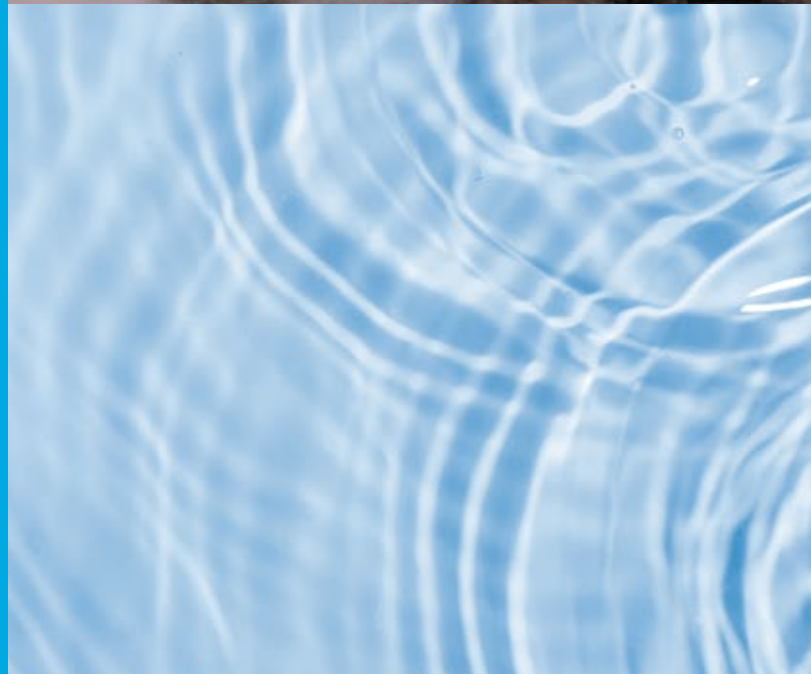




The Water Treatment Facility is a legacy project and the largest capital investment in the City's history. Water service is one of the most crucial services the City offers, and I'm honored to serve on the steering committee while we construct this facility to safeguard the future of our city's water.

Bryan Frye
District 5 Council Member
City of Wichita



WICHITA WATER WORKS



2022 Annual Report

Wichita Water Partners is a joint venture built around the design capabilities and construction leadership of Alberici and Burns & McDonnell.

Get in Touch

WichitaWaterWorks.com
Wichita.gov/Water
info@WichitaWaterWorks.com

800 E. First St., Suite 400
Wichita, KS 67202



WICHITA WATER WORKS

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“

This treatment plant is foremost about providing clean water to our residents, but also, it’s an important key to our regional economic development plan as it provides water to roughly half a million residents, not just Wichita, but in Derby, Valley Center and Andover.

Brandon Whipple
Mayor of Wichita



The Largest Capital Investment in Wichita’s History

Wichita’s \$500 million Northwest Water Facility (NWWF) will provide the residents of Wichita and surrounding areas with 120 million gallons of safe, clean water each day. The project is the largest capital investment in the City’s history and leverages the latest water treatment technologies to treat water from two very different sources – surface water from Cheney Reservoir and groundwater from the Equus Beds Aquifer. The NWWF will replace the City’s 80-year-old water treatment facility and is estimated to provide \$2 billion in local economic stimulus. At the close of March 2022, the construction of Wichita’s Northwest Water Facility was on schedule and 26% complete.



Addressing Supply Chain Constraints

The engineering and construction industries have experienced significant impacts from COVID-19 and the resulting supply chain shortages. Wichita’s NWWF has felt these impacts firsthand. Through forward planning and flexible scheduling, project leadership has kept the project on schedule.

To mitigate supply chain-related delays, the team has moved up the procurement of most materials and equipment. The team is procuring valves and piping as soon as the design allows and storing all the material on-site to minimize the opportunity for any disruptions or delays to the schedule. This requires additional field efforts to verify proper storage requirements are met for materials that are typically not stored on-site long-term.

