SERIOUS CHALLENGES FACING SMALL WATER UTILITIES

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ISSUES

* POPULATION:
  * DECLINING POPULATION
  * AGING POPULATION
  * SHRINKING CUSTOMER BASE
  * SMALLER WORKFORCE POOL
  * DIFFICULT TO FIND CITIZENS TO SERVE ON BOARDS/COUNCILS
AVAILABLE WORKFORCE:

* SMALL POOL OF WORKERS
* QUALIFIED WORKERS ARE AN EVEN SMALLER POOL
* PAY/BENEFITS ISSUE
ISSUES

* **FINANCIAL:**
  * NO TAX BASE
  * LIMITED RATE
  * FLEXIBILITY/AFFORDABILITY
  * LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES
AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

- MASSIVE ISSUE WITH DEFERRED MAINTENANCE/REPLACEMENT
- COMPLIANCE ISSUES
- LACKS EXPERTISE TO ASSIST WITH INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING
ISSUES

* **SUPPLY:**
  * LACK OF, OR INADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF WATER ARE A PROBLEM FACING ALL SIZES OF UTILITIES
  * FUNDING OPTIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF WATER SOURCES IS LIMITED
SOLUTIONS?

- SELLING WATER/WASTEWATER SYSTEMS DUE TO:
  - LACK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES
  - LACK OF PERSONNEL RESOURCES
  - COMPLIANCE ISSUES

- REGIONALIZATION OF SUPPLIES/SERVICE FOR BOTH WATER AND WASTEWATER
SOLUTIONS?

* ASSISTANCE WITH ACHIEVING SUSTAINABILITY FOR SMALL UTILITIES

  * COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DNR)
  * TRAINING FOR BOARD/COUNCIL/DECISION MAKERS (Mo. Rural Water)
  * SUSTAINABILITY TRAINING (EPA/USDA EFFORTS)
Finding and providing solutions will be a continuous, ongoing effort.

Will take building partnerships and relationships that will need constant work and “hands on” contacts.