

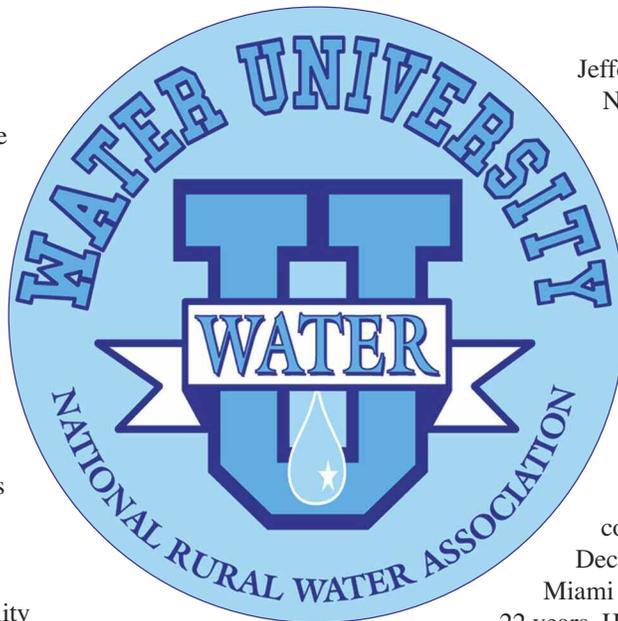
Kansas Water System Managers Complete Utility Management Certification

The Kansas Rural Water Association takes this opportunity to recognize those who have completed study and received certification in Utility Management Certification from Water University. Water University is a program available through the auspices of the National Rural Water Association, which provides training and technical assistance through its affiliates such as the Kansas Rural Water Association. The Association facilitates the certification program. The Utility Management Certification program is designed to recognize the professional educational achievements of individuals and to market their achievements and skills to increase the value of today's utility manager.

Water University certification is designed to recognize the professional educational achievements of individuals and to market their achievements and skills to increase the value of today's water professionals. Water University certification requires a high level of training and successful completion of a specialized test. The specialized test requires the applicant to have an understanding of all aspects of utility management including managerial, financial and technical capacities.

Brenda Adkins, Jackson RWD 3

Brenda Adkins has been manager of Jackson RWD 3 since October 2005. Brenda earned a Masters in Business Administration from Washburn University. She has worked the past 17 years in areas of management, finance and human resources. She has also attended environmental technologies training with Fort Scott Community College. Jackson RWD 3 serves 1,808 in five counties (Jackson,



Jefferson, Brown, Atchison and Nemaha) and also provides the water for six cities in Jackson County (Circleville, Denison, Mayetta, Netawaka, Soldier and Whiting). The district operates five wells and is also a member of the Public Wholesale District 18 (Banner Creek).

Jerry Bennett, Miami RWD 2

Jerry Bennett was the first rural water manager in Kansas to complete the UMC Certification in December 2010. Jerry has worked for Miami RWD 2 as the General Manager for 22 years. He holds a Class IV Water and

Wastewater Operator certification. He was recognized as the "Manager of the Year" by Kansas Rural Water Association in 1994. Jerry is a founding member and officer of the Hillsdale Area Water Cooperative. Bennett is a member of the Maris De Cygnes River Basin Authority, AWWA and an advisor to the Public Water Supply Committee for the Kansas Water Authority representing Small Municipalities in the Water Marketing Program.

Jonathan Bolinder, City of Alma

Jon Bolinder has more than 16 years of experience working in city utilities. He started his career working as a Utility Worker for the city of Alta Vista in 1997. In 2006 he began working for the city of Alma as a Utility Worker and was promoted to his present position of Utility Superintendent in 2007. Jon is Supervisor over five utility workers and oversees all aspects of water, gas, electric, and sewer utilities to include street maintenance. Jon has also taken on the responsibility of Zoning Administrator for the city of Alma. He presently holds a Class II certification in water and wastewater and is also a qualified Natural Gas Operator and assists with a Natural Gas Regional Training Group.

