Conference 2006: At your service – it’s automatic!

Cool mornings and warm afternoons during the last few days of March were welcome accompaniments for the year’s largest gathering of water/wastewater and associated professionals in Mid America. Those attending the 2006 KRWA conference included operators, administrators, decision-makers, public/industry and government/agency representatives.

The 39th Annual Conference and Exhibition also saw records broken with an attendance of 2,183. The exhibition portion of the week was also record setting with 275 vendor booths stocked with the latest in products and technologies for every aspect of interest for those working at the bottom of a pipeline trench to the top floor of city hall.

Conference planning for 2007 is well underway. Now is an excellent time for those who want to attend to do the same. March 27 through 29, 2007 are calendar dates to mark for KRWA’s 40th Annual Conference and Exhibition at Century II Convention Center in downtown Wichita.

For information on Wichita’s hotels, their addresses and numbers, check the sidebar on page 84. Again, now is a good time to call because the rooms are filling fast! The Hyatt has already sold out!

Pre-conference Roundup Unofficial conference kickoff

There is no official ceremony to open the “pre-conference Tuesday” and the nine all day sessions that get the Conference out of the blocks in a hurry. As EXPO Hall exhibits and evening party decorations are getting spiffy finishing touches, more than 900 people who signed on to the extra conference day of learning and study about a broad range of topics are already taking notes.

Tuesday morning pre-conference attendees in line at the registration desk hurrying to pick up their registration packets, grab a snack and find their day-long sessions.

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Attorneys’ Forum

The sixth KRWA Attorneys’ Forum got things started at 9 a.m. with speakers and discussions designed to keep lawyers who work for water systems and municipalities “up to snuff” on issues old and new that might cross their desks in the future.

“This Forum provides a service to members in that attending lawyers become more efficient in

The Tuesday morning Attorneys’ Forum is shown underway with David Traster, Foulston Siefkin, LLP, speaking on “Water Rights Permitting and Transfer Issues.” The 36 attorneys who attended received credit from the Kansas Continuing Legal Education Commission. The forum is organized and moderated by Gary Hanson, Stumbo, Hanson and Hendricks, LLP, Topeka.
dealing with water issues, saving costs in billings and the ability to provide a more knowledgeable service,” noted session moderator Gary Hanson, Stumbo, Hanson and Hendricks, LLP., Topeka. “The number attending the session is optimal for the unique ‘U’ shaped room layout, giving the participants lively, spirited discussions that are heads above the norm for most legal educational forums.”

Bob Myers, Newton city attorney started off by discussing the detailed roles of house and defense counsel in representing government agencies against claims. David Traster, Foulston Siefkin, LLP, Wichita, updated the group on water rights, permitting and transfer issues. After lunch roundtable discussions part I and II sparked discussions on key issues from right-of-way use by cities to antennae contracts for water towers.

Karl Mueldener, Director, KDHE Bureau of Water and Yvonne Anderson, General Counsel, KDHE, made a presentation to the forum on regulatory enforcement actions.

Ken Grotewiel, assistant director Kansas Water Office, described for the group ADR services available to public water supplies coordinated by the Kansas Water Office.

Rate Setting

Carl Brown, a nationally recognized expert in user charge analysis for smaller systems conducted a day-long session tackling financial water system learning about improving asset and financial management. They learned a great deal about setting rates so systems could continue to be well-funded. KRWA and the Kansas Rural Water Finance Authority plan to sponsor additional sessions in the coming months.

Agreement Skills

The Kansas Water Office just wishes everyone could just get along! As solutions to water issues become more complex to accomplish, achieving the broader goals of dealing with these issues in the most civil and cost effective way, they have partnered with KRWA to provide some unique and advanced training. The principles of facilitation and mediation and their value in negotiating agreements was one of the highlights of the seminar entitled, “Reaching Agreements in New Ways.” Some of the workshop participants commented, “The program tips will help us understand the dynamics of a conflict and see how to work towards a resolution.” Another participant noted that, “These principals will make more people in my field aware of how to get things done, help with day to day problems and definitely improve communication.”

The Kansas Water Office and KRWA conducted four additional six-hour workshops following the
March Conference in April, May and June. They were held in Parsons, Salina, Lawrence and El Dorado.

Instructors/trainers for the workshop and the follow up sessions included: from Newton, the advantages and disadvantages of using each. The second session presenter was Dale McDaniel, Hersey Meters of Olathe, Kan. He brought the group in-depth information concerning the correct circuiting, water levels, flow patterns, detention time, rainfall inflow commercial wastewater flows, and sludge buildup might be adversely affecting their lagoon. Biological lagoon

Above: Jen Sharp, Jen Sharp.com, brings smiles to attendees with one of the many examples shown during her Web site improvement class.
Center: Kevin Jones, Mid West Fire Training Associates, puts emphasis on a strategy that may save a life on the job site.
Right: Cynthia Stotlar, Creative Business Solutions, is animated while showing an example, making a point during her presentation on office skills and awareness.

