

# Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority (DRWA)



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Check out our web site:  
[www.midrivers.com/~drwa/](http://www.midrivers.com/~drwa/)

**DRWA Board Members**

**Garfield County**

Mike McKeever.....557-2905  
 Baan Wille.....557-2715  
 Dean Rogge.....557-2354

**McCone County**

Tod Kasten.....485-3588  
 Henry Helgeson.....485-2913  
 Pat Eggebrecht.....525-3525

**Dawson County**

John "Sonny" Whiteman...773-5575  
 Marco Unruh.....773-5640

**Richland County**

Roger Meyer.....774-3322

**YOU CAN'T PUT A PRICE ON  
GOOD QUALITY WATER**

## ***DRY-REDWATER REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY UPDATE***

*by Jeanne Kirkegard*

The Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority's rural water project continues to move the forward. The DRWA board members meet with Representative Rehberg in Circle, July 3rd . The board explained the rural water project with Rehberg and how much of a need there is for safe high quality drinking water and that it is essential for good health and economic growth.



Left-right; Tod Kasten, Circle Roger Meyer, Lambert Senator Baucus, Baan Wille, Jordan Jeanne Kirkegard, McCone CD, Julie Goss, Richland CD

August 18th the board meet with Senator Baucus in Glendive. As some of you may not be aware of; our bill (SB 3415) was introduced in the Senate, July 31st by Senator Baucus and co-sponsored by Senator Tester. It has been read twice and was sent to the Energy and Natural Resource Committee. You can log onto [www.Thomas.gov](http://www.Thomas.gov) and read the entire bill and keep track of its progress.

After visiting with Senator Baucus about the details of the rural water project and the health issues that rural users are facing by not having safe drinking water; I felt that Senator Baucus walked away with a better understanding of our poor water quality and what this project means to our communities. "Rural users do not have luxury of water that meets EPA standards or even secondary standards set for drinking water that is mandated for public water systems by EPA."

The DRWA is in the process of having programmatic environmental assessment that is required for all rural water projects. Information is being collected for T& E Species, Wetlands Landownership, Cultural Resources etc. with the help of a Reclamation & Development Planning Grant from the DNRC. The baseline EA is for the intake site, treatment plant and 50 miles of pipeline to Circle. Eventually, the whole project area will need a EA.

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You can contact all three Congressmen and let them know how important the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority project is to our distressed area. Good quality and quantity of healthy water is needed. This project is a good project that will provide economic opportunity along with healthy water to the counties of Garfield, McCone, Richland and Dawson. Let them know that we appreciate all of their help in getting Senate Bill S3415 authorized in January 2009.

**Congressman Rehberg**  
<http://www.house.gov/rehberg/>

**Senator Baucus**  
<http://www.baucus.senate.gov/>  
 Email address: [maxbaucus@earthlink.net](mailto:maxbaucus@earthlink.net)

**Senator Tester**  
<http://tester.senate.gov/>



### Cleaning and Washing



◆ Use a broom to clean your driveways, patios and decks rather than the hose - hoses use an average of 25 gallons of water every 5 minutes! If you do need water - get a power sprayer - it will do twice the work in half the time (and water!)

◆ When washing the car/bike/dog/muddy kids: wash them on the lawn to save on watering it later and use a bucket instead of running the hose (saves ~5 gallons/minute) or go to a commercial car wash that recycles water (not recommended for washing the kids).

◆ Consider buying detergents that are low in phosphorus - phosphorus promotes algae growth which can cause a reduction of dissolved oxygen (DO) - and reduced DO is not necessarily a good thing.



More info? <http://waterquality.montana.edu> OR  
[http://bozeman.net/water/water\\_conservation\\_tips.aspx](http://bozeman.net/water/water_conservation_tips.aspx) OR  
<http://www.planetnatural.com/site/xdpy/kb/water-wise->

The DRWA has filed for a beneficial use water permit with the Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation. It would provide water for the system from the Dry-Arm of Fort Peck Reservoir. The DRWA system is requesting 15,000 acre feet which is approximately 0.002% of the water that is available in the reservoir for full build out.

Currently the DRWA board is working on scheduling a meeting with Senator Tester. The DRWA coordinator is working with Penny Zimmerman, Tester's Field Director on setting up a meeting in Jordan with the DRWA board members. Senator Tester is a member of Energy and Natural Resource Committee.

To date we have over 3070 hookups and collected over \$43,000.00 in good intention fees from users interested in high quality water.

The DRWA, is asking everyone, "If you are the least bit interested in *household, pasture tap or both* and have not had a chance to sign-up there still is time. To make sure that you are part of the rural water system, the DRWA is asking for a \$100.00 Good Intention Fee. This Good Intention Fee is a Refundable fee. If the system is not built, if the system is unable to deliver water to you, or if you at some point in the future decide not to hookup for any reason the fee will be refunded to you without interest.

