



## Beaver Water District Board Votes to Dedicate 4 cents per 1000 gallons sold to Source Water Protection



*Restoring degraded streambanks reduces sediment loading and the amount of phosphorous that enters Beaver Lake.*

On April 21, Beaver Water District's Board of Directors approved a motion to dedicate \$0.04 per 1000 gallons sold to the Source Water Protection (SWP) Fund. The funds will be used to implement the Beaver Lake Watershed Protection Strategy (BLWPS) through support to the Beaver Watershed Alliance (BWA) and continued efforts by Beaver Water District (BWD). All expenditures of funds will be included in BWD's annual budget approved by the Board each August.

BWD's current budget for the SWP fund is roughly \$470,000. Funds dedicated to the SWP fund will increase approximately 2% per year with increase in water sales. Costs will also increase approximately at the rate of inflation. These dedicated funds are to come from current revenue.

"Beaver Water District is committed to ensuring the necessary funding is in place for the continued implementation of the Beaver Lake Watershed Protection Strategy," said Bill Watkins of Rogers,

President of the Board. "This action is in line with the philosophy and position paper on source water protection (SWP) which the Board adopted a decade ago."

The adoption of the SWP philosophy and position papers was followed in 2007 by an initiative of the Northwest Arkansas Council to develop a plan for protecting water quality in Beaver Lake. The strategy, a stakeholder-driven process that represented the communities' desire to protect Beaver Lake through incentive-based programs with minimal additional regulation, was completed in 2009. BWA formed the following year to implement the strategy.

In 2012, BWD's Board adopted the BLWPS as a component of its SWP program. BWD staff has been working closely with BWA since then on implementation. The BLWPS outlines a 50-year program to maintain water quality in Beaver Lake through reducing sediment and nutrient pollution of the lake as land use changes the watershed.

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There are five key plan components:

- Formation of a Watershed Council (BWA)
- Core Best Management Practices
- Developer and contractor certification
- Education and stewardship
- Monitoring and adaptive management

Progress has been made on each of these components. However, an estimate by the Cadmus Group, working on an economic analysis of BWD’s SWP program, indicates the program is slightly less than 5% complete. This is concerning, since seven years into implementation, the BLWPS should be at roughly 14% complete.

“The primary constraint on progress is now funding,” said Dr. Robert Morgan, Manager of Environmental Affairs for BWD. “The preliminary cost of the strategy is estimated at \$345 million and when projected across 50 years, that amounts to \$6.9 million per year.”

The organization best positioned to accelerate implementation of the BLWPS without resorting to additional regulation is BWA, Morgan added. BWA is composed of members representing various stakeholder sectors across the Northwest Arkansas region. Because of this diverse membership, BWA staff is successful working with a wide variety of groups that may affect water quality in Beaver Lake. Over the past five years, BWA has proven its ability to leverage the funding received from the water suppliers by a factor of 2 to over 5. BWA is confident that they can maintain that ratio.

All four water suppliers who draw water from Beaver Lake are being asked to participate in funding the strategy. Based on annual water production, BWD’s portion is roughly 78%. While BWA is generally the preferred vehicle for implementing the BLWPS, certain elements are more efficiently supported directly by BWD. These include stream restoration, land conservation, research, and various outreach activities that can be delivered by BWD staff and other partners. These costs are estimated at roughly \$260,000 per year, Morgan said.

“Finally, we need to have a reserve of funds for the periodic larger projects. Such projects might include a major update of the watershed protection strategy, purchase of easements on priority conservation lands, or

responding to a natural/manmade disaster,” he said.

Assumptions at this point include the following: 1) BWA leverages funds 2:1; 2) the recently awarded Resources Conservation Partnership Program project succeeds and can be continued (see article on page 5 of this newsletter for more information); and 3) all four water suppliers participate.

The estimated annual effort will be roughly \$5.9 million, Morgan explained to the Board. (See Table 4). However, this still leaves a shortfall of roughly \$1 million.

“A part of this shortfall is currently filled by grants secured from foundations and agencies by other partners in the watershed,” he said. “Since success tends to breed success, we believe these sources can be grown to fill the unmet need.”

**TABLE 4: ESTIMATE OF ANNUAL EFFORT WITH SUSTAINABLE FUNDING**

<i>Water Suppliers</i>	\$787,000
<i>BWA Secured Grants</i>	\$984,000
<i>NRCS (EQIP &amp; RCPP)</i>	\$1,003,000
<i>Cities</i>	\$250,000
<i>Construction</i>	\$2,100,000
<i>Cooperative Extension</i>	\$160,000
<i>Monitoring and Adaptive Management</i>	\$245,000
<i>Landowners Cost Share</i>	\$411,000
<i>Total</i>	\$5,940,000

Beaver Water District may use a portion of the dedicated Source Water Protection Fund to support the core needs of BWA. Additionally, BWA funding will be contingent upon approval of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) by both the BWA and BWD and approval of an annual plan of work. Continued support for the BWA will be contingent upon satisfactory progress in completing the annual plan of work. BWA will submit annual reports summarizing implementation of the BLWPS and an audit of their use of the annual payment from the Source Water Protection Fund. In the event that additional water suppliers elect to support BWA, BWD will work with those suppliers to develop a common MOA and an annual plan of work.

