



BOARD MEETING NOTES

THE BTU BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET ON MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2015 AND DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:

FINANCIAL

Joe Hegwood, Chief Financial Officer for the City of Bryan/BTU, 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 CIP spending in the City and Rural systems are currently under budget due primarily to the timing of distribution work.

Mr. Hegwood discussed large items purchased in November.

Items over \$100,000

- Underground Unit Services Contract for FY15 was awarded to Bayer Construction in the amount of \$175,000.

November 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

Randy Trimble presented the safety statistics for the previous month, stating BTU had no recordable incidents for the month.

The SAIDI and SAIFI report for the month of December was presented. Mr. Trimble stated that December was a good SAIDI and SAIFI month and the outages which occurred in the city system were short in duration. Mr. Trimble stated the outages in the rural system were mostly due to public accident and also a downed wire that took approximately eight hours to fully restore service to all customers.



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

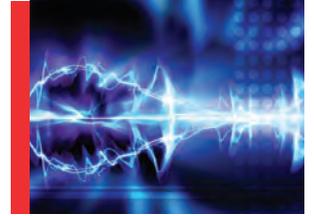
City of Bryan

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

UTILITY POLES



STORY BY GINA FLORENCE

BTU HAS MORE THAN 1,800 MILES OF OVERHEAD LINES IN THE SERVICE AREA AND ROUGHLY 50,000 UTILITY POLES. OF THOSE POLES, APPROXIMATELY 95% ARE WOODEN UTILITY POLES.

In 1844, Samuel Morse was given \$30,000 by Congress to build a telegraph line between Baltimore and Washington, D.C. After a failed attempt at burying the lines between the two cities, he decided to move them overhead. Today, transmission towers and distribution poles are seen all over, as they are an integral piece of delivering electricity to homes and businesses.

Wooden poles have been the standard among utility poles since Samuel Morse, as they are plentiful, renewable, and cost effective.

A maintained wood pole can last 25 to 35 years or longer. All BTU utility poles are inspected once every 10 years, or 10 percent annually on a 10-year cycle. Once poles are inspected, they are treated or reinforced with steel to help extend the life of the wooden pole. If a pole is determined to be unfixable, it will be replaced with a similar pole.

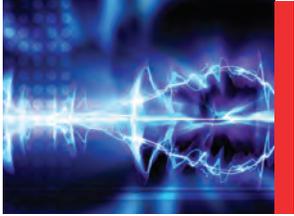
BTU utilizes concrete utility poles in some areas, especially those where it may be difficult to replace a wooden pole in the future, or on a complex line such as a double circuit or transmission line. Concrete poles are six to eight times more expensive and harder to install than the traditional wooden poles. ■



YOU DON'T GET MUCH GREENER

An independent life-cycle assessment confirms that treated wood utility poles use less energy and resources, offset fossil fuel use and have reduced environmental impact when compared to concrete, steel and fiber-reinforced composite utility poles. Wood poles are made from a plentiful and renewable resource grown on managed timberlands. Growing trees produces oxygen and wood stores carbon; wood poles help limit the accumulation of greenhouse gases. And used poles are recyclable in a variety of applications. Plus, due to the insulating properties of wood, eagles, ospreys and other large birds are able to perch on wood crossarms without danger of electrocution.

source: <http://www.woodpoles.org>



BTU BOARD CHAIRMAN HONORED AS IEEE FELLOW

STORY BY KENNETH W. SMITH JR.

TO BE NAMED A FELLOW OF THE INSTITUTE OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS IS A MAJOR CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AND A PRESTIGIOUS HONOR IN THE TECHNICAL COMMUNITY. THAT HONOR WAS RECENTLY CONFERRED ON BTU BOARD CHAIRMAN CARL L. BENNER.

Carl Benner is Research Associate Professor and Assistant Director of the Power System Automation Laboratory in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Texas A&M University. IEEE has recognized Mr. Benner for his contributions to the development of waveform-based analytics for electric power distribution.

So what does “waveform-based analytics” really mean?

Benner explained that electrical power systems have a lot of components with a long estimated lifespan. Due to many possible factors, including age, those components simply fail from time to time.

“The traditional approach, given that these components are difficult to inspect, is to wait until they fail and then get someone out to fix the problems as quickly as possible,” Benner said. “But what we do is try to anticipate when those components are going to fail.”

Benner said that they equip substations with monitoring devices that can gather data on electrical current and voltage signals. By applying computer

analytics and algorithms to this data, or waveforms, they can monitor those systems and, in many cases, predict when a failure is likely to happen.

Although the analysis can’t predict all failures before they occur, the process continues to be refined and improved upon, which will provide utility companies with a new level of awareness about their system’s health and events.

“It makes the system more reliable. It also helps with operational efficiencies, being able to tell a work crew exactly where the problem is when an outage does occur,” Benner said. “And it also helps with crew safety. It’s a much safer situation to be able to find and repair a component on a good-weather day, before an outage occurs, rather than during a storm when a component has been pushed over the edge and failed.”

The City of Bryan and BTU are very fortunate to have highly respected members of the community like Mr. Benner that volunteer to take time away from work and family for service to the citizens of the Brazos Valley. BTU and the Board of Directors congratulate Mr. Benner on this extraordinary achievement.



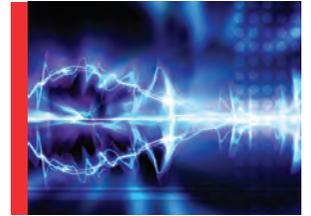
IEEE:
**Advancing
Technology
for Humanity**

MISSION STATEMENT

IEEE’s core purpose is to foster technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity.

VISION STATEMENT

IEEE will be essential to the global technical community and to technical professionals everywhere, and be universally recognized for the contributions of technology and of technical professionals in improving global conditions.

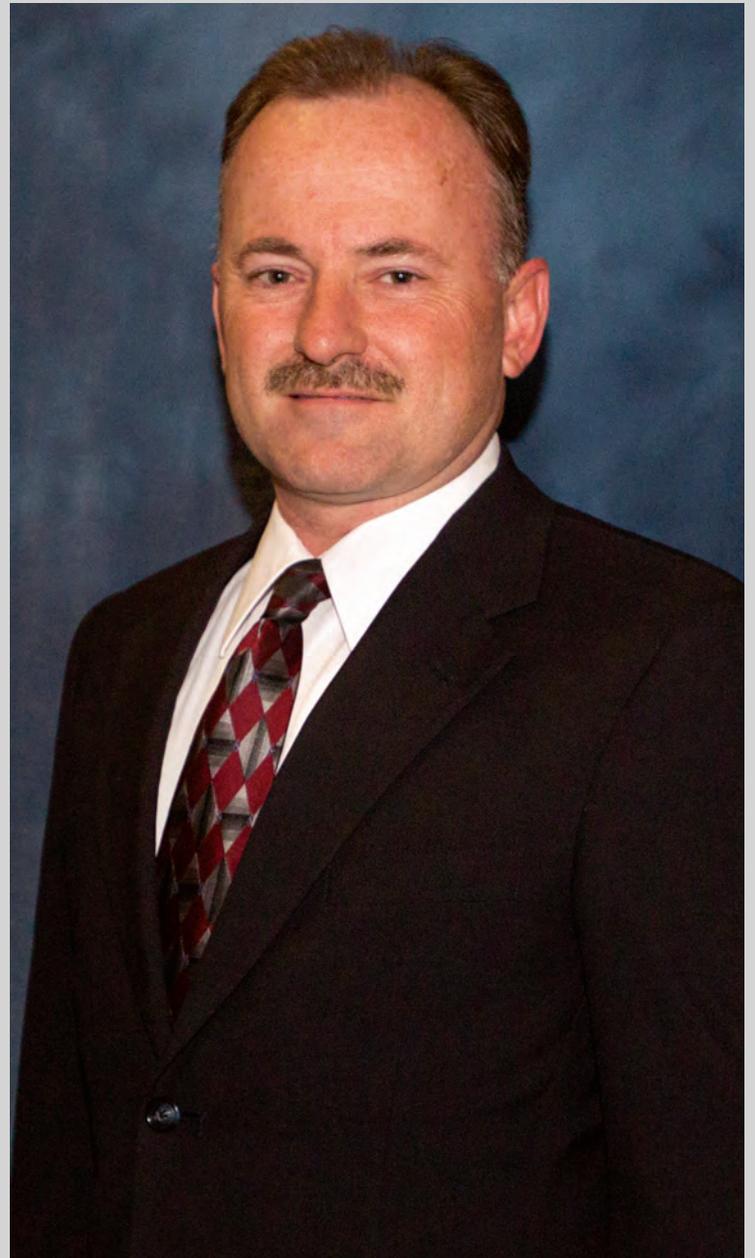


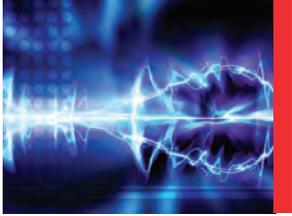
IEEE Fellow is the highest level of membership and is awarded by the IEEE board of directors to a person with an outstanding record of accomplishments in any of the IEEE fields of interest.

The total number of Fellows selected in any one year cannot exceed one-tenth of one percent of the total voting membership.

“It’s a great honor. It’s humbling in a way, but it’s exciting and very gratifying to be recognized by my peers for my contributions over the last 25 years.”

- Carl L. Benner





I AM BRYAN ARE YOU?

PHOTOS BY KENNETH W. SMITH JR.

IT'S THE CITIZENS HERE WHO REALLY MAKE EVERYTHING
#BETTER IN BRYAN.



The Lopez Family

I Am Bryan. Three simple words that describe the make-up of our great city. The City of Bryan has launched a new Tumblr (a social networking website where you can upload photos, music, text, and videos) built around the theme of what makes our city so special: Our citizens. So share with us your "I Am Bryan" photos and help us show the world how wonderful our city is. Simply email your photo to gfflorence@bryantx.gov.



Darryel Kelly - BTU Electrical

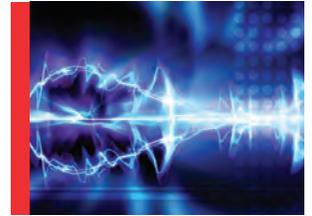


Aaron Pruitt & Davy Lockhart -
Firefighters and Paramedics



Meghan and Andrew

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



STORY BY GINA FLORENCE | PHOTO BY RYAN STOUT

A RELATIVE NEWCOMER, AMANDA GINN CELEBRATED HER ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY AT BTU IN JANUARY. “I WAS A LITTLE NERVOUS COMING TO ‘AGGIELAND’ AT FIRST, BUT IT’S BEEN GREAT!”

Born in Lufkin, Amanda grew up in Louisiana. She graduated from Northwestern State University of Louisiana with a degree in Computer Information Systems. Before relocating to Bryan, Amanda worked for a bank in her hometown for the past nine years in their IT department.

“We wanted to move here, we have family nearby so when my husband was offered a job in Bryan, we jumped at the opportunity. Everything fell into place quickly with me getting hired by BTU. Within a week of being here, we were all chit chatting and going to lunch. I immediately felt like part of the family here.”

Among the projects Amanda has been working on is the new Automated Vehicle Location System which helps to locate trucks on assignment and who is assigned to the trucks. She’s been working on converting older reporting systems to a new system.

Another project that Amanda is working on deals with customer service and working with the meters. “There is a lot of reporting and we’ll be looking to convert those reports to newer systems as well.”

