

# Letters



**I** would like to express my appreciation to you (Elmer) and KRWA for the hard work and dedication of your staff assisting with water and wastewater issues in rural and municipal systems.

On February 20 and 28, 2007, Gary Armentrout assisted our line maintenance division in searching for a few small water distribution leaks. With the availability of the "Correlator" leak detection device, Gary was able to narrow down the location of a few small leaks in our system.

On March 9, 2007, after receiving a call from a resident who was concerned that a distribution system leak was entering their sump pump pit in their basement because their pump was activating every 1 1/2 minutes, we decided to search for a distribution leak. Jim Jackson delivered the "subsurface" leak detector to us so we could search for a possible system leak. A leak survey was conducted that afternoon and we were able to rule out a distribution leak. After consulting with the resident and investigating a possible ground water issue, we found that ground settling had occurred around the basement wall of the dwelling and

that some of the water that was being pumped out of the sump pit was being re-cycled back into the pit.

The resident called me on 3/12/07 to report that the pumping cycles were getting farther apart, up to 5 minutes; they were finally getting ahead of the ground water.

With the help of Gary and Jim, we were able to respond to the residents concern as soon as possible and "put the fires out quickly."

Thanks again for the help,  
*Jim Boyer*  
*City of Gardner*

**I attended the "Lightning - It can burn you, your equipment or budget" class at the Annual Conference. It was one of the best classes I have attended in 17 years and I hope you have it next year.**

*Monte Vavra*  
*City of Norwich*

**We would like to thank Charlie Schwindamann and KRWA for the very quick response to our problems at the lagoons here in Carbondale. We called Charlie late Thursday afternoon on May 10 and on Friday morning May 11, he**

arrived and went right to work with us blowing out the outlet pipes at the lagoons.

We would like to say "Great Job" Charlie and thank you so much!

*Kevin Richardson*  
*City of Carbondale*

**Please convey my thanks to the KRWA for hosting the Attorney's Forum at the 2007 conference. This was my first visit to the KRWA, and I was very impressed by the degree of support and hospitality shown to the attorneys. It is obvious that KRWA members place a high value on their legal counsel.**

The forum itself was very valuable, and I have no doubt that all of our KRWA member-clients benefited from the exchange of information among the attorneys. I look forward to attending additional meetings in the future.

*Kenneth Gale*  
*Adam Jones Law Firm, PA*

**Once again KRWA put on an excellent show and classes for everyone in the water industry. I thought about some ideas for next year's conference. One is that I talked to several new operators**



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**Rick Penner**  
*NACE # 4853 Inspector*

who asked about performing certain tasks and I think that a hands on training session whereby new and old operators could see and actually perform certain basic tasks would be good. To me it could be as simple as performing valve replacements on live lines, gas chlorination or granular systems, or taps on both water and sewer and lift station operations. My idea would be to see actual setups and difference style operations, but more hands on experience.

Thanks again for all you people do.

*Mike Schultz  
City of Brewster*

**It was an honor to be** nominated and chosen as City Clerk of the Year; it was a complete surprise. I think it is so sad to see people doing a job and not being happy with that job, life is too short. I can't imagine doing anything else in my life that has been more rewarding than being a public servant. It has been an honor to serve the City of Deerfield and I "Thank You" for the honor of recognizing me.

*Connie West, City Clerk  
City of Deerfield*

**I want to thank you for** preparing our Consumer Confidence Report. I would not even know where to start. You guys are great.

*Connie Herndon  
City of Lebanon*

**I wanted to let you know that** I really appreciated the award that was presented at the conference. I also wanted to let you know that the award WAS a surprise to me! My husband told me that our City was receiving an award in order to get me to the banquet that night (I had a previous engagement - board of directors meeting for another organization I belong to) and I had no idea that I would be receiving the BIG award!!

Anyway, thank you so much for the recognition. I was embarrassed, but it also felt good to be recognized for all the hard work. Thanks for another wonderful conference and keep up the good work!

*Morgan Marler  
City of Hillsboro*

**On behalf of the governing** body of the City of Oskaloosa, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Kansas Rural Water Association for services rendered to the City of Oskaloosa. The city recently received the Consumer Confidence Report prepared by KRWA. The report was completed in a timely and professional manner. This is the first time the City has utilized the option for KRWA to prepare the report and we are thoroughly satisfied. The minimal cost to have your agency prepare the report was also one of the deciding factors when considering the service by KRWA.

