

NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2026

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of participating members of Rural Water District #1, Franklin County, Kansas, will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at the District Office, 107 E 2nd Street, Ottawa. The purpose of the annual meeting is to elect two (2) directors to serve three-year terms on the Board of Directors, to present the operating budget for 2026, and to transact any business presented at the meeting.

DIRECTORS AND 2025 BOARD ELECTION

The present Board of Directors (year term expires) are Brad O’Dea (2026), Gary Clark (2026), Larry Endecott (2027), Jason Killian (2027), Dawn Rumford (2027), Garrett Taylor (2028), and Ted Stoneking (2028).

Two Board positions are up for election in 2026. For that reason, the nominating committee presents the following slate of nominees: Brad O’Dea, Ottawa; Gary Clark, Wellsville. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

Right to Vote: According to the District bylaws, “only participating members shall have the right to vote, and each participating member shall be entitled to a single vote, regardless of the number of Benefit Units to which he may have subscribed. There shall be no proxy voting, and no dual ownership of Benefit Units for voting purposes. A participating member may be an individual, firm, partnership, association or corporation.

Participating members shall be owners of land located within the District who have subscribed to one or more Benefit Units, provided payment of charges are current on at least one of the Benefit Units.”

WATER RATES

Water rates will increase with the February meter readings by 25¢ per 1000 gallons. We understand that most of our customers are juggling multiple financial obligations, and we only increase rates to keep pace with the increase in the costs of providing service. For the average residential customer, this is an increase of about \$.75 per month. The monthly minimum will go from \$22.50 to 22.75 and will still include the first 1,000 gallons. Rate revenue supports system operations, repairs, and emergency reserves.

CLASS	2025 RATE/1000 GALLONS	2026 RATE/1000 GALLONS
RESIDENTIAL	10.47	10.72
LIVESTOCK	10.47	10.72
BUS/COM	10.73	10.98
INDUSTRIAL	10.93	11.18

NEVER BE LATE AGAIN!

Avoid those annoying late charges. Please consider signing up for automatic bank draft (ACH) to pay your water bill. There is no charge for this payment method, you will still receive a monthly statement showing the amount of the transaction, and funds will be withdrawn from your designated account on the 10th of the month. The form to authorize the transaction is available on our website or just stop by the office. No more worries about sending or receiving “snail mail!”

There are a wide variety of other payment options available and there is information about each on our website. Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have questions about any payment options.

CAUTION: If you pay electronically, please be sure to reference the correct water account number-- unless you want to pay someone else’s bill!!!

WHEN THINGS CHANGE

**Land lines are quickly disappearing, and cell phone numbers change. Please remember to let your water district know when you make changes. We won't make a nuisance of ourselves with unwanted calls, but we do try to contact our customers when we see a possible problem.

**We hate losing customers, but when you do sell your property (or move in with a new renter), please be sure to let our office know. There is some legal paperwork involved that we could take care of at your closing and make transfer of service easier for everyone.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT DOLLARS AT WORK

2025 was another productive year in the books for FRCO RWD#1. The new booster pump station that was mentioned in last year's newsletter was completed and put into operation. A large area of the district, West of Wellsville, noticed a much-needed boost in pressure. This new pump station sits right next to our water tower on Texas Rd., to the west of Wellsville. Not only does it provide a boost in pressure for a portion of the existing system, but it also provides the ability to push pressure farther north out of our current footprint, with hopes of stretching our rural water service to the outskirts of Baldwin City. Yet another benefit of this newly built station is that with this new year, we hope to start providing Wellsville with water coming from Hillsdale. This will give Wellsville an alternative water source, ending their time of a single source provider. In an additional attempt to bring more emphasis to the expansion of our district, we have applied for four different grants through the Kansas Water Office, for a total of \$1,229,527. These dollars would accomplish two large extensions and a pretty sizeable water main volume upgrade in one area that would allow us to both accept more customers and bring rural water to areas in need.

SIGN UP FOR ALERTS; FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK.

Do not be the last to know when a boil warning or advisory is issued for the District or "Why don't I have water when I'm sure I paid my bill!" We offer emergency alerts that you can receive by text and/or email. Go to the website, www.frcorwd1.org and sign up. It only takes a minute. You can also follow us on Facebook for current events and notices of work that might impact your pressure or water availability.



BRRRRR!! Jack Frost has really made himself unwelcome here lately! We hope that everyone has remained safe and warm through these arctic temps. With these cold temps, we like to remind folks whenever we can about how they can help to keep the water flowing. Most times, all that is needed is to ensure that the lid on your water meter pit is securely fitted into place, and that it hasn't been kicked to the side by summer activities such as mowing, farm work, or a water repair when you needed to shut the water off. That simple lid usually does 2 things well. It keeps the winter wind out, and the ground heat in. Next would be to cover with something non-metallic to help the lid do its job even better. Lastly, we encourage everyone to participate in the "Winter Drip". And no, that's not the cold that the kids brought home from school 😊. Running your water at 1/2 C. per minute flow, uses about 45 gallons per day. We sell 1,000 gallons of water for \$10.72. At this rate, you could run water continuously for a little over 22 days for \$10.72. This should be MORE than enough to keep you from freezing up. Repairs cost WAY more. Just keep that in mind 👍

WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. Our office hours are Monday - Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. The phone number is 785-242-5508. If Kim is on the phone, or with a customer, or running an errand and the phone is not picked up, please leave a message and she will return your call.



Two words that are simple to say but not said enough. It's our pleasure to serve you.