

# New staff members join the ranks of KRWA

**Laurie Strathman, Administrative Assistant**, of R 1, Seneca, began work August 18, 2004.

A graduate of B & B High School in 1979, Laurie brings to KRWA 25 years of experience working in a local bank. She worked in most departments of the bank, including bookkeeping, on the teller line, for public agencies, and most recently, in new accounts. She was also a



*Strathman*

customer service representative. Laurie's familiarity with financial institutions and banking processes will be of invaluable service to KRWA for her responsibilities in accounting for the Association. Kansas Rural Water operates 10 contracts with state and federal agencies and several internally funded programs to provide services to water and wastewater utilities and public facilities. The Association also provides administrative support for the Kansas Rural Water Finance Authority.

Laurie is married to Paul Strathman. Paul is Manager of Nemaha County Rural Water District No. 3. The Strathmans have 4 daughters. Jessica is a senior at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Heidi is a freshman at Kansas State University in Manhattan. Wendy is an 8th grader at B & B Junior High School and Paige is a 3rd

grader at B & B Grade School. Laurie's hobbies include sewing, walking, gardening and attending school activities.

**Randy N. Johnson, Training Director**, started with KRWA this summer and brings more than 30 years experience in the water and wastewater industries to KRWA. Since 1979, Randy has been involved with training and certification of water and wastewater operators. He has developed and instructed a variety of operator training courses for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Missouri and Kansas Rural Water



*Johnson*

Associations, as well as numerous private and municipal organizations and utility systems. He was previously employed as the training coordinator for the State of

Missouri's Operator Certification and Training Unit and has served on the Missouri Operator Certification Board as well as the operator training advisory committees for Crowder College, Penn Valley Community College and the Missouri Water and Wastewater Conference. Most recently, he has owned Bluff's Edge Environmental Services, water and wastewater training and consulting business specializing in the areas of management,

operation and maintenance of public water and wastewater systems. In 2004, he developed and delivered a training course "New Regulations and the Technology to Meet Them" for the National Environmental Training Center for Small Communities (formerly National Drinking Water Clearinghouse) at West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia.

In addition to his background and experience in both water and wastewater training programs, Randy has also operated or managed both surface water and ground water drinking water supply and treatment systems, as well as activated sludge, lagoon and trickling filter wastewater treatment facilities.

**Stephen R. Thompson, P.E., Manager, GIS/GPS Mapping Services**, started work at KRWA November 1, 2004. He heads up KRWA's expanded Geographic Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) Services. In addition to providing a service to map water, wastewater, gas and other utilities, the Association will also



*Thompson*

offer GIS/GPS training, technical support and consulting for both beginning and advanced users.

Thompson is a 1972, K-State graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering and 18 credit hours of graduate study in civil engineering. He has been a licensed professional engineer in Kansas since 1976.

Most recently he has been a GIS/GPS consultant working with Kansas government and commercial entities since January, 2003.

In May of 2004, Thompson retired from a 22-year career as a professor at KSU-Salina. During this time he taught math, computer science, surveying, civil engineering, global positioning systems and geographic information systems technologies. He was section head for the civil engineering technology department from 1991 to 1994; served as a member of the Kansas GIS Technical Advisory Committee from 1988 to present; and in 1990 established the first GPS Base Station for the State of Kansas at KSU-Salina. That same year, with a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF), he developed the first GIS/GPS associate and undergraduate degree options in the nation at KSU-Salina. From 1991 to 1998 he served as a grant reviewer for the NSF, helping determine which GIS/GPS grant proposals to fund nationally. Thompson has made numerous GIS/GPS presentations at local, state, national, and international conferences.

Thompson grew up in Concordia, Kan. Steve has two sons: Joel, 21, is a junior at the University of Kansas in the geospatial science option in geography department, and Luke, 24, is pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in X-ray technology at Ft. Hays State University.

**Lowell Lamer, Coordinator, GIS/GPS Technical Support**

In the new position, Lamer will be responsible for GIS database development, map production and technical support to local units of government.

Lamer, a 1991 graduate of KSU-Salina with an AA Civil Engineering Technology degree with a GIS option, has spent 13 years in GIS and GPS services.

Most recently, Lamer was employed as GIS Coordinator for Mid-Kan Blueline Inc. in Salina, Kan. He has custom GIS training experience and has developed programs for county cartographers and utility department mappers. He has developed and implemented geographic information systems for several Kansas counties. He has also provided ongoing GIS and GPS support services for more than 25 Kansas counties and cities on a contract basis.

Lamer is an AutoCAD trainer and has provided ongoing training for a wide range of customers and has experience as a network administrator. Lamer is a member of the Kansas Association of Mappers and assisted in organizing the Kansas AutoDesk Map Users Group. He also has a background in wastewater collection and treatment, having worked for eight years in Salina's Wastewater Department.

Lowell is married to Janie Lamer, who has worked for 27 years in youth services at the Salina Public Library. The Lamers have twin daughters, Stephanie and Kimberly, who are seniors at Salina High School South. Lowell's hobbies include amateur (ham) radio which has complemented 10 years of volunteer public service with the Saline County Emergency Management office as emergency communications coordinator. He is also currently a county storm spotter and member of the Saline County



Lamer

Amateur Radio Emergency Services.

**Dan Knupp, Coordinator, Communications/PR**

Knupp started in the new position this summer and is responsible for coordinating the Association's public relations efforts; providing design, production and editorial input for KRWA's award winning magazine, *The Kansas Lifeline*, newsletter, *The Clarifier* and technical bulletins; and providing marketing planning and collateral materials production for KRWA projects statewide.

Knupp brings 25 years experience in communications to KRWA, most recently serving as Public Relations Coordinator for the College of Veterinary Medicine at K-State in Manhattan.

Knupp came to the area from Wichita where he worked for several years in healthcare marketing at Via Christi-St. Francis, the Hertzler Clinic in Halstead, Kan. and Central Care Cancer Center in Newton, Kan.

Knupp currently serves on the board of directors for the Kansas Learning Center for Health in Halstead, and is a long-time volunteer for the American Cancer Society, the United Way, and American Red Cross, having served on their boards of directors in Wichita and Newton. Dan is also a national American Red Cross Disaster Services public relations technician.

Dan's wife Linda is assistant director at Manhattan Public Library. They live in rural Wamego, Kan. where they enjoy their pets and garden.



Knupp