“The supply chain challenges affect every aspect of material procurement, not just the larger items. We are buying consumable items in larger bulk quantities and storing them on-site as opposed to purchasing the materials as they are needed,” says John Smith, construction manager. “Many times we have to buy the materials the day they are quoted to maintain price control.”

Navigating COVID

While the site team has experienced COVID cases, the team has continued to make progress with minimal impacts to the project. “We credit the diligence of all site personnel to minimizing the spread and impact of COVID at the site,” says John Smith. “When individuals do feel ill, they are doing the right thing and staying home, and this helps keep their coworkers healthy and controls the spread of COVID.”

“

AGC of Kansas applauds the construction team and the City of Wichita for managing these COVID-19 challenges and moving the project forward.

Mike Gibson
Executive Vice President
Associated General Contractors of Kansas

Local Partnerships

An important aspect of any large infrastructure project is investing in the local community and keeping as many contracted dollars as possible circulating in the local economy. Thus far, the NWWF project has committed nearly \$100 million in contracts to more than 80 local businesses within the five-county region. From janitorial services, materials, equipment rentals, craft workers, design firms and professional services, the project team is committed to investing in Wichita's business community and local workforce.

\$100
MILLION IN
LOCAL
SUBCONTRACTS
COMMITTED
within the five-county region.

JTM Enterprise

JTM Enterprise, a local facility-support service contractor, specializing in custodial services, was recommended and on-boarded by Kansas Business Services to support on-site trailer cleaning operations. The team's diverse experience allowed them to move quickly when the project required additional site services unrelated to custodial support. JTM is a full-service janitorial and facilities maintenance company that's called Wichita home for more than 25 years.

Trinity Sales & Rental

Trinity Sales & Rental is a family-owned company that has provided construction equipment rentals, sales and maintenance to Wichita and the surrounding area for nearly 20 years. On the NWWF, they're providing the project with critical construction equipment, including aerial lifts, scissor lifts, boom lifts, and trench compactors.

Prestressed Concrete Construction

The precast concrete wall panels, columns and double tee beams needed for the filter building are being supplied by Wichita-area business Prestressed Concrete Construction. Approximately 350 different pieces of prestressed concrete are needed for the construction of the filter building alone. Prestressed Concrete Construction has been serving the Wichita community for more than 65 years with precast concrete solutions for the construction of bridges and large structural projects.

Cornejo & Sons, LLC

Cornejo & Sons, LLC, is supplying the site with more than 75,000 cubic yards of concrete throughout the duration of the project. Approximately 25,000 cubic yards have been placed on-site in the first two years of construction. Additionally, Cornejo is supplying all aggregate materials, including rock and gravel. Cornejo has supplied concrete, asphalt and aggregate materials to the Wichita-area for more than 70 years.

Meet Local Joint Venture Engineer Ty McGown

Wichita native Ty McGown has played a key role in the design and construction of the NWWF. In his role at Burns & McDonnell, McGown provides water and wastewater treatment services to numerous municipalities and industries. He has extensive experience in long-term planning, conditions assessments, design-build construction, operations, and project execution including chemical feed, membrane treatment, conventional treatment, and advanced oxidation processes.

In McGown's 12 years working in Wichita, he has been primarily focused on water treatment work for the region, but largely with the City of Wichita. He has worked on numerous projects at the City's water and wastewater facilities including several that led up to the current NWWF project. On Wichita's NWWF, McGown led the development of conceptual design of the facility and generated preliminary technical documents including a Letter of Interest for federal project funding.

McGown continues leading the design efforts of the NWWF through final design and will remain on-site overseeing the integration of the final design into construction. McGown was one of the first people to work on the NWWF and will likely be one of the last as he will remain on-site throughout the commissioning and startup phases of the project.



Local Design Firms

Design of Wichita's NWWF is near 100% complete thanks to the team of accomplished local design partners. With a combined presence of more than 500 years working in Wichita, eight of the area's leading design firms have played key roles in designing the City's largest capital investment in its 150-year history.

