

## Chairman's Corner

Terry Frederick, Board Chairman



### Maximizing Resources in Challenging Economic Climate

WaterOne continues to implement measures to keep operating costs as low as possible. The utility entered 2009 with a budget deficit due to a wet summer in 2008, reductions in investment income, a severe slow-down in the housing market, and the overall downturn of the economy.

In response, WaterOne implemented budget freezes that were put in place in 2008 and have continued into 2009. Staff is carefully evaluating individual capital and Master Plan projects to assess need and priority before determining if funds should be expended. With careful planning by the utility, we will continue to serve our community effectively and efficiently during these difficult times.

I would like to congratulate fellow Board Members Brenda Cherpitel, Bob Reese, and Jim Vader on their recent re-election to the WaterOne Board. It has been my privilege to have served as Board Chairman for the past four years and to have worked with all our committed members of the Board. These individuals have continued to demonstrate their dedication to the utility and to act in the best interest of our ratepayers.

I look forward to continuing my service as an active member of our Board serving our community.

## WaterOne Hosts Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC)

WaterOne recently hosted the Missouri River Recovery Implementation Committee (MRRIC) at the utility's Administrative Center. MRRIC's goal is to provide a collaborative forum within the Missouri River basin to develop a shared vision and comprehensive plan for Missouri River recovery.



Mike Armstrong, General Manager, visits with guests at MRRIC event.

Mike Armstrong, General Manager of WaterOne represents regional water interests on MRRIC. Tom Schremp, WaterOne Director of Production, has also been active in this organization.

MRRIC will provide guidance on the existing Missouri River Recovery and Mitigation Plan

and will consult with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a study being conducted for the Missouri River and its tributaries. The study will determine actions that are needed to mitigate losses of aquatic and terrestrial habitat; recover federally listed species under the Endangered Species Act; and restore the ecosystem to prevent further decline among other native species.



MRRIC participants on a field trip to the Kansas River to observe improvements to the intake.



Diane Johnson, Executive Director and Founder of Operation Wildlife displays a falcon.

### Operation WildLife

At the MRRIC event hosted by WaterOne, a presentation was made by Diane Johnson, Executive Director of Operation Wildlife, an organization committed to protecting endangered species and Kansas wildlife. Joining in the presentation were a falcon and bald eagle that were previously injured and rescued by the organization.

## Phase V Project on Schedule

Progress continues on WaterOne's Phase V Master Plan Expansion. Phase V includes construction of:

- A new treatment plant that will add 15 million gallons per day to current treatment capacity
- A 17-mile, 60-inch pipeline that runs from the Missouri River to a pumping station in Johnson County at 77th & K-7 Highway
- A large tunnel under the Kansas River to house the 60" pipe; and a collector well at the Missouri River.

The tunnel under the Kansas River has been completed and all sections of the 60-inch pipeline are in the ground. The new treatment plant will be completed and put in service later this year.



Operations building and basins at new treatment plant site in Wyandotte County.

## Infrastructure Renewal Program

WaterOne has an infrastructure renewal program for evaluating and prioritizing water main replacements. A well-maintained distribution system is a critical component in providing a continuous supply of safe, clean water with adequate pressure to customers.

WaterOne has established weighted criterion that is used in evaluating replacement projects. This criterion includes consideration of age, size, and material of the main; break history; corrosiveness of the soil type; proximity to businesses such as hospitals and schools; and coordination with cities on street projects that are planned.

### WaterOne Governing Board

**Terry Frederick**, Chairman

**Rob Olson**, Vice Chairman

**Brenda Cherpitel**, Member

**Dick Noon**, Member

**Bob Reese**, Member

**Jim Vader**, Member

**Joe H. Vaughan**, Member

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Mike Armstrong, General Manager

The WaterOne Pipeline is published for our business and community partners in Johnson County. Email questions or comments to [ekoutelas@waterone.org](mailto:ekoutelas@waterone.org) or call 913-895-5540.

# WaterOne

Water District No. 1 of Johnson County

Water District No. 1  
of Johnson County  
10747 Renner Boulevard  
Lenexa, KS 66219

*Setting the Standard for Utility Excellence*