



## Successful Chemical Leak Drill



Staff at Beaver Water District heard the call at about 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 22, over phone intercom systems throughout the plant site. Evacuation was ordered and everyone stopped whatever they were doing to rush to vehicles and drive to the Jones Center parking lot in Springdale.

At 8:30 a.m., Beaver Water District called 911 to report a chemical leak. That's when the action began. As it turned out, this was a drill, but District personnel were not aware that it was a practice scenario. And that was the whole idea.

Beaver Water District, Rogers, Lowell, Bella Vista and Springdale Fire Departments, and regional Hazmat teams conducted a successful chemical leak drill that day. Others participating included area police departments, Washington County Emergency Management, Siloam Springs, and Fayetteville responders.

Strategic planning leading up to the drill had been ongoing for a long time.

“Our plant engineer, plant manager and maintenance supervisor worked with area fire and police departments and regional hazmat teams to plan this drill for several months,” said Alan D. Fortenberry P.E., CEO of Beaver Water District. “The fire departments actually approached us about doing the drill. We extend a big thanks to all those who participated for their public service to us and Northwest Arkansas. Beaver Water District’s main objective is to be prepared in the case of emergencies, which serves to minimize interruptions to our customers’ water service – that’s the bottom line. It was a good job by everyone.”

Larry Lloyd, COO for the District, said that once en route, emergency vehicles were told by the dispatchers that this was a drill. Meanwhile, the

*Continued on page 2*

Successful Chemical Leak Drill continued from page 1



*Communication is put to the test during a drill scenario. Lenny Millar, Maintenance Supervisor with Beaver Water District (front) is pictured here with Captain Joe West of the Lowell Fire Department. They are speaking with Battalion Chief James Hales of the Springdale Fire Department.*

Lowell Police Department set up a secure perimeter on roads leading to the plant site. The Springdale Fire Department set up a perimeter and command center onsite at the plant, which is located off of Primrose Road. District maintenance personnel, trained in containing and repairing equipment and in hazardous materials response, donned hazmat suits and self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBAs) to conduct a series of mini-drills on site. These drills included one team evaluating the leak and the second team containing the leak.

“It is good experience for everybody,” said Rick Sims, a Maintenance Mechanic II on staff. His supervisor, Lenny Millar, agreed. “We’ve provided onsite tours to fire and emergency response personnel for years in preparation for a possible chemical leak or other emergency,” he said. “But with this drill, our staff was able to practice working face to face with responders who are there to provide the

support we would need as we go about our jobs. These first responders also are there to provide medical support. They would deal with injuries and transport.”

This is the first time Beaver Water District has included area responders for a chemical leak drill, said Bill HagenBurger, Plant Engineer with the District. “Drills like this provide a great opportunity for everyone to practice using equipment in a non-emergency situation,” he said. “We are planning and training for contingencies.”

Captain Lance Loyer of the Rogers Fire Department, agreed. “It’s good for us to get onsite and get real-world training. Being able to come here provides us with an opportunity to adjust strategies and tactics.”

In a follow-up meeting held in August to evaluate how the drill went, participants decided to explore scheduling additional trainings and drills at Beaver Water District in 2015.

# Beaver Water District Receives Governor's Quality Award



*(From left) Gov. Mike Beebe, Beaver Water District CFO Steve Russell, Beaver Water District Public Affairs Director Amy Wilson, and Marcus Guinn, Executive VP of Arvest in Little Rock.*

Gov. Mike Beebe presided over his last Governor's Quality Awards banquet on Sept. 15th, when he presented 28 Arkansas organizations with awards for performance and organizational excellence. Gov. Beebe presented the Governor's Award for Performance Excellence, the most prestigious award, to J.V. Manufacturing of Springdale, Baldor Electric Company of Fort Smith, and Conway Regional Health System. Talk Business & Politics Editor-in-Chief Roby Brock emceed the ceremony. Gov. Beebe and Brock entertained the crowd of more than 400 people with humorous banter throughout the event, which was held in the ballroom of the Marriott Hotel in downtown Little Rock. Gov. Beebe, clearly enjoying himself, personally presented all of the awards.

