

Letters



The city of Troy would like to thank (KRWA staff) Greg Metz for coming and working a big part of a day locating a leak the city had been looking for more than a week. We had checked vacant houses, etc., before contacting you.

This was costing the city in not only treated (chemicals) water loss but overtime to run the water plant.

We greatly appreciated Kansas Rural Water having the piece of equipment to check the fire hydrants and your time in locating the leak. The city would not have found it without your help due to the nature of the leak.

Again, your help was greatly appreciated.

*Jane Boeh, City Clerk
Jim Horner, Working Superintendent
City of Troy*

I am writing on behalf of the city of Kingman to thank KRWA for its assistance in our recent water emergency. Your staff was a great support as we worked to solve the problems encountered. Jon Steele was a wonderful help and resource as we dealt with the emergency. His guidance and input were critical as we put our plans into action. This is the type of support that makes us proud to be members of KRWA.

Please pass along our thanks to your organization. We truly appreciate the assistance received to help our community recover from this unfortunate incident.

*Greg Graffman
City Manager
City of Kingman*

The city of Winona would like to express our appreciation for the assistance provided by KRWA Circuit Rider Doug Guenther. We requested assistance from Doug to help prepare for our KDHE inspection. Doug spent most of the day making sure we were

ready for the inspection. He helped with our Emergency Water Supply document, Water Conservation Plan and Bacteriological Sampling Plan.

We confirmed the locations for our sampling and had to change a couple of locations due to changes the homeowners had completed, such as installing a water softener or whole house filter.

While Doug was here, he also assisted with measuring the depth of water at our wells and checked our chlorination system to make sure we were operating at required levels.

The city of Winona can't say enough good about the assistance by KRWA. We know we can always call Doug or other KRWA personnel to assist us when needed.

Again, we greatly appreciate the assistance by KRWA.

*Dan Lewallen, Operator
City of Winona*

The city of Esbon has completed the work on our sewer pond. The sludge was professionally removed and bentonite applied to the pond. The pond was put to use this past week. Thank you to your association for all assistance provided. We especially want to acknowledge KRWA Wastewater Tech Charlie Schwindamann for his advice and help with our soil tests, etc. He was very knowledgeable and a big help in all our endeavors.

*Mayor and Council
City of Esbon*

Recently McPherson RWD 1 had the use of the KRWA pressure tank when we took our tower out of service for four days to clean and inspect. What a blessing it was that the tank was available.

KRWA Circuit Rider Jon Steele helped set the tank up and make sure it

would operate as expected. There was no loss of pressure in our system and our customers were really not aware that our tower was out of service. Using this tank saved us from flushing water through a relief valve with the pumps running continuously, saving time and money.

*Bruce Spare, Operator
McPherson RWD 1*

Thanks for all your help (KRWA staff member Jeff Lamfers) regarding the wastewater issues with the city of Winchester. The changes that you recommended were implemented and we are now meeting our permit requirements. You are a valued resource and always very professional. It is always a pleasure to work with you.

*Steve Pruett, Operator
City of Winchester and
City of Nortonville*

Cowley County Rural Water District No. 3 would like to say "Thank You" for all the help that we have received over the years from Jon Steele and most recently Daryn Martin. Both Jon and Daryn have taken the time to help show me and help me understand, whatever it is that we are working on. I also know that I can call both of them at any time night and day and they will be here to give a helping hand. Words cannot express how grateful I am to Elmer and all of KRWA! Everyone has always been so helpful and kind. I feel like everyone goes out of their way to help me. We greatly appreciate all of you.

*April Walker
Office Manager
Cowley RWD No. 3*



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September 24, 2020

KRWA Board and Staff;

YOU NEVER KNOW!! I wanted to send a sincere and deeply appreciated thank you "again" for the help KRWA has and continues to provide for the City of Brewster. Over the years I have been fortunate as a City Superintendent (1996 KRWA -Municipal Operator of the Year) to understand the importance of having our membership and relationship with KRWA as well as some backup plans for operating a small community system. Having worked on a multitude of issues from Water, Wastewater and even regulatory issues with KDHE my 30+ years of experience with KRWA has been positive. Only a phone call away – and Elmer and the entire staff have always been there for us!

Here is why it is important to be a member and have KRWA: Starting in August it has been a non-healthy roller coaster for our city. First my backup operator had a medical issue and had surgery and has been off for more than four weeks and then I had an issue with blood clots in my lungs (which showed up while digging a cremation grave for a family at the cemetery here!) and then it escalated to a "heart attack" on Sunday, September 12th. So, due to my emergency, I had to make some calls for a backup operator help of which I contacted KRWA Bert Zerr (since I had just talked to him on Friday) and asked him to have Doug Guenther contact me. Doug did call and it was good because he has been here before so he knew a little about our system. So for three days I was out of commission having been flown to North Platte for a heart attack Sunday September 12, at about 3:00 pm with which I had three stents put in and was back in my room by 6:30 pm that evening. I didn't know what a heart attack felt like so I had about 20 of them over the last six weeks and I do now!!

