NO	Water additive used to control microbes.

Total HAA refers to HAAS

OTHER SUBSTANCES - Tested in drinking water.

Substance (Date, if sampled in previous year)	EPA's Limit (MCL)	EPA's Ideal Goal (MCLG)	Highest Average or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results	Violation	Typical Sources
Fluoride	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm	0.71 ppm	0.25 - 0.92 ppm	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive to promote strong teeth.

Nitrate: Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 10 parts per million is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. Nitrate levels may rise quickly for short periods of time because of rainfall or agricultural activity. If you are caring for an infant, you should ask advice from your health care provider.



Searching for a service line valve!

Monitoring Results – Unregulated Substances

In addition to testing drinking water for contaminants regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act, we sometimes also monitor for contaminants that are not regulated. Unregulated contaminants do not have legal limits for drinking water.

Detection alone of a regulated or unregulated contaminant should not cause concern. The meaning of a detection should be determined considering current health effects information. We are often still learning about the health effects, so this information can change over time.

The following table shows the unregulated contaminants we detected last year, as well as human-health based guidance values for comparison, where available. The comparison values are based only on potential health impacts and do not consider our ability to measure contaminants at very low concentrations or the cost and technology of prevention and/or treatment. They may be set at levels that are costly, challenging, or impossible for water systems to meet (for example, large-scale treatment technology may not exist for a given contaminant).

A person drinking water with a contaminant at or below the comparison value would be at little or no risk for harmful health effects. If the level of a contaminant is above the comparison value, people of a certain age or with special health conditions - like a fetus, infants, children, elderly, and people with impaired immunity – may need to take extra precautions. Because these contaminants are unregulated, EPA and MDH require no particular action based on detection of an unregulated contaminant. We are notifying you of the unregulated contaminants we have detected as a public education opportunity.

- More information is available on MDH’s [A-Z List of Contaminants in Water \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/index.html) and Fourth [Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule \(UCMR 4\) \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/com/ucmr4.html).

Unregulated Contaminants - Tested in drinking water.

Contaminant	Comparison Value	Highest Average Result or Highest Single Test Result	Range of Detected Test Results
Sulfate	500 ppm	389 ppm	45.30 - 389.00 ppm
Sodium*	20 ppm	24.6 ppm	4.86 - 24.60 ppm

*Note that home water softening can increase the level of sodium in your water.

Some People Are More Vulnerable to Contaminants in Drinking Water

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. The developing fetus and therefore pregnant women may also be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water. These people or their caregivers should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Learn More about Your Drinking Water

Drinking Water Sources

Minnesota's primary drinking water sources are groundwater and surface water. Groundwater is the water found in aquifers beneath the surface of the land. Groundwater supplies 75 percent of Minnesota's drinking water. Surface water is the water in lakes, rivers, and streams above the surface of the land. Surface water supplies 25 percent of Minnesota's drinking water.

Contaminants can get in drinking water sources from the natural environment and from people's daily activities. There are five main types of contaminants in drinking water sources.

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Sources include sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, pets, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants** include salts and metals from natural sources (e.g. rock and soil), oil and gas production, mining and farming operations, urban stormwater runoff, and wastewater discharges.
- **Pesticides and herbicides** are chemicals used to reduce or kill unwanted plants and pests. Sources include agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and commercial and residential properties.
- **Organic chemical contaminants** include synthetic and volatile organic compounds. Sources include industrial processes and petroleum production, gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants** such as radium, thorium, and uranium isotopes come from natural sources (e.g. radon gas from soils and rock), mining operations, and oil and gas production.

The Minnesota Department of Health provides information about your drinking water source(s) in a source water assessment, including:

- How Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System is protecting your drinking water source(s);
- Nearby threats to your drinking water sources;
- How easily water and pollution can move from the surface of the land into drinking water sources, based on natural geology and the way wells are constructed.

Find your source water assessment at [Source Water Assessments \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/swa) or call 651-201-4700 or 1-800-818-9318 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lead in Drinking Water

You may be in contact with lead through paint, water, dust, soil, food, hobbies, or your job. Coming in contact with lead can cause serious health problems for everyone. There is no safe level of lead. Babies, children under six years, and pregnant women are at the highest risk.

