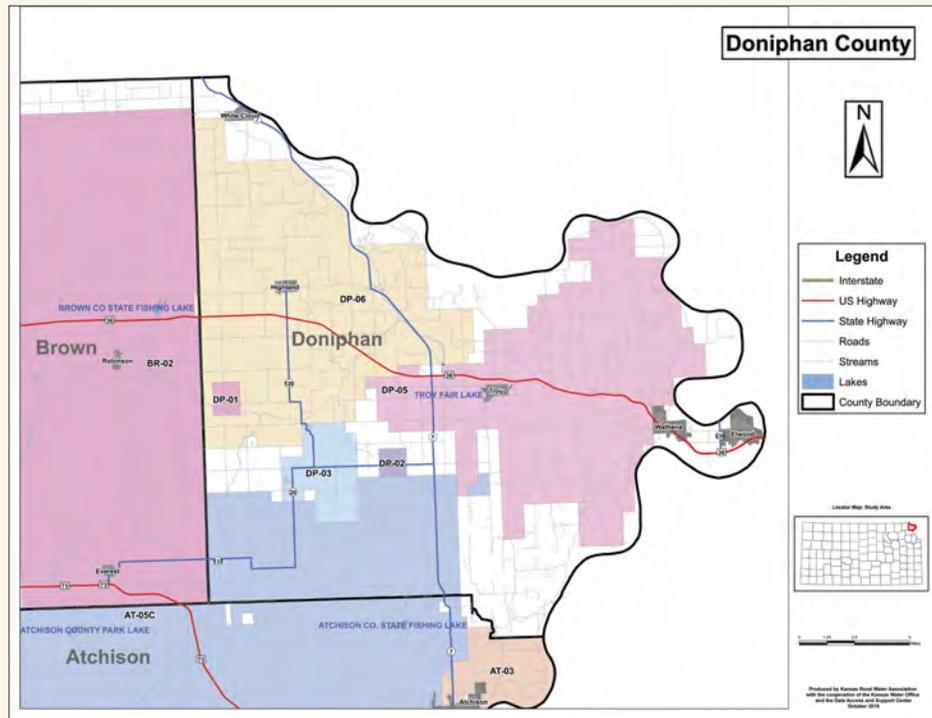


# A Long Time In Development – Doniphan County RWD 6 Now in Service

**R**ural Water District 6, Doniphan County has been a long time in development. It's been 14 years to be exact. The first community meeting to learn about the potential for the rural water district was held in Highland, Kansas in August 2004. After efforts to sign potential customers, the district incorporated May 11, 2009. There were 176 rural connections at the time of the district's incorporation. The original committee members were Preston and Janette Harness, Shelly and Doug Cluck and Randy Parsons. These steering committee members are and remain residents of Doniphan County who live in the unincorporated area along the Missouri River called Iowa Point. They were keenly interested in developing a rural water district because they were hauling water to their homes.

Iowa Point was first settled in 1854 on land received from the U.S. Government in payment for missionary services done at the nearby Iowa, Sac and Fox Indian mission. The town was a major shipping point between Leavenworth and Omaha and by 1857, the town had a population estimated at 3,000 making it the second largest town on the Missouri River next to Leavenworth. The town divided on the issue of slavery; by the end of the Civil War, it had nearly been completely burned, and businesses had nearly been depleted. The town never recovered.<sup>1</sup>

For many years the district would meet and discuss the development of the district and would recruit potential water customers. By the time project went to bid (the first time) the district had 220 rural residents who had signed users agreements and have purchased memberships in the district. Just prior to the bid letting, the district decided to test the groundwater supply that had been previously located. It was



Doniphan County, Kansas is nearly fully served by rural water districts.



The board of directors Doniphan RWD 6: Shelley Cluck, Treasurer, Paul Rush, Chairman, Preston Harness, Vice-Chairman, Randy Parsons, Secretary, and Mike Blevins, director.

<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia, 2018. Accessed October 7, 2018. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iowa\\_Point,\\_Kansas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iowa_Point,_Kansas)

discovered the proposed wells had been contaminated with higher nitrate. That was and remains puzzling because the water quality decreased in less than one year's time. This resulted in the district being without a water source and it subsequently lost out on the opportunity for a \$1 million regionalization grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce. It was back to square one.

In the meantime, Public Wholesale Water District No. 27 east of Hiawatha was developing and had invited Doniphan Rural Water District 6 to join the Public Wholesale along with five other systems. Public Wholesale Water District No. 27 would eventually become the supply for Doniphan RWD 6. As Doniphan RWD 6 waited for PWWS 27 to be built, Doniphan RWD 6 also went to bid in early 2016. Engemann Drainage, Troy, Kansas was the general contractor. MConn, LLC, Wathena, Kansas was the sub-contractor. Doniphan RWD 6 has approximately 120 miles of water mains and a water storage tank east of Hiawatha, Kansas along Highway 36. The district lies north and south of Highway in Doniphan County. The district also serves the city of Leona and its population of 37.

Engemann Drainage 's bid was \$3,157,011.50 and with the nine alternates, ended with a total project cost of \$3,573,357.30. Funding for Doniphan RWD No. 6 was provided through a loan of \$3,163,000 and a grant of \$2,629,000 from USDA Rural Development.