The Achievement Level Award was presented to DD&F Consulting Group of Little Rock, Mainstream Technologies of Little Rock, National Guard Professional

Education Center of North Little Rock, North Arkansas College of Harrison, Saline Memorial Hospital of Benton, and St. Elizabeth's Place of Jonesboro.

Northwest Arkansas Community College of Bentonville, M. O. Ramay Junior High School of Fayetteville, and Spring Creek Health and Rehab Center of Cabot each received the Commitment Level Award.

Gov. Beebe presented Challenge Level Awards to Alcoa Pines Health and Rehabilitation of Benton, Beaver Water District of Lowell, Belle Meade of Paragould, Boston Mountain Rural Health Center Inc. of Marshall, Conway Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center, Gosnell Therapy and Living of Blytheville, The Green House Cottages of Southern Hills in Rison, Katherine's Place at Wedington in Fayetteville, Mountain Meadows Health and Rehabilitation of Batesville, ProCare Therapy Services of

*Continued on page 4*

*Governor's Quality Award* continued from page 3

Sherwood, Professional Nursing Solutions LLC Corporate Office, Southern Administrative Services Corporate Office, Southern Trace Rehabilitation and Care Center of Bryant, Southridge Village Retirement Center of Heber Springs, Village Springs Health and Rehabilitation of Hot Springs, and Westwood Health and Rehab Inc. of Springdale.

Created as a not-for-profit organization, the Governor's Quality Awards Program is dedicated to building a strong infrastructure for Arkansas businesses. That dedication is reflected in the program's vision to be a catalyst for excellence in organizational performance. To qualify for the awards, companies must undergo a rigorous series of internal and external reviews from trained evaluators. Through the process, which is based on

the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, recipients receive an in-depth evaluation of their management systems and a written feedback report citing strengths and areas for improvement. The goal of the Governor's Quality Award Program is to encourage Arkansas organizations to engage in continuous quality improvement, which leads to performance excellence, and to provide significant recognition to those organizations. The Governor's Quality Award Program partners with the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce. Organizations and companies interested in participating in the program should contact Executive Director Sue Weather with the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce by calling 501-372-2222 or visit [www.arkansas-quality.org](http://www.arkansas-quality.org).

## Adam Motherwell Joins Beaver Water District Staff

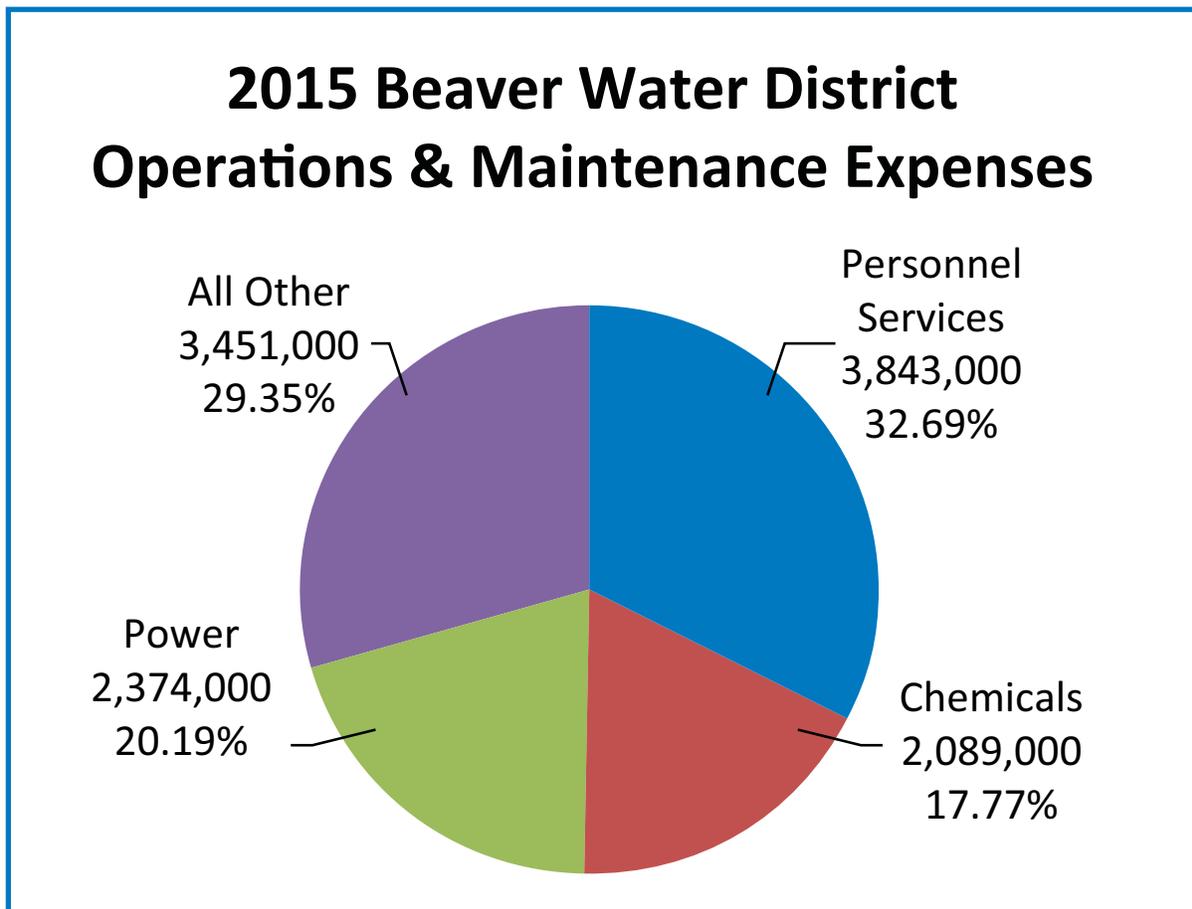
Adam Motherwell of Fayetteville has joined the staff of Beaver Water District in Lowell. Motherwell will move into the Chief Financial Officer position upon the retirement in the spring of Steve Russell of Springdale.

