



PSWID General Manager's Report
March 25, 2021

1. PSWID has received a request to sign off on a will serve letter for a development in Pine that is planned to hold 50 residences. The latest calculation of system demands is presented in the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), dated September of 2020 (https://www.pswid.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/PreliminaryEngineeringReport_09.23.2020.pdf) . The report did not significantly update the demands projected in 2014. We have a water modeling study contract in the pipeline for USDA funding which will provide us with an updated analysis of system demands. We are already facing additional system demands from the Ponderosa intertie and I am not comfortable signing off on will serve letters based on system capacity figures from 2014, and propose that we postpone issuing a will serve letter for such a large development until the Water Modeling tool is in place.
2. PSWID has joined the Arizona Rural Water Association (RWAA). This organization provides technical assistance to rural water entities through referrals from USDA and through subscribed members. They provided us assistance in leak locating in the P-3 area and also providing training on pressure reducing valves to the Operations crew. The assistance was provided at no cost. We were informed that they have developed a registered apprenticeship program for system operators. The program overview is in the board packet. The program takes 2 years to complete and includes a recognized credential when completed. There is a quarterly cost of \$730.00 per applicant. Staff recommends that PSWID pursue this program as it will benefit both the district and the employees that choose to participate in it.
3. The new Asset Management tool, Upkeep, has the asset base loaded up and we are scheduling configuration of the request linkages, work orders, PM's, users and spare parts. The vendor is providing us with configuration services at no cost. Work processes will be documented when the system is functional.
4. USDA projects are in the pipeline, our treasurer has driven the application processes forward and we are nearing the point where the board will be hearing from our stakeholders on subjects like traffic control, construction activities,

possible outages when hooking in new lines etc.. Engineering tasks are in the beginning stages and our citizens will be asked to engage at a higher level than previously required. There will be impacts for such things as right of way permissions, service relocations, etc.. Even the engineering jobs have tasks in the field to such as potholing and surveying. The time is fast approaching where we will need to implement community communications to spread the word about the upcoming work (no surprises to customers).

5. Water leaks are a major concern for us even with the newer pipelines installed under the WIFA program. Progress is being made but we are still losing somewhere in excess of 25% of the water we pump. We are now engaged in actively searching for area where water losses are high and are developing an approach for systematically locating leaks. We have surface water at the bottom of Trails End Rd in P-3 that we are tracking down presently. No homes are impacted by this surface flow at this time. Experience with leaks in this area have demonstrated that the water disappears at the site of leak and surfaces quite a distance away. For example, the last one we found was 692 feet away from the spot where it surfaced.

Rural Water Association Arizona Apprenticeship Program



The Why!!

Water and Wastewater Operations Specialists are imperative to community for access to clean drinking water and to ensure wastewater effluent is returned to the environment properly. **But with close to 50% retiring in the next five years, communities will fail to prosper or eventually even exist if replacements aren't put in place and properly trained.** A growing population and increased demand for water and wastewater treatment services plus an aging workforce will drive employment growth and need for qualified, Certified, Systems Specialists will be in high demand.

Mission

The purpose of Arizona's registered apprenticeship program is to enable employers to develop and apply industry standards to Water & Wastewater training program for registered apprentices that can increase productivity and improve the quality of the workforce. Apprentices who complete registered apprenticeship programs are accepted by the industry as journey workers. Employers who sponsor apprentices provide incentives to attract and retain more highly qualified employees and improve productivity. Certifications earned through registered apprenticeship programs are recognized nationwide.

Goals & Objectives:

Our goal is to provide qualified operators throughout the state through our apprenticeship and to have 30 registered apprentices by the end of 2021.

In addition to growth in employers and apprentices, we plan to provide outreach programs through local high schools, job fairs, community career days, etc. to promote Careers in the Water and Wastewater Industry.

Employer Involvement

- Employers determine what critical occupations they need and design apprenticeship programs for those jobs.
- Written agreement between employer/program sponsor and apprentice (employee)
- Apprentice can be new hire or incumbent worker.
- Employer determines apprentice program qualifications, on-the-job learning (OJL) tasks and related technical instruction (RTI).

Structured "On-The-Job Learning"

- Minimum of 2,000 hours (equivalent to 1-year full-time work) of on-the-job learning
- Can be 1–5-year program.
- Structured and supervised.
- Low mentor/apprentice ratio for knowledge transfer
- Employer decides what work processes are critical for OJL.

Related Training & Instruction

- Classroom, online or hybrid instruction to complement OJL.
- 144 hours recommended per year.
- Employer can choose WHO provides instruction (in-house, community/technical college, other instructional provider) and WHEN apprentices complete RTI: Parallel -- apprentices take classes while working full-time (either after work or on specific days)
- Front-loaded – apprentices take majority of classes at beginning of apprenticeship.
- Segmented – classroom instruction is divided into segments and spread between OJL periods.

Reward for Skills Gained

- Written plan by employer to increase apprentices' wages over term of apprenticeship.
- EMPLOYER determines base rate of pay AND scheduled increases – apprentices typically start at base rate of 50% of Journey worker/experienced professional rate of pay for position.
- Increases only awarded if apprentice meets guidelines.
- Increases worker retention.
- Helps attract more qualified, serious applicants looking for long-term careers.

National Occupational Credential

- Apprentice program completers earn nationally recognized credential.
- Certifies job proficiency.
- Industry-valued certification
- Increases worker mobility while ensuring competitive pay.
- Increases employers' competitive advantage when bidding on federal or other government contracts.

Getting started:

- Contact Rural Water Association of Arizona Offices: (520)208.4791 or info@rwaaz.org
- Build Draft Program -Provide Sponsor & applicant Information-begin customizing standards for sponsor/applicant. (Applicant Application, Sponsor Application, Assessment Exam)
- Review and approval of customize standards of Sponsor/Applicant.
- Receive finalized standards & Certify Program.
- Employer/Sponsor implement Program and tracking progress begins.

Cost of Program:

\$730.00 per Applicant per Quarter = \$2930.00 Annually