

# Kansas Water Office Staff Join KRWA for First-Hand Look at Services Provided with Funding Through the Clean Drinking Water Fee

The Kansas Rural Water Association has operated a contract – “Technical Assistance to Public Water Suppliers” – administered through the Kansas Water Office since 1992. The Association was awarded a new five-year contract in 2022. The contract is funded through the Clean Drinking Water Fee which is the \$0.03 per thousand gallons of water sold at retail. The Clean Drinking Water Fee was created as an exchange for public water systems to be exempt from paying state and local sales taxes on all purchases. Without question, this contract, like others that KRWA operates through other agencies, is critical to hundreds of water systems. The focus of the Kansas Water Office contract is to reduce water loss and to provide other assistance to systems

with challenges involving water treatment and other operational issues.

On August 2, several KRWA staff members were joined by Kirk “TJ” Tjelmeland and Katie Goff with the Kansas Water Office staff at the City of Valley Falls during an onsite technical assistant visit. KRWA Surface Water Tech Lonnie Boller and Technical Assistant Tony Kimmi demonstrated

the testing of fire flow at a new fire hydrant. The city requested a test in the area of town where a new water main and hydrants had been added to the water distribution systems. After the fire flow test, Boller and KRWA Circuit Rider Kris Kline engaged in a discussion with the Water Office staff about the importance of isolation valves to allow for hydrant



KRWA Surface Water Tech Lonnie Boller explains filter operation and the filter media profile process to determine the media's condition and remaining depth. Pictured are Kirk “TJ” Tjelmeland and Katie Goff, Kansas Water Office and Lonnie Boller and Tony Kimmi, KRWA.



KRWA staff member Lonnie Boller explains valve operation on a fire hydrant.



Kansas Water Office staff Kirk “TJ” Tjelmeland and Katie Goff listen to Valley Falls operator Bill McCoy as he explains chemical usage in the city’s water treatment plant. Valley Falls treats water from the Delaware River just upstream of Perry Reservoir.

# Kansas Water Office Contract with KRWA Provides Invaluable Help to Public Water Systems

The Kansas Water Office has invited responses to a “Request for Proposal” to provide “Technical Assistance for Public Water Suppliers” in 2012, 2017 and 2022. KRWA submitted responses – in reality – a “bid” – for the work in each of the contract terms. KRWA has been selected as the awardee in all three submittals. The work is in continuation of a contract that was first extended to KRWA by the Kansas Water Office in 1992. So, at the end of state fiscal year 2023 (FY 23), it marked the 32nd consecutive year that KRWA provided a report on the help on behalf of public water systems in Kansas. Here is a summary of the work in FY 23.

- ◆ Provided assistance to 177 different cities and 93 rural water districts or other systems
- ◆ Conducted 148 water loss surveys in 98 cities and rural systems, locating and correcting more than 360 million gallons of loss per year
- ◆ Assisted with water conservation plan development for the cities of Arlington, Burns, Overbrook, Quinter, Ransom, Rozel, and Rush RWD 1, Saline RWD 3 and Saline RWD 8
- ◆ Spent 5,415 hours of on-site and travel time and logged more than 71,000 miles to provide services under this contract

## The focus on water loss reduction

A major focus of the contract is to help water utilities reduce excessive unaccounted-for water. Who are the candidate systems for help? While prior contracts focused on those water systems with a water loss of 30 percent or more, help under the FY 23 and ongoing contract goes to “whoever calls”. KRWA has a full-time staff, so calls are responded to immediately, day or night, regardless of the day of the week, including holidays.

As mentioned, in FY 23, KRWA conducted 148 water loss surveys in 98 different cities and rural water districts. If there is an

