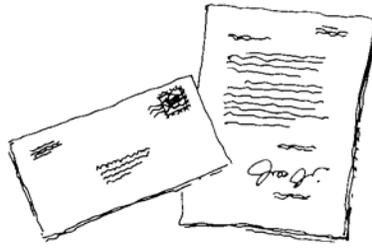


# Letters



**S**orry this update and thank you has taken so long, but I wanted to be able to tell you (Bob Kirby) we were up and running after the flood.

Your help was invaluable to us during this disaster. Setting us up with the trash pump to get us running again without bypassing really saved us. The 2-inch trash pump from RSC really was a lifesaver, and we eventually decided to purchase the pump instead of renting it. After some time the pump did start to leak and we were back to RSC a couple of times and ended up trading them for a 2-month newer pump, which we now have.

After completing weeks of paperwork with FEMA and the State, on August 10th I signed page after page to complete our packet. The State guys took it to Topeka the very next day so we thought everything was proceeding and were under the impression we would have our funding within 30 days. However, the courier taking all the paperwork from Topeka to Wichita was in a serious vehicle accident and the paperwork was lost. After a call we had to reconstruct all the paperwork and resubmit it, putting us further down the line for payment. It is my understanding we are cleared, just waiting for FEMA to release the funds. I did hear this morning that Greensburg is just now getting their funds, so no telling how long it will take for us.

Ed Hickman did get the bid for all the new equipment and installation. Everything was ordered and finally came in. Ed

got the pumps in and when he put the phase converter on line, it sparked and went out. He sent it back and we lost another week while the repair was made, only to have it happen again the next week. That one too was sent in and it has been almost another full week, but Ed is here today and I understand this phase converter is working and we SHOULD be up and running again today. It will be so good to have things back and running since Kenny and Randy have been running the trash pump several times every day for seven days-a-week all this time. I'm sure they will be happy not to be so tied up every day.

Your expertise set us in the right direction Bob, and you went out of your way for us and it is greatly appreciated. I hope KRWA knows what a treasure they have in you.

*Pat Smith, City Clerk  
City of Dearing*

**Thank you for assistance in** completion of the annual water confidence report. I appreciate Jon Steele's expertise in testing water meters and other water issues. He is always available when I have questions.

*William Maurer  
City Supt., City of Inman*

**I would like to express our** appreciation to you for offering the services of Gary Armentrout. He has worked in our sub-division every Wednesday for over a month. His punctuality is impeccable and weekly follow through is very much appreciated. He also brings with him a wealth of information and takes the time to explain.

He has charted our fire hydrants as well as a number of homes that had complained about water pressure. This information will provide us informative information to our residents and begins the process of solving our water problems.

*Brad Pervin, Chairman  
Jefferson RWD 11*

**I would like to thank Charlie** Schwindamann and the Kansas Rural Water Association for smoke testing the sewer lines in Andale. It was valuable to us in finding some problem areas. He has helped the city in the past, as have other KRWA staff.

It is essential for Andale to have KRWA's assistance and guidance. I have attended meetings and the annual conference for years. I have gained a lot of knowledge, and it has kept me up to date on regulations affecting the city's water and wastewater systems.

Well done and keep up the good work!

*Doug Simon  
Maintenance Engineer  
City of Andale*

**Having been a proud member** of KRWA for "many years," I want to thank KRWA for the assistance provided for the City of Brewster. They provided assistance and labor to get our chlorine residuals and testing requirements resolved from a violation with KDHE. I personally never thought about needing the KRWA staff coming to aid our city while I was in Denver with my youngest daughter who was diagnosed with a brain tumor (medullablastoma).

Our city is probably similar to many others in that I am the only operator doing several duties. When I left on the emergency flight for life, I had no idea what our family would be dealing with and for the amount of time we were going to be gone.

What took place is that my brother-in-law had always filled in for me with overseeing the water wells and wastewater if I was away for a weekend and this time was no exception, except that he had taken a coliform bacteria sample earlier and that sample tested positive for coliform. We had low chlorine residual rates that were a result of a chlorine pump diaphragm had failed. So things continued to mount and I was in Denver at the hospital. I did return home and fix the chlorinator on a Saturday and increased our chlorine but we still were low when repeat samples were taken on the following week. KDHE staff Kelly Kelsey contacted me and we discussed the coliform testing results and regulations issues. We discussed time of events with my daughters hospitalization and he was very understanding and mentioned contacting KRWA for technical assistance with this matter.