Motherwell is an honors graduate of the Walton College of Business with 36 years of experience. For the past 14 years, he served as the Associate Dean for Finance & Administration in the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. His experience includes corporate auditor, Arkansas Division of Legislative auditor, and University of Arkansas System Auditor. His credentials include Certified Public Accountant (CPA), past Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), University of Arkansas Credit Union Treasurer, and Chairman of the Audit Committee for the City of Fayetteville.

Beaver Water District's mission is to serve our customers' needs by providing high quality drinking water that meets or exceeds all regulatory requirements and is economically priced consistent with our quality standards. The District supplies treated drinking water sourced from Beaver Lake to more than 300,000 people and industries in Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville and surrounding areas. These cities then resell the water to surrounding towns and communities. For more information, visit [www.bwdh2o.org](http://www.bwdh2o.org).



# Board Approves 2015 Budget



Beaver Water District's Board of Directors met Aug. 28 and approved a fiscal year 2015 budget of \$21.7 million. The total budget includes debt service, source water protection, reserve funding and operations and maintenance. The operations and maintenance budget portion is \$11.7 million (see illustration here). The overall increase to the Operations & Maintenance Fund is only 2.3%.

"While power cost, service costs, and source water protection costs have increased, our chemical costs have gone down. We feel very positive with this minimal level of increase and wish to thank our staff for their continued diligence to operate with efficiency while maintaining product safety and quality," said Alan D. Fortenberry P.E., CEO.

Cathy Foraker of Fayetteville

(Washington County) moved to accept the budget as presented. Mary Gardner of Prairie Creek near Rogers (Benton County) seconded the motion. The board approved the motion.

"We are anticipating a shortfall in revenue this year due to the impact of weather on our water demands," Fortenberry said. "This results in our reserve funds not being funded to the budgeted level."

Fortenberry noted that all departments evaluated budget areas very critically.

"Our goal is always to manage rate-payers' money wisely while providing high quality, economical water at the best price we can. We are always looking for strategies to enable us to work smarter. However, we do anticipate that power costs will continue to rise as we move forward."