Professional Engineering Consultants

PEC has been in Wichita for nearly 60 years and has worked with the City on a number of large water and wastewater treatment projects. One notable project is the design and extensive coordination of the wastewater influent main that crosses the Arkansas River that includes 17,000 linear feet of 54-inch piping.

At Wichita's NWWF, PEC has designed key elements of the facility including the stormwater pump station, designed to withstand a 500-year storm event. The electrical infrastructure of the project is designed to have both primary underground power and complete backup power generation, adding resiliency to the plant. The PEC team has been integral in the coordination of a variety of trades and disciplines on-site, helping to minimize conflicts and seamlessly work through needed modifications between the various types of work.

PEC's work on the NWWF is led by Sarah Unruh, civil engineer and principal with the firm. Unruh has been with PEC for 15 years and specializes in the design of water and wastewater treatment plants. At the NWWF, Unruh is PEC's design project manager, providing oversight and leadership for all of PEC's design work on the site.



Local Design Firms

DuBois Consultants

Minority-Owned Business

DuBois's focus on water infrastructure makes them an ideal partner when it comes to implementing sustainable water-related engineering and project management solutions. Their civil engineering group has design experience with water main, sanitary sewer extension, and replacement projects.

At Wichita's Northwest Water Facility, DuBois has provided structural design services as a subconsultant to multiple design firms, while also providing structural design on key structures including the solids contact clarifiers and clearwells. DuBois has been a trusted emerging business partner in Wichita on numerous projects for nearly 35 years and has been a long-standing partner of Burns & McDonnell as both a designer and delivering large capital programs.

MKEC Engineering Services

For more than 40 years, MKEC's team of engineers, planners, landscape architects, and surveyors has delivered a range of projects in the City of Wichita.

At Wichita's NWWF, MKEC has designed the residuals handling area of the project including the residuals mix tank and the sludge and basin drain pump stations. They have also provided design for several aspects of offsite piping and the fiber optic network providing critical connections to other City facilities. Given the volume of existing utilities in the area and the density of the corridor, this offsite work has been particularly challenging. Alignment adjustments and coordination with both the project team and private utilities provided solutions to overcome these challenges.

GLMV Architecture, Inc.

GLMV designs buildings, landscapes, sustainable environments, and master plans throughout the country and has completed projects in 49 states. The firm has been in business for over 100 years and is headquartered in Kansas City with regional offices in Wichita and Houston.

On-site at Wichita's NWWF, GLMV has designed the facility's maintenance building that will provide work areas for equipment maintenance and finished spaces for maintenance personnel to complete administrative work. GLMV is also serving as a subconsultant to MKEC for the architectural portion of the sludge and basin drain pump station.

McAfee3 Architects, Inc.

Woman-Owned Business, Minority-Owned Business

This 100% female-owned, African American firm was founded in 1963 by renowned Wichita architect Charles F. McAfee. Ownership transitioned in 2006 to his daughters, Cheryl L. McAfee and Charyl McAfee-Duncan. Today, McAfee3 is recognized as an award-winning architectural firm that is nationally known for excellence in design, production, and client service.

McAfee3 Architects is working on both the architecture for the finished water pump stations and the high service pump station at the NWWF. The pump stations are one of the final steps in the process of delivering the plant's treated water to City of Wichita customers. The collective experience of the firm's leadership exceeds 150 years of architectural and management experience. In addition to Wichita, McAfee3 has designed several large water utility projects for the City of Atlanta, including the design of four water treatment plants and two pump stations in the region.



Schaefer Johnson Cox Frey Architecture (SJCF)

SJCF was established in Wichita more than 60 years ago and has accomplished hundreds of projects across the U.S. in every scope, size, and area, including corporate, community, education, recreation, and worship. The team is proud to have the opportunity to contribute their design and expertise to a major project that will serve the city of Wichita well into the future.