“It’s important to stay up to date and stay on top of new technology. BTU offers online training, so we can stay current.”

She’s not always behind a computer. She’s often out camping and fishing or riding her horses. “I also like to bake; I’ve made the team at work cakes and bread. Apparently, if you do something more than twice it’s considered a tradition here.”

While she hopes to one day have her own bakery, she has no intention of leaving BTU anytime soon. ■



“If I knew it was going to be this great to work here, I would have applied years ago. I’m just now getting my hands fully involved in new projects here. I’ve told my supervisor ‘y’all got me now,’ as I’m staying here.”

Amanda Ginn
IT Systems Analyst



LAKE BRYAN

STORY AND LAKE BRYAN PHOTO BY KENNETH W. SMITH JR.

DO YOU LOVE LAKE BRYAN? SAY "THANK YOU" TO BTU!

If you stroll along the shores of Lake Bryan on any given day, you'll see water skiers and wind surfers riding the waves. You'll see fisherman in their boats trolling for catfish and bass. You'll see campers, hikers and mountain bikers all enjoying the trails and facilities that the lake has to offer. And of course, you'll see the Lakeside Icehouse - site of live music, good times and spectacular sunsets.

Yes, Lake Bryan is a premiere outdoor recreation area in the Brazos Valley. But that's only half of the story.

Lake Bryan isn't a natural "lake." It's a man-made reservoir and dam system that is managed by Bryan Texas Utilities and was constructed in the 1970's to supply cooling water to generators at BTU's Dansby Power Plant.

So without that power plant, the lake itself wouldn't exist.

Since 1978, Dansby's Unit Number One has been providing electricity to Bryan and other BTU customers. Unit Number One is a steam turbine that uses water from Lake Bryan to cool the steam back down once it has done its job and gone through the turbine.

More recently, two additional units have been added at Dansby, both of which are flightless jet engines similar to what you'd see on an airplane. These two units run on natural gas and are mainly operated at peak times of the day. ■

ABOUT THAT RECREATION

Okay, so the lake wasn't actually created just for recreation. But that doesn't really matter. What matters is that it's an awesome venue for outdoor activities year-round.

ON WATER



BOATING AND SWIMMING:

All water vessels are welcome at Lake Bryan. The lake has a boat launch with car and trailer parking as well as a bankside that is available for launching jet skis. Water vessels must have current licensing and all Texas regulations and safety guidelines apply.

