

Welcome



# 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION Mid-America's Largest!

## Conference Review – *Help Make A Difference*

**A**n all-time record registration of 2,256 people attended the 2011 KRWA conference held at Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center in Wichita. The conference continued its long tradition of being among the best. Why? Because it offers an outstanding technical program, the largest exhibition for water and wastewater systems in Mid-America, great food, warm hospitality all delivered in one of the friendliest atmospheres possible. There was something for everyone over the three days, March 29 – 31. A total of 287 cities and 183 rural water or public wholesale districts were represented.

The KRWA conference requires a huge investment of time in planning and organizing – and those who attend also make an investment. Cities and RWDs, agencies, associate members including engineering firms, suppliers and contractors all contribute in time and travel to make the KRWA conference the event that it has grown to be. The KRWA conference is “the” learning and “exhibition event” for water and wastewater systems in Kansas. And, it’s drawing operators and other municipal staff from neighboring states as well. KRWA continues to make the conference as affordable as possible. The conference is what it is because people attend; it’s their conference.

The 2011 conference marked the twentieth successive year that KRWA has held the conference at Wichita’s Century II Convention Center. Conference-goers reserved rooms at fifteen different Wichita hotels, purchasing nearly 900 room nights. Overall, registrants represented thirty-four states. Those attending included 985 water and wastewater

operators, 880 industry members, 175 board and council members, 152 administrators, city managers or RWD office personnel and sixty-four agency personnel. A big show also requires a budget. The total conference registration fees and meals totaled \$292,945; exhibitors and sponsors contributed another \$99,275.

### Planning for 2012

The annual conference and exhibition requires approximately 900 motel room nights in Wichita. The entire Hyatt was sold out by 10 a.m. on Thursday, 3/31 for the 2012 conference. Room blocks have been opened up at other hotels and are posted on the KRWA Web site at [www.krwa.net](http://www.krwa.net). The completely renovated Drury Inn (formerly Broadview) will open later this summer; KRWA will announce its room block there just as soon as possible.

KRWA’s goal is to continue to make the conference as affordable as possible. The contributions of exhibitors help KRWA to achieve that goal. Sponsorships at the carnival party help pay for a portion of those games as well as socials. It’s been said many times, and it’s worth repeating, “There is no other conference that offers as much for such a low price.”

### Exhibitors like the KRWA conference!

The 2011 conference featured 306 exhibit spaces filled with products and services for water and wastewater utilities. Big equipment, particularly the motorized units, were in place on Monday, March 28. KRWA appreciates the work by Helgeson Company in setting up the exhibit



Mark Mayfield, conference keynoter, presented a breakout session to a filled session Wednesday afternoon, March 30th.



booths and other pipe and drape. It requires approximately 90,000 square feet of carpet to cover the KRWA exhibit arena. That afternoon, through Tuesday at 4 p.m, when the doors to EXPO opened, nearly 200 individual vendors and industry representatives arrived with their products and services, give-away items, banners and displays. Thanks to all of them for making the 2011 exhibition the largest ever.

### Pre-conference sessions draw 929 attendees

The 2011 Conference featured ten daylong preconference sessions on Tuesday, March 29 as well as the tenth annual Attorneys' Forum. These five-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 pre-conference sessions in 2011 and summaries follow.

#### Water Wells, Understanding the construction – Maintaining the Investment

Water supply wells represent a substantial and important investment. Sometimes a new water well water is contemplated when well production (GPM) decreases or chemical quality changes. It is important to first determine if the existing well production or chemical quality can be



Petersen Predictive Maintenance, Hutchinson, KS, presented one of ten pre-conference sessions.

restored. Microbial and mineral blockages in wells may have caused the adverse water quality changes or water production loss. The session addressed how microorganisms inhabit wells;

how minerals accumulate in wells; how minerals and microorganisms can change chemical quality and reduce water production; how to clean wells to restore water quality and water production; how to disinfect wells. The extensive water well knowledge and experience of both presenters, John Schneiders of Water Systems Engineering and Robert Vincent of Ground Water Associates, benefited those attending. Attendance at this session was 160.

