

BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

BOARD MEETING NOTES

THE BTU BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET ON MONDAY, MAY 11, 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 transmission work.

Mr. Hegwood discussed large items purchased in March:

Items over \$100,000

- Professional Services Contract, - Engineering review of protection system design and relay settings. Awarded to Synchrogrid, LLC, in the amount of \$150,000.

March 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.

The BTU Investment Report dated March 31, 2015 was also presented to the BTU Board of Directors. Mr. Hegwood stated that the Investment Committee met and reviewed the report in April.

Mr. Hegwood presented the proposed FY2016 - FY2020 Capital Improvement Plans for all Divisions of BTU with a short explanation of each. The proposed budget reflects an increase from last year's five-year CIP for the BTU City and Rural operations and a \$1 million increase in Rural operations.

Mr. Hegwood stated that the CIP Budget would be reviewed again next month before being presented to the BTU Board of Directors for approval.

OPERATIONS

Gary Miller presented the safety statistics for the previous month, stating BTU had no recordable incidents for the month.

Mr. Miller reported that the Safety Steering Committee held its kick-off training session with Caterpillar Safety Services April 23-24. At the end of the session, the first Continuous Improvement (CI) Team was identified and as a group, the Steering Committee selected Safety Inspections as the initial area of concern. The CI team will meet in-house with Caterpillar in May to begin training and development of revised cultural safety practices around safety inspections.



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

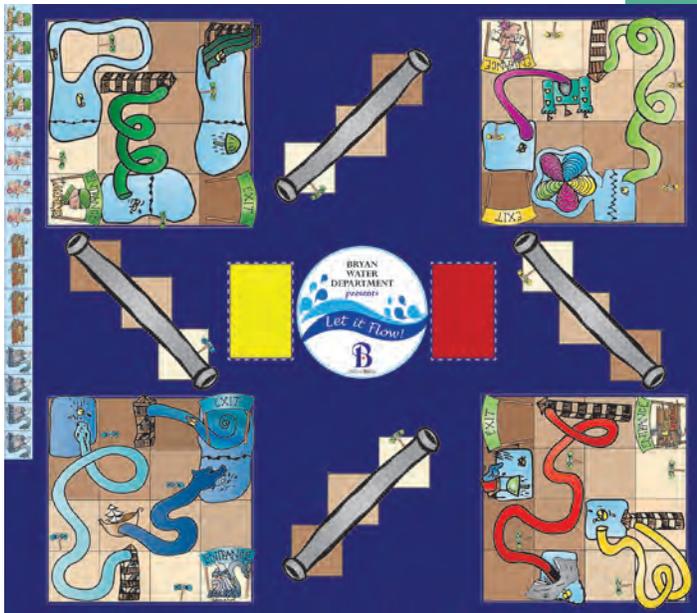
| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Billing/Collections/Connects | (979) 821-5700 |
| Electrical Outage/Lines Down | (979) 822-3777 |
| Distribution/Line Design | (979) 821-5770 |

WATER QUALITY REPORT



THE BRYAN WATER DEPARTMENT'S 2014 WATER QUALITY REPORT IS IN A NEW FAMILY-FUN FORMAT THIS YEAR.

BRYAN ISD STUDENTS AND INSTRUCTORS CONCEIVED AND ILLUSTRATED THE "LET IT FLOW" BOARD GAME.



Bryan High School (from left): Jason Cordes-Teacher, Caleb Hauschild, and Seth Armes

The Water Quality Report has been presented in the form of a calendar for the last several years. This year, the City of Bryan's Communications Department worked with art students from two Bryan high schools to develop a board game geared towards families with young children. The result is an engaging, easy-to-play game for the whole family. It includes some important water conservation tips that you learn as you play the game.

You can also play the game online on the City of Bryan's website at: www.bryantx.gov/letitflow.



Rudder High School (from left): Kelsey Carroll, Aracely Mata, Madison Cooks, and Stephanie Russell-Teacher



NEW BTU BOARD MEMBER

STORY BY KENNETH W. SMITH JR.

COL. A. BENTLEY NETTLES HAS BEEN ALL OVER THE WORLD IN SERVICE TO HIS COUNTRY. AND NOW HE'S BRINGING HIS EXPERIENCES TO BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES AS THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE BTU BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

In 28 years of service, and as General Counsel for the Texas Army National Guard, Col. A. Bentley Nettles has seen many things that the average American civilian may not be able to appreciate. As a Texas A&M University graduate and a practicing attorney in the Brazos Valley for many years, he's also seen things that everyone in this area can appreciate.

