



**A**s one ages it seems that one's perception of time accelerates. As I write this it is almost June 1. I ask myself where has the first half of the year gone? It seems that I just put away the Christmas tree and here we are with the 2017 KRWA annual conference

well behind us. What a conference it was! 2017 saw the most vendors ever at a KRWA conference. There were great training sessions that were attended by record numbers. There is also just no substitute for time spent networking with others in the water and wastewater profession. Once the

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conference came to a close it was back to reality for most of us. Warmer weather brings the time for operators and managers to get out and tackle the tasks that have been delayed until warmer days. I know that my system has a long list of the things we need to get done as well as those unexpected issues that pop up.

A few weeks ago all the “unexpected” issues popped up in one day. The phone rang as I sat down at my desk. It was the KDHE district office telling me that it was time for our sanitary survey. I thought, really? I have enough on my plate and I don't need this now! Then I thought about it for a few minutes. What do I have to worry about? I keep my needed records and file them properly, we maintain our system to exceed the state and federal regulations. We

honestly report when we have issues such as a loss of pressure below 20 psi, or any other contamination risk.

### We're in this together

Often water and wastewater systems look at KDHE district staff as an adversary rather than an ally. Our regulators do have a job to do and really it is the same as the jobs in the local systems. It should be our mission as well as our regulators mission to ensure that safe drinking water is delivered to the tap as well as the proper treatment of wastewater. We should look at our regulators as people we can turn to with questions and work with them to resolve issues that could pose a risk to our systems. The events of the last two years that have made the national media such as the Flint Michigan lead crisis or even here in Kansas with operators charged in federal court and convicted of falsifying records is evidence enough that we need our regulators checking on our systems.

Our regulatory and compliance specialist from the North-Central District KDHE office completed the

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sanitary survey of our water system, and yes without issue or deficiencies! It was nice to go over some ideas that I had to make minor changes in how we do our job to improve our utilities. I did not have to do anything special other than hand her the needed files and documentation that was requested. It was all painless so why did I get bothered by it? I guess it was the "Big Brother" mentality that someone is looking over my shoulder mind-set, but as I said if we are doing our job right we have nothing to worry about!

Regulations can't be changed overnight and present regulations must be followed. Some regulations have been interpreted very differently by each person reading them. Don't take that out on your district KDHE staff. That is why KRWA is here for your system, to bring to light the need to clarify certain regulations, to change other regulations and to support or testify in favor of or against other regulations. I can hear the voice of my American Government teacher even today, "if you don't like the law change it, don't break it". Representing our water and wastewater systems as a collective voice is just one of the many services provided by your Kansas Rural Water Association.

*Paul Froelich is City Superintendent at Enterprise, Kan. Since 1983, he has worked extensively in law enforcement, emergency management and municipal operations. He holds numerous accreditations in Emergency Management and Fire and is a certified water and wastewater operator.*



## Letters continued . . .

expert assistance in helping the District complete the applications for permits to appropriate water which has resulted in the Approval of Application and Permit to Proceed. Previously, Doug has met with me at the office and has attended a Board of Directors meeting to assist with the district's perfection of Appropriation of Water for our existing wells. His knowledge and experience were very helpful and impressive. He is a phone call away and is always ready to help.

I can't say "thank you" enough to Lonnie Boller for all the assistance he has provided to the district. After having some problems in one of our wells, Lonnie worked with our operator Leo Wessel and provided solutions and on-site assistance to correct our situation. Lonnie is a walking book of knowledge and a phone call away. He has provided helpful suggestions for improvements in

our pump house, wells and the water system infrastructure. Recently, we have experienced some water line breaks. Lonnie is always quick to provide assistance and has helped save time in locating the water line breaks and assisted with repairs.

Thank you Monica Wurtz for visiting our district and advising on the Lead and Copper Rule. I attended the pre-conference session that you presented and appreciate receiving the hand-out of your presentation.

Also, thank you Laurie Strathman and Greg Duryea for always being so pleasant and helpful when I call the KRWA office. Mark Thomas prepared updated maps of the district and the wall map he produced for the office is invaluable. Thank you Mark.

Again, we appreciate your team more than you know. Absolute

professionalism. Looking forward to next year's Conference/Exhibition.

*Carol Steinlage  
Manager, Nemaha RWD No. 4*

**The city of McFarland and I would like to Thank everyone at KRWA.** When I got hired in 2015 I came into this job blind. Whenever I had a simple question or a serious problem, you all were there with your expertise to help me out. I have learned a lot from all the classes I have attended and plan to go to more and also the one on one. A Thank You is not enough for what you guys have done, But I really appreciate and Thank You very much. Please keep the knowledge coming.

*Keith Murphy  
City of McFarland*