



BOARD MEETING NOTES

THE BTU BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET ON MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015 AND DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

FINANCIAL

Joe Hegwood presented the financial report to the BTU Board of Directors. Mr. Hegwood highlighted several items illustrating net revenues, operating and capital costs of the City and Rural systems.

BTU's Capital Improvement Program spending in the City and Rural systems is currently under budget due primarily to the timing of distribution work.

Mr. Hegwood reported that a Transmission Cost of Service (TCOS) interim filing was completed at the end of February, and reflects an additional \$5 million in revenue.

Mr. Hegwood discussed large items purchased in December:

Items over \$100,000

- Four underground replacement projects were awarded to Bayer Construction in the amount of \$193,269.

January Disbursements Exceeding \$25,000

- As per the BTU Procurement Policy/Procedures, the previous month's purchases were presented in the Board handouts with a brief explanation.

OPERATIONS

Gary Miller, General Manager, reported to the BTU Board of Directors that with the assistance of Caterpillar staff, BTU is finalizing its "Safety Steering Committee" and moving forward with the safety initiative.

Mr. Miller presented the safety statistics for the previous month, stating BTU had one recordable incident for the month.



BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803

email: ContactBTU@btutilities.com

Hours of Operation
Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Board of Directors

Mr. Carl L. Benner, Chairman
Mr. Paul Turney, Vice Chairman
Mr. David Bairrington, Treasurer
Mr. Art Hughes, Ex-Officio
Mr. Flynn Adcock
Mr. Bill Ballard
Mr. Ben Hardeman
Mr. A. Bentley Nettles

General Manager

Gary Miller

Group Managers

Randy Trimble
David Werley

Division Managers

James Bodine
Bill Bullock
Shawndra Curry
Ken Lindberg
Vicki Reim
Scott Smith
James Tanneberger
Wes Williams

Doug Lyles, Chief Risk Officer/Controller

City of Bryan

Kean Register, City Manager
Joe Hegwood, CFO
Bernie Acre, CIO

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Billing/Collections/Connects (979) 821-5700
Electrical Outage/Lines Down (979) 822-3777
Distribution/Line Design (979) 821-5770



YOUTH TOUR



STORY BY GINA FLORENCE

BTU TO SEND THREE LOCAL STUDENTS TO WASHINGTON, D.C. ON YOUTH TOUR

BTU has proudly selected some of the area’s best students to send to Washington, D.C., as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s (NRECA) annual Government-in-Action Youth Tour. The participants are selected each year based on the results of an essay contest and a letter of recommendation from one of their teachers.

This year, students from all high schools in the BTU footprint were asked to write an essay about the pros and cons of renewable resources in 500 words or less.

The winners of this year’s contest are Alexis Cunningham and Caleb Deeter, juniors at Still Creek Christian Academy, and Hannah Deeter, a junior at Bryan Collegiate High School.

The candidate search began last December and winners were selected in March. In June, the winners begin their one-week journey and fellowship in our nation’s capital.

The action-packed week takes the students to such sites as the Smithsonian Museums, Washington and Lincoln Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, the U.S. Supreme Court, and many others. While in Washington, D.C., the students will also get to speak to their congressman. Matt Goodson, BTU Energy Accounts Manager and Youth Tour 2015 Coordinator, is very excited to be a part of this year’s program. “I feel honored to be a part of this on numerous levels.

To be able to make the call and congratulate the winners and hear the surprise and appreciation that each of them expressed, let me know the importance of this program. The three students from the BTU service area will join a group of individuals from across the state and will gain an appreciation of this great country that can only be obtained by visiting the capital and the monuments surrounding it.”

The Government-in-Action Youth Tour grew from comments that then-Senator Lyndon B. Johnson made to the NRECA in 1957. The NRECA started the tour in 1964, and every summer since then, participating states send students to Washington, D.C., to learn more about our government and witness first-hand how it works. About 1,500 students and chaperones participate in the tour each year.



“The three students from the BTU service area will join a group of individuals from across the state and will gain an appreciation of this great country that can only be obtained by visiting the capital and the monuments surrounding it.”
- Matt Goodson, BTU Youth Tour 2015 Coordinator

Please visit www.btutilities.com, or contact Matt Goodson at (979) 821-5859 or mgoodson@btutilities.com, for more information about the Government-in-Action Youth Tour.



