

REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Notes

June 11, 2018

Safety Report

General Manager Gary Miller reviewed the safety statistics for the month and informed the board of one vehicle accident that occurred in May.

Approve Contract for a Transmission Line Access Road and Drainage Crossing

The board approved a contract with Brazos Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$318,200.00 for the transmission line access road and drainage crossing for two line projects—Dansby to Thompson Creek and Thompson Creek to Snook.

Approval of an Easement Agreement with Texas A&M University

The board approved an easement agreement with Texas A&M University for a new BTU distribution line to be constructed on TAMU's Waste Water Treatment Plant property.

Presentation of the City and Rural Pro-Formas and Financial Measures

Chief Financial Officer Joe Hegwood informed the board that BTU has continued to show steady growth since FY02, and, based on the Pro-Formas, BTU shows a strong performance in meeting desired financial metrics.

Presentation of Fuel and Regulatory Rates, and Related Recovery Projections

Mr. Doug Lyles, BTU Chief Risk Officer, updated the board on the fuel and regulatory over/under recovery projections. Staff recommends a reduction in the Rural Power Supply Adjustment by 6.2% to correct for differences in loss factors between the City and Rural systems.

Consideration of Purchase Agreements for Steel and Concrete Poles for the Snook to Steele Store 138kV Line

Mr. Randy Trimble, Executive Director of Energy Delivery, presented the bids for the Snook to Steele Store 138kV transmission line. The proposed 9 miles of line, to be constructed along FM 50 and Varisco Lane, are needed to increase reliability and serve load growth in the western part of the BTU system.

Presentation of Improvements and Future Plans for Lake Bryan Park

Ms. Vicki Reim, Division Manager of Customer Operations, updated the board on improvements to Lake Bryan, and future plans for security and overall customer experience.

SOCIAL MEDIA



BryanTexasUtilities



cityofbryan



BTU_BryanTX



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BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

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www.btutilities.com

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mr. David Bairrington, Chairman
Mr. Flynn Adcock, Vice Chairman
Mr. Carl L. Benner
Mr. Pete J. Bienski, Jr.
Mr. A. Bentley Nettles
Ms. Rosemarie Selman
Mr. Paul Turney
Mr. Buppy Simank, Ex-Officio
Mr. Jason Bienski, Ex-Officio

GENERAL MANAGER

Gary Miller

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

Randy Trimble
David Werley

DIVISION MANAGERS

James Bodine
Bill Bullock
Shawndra Curry
Ken Lindberg
Clay Lindstrom
David McIntyre
Kristi Nash
Vicki Reim
Scott Smith

Doug Lyles, Chief Risk Officer
Wes Williams, Regulatory Compliance Officer

CITY OF BRYAN

Kean Register, City Manager
Joe Hegwood, Chief Financial Officer
Bernie Acre, Chief Information Officer

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Billing/Collections/Connects
(979) 821-5700

Electrical Outage/Lines Down
(979) 822-3777

Distribution/Line Design
(979) 821-5770

WALK, BIKE, BUS, OR DRIVE:



TIPS FOR GETTING TO SCHOOL SAFELY

As summer draws to a close and children start heading back to school, family life can get pretty hectic. It's important to remember – and share with your children – some key tips that will help keep them safe and healthy throughout the school year.

Whether children walk, ride their bicycle or take the bus to school, it is vitally important that they – and the motorists around them – take proper safety precautions.

WALKERS

- Walk on the sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk and you must walk in the street, walk facing traffic
- Before crossing the street, stop and look left, right and left again to see if cars are coming
- Never dart out in front of a parked car
- Parents: Practice walking to school with your child, crossing streets at crosswalks when available
- Never walk while texting or talking on the phone
- Do not walk while using headphones

BIKE RIDERS

- Always wear a helmet that is fitted and secured properly
- Children need to know the rules of the road: Ride single file on the right side of the road, come to a complete stop before crossing the street and walk the bike across
- Watch for opening car doors and other hazards
- Use hand signals when turning
- Wear bright-colored clothing

BUS RIDERS

- Teach children the proper way to get on and off the bus
- Line up 6 feet away from the curb as the bus approaches
- If seat belts are available, buckle up
- Wait for the bus to stop completely before standing
- Do not cross in front of the bus if possible, or walk at least 10 feet ahead until you can see the other drivers

DRIVERS

- Don't block crosswalks
- Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, and take extra care in school zones
- Never pass a vehicle stopped for pedestrians
- Never pass a bus loading or unloading children
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is the most dangerous for children; stop far enough back to allow them to safely enter and exit the bus

**Back to school safety tips courtesy of the National Safety Council, www.nsc.org*

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

and Why It's Important

Bryan Texas Utilities always strives to provide our customers with low rates and high reliability. To help keep the lights on, Vegetation Management, also known as "tree trimming", is performed to keep branches and overgrowth from contacting overhead powerlines and interrupting your service.



Here is some information about the Vegetation Management process, and what you can do to help.

Why?

Vegetation within the right-of-way access can create an obstacle when our crews need to perform maintenance or restore power during an outage. When high winds and other inclement weather occurs, tree limbs can break off and fall into lines, causing lengthy outages. BTU proactively clears the right-of-way to lessen the threat to system safety and reliability.

When?

With nearly 2,300 miles of overhead transmission and distribution line to maintain, BTU has a 4-5 year "trim cycle" to ensure that we adequately trim vegetation throughout our entire service territory, which includes Brazos and parts of Burleson and Robertson counties. Prior to work beginning in your area, you will receive a door hanger on your front door, or gate, to inform you that crews will be on your property. A number will be provided should you have questions or concerns about their presence.