I returned to work on September 15th (three days off including Sunday; talk about a vacation!!) and have returned back to work and feeling really good!! My councils (that I once sat on and now work for) of which I tell others are exceptional. Anyone can call them but they understand what I do and why it is important and the great working relationship we have (I am thankful because other operators and councils seem to have serious problems and we DO NOT)! I was blessed to be here according to my cardiologist! I like many of you am busy (no time for heart attacks) with municipal works of streets, water, sewer, trash, cemetery for the city, then I own a plumbing business, run 200 head of cattle and farm as well as family, on boards of several organizations and church council president.

In closing I can't say enough for KRWA staff and those of you as members of KRWA. WE have an excellent team at KRWA and it is run very well. KRWA is there to offer help and some said "Mike, all you have to do is ask and we will help out". If I were to list all of the things they have done and helped with, I could write a book! It is also the fact that my city council also agrees with my/our support for KRWA! We have a great town; if you've ever been here you can attest to that. Check us out at www.brewsterkansas.com! This year, we are in the process of a new water supply and building a nitrate blending station right now so my plate has been "close to full" but it has been exciting and a "learning experience in dealing with all the parties and governmental agencies.

Thanks again KRWA for all you do and have done for the City of Brewster!

Respectfully,

Mike Schultz
City Superintendent
City of Brewster, Kansas

This email is within the realm of the 2020 Census, but it's obviously of a personal nature. Sometimes it's necessary to connect while the connection is strong.

The end is here! This is my last week with the 2020 Census. I don't want to get away without extending thanks and conveying respect for what you and everyone at the Kansas Rural Water Association have done on behalf of Kansas where the 2020 Census is concerned. The KRWA's early public endorsement of 2020 Census efforts was significant and beneficial in its own right. But advocacy for the census from KRWA and its members only grew from there. Special thanks for the high-profile reporting in the 2020 Census in The Kansas Lifeline magazine. Also appreciated was something that didn't happen. I was slated to speak about the 2020 Census at the KRWA annual meeting in Wichita. A pandemic messed up that excellent opportunity.

Having enjoyed a leadership role as a Senior Partnership Specialist with 2020 Census the past 18 months has afforded me the opportunity to renew my connection to the State of Kansas in a way I'd not foreseen. This temporary census position has allowed me the privilege of collaborating with a diverse mix of Kansans from virtually every corner of the state. Now I welcome a professional assignment allowing me to continue working with like-minded people for the betterment of the community we know as Kansas.

It's been a pleasure, Elmer! I trust our paths will cross again. Regardless, I enjoyed working with you however briefly and sincerely appreciate your commitment to better the lives of all Kansans.

*Steve Hale
2020 Census
Gardner, Kansas*

The city of Toronto recognizes the need for Jason Solomon's presence for our rural water needs. He had been

dedicated enough to show up after hours to help with water/sewer leaks and problems (one evening very recently). He has trained and helped our staff complete needed reports, such as eDMRs, and helped with overall understanding of how to navigate the KDHE system.

His help has been crucial and is still deemed necessary to our city.

*M. Jade Bucy
City Clerk
City of Toronto*

The online classes are great in this new world we live in.

*Max Krull
City of Blue Mound*

Thank you (KRWA staff Monica Wurtz) and KRWA for making the online classes available. This was so helpful. I would have given both webinars all stars! Very well implemented.

*Michelle Meyer
Holy-Field Vineyard & Winery
Basehor, Kan.*

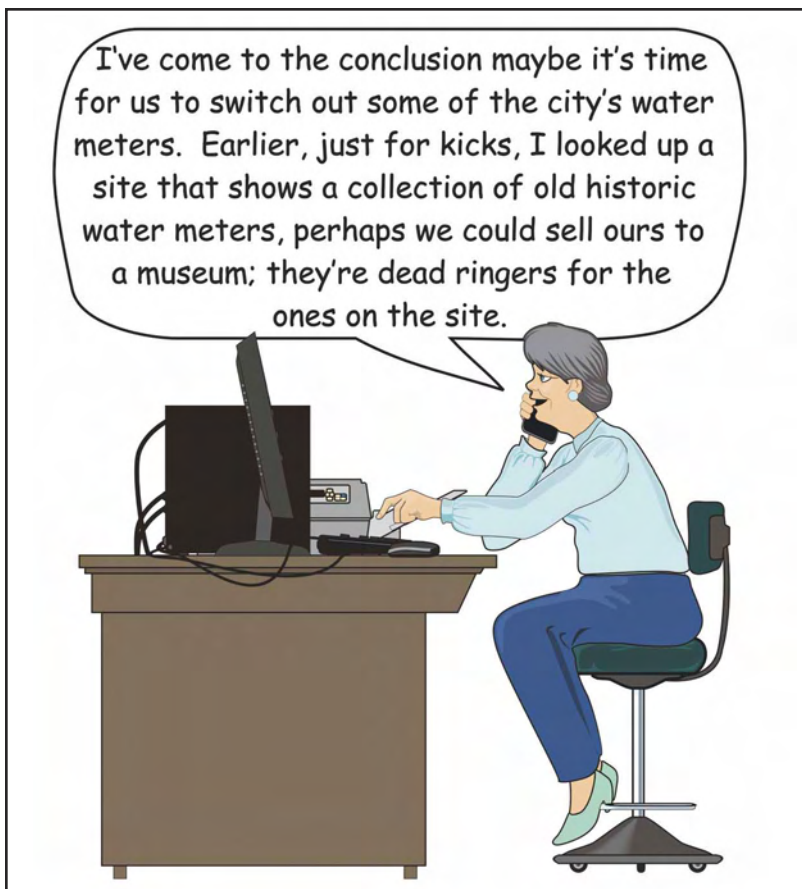
I think this (online training) could help smaller systems minimize the costs associated with training new employees. A small system might be able to train additional operators without the travel, meal and hotel expense. Short online classes can help us ensure that our hourly employees have the opportunity to take classes beyond the minimum to keep their certifications.

