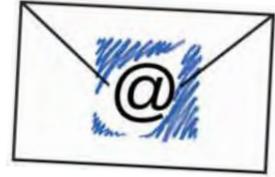


Letters



The city of Reading and I would like to express our appreciation for the assistance from KRWA. I was hired approximately three years ago and had prior work experience in water and wastewater utilities. I feel like I have knowledge to maintain these utilities but on occasion when things are not normal or things don't go the way they should, it is very helpful to have access to people who are so very helpful, experienced and have a wealth of knowledge.

I knew Charlie Schwindamann from classes that I had attended over the years but have been working closely with him recently on our wastewater system. The city of Reading is small and I am the only full-time employee. Needless to say our utility funds get stretched very thin at times. It became obvious to me that the city's wastewater collection system was in dire need of attention; 40 of the 45 collection system manholes were not readily accessible. In other words, they were buried below surface anywhere from eight inches to three feet deep. This was troublesome because in our area of the state for the last few years the ground has been very wet. Our collection system has a huge I&l (inflow and infiltration) issue that I

was unable to assess easily. Charlie, the mayor and I conducted a smoke test on the 5th of July of this year. The smoke test revealed more than 50 leaks. At present time, 48 repairs have been completed and all manholes with the exception of two are now accessible to aid in monitoring our I&l. The city chose to make the repairs even on customers' service lines to ensure that they were completed. No labor was charged to the customers but we did charge for the supplies to make the repairs. This was received very well in our community. Some of the repairs were very simple and some were more extensive. The largest cost to the city was the purchase of the manhole riser extensions.

To summarize, to make these repairs the city spent approximately \$5,000 in materials and labor but did not have to hire a contractor. Citizens with leaks or storm water sump pumps that were plumbed into the sewer system have been corrected at very little expense to the customers. Most importantly we know that the repairs were made and made correctly. This gives us hope that this will help and set us up for minimizing repair cost in the future. None of this would have been possible without your organization's time,

effort, knowledge and assistance. Myself, Reading city council and clerk, thank you for all that you have done for our small community

*Brian Knight
City of Reading*

The city of Greenleaf would like to take this opportunity to thank Greg Metz with KRWA for his assistance. The city has been working on an interconnect with Washington Rural Water District No. 2 for nitrate blending purposes as well as an emergency water supply. Greg came over and assisted with the initial

interconnect and road crossing on the north end of the project which consisted of tying into the rural water line, putting in a valve, and crossing the gravel road that had two fiber optics and a phone line crossing. Greg then came back to assist on the south end of the project which consisted of tying back into the existing rural water line, disconnecting the old rural water line on the north end, installing the bypass around the vault with two valves, installing all of the controls in the concrete vault, and installing the tap into the existing feed that goes to town.

The city of Greenleaf constructed the vault and trenched the half mile of line themselves to save money and with the assistance of Greg Metz with the tie in and the final construction helped to save the City even more. The city of Greenleaf saved more than 40 percent off the initial cost estimate made by the engineer. Once again, a big thank you to KRWA and Greg Metz for the assistance in this endeavor.

*Jerry Baker, Maintenance Operator
City of Greenleaf*

As you may know, the city of Nashville has been working with your office (KRWA) and specifically Charlie Schwindamann for the past year. I wanted to let you know how much the city of Nashville has appreciated the advice, input and guidance that Mr. Schwindamann has give us.

The city of Nashville, Kansas is a very small town about 65 miles southwest of Wichita. Our town consists of approximately 60 residents. We rely on volunteers for many aspects of city council management and maintenance (meaning we all have full-time day jobs). We employ one individual to oversee and maintain our sewer system. Our town is unique in the fact that each resident owns and is responsible for the water well on their property. The sewer lagoon system is maintained by the city



Cartoon by Linda Windler.

and charges \$12 for month for each resident. Needless to say, we have a small and very tight budget.

We recently worked closely with Mr. Richard Longberg (KDEM) and EMA on KS-Disaster 4417 to access damage and were able to received funds to assist in a portion of the repair and rebuilding of the center cell that sustained erosion damages from storms. The cell had been drained and repairs were being made to the diversion gates at the time we received over six inches of water in a short period of time. The lagoon project was recently finished and we plan on re-opening the cell in the spring. We encountered more phone calls, photos, emails and correspondence in these last two years than anyone should have to deal with in a lifetime, but through this process we have also been education and assisted by many government, state, county and local agencies.

I commented you and your staff at Kansas Rural Water Association for the commitment, friendly attitude and willingness to help those small communities as well as the larger communities. Without the assistance of your Association, our small rural communities will cease to exist because of the lack of education, finding funding and not having the ability to keep up with the regulated maintenance.

The city of Nashville kindly asks that USDA Rural Development continue with funding to NRWA and KRWA in order to keep our rural communities alive and thriving – we thank you in advance!

*Kourtenay Householter
City Clerk/Treasurer/Councilmember
City of Nashville*

I REALLY prefer the virtual (training). In the past, it was always hard with my schedule (because I am a RWD operator, not full-time), to take off from my job all day and either make the local or travel to attend the workshop training. This way I could sit in my office, watch the presentation and now I am finished at 2:30 pm. I hope, even when we get back to normal, you will keep the virtual option available. It is a

much better use of our day to avoid travel and extra expense to our district.

Appreciate all you do; thank you.

*William Reichenberge
RWD #1, Montgomery County*

Kansas PRIDE Inc., wishes to thank you for your donation of \$1000.00 on 12/14/2020. With your corporate donation, we would like to keep you updated with an electronic copy of the Kansas PRIDE Newsletter. This donation greatly helps our organization to provide support and recognition for Kansas communities. As you know, 100% of your donation is returned to Kansas communities through education, communication and recognition.

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services in exchange for this charitable gift.

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We sincerely appreciate your donation.

*Jaime Menon
Co-Treasurer
Kansas PRIDE*

The city of Reading and I would like to express our appreciation for the assistance your organization and staff provide with our water system as well as wastewater system. I received your letter in reference to our water tower repair/replacement. Thank you so much. Your staff frequently stops by just to check to see how things are going. Usually, I have questions about

Letters continued on page 5

**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
Ken Kopp, Assistant General Manager; Water Rights/Source Water Specialist
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
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
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Monica Wurtz, Technical Assistant
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