

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. ◀

Backlog and new hires at KPL run counter to the general economy

Strength in commodity market and federal stimulus point to growth

Going into 2009 KPL had the biggest backlog of work in its 26 year history.

The firm has also added three new people to its technical staff. The bios of two of the new hires, Jon Rosengren and Jared Karschnik, appear in this issue. A bio for Eric Deters, who will begin work with KPL later this summer will appear in the next issue. Eric is moving from the Phoenix area where he worked for Sunrise Engineering in Mesa.

In many respects, KPL is running counter to the prevailing economy: with a heavy work load and a need to hire. Some of the hiring is in part in preparation of Neal and Bob retiring, however, some is part of a normal cyclical pattern explains Ivan Droessler, PE, a senior partner and Corporate Treasurer.

"In typical economic cycles, consulting businesses such as ours, experience about a three year lag in upturns and downturns that are happening in the general economy. So part of what we are seeing is that normal lag."

However, this time there are some other factors which are, or could, contribute to a continuing upturn in

our business. First, there are the stimulus moneys coming from Washington which will work to mitigate the downturn to firms like KPL that usually comes just a bit behind the general economic downturn.

"These stimulus programs should have a positive effect on us because a lot of the funding is going into construction projects. And we have strong work loads ahead in transportation, water and waste water areas. These moneys are already coming down through the channels."

Then, there are the changes occurring in the agricultural sector, **Continued, BACKLOG, page 4**

Welcome to new employees in the Algona office

JON ROSENGREN and Jared Karschnik have started work in the Algona office.

Jon is a 2008 graduate of Iowa State University with a BS in agricultural engineering. He will be working with Don Etlar. Jon grew up in Logan, Iowa, and has three brothers and sisters. While at Iowa State he worked for four years as an Ames city bus driver and spent six months with IDNR as a survey intern. Hobbies? "I love sailing." He has a 16 foot catamaran. "And working on old cars." Jon is living in Algona. His fiancé, Lissa Catus, is studying in Turkey.



Jon Rosengren is pictured on the left. Jared Karschnik shown at right.

Jared Karschnik is an engineering and drafting technician at KPL. Jared grew up in Mountain Lake, Minnesota, and attended Mankato State University and Alexandria Technical School studying engineering drafting.

His hobbies?

"Well, I've worked full time every summer since I was 13!" But, he also enjoys boating, snow mobiling, golfing, and playing softball. ◀

PROJECTS

Rockwell aquatic center goes to bid

BIDS FOR THE aquatic center in Rockwell are due in late June.

"We're hoping to award that contract soon thereafter," says Curt Wiseman, Project Manager. "The center features 5,282-square-foot swimming pool with zero-depth entry, water spray units, toddler slide, play structure, lap lanes, tube slide, body slide, diving board, concession stand and bathhouse. "

The new center which will replace the old Linn Grove pool is scheduled to be finished in time for the 2010 pool season. The \$1.6 million facility received a \$12,000 grant from Vision Iowa.

"We also continue to work with the Woodlyn Hills subdivision near Algona to secure funding from the Iowa DNR State Revolving Fund (SRF) for a new well. Nick Roethler and Jon Rosengren are working on this project"

Final design is starting for a new addition to the sanitary sewer for Livermore. "Nick Frederiksen is leading that effort which also has SRF funding." Construction started this month in Goldfield for a new force main. Gary Atherton is the inspector on site. "And we were recently hired by Havelock to develop a facility plan for a new sewer system—collection and treatment. They've been ordered by the DNR to get sewerred."

Kent Rode reports that the plans are complete for the middle school addition to the Algona Community High School. This project included site planning, sanitary and storm sewer and water planning, parking lot and parking resurfacing plans. Construction is expected in July. The Algona traffic signal project is currently on hold says Kent. "We are still getting rights-of-way for a



The cell at the Cherokee Landfill finished in September of 2008 just before waste filling began.

few small areas. Those signals are at US Highway 169 and MacGregor."

Work on construction of the HyVee warehouse in Cherokee is winding down; and paving and back fill have been completed at the Emmetsburg business park.

"Construction on the Algona Recreational Trail will start late summer and continue into early fall. This involves 1.2 miles of trail. The street improvements for Fort Dodge have gone to bid.

"And we are doing the site and paving design for Galva-Holstein Ag Coop to improve drainage on their property.

In Algona survey news, Tom Edgerton says that construction staking on Highway N-60 is continuing with paving due to start July 1. "We will also be going back into the Fort Dodge Mine in June to establish the boundary lines that are on top down in the mine: 240 feet below and underground."

Jeff Krueger in Sac City reports they are working on ALTA surveys for Farmers Coop in Odebolt, Yetter and Sac City. These are taking two to four weeks each. The Storm Lake office is working on the same project and doing the surveys for Newell, Ida Grove, and Sulfur Springs.

Scott also reports the Storm Lake office is doing construction staking for Cedar Valley, and also on seven miles of Highway 20 in Calhoun County. "We are also quoting on more construction staking for

Highway 20 in Calhoun and Webster counties."

