

Hartford completes new KAN STEP community center

The small town of Hartford, Kan. located in eastern Lyon County is a strong community that has demonstrated what it takes to achieve a common goal. Volunteers pulled together to recently complete the construction of a 6,000 sq. ft. community building through the KAN STEP program. Funded by the Kansas Department of Commerce, KAN STEP provides funding for water systems and local facilities such as fire stations and community centers. Kansas Rural Water Association provides on-site inspection and technical assistance to the volunteers.

Volunteering and KAN STEP

On many days, more than 20 volunteers showed up for work on the Hartford Community Building. During the construction 115

volunteers provided 9,167 hours of volunteer labor on the building construction. And that's exactly what it takes to have consistent progress on a project of such magnitude. Working with volunteers is fun and exhilarating for me and other

KRWA staff members. We get to meet the people in small towns and RWDs who are ambitious, and somewhat courageous.

According to Hartford City Clerk Carmon Burriss, Hartford's new community center was long overdue, "Hartford people have been scheduling celebrations and events out of town. Now we can have them here and we should even see some out-of-town people

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communities. But these towns still have safety and social needs. Putting a new community center on Main Street is an attraction that

"Hartford people have been scheduling celebrations and events out of town. Now we can have them here and we should even see some out-of-town people reserving the center for some of their events as well. It's a great addition for the community and for business!"— Carmon Burriss

Today, rural population reduction comes in large measure from consolidation in agriculture and agri-business. Bigger agri-business requires fewer farmers and agricultural support businesses and in turn means fewer people in rural

brings people together and generates new excitement in the community. Those are the primary reasons why KAN STEP has been embraced by communities and water systems across the state. The program provides resources for local community residents who are



*Shane Holthaus
KAN STEP Tech*



After waiting for a heavy rainstorm to end, the 18 Hartford volunteers had to hurry in order to get the pours screeded and finished because of the retardant added to keep the loads of concrete from setting during the long wait.



Far Left: Jim Naylor, one of three project sparkplugs, checks the 60 ft. rafters that were lifted into place by a large crane donated by Rick Hannan, owner of Coffelt Sign Co., of Emporia. Wilson Brothers Equipment of Hartford donated the majority of the project's other heavy equipment used.

Left: The finished building on dedication day, Sunday June 11, 2006.

Middle Left: Pat Weiderholt, dedication ceremony emcee and project sparkplug introduces volunteers to be recognized.

Middle Right: Volunteers and community members fill the building for the dedication.

Below Left: Steve Kelly, Kansas Department of Commerce, address community members and volunteers at the dedication.

Below Right: Jim and Farrah Naylor accept an award from the community for being "exceptional volunteers." Jim works for the City of Hartford and Farrah works for the Hartford School District.



that day on the concrete company schedule. Their trucks arrived on-site just ahead of a three-hour rainstorm. This gave us few choices that morning. The concrete was there, in trucks running, churning away with no dry place to pour! What do we do? The batch man from the plant said, "I can give you three hours time before the concrete reverts back to its original slump and sets." We waited it out.

willing to invest their "sweat equity" to acquire facilities that as a community they may not otherwise have been able to afford. Kansas Rural Water Association is proud to work in conjunction with these cities and RWD residents and members to help them improve their rural communities.

Three hour rain – concrete on site

The above-normal rainfall at Hartford in 2005 kept area farmers out of the fields making it possible for many to help on the construction project. One storm also caused a delay that I am sure everyone who was present will not soon forget. The parking lot concrete pours were early

With raincoats on we mixed the concrete to the slump we would want to pour and added the retardant. The rain lasted for the nearly three-hour grace period before we started the pour. Needless to say the concrete set in a hurry once poured. We were very busy with a quick screening and finishing. Looking at



the parking lot today only the volunteers who were there can appreciate the real story.

I have spent many hours working with the local volunteers from Hartford on many different phases of the project. I always enjoy listening to the townspeople discuss history and their goals for the community's future. Volunteers in Hartford have done a wonderful job and have many things to be proud of as they are finished with the project.

Finance

The Kansas Department of Commerce awarded the city of Hartford \$398,537 in KAN STEP funding for the project on October 15, 2004. The total estimated cost was \$687,664, which included \$289,127 in volunteer labor.

Department of Commerce's Steve Kelly, who spoke at the June 11, 2006 dedication, mentioned the unique spirit of Hartford's

volunteers when he said, "People who want to do, do! Communities willing to work together – they will be the most likely to survive!"

As of June 1, 2006, KAN STEP has completed 23 projects with 24 other projects in progress. The chart on page 41 shows the system name, retail cost, grant award and amount of any grant returned and completion date for the 47 projects. Overall, the experience is a 46.22% reduction of costs because volunteers constructed these projects compared to retail values. Projects have also returned \$525,573 to the program due to further cost reductions during construction.

Hartford's building

The building features a kitchen with an island and serving counter, large and small meeting rooms with the small meeting room having an ice machine with wet bar and serving counter. The building includes ample storage rooms and

Left: These two new stove tops provide ample space for cooks to prepare meals for guests of the new community center in Hartford. The large commercial hood overhead provides ventilation and fire suppression for the kitchen and its occupants.

Above: A full house of 450 guests enjoy Lori and Kyle Barr's wedding reception, one of the first events and the first wedding dance to be held in the new Hartford Community Center.

two mechanical rooms that provide more efficient zoned heating/cooling from each end of such a long building. There is also a draft stop in the attic at the mid point of the building top to help prevent an attic fire from spreading from end to end.