Gary Flory, Director of the Kansas Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (KIPCOR); from McPherson, Kirsten Zerger KIPCOR Senior Training Associate; from Wichita, Lynne McCraw Schall Associate at Wichita State University’s Hugo Wall School of Urban and Public Affairs; from Prairie Village, Julie McLachlan, RN, JD facilitator, mediator, trainer and consultant; and from Topeka, Ken Grotewiel, Assistant Director Kansas Water Office.

Water Distribution Workshop
A five-credit hour water operator’s training session included topics relevant to most public water supply distribution systems. The first-hour presentation by Stuart Porter of Schwab-Eaton’s Manhattan, Kan. office, detailed distribution system pipeline materials and different ways to use them. He focused on application, sizing and installation of water meters. After lunch, the session recommenced with the topic of selection and maintenance of storage tanks with Kendall Smith of EAI West, Loveland, Colo. presenting. He provided an overview of the different kinds of storage tanks and how to select one according to application, cost and maintenance issues. The afternoon concluded with KRWA’s Pat McCool discussing re-chlorination to maintain chlorine residuals in a water system. Pat explained how it is essential before purchasing expensive equipment to know what is needed and what chlorine treatment will be used.

Wastewater Stabilization Lagoons
This session targeted attendees having the number one model of wastewater treatment in the state – lagoons. Tim Hobson, Environmental Consulting Services, Salina, covered a wide range or lagoon related topics. His discussions enabled attendees to peg the efficiency of their lagoon, determining if optimal lagoon efficiency is being achieved. He talked about which physical lagoon problems like short-

Managing Safety
The two-part session was kicked-off by Jim Harms, EMC Insurance Companies, Wichita, Kan. He provided an overview of key components for any safety program. He also presented work comp issues and discussed auto, property and liability concerns. The second half of the session was lead by Cheryl Trepto and Kevin Jones, Mid West Fire Training Associates, Burlington, Kan. They reviewed confined space entry, trench safety including retrieval systems and shoring requirements. Their demonstrations included body harnesses, gas monitoring, permit requirements and federal regulations. Cheryl and Kevin discussed traffic safety topics including sign and cone placement, clothing and hard hats, electrical hazards and general protective measures for all personnel involved at a roadside worksite.
KanCap Board/Council Training

The new KanCap training was inaugurated at the Conference with 51 attending all of part of the Tuesday sessions. The financial segment, first of three training segments, was taught by John Haas, Ranson Financial Consultants, Wichita, Kan. He utilized the new KanCap manual and interactive training CD showing testimonial videos, interactive group quizzes to review the subjects of revenue sufficiency, fiscal management, fiscal controls and credit worthiness. The financial section was followed with the technical, taught by Pat McCool and Gary Armentrout, both of KRWA. The pair also utilized the unique manual and CD to detail aspects of source water protection, system capacity, system operations and infrastructure adequacy. Cathy Tucker-Vogel, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, anchored the training day with the management segment. She reviewed records maintenance, personnel issues, public relations and regionalization. Cathy, who is Capacity Development Coordinator at KDHE, noted that, “Of the 51 attending all or part of Tuesday’s training segments, 37 passed a certification exam and were mailed completion certificates. Not a bad start for what is promising to be numerous and ongoing training sessions statewide.”

Web site creation/improvement

With Internet usage increasing dramatically, it is becoming obvious that an effective Web site can serve customers and save management time. Award winning Web designer Jen Sharp of Jen Sharp.com, Ottawa, Kan., put participants through their paces starting with Web site planning. Using her many visual examples, Jen helped those attending to quickly move through the topics of choosing a domain name, Web hosting that is just right, the right software to use for site development, selecting content and looking at graphics and layout tips. With Web site examples she explained the benefits of creating a site that grows with usage, of finding affordable but easily accessible help, of using a Web site effectively and how to do Web site marketing. She finished her presentation by explaining how to easily and inexpensively accomplish necessary site maintenance.

Improving office skills

The first half of the program taught by Cynthia Stotlar, M Ed, SPHR, focused on how an organization and its image can be helped or damaged by the appearance and content of all written paper and electronic documents coming from an office. Approach and style are detailed rather than grammar in importance to achieving success. Attendees learned how to determine who a document’s reader will be and determine the specific needs each document must address to project the appropriate image. Part II of the

During pre-conference sessions, attendees get a chance to spend quality time with top-notch presenters who have researched cutting-edge topics that if not already, will soon be at the top of the list of concerns for systems, cities and businesses in the industry.