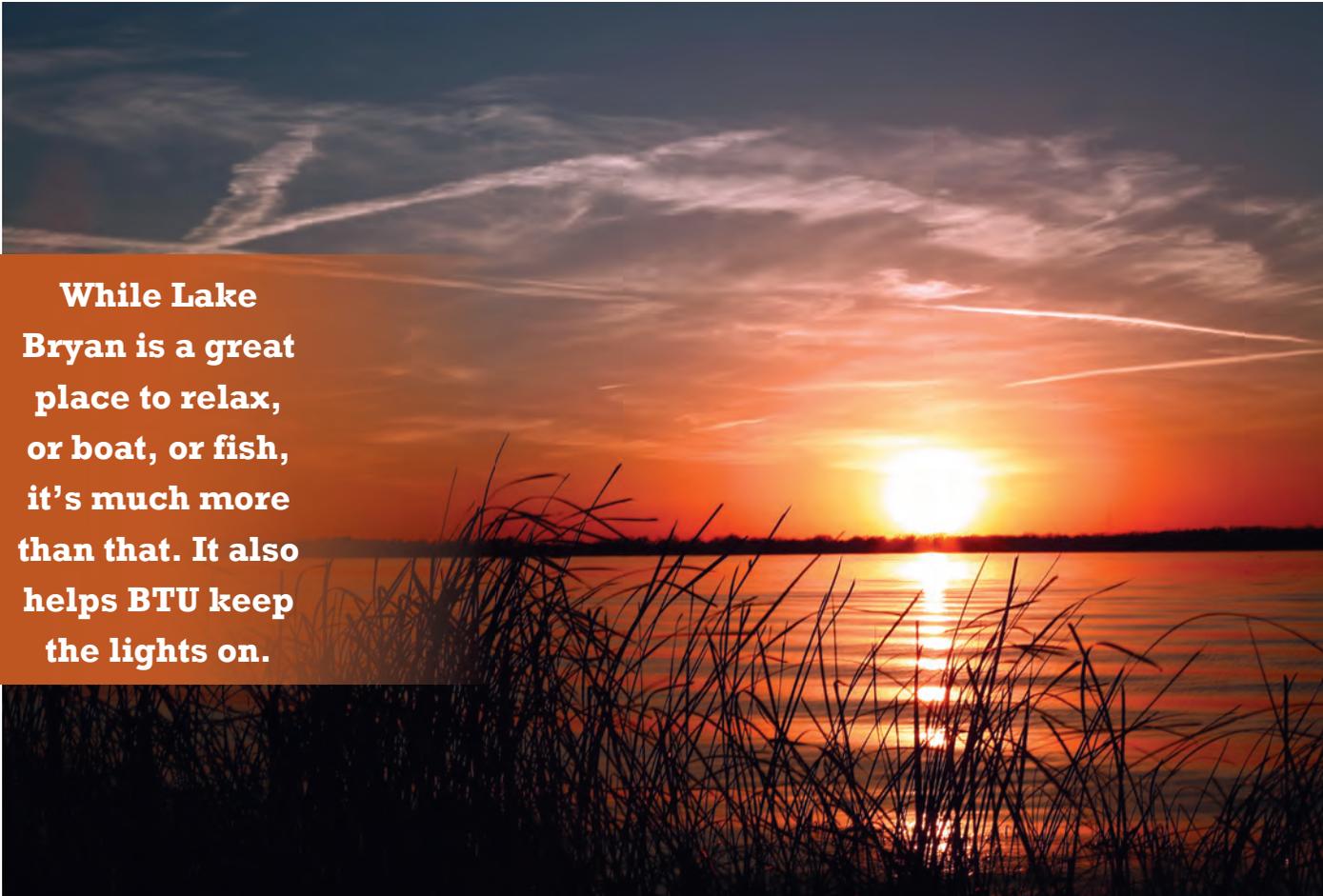


FISHING:

Lake Bryan is not a Texas state park, however Texas Parks and Wildlife regulations and laws do apply. Visitors are welcome to fish from any bank or boat at the lake, but visitors must have a fishing license and provide their own tackle. Tackle is not sold at Lake Bryan. For a complete list of Lake Bryan fishing regulations, visit the Texas Parks and Wildlife website: tpwd.texas.gov

Predominant Fish Species:

- Largemouth Bass
- Channel Catfish
- Crappie
- Sunfish



While Lake Bryan is a great place to relax, or boat, or fish, it's much more than that. It also helps BTU keep the lights on.

ON LAND

CAMPING AND PICNICS:

Lake Bryan has 125 acres of first come-first served tent and electric RV camping and recreation facilities to go along with seven water and electric combined RV sites. Facilities also include:

- Pavilion (reservation required)
- Picnic Tables
- Fire Pits
- Public Restrooms (no showers)



HIKING & MOUNTAIN BIKING:

Lake Bryan boasts more than 20 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails with routes along both the east and west sides of the lake. The Brazos Valley Mountain Bike Association maintains the trails.

LAKESIDE ICEHOUSE:

There is no better place to sit back, relax and watch the sunset than the Lakeside Icehouse. And when you add food, beverages and live music into the mix, you have a recipe for a great evening out. The Icehouse is open rain or shine and welcomes all ages. You can even bring your dog. For detailed hours visit lakebryan.com.