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**PRESS RELEASE**  
(FROM THE KANSAS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION)



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**City of Cherryvale receives award for Most Improved Public Works in Kansas**

WICHITA, KS – March 30, 2011 - The city of Cherryvale was recognized for having the “Most Improved Public Works” in Kansas during ceremonies this week at the Annual Conference & Exhibition of Water and Wastewater Utilities. Sponsored by the Kansas Rural Water Association, the conference is one of the largest in the U.S. with nearly 2,200 people attending; it was held at the Century II Convention Center in Wichita.

Cherryvale was cited for the many improvements that the city has made in recent years. These include going back to 2001 when the city was required to make upgrades to its sewer system, including a new 3-cell lagoon, lift station and collection system at a cost of \$1.7 million. Several years later, the city spent an additional \$1.3 million on additional collection system improvements. These projects were funded through USDA Rural Development. In 2009, the city embarked on upgrading its water system, including installation of an automated meter reading system, replacement of many valves and fire hydrants and other improvements at a cost of \$900,000. These improvements were funded through the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund.

So what else helped Cherryvale set itself apart from other cities in Kansas? According to Elmer Ronnebaum, General Manager of the Association, Cherryvale’s public works department has tackled issues that affect nearly every aspect of community life. The department is also responsible for the maintenance of streets, the water distribution system, sanitary sewer and storm drainage systems, animal control, brush clean up, and snow removal.

The public works department also maintains the city swimming pool, former smelter site, and in 2009, took over maintenance responsibilities of the community center. The

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# City of Cherryvale

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department provided oversight and management of various projects such as; the completion of the 2009 water line improvement, Main Street mill and overlay as part of a CDBG grant, Main Street sidewalks, a new sub-division sanitary sewer project, and miscellaneous street repairs and storm drainage throughout the city. The city cleaned 30 blocks of roadside ditches and installed six catch basins.

Six major sanitary sewer lines were replaced and they worked to reduce storm water infiltration into the collection system. Although there was less precipitation in 2010, these improvements contributed to a reduction of nearly 325 million gallons of infiltration into the wastewater system. Even with all that work going on, the department still found time to install thirty new water service lines, some new fire hydrants and shut off valves on main water lines, repaired buildings and improved drainage at the cemetery, and opened and closed 33 gravesites.

During the award presentation, it was also announced that the city has completed rehabilitation of seven with three more underway as part of the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation grant program. The city has also obtained financing to renovate the former Armory into the city's community center through the Kan-Step grant program. All these projects will Help Make a Difference in Cherryvale.

Those attending the conference from Cherryvale included Wade Webber, Director of Public Works; Melvin Beye, Assistant Director of Public Works; and, Toby Beye, department operator.

The Kansas Rural Water Association provides training and technical assistance to cities and rural water and public wholesale water districts, and wastewater systems throughout Kansas. Sam Atherton, Manager of Public Wholesale District No. 4, is President of the organization's board of directors.

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