Neal Kuehl provides an update on the Buena Vista County Sewer Study and reports that a public hearing was held for the South Shore on June 9 and a public hearing for Lake Creek scheduled for June 29. An election will be held on August 4 for both areas to determine if a separate sewer district will be formed for each area.

On the Laurens Well and Water Treatment Plant project, the well has been test pumped and developed. Says Neal, "The well produced up to 600 GPM with water of about the same or better quality than the existing well. Contracts have been awarded and a pre construction conference was held June 15 for the water plant renovations. Krudico, Inc. of Auburn is the contractor. Bids were well below our estimate with the Krudico bid at \$937,770. The City has been running a pilot plant to determine how the new filters will be operated. That has been successful. The project will be using approximately \$400,000 in stimulus money in the form of a forgivable loan through the SRF system."

Several wastewater projects are in planning and design.

Alta will be installing an AerOMod activated sludge treatment system. Site surveys and soil borings have been completed. Preliminary site planning is in progress. Alta received a \$500,000 CDBG to assist with the estimated

\$3.9 million dollar project. A Planning and Design loan is in place to assist with design.

Odebolt has secured a site for wastewater treatment improvements. Surveys and soil boring are complete and the preliminary lagoon layouts are underway. Final plans and specifications will be started in early summer. Odebolt is using a Planning and Design SRF loan to assist with the design.

The Newell site has been secured, surveys and soil boring are complete and preliminary layouts and site planning are underway.

Newell has CDBG, Waste Treatment Assistance Grants and SRF money including a Planning and Design loan to finance the project.

In Sioux Rapids, site survey and testing had been completed to determine disinfection method. Plans and specifications are to be started in late June. Sioux Rapids received both CDBG and SRF Stimulus money to assist with the project.

John Devitt and Tom Mason are completing plans and specs for reconstructing a sewer line to go under the new Newell school addition. The pipe will be encased and new manholes constructed.

The Pomeroy lagoon project is nearing completion. The new cell has been completed and the pump station placed on line. Work is continuing on rip rap and renovation

of the old lagoon. John Devitt along with Earl Zimmerman are working on the project.

Bob Payer reports that the **600th Street/East Milwaukee paving project** started May 26 and could be completed by the end of June. "The project involves 1.5 miles miles of Portland Cement Overlay and runs from US 71 west to the existing concrete street section. KPL is doing the construction staking as a subcontract to Cedar Valley. Buena Vista County has contracted KPL to do construction administration.

Storm Lake Street Projects are the 2009 HMA Overlay and Expansion Boulevard reconstruction. The pre construction meeting was held June 23. Work is to start July 6 and is to be completed by September.

The **reconstruction of 19th Street in Spirit Lake** began May 26. Says Bob, this involves two blocks of full

reconstruction of street and utilities between the new Court House and a new bank. It is to be completed by August.

Preliminary design is finished on the Ocheyedan River Bridge and approaches in Clay County. "We are waiting for Corps, IDNR and NEPA review and permit.

"We are also working on the **Wahpeton Bridge**, a small 22 foot by 24 foot slab bridge that replaces a 15 foot by 18 foot I-Beam with timber deck bridge. The survey and preliminary plans are complete and we are moving to final plans."

In **bridge inspections**, all the field work is done; the structure inventory and appraisal forms completed and work on updating and organizing material for filing the final documents with the owner is underway.

Ivan Droessler says the last two **Sara Lee turkey sites** have been identified and survey work will begin immediately.

Site grading is underway for a new **chicken laying operation for Hawkeye Pride in Hancock County.** "Additional drainage planning and design will be necessary due to wet soils. These design modifications are being headed up by Steven White. Also the final lagoon design with land application report is being prepared by Steven White and Tom Grafft. Lagoon construction is planned for next year."

In landfill news, RFPs are being prepared for contractors for **new well installations at the Cherokee landfill involving monitoring and gas monitoring wells.** Installation work should be complete by September 1 says Ivan. "**Construction on the horizontal expansion of the Cherokee landfill** has begun. This

\$400,000 effort is to be complete by September 1. Joy Dirt is the construction contractor, Earl Zimmerman is handling the inspection for KPL."

Drainage news

Ivan Droessler reports a large workload in drainage construction. "L. A. Carlson is the contractor on **Drainage District 6, Calhoun County.** This involves a five mile open ditch clean out. Approximately 50% of the excavation is complete. Greg Villegas is heading up the staking inspection. Brian Blomme is providing project engineering support."

Approximately 15% of the excavation is complete on the four mile open ditch clean out of the **Losey Drainage District in Monona County.** Again, Greg Villegas is supervising the staking inspection. **Continued, PROJECTS, page 4**

News about KPLers

Algona high school track team wins second at state

THREE OF KPL'S Algona family, **Alex Wiseman, Connor McGuire,** and **John Etler,** helped lead the Algona high school track team to a winning year.

During the regular season the team won all but one meet; and was the second place team at the Iowa Boys State Track Meet

in Des Moines where Connor ran in the 4X400. All three KPLers participated in both varsity and junior varsity events during the year.

Tangy Wiseman completed her first season in track as a seventh grader winning several races including two 800s and a 1500 race.

