

KRWA Training Is Purposeful, FOCUSING ON DEVELOPING TECHNOLOGY - and Regulatory Requirements

No matter what industry or utility is involved, training of operators and those who make decisions on behalf of their utilities is essential. That is because technology is developing continuously and at a fast rate. Processes and equipment frequently become outdated due to new discoveries in technology, including technical, managerial and behavioural aspects. Cities and rural water districts are greatly impacted. Those organizations that do not develop and use the newer technology miss out on worker or system efficiency. And most of all, those who do not attend training sessions also miss the opportunity of meeting presenters, having questions answered and making friends with others who may have similar concerns and who have found ways of solving issues in their communities.

This article focuses on training sessions provided by KRWA in 2016. KRWA provides nearly 100 days of water and wastewater-related training annually. The sessions are held regionally so that those attending can access training at the most affordable costs. To accomplish that, KRWA has been investing an average of \$150,000 annually from its internal funds to provide training. This amount is in addition any funding applied towards training sessions under a contract through National Rural Water Association which receives funding from US EPA. The investment of time is significant – and the charges do not include any of the

administrative time that goes into preparing agendas, logging registrations and all the orchestration required to conduct the training. I hope to summarize KRWA's training efforts so far in 2016.



On September 1, the city of Liberal along with Earles Engineering and Inspection (EEI) hosted a lunch for the entire class attending the backflow prevention training at Liberal. The barbecue was prepared by Oklahoma Smoke BBQ operated by David Ray out of Hooker, Okla. KRWA expresses appreciation to Peter Earles with EEI for sponsoring the meal and to Liberal City Superintendent Calvin Burke for the great hospitality.

Cross Connection Control – Backflow Prevention training

Various training courses on cross connection control and backflow prevention are conducted by KRWA annually. There is no better training than that provided by someone with first-hand experience and there is no better trainer on cross connection control than that being provided by Terry Randles. Terry follows in the footsteps of his predecessor, Al Hermsen who worked in partnership with KRWA for nearly 20 years on this topic. Like Al, Terry is also the mechanical sanitary inspector for the city of Topeka. The training focuses on the responsibilities of water and waste water operators as well as plumbers, lawn irrigation contractors and what others should be doing to protect public water supplies from cross contamination. The registrants demonstrate how to test various backflow devices and learn about drinking water regulations. Every public water supply system is required to have a cross connection control program.



Twenty-four people attended the cross connection control / backflow prevention training in Liberal the last week of August. This photo shows some of the registrants as they began the actual testing of various backflow devices. Trainer Terry Randles is shown at the far end of the test bench.



Tanner and Mike Weidenhaft from Mitchell RWD 3 visit with Nick Polsinelli from Informational Data Technologies (IDT), Watertown, SD during a break at a training session on metering technologies on August 4. The training was hosted at Mitchell RWD 3's offices in Beloit.

The first two days of the cross connection training course are made available without cost by KRWA. These sessions also provide credit towards operator certification. Those wishing to gain certification by KRWA for training and the ability to test devices need to attend all four days of training; the cost is \$225. Those recertifying every three years pay the fee of \$150 and attend the last two days only.

I recommend any operator who has not been through the course attend the informational first two days of the training to ensure they are up to date with KDHE and EPA regulations and requirements. KRWA holds numerous classes for tester certification across the state every year. Please check out the training calendar at www.krwa.net under training.

Metering Technologies and System Components

Water utility operators, managers and owners have many challenges and it is next to impossible for anyone to keep up with all the new technologies and components. One way KRWA helps is to provide training sessions that include those topics. While academics might suggest that providing information about such topics would be salesmanship, that's not how KRWA sees it. People from the industry are best equipped and suited to present such information.

Such a training session was at Beloit on August 4 and was repeated in Hays on August 24. This training focused on metering technologies and system components. Automated meter reading technology has seen numerous advances in the use of technology in recent years. Nick Posinelli with



Bob Hennig, Municipal Pipe Services, Hastings, Neb. stops for this photo as he complettd setting up the variety of components that were to be discussed during a training session held at Hays, Kan. on August 24.