#### Waste Stabilization Ponds: Operational Theory and Dealing with O & M Problems

In this session, KRWA Consultant Jeff Lamfers provided basic information for newer operators as well as more detailed discussions for experienced operators. Some of the topics covered included:

- How physical, chemical and biological processes work in a pond
- Observational tools to help determine if your pond is operating satisfactorily
- Advantages of ponds over other types of treatment for small systems
- Seasonal/weather changes that can affect treatment
- Series vs. parallel operation
- KDHE Design Standards for ponds
- How to calculate both detention time and organic loading for your pond
- How to improve effluent quality and avoid compliance problems
- Discussion of lagoon permit requirements and limits
- What is short-circuiting and how to avoid it
- How to control duckweed and other aquatic plants
- Dealing with burrowing animals such as muskrats and beaver
- Resolving odor problems due to seasonal turnovers
- Accepting and treating industrial discharges and why a Sewer Use Ordinance is crucial
- Sludge removal and acceptable land application practices

Attendance at this session totaled 187.



## **KanCap: Improving Management of Kansas' Public Water Systems**

The aim of KanCap is to help cities and RWDs improve management of their water systems. The managerial and financial modules of this board/council training program were presented by KRWA Tech Assistance Rita Clary and Rose Mary Saunders, Ranson Financial Consultants. KanCap provided the opportunity for board and council and staff members to learn about water utility finance and management issues. As a bonus, they took 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. 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. KanCap has been attended by hundreds of city council and rural water district directors since its introduction several years ago. The training provides the opportunity for board and council and staff members to learn about water system technical and management issues, and finance.

Attendance totaled twenty-nine people from nine cities and eleven RWDs. One participant offered this comment: "We can always learn something to help us do our job better. As an elected official, this training should be required by cities and RWDs at least one time while on the board or council."

## **Resolving Disputes in a Neighborly Way**

Gary Flory and Ken Groteweil from the Great Plains Consensus Council in North Newton make learning how to resolve a dispute a day of interesting education. This



**KRWA Counsel, Gary Hanson answered questions during a breakout session.**

program helped many attendees to learn how to turn conflicts into solutions that people can agree on. Conflicts can be between you and your system customers, people on your board or city council, you and other water suppliers over contract and territorial issues. We all want to resolve issues in the most civil and cost effective manner possible. How to get that done is often what is missing. This pre-conference session provided new tools and approaches on how best to resolve conflicts. This session is designed for public water system employees, RWD board and city council members, and anyone else working to find solutions to water problems. Attendees learned how to deal productively with customers to resolve disputes, conduct meetings that result in mutually acceptable decisions and to negotiate in a positive and beneficial way. Previous participants have expressed how beneficial this training has been for dealing with conflicts in their home life, at church, in school, and within service organizations. Certificates of Completion were presented at the end of the session.

Twenty-five people attended from fourteen cities and eleven RWDs.

## **Do You Have A Loose Screw?**

The issue of predictive maintenance through understanding of how to use technology may have been just a little outside the normal box for operator training but this session caught on! Presenters Chuck Peterson, Del Metcalf, Jarin and Keaton Berger of Peterson Preventive Maintenance in Hutchinson, Kansas had an audience of





