By Darryl Fendley  
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Begun in June 2018, the Filter-to-Waste and Solids Processing Improvements project at Beaver Water District (BWD) is nearing completion. The primary objective of the $4.8 million project is to recover and reuse a very clean stream of water that, in the past, has been released back to the Beaver Lake. Recovering this approximately 500,000 gallons per day Filter-to-Waste (FTW) stream back to the head of the plant, where it will go through the water treatment process, saves BWD money, allowing BWD to keep rates low for customers. In addition to cost savings, this project is a more sustainable solution.

It requires less energy and chemicals to treat the FTW stream than is used when treating raw water from the lake.

Since BWD operates three water treatment plants on one site in Lowell, Arkansas, recovery of the FTW stream involves installing additional filter gallery piping in each water treatment plant, as well as buried pipes from each plant to a new FTW recovery basin with an integral pump station, which pumps the water to the plant influent line. The new FTW recovery basin is centrally located, which means construction activity has been right in the heart of the plant site.

To date BWD has not had any significant

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issues arise, which is a testament to the project team, especially BWD Engineering Technician Danny Dearing, who has been the primary construction observer, and Crossland Heavy’s Site Superintendent Chip Wolken. They have both done an outstanding job of proactively identifying potential problems and working out solutions. This has helped the project progress very efficiently with substantial completion anticipated around the end of November, approximately six weeks ahead of the contractual date.

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The Filter-to-Waste Overflow Structure, shown under construction in this photo, allows flexibility in operation and maintenance for the FTW Recovery Basin and Pump Station.

Mission
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.
Earlier this month, a celebration of the life of Walter Turnbow was held at the First United Methodist Church in Springdale. Many of the leaders of Northwest Arkansas — past, current, and future — were in attendance to honor the impact that Mr. Turnbow had on so many of us. One of the most powerful testimonies was given by the youth choir from Walter Turnbow Elementary School. The choir delivered a beautiful and moving performance that brought many to tears and everyone to a rousing ovation when they concluded.

As I read through the article of Memoriam for Mr. Turnbow in this edition of The Source, I believe that he would be proud of where Beaver Water District (BWD) is today. Mr. Turnbow served as a Board member of the District for 29 years, following his mentor Joe M. Steele. Mr. Turnbow’s focus was making sure the District was always prepared to support the residential, commercial, and industrial growth in Northwest Arkansas through strategic and intentional planning for our future.

Our fiscal year for BWD started on Oct. 1st and it is going to be a busy, challenging, and fun year. As shown on the cover of this edition, we are getting close to finishing our most recent infrastructure improvement project. The Filter-to-Waste and Solids Processing Improvements project will allow us to recover and reuse approximately 500,000 gallons per day of process water that currently is discharged back to Beaver Lake. This will save energy associated with pumping raw water, reduce potential chemical applications, and create a more sustainable, effective treatment process.

Other projects slated for this year include updating our Strategic Plan for the District, updating our Master Plan to meet current issues and future demands, updating our long-term financial plan, and beginning the preliminary design processes for the western corridor transmission and pumping facilities, all of which are critical to our continued ability to supply our customers’ needs.

Oct. 1 is my one-year anniversary with BWD and the last 12 months has passed by more quickly than I could have ever imagined, proving true the old saying, “Time flies when you’re having fun.”

I know that Walter Turnbow was very proud of what the District accomplished during his time on the BWD Board. Because of the efforts of leaders like him, Joe Steele, Curtis Shipley, John Lewis, and other Directors, past and present, the future of Beaver Water District is well positioned ... resting firmly on the foundation they laid.
Walter Turnbow of Springdale was born on May 26, 1924, in Russellville, Ark. He died on Sept. 9, 2019.

On Sept. 21, 2006, Beaver Water District (BWD) held a board meeting followed by a retirement reception honoring Walter Turnbow (left) for 29 years of service as a member of the Board of Directors of BWD. As they enjoyed a laugh together, his friend and fellow board member at the time, Curtis Shipley of Fayetteville, presented Turnbow with a plaque in honor of his service.

“In the 1950s when I first started working at the canning company, we had dry summers and we had to ration water when our sources dried out here,” Turnbow said in a recent interview. “We definitely needed water to produce canned goods and that was before we had any chicken processing plants here, and we didn’t have enough water to support chicken processing plants. There was a definite need for water for all of Northwest Arkansas.”

Turnbow often referred to his mentor and boss, the late Joe M. Steele, when discussing Beaver Water District and the importance of Beaver Lake to the growth and prosperity enjoyed in Northwest Arkansas. Steele was a founding board member of BWD and founder of Steele Canning Company. As a young college student, Turnbow sought work at Steele Canning. He would rise to the position of president and find himself carrying on in his boss’s footsteps on the BWD board after Mr. Steele’s passing.

In an interview in 2012, Turnbow put the impact of Beaver Water District on Northwest Arkansas into sharp focus: “We cannot support the present population or the manufacturing without Beaver Water District.”

Former longtime CEO of Beaver Water District, Alan D. Fortenberry of Springdale, said, “During a time of unprecedented growth in Northwest Arkansas, Walter’s business experience helped to provide the essential guidance we needed to not only develop the new infrastructure required but to also help provide resources to cover the expense of aging assets through a funded depreciation account. The bottom line was always a sustainable economic system that provided value and accountability to our customers. Dedicated service to Springdale, NWA, and the entire state!”

The following excerpts from a resolution passed by the BWD Board of Directors, Continued on page 5
when Turnbow retired from the Board in 2006, provide a snapshot of his immense contributions and importance to BWD and the whole of Northwest Arkansas. This region would not be what it is today without abundant, clean and economical drinking water, sourced from Beaver Lake, treated for drinking by BWD, and supplied to the four cities to distribute to their customers in Fayetteville, Bentonville, Rogers, Springdale and surrounding areas.