IDT, Watertown, SD, Allan Stobl, Municipal Supply, Hastings, Neb. and Bradley Brush with Neptune Technologies Group, Kansas City, Mo. explained the advantages and some of the disadvantages of cellphone-based technologies and the satellite-based metering that IDT has developed. There were robust discussions with many questions concerning drive-by and fixed-base technologies. The interaction by the attendees revealed the interest in this topic. The afternoon portion of the class featured Bob Hennig, Municipal Pipe Services, Hastings, Neb. as he discussed new equipment, tools and methods as well as

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water systems components. This training makes for a great session, for both experienced and newer operators. All these presenters work with hundreds of utilities and they each do an excellent job in fairly presenting on the variety of technologies and components that can be considered in operating a water and or wastewater system.

Training on Regulatory Requirements

KRWA is also providing training for water systems concerning updates on new and revised regulatory requirements. These sessions focus on the Lead and Copper Rule and health effects of exposure to lead and copper. The training also aims to help system personnel better understand the new rule implementation recently announced

by KDHE, including how to conduct a materials evaluation and corrosion control. Other regulatory topics include review of basic drinking water regulations including the Revised Total Coliform Rule. Other topics such as GPS Mapping and Use of Google Apps on Smartphones make for a day well-spent, presented by KRWA staff who have first-hand experience with the regulations and utility work. Those sessions have been or will be held as follows:

- September 6, Smith Center
- September 13, Salina
- October 1, Kingman
- November 1, Hays
- November 8, Pittsburg
- December 6, Mayetta
- January 25, Independence
- March 7, Chanute

KRWA Training January through September 22, 2016

Location	Date	Session Title	Attendance	Systems	O	A	D	P	R
Kingman	1/14/2016	Maintaining Good Water Quality	35	19	30		1	4	
Washington	1/26/2016	Wastewater Lagoon Operation and Maintenance	40	24	35		3	2	
Concordia	1/27/2016	Wastewater Utility Workshop - Operations and Maintenance	34	17	29	1		4	
Dodge City	2/10/2016	Being Better Prepared for Natural Disasters	37	21	34			3	
Clay Center	2/11/2016	Being Better Prepared for Natural Disasters	41	14	34			5	2
Manhattan	2/2/2016	Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention	29	5	13			16	
Manhattan	2/3/2016	Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention	29	5	13			16	
Manhattan	2/4/2016	Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention	54	5	16			38	
Manhattan	2/5/2016	Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention	54	5	16			38	
Hutchinson	2/19/2016	Generators, Grounding, Power Quality and Lightning	37	23	32		1	4	
Holton	2/23/2016	Operation of Activated Sludge Wastewater Plants	36	16	32			4	
Arkansas City	3/2/2016	Competent Person For Trenching & Excavation	42	14	32			10	
Arkansas City	3/3/2016	Confined Space Entry	29	10	26			3	
Independence	3/2/2016	Maintaining Good Water Quality	50	27	41	2	2	3	2
Lawrence	4/12/2016	Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention	18	5	5		13		
Lawrence	4/13/2016	Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention	16	3	3		13		
Lawrence	4/14/2016	Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention	31	2	2		29		
Lawrence	4/15/2016	Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention	31	2	2		29		
Wichita	3/29/2016	2016 KRWA Annual Conference	1945		925	110	109	763	38
Wichita	3/30/2016	2016 KRWA Annual Conference	2077		966	115	138	809	49
Salina	4/19/2016	Maintaining Good Water Quality	42	27	37	1	1	3	
Eureka	4/26/2016	Introduction to Wastewater Collection and Lagoon Treatment	17	13	16			1	
Eureka	4/28/2016	Introduction to Wastewater Collection and Lagoon Treatment	28	16	24		2	2	
Lawrence	4/12/2016	Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention	18	5	10			8	
Lawrence	4/13/2016	Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention	16	3	8			8	
Lawrence	4/14/2016	Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention	31	2	14			17	
Lawrence	4/15/2016	Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention	31	2	14			17	
Eureka	4/26/2016	Introduction to Wastewater Collection and Lagoon Treatment	17	13	16			1	
Pratt	4/28/2016	Introduction to Wastewater Collection and Lagoon Treatment	28	16	24		2	2	
Newton	5/4/2016	Competent Person For Trenching & Excavation	29	12	27			2	
Newton	5/5/2016	Confined Space Entry	35	13	33			2	
Haysville	5/11/2016	Programmable Logic Controllers	7	4	6			1	
Haysville	5/12/2016	Programmable Logic Controllers	6	3	5			1	
Topeka	5/17/2016	Beginning Excel	13	7	4	7		2	
Topeka	5/18/2016	Intermediate Excel	17	11	4	11		2	
Colby	5/18/2016	Basic Electrical Maintenance & Troubleshooting	13	7	12			1	
Colby	5/19/2016	Basic Electrical Maintenance & Troubleshooting	12	7	11			1	
Salina	5/17/2016	Preparing for Water Certification Exams	36	26	34			2	
Salina	5/17/2016	Preparing for Wastewater Certification Exams	23	17	21			2	
Columbus	5/24/2016	Wastewater Lagoon Operation and Maintenance	23	14	21			2	
Emporia	5/24/2016	Maintaining Good Water Quality	31	23	28			3	



