

KAN STEP Program Has Nine Projects in Progress

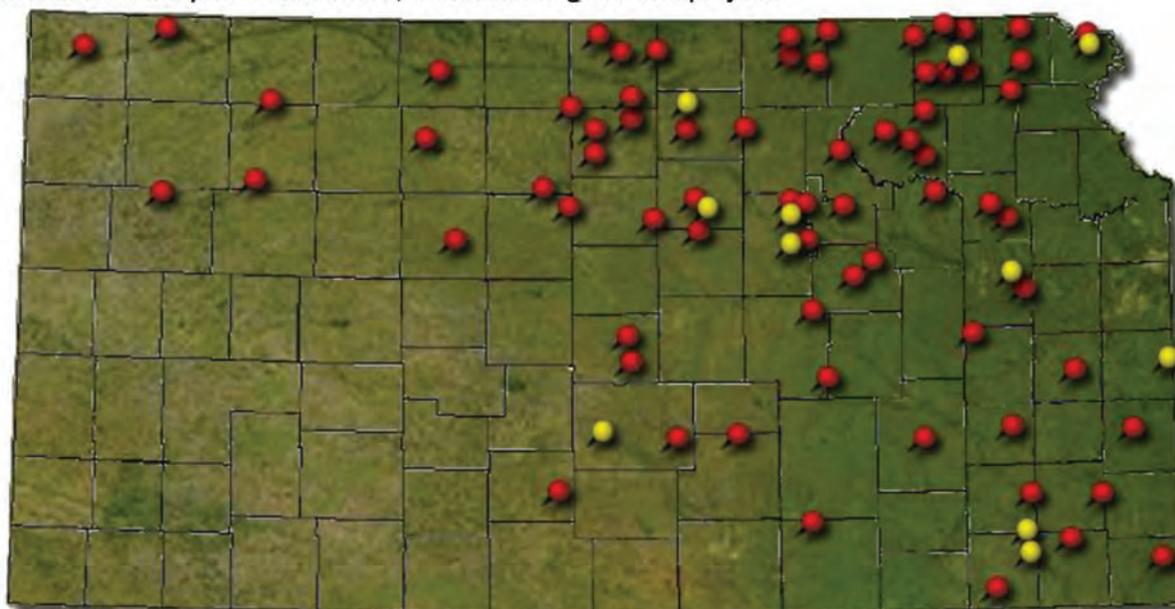
Numerous cities and rural water districts and fire districts have the benefit of new or improvement community facilities, thanks to the KAN STEP program. KAN STEP, an acronym for “Kansas Small Towns Environment Program” is a self-help program, sponsored by the Kansas Department of Commerce, designed to help communities with new improvements. Projects include water and sewer and public buildings. Communities must demonstrate readiness (perception of

the problem and willingness to take action to solve it), capacity (human resources to solve the problem) and documented cost savings. KAN STEP grants require the use of volunteers to match CDBG funds. A 40 percent savings must be demonstrated to be eligible. The maximum amount awarded for this grant is \$300,000, with a funding ceiling of \$2,000 per beneficiary. The funding is by annual competition. Funding is targeted to professional services and materials.

Projects	No. of Projects	CDBG Grants	Volunteer Labor	Total Project
Waterlines	17	\$3,715,664	\$ 2,807,546	\$ 6,523,227
Community Centers	26	\$6,581,837	\$ 4,828,028	\$ 11,409,891
Fire Stations	36	\$9,386,855	\$ 7,801,172	\$ 17,188,063
Misc. Buildings	8	\$2,398,535	\$ 1,803,389	\$ 4,201,932
Total	87	\$22,082,891	\$17,240,135	\$ 39,323,113

 In Progress or Just Awarded  Completed

Mouseover the pins to see more, then click to go to that project.



Current KAN STEP projects and those completed can be viewed and followed on the KRWA Web site at www.krwa.net under the “Technical Assistance – KAN STEP” link. Anyone interested in learning more about KAN STEP is encouraged to contact Salih Doughramaji, KAN STEP Manager, at the Kansas Department of Commerce. See also Commerce’s Web site at www.kansascommerce.com for more information or call 785-295-3610.

Initiated in Formoso in 2001, KAN STEP has since funded 87 projects made possible by \$22,082,891 in KAN STEP grants. Communities have or will provide \$17,240,135 in labor and other services. The breakdown of the types of facilities and locations are shown in the map graphic and table. The projects include water system, community center, libraries, senior centers and fire stations.

While there were only several projects in 2013, the year 2014 has become very active. As of October 1, 2014, there were nine active KAN STEP projects. The Kansas Rural Water Association provides inspection service and technical assistance to the KAN STEP program. The following is a short summary of the projects that are presently in progress.

