

# JULY 2023

## IOWA LAKES REGIONAL WATER NEWS



Entertainment provided by Jennifer Johnson

Jennifer Johnson was born and raised in the Great Lakes region. She graduated from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and was on the Skyleader dance team for the Skyforce pro basketball team. She is currently the Music Director for First Lutheran Church in West Okoboji. Jennifer has been playing piano professionally since she was 16 years old and accompanied the Many Voices Choir for 10 years. She regularly plays piano with nationally touring Queen Tribute band 'Rock a la Carte', locally known funk rock band 'She's With Us', and a newly formed girl duo 'Georgia Loophole' with her friend Iesha Toft that will be performing around the area over the summer.

### PLEASE JOIN US!



**WEDNESDAY  
26 JULY, 2023**



**MEAL SERVED @ 5:00 PM  
DOOR PRIZES @ 6:30 PM  
BUSINESS MEETING @ 7:00 PM**



**1301 38TH AVENUE WEST  
SPENCER, IOWA 51301**



Burgers provided and grilled by:  
Iowa Pork Producers Association

Page 1  
Food & Entertainment

Page 4  
Proxy Ballot

HERE'S THE  
SCOOP



Page 2  
Annual Members Meeting  
Events Did You Know

Page 5  
Pit Access Autopay Iowa One Call  
Lead & Copper

Page 3  
Board Candidates

Page 6  
Remember When WSLPP

712-262-8847

www.ilrw.org

member.services@ilrw.org

# ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING

The ILRW Annual Members Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at our district office located at 1301 38th Avenue West in Spencer, Iowa. A complimentary meal will be provided beginning at 5:00 PM. The Iowa Pork Producers Association will be grilling and a variety of vendors have donated door prizes to be drawn at 6:30 PM. The business meeting will follow at 7:00 PM to include the manager's report, financial report, and audit as well as last year's accomplishments and next year's goals. There are two director positions available (see page 3 for the Nominating Committee Report). To vote, please complete and return the enclosed Proxy Ballot on page 4 by 12:00 PM on Wednesday, July 26, 2023. Election results will be announced at the end of the evening's events.

*We look forward to seeing you!*



**DID YOU KNOW...**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**



- Founded in 1977 by local Clay County farmers
- 30 employees
- 5,800 current members & counting
- Serving parts of 12 counties & 29 communities
- 2,000+ miles of rural distribution pipeline
- 15,000+ population served
- 1 Softening Water Treatment Plant in Clay County
- 1 Reverse Osmosis Water Treatment Plant in Palo Alto County
- 9 Water storage facilities
- 10 Booster stations
- 12 Wastewater systems

**JULY 26TH**  
ILRW Annual Meeting

**AUGUST 12TH**  
Okoboji Blue Water Festival

**AUGUST 23RD**  
World Water Week

**OCTOBER 4TH**  
Iowa Healthiest State Annual Walk

**OCTOBER 19TH**  
Imagine a Day Without Water

## FUTURE PROJECTS

**7.5 miles of mainline to the City of Orleans**

**New distribution system in the City of Webb**

**1 mile of mainline to the City of Linn Grove**

**17 miles of mainline to the City of Mallard**

**96 additional members through Retro 16**

## A LOOK BACK...

**MARCH 4TH**  
Family Fest

**MAY 11TH**  
Children's Water Festival

**JUNE 10TH**  
Flagfest Parade

**JUNE 17TH**  
Breakfast on the Farm  
@ Jones Dairy



*Job well done!*

# NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The ILRW Board of Directors has been dedicated to the progress and sustainability of the District since 1976. The Board of Directors election is part of the Annual Members meeting held in July. This year, the Nominating Committee proudly supports the re-election of Jason Espenson to his second three-year term, as well as Peter Maisenbach for election to his first three-year term, after previously fulfilling a vacant seat, on the ILRW Board of Directors.

## MEMBERS CAN VOTE BY PROXY ON PAGE 4



*Jason Espenson*  
2nd term

Jason Espenson grew up on a dairy farm near Bingham Lake, MN. He graduated from the Windom Public High School, then earned his Agriculture Marketing degree at the University of Minnesota in 1998. That same year, Jason married his wife Cindy in Mountain Lake, MN.

Jason moved to York, NE, where he started his career as an Agronomist for Pioneer. He then moved back to Minnesota where he held a sales position at Borgen Inc. in Mountain Lake, MN. Jason and Cindy moved to Fish Lake near Windom, MN, in 2001. In 2006, Jason landed a position at Phillips Agency in Jackson, MN, as a Crop Insurance Agent. In 2015, he purchased the company and changed its name to Prairie Country Crop Insurance where he continues to use his expert skills as a Sales Agent.

Jason and Cindy have two children. Their son, Alex, is a sophomore at Dordt University and their daughter, Elliot, is a senior in high school.

Jason was on the Fish Lake Association Board for nine years, which included the time period when the wastewater system was funded, designed and built. He is currently on the Christiana Township Board.

