



# Sam Brownback Addresses Wednesday Luncheon

United States Senator Sam Brownback addressed the noon luncheon on Wednesday, March 31. Nearly 1,200 were in attendance.

“It’s great to be here today.

“I want to thank the folks in this room for what you do in the delivery of water. I’ve been able to go to many places in the world, and it’s a centerpiece for all successful societies to provide clean, potable water. Places throughout the world without adequate water resources will not only have problems growing and thriving – but their ability to carry out basic daily activities are hindered.

“You folks help provide one of the most critical and necessary elements for our state to thrive as both an agricultural and manufacturing leader. Water accessibility is often assumed, so you don’t get a lot of thanks very often for what you do, but I really appreciate the essential services you provide.

“I grew up on a farm in eastern Kansas in Linn County. My family is fourth generation Kansas farmers and we lived a mile and half out of town. I grew up hauling water from the Parker water supply, which was a task I rarely looked forward to accomplishing. Now I say this because it’s amazing to travel the state today and see the vast differences and improvements in production and overall quality of life for rural families served by municipal and rural water district, which I know is directly linked to the ability to conveniently access clean, abundant sources of water.”

Senator Brownback alluded to the present economic situation and noted the recent appeals by the French and British to rebid the tanker contract and also, how the Brazilians are impacting the commercial aviation market.

Referring to global economics, Senator Brownback commented that America needs to also stand up to the Chinese on currency manipulation.

“The Chinese have pegged their currency to our currency so that when our’s goes up, their’s goes up, and when our’s goes down, their’s goes down. And so they have an artificially deflated currency, somewhere between 25 percent and 40 percent. That makes their manufacturing goods cheaper in this marketplace and more difficult for us to compete in production and exporting.”

Addressing legislative issues and regulatory requirements, Senator Brownback alluded to legislation sponsored by Senator Inhofe.

“I think that Senator Inhofe has a good bill in the Small Systems Safe Drinking Water Act of 2010. At the core of it, it says we need to get some local input and cost benefit analysis when you’re looking at putting more regulations in the Safe Drinking Water Act, and I believe we have to do this.

Yesterday was a perfect example during my visit to Atchison, KS. The city has an old combined system that takes away their wastewater and storm water.

Atchison has wanted to replace it for years, but the cost of them paying for

changing that system as is required by the EPA, would be roughly by their calculations, a monthly sewage bill of \$580. Can you imagine submitting a monthly bill of that size? There is no way that can happen. What Senator Inhofe is trying to do is to get local input and a cost/benefit consideration into the regulations. We need to supply clean drinking water to everybody, but there has to be some sensibility in dropping (contaminant levels) further in parts per trillion in a way that properly balances environmental sustainability with economic feasibility.”

Concerning the economic situation in the country and Kansas, Senator Brownback said, “We as a state have got to grow. This is a recession; we are starting to see some chances of coming out of it but we are not out of this recession yet. Coming out of the recession, the state has to



**Our municipal and rural water districts across the state are providing high quality water and service.**



be in a pro-growth position. Personal income went down last year. We have 85 percent of our counties losing population in the state of Kansas. We've got to grow. And part of that growing is having a regulatory structure that is open to growth. I think it is one that says let's make some sensibilities out of this, but let's not make it punitive. Let's make sure we deliver clean water; let's make sure we take care of the environment, but let's not be silly to where we drive communities into bankruptcy in the process. I'd like to see us at the state level have an office of the repealer where a person regularly looks at regulation and legislation, and says, 'this one should be repealed' and makes those recommendations to the Legislature. We are constantly adding and adding; we ought to see if we can subtract some redundant programs so that we solve some of our deficit issues. We've got to grow in our future, because if we don't grow, we are going to continue to lose population and economic activity and people will not have an opportunity to prosper in this state. I think we can grow in animal agriculture in Kansas; we can grow in the energy business. We can grow in the animal health corridor around the NBAF facility in Manhattan. We need to be pro-growth."