David Buehler, City of Ottawa

David Buehler began his career with the city of Ottawa in February 2000 as a Maintenance Worker I at the city's water plant. He advanced to a Maintenance Worker II in 2003, became a Superintendent in training 2005, and in 2006 he was promoted to his current position as the Water Treatment Supervisor. He holds a Class IV Water Operator from Kansas Department of Health and Environment. David attended the KRWA Leadership training to prepare for his certification. He also has completed a 16-week Utility management course through Fort Scott Community College and is currently planning to attend a 3-day management course through AWWA in October.

Carl Chalfant, City of McLouth

Carl Chalfant got his start in municipal work and was originally employed by the city of Waterville. In 1990, the city of McLouth made an offer for him to become their City Superintendent; he accepted it and has been in McLouth since. During his time of service, the city has embarked on numerous improvement projects. Over the past 23 years, the city replaced the entire natural gas system, installed an iron and manganese removal plant, expanded and improved the water system with new water tower through a SRF loan, had a major expansion and improvement to wastewater system, and a street rehabilitation program. In 2007, Carl assumed the role of City Administrator as he was performing much of the budget preparation, regulation monitoring and reporting, and project planning. Carl says that completed the Utility Management Certification Program to help further his

knowledge of municipal planning, budgeting, and decision-making skills.

Gordon Cuning, City of Lansing

Gordon Cuning is the Wastewater Utility Superintendent for the city of Lansing; he has worked for the city since December 2002. Gordon is responsible for the daily oversight of the Operations Division, Maintenance Division, and Collection System Division. Gordon holds a Class IV Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's License from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, a Class IV Collection System Operator's License from the Kansas Water Environment Association and a Class II Plant Maintenance Technician Certification from the Kansas Water Environment Association. Gordon is a 2009 graduate of the Leavenworth-Lansing Leadership program; he also has a Level 1 Work Zone Safety Specialist certification through the International Municipal Signal Association. He also serves as the department's representative on the city Safety Committee.

Lana Kettler, Miami RWD 2

Lana Kettler has been employed by Rural Water District No. 2, Miami County, KS as the Business Manager for the past 25 years. Kansas Rural Water Association recognized Lana as the Business Manager of the Year in 1997. For the past four years, Kettler is a member of the coordinating committee that organizes the Rural Water District Office Managers' Forum for the KRWA Conference. She is a member of the KS Section AWWA. Lana completed the Kansas Management Leadership Program in September 2011 and received UMC Certification in October 2011.

Ken McNickle, Public Wholesale Water Supply District 4

Ken McNickle began his career at the Public Wholesale Water Supply District 4 water treatment plant in March of 2000. For the first year Ken was a plant operator/training assistant manager. Upon retirement of PWWS 4 Manager Charlie Clines, Sam Atherton took over the reins as manager. Ken was promoted to assistant for the next ten years. During those times McNickle furthered his education through Fort Scott Community College in the field of Environmental Technology. When Ken entered water industry he had no previous water experience. With the help of now retired manager Sam Atherton, Ken grew into the position of Manager of PWWS 4 in 2011.

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Greg Metz, Kansas Rural Water Association

Greg Metz joined the staff of the Kansas Rural Water Association in June 2009. He presently provides coordination and facilitation of KRWA training sessions. Prior to joining KRWA, Greg was Superintendent for the city of Washington, KS where he was employed for 13 years. During that time he was involved with just about every aspect of the city and gained valuable experience. He began in the power plant where he was involved in rebuilding some of the engines. He was involved in daily operation and maintenance and installation of several extensions to both the water and wastewater systems. As Street, Water and Sewer Superintendent, he was in charge of pricing, ordering and maintaining inventory, running day-to-day operations of both departments and supervising other employees. Greg holds a Class II Water certification and Class I wastewater operator certification.

Rick Sailer, City of Bonner Springs

Rick Sailer has served as the Utility Director for the city of Bonner Springs since June of 2006. Rick oversees the water and wastewater operations for the city. Rick has extensive experience in the operation and maintenance of treatment facilities and distribution and collection systems. During his tenure with the city, Rick has directed numerous waterline improvements throughout the city, upgrades to the SCADA system and improvements to the wastewater plant.