The administration building on-site at Wichita's NWWF will house administrative staff and a National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (NELAP) certified laboratory. The facility includes 6,000 square feet of lobby, training, conference and office space and 8,000 square feet of labs, tech stations and accessory spaces. The training room is oriented with views of the site and will accommodate up to 80 individuals. There are five certified labs including bacteriology, metals, organics, drinking and wastewater, and instrumentation. The building also houses an auxiliary control room to manage the water treatment facility in an emergency.

While meeting the challenge of rapidly rising construction costs, we were able to create a visually-appealing design including a soaring roof, expanses of glass, brick, colorful metal panels and architectural sunshades.

Justin Graham
Vice President, SJCF

Dudley Williams & Associates

Disadvantaged Business

Dudley Williams & Associates' (DWA) talented team of engineers has been in Wichita for 70 years and played a key role in the design of projects nationwide for commercial enterprise, corporate offices, educational and health care facilities, government and military buildings, manufacturing facilities, special event centers and recreational facilities.

The DWA team has provided structural design subcontracting services to several consultants on the NWWF project. Their design includes structural work on the administration building, maintenance building, lime residuals mix tank, sludge and basin drain pump station, and the Hess flow control vault.

Gravity::Works Architecture

Disadvantaged Business

Gravity::Works Architecture (GWA) has built a reputation for innovation and performance across civic, higher education, industrial and workspace projects and has called Wichita home for nearly 75 years.

GWA has designed the architectural portion of the generator building at the NWWF. The building is a crucial component to the plant as it houses the redundant electrical distribution system ensuring continuous operation at all times. Special considerations were given to the building design to resist storm and tornado damage including using a pre-cast concrete building and paying special attention to all building openings to protect equipment and maintain all functionality in a storm event.

Procurement Outreach

Local Commitments

Wichita Water Partners is committed to enriching the City’s local business community and providing opportunities for emerging business enterprises (EBEs) to contract on this legacy project. Nearly \$32 million has been committed to emerging, disadvantaged, minority-owned and woman-owned business enterprises at the time of this report’s release. Outreach efforts to identify qualified businesses and assist them with the City’s certification process are ongoing and will continue through the procurement period of the project.



We’re working to diversify the supplier network to bring more local firms and local talent to the project. This includes removing hurdles small businesses face and pursuing work on large projects. It will also provide alternative bonding and insurance programs to help small companies grow capacity and quick pay programs to assist with cash flow.

Brandon Johnson
District 1 Council Member
City of Wichita

Darrius Wright, Kansas Business Services

Darrius Wright, co-owner of Kansas Business Services (KBS), has played an integral role in identifying and diversifying local partners for the NWWF project. The project team strives to incorporate a wide variety of emerging small businesses to support the design and construction of this legacy project, while also providing opportunities for other community businesses that might not otherwise have access to learn the emerging business enterprise (EBE) registration procedures.



“The NWWF project, and specifically Wichita Water Partners’ EBE recruitment and certification support efforts, have exponentially increased the depth of the City’s EBE program participation. This means more diverse, small businesses with more organizational sustainability,” says Wright.

Kansas Business Services has provided nearly 100 potential suppliers/vendors/contractors to WWP and their prime subcontractors for participation on the NWWF project. One of those contractors is the aforementioned JTM Enterprise. Wright recommended, certified and on-boarded JTM Enterprise, enabling them to provide on-site janitorial services to WWP. KBS has directly certified 42% of the certified firms working on the project, and they have certified another nine firms currently seeking opportunities to support the NWWF project.

In addition to assisting with the City’s certification process, Wright has hosted three workshops throughout the last twelve months with Wichita Water Partners, both in-person and virtually, with more than 30 local businesses in attendance. In these workshops, Wright discusses the process and benefits of certifying businesses with the City of Wichita, while also sharing work opportunities available to subcontractors to participate in the bidding process and gain large-scale project experience.

