



Conference Review – 2013: *Let's Pull Together*

The one issue that anyone attending the Annual KRWA Conference & Exhibition knows is this: it is without question “the” water and wastewater industry event of the year in Kansas. From the training sessions, to the EXPO Hall filled with exhibits of products and services, to the social, the food, the entertainment and all around “down-home” atmosphere is unmatched.

In 2013, the attendance totaled 2,152 people for the 46th Annual Conference & Exhibition held at Century II Performing Arts and Convention Center in Wichita on March 26 to 28. The KRWA conference continued to build on its long tradition of being among the best in the U.S. With 56 training sessions making up the technical program, 309 exhibit spaces filled with products and services, the KRWA conference is Mid-America’s largest. More than \$13,500 in prizes were won by people from the 310 cities and 173 rural water or public wholesale districts that attended. Overall, registrants came from 29 states. Those attending included 971 water and wastewater operators, 829 industry members, 165 board and council members, 137 administrators, city managers or RWD office personnel and 46 agency personnel. The 2013 conference again drew operators from neighboring states including staff members from the cities of Edmond and Ponca City and systems in Nebraska. One attendee came from Canada.

The 2013 conference marked the 22nd consecutive year that KRWA has held the conference at Wichita’s Century II Convention Center. Conference-goers reserved rooms at fifteen Wichita hotels, purchasing nearly 900 room nights. A big show also requires a big budget. The total conference registration fees and meals totaled \$312,610.

Exhibitors and sponsors contributed an additional \$103,200.



EXPO Hall Filled with Exhibits

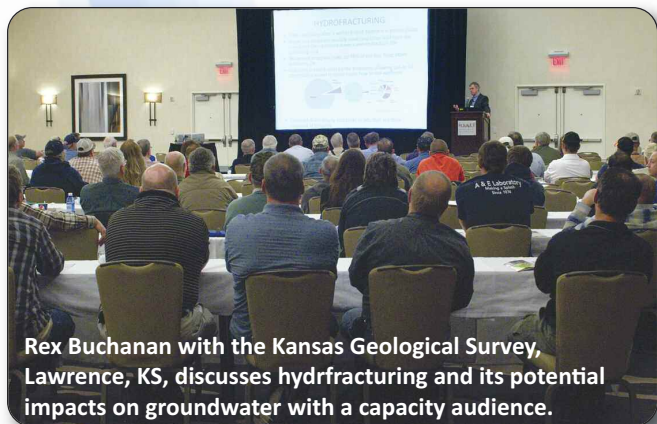
EXPO Hall at Century II Convention Center covers 93,000 sq. feet. It was again filled for the Annual Conference & Exhibition sponsored by the Kansas Rural Water Association. A total of 309 exhibit spaces were available. The floor plan for 2014 has been slightly modified to allow 315 spaces.

The array of exhibits allows for conference-goers to shop and compare products, services and prices. The KRWA conference offers the largest display of products and services in mid-America for the water and wastewater industries.

Exhibitors came from 27 states, Canada and England.



Every good conference requires organization. Dealing with walk-ins and other changes can be a challenge. But the KRWA receptionists again proved that conference badges don't have to be mailed out in advance; KRWA arrives in Wichita with things as organized as can be. Thanks to the gals who worked the registration counter for their efficient work in dealing with nearly 2,200 registrants. They were: Anne Scott of GoWichita, Kathleen Ronnebaum, Laurie Strathman, Vicky McCallum, Lee Kohls, GoWichita and Janette Froelich.



Rex Buchanan with the Kansas Geological Survey, Lawrence, KS, discusses hydrfracturing and its potential impacts on groundwater with a capacity audience.



Doug Kjellin, city of Marion



Pre-conference Sessions

Water System Components

Pipe, brass fittings, meters, hydrants and valves – all were topics included in this five-hour preconference session. This training explained that the physical integrity of municipal and rural water districts in Kansas and across the U.S. is always in a state of change. From the need for replacement or expansion of systems to changes in materials, this session provided real benefit to any new operator and was an excellent refresher for those who have experience. Topics included pipe repair, brass products, safe installation practices for service saddles, and tapping sleeves. The session also discussed hydrants and valves, meters and automated meter reading systems. The training included many demonstrations, disassembly and repairs. Presenters were Kent Culbertson, American AVK Company, Minden, NV and Preston Hodges and Brian McDowell, HD Waterworks Supply, McPherson, KS. Attendance was 215.

