

## 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. ◀◀

## Drainage District 65, Pocahontas County wins PISCES Award

### Honored for innovation and environmental project success

Iowa's Drainage and Wetlands Landscape Systems Initiative's (the Iowa Plan) pilot project, located in Drainage District 65, Pocahontas County has been honored with the PISCES Award. Once every two years a single project from each state that has received State Revolving Fund financing is chosen for the PISCES award.

Says Don Etler, KPL's Project Manager for the Drainage District 65 Project, "Sometimes awards aren't deserved. However, in this

case, the people involved in making this project a success, and their project itself, are truly deserving. DD #65 fits the PISCES award criteria like a glove.

"The award is a salute to everyone involved in the project—the land owners who paid for 60% of the project's cost, the Pocahontas Board of Supervisors and county auditor, Margene Bunda who worked so hard to make the project go, representatives of the Iowa Department of Land Stewardship for their support and expertise, the contractor, Redings Gravel and Excavating of Algona, who worked throughout the harsh 2010 winter, and the KPLers who worked with dedication on the project's planning, design, and implementation."

The Iowa Plan integrates wetland construction into the redesign of agricultural drainage systems to reduce surface water runoff, soil erosion and phosphorus loading for improved downstream water quality. This Initiative has been identified as having the greatest potential among several regional initiatives to reduce the number of growing dead zones—or conditions of hypoxia—in the Gulf of Mexico. One-fifth of all nitrates entering the gulf originate as run-off from Iowa's fields.

Drainage District 65 became the pilot project for the Initiative and involves a 2500 acre area west of Lizard Lake in Pocahontas County. The project improved upstream drainage with a 65-acre wetland complex that filters excess sediment and nitrates running through the drainage system. In addition new lateral tile ranging in size from 28 to 48 inches were installed. At the same time the productivity of the affected acreage was improved.

The project cost \$2 million. In addition to the land owners, financing came from state and federal sources through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund under the American Resource and Recovery Act, from the state funded Iowa Initiative (Plan), and from the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

The Iowa Initiative has now identified five additional projects for implementation. They are Drainage District 8, Clay County; combined Drainage Districts 48 and 81, Pocahontas County; **Continued DRAINAGE, page 4**



Work on Drainage District 65 continued through the difficult winter. Redings Gravel and Excavating of Algona was the contractor.

## PROJECTS

### Water and wastewater projects are keeping offices busy

A NUMBER OF WATER and wastewater projects are in various stages of planning through design and then construction in both the Storm Lake and the Algona offices.

Says Neal Kuehl, "in Storm Lake, John Devitt, Eric Deters, Tom Mason, Neal Kuehl and the Storm Lake staff are working on the following water and wastewater projects:"

Construction projects have been completed in Newell and Sioux Rapids. The 45 million gallon **controlled discharge lagoon in Newell** is slowly filling while the renovated **aerated lagoon in Sioux Rapids** is operating using new pumps, aerators, genera-

tors and chlorine disinfection. The chlorination system was started up just in time to shut it down for the winter.

The **Laurens water meters** have all been installed and the renovated **reverse osmosis water treatment plant** continues to operate with much improved water quality.

Design on the **Alta, Sloan, Kingsley, Odebolt, Early and South West Shoreline Sanitary District wastewater projects** are all nearing completion and should bid later this winter for spring construction.

The **Albert City wastewater treatment plant (WWTP)** project will probably involve a complete sewer system evaluation study before design of the aerated lagoon treatment system. The city is awaiting award of a Planning and Design Loan which should be announced in late December. The **Lohrville wastewater project** may

end up being the first such project in Iowa where the existing gravity collection and transmission system will be abandoned and a new low pressure system with septic tanks, effluent pumps and small diameter pressure mains (STEP system) are installed in its place. The existing gravity system would then be converted to a storm sewer system. The City and IDNR are on board with this concept and work has been started on locating a lagoon site. By replacing the collection system the size of the controlled discharge lagoon can be reduced from 90,000,000 gallons to less than 10 million gallons.

Curt Wiseman reports from the Algona office that the **Livermore sanitary sewer improvement project** and new well construction went well. "Nick Frederiksen did a great job as our on site representative. Final tasks had to be shut down for the winter;

but all that remains is the installation of an 18 inch steel pipe which will be an aerial crossing of a local creek."

The underground excavation on the sewer lines and installation of manholes for the **Leland sanitary sewer improvement project** is finished. "The second phase of this project will start the week after Christmas. That involves about three weeks of construction."

"We just met with the **Swea City Council** on their **sanitary sewer improvements** to set the bid dates. This is a multiphase project involving new sanitary sewer, repairs to existing sewer and manholes; and the installation of 40 plus new manholes. Work will start in spring."