INSULATION

STORY BY KENNETH W. SMITH JR.

IF YOUR HOUSE IS NOT WELL INSULATED, THEN YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE THROWING MONEY AWAY. PROPERLY INSTALLED INSULATION REDUCES HEATING AND COOLING COSTS AND SIMPLY MAKES YOUR HOME MORE COMFORTABLE.

There are many types of insulation out there and the type and form of insulation you choose will depend on various factors including climate, the R-value you hope to achieve, whether you are adding insulation to an existing home or building new, and whether you are hiring a professional or planning to do the job yourself.

There are several additional insulation techniques that can be used when building a new home. But for our purposes, we're going to look at three of the most common types of insulation used to make an existing home more energy efficient: blanket, blow-in, and sprayed foam.

BLANKET INSULATION

This form is the most common and widely available type of insulation, and is relatively easy to install yourself. It comes packaged as batts or rolls that are made of flexible fibers, most often fiberglass. But you can also find it made of mineral wool, plastic fibers, or even cotton and sheep's wool.

Batts and rolls come in widths that work with standard spacing of wall studs, attic trusses or rafters, and floor joists, and the large rolls can be cut to fit your space. They can come with or without facings and some come with flame-resistant facing for places where the insulation may be left exposed.

According to Energy.gov, standard

fiberglass blankets and batts have a thermal resistance, or R-value, between R-2.9 and R-3.8 per inch of thickness. So to achieve the elite R-38 range, you'll need insulation that is at least 12 inches thick.

BLOW-IN INSULATION

Loose-fill insulation is made up of small pieces of fiber, foam, or other materials that can conform to any space without disturbing the finished spaces of your home. This characteristic makes loose-fill insulation a good choice when dealing with existing structures and locations where it would be difficult to install other types of insulation.

The most common materials used for this type of insulation are cellulose, fiberglass, and mineral wool, and all of these materials are produced using recycled waste materials. Cellulose is primarily made from recycled newspapers. Most fiberglass contains 20-to-30 percent recycled glass, and mineral wool is usually produced from 75 percent post-industrial recycled content.

While it is possible to do this type of insulation yourself, installation is usually done by experienced professionals who know how to achieve the correct density and R-values.

The different materials do have different R-values, so to reach an R-38 rating your insulation depth will need to be 10-12 inches for cellulose, 14-17

inches for fiberglass, and 11.5-13 inches for mineral wool. Price will depend on the type of material used.

SPRAYED-FOAM INSULATION

A relatively newer trend in the insulation world, sprayed foam has become more common in new construction, and in retrofitting existing homes to make them more energy efficient.

Liquid foam usually costs more than traditional batt or blown-in insulation, but it offers higher R-values per inch and also forms an air barrier that can eliminate other costs associated with weatherproofing a home.

There are some disagreements on the Internet about the use of spray foam versus traditional insulation in older homes that may not have been built in the same way as newer constructions. As always, it's best to do your homework before starting any home insulation project.

Insulation is just one of the projects that qualify for BTU's **SmartHOME** program. For more information on how you could be eligible to earn an incentive payment through the **SmartHOME** program, visit the BTU website at www.btutilities.com.



ADDING INSULATION MAY ALSO QUALIFY YOU FOR A BTU **SmartHOME** INCENTIVE PAYMENT.

ANYTHING IS BETTER THAN NOTHING

Ultimately it is up to you to decide which type of insulation is best for your circumstances. But regardless of what you choose, having some sort of insulation will benefit your home and lower your energy costs.

This is the most common type of insulation, and is pretty easy to install yourself. It comes packaged as batts or rolls made of flexible fibers, most often fiberglass, but also mineral wool, plastic fibers, or even cotton and sheep's wool.

BLANKET INSULATION



This type is made up of small pieces of fiber, foam, or other materials that can conform to any space without disturbing the finished spaces of your home. It is a good choice when dealing with existing structures and hard-to-reach locations.

BLOW-IN INSULATION



This type generally costs more, but offers much greater R-values per inch and can also act as an air and vapor barrier. It's a newer kid on the block compared to traditional insulation and requires special equipment and professional installations.

SPRAYED-FOAM INSULATION





SUMMER ENERGY TIPS



10 SIMPLE TIPS TO SAVE ENERGY

REPLACE YOUR AIR FILTERS. Dirty filters restrict airflow and can cause the system to run longer.