*Matt Markley
Public Wholesale District No. 26*

The online program will help keep us informed on changes that are taking place within the water/wastewater industry. Online training will help operators in remote areas receive training without having to travel long distances.

*Francis Lobmeyer
Finney RWD 1*

Cartoon by Linda Windler.



Thank you all for your hard work and dedication, it really showed in today's training.

*Tim Silvers
Douglas Co. RWD No. 4*

Concerning the recent online training, I felt it was well worth my time. By doing a webinar saved the city mileage and a meal. We can still do our readings in the morning. We are right here if there is an emergency. I have left classes early to come back for a water leak, which usually is no less than an hour from Chautauqua (because we have a very small crew).

*Charles McMillan
City of Chautauqua*

I hope to see more online training in the future. It is much better than having to travel an hour or more to attend in person.

*Nancy Houghton
City of Barnard*

Good course. Please provide more online training. During this time of COVID-19 it is good to not have a bunch of people together. It would be devastating if 30 or 40 Kansas water / wastewater operators got contaminated at the same time from attending an in-person training.

*Chuck Shively
City of Coffeyville*

Thank you for providing this training online. You provided a lot of good information in many areas. I will encourage my co-workers to participate if this is offered again.

*David Steffen
City of Cunningham*

Appreciate the effort to bring training to operators during the Covid-19 outbreak. Hopefully this type of training can continue afterwards. It is

easier for operators to set aside a few hours on multiple days compared to being away from their utility for six to nine hours.

*Kent Heskett
City of Tonganoxie*

Appreciate access to online class where I do not have to travel and it keeps our city travel expenses down also!

*Robert Krohn
City of Westmoreland*

Thank you, Elmer, for taking time to come to our board meeting and visit with us and RWD No. 3 about the acquisition process. We appreciate you spending the evening with us sharing your knowledge and expertise.

*Deborah Richardson
Rural Water District # 2, Franklin County*

Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 26 would like to send a "Thank You" to KRWA for sending Daryn Martin out to us on June 10, 2020.

Daryn was very professional and helpful in diagnosing the problems that we have been experiencing with the RO system at the water plant.

Daryn took water samples and worked his calculator over like a wizard!

He was able to make recommendations for adjusting some of the treatment chemicals at certain points in the process hoping to reduce the problems we have been experiencing at the RO membranes.

KRWA is such a valuable asset. Thank you!

*Yvonne Kirk
Deputy Clerk, Treasurer, Floodplain
Administrator,
and Rural Water Bookkeeper
City of Strong City*

**KRWA
Officers &
Directors**

- Bill Shroyer, President, City of Sabetha*
- Mike Fulkerson, Vice-President, Leavenworth Cons. RWD 1, Basehor*
- Patricia Shaffer, Secretary, Butler Co. RWD 5, Benton*
- Allan Soetaert, Treasurer, Johnson Co. RWD 7, Gardner*
- Carl Chalfant, Director, City of Washington*
- Paul Froelich, Director, City of Enterprise*
- Scott Robertson, Director, City of Hesston*
- Bill Shroyer, Director, National Rural Water Association*
- Mays & Associates, LLC, Legislative Liaison*

**KRWA
Staff**

- Elmer Ronnebaum, General Manager*
- Greg Duryea, Assistant General Manager*
- Laurie Strathman, Administrative Assistant*
- Bret Beye, Technical Assistant*
- Lonnie Boller, Technical Assistant*
- Doug Guenther, Technical Assistant*
- Doug Helmke, Water Rights/Source Water Specialist*
- Stewart Kasper, Technical Assistant / Trainer*
- Tony Kimmi, Technical Assistant*
- Ken Kopp, Water Rights/Source Water Specialist*
- 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*