Nemaha County RFD 2 Station at Corning

Rural Fire District No. 2 based in Corning in Nemaha County was awarded a KAN STEP grant of \$299,999 to construct a new 60-ft. x 120-ft. insulated steel building with 16-ft. high walls. The facility will house six bays including an EMS bay, two grass truck bays, a pumper truck, water wagon and wash bay. It will have three, 24-ft. wide x 14-ft. high bay doors. It will also include an office that will double as a safe room, a meeting/training room, small kitchen, restroom with a shower, storage and janitor's room. Volunteers are to donate \$256,050 in labor and/or other services. The volunteers at Corning are go-getters! This is the third KAN STEP project that will benefit the community and surrounding area. Project Sparkplug Diane Haverkamp and volunteers are enthusiastic to get the building under roof before winter. Project design is by BG Consultants, Manhattan. Grant administration is being provided by Virginia Dienstbier, Sabetha, KS.

Culver Water Project

The City of Culver, located northwest of Salina, was awarded a \$236,757 KAN STEP grant to replace much of the city's water distribution system. The project includes 10,000 feet of PVC waterline and 1,700 feet of service line, 20 gate valves, 57 new meter settings, eight fire hydrants and four flush hydrant settings. Volunteers will provide \$147,004 in donated labor and/or services for the project.

The project engineer is BG Consultants, Manhattan. Grant administration will be provided by North Central Kansas Planning Commission, Beloit. This is a significant project for this town of 200 people. As of October 1, contracts for materials have been signed; installation is beginning.



Enterprise Water Project

Enterprise City Superintendent Paul Froelich is no stranger to KAN STEP projects. The present waterline improvement is the third KAN STEP project for Enterprise. The present project consists of installing 3,600 feet of 6-, 4- and 2-inch pipeline. The project will loop sections of the distribution system and will eliminate most of the dead-end lines in town. Volunteers will also be replacing eight fire hydrants. Those replacements are being made because parts are no longer available for those old hydrants. Two of the new hydrants will be installed to provide better fire protection in under-served areas of town. Another aspect of the project will be to replace 16 valves that were not replaced during the 2003 KAN STEP water project as well as installing five new valves that will allow the city to better isolate areas of the system. With the new valves and the replacement of the old remaining valves, the largest segment of Enterprise's distribution system that will have to be shut off for repairs will be two blocks. In the event of an emergency, especially a fire, the last thing an emergency crew wants to hear is "we can't get enough water". These improvements will virtually erase the possibility of that dreaded scenario. The amount of the KAN STEP grant is \$163,777. Project consultant is Schwab – Eaton, PA, Beloit, KS; grant administration is by North Central Kansas Planning Commission, Beloit, KS.

Jamestown Water Project

Volunteers in the city of Jamestown are busy installing about 9,500 feet of waterline to improve their water system. Jamestown is located in north-central Cloud County in north-central Kansas. Most of the new line is 4-inch C900 PVC. The remainder is 2-inch PVC and service line for 52 new meter settings. The project also includes six new fire hydrants and valves. Jamestown received a KAN STEP

grant of \$185,724 for this project. Volunteers will provide \$80,520 in donated services. The project consultant is Schwab - Eaton, PA, Beloit, KS. Grant administration is being provided by North Central Kansas Planning Commission, Beloit.

Navarre Community Center

The old school in Navarre will once again hear the voices of excited youngsters and adults when this KAN STEP project is completed. A \$299,998 KAN STEP grant was awarded to Dickinson County on behalf of the project to rehabilitate the school building in Navarre to be a new community center. Navarre is located seven miles south of Enterprise, KS or about 13 miles southeast of Abilene. The value of volunteer services is projected to be \$250,950. The gym and the stage will stay but everything else will get a facelift as new plumbing, windows, walls, kitchen, electrical, fixtures and flooring will be installed. The present annex on the back will also be removed in exchange for a covered location to park an ambulance. The volunteers and core committee have been preparing to start the demolition and renovation. The safety meeting conducted by Kansas Rural Water staff was held on Tuesday, September 30. The project architect is BG Consultants, Manhattan. Grant administration is being provided by North-Central Kansas Regional Planning. Inspection and technical assistance will be provided by KRWA. Volunteers in Navarre will soon begin swinging hammers and prying with crowbars to tear

out the old so they can come in with the new, creating an efficient community center.

Osage RWD 6 Pump Station, Office and Shop

Rural Water District No. 6, Osage County has been awarded at \$183,624 KAN STEP grant to construct a new booster pumping station, shop and office. According to Project Consultant Bryan Ford of Bartlett & West, Inc., Topeka, the booster pumping station and chlorine room will make possible the purchase of water from PWWSD No. 12. Osage RWD 6 presently purchases water from RWD No. 7 of Osage County. The purchase rate for water will be less from PWWSD No. 12. The District will retain its connection with RWD No. 7 for a backup supply. The pumping station is needed because the pressure in PWWSD No. 12's waterline during periods of high usage isn't adequate to fill storage for Osage RWD 6 at a rate that is sufficient. The new building is being constructed on the same site as the District's water storage tank. The PWWSD No. 12 waterline is across the road from the site. The dire need for the project was for an office building. Presently, district records are housed at board members' homes; the district employees also work from home. District materials that are stored on the operator's farmstead will be consolidated to the new facility. The district looks forward to the completion of this 52-foot by 38-foot multi-purpose project.

