

To MANHATTAN KONZA ROTARY



Members - Water Matters!

The Manhattan Konza Rotary Club's second annual Water Matters Day was held on August 18, 2012 (see sidebar on page), and included Konza

Rotary members presenting a check for \$4,000 to the Mayor and City Commissioners of Morrowville, Kansas. The donation was made to extend and enhance Kansas Department of Commerce KAN STEP grant money for Morrowville's water infrastructure project. Everyone had positive things to say.

When asked if and how much the Konza Rotary donation would affect the

Morrowville KAN STEP project, Kansas Department of Commerce Program Manager Salih Doughramaji explained, "Actually it will, and quite a lot! For this project it's a lot of money. For many big city projects it's short money, but for small communities with modest projects, \$4,000 is a windfall. Morrowville could use it to lay additional streets with water lines, change-out a few older water meters with new ones, add valves or even buy additional fire protection with a fire hydrant or two."

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"The Konza donation opens up the menu for us as to what we can do," added Morrowville Mayor Tony Fencil. "It

gives us options for future problem solving in how we design the new water system." Project Sparkplug and City Councilman Don Slater concurred, saying that extra valves installed at critical locations might be a lifesaver when needing to isolate and work on a certain section of water main.

Morrowville Project: start-up to present day

In April 2013, Morrowville (pop. 300, located in Washington County) took delivery of system parts, pipe, valves, hydrants and rental equipment including a trencher, backhoe and skid steer. The plan was to let winter subside, get started and be finished before the heat of summer – but Kansas weather changed those plans in a hurry. Record spring snows and cold not only delayed project start-up but kept anxious Konza Rotary volunteers at home on weekends instead of going to Morrowville to help out. Despite the rude weather, work and schedule conflicts, Konza volunteers finally spent a weekend helping Morrowville workers in May.



Konza Rotary Board President Casey Culbertson presents a \$4,000 check to Morrowville city council members during Water Matters Day event on August 18, 2012. Pictured L-R are Konza Rotary Board President Casey Culbertson, Kansas Department of Commerce KAN STEP Manager Salih Doughramaj, Morrowville Mayor Tony Fencil, Morrowville City Councilwoman LeAnn Grover, Morrowville City Councilman and Project Sparkplug Don Slater.

The Morrowville work crew has achieved great progress despite weekend snows, high school and college graduations and a busy Memorial Day weekend that conflicted weekend work schedules. Springtime work and an earlier start of Daylight Savings Time created unanticipated advantages. Morrowville volunteers who worked regular jobs during the day took advantage of the extra daylight. They grab a quick bite after work and then work on the water project until dark; such a schedule couldn't have been followed late last fall!

Mayor Tony Fencil noted that as of June 1, there are only four blocks of fairly complicated work yet to be completed. Before tackling this last section, system cleanouts, and pressure testing will need to be finished with the help of KRWA personnel on the completed sections of water main. As that work is accomplished, the Morrowville crew's plan is to have trenching complete on the unfinished four-block section, give Rotary members a week's notice and then work the following weekend installing pipe, and fire hydrants and setting meter pits.

Besides the looping of water lines throughout the town, adding new sections of water main, and installing new valves and meters, the project includes the replacement of the main transmission line presently located under Kansas Highway 15. This location has been troublesome in that over the years, various breaks have been disruptive to traffic and have been a headache for the small town to deal with.

Konza donation accomplishment

The unanticipated need for purchasing rock and fill sand to go around valves and meter pits was the first item on the Konza Rotary fund 'to-buy' list; fuel for running the rental equipment was the second.

But, as the project proceeded, Morrowville residents realized they were learning how to take care of their new water system by installing it. Mayor Fencil and others have collaborated to make sure there will be several people who know the procedures for making future system repairs. With this in mind, a more expensive determination was made that the now "experienced" water system residents of Morrowville could do this if they had the right tools. Konza money allowed the purchase of the necessary hand, power and specialty tools needed to develop a city maintenance shop so that city utility volunteers have a means to respond to many emergencies.



Konza Rotary Volunteer Monte Wedel does some shovel work to make ready for a line connection on Morrowville's main street. Wedel's weekday job is Riley County director of planning and development.

These critical tools will serve the city well, allowing for timely system repairs and a savings on Morrowville maintenance expense for many years to come.

Hidden benefits

Besides having new, affordable and more trouble-free water infrastructure, the city of Morrowville's KAN STEP water project has added much more to the plus column for the community. Property insurance underwriters will recognize the enhanced fire protection afforded by the new system. Property values for homeowners should be affected positively as well. Money that used to be spent on repairs can now be spent on other needs for Morrowville.