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July 2006 THE KANSAS LIFELINE 73
workshop presented by Kristin Scott, MSM, Ph D, of Creative Business Solutions, sought to impress how important and how costly sexual harassment cases can be – especially to a small business. Laws regarding sexual harassment and discrimination in the workplace were reviewed along with the behaviors that get workers in trouble. The session ended with a review addressing management’s responsibilities and duties.

Plan for pre-conference 2007

These pre-conference workshops offer some of the most cost-effective training of the conference. During pre-conference sessions, attendees get a chance to spend quality time with top-notch presenters who have researched cutting-edge topics that if not already, will soon be at the top of the list of concerns for systems, cities and businesses in the industry. To take advantage of these critical information education venues, utility and municipality administrators should plan now to invite board and council members to schedule key water or wastewater employees, and bring themselves to attend next year’s pre-conference workshops.

“Servin’ Up a Good time!”

An official Blues Brothers fedora was a gift to get in the mood for some fun! Tuesday evening’s KRWA BBQ brisket and brats were sizzling, the potato salad and beans were just right but they were but a warm-up for the red-hot rock and roll and dancing to the premier Kansas Rock and Roll band, The Benders.

After dinner things warmed even more as the crap tables were jamming and hotter yet with members and family trying their hand with the dice, Texas Hold’em, blackjack, roulette and slot machines. Games were

Above left: Kelly Buckly, Cloud RWD 1, is sporting her Blues Brothers fedora and has been “served up” a great plate of BBQ. The brats, potato salad, baked beans and cole slaw were mighty tasty.

Above: Rock and Roll is center stage as the BBQ, casino, game and fun venues start to get wound up at the “Servin Up a Good Time” Tuesday night.

Left: This pair met the Bubble Man, who put them in a soap bubble. Quite an experience for these conference attendees.
everywhere including old standbys like Kentucky Derby, Basketball Toss and Balloon Pop, but new attractions were also plentiful including: the Shocking Battle Tanks, Rural Water Bingo, Titanic Slide, Bull Ride, the Palm Reader and Machine Gun Alley. They provided entertainment for all until nearly midnight. The evening entertainment activities were co-sponsored by associate members and KRWA. Banners over each venue identified the sponsors who stood by to award tickets to be redeemed for prizes.

It wasn’t a real casino but the thrill was there! The Tuesday evening activity is a free event that comes along with a pre-registration – otherwise it’s an extra $20 at the door. Plan now to pre-register and get in on the fun at the Conference in ’07.

Official 39th Annual Conference Opens – with a backhoe!

On the dimly lit stage of the Concert Hall in Century II a bright yellow backhoe, compliments of Price Brothers Equipment Company of Wichita, sits alone on stage with dirt piled high around a hydrant with PVC water pipe sections, shovels, power tools, valves, five-buckel boots and replacement parts, set down as if workers had just left in a hurry for an emergency – or to go to lunch. They wouldn’t return to this job until after a welcome, video and rousing KRWA keynote address.

KRWA General Manager Elmer Ronnebaum’s voice over the loudspeaker welcomed the crowd to the KRWA Conference opening and then he keyed Linda Windler’s fantastic opening video, “Waiter, there’s a fly in my soup!”

Board Member Carl Carroll gave the invocation and Board President Dennis Schwartz gave the invocation and Board President Dennis Schwartz
officially welcomed attendees and introduced Wichita Mayor Carlos Mayans. Mayor Mayans welcomed all to Wichita and invited attendees to eat, drink and see all of Wichita.

**Keynote address**

Dennis Schwartz then followed with a short bio-sketch about a special Kansan with a special message for all attending the opening session. Speaker, comedian, inspirationist Mark Mayfield kept the rapt attention of all with his dynamic keynote on “Creating Dazzling Customer Service.” “How many of you don’t have a problem, but you experience some form of stress,” Mark asked. With a few raising their hands he quickly added, “How many of you don’t have stress but you are a carrier,” he went on to ask. And he was off, hitting the gas and not slowing down through his personal life experience of stories coupled with unique timing for humor that drilled home his points.

Mayfield also described his admittedly simple, easy and easily remembered “Personality Assessment Program.” Where many of these types of programs assess but don’t let one know how just like us. It implies that everybody IS equal! The fallacy here is that if you give everybody what you want, treat them like you want to be treated — you’re going to be wrong. You’re going to be wrong about 75% of the time when you try to use them. This program involves a language approach, or as he said, “A common man’s view.” Mayfield promised that we would leave the theater knowing who we were by asking two

Besides invoking remembrances of training from his mother he asserted that, “A lot of the reasons that service is absent is that we’ve been following a rule that sounds good but is bad. It’s the golden rule — I want you to stop following the golden rule!” He went on to explain, “Think of what the golden rule says, ‘Do unto others as we would have them do unto us.’ That implies that everybody wants to be treated

Rules to solve somebody’s problems by just automatically giving them what you want. And that’s what we will instinctively do.” This 75% failure rate seemed pretty drastic but he said that there’s an easy explanation.

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emotions, their second number is a “1.” If a person externalizes their emotional state, their second number is a “2.” The possible combinations for one’s personality profile are “11”, “12”, “21”, or “22.” As the audience settled on what their numbers were, a show of hands revealed that in large groups there is a wide variance of personality types. He further explained, “The best organizations, the best work units and the best family units are those having a dichotomy of personalities. If you had nothing but people with the same personality traits you wouldn’t have checks and balances in the organization or family – no diversity. People in an organization may all look alike, but as we saw in our audience, the ratio is 25%, 25%, 25% and 25%, about the same for each of the audience’s personality groups.”

Mayfield then explained, “If you go on the easy assumption that you are going to treat everyone the same, just like the golden rule, you will fail 75% of the time. That’s where my original number comes from. If you are only treating the one group, the other three have needs going unmet.” So we found out where that 75% failure rate came from!

Self assessment, according to Mayfield, is important. “More important though, is ‘who are they?’ They are everyone else. What’s most important is what makes them tick. It doesn’t matter about you as long as you recognize everybody else’s profile,” he quickly explained. “Remember this: when you are under stress you will fall back on something you trust the most. If there’s a little bit of conflict you will most often respond with what would remedy the situation for you – with what would make you feel better. Wrong answer! When you fire back with what makes you feel better you will be wrong 75% of the time,” concluded Mayfield. “To succeed in this situation you need to stop, step back and think, wait a minute, want to be treated. Give them what they think is important. The only way to provide good customer service is to actually think about it. Customer care is a human thing. No charts, graphs or surveys. If you lose the ability to be human, you’ve lost your customer service!”

Mayfield went on to provide even more insight into his special art of positively dealing with people. People who attended his conference sessions were truly in for a treat – and they learned something while having fun!

Mark Mayfield’s golden rule of human relations reads nearly like the old standard, but as he explains it with a twist, “Do unto others as they want to be done unto. Treat them as they want to be treated. Give them what they think is important. The only way to provide good customer service is to actually think about it.”

Above: The EXPO Hall home base for KRWA staff and Board Members was busy with members “wish shopping” the display of fantastic prizes for the raffle. Right: Board member Mike Mayberry takes a donation for a Water Pac Raffle coupon. Winners are listed later in the article.
The EXPO Hall, open for business

Brochures were in the racks, paint on equipment was shining, and pictures were straightened on the displays. KRWA Associate Members were standing in their booths waiting for the crowd to appear. They were not disappointed. In just a few minutes, after leaving the Opening Session in Concert Hall, the wave of Kansas water operators, administrators, public officials and industry experts – all decision makers with input at some level on system purchases, streamed into EXPO Hall. The morning’s muffled echo of activity heard beforehand in the big room perceptibly changed with the progression of talk and movement like turning up the volume on a radio.

EXPO Hall keeps pace as an integral part of the Conference and Exhibition. Sessions, meals and social times are structured to keep the isles of EXPO Hall busy during the day. EXPO Hall opened officially at 4 p.m. after pre-conference sessions on Tuesday and opened at 10 a.m. after the opening session for conference attendees. As of this writing, more than 190 vendor exhibition booths have been reserved for the 2007 Conference and Exhibition.

One associate member standing at his booth mentioned, “My home state rural water conference is scheduled concurrently with KRWA’s conference. My sales staff and I can only attend one – and we’re here for good reason.”
Associate Member benefits

Associate members hosting a booth in the EXPO Hall find KRWA employees waiting at the door, manning carts to assist with the hectic move-in. The well attended, well planned, smoothly run Exhibition is designed to get people together to take care of business and to take care of customers, even down to the kid drinking a glass of water after riding his bike home from school.

In order to reserve a booth, a vendor must be an Associate Member. For the $150 per year membership fee, Associate Members are also able to advertise in this publication, The Kansas Lifeline, and have access to regular membership mailing lists on a regular basis. Associate Members also enjoy the support of the KRWA award winning Web site that has many beneficial features for doing business with the Kansas water industry. Associate memberships allow businesses to better serve the regular members – those folks who make that glass of safe, cool water available to kids coming home from school. (Note the list of supporting 2006 EXPO Hall Associate Member vendors on page 80.)

Concurrent conference sessions

Conference sessions were presented by professionals from a variety of different disciplines dealing with water issues in their own businesses or organizations including: Association members from Kansas RWDs, cities, and vendors (many doing double duty with presentations and their EXPO Hall booths), state and federal government agency representatives, and KRWA staff. These sessions were presented by dedicated, enthusiastic, competitive and caring professionals who expect the best from themselves and their presentations. It is what KRWA Conference attendees have come to expect from their Annual Conference.

KRWA member volunteer moderators who monitored each of the 56 breakout sessions allowed sessions to run smoothly and efficiently. They made introductions, took roll for credited sessions, assisted with presentations, helped find additional seating and performing innumerable other tasks contributing valuably to the Conference organization. (Note the list of presenters contributing to Conference 2006 on page 82.)
Exhibitors, 2006
KRWA Conference & Exhibition

A. Y. McDonald Manufacturing
Ace Pipe Cleaning
Advance Chemical Solutions, Inc.
Alexander Pump & Services
Allgeier, Martin & Associates
Alliance Pump & Mechanical Service
Alliance Water Resources
American AVK Company
Anderson Peck Agency
Archner Engineers
Arkola Sand & Gravel
ASC Pumping Equipment
B & B Permastore
B G Consultants
Baburek Metal Preserving Company
Badger Meter
Bartlett & West Engineers
BRB Contractors, Inc.
Brenntag Southwest
Bucher, Willis & Ratliff
Bungardner Sales & Service
Burns & McDonnell Engineering
Carbon Central
Central Tank Coatings, Inc.
CIES Industrial Piping Supply
Chlorinators Incorporated
City of Lyons
Clarke Well & Equipment
Clear Water Equipment
Clearwater Associates
Comm-Tronix
Continental Utility Solutions
CUES
Cunningham Sandblasting & Painting
Custom Aeration Technologies
D C & B Supply Company
Ditch Witch of Kansas
Division of Water Resources
Doerr Metal Products, Inc.
Douglas Pump Service
DPC Enterprise
Dworkin Company
Dynotek
EAI West, Inc.
Earles Engineering & Inspection
Earth Science Laboratories
East Jordan Ironworks
EBH Engineers
Economy Power & Instrument
EFI-Wright Sales
Enviro-Line Company
Environmental & Process Systems
Environmental Protection Agency
Flame Engineering
Fluid Equipment Company
Focus Financial Advisors
Foley Equipment Company
Ford Meter Box
Gathright Marketing Company
George Butler Associates
GIS Workshop
GPM Services
Ground Water Associates
Hach Company
Hajoca Corporation
Haynes Equipment Company
Heartland Controls
Heartland Waterworks Supply
Hersey Meter Company
IAPMO
Industrial Sales Company
InfiniTec
Inman Irrigation, Inc.
Insituform Technologies
Insurance Services Office
ISCO Industries
Itron
Jayhawk Software
JCI Industries
JCM Industries
Johnson Service Company
Kaeser Compressors
Kansas Correctional Industries
Kansas Department of Commerce
Kansas Dept. Health & Environment
Kansas Geological Survey
Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project
Kansas One Call System
Kansas Rural Water Association
Kansas Rural Water Finance Authority
Kansas Water Office
Key Equipment
KS Assoc. for Conservation & Env. Education
Larkin Group
Layne Western
Lee Mathews Equipment, Inc.
Letts Van Kirk & Associates
Liquid Waste Management
Mack McClain & Associates
Maguire Iron
Master Meter Company
Mayer Specialty Services L.L.C.
McAfee, Henderson & Strick, Inc.
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Midwest Water
Miller & Associates, Consulting Engineers, P.C.
MKEC Engineering Consultants
MMG Water & Wastewater Products
Modern Payment Solutions
Mueller Company
Municipal Pipe Services
Municipal Pipe Tool/Nutri-Ject Systems
Natgun Corporation
National Waterworks
Nowak Construction Company
Olathe Winwater Works Company
Paradise Eco Solutions
Paving Maintenance Supply
PipeLife - Jet Stream
Poe & Associates
Ponzer - Youngquist
Power Specialties
Price Bros. Equipment Company
Professional Engineering Consultants
Pump & Power Equipment
PW Eagle
R. E. Pedrotti Company
R. H. Tauser & Associates
Rainmaker Sales
Ranson Financial Consultants
Ray Lindsey Company
RE-Ox LLC
Ryan Chemical Company
Salina Supply Company
Sargent Drilling
Schwab-Eaton, PA
Sellers Equipment
Servi-Tech Laboratories
Shafer, Kline & Warren
Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure
Sherwin-Williams Company
Smith & Loveless
Smith-Blair
SOLARBEE - Pump Systems Inc.
Standby Power Solutions
Steffen Midwest
Sturgis Materials
T Chryst Enterprises
T T Technologies
TAC Americas
Thoroughbred Computer Systems
Tnemec Company/Midwest Coating Consultants
Tomcat Consultants / TAP Company
Truck Parts & Equipment
Tyler Pipe Company / Union Foundry
United Rentals Trench Safety
USA Tank Storage Systems
USA Blue Book
USDA Rural Development
Utility Maintenance Contractors
Utility Service Company
Utility Solutions Associates
Vermeer Great Plains Inc.
Water Products
Wattener Maintenance / Water Tank Inspection
WaterWise Enterprises
Western Hydro Corporation
Wichita Winwater Works Company
Wilson & Company Engineers & Architects
Governor’s Address at Wednesday Luncheon

Governor Kathleen Sebelius' trip to the 2006 KRWA Conference to address the 1100 plus who attended the Wednesday noon luncheon was during the time when it is extremely difficult for the Governor to be out of the Capitol. Legislators were in their final days of the '06 Session.

She began her address, explaining the situation by saying, "I apologize for arriving late and leaving early, but with the Legislature finishing debate on several issues, I can’t be gone for very long. I am on a legislative bungee cord – I can be pulled quickly back to Topeka.”

Communication

Governor Sebelius described the success in the last three years of promoting communication between state agencies involved with water supply and local water providers and how critical that cooperation is.

“During my early days as governor I spent a lot of time taking a look at where our state was in dealing with water. I frankly was disappointed to learn what had happened since those early days when there was a lot of collaboration. What I found was that millions of dollars in State Water Plan funds were being allocated to other issues, other priorities in Kansas. And the money that was supposed to be deposited on an annual basis into the Water Plan wasn’t being deposited on a regular basis. I also found that the Water Plan wasn’t being used any more as a primary source for policy recommendations either in the legislative process or at the governor’s office. Now water hasn’t diminished in importance in those 20 years, but the feature of the legislative branch and the governor focusing on our water needs had almost disappeared. I set out to change that three years ago and I’d like to report that things are back on track,” she explained.

Water is a focus

The realization that media coverage for water issues takes a back seat to some of the more visible issues in the political process is acknowledged by many. But Governor Sebelius assured the audience that water issues have not been taken a back seat in the planning process of her administration.

The administration believes that Kansas is blessed with a good supply of water for the next half century but the location of that water doesn’t always occur where there is demand.

Partnerships are key

Governor Sebelius explained positions on partnership in water policy by saying, “We look for partners to develop regional solutions of the problem of getting the available water supply to the growing demand. And you in this room are in a position of being key partners to the future. Because of KRWA’s broad membership and capable staff and expertise, I’m asking each of you in your community, to plan beyond your borders when you are planning for your district’s or community’s water needs. Think of what you can do and who you can work with to find cooperative solutions that meet everyone’s needs. We all understand that local politics often is primary, but we need to do what governors and legislators have done since 1983, and take as much of the politics as possible out of water planning and find the best technical and financial solutions possible for the whole state.”

Commitment

Governor Sebelius finished her address noting, “The State Drought Response Team is encouraging public water supply managers to look at their conservation plans as this should become increasingly important if the drought continues on into the summer.”

“Just as I continue to be committed to supporting our schools, expanding access to healthcare and creating jobs in all parts of Kansas, I remain equally committed to you to ensure a safe reliable supply of water for every person in Kansas. It’s essential for our future prosperity.”

Governor Kathleen Sebelius addresses the Wednesday, March 29 Conference luncheon.
### Presenters, 2006

**KRWA Conference & Exhibition**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Company/Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terry Alexander</td>
<td>Alexander Pump &amp; Services</td>
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<td>John Nowak</td>
<td>Morris RWD 1</td>
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<td>Tim Paulsen</td>
<td>Smith &amp; Loveless</td>
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<td>Gary Hanson</td>
<td>Stumbo, Hanson &amp; Hendricks, LLP</td>
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<td>Linda Windler</td>
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<td>Merle Windler</td>
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<td>Susan Lang</td>
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<td>Jim Rowland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynne McGraw Schall</td>
<td>Wichita State University</td>
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### The following companies were sponsors of some of the carnival games at the opening night “Servin’ Up A Good Time For You!”

- B G Consultants
- Badger Meter
- Bartlett & West Engineers
- Cronister and Company
- EAI West, Inc.
- Focus Financial Advisors
- JCI Industries
- Olathe Winwater Works Company
- Ponzer - Youngquist
- Ranson Financial Consultants
- Schwab-Eaton, PA
- Sherwin-Williams Company
- Thoroughbred Computer Systems
- Utility Service Company
- Water Products
- Wilson & Company Engineers & Architects

### The following companies contributed as sponsors to help offset costs of hospitality food and socials.

- A. Y. McDonald Manufacturing
- Advance Chemical Solutions, Inc.
- Alliance Pump & Mechanical Service
- Anderson Peck Agency
- BRB Contractors, Inc.
- D C & B Supply Company
- EAI West, Inc.
- Ford Meter Box
- Haynes Equipment Company
- Itron
- Kansas Correctional Industries
- Larkin Group
- Olathe Winwater Works Company
- Ponzer - Youngquist
- Schwab-Eaton, PA
- Sherwin-Williams Company
- Tyler Pipe Company / Union Foundry
- Wichita Winwater Works Company
- Wilson & Company Engineers & Architects
Awards Banquet