Kansas City EBE Information Session

In an effort to expand the pool of potential disadvantaged firms participating on Wichita’s \$500 million water treatment facility, Wichita Water Partners hosted an in-person emerging business workshop at the Kansas City headquarters of joint-venture partner Burns & McDonnell in June of 2021. Participants heard from Ron Coker, Senior Vice President of Water at Burns & McDonnell; as well as Darrius Wright of Kansas Business Services; Michelle Word, Burns & McDonnell’s Diversity Supplier Director; and Evan Menkes, on-site procurement manager for Wichita Water Partners.

Together, Coker and team shared available work packages and discussed the resources available to small businesses interested in registering with the City of Wichita. Attendees were encouraged to apply for the City of Wichita’s EBE program and were provided details on how to bid on NWWF work packages. Seven Kansas City-area businesses were in attendance.

Virtual EBE Workshop

In partnership with Kansas Business Services, Wichita Water Partners hosted a virtual certification workshop in September of 2021, guiding interested small businesses through the process of certifying their business with the City of Wichita. Six local businesses were in attendance. WWP and KBS have assisted nearly half of all companies contracted on the project through the certification process, growing the EBE business contribution to the project by more than \$32 million.



Procurement Event

Wichita Water Partners hosted an in-person procurement and networking event in January 2022 at the Sedgwick County Zoo. The event provided an opportunity for local subcontractors to learn about available project work for Wichita’s Northwest Water Facility. The \$500 million project is anticipated to take 1.6 million trade hours to complete.

Two dozen local subcontractors in attendance heard from project team leaders regarding available and upcoming work packages as well as how to get involved in the bid process. Representatives from the Small Business Association and Kansas Business Services were present to discuss the resources available to small businesses looking to navigate the procurement process or get certified with the City of Wichita as an emerging business, woman-owned business, minority-owned business, or disadvantaged business.



In-Person EBE Workshop

In March of 2022, Wichita Water Partners hosted an in-person Emerging Business Certification Workshop for businesses interested in learning more about becoming certified (EBE/DBE/MBE/WBE) with the City of Wichita. The event took place on-site at Wichita’s Northwest Water Facility. Kansas Business Services discussed the benefits of certification through the City and walked participants through the process, step-by-step. More than a dozen local businesses participated in the workshop.



The EBE Workshop I attended was so informative. I was planning to take my business to the next level, and now I think with the tips and tools provided, I just may be able to do so.

Leticia Lopez
Owner
Print Room, LLC

Construction Update

It will take about five years to build the Northwest Water Facility. At the peak of construction, approximately 350 workers will be on-site constructing Wichita's new, state-of-the-art water treatment facility. The design and construction leadership of national joint-venture partner firms Alberici and Burns & McDonnell, along with a strong team of local design and construction partners, make up Wichita Water Partners. This team has delivered on-time and on-budget design-build water facilities in Wichita and around the country. Everything is on track for Wichita's largest design-build project to come in on schedule and under budget.



It is a privilege to be a part of the largest capital project for the City, to be able to help the City move into the future with the infrastructure needed to serve the community for decades to come.

Sarah Unruh Civil Engineer & Principal, PEC

Year Two Construction Timeline

2021									2022		
March-April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March
											
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First slab on grade placement in the filter building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design Package 2 approved• First pipe deliveries received	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First concrete placement on filter containment walls in the filter building	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Warehouse building delivered• Design Package 3 approved• Filter building slab on grade concrete complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chlorine contact basin starts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pipe installation begins• Solids contact clarifiers excavation underway• First chlorine contact basin slab on grade concrete placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First center column on the solids contact clarifiers is placed• First concrete wall placements in the chlorine contact basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Warehouse building complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design 95% complete	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First solids contact clarifier underslab concrete placed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• First filter building operations deck concrete placement• Design Package 4 approved	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concrete wall placement on the solids contact clarifiers

All project photos in this report courtesy of Hodnett Photographics, LLC.

