



A Look into FY 2015 Projects



On Nov. 19th, District staff replaced the 36-inch “magnetic flow meter” (mag meter) for the drinking water plant’s filter backwashing system. The mag meter measures the flow of water through the pipe.

Years of experience and hands-on knowledge of Beaver Water District’s (BWD) three drinking water plants at the campus in Lowell and two “raw” water intakes at Beaver Lake are big assets for Stacy Cheevers, Plant Manager, and Lenny Millar, Maintenance Supervisor. After all, several dozen projects are in the queue this fiscal year. (BWD’s fiscal year began on Oct. 1.)

Cheevers and Millar both downplay their roles when discussing the magnitude of the jobs in the year ahead, instead giving credit to co-workers. Cheevers oversees staff in the Operations, Maintenance, and Electrical/Instrumentation (E/I) departments. Millar supervises Maintenance, which takes on a support role with all three departments. Jesse Burch supervises Operations and Jon Rogers supervises E/I.

“We’ve got a great staff out here that is up to the challenge,” said Cheevers, who began his BWD career as an electrician in 1991 and worked his way up the ladder. “In addition to Lenny, I rely on Jesse and Jon to make sure everybody knows where they are supposed to be and what they are supposed to be doing every day. This is no easy feat, since we operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week throughout the year.”

Millar, who joined BWD in 1988 as Mechanic I, feels the same way. “We’re a family out here. A lot of our guys have been here a long time. They take so much pride in their work. We work in teams. So those who have joined us more recently – say in the past few months or years – pair up with someone with experience. It’s all about teamwork.

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So much of what we do here is on-the-job training and learning, so the team approach usually works very well. Another thing is that the Maintenance department supports all other departments, so we have to be flexible. We could be working on one thing but we might stop and go to something else if a repair needs to be made. Flexibility and adjusting our schedules as needed are critical.”

Some major tasks for 2015 have already been completed. These include the replacement of a 36-inch magnetic flow meter (mag meter) for the city of Rogers. A mag meter is a device that measures the amount of water pumped through a pipe. This in turn provides the information BWD needs to invoice the city, which pays the wholesale price of \$1.26 per thousand gallons “ready-to-drink.” (Rogers and the other three customer cities – Bentonville, Fayetteville, and Springdale – resell and distribute the water to customers that include individuals, other communities, and smaller municipalities.)

“We also repaired the chlorine line at the intake silos and repaired and inspected the debris screens out in the lake in early December,” said Cheevers. “Skilled divers were hired for these tasks. Divers also inspected the pumps and wet well, as well as the clearwell, at the campus in Lowell that same week.”

Upcoming projects include retrofitting out-of-date filter consoles and working on a multi-year project to replace the plant’s Distributive Control System (DCS). The DCS controls operational aspects of the plant, such as chemical feeders. Then there is the design and construction of two more generators, which provide backup power in the event

of a loss of electricity, as well as a means for strategic “load-shedding” during summer months. Load-shedding is when plant operators switch from commercial electrical power to generators during peak times in the summer, which saves money.

“These are just a few of the projects

Fiscal Year 2014-2015	
1	Inspection of 16" air wash line filters 17-28
2	Cut dead trees on pipeline and intakes.
3	Repair rake drive clutches on Basins 7-8-9
4	Recoat roof on generator building South Plant.
5	Divers → South Intake
	Repair 80 ft. C12 line center shaft
	Inspect screens
	Divers → North Intake
	Inspect screens
	Divers → Inspect pumps and clearwell
6	Change tank ladders in 5 & 6 Alum tanks
7	Replace snow jaxs on buildings as needed
8	Wash Basins 1 & 2, 5 & 6, 7-8-9
9	Replace front gate chemical truck entrance with chain link
10	Inspect Alum tanks 7-8-9. Sludge buildup?
11	Install new mixers 5 & 6 EQ Basin
12	Repair / rebuild / replace caustic piping and pumps 9-18 filters
13	Repair / replace deck drain lines in filters 9-18
14	Replace filter 6" drain valves
15	Remove tree roots in road - South Intake, replace with concrete
16	Replace 36" Rogers mag meter
17	Replace 36" backwash mag meter
18	Replace 42" 5 & 6 Basin influent mag meter
19	Basin 5 & 6 - Polymer System Piping

Listing of some FY2015 Projects

we have going on,” Cheevers said. “What we want our customers and the public to know is that doing projects in-house is more economical than outsourcing. It’s a smart way to operate.”