Our city has had many years experience working with KRWA and I am happy to say that we continue to be pleased with the work performed. The City of Oskaloosa has worked with KRWA on projects such as smoke testing, hydrant testing, sludge depth samples and 503 test samples, just to name a few. Often these services have been at little or no cost to our city.

Again, I thank you for the services provided by KRWA and I look forward to continue working with the Association.

*Judy Miller, Mayor  
City of Oskaloosa*

**On behalf of the Andale** City Council, I would like to let you know of our appreciation of the service given to us by your Ground Water Tech, Doug Helmke, over the past several years. Doug initially helped us complete and file an application for another water right and

### 2007 KRWA Officers & Directors

*Sharon Dwyer, President, Douglas Co. RWD 5, Lawrence  
Dennis Schwartz, Vice-President, Shawnee Co. RWD 8, Tecumseh  
Mike Mayberry, Secretary, City of Kiowa, Kiowa  
Darrell Schlabach, Treasurer, Washington Co. RWD 1, Hanover  
Patricia Shaffer, Director, Butler Co. RWD 5, Benton  
Sam Atherton, Director, PWWSD 4, Cherryvale  
Larry Remmenga, Director, City of Concordia, Concordia*

### KRWA Staff

*Elmer Ronnebaum, General Manager  
Laurie Strathman, Administrative Assistant  
Gary Armentrout, Technical Assistant  
Lonnie Boller, Surface Water Tech  
Greg Duryea, Technical Assistant  
Mike Fisher, KAN STEP Tech  
Doug Guenther, Technical Assistant  
Doug Helmke, Water Rights/Source Water Specialist  
Shane Holthaus, KAN STEP Tech  
Jim Jackson, Training Coordinator/Technical Assistant  
Bob Kirby, Technical Assistant  
Jesse Knight, GPS/GIS Mapping Tech  
Dan Knupp, Communications Coordinator  
Pete Koenig, GIS/GPS Mapping Coordinator  
Pat McCool, Consultant  
Charlie Schwindamann, Wastewater Tech  
Jon Steele, Technical Assistant  
Mark Thomas, GPS/GIS Mapping Tech  
Delbert "Bert" Zerr, Consultant*

simplified the one we already had. If we had to do this work ourselves, it isn't likely that it would have been accomplished.

Mr. Helmke, also was instrumental in getting a temporary water permit approved that was initially recommended to be denied by the local groundwater management district. Mr. Helmke made the time to meet with their board at an evening meeting and explain the reasons why a waiver was necessary to approve the application to pre-fill and test our new sewage treatment lagoon with groundwater before wastewater was released into it.

Mr. Helmke's guidance in the development of our wellhead protection plan has led the council and the citizens of our city to a better understanding of how to protect our groundwater. It also appears that the development of this plan helped move the State to remove an abandoned and leaking underground gasoline storage tank near our wells.

Again, last month, Mr. Helmke completed a report explaining our water rights and the ability of the City of Andale to meet the growth and increasing demand of the water system. This document will help us very much in our long range planning.

Please accept this belated thank you for allowing Mr. Helmke to assist us at NO COST. He has been very valuable to us and we're sure that the other communities of Kansas that he assists feel the same way

*Virginia Edwards, City Clerk  
City of Andale*

**I want to compliment one of** your excellent employees, Lonnie Boller. He went to great length to help me install a chlorine analyzer in our pump house. His broad knowledge of the equipment helped make the installation go smooth.

I have always received quality service from the KRWA staff, and Lonnie's extended help is a prime example of this. Such service builds great working relationships. Thanks again, Lonnie.

*Harold Keller, Manager  
Brown RWD 2*

**The Board of Directors and** Staff of Nebraska Rural Water Association wish to convey our sincere appreciation for your participation Elmer in the recent NeRWA Annual Conference at Columbus.

The Conference continues to be well attended for a variety of reasons, one of which is the quality of training sessions provided for water and wastewater operators. Your presentation, entitled KAN-STEP; Innovation the Old-Fashioned Way, was well attended and provided the audience with good, useful information they can apply to their own situations. There were many positive comments on your presentation contained in the evaluation forms completed by those who attended the conference.

