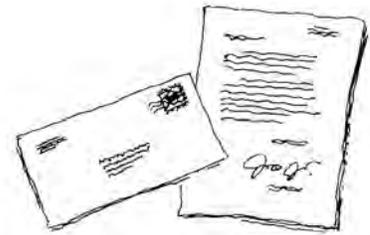


Letters



I would like to once again take this opportunity to thank you and all the other KRWA staff for recognizing my work and presenting me with the “Rural Water Operator of the Year Award”.

I can assure you, it was totally unexpected, however greatly appreciated! Awards such as this that come from one’s peers and working associates are in my opinion truly meaningful and gratifying.

I know full well that there are more than 1,100 other highly qualified and deserving water system operators in Kansas, and to be chosen as the “Operator of the Year” from this group of dedicated and skilled individuals is truly and honor.

I am also fully aware that without technical assistance of Lonnie Boller and Tony Kimmi, the financial expertise of Rita Clary, the insight and advice I receive from Bert Zerr, Pete Koenig’s guidance on GPS issues and Doug Helmke’s assistance

with water rights, I would not be the operator that I am and the Pottawatomie RWD 4 would not be the District that it is.

Again, thanks to all of you.

*Dan Hoobler, District Manager
Pottawatomie RWD 4*

It’s almost March! I can imagine you all are buried in preparations for the conference in Wichita, so I thought I would write a brief note to cheer you all on. The entire staff here, Lee Barnhart, Charlie Overbaugh and myself, want to say thank you to those KRWA staff members who have been so invaluable to our District.

Jeff Lamfers has been a tremendous help in dealing with the KDHE labs. Jeff has saved Lee a great deal of time dealing with KDHE system errors. It is nearly impossible to reach an employee at the lab in Topeka by phone – somehow Jeff is able to get it done!

Lee and Charlie had exhausted their

ideas on what could be the problem with one of our filters, and called Seneca for help. Lonnie Boller came to the rescue. Lonnie was very knowledgeable and demonstrated maintenance procedures that will allow the filter to operate more efficiently.

Pat McCool is always the man to call regarding TOC issues. He responds promptly and is a wealth of knowledge! I personally cannot thank you, Elmer and Rita Clary, enough for help with countless administration and finance questions. You guys are all the best!

See you in Wichita!

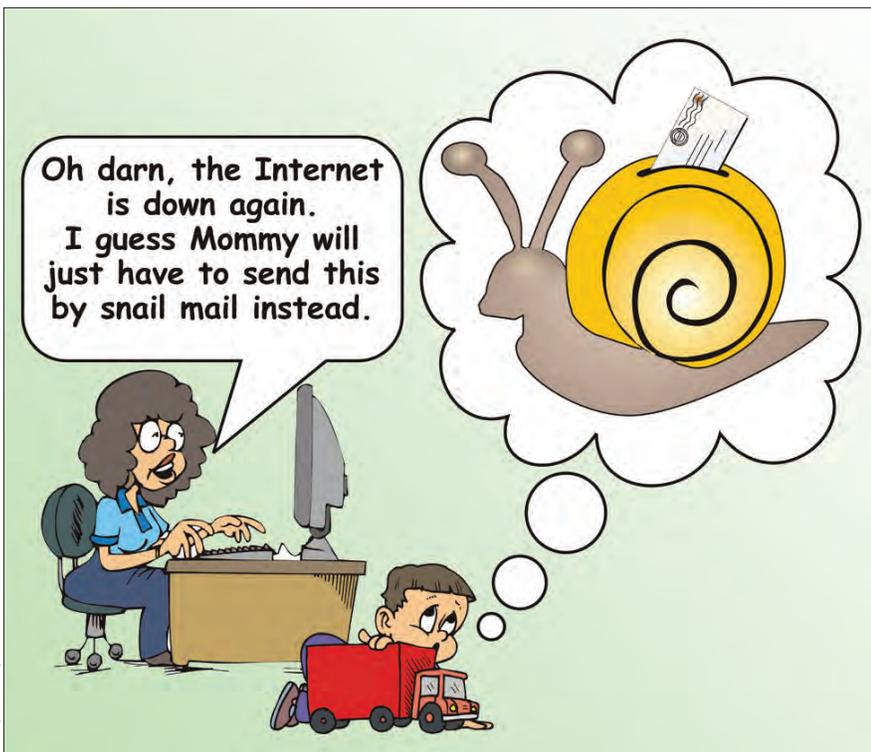
*Carol Retzer, Bookkeeper
Osage RWD 3*

Pat (McCool), I just want to drop you a line and tell you how much we at the City of Oswego want to thank you for your help in getting the chlorine and ammonia residual to hold out in the mains and the math of the 10-gallon to 30-gallon. It seems to be working great.

