

Busy spring for KRWA Mapping

It can be pretty interesting traveling throughout the state collecting GPS data with Kansas weather being what it is during the springtime. One week has everyone putting on layers of clothing under a winter coat, and the next brings out the Aloe cream to treat a case of stinging sunburn. Following weeks of sunburn weather just before Easter, it turned to ultra chilly temps in the teens. Regardless of the weather, it has been “data collecting season” at KRWA; it is always a welcome change to get out of the office to travel and meet new people.

Conference teaches about GIS/GPS mapping

The presentation on GIS/GPS and the KRWA booth at the

annual conference in Wichita in late March created a lot of interest in what KRWA Mapping can provide for cities and rural water districts. After the GIS/GPS mapping presentation, numerous city and rural water district operators stopped by the booth to

ask even more questions about what exactly is involved and to request demonstrations of how digital mapping can benefit their system. Many of the questions were about costs involved. Other questions addressed training, “Does KRWA provide training on GPS equipment?” As many attendees learned, KRWA can do whatever a system wants to do,

and it only costs whatever it costs KRWA. It’s just a matter of what is in the best interest of that particular system.

During the week following the conference, most mapping work entailed following up with phone calls and requests to water

meeting so decision-makers could better understand KRWA mapping services and how a new mapping project could benefit them.

Several wanted a firm confirmation that their city or RWD would be on the KRWA job list.

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districts and cities that asked for estimates for their system projects. Many wanted KRWA to schedule a staff member to attend a city council or RWD board

Springtime in Kansas

The months of April and May flew by. Pete, Jesse and I logged thousands of miles, making presentations and collecting data



Mark Thomas
GIS/GPS Mapping Tech



A tornado funnel drops from a wall cloud south of Alma. This storm was part of the large weather system that caused so much trouble around Kansas on that day in early May. The picture is taken from the convenience store at the south edge of Alma on Hwy 99, looking across the city to the northwest.

from locations around the state. KRWA has provided estimates and signed contracts with numerous cities and RWDs for future mapping.

GPS collection functions more effectively during the spring and fall months due to trees not having all their leaves during this time. Noting that many meters, especially in towns, are located under trees, it just makes the data in city locations more accurate if points are recorded in the early spring.

These spring months can be pretty interesting due to the weather while on the road in Kansas. In late April, I was collecting data in Alma and was more than a little surprised to see and take pictures of a tornado a few miles south of town. That was the first tornado I had ever seen! That same day KRWA Tech Jesse Knight was on his way to Alma to pick me up to travel to another job. Jesse saw what seven plus inches of rain in a short time can do to the low-lying areas around the little town of Louisville, north of Wamego. The following week Jesse and I collected data for Dickinson RWD 1 where we saw more floodwater in Saline and Dickinson counties after the heavy rains of May 6. Dickinson County also experienced strong straight-line winds with these storms. Numerous demolished bins, barns and other debris could be seen scattered around the countryside.

Connecting the dots

The coming hot summer months will be spent in the office, finishing up earlier projects so we can get started on the new data collected this spring. After all the road-time, getting back to the ArcView Software will be a little challenging. I suppose that it will take a few days to remember all of the little glitches or workarounds, and whose computer is best at performing certain functions more efficiently than the others. Making GIS/GPS maps with our software

is something that is challenging even when we do it full time, all the time. There are unending issues and nuances with the software that can affect each job in a different way.

It has been fun to get out and see different parts of the state in

This is not something that a system can jump into one day and then leave; it requires a discipline to complete projects in a timely and efficient manner.

KRWA will be pleased to explain the process, challenges and benefits. In digital mapping it

It is essential technology that we at KRWA enjoy working with and truly believe is necessary for cities and rural water districts to improve the management and operation of their systems.

the springtime to educate people and collect data for digital mapping. GIS/GPS mapping helps improve water, wastewater and gas utilities and other system capabilities. It is essential technology that we at KRWA enjoy working with and truly believe is necessary for cities and rural water districts to improve the management and operation of their systems.

is essential to have a partner who will be there when updates and other services are needed. Call us at 785/336-3760 if your city or RWD would like an estimate or someone to attend a board/council meeting. KRWA is ready, willing and able.



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