

Letters



Over the years KRWA staff have been of great service to this city. I have been with the city for 23 years. In the beginning it was Greg Duryea who I saw the most; he was a dependable resource, knowledgeable and always ready to help. The last ten years or so it's been Charlie Schwindamann who I have utilized on many projects. He has conducted several sludge profiles, smoke tested sewer mains, as well been a source for advice to get us pointed in the right direction.

While it's hard to prove a negative, he and KRWA have saved the city a great deal of taxpayer funds over the years. While I report all this to council regularly, I have been poor about telling you.

I, along with the city of Oskaloosa, appreciate all you and your staff do. I thank you for all the help over the years.

*Bill Heard
City Superintendent
City of Oskaloosa*

I would like to thank Daryn Martin for the time and work that he gave me and district No. 3. Daryn made a trip down to visit with me about our 4-log treatment process and report to DWR.

With his follow-up bookwork and many calls to the right offices of KDHE and DWR, the district decided to forfeit the 4-log certification and discontinue sending the reports.

He also contacted Dan Coltrane with the water treatment process of our plan to help with this decision.

Thank you Daryn, Dan and KRWA very much.

*Jon Houser
Cherokee RWD 3*

The city of Jennings had KRWA do a rate review for our city. With experts doing a thorough rate review is very beneficial. Without their expertise it would be difficult to know exactly how much to charge and still make ends meet.

Jennings is a very small community of approximately 100 citizens located in northwest Kansas. The staff at KRWA are always pleasant, knowledgeable and very willing to help. They are extremely valuable to our rural communities.

*Paula Krizek
Jennings City Clerk*

On behalf of Harvey County Rural Water, we want to tell you how much we appreciate Jon Steele's skill and expertise in the planning and devising of the installation of the 12-inch valve. We want to thank Kansas Rural Water for sending Jon Steele down to assist our maintenance personnel. Jon is very positive and upbeat. He offered our Maintenance personnel several suggestions how to efficiently install the 12-inch valve.

We want you to know that we are very pleased with the quality of service Jon Steele provided Harvey County Rural Water. With Jon's ability, skill and knowledge, this installation went far better than we could have ever imagined or expected!! With this new valve in place it will be a huge asset for our water district.

Thank you again!

*Maurice Meirowsky
Chairman, Board of Directors*

We would like to thank Lonnie Boller and Tony Kimmi for the countless hours as well as the weeks spent by the two of them helping us find a leak under the parking lot in the city of Reserve.

When the leak started out last August it was about three (3) gpm. As the leak progressed it became about 15 gpm and we still couldn't find. We spent several weeks of isolating sections of town, adding bypass meters, and tracking meter readings adding isolation valves, with no water ever surfacing. Lonnie and Tony, who had been assisting us this whole

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Jeff Lamfers, Consultant
Daryn Martin, Technical Assistant
Pat McCool, Consultant
Greg Metz, Technical Assistant
Linda Osterhaus, Office Assistant
Charlie Schwindamann, Wastewater Tech
Jason Soloman, Wastewater Tech
Jon Steele, Technical Assistant
Mark Thomas, GPS/GIS Mapping Coordinator
Monica Wurtz, Technical Assistant
Delbert "Bert" Zerr, Consultant*

time, brought in special leak detection equipment and with the help of Engemann Drainage of Troy, Kansas found and fixed our problem.

Thanks to KRWA for their efforts as well for having this equipment and providing this service to our town.

*Courtney Adamson, Mayor
City of Reserve, KS*

We sincerely appreciated Greg Metz's help today (May 20)!!!! He helped bring clarification on what needs to be done with our VFD's in the south pump house and he explained to Bob Blume what needs to be done, and then gave me an excellent contact to get a well pump pulled, helped explain on what needs to be done with the valves when our east storage tank is down, took elevations of our standpipes, spoke to project inspector with Schwab Eaton and expressed district needs to include further telemetry call outs on the project.

Last but not least, he located a flush valve for the district that we have spent numerous hours trying to locate!

I know I probably forgot something but it was such a productive day. I appreciated the time he took explaining operational issues to our new operator. This thanks has been long time overdue. So glad Greg is back on the KRWA team!

*Adrienne Feeney
Dickinson RWD 1*

Friendly service describes KRWA and its employees. Everyone who I have met from KRWA has been friendly and helpful. One person in particular though is Jon Steele. Jon was instrumental in helping us to get one of our wells, which was pumping sand, refurbished. I am new at my position with the city of Inman and Jon's many years of experience and expertise gave me comfort, as he saw it through from start to finish. On behalf of the city of Inman, thank you KRWA and Jon Steele.

*Rod Boerger
Maintenance Supervisor
City of Inman*

Wastewater May Hold a Key for Early Detection of Viruses Such as Coronavirus

The rapid spread of coronavirus during outbreaks suggests the primary mode of transmission of human coronavirus is respiratory droplets. Since coronavirus infection in humans up to this point has been characterized as a mild, self-limiting condition, there is limited information on its transmission potential through the environment.

Factors that can influence virus survival in water include temperature, organic matter, and aerobic microorganism. The most critical influence on virus survival is temperature. It has been shown that virus survival decreases with increasing temperature.

According to current literature scientists across the United States are developing testing and tracking techniques to better understand the coronavirus. Part of those studies are to develop monitoring systems that will provide an early warning if coronavirus infections are detected in wastewater.

When the coronavirus attacks a person's body, it leaves a trail of castoff genetic evidence that winds up in wastewater flushed from toilets across a community.

Testing wastewater can reveal evidence of the coronavirus and show whether it's increasing or decreasing in a community. By sampling a community's wastewater, researchers have been able to detect COVID-19 hot spots days, and sometimes weeks, before those cases appeared in hospital admissions data and clinical testing.

Although scientists have yet to determine the exact number of COVID-19 cases from wastewater testing, research suggests they can estimate the potential case count based on the amount of genetic material detected, the number of customers per system and the volume of wastewater generated. Scientists continue to improve upon those estimates, trying to achieve greater accuracy.

In Kansas, Belinda Sturm, Professor at KU, has partnered with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to complete a study of the influent wastewater of several northeast Kansas wastewater facilities to assess the presence of RNA and other genetic material generated from the COVID-19 virus shed in urine and feces of infected individuals. The actual genetic material being analyzed is not contagious.

As of June 1, 2020, this study is still in the early stages and there are many scientific steps to work through to make the conclusions more precise. The only conclusions from the initial results are the presence or absence of the material, indicative that the virus is or is not within the community served by that wastewater system. In some cases, the results were inconclusive for a handful of facilities. KDHE plans to use this test as it becomes more precise to aid health departments in surveillance of the decline and possible re-emergence of the virus in the upcoming months.