Again thanks for your time. In the future I will let you know how things are going.

*Jeff Strickland
City of Oswego*

This morning (3/4/14) I called and talked to Greg Duryea about the possibility of having someone come to Fort Scott to do some leak detection for us. Greg got me in touch with KRWA staff member Tony Kimmi and we set up a time for the next day (3/5/14) however as things turned out Tony was able to make it to Fort Scott today. I asked him to do leak detection in two different parts of town. The first one was at West Pine and North Eddy on a deadened water main. Water had appeared out of the hillside but gave no



Graphic by Linda Windler

indication of where its source might be. Tony was able to narrow down our search from the entire block to within a few feet. We will be calling locates and excavating within the next couple days.

The second area was along a line on 8th Street. It's an 8-inch water main that makes one of our connections to the east and west side of town. This water main runs under a major storm creek, US 69 Hwy, and a set of railroad tracks. The water main developed a major leak and is thought unreachable so the decision was to shut the water main down.

We asked Tony to listen to the water main to possibly tell us where the leak was and if our valves were holding. Water was still surfacing even after it was thought the water main shut down. Due to highway traffic he was unable to pinpoint the leak however he was able to hear the valves and tell us that two of the three valves had shut down but a third one was letting water by. We will be cutting that valve out and capping that side of the main.

I would like to thank KRWA, Greg Duryea and Tony Kimmi. Yet once again they have helped us to focus our repair efforts in a tough situation. The information they provided helps us to make a better plan resulting in the savings of time, money, and hair pulling out.

Thank you.

*Bill Lemke
Water Distribution / Collection Supervisor
City of Fort Scott*

I wanted to thank KRWA and Tony Kimmi for assisting in locating a leak on a 6-inch PVC water line at a Tee connection under a street that was covered with snow/ice on February 7, 2014 for the city of Hiawatha. We wanted to verify the location of the leak due to the number of water lines in the area. The frost depth and street surface and other utilities in the area made it a challenge. We wanted to be sure the leak was in the area before we excavated; Tony was right on the mark with his diagnosis.

His time and effort no doubt saved the city of Hiawatha some time and labor considering the winter conditions.

Thanks again.

*Rick Koenig, Water Superintendent
City of Hiawatha*

Kansas PRIDE Inc., wishes to thank you for your donation of \$1,500 on February 5, 2014. With your corporate donation, we would like to keep you updated with an electronic copy of the Kansas PRIDE Newsletter. This donation greatly helps our organization to provide support and recognition for Kansas communities. As you know, 100% of your donation is returned to Kansas communities through education, communication and recognition.

For your records Kansas PRIDE Inc., is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c) 3 of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Kansas PRIDE Inc. did not provide any goods or services in exchange for this charitable gift.

Most gifts are given to the contribution-supported organization are considered charitable. Please consult with your tax adviser regarding the procedures for claiming charitable deductions.

We sincerely appreciate your donation.

*Jada Ackerman, Chairperson
Kansas PRIDE, Inc.*

On behalf of myself and Pottawatomie RWD 2, I would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to KRWA for receiving the "Most Improved Water System" award for 2013. I started with RWD 2 in 2007 as manager/operator with limited knowledge of water systems. Over the last seven years I have received tremendous support and assistance from the staff at KRWA in our continuous effort to reduce our water loss, upgrade or replace equipment and improve all of our water system. Keep up the great work!

Thanks again.

*Lynn Webster, Manager
Pottawatomie RWD 2*

KRWA Officers & Directors

*Sharon Dwyer, President, Douglas Co. RWD 5, Lawrence
Allan Soetaert, Vice-President, Johnson Co. RWD 7, Gardner
Bill Shroyer, Secretary, City of Sabetha
Paul Froelich, Treasurer, City of Enterprise
Sam Atherton, Vice-President, Public Wholesale 4, Cherryvale
Carl Chalfant, Director, City of Washington
Patricia Shaffer, Director, Butler Co. RWD 5, Benton*

