



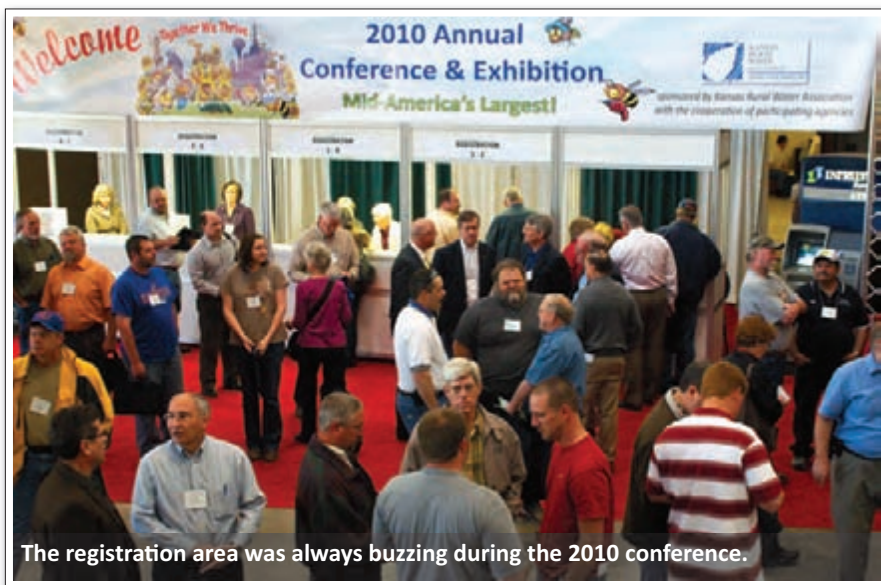
2010 Conference Review ... Together We Thrive!

Old friends. New friends. Industry news. Regulatory updates. Professional growth. Good food and great hospitality and lots of fun. The 2010 KRWA conference was another event that provided something for everyone over the three days, March 30 – April 1, at the Century II Convention Center in Wichita. The final attendance count was 2,077 with 299 cities and 187 rural water districts and other systems represented.

The 2010 conference was another great event, all-around. Conferences require a huge investment of time in planning and organizing – and there is similarly, a substantial investment by those who attend, whether people come from cities and water districts or from engineering firms, agencies and other suppliers of products and services. The KRWA conference stays true to its mission to be “the” annual learning event for water and wastewater systems in Kansas. And it is KRWA’s continued goal to make the conference as affordable and as fulfilling as possible. It’s not an “Association showcase” – the conference is an effort by KRWA’s board and staff to make sure it is the most beneficial event possible for members and non-members alike.

The KRWA conference is Mid-America’s largest water and wastewater conference. KRWA has held the conference at Wichita’s Century II Convention Center since 1992. Conference goers reserved rooms at 14 different Wichita hotels, purchasing nearly 850 rooms. Overall, 31 states and Washington, D.C. were represented by registrants. Those attending included 912 water and wastewater operators, 783 industry members, 168 board and council members, 144 administrators, city managers or RWD office personnel and 70 agency personnel. A big show also requires a budget. The total conference registration fees and meals totaled \$271,862; exhibitors and sponsors contributed another \$92,070. Some municipal water and wastewater systems came from Oklahoma, Missouri and Nebraska.

How does KRWA keep the costs of the conference affordable? Attendees should be grateful to the high



The registration area was always buzzing during the 2010 conference.

number of exhibitors as they contribute to the overall conference as well as opening nite Carnival Party and as sponsors of socials. Revenue from the conference exhibitors and registrations fees also subsidize the cost of meals which generally have an actual cost of nearly double what KRWA charges. It’s been said before and it’s worth repeating, “There is no other conference that offers as much for such a low price.” KRWA’s philosophy has been and will continue to be to make the conference as affordable as possible so that more people benefit. Is there any testimony for such support? Yes, there sure is. The entire Hyatt was sold out for the 2011 conference as of 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 1. KRWA has opened blocks of rooms for 2011; see KRWA’s Web site for the listing. Until early next spring, it will not be known if the complete remodeling of the Broadview (Drury Inn) will be complete. If so, that would open up another 250 rooms just across the street from Century II.

Exhibitors like the KRWA conference!