"Before I leave you folks today, I'd like to tell a story that I think really encapsulates the fact that Kansans persevere in tough times. A friend of mine lost a child and grandchild in a nine-month period; both were accidental deaths. I saw him a few months later and I told him that I did not know how he could withstand going through something like that. His comment was that when a person has a situation like that, you either get bitter or you get better. Either you can say, 'It shouldn't have happened; I hate it and I'm going to be bitter, mad and down about it.' Or, you can say,



Wednesday noon luncheon

**"Let's make sure we deliver clean water; let's make sure we take care of the environment, but let's not be silly to where we drive communities into bankruptcy in the process."**

'It shouldn't have happened; I hate it – now how do we move forward?' Bitter or better? This is probably a good metaphor given the economic difficulty we are in economically and the difficulty we face as a state. Bitter or better? I chose better and most Kansans do as well. We say that's what we can do and that's what we're going to do and that's the important and right thing to do. Thank you for the service that you provide. I really appreciate what you do and how you get it done. God bless all of you."



Nearly 1,200 people, 9 double buffet lines, 25 minutes serving time.





# Kansas Secretary of Agriculture

## Josh Svaty Addresses Thursday Luncheon



**K**ansas Secretary of Agriculture Josh Svaty addressed the Thursday noon luncheon at the conference. He discussed work of the Division of Water Resources, an innovative idea on establishing conservation as a beneficial use for a water right and the nation's critical need for many of Kansas' natural resources.

Svaty is the fifth generation of his family to farm in Ellsworth County. He previously served as the State Representative of the 108th District in Kansas for seven years.

"I like it when I'm speaking to a group that is interested in the same things that I'm interested in. And water was certainly one of the reasons that when the governor came to me and said, 'Secretary Polanky is going to leave and take a position with the Farm Service Agency, would you be interested in taking a position with the Department of Agriculture?' I said 'absolutely.' I'm thrilled to be a part of the agency.

"Let me give some background in case you are not familiar with the

Department of Agriculture. Water systems may deal with the Department of Health and Environment on many issues, but the Department of Agriculture also deals a lot with water. The Division of Water Resources within the Department of Agriculture is the largest portion of the agency. Its operation constitutes more than half of our budget.

"We deal with three things within the Division of Water Resources. We deal with water impounding structures. We deal with interstate compacts. We have four of them. Two of them most people don't even know about. There is a compact with the State of Nebraska on the Big Blue River and there's a compact with the State of Oklahoma on the Arkansas River. Then two of them you probably do know about – the compact with Colorado on the Arkansas River and the compact with Nebraska and Colorado on the Republican River, the one getting a lot of attention now.

"The third area of work at the Division of Water Resources is water appropriation. We handle every water appropriation in the state of Kansas. There are about 45,000 of them. Most are for irrigation, municipal and industrial uses, and stock watering. There are many uses for the water, and it's a big task that I find very fascinating. I am impressed with the dedication of our staff. We have some long-term staff members.

"In that vein, I want to talk about one thing that we are working on in the

Department of Agriculture that may in fact impact you. It's Senate Bill 510. Senate Bill 510 did not pass this year. If I had to give a speech of bitterness for the day, it is that 510 did not pass. What 510 would have done was to set up a new beneficial use for water rights in the state of Kansas.

"Right now, if you have a water right, you are required to put that water to beneficial use. And we specify what those beneficial uses are. I believe there are 14 of them. They include irrigation, municipal use, industrial use, stock watering and so on. Well, we have in Kansas a 'use it or lose it concept.' If you don't put that water to use for five consecutive years, the water right can be considered abandoned. That was put in place to encourage the development and use of our water resources. When this law was passed in 1945, that's what decision makers wanted to do – to develop our natural resources in the State of Kansas. And that's a great thing. It worked very well and has developed tremendously over the past 65 years.

"The problem today is the requirement that the water right has to be used or it's subject to abandonment. That creates the motivation to pump that well just so you don't lose the water right. People have figured out that water rights are a valuable thing. They don't want to give them up. But in reality, not many people are abandoning their water rights. They just pump them every so often to make sure that they don't lose them.



“We came in this year and said, ‘enough of this, we are going to think outside the box.’ Rather than continue this incentive for water right holders to wastefully pump water just so they don’t lose a water right, we proposed adding conservation to our list of beneficial uses. We were going to remove that incentive to pump.

“Under the proposal, if you wanted to set that aside for a while, you would apply to the Division of Water Resources to put it into a conservation use and you could leave it there for a year, or 10 years or 50 years. And if you wanted to take it out after that, you would get the full authorization back. We thought it was pretty groundbreaking, and we thought it would move the state in the right direction. There were some who suggested that the change would allow people to sit on their water rights forever. The reality is that they are sitting on their water rights now. The new legislation would mean that it would no longer be required to pump the water to maintain the right. As a voluntary program, it would leave the water in the hands of those who have the rights. We thought it would be great for irrigators who have families who may want to return to farm in 20 years. We thought it would be good for municipalities that knew they’d have growth coming. We thought it would have been a really great step forward in the way we manage our water resources.”