Put those different sets of life experiences together and you come away with an individual who has a lot to offer as a member of the BTU Board of Directors.

"The board is laid out in an array so that certain positions are filled by people with certain skill sets. I was selected for this position because I'm an attorney, and I replaced an attorney," Nettles explained. "I've applied those skill sets all over the world, including international and operational law. So, I think those things cause me to look at some of the challenges we have perhaps a little differently."

Nettles has been deployed numerous times during his Guard career, including stints in Bosnia, Afghanistan, and two deployments to

Iraq. He has received numerous awards and decorations, including a Purple Heart, the Legion of Merit, and the Bronze Star three times (Bronze Star with two Oak Leaf Clusters). His Purple Heart and one of his Bronze Star awards came during his first deployment to Iraq.

Along with his deployments, he's also been able to continue his education. He earned a Masters of Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, in 2010, and received an Army War College Fellowship in 2011, spending a year at the Fletcher School of Law and International Diplomacy in Medford, Massachusetts, just outside of Boston.

All of these experiences have given him a deeper appreciation of the lives that we have here at home, and have given him insight into advantages we have in this country as a whole - and in relation to energy.

"I think we have a tremendous advantage here in the United States because of the fairly prolific, cheap energy sources that we have," Nettles said. "In Baghdad for example, they'd have rolling blackouts. And in order to try to make the electrical system work, they started charging people.

They had never charged them before, so they didn't understand why their lights were being turned off because they hadn't paid something."

"And in Afghanistan, outside of Kabul and Kandahar, a lot of cities had struggling electrical grids."

Even with all of the advantages that we have here at home, Nettles noted that there are always challenges that must be met on energy policy and production, both locally and nationally. But he thinks BTU is meeting them head-on.

"We still generate a large amount of our electricity from coal-based operations. And one of the challenges, I believe, is as the EPA becomes stricter, electric generation is going to become more costly," he said. "But BTU is doing all the right things and looking ahead 5, 10, 15 years for distribution requirements, and building that capacity capability now, instead of being hammered with it then. And I think that's different than even a lot of other cities in Texas."



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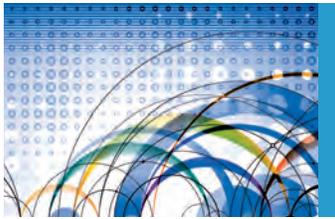


Rep. Bill Flores (R-Texas) recognized Nettles last year with the Congressional Veterans Commendation, and Nettles says it was mostly for the work he does here in the community for Wounded Warriors. Nettles and others hold an annual benefit - a steak and cigar dinner - to raise money for the Warrior Family Support Center in San Antonio. The event is entering its third year, and Nettles hopes that they can increase the amount of money raised from the event again this year.



“The first year we had it, we raised some money. The next year we doubled it,” he said. “So we’re hoping this year we might try to do that again.”

A man in Nettles’ position doesn’t generally get much downtime, but when he does, he enjoys fishing and hunting, and spending time with this wife, Tracy and his two sons, Peter and Henry.



ENERGY-EFFICIENT SOLAR SCREENS

and other energy-saving window treatments

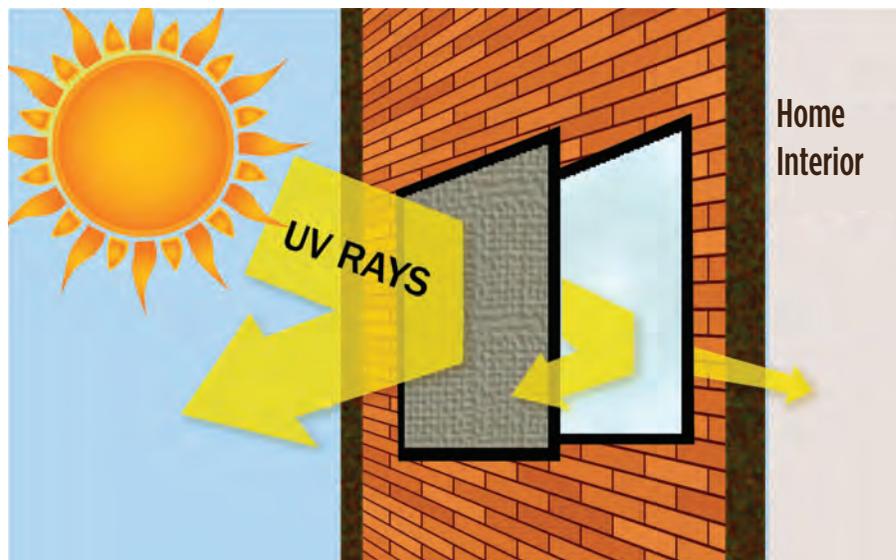
STORY BY KENNETH W. SMITH JR.