(Excerpts) Walter Turnbow was elected to the Board of Beaver Water District and began his term on January 1, 1977. He served as Vice President from March of 1977 until January of 2001. In nearly three decades of service, he has shown himself to be a thoughtful and positive force on this Board, which depended upon him for his wisdom regarding the need to expand the facilities in order to keep pace with the explosive growth of Northwest Arkansas during his tenure. In addition, the District benefited from his knowledge and wisdom concerning the increased need to educate the District’s customers and the public about watershed issues that affect the quality of water in Beaver Lake. Beaver Water District relied on Walter Turnbow as a resource throughout his tenure on the board and he will be greatly missed. While Springdale is home for Walter, he has been a champion for all of the District’s customers and citizens. Walter’s important impact as a member of the Board of the District is evident when viewing these comments about his service:

“I have sat next to Walter for all of the time I’ve been on the board and have had lots of good times working, playing and tending to Beaver Water District Board business. Walter is a no-nonsense, bottom-line guy. I have tremendous respect for his ability to analyze and bring to conclusion the business of the board. He, above all on the board, has a greater appreciation for the economic impact that water has had on the development of our region. His seat has only been held by Joe Steele and Walter. Both have been giants and leaders in the Springdale business community.” – Curtis Shipley, Director, Beaver Water District

“The late John Lewis (left), President of the BWD Board of Directors at the time, presented a resolution recognizing Turnbow’s service to Beaver Water District to Turnbow and his wife, Clara, on Sept. 21, 2006.
Bill Watkins of Rogers (second from left), President of Beaver Water District’s Board of Directors, is seated with University of Arkansas students Emily Sherrill of Rogers, and Jake Krier and Alyssa Ferri, both of Fayetteville, all of whom were chosen to receive Joe M. Steele & Hardy W. Croxton Memorial Scholarships for the Fall 2019 Semester. These scholarships provide financial assistance to upperclassman or graduate students in the Departments of Civil Engineering, Biological and Agricultural Engineering or Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences who have demonstrated interest in drinking water treatment, wastewater treatment, environmental or life sciences. Board Members donate board meeting attendance fees to the scholarship fund. The fund is managed by the University of Arkansas. Donations may be made payable to the Joe M. Steele & Hardy W. Croxton Memorial Scholarship Endowment Account and mailed to Gift Services, 300 University House, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701. For more information about making a tax-deductible donation, contact Ethan Hayman, Associate Director of Development for the UA College of Engineering, at ehayman@uark.edu or call (479) 575-6018.

Board Approves Rate Increase and 2020 Budget

This year’s budget is predicated on anticipated sales of approximately 20.2 billion gallons of water, at the updated wholesale rate of $1.38 per thousand gallons. The new rate went into effect on Oct. 1, 2019.

The total budget includes debt service, source water protection, reserve funding and operations and maintenance. The operations and maintenance portion of the budget totals $14.3 million (see illustration here). Chris Weiser of Springdale moved to accept the budget as presented and Woody Bassett of Fayetteville seconded the motion. The board approved the motion.

Beaver Water District’s Board of Directors met Aug. 15 and, among other items of business, approved a FY 2020 budget of $27.9 million.
On Aug. 17, 2019, the largest crowd ever, more than 700 people — showed up for Beaver Water District’s 14th Annual Secchi Day Science Festival on Beaver Lake at Prairie Creek Park in Rogers.

Volunteer educators engaged the public in hands-on activities teaching basics about water science and ecology. Meanwhile, volunteers gathered Secchi disk readings and water samples from Beaver Lake and its tributaries. A Secchi disk is a black and white device lowered into the water to measure clarity or provide a depth “reading” that indicates the amount of turbidity or particles in the water.

Beaver Water District’s core partners who make Secchi Day a success include celebrity emcee Dan Skoff, Chief Meteorologist for KNWA and KNWA as the premiere media sponsor, science experts, and staff and volunteers associated with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Beaver Lake, the U.S. Geological Survey, the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, Northwest Arkansas Stormwater Education, Hobbs State Park & Friends of Hobbs, Northwest Arkansas Master Naturalists, Beaver Watershed Alliance, Beaver Lake Fire Department, Ozarks Water Watch, OneCommunity, the North American Lake Management Society, Girl Scouts Diamonds of Arkansas, The Ozark Society, 3W Magazine, and local entertainer and educator Al “Papa Rap” Lopez.

In-kind sponsors included Harps Foods, Hiland Dairy, Cook’s Natural Market, Vanzant Fruit Farms, Bass Pro Shops, and Outdoor Cap. Others that deserve mention include Marshallese Education Initiative, Arkansas Coalition of Marshallese, Dancenhance Entertainment, KUAF, KFSM, LaZeta Radio, KPSQ Radio, KIX 104, KISS 105.3, Hog Radio, Arkansas & Missouri Railroad, Beaver Lake Outdoor Center, Honeycomb Kitchen Shop, KMRW 98.9FM, B-Scene Media, Benton County Environmental Division, Arkansas Living Magazine, Arkansas Water Resources Center, Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Arkansas Department of Health-Benton County, Free Geek, Illinois River Watershed Partnership, Northwest Arkansas Land Trust, Shiloh Museum, UA Biological Sciences, Univision Arkansas, Image Builders, Watershed Conservation Resource Center, and Jacobs Engineering. The 15th Annual event will be held on Aug. 15, 2020. For information, email awilson@bwdh2o.org or visit https://www.bwdh2o.org/education-outreach/secchi-day/.
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