TURN IT OFF! Unplug chargers and electronic devices that continue to use energy even when they are turned off.

RUN THE CLOTHES DRYER AND DISHWASHER AT NIGHT. Or better yet, air-dry your clothes and dishes.

SPEND LESS TIME IN THE KITCHEN. Use a microwave, toaster oven or outdoor grill instead of the oven. This keeps your kitchen cooler and uses less energy, too.

FILL UP THE FRIDGE. Having lots of food in your refrigerator and freezer keeps it from warming too fast when the door is open.

TAKE SHORTER AND COOLER SHOWERS. Not only will you use less water, but also you'll feel better in the Texas heat with a cooler shower.

KEEP THE SUN OUT. Close curtains and blinds during the day to keep the sun from heating up the house.

GET OUT OF THE HOUSE. Take advantage of the 40+ parks and aquatic facilities that Bryan has to offer. The pools and pavilions will cool you off from the summer activities.

CHANGE OUT LIGHT BULBS. Use more efficient light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs.

MOW THE LAWN. Keep tall grass, weeds, and vines away from the outside condenser unit so that air circulation is not impeded.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



STORY BY GINA FLORENCE | PHOTO BY RYAN STOUT

“THE FACT THAT WE ARE PART OF THE CITY OF BRYAN GIVES ME A SENSE THAT I’M CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY. I HELP KEEP LIGHTS ON, EVEN IF PEOPLE DON’T SEE ME DOING MY JOB.”

Darius Gray began playing the trumpet in the fifth grade. He went on to Texas A&M University to play in the Aggie Band. His love of music helped set him on the path toward engineering. “When I was in high school, I asked a teacher about different jobs and was guided toward engineering. I thought I might study different areas around sound. From sound, I moved to studying light and really enjoyed it. The waves of light were intriguing.”

While working toward a master’s degree in physics, a job at BTU opened up and he put his electrical engineering undergraduate degree to work. Darius began as a Transmission Engineer a little more than a year ago. “My role is in compliance, and as part of my job, I review our processes to make sure they comply with federal standards.”

Working at BTU has allowed him to keep his curiosity and drive for learning new things. “Being at a small company allows the opportunity to learn various areas such as transmission, substation maintenance, relays, and to gain a broader aspect of power engineering.

In school, I dealt with smaller power and now I deal with much higher amps.”

Darius also credits the BTU environment for helping him develop beyond engineering. “I learn about the whole power company here at BTU. I interact with my division manager regularly and I see how he approaches the business side of engineering. I can learn from him and all the division managers on how they deal with challenges they face. I know by learning from them that if I’m ever faced with those same challenges, I can make the best quality choices.”

Some of the challenges from the business side include project tracking, budgeting, and finance. “I was taught the technical side of engineering in school. Now I’m learning the business side of engineering. I’m so happy to be in a job where I can continue to learn.”

When he’s not working, you can find Darius pursuing his creative interests in music, painting, and pottery. He also stays active by playing soccer, basketball or swimming. He continues to play the trumpet at his church. ■



DARIUS GRAY
TRANSMISSION ENGINEER

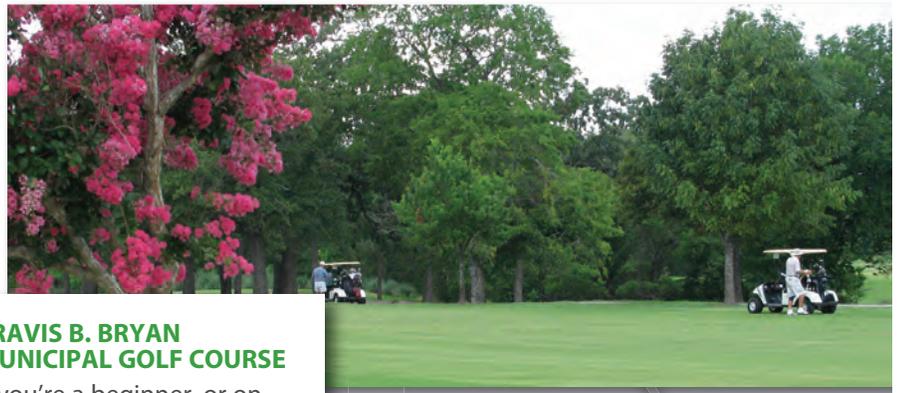
“I’m so happy to be in a job where I can continue to learn.”