The 2010 conference featured 288 exhibit spaces filled with products and services for water and wastewater utilities. All of the exhibitors’ heavy equipment and motorized vehicles were in place by noon on Monday, March 29. After the big equipment was in, workers from the



Helgerson Company unrolled the carpet for the aisles. EXPO Hall cover more than 90,000 square feet – and KRWA provides carpet for the entire display area and thousands of feet of pipe and drapery. That afternoon, through Tuesday at 4 p.m, when the doors to EXPO opened, scores and scores of additional vendors and industry representatives arrived with their tools, computers, brochures, give-away items, banners and displays. They find KRWA’s conference unique in that when an exhibitor pulls up to the curb or backs into EXPO Hall to unload their booth materials, KRWA is there to meet the company with one or more carts and several staff members to unload and take their materials to the respective booth. This is welcomed assistance that sets the KRWA conference apart from virtually any other trade show.



This KRWA's 40-foot Welcome Banner is dwarfed on the balcony of Century II

Waterworks Terminology, Materials And Repairs, Hydrants And Valves

The Hyatt Ballroom is the only space available in meeting rooms to hold the 233 who attended this session. It was ideal for all new personnel in the waterworks field or operators as a refresher course on the basic terminology used in the waterworks industry. Presenters Brian McDowell and Preston Hodges, Water Products, Inc., McPherson, KS and Kent Culbertson, with American AVK,

El Dorado Springs, MO presented this session which consisted of four segments: 1) terminology used in the waterworks industry; 2) pipeline materials and repairs; 3) sizing and application of water meters; and, 4) fire hydrants and valves. From materials select to hydrant installation, maintenance and repair to flow testing – this session offered something for everyone, for the beginner to experienced system personnel.

Pre-conference sessions draw 833 attendees

The 2010 Conference featured ten daylong preconference sessions on Tuesday, March 30 as well as the tenth annual Attorneys’ Forum. These 5-hour preconference sessions allowed for a more thorough presentation and discussion of topics that are of importance and interest to water and wastewater systems.

The sessions in 2010 and summaries follow:

- ◆ Waterworks Terminology, Materials And Repairs, Hydrants And Valves
- ◆ Wastewater Collection Systems And Managing Infiltration And Inflow
- ◆ KanCap: Improving Management Of Kansas Water Systems
- ◆ Resolving Disputes In A Neighborly Way
- ◆ Chemical Feed Pumps – “Staying With The Flow”
- ◆ Evaluating Funding Options: Together We Thrive!
- ◆ Today’s Rural Water District Office Professional
- ◆ The Inaugural City Clerks’ Workshop, 2010
- ◆ Operation And Maintenance Of Water Storage Tanks
- ◆ Source Water Protection – Improving Water Quality

Wastewater Collection Systems And Managing Infiltration And Inflow

Water systems try to keep water inside the pipes; wastewater systems struggle with infiltration and inflow. The 148 operators and managers who attended this session learned how owners and operators of wastewater systems should address issues with aging collection systems. From the typical sanitary wastewater collection system, the pipe materials used, manholes, lift stations and other related components were all reviewed. Reducing infiltration and inflow was a main focus as was a discussion of the overall environmental, health and regulatory impacts as well as increased operating cost issues. The presenter, Randy Johnson, of Bluff’s Edge Environmental Services, Savannah, MO. Was formerly an employee of the Dept. of Natural Resources in the State of Missouri and has also worked as training coordinator for KRWA .

KanCap: Improving Management Of Kansas Water Systems

The board/council training “KanCap” was attended by 27 people from 14 rural or public wholesale district and six cities. The training is designed to help board and council members but staff were also welcomed. Presenters were Cathy Tucker-Vogel of the Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment, Topeka, KS, Rosemary Saunders, Ranson



Dr. Joe Trahan, III

Financial Consultants, Wichita, and KRWA's Jeff Lamfers. All attendees were able to take a copy of the 270-page training handbook and the interactive CD back to their respective city or RWD. The KanCap project includes 51 videos, numerous quizzes and more than 216 additional references within the project. The bonus again this year? Board/council members who registered early and attended the full day session qualified for a refund of their registration fee. KanCap has been attended by hundreds of city council and rural water district

directors. The training provides the opportunity for board and council and staff members to learn about water utility finance and management issues – and to take a copy of the nationally acclaimed resource “KanCap” manual and interactive CD home. KanCap is the nation's “one of a kind” training program aimed at helping sustain and improve management for better drinking water

Resolving Disputes In A Neighborly Way

With the overall conference theme “Together We Thrive”, this session was right on target to help systems turn conflicts into solutions that people might agree on. It was the largest audience ever with 46 in attendance as this session continues to gain in popularity. Presenters Gary L. Flory and Ken Grotwiel of the Great Plains Consensus Council, North Newton, KS, explained that conflicts can be between those who attending and system customers, people on boards or city councils or between systems over contract or perhaps territorial issues. How to resolve issues in the most civil and cost effective manner possible should be everyone's. The presenters put the class through several exercises to help them better use approaches on how best to resolve conflicts. This session was designed for public water system employees, RWD board and city council members, and anyone else working to find solutions to water problems. Attendance was from 23 RWDs or public wholesale districts and 14 cities.

