

WaterOne 'Passes the Test' for High Water Quality

WaterOne is dedicated to providing water that meets the highest standards for safe drinking water. Hundreds of tests are run daily to ensure top-quality, uncompromised drinking water.

Each year, water utilities across the nation send their customers an annual water quality report. This 'report card' provides a summary of year-end tap water test results. Once again, WaterOne has passed the test with flying colors. The 2005 Water Quality Report shows that state and federal standards for safe drinking water were met, or even surpassed, in 2004. The report will soon be mailed to all customers. More information about your water quality can be found at: www.waterone.org.

WaterOne Seminars Promote Practical Water Saving Tips

As part of WaterOne's continuing commitment to water conservation, its Conservation Department puts on many free seminars to help customers use water wisely. Customers benefit from WaterOne's programs by becoming more efficient water users, and saving money on their water bills. For dates, times and location of these seminars, check out the Conservation page at www.waterone.org.

WaterOne Governing Board Members

Jim Vader, Chairman
Terry Frederick, Vice Chairman
Dick Noon, Member
Rob Olson, Member
Bob Reese, Member
Joe Vaughan, Member
Dick Weisser, P.E. Member

General Manager: **Michael J. Armstrong**

The Water Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Byron N. Johnson Administrative Headquarters and Service Center, 10747 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa. The meeting agenda can be accessed at: www.waterone.org

The WaterOne Pipeline is published for our business and community partners in Johnson County. Email questions about the WaterOne Pipeline to ekoutelas@waterone.org.

WaterOne

Water District No. 1 of Johnson County

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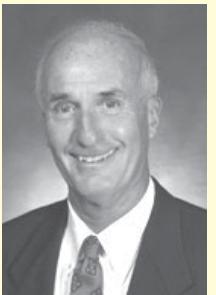
WaterOne

News from Water District No. 1 of Johnson County

PIPE

Chairman's Corner.....

Master Planning is Key to Utility's Success



Jim Vader
Board Chairman

WaterOne prides itself on its proven record of good long range planning. We are proud to have kept pace with existing customer growth, and we're continuing to plan and develop major water improvement programs for the future.

With the completion this summer of Phase IV of our Master Plan, our existing treatment facilities will be completely built out. The WaterOne Board has approved an update to the utility's Master Plan and we have already begun planning for the next major expansion. Phase V of this plan includes the construction of a new treatment plant on the Missouri River. This project, scheduled to be completed in 2009, will provide an additional 30 million gallons per day to our system capacity. We are in the process of completing a cost of service study of the financial impacts of this project and appropriate system development charges.

In closing, I would like to say it has been a privilege to serve as Board Chairman the past two years. A new Chairman and Vice-Chairman will be elected at the May 10 Board meeting. There are many exciting challenges ahead for the utility and I look forward to continuing my service as a member of the WaterOne Board.

WaterOne Takes Proactive Stance on River Issues

Two issues currently pose potential risks to the availability of water on the Kansas and Missouri Rivers, the two main sources of water supply for WaterOne. Both of these risks involve the degradation of the riverbed on the Kansas and Missouri Rivers.

Update Needed to Kansas River Jetty

In 2004 the 25-year old Kansas River rock jetty, which directs water from the Kansas River into WaterOne's intake, incurred a breach that required emergency repairs. The Kansas River supplies 55 millions gallons per day (mgd) of WaterOne's current capacity of 165 mgd. The river is critical as a water source to help meet summer peak demands and it provides an alternative water supply in instances where the Missouri River facilities have to be taken off-line.



Aerial photo of Kansas River jetty and pre-treatment facilities.

While the break was fixed in 2004, at a cost of \$1.7 million, a recent study by WaterOne's consulting engineers, Black & Veatch, reports larger problems on the horizon. Their research shows the probability is high for the jetty structure to experience future failures. A permanent solution to ensure the reliability of the jetty will cost in excess of \$12 million, and WaterOne is seeking to secure federal appropriations to help defray these improvement costs. On a recent trip to Washington, D. C., WaterOne's General Manager, Mike Armstrong, and Tom Schrempp, Director of Production, met with members of Congress and their staffs, including Kansas Senators Sam Brownback and Pat Roberts, and Congressman Dennis Moore to discuss this issue.

Low Water Levels on Missouri River

Recent news stories have reported on problems with low river flows on the Missouri River brought on by drought conditions in the upper Missouri River basin. The issue has been greatly exacerbated by continuing riverbed degradation on the river.

Riverbed degradation makes it difficult to divert water from already low river levels from the Missouri River to our intake facilities. To address the problem, WaterOne previously installed a supplemental pumping system at a cost of \$2 million. We are also working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop a study to solve the degradation problem and are seeking federal funding for this study.

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SPRING 2005

System Capacity Increasing to 180 Million Gallons Per Day (mgd)

WaterOne's total treatment and pumping capacity will be increased from 165 mgd to 180 mgd this summer. With this increase, the utility is well positioned to meet summer demands, even if they exceed the record breaking system usage records set in 2003.

The additional capacity will help ensure an uninterrupted supply of high quality water to the cities we serve and their residents.