Thank you for your investment of time in preparing and delivering your presentation. NeRWA values your service and the assistance you are always willing to provide us.

*Fred Baumert  
Training Specialist*

**I cannot thank you (Doug Helmke)** enough for helping with the Miami County EARTH Festival. Your head, heart and hands were truly appreciated by more than 350 6th grade students who enjoyed your presentation on Our Precious Groundwater.

Here are some of the comments from the student evaluation about their favorite activity and why or what they learned:

· My favorite part was the weather activity because I want to

be a Meteorologist/storm chaser when I am older.

· When we learned about trees cause I didn't know about counting the rings.

· Pollution, because it was interesting and it smelled good.

· Livestock issues, because I love to learn about farming and livestock.

· The weather cause it showed tornadoes and storms.

· Enviroscape, because it was interesting how the water all drains to one place.

· I learned that rain falls 15 miles per hour (Rainfall Simulator)

· That worms, because they eat all organic foods.

· The groundwater activity, because it looked cool the way he did it.

· Osawatomie senior science class, because we got to learn about animals that I didn't know about and touch animals.

· I learned that Kansas was once an ocean.

Thank you again for your time and presentation for our EARTH Festival. It is important as we raise awareness about how young people can help our environment. One 6th grade student said that learning about the environment is important because we need to help preserve our earth and let our children be able to enjoy what we got too.

Thanks again, and again!

*Crystal Coffman  
E.A.R.T.H. Program  
Coordinator*

**We, the students, teachers** and administration, want to thank your organization (Doug Helmke) for the presentation at the Hillsdale Water Festival. The weather was not very inviting for outside activities so I think that using the Spring Hill Civic Center worked out quite well. Our students really enjoyed your presentation and hopefully realize

that science can take on many forms in the jobs we do. The only negative comment that I heard was that students wished they would have been able to have gone to more of the activities.

I hope that you will be able to present again next year and that the weather will allow us to go out to Hillsdale Lake. Thanks again for taking the time to share your knowledge with our eight grade students at Spring Hill Middle School.

*Steven Haffener  
Spring Hill Middle School*

**I would like to send a special** thank you (Elmer) to you and your staff. Charlie Schwindamann has helped me more than words can say over here at the City of Beattie. I am new at this job. He has been very helpful on the sewer ponds with his knowledge and equipment.

I have also spoke with Greg and he has been helpful also. Keep up the "Good Work".

*Frank Staggenborg  
City of Beattie*

**Thank you (Doug Helmke)** for taking time out of your busy schedule to presenting at our E.A.R.T.H workshop.

The students had a lot of fun learning about the water cycle. What a great visual! The students were not only able to see the water cycle, but how pollution can contaminate not only the soil, but the water as well.

I look forward to working with the KRWA next year at the 2008 E.A.R.T.H. workshop. I hope you have a wonderful summer.

*Brandy Bruna  
4-H Program Assistant  
Riley County Extension*

**Randy McWilliams and I** attended the chlorine safety workshop in Manhattan on June 18, 2007. Ron Grage is an

excellent speaker. We both found him to be interesting as well as informative. I have worked with gas chlorinators for the past 18 years, but I still learned a lot from the information I received yesterday. I found it particularly interesting that more people drown in a year than have died from chlorine accidents since its initial use for disinfection in the 1880's. Please let us know when Ron will be back so that we may learn more from him in the future.

*Steve Meyer  
Randy McWilliams  
City of Milford*

**Had our meeting Thursday** night and I will be mailing a check for \$1,000 for KRWA's Greensburg Fund today. I think this is wonderful of KRWA to put together this donation drive with the assurance donations will go directly to the community for their rebuilding efforts.

Unfortunately many good hearted people made their donations to us (Franklin, Kan.) through "charitable" organizations and it somehow didn't trickle down to us but portions of each donation was withheld for future disasters.

All of us here in Franklin feel Greensburg's pain and heartache.

*Veda Maxwell  
Crawford RWD 7*

**Enclosed please find our** donation to the Greensburg Fund.

We are finally in our new building. We wound up using a 30-foot section of a building owned by the township and fire district. Basically, we built a building within a building. We still need to move a desk, couple of file cabinets and lots of old records. If you're in the area, stop in and see us.

*Judy Cope, Bookkeeper  
Butler RWD 7*

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