Larry Lloyd Retires from Beaver Water District After 16 Years of Service

In 2003, Larry S. Lloyd, P.E., BCEE, of Fayetteville accepted a job with Beaver Water District (BWD). He took on the challenge of Chief Operating Officer, a position he held proudly for 16 years. On Dec. 31, 2018, Lloyd officially retired.

BWD’s CEO Alan D. Fortenberry P.E., had this to say about Lloyd: “His service has been impeccable, his contributions too numerous to name. Larry’s impact on BWD, our drinking water operations, and our entire region cannot be overstated. He brought expertise and skills to us and used them to hone and shape Beaver Water District’s operations, image and reputation for years to come. We are grateful for the tremendous service he’s provided over all these years. He will be sorely missed.”

Amy Wilson, BWD’s Director of Public Affairs, said she appreciated that Lloyd could be counted upon when the media came calling, as evidenced from this article entitled “Northwest Arkansas Planners Appreciate Abundant Water Supply” from the front page of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette on Dec. 17, 2017: “If we see a need, for example, for a treatment plant expansion, we know we’ve got to have the preliminary engineering and design work done,” Lloyd said. “We have to plan for construction and financing. For a project that substantial, we probably need from six to 10 years lead time. So, if I know I’m going to need something like that, I’d really better be starting 10 years before the need will be here.”  

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When Lloyd began, he came with 30 years of previous experience in the consulting engineering business with firms in Little Rock and Fayetteville, Arkansas. His design experience covered water treatment facilities with capacities from a few hundred gallons per minute to 60 million gallons a day. Lloyd served on design teams that were responsible for the chemical feed facilities at BWD including the fluoride facilities, and the 60-inch raw water pipeline from Beaver Lake to the BWD treatment facilities. He served as Chair of the Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment Association in 2007.

Lloyd is a registered Professional Engineer in Arkansas and holds Grade IV water treatment and distribution licenses. He received his B.S. degree in Civil Engineering and his Master of Business Administration, both from the University of Arkansas. In October 2013, he received the prestigious George Warren Fuller Award from the Southwest Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA). He also served as Chair of the SW Section AWWA Water Utility Council.

Lloyd took a few moments prior to departing the District to answer some questions about his time with the District and plans for retirement.

Q: What do you consider your greatest accomplishments while working for BWD?
A: Being part of a fantastic team that delivers clean, safe drinking water to Northwest Arkansas citizens every day.

Q: What will you miss most about BWD?
A: Working with dedicated water professionals who desire to serve the public.

Q: Do you have any other comments to add?
A: I tell people all the time that I have the best water industry job in America. BWD is a great place to work with wonderful facilities. Every day presents its own challenges and opportunities.

Q: What are your plans for retirement?
A: Travel, particularly to visit my daughter and her family in Kenya. Like most men, I also have a long list of delayed projects around my house.
Foraker Retires from Board of Directors; Weiser and Gardner Re-Elected Nov. 8, 2018

On Nov. 15, 2018, Cathy Foraker, who represented Washington County, retired from the Beaver Water District (BWD) Board. Bill Watkins, President of the Board of Directors, presented her with commemorative artwork of Beaver Lake and the Board and staff thanked her for her years of service to the Board (2011-2018). In 2019, the Board will appoint a replacement to fulfill the remainder of her term.

On Nov. 8, 2018, voters re-elected Chris Weiser of Springdale to represent Washington County and Mary Gardner of Prairie Creek near Rogers to represent Benton County to six-year terms on the BWD Board of Directors. Their terms will end in 2024.

Weiser began his service on the Board in 2006, when he was appointed to fill an unexpired term. He was re-elected in 2012. Weiser 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. 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 of the Springdale Rotary Club.

Mary Gardner was elected to her first term in the November 2012 General Election. She and her husband, Jeff, own Powerhouse Industrial Supply in Springdale and are also Vasayo Brand Partners. Gardner 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. Gardner has interests in family, healthy living, good stewardship and personal liberty. She is active within the churches of Christ.

BWD formed under Arkansas Act 114 of 1957. It is the oldest regional water district in the state of Arkansas. 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. For more information, visit bwdh2o.org.
Beaver Water District (BWD) promoted Bill HagenBurger, P.E., of Rogers to Chief Operating Officer on Jan. 1, 2018. In his new role, HagenBurger will support and assist the Chief Executive Officer in the overall leadership and management of the District’s operations facilities and employees. The COO directs, manages, plans, coordinates and administers the overall operation of the District and has responsibility for the Operations, Maintenance, Electrical and Instrumentation, Engineering, Environmental Quality and Information Systems functions of the BWD.