Jason likes farming with his brother. Jason also enjoys water sports including skiing, surfing and paddle boarding. He was the Assistant Varsity Coach for the Windom High School hockey team, and now helps coach the youth hockey league in the Windom area.



*Peter Maisenbach*  
1st term

Peter Maisenbach was born in 1953 and grew up in Rock Island, Illinois.

His wife is Diane. They have two sons, John and Benjamin, both married. John lives in Sioux Falls, SD, and Ben lives in Rosemount, MN. Peter and Diane have three grandchildren: Henry, Eleanor and Rae.

Peter and his wife have lived in Rock Island, Chicago and Philadelphia. For the past 30 years they have made their home in Spencer after being called to serve as Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in 1988.

Over the years he has served as a voluntary board member of several non-profits.

In 1994, they purchased a three-season cabin at Lost Island Lake and in 2017 became a customer of Iowa Lakes Regional Water.

Peter retired in November of 2019 and Diane retired from teaching in the Spencer School District in 2020.

His hobbies are boating, water skiing, fishing, reading and movies.

# PROXY BALLOT

## BOARD MEMBER ELECTION

### Pitboss Pellet Grill Smoker

\$500 value



## PROXY PRIZE

### NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

Ballot must be received by 12:00 PM on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, to be eligible to win.

### PLEASE PRINT

Your name, account number and signature must be present and legible on the ballot to be eligible to vote and be entered for the proxy prize drawing.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name), a participating member of Iowa Lakes Regional Water, \_\_\_\_\_ (account number), appoint the Secretary of the Iowa Lakes Regional Water Board of Directors, as my Proxy, to cast my vote for election of directors for the candidates designated above, and to vote on all other matters that may properly come before the meeting on July 26, 2023. This appointment confers all power and authority that I would possess if personally present.

Member Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Two Board positions are available  
Please vote for 2 candidates



Choose  
one  
✓



YES! I plan to attend  
# of guests \_\_\_\_\_

NO, I do not plan to attend

PLEASE RETURN THIS BALLOT TO IOWA LAKES REGIONAL WATER NO LATER THAN JULY 26, 2023



**ILRW USE ONLY**  
FOR COMPLETION BY  
SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE

Member Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Valid:

YES

NO

# 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below.



## 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start. (Excluding weekends)

## 2. WAIT

2-3

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



## 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.

## 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



## 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides dependent upon state laws), consider moving your project.

# LEAD & COPPER SURVEYS

The Lead and Copper Rule is a US Federal regulation that monitors the levels of lead and copper in public drinking water supply systems. As part of this rule, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires all public water supply systems to identify the materials of service lines connected to the distribution system.

ILRW is requesting your assistance by taking a short survey that will help us compile a database of materials used in our customers' service lines.

Getting a survey is easy! Please visit our website at [www.ilrw.org](http://www.ilrw.org) to access the survey or stop at the office to pick one up.

Make sure the customer information at the top of the survey is complete so you don't miss out on the drawing!

We appreciate your cooperation and participation in the survey so an on-site inspection appointment is not required!



thank you



# Meter Pit Access

ILRW would like to remind you that per our policy only ILRW personnel are allowed to access the meter pit and curb stop. The meter pit and curb stop are owned and maintained by ILRW. We strive to keep our customers and their contractors safe.

Our service technicians are on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The emergency number can be obtained by calling our office and pressing 2 during the voicemail process.



DO report any damaged, broken or missing lids



DON'T allow others to access meter pits on your property



DO keep area clean for accessibility



DON'T build or plant over meter pits



DO notify us of suspicious activity



DON'T attempt to access meter pits yourself

YOUR COOPERATION IS APPRECIATED!

Thank you

# AUTOMATIC WITHDRAWAL

Does the fear of late fees keep you up at night?

Let us help put those fears to bed!

Iowa Lakes Regional Water offers a program that allows customers to automatically have their monthly water bill taken out of their bank account of choice on the appropriate due date. Customers can sign up for this service through ILRW by filling out a quick form.



Call our office at 712-262-8847 to request one or find it on our website at: [ilrw.org/makepayment.html#AUTOMATICWITHDRAWAL](http://ilrw.org/makepayment.html#AUTOMATICWITHDRAWAL)

Once completed, this form can be returned via any of the following methods:

- Mail: PO Box 555 - Spencer, Iowa 51301
- Email: [member.services@ilrw.org](mailto:member.services@ilrw.org)
- Fax: 712-262-8241
- ILRW office/drop box: 1301 38th Avenue West - Spencer, Iowa 51301

**Don't forget to include a VOIDED CHECK!**

xpress BILL PAY

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EMERGENCIES  
CALL 1-877-262-8847

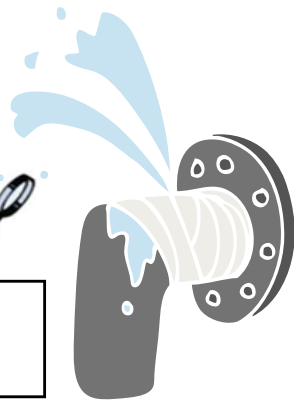
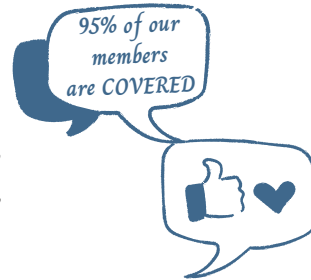


