

Our Mission

To be the leading consultant solving the engineering or land surveying problems unique to rural-urban communities and their enterprise—government, business, and agribusiness. And in the process, to build trust and lasting relationships with the people among whom we work and live. ◀

PROJECTS

Quarry survey work from Martin-Marietta increases

KPL HAS BEEN hired to do the survey work on five additional quarries owned by Martin-Marietta in the Fort Dodge area.

Says Tom Edgerton, “This brings the number of Martin-Marietta facilities we work with to 13 quarries and one mine. We do the volume calculations for stripping at the quarries based on data we secure from our surveys.” Martin-Marietta has been a KPL client since 1998.

Survey work in the Storm Lake office is varied and seasonal says Scott Shevel. “We have GIS proposals out to Schaller and Odebolt and a staking proposal for a bridge in Buena Vista County. We’ve completed cell tower
Continued, PROJECTS, page 2 ...



Martin-Marietta quarry near Fort Dodge. One of the facilities where KPL is performing surveys and volume calculations for quarrying and mining operations.

KPL client chosen pilot project for the Iowa Plan

Receives federal stimulus funding

Drainage District 65, Pocahontas County, is a 2500 acre drainage district. Like many of Iowa drainage districts, its system dates from the early part of the twentieth century when systems were designed to remove only about 1/8 inch of excess rainfall in 24 hours. Drainage District 65's tiling system is shallow and in poor repair. The topography of the land, however, is ideal for the construction of a treatment wetland outlet such as those proposed by the Iowa Plan (for the Iowa Drainage and Wetland Landscape Initiative).

The Iowa Plan has been heralded as providing real and practical solutions to the hypoxia problems

resulting from agricultural runoffs that flow through streams and into the Gulf of Mexico. (See *CREP, the Iowa Plan, the Gulf of Mexico—and KPL, InterAction*, October - December 2008).

Drainage District 65 was identified as being an ideal candidate to be the first pilot project of the Iowa Plan—if funding could be arranged.

Then last spring came the American Resource and Recovery Act—the stimulus funds. KPL and Don Etler worked with Drainage District 65 to apply for this federal funding through the Iowa Finance Authority's State Revolving Fund to help with the more than \$2.6 million undertaking. Awards came: 20% of the estimated cost in the form of a forgivable loan; plus a 3% loan with a 20 year payback for much of the balance.

Then in late September the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxia Task Force met in Des Moines. Don Etler describes what happened:

“Before the meeting, Secretary of Agriculture, Bill Northey, announced a commitment of \$4 million of cost share funding for Iowa Plan projects like Drainage District No. 65. These funds had been made available to the IDALS by the Iowa Legislature from the I-JOBS bond proceeds for water quality improvement purposes for pilot projects like Drainage District 65.

“The Gulf Hypoxia Task Force recognized the Iowa Plan as the
Continued, DD 65, page 4 ...

PROJECTS, continued ...

surveys in Storm Lake and Osage for Verizon; and have approval to do a photographic survey for the Farm Credit Building in Storm Lake. In spring we'll be back to surveying for the Highway 20 grading."



Working inside Martin-Marietta's Fort Dodge mine.

Curt Wiseman reports that the Algona office is very busy with waste water projects. "We are in the middle of a preliminary engineering report for **Havelock providing options for sanitary sewer treatment, collection options, and funding.**

"For **Livermore** we are proceeding with the final plan and specs for **sanitary sewer lines**; and an environmental review for funding is being performed for a \$500 thousand CDBG grant. This project qualifies for disaster recovery and is fully funded.

"For **Swea City** we are putting together plans and specs for a **sanitary sewer collection system, improvement and replacement of all the manholes in town and the replacement of the sanitary sewer system.** The goal is to reduce the infiltration and inflow that has been overloading their sanitary sewer. Both these last two projects will be constructed next season.

"On the water side, we are completing a preliminary engineer-

ing report for **Livermore**. This is for the **whole water system: new well, replacement of treatment equipment and plant, water main improvements, fire hydrants and the improvement of substations.** They have a USDA rural development grant, part of the ARRA stimulus funding.

"We did the same type of thing for **Rolfe**. Work includes a **new well; new treatment controls—valving, pumps, chlorination; and the rebuilding of seven blocks of water main.** The old main had lots of leaks and was undersized. It will be improved by a six inch water main and **new fire hydrants** which will replace the old ones which date from the 1920s.

"**Woodland Hills** outside Algona is waiting for its construction permit for a **new well**. We look for winter or spring construction. We're also doing a small **storm sewer project for Algona** where every time it rains there is severe ponding in six homeowners' backyards.