During a break at the regulatory training at Salina on 9/13, Marshall Rhyne from Geary RWD 2 listens as KRWA consultant Pat McCool illustrates a point concerning lead and copper monitoring. Bert Zerr, KRWA consultant and David Reiling, city of Cawker City were also involved in the discussion.



A total of 51 registrants attended the training on regulatory issues on September 13 at the BiCentennial Center in Salina. There were 25 water systems represented.

Location	Date	Session Title	Attendance	Systems	O	A	D	P	R
Parsons	6/2/2016	Water System Components	46	24	38		1	7	
El Dorado	6/7/2016	Math Refresher Course for Water and Wastewater Operators	26	18	23	1		2	
Parsons	6/8/2016	Math Refresher Course for Water and Wastewater Operators	24	12	22			2	
Lawrence	6/9/2016	Math Refresher Course for Water and Wastewater Operators	40	20	38			2	
Dodge City	6/8/2016	Competent Person For Trenching & Excavation	24	6	20			4	
Dodge City	6/9/2016	Confined Space Entry	30	7	27			3	
Hays	6/14/2016	Maintaining Good Water Quality	44	25	40			4	
Iola	6/21/2016	Advanced Electrical Maintenance & Troubleshooting	16	12	15			1	
Iola	6/22/2016	Advanced Electrical Maintenance & Troubleshooting	17	12	16			1	
Concordia	7/7/2016	Basic Electrical Maintenance & Troubleshooting	17	10	17				
Concordia	7/8/2016	Basic Electrical Maintenance & Troubleshooting	16	9	16				
Russell	7/12/2016	Wastewater Lagoon Operation and Maintenance	26	13	21				5
Oakley	7/14/2016	Wastewater Lagoon Operation and Maintenance	14	6	12	1		1	
Dodge City	7/12/2016	Basic Electrical Maintenance & Troubleshooting	18	5	17			1	
Dodge City	7/13/2016	Basic Electrical Maintenance & Troubleshooting	18	5	17			1	
Ulysses	7/14/2016	Generators, Grounding, Power Quality and Lightning	18	8	16			2	
Hiawatha	7/19/2016	Design and Operation of Water Wells - Source Water Protection; Water Rights	19	10	13	2	1	3	
Manhattan	7/21/2016	Water System Components	31	18	25			6	
Leavenworth	7/27/2016	Competent Person For Trenching & Excavation	27	12	24			3	
Leavenworth	7/28/2016	Confined Space Entry	26	12	22			4	
Beloit, KS	8/4/2016	Options for Metering; Components and Operations	22	12	18			4	
Moundridge	8/16/2016	Wastewater Lagoon Operation and Maintenance	27	17	25			2	
Cimarron	8/18/2016	Wastewater Lagoon Operation and Maintenance	23	8	18			4	1
Chanute	8/17/2016	Competent Person For Trenching & Excavation	15	6	9			6	
Chanute	8/18/2016	Confined Space Entry	15	5	10			5	
Hoisington	8/9/2016	Understanding and Troubleshooting Electrical Motors, VFDs	20	11	18			2	
Hoisington	8/10/2016	Understanding and Troubleshooting Electrical Motors, VFDs	20	11	18			2	
Hays	8/24/2016	Water System Components	32	18	26			6	
Dodge City	8/25/2016	Design and Operation of Water Wells - Source Water Protection and Water Rights	14	7	9			1	4
Smith Center	9/6/2016	Revised Regulatory Updates; Water System Operations	31	21	25	1	2	3	
Abilene	9/7/2016	Design and Operation of Water Wells - Source Water	16	6	13			3	
Liberal	8/30/2016	Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention	23	3	13			10	
Liberal	8/31/2016	Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention	23	3	13			10	
Liberal	9/1/2016	Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention	24	4	10			14	
Liberal	9/2/2016	Cross Connection/Backflow Prevention	24	4	10			14	
Salina	9/13/2016	Revised Regulatory Updates; Water System Operations	51	25	44	2	1	4	
Wichita	9/23/2016	Water System Workshop	69	33	63			6	
Topeka	9/20/2016	Making Excel Work For You - Beginner	21	14	8	11		2	
Colby	9/21/2016	Competent Person For Trenching & Excavation	18	5	13			3	2
Colby	9/22/2016	Competent Person For Trenching & Excavation	15	5	11			2	2
			6138		3468	265	349	1960	96