Millar agreed, adding that this distinguishes BWD from many of its fellow water utilities. “Most places contract a lot of tasks out,” he said. “But we take on a lot of projects and outsource the ones we have to outsource, the diving, for example. That’s a specialty and requires special training and equipment. The point is that we don’t have to call people to do every little thing. We like it that way.”

Beaver Watershed Alliance Reports on 2014 Progress



Jim Woodruff (right), an East Fork Watershed land owner, received a 2014 Watershed Steward Award from BWA.

*By John Pennington, Executive Director
Beaver Watershed Alliance*

The Beaver Watershed Alliance (BWA) had a big year in 2014. More than 1,000 volunteers removed seven tons of trash from over 100 miles of streams and lakeshore. BWA also delivered an outdoor watershed education and recreation program that reached 253 area youth from Benton, Washington, Madison, and Carroll counties. These young people participated in canoe and hiking trips while staff and volunteers taught them about watershed features and challenged them to be stewards of the watershed.

BWA also reached more than 4,000 landowners in the Beaver Lake watershed through watershed opportunity assessment and streamside and forest management programs. These programs help BWA identify priority conservation areas and watershed issues to be addressed within the watershed. The goal is to help landowners implement best management practices (BMPs) to preserve and protect the value of their land and of the watershed for future generations. The good news is that over 550 landowners

representing 70,000 acres, or about 10% of the watershed, are participating and many are using new BMPs on their land. These landowners have implemented approximately two square miles of BMPs in the West Fork, War Eagle, and forested portions of the Beaver Lake watershed.

Other programs carried out by BWA include a source drinking water awareness campaign consisting of 60 eye-catching signs placed throughout the Beaver Lake watershed; a Stream Restoration Stewardship Program that has recruited 93 individuals to volunteer their time to maintain stream restoration sites within the West Fork and White River; and over 50 other general watershed outreach, education and stewardship programs throughout 2014.

While hands-on participation with landowners and the public is a top priority, BWA also zeroed in on the technical side of water quality this past year. For example, BWA spearheaded a water quality monitoring effort on the West Fork-White River to help re-segment and potentially de-list a portion of this waterway from the impaired rivers listing. Additionally, BWA initiated a pond placement optimization study for the West Fork-White River in order to develop more information regarding optimal pond placement for achieving sediment and nutrient retention and runoff.

In summary, BWA directly reached 9,143 watershed stakeholders and generated \$116,017 in volunteer community service hours. Even though this was a big year for BWA, 2015 will bring more community outreach, best management practice implementation, and scientific investigation, all of which are aimed at protecting our regional water supply, which provides drinking water from Harrison in Arkansas to Westville, OK.

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BWA, formed in 2010, is a non-profit organization that focuses on establishing programming to maintain high quality drinking water in Beaver Lake and improve water quality in the Beaver Lake Watershed. Board members and volunteers represent a diverse stakeholder group from conservation, education, water

utilities, technical and science, business, agriculture, recreation, and local government groups working together for the cause of clean water. For more information about BWA, how you can protect water quality or volunteer and financially support this important programming, visit www.beaverwatershedalliance.org.