After a busy day Wednesday with a Keynote speech, session presentations, EXPO Hall vendor attractions and multitude of meetings during the day, members and associates alike were more than ready for a social hour. The EXPO Hall floor picked up the pace at 5 p.m. when the libation carts were rolled in and opened for the Wednesday event. Just how ready they were was evidenced by the big room’s decibel level — it cranked up a notch or two. As stories in EXPO Hall got bigger and stomachs started growling, people checked their watches and made their way towards the dining hall for the Banquet and awards presentations. Winners were announced after the meal.

The Kansas Water Taste Test was again won by the City of Emporia, their third in the past six years of the KRWA contest. Each year, a different team of judges tastes the samples. Entries are labeled by number only and even after choosing a winner, judges do not know the winner until the announcement is made.

The Customer Confidence Report (CCR) contest is held to find out which systems are doing the best job in communicating to their customers with this required report. First and second place winners and categories awarded are listed below:

Rural Water Districts and Private Systems
- First – Cowley RWD 1
- Second – Shawnee Cons. RWD 4

Systems serving more than 25,000 population
- First – City of Topeka
- Second – City of Garden City

In 2007, KRWA will again add a category for cities serving fewer than 5000 population.

Source Water Stars
KRWA’s Ground Water, Water Rights Tech Doug Helmke explained that Source Water Star awards for 2005 were awarded to public water systems that completed groundwater or source water protection plans in 2005. Doug announced awards for: Geary RWD 2, City of Glade, Leavenworth RWD 7, City of Lyons, City of Nortonville, City of Matfield Green, City of Utica and the City of Wilsey. The City of Lyons’ efforts were highlighted in being the first system in Kansas to complete a source water protection plan under a program funded by USDA and facilitated by KRWA.

KRWA individual and system awards are profiled beginning on page 88 with the article titled, “Award winners 2006: At your service — and then some!”

Mary Alice James, Douglas RWD 6, was the first to choose a quilt, having her name drawn during Wednesday evening’s Awards Banquet. She chose the “bear paw” design shown above.
71 GOLFER PROVIDE FULL FIELD

The 28th of March dawned cool and clear (almost too cool), a real blessing for a bunch of duffers waiting for the coffee to perk and the caddies to load their bags on their assigned carts. The 71 golfers arrived and were assigned to foursomes for a shotgun start at 8:30 am for the 13th Annual KRWA Spring Golf Tournament. As soon as the dew was off the greens, the range master signaled the start and the fun began! This was fifth year for the Rolling Hills Golf Club to host the Tournament and it has gotten better each and every year.

Because of the great turnout and a full course, we were able to flight three flights of golfers and awarded first and second prizes in each flight. Prizes consisted of gift certificates to the Rolling Hills Golf Club Pro Shop (most were immediately redeemed upon award). The following is a listing of the winners and second place finishers in each of the three flights:

**Flight One:**
1 – 1. David Warren, Rob Younkin, Jerry Pope and Wayne Titus
2 – 2. Larry Combs, Brad Finley and Bob Shankel

**Flight Two:**
1 – 1. Randy Norris, Mike and Henry Ashbacker and Dave Viox
2 – 2. Jim Bradley, Dale Howard, Mike Shemaker and I.D. Creech

**Flight Three:**
1 – 1. Steve Williams, Scott Millholland, Ike Sizemore and Jeff Miles
2 – 2. Jason and Melissa Schlickbernd, Charlie Suchy and Bob Schwartz

Good-natured ribbing, fun and fellowship were the order of the day and a good time was had by all. Thanks to all who support this fun activity and to the busy people who make it happen, including Rod Young, Professional Engineering Consultants, our local host and co-organizer, Head Pro Don Farquar, Rolling Hills Golf Club and his wonderful staff of caddies, assistant pro, and food service personnel who prepared the sack lunches and KRWA for allowing us to conduct this fun event.

- John Tillman
  Ray Lindsey Company
Retreat to the Blues Brothers!

Awards were all awarded, good things were said to those deserving and deserts were long gone. It was time for the Blues Brothers, and a shot of adrenaline through some good music, making a perfect end to the long day. A little bit of the Chicago blues was set to invade the Century II Little Theater with high energy entertainment! The Blues Brothers cast of the Christine Tasheff Cabaret Old Towne had returned for a “one more time” performance of the musical revue made famous in the ‘80s by John Belushi and Dan Akroyd. Cast members and singers included Braden Jones as Jake, Kyle Wright as Elwood, Oris Phillips, Jr. as Cab Galloway/ Ray Charles and Michelle Martin as Aretha Franklin.