You can contact the Garfield, McCone, Dawson or Richland Conservation District Administrator in your county or any of the board members listed on the front of this newsletter. They will be glad to get you any information that you need. Contact numbers are listed below for the Conservation District's in your county below.

- Garfield Conservation District (Amanda) 557-2740 ext.3
- McCone Conservation District (Jeanne Rae) 485-2744 ext. 100
- Dawson Conservation District (Peggy) 377-5566 ext. 3
- Richland Conservation District (Julie) 433-2103 ext.3

**Don't forget to sign-up**

**Dry-Redwater Regional  
Water Authority  
\$100.00  
Good Intention Fee  
SIGN-UP**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

1. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_  
 2. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_  
 3. Section \_\_\_\_\_ Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_

## *Do You Know What's in Your Water?*

People with private water supplies are responsible for the safety of their own drinking water. While all wells, springs, and surface water should be tested regularly, there are some situations where it is critical to know what is in your water:

- If you use surface water or water from an unconfined aquifer and have any sources of pollution nearby, you are at risk for contaminated water.
- If you or members of your family are at higher risk of health problems from contaminants, you should know what is in your water.
- If the quality of your water suddenly changes - new taste

The depth of a well is not usually as important as the type of aquifer from which the well draws. In general, well water from an unconfined aquifer is much more prone to contamination.

Poorly designed or maintained septic systems are a potential source of contamination for wells or springs mostly in unconfined aquifers. The most common contaminants from septic systems tend to be E. coli and nitrates, but if other chemicals are flushed into the septic system by you or your neighbors, they can become part of the ground or surface water pollutants as well. than water from a confined aquifer.

In an agricultural area, farms can have many potential sources of pollution for the underlying water, including: manure lagoon, feedlot / barn, septic system, earthen silage pit, fuel storage tank, chemical storage area, chemical mixing area, dump or landfill, and fields on which fertilizers or pesticides have been applied.

For more information on farm wells, go to: [Well Water Location & Condition on the Farm](#). In addition to the health effects of nitrates on children, discussed above, nitrates in drinking water have also been associated with an increased risk for Non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Three communities in our project service area must treat their water because of high levels of fluoride which is a health hazard and a regulated contaminant. The fourth community – Jordan – does not treat its water but it is high in sodium and total dissolved solids (TDS) which are not currently regulated, but has detrimental effects on those drinking it.

The table on the following page shows a sampling of water well quality found in the project area along with tables showing the National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations.

One of the wells on that list serves Garfield County School District No.15 and it shows that the sodium level is 447 ppm which exceeds the recommended level of 250 ppm, the fluoride is 3.35 ppm which exceeds the recommended level of 2 ppm and it has 1049 ppm of total dissolved solids which is over twice the recommended level of 500 ppm.

This well and the other private wells are not regulated by National Drinking Water Standards but the detrimental effects of the water on their users are not any less because they are not regulated.

Sources of information taken from; *Drinking Water Resources Web Site, Bureau of Mines & Geology and DRWA Feasibility Study.*