"Construction of the **swimming pool in Rockwell** is going well. Nick Frederiksen is project inspector on site and doing a good job catching potential problems when they can be solved. We expect a Memorial Week End opening."

Kent Rode reports that the **City of Wesley's** application for CDBG fund was successful with an award of over \$600 thousand for **storm water drain relief improvement** within the city. "We are now proceeding with design and construction management. The project includes detention basins that will accept storm water from large rain events and a storm sewer leading to a ditch south of the city.

"The **recreational trail in Algona** is substantially complete. Only reseeding remains. Stage 1 of Phase 1 of the Fort Dodge street improvement project is complete. The project will continue next spring with the construction of 8th and 9th Avenues North. Gary Atherton is the project inspector. We are proceeding with the design



Quarry owned and operated by Martin-Marietta.

for **traffic signal improvements at the corner of US 169 and MacGregor Street in Algona.** And we've completed the **site plan for the South Park Shelter House in Algona.**

Tom Grafft in the Storm Lake office reports that **fall sampling for all three client landfills—Buena Vista, Sac, and Cherokee Counties—**have been completed. "We worked with the DNR to secure a waiver to change sampling techniques at the Cherokee and Buena Vista landfills' continuing operations. The waiver allows us to switch to a new sampling application and parameter list which yields a better statistical analysis.

"In another landfill area the EPA has promulgated new rules on air quality for any kind of facility that generates more than 25,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases in three years. Such facilities must provide strict calculations of exactly how many tons of discharge are released and what that facility does. Therefore, landfills which produce methane, must also meet these requirements. Cherokee currently meets the threshold and must file; we expect the Sac County landfill to meet the threshold at some point in the next six to eight years and we are monitoring that facility. The penalty for noncompliance is \$37,000 per day."

Bob Payer reports that **development plans for Storm Lake for the hot mix asphalt overlay for Lake Avenue, from Lake Shore Drive to Railroad Street** are being prepared. "We expect bidding in April of next year with the project complete either before the July 4 celebration or during August and September. Highway Department of Transportation funds are included in this project.

"The City of **Storm Lake** has also hired KPL to do a **preliminary survey for the paving of Vestal Street from West 10th Street north to C-49.** This construction is slated for 2011. The federal highway administration is part of this construction project which will include Portland concrete pavement to match the south end. The northerly rural portion will be 24 feet wide with ditches. Drainage improvements are anticipated.

"We are still developing plans for the **Ochedon Bridge in Clay County** and are anticipating NEPA/FHWA approval after the first of the year.

"The **Wahpeton bridge replacement has been let.** Godbersen-Smith is the contractor and will begin work after the first of the year depending on weather. This 25 foot single span bridge should be complete no later than May of 2010.

Ivan Droessler has been meeting with the DNR on the **future development of the Sac County Landfill** working out compromises on design and construction issues for a planned cell expansion. Development is expected to begin yet this winter with construction projected for summer 2011.

Ivan also says, "Due to Livestock prices new animal waste projects have slowed. We don't foresee any

immediate change in that outlook for the first part of 2010. However, **construction on the Hawkeye Pride poultry layer operation in Hancock County continues** with a bird population date for the first layer barn in late December 2009."

KPL will be completing the design of a land application lagoon and completing the system for egg waste this winter. Construction is expected in the summer of 2010.

Drainage news

Ivan reports drainage construction work was completed in September on the **Losey Drainage District, Monona County**, excavation with additional contract modification to be completed in December.

"Soil leveling operations will be finished in the spring of 2010. The district was reclassified and a new schedule approved in spring 2009. Construction of **New Farmers**

Lateral Number 3, Monona County, began in mid-November. The contractor has completed 80% of excavation. Final soil leveling and pipe installation will be completed in spring of 2010.

"Construction excavation on **Drainage District 122, Calhoun County**, was to have begun in November. The contractor is **Continued, PROJECTS, page 4 ...**

News about KPLers

Don Etler speaks to drainage group

DON ETLER, PE, GAVE a presentation at the Iowa Drainage District Association meeting on December 4, in Fort Dodge. The talk addressed obstacles to improvements in Iowa drainage.

Public service

Tom Grafft is a volunteer member of the Storm Lake Fire Department and in September at the Annual Firefighters Convention Competition, he earned a first place finish in the hitching post drill which is a knot tying drill. The Storm Lake Fire Department also placed fifth overall in the 2009 state competition.

Major Vincent Krepps, son of Clarence and Marsha, left for Baghdad two days before Thanksgiving where he will be an air advisor for weapons contracting, teaching Iraqis how to use an acquisition system. His office is one block from the American Embassy one of the toughest areas in Baghdad. His family remains in Virginia. Major Krepps was previously stationed at the Pentagon. Our thoughts are with him and his family.

