



Hello Everyone! I'm Terry Hobbs and I'm Here to Help

Hello everyone! My name is Terry Hobbs. I would like to use this article to introduce myself to readers of *The Kansas Lifeline* and others in the water and wastewater utility industries.

You've likely heard the Beach Boys song called "Kokomo". Well, that's where I'm from – Kokomo, which is the "City of Firsts" in Indiana and about 50 miles north of Indianapolis. Naturally, I am a Hoosier and love to watch Indiana basketball. I'm a die-hard Colts fan, even in their bad years.

I was born and raised in Kokomo and all of my family lives there. I joined the Army in 1988. I did tours at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and Fort Riley where I was deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Storm. Before going to the war in the Middle East, I spent a year in Korea on the DMZ. As my enlistment was coming to an end, I met a wonderful woman who was attending K-State in Manhattan, and who is from Victoria. As time went by, we fell in love and I made the decision to stay in Kansas. We married in 1993 and this year will mark our 30th wedding anniversary. We have two children who mean the world to us. Like many dads around this area, I was involved in helping coach the teams they were on from soccer, basketball, softball, and baseball. I was involved with booster clubs, the local VFW, and I was a volunteer firefighter.

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where I removed a lot of underground storage tanks and excavated contaminated soils and did testing for such. While in this position, I assisted with well drilling and completion so I am familiar with well construction.

When my children became middle school and high school age, I pursued a different career where I was the operations manager for a precast concrete company. Unfortunately, that business closed its doors. As they say, when one door closes another one opens. That door led me to be in this industry. I worked for the city of Gorham as the Superintendent for more than ten years where I was a Class 1 Water and Wastewater operator as well as being operator for a rural water district in the area. I was responsible for everything for the city from water and wastewater systems, parks, streets, mowing, snow removal, and anything else that might come along or happen. I know a lot of the cities and rural district in western Kansas are the same way where they have a city clerk and a superintendent or RWD office bookkeeper/manager and an operator.

As it's been said, "It takes a village". This is true in every small town; it takes a team effort with the employees and the board or council members to get things accomplished.

I am very excited about the fact that I get to share some of my knowledge with the different systems throughout Kansas now as an employee of KRWA. In my initial visits, I have been introducing myself and explaining source water protection plans. I also will be assisting with other needs as well. Valve exercising is one that is requested a lot, as well as Lead and Copper inventory assistance. I look forward to meeting operators, clerks and managers across the state. I'm here to help so email me at terry@krwa.net or contact me by phone at 785/735-4031.

Terry Hobbs began work at KRWA as a Source Water Protection Specialist in March 2023. He holds Class 1 water and wastewater operator certification. He completed Airborne and Air Assault training and served tours in Korea and Desert Storm and has EMT certification through Barton Co. Comm. College. Terry and his family live in Victoria, Kan.