“Bill has been an asset to the District over the past 17 years,” Alan D. Fortenberry P.E., CEO, said. “In his new role as COO, he will bring his experience, knowledge of how the District works, and commitment to excellence. This will benefit the District’s customers and Northwest Arkansas.”

HagenBurger joined BWD in 2001 as Plant Engineer. His responsibilities included management of engineering and construction activities and engineering support. Prior to joining the District, he worked for an environmental engineering consulting firm, where he provided engineering and construction management services for various plants, including the District’s 40 million gallon a day Hardy Croxton water treatment plant and the 100 MGD Mohawk water treatment plant in Tulsa. He has a M.S. in Civil Engineering from Virginia Tech, in Blacksburg, Virginia, and a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Villanova University, in Pennsylvania. HagenBurger is a registered Professional Engineer in Arkansas and holds a Grade IV Water Operators License. He is a member of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), the Arkansas Water Works and Water Environment Association, and the Water Environment Federation (AWW&WEA). He is a Past Chair of the Southwest Section of the AWWA and the Northwest District of the AWW&WEA. HagenBurger is a Trustee on the Engineering and Construction Division of AWWA and is also on the Concrete Pressure Pipe Committee for AWWA. He has completed a 6-phase management training and leadership skills course for Water/Wastewater managers and supervisors. The intensive 144-hour course is administered by the American Water College and the Public Utilities & Waterworks Management Institute.

Darryl Fendley, P.E., of Springdale, joined BWD this past October. Fendley moved into the Plant Engineer position upon the promotion of HagenBurger. Fendley, a registered Professional Engineer, is responsible for engineering and construction supervision of District projects. This includes the efficient, effective, and economical implementation and management of construction projects and engineering work. His duties include preparing and managing the engineering department budget; resolving operations and procedures; reviewing and evaluating programs and project performance; and preparing reports and related data. Fendley has a M.S. in Environmental Engineering from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and a B.S. in Physics from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia.
Beaver Water District “Top Ops” Team Places 1st Regionally for 5th Year in a Row; Headed to National Competition for 5th Consecutive Year

Beaver Water District (BWD), drinking water supplier for more than 40 years in Northwest Arkansas, placed 1st in the Southwest Section-American Water Works Association (SWAWWA) Top Ops Challenge in October in Baton Rouge, La. The team members are (from left) Dustin Mayhew of Springdale, BWD Plant Operator II; Steven Caudle of Lowell, BWD Plant Operator II; and Gabe Frost of Siloam Springs, BWD Plant Operator II. Jesse Burch of Bella Vista, Operations Supervisor, serves as the team’s coach. Mindi Dearing of Farmington, Laboratory Supervisor, serves as Chair of the AWWA Top Ops Subcommittee.

Now the team will compete for the 5th consecutive year in the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Top Ops Challenge in Denver during AWWA’s 2019 Annual Conference & Exposition, which will be held June 9-12.

Beaver Water District, Staff Receive Awards & Recognition

Beaver Water District’s CEO Alan D. Fortenberry P.E. was the keynote speaker for the 2018 Beaver Watershed Alliance Friendraiser held Nov. 16, 2018, at the Mount Sequoyah Center in Fayetteville. Fortenberry received the inaugural Beaver Lake Watershed Protection Champion Award and he is pictured with Barbara Fraleigh of Beaver Watershed Alliance.

Larry Lloyd, now retired COO of Beaver Water District, received the 2018 Beaver Lake Guardian Award. He is pictured with his wife, Vickey.

At its annual Wine in the Woods Appreciation Dinner on Oct. 25, 2018, the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust (NWALT) presented Beaver Water District (BWD) with the Great Oak Award for leadership and support of land conservation. (From left) Dot Neely, Brad Huffines, and James McCarty (BWD), Terri Lane (NWALT), and Colene Gaston and Lane Crider (both of BWD).
The Arkansas General Assembly will convene at the State Capitol in Little Rock on Jan. 14, 2019, for the 2019 Regular Session. Alan D. Fortenberry P.E., the longtime CEO of Beaver Water District, provided his take on what might be coming up at the time of this writing (Dec. 18).

