

KRWA Is True To Its Mission Statement



The purpose of a mission statement is to clearly state and communicate an organization's mission. The important thing about a mission statement is that one guiding set of ideas is articulated, understood and supported by the organization's members, board and staff.

The following is the mission statement of the Kansas Rural Water Association: *"Provide education and leadership necessary to enhance the effectiveness of Kansas' water and wastewater utilities"*.

While that may sound a little open-ended, – it clearly states the goals of the Association. It explains why the Association exists. It states what the purpose of the Association is.

It is the responsibility of the Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) employees to help deliver on the mission statement. And they do. The KRWA staff proudly work for and with water and wastewater utilities across the state to provide training that is needed and to assist in solving local issues. Membership is never ever a condition of whether a city or rural water district (RWD) receives help.

KRWA provides many programs to help utilities. These include the following:

- ◆ Training and seminars that are up-to-date
- ◆ Technical assistance ranging from water quality, daily operations,

leak detection, assistance with funding programs, rate reviews, GPS mapping, KAN STEP – and the list goes on

- ◆ Publications and media – *The Kansas Lifeline*, *Clarifier* newsletter and Web site www.krwa.net.
- ◆ Partnerships with state and federal organizations and liaison with state and federal legislators
- ◆ The Midwest's largest, most comprehensive and respected conference for the water and wastewater industries

maintenance to tabletop exercises to help cities and rural water districts be more prepared for disasters. Sessions are also planned for math for water and wastewater operators, backflow prevention, wastewater lagoons and activated sludge, confined space entry and many others.

Another type of assistance provided by KRWA is helping municipal and rural water districts control water loss. Water loss surveys involve reviewing records, verifying meter accuracy and finally conducting a leak detection if needed. Not every high unaccounted for water is due to leakage. Many times the water use calculations are incorrect; inaccuracies in other record keeping and metering are other likely contributors.

KRWA also assists utilities with calculating water/wastewater rates. Rate setting reports should be presented in a way that the city's or RWD's staff and governing body understand. Still, the question, "What are the average rates in our area?" is so common. While the neighboring systems' rates may be of interest, they should only be used as a reference. Setting rates based on neighboring systems is not the right way to set rates. Rates need to be set based on the operations of the individual system.

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Training and tech assistance

KRWA will conduct more than 80 training sessions in 2016. These will include training on basic electrical

CCR posting

KRWA has long advocated that mailing of the Consumer Confidence Report was of questionable value for the cost involved. It is for that reason that KRWA asked Senator Moran and Senator Roberts to co-sponsor legislation that would allow for the reports to be provided via email or through the Internet. EPA finally adopted the policy but federal legislation should not have been necessary to allow a common-sense change.

Systems that want to post their water quality reports online must provide a direct link to the report. Just having the report on a Web site where the user has to click on another link does not constitute a direct link requirement. For the past eight years, General Manager Elmer Ronnebaum has added the task of formatting all CCRs to his list of work. In 2015, he formatted 284 of the reports - as he says, "It's good night and weekend work". There were 224 posted to the KRWA Web site. The Association has a nominal fee for the service.

Work at KRWA is busy with scores and scores of emails each day and there are also many phone calls. KRWA is a vibrant and viable organization and I am pleased to be an employee of it. If anyone would like assistance with controlling water loss, measuring sludge in sewer lagoons, GPS mapping, information on funding a project, water rights, water or wastewater regulations, compliance issues or rate information, just give KRWA a call.

Annual conference

I would like to invite all readers to consider attending the Annual Conference & Exhibition,



March 29 – 31. The theme is "Quality Water – Made In Kansas". The entire program is listed elsewhere in this issue. Approximately 7,500 program booklets were also mailed in early January. The conference features ten pre-conference sessions on Tuesday, March 29. An additional 48 concurrent sessions are planned for Wednesday and Thursday, March 30 and 31. Tuesday evening is a great time to relax and enjoy a good meal with entertainment in a casual atmosphere. You may even get a visit from a celebrity. "The Mayberry Deputy" will be in the crowd on Tuesday evening – and will give the keynote address on Wednesday morning.

The KRWA conference is something like a family reunion; it's a great event and I hope that you will attend.

Greg Duryea has worked for KRWA since 1993 as Technical Assistant. He holds a Class I water certification and is the certified operator for Sycamore Springs Resort in Brown County.



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