Lead is rarely in a drinking water source, but it can get in your drinking water as it passes through lead service lines and your household plumbing system. Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System provides high quality drinking water, but it cannot control the plumbing materials used in private buildings.

Read below to learn how you can protect yourself from lead in drinking water.

1. **Let the water run** for 30-60 seconds before using it for drinking or cooking if the water has not been turned on in over six hours. If you have a lead service line, you may need to let the water run longer. A service line is the underground pipe that brings water from the main water pipe under the street to your home.
 - You can find out if you have a lead service line by contacting your public water system, or you can check by following the steps at: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/06/24/npr-find-lead-pipes-in-your-home>
 - The only way to know if lead has been reduced by letting it run is to check with a test. If letting the water run does not reduce lead, consider other options to reduce your exposure.
2. **Use cold water** for drinking, making food, and making baby formula. Hot water releases more lead from pipes than cold water.
3. **Test your water.** In most cases, letting the water run and using cold water for drinking and cooking should keep lead levels low in your drinking water. If you are still concerned about lead, arrange with a laboratory to test your tap water. Testing your water is important if young children or pregnant women drink your tap water.
 - Contact a Minnesota Department of Health accredited laboratory to get a sample container and instructions on how to submit a sample:
[Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program \(https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam\)](https://eldo.web.health.state.mn.us/public/accreditedlabs/labsearch.seam)
The Minnesota Department of Health can help you understand your test results.
4. **Treat your water** if a test shows your water has high levels of lead after you let the water run.
 - Read about water treatment units:
[Point-of-Use Water Treatment Units for Lead Reduction \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/factsheet/poulead.html)

Learn more:

- Visit [Lead in Drinking Water \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/lead.html)
- Visit [Basic Information about Lead in Drinking Water \(http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead\)](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead)
- Call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791. To learn about how to reduce your contact with lead from sources other than your drinking water, visit [Lead Poisoning Prevention: Common Sources](#)



Water exploration
near Dawson, MN.



Lewis & Clark Regional Water System 2018 Water Quality Summary.

In 2018 L&CRWS delivered over 5.7 billion gallons of water to 14 connected member systems.

Lewis & Clark water originates from wells that tap into an underground source adjacent to the Missouri River. This source is called the Missouri: Elk Point Aquifer. After treatment the water quality is very good. Lewis & Clark does extensive testing for contaminants in our water and only the few items listed below on the Table of Detected Contaminants were found to be present in reportable quantities. The level of these contaminants is below what would be considered to be harmful.

Additional Parameters of Interest:

Parameter (units):	Average Level:	Acceptable Level:
Total Hardness (as CaCO ₃) (ppm)	150	
Alkalinity (ppm)	60	
Calcium (as CaCO ₃) (ppm)	90	
Iron (ppm)	0.01	0.3
Manganese (ppm)	0.01	0.05
pH (units)	8.5	7 - 9
Total Chlorine (ppm)	2.5	0.3-3.9



Frozen Water Lines

Even though it's midsummer, it doesn't seem all that long ago we were dealing with heavy snowfalls and cold temperatures. A good practice to prevent frozen water lines is for all users to check their water temperature in early February. By that time of year our water temperature is roughly 40°. If your water is anything colder than 40° out of the tap, it could freeze. A typical mainline or service line freeze can put you out of water for a minimum of two days once we are notified, and could very likely take a week or more for a crew to thaw. The Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water Board of Directors has instituted a policy where LPRW will not thaw any line for an individual user. If we have a group of users that are on a frozen main line LPRW will take care of that. Each individual is responsible for keeping their line frost free, and will be expected to either wait for a natural thaw or contract someone to thaw for them.



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Planting the kernza field near Verdi.



Kernza grain

Our Mission~

At Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water, we are committed to enhancing the quality of life for the people in southwest Minnesota by acquiring and providing reliable, high quality, affordable water in an environmentally responsible manner through a publicly owned system.

LPRW is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.