Q: What do you think is the most important and pressing matter for state Water Providers during this session?
A: During the 2017 Arkansas Legislative Session, lawmakers passed Senate Bill 376 which became Act 1056 when signed into law. The Act established the Water Provider Legislative Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force has a three-pronged responsibility: a) to complete a vision report, b) to complete an action report, and c) to compile a list for providing new service and any other area the task force chooses to report on. I was one of 18 stakeholders appointed to the Task Force as a representative of the Arkansas Water Works & Water Environment Association. We met once every three months, sometimes more often, over the past two years. The final report from the Task Force is due Jan. 1, 2019. That’s also when the task force expires. The report will be shared with the governor, the director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, the Arkansas Municipal League, the Association of Arkansas Counties, water providers, and to members of the Senate Committee and the House Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs. There most probably will be proposed legislation that may be introduced related to the findings of this Task Force. For example, many of us have stated from the beginning that there are many issues and challenges confronting utilities, and that most of these should be handled on a local level. We feel strongly that education related to water and water utilities, as well as regionalization, are two points that should be addressed. Ideas on the table include guidelines to insure proper management of utilities, minimum standards to insure fiscal responsibility, and training requirements for elected officials to provide a greater understanding overall of the business aspects of utilities in order to make more informed decisions. Our overall objective has been to improve the ability of utilities, districts, associations, and cities to provide the highest level of services, drinking water, and wastewater treatment to more Arkansans in a sustainable manner. The utility representatives on this task force are very thankful for the attention directed toward the water industry.

Q: Are there any potential bills of interest to Arkansas Water Providers that were filed (but not passed) in the previous session (or sessions) that you think might come up again this session?
A: During the last session in 2017, Senate Bill 332 -- “(a)n Act to provide open and fair competition for state-funded water, wastewater, and storm water drainage projects by including acceptable piping materials in a projects bid; and for other purposes” – was introduced and referred on Feb. 13, 2017, to the Senate Committee on City, County & Local Affairs. Then on May 1, 2017, it died in Senate Committee on the day the Session ended. This issue could come up again. Generally, we refer to it as the PVC Pipe bill.
On Aug. 18 for the 13th year in a row, volunteer citizen scientists collected water quality data on Beaver Lake in Northwest Arkansas during the annual Secchi Day on Beaver Lake event. Beaver Water District (BWD) staff then analyze data and produce a report that helps answer this question: How is the water quality in Beaver Lake? Matthew Rich, Environmental Specialist with BWD, spoke about results and data from Secchi Day with the BWD’s Board of Directors at their monthly meeting held on Oct. 18.

This year, 36 teams covered 35 sample sites throughout the lake. Sampling teams take Secchi disk readings to determine water clarity. They also collect water samples that are then tested by BWD lab staff for chlorophyll-a, total phosphorus, and total nitrogen to determine algal density.
Secchi depth is a measure of water transparency that involves lowering a black and white disk into the water and recording the maximum depth in which the black and white pattern can be distinguished from above the water’s surface.

“Secchi depth is inversely related to the concentration of chlorophyll-a. Therefore, as chlorophyll-a decreases, Secchi depth increases.” Rich said.

“When it comes to producing drinking water, greater Secchi depths and lesser chlorophyll-a concentrations are best,” he added. “With each year that passes, we get a better picture of the variability in water quality at the different sites that are sampled.”

This year’s data shows that most water quality parameters were fairly close to the previous 12-year average. The average lake Secchi depth this year was around 9.6 feet, which is a slight improvement over the long-term average of 8.9 feet. The average lake chlorophyll-a this year was 9.42 parts per billion (ppb), which was slightly greater than the long-term average of 7.32 ppb. The higher average chlorophyll-a concentration this year was driven in part by some unusually high values observed in the headwaters of the lake. However, both Secchi depth and chlorophyll-a averages were well within the normal variations for the 12-year dataset.

“Year after year, Secchi Day continues to provide BWD with excellent data concerning the water quality in Beaver Lake. There has been quite a bit of variability in the last twelve years, but the silver lining is that at this point, we do not have any indication that water quality is degrading,” Rich said.

James McCarty, BWD’s Manager of Environmental Quality, added that “Secchi Day is only one example of the work we do. There isn’t a week throughout the year that either BWD or one of our partners like the United States Geological Survey or Arkansas Water Resources Center is not either on the lake or in the watershed collecting data. This data helps us to keep watch on key indicators of water quality problems and helps to assess our restoration and protection efforts within the watershed.”

To read this year’s Secchi report, link to BWD’s website at bwdh2o.org then go to the Secchi Day page here (https://www.bwdh2o.org/education-outreach/secchi-day/) and the report will be on the bottom left. Mark your calendar now. The 14th Annual Secchi Day & Science Festival on Beaver Lake will be held Aug. 17, 2019. The event includes many partners such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Beaver Lake, the U.S. Geological Survey, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, Northwest Arkansas Stormwater, Hobbs State Park, Northwest Arkansas Master Naturalists, Beaver Watershed Alliance, Beaver Lake Fire Department, Ozarks Water Watch, One Community, The Ozark Society, and Girl Scouts Diamonds of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Secchi Day is one of the premiere water public awareness and education events in Arkansas.