



January 29, 2026

Aaron Belka
Mayor
PO Box 628
Felton, Minnesota 56536

RE: West Central Regional Water District Public Notifications

Dear Aaron,

Great progress is being made on the proposed West Central Regional Water District (WCRWD), a new regional water district being developed by Polk, Norman, and Clay Counties under Minnesota Statute 116A. As part of the statutory formation process, a public hearing will be held at the Clay County Courthouse on April 17, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. This hearing is one of the final steps required under Minnesota Statute 116A before the district can be officially established.

In the coming weeks, approximately 19,500 notices will be mailed to all property owners within the district boundary, including residents within city limits. The notice will include details about the hearing and a short interest survey to help determine where service may be needed in the future.

We want to emphasize that this mailing is a statutory requirement, and every landowner within the project area must receive a notice as part of the formal process. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience or confusion this may cause. Please note that residents are not required to attend the public hearing unless they wish to learn more about the project or provide input. Participation in the water district is entirely voluntary, and each city will have the flexibility to decide independently whether to connect now, in the future, or not at all.

For your convenience, we have attached a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) sheet as well as the information sheet included within the notice, to help address common questions you may receive from residents. The FAQ explains the purpose of the district, the voluntary nature of participation, as well as participation processes.

Our goal is to ensure that city leaders, residents, and neighboring systems remain well informed throughout this process as we work toward establishing Minnesota's first new regional water district in nearly 40 years.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or if your city would like to meet to discuss potential future service options.

Sincerely,

Lucas Spaeth
Board Chair
West Central Regional Water District
701-430-1546
utilities@rrv.net

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is a regional or rural water system?

A regional or rural water system is a community-based network of infrastructure that delivers clean, treated drinking water to homes, farms, and towns that may not have access to reliable local water sources. Instead of each home or city maintaining its own well or treatment system, regional systems share infrastructure, such as wells, treatment facilities, and pipelines, across multiple communities and rural areas.

These systems are designed to:

- Provide safe, treated drinking water that meets state and federal standards.
- Improve reliability and efficiency by pooling resources across cities and rural users.
- Reduce long-term costs through shared maintenance, operations, and treatment.
- Support local growth and sustainability, ensuring clean water for future generations.

In short, rural and regional water systems connect communities, large and small, to a dependable, high-quality water supply that's managed collectively for the benefit of all users.

What is the West Central Regional Water District (WCRWD)?

WCRWD is a new regional water district being formed by Polk, Norman, and Clay Counties under Minnesota Statute 116A. The District's goal is to provide safe, reliable, and affordable drinking water to rural residents and nearby communities.

WCRWD follows the state's 116A process, which allows counties to work together to create shared water systems that serve multiple areas efficiently. Once formed, the District will help connect homes, farms, and cities to a treated, high-quality water supply, support regional growth, and ensure long-term water sustainability across west-central Minnesota.

How is the WCRWD being formed and governed?

WCRWD is being established under Minnesota Statute 116A, which outlines the process for creating a rural or regional water district. The district's governing board is appointed by the county commissions of the participating counties, with representation based on population within the service area. The initial board composition includes four members from Polk County, three from Clay County, and two from Norman County.

How do I know if my property is eligible?

If you received a letter about the WCRWD, you own a property located within the project study area, which includes portions of Polk, Norman, and Clay Counties. Being in the study area does not require you to connect.

I am already served by a city or rural water district. How does this project affect me?

If you are already connected to a municipal water system, nothing will change for you unless your municipal water utility chooses to connect to WCRWD to improve the quality, reliability, or capacity of its water supply in the future.

I'm happy with my water or not interested in connecting. What should I do?

The easiest answer is to do nothing. You are not obligated to change water sources or fill out the survey. The letters sent to property owners are part of the legal notification process under Minnesota Statute 116A.

The District will provide residents with an alternative water supply. All hookups to the system are completely voluntary. If you're satisfied with your current water source, you can simply disregard this notice.

I received a letter in the mail. Do I have to connect to WCRWD?

No. Connecting to the WCRWD is completely voluntary. Property owners may choose whether to connect if service becomes available.

If I fill out the survey, am I obligated to connect to West Central Regional Water District service in the future?

No. Responding to the survey does not obligate you to receive service in the future. Your response will help project organizers measure potential interest in regional water service. The contact information you provide will allow organizers to share service and cost information with you in the future, so you can decide whether you want to connect.

I'm interested in connecting now or maybe in the future. What should I do?

Please fill out and return the attached interest survey in the letter you received or online at wcrwd-ae2s.hub.arcgis.com. This phase of the project focuses on gathering input from potential users to help plan and prioritize future extensions. If your area becomes part of a feasible project, you'll be contacted with more details on costs, timing, and next steps.

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The District will provide residents with an alternative water supply. All hookups to the system are completely voluntary. If you're satisfied with your current water source, you can simply disregard this notice.