Excel training excels

The Association has sponsored and has heavily subsidized training on office technologies. The training is on the use of Excel spreadsheets and QuickBooks accounting software. A Beginner Excel training was held in Topeka at Washburn Tech on September 20. There were 20 registrants which is the maximum allowable due to the lab size. The attendees came from 14 different cities or RWDs. Karen Skillman provided the training. KRWA believes that operators should receive training credit from technology training because more and more reporting is requiring the use of computer software program.

Sustainability Workshops for water and wastewater utilities

KRWA is also offering "Sustainability Management: Workshop in a Box" training for local RWD boards and city council member training. USDA Rural Development



Jim Reitz who works with the Kickapoo Tribe and Christopher Fee, US EPA, share information during the Beginner Excel Course held at Washburn Tech in Topeka on Sept. 20.



Kirk Rees, Utility Supervisor and Brett Marler, Wastewater Operator with the city of Paola listen as instructor Karen Skillman explains an Excel worksheet function. Jeremy Haverkamp, city of Sabetha works on in the background at the Sept. 20 session.

strongly supports the Sustainability Management training for any system applying for a loan through USDA. The "Workshop in a Box" consists of managerial, financial and technical training. This training assists the system with evaluating their utility and governance policies and approaches. If your board/council wants to have a really good "give and take discussion", contact KRWA Monica Wurtz at 785.262.7301 (email monica@krwa.net) or Rita Clary at 785.850.0192 (email rita@krwa.net) to discuss and schedule such training. It will be held at your system to make it easier for board/council members to attend evening sessions.

Kansas Rural Water has provided 82 days of training from January 1 to September 30, 2016. Including counting the full-day courses at the conference and one day of the conference, the total attendance to September 30 was 6,138 people. Training sessions focus on every aspect KRWA believes is important to the management, operation and safety of operating water and wastewater utilities. KRWA's #1 mission is training. Always check out www.krwa.net for the updated training calendar. And remember, if your community or water district has a specific interest in a topic, please advise KRWA of that and KRWA will find a way to provide it.

Greg Metz joined KRWA as a Technical Assistant in July 2009. He previously worked at the city of Washington for 13 years where he was involved in city utilities including the power plant, streets, water and wastewater. He also served as purchasing agent for those utilities.



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