

Letters



In the spring of 2017, I was combating tree roots in a sewer main that is located in a state highway. We were pulling out large pieces of clay tile with tree roots. A dig to solve the problem was on the planning table.

Charlie Schwindamann informed us about a sewer project that Marysville, KS was doing with CIPP and that we could get in on it.

We looked at the cost of excavating, shutting down the highway with traffic control, trucking materials for the main replacement, taps, backfilling/packing and rebuilding the blacktop on the highway – all to be done in a timely manner.

The CIPP: One day start to finish!

We did not need to shut down the highway, only some traffic control. We then lined 595 feet of sewer main (no joints), a nice and smooth sewer main. Going with CIPP saved the city of Frankfort tens of thousands of dollars versus the cost of excavating.

Thanks Charlie.

*Doug Swearingen
Public Works Superintendent
City of Frankfort*

I want to thank KRWA and its staff

for assisting and providing technical support over the years to the city of Hiawatha. The entire staff has always been helpful and supportive in the field, workshops, over the phone and at the conference. The conference each year is great, including the training sessions with a wide range of issues for operators. “Best in the Midwest” is what I often hear.

I especially want to thank Tony Kimmi for coming over many times to check and find leaks and testing meters in our system. I would also like to thank Monica Wurtz for assisting with the Lead and Copper Rule and the helpful workshops, along with other staff members the Association has provided to assist Hiawatha. KRWA is truly the leader in providing training and technical assistance for water and wastewater systems across Kansas.

I am retiring from the city of Hiawatha and the waterworks filed in February 2018, but will always be indebted to

KRWA for the leadership and training they have provided. I wish the best to KRWA and their staff.

*Rick Koenig
Water Superintendent (Retired)
City of Hiawatha*

On behalf of the city of Inman, I

would like to extend thanks and appreciation to the KRWA for their continued help and support. In the past many years, the city benefited from the knowledge and professionalism of various personnel in your agency.

Jon Steele has always jumped in to help with any problem we may encounter, as well as giving sound advice to help our operation run smoothly. From Charlie Schwindamann assisting with sludge problems at our lagoons to Mark Thomas producing concise maps of our water and wastewater systems, as well as the informative classes that your consultants and technical assistants provide, we receive top-notch assistance from your agency.

Last but not least, I would like to mention that no matter who answers the phone when I call your office, there is always a cheerful voice on the line.

Thanks to you and your whole staff for all the services you provide!

*Danny Parr
City Superintendent
City of Inman*

As Chairman of Doniphan County

RWD #2 at Bendena, I would like to take a moment to express our gratitude for the assistance your organization has extended to us over the years.

We have recently been experiencing problems in maintaining proper chlorine levels in our water system. I called a meeting of our Board on November 15. I also asked Lonnie Boller to set in on the meeting. Lonnie very graciously agreed to come down and attend our meeting. I asked Lonnie to give his assessment or our situation, and to advise of any action that could help in correcting the problem. Lonnie outlined several steps that could be taken both short-term and long-term. He also provided us with a cost estimate on the actions he mentioned.

Through the efforts of Kansas Rural Water Association and its personnel such as Lonnie, you provide an extremely vital service through your assistance to Rural Water Districts like us.

Please see to it that the legislators in charge of providing funding to KRWA are aware of the important role KRWA plays in maintaining a safe supply of water to the citizens served by the various Rural Water Districts you serve.

*Bill Young
Chairman
Doniphan County RWD #2*

The city of Matfield Green wishes to

express appreciation for the assistance provided by Bret Beye in locating the leak in our water system. This leak had been detected in our water loss amounts for several months. Numerous trips had been made over the waterlines in our system during these months and no sign of the leak appeared on the surface. With Bret's help the city of Matfield Green was able to locate the area of the leak. That area was recently excavated and the leak was located in the water lines and repaired. Meter readings are showing that water loss rates have returned to normal amounts.

The city of Matfield Green sincerely appreciates the service that is provided by Kansas Rural Water Association.

*Donnie Swift
Mayor
City of Matfield Green*

I am writing you to let you know

(Elmer) that the city of Logan is very thankful for the services provided through the Kansas Rural Water Association. Doug Guenther and Charlie Schwindamann are always so helpful when questions or problems come up. Recently, Charlie was at the city conducting a smoke test on our wastewater system. With this test, we found that the city of Logan does have a few areas that need to be fixed within our sewer system. Without his expertise, we would not have been able to locate the problematic areas.