# Thank You to the 2011 Presenters

Gail Abney	Mayer Specialty Services, LLC	Kelly Kelsey	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Susan Arnold	Healthy Cooking	Lana Kettler	Miami RWD 2
Eileen Battles	Data Access & Support Center	Pete Koenig	Kansas Rural Water Association
Travis Beran	Subsurface Solutions	Jim Krueger	Natural Resources Conservation
Keaton Berger	Peterson Predictive Maintenance	Melinda Lambert	Mayer Specialty Services, LLC
Jarin Berger	Peterson Predictive Maintenance	Jeff Lamfers	Kansas Rural Water Association
Bill Biron	Pump & Power Equipment, Inc.	Lane Letourneau	Division of Water Resources
Carol Ruth Bonebrake	Holbrook & Osborn, P.A.	Joe Liles	Kentucky Rural Water Association
Douglas Brune	EPA, Drinking Water Branch	Alan Luttrell	Evans, Bierly, Hutchison & Assoc.
Angela Buzard	Environmental Finance Center	Shane Lyle	Kansas Geological Survey
Emily Campbell	City of Manhattan	Marshall Madill	Integrity Insurance
Marsha Carpenter	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment	Ned Marks	Terrane Resources Company
Cris Christenson	Johnson Controls	Robert May	Stanion Wholesale Electric Company
Rita Clary	Kansas Rural Water Association	Mark Mayfield	Mark Mayfield CSP, CPAE
Joan Cole	Kansas Arts Commission	Pat McCool	Kansas Rural Water Association
Doug Craig	Kansas Department of Administration	Brian McDowell	Water Products, Inc.
Pat Credeur	Louisiana Rural Water Association	Jim Melvin	City of Gardner
Salih Doughramaji	Kansas Department of Commerce	Del Metcalf	Peterson Predictive Maintenance
Sharon Dwyer	Douglas RWD 5	Clifford Morris	Kansas Department of Labor
Denise Eggers	Jefferson RWD 12	Ed Peck	Anderson Peck Agency, Inc.
Michael Fears	Gorman - Rupp Company	Max Pendergrass	Kansas One-Call
Gary Flory	Great Plains Consensus Council	Chuck Peterson	Peterson Predictive Maintenance
Lisa French	Cheney Lake Watershed, Inc.	Kristi Pyle	KDOT - Bureau of Transportation Safety & Technology
Paul Froelich	City of Enterprise	Tina Rajala	Kansas Water Office
Michael Gansman	Schneider Electric	Rusty Reeves	Louisiana Rural Water Association
William (Bill) Gay	Johnson RWD 7	Mike Romme	Stanion Wholesale Electric Company
Jason Goeckler	Kansas Dept. of Wildlife & Parks	John Schnieders	Water Systems Engineering, Inc.
Jim Grimes	Rycom Instruments, Inc.	Ronald Seitz	Kansas Dept. of Transportation
Ken Grotewiel	Great Plains Consensus Council	Pat Shaffer	Butler RWD 5
John Haas	Ranson Financial Consultants, L.L.C.	Jen Sharp	JenSharp.com
Craig Hannah	Johnson Controls	Carol Steinlage	Shawnee Cons. RWD 1
Gary Hanson	Stumbo Hanson, LLP	Michael Tate	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Carl Hartley	Carl W. Hartley, LLC	Greg Taylor	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Leo Haynos	Kansas Corporation Commission	Steve Tharman	USDA Rural Development
Rex Heape	Shafer, Kline & Warren, Inc.	Keith Thompson	Gas Chlorine Education Committee
Don Hellar	Evans, Bierly, Hutchison & Assoc.	Katie Tietsort	Division of Water Resources
Heather Himmelberger	New Mexico Environmental Finance Center	Mark Turner	Stanion Wholesale Electric Company
Lee Holmes	KDOT - Bureau of Transportation Safety & Technology	Robert Vincent	Ground Water Associates
Heath Horyna	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment	Don Wagner	Foley Equipment Company
Rob Jansen	Trojan Technologies	David Waldo	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Sonya Johnson	Office of Attorney General	Vickie Wessel	Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment
Allison Jones	Internal Revenue Service	Clyde Zelch	Tomcat Consultants / TAP Co.
Dr. Fadi Joudi	Wichita Urology Group	Bert Zerr	Kansas Rural Water Association



101 operators for the daylong session. The presenters discussed how problems can be detected, even if they cannot be seen or heard. Preparing new motors for service, understanding and using common terminologies to describe issues and equipment and what problems can be detected using ultrasound or infrared thermal imaging were topics that were covered. Those who attended learned that problems such as misalignments, improper lubrication, mechanical looseness, loose connections, hot motors or bearings, energy inefficiency, etc. all affect the bottom line. The session received many favorable comments. One stated, "Having the technology available to accurately predict potential problems before they happen can save our system a great deal of money."

### **Annual City Clerks' Workshop**

Yes, city clerks are interested in how a water system functions! That was proven again with the second annual city clerks' workshop. A total of thirty-three clerks attended. The Inaugural City Clerks Workshop was a success in 2010 with requests for more. The workshop was filled with presentations that were selected by a peer group of city clerks. The workshop included seven topics that began at 10 a.m. and concluded at 5 p.m. Topics and presenters were: Kansas Setoff Program - Refunds Applied to Debts by Doug Craig, KS Dept of Administration; ID Theft and Scam-What's There to Know? By Sonja Johnson, KS Attorney General's Office; Ethics - Who Draws the Line? by Emily Campbell, City of Manhattan; Web Sites Made Easy by Jen Sharp of jensharp.com; KDHE Complex Water and Wastewater Reports by Kelly Kelsey and Heath Horyna of the KS Dept of Health and Environment; Introduction to Re-Financing Municipal Bonds by John Haas of Ranson Financial Consultants; and, KDOT Street by Ron Seitz of the Kansas Dept. of Transportation. Those who attended received credit towards IIMC certification. Thanks to City of Atwood Janet Stice and City of Goessel Anita Goertzen for moderating this workshop.