Pleasanton Community Center, Storm Shelter

Pleasanton, a community of approximately 1,200 in Linn County, has embarked on a very large project. The city was awarded a \$300,000 KAN STEP Grant to construct a new community center. Designed by Zingre & Associates, P.C., of Fort Scott, KS, the new center will be a wood-frame construction measuring 160 feet x 40 feet with a façade that compliments other businesses on Main Street. The new community center will provide a much-needed meeting place for the community. Work on the project has been progressing into early Fall 2014 with the recent pouring of the entire concrete slab at one time. The walls and the cap for the storm shelter have also been poured. As of October 1, materials were being delivered so that construction of walls can begin. City Administrator and KAN STEP Sparkplug Tim Staton is leading the effort to have this building "skinned in" before winter weather hits. The project is being constructed on the site where fire had destroyed several buildings on Main Street. The city determined the site to be an ideal location for the new community meeting center that will accommodate up to 200 people for school reunions, weddings, civic celebrations, fire department training, etc. The storm shelter will

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A KAN STEP grant of \$300,000 will help the city of Pleasanton gain a much-needed community center. The 160 x 40-foot building will include a large meeting room as well as a smaller dining area, a kitchen, storage spaces, a lobby as the primary entry point, a porch with concrete slab, restrooms and an unfinished room for a future commercial grade kitchen for preparing senior citizen meals, and an office and dry storage area and prep rooms which will be unfinished at the time of construction. The project design is by Zingre & Associates, P.C., Fort Scott.

accommodate up to 100 people. Other projects presently taking place in Pleasanton include a water line replacement and a street project. Grant administration on the KAN STEP Community Center is being provided by Southeast Kansas Regional Planning.

Troy Library

The existing library in Troy, KS has to be seen to be appreciated. The community has made due with what is available for far too long. Generosity has given the community a building, and hard work has created the atmosphere of learning, but the years have not been kind to the weathered old shell of a building. Thanks to a \$299,955 KAN STEP award to Doniphan County Library District No. 1, the Troy community can finally make the improvements to the building which will provide the much needed space for the growing collection of library materials. Major demolition is needed to remove the existing store front and repair the settling, broken floor. Walls will be removed to simplify the existing, confusing floor plan and create a useable, efficient space for books, reading rooms, learning centers and storage. All of the materials in the building will be removed so construction can begin. The new facade includes waterproofing, insulating glass, adding an alarm exit door from children's library, entrance vestibule, automatic door operators, adding ramps, stairs handrails, replacement of floors, walls and ceilings. Volunteers will also construct new ADA-compliant bathrooms, and a

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storage and janitor room. The project will include two new heating and air conditioning systems. The city has 58 committed persons to perform the needed labor to complete the library upgrades plus the Industrial Art class of Troy High School and the Boy Scouts who are committing six hours of community services. The project architect is BG Consultants, Manhattan, KS.

Turon Water System

The city of Turon will replace their waterlines to improve flow, eliminate dead-end lines and update aging infrastructure. Turon is located Reno County, about 35 miles southwest of Hutchinson. The water system serves a population of about 385 persons. According to the project consultant, RMA Engineering of Minneapolis, KS, much of the waterline is 1- and 1/3-inch

pipe. This was a result of its installation occurring during the oil field boom in the early 1900s. At that time it was less expensive to purchase 1- and 1/3-inch rather than standard 2-inch pipe. Much of the existing pipeline is galvanized and is easily 80 percent restricted due to build up in the lines. The majority of the existing 4- and 6-inch waterline is cast iron and is brittle from age; based on flow rates most of that pipe is at least 50 percent restricted. Fourteen of the existing 33 fire hydrants in the system are approximately 100 years old and many do not operate properly; there are only four hydrants in town where the fire district can safely connect to refill tanker trucks. The main hydrant is at the base of the water tower cannot be used because there is no shutoff between it and the tower. If there is a failure there is no way to shut the line off and the tower would drain and thus shut down the entire water distribution system. Most of the meters and meter setters are antiquated and are not reliable and are in need of replacement.

The project will include the replacement of 1,650 LF of 6-inch pipeline; 6,100 LF of 4-inch pipeline; 11,650 LF of 2-inch pipeline; 3,360 LF 1-inch service line; replacement of 39 various diameter gate valves, 14 fire hydrants, 112 meter 1-inch setters, meters, meter vaults, curb shutoff valves, boxes and corporation stops; and, 280 square yards concrete pavement replacement.