75,000
CUBIC YARDS
OF CONCRETE

18M+
POUNDS
OF REBAR

450,000+
CUBIC YARDS OF
EARTHWORK/
EXCAVATION/BACKFILL

17+
MILES OF PIPE
ON PLANT SITE

1.6M
TRADE HOURS

20,000+
SQUARE FEET
OF FINISHED
BUILDING SPACE



Top: Aerial view of the site, looking east.
 Bottom left: Construction work at the solids contact clarifiers.
 Bottom center: Interior concrete construction and pipe installation at the filter building.
 Bottom right: Reinforcing bar installation at the solids contact clarifiers.

Construction Update

Filter Building

The filter building is enclosed with the completion of the filter containment walls in February 2022. Placement of the operations deck is underway, and pipe has been installed on the lower gallery level and on the exterior of the building. Over the course of the past year, the team has placed over 17,000 cubic yards of concrete to construct the filter building foundations and filter walls. Large diameter pipe has been installed on the interior and exterior of the structure. The project team will continue with concrete construction focusing attention now on placing the operations level decks and enclosing the structure. Mid-year 2022, precast concrete will be erected atop the concrete structure, providing enclosure of the upper level of the filter building.

Pipe Deliveries

The project team began procurement of pipes and valves in 2021, and in 2022, the material is being delivered to the job and staged until ready for installation. In total, the site will use nearly 90,000 linear feet of piping. The largest of the pipes, ranging in diameter from 16 inches to 54 inches, will be ductile iron pipe or DIP. This type of pipe is commonly used for the transmission of potable water and will make up nearly half of all the pipe used on-site. PVC pipe will account for the other half of the on-site piping and will range in diameter from 4 to 16 inches.

Chlorine Contact Basin

Construction of the concrete foundation is nearly complete, and construction of the concrete walls is underway along with the installation of the pump cans that will hold the finished water pumps. Work will continue over the next year including completion of the slab on grade foundations, exterior chamber walls, interior divider walls and enclosing the roof structure. Installation of piping and equipment will occur in the latter part of 2022.

Solids Contact Clarifiers

Four of the six clarifiers have been excavated, concrete center columns have been placed and the backfill is complete. Concrete underslab has been placed on two of the six clarifiers, and wall construction has begun on the first clarifier. Influent pipe has been installed and concrete has been encased on four of the six clarifiers. Over the course of 2022, the team will complete concrete construction of the clarifiers and will begin installing the equipment and piping.

Warehouse Building

The construction of the warehouse building is complete and it's being used to store and protect materials as they are delivered to the site. To mitigate supply chain issues, and the associated impacts to the construction schedule, the project team opted to construct the temporary warehouse on-site to receive and store long lead time items like valves.

Administration Building

At nearly 14,000 square feet, the Administration Building will provide office space for the plant management staff and 12-15 employees and support staff. The lab portion of the building will allow staff to perform analytical work for the water treatment plant as well as for additional City of Wichita facilities and other agencies in the south-central region.

Due to security measures associated with the operations of the facility, most of the building will not be publicly accessible; however, there will be a large conference room available for public meetings. Foundation work is underway and building construction will begin summer 2022.

Q-D Construction and RAVA Construction

Emerging Business, Minority-Owned Business

Assisting emerging businesses with growth in both capacity and capabilities is an important part of Wichita Water Partners' commitment to the local construction community. Q-D Construction (Q-D), a local Wichita construction business, is an example of an emerging business that has worked with the joint venture to begin in that growth journey. Teaming multiple companies with complementary resources is often the best avenue for growth.

Wichita Water Partners met with the leadership of RAVA Construction (RAVA), a disadvantaged business partner out of Houston, Texas, to create a partnership with Q-D that provides financial strength, resource growth and access to a much larger role on the project. In addition to assisting Q-D with a growth opportunity, WWP, in partnership with KBS, was able to assist both Q-D and RAVA in obtaining EBE certification status in the City of Wichita's program, while also expanding the construction capacity of the City's EBE program.

