

# Dennis Schwartz Retires from KRWA Board of Directors' Position

**D**ennis Schwartz, Topeka, long-time director of the Kansas Rural Water Association, did not seek re-election to the Association Board of Directors in 2014. His tenure is presently unsurpassed by anyone having served more than the 37 years that Dennis was a member of the Association's board.

Dennis retired in late 2013 as Manager of Shawnee County Rural Water District No. 8. He was first elected to the KRWA Board of Directors in 1977. He has held various offices in the Association and has been involved extensively in legislative matters that affected water and wastewater systems. Dennis is past president of National Rural Water Association and remains as the director on the National board for KRWA. Dennis is also a past member of the EPA's National Drinking Water Advisory Council. He is the most senior member of the Kansas Water Authority



**Newly-elected KRWA Board President Sharon Dwyer watches as Dennis Schwartz opens a gift from the Association – a giant, handblown water drop with an Association logo embedded in it. Schwartz served on the KRWA Board from 1977 to 2014, a total of 37 years.**

have first been appointed to the Authority in 1986.

“It has been and continues to be an honor for me to represent the Kansas Rural Water Association membership and to also serve as the delegate from KRWA on the board of directors of the National Rural Water Association. I have served on numerous committees and workgroups for the NRWA. I am proud

of the work that NRWA has done in representing the interests of water and wastewater utilities in Kansas and across the nation and I am extremely proud of the work and growth of the Kansas Rural Water Association,” Dennis says.

In retirement, Dennis and his wife Sharon enjoy traveling, visiting grandchildren, photography and both are involved various volunteer activities.

## City of Hays adds to Water Conservation Measures

**T**he city of Hays recently took steps to increase water conservation measures for residents and businesses.

*The Hays Daily News* reported that Hays' city commissioners recently unanimously approved resolutions that require that plumbing be more efficient in future construction and remodeling projects. The same resolutions updated the city's water conservation plan and regulations concerning irrigation systems.

Commercial properties installing new irrigation systems will be required to have 30 percent of their land xeriscaped – or landscaping that uses vegetation that requires small amounts of water. New business customers using permanent irrigation systems also will need to install meters on their irrigation systems.

Limitations are also placed on residential plumbing. Showerheads are limited to 2 gallons per minute, residential kitchen faucets to 1.8 gallons per minute, residential bathroom faucets to 1.5 gallons per minute, other bathroom faucets to 0.5 gallons per minute and toilets to 1.28 gallons per flush.

Anyone undertaking a construction project will need to submit plans for plumbing fixtures, including manufacturers' specifications such as maximum flow rates, to the city for review prior to construction.

The city's campaign in the early 1990s to reduce water use targeted 5-gallon flush toilets and an exchange of showerheads for low-flow heads.

According to the city's water conservation plan, Hays has implemented and continues to offer a program that provides a \$100 rebate for installation of low water usage washing machines. The city also continues to offer reduced rate 1.5 gpm shower heads rebates of \$50, \$100, and \$150 on 0.8, 1, or 1.3-gallon flush toilets.

In response to a request by the city, David Barfield, Chief Engineer at the Division of Water Resources, signed an Order on April 9, 2014 that authorizes the city to require private well owners within the city's limit to implement water conservation practices that are in compliance with the city's water conservation plan.