

# KAN STEP Continues to Benefit Enterprise

**E**nterprise, Kansas is a city of 950 south of Interstate 70 on Highway 43 in Dickinson County. Enterprise, as the name suggests, repeatedly has attempted and achieved several difficult undertakings. Enterprise completed two successful KAN STEP projects in the past nine years. These were a water system upgrade in 2003 and a new Fire Station/Library building in 2007. Recognizing a need, following through with the proper paperwork, recruitment of volunteers, hours of planning and labor finally come to fruition. Enterprise has what it takes.

KAN STEP is a self-help program and relies heavily on community involvement. It is administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce. Convincing and recruiting volunteers can be a daunting task for some communities. Enterprise has never had that problem. Paul Froelich, City Superintendent, says "Volunteer recruitment has never been a problem here in Enterprise; all we've ever had to do was ask and the residents have been great about doing the work."

To apply for a KAN STEP grant a community must show that 50 percent of the population have a moderate to low income level. Tom Decker, Mayor of Enterprise, says, "Because we are a retirement community we have quite a few elderly people in town. Our city council went door-to-door collecting and assisting residents with the proper forms needed to qualify. We've done really well as far as that goes."

Community improvement plans involving new water systems are typically out of necessity and will be appreciated for years to come. It is especially rewarding for those still living in the community and who were actively involved in the project to continually reap the benefits.



This photo shows the main hydrant used at the fire scene. The Library/Fire Station that funding from KAN STEP helped build is in the background.



The diner was fully engulfed in flames within a short amount of time. Fire fighters were able to contain it and save surrounding structures from damage.

On July 29, 2012 fire destroyed the downtown D-diner in Enterprise. The city fire department was called to the scene around 10:00 p.m. They were assisted by Dickinson County FD #1, Abilene Fire, Grant Township, Solomon Fire Department. and Saline County FD #1. The city fire department has approximately 18 volunteers and the county fire district has 30 volunteers. At the peak of the fire there were a total of 40 firefighters on scene.

A 2003 Enterprise KAN STEP project also played a vital role in assisting the firefighters. Enterprise installed 22 new valves, more than 4,000 feet of new pipe in the downtown area and two new fire hydrants. The main hydrant used at the fire scene was one that had been virtually inoperable before the upgrades. A city pumper truck and ladder truck were hooked up to this hydrant on the corner of 2nd Street and Factory Street. Firefighters were able to fight the fire and

**The main hydrant used at the fire scene was one that had been virtually inoperable before the upgrades.**

save the surrounding structures from damage with an abundance of water in a short amount of time. This would not have been possible without the the KAN STEP project. This hydrant previously was one of the lowest flow hydrants in town. When the main line was replaced, in the 2003 project, volunteers and city personnel discovered that the valve to

the hydrant was broken in the closed position. According to Froelich, “When the new valve was installed it made one of the worst hydrants in town into one of the best.”

To further improve the flow of water, the main was looped to the new main just a block east and tied into a 4-inch main in the alley between the two blocks. The entire downtown is fed by an 8-inch main looped and grided by 4- and 6-inch mains.

In 2010, the city installed a three channel data logger to record the water system. It was initially installed to comply

Projects	No. of Projects	CDBG Grants	Volunteer Labor	Total
Waterlines	12	\$ 2,529,721	\$ 2,094,758	\$
Community Centers	24	\$ 2,981,839	\$ 4,269,440	\$
Fire Stations	35	\$ 9,086,256	\$ 7,545,122	\$
Misc. Buildings	6	\$ 1,914,956	\$ 1,395,246	\$