Secretary Svaty next addressed concerns regarding where Kansas finds itself on the national political stage.

“First and foremost, a matter of concern is when discrepancies come up in the realm of natural resources. Natural resources are critical to our economy and they are critical to the decisions we make as a state. And they are very important to the nation at large. Our water is important; our soil

is important. All of the abundant natural resources that we have in the State of Kansas are exceptionally important to the rest of the United States. And it is important for us to consider how we govern and how we interact with those who also govern in Washington as we make those natural resource decisions. My concerns stem from the concerns that many other people in the state have had in the last few months because there have been dramatic changes going on in Washington, D.C. – changes within the Environmental Protection Agency,

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changes within the Department of Agriculture and changes within Congress. Many of those could have a dramatic effect on what we do with water policy. The Environmental Protection Agency is clear that it wants to do something with nitrogen, both from single-point source and nonpoint source emitters of nitrogen.

“We can go in one of two directions. We can either yell and scream about it, and say that the Environmental Protection Agency is stupid, that they don’t know what they are talking about and we can stick our heads in the sand. Or, we can say, ‘you know what, we don’t have the political clout to shut this down in Washington, but we better

find a way to reach people within the Environmental Protection Agency.’ We need to make sure they interact with Kansans so they understand that we have been working hard to address runoff and we have been working hard addressing different minerals in our water supply.

“There are many groups that have taken the approach of putting up walls of separation and saying, ‘we’re not going to work with them.’ Instead, we’re going to pretend it’s not going to happen. If I can stress anything, it is that we no longer call the shots in

Washington, D.C. That’s part of understanding the ebb and flow in politics, and the ebb and flow in population and that, clearly, we are not the most populated place in the United States. It is incumbent upon us to recognize the position that we are in, as well as the position that we have as Kansans with our natural resources, and join the conversation in Washington rather than being a group of people who simply deny and aggravate everything that comes out of Washington. That may be our greatest challenge in the next few years, and our relevance will be determined by whether we are

involved, progressive, and thinking in creative ways to solve problems. The alternative is to be a state that’s considered irrelevant and prone to being run over by people who have more political power than we do in Washington.

“My message for today, first and foremost, is to find ways to work together. The theme of this meeting obviously fits in well, “Together We Thrive.” When we work to find solutions, everyone does better. And on a state note, we need to absolutely think critically about our water supply. It is time that we transition into a management focus that encourages conservation.”



## Conference-goers donate \$5,073 to WaterPac

KRWA members benefit from the legislative representation by National Rural Water Association (NRWA) in Washington. KRWA is an affiliate of the National Rural Water Association, NRWA works in support of reasonableness for regulations dealing with water and wastewater utilities. NRWA, as well as other water organizations, has made profound impacts in support of developing legislation or reauthorization.

KRWA annually provides an opportunity for conference goers to support the NRWA political action committee, WaterPAC, through a raffle at the conference in Wichita. In 2010, the raffle raised \$5,073 which was sent to WaterPac. Donations ranged from \$1 to \$150. The chart at right shows the names of the winners of the WaterPAC Raffle prizes. KRWA contributes the cost of the prizes for the raffle. KRWA and NRWA appreciate the outstanding support for WaterPAC by Kansans. Donations in prior years have been as follows: 2005 - \$3,001; 2006 - \$3,000; 2007 - \$4,324; 2008 - \$4,692; 2009 - \$6,110.



### WaterPac Raffle Winners

32-inch Flat Screen with DVD player	Dan Bird	Harper RWD 2
Court House Steps Quilt	Edgar Peck	Anderson Peck Agency
Weber Grill	William Huss	Doniphan RWD 5
Troy Bilt Tiller	Tim Reimer	City of Hesston
Stihl Chain Saw	Robbie McCombs	City of Lakin
Steele Power Washer	Jim Bishop	Leavenworth RWD 7
Electric Smoker	Curtis Swenson	City of Miltonvale
Handy Cam Recorder	Dan Britt	City of Solomon
EdenPure Heater	Brendan Murphy	National Rural Water Assoc.
\$250 Gift Certificate from USABlueBook	Maxine VanMeter	Cloud RWD 1
Commemorative Baseball Bat & Ball	Allen Dinkel	City of Abilene