There is a public meeting coming up. Do I have to attend?

No. Attendance at the hearing scheduled at the Clay County Courthouse on April 17, 2026, from 1:30 - 4:30 p.m. is not required. Public notice of the hearing is a legal requirement under Minnesota Statute 116A to inform all landowners within the proposed District. While attendance is optional, everyone is welcome to come learn more about the project and ask questions.

Will this impact my taxes?

No. The project will not affect your taxes. Regional or rural water system participation is voluntary and funded through user fees from those who choose to connect to West Central Regional Water District, along with state and federal grants.

How much will it cost to connect to West Central Regional Water District?

Right now, it's too early to determine specific costs for rural residents outside of the initial project area. The results of this interest survey will help identify where future expansion projects may occur and allow the District to develop accurate cost estimates for those areas.

For residents located within the Phase 1 project corridor, costs will be shared individually once the court filing process is complete, and the project is officially approved.

As the District grows, the survey responses gathered now will play an important role in planning and securing funding to help keep connection costs as low as possible for future participants.

How will water usage be billed?

Water use will be metered and billed based on consumption. Billing frequency and rate information will be provided as part of the future service agreement.

What is the process to connect to a regional water district?

WCRWD will guide you through each step to make the process smooth and coordinated. If you choose to connect, the general steps include:

1. **Submit an interest or connection application** – This lets the District know you're interested in receiving service.
2. **Project development and service agreement** – Once enough interest is known in your area, a project will be designed, and you'll have the opportunity to sign a service agreement.
3. **Construction and connection** – When construction begins, water mains will be extended near your property. District ownership will typically extend to your curb stop or shutoff valve, usually within about 75 feet of your service location. From there, you'll be able to connect to the system, and a meter will be installed either inside your home or in an exterior meter pit for billing.
4. **Inspection and final activation** – Once installation is complete, the connection will be inspected, tested, and activated for service.

Who is responsible for maintenance of the District's infrastructure?

- WCRWD will be responsible for the regional main pipeline. If there is a problem with the public water system connected to WCRWD, customers will contact WCRWD

and the District handles repairs.

- The customer is responsible for the service line from the curb stop to their building.
- Additional details will be provided in the service agreement.

How will water outages or maintenance be handled?

Planned maintenance will be communicated in advance whenever possible. Regional systems are designed with redundancy and emergency response procedures to limit disruptions or outages.

Is the water safe to drink?

Yes. Regional water systems are required to meet or exceed all state and federal drinking water standards and are routinely tested to ensure safety and quality.

What can the water be used for?

The regional water system will be designed primarily for domestic use, such as household drinking, cooking, and cleaning. However, it may also support livestock, agricultural, and industrial uses in the future, depending on system capacity and District Board approval.

All uses will be evaluated to ensure the long-term sustainability and reliability of the water supply for everyone connected to the system. More details will be provided in the service agreement once connections are established.

What are the benefits of connecting to a regional water district?

Connecting to rural or regional water offers several long-term advantages, including:

- **Affordable and predictable costs** - shared regional systems have lower maintenance and treatment expenses due to sharing infrastructure over a larger population.
- **Consistently high-quality, treated soft water** - safe, reliable water that protects your home and health.
- **Support for rural and community sustainability** - strengthens local infrastructure and enables long-term future growth.
- **Improved agricultural reliability** - dependable water supply for farm and livestock needs.
- **Extended appliance life** - softened, treated water reduces scale buildup and wear on plumbing fixtures and appliances.

I use well water and am interested in having it tested. How do I do this?

If you already have well chemistry testing results, please send them to WCRWD using the contact information below. If you would like your water tested, please reach out to us to request this service.

Where can I find answers to my questions about West Central Regional Water District?

For more information or assistance, please contact WCRWD via one of the following methods:

Website: wcrwd-ae2s.hub.arcgis.com

Email: wcrwd@ae2s.com

Mail: WCRWD 405 2nd Avenue W, Halstad, MN 56548

Call: 701-526-4217

Interested in the Prospect of Connecting to Rural Water?

You are receiving this survey because you own land within the study area of the proposed West Central Regional Water District, a regional water district being developed by Polk, Norman, and Clay Counties under Minnesota Statute 116A. This initiative aims to improve access to safe, reliable drinking water for rural residents and communities, offering an alternative voluntary water service option that supports economic growth and sustainability. Please fill out the project survey to help shape the future of rural water within the region.

If I fill out the survey, am I obligated to connect to West Central Regional Water District service in the future?

No. Responding to the survey does not obligate you to receive service in the future. Your response will help project organizers measure potential interest in regional water service. The contact information you provide will allow organizers to share service and cost information with you in the future so you can decide whether you want to connect. Connecting to the West Central Regional Water District is completely voluntary. Property owners may choose whether to connect if service becomes available. This service will be paid for by grants, loans, and interested users.

I am already served by a city or rural water district. How does this project affect me?