Sports

Sophie Edgerton, Tom's daughter, participated in her first swim meet in December. Sophie is ten and attends Lucia Wallace School.

KPL family news

Heidi Rode, Kent's daughter, and a



Evan Elmer Andersen

former KPL intern, has accepted a position with HNTB Engineering in Kansas City upon her graduation with a degree in civil engineering in June. Heidi was also an intern for HNTB.

Congratulations and best wishes to **Jon Rosengren and his new wife Lissa**. They were married at the Cornerstone Church in Ames on November 28.

Welcome to **Evan Elmer Andersen** the newest KPL family member. He is the son of **Zach and Cathy Andersen** and was born October 7 weighing eight pounds, 9 ounces.

Company service

Special recognition to the following KPLers who observe their employment service dates this quarter:

Peg Johnson who joined KPL on November 3, 1992 (18 years of service); **Curt Wiseman** who joined KPL on November 21, 1994 (16 years of service); and **Zac Andersen** who joined the firm on November 5, 2007 (3 years of service).

Happy birthday

To **Neal Kuehl** whose birthday is January 4; to **Tom Edgerton** whose birthday is January 9; to **Curt Wiseman** whose birthday is January 16; to **Earl Zimmerman** whose birthday is January 25; to **Ted Zimmerman** whose birthday is January 26; to **Justin Anderson** whose birthday is February 2; to **Ivan Droessler** whose birthday is March 12; to **Steven White** whose birthday is March 19; and to **Peg Johnson** whose birthday is March 24. ◀◀



Tom Grafft, Storm Lake volunteer fireman, takes first place in the hitching post drill.

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DD 65, continued ...

best alternative for large scale reduction in Gulf hypoxia and endorsed it to be the target for other federal agency assistance. That same week Drainage District 65 was offered cost share assistance from these state funds to implement the first Iowa Plan pilot project.”

KPL was now facing an accelerated schedule to get the project implemented.

“The engineering report including more than eight miles of drainage tile and the requisite discharge treatment wetland was filed on October 6. The Board of Supervisors held two preliminary meetings explaining the project and the cost sharing to land owners—a \$1000/acre cost with a local share of still more than \$600 per acre.”

On November 16 at a public hearing the owners of more than 80% of the land supported the project and it was adopted.

“KPL now had 8 days to put together the plans and specs for bidding so that they could be sent out to contractors before Thanksgiving.

“I could not be prouder of the extra effort contributed by so many KPL staff members to meet that goal. We literally made the shipping time with less than a minute to spare,” said Don.

Bids were let on December 10 and the construction contract was awarded to Reding’s Gravel & Excavating Co., Inc. of Algona.

Reding’s plans to begin some of the work this winter. The new drains are required to be installed before November 1, 2010.

The IDALS will be taking bids on December 22nd for construction of the treatment wetland under the Iowa CREP. This work will be paid for with Iowa CREP funds. ◀

PROJECTS, continued ...

behind schedule and there has been no work to date. Contract completion time is June 1, 2010.

“An engineers report for **Pratt Drainage District, Monona County**, was filed in November with hearings scheduled in January, 2010. This project involves two miles of open ditch clean out. For **Drainage District 73, Sac County**, a December hearing on the engineers report for the clean up of 2.75 miles of ditch was held and the project approved. Bid letting to occur early spring 2010.

“The engineers report for the clean out of **Lateral 8 of the McCandless Drainage District open ditch**, Monona County, is to be filed in December. This project involves approximately one mile of open ditch.

“And in reclassification projects; office work on the the bid review for the reclassification of **Drainage District 6, Calhoun County**, is complete and the bid review is scheduled for December with a hearing in February. Reclassification on **Drainage District 122** is underway with map preparation done. Reclassification of **New Farmers Lateral Number 3, Monona County**, has the field review

complete and hearings are scheduled for completion in early spring. Reclassification of **Drainage District 73, Sac County**, is to begin this winter with completion expected late fall 2010.

Don Etler reports that bids were taken for the improvements to **Joint Drainage District 2 and 36 of Hancock and Kossuth Counties** lateral on November 17. This work will close one agricultural well and will receive 75% cost share.

“The bids were extremely competitive, the low bid less than 50% of our estimate. This low bid was one of several we have experienced: they are due to reduced available work and aggressive pipe competition.

“KPL was appointed engineer for another drainage district well closure for the **Sherman Drainage District of Kossuth County**. This was originally a private project. But, with road crossing issues the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Development required that it be organized as a drainage district. A hearing is expected this winter, with construction next year.”

If you have questions about these or similar projects, talk to any of the persons mentioned. ◀



Season’s Greetings