Well Site Name	County	Depth	Sodium	Bicarbonate	Sulfate	Fluoride	TDS
73 RANCH	Garfield	1,003.0	<b>1,524.00</b>	<b>737.00</b>	<b>2,464.00</b>	2.80	<b>4,577.17</b>
JORDON JOHN	Garfield	280.0	<b>667.00</b>	<b>795.00</b>	<b>793.00</b>	1.00	<b>1,885.00</b>
CLAUSON WILLIAM	Garfield	300.0	<b>502.00</b>	<b>812.00</b>	<b>391.00</b>	1.00	<b>1,330.18</b>
73 RANCH	Garfield	1,003.0	<b>1,484.00</b>	<b>656.40</b>	<b>2,346.00</b>	<5.0	<b>4,362.31</b>
GARFIELD CO SCHOOL DIS #15	Garfield	350.0	<b>447.00</b>	<b>912.60</b>	33.80	3.35	<b>1,048.79</b>
BIG DRY SCHOOL HOUSE	Garfield	700.0	<b>625.00</b>	<b>378.20</b>	<b>916.00</b>	<0.5	<b>1,788.81</b>
MCKERLICK JOHN	Garfield	80.0	<b>586.00</b>	<b>700.20</b>	<b>627.80</b>	2.00	<b>1,603.38</b>
BURGESS RANCH	Garfield	365.0	<b>670.00</b>	<b>271.00</b>	<b>681.00</b>	1.00	<b>1,806.43</b>
BAKER JIM	Garfield	390.0	<b>979.00</b>	<b>1,052.00</b>	<b>1,241.00</b>	1.00	<b>2,780.48</b>
HOVERSON SARAH	Garfield	370.0	<b>1,062.00</b>	<b>1,247.00</b>	<b>1,210.00</b>	1.50	<b>2,996.94</b>
HAFLA JOE	Garfield	258.0	<b>544.00</b>	<b>886.00</b>	<b>657.00</b>	0.10	<b>1,733.50</b>
PLUHAR PHILLIP	Garfield	255.0	<b>460.00</b>	<b>688.00</b>	<b>424.00</b>	0.30	<b>1,259.24</b>
KEEBLER DEAN	Garfield	600.0	<b>592.00</b>	<b>618.00</b>	<b>748.00</b>	1.40	<b>1,671.91</b>
LANDERS H	Garfield	380.0	<b>587.00</b>	<b>612.00</b>	<b>764.00</b>	1.10	<b>1,688.92</b>
CITY OF CIRCLE	McCone	1,624.0	<b>412.00</b>	<b>907.70</b>	<25.0	<b>4.31</b>	<b>1,002.02</b>
CITY OF CIRCLE * WELL NO. 1	McCone	150.0	<b>775.00</b>	<b>829.60</b>	<b>1,059.00</b>	2.55	<b>2,317.44</b>
CITY OF CIRCLE	McCone	1,508.0	<b>400.00</b>	<b>921.00</b>	<0.1	<b>5.20</b>	<b>1,004.81</b>
CITY OF CIRCLE	McCone	1,508.0	<b>472.20</b>	<b>886.90</b>	<2.5	<b>5.10</b>	<b>1,109.19</b>
PRAIRIE ELK SCHOOL	McCone	200.0	<b>1,891.00</b>	<b>2,596.00</b>	<b>2,055.00</b>	0.95	<b>5,303.20</b>
DREYER RAY	McCone	189.0	<b>820.00</b>	<b>824.20</b>	<b>1,229.00</b>	0.80	<b>2,537.42</b>
WHITMUS FRANK	McCone	101.0	<b>975.00</b>	<b>1,110.00</b>	<b>1,350.00</b>	1.18	<b>2,964.94</b>
WHITMUS FRANK	McCone	640.0	<b>476.00</b>	<b>1,085.00</b>	3.40	<b>5.50</b>	<b>1,129.85</b>
WHITMUS FRANK	McCone	640.0	<b>473.00</b>	<b>1,088.20</b>	<25.0	<b>5.96</b>	<b>1,123.78</b>
WHITMUS FRANK	McCone	640.0	<b>456.00</b>	<b>1,003.50</b>	<2.5	<b>6.67</b>	<b>1,101.34</b>
WHITMUS FRANK	McCone	101.0	<b>426.00</b>	<b>1,043.10</b>	7.40	0.06	<b>1,049.21</b>
WALLER G.	McCone	240.0	<b>520.00</b>	<b>1,000.40</b>	<b>837.70</b>	0.10	<b>2,044.70</b>
MERRY HERSCHEL	McCone	260.0	<b>700.00</b>	<b>683.20</b>	<b>887.80</b>	2.70	<b>1,967.40</b>
KJELGAARD HAROLD	McCone	220.0	<b>1,340.00</b>	<b>1,964.00</b>	<b>1,345.00</b>	1.90	<b>3,701.16</b>
FLATTEN CLINTON	McCone	175.0	<b>736.00</b>	<b>1,160.00</b>	<b>660.00</b>	<b>4.07</b>	<b>2,033.71</b>
WAGNER R.	McCone	85.0	92.00	<b>494.80</b>	<b>667.20</b>	0.10	<b>1,405.10</b>
UNKNOWN – 10 MI S PRAIRIE ELK	McCone	?	<b>4,400.00</b>	<b>488.00</b>	<b>5,000.00</b>	NR	<b>13,717.39</b>
ZAHN DONALD	McCone	49.9	<b>532.50</b>	<b>784.70</b>	<b>2,125.80</b>	0.20	<b>3,604.34</b>
UNKNOWN - 19.4 MI SW WELDON	McCone	?	<b>2,300.00</b>	<b>295.00</b>	<b>3,700.00</b>	NR	<b>8,128.32</b>
PAWLOWSKI W.	McCone	37.4	193.00	<b>448.40</b>	<b>522.20</b>	0.40	<b>1,107.56</b>
SEXTON WALLACE	McCone	75.0	<b>1,015.00</b>	<b>493.00</b>	<b>4,830.00</b>	1.12	<b>7,144.25</b>
MUELLER ARNOLD	McCone	203.0	<b>626.00</b>	<b>1,251.00</b>	205.00	<b>5.20</b>	<b>1,527.93</b>

**Meets Standards**

**BOLD/SHADED Exceeds Standards**

*Water Quality of a Small Sampling of Wells in McCone & Garfield Counties*

National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations Table

**Contaminant      Secondary Standard**

Aluminum	0.05 to 0.2 mg/L	Foaming Agents	0.5 mg/L	Sulfate	250 mg/L
Chloride	250 mg/L	Iron	0.3 mg/L	Total Dissolved Solids	500 mg/L
Color	15 (color units)	Manganese	0.05 mg/L	Zinc	5 mg/L
Copper	1.0 mg/L	Oder	3 threshold order number		
Corrosivity	noncorrosive	pH	6.5-8.5		
Fluoride	2.0 mg/L	Silver	0.10 mg/L		

Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority

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**UPDATE**

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