

Upcoming workshops deal with water dispute resolution

“Contentious water issues call for cost effective and civil solutions”

The Kansas Rural Water Association and Kansas Section American Water Works Association are partnering with the Kansas Water Office to offer a series of unique workshops for public water suppliers.

Resolving Water Disputes in New Ways is an intensive workshop aimed at helping city council, RWD boards and management staff to gain an appreciation of how alternative dispute resolution and mediation can be used to resolve or mitigate conflicts. The panel of expert presenters has decades of experience in conflict resolution and consensus building techniques.

When? The first session will be held Tuesday, November 15 at Bethel College in North Newton. Several additional workshops are planned for the upcoming months include one being a pre-conference session at KRWA's Annual Conference March 28, 2006 in Wichita.

Where? Call KRWA at 785/336-2751 for information or check KRWA's Web site at www.krwa.net under "Calendar & Registration."

Why? Gain an appreciation for how alternative dispute resolution, facilitation and mediation can be used to resolve or mitigate conflicts involving public water systems. As water issues become more contentious, it's critical to resolve them in the most civil and cost effective manner possible.

Who should attend? Public water system managers, rural water district board members.

How much? It's FREE. The workshops are limited to 24 participants, no more than two representatives per public water system. They're funded by the Kansas Supreme Court's Dispute Resolution Advisory Council.

Instructors

Gary L. Flory of McPherson is the Director of the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR) housed at Bethel College in North Newton.

An attorney, Gary, has focused the past 15 years on mediation training programs. Among his notable endeavors is helping states bordering the Missouri River build consensus on the river's management.

Kirsten Zerger of

McPherson serves as Senior Training Associate of the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR). Trained as an attorney, she also provides private dispute resolution services through Chisholm Conflict Resolution.

Her areas of expertise include interpersonal mediation, facilitated multi-party and large group problem solving. She works with interest-based bargaining and collaborative problem solving with boards of education and teachers throughout Kansas and Missouri.

Lynne McCraw Schall of Wichita is a public affairs associate at Wichita State University's Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs. She has performed a leadership role in the development of the school's professional development offerings for local government since 1991 and nonprofit agencies since 2001. She also has taught workshops on conflict resolution and governing board basics.

Julie McLachlan of Prairie Village is an experienced facilitator, mediator, trainer and consultant. She is a registered nurse and an attorney. She introduced formal consensus building techniques into policy development and resource allocation during her tenure with the American Nurses Assn. She has worked extensively with nonprofit organizations and government entities in developing strategic thinking and mediation skills.

Ken Grotewiel is the Assistant Director of the Kansas Water Office, which is the State's water planning, policy and coordination agency. One of Ken's primary responsibilities is management of the State's water policy development process. He also coordinates the State's efforts to encourage the use of alternative dispute resolution in water and natural resource conflicts.

