

KRWA welcomes new staff members, Greg Metz and Rita Clary

The Kansas Rural Water Association is pleased to announce the employment of Greg Metz, formerly superintendent at Washington, KS. Greg will work as a field technical assistant for KRWA. Greg holds a Class II Water certification and Class I Wastewater certification.



Greg Metz

Greg worked for the city of Washington for the past 13 years. During that time he was involved with just about every aspect of the city and gained valuable experience. He began in the power plant where he was involved in rebuilding some of the engines. He was able to put his welding expertise to use, installing and piping new cooling towers and a new Wasac radiator. He then worked for the street department where he worked closely with the water and wastewater departments. He was involved in daily operation and maintenance and installation of several extensions to both the water and wastewater systems. As Street, Water and Sewer Superintendent, he was in charge of pricing, ordering and maintaining inventory, running day-to-day operations of both departments and supervising other employees. Greg just recently oversaw the installation of a new lift station.

Greg has also been cemetery sexton in charge of perpetual care, selling of lots and the opening and closing of the burials. He and his wife also still own and operate Metz Repair on a part time basis, where he may work on anything from large farm equipment to lawnmowers or hot tubs.

KRWA is also pleased to announce the employment of Rita Clary, Troy, KS. Rita will work as a technical assistant, with a focus on providing assistance to applicants and potential borrowers to USDA Rural Development's water and wastewater programs. The position at KRWA is being funded through USDA under contract with National Rural Water



Rita Clary

Association. Rita has extensive municipal experience with the City of Troy. She was the Assistant Municipal Court Clerk for Troy for 11 yrs. During that time she became a certified EMT-B, served as the Ambulance Director for two years and supervised a volunteer staff of 10 to 15. Since July 2008 she has worked as a certified Social Services Designee at Maple Heights in Hiawatha, KS and subsequently joined Saxton Woods Health & Rehabilitation Center in St. Joseph, MO as the Human Resources Manager and Administrative Assistant. There she handled payroll of 160 employees and did additional hiring.

At Troy, Rita worked on all water reports, completed the city's CCR report, did the Lead and Copper report and attended to all additional reporting requirements. She even ran the iron/manganese treatment plant for a short period of time.

Rita is familiar with funding programs and is also looking towards completing and acquiring certification as a grant writer/administrator.

Water, wastewater systems required to belong to Kansas One Call

Water and wastewater utility operators are required to be members of One Call on July 1, 2009 according to state law passed in 2008. It is the responsibility of the operator (the respective water or wastewater system) to be a member by that date. Water and wastewater utilities had notice of this statute change available to them since July 1, 2008.

It is the responsibility of the Kansas Call Center to provide contact information for each of their members when a call comes in from an excavator. The Call Center also must incorporate the utility systems' maps into their database; that task will require time to accomplish.

Leo Haynos, Chief of Gas Operations and Pipeline Safety at the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC), reports that the goal for the rest of 2009 is to get the systems logged into One Call and try to get the cumbersome

system of tiers working. KRWA understands that the KCC is not looking to penalize any system for not being signed up by 7/1/2009 but the KCC expects non-member cities and rural water districts to be making an effort to do so after verifying that the systems are aware of the law's requirements.

Here are the major changes to the law passed by the Kansas Legislature in 2008:

- ◆ Water and wastewater systems can join One Call as "Tier II" members for an annual membership fee of \$25 and pay a referral fee no more than 50 percent of the rate charged to Tier I members.
- ◆ Excavators can be required to whitelist the area of intended excavation prior to locates being performed.
- ◆ Tier II and Tier III members may elect to notify the excavator of a 5-foot tolerance zone for purposes of locating facilities.
- ◆ The Notification Center and any managing organization or corporation shall be subject to the Kansas Open Records, Open Meetings Act.
- ◆ The Notification Center shall prepare an annual report on its activities and shall have an annual independent audit conducted. Copies of the reports shall be provided to all members of the Notification Center and shall be subject to the Open Records Act.
- ◆ The Notification Center shall solicit proposals for operation of the Notification Center every five years to be awarded, in open meeting, by the Board of Directors. The bidding process shall be subject to Open Records.
- ◆ The Notification Center shall conduct a cost of service study every five years or as otherwise requested by the Board of Directors or a majority of the members of the Center.