Isaac Droessler is the starting varsity catcher on the St. Mary's of Storm Lake baseball team. He is also in the pitching rotation. This team is off to a 4-7 start

with a very young team. The starting varsity includes one senior; two juniors; two sophomores; three freshman, and three eighth graders.

Academics

Katy Shevel, Storm Lake, graduated from high school this spring. She will attend Wartburg in the fall as a music therapy major.

Jill McGuire will be attending Hawaii Pacific University this fall to finish her BS in Nursing and a minor in psychology.

Summer intern

Adam Prilipp is working again this summer in the Algona office as a summer intern. Adam is a civil engineering student at Iowa State University.

Happy birthday

To **Sharon Gerdes** and **Gary Atherton** whose birthdays are July 6; to **Scott Shevel** whose birthday is July 16; to **Brian Blomme** whose



Jill McGuire at Kualoa Point, Oahu, Hawaii.



The Algona High School Track Team

birthday is July 21; to **Eric Yunginger** whose birthday is August 29; to **Nick Roethler** whose birthday is September 1; to **Greg Villegas** whose birthday is September 13; to **Bob Payer** whose birthday is September 17; and to **Jeff Krueger** whose birthday is September 30. ◀

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BACKLOG, continued ...

including the strong commodity prices. “Last year’s strong prices drove an increase in new drainage projects and it appears that the same thing is happening again this year.

“We see the grain market holding strong as we go forward. Worldwide, the grain surplus is extremely tight and this should continue to hold grain prices up. Argentina is having a terrible growing season for beans and that should support bean prices in the near term.

“Then, as the standard of living in China increases, so is their consumption of corn and pork. China is estimating an annual need for 200 million more hogs over the coming decade just to keep up with the people’s demand for meat. And it is estimated that it takes three to five times the amount of grain to produce food through animals—meat—than food through grain-based products.

“Volume in our agriculture projects—drainage and animal waste—are directly tied to what occurs worldwide in the commodity area.”

There will be some changes in the animal waste area over the short-term. The swine flu scare and high corn prices have really hit the hog production sector hard.

“Hog producers are having to cut back production and we are not receiving requests for engineering services to permit new sites. But, at the same time the increased regulations on beef feeding operations and the increase in poultry in Iowa will take up some of the slack resulting from fewer pork production facilities. We continue to work with two of the largest layer operations in Iowa; plus we have had the opportunity to design the layout for 34 new turkey feeding operations over a 6 year period. Two sites are remaining for this year.”

So federal funds flowing to infrastructure projects and a strong grain commodity market should work to keep KPL growing over the next few years. ◀

PROJECTS, continued ...

and Brian Blomme is providing engineering support.

FEMA repairs on Oliver Lake, Lateral #1 and Gray Lateral # E have begun. King Construction Company is doing the work.

In **district watchman activities**, the tree clearing contract for **Lateral 2, Drainage District 34, Buena Vista County** has been let and construction has begun. This involves about \$100,000 of tree clearing with work to be finished by the end of the year. Brian Blomme is providing inspection and project management.

Watchman repairs in Calhoun and Sac counties have been heavy this year. Greg Villegas is providing filed reviews and work order preparation along with repair inspection.

The engineer’s report for the open ditch clean out for **Drainage District 122 Calhoun County** has been filed with a hearing scheduled for July. Bid letting will be early fall with the open ditch clean out to begin after crop harvest. About 2.25 miles of clean out are involved.

The engineer’s report for clean out of **Drainage District 73, Sac County** is due in July with a late fall bid letting planned. This involves about three miles of open ditch.

The survey work on **Lateral #3 New Farmers Drainage District, Monona County** is complete with the engineer’s report due in July and construction possible in the fall. Three quarters of a mile of open ditch needs clean out.

Survey work on **Pratt Drainage District, Monona County** just began. The report for the open ditch clean out of a 1.75 mile ditch is planned for late fall, with an early spring bid.

Don Etler reports that the **reclassifications of Drainage District 120 Calhoun and 53 Branch, Drainage District 13, Pocahontas County** have been completed and accepted. “We have been hired to investigate and open **Drainage District 61 repairs in Palo Alto** and to review an

unusual tile lateral situation in **Joint Drainage District 60, Palo Alto and Clay Counties**. This tile is installed to three feet deep in a four to five feet deep peat bed. It is in highly organic soil that when drained subsides and the ground surface elevation drops. The entire cover on the tile has disappeared and exposed the tile.

“We have been hired to establish a new lateral to **close a drainage well in Joint Drainage District 2 and 36, Kossuth and Hancock counties**.

“Our assistance to **Drainage District 65 in Pocahontas County** was successful in securing federal incentives and infrastructure funding through the stimulus program. The district is eligible for a 20% grant and 80% loan.

“We are in line to take bids and construct three **CREP wetland projects this summer**. However all three present unusual design issues in dealing with subsurface sand or exceedingly tall outlet structures. Nick Roethler is handling these.

Drainage District 23, and Drainage District 5, Wright County, well closures are finished with investigation and entering preliminary design. Kent Rode is leading those projects.

If you would like more information about these or similar projects, talk to any of the people mentioned. ◀