During construction the district experienced a lot of adverse weather and difficulties with easements. Construction began in May 2016 and was completed in January 2018. The district installed an interconnection with the city of Highland for the use of flushing the lines during the construction. The interconnection can also be used as an emergency water supply or blending purposes for the city of Highland. Once PWWS 27 water started flowing Doniphan RWD 6 had a few customers that used the

water for livestock consumption. Steering committee member and board member Shelly Cluck was able to have running water in her home December 29, 2017. She was delighted to no longer need to haul water for their home.

The district began reading customer meters March 15, 2018. At this time, the district has 192 active customers. There are 31 standby meters that are either pasture meters or haven't been connected. Engemann Drainage serves as the bookkeeper.

Rates for the district are \$55 as a monthly minimum which includes 1,000 gallons. All water costs \$3.50 per thousand thereafter. That makes a rate of \$69 for a 5000 gallon user and pasture meters \$25.00 minimum and \$3.50 per thousand.

The project consultant was Stuart Porter with the firm of Schwab Eaton, PA, Beloit, Kansas.

Board Chairman Paul Rush sums it up, "We are producing high quality water that's safer for or consumers for a reasonable rate. That was our goal and will remain so."



This standpipe serving Doniphan RWD 6 customers is located east of Hiawatha along Highway 36.



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# Public Wholesale Water Supply District 27 Producing Water at Costs Below Expectation

**P**ublic Wholesale District No. 27 has been in operation for a year now. The district has members including the city of Powhattan, city of Robinson, Brown County Rural Water District No. 2, and Doniphan RWD No. 6. The district's water supply is from three wells located seven miles northeast of Hiawatha, in Brown County. The Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska and Sac & Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska will be future members of the public wholesale district as emergency use partners.

Water began flowing through transmission lines to four public water systems including the city of Powhattan, city of Robinson, Brown County Rural Water District No. 2, and to a few select Doniphan RWD No. 6 customers located south of the Doniphan RWD 6 tower and US Highway 36 in November 2017.

PWWS D No. 27 was incorporated on November 2, 2015. The Public Wholesale District was established to provide water that was within Safe Drinking Water Act regulations, mainly nitrate to not exceed 10 parts per million (ppm). Brown County RWD 2 was a purchaser of water from the city of



The board of directors and consult of Public Wholesale District No. 27 are (left to right): Alan Kelley, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska; Marsha Ganstrom, Treasurer, city of Robinson; Leroy Puvogel, Chairman, Brown RWD 2; David Overdick, Secretary, Brown RWD 2; Paul Rush, Vice-Chairman, Doniphan RWD 6; John Ruckman, Bartlett & West, Inc.; and, Lyle Chadwell, city of Powhattan.

**It was discovered that in three locations where restrained joint PVC was installed the line would not hold pressure due to faulty gaskets.**

Hiawatha. An increase in the rate from the city to the RWD was also a factor in the decision mainly by Brown County RWD 2 to pursue a new supply. That decision worked out nicely for Doniphan RWD 6 as its proposed supply was found to be high in nitrates.

Construction on the public wholesale district began in December 2016. MConn, LLC, Wathena, Kansas was general contractor for the transmission mains and water treatment plant which

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cost \$2,274,065. Phoenix Fabricators and Erectors, LLC, Avon, Minnesota, constructed the 125,000-gallon elevated water storage tank for \$599,879. Sargent Drilling, Broken Bow, Nebraska, drilled a battery of three wells for the district at the cost of \$226,572.

Construction had its challenges, as all large-scale projects do. Along with adverse weather conditions, another challenge presented itself during the testing phase of the waterline installation. It was discovered that in three locations where restrained joint PVC was installed the line would not hold pressure due to faulty gaskets. The manufacturer, CertainTeed Corporation, agreed that this was a manufacturing defect. The company provided additional pipe for the project. The faulty lines were removed and replaced. Construction ended around the end of October 2017.

### Lower costs . . .

Water rates charged by Public Wholesale District No. 27 are ending up being lower than originally anticipated. In the planning stage the cost of water was estimated to be at \$2.80 per 1,000 gallons. With the District now in operation, the cost of water is \$1.80 per 1,000 gallons.

The final project cost was \$4,415,466. The Public Wholesale financed the project through the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund administered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment with the capital cost being \$3,090,826. KDHE granted a principle forgiveness of \$1,324,640 (30 percent because of addressing a compliance issue). USDA Rural Development then assumed what was an interim finance loan of \$2,497,000 at an interest rate of 2.25 percent for 40 years. USDA also provided grant funds to the project totaling \$593,826.

**Leroy Puvogel, Chairman of Public Wholesale District No. 27 and also Chairman of Brown RWD 2** recently announced the reduction in rates to the patrons of Brown RWD 2. The reduction was credited to the construction of the formation of the public wholesale and discontinuance of purchase of water from Hiawatha.

#### Brown County RWD 2 Rate Reduction

Gallons Used	Prior Rate	Effective July 1, 2018	
0-2000	\$59.32	Minimum	\$45.00
2,001-6,000	\$ 7.76	Per Thousand Gallons	\$ 6.76
6,001-15,000	\$ 7.17	Per Thousand Gallons	\$ 6.17
Over-15,000	\$ 6.00	Per Thousand Gallons	\$ 5.00

*Rita Clary joined KRWA staff in 2009. A focus of her work was to provide assistance to cities and rural water districts concerning loan applicants, environmental reviews, etc. In late September 2018, she resigned her position at KRWA to accept employment with National Rural Water Association.*



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