Solving Infiltration & Inflow In Wastewater Systems

While water systems try not to have water escape through leaks, wastewater systems try to guard against inflow and infiltration of water to the collection system. High flows due to I&I can cause basement backups, sanitary sewer overflows and decreased treatment detention time, resulting in degraded effluent quality and compliance issues. This preconference session discussed how to identify and eliminate I&I problems in both the public and private-owned components of collection systems. Topics included how to identify I&I problems with smoke testing or videoing; how to reduce I&I problems; Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Surveys (SSES); cured-in-place pipe installation; how elected officials and decision-makers can plan for and fund capital improvement projects to reduce I&I. This session was presented by Galen Lay and James Fisher, of TEKK Design Group, Kansas City, MO; Brad Wegner, Midlands Contracting, Kearney, NE; Rick Shain, City of Marysville, KS and Steve Williams and Tom Wyant of Key Equipment & Supply, Kansas City, MO. There were 135 in attendance.

Chlorination: Operation, Maintenance And Safety

Operators can never learn enough about gas or other forms of chlorine and how chlorine can be supplied to a water system. This session discussed the characteristics of gas chlorine as well as the comparisons of the three forms of chlorine (sodium hypochlorite, calcium hypochlorite and elemental chlorine). This training covered chlorination systems including direct cylinder-mounted, vacuum gas chlorinators and chemical feed pumps injecting bleach and solutions of other forms of chlorine. Topics included chlorine safety, safety devices; comparisons of the forms of chlorine; theory of operation and troubleshooting techniques. This training was presented by Ron Grage, (retired), Senior Sales Specialist, Chlorinators Incorporated, Stuart, Florida. Ron is a preeminent instructor, having conducted seminars and training sessions at colleges, universities and water associations in all fifty states, all Canadian provinces, and overseas in Taiwan, Korea, Saipan and Guam. There were 125 who attended this outstanding training event.



Leo Hayno, Chief of Pipeline Safety, KCC, discusses the Kansas Underground Utility Notification Center at the Attorneys' Forum.



Concurrent sessions were generally filled to capacity.



2013



Allison Jones, Internal Revenue Service



Ben Day of Olsson Associates discusses storage tank maintenance.

City Clerks – At The Heart Of City Hall

The city clerks' forum provided another great opportunity for clerks to hear about topics of interest but also to share common interests. The job of a city clerk requires multi-tasking for sure as the topics for this seminar revealed. They included wellness in the workplace, safety audits, how to make social media work for the city, IRS reporting, and filing of various taxes by cities in Kansas. Presenters included Sharlie Staab, Kansas Department of Labor, Hays, KS; Carol Grady, Kansas Department of Labor, Topeka, KS; Kari West, Public Information Officer, City of Parsons, KS; Allison Jones, Internal Revenue Service, Wichita, KS; and,

Carl York, Kansas Department of Revenue, Topeka, KS. The training also included an exchange of topics, ideas and forms led by the facilitators Kathy Barkley, City of Conway Springs; Patti Gilbert, City of Burlingame; Anita Goertzen, City of Goessel; and, Janet Stice, City of Atwood. There were 47 clerks in attendance.

RWD Office Staff – Pulling Together

Kansas rural water districts vary in size from thousands of customers to several with fewer than twenty services. However, the reporting requirements on various aspects of the districts' operations are similar. From the single volunteer to those systems with several staff members, rural water managers and office staff often have to wear many hats. This training was another good opportunity for an exchange of ideas and processes, from billing to serving as receptionists and meeting planners. The afternoon section of the training included a presentation by Carl York of the Kansas Department of Revenue who discussed Kansas Sales and Compensating Use Tax and how it applies to a rural water district. Facilitators for this session were: Sharon Dwyer, Douglas RWD 5; Lana Kettler, Miami RWD 2; Carol Retzer, Osage RWD 3; and, Patricia Shaffer, Butler RWD 5. There were 43 in attendance.

Helping Your Board/Council Pull Together!

This board/council training event was loaded with content. How does anyone train board/council members? Well, they learn by listening and understanding how to govern like a business, build teamwork, being accountable to those served, and understanding the job of being a board/council member. Topics included managing board liability risk; preventing and resolving conflicts; making meetings work by creating the right meeting environment and developing appropriate meeting procedures; delegating management to the manager, writing policies; developing the board/council by recruiting quality, new members; and, planning for the future of the system. This training was presented by Bob Fitch with Dan Cain Consulting Group, Hawarden, IA. Dan Cain Consulting is a nationally recognized authority in management and governance. There were 36 people in attendance.



A total of 824 people attended the pre-conference sessions on Tuesday, March 26.