## Quilt Winners

Winners of the grand prize pieced quilts were:  
 Below – Triple Irish Chain, Bill Pence, Wabaunsee RWD 2  
 Right – French Braid, Terry Fultz, City of Osage City  
 Lower Right – Jewel Box, Eva Pankratz, Marion RWD 4  
 Upper Right – Court House Steps, Edgar Peck, Anderson Peck Agency

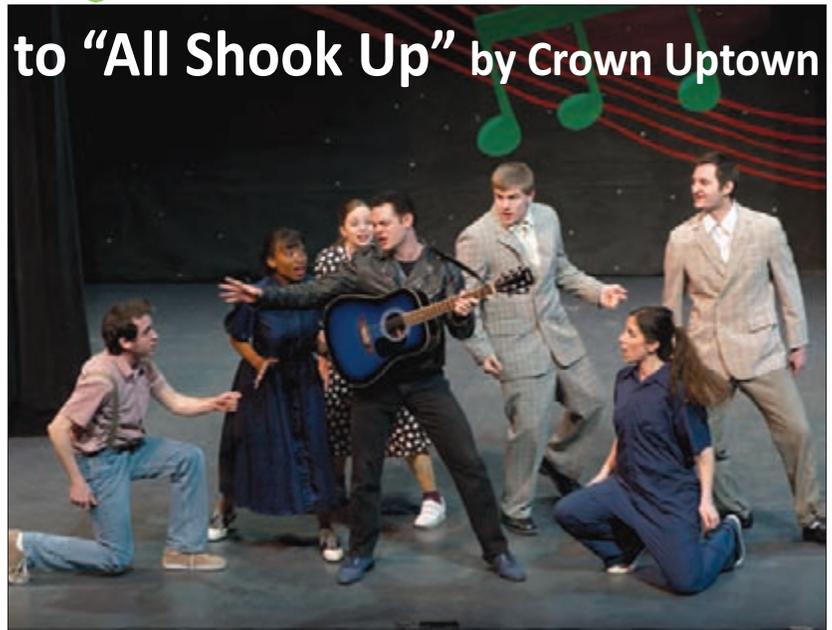




## Rural Water Rocks – to “All Shook Up” by Crown Uptown

Two standing ovations from a nearly filled Little Theatre at the Century II Convention Center was proof enough that “Rural Water rocks! Those were the words of Mike O’Roarke, production manager from the Crown Uptown Theatre, Wichita, that produced the show, “All Shook Up” for the 2010 KRWA conference Wednesday evening, March 31. It was 75 minutes of song and story line that had people asking for Act II in 2011.

Combining classic Elvis tunes with a story about a square little town in the Midwest in 1955, and a guitar-playing roustabout who comes in to put some life into the place, “All Shook Up” shook up the KRWA conference to rollicking reviews! It was proof that the music of Elvis Presley never grows old. There were generational gaps in the audience with people who were born in the 80’s. The King’s music came alive at the 2010 KRWA conference. The show featured a medley of the biggest hits: Jailhouse Rock”, “Heartbreak Hotel”, “Roustabout”, “One Night With You”, “C’Mon Everybody”, “Follow That Dream”, “Hound Dog / Teddy Bear”, “That’s All Right”, “It’s Now Or Never”, “Love Me



Tender”, “Blue Suede Shoes”, “Don’t Be Cruel”, “Let Yourself Go”, and, “Can’t Help Falling In Love.”

The show included 18 cast members, including Director Paul Brenier, and starring Shannon McMillan and Michael Karraker, and Timothy Robu, Craig Green, Amy McCleary, Brittani Richardson, Christopher Lee Roberts, Kimberly Dugger, Ericka Simone Covington, Monica Deree, Tracey Zimmerman, Rachel Lomax, Jonathan Jennings, Barb Schoenhofer, Taryn Kae’Lyn McFarthing, Bradley Gale and Casey Patrick.

KRWA thanks Crown Uptown for another great show. KRWA’s conference delights in providing audiences to see top quality entertainment.





# Award Winners for 2009 – Together We Thrive



## “Rural Water Operator of the Year”

– Wesley Heinlein, Reno RWDs 101 & 8



Wesley Heinlein, Reno County RWDs 101 and 8, was the 2009 “Rural Water Operator” award winner.