"Q-D is excited to forge new partnerships while working on a project of great significance for our city," says Dale Diggs, president and founder of Q-D Construction and Diggs Construction. "We look forward to contributing our company's expertise and talent as part of the remarkable project team that has been assembled."

Q-D Construction, which is associated with Diggs Construction, is a woman-owned, minority-owned business based in Wichita for the past 45 years.



Dale Diggs, Q-D Construction Atul Raj, RAVA Construction

The Q-D/RAVA team will be providing construction management and oversight of the chemical feed and disinfection facilities, with an overall budgeted value of approximately \$15M.

"RAVA is honored to partner with Wichita-based Q-D Construction on this project. Q-D is led by Dale Diggs and brings a wealth of local knowledge and relationships to the team," shares Atul Raj, president of RAVA Construction.

RAVA is a minority-owned business based out of Houston, Texas. The firm's leadership team is comprised of seasoned construction professionals who have worked together for over 30 years.



Chemical feed building



Disinfection building

Safety is First

Construction is one of the most dangerous professions. It's imperative that everyone on-site is actively engaged in protecting themselves and one another. Wichita Water Partners has a full-time safety team administering the site's safety plan, providing regular safety training, and observing workers on-site ensuring safety best practices are in place. Contractor teams with 25 or more employees working on-site are required to have a dedicated safety manager present during work hours. All-hands weekly safety meetings are held every Tuesday morning and cover a variety of relevant safety topics. Other safety initiatives for craft workers include the Ugly Boot Competition, where individuals submitted their worn work boots and the winner received a brand-new pair of boots, and the recurring Golden Broom Award, recognizing the team with the cleanest job site with a traveling trophy to display at their job site for the month.

Spanish Language Safety Workshop

Wichita Water Partners is working with Humberto Jimenez, a local Wichita citizen, to bridge the language gap between English and Spanish speaking team members. Humberto has performed Spanish OSHA 10 and English OSHA 10 training with WWP's craft personnel and is working with the site management team to teach construction terminology in Spanish, ensuring safety is a top priority for all workers. Bi-weekly, hour-long sessions are hosted over a span of twelve weeks and attendees learn key words and phrases to improve communication and efficiency.



Meredith Butler, Alberici



Meredith Butler is a project engineer with Alberici Constructors on the Northwest Water Facility. Prior to starting with Alberici in June 2021, Butler graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Kansas. During college, Butler had three internships in construction management. The first was with Garney Construction on a wastewater facility expansion project. Her second and third internships were both with Alberici Constructors, working in Ottumwa, Iowa, at a coal-fired generating station project and then at the St. Louis Botanical Gardens Visitor Center project.

Since starting with Wichita Water Partners, Butler has demonstrated her ability to be of service to the project team by championing the management of the Ferguson process pipe and equipment scope. She is responsible for equipment maintenance, material tracking, receiving material, asset management, cost control, lead time management, procurement, and work plans as it corresponds to the Ferguson scope.

At any given time, Butler manages 50 or more submittals in the review process. Since beginning to work with the process system, her favorite part is learning something new about pipe every day and solving complex problems. Out of the three markets Butler has worked in, she hopes to continue to develop and grow her career in the water market. She sees it as a way to improve the well-being of the community.



This water infrastructure project will assure the citizens of Wichita and the surrounding communities with vital water resources for the next 75-80 years. At the same time, this \$500 million project will have an economic impact to our region of \$2 billion (per AGC of America's Chief Economist, Ken Simonson, Washington D.C.) and the lion's share of this project investment/tax base will remain in the region."

Mike Gibson
Executive Vice President
AGC of Kansas

Apprenticeship



First Day of Classes

As part of Alberici and Burns & McDonnell’s commitment to growing local workforce opportunities in association with the design and construction of Wichita’s new Northwest Water Facility, the joint venture partnered with WSU Tech to cover tuition for six students enrolled in either the Registered Apprenticeship in Construction Science Program or other construction-related programs. Classes for the first cohort of apprentices began in August of 2021.