SOLAR SCREENS ARE ONE OF THE THREE ENERGY-EFFICIENCY OPTIONS THAT ARE ELIGIBLE FOR INCENTIVES THROUGH BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES' **SmartHOME** PROGRAM. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON SOLAR SCREEN INCENTIVES, VISIT WWW.BTUTILITIES.COM.

Over the past few months, we've been discussing ways to make your home more energy-efficient, which helps reduce your carbon footprint and saves you money. This month we're going to look at one of the more budget-friendly approaches to energy efficiency: Solar screens for your windows.

Replacing all of your windows with EnergyStar windows can be a costly endeavor. And sometimes we just don't have that kind of cash available. But solar screens are a cheaper alternative that can also help reduce your energy bills, especially in the sunny summer months.

Mesh window screens can diffuse solar radiation, which reduces heat gain in your home. They are particularly effective on east-and west-facing windows. Screens should be mounted in an exterior frame and should cover the entire window, according to Energy.gov.



Solar screens absorb and reflect up to 90% of heat, glare and UV rays.



Solar screens aren't the only way to make your existing windows more energy efficient. While none of the following options will qualify for BTU **SmartHOME** incentives, they can help lower your energy bill, and in some cases, make your home more aesthetically pleasing. Here's a list of options from Energy.gov:



SHADES

When properly installed, window shades can be one of the simplest and most effective window treatments for saving energy. You should lower shades on sunlit windows in the summer. Shades on the south side of a house should be raised in the winter during the day and lowered during the night.

SHUTTERS

Window shutters - both interior and exterior - can help reduce heat gain and loss in your home. Properly designed exterior shutters may provide the best possible window insulation system.

AWNINGS

Window awnings can reduce solar heat gain in the summer by up to 65 percent on south-facing windows and 77 percent on west-facing windows. You can use an awning to shade one window or have an awning custom-made to shade the entire side of your house.

BLINDS

Window blinds - vertical or horizontal slat-type - are more effective at reducing summer heat gain than winter heat loss.

DRAPERIES

A drapery's ability to reduce heat loss and gain depends on several factors, including fabric type (closed or open weave) and color.

HIGH-REFLECTIVITY FILMS

High-reflectivity window films help block summer heat gain. They are best used in climates with long cooling seasons, because they also block the sun's heat in the winter.

INSULATED PANELS

An insulating window panel or pop-in shutter typically consists of a core of rigid foam board insulation. The panels are made so that their edges seal tightly against the window frame. Insulating window panels have R-values between 3.8 and 7.

OVERHANGS

Properly sized and installed roof overhangs can most effectively shade south-facing windows from the summer heat. If oriented properly, overhangs will allow the sunlight in through the windows during the winter, providing more warmth to a house.

STORM PANELS

A storm panel added to a single-pane window can reduce winter heat loss by as much as 50 percent. You can add them to the exterior or interior side of windows.



CRAFT PERSONNEL METER TECHNICIANS

Meter TECHNICIANS

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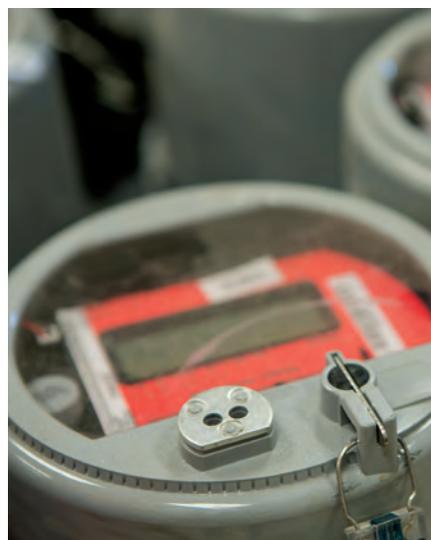
BTU EMPLOYS A DEDICATED WORKFORCE OF METER TECHNICIANS AND APPRENTICES WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INSTALLING AND MAINTAINING ELECTRIC METERS. METERS ARE **SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECES OF EQUIPMENT A POWER COMPANY OWNS.**