Elmer was contacted and KRWA field rep. Doug Guenther made a very quick trip to our community to help reestablish our chlorine residuals by flushing lines, testing water and increasing rates of chlorine. He also aided in discussing this matter with the media to resolve many fears with a "boil water" advisory that was sent out to the residents and published in our newspaper.

I can't thank all of you enough for the help and expertise that KRWA offered to our City. I will be forever grateful and thankful for what you provided to the residents of the City of Brewster. Doug did an excellent job in giving my

brother-in-law a crash course in granular chlorination treatment, maintenance and residuals.

It is hard having only one operator for a whole town when something like this comes up. I hope no one else will ever have to go through it. My daughter Whitney has went through brain surgery at Childrens Hospital in Denver with some of the best neurosurgeons in the country. She is now undergoing chemo and radiation treatments for her cancer. She has been doing much better and we are so blessed that she has continued to do excellent. We are living in an apartment at Brent's Place for cancer patients for the next several weeks. We are praying that we will be home early in November and Whitney's cancer will be cured.

Many times while here in Denver the staff at the hospital will ask about where we are from since they don't see this much support

from other patients. I tell them a community of about 300 and they are amazed at the support. I tell them that it is not the "quantity of people that make a difference in your life but the quality of people who make a difference" and I can truly tell you that KRWA is on that same page.

Thank you so much again for everything.

*Mike Schultz,  
City Superintendent  
City of Brewster*

**It is always a pleasure to visit** with you (Elmer) about the challenges of rural water and the many successes that the Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA) and the circuit rider program have experienced in Kansas. Kansas has always been a leader in water and wastewater management and development. Your organization, along with USDA Rural Development, has played key

**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  
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*

roles in that process for many years. We share a strong partnership that is based on a mutual desire to help rural Kansans keep abreast of water and wastewater issues.

It was good to visit with you recently to discuss the ongoing work by KRWA in support of the City of Greensburg following the disastrous tornado on May 4, 2007 and the communities in southeast Kansas that sustained extensive damage to their water and wastewater systems during the floods this past July.

KRWA's presence in Greensburg following the devastation caused by the tornado was critical to public health and safety to the community. The USDA Rural Development funded Circuit Rider staff of KRWA provided tireless hours of dedicated service that was essential to restoration of the water and wastewater services. The same level of service was provided to the many flood impacted communities in southeast Kansas.

The Agency has funded the Circuit Rider program for many years; the water and wastewater Circuit Riders have provided invaluable assistance to rural communities across Kansas. That assistance has included operational and managerial assistance that is a never-ending need of many rural systems scattered across the State. Local officials have shared with us their appreciation in these programs and the value that they have been in helping strengthen local leadership.

The Association's commitment to work in partnership with us, other agencies and local communities is a tremendous asset to the efficient delivery of essential water and wastewater services. USDA Rural Development recognized the KRWA in 2005 with a Certificate

of Appreciation for the Association's efforts.

This letter is to say, "Thank you, KRWA" for everything that the Association does to help our communities. We appreciate the Association regularly sending to us copies of the follow up correspondence on the assistance that the Association provides to our borrowers and other communities.

Thanks and keep up the good work. Together we are making a difference.

*Gary L. Smith  
Director, Business and  
Community Programs  
USDA Rural Development*

**I would like to thank Doug** Guenther and Charlie Schwindamann for the service they provide. They have helped us again this year with both small and large projects. They provided assistance when we replaced water lines in our well houses and did smoke testing for leaks. Both of these individuals have been there for us, sometimes at a moment's notice, to provide technical assistance.

This is only a small way to say thanks for all the hard work they do and the service they provide for many small cities.

*Alan Brown  
Superintendent of Utilities  
City of Riley*

**On behalf of the League of** Kansas Municipalities, I would like to thank you (Elmer) for presenting a Roundtable at the 2007 LKM Annual Conference. Your presentation was informative and well received by conference attendees.