“The partnership is beneficial for all involved,” shared Ron Coker, Senior Vice President, Burns & McDonnell. “The students get the benefit of hands-on learning in both the classroom and on the job site, the employer benefits from a dedicated workforce eager to learn and grow, and the City benefits by introducing a new generation, some of which may never have been exposed to construction, into the City’s construction workforce.”

All apprentices are employed full-time for the duration of the program and will have the opportunity to work on Wichita’s Northwest Water Facility, the replacement for the city’s current 80-year-old water treatment facility. The state-of-the-art water treatment facility is expected to be fully operational in 2025.

The team anticipates funding more than \$10,000 in tuition, books and fees for each apprenticeship completed as part of this program. Sponsors of the program include CAS Constructors, Decker Electric, Dondlinger Construction and Wildcat Construction.

“We’re proud to have Dondlinger Construction as a partner on this project. Their commitment to workforce development is an asset to the construction industry and to the City of Wichita.”

Ron Coker
Senior Vice President, Burns & McDonnell
Project Sponsor, Wichita Water Partners



Program Overview

In August 2021, Wichita Water Partners’ first cohort of students started classes at WSU Tech. The project funded tuition, books and fees for four certified apprenticeship students and also covered the cost of tuition and books for two additional students pursuing degrees in construction science.



A Commitment to Local Workforce Development

Dondlinger Construction has been at the forefront of providing opportunities for those interested in a career in construction in the Wichita region. In May 2021, they graduated WSU Tech’s first apprentice from the Certified Apprenticeship in Construction Science Program, Wendy Reyes. She successfully completed the two-year program, attending classes at WSU Tech while working under a construction mentor at Dondlinger during that span of time. Today, Reyes works on-site at Wichita’s Northwest Water Facility as the safety manager for the Dondlinger team.

November National Apprenticeship Week

The project team observed National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) by highlighting the four project-sponsored WSU Tech apprentices through a social media campaign of photos and videos. NAW hosts events nationally to celebrate industry, labor, equity, workforce, education, and government leaders that are successfully fulfilling their registered apprenticeship responsibilities. Apprenticeship programs have the potential to advance the economy and provide additional support for underprivileged communities with diverse backgrounds. WWP’s apprentices have taken on the role in rebuilding Wichita’s water infrastructure.

About the Team

Wichita’s Northwest Water Facility is a marquee project for the City of Wichita and for the joint venture of Alberici and Burns & McDonnell. Over the last 25 years, Alberici and Burns & McDonnell have partnered on more than 35 design-build projects in the U.S. water sector, totaling \$1.43 billion in projects delivered. Both firms are ranked in ENR’s 2021 Top 20 for water treatment and wastewater treatment firms. Alberici is ranked #30 for largest contractors in the U.S., and Burns & McDonnell is #8 on ENR’s list of Top 500 design firms and #6 on their list of Top 100 design-build firms.



City Council Site Visit

Project leadership hosted an on-site presentation and tour of the construction site for City Council and members of the project team in June of 2021. In attendance were City Council Members Becky Tuttle, Cindy Claycomb and Jared Cerullo (left to right) along with leadership from each of the tier one contractor teams. Project leadership presented construction and design updates, Kansas Business Services provided updates on outreach and participation, and WSU Tech discussed the benefits of their apprenticeship program.

District 5 Advisory Board Presentation and Follow-Up Site Visit

In July of 2021, project leadership presented updates to Bryan Frye, Fifth District Councilman and his district advisory board. During the presentation, Councilman Frye described the project as the City’s largest infrastructure investment ever and shared that the project will have a generational impact. As a follow-up to the presentation, Councilman Frye and his District 5 Advisory Board were given a site tour and had the opportunity to see the progress made during the first year of construction.

Operator Training Conference, Topeka, Kansas

Members of the project team presented at the Operator Training Conference in August of 2021 to both operators and representatives of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The team highlighted the redundancy of the NWWF and discussed the advantages of treating surface and ground water simultaneously in one facility.