How?

One challenge of this maintenance is achieving the required long-term clearance while also preserving the aesthetic value of your trees. With trimming being performed every 4-5 years, crews must cut enough to keep them within clearance until they return next time. Some factors that determine the method of trimming include the branch structure, the position in the right-of-way, and the proximity of the lines.

Industry accepted principles of proper arboriculture are practiced to prevent damage to your trees.

Branches that contact the service line, also known as a "service drop", running from the utility pole to your meter are not normally pruned by our crews. However, at your request, BTU will disconnect the service line and move it clear of the limbs to allow you or your contractor to safely prune or remove the tree.

What can you do?

When planting new trees or bushes, always be aware of the proximity to overhead lines. Know the maximum mature height of the tree, and make sure that it is a minimum of 20 feet away from the line.

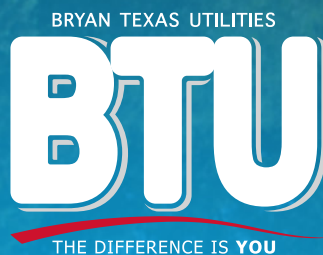
It is never recommended that a customer attempt to prune trees that are contacting, or are in close proximity to, power lines. Even commercial arborists must be "line clearance certified" to work closer than 10 feet to electrical lines. It is an extremely hazardous project that should only be attempted by professionals.

To report vegetation that is in danger of contacting our lines, please call BTU's Utility Arborist at 979.821.5930, or our 24-hour operation center at 979.822.3777.



BTU

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GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION YOUTH TOUR 2018

RECAP

The 2018 Government-in-Action Youth Tour winners have returned from their 10-day, action-packed trip to Washington, D.C.! The Youth Tour, an all-expense-paid trip sponsored by Bryan Texas Utilities, is a once in a lifetime trip for young leaders in the community. Each year, three local high school students are selected based on their responses to essay questions, as well as their extracurricular involvement. This year the winners were Kristin Paholek, soon to be senior from Travis B. Bryan High School, Sergio Umanzor, soon to be junior from Travis B. Bryan High School, and Elleanna Vines, homeschooled sophomore.

To kick off the trip, the winners spent a day in Austin, Texas exploring our state capital before travelling to Washington, D.C. to experience our nation's capital. During their time in Austin, participants joined nearly 150 other high school students from across Texas to explore the capitol building, visit the Texas State Cemetery, and eat at famous Austin food trucks. Youth Tour participant, Elleanna Vines said, "Walking through the Texas State Cemetery and observing the number of graves changed the way I see our state."

Participants boarded a plane the next day bound for Washington, D.C., and spent the following days touring monuments such as the Lincoln, Jefferson, and Vietnam Veterans memorials, and museums such as The Newseum, Smithsonian Institution, and Holocaust Memorial Museum. Students also toured Mount Vernon, Capitol Hill, Library of Congress, The National Cathedral, and Arlington National Cemetery where they laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Youth Tour participant Sergio Umanzor said that touring the monuments and museums was his favorite part of the experience.

Days were not only spent touring the famous sites, but participants also experienced some unique happenings. "We even got to meet with Representative Bill Flores," said Kristin Paholek. Congressman Flores gave BTU participants a challenge coin to help remind them of their meeting and encourage them in their future endeavors. Students also attended a sightseeing and dancing riverboat cruise on the Potomac River, and joined more than 1,700 others from 45 states to participate in a leadership event with special keynote speakers.

This trip is not only fun and beneficial to the individuals who attend, but also to the communities that each student represents. The Youth Tour inspires students to become involved in their communities. Participant Elleanna Vines said that this trip "helped equip me with the tools I need to one day become a woman dedicated to my community." BTU realizes the importance in investing in the youth in the community that will one day become leaders locally, at the state level, nationally, and even internationally. This idea was the initial inspiration for the Government-in-Action Youth Tour that was inspired by then U.S. Senator and later President Lyndon B. Johnson when he challenged political leaders to send students to Washington, D.C. so they could "actually see what the flag stands for and represents."

Take participant Kristin Paholek's advice when she said that she would recommend this trip to others as it was, "the trip of a lifetime," and she would "go again if I could." Look for applications to open online in November for next year's trip and give your sophomore, junior, or senior a chance to experience this amazing trip themselves.



Conversation With...

Bryan ISD Superintendent

DR. CHRISTIE WHITBECK

In more than 30 years as an educator, Dr. Christie Whitbeck has seen a lot.

A superintendent “who’s literally come up through the ranks,” Dr. Whitbeck has served at all levels of elementary and secondary education. She has been a first-grade teacher and elementary reading specialist. She’s been a principal at the elementary, junior high and high school levels. She’s been a district administrator in some very large school districts in the Houston area.

Those experiences have led her to her current role as Superintendent of the Bryan Independent School District.

Now beginning her second full academic year at Bryan ISD, we sat down with Dr. Whitbeck to get her thoughts on a wide range of topics related to Bryan schools, her leadership role, and education in general.

On life and education in Bryan:

“I really like the lifestyle here. I think it’s a very pleasant lifestyle. It’s a comfortable pace. Educational issues are about the same (as in the Houston area). The same types of things that we addressed there, we’re dealing with here. I particularly thought I came into Bryan at a tough time as all districts in the state are faced with reductions in state funding and new accountability standards. Despite the challenges, I’ve enjoyed it. I love the work and the relationships with the students, parents, staff and community.

“I’ve got a wonderful daughter at Texas A&M in the architecture program, and so