

KanCap, new resource for systems; staff changes at KRWA

The long-awaited completion of Kansas' new board/council training program has arrived. KanCap, an acronym for Kansas and Capacity, is ready to provide RWD boards and city councils valuable information to help them with the technical, financial and managerial issues associated with owning, operating and maintaining a public water system. KanCap is the board/ council training program funded by the Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment and developed by KRWA.

KanCap is a "one of a kind" board/council training program aimed at helping sustain and improve management for better drinking water. I personally had a major hand in the development of the project. This was not about

'doing a contract' but was an area that I personally felt strongly about. Ever since I was first elected to a rural water board in 1972, I hoped that someone would develop a 'resource' that

would contain information that people could use to better manage and govern their water systems. Thanks to the latest in technology, KanCap fills that ambition, plus more.

KanCap was developed with input and dialogue from organizations and stakeholders including the League of Kansas Municipalities, Kansas Section AWWA, Midwest Assistance,

various organizations, associations, state and federal agencies, city council member focus groups and RWD board members. The result is an interactive CD and hard copy companion guide in a 3-ring binder that will help board/ council members and system staff gain greater confidence in knowing what to do and where to turn. KanCap contains 51 videos, 216 additional resource files (PDFs), links to Web sites, quizzes and more. And using Acrobat reader, it's a breeze to search for any topic such as "meter replacement" or "open records." You name it and the topic pops up in the 270 pages.

KanCap training will be officially kicked off on Tuesday,

"Records Maintenance, Personnel Issues, Public Relations and Rationalization." Presenter: Cathy Tucker-Vogel, Kansas Dept. of Health & Education.

Attendees will receive the KanCap handbook and interactive CD. Pre-registration is required. Those board and council members who attend and pass section quizzes will be registered as completing the training which is credited to their water system. Credit? Yes, tie-breaker points on funding applications, plus a certificate signed by the Governor recognizing the city or RWD's efforts to have better trained board/council members. KRWA encourages board and council members to attend; pre-registration is required.



*E. Ronnebaum
General Manager*

KanCap is a "one of a kind" board/council training program aimed at helping sustain and improve management for better drinking water.

March 28 as one of the pre-conference sessions at the KRWA conference in Wichita. Here's the schedule:

10 a.m. – Noon Financial Section

"Management, Controls and Creditworthiness." Presenter: John Haas, Ranson Financial Consultants, LLC

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Technical Section

"Source Water, Capacity, System Operations and Adequacy of Infrastructure." Presenters: Pat McCool, Gary Armentrout, KRWA

2:45 p.m. – 4 p.m. Management Section

Gary Armentrout, new training director

KRWA is pleased to announce that Gary Armentrout will assume the position of training director March 1. Gary fills a vacancy left by the resignation of Randy Johnson who decided to operate a local water system in his home community at Fillmore, Missouri.

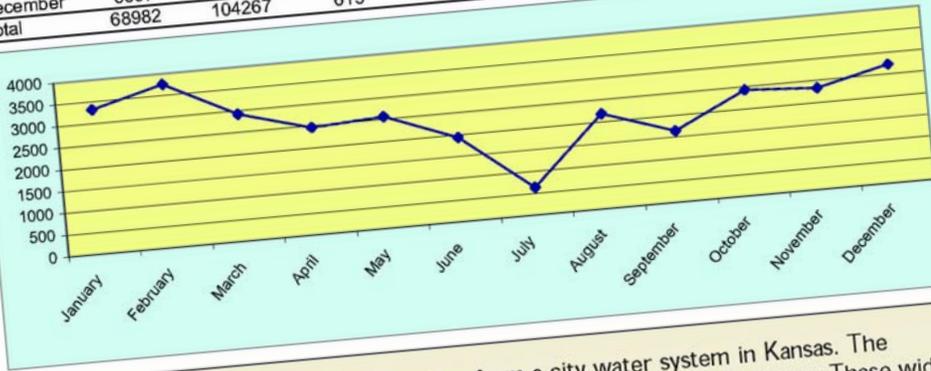
Gary has been employed at KRWA since December 1999. Prior to employment with KRWA, he was the water plant operator for the City of LaCygne. Gary also has experience in the construction industry. He also was employed by Moore County, North Carolina

Example page from the Technical Section of the KanCap Training Program. When operating from the interactive CD included with the course book, just clicking on the photo of Ron Rhodes brings up a video with his comments on benefits of technology available to water utilities.

One system's water produced, sold and lost

Typical information for Kansas Water Use Report (all data in thousands of gallons)

Month	Raw Water Diverted	Water Purchased	Water Sold Wholesale	Water Sold Bulk	Water Sold Residential	Metered Free	Unaccounted For Water	Percent by Month
January	5804	9002	44	770	10574	96	3322	22.4%
February	5150	10096	38	871	10486	95	3756	24.6%
March	3759	9106	42	962	8854	86	2921	22.7%
April	3322	9214	49	1244	7605	1175	2463	19.6%
May	5486	6736	44	1470	6570	1574	2564	21.0%
June	7426	8487	64	1040	12139	734	1936	12.2%
July	7784	8779	64	1051	14078	735	635	3.8%
August	8853	8921	81	1161	13307	1040	2185	12.3%
September	4989	8646	56	850	11013	78	1638	12.0%
October	5232	8963	39	841	10800	82	2433	17.1%
November	4570	8629	43	952	9800	73	2331	17.7%
December	6607	7688	51	1475	10012	31	2726	19.1%
Total	68982	104267	615	12687	125238	5799	28910	16.7%



The above chart represents actual numbers from a city water system in Kansas. The unaccounted for water loss ranges from 3.8% in July to a high of 24.6% in February. These wide fluctuations in loss indicate problems with meter reading or reporting, versus leakage being the main contributor to water loss. Notice that in the month of highest usage, the loss is lowest.