KRWA Staff

*Elmer Ronnebaum, General Manager
Greg Duryea, Assistant General Manager
Laurie Strathman, Administrative Assistant
Lonnie Boller, Technical Assistant
Rita Clary, Technical Assistant
Doug Guenther, Technical Assistant
Doug Helmke, Water Rights/Source Water Specialist
Tony Kimmi, Technical Assistant
Pete Koenig, GPS/GIS Mapping Coordinator
Jeff Lamfers, Consultant
Pat McCool, Consultant
Greg Metz, Technical Assistant
Charlie Schwindamann, Wastewater Tech
Jon Steele, Technical Assistant
Mark Thomas, GPS/GIS Mapping Tech
Monica Wurtz, Technical Assistant
Delbert "Bert" Zerr, Consultant*

The city of Luray would like to thank Charlie Schwindamann for his help repairing a leaking pipe at our wastewater lagoon. His help was greatly appreciated.

Thanks again to Charlie and KRWA for all that you do.

*Robert Rose, City Superintendent
City of Luray*

Elmer, words do not come to mind to thank you enough for all that KRWA has done for me. Being chosen to receive the Special Presentation Award was a complete surprise, and made me feel as though I had just received an "Oscar". The gratification of being able to be a presenter during the annual conference and during the summer for our "road trip seminars" fulfills my desire to do what I love doing. The attendees are the true heart of Rural Water of Kansas, and they are the friendliest, most dedicated people that I have had the privilege to know and perform for.

The KRWA conference keeps getting better and better year after year. I am continually amazed at the complexity, thoroughness and precision that you and your staff are able to make this conference appear flawless. Job well done to you and the entire staff of Kansas Rural Water Association. I look forward in the coming years to continue to be a part in your training program, and visiting with the great people of Kansas.

Kindest regards.

Ron Grage (retired)

The Valley Falls City Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the Kansas Rural Water Association for its invaluable assistance from Lonnie Boller, Surface Water Technician, immediately following the sudden passing of our long time employee Daryl Courter on April 21, 2014.

Daryl was a 30-plus year employee who assumed the duties of Public Works Superintendent in 2003. He

carried his phone and was "on call 24/7". Daryl knew the entire infrastructure of our system and was a Class II operator.

At this time, we are continuing our water plant operation with Paul Burghart, who is a Class III operator. Our other full time employee was hired in January of 2014 and up to now has had limited exposure to the water plant duties of the city.

As you are aware, the operation of a municipal water utility has duties seven days a week, along with the other issues that can arise. Your continued support as we work through our training issues to bring coverage back up a to normal level is necessary and appreciated at this difficult and unexpected juncture.

This is another example of the value we continually find in our membership to the Kansas Rural Water Association and its staff. Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Denise M. Streeter, Administrator
City of Valley Falls*

Thank you to the KRWA Board

and staff so much for the honor of being named City Clerk of the Year at the annual conference banquet. I have had the privilege of serving the citizens of Phillipsburg for 33 years in various capacities with the last 27 as city clerk. I have been blessed with many Mayors and City Council members who truly have the best interest of the community in their hearts and actions, always working to keep Phillipsburg a progressive, viable community. Many wonderful co-workers have stepped up to the challenges and helped to make my job easier as well as bring laughter to many days.

When I was growing up I know for a fact I never once said, when I grow up I want to be a city clerk. Quite honestly I have met city clerks from around the state and not a single one has told me this was their childhood dream job. However, I can honestly say that I love being a city clerk. There is never a dull moment, always a challenge, and so

many wonderful people to meet and work with throughout the State of Kansas. The friendships and support networks are wonderful and I know that I would not have had the success I have had over the years without these friends and their knowledge.

Last but not least I would be terrible remiss if I did not thank my family. My husband of 30 years, Brian, has been my #1 city clerk fan. Brian has listened to me when I needed to vent about it, sat quietly when I didn't want to talk about it, cooked many meals and kept them warm until I came home from meetings late at night, and understood that sometimes I just can't quit till the job is done be it late in the evening or on a weekend. To my parents, thank you for teaching me to understand the importance of doing the right thing, taking the high road (even when you want to play in the mud sometimes!), and making a commitment to doing all things the best you can.

No matter how many times you say thank you, it never seems to be enough. Once again, I am truly honored to have been named KRWA's City Clerk of the Year.

Thank you!