Heinlein is more of a utility technician in that he oversees two rural water districts and five sewer districts in Reno County. He

presently holds a Class I certification in both water and wastewater. Over the years there have been a number of challenges as the county has taken over operation of these systems. One of the water districts inherited by the county had an 87 foot elevation difference with pressure being maintained by a booster pump. For two years, because of lack of other controls and until an elevated storage tank was constructed, the award winner had to babysit a pump at all hours of the day and night to keep pressure on the system. Another challenging system inherited by the county was a pressurized sewer system where 150 houses were utilizing septic tanks and grinder pumps. Here he was responsible for keeping these pumps running until operation and maintenance of these units was transferred to the homeowners. And of course, there are the frequent responses he provides for pipeline locate requests and then he serves as the county’s inspector during construction of these pipeline job orders.

Wes’ hobbies include fishing and camping, photography, local car races, NASCAR racing, putting up the “Best Homemade Christmas Light Show in Hutchinson”, playing in a Rock Band (he’s got serious skills) and anything that includes his granddaughters! He has served several positions for the Central Kansas Corvette Association (currently as President) through which he worked with the local Spina Bifida organization for many years and put together the fundraiser – Salt City Rod & Custom Show. Wes is also an Eagle Scout and is rightfully proud of his many achievements through scouting.

## “Friend of Rural Water Award”

– Representative Carl Holmes



The Kansas Rural Water Association presented the “Friend of Rural Water Award” to Representative Carl Holmes.

The award was presented in recognition of Representative Holmes’ long-time efforts in the development and support of a

variety of legislative initiatives that have benefited users of public water systems – cities and rural water districts alike – and the administration of the utilities – from sales tax clarification to territorial issues, One Call and other issues.

A state legislator since 1985, Holmes’ listing of positions is exemplary. He has chaired the Energy & Utilities Committee for more than 20 years. He is also Vice-Chair of the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations and Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Energy & Environmental Policy. He is a member of the Agriculture & Natural Resources Budget Committee. He is also Chairman of the Kansas Electric Transmission Authority.

At the national level, with the National Conference of State Legislatures, he is past chairman of the Energy & Electric Utilities Committee; he is Past Chairman of the Advisory Council on Energy; he is a member of the National Council of Electricity Policy, and a member of the Executive Committee of The Energy Council and is a member of the Energy Supply Taskforce.

Rep. Holmes is one of the most knowledgeable legislators on water and energy issues. He has mentored hundreds of Kansas legislators.



## “Rural Water Office Manager of the Year”

– Denise Eggers, Jefferson RWD 12



Denise Eggers, Office Manager for Rural Water District No. 12 of Jefferson County, was the 2009 recipient of “Rural Water Office Manager of the Year.”

Eggers first began work with the RWD in 1994. The district maintains its office in Winchester.

Eggers was cited for her dedication to her work for the water district. No one associated with the district can recall a day of work that she has missed or a board meeting not attended during her 16 years of service with the district.

The district provides water service to nearly 1,370 patrons. Eggers says that she strives to treat all district customers as if they were the only customer. “I take time to listen to them and I make calls to all past due customers to avoid any interruption to their service,” she says. Making sure that affected customers are advised of any service work is also important to her and district patrons appreciate her efforts in that regard.

When Denise is not working she enjoys NASCAR racing and K-State basketball. Denise is always willing to help other water district office professionals, boards and staff in any way possible. Denise works to make sure that “Quality on Tap” means more than just water served – but also, quality of service.

## “Wastewater Operator of the Year”

– Matthew Meeks, Maize



Matthew Meeks, Senior Water/Wastewater Controller at the City of Maize, was the recipient of the “Wastewater Operator of the Year” in Kansas.

Respected for his conscientious and diligent work by both his supervisor and co-workers, Meeks began his career as a city employee in the water department at the city of Garden City. After four years there, he earned certification to be a Class IV Water Operator. He then gained additional training and went on to several other jobs, before coming to the city of Wichita where he received a Class IV Wastewater Operators Certification. During this time he worked to earn a four-year degree in Environmental Science.

In late 2000, he began work for Maize. As Senior Water/Wastewater Controller, he handles much of the water and wastewater operations with the help of other public works employees.

