

Enterprise Benefits from KAN STEP Program



Monty Hackney (rear center), from the city of Solomon and Doug Guenther, KRWA Technical Assistant, move this 8 x 8 x 8 x 6 cross on the KAN STEP water project at Enterprise. This cross was removed at North Street and Court Street intersection. Two new 8-inch valves were installed as well as replacing a fire hydrant at the intersection.

The KAN STEP program has been a huge blessing for the city of Enterprise, according to Phyllis Jackson, city council member. Phyllis also says that Enterprise has been especially blessed with a number of competent volunteers to perform the in-kind work needed to successfully complete KAN STEP projects.

Exactly what is KAN STEP?

The Kansas Small Towns Environment Program (KAN STEP) is an ongoing, competitive self-help program for communities to address water, sewer and public building needs through greater initiative and with fewer dollars. Communities must demonstrate readiness (perception of the problem and willingness to take action to solve it), capacity (human resources to solve the problem), and documented cost savings.

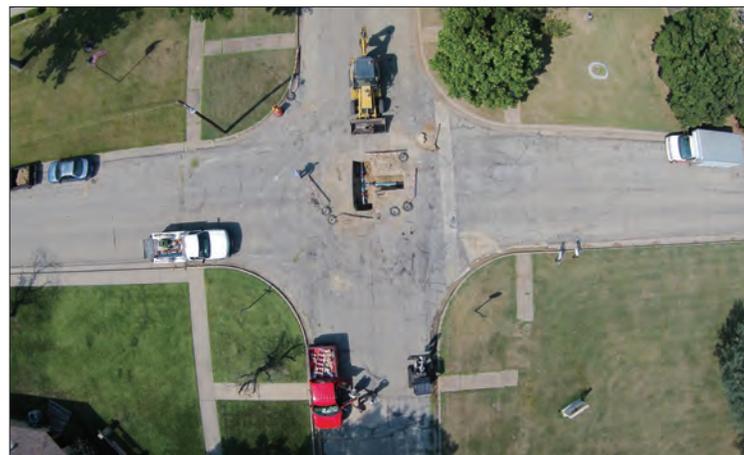
These grants require the use of volunteers to match Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. A 35 percent savings must be demonstrated to be eligible. The maximum amount awarded for this

grant is \$300,000, with a funding ceiling of \$2,000 per beneficiary. Preliminary applications are accepted in February and again in August. Funding pays for all necessary materials and professional services.

Enterprise completes three KAN STEP projects

The city of Enterprise, with a population of 950, is located about five miles southeast of Abilene in northeast Dickinson County. The city has taken advantage of the KAN STEP program three times since 2003. The first project consisted of water system improvements involving the installation of 22 new valves and 4,300 feet of pipe varying in size from 6-inch to 1-inch. Twelve of the valves that were replaced were inoperable due to the lack of

exercise over the past hundred years. In the past, it had been common practice to shut down the entire town anytime repairs were needed due to a main break. With the improvements, no more than a two block area needs to be shut down for maintenance or repair. Also included was the replacement of 26 services and two fire hydrants. The



City of Enterprise Utility Director Paul Froelich captured this photo from his drone at the intersection of 6th & Bridge Street where three 6-inch valves were replaced



This close up of the drone picture shows that all fittings have restraint couplings.



This photo shows the new fire hydrants after delivery to Enterprise. Note the “stortz” adapters installed on the 4.5 nozzles. These adapters speed fire department connection during fire response; they also have less friction loss than the standard threaded fittings.

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estimated value of that project was \$319,681. Volunteer labor allowed for a savings of \$176,556 from retail costs.

The next project was the construction of a new fire station and library combination. The 6,600 square-foot facility is located in downtown Enterprise. The fire station includes a meeting room for firefighter training and community meetings. City and area residents are pleased with the facility including the three computers available to the public that have Internet access. That project was constructed with volunteer labor from the community in the amount of \$168,972 and a KAN STEP grant of \$253,500.

The most recent project was another water project that consisted of installing 3,600 feet of pipe ranging in size from 2-inch to 6-inch that replaces an abandoned main line as well as eliminates most of the remaining dead-end lines in the distribution system. Eight fire hydrants were replaced to provide better fire protection, and

because parts are no longer available for the existing hydrants. Last, the project included installation of 16 new valves, all GPS located, that will allow the city to better isolate much smaller areas of the system. Overall, all but about a dozen valves have been replaced in the system.

Paul Froelich, Utilities Director, has the following comments about the benefits to the city as a result of these projects. Paul commented, “The KAN STEP water projects have allowed nearly 80 percent of the valves to be replaced and about one-third of the distribution system has been replaced.” Froelich says that the projects represent a savings of about \$5 per meter per month. With about 321 meters the savings amount to \$1,605 per month or \$19,260 per year. The overall savings when considering financing via a 20-year loan for example, amounts to \$385,200.

The two water system projects have made a major impact on the water

system as it allows for an overall improvement of the quality of water being delivered to customers. Funding for the project that was just completed consisted of a KAN STEP grant of \$163,777 by the Kansas Department of Commerce along with an in-kind match of \$76,038 by volunteers.

The city saw no need to replace more of the piping since some of the 8-inch cast iron pipe that was installed in 1957. When exposed, that pipe was found to be in good condition

The Kansas Rural Water Association provides inspection services and technical assistance to KAN STEP projects. To read more about the 82 respective projects that have been funded, check the KRWA Web site at www.krwa.net, and then under the “Technical Assistance” link.

Bert Zerr is currently a consultant with KRWA. He has been with KRWA since 2005. Prior to that, Bert was a District Engineer with the KDHE in the Salina District Office for 32 years.

Learn more about KAN STEP . . .

To learn more about the KAN STEP program, visit with representatives of the Kansas Department of Commerce during KRWA’s 2016 Annual Conference & Exhibition in Wichita, March 29 - 31. Commerce will be located in booth #157. Also, see program details on the agency’s Web site at <http://www.kansascommerce.com/>. Check the link “Communities” for KAN STEP and other Community Development Block Grant Programs.