Update on Major Construction Projects

Overland Park -- Installation is complete on a 20" transmission main from 131st Street and Quivira Road, to 135th Street and Nieman Road. A 16" main along 135th Street from Nieman Road to Switzer Road has also been completed.

Currently under construction is a 42" main along 135th Street from Quivira to Metcalf. The installation of this main is expected to be complete by summer, 2005.

Overland Park – Lenexa - Olathe
Installation is nearly complete on a 48" transmission main from 113th & Santa Fe Trail Drive to 135th & Quivira. WaterOne anticipates placing it into service by summer, 2005.

Shawnee -- Installation of a 36" transmission main from 77th Street & Monticello Road to Johnson Drive & Renner Road is approximately 65% complete. Final completion is anticipated by the summer of 2005.

Lenexa -- A 30" transmission main along Prairie Star Parkway, from K-7

WaterOne Looking Ahead to Phase V and Beyond

With the completion of Phase IV, the utility will have maximized the capacity of its existing treatment facilities. Planning has already begun for Phase V, the next major expansion on the Missouri River. The completion of Phase V, projected to occur in 2009, includes construction of a new treatment plant, and will increase the total system capacity to 210 million gallons per day.

Population projections indicate the number of customers within WaterOne's service area will continue to grow at a rapid pace over the next 40 years. The Master Plan provides a comprehensive road map for future expansion, and includes population projections and future capacity needs through the year 2042.



WaterOne Converting to New Computer System

On May 2, 2005, WaterOne converted to a new integrated computer system utilizing SAP software. The new system replaces all existing legacy systems that have served the utility for over 25 years. With the new technology solution, WaterOne will have access to consistent data sharing throughout the organization, and will be able to enhance its business processes and accountability through greater reporting and analytical capabilities. As a result, WaterOne's customers, business partners and employees will be better served.



Left to Right: Cindy Green, former Lenexa City Council President; Mike Boehm, Mayor of Lenexa; Jim Vader, WaterOne Board Chairman; Terry Frederick, WaterOne Board Vice Chairman.

Future Projects

A number of additional transmission and distribution main projects are currently in progress and scheduled to be completed by the summer of 2006. View a complete listing of these on WaterOne's website: www.waterone.org

Purchase of Laptops Results in Productivity Gains

WaterOne has purchased rugged laptop computers for its Construction & Maintenance Department for use in the field. The purchase of the laptops means customers will be served more efficiently during WaterOne's regular daily activities, as well as during emergencies.

The laptops include Geographic Information System (GIS) software, which allows employees in the field and on the road to have complete, current maps of the WaterOne pipeline system. Previously, this information had to be obtained manually utilizing paper maps and micro fiche.

Daniel J. Smith P. E., WaterOne's Director of Distribution, says, "It is exciting to embrace this new technology, and to know there will be major efficiency gains from the use of the laptops. Our foremen can already see the benefits of utilizing them."

Lunar Rover or WaterOne Spaceship?



Motorists traveling south on I-435 near the Kansas River may have noticed several unusual looking domes to the east on Holliday Drive. At first glance these domes may resemble something from outer space; in actuality, they are only aluminum structures built atop WaterOne's Kansas River pre-treatment facilities.

The domes are part of several water treatment process improvements that have been made recently to the Kansas River facilities to minimize taste and odor, and increase pumping capacity. The aluminum domes keep water from freezing in the basins during the winter months.

Revised WaterOne Conservation Plan Approved by Kansas Water Office

WaterOne has a long-standing record of commitment to water conservation. Its state-approved Conservation Plan that has been in place for many years was recently revised and approved by the Kansas Water Office.

WaterOne's Conservation Plan explains what the utility is doing to be good stewards of the water rights we currently have, and outlines how we would respond to water shortages in drought conditions. Plans for minor shortages are in place, as well as provisions for water emergencies where shortages might become serious.

This plan is not only part of WaterOne's commitment to conservation, it is also key to obtaining additional water rights from Kansas Division of Water Resources for phase V expansion, scheduled for completion in 2009.

Automated Meter Reading Solution Translates into Cost Savings

WaterOne has executed a contract with Cellnet Technologies, Inc. (Cellnet) for a turnkey conversion of its monthly billed commercial accounts to automated meter reading (AMR). WaterOne joins a growing number of utilities nationwide that have converted to AMR technology for collection of its billing data. The fixed wireless radio network system will allow WaterOne to improve its operational efficiency and reduce labor costs associated with obtaining manual meter reads.

As part of the initial planning phase of this project, WaterOne conducted an extensive evaluation of AMR systems and suppliers, including a one-year pilot study to assess both drive-by and fixed network technologies. It was determined that a fixed network AMR system provided the best data collection solution, and that Cellnet was best positioned to provide this service to the utility.

Dan Graves, AMR Project Manager for WaterOne stated, "We believe this technology will provide benefits to both WaterOne and its customers, and will result in significant operational efficiencies throughout the utility." The conversion will be completed in 2005.

Laboratory Personnel Repeat Perfect Score

WaterOne's laboratory employees have received another perfect score on an EPA performance evaluation. WaterOne's laboratory staff is required to complete EPA testing every six months. The team has consistently received perfect scores.

WaterOne's laboratory is accredited by KDHE's Laboratory Inspection Program under the guidelines of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference.