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News Release

KRWA: Arkansas City has 'Best Tasting Water' in state of Kansas

Honor bestowed after blind taste test in March; Ark City advances to nationals

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. (July 17, 2019) — The best-tasting water in Kansas is produced by the City of Arkansas City.

So says the team of professionals who judged water samples from across the state as the “Best Tasting Water in Kansas” during the 52nd annual Conference and Exhibition for Water and Wastewater Utilities. The conference, which was sponsored by the Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA), was held March 26-28 at the Century II Convention Center in Wichita.

The water samples were judged with a blind taste test, according to KRWA Consultant Pat McCool, who came to a City Commission meeting Tuesday night to present the City with its award plaque.

A sample of water from Arkansas City will be submitted in February 2020 in the Great American Water Taste Test, which is held in conjunction with the National Rural Water Association's annual rally in Washington, D.C. KRWA is an affiliate of the National Association, which is a leading advocate for funding for water and wastewater system improvements through USDA Rural Development and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The new Water Treatment Facility was funded through the Kansas Public Water Supply Loan Fund, which is capitalized with funding that originates from the EPA.

The City of Arkansas City completed construction of its new Water Treatment Facility in late 2017 and the new facility entered service in March 2018. The reverse-osmosis plant was constructed by Walters-Morgan Construction, Inc., of Manhattan. The cost of the brand-new plant was \$16.874 million for construction and equipment, including \$58,380 for sodium fluoridation equipment.

“The ‘Best Tasting Water in Kansas’ contest is open to all public water systems in the state, regardless of their membership in the Kansas Rural Water Association,” said KRWA General Manager Elmer Ronnebaum. “The judging involved nearly two dozen samples; it was conducted anonymously by a team of water industry experts and also included several persons who work for public water systems.”

For immediate release

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The second-place sample in this year's contest, Ottawa County Rural Water District No. 2, is produced from groundwater. That system serves approximately 975 rural customers northeast of Salina.

The KRWA conference had registrations totaling nearly 2,300 people and featured 10 full-day preconference sessions on March 26, and 48 additional concurrent training sessions on March 27 and March 28. The conference also had 365 exhibit spaces filled with products and services for both the water and wastewater industries. KRWA provides training and technical assistance to cities and rural water districts across the state. Visit www.krwa.net to learn more about the Rural Water Association.

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