# BWD: How the District Formed and Board Members are Elected

While many of us today take water for granted, the leaders who formed Beaver Water District (BWD) and envisioned Beaver Lake knew better. They understood that water is precious and that clean, economical and abundant drinking water ensures the continued health of the population of a region, as well as the economic vitality of a community.

More than 50 years ago, visionary community leaders discussed the need for a long-term supply of clean, safe water for Northwest Arkansas. These citizens worked to establish Beaver Lake. It was shortly after World War II when the Beaver Dam Association formed to promote construction of a dam on the White River southwest of Eureka Springs. By 1954, progress had been made when the U.S. Congress finally authorized dam construction for flood control, hydroelectric power and other beneficial uses. However, the project could not move forward because the Corps of Engineers could not demonstrate a sufficient cost-benefit ratio based on these uses.

In 1957, the Arkansas Legislature passed Act 114 which enabled the creation of nonprofit regional water distribution districts. In 1958, the national Water Supply Act recognized that the federal government needed to play a role in the development of water supplies. With the stroke of a pen, reauthorization of the construction of Beaver Dam had been accomplished. On August 27, 1959, a circuit court order officially established Beaver Water District (BWD). BWD executed agreements with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for storage of water supply in Beaver Lake sufficient to provide 120 million gallons a day (mgd) average. BWD also executed an agreement with Bentonville, Fayetteville, Rogers and Springdale to pay for storage rights and supply drinking water.

BWD 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. This November, both Bill Watkins (Benton County) and Cathy Foraker (Washington County) will be up for re-election.

**Bill Watkins**, President of the Board of Directors, is principal attorney at the law firm of Watkins, Boyer, Gray & Curry, PLLC in Rogers. He is a former board member of the Rogers Public Education Foundation, past president of the Rogers Early



Risers Rotary Club, and past chairman of board of Main Street Rogers, which works to revitalize the city's downtown while maintaining its history and charm. Mr. Watkins is also past chairman of the Rogers-Lowell Chamber of Commerce. (Benton County)

**Chris Weiser**, Vice President of the Board, is owner and Chief Executive Officer of J.V. Manufacturing, Inc., based in Springdale. J.V. Manufacturing is a family-owned business that produces Cram-A-Lot® Solid Waste and Recycling Equipment. Mr. Weiser



currently serves as Chair of the Springdale Water and Sewer Commission and is a member of the Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority. He also serves on the board of Hope Cancer Resources, formerly NARTI, where he served as past chair. Additionally, he is a member and past board member

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of the Springdale Rotary Club. (Washington County)

**Woody Bassett**, Secretary-Treasurer of the Board, is a lifelong resident of Fayetteville. He has practiced law for 39 years and is a partner in the Bassett Law Firm LLP in Fayetteville. He attended the University of Arkansas and graduated from the Arkansas Law School in

1977. He served as a Special Associate Justice of the Arkansas Supreme Court on a case in 1996, and he received the outstanding lawyer award from the Arkansas Bar Association in 2003. Mr. Bassett's current areas of service include Washington Regional Medical Foundation Board, Washington Regional Medical System and Washington Regional Medical Center Board of Directors, and Life Styles Board of Directors. Mr. Bassett also is active in Washington County and in Fayetteville on other community projects and charitable fundraising groups. He is a member of Central United Methodist Church. (Washington County)

**Cathy Foraker** of Fayetteville is the Director - External Affairs for AT&T. She joined the board of Beaver Water District in April 2011. A graduate of the University of Arkansas, she serves as a liaison between elected officials and AT&T. She is a member

of the Board of Directors for Arvest Bank in Fayetteville and represents AT&T on the Northwest Arkansas Council. Ms. Foraker currently serves on the Board and Executive Committee of the Bentonville/Bella Vista Chamber of Commerce and is Past President of the Rogers-Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce and the Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce. She is a member of the Fayetteville Downtown Rotary Club and

has served as a past board member and Chair of the Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship Fund. (Washington County)