We look forward to continuing to work with Kansas Rural Water Association to make our community as safe as possible.

*David Snow
Maintenance Supervisor
City of Logan*

On behalf of Lyon County Rural

Water Districts #1 and #5 1 would like to thank KRWA staff members Rita Clary and Greg Duryea for their assistance with the districts' Phase 3 water improvement projects.

Rita's help with the RD Apply application, Sam.gov and KDHE SRF loan application were invaluable. Her knowledge and expertise made it possible for us to get our applications for funding submitted in a timely manner and that made my job so much easier.

We want to thank Greg for completing our rate analysis for Lyon Co. RWD #1 and #5. The board has taken his findings into consideration.

Lyon County RWD 1 & 5 would like to give a big shout out to KRWA for their overall technical support that they give free of charge. We couldn't have done it without KRWA! Thanks again.

*Julia Langley
Office Manager
Lyon County RWD #1 and #5*

My name is Ed Patton and I am the

City Manager of Herington, Kansas. Rita Clary has been helping our city, and especially me, in the past year to seek and acquire funding through the USDA RD Apply online. She has spent several productive hours at my office placing her research and knowledge into the Application form to enable our community to benefit with the funding of an up-to-date, state-of-the-art facility that should serve our city well for several decades.

Rita's determination and desire to get the job done right the first time is second to NONE! She has always been respectful, courteous and efficient. Rita has made several suggestions along the path that I followed. Given the fact that we have been funded per our request for the Water Treatment Plant, to me, intensifies the tenacity and on-the-run performance that occurs in her presence. The phenomenal part about Rita is that she is always ahead of me in thought and

management process. That in and of itself is a very difficult thing for people to achieve. They usually can't keep up with me but in the case of Rita Clary, I find myself looking over my shoulder.

From one management professional to another, I feel you received the better end of the deal. You get to manage her all of the time. I wish my charge of employees was as good as yours and they are great in their own right. Rita is a shining star and you would do good to keep her onboard.

*Ed Patton
City Manager
City of Herington*

We would like to thank KRWA staff

members Tony and Lonnie for all the help with our water system from finding leaks to helping with treatment plant problems, Kansas Rural Water Association has been a blessing to us,

Thank you again for all you do.

*Paula Smith
District Clerk/Manager
Lakeside Village Improvement District*

We have received communications

that our sewer permit expires March 31, 2018.

Our new permit will require us to hire a Kansas licensed engineering consultant to conduct study in determining the capacity of our facility by June 1, 2018.

The city has had one sample over the effluent BOD limits and two over Effluent TSS limit. We have been in contact with Charlie Schwindamann several times for resolving and the handling of these situations. Rita Clary and KRWA are assisting the city in securing grant monies to pay for engineering fees.

KRWA has been very beneficial in answering questions and helping us get in contract with the appropriate people.

*Brian Isch
Sewer Operator
City of Gridley*

The city of Whitewater wanted so

send a letter of appreciation to KRWA, first for all the assistance and information your organization has provided to us throughout the years and secondly, for all the training classes you put on during the course of a year.

We would also like to especially thank Jon Steele for his assistance and on-site expertise with some issues we were having with declining chlorine residuals in one area of town. His knowledge and on-site assistance were invaluable.

Thank you Kansas Rural Water for providing the resources and personnel to help resolve water and wastewater issues that come up in the course of running our city.

*Don Berg
City Superintendent*

We would like to thank Pat McCool

for the great article in *The Kansas Lifeline* concerning the city of Elk City and our fight to save our water plant. We are a small community trying to go into the future. The city has a great Mayor and Council that are active in keeping our community going. Pat always comes to help us in a predicament and gives great advice. We would also like to thank Rita Clary coming to our city and helping get paperwork ready for state financial help. We would like some help financially from KDHE and or USDA but they are wanting regionalization, however that isn't what is best for our city. Pat and Rita are both great to help whenever needed!

*Kendria Schnug
City Clerk
City of Elk City*

Elmer, I hope this finds that your

year has gone well and that you are almost ready to start a new one.

I wanted to take the time to write you and let you know that the City of Pretty Prairie appreciates the recent assistance of Jon Steele in assisting our water department in repairing our chlorine injector and ventilation system. Jon helped them to rebuild the injector, traced the wiring problem with the ventilation fan, and fixed what could have been a dangerous situation.

As always, your technicians are willing to go the extra mile and are such a great resource to small systems such as ours. Thanks for all you guys do!