"Of course the project is an enhancement for the community," Mayor Fencil said. "But besides the pipe and valves in the ground, KAN STEP has brought our town's people together. Getting a community more acquainted like this – that's what a good community is all about. Getting used to working together will carry our community on into

**CITY OF MORROWVILLE
WATER SYSTEM**

KANSTEP PROJECT: #12-ST-002

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE: \$ 139,442 **MORROWVILLE VOLUNTEERS: \$ 94,938**
KONZA ROTARY CLUB, Manhattan, KS: \$4,000 plus Volunteer Labor

<p><u>MATERIAL / EQUIPMENT SUPPLIERS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bobcat of Salina, Inc., Salina, KS - Price Brothers Equipment Co., Wichita, KS - Water Products Sales, McPherson, KS <p><u>DIRECTIONAL BORING CONTRACTOR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Banks Construction, LLC, Holton, KS <p><u>DESIGN:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Schwab - Eaton, P.A., Beloit, KS <p><u>INSPECTION & ASSISTANCE:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kansas Rural Water Association, Seneca, KS <p><u>GRANT ADMINISTRATION:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Central Regional Planning Commission Beloit, KS 	<p><u>CITY COUNCIL:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tony J. Fencil, Mayor - LeAnn Grover - Ed Miller - Scott Romeiser - Don Slater - John Wieland
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Project Sparkplug Don Slater runs the trencher as Jim Moren checks the trench depth.

Speaking for the more than one hundred Morrowville residents who supported the project, Mayor Fencil said that he couldn't express enough thanks for the people and organizations that made the project possible. "Our community members especially want to thank the Kansas Department of Commerce's KAN STEP program, KRWA tech support, the Manhattan Konza Rotary and all the others that helped make the Morrowville water project possible."

Dan Knupp is a retired writer, designer, marketing and public relations manager.

His career started in Wichita and encompassed working as an aircraft marketing department designer, advertising agency executive, hospital publications manager and hospital/medical specialty clinic marketing-public relations director.

His work has included marketing with American Red Cross in Topeka, KSU College of Veterinary Medicine and KRWA communications.



Water Matters Day 2013

This year's Water Matters Day all day celebration will be held on Saturday, August 17. Activities start at 9 a.m. with an adult water education symposium at the Manhattan Public Library Community room that finishes at 1 p.m. Speakers from the Kansas Water Office, Kansas State University and other water organizations and stakeholders from around the state will update attendees of the latest information about Kansas water resources.

The afternoon session, just west of the Manhattan Public Library at the City Park Pool, is a children's water education afternoon that starts at 1 p.m. and finishes at 6. Exercises and games illustrating water realities from around the world will inform children of all ages of the special water needs of people worldwide and how hard many have to work for a clean drink of water.

Why Water Matters for Konza Rotary

In developing the business plan for the Manhattan Konza Rotary's Water Matters Day, members have followed the Rotary International "Avenues of Service" to include: Community Service and International Service. Within these Avenues of Service, the Club chose the official Rotary International "Areas of Focus" to include: Water/Sanitation and Economic/Community Development. These Rotary tenets are followed in the choice of Kansas and international recipients of Water Matters Day donations.

The Club's immediate Water Matters Day goal is to see that 2013 monies raised from private and corporate sponsors are given to: 1) A community chosen to be a KAN STEP community receiving a grant for a water infrastructure



improvement; and, 2) An international community needing money to assist with or to purchase a water infrastructure improvement. In past years, Konza Rotary has financed volunteer travel to and for infrastructure of overseas water projects in Panama and Haiti.

Because not all Konza Rotary volunteers are able or can afford to travel overseas to assist with water projects, a secondary goal is to make opportunities for Rotary volunteers to assist in KAN STEP water projects here in Kansas.

Key sponsor voices support

A three-year Water Matters Day sponsor is Walters Morgan Construction of Manhattan. Their continued support for the event links directly with helping communities in Kansas with local water infrastructure needs.

"The stockholders and employees of Walters-Morgan Construction, Inc. are excited to have the opportunity to be the Premier Sponsor of Manhattan Konza Rotary Club's Water Matters Day because the goals and objectives of this fund-raising project are so closely tied to what our company is all about. Walters-Morgan is in the business of building water treatment plants and wastewater treatment plants, providing clean, safe drinking water and protecting our environment. While our company routinely builds multi-million dollar treatment plants or plant expansions to serve prosperous cities and towns in several states, our participation in the fund-raising for Water Matters Day provides us an opportunity to give back to some of the smaller communities and international villages that do not have the resources to provide modern water treatment facilities for their residents. It is a natural fit for our company to participate in Water Matters Day, and we are pleased to be a sponsor."

*— Doug Kinney, Chief Financial Officer
Walters-Morgan Construction*