Chemical Feed Pumps – “Staying With The Flow”

Don Van Veldhuizen of USA BlueBook, Gurnee, IL presented this full-day topic to assist operators in the operation and maintenance of hypochlorination systems, fluoridation systems, potassium permanganate feeders, and all types of chemical feed pump applications. The session was attended by 100 people. The session covered the areas of chemical pump theory and chemical pump operations and maintenance. The session was useful to both water and wastewater operators. From all the operation and maintenance issues of either diaphragm or peristaltic pumps, this session also taught how to calculate dosages. Those responsible for the operation and maintenance of chemical feed pumps certainly benefited from this training.

Evaluating Funding Options: Together We Thrive!

USDA Rural Development, Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment and the Kansas Department of Commerce each administer programs to provide funding for water and wastewater projects. Commercial credit is also often involved. The audience in this session learned how many options cities and RWDs have in accessing funding. Funding is about helping Kansas communities to sustain, improve and to thrive. Presenters Gary Smith of USDA Rural Development, Debbie Beck of the Kansas Department of Commerce and William Carr with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Topeka, KS teams with John Haas of Ranson Financial Consultants, Wichita, in reviewing the application processes, terms and rates and available funding through regular loan and grant and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). There were 31 people in attendance.



Allison Jones
Internal Revenue Service



2010



Heath Horyna, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Arasmith, Jewell; Cheri Peine, Oswego; Becky Swain, Cherryvale, and Donna Wixon, Baxter Springs. City Clerks who attend the full day were awarded one education point towards city clerk certification. There is no question that a clerks' preconference session will be held in 2011 and years beyond given the interest expressed by KRWA members across Kansas.

Operation And Maintenance Of Water Storage Tanks

A water storage tank is expensive. But over the life of the structure, a well-maintained storage tank is the most cost-effective method of keeping drinking water clean, safe and in adequate supply. That's what presenters Tom Stechmann and Randy Moore of Utility Service Company Inc., Liberty, MO and Onno Koelman with Pax Water Technologies, San Rafael, CA explained in several ways as 74 people attended this session. Rather than take for granted that the water in the tank is just as clean and pure as it was when it left the well or plant, operators and managers can be shocked when they inspect the interior of their water storage tanks. This session touched on all aspects of the operation and maintenance of water storage tanks,

Today's Rural Water District Office Professional

Who is today's RWD Office Professional? Answer: Part office clerk, part payroll clerk, a dispatcher, accountant, part tax whiz, part financial analyst, and more. And certainly, these descriptions applied to the 63 managers, bookkeepers and office staff who attended this year's RWD Office Professional preconference session. Session organizers and facilitators were Sharon Dwyer, Douglas RWD 5, Lana Kettler, Miami RWD 2, Patricia Shaffer, Butler RWD 5 and Carol Steinlage, Shawnee Cons. RWD 1. Topics covered included employee vs. independent contractor relationships, staying current with a variety of computer software, how to read and understand audit reports and what reports a board of directors should have and what those report should mean. This was an interactive presentation, with lots of give and take that has everyone asking for more of these types of sessions.

The Inaugural City Clerks' Workshop, 2010

"Finally, I was able to learn something about how a water system is supposed to function," exclaimed one of the city clerks who attended this inaugural City Clerks' Workshop. From GPS mapping, having an explanation of the Kansas Mutual Aid Program, learning the basics about water plant operations, how to leverage funding and how to optimize prospects in a grant application kept the keen interest of the 38 clerks who attended. Presenters were Jim Jackson, Pete Koenig and Delbert Zerr of KRWA, Gary Smith, USDA Rural Development, Debbie Beck, Kansas Department of Commerce, John Haas, Ranson Financial Consultants, Lynn Prasko, Jayhawk Software. The organizing Peer Committee members were Amy



Gary Flory, Great Plains Consensus Council



Lynette Prasko, Jayhawk Software



John H. Schnieders, Water Systems Engineering, Inc.

from safety, sanitary, structural, coatings and security issues. Another favorite subject area that was discussed dealt with requests by others to install communication antennae on tanks.