Presently the local high school biology teacher and Matt are preparing to give a wastewater treatment plant tour and to explain to the students how the microorganisms of the city's activated sludge process provides a high quality water for discharge to the environment. Meeks has also made a short training video of the wastewater operations in Maize that was published in Treatment Plant Operator Magazine. Matt is one of only 76 operators in Kansas who hold both Class IV Water and Class IV Wastewater certifications.

## “2009 Public Works Supervisor Award”

– Scott Robertson, Phillipsburg



Scott Robertson, Public Works Supervisor at Phillipsburg, was the recipient of the 2009 “Public Works Supervisor Award.”

Robertson has overseen the construction of approximately six miles of new 12-inch water transmission line that supplies water

from the city's well field, the construction of a new water reservoir, and the repair and construction of water wells as well as construction the city's new wastewater facility and lift stations. Under his guidance, new procedures and policies were established to promote employee safety. He was cited for his understanding and promotion of the need for communication between local government entities. Robertson is a founding member of the County Emergency Response Team.

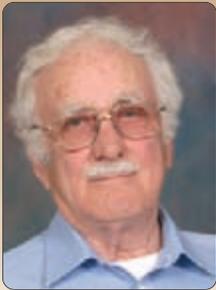
Supervising more than a dozen employees, he plans, directs, and coordinates the activities of the Public Works Department and the Water Plant Department providing water, sewer, and solid waste services as well as street maintenance, maintaining the airport, and much more. Local folks often see him early in the morning touring the city to make sure things are going smoothly. It is not uncommon to see Scott operating the street sweeper or down in the ditch helping repair a water line break.

Robertson serves the community as a member of the volunteer fire department maintaining certification with the State of Kansas as an Emergency First Responder; he is a member of the Phillipsburg Recreation Committee. He also serves on the board of directors for the Wellness Center. He has also served as a church trustee.



## “Rural Water Manager of the Year”

– Paul Reynolds, Brown RWD 1



Paul Reynolds, Manager of Rural Water District No. 1 in Brown County, was the 2009 recipient of the “Manager of the Year” Award.

Reynolds began work as an inspector when the water district was first in construction 38 years ago. Following installation of the pipeline

system, he assumed the position of operator for the district. He has been manager for the past 32 years. For more than 20 years before the district constructed its new office and shop in Fairview, the district’s books were also maintained in the Reynolds’ home.

Monitoring the threat of ground water contamination of the district’s wells has been among his greatest concerns. Reynolds led a search for new water supply wells, and he successfully negotiated a contract with Hiawatha to purchase a supplemental supply. In addition to moving the district from a self-read system to the district reading the customer meters, Reynolds has also worked to make a variety of system improvements from rehabilitating the district’s water storage tanks and plans of installing additional pipeline to ensure customers receive better service. Most of all, Reynolds has endured the locating and repair of pipeline breaks in all sorts of conditions with a minimum of outages to the nearly 400 customers.

## “City Administrator of the Year”

– Wayne West, Deerfield



Wayne West, City Administrator at Deerfield, was the recipient of the 2009 “City Administrator of the Year” Award.

West has been employed by the city for nearly 30 years. Over that period, he has overseen improvements to the city’s water,

wastewater, storm sewer, streets, and more. In one of the first projects, he enlisted local contractors to install curb and guttering in sections of the town; he made it affordable, completing the project over several years at substantial cost savings compared to the estimates. Next, improvements had to be made to the wastewater treatment plant. Two new lagoons were constructed; land for a third was obtained in case a third cell would be needed in the future. This award winner has worked to reduce costs for various developments in the city, notably one that allowed utilities and streets to be installed for a new convenience store and 30 families. Water

issues have always been important; he was the first municipal representative of the area Groundwater Management District. Street paving became a priority in the early 90’s.

West says that growing up in Deerfield he was a frequent source of aggravation for the city manager who was also the City Marshall, so it is a little ironic that he would one day serve in the same capacity. Wayne was elected to the Deerfield City Council in April 1981. He asked so many questions that the governing body asked him to take the City man’s position that was open. He thought about it, resigned from the governing body and went to work full time November 1, 1981 as City Superintendent.

## “City Clerk of the Year”

– Janet Stice, Atwood



Janet Stice, City Clerk at Atwood, was the recipient of the 2009 “City Clerk of the Year” award.