*Brenda Chance, City Clerk, MMC/CPM
City of Phillipsburg*

I apologize for the delay concerning my thoughts on the Workshop In A Box that I attended at the KRWA conference. I just started working for the City of Caney in November 2013, so I am fairly new to all of this. I attended the workshop because of the topics that it covered; it was the right decision for me personally. There was a lot of information provided, but these are the things I took away with me that day: 1) A better understanding of what KRWA does and how it works; 2) KRWA is not just an organization; it's made up of people that are out there to help and I was given an opportunity to meet some of them at this workshop; 3) Most of all I feel the real benefit came from the fact that this workshop was limited to a smaller group and that

allowed personal interaction with others. At one point we broke off in small groups for what I call round table discussions which was awesome because it allowed us to see how things were working this others and get ideas on how to improve our current situations and share solutions. During the round table session I discovered that most of the people in that room were seasoned employees so I came to the conclusion that it really didn't matter if you were new or long-term employee, the workshop was helpful to everyone.

As far as the individuals that were a part of putting on the workshop, they were great. They did more than just stand up at the front of the room and talk. They took the time to interact with us one on one, which allowed those attending to ask questions if they didn't have an opportunity to do it earlier.

After our session was over I had an opportunity to visit with others who attended other workshops and was told by them that they had 200 to 300 people in some sessions. From the perspective of someone who is just getting his or her feet wet I think I would have felt lost and frustrated had I attended session of that size. I don't think I would have felt comfortable enough to ask questions and get involved.

For me personally the Workshop In A Box gets a two thumbs up.

Thank you.

*Debbie Morrison, City Clerk
City of Caney*

Thank you (Greg Duryea) for taking time to talk with me the other day to discuss the feasibility of potential options to resolve our water situation here in Vermillion. The information you shared with me was quite helpful and greatly appreciated. I am confident that through time, and with diligence, the city of Vermillion will be able to find an effective solution to our problem.

Best regards.

*Alison Slifer, Councilperson
City of Vermillion*

I honestly don't know where to start with our expression of gratitude for the hospitality shown to USDA Rural Development leadership during the week of the KRWA Annual Meeting. The KRWA Board of Directors and KRWA staff were so genuinely gracious to John Padalino, Jacki Ponti-Lazurek, Kent Evans and LaVonda Pernell and all were deeply appreciative.

Our DC guests received a warm welcome on Monday evening with the lively dinner you hosted at the Hyatt. And throughout the week, they learned why KRWA sets the gold-standard for statewide rural water association annual meetings. They also grasped just how much assistance all of you provide to our rural communities as those communities work through the complexity of water and sewer management and public works projects. Needless to say – all were impressed!

Special thanks to Elmer for all the arrangements made to accommodate our WEP leadership from DC – your attention to detail made their trip flawless. Dennis – you were a perfect host along with all your Board members. And also – Rita Clary was such an asset for reasons too numerous to recount.

Kansas Rural Development salutes KRWA for their leadership – and we deeply appreciate the partnerships we have strengthened to the benefit of our rural communities and constituents.

Most Respectfully,

*Patty Clark, State Director
USDA Rural Development*

Kansas Rural Water Association is the place to go for assistance with anything related to water. You have a staff of knowledgeable, friendly and helpful people.

Lonnie Boller is such a person. He has helped us in getting the chemical pumps at our wells calibrated and eliminating malfunctions by improving plumbing, relocation of chemical pumps and constant monitoring of

treated water, as well as many things not mentioned. Treating wells is also one of Lonnie's specialties. With KRWA and Lonnie's help we can continue to maintain the national slogan of "Quality On Tap".

Keep *The Kansas Lifeline* coming, it is full of valuable information and a need read for anyone involved with water. Lonnie also looks and sounds good on TV.

Many thanks, Elmer.

*Joe Elias, Chairman
Atchison Cons. RWD 5*

I, along with the city of Hillsboro, want to give a big THANK YOU to Kansas Rural Water Association for the smoke testing of our sewer system which was performed by Charlie Schwindamann in November 2013. With Charlie's vast knowledge of smoke testing sewers and sewer collection systems, we were able to find many problems and trouble spots that need to be repaired. Because of your generous assistance, there is more money available to repair problems and we now know where to begin.

I, as well as the other city employees, enjoyed working with Charlie. He made the work enjoyable and we all learned a lot from him. He is truly a professional in his field.

Thank you again for all of your help!

*Mike Duerksen, Sewer Superintendent
City of Hillsboro*

**See you at
next year's
conference!**

**March 24, 25
& 26, 2015**