Source Water Protection – Improving Water Quality

How is a water system to control the quality of water prior to any treatment? The 49 who attended this session learned that their concern as water system owners and operators should go beyond the quality of the water between

the well or intake and the customers' taps. Those attending learned that even though the water flows outside the direct control of the water system, it is not impossible for the source water to be protected from contamination. Presenters explaining this complex subject were Sheryl Ervin, Randy Carlson and Jaime Gaggero of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Topeka; Angela Beavers with Clarks Creek / Twin Lakes WRAPS, White City, KS and Douglas Helmke and Katie Miller of the Kansas Rural Water Association. Those who

attended learned how communities have successfully implemented wellhead and source water protection programs and about the tools that are available to help cities and RWDs tackle the important responsibility of ensuring the best possible quality for the customers.

Possibilities for 2011

Someone asked, "When does KRWA start planning for the next conference?" Well, the answer is, planning never stops. Some changes for 2011 have already been logged in. For example, there will be 306 exhibit spaces; that's up from 288 in 2010. There will for certain be the return of the Office Managers and City Clerks Pre-Conference Workshops. The popular attorneys' forum will be celebrating its 11th anniversary.

But some questions to ask of readers. First, if you didn't attend, why not? And what would inspire you to come next year? If you did attend, check over the listing in this issue of "What We Liked Best" and "What We Liked Least". Send a note if you have other comments than those published. KRWA staff hopes to hear from you – and together, KRWA will work to continue to work to provide the most beneficial conference possible. The KRWA conference is for you!



RWD Office Professional Forum



2010 Presenters

Thanks to these conference presenters who provided a total of 58 training sessions on topics ranging from office administration, the art of negotiation and communication to all facets of operation and maintenance of water and wastewater utilities.

Darren Alexander - Alexander Pump & Services, Inc., St. Marys, KS
Peter Armesto - Kansas Corporation Commission, Topeka, KS
Sam Atherton - Public Wholesale 4 Cherryvale, KS
Claudette Atwood - National Rural Water Association, Duncan, OK
Angela Beavers - Geary County Conservation District, Junction City, KS
Debra Beck - Kansas Department of Commerce Topeka, KS
Douglas Brune - US EPA, Kansas City, KS
Randy Carlson - Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment, Topeka, KS
Marsha Carpenter - Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment, Salina, KS
William Carr - Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment, Topeka, KS
Kim Christiansen - Kansas Water Office, Topeka, KS
Ray Connell - Connell & Connell, El Dorado, KS
Kent Culbertson - American AVK Company, El Dorado Springs, MO
Joe Davis - DPC Enterprises, Wichita, KS
Jeremy Deckard - Kansas Human Rights Commission, Topeka, KS
Gary Decker - Internal Revenue Service, Wichita, KS
Salih Doughramaji - Kansas Department of Commerce, Topeka, KS
Mike Douglas - Douglas Pump Service, Inc., Overland Park, KS
Erin Duke - Closet ReMix, Wichita, KS
Sharon Dwyer - Douglas RWD 5, Lawrence, KS
Sheryl Ervin - Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment, Topeka, KS
Margaret Fast - Kansas Water Office, Topeka, KS
Gary Flory - Great Plains Consensus Council, North Newton, KS
Louis Funk - Bartlett & West, Inc., Topeka, KS
Jaime Gaggero - Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment, Topeka, KS
Joe Garcia - Chlorinators Incorporated, Stuart, FL
Jim Grimes - Rycom Instruments, Inc., Wathena, KS
Ken Grotewiel - KIPCOR, Lawrence, KS
John Haas - Ranson Financial Consultants, LLC, Wichita, KS
Gary Hanson - Stumbo Hanson, LLP, Topeka, KS
Leo Haynos - Kansas Corporation Commission, Topeka, KS
Doug Helmke - Kansas Rural Water Association, Tecumseh, KS
Preston Hodges - Water Products, Inc., McPherson, KS
Heath Horyna - Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment, Wichita, KS
Jim Jackson - Kansas Rural Water Association, Eudora, KS
Randy Johnson - Bluff's Edge Environmental Services, Savannah, MO
Sonya Johnson - Office of the Attorney General, Topeka, KS
Allison Jones - Internal Revenue Service, Wichita, KS
Kristen Jordan - Jefferson County GIS, Oskaloosa, KS
Kelly Kelsey - Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment, Topeka, KS
Lana Kettler - Miami RWD 2, Paola, KS
Jennifer Kettler, CPA - Jayhawk Software, Iola, KS