BRYAN GOLF TRAIL

STORY BY KENNETH W. SMITH JR

NINE MILES.
FOUR COURSES.
WHERE ELSE IN
TEXAS CAN YOU FIND
THIS MANY FAIRWAYS
AND GREENS IN SUCH
CLOSE PROXIMITY?



TRAVIS B. BRYAN MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

If you're a beginner, or on a budget, Bryan Municipal may be just right for you. The 6,285 yard, par 70 course offers a challenge, but won't ruin your day if you're a high handicapper.
www.bryantx.gov/golf

TRAVIS B. BRYAN MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE

Texas Avenue

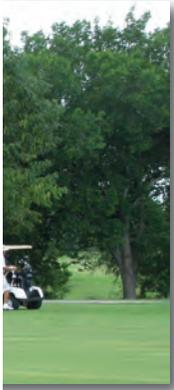
Villa Maria Road



TRADITIONS CLUB

Home to the Texas A&M golf teams, Traditions Club is a Jack Nicklaus and Jack Nicklaus II Co-Design. At 7,146 yards, this championship course hosted the 2011 NCAA Div. 1 Women's Championship. It will host the NCAA Regionals in 2016 and 2018, and will host the Texas Golf Association's 2015 State Four-Ball Championship this month.
www.traditionsclub.com





BRIARCREST GOLF COURSE

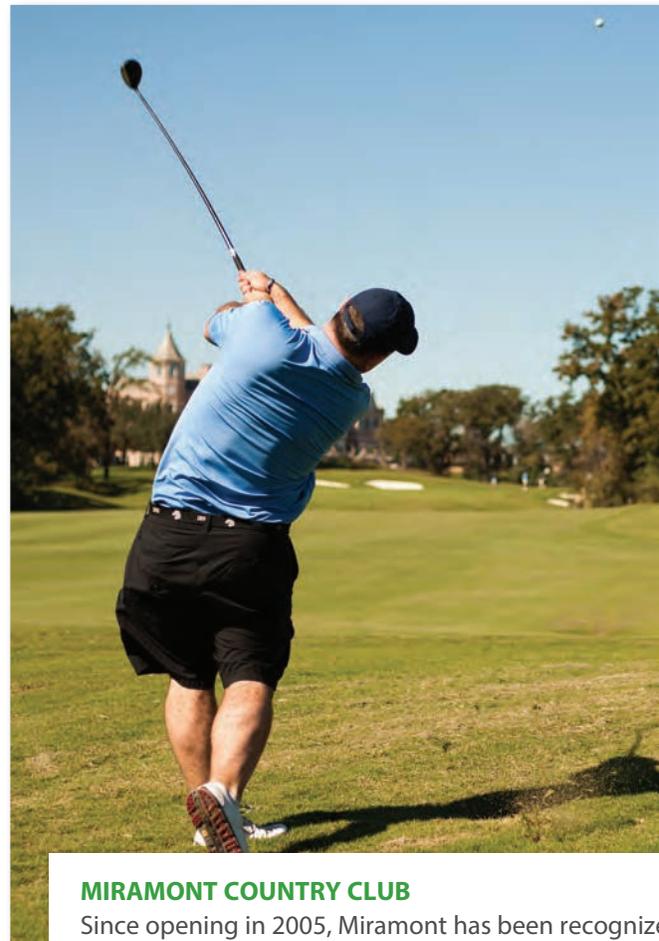
MIRAMONT COUNTRY CLUB

Briarcrest Drive

Boonville Road

BRIARCREST GOLF COURSE

With small Champion Bermuda greens and tight fairways, the course at the Phillips Event Center at Briarcrest is sure to challenge any and all golfers. This par 72 course measures 6,748 yards from the champion tees and the design offers a park-land style of play. phillipsevents.com/golf



MIRAMONT COUNTRY CLUB

Since opening in 2005, Miramont has been recognized as one of the elite private courses in Texas. The 7,127-yard, 22-hole course provides a demanding game for the pros, and an enjoyable challenge for amateurs. The course was selected to host the 2014 and 2015 Junior PGA Championships – a first for a Texas course – and it also hosted the Texas Golf Association’s 2014 Texas Shootout matches.

www.miramont.cc