### **Rural Water District Office Professional Forum**

The job of the rural water system office professional or manager is an ever-changing task. All "Office Professionals" were invited to attend. A total of forty-eight responded. This session included presentations and open discussions on the tasks that every rural water system

experiences. Attendees had time to offer ideas and solutions that might help other systems. The program began with a formal presentation on the Kansas Setoff Program - Refunds Applied to Debts owed to Systems by Doug Craig, Kansas Dept. of Administration and a presentation by Allison Jones with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as she discussed Independent Contractor vs. Employee Status. During the roundtable discussions, the organizers Sharon Dwyer of Douglas RWD 5, Denise Eggers of Jefferson RWD 12, Lana Kettler of Miami RWD 2, Patricia Shaffer of Butler RWD 5 and Carol Steinlage of Shawnee Cons. RWD 1 covered these topics: current projects and communicating with engineers and contractors; how to better keep the board informed; financing options; accounting and payroll; customer public relations and locating water lines. The session lived up to its billing as being an interactive group discussion to address questions and concerns.

### **GPS Data Collection, Integration, And Application**

As technology changes, and improves, cities and rural water districts are continuing to develop more complete use of GPS mapping and geographic information systems. Those who attended this session learned how GIS is benefiting public works, emergency response (911), law enforcement, and other utilities. The session included a discussion about digital mapping and what the benefits have been - from data collection to the development of a basic Geographic Information System. Topics included information about the Kansas GIS Initiative, the GIS Policy Board, and the efforts to coordinate GIS data sharing and integration with local and state government. City Superintendent Paul Froelich explained the accomplishments of integrated GIS technologies by the small city of Enterprise, KS. Leo Haynos with the Kansas Corporation Commission discussed the recent legislation that requires utilities to be members of Kansas One-Call. Max Pendergrass with Kansas One-Call discussed the operation of One-Call and membership levels. Tina Rajala with the Kansas Water Office and Eileen Battles with Data Access and Storage Center presented on various aspects of GIS development, storage and retrieval. Pete Koenig, GIS Mapping Coordinator at Kansas Rural Water Association, moderated the session. The session was attended by 148 people.



### VFD, PLC, MCC & SMC – Making Operators' Jobs Easier

Mike Romme, Mark Turner and Robert May of Stanion Wholesale Electric Company, Wichita, KS presented a full-day session on electrical devices and controllers used in utility operations. The session provided information about the different devices and controllers including an explanation of how each component is to function. The presentation included:

- Variable Frequency Drives: Installation issues, lead length, voltage and phases, line reactors, output filters and sine waves;
- Programmable Controllers: Models, features, benefits, communication options;
- Motor Control Center: Features and benefits – reduced total cost of ownership, what can be installed in a MCC, installation considerations and communication options;
- Wireless Communications: Serial, Ethernet, cellular options, and installation choices;
- Solid State Motor Controllers (SMC): Model, features, benefits, communications.

This session was attended by 113 operators.

### Asset and Energy Management – “AM KAN Work”

Fifty-five people attended this session to learn about asset management. The question is whether their city or RWD has all the money needed to meet necessary operations and maintenance (O&M), all the repairs, replacement of all equipment and pipe in the system? The answer is typically “No” to that question. The goal of this seminar was to help utilities better plan to deal with replacement of aging infrastructure. Some Kansas’ systems seem to be constantly reacting to the latest emergency, or they have inadequate staff time or budget to ensure a proper maintenance program to keep the system running smoothly. Heather Himmelberger of the New Mexico Environmental Finance Center, Albuquerque, New Mexico, presented this session. The session introduced a new training tool for the State of Kansas including an interactive guidebook with videos of peers discussing how they’ve done asset management and how others can adopt similar approaches.



The 2011 conference registration desk was attended to by Lee Kohls and Anne Scott of the Wichita Convention & Visitors’ Bureau, Kathleen Ronnebaum, Theresa Steele, Laurie Strathman and Vicky McCallum. Those who registered early found their badges and tickets in alpha order for fast processing.

### Possibilities for 2012

The question becomes, “What’s up for 2012?” First, plan to expect another outstanding technical program. Planning for the annual conference never stops and some sessions are already planned. For certain, there will be an Attorneys’ Forum, and City Clerks’ and RWD Office Staff forums. With so many decisions needing to be made in so many places, KRWA staff is interested in any suggestions that will encourage additional board/council members to attend. No event is going to please everyone in every way, but the KRWA conference goes a long way in meeting everyone’s expectations. Check over the listing in this issue of “What We Liked Best” and “What We Liked Least”. Please email [krwa@krwa.net](mailto:krwa@krwa.net) if you have other comments than those that are printed. KRWA hopes to hear from you – and working together – systems, agencies, vendors – everyone can count on the 2012 conference to be the best possible.

**Mark your calendars for  
March 27-29, 2012**

**45th Annual Conference & Exhibition  
Century II Convention Center  
Wichita, KS**

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