NW District Elects Officers, Presents Awards for Water/Wastewater



(Fayetteville, Ark.) - On Dec. 11, the Northwest District of the Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment Association, met at the Chancellor Hotel and elected Roman Rios, Chair (center); Jeff Hickle, Secretary/Treasurer (right); and Jesse Burch, Vice Chair for 2015. James Clark received a plaque recognizing his years of service as outgoing Chair. The group also presented awards of recognition. The mission of the association, formed in 1950, is to encourage the education and licensing of its members in the field of water and wastewater systems and to provide a venue by which the members can share information, obtain training, and improve the overall standing of our profession within the communities. Visit nwd-awwwea.org for more information.

Water Operator Less than 5000 Population:
David McNair, Gentry Water

Water Operator More than 5000 Population:
Fred Clardy, Bentonville Water Utilities

Manager of the Year Water:
William Evans, Rogers Water Utilities

Small System Award Water:
Centerton Water Utilities Frank Holzkamper

Laboratory Professional Water:
Nicole Bridges, Beaver Water District

Wastewater Operator Less than 5000 Population:
Michael Maynard, CH2M Hill / Fayetteville

Wastewater Operator Greater than 5000 Population:
Chris Earl, Bentonville Wastewater Utilities

Manager of the Year Wastewater:
Harold Whittle, Springdale Water Utilities

Small System Award Wastewater: *Prairie Grove*

Laboratory Professional Wastewater:
Ashley Lyons, CH2M Hill / City of Fayetteville

Pretreatment Professional Wastewater: *Ed Clark, Pinnacle Foods Group*

Nordyke Retires After 34 Years of Service



(Left) Taddy Nordyke poses for a photo with Richard Starr, the former engineer manager of Beaver Water District who hired her in 1980. (Right) Taddy with Chris Weiser of Springdale, Vice President of Beaver Water District's Board of Directors.

On Oct. 16th, Taddy Nordyke of Lowell joined Beaver Water District's board of directors for their monthly meeting so that she could be honored and officially thanked for 34 years of loyalty, dedication and work.

A native of Iowa, Taddy graduated high school from Oskaloosa Senior High. She started her career as a telephone operator in Kansas City. When she came to work at the District, she had lived in Arkansas for 2½ years.

Taddy joined the District as a temporary clerical worker in October 1980. In December of that same year, she accepted a fulltime position as clerk/secretary. Eventually, she took on bookkeeping and payroll responsibilities.

"There have been lots of changes," Taddy said. "It has been a wonderful experience working here. I honestly can't think of a better place or people to work with."

At the time of her hire, she was the only female employee at the plant. She

recalls her first day, when she was typing letters for Richard Starr, engineer manager. "Everyone was scared to death of me. There were three doors into my office area, where a table with the IBM Selectric typewriter had been set. My back was to the doors, but I kept hearing something and could sense someone peeking into the room. Finally, R.V. Shepard got brave enough to introduce himself to me. He called me 'Miss Taddy,' and I felt like a schoolmarm," she said with a chuckle.

For many years, Taddy lived by Beaver Lake in Rogers, and if there was a bad snowstorm, her husband, Jerry, would bring her as far as town and meet a plant worker to bring her the rest of the way to the District campus outside Lowell. On a few occasions, fellow employees transported her to and from work.

In the beginning, she used heavy ledger books and a double entry system for bookkeeping. With the advent of

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computers, she taught herself how to process payroll electronically. Soon, Taddy was handling human resources as well as insurance billing reconciliation.

"I used to sit outside on the steps of the Steele plant and eat lunch and see all kinds of wild animals – fox, deer, coyote, and wild turkey," Taddy said. Other wildlife she remembers included a tarantula, and luna moths.

She also recalled that Don Jones showed up one day with a timber rattler. Another time, Bob Evans hollered at Taddy to come see what he had in a

55-gallon waste can. Turns out it was a giant snapping turtle, and when Bob put a broomstick down into the drum, the snapper broke that broom handle in half.

Taddy has no lack of plans for retirement. For one, she said she is not going to set her alarm anymore.

"I'll be sleeping past 5:30 a.m., if my cat will let me! And I'm looking forward to not having to rush home and scramble around to make dinner. I enjoy sewing, and I'm working with my daughter to open an antique shop in Lowell."