**David A. Short** is retired President and CEO of Arvest Bank, Benton County, and he previously served as President of the Beaver Water District Board of Directors. Most recently he received the Sam Walton Award for his contributions to the

community from the Bentonville/Bella Vista Chamber of Commerce. His Arvest career took him to Bartlesville, Okla., where he served as a board member and fund drive chairman for the United Way, as well as the Public Library Trust Authority; to Siloam Springs where he was a board member of the Child Development Center; and to Bentonville, where he has been president of the Bentonville Public Schools Foundation. (Benton County)

**Mary L. Gardner**, of Prairie Creek near Rogers, owns Powerhouse Industrial Supply in Springdale with her husband, Jeff. She has a B.S.B.A. degree in Accounting/Computer Information Systems from the University of Arkansas. She also has

completed the wives program within the School of Biblical Studies at Harding University. Her career over 22 years has been in New Automotive Accounting as Controller, working at six franchised dealerships in three states. Ms. Gardner has interests in family, healthy living, good stewardship and personal liberty. In addition to serving on the District's board, she is Treasurer for the Washington County Tea Party and is active within the churches of Christ, where she participates in home group studies. (Benton County)



# Partners Work Together to Bring \$8.8 Million to Protect Water Quality in Northwest Arkansas

The Watershed Conservation Resource Center (WCRC) is pleased to announce more than \$8.8 million will be devoted to a portion of the West Fork of the White River Watershed to improve and protect water quality in Northwest Arkansas over the next five years.

The West Fork of the White River is a major tributary that flows to the White River which forms Beaver Lake, the primary drinking water source for one in seven Arkansans. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) selected the WCRC's "West Fork White River Watershed Initiative" project to receive \$4.3 million in federal dollars to conduct river restoration and implement other best management practices (BMPs) on agricultural lands through their Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), an initiative of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

An array of partners joined the WCRC to support this effort. Partners' contributions total over \$4.5 million dollars in both cash and in-kind matching funds. Participating organizations include the WCRC, Beaver Water District, Beaver Watershed Alliance, Walton Family Foundation, Natural Resource Conservation Service (state and county offices), Washington County Conservation District, Northwest Arkansas Land Trust, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Cities of West Fork and Fayetteville, Arkansas Farm Bureau, Arkansas Forestry Commission, Arkansas Natural Resource Commission, Ozarks Water Watch, and University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture Cooperative Extension Service.

The "West Fork White River Watershed Initiative" will help ensure good quality water flows in the river and enhance the source of drinking water for Northwest Arkansas. The region is growing at about 1,000 people per month and in 2015 exceeded the half a million mark, according to the Northwest Arkansas Council.

The RCPP promotes innovative projects that integrate multiple conservation approaches to work on a common resource issue, such as maintaining water quality through stream restoration and conservation practice application. The competitive grant process takes a great deal of work on the part of partners. Leading experts in watershed planning and river restoration, the WCRC built on previous watershed assessments and planning to develop an innovative proposal that addresses river instability and reduces sediment and phosphorus loadings to streams, while restoring the local ecology. The WCRC proposal was one of 265 applications submitted throughout the United States and was one of 84 selected.

Sandi Formica, Executive Director of the WCRC located in Fayetteville, states: "In addition to quantifying reductions in sediment and phosphorus loadings through BMP implementation and river restoration, the commitments from all of the partners made our proposal strong and these commitments are essential for long-term success in protecting our natural resources and our excellent quality of life in NW Arkansas."

The WCRC will be responsible for river assessment and restoration work and will be the central organization managing funds and implementation. The Beaver Watershed Alliance will work closely with landowners who want to implement BMPs on their agricultural lands.

"This funding award indicates the great importance of water resources in Northwest Arkansas," Formica said. "The funding will enable us to restore up to two miles of the West Fork White River, which means less sediment enters the West Fork from erosion and less ends up in Beaver Lake."

Other outcomes of the project will include an environmental assessment of the West Fork Watershed; up to 21,000 feet of riparian vegetation restoration; the creation of 150 conservation *Continued on page 7*

# Lenny Millar Retires, Frank Blowers Promoted



*Lenny Millar (left) with Frank Blowers.*

After more than 27 years with Beaver Water District (BWD), Lenny Millar retired on May 12. Millar served as Maintenance Supervisor and provided leadership to a staff of maintenance workers and mechanics.

“Lenny rose up through the ranks and became one of BWD’s most valuable staff assets,” Stacy Cheevers, Plant Manager, said. “He will be sorely missed. He had a lot of great skill sets, one of which was staying positive and focused no matter what challenges arose. Lenny had many strengths, including his ability to pull his team together and work across departments to install and maintain new equipment.”

BWD selected Blowers, of Siloam Springs, to fill this position. Blowers began

his career with BWD in 2003 in Facilities Maintenance and worked his way up. The Maintenance Supervisor oversees a staff of 12. He is responsible for supervising employees in the Maintenance Department and supervisory management work including planning, organizing, directing and controlling the work of personnel engaging in maintaining and repairing water production system pumping, treatment plant, electrical, storage and related facilities. The Maintenance Supervisor is responsible for efficient, effective and economical implementation and management of water production system maintenance, repair and modification programs and projects.

