

Many Smaller Communities Continue to Make Improvements to Infrastructure

A few years ago, the KRWA Conference theme was “Weathering All Storms”. Little did anyone know what was around the corner. But nowhere does that theme continue to be more apparent than in rural Kansas. Despite record heat, drought conditions, crop failures, high livestock mortality and sell-offs, supply chain shortages, and material prices through the roof due to the law of supply and demand, positive things are still happening in the waterworks industry including water and sewer line expansion projects.

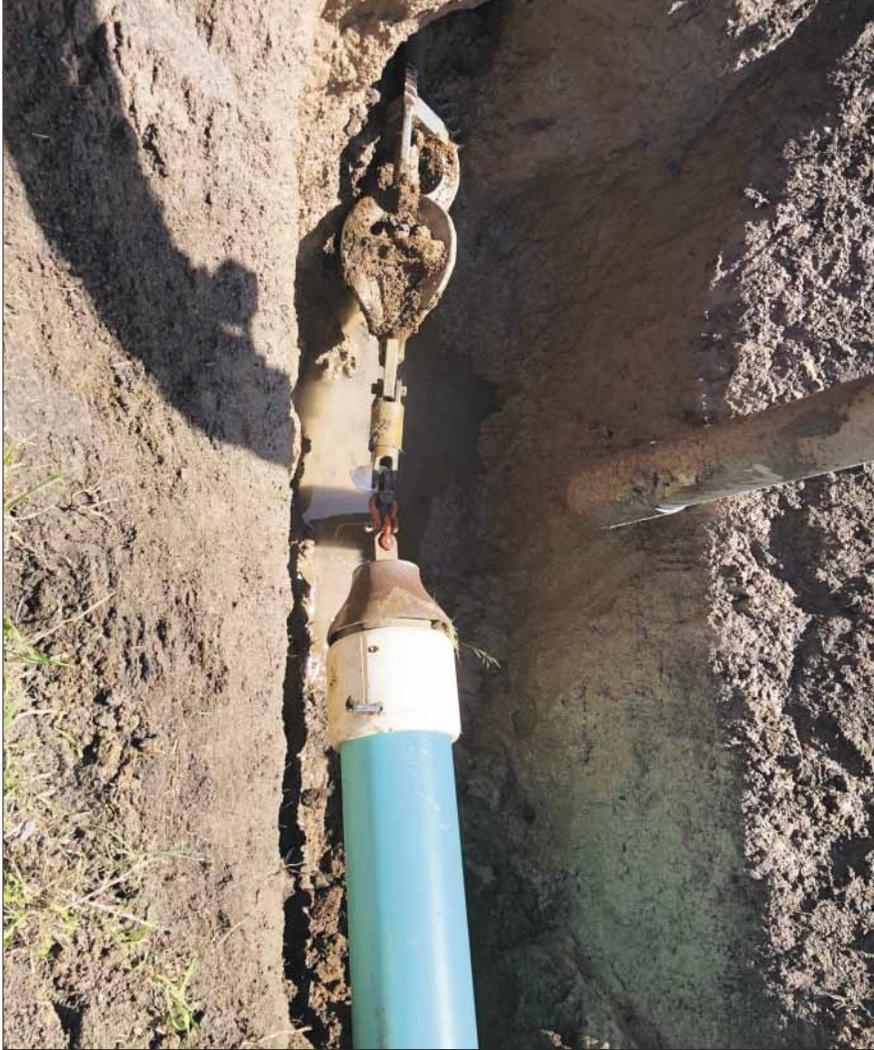
One great example is a new water distribution system expansion project in the city of Inman to serve a new commercial and residential development area. The improvement area is just west of the old K-61 Highway and will include up to ten new residential dwellings, a new Dollar General that is already open for business, and a new egg washing facility. Plans also include the construction of a fast-food establishment and a carwash. This is a nice growth spurt for a town with a population of 1,350, which in turn should provide a good boost for the local economy.

The expansion project includes approximately 3,300 feet of 6-inch C-900 PVC pipe, 5 new fire hydrants, 15 new mainline valves, also 2,400 feet of new 8-inch PVC sewer main, and 7 new manholes. One lift station that handles the area is also scheduled for replacement in the near future.

The city was able to finance the project with \$230,000 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the rest with General Obligation (GO) bonds. The entire cost of the project was just short of \$1 million dollars, with the water system portion coming in at \$380,000. Engineering



Nowak Construction, Goddard, Kansas begins installation of a new 8-inch sewer line. Because of the depth, this excavation is being caged for safety of workers.



This photo shows a 10-inch C-900 casing ready to be pulled back under the road prior to installing the new 6-inch C-900 water main.

8-inch PVC line and the other is an old original 6-inch cast iron line. The lines cross a deep drainage ditch and the older cast iron line was exposed leaving it susceptible to freezing, so they contracted with Nowak to replace the line with 650 feet of new 6-inch HDPE pipe at a cost of \$75,000.

More good news for rural America might be on the horizon with the passage of last year's bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which promises to inject increased federal funding for water and sewer improvements, some of which will not require repayment. Water utilities are encouraged to keep an eye on the Kansas Infrastructure Hub (<https://kshub.org>) for up-to-date information about possible funding opportunities.

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work was done by EBH and the contractor for the job was Nowak Construction from Goddard.

Since they were already in the neighborhood, the city was also able to utilize Nowak's services to work on another project separate from the new expansion. The city's primary water wells are located 2.5 miles east of town with two transmission lines that bring water into town. One line is a newer

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