If you are already connected to a municipal water system, nothing will change unless your municipal water utility chooses to connect to West Central Regional Water District to improve the quality, reliability, or capacity of its water supply in the future.

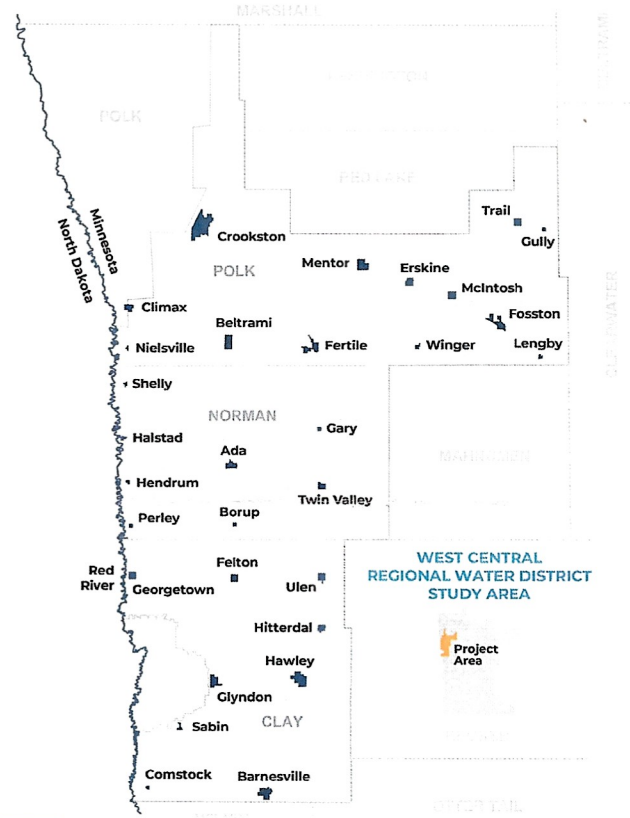
Do I have to attend the hearing?

Attendance at the hearing scheduled at the Clay County Courthouse on April 17, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. is not required. Public notice of the hearing is a legal requirement under Minnesota Statute 116A to inform all landowners within the proposed District. While attendance is optional, everyone is welcome to come learn more about the project and ask questions.



Interested in the prospect of rural water?

Check out the other side to fill out our user interest survey, or scan the QR code.



RURAL WATER BENEFITS



**Cost
Effective**



**Treated High
Quality Soft
Water**



**Rural and
Community
Sustainability**



**Agricultural
Support**



**Longer Lasting
Appliances**

CLAY
COUNTY

POLK
COUNTY
Minnesota



What Does this Process Look Like?

- ✓ Compile a list of potential users based on study area properties located within district boundaries
2. Initiate potential new user survey by means of a mailing campaign
3. Organize and determine feasibility of projects based on results of survey campaign
4. Develop phased project approach, finalize new user sign up fees and membership paperwork
5. Commence project design, easement acquisition & finalize new user sign-ups
6. Project bidding
7. Project construction
8. Fresh water at your tap



Please respond within the next 2 weeks by using one of the following methods:

1. **Mail:** WCRWD
405 2nd Avenue W
Halstad, MN 56548
2. **Email:** Send to wcrwd@ae2s.com
3. **Phone:** Call 701-526-4217
4. **Online:** Use the QR below to access the online survey

YOUR RESPONSE IS IMPORTANT

Your response is vital to the future of this project. Responses will help us understand potential customer interests in rural water service. Response to this survey is in no way binding to any commitment, nor does it guarantee service is feasible at this time.

PROPERTY OWNER INFO

NAME

RENTER/CONTRACT FOR DEED PURCHASER NAME (IF APPLICABLE)

MAILING ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE

THE INFORMATION BELOW WILL HELP US UNDERSTAND APPROXIMATE LOCATION SERVICE IS DESIRED

1/4 SECTION OR FULL LEGAL DESCRIPTION (IF KNOWN)

SECTION

TOWNSHIP NAME

TWP#

RANGE #

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Are you interested in the prospect of being connected to Rural Water?*

☐ **Yes** - As Soon As Available

☐ **No** - Not Interested*

☐ **Yes** - Possibly In The Future

*No further action is required. Thank you for your time and consideration.

2. What would you use Rural or Regional Water for?

(check all that apply and fill out corresponding questions)

☐ **Residential** - How Many People in Household?

☐ **Livestock** - How Many Head & Type of Livestock?

☐ **Agricultural Spraying** - How Many Acres & How Many Sprays?

3. What current water quality or supply issue are you facing? (i.e., arsenic, manganese, taste, odor, color/staining, hardness, reliability of well, etc.)

If interested and available, please provide a copy of well chemistry testing results. These could be used in future scenarios to apply for funding or project prioritization.



Scan the QR code or visit wcrwd-ae2s.hub.arcgis.com for more information about this important project, or to take the survey online.