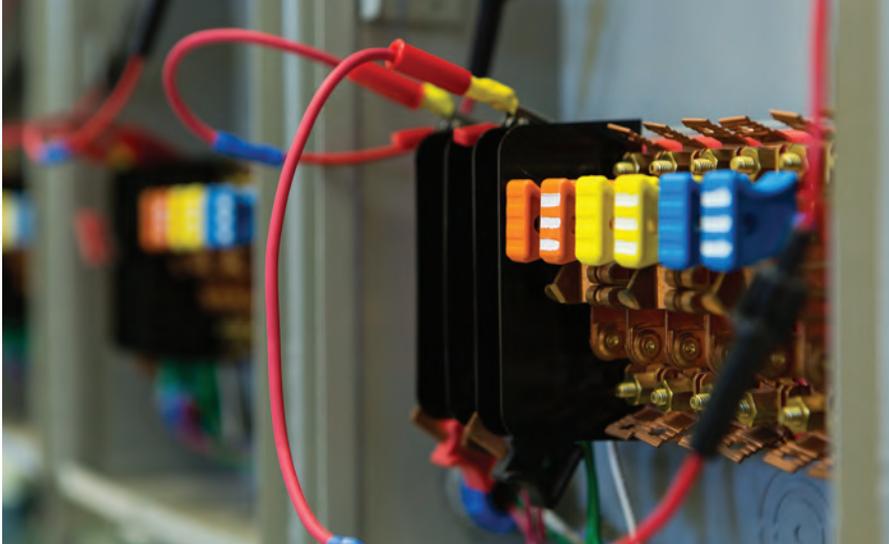
STORY BY GINA FLORENCE | PHOTOS BY RYAN STOUT

“The first thing we do everyday is look at any meter alerts received over the previous 24 hours and investigate them,” said Calvin Hendrickson, Electric Metering Supervisor.

Safety is important because meter technicians routinely work with energized equipment. Depending on the job, they will wear fire-resistant clothing or even full flash-protection gear. They also team up with line workers on major outages to help get the issue resolved safely and as quickly as possible.



“Meter Shop plays an integral part of the Engineering & System Planning Division,” said Shawndra Curry, Division Manager Engineering & System Planning. “Outside of the day-to-day Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) metering operations, meter technicians also perform other technical metering functions. They implement and maintain complex metering installations associated with the largest BTU customers. They are also responsible for the operation and maintenance of substation/transmission-level settlement meters that are located at the boundaries between ERCOT (Electric Reliability Council of Texas) and BTU.”



ERCOT reads ERCOT Polled Settlement (EPS) meters daily and the BTU meter technicians must ensure that the ERCOT regulations and requirements are met.

“Any one of these activities, if performed incorrectly, could have a negative financial impact on the utility and ultimately our customer,” said Shawndra.

Similar to line workers, meter technicians also complete a four-year apprenticeship program. To enter into the apprenticeship, a high-school diploma is required. Meter technicians are also technologically skilled with computers and meter programming software.

Technology has allowed meters to change and evolve in recent years. In the new AMI world, where meter readers are no longer visiting each location once a month, it becomes even more important to monitor the integrity and daily operations of meters.

The meters serve as the front line for BTU notifications regarding outages or

tampering. Each tampering incident is investigated and could result in service disconnection, fees, and possible legal issues.

“It’s a different world now than it was a few years ago,” said Calvin.

Electric meters date back to the late 1800s, when Thomas Edison, Oliver B. Shallenberger, and others were working on devices to measure how much power consumers used. Shallenberger invented the watt-hour electric meter, which provided Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Company a fair way to charge customers for alternating current electricity into residential homes.

The traditional watt-hour meter uses magnets and coils and was still used until a few years ago. Today’s meters use a more sophisticated system of computers. BTU’s meters are connected to the Outage Management System and are able to relay information such as outages, overloading alerts, and tamper alerts.

Calvin has been a meter technician for over 40 years. “I was fresh out of high school and looking for a job, and stumbled into metering. I liked the challenge, so I stayed with it,” he said. “After 40 plus years, I’m still learning new things.”

This story is the second in a series to explore the craft personnel who help power BTU.