Design has started on the well for the **Rolfe water system improvement project**. "This includes water treatment equipment, 10 plus blocks

## News about KPLers

### KPL's extended family grows by three

TWO NEW SETS of KPL parents and one new grandmother! **La Donna Brummer's** newest granddaughter, **Chloe Isabella Betts**, was born December 4, at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines. "We now have two daughters and two granddaughters. Our other is eight months old." The happy parents are Amanda and Jeremy Betts of Waukee, Iowa.

**Ethan Michael Hanson** was born on December 11 to **Jon Hanson and wife, Sarah**. "It was a real surprise," says Jon, "Ethan was supposed to be a girl. Shows you that medical technology is not always right!"

And on September 28, **Alexander Lee Blomme**, better known now as **Ander**, was born weighing in at six pounds and

two ounces ("but growing like a weed") to **Brian Blomme and wife Jeni**.

#### Congratulations

And best wishes to **Steven White and Jessica Kaufman** who are engaged to be married. "We've set the date: March 24, 2012. We are waiting because my brother whom I want to be my best man is deployed in Afghanistan and will be home by then", says Steven. Jessica who graduated from Creighton Medical School in Omaha is currently a resident in pediatrics at the University of Iowa. She is a native of Hoxie, Kansas.

#### TV personality

**Jolene Anker**, daughter of **Barb Pingel**, is appearing in an upcoming episode of *Extreme*

**New members of the KPL family, clockwise, from top left are: Alexander Lee Blomme (Ander); Ethan Michael Hanson; and at the bottom is Chloe Isabella Betts.**



of new water mains; and the replacement of fire hydrants throughout the town."

Planning for a project for **Laurens** that includes improvements to an **existing lift station and the sanitary sewer system**, and an increase in capacity will begin next year. "And the Havelock project will move to design this winter. We are continuing the state environmental assessment now. This project has USDA redevelopment funding."

Kent Rode reports that the Algona office is working with **Clay County on bridge inspections** for this year. "Ted Zimmerman, Storm Lake office, started inspection field work in early December." One hundred forty bridges are involved.

Kent also reports that The **Fort Dodge street improvements**

are complete in spite of wet weather delays.

Dirt work on the **Highway 20 project** has stopped for the winter says Scott Shevel. "We have been selected to do **three preliminary road surveys for Buena Vista County**; and the final plans for **Friesen and the West School Additions** have been approved."

In animal waste projects, Ivan Droessler reports that design work for a new **three-cell aerated lagoon system for Rembrandt Enterprises** is underway. "This system will treat egg waste from expanded operations of Rembrandt's pasteurizing and drying facilities. Tom Grafft is heading up the facility plan permitting and Steven White is working with me on the lagoon design."

Construction of both the **industrial and domestic lagoon systems for**

**Hawkeye Pride** in Hancock County was finished this fall. Steven White and Nick Frederiksen, Algona office, did the inspection work for the facility. "Construction of the layer barns and manure storage for this facility continues. "Four out of ten planned barns have been constructed to date."

Site work for **two large pullet buildings was completed for M/C Andersen Pullet** this fall. These are now nearing the completion of construction. Equipment installation is expected in January and the bird population installed in February. Steven White is handling inspection.

In landfill work, KPL is teaming with HLW Engineering and plans are reaching completion for **expansion of the Sac County Landfill with Waste Cell 7-C**. "Eric Yunginger is heading up the CADD drafting for this project," says Ivan, "application for permitting

will be submitted in January to the IDNR, with a bid letting expected in March for summer construction."

The field work has been completed and design work for **Waste Cell 84 at the Cherokee Landfill** will be done in January. "Again Steven White will be working with me on design and Eric Yunginger will be doing the CADD work. Bid letting is expected in late March and Construction in 2011."

**Fall sampling of landfills for Buena Vista, Sac, and Cherokee counties is complete** and Tom Grafft is working on updating the physical analyses and preparing the annual water quality reports which are to be submitted to the IDNR in January.

#### Drainage news

Elevation data is being gathered for design for the five Iowa Plan projects mentioned in the lead article: **Continued, PROJECTS, page 4**

## News about KPLers

*Home Makeover.* Jolene, who works for Tilson Homes in Austin, Texas, a program sponsor, answered the call for volunteers to help on the program. The program is expected to air in six to eight weeks. (Picture on back page.)

#### Professional development

**Tom Grafft and Steve White** attended a recent DNR workshop covering the recent changes the EPA has made in green house gas quality rules. The rules take affect next year and will apply to the landfill work KPL does for clients.

#### Magic numbers

**Chloe Grafft, Tom's daughter**, has the distinction of a "golden birthday" coming up. She will turn "11" on 1/11/11. This is the second notable birthday for Chloe: she was the first baby to be born at Loring Hospital in Sac City in the year 2000. The "millennium baby".