Stice has been affiliated with local government for more than 28 years. Janet has been city clerk for the past 14 years and prior to that, she was deputy county clerk for 14 years. She also presently serves on Second

Century, a community financial group that distributes interest money back to the community.

Atwood Mayor Betty Mickey says that Janet has worked tirelessly for the city because she is an integral part of the community. “Janet is the glue that holds Atwood together; I highly respect Janet and trust her with the entire operation of the city,” Mickey says.

“I have always had good people to work with,” Janet says. “I would put my city crew guy up against anything. They handle so much.”

Hardworking and dedicated, detail-oriented and patient, she’s always willing to help others. She listens to “barking dog” complaints, pet complaints, and naughty neighbor complaints – and regardless, she always maintains a great sense of humor. She puts up with it all. She has been a true advocate for Atwood.

KRWA helped pull the wool over Janet’s eyes as it required teamwork of the Atwood city crew, Charles and Connie Peckham, Doug Eller, a former city employee, Mary Kay Bowen, Janet’s high school friend and KRWA. Janet was told that another another city employee might be receiving an award – which was the only way to ensure that Janet would be attending the awards banquet. Just as most of the other award winners were unaware of the award they were about to receive, it was not until the name was announced that Janet realized she had been fooled. It was a great surprise to her but a long-overdue congratulations for years of outstanding job performance.



## “USDA Silver Faucet Award”

– Phillips County Rural Water District No. 1



USDA Rural Development presented the Silver Faucet award to Phillips RWD 1. The award was announced by Kansas Rural Development State Director Patty Clark and presented by

Gary Smith, Chief of Community and Business Programs. Accepting the Award were E. Kay Kinter, Chairman of the RWD board of directors, and John White, operator/manager for the RWD.

"Phillips County Rural Water District No. 1 is most deserving of the Agency's Silver Faucet Award. The District's perseverance and dedication to overcome challenges in the pursuit of their goal to provide a reliable source of quality water for rural residents of Phillips County is acknowledged through this award. We congratulate the District on an outstanding job," remarked State Director Patty Clark.

Each year USDA Rural Development presents the Silver Faucet Award to a water supply system in Kansas that exemplifies the qualities of cooperation, dedication and leadership in providing both high quality and dependable quantity of water service to rural water users. The 2010 announcement marked the 36th year that USDA Rural Development presented the award to a water system for exemplary actions and leadership.

In 1989, the concept of a water district to serve the rural area near Phillipsburg was developed by a handful of concerned citizens. A public meeting was held, with Elmer Ronnebaum of the Kansas Rural Water Association as the main speaker on the formation of a RWD; it was the start of a long planning process.

In 1990, the engineering firm of Schwab-Eaton, PA, Manhattan, was engaged to evaluate solutions for the area's water challenges. An adequate supply of water was difficult to find. From 1991 through 2001, the steering committee investigated numerous potential sources of water, including wells and the City of Phillipsburg. Their first efforts stalled.

However, in April 2001, a ground water source was located and a Water Supply Permit

Application was filed with the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Water Resources. A well field, generously donated in memory of Henry and Alice Kats by their family, was of excellent quality and located at the highest point of elevation in the district, so the entire system is gravity fed and expensive pumping is not required.

During this period, USDA Rural Development Specialists consulted with the steering committee regarding funding for the critically needed water system.

In May of 2005, the District was awarded two loans totaling \$1,484,000 and two grants totaling \$1,269,000 from USDA Rural Development. These funds were leveraged with grants from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, The Morgan Foundation, and The Cole Foundation.

Construction was started in March of 2007 and the District began distributing and selling water in December of 2007.

Completion of the project is due to the collaborative efforts of Kansas Rural Water Association, USDA Rural Development, Schwab-Eaton Engineering, and primarily the efforts, perseverance and vision of the members and supporters of the steering committee and board, which brought this rural water district to a reality.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure.

## RWD Seeks Manager

**RWD General Manager – Jackson Co. RWD No. 1 is seeking to fill the vacancy of District General Manager. Part-time and full-time candidates will be considered. This RWD serves approximately 1,000 patrons in northern Shawnee and southern Jackson counties in Kansas.**

**The individual in this position manages all daily operations/maintenance of the district system, business office, and (2) maintenance employees under the direction of the RWD Board.**

**Applications for this position should be directed to Jackson County RWD No. 1, 120 East 5th St., Hoyt, Kansas, 66440. Attn: Chairman. Call 785/986-6913 for additional details.**