The project architect was Dan Hall of BG Consultants Inc., Manhattan, Kan. Grant administration was provided by Steve Robb and and Laura Moore of BTU, Division of Grants and Special Projects at Pittsburgh State University. Jim Naylor, Pat Wiederholt and Dennis Versch were the sparkplugs for the project.



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Kansas Rural Water Association provided inspection services and technical assistance.

Functions

The Hartford Community Center, with its 6,000 sq. ft., will accommodate quite a range of activities. Family reunions, community dances, meetings for senior's, youth groups, 4-H groups, school graduation events and wedding receptions are just a few.

And speaking of wedding receptions, as luck would have it, an inquiry about scheduling a reception in the new building found a pair of key volunteers. Norma Hoover, office manager/bookkeeper for Lyon RWD 4, Neosho Rapids, needed a place close to home to hold a wedding reception for her daughter Lori and fiance Kyle. She found that the estimated completion date would be close. The April 8 wedding date was looming closer every day.

Among the skills needed to help finish the construction was an electrician. Did Norma have a deal for Hartford! Her husband Scott, an electrician, spent many hours volunteering his skill with another volunteer electrician, Chad Chaffain, finished pulling wire, building breaker boxes, mounting fixtures and hooking up the many electric outlets.

The deadline was met and Lori and Kyle Barr's reception including a band, dancing, a buffet for more than 450 guests was held the evening of April 8, 2006.

The first event to be held in the new building was Kenney and Shirley Thomas's 50th wedding anniversary and since then, besides the wedding dance, several anniversaries, Hartford High School's prom, several birthday parties and three funeral dinners have utilized the new facility.

Without a doubt, the new community center in Hartford is going to mirror the busy spirit of the community!

47 RWDs, counties and cities gain projects through KAN STEP

	Retail Cost	Grant Award	Actual Grant	Grant \$ Returned	Completion Date
Water Systems:					
Chase RWD 1	\$775,125	\$110,000	\$94,916	\$15,084	12/12/02
City of Agra	506,741	306,471	306,471		
City of Corning	498,170	258,135	234,189	23,946	10/1/04
City of Emmett	232,161	121,173	121,173		
City of Enterprise	316,682	111,119	94,823	16,296	9/1/03
City of Formoso	609,860	274,000	223,325	50,675	8/9/01
City of St. Paul	234,336	96,604	96,604		9/23/02
Greenwood RWD 1	704,982	399,550	399,550		
Nemaha RWD 1	505,465	290,905	188,666	102,239	11/1/01
	\$4,383,522	\$1,967,957	\$1,759,717	\$208,240	
Fire Stations:					
City of Axtell	\$500,594	\$299,800	\$230,507	\$69,293	4/1/04
City of Belvue	398,531	229,961	229,961		
City of Downs	343,632	206,179	206,163	16	11/1/05
City of Formoso	334,000	220,400	220,400		6/1/03
City of Glasco	399,311	237,957	237,957		
City of Grinnell	237,854	142,621	142,621		
City of McFarland	389,000	226,000	201,307	24,693	7/1/03
City of St. Francis	737,970	390,380	390,380		
City of Tescott	209,112	131,308	131,308		6/1/03
City of Uniontown	653,219	384,719	384,719		
City of Washington	580,754	347,614	333,034	14,580	3/1/05
City of Westmoreland	675,937	399,850	399,850		
City of White City	222,648	135,579	135,579		
City of Winona	389,994	232,600	232,600		
Mitchell County (Asherville)	247,528	148,684	148,684		
Rawlins County (McDonald)	250,743	155,432	109,874	45,558	4/1/04
Russell County (Waldo)	97,737	61,545	61,545		11/1/02
Saline County	534,932	298,609	247,210	51,399	2/1/05
	\$7,203,496	\$4,249,238	\$4,043,699	\$205,539	
Community Buildings:					
City of Auburn	\$520,977	\$311,771	\$311,771		
City of Bern	589,560	350,089	350,089		10/1/05
City of Bunker Hill	180,683	108,289	108,289		
City of Burns	609,640	338,381	252,854	85,527	9/1/03
City of Carbondale	575,720	342,339	342,339		10/1/05
City of Goff	396,308	250,000	234,476	15,524	8/1/03
City of Hartford	687,664	398,537	398,537		
City of Lincolnville	302,773	181,664	181,664		
City of Melvern	523,683	321,266	321,266		8/1/03
City of Selden	177,884	106,312	106,312		
City of Tipton	235,400	140,810	140,810		
City of Whiting	524,486	296,643	296,643		2/1/05
Morris County (Delevan)	114,000	74,000	63,257	10,743	6/1/03
	\$5,438,778	\$3,220,101	\$3,108,307	\$111,794	
Other Facilities:					
City of Onaga	\$384,658	\$230,000	\$230,000		10/1/05
Senior Center					
City of Morrill	765,046	399,665	399,665		
Fire Station/Comm. Center					
City of Williamsburg	626,930	371,005	371,005		
Library					
City of Lucas	492,396	292,485	292,485		
Theater Addition					
City of Enterprise	422,472	253,500	253,500		
Library/Fire Station					
City of Junction City	655,911	392,700	392,700		
Youth Center					
Rice County	445,884	262,700	262,700		
Arena Addition					
	3,793,297	2,202,055	2,202,055		
Totals	\$20,819,093	\$11,639,351	\$11,113,778	\$525,573	