Blowers is a member of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the Southwest Section of AWWA (SWAWWA) and the Northwest District of Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment Association (AWW&WEA). He holds Grade IV Water Operators Treatment and Distribution Licenses.

“I’m proud to have the opportunity to be the Maintenance Supervisor. It’s an honor to be selected and to play a part in maintaining the future of the department and the District as a whole,” Blowers said.

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## In Memoriam-Randy Paris and Rick Sims



*Randy Paris  
(1954-2016)*



*Rick Sims  
(1955-2016)*

Beaver Water District (BWD) recently lost two longtime employees— Randy L. Paris, 62, of Bella Vista, and Rick Lynn Sims, 60, of Lowell. Paris worked as a Water Operator for BWD for 22 years. Sims was

employed as a Mechanic in the Maintenance Department for 23 years.

“Randy and Rick are deeply missed by all of us here at Beaver Water District,” Alan D. Fortenberry P.E., CEO, said. “They performed their jobs diligently and loyally for many, many years to ensure safe, clean affordable water reached our customers. We are a tightknit group with a lean staff and teamwork means so much. We get close to one another.”

Randy is survived by his wife, Kathy; one son, three daughters, five brothers, three sisters, and nine grandchildren. Rick is survived by his wife, Regina; one son; one step-son; one brother; and 10 grandchildren.

*Partners Work Together* continued from page 5

and forest management plans; the implementation of up to 300 BMPs on area farms; and the creation of five “perpetual” conservation easements.

“These project outcomes are consistent with the goals of the 2012 Beaver Lake Watershed Protection Strategy and are within the highest priority watershed we have,” said Dr. Robert Morgan, Manager of Environmental Quality for Beaver Water

District (BWD). BWD supplies drinking water to the four major cities in NW Arkansas. Those cities resell the water to their customers.

“This is the type of partnership, effort, and funding magnitude that will be necessary over the next few decades in order to maintain water quality of Beaver Lake and the integrity of its watershed,” said John Pennington, Executive Director of the Beaver Watershed Alliance.



Beaver Water District (BWD) placed 5th in the International Top Ops Challenge on June 22, 2016, in Chicago. The team members are Dustin Mayhew of Springdale, BWD Plant Operator; Frank Blowers of Pea Ridge, BWD Maintenance Supervisor; and Nikki Holloway of Lowell, BWD Laboratory Analyst. Top Ops is the “College Bowl” or “Jeopardy!” of the water industry. The competition was held during the American Water Works Association’s 2016 ACE convention, which drew more than 13,000 water professionals from around the world. This was BWD’s second time to compete in the International Competition.

Dorothy G. (Dot) Neely of Fayetteville, Ark., Education Coordinator for Beaver Water District (BWD), received two awards in the past two months from statewide organizations. First, Neely received the 2016 James Bailey Memorial Educator of the Year Award from the Arkansas Water Environment Association on May 2, 2016, during the annual meeting of the Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment Association held in Hot Springs, Ark. This honor is awarded to an Arkansan who strives to inspire fellow Arkansans, young and old, with enthusiasm and desire to protect the state’s water environment, understand environmental issues and further environmental education. Then, on June 22, 2016, Neely received the Arkansas Environmental Education Association (AEEA) 2016 Outstanding Environmental Educator “Informal Educator” Award from Matthew Miller, President of the AEEA Board of Directors, during the Annual



AEEA Environmental Expo at the Ozark Natural Science Center. She has a bachelor of science and a master of science, both in geology, from the University of Arkansas (UA). Neely’s expertise with water specific education has been shared through her role with Beaver Water District since 2010. She regularly interacts with thousands of young people and adults, enthusiastically sharing her wit and wisdom about the value of water and source water protection in hands-on settings.

# 11th Annual Secchi Day on Beaver Lake

## August 20, 2016

**Schedule of Events:**  
**8:30am - 11:00am**  
Various Beaver Lake Locations  
Volunteer teams depart to  
measure Secchi depth  
and collect water  
samples.

**9:00am - 1:00pm**  
Pinnacle Creek Park  
9300 N. Park Rd, Rogers, AR  
The public is invited to  
enjoy educational  
activities and  
exhibits!

The Arkansas Game and  
Fish Commission's  
320-gallon Mobile  
Aquarium will  
be on display!  
Amy Wilson

Family Activities  
Photo Contest  
Kayak Test Drives  
Lunch

For Information:  
[awilson@bwdhzo.org](mailto:awilson@bwdhzo.org) [www.bwdhzo.org](http://www.bwdhzo.org)



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