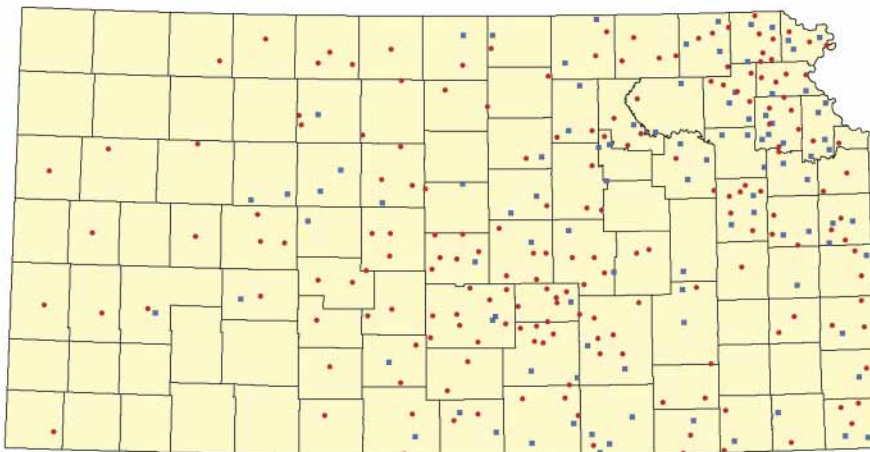
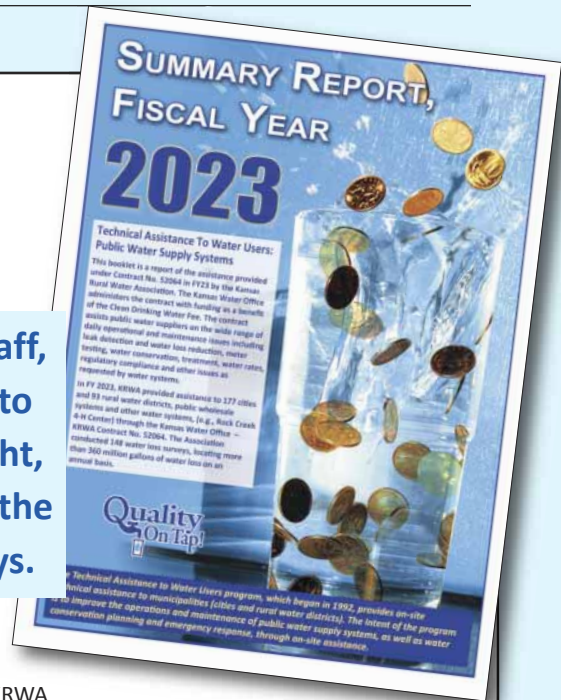
**KRWA has a full-time staff, so calls are responded to immediately, day or night, regardless of the day of the week, including holidays.**

emergency leak, KRWA reduces the per-minute loss by at least 50 percent. Still, the annual loss for these 98 systems would have been more than 360 million gallons, which would have cost these systems \$1.65 million to produce or purchase. KRWA also tested many master meters between water systems and meters within municipal and rural water districts.

## KRWA is transparent!

KRWA is the only organization in Kansas that provides help to public water and wastewater systems and then provides reports of that work in hard copy reports and also loads the information on the website for public access. The report for FY 23 is at this link: <https://krwa.net/TECHNICALASSISTANCE/Assistance-via-KWO-Contract>. Readers can pull up the listing of assistance by name of the system or by Regional Planning Area.

Also, copies of correspondence by KRWA staff are posted online at <https://krwa.net/TECHNICAL-ASSISTANCE/Letters-Tech-Assistance/Letters>. The KRWA website is open to the public – meaning no one has to be a “member” with a “login” to access any portion of the site.



**From FY 92 through FY 23, KRWA conducted 2,638 water loss surveys.**

In FY 23, KRWA provided help to these 177 cities and 93 rural water districts or other water systems through a contract funded through the Clean Drinking Water Fee and administered by the Kansas Water Office. The funding amount was \$325,000. The total costs were \$451,837.



**This photo shows KRWA Circuit Rider Kris Kline and KRWA's Tony Kimmi demonstrating use of a ground mic to trace a leak.**

maintenance and isolation of sections of the distribution system for leak location and repair.

The city was aware of a small leak in the system. A goal of the exercise on this incredibly hot and humid day was to try to determine the location of that leak. It was confirmed that the leak was on a service line to a customer meter. The city will begin at the edge of the street and work towards the main. The leak was likely near the curb stop. That is just one example of how KRWA staff assist systems across Kansas to help narrow down leaks by pinpointing the area. This helps minimize the need to remove and replace any more asphalt or concrete than essential, saving a city thousands of dollars in street repairs. While not every attempt to locate a leak is successful, KRWA staff are willing to go the extra mile to help systems with leak investigations.

The water source for the city of Valley Falls is the Delaware River just upstream of Perry Reservoir. The city operates a small water treatment plant. It was a perfect location for more demonstrations. City Superintendent Bill McCoy provided a tour of the plant to the Kansas Water Office staff. Bill discussed the various processes from the intake at the Delaware River to chemical injection and then



**This photo shows one of the two Hurco vac units KRWA operates to help water and wastewater systems clean valve risers and other confined spaces. The unit can also pot hole to help locate buried lines, etc.**



**Tony Kimmi opened this fire hydrant to determine the flow rate. KRWA provides numerous hydrant tests for municipalities to help them verify information for fire insurance ratings.**

filtration, the treatment process and then to the storage facility. Lonnie discussed filter operation and doing a profile of the filter media to determine the material condition and remaining depth of the media.

