

KRWA Brings Training for Water and Wastewater Systems to Communities Across Kansas



There were 75 people in the audience at the first KRWA-sponsored training session in 2015. It was held in Manhattan on January 13. Thanks to the City of Manhattan for hosting the session at the main fire station.



KRWA Consultant Jeff Lamfers explains chlorine residual monitoring and the Stage 2 Disinfection ByProducts Rule at the Manhattan training session.

My work at Kansas Rural Water Association involves providing technical assistance to water systems – and helping coordinate many training sessions. I enjoy working with operators and others with their pumps, valves, hydrants, meters and control systems – but there is no replacement for having a great training session with a good-sized crowd of appreciative attendees. KRWA had many such events in 2014 – in fact, 105 days of training were provided with an attendance that totaled just shy of 6,800 people. That’s a bunch!

January 13, 2015 was the first training session of the year for KRWA. The session consisted of topics about water system components, regulations and new technology available for GPS mapping. The classroom in the Fire Station on Denison Ave. in Manhattan was filled as 75 people attended that session. The City of Manhattan registered 16 employees. I think that shows the level of interest and need for the training – and it’s an

expression of the confidence in the quality of training that is provided at KRWA-sponsored sessions. Not everyone just attends training to pick up operator credits!

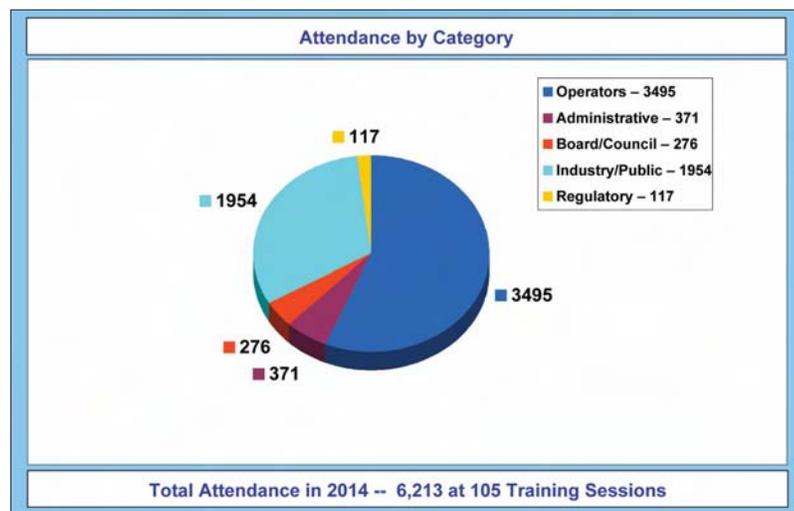
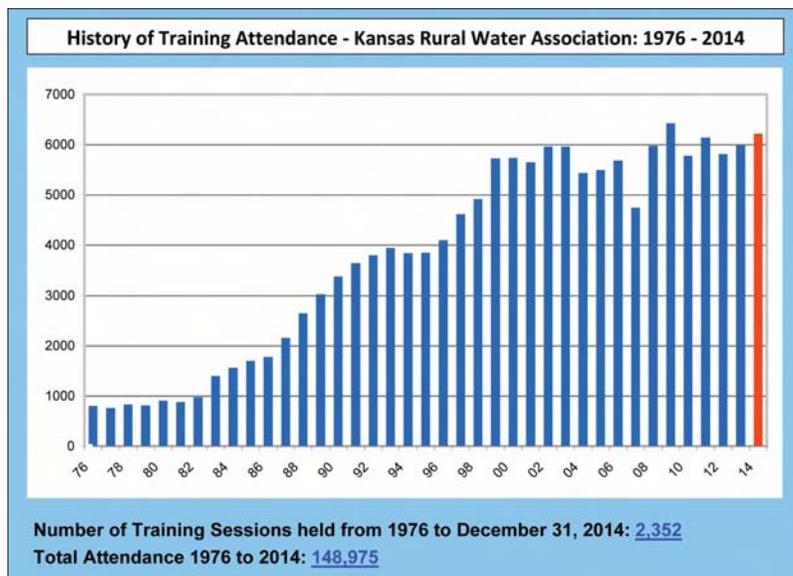
What was the attraction for the training in Manhattan? The session targeted smaller systems operation and maintenance issues. There was a variety of information covered throughout the day. David Rinaldi, Manager of Leavenworth RWD 7 based at Basehor, KS, discussed GIS and digital mapping technologies. David has been very progressive in the electronic advancements in mapping and GIS. He was very informative about how systems can merge data with digital mapping programs and utilize online programs to store, organize and use data collected on their water system or other utilities. David also covered GIS mapping by KRWA and how to upload that data to a smart phone and how to utilize public data for more efficient operations in the field. David has worked for other utilities with setting up and utilizing this type of data and information.

Jeff Lamfers, KRWA consultant, presented on water quality issues. Jeff worked for KDHE for 30 years before retiring and working for KRWA. Jeff assists systems across the state with operational problems and compliance issues for both water and wastewater systems. Jeff is knowledgeable, understanding and has the experience to cut to the chase when any question is asked. At Manhattan, Jeff discussed and provided training on chlorine residuals and operation of chlorine monitoring equipment such as the Hach digital pocket colorimeter. It was interesting to hear some of the common misconceptions concerning operation of such equipment among operators who attended. The interaction of the class demonstrated the interest in the information covered as well as the need for continuing education training. Jeff also covered updates on the Stage Two Disinfection Byproducts regulations, sampling and some basic operations.

I wrapped up the day with presentations on valve exercising and rejuvenation. I have personally made the topic of good valve exercising a passion of mine. Experience is sometimes the best teacher and I've been in many situations where if only the mainline valves had been exercised, the water system could have been more efficiently shut down to make repairs. I have had great success in valve locating and the rejuvenation of older valves and I like to share some of the success stories with other operator to help them improve their system and save the money at the same time. I also presented on the topic of line flushing and monitoring of water loss and the myriad of issues associated with troubleshooting to locate unaccounted for water.

So, it was another day, another session, another 75 people. KRWA will have approximately another hundred of such days in 2015. KRWA will continue to provide quality training for operators across the state. And KRWA staff are always looking for ways to keep training interesting for operators. If anyone has a specific need or interest in a topic, please contact me or any other KRWA staff member so we can get a regional session organized. KRWA is not going to make operators drive to a session and spend a night doing that; KRWA will continue to bring the training to local areas to reduce costs and time for those who want to attend. Send me an email at gmetz@krwa.net or call me directly at 785-541-0342 or call the office at 785-336-3760 or email krwa@krwa.net with any suggestion. KRWA is ready, willing and certainly able – and KRWA will deliver.

KRWA is continually adding and updating training session, so keep an eye on the Association's training calendar at www.krwa.net.



I hope readers will also plan to attend the Annual Conference & Exhibition, March 24 – 26 at Wichita. With 331 exhibit spaces filled and 57 training sessions, it looks to be another great conference exceeding expectations once again. Join your friends from across the State for a great time learning, networking and getting to know new people in the industry. The possibilities are endless as far as what can be taken in or learned at this conference; I am speaking as a former operator and manager of a water system – not just an employee of KRWA.

Greg Metz joined KRWA as a Technical Assistant in July 2009. He previously worked at the city of Washington for 13 years where he was involved in city utilities including the power plant, streets, water and wastewater. He also served as purchasing agent for those utilities.

