

Meet Debbie Brooks and Lorraine Lowrey, KRWA's Newest Employees



Debbie Brooks

Debbie Brooks Joins KRWA Office Staff

Kansas Rural Water Association is pleased to announce the employment of Debbie Brooks as a full-time office assistant. Debbie and her husband Steve recently moved to Seneca from Girard, Kansas. At Girard, Debbie worked at the Crawford County Treasurer's office and Steve was Director of Public Works for the City of Girard. She has 20 years of experience in clerical work including, but not limited to, processing of State compliance documents and office management, making customer service and commitment to excellence a top priority. Her work at the Treasurer's office focused on motor vehicle registrations and vehicle titles. Debbie is a native of Lebanon, MO.

Debbie's husband Steve began work as the City Administrator in Seneca on June 19th after serving the City of Girard as a dual-certified operator, a Public Works Director and a City Administrator Apprentice. They have three daughters, one granddaughter, one grandson, and one granddaughter on the way. Debbie has spent most of her adult life as a resident of rural Kansas. Being the wife of a former water

and wastewater operator, she has a deep appreciation for the hard work and dedication that is required of operators and KRWA staff to provide clean, safe drinking water to all Kansas and looks forward to assisting in every way possible.

Since joining the KRWA family, Debbie has been actively involved in providing support to the office and field staff in preparation of training registration, materials, and membership as well as office support to water systems throughout the state and has felt a greater sense of purpose with this opportunity than any other she has experienced before. Her willingness to assist, and her desire to grow will be a welcome asset to the KRWA organization and is evident in her comment: "I believe strong customer service is necessary in all aspects of public relations and I look forward to doing what I can in whatever ways I can to help KRWA."

Lorraine Lowrey Joins KRWA Staff

The Kansas Rural Water Association is pleased to announce that Lorraine Lowrey of El Dorado, Kan. has joined the KRWA staff. Lorraine's primary work will focus on decentralized wastewater systems. This is a new contract area for KRWA. The program is funded by USDA Rural Development and administered through a contract administered by the National Rural Water Association.

Lorraine has most recently worked as an Engineering Technician at MKEC Engineering in Wichita. There, she completed files in AutoCAD 3D drafting and finalization for engineering projects including water distribution, sanitary sewer collections, stormwater drainage and plot planning for civil projects on both the commercial and private side and veterans' cemeteries.

Lorraine also has experience with power grid engineering, an electrical engineering firm. She was a teaching assistant at Wichita State University (WSU) and attended the College of Engineering for four years. Lorraine was a Koch Innovation Mentor. She worked for several months as a high school intern for the city of El Dorado Public Utilities in 2016. She assisted in data collection of water and wastewater treatment and field assistance in both city water and offsite testing and provided lab assistance at both the water and wastewater treatment facilities. Lorraine was one of eleven students to be named a Senior Honors Recipient in 2021 at WSU and was the Outstanding Graduating Senior in the College of Engineering in 2021.

In joining KRWA, Lorraine says that since her time working at El Dorado, she has continued to educate herself and grow in her knowledge of utilities. "I have a great passion for water and wastewater that continues to drive the decisions I have made in my career and my future. As someone who is also an avid learner, I am also willing to say there will be plenty I will have to learn on the job. However, I am not afraid of that; I look forward to being a member of the KRWA team," she comments.



Lorraine Lowrey