

Anderson and Pratt County Fire Stations Set KAN STEP Project Model



Volunteer Tim Dietrich of Colony digs out the north footing on November 3, 2010.

More than seventy communities and water systems have benefited from the KAN STEP program. Several weeks ago, another member of the KRWA staff mentioned that she had tried to explain the various programs that would help a small community construct a new, and badly needed, fire station. The surprise to our team staff member was that the leaders of the community were generally not aware of the KAN STEP program. I would like to use the next couple of pages to review two more projects that are presently under construction.

Anderson County at Colony – a near model project

A \$296,884 KAN STEP grant to Anderson County, Kansas is providing funding to construct a new fire station in Colony. Colony is a community of approximately 375 persons; Colony is located in extreme south-central Anderson County in eastern Kansas.

Anderson County and the local fire department are constructing a modern fire station building to house the fire equipment, office and a meeting space that can be used for training of personnel. A community “safe room” will also be included in the project. The existing fire station in Colony is undersized for the number of vehicles that need to be stored. There is very little to no space available for meeting and training.

Volunteers at Colony will contribute \$335,233 in labor and equipment towards the new fire station. Kyle Trendel, AAIA, with Devore and Associates, Ottawa, is the project



Volunteers Steve Flora and Bob Hearn bend 3/8-inch rebar which will become column stirrups that will encompass the main column anchor bolts on the fire station in Sawyer.



Fire Chief Eric Seabolt and sparkplug Paul Stephens float in rebar that will be used to tie the floor to the trench drain footing.

architect. Grant administration is being provided by Laura Moore of the Southeast Kansas Regional Planning Commission, Chanute, KS. Inspection services and technical assistance are being provided by Kansas Rural Water Association.

The dirt pad for the project was started on October 19, 2010. The overburden was removed and then fill was hauled from north of Colony by several Anderson County trucks. The pad was brought up in eight-inch lifts until the proper grade was gained. On October 27 the building perimeter was squared in and elevations were transferred from benchmarks onto the batter boards to establish the floor height. On November 3, the footings were started. Steel was placed during the next couple of days and by November 6, the footings were poured. The interior footings were prepared and then poured on November 10 and 11 with floor preparation being the next focus. During the month of November the north floor was poured and the fire bay floor was prepared. The fire bay floor was poured on December 2. The last pour was the storm shelter walls and cap. The storm shelter was completed on December 10. What an accomplishment for Project Sparkplug Paul Stephens, Fire Chief Eric Seabolt, and the many volunteers to have such good progress on their project. Due to the pace of the volunteers and the bid contracts and material delivery dates being so close to when those materials were actually needed, anchor bolts needed to be drilled and epoxied in. After adequate set time, the steel building was erected the week of December 27. The building crew was not able to work during the first weeks of January due to severe cold and snowy weather. But the plan is to have the building completed by early February. Volunteers will spend the remainder of the winter on the interior walls and also on the mechanical aspects of the building. If the finishing of the building proceeds as quickly as the foundation and steel building erection, the project should be completed by spring or early summer.

Sawyer goes to it!

Volunteers at Sawyer in Pratt County in southwestern Kansas are also forging ahead with their project. It is a new fire station for Pratt County Rural Fire District No. 11. A \$297,971 KAN STEP grant is providing the



This photo shows the Anderson County Fire Station as it appeared on Dec. 30, 2010. D & B Collaborative, Lawrence, KS, is overseeing the erection of the building by Heinen Custom Operations, Valley Falls, KS. Anderson County is paying for the erection of the building.

Local volunteers will contribute \$287,142 in labor and equipment toward the new fire station.

funding to help this community construct a new 7,200 sq. ft. fire station. Sawyer is a community of only 190 persons.

The county and the fire department are constructing a modern fire station building to house the fire equipment, provide administrative space and training room that can also serve as a storm shelter. The facility will have five truck bays and a storage space. The design also includes a wash bay. The existing fire station in Sawyer is undersized for the number of vehicles presently stored there.

Local volunteers will contribute \$287,142 in labor and equipment toward the new fire station. The project architect is Dan Hall with BG Consultants, Manhattan. Grant administration is provided by Rose Mary Saunders of Ranson Financial



Mary K. Hearn, KAN STEP Volunteer and also operator of the city of Sawyer, barbecues hamburgers for other KAN STEP volunteers on September 18, 2010.



An Anderson County operator is busy keeping up with three county trucks hauling fill onto the building pad to be leveled out in 8-inch lifts on October 19, 2010.

Consultants, LLC, Wichita. The volunteer “co-sparkplugs” for the project are Jamie Miller and Merlin Kessler. Jamie Miller is the sparkplug for the concrete phase of the project and Merlin Kessler is the sparkplug for the steel building phase. The Kansas Rural Water Association is providing inspection services and technical assistance to the volunteers.

Work started on September 17 with footings being poured on September 18. The project has stem walls designed; that was the next phase of the project. The walls were poured on October 22. The floors were poured during the months of November and December; the steel building was started on January 8. The remainder of the red iron was stood on January 15; work has continued since. The goal is to have the steel building completed by the end of February, allowing the rest of the winter to work on the interior walls and mechanical aspects of the project.

These two projects could well serve as models for the KAN STEP program how projects can be approached and managed. Both projects have excellent communications. Volunteers put in the hours necessary to get the job done. Lights were brought out on both of these projects. With the change due to daylight savings time last fall, shifting work to later in the day is a must on most of these volunteer projects. Of course every project is different as are the capacities of local volunteers. These two communities will easily meet the allotted two-year timeframe to complete the projects.

For more information about KAN STEP, check out the Kansas Department of Commerce Web site at www.kansascommerce.com. Also, descriptions and hundreds of photos of completed and ongoing projects are featured on the KRWA Web site at www.krwa.net under “technical assistance”. Salih Doughramaji, KAN STEP Program Director with the Kansas Department of Commerce, will also

be making a presentation at the 2011 KRWA conference in Wichita, March 29 – 31. For extended discussions about potential projects, stop by the Department of Commerce’s booth (#117) to learn about KAN STEP and other programs available to cities and RWDs through the agency.

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www.waterwiseenterprises.com

Diane Patton dpatton@waterwiseenterprises.com

Shane Holthaus has been a KAN STEP Tech for KRWA since November 2002. He previously worked for thirteen years for a professional contractor.