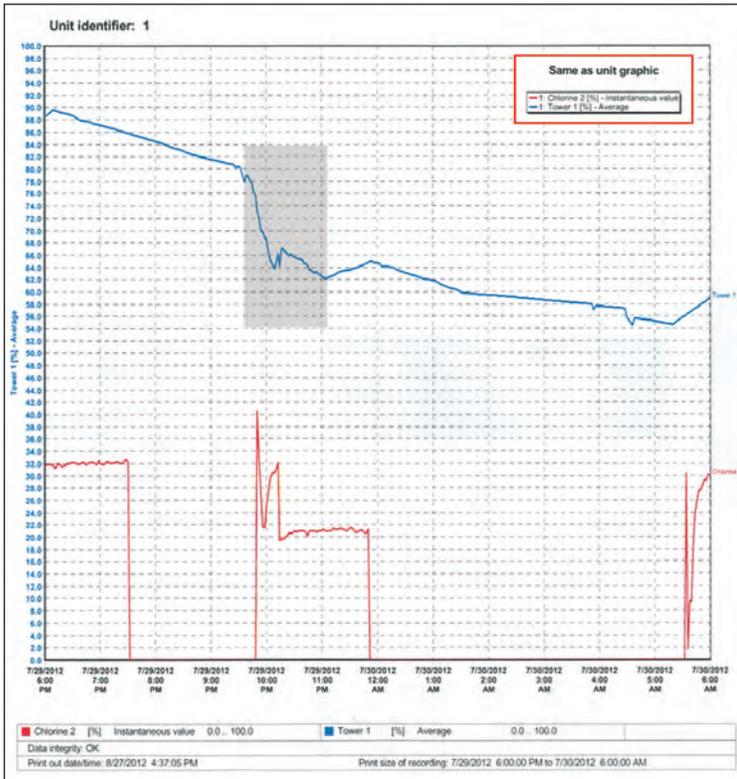
As of June 1, 2012, the KAN STEP program has funded 77 projects totaling \$19,511,000 have donated \$15,304,356 in labor and other services.

**Pending/In Progress**

- Cherryvale Community Building
- Jewell Co. Fire Station at Station
- Monteville Water Project Montgomery County RWD
- 12 Pratt County Fire Station in Silwayer
- Talley Library & Food Basket
- Usell Community Building
- Wagon Wheel Bus Station

**KAN STEP is a program administered by and funded through the Kansas Department of Commerce. It is designed to be a self-help “sweat equity” program. Communities with an acknowledged improvement problem that meet eligibility requirements are assisted through the KAN STEP program. The KAN STEP program has two dominating factors that are taken in to consideration; potential and readiness. “Sweat equity” refers to the value added to residential properties by homeowners who perform some of the construction or renovation costs themselves, rather than hiring professionals to do the work.**

For more information about KAN STEP visit the KRWA Web site: [www.krwa.net](http://www.krwa.net). Check the link to “Technical Assistance”.



The gray area on this digital printout from the data logger indicates the amount of water that was used on the fire. You can see that the tower water level dropped substantially during the first 20 minutes. Later the pumps from the wells north of town were turned on to help maintain the water level in the tower.

with the Ground Water Rule and to monitor chlorine residuals. With the use of the digital data logger the amount of water used the night of the fire was recorded and accounted for.

“During the first twenty minutes of the fire, 45,000 gallons of water were applied. A total of 120,000 gallons was used to fight the fire. At no time did the water pressure drop below 60 psi, and there were no broken mains. The visual printouts provided by the data logger prove it! This will allow us to account for all water used rather than reporting it as water loss,” Froelich said.

Additionally, Froelich stated “There is a home less than ten feet from the west side of the fire and it did not have a mark on it!”



This photo shows the close proximity of the house directly west of the diner.

Enterprise is currently working on the preliminary steps to secure funding for a third KAN STEP project. This will include 11 replacement hydrants, two new fire hydrants and replacing 22 valves. This project will also include installation of approximately 2,600 feet of new pipe. Mayor Decker said, “Our city has grown; adding new hydrants and pipe are needed.”

Enterprise recently received notification from the Department of Commerce to set up a time for a site meeting. Once the city proves it has the necessary volunteers, the project will move forward. If awarded, the KAN STEP project could begin after the first of the year, 2013.

KAN STEP projects create lasting improvements with many benefits to future generations. Improving a water system can make a small community more marketable to prospective businesses seeking to build or expand. The benefits of having a water system that provides adequate water to fight fires is also a huge asset. Citizens of Enterprise, KS know that value very well.

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