Bill Shroyer, City of Sabetha

Bill Shroyer has been employed by the city of Sabetha more than 23 years. It has been in two stints. His first ten years with the city he started in the wastewater department working his way up to Supervisor of Water, Wastewater, and General Services. His second period with the city of Sabetha is now more than 13 years during which has been Assistant Administrator. Bill has been very active statewide serving on several boards and committees. He is a present member of the Kansas Rural Water Association board of directors. His wealth of knowledge in many areas has been a valuable asset to the city of Sabetha.

Scott Schultz, Douglas RWD 4

Scott Schultz has managed Rural Water District No. 4, Douglas County since August 2000. He was the second Kansas graduate of NRWA's Water University; he holds a Class IV Operator's certification and is a member of the American WaterWorks Association. Scott graduated from The University of Texas at Arlington with a Master's of Science in Taxation and a Bachelor's of Business Administration in Accounting. He is a licensed Certified Public Accountant and also owns and operates a care home for residents with Alzheimer's disease, along with operating rental real estate and pastureland. During his tenure, RWD 4 projects completed include securing a new source of water supply, adding nearly 25 percent increase in number of customers, the construction of three new pumping stations, upgrading 15 miles of distribution lines and reduction of water loss. Scott recently retired from the RWD.



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Charlie Schwindamann, Kansas Rural Water Association

Charlie Schwindamann joined the staff at Kansas Rural Water Association in September 1999. He presently provides technical assistance to wastewater systems throughout the state of Kansas. That assistance includes everything from collection system maintenance to treatment to providing advice on funding options for projects. Charlie attended and graduated from North Central Kansas Technical College for plumbing, heating and air conditioning in 1982. He worked in that industry until starting with the city of Marysville, KS in 1989 where he worked until joining KRWA's staff. He started out reading water meters and worked to the position of water and wastewater supervisor/building inspector, a position he held for more than two years. Charlie holds a Class II water operator certification and Class I wastewater certification. Shortly after leaving the city to work for KRWA, he was elected to the city commission in Marysville where he served for 12 years.

Allan Soetaert, Johnson RWD #7

Allan Soetaert has been employed with the Johnson County Rural Water District No. 7 for 25 years with 24 of those as the district manager. Allan says that he learned of the Water Utility Management certification during a NRWA Conference he attended. Soon after, KRWA was promoting it as well. While the training exposed him to national level policies, Allan feels that completing the certification was a good personal accomplishment as well. Allan believes that the waterworks industry could use more recognition about its value in everyone's everyday life. Allan says that he hopes other public water utility staff members to pursue

Water University certification. Allan presently serves as a board member of the Kansas Rural Water Association and also the Kansas Rural Water Finance Authority.

Paul Strathman, Nemaha RWD 3

Paul Strathman is manager for Nemaha County Rural Water District No. 3. Paul has 33 years of service with RWD No. 3. He was hired full-time in June of 1980 to assist in the operation of the system and in 1989, Paul assumed the role of district manager in addition to operational duties. Paul has a Class IV Water Supply Operator certification, and is also a trained backflow device tester. Paul, under the direction of the Board of Directors is in charge of all day-to-day activities for both the management and operation of the district. He is also the water operator for Nemaha RWD 2.

Tylor Struckman, City of Goddard

Tylor Struckman has spent nearly five years in Public Works at Goddard; he previously worked for the Public Works Department for the city of El Dorado. Tylor holds an undergraduate degree from Southwestern College, and a Masters Degree from Wichita State University. He is certified as a Class II Water Supply System Operator. Tylor completed the self-study of the Utility Management Certification course and tested. He also attended and completed the inaugural Municipal Utility Management Program sponsored by Kansas Municipal Utilities and the Hugo Wall School Environmental Finance Center as well as achieving his Certificate in Supervision from Wichita State University's Center for Management Development. Tylor hopes to attain a KDHE Class IV Wastewater Operator certification, as well as a mini M.P.A. from Wichita State University.



KRWA Offers Administrative Skills Training

Karen Skillman, instructor, discusses the QuickBooks software program with Janet Trollope, Office Manager for Osage RWD 5. Kansas Rural Water Association sponsored four training sessions on QuickBooks held at Washburn Tech in Topeka. Two QuickBooks sessions will be held in late July at Cloud County Community College with Amanda Strait as instructor.