One of KRWA's valve exercising and vac units was also brought to Valley Falls for demonstration. KRWA staff used the unit to remove water and debris from a valve vault. KRWA recently purchased a second similar unit. KRWA Circuit Riders Greg Metz, Javon Baker, and I have driven many

hundreds of miles across the state to help cities and rural water districts with valve exercising programs and cleaning out valve boxes and meter pits. KRWA's two Hurco units have been real cost and time-savers for local water systems. Scores of valves that were inoperable have been operated and are now in functioning order. These hydraulic units are back-savers, as larger valves require many turns to open and close. Having a valve exercise program is one of the more recent items that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has included on the annual inspection.

Meter testing was also demonstrated. We explained how the non-intrusive meters that KRWA has have proven invaluable during water loss surveys. Many rural water districts have pipelines that stretch up to five or more miles between valves. The non-intrusive meter "straps on" to the pipeline and is then calibrated for pipe size and type. Once the unit is set up it can detect flow direction and gallons per minute to help narrow down and confirm leaks.

*Kris Kline began work with Kansas Rural Water on September 30, 2021 as a Circuit Rider. He obtained his Class IV Water and Class I Wastewater operator certification at Osage City,*



*Kan. and later become the Utilities Director. He also had 12 years of experience as Operation's Manager at Osage Co. RWD 8.*



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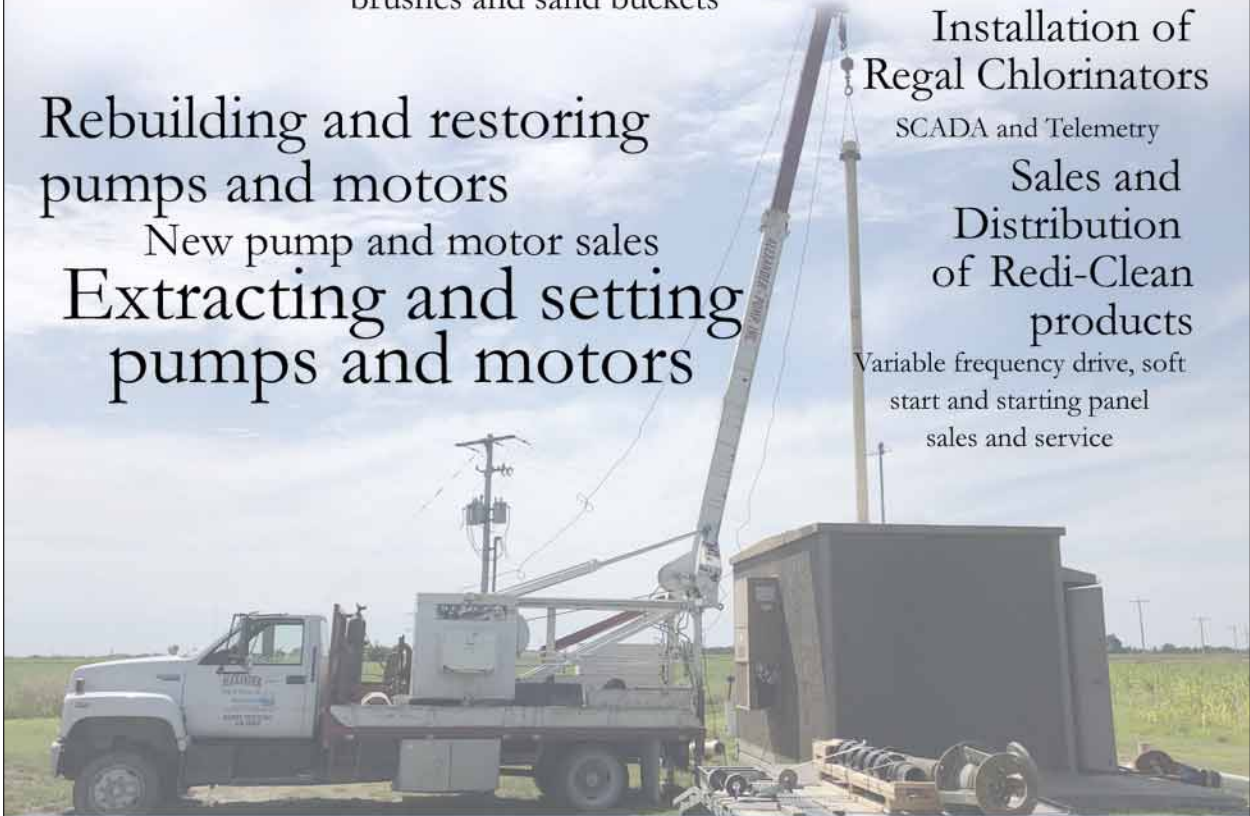
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PUMP & SERVICES INC.

785-383-2435 (Darren)  
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