

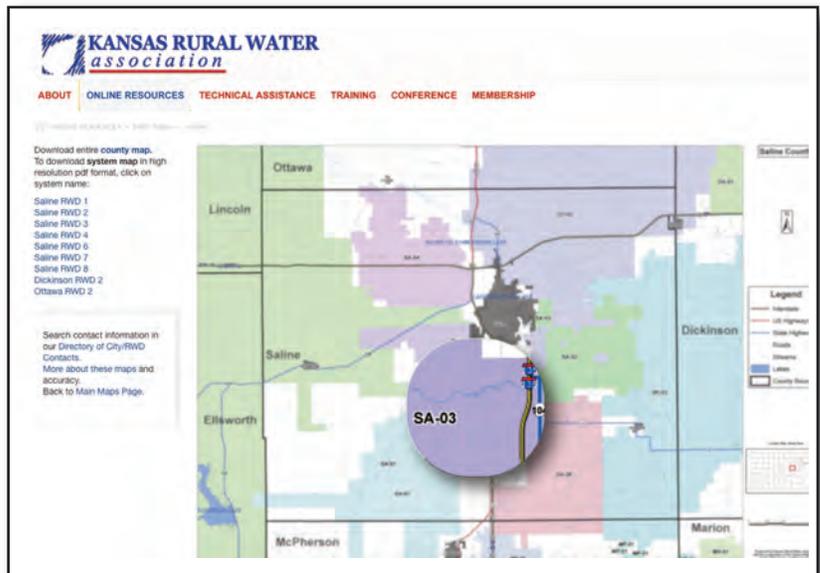
Online RWD Maps Are Unique Feature on KRWA's Website

There is hardly a week that goes by without several phone calls to the KRWA office from people who want to know what RWD a certain property is located in. Having the "Which District Am I In" feature on the KRWA Website makes answering such questions very easy. It's a very unique example how KRWA Mapping has and keeps helping not just water systems but also those who have questions about specific systems.

Prior to 2016, the RWD boundaries on the Website had not been updated for many years. The boundaries of all districts were verified and drawn by KRWA with the Kansas Water Office providing technical support for the project in 1994. As anyone might imagine, many changes had taken place since then, with consolidations, expansions and new districts forming. For more than a few years Elmer had mentioned the need to update the online boundaries hosted on the KRWA Website. Updating RWD boundaries on KRWA's Website mapping links may not seem all that complicated, and its not, but the fact that there are 270 of unique entities made it seem a little overwhelming. Some guidelines had to be installed so that this project would not be overly time consuming.

The parameters would be to focus solely on the major changes that had taken place in the last 22 years, and not worry about minor changes if a district had acquired a section here or there. The list of RWDs with major changes kept me busy for more than a week. The re-drawing of the boundaries was actually one of the easier tasks.

KRWA's Website allows users to search RWDs by county, and then the user has the option to view a map of the entire county's RWDs, or a specific RWD. To accomplish this, I had to create two sets of maps. One map is county-wide and a second map is for each RWD. With the maps having already been made, I did have a template to work with, which was nice. The symbology scheme and details on the old maps looked great, so I didn't alter that. The most difficult part was the color shading for the various RWD boundaries on the maps. I would simply enter which color shading scheme I liked best. The problem, however, resulted with the colors looking too much alike on some of the

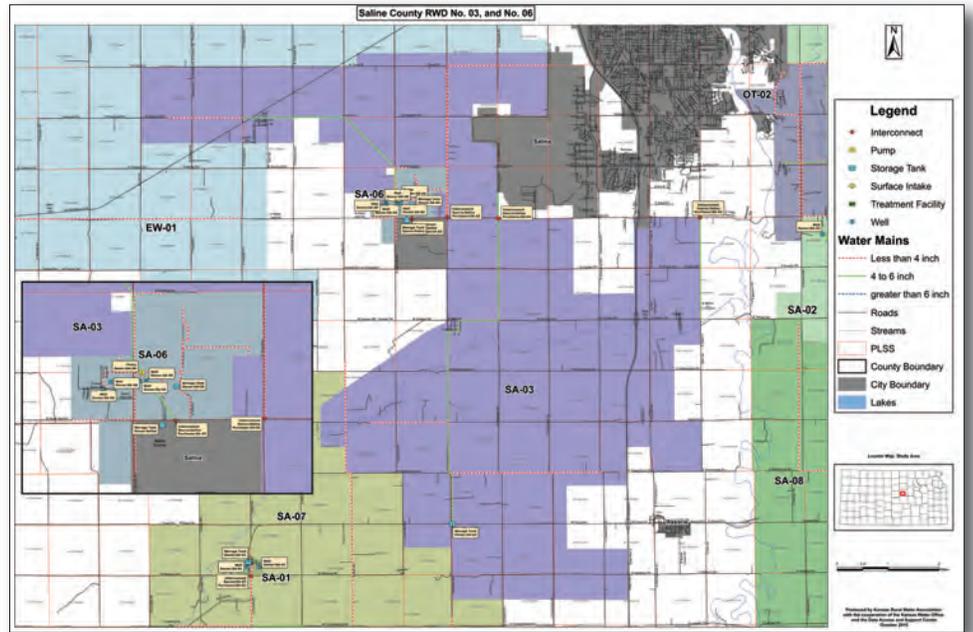


different county maps. It was necessary to review all the county maps, and adjust the color on those that had districts with similarly colored areas adjacent to each other. The same process had to be completed for all 270 RWD maps to adjust colors so the adjoining districts could be distinguished visually.

Hosting the RWD boundary maps on the KRWA Website is extremely useful. It's unique information that perhaps only a few other state water associations or agencies may have readily available. I have however not located any such

information online. Even with the files available through the Website, KRWA still receives calls asking about service areas. Frequent callers are real estate agents attempting to locate the utility that serves the area or citizens attempting to obtain water service. Realtors and others often express appreciation for having the tool on the KRWA site; they now know where to get answers on any additional property. Numerous times, KRWA has printed large format, multi-county maps for engineering firms or others when they are studying possible public wholesale water supply districts.

The opinion at KRWA is what good is any information if its not readily available to users? And it is for that reason the KRWA's Website is fully accessible without user logins or any requirements of membership. I'm proud to work for an organization that is so open and transparent. From RWD boundary maps, to system contacts and more recently, the water rates for all cities and RWDs posted online,



KRWA's Website provides valuable information to scores of people every day.

KRWA's ongoing effort is to try to maintain the accuracy of the RWD boundary maps. Anyone having information for updates is encouraged to let KRWA know and we'll get the necessary changes made and incorporated into the system.

Mark Thomas has been a GIS Mapping Tech since September 2006. Mark has a bachelors degree in geography from Kansas State University and has specialized studies in ESRI's ArcView and ArcPad software.



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