# HOMEOWNER SOLICITATIONS FOR WATER SERVICE LINE PROTECTION PLANS



Have you received notices in the mail inviting you to purchase a water service line protection plan? ILRW Board and Management want you to know, you are covered! The ILRW Water Service Line Protection Plan (WSLPP) is a \$4.90 per month benefit to our members that protects against service line leaks, covering both the repair (up to \$3,000) and the cost of water loss (adjusted to your monthly average). Most customers are already enrolled in this successful program. Review your most recent bill to be sure! Example shown below.

Since its inception in 2017, the WSLPP has helped 347 members with 431 claims, saving \$611,000 in out of pocket costs!!

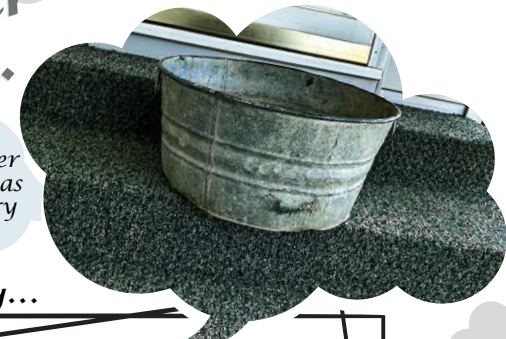


**FOR EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS ASSISTANCE CALL: (712) 262-8847**  
 For water emergencies between the hours of 4:00 PM and 8:00 AM on weekdays and anytime on Saturday, Sunday or holidays, please call 712-262-8847 to access ILRW's emergency information.

Reading Date	New Reading	Old Reading	Gallons Used (In Thousands)	Water Charge	Water Service Line Protection Plan	Sewer Charges	Garbage	Total Charges
07/02/23	1034	1034	0	54.59	4.90	0.00	0.00	\$ 59.49
WET/Sales Tax				3.57		0.00		\$ 3.57

## Remember When...

In the March Newsletter we wondered if there was a time you had to worry about water.



### Here's a story...

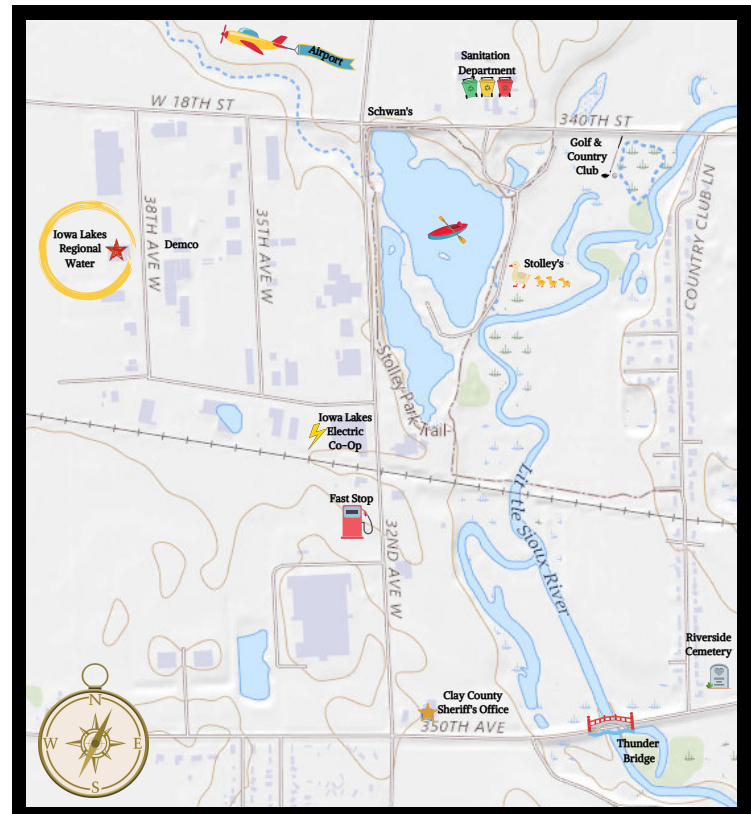
I think the common name for this is wash tub. It was used while washing the laundry. But back in the early 1950's we lived on a farm near Schaller and it was also our bath tub. Mom would sometimes get the "soft rain water" out of the roof runoff cistern. I don't remember back then, but now I can feel the difference between hard or soft water. So thank you Iowa Lakes Regional Water for our rural water system and soft water!

God Bless  
 Dana & Clair

*Dana & Clair Benna  
 Storm Lake, Iowa*

...thank you for sharing!

Iowa Lakes Regional Water  
 1301 38th Avenue West  
 Spencer, Iowa 51301



☎ 712-262-8847  
 🌐 www.ilrw.org  
 ✉ member.services@ilrw.org

🕒 Office Hours:  
 Monday – Friday  
 8 AM – 4 PM