

KRWA training: “Together We Thrive!”



It has been a busy year for KRWA training. As of September 30, 2009, KRWA has provided 88 training sessions covering 112 days, plus the annual conference that offered 10 pre-conference sessions along with 48 concurrent sessions. KRWA has tried to offer a wide variety of sessions to benefit all systems. We added some new sessions and continued to offer sessions that have been a staple to the needs as requested by systems. There will be at least a dozen additional sessions by the end of 2009.

2009 almost history

Looking back at the training sessions from this past year there are several sessions that come to mind because of the very positive feedback. Starting in May and running to the first of September, KRWA facilitated 13 Ground Water Rule sessions. The purpose of those sessions was to inform systems on how the Rule would affect their system. Kelly Kelsey, of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Topeka, presented the morning portion at each of these sessions; he was then available to meet with systems one-on-one in the afternoon. Kansas Department of Health and Environment District Office staff attended the sessions in their respective areas to offer assistance to Kelly and the systems during the one-on-one afternoon session. KRWA staff members Pat McCool, Bert Zerr and Jeff Lamfers played a big role in the success of the sessions by providing presentations on chlorination and disinfection along with maintaining chlorine residuals. The three KRWA staff also helped with the one-on-one portion, as some sessions had high attendance. By the end of each session, those in attendance



What should we do about the Ground Water Rule? Attendance at 13 Ground Water Rural training sessions sponsored by KRWA this past summer totaled 499 people representing 286 cities and RWDs. Here, Kelly Kelsey of the Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment, explains the options to the operators of Wilson Lake Estates.

By the end of each session, those in attendance understood what their options were on 4-log inactivation under the Ground Water Rule.

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KRWA sponsored four sessions in June entitled “Chlorine Safety; Operation and Maintenance of Chlorinators.” Ron Grae of Chlorinators Incorporated, presented these daylong sessions. Ron is an outstanding trainer as he shares from his personal experience on

chlorine safety and the rebuilding of all brands of chlorinators. In mid-July KRWA offered three Hach sessions entitled “Basic Water Analysis, Process Instrument Verification and Wastewater Lab Analysis.” These sessions normally have a fee of \$125 per registrant. These three sessions were underwritten by Kansas Rural Water Association and were provided at no charge to the participants. Later in July, KRWA worked with the US Department of Agriculture Rural Development agency to offer four sessions entitled “Stimulus Funding under ARRA and other Funding Options.” These sessions provided



participants with the information on how to apply for stimulus funding and how funds could be used. USDA Rural Development State and area offices provided the presenters. The afternoon portion of the Stimulus Funding sessions was a presentation on KDHE's Rate Check-up, presented by John Haas, Ranson Financial Consultants. The Rate Check-up program was explained and details on how to obtain this free software were discussed. Four similar sessions are being planned for November.

Last April, Bob Blume added a new session to the series of electrical sessions entitled "Generators, Grounding, Power Quality and Lightning Protection." KRWA presented this training at four locations, again without cost to registrants. Cheryl Treptow and Kevin Jones offered five sessions on Competent Person and Confined Space Entry. After a fatal accident in Kansas earlier in the year these sessions remind us how important a role personnel safety plays in the utility industry. The Cross Connection-Backflow Prevention Training sessions by Terry Randles continue to be in demand. These sessions will be using a new manual that will allow KRWA to provide certification in other states as well.

Gail Abney and Melinda Lambert of Mayer Specialty Services, LLC, provided in-the-field demonstrations of manhole rehabilitation at several sessions again this past year. Mayer Specialty continues to be a strong supporter of the KRWA training program. With the support of Kansas Department of Health and Environment, five KanCap Board and Council Training sessions were offered this past year. KRWA is planning for eleven additional KanCap training sessions in the future. There are numerous other agency, associates and KRWA staff that presented to help make the 2009 training program a success.

KRWA wants your suggestions

KRWA would appreciate hearing from you if you have a suggestion for a training session. What training would you like to see added? Any training sessions you would like to see changed? Do you have a location that you would like to offer for a training session? Do you know a person that would be a good presenter? As KRWA plans for future



In July, the Hach Company presented three separate days of training in Lawrence. All three sessions included more than four hours of hands-on activities on several pieces of lab equipment. The cost of these sessions was underwritten by KRWA and offered without charge. Attendance totaled 90 persons from 38 cities and RWDs.

sessions, the Association needs to hear from you. Take time to complete the survey at www.krwa.net, under training tab, click survey.

Together We Thrive, 2010 Conference theme

I personally would like to say "Thank-You" to all agency and associate members who have helped with training during the past year. Whether it was only a suggestion for a topic or by making a presentation, everyone who attended appreciates those efforts. KRWA staff participation in sessions was invaluable. There were days when three sessions were held simultaneously. KRWA's goal is to provide training that helps systems with their day-to-day and long-term operation and management. The 2010 conference theme will be "Together We Thrive." I think it's a perfect summary of the partnership that agencies, associates and KRWA has concerning training.

Thanks again to everyone for the presentations they provided and for all those who attended to take advantage of the sessions. "Together, we can thrive!"



*Mark your calendars
now for 2010*

**Conference & Exhibition
March 30 – April 1
Century II Convention Center
Wichita, KS**

Jim Jackson has been employed by KRWA since January 2004; he is currently KRWA Training Director. Jim began working in the utility industry in 1985 and has both municipal and rural water experience. Jim holds Class II Water Operator Certification.