Automated meter reading (AMR). There are a number of ways to further automate meter reading. Some methods transmit data by phone wire or through radio signals. The collection device is then downloaded directly to the billing software that in turn calculates and then prints out the bills.

For a 500-meter system, the download, processing and statement-printing time runs less than 15 minutes. In 2003 more and more public water systems in Kansas are moving to AMR as a way of improving customer service while reducing the cost of reading meters.

The bottom line on technology? It's here to stay! From spreadsheets to 24/7 control of water tower levels to ozone plants, technology can help your employees do a better job. It also helps your board/council better carry out legal and fiduciary responsibilities.



Clip 13
Ron Rhodes, Emporia water plant manager, discusses using technology to meet needs.

Water and Sewage Authority as a Level I Plant Operator in '94 – '95. Gary served in the US Army Military Police from 1967 to 1970 and again from 1976 to 1994. His extensive Military Police training included Jungle Expert School, British Army Parachute School, and a variety of terrorism training courses. At KRWA, Gary participated in the development of the National Rural Water Vulnerability Assessment and Emergency Response template (a forerunner to SEMS). He has also attended RAM-W and V-SAT security training.

KRWA's training programs will be expanded to include many more board/council training programs utilizing KanCap. Also look for KRWA to continue to provide technical training on all aspects of water and wastewater



Gary Armentrout

utility operation and management. The goal is to add computer software training, writing and communication workshops, water rate analysis and whatever else systems express an interest in having available. Online courses are also being considered.

GPS Mapping

Yes, everyone still needs maps. And KRWA is going to continue to work to help water and wastewater systems acquire improved mapping technology. In spite of some setbacks, KRWA has moved map production in-house and with assistance by outside contractors to help speed up map production, KRWA is going to accomplish mapping in a way that



Pete Koenig

is as affordable and efficient as possible for systems. Pete Koenig is Mapping Coordinator; Pete also continues to work on KAN STEP water projects. KRWA has purchased new GPS data collection units, software and a high quality plotter. As Pete and additional staff learn the software, KRWA will be in a better position to help systems acquire improved map products.

Kansas Rural Water continues to provide good service to cities and RWDs across the state. The membership, board and staff take pride in providing quality training, service and assistance, in the Association's publications, legislative support and the excellent rapport that the Association has and will maintain with agencies, companies, organizations and many friends – not only in Kansas but also across the country.

Standing Tall

left to right: Scott, Brad and Gene Jones Jr.

At Maguire Iron we're proud to have built & serviced all types of water towers including Single Pedestal, Multi-leg & Ground Storage tanks in over half of the U.S.

We have an expansive, modern production facility & can provide complete tank maintenance as well. *Standing Tall* — since 1942.



P.O. Box 1446 Sioux Falls, SD 57101
Phone: 605.334.9749 Fax: 605.334.9752
www.maguireiron.com





This new handheld GPS data collector (below) replaces previous units that KRWA operated. As shown at left, those required an antenna, data logger and battery pack – all connected by wires.



The new single-piece unit is an example of technological advances that were developed over the last couple of years. The new unit also provides more accurate collection. The price? In the range of \$7,000 with software.

I hope you will attend the Annual Conference & Exhibition. It's a large effort by your Association to provide the best opportunity for you to learn, share ideas and also have some fun, March 28 – 30 at Century II in Wichita. Put it on your calendar.

ALLGEIER, MARTIN and ASSOCIATES, INC.

**Consulting Engineers
and Surveyors**

- **Treatment Plants**
- **Supply Systems**
 - Wells
 - Reservoirs
 - Impoundments
- **Storage Facilities**
 - Elevated Storage
 - Ground Storage
- **Distribution Systems**
 - Municipal
 - Rural
 - Industrial
 - Pumping Stations
- **Computer Analysis of System Design**

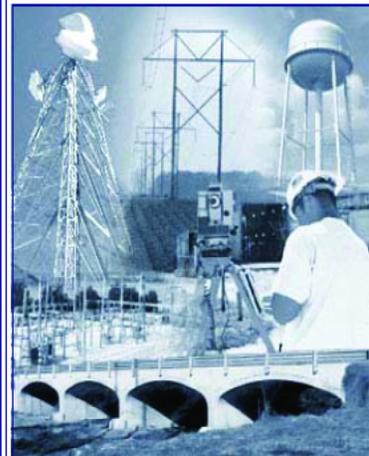
We live here too.

Since 1957 we've been living in and serving rural Kansas communities.

For all facets of water and wastewater engineering, including funding assistance, call us at (785) 539-4687 or visit us online: www.schwab-eaton.com

Schwab-Eaton
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Manhattan | Wichita | Beloit



AM

Phone 417.624.5703
 Fax 417.624.7558
gmorrison@amce.com
www.amce.com