



TRANSFORMING PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Midwest Sewer District Replaces Outdated Systems, Streamlines Workflow with Kahua



Introduction

A sewer district in the Midwest, located on one of the Great Lakes, is responsible for wastewater and stormwater management, which serves nearly one million residents. This utility was facing the challenge of managing combined sewers that overflow during heavy rainstorms, causing untreated wastewater to be discharged into the lake.

To address this issue, the district initiated a 25-year plan aimed at reducing wastewater outfall into the lake by approximately 90%. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$3 billion.

The district was relying on outdated processes – such as paper-based systems and inefficient workflows – to manage its projects and contracts. That approach led to lost documents and delays in reviewing and approving drawings. Leaders recognized the need for a more efficient and streamlined project management information system (PMIS) to support the project and handle its increasing number of projects.

Challenges

With the realization that its existing way of managing projects – with data stored on SharePoint 2010 and in Excel spreadsheets – was obsolete and lacked necessary functionalities, the district began searching for a new [infrastructure construction management](#) tool. The agency's applications and systems support lead said the district had a clear understanding of the data it needed to store, the workflows it required and the reporting capabilities it desired.

What it needed was a PMIS that could handle specific needs, offer strong reporting tools and allow for customization and extension of the application; project and contract management were also necessary.

Solution

The agency chose Kahua as its [cloud-based construction management software](#). Kahua Senior Product Manager in Professional Services Jim Harrington was instrumental in implementation efforts, and he said the agency made a wise selection.

“When I saw those SharePoint forms that they’d been using and could compare that with what we were going to be able to do for them, I knew we’d have a large impact on their processes. Moving from a form-based system to Kahua would be like night and day. Before Kahua, very little was automated because they were working mostly with spreadsheets, and Kahua could create great efficiency for them.”

Jim Harrington
Senior Product Manager in Professional Services, Kahua

The utility found great value in linking schedule tasks to the pay app capability, which streamlined a previously onerous process. They are now able to easily acquire approvals for pay requests, which makes a huge difference. The utility can receive pay requests for \$10 million a month, with invoices of hundreds if not thousands of line items, and Kahua can facilitate disbursement with ease.

Harrington said that the agency’s commitment to the Kahua implementation and creating buy-in from all stakeholders set the stage for success.

The agency also created its own “apps” (processes and functionality) specific to how it runs its programs on Kahua’s flexible, [low-code application platform](#).

The utility reported that Kahua’s RFI, submittals and contract management apps to better reflect the sewer district’s schedule-driven business practices were game-changers. At

the agency’s request, Kahua created timesheet management functionality, which generated pay requests based on the linear feet of pipe work completed.

These apps have replaced the outdated systems and streamlined project and contract management processes.

Feedback from internal and external users indicate that Kahua has provided a much more comprehensive and user-friendly experience compared to SharePoint.

The agency plans to continue expanding its use of Kahua by integrating it with Oracle Enterprise Business Suite to streamline invoice approval processes. The district also aims to leverage Kahua Analytics, fueled by Power BI reporting

capabilities, to gain valuable insights from project data. Additionally, the sewer district is exploring the asset centric functionality within Kahua and its potential integration with its existing asset management system, Next Gen.

Conclusion

Kahua’s implementation at the sewer district has significantly improved project and contract management processes. By replacing outdated systems and streamlining workflows, it has made great progress towards achieving its lake-cleaning goals.

Why Kahua

- Strong cost and contract management
- Full lifecycle solution
- Ability to configure and customize solution themselves
- Intuitive user interface
- Easy access to data

Choose Kahua

Kahua is a leading provider of capital program and construction project management software, enabling innovation that is changing the way that capital programs are planned and delivered. Global organizations use Kahua’s collaborative solution to improve efficiency, lower costs and reduce project risk throughout the entire lifecycle of their capital programs. Our purpose-built solutions for owners, program managers and contractors enable rapid implementation that minimizes time-to-value and enhances user adoption. With the industry’s only low-code application platform, customers can easily customize existing Kahua apps or even build their own new apps to run their business at peak efficiency today and rapidly adapt as business conditions dictate.

Learn more and request a demo today or email us at: connect@kahua.com



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