New Operators Join BWD Staff

Beaver Water District welcomes Gabe Frost of Siloam Springs and Steven Caudle of Springfield, Mo. Frost and Caudle have been hired as water operators. Their job duties include backwashing filters and inspecting plant equipment including pumps, motors, mixers, chemical tanks and chemical feed systems.

They also test water for analytical lab data such as pH, Cl₂ residual, alkalinity, hardness, and temperature. They also monitor the plant and customer tank information using the Distributive Control System (DCS) and SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition).

Employees Recognized

On Dec. 6, Beaver Water District (BWD) recognized the following staffers for continued years of dedicated service: Bob Evans, Plant Operator II, 30 years; Danny Phipps, Plant Operator II, 20 years; Cary Davis, Maintenance Mechanic, Brad Hufhines, Environmental Technician, Dr. Robert Morgan, Environmental Quality Manager, and Amy Wilson, Public Affairs Director, 10 years; and Jim Johnson, Instrument Technician, five years.



Alan D. Fortenberry, CEO of BWD, presented certificates of appreciation to (from left) Dr. Robert Morgan, Brad Hufhines, and Amy Wilson.

Short and Bassett Re-Elected to BWD's Board of Directors



The Beaver Water District Board of Directors, joined by Alan D. Fortenberry P.E., CEO, (front row, far left) includes (back, from left) Cathy Foraker, Woody Bassett, Mary Gardner, David Short, and (front, 2nd from left) Bill Watkins and Chris Weiser.

David Short of Bentonville and Woody Bassett of Fayetteville have both been re-elected to six-year terms on the Beaver Water District Board of Directors. Their terms will end in 2020. Beaver Water District, formed under Arkansas Act 114 of 1957, is the oldest regional water district in the state of Arkansas. The District is governed by a six-member elected board of directors, with three members from Washington County and three from Benton County. Board members serve six-year terms, staggered by two years in each county. The board meets monthly, on the third Thursday, except in December. For more information about Board members, visit bwdh2o.org.

<i>DIRECTOR</i>	<i>POSITION</i>	<i>TERM</i>	<i>COUNTY</i>
<i>Bill Watkins</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>Benton</i>
<i>Chris Weiser</i>	<i>Vice President</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>Washington</i>
<i>Woody Bassett</i>	<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>Washington</i>
<i>Cathy Foraker</i>		<i>2016</i>	<i>Washington</i>
<i>Mary Gardner</i>		<i>2018</i>	<i>Benton</i>
<i>David Short</i>		<i>2020</i>	<i>Benton</i>

Beaver Water District Team Takes 1st Place in “Top Ops” Challenge

Beaver Water District’s Team took 1st place in the Top Ops Challenge held Oct. 14 in Tulsa, OK, during the annual meeting of the Southwest Section of the American Water Works Association. Dustin Mayhew of Springdale, Plant Operator II; Nicole Bridges of Lowell, Laboratory Analyst; and Frank Blowers of Pea Ridge, Maintenance Mechanic II, comprised the team, which studied for several months and practiced answering a broad range of technical questions related to cleaning and delivering safe drinking water. Jesse Burch of Bella Vista, Operations Supervisor, served as team captain and coach. Mindi Dearing of Farmington, Laboratory Supervisor, moderated the event. The District competed against teams from Louisiana and Oklahoma. Beaver Water District’s team will now compete in the national Top Ops challenge, to be held June 8-10 in Anaheim, CA, during the annual convention of the American Water Works Association. The Top Ops Challenge is designed to promote excellence and professionalism and provide an opportunity for water professionals to showcase their talents in all aspects of water operations.

Beaver Water District supplies drinking water to more than 300,000



people and industries in Fayetteville, Springdale, Rogers, Bentonville and surrounding areas. The 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. For information, visit www.bwdh2o.org. For information about the Southwest Section of the AWWA, visit www.swawwa.org. For information about AWWA, visit www.awwa.org.

HOW TO REACH US

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