# Public Invited To Experience Interactive Water Bar at Crystal Bridges Museum



*The Water Bar – Water Is All We Have is an interactive art installation that is a part of the new “State of the Art: Discovering American Art Now” Exhibition that opened Sept. 13 and runs through Jan. 19 at The Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville.*

Husband-wife Collaborative Directors, Colin Kloecker and Shanai Matteson, along with other associates of the Works Progress Studio ([worksprogress.org](http://worksprogress.org)) in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., recognized and wanted to spread the word about the importance of fresh water as a critical and limited life-sustaining substance. A goal of the Works Project Studio is “to build stronger, more vibrant communities by creating projects that connect people where they live and work.” The Water Bar is the realization of a group effort to create a design project, “rooted in place and purpose,”

that informs, inspires, and invites public participation in the protection of our most precious resource, water. Be sure to visit the Water Bar at Crystal Bridges to view a video of various water treatment systems, including Beaver Water District, and engage Specialist Intern Water Bartenders in conversation about water resource issues in Arkansas, while you enjoy a variable assortment of drinking waters from Northwest Arkansas and regional sources, such as surface water from municipal taps and groundwater from springs and private wells.

# Secchi Day 2014 Big Success



On Aug. 16th for the 9th year in a row, Beaver Water District teamed up with committed partners and volunteers to do a mass sampling of Beaver Lake and its tributaries, which included getting Secchi depth measurements and water samples. This year, eight new volunteer teams joined the ranks for a total of 27 teams covering 35 sample sites throughout Beaver Lake. Many of the dedicated teams have been participants every year since this event began in 2006. Sampling teams take Secchi disk readings to determine water clarity. They also collect water samples which are tested for chlorophyll a, total phosphorus, and nitrate, substances which serve as indicators for determining algal density and nutrient concentration. On the day of the event, teams returned to Prairie Creek Recreation Area with Secchi measurements and samples. They were welcomed with fanfare by KNWA Chief Meteorologist Dan Skoff, guest emcee, and Dr. Bob Morgan, Beaver Water District's Manager of Environmental Quality, who then posted results on the "Great Wall of Beaver" and talked about water quality. Meanwhile, a water science education festival was held with 22 stations manned by trained volunteer educators, engineers, college students and others. All told, a record number of

about 700 people participated this year, including 143 volunteers.

The event would not be possible without longtime partner organizations including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Beaver Lake, the U.S. Geological Survey, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, Hobbs State Park, Arkansas Master Naturalists, the Association for Beaver Lake Environment, Ozarks Water Watch, Beaver Watershed Alliance, and the Arkansas Game & Fish Commission. Food, caps, audio equipment, T-shirts and prize sponsors included Harps, Hiland Dairy, Commercial Audio Systems, Cook's Natural Market, Outdoor Cap, Houndstooth Clothing Company and Arkansas & Missouri Railroad. KNWA/Fox 24 showed support this year by signing on as Presenting Media Sponsor. Additional media getting the word out included KUAF 91.3 FM, 101.5 Classic Hits FM, KIX 104, Arkansas Living, NWA Home Resources

*Continued on page 8*



Secchi Day 2014 continued from page 7



Magazine, NWA Media, Creative Referral Networking, area chambers, Image Builders, KFSM, and Univision Arkansas. Other organizations participating included the Arkansas Department of Health Benton County Unit, Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Arkansas Rural Water Association, Benton County Master Gardeners, Friends of Hobbs, New Design School, Northwest Arkansas Land Trust, Al “Papa Rap” Lopez, One Community, and the Watershed Conservation Resource Center. Put Aug. 15, 2015, on your calendar now for the 10th Annual Secchi Day on Beaver Lake!

## Estes Takes 1st Place in Beaver Lake Photo Contest, Again!



Melissa Estes, 15, of Cave Springs, Ark., took 1st place in the 4H Division of the 2014 Beaver Lake Photo Contest. Estes is the daughter of Dana and Michael Estes. Karrissa Smith, 11, of Rogers, daughter of Jillian and Buddy Smith, took 2nd place. Jurnee Wilson, 16, of Bentonville, daughter of Misty and Danny Wilson, took 3rd place. The contest was held for the fifth year in conjunction with the 9th Annual Secchi Day

on Beaver Lake and the Benton County Fair. Estes has been competing in the contest for several years. Previously, she took 2nd place in the 2011 competition and 1st place in both the 2012 and 2013 competitions. She received recognition and a cash prize, and her photo was displayed at Prairie Creek Recreation Area on Aug. 16th during Secchi Day. Her photo also is featured on the Beaver Water District's Facebook page.