The music and the action was nonstop with Jake and Elwood expending more energy making the music come alive than anyone in the audience could imagine. Their exuberance even caused an unscheduled break in the action when Braden Jones in Jake’s character, performed a series of backflips to the splits that caused a major wardrobe malfunction – it was off to wardrobe for Christine Tasheff to make an FCC million dollar fine saving wardrobe alteration. Christine Tasheff and her players did it again – providing outstanding entertainment for another KRWA conference that won’t be forgotten.

The musical followed an abbreviated storyline of the movie with musical numbers including: “Everybody Needs Somebody,” “Think,” “Soul Man,” “Hey Bartender,” “Minnie the Moocher,” and many more.
Grand finale,
Conference 2006

The busy morning included the 39th Annual Meeting of Membership attended by 140 delegates and others. It included a recap of activities by the Association in 2005, financial and legislative reports and election of directors. Auditor, Art White, Art White and Associates, discussed the 2005 audit; a full copy was available to each person attending. Patricia Shaffer, Butler RWD 5, and Sam Atherton, Public Wholesale District 4, were elected to three-year terms.

After the last of the concurrent sessions finished and Associate Members in the EXPO Hall started dismantling their booths, attendees settled in for a great Thursday luncheon, and to listen to NRWA CEO Rob Johnson review rural water concerns. He explained rural water positions on federal legislative, funding and regulatory issues and how they affect the working lives of those in the industry and customers who expect the quality product that is produced.

The luncheon concluded with door prize drawings for the last two grand door prize quilts, the announcement of vendor door prizes, and drawings for the Water Pac Raffle prizes. Winners are listed and some are pictured at the right.
Thursday quilt winners

A hallmark of the KRWA conference since 1984 has been the donation of three beautiful quilts, expertly crafted by Kate Ronnebaum as grand door prizes. The final two quilts awarded as door prizes at the 2006 Conference were given to the lucky winners shown at right, at the luncheon on Thursday.

Left: Lloyd "Bill" Kern, Franklin RWD 6 went home with the "Field of Sunflowers" quilt. Right, Alice Geisler, City of Leonardville, poses with her "Log Cabin" quilt.

Vendor door prizes 2006

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<tr>
<th>Prize</th>
<th>Donated By</th>
<th>Winner</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rechargeable Spotlight</td>
<td>Utility Service Company</td>
<td>Mike Fager, Osage 7</td>
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<td>1 Free Class &amp; Dial Cap</td>
<td>Midwest Fire Training</td>
<td>Mike Schultz, city of Bravette</td>
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<td>BBQ Set</td>
<td>Standby Power Solutions</td>
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<td>Max Kruse, City of Alma</td>
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<td>Force-Incognita</td>
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<td>ASC Pumping Equipment</td>
<td>Rita Moore, City of Edgerton</td>
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<td>Gift Basket</td>
<td>Lyons Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>Paula Fleming, Gypsum KS</td>
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<td>Nancy Stroh, City of Emporia</td>
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<td>Wes Collins, City of Burlington</td>
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<td>Kyle Headrick, City of Houston</td>
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<td>Toy Trucks</td>
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<td>McAfee, Henderson &amp; Stroh</td>
<td>Tona Coblentz, Miami RWD 3</td>
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<td>Garmin GPS Unit</td>
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<td>Carl Towne, Butler RWD 5</td>
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<td>Jayhawk Software</td>
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Water Pac raffle winners 2006

Thanks to all those conference attendees who donated towards coupons to win prizes. The 2006 Water Pac Raffle raised $3000 for the benefit of National Rural Water Association lobbying efforts in Washington. Below are the prizes and winners. The prizes were donated by Kansas Rural Water Association.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Prize</th>
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<td>Craftsman Air Compressor</td>
<td>Ron Dine, Douglas RWD 4</td>
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<td>Craftsman 10-inch Miter Saw</td>
<td>Chris Meliones, City Center Public Utilities</td>
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<td>Webber Gas Grill</td>
<td>Elmer Rosenebaum, KRWA</td>
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<td>Craftsman 12-inch Table Saw</td>
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<td>Craftsman 16-inch Chain Saw</td>
<td>John Reis, Cloud RWD 1</td>
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<td>Craftsman Cordless Tool Kit</td>
<td>Richard Tatum, Cowley RWD 5</td>
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<td>Breadmaster Slicer</td>
<td>Dave Ratzlaff, City of Plains</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 piece Stainless Steel Cookware</td>
<td>Ralph Bailey, Lebanon RWD 10</td>
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<td>Hamilton Beach Coffee Maker</td>
<td>Larry Engler, Shawnee Cons. RWD 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Foreman Grill</td>
<td>Paul Fredlock, City of Enterprise</td>
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