#### Christmas winners

Kuehl and Payer's annual



**Chloe Grafft will be 11 on 1/11/11.**

Christmas Party was held December 4 at the Forum at Buena Vista University. Sixty one people joined the festivities.

Winning door prizes were: **Mark Wolf**, digital camera; **Barb Pingel**, iPod Shuffle; **Eric Deters**, \$75 Cabela's Gift Card; **David Doxtad**, \$75 Kohl's Gift Card; **Nick Frederiksen**, \$50

Casey Gift Card; **Bryan Muhlbauer**, \$50 Bomgaar's Gift Card; **Connie Krough**, \$50 Hy Vee Gift Card; and **Dave Anderson** \$50 Bass Pro Shop Gift Card.

#### Happy birthday

To **Neal Kuehl** whose birthday is January 4; to **Tom Edgerton** whose birthday is January 9; to **Eric Deters** whose birthday is

January 11; 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 **Ivan Droessler** whose birthday is March 12; to **Steve White** whose birthday is March 19; and to Peggy Johnson whose birthday is March 24.

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**Steve White and his fiancée Jessica Kaufman at the Iowa State/Kansas football game this fall. Steve is an ISU grad and Jessica hails from Kansas.**

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**PROJECTS, continued ...**

**Drainage District 8, Clay County; combined Drainage Districts 48 and 81, Pocahontas County; Drainage District 15 North, Palo Alto County; Drainage District 15 South, Palo Alto County; and Joint Drainage District 36, Pocahontas and Palo Alto Counties.**

Don Etler also reports, "We are currently busy with preparation for reclassification meetings for five districts which will be held over the next four months. "

KPL has also been appointed to handle a study for open ditch repairs for **Drainage District 62, Pocahontas County.** "And for **Drainage District 48, Palo Alto County,** we are putting together final plans and specs for a project that involves buffer strips."

Design is wrapping up for two large drainage well closures: **Drainage District 178, Pocahontas County** and **Drainage District 23 Wright County.** "These projects will go to hearing this winter and to construction this summer."

Several KPL client counties were included in the disaster declaration for the heavy rains that occurred this past summer. "We have been working closely with county and FEMA officials in Pocahontas and Palo Alto Counties and anticipate FEMA funding for nearly \$1 million of repair work that will occur this coming year."

Ivan Droessler is working on several projects in **Monona County. For the Platt Drainage District,** open ditch clean out and tile installation was completed in November, a reclassification field review was done in November, and the Commissioners' Report is due in December.

Bids were let for work on **McCandless Drainage District Lateral Number 8** in September. Says Ivan, "the contractor has completed 90% of the work. The final spoil leveling and shaping will be done this spring."

A hearing on the annexation of official lands to McCandless Drainage District was held in December. Reclassification work will take place this winter with a hearing in early spring.



**Home to be featured in upcoming episode of *Extreme Home Makeover*. Jolene Anker, daughter of Barb Pingel is working on the production. It will air in six to eight weeks.**

An engineer's investigation for **Crane Drainage District** was completed this fall and a preliminary letter report filed in December. An informal hearing on **Barber Creek Drainage District** is scheduled for January. And in November a bid for levee repair and rehabilitation for **Nagel Drainage District** was awarded to L.A. Carlson Construction with work to occur over the winter if weather allows.

An informal hearing is scheduled for January for a proposed tile improvement project for **Drainage District 2 and Drainage District 51, Sac County.**

A field survey for 8 miles of open ditch clean out on **Lateral 1 of Drainage District 34, Buena Vista County** was completed by Jeff Krueger and Jon Myers. The engineers report for clean out will be filed in late winter with construction estimated for the fall of 2011.

The reclassification of **Drainage District 73, Sac County** will be completed this winter, with a hearing in early spring and construction expected for the fall of 2011.

Greg Villegas has been busy with **district watchman services in Sac County and Calhoun County** with well over 50 repairs reported as needed in Calhoun County alone. Work on repairs is expected to go through this spring.

*If you have question about these or similar projects, talk to any of the persons mentioned. «*

**KPLers, continued ...**

**Company service**

Special recognition to the following KPLers who observed their employment service dates this past quarter: **Peggy Johnson** who joined KPL on November 3, 1992; to **Curt Wiseman** who joined KPL on November 21, 1994; and to **Zac Andersen** who joined KPL on November 5, 2007. «

**DRAINAGE, continued ...**

Drainage District 15 North, Palo Alto County; Drainage District 15 South, Palo Alto County; and Joint Drainage District 36, Pocahontas and Palo Alto Counties.

"Kuehl and Payer has been appointed by the Boards of Supervisors as the engineer for each to these projects."

*If you have questions or want more information about the subject of this article or about similar projects, contact Don Etler, PE, 515.295.2980 in KPL's Algona office. «*