



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Water Supply News

Environmental Services

- [New Mobile App for Asset Inventory Now Available](#)
- [DNR Staff Update](#)
- [EPA Releases Preventive Maintenance Tools for Small Systems](#)
- [Iowa Private Well Survey 2017 Summary Available](#)
- [IDNR WS Staff Speaking Engagements](#)

New Mobile App for Asset Inventory Now Available



From Water Operator.org, Newsletter #211, April 3, 2018

“Across the United States, small water systems struggle to bridge the significant gap between infrastructure funding and needs. A new mobile app developed by UMass Amherst’s WINSSS Center will make it easier for small communities to tackle this challenge.

The [CUPSS Mobile Assistant](#) offers phone- and tablet-based data entry on both Android and iOS devices for water systems conducting an asset inventory, the first step in developing an infrastructure asset management plan. It is designed to be compatible with the [EPA’s Check Up Program for Small Systems \(CUPSS\)](#) asset management software.

On Wednesday, April 18 from noon – 1:00 p.m. CDT, the EPA will be hosting a conference call featuring a presentation from Art Astarita, RCAP Solutions / WINSSS, about this new tool. [Registration is](#)

[required](#). The call will also provide an opportunity to connect with others in the asset management community and to discuss successes and challenges faced.

In addition, the call will provide the opportunity to learn about the variety of asset management resources that EPA has made available and ways that these resources can help in developing an asset management plan for your utility. Featured resources will include the [Reference Guide for Asset Management Tools](#) (.pdf), [STEP Guides](#), the [Check Up Program for Small Systems \(CUPSS\)](#), and others.

The CUPSS Mobile Assistant App can be found in the [Google Play Store](#) for Android or in the [Apple App Store](#) for iOS devices.”

DNR Staff Update

Dave Perry, senior environmental specialist with FO5 in Des Moines, retired last week.

EPA Releases Preventive Maintenance Tools for Small Systems

From Water Operator.org, Newsletter #211, April 3, 2018 and Blog article from Brenda Koenig, April 2, 2018

“USEPA has released two new/updated interactive [tools](#) to help small systems retain and organize important operator knowledge as well as keep track of regular operation and maintenance tasks. In this way, when an operator takes a vacation, retires, or leaves a system, important knowledge about the system is preserved for those taking his or her place.

The first tool to be released is an updated version of EPA's popular Preventive Maintenance Card File tool. This 857-page easy-to-access electronic version can be tailored to a system's needs. It includes fillable pdf logs for each month as well as logs for common daily, weekly and monthly tasks. In addition, it can provide detailed information about maintenance and operation, source water, emergencies, security, treatment processes, monitoring/sampling, storage, distribution, rules/regulations, operator certification, customer complaints, technology, supplies, important people and more.

From the website, the tool can be downloaded in its entirety as a zip file, or can be downloaded for individual months/files.

If your system prefers a printed format, the logs can be printed out or you can opt to print out the original 2004 Preventive Maintenance Card File for Small Public Water Systems [here](#).

The second new tool available on the website, piloted last summer, is the Knowledge Retention Tool Spreadsheet for Small Water Systems. This tool also captures site-specific information to help systems maintain water quality in times of transition, but in a spreadsheet format. Tabs providing information on source water, technology, certification, neighboring utilities, suppliers, distribution info and more provide critical information in a quick and easy to read format, all in one place. The spreadsheet also

includes a daily production well log, conversion tables and flushing/backflow/valve-exercising schedules.

In a recent webinar featuring these resources, Melinda Norris from Idaho Rural Water talked about how she has seen utility records written on walls and left on dusty barn shelves, creating situations where years of knowledge are at risk of being lost. For her, these new tools will increase access and encourage operators to record and preserve critical information for newly hired operators or just for those needing help on a daily basis.

These tools were developed by the EPA's Workforce Group to address an identified critical area of need for small systems: preventing the loss of years of accumulated system knowledge when an operator retires or leaves a system.”

Iowa Private Well Survey 2017 Summary Available

The 2017 Iowa Private Well Survey results are summarized in a [one-page document](#) from the Iowa Department of Health’s Grants to Counties website.

The document is available at the bottom of the page under 2017 Iowa Well Survey Summary.

From the document: “The Iowa Well Survey is an ongoing study by the State Hygienic Laboratory intended to characterize the water quality in private wells in Iowa. The survey expands the knowledge of the concentration and distribution of existing and emerging contaminants that affect the health of Iowans consuming water from private wells.”

IDNR WS Staff Speaking Engagements

Iowa DNR staff in the water supply program areas are scheduled to speak at the following events. The date, sponsor and event, location, subject, and contact for more information are listed.

- April 18, 2018, IRWA Ammonia & Disinfection in Drinking Water, Cherokee. Website for this free workshop; [registration](#) is required.
- April 24, 2018, IRWA Ammonia & Disinfection in Drinking Water, Oakland. Website for this free workshop; [registration](#) is required.

For other professional development opportunities, see the “Training Calendar” at programs.iowadnr.gov/opcertweb/.