Dr. Kari Kirkhart - Wichita, KS
Onno Koelman - Pax Water Technologies, San Rafael, CA
Pete Koenig - Kansas Rural Water Association, Seneca, KS
Jeff Lamfers - Kansas Rural Water Association, Shawnee, KS
Rob Mahan - Aero-Mod, Inc., Manhattan, KS
Sherri Massey - Dickinson County GIS, Abilene, KS
Pat McCool - Kansas Rural Water Association, Wichita, KS
Brian McDowell - Water Products, Inc., McPherson, KS
Brad Mears - Kansas Municipal Utilities, McPherson, KS
Kevin Menning - Hach Company, Claremore, OK
Katie Miller - Kansas Rural Water Association, Manhattan, KS
Randy Moore - Utility Service Company, Inc., Kirkwood, MO
Dorman Otte - DAO Consulting, West Des Moines, IA
Tim Paulsen - Smith & Loveless, Inc., Lenexa, KS
Marci Penner - Kansas Sampler Foundation, Inman, KS
Zack Phillips - Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment, Wichita, KS
Bruce Pietig - Mid-America Meter, Medina, MN
Lynette Prasko - Jayhawk Software, Iola, KS
Terry Randles - Randles Consulting, Topeka, KS
Rose Mary Saunders - Ranson Financial Consultants, LLC, Wichita, KS
Chris Schmeissner - Jefferson County GIS, Oskaloosa, KS
John Schneiders - Water Systems Engineering, Inc., Ottawa, KS
Pat Shaffer - Butler RWD 5, Benton, KS
Mike Smith - Office of the Attorney General, Topeka, KS
Jeff Smith - Aero-Mod, Inc., Manhattan, KS
Gary Smith - USDA Rural Development, Topeka, KS
Tom Stechmann - Utility Service Company, Inc., Perry, GA
Carol Steinlage - Shawnee Cons. RWD 1, Auburn, KS
Michael Tate - Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment, Topeka, KS
Dr. Joe Trahan, Trahan & Associates, Atlanta, GA
Cathy Tucker-Vogel - Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment, Topeka, KS
Brent Turney - Division of Water Resources, Topeka, KS
Don Van Veldhuizen - USABlueBook, Gurnee, IL
Robert Vincent - Ground Water Associates, Wichita, KS
David Warren - Wichita, KS
Vickie Wessel - Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment, Topeka, KS
Jere White - Kansas Corn Growers Association, Garnett, KS
Steve Williams - Key Equipment & Supply Company, Kansas City, KS
Tom Wyant - Key Equipment & Supply Company, Wichita, KS
Bert Zerr - Kansas Rural Water Association, Manhattan, KS



What's all the buzz? It's the 43rd annual technical conference Opening Session?

Concert Hall in Century II is a grand setting. With its 60-foot wide stage, those who walk out onto it cannot see the audience because of the bright lights.

So what's the buzz? Oh, it's the bees? And where are those bees? Together We Thrive? (It rhymes with hive?) Busy bees – they were buzzing! But where? Soon, a rooster's crowing gave the heads up to the estimated 1,200 who had settled in for the Opening Session. Next, a video opened to the sounds of bees buzzing and swarming. The message in that 3-minute show was how all bees work together to maintain a community. One bee drifts away from the daily routine and is confronted with all sorts of perilous situations. In the end, that bee rejoins the others in the hive and the bee is again a productive member.

It's likely that no one was expecting a lesson in community cooperation by watching an animation of a swarm of bees – but that's what set the theme for the Opening Session for KRWA's 43rd annual conference, Wednesday morning, March 31.

The Butler Community College Smorgaschords quartet sang the National Anthem.

In his welcome, KRWA President Dennis Schwartz commented, "You will learn something new and beneficial

here over the next few days – whether you want to or not." Schwartz alluded to the conference theme "Together We Thrive". He continued, "KRWA has endeavored for decades to instill in all of us that our mission should be to provide the best quality of service to the people of Kansas. Communicating and cooperating with our neighboring entities is

critical to ensure that end." Schwartz reminded the audience that the KRWA mission is "to provide education and leadership to water and wastewater systems to enhance the public health and sustain Kansas communities."

The invocation was delivered by Paul Froelich, Superintendent for the city of Enterprise.

Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer addressed the conference.

"I want to give you a very warm welcome to the air capital of the world, Wichita, KS. Thank you so very much for coming. I want to thank you for holding the Kansas Rural Water

Association annual convention and exhibition here at the Century II performing arts and convention center. And let me say, how much I appreciate your dedication to the highest standards for Kansas public water and wastewater treatment. The work of this organization over the past 43 years in providing education, technical assistance, and leadership to cities, rural water districts and investor-owned utilities is impressive and essential if we are to protect our water, our most precious resource. You know, there are people who come from all over the country and world to Wichita just to see the things that we are doing to preserve our water. Many people in our country take it for granted that water is



Wichita Mayor Carl Brewer



KRWA President Dennis Schwartz



Butler Community College Headliners