The success of our conference is a direct reflection of quality speakers that take time from their busy schedules to enhance the knowledge and leadership abilities of those who serve cities. The

information you provided will be valuable to our city officials as they make policy decisions in the coming months and years. Again, thank you for sharing your knowledge and presenting at this year's LKM Conference.

*Don Moler, Executive Director  
League of Kansas Municipalities*

**I have been on vacation and** I'm now just getting around to catching up on board issues. One thing we want to be sure and do is express our appreciation to KRWA for providing your team, Greg and Gary, for assisting with the pigging of our 5-mile water line.

These two individuals displayed all their professional expertise and generous physical contribution to make it a very successful day. Your recommendations on our visit this summer to pig this 5-mile stretch has proven to be quite beneficial. Compliments come from not only our subdivision but also Wind n' Wave which we provide water. This feedback provides assurance that this was a sound decision.

Jack Hawn has said that he provided pictures of the project showing all the effort and results of the day.

Let me thank you and your team again and wish you and your entire staff a Happy Holiday.

*Brad Pervin, Duane Williams,  
and Jack Hawn  
Jefferson RWD 11*

**I want to take a moment to** let you know how much the Blue River Hills Improvement District appreciates the assistance of Pat McCool and Lonnie Boller in solving our replacement filter problem.

We have known for well over a year that we had to replace the pressure filter vessel in our treatment plant. For various reasons, we kept running into a brick wall until Pat and Lonnie got

involved. With their help, we got our spare vessel refurbished, filled with media and installed for less than \$1,000. Prior to getting the assistance of these super stars, we had received an estimate of \$23,000.00 for a replacement filter and an estimate of \$2,500 just to refurbish (no plumbing, no media) our spare vessel.

We simply could not have accomplished this project without the help of Pat and Lonnie. Please pass our heartfelt thanks on to these well-informed, customer-oriented people and feel free to call upon us if we can reciprocate in the future.

*Lloyd K. Verhage*  
*President, Board of Directors*

**As always, I am grateful for** the work you (Elmer) and KRWA do for us in rural Kansas. During the recent ice storm, much of our area lost electrical power. Within the first few minutes of the power outage, I was contacted by your field agent, Bob Kirby. He wanted to know what I needed and how KRWA could help me during the emergency. My greatest need, at that moment, was a generator to keep my plant on line. Very shortly, I was contacted by Jim Jackson of KRWA. He called to determine exactly what I needed, then went to work trying to locate a source. As it turned out, we were lucky here in RWD 2. Power to the plant was on more than it was off and I was able to run the plant manually to keep the tower full, but that does not diminish the fact that KRWA was here in a proactive capacity, offering help and expertise during an emergency situation.

My definition of a friend is someone who stands beside you in your time of need. For that reason I consider KRWA to be a very good friend.

*J. W. Stephenson*  
*Operator/Manager*  
*Cherokee RWD 2*

## Welcome to these new KRWA members!

City of Bartlett  
Phillips RWD 1

Advanced Valve Technologies  
Central Electropolishing, Inc.

CheckVantage

Deep Creek Engineering, LLC

Hydra Stop

Keller America, Inc.

Lowell Corporation

Mainline Supply Company

McGard, LLC

Michael D. Peroo, CPA

Probiotic Solutions

Security Benefit

Seiler Instrument

**We would like to thank you** and Doug Guenther for the article “Flow Control Valves...” in the November *Kansas Lifeline* that highlighted the Regal SmartValve™.

I don't have Doug's e-mail address, so can you pass our thanks along to him?

*Jill Marie Majka*  
*Marketing Manager*  
*Chlorinators Incorporated*

**Almost two weeks have gone** by since attending the PRIDE Day event in Junction City. And since

that time we have proudly displayed our Star Award, enjoying the sense of accomplishment that follows public recognition. The role of sponsors adding to the training and awards that come to us as a PRIDE community is very much appreciated. Through this program, and through your support, Kansas has a unique way of becoming one true community.

*Joan Nothern, Secretary*  
*Glasco Chamber Pride*