



American Water Works Association

Dedicated to the World's Most Vital Resource



American Water Works Association
Nebraska Section



Top Five Water Concerns in 2023

Water Quality and Quantity:

Aquifer depletion could be a main driver of water use across the State. It appears at some point the Platte River will be fully appropriated. If climate change truly drives the water cycle groundwater and associated surface water could limit growth. Water quality is also a concern with the presence of nitrates in much of the ground water and other emerging contaminants.

Workforce:

Skilled workforce shortages are a concern and are starting to be an extremely difficult issue in most rural communities.

Regulatory Challenges:

Regulatory changes are driving more treatment in places that haven't historically treated their water.

Sustainability:

Regional planning of water basins could improve water supply in some areas. We need to start to think more about how each water supply affects their neighbors and look long term to change that.

Social:

We need to increase awareness for the value of water.

Nebraska Section

Nebraska was originally included in the Iowa Section before becoming the Missouri Valley Section in 1928, then comprised of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota. In 1947, Nebraska formed its own section with 46 members. The First Annual Conference was held in 1947 in conjunction with the Utilities Section of the League of Nebraska Municipalities Annual Conference. In 2022, the Nebraska Section celebrated its 75th anniversary and still partners with the League of Nebraska Municipalities Utility Section. As of April 24th, 2023, we have 316 members. We have been as high as 370 prior to the COVID19 pandemic that ended in 2023.

The Nebraska Section holds its annual conference each November which is a combined conference with the Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA), Nebraska Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA), and Solid Water Association of North America (SWANA). In recent history this conference has been in Kearney, NE, a central location to accommodate travel from members across the large geographical State.

The Nebraska Section has no paid staff or permanent location other than a post office box in Lincoln, Nebraska. We are an all-volunteer organization who take pride in the amount of service we provide to our members.



What Else?

The Nebraska Section has been well funded in recent years and built a solid portfolio of investments we use to promote the industry. In 2020 the Board decided to use our funds to invest in our communities and people. For the period from 2020 to 2025 the Section donated \$5000 each year to Southeast Community College water/wastewater classes. This was done to get more water potential operators interested in the industry.

Each year during Drinking Water Week (the first full week in May), the Nebraska Section requests that the Governor sign a proclamation declaring the week as Drinking Water Week in Nebraska. The signing ceremony is held at the State Capitol Building



**NO WATER
NO BEEF™**

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Hopes for the Year 2050

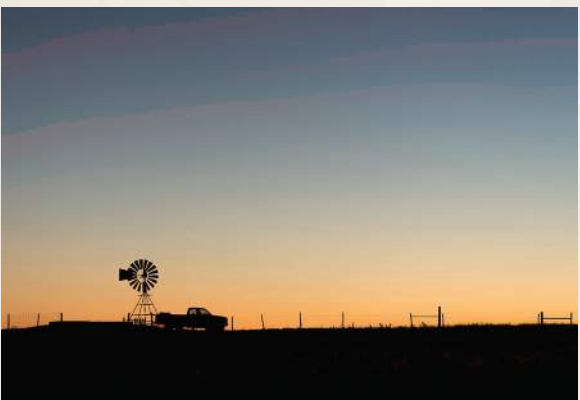
Water is our most valuable resource. Clean water is more important to public health than any other factor. However, water is largely taken for granted, it's relatively inexpensive in Nebraska and it is often wasted. Our hope for 2050 is that the Nebraska Section AWWA can advance the message of the value of water to improve conservation of water and protect the future of public health and support the future population.

Our hope is to promote the water industry as a career path to increase the labor workforce to continue to protect public health and serve our communities. We need to increase awareness of how valuable our operators and industry workforce are and to provide decent compensation and a fulfilling career in the water industry.

Our hope is to have regulations that focus on safety but are not overreaching or unattainable or that create unfunded mandates to the water utilities and small rural communities.

By 2050, we hope that we see more regional providers of water to help with diminishing supply, advanced water treatment, and an aging operator workforce. Smaller utilities could benefit immensely through partnerships and shared resources related to supply, skilled labor, and financial resources.

By the year 2050 we hope to have a more connected water community that works together to promote public health and share and conserve our water supply.



**Building a Better World
Through Better Water**