*Patti Brace
City Clerk
City of Pretty Prairie*

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Letters continued . . .

On behalf of the city of Kinsley, I want to thank Jon Steele for assisting our water department and giving us direction on how to fix our chlorinator issue. Jon also gave our city great advice regarding painting our water tower. He provided many resources and information to help us with the task. His experience and helpfulness is invaluable. I look forward to working with Jon in the future.

*Jeff Cramer
Public Works Department*

This letter is to inform you of our appreciation and support for the services provided by circuit rider Rita Clary to Public Wholesale Water Supply District No. 25.

Rita has been instrumental in working with and supporting the District with our ongoing water supply project bringing water to over 5,000 rural water customers in northeast Kansas. This project is a \$20 million project treating water from the Kansas River and supplying it through approximately 30 miles of transmission main to its wholesale customers.

Rita has provided services with administering both the USDA and SFR funding packages for this project. The USDA funding will serve as the long-term financing while the SRF funding is for interim financing only. Rita attends monthly progress meetings and board meetings for this project preparing disbursement documents and filing monthly payroll documents for the 6 separate contracts on this project.

I know Rita is extremely busy with many other commitments but she always supports us when necessary with a smile on her face and a genuine interest and caring for our project. She has helped to keep this project running smoothly and we would recommend her services to others and have her back to help us again on our next project. "Thank You Rita!"

*Larry Wray
President
Public Wholesale Water Supply District 25*

The city of Speed would like to thank Kansas Rural Water Association and especially Doug Guenther for coming to our aid when our water tower froze up.

When Doug was called our pump was not operating properly and we were getting air and brown water. He immediately diagnosed the problem as a faulty valve and we contacted a company to work on it.

Just a few hours after Doug left, our town had water pressure issues and between our water person and Doug they figured out that no water was able to get into our tower. It was determined that due to the extremely cold weather, our tower had frozen.

Doug came to the rescue and instructed us to put a valve on a fire hydrant and our town could get water through the lines in this manner until hopefully our tower would thaw. We had nice warm weather the next few days, but no luck with the tower thawing. Since we were losing a lot of water using the fire hydrant, Doug brought us the KRWA pressure tank that we could use for water storage and we began filling it. Our town is hooked up with our local rural water district, so with Doug's help we began using the rural water and filling the storage tank. Doug was planning on making another trip to Speed that next day because when checking the rural water usage we had used a considerable amount – more than the storage tank could have held and Doug suspicioned a leak in our system. Luckily, that next morning, water was coming out the overflow valve at the tower and Doug was contacted with the good news that our tower had thawed overnight.

We are truly grateful for the services Kansas Rural Water Association supplies to small systems such as ours.

*Donna Studley
City Clerk
City of Speed*

The city of Strong City would like to Thank You (Charlie) for your help with our sewer rates as well as the recognition that we have a need for a sewer project. We appreciate your time and always welcome your knowledge! I am sure that we will have more questions as we progress through all the details for the sewer project. We look forward to working with you as we move along.

Many thanks and much appreciation,

*Matt Markley
City of Strong City*

On behalf of the city of Reserve I want to thank Rita Clary for her assistance in helping us with all of the documentations, assessments and numerous pages of information that were compiled so the city of Reserve could get a loan and grant dollars to fix our water tower and replace our distribution system. With out Rita's help this project would not get done. This is just one of many times that KRWA has assisted us with this project and we are thankful for all your help.

*Linda Grimm
City Clerk
City of Reserve, KS*

Doniphan County RWD #6 is in its final days of completion. This project from start to finish has been very challenging, but the accomplishment great. The people of northeast Kansas are very grateful to have safe drinking water available to them. One of the core elements of the success of this project has been the circuit riders. Their mission does not get enough recognition for the services they provide. They have been here from start to finish assisting in:

- Guidance in RWD formation
- Benefit users guide
- LMI Survey
- Guidance on easements
- Conservation survey
- Part I and Part II developmental plan
- Emergency Plan
- Environmental survey
- Cost analysis
- Native American assessment
- GPS mapping
- EPA regulatory requirements
- Loan applications
- Financing recommendations
- Advocate for regionalization
- Grant Application
- Coordination of deadlines

These are just a few areas that come to mind. The guidance and expertise of the circuit riders have made this project a success. Thank you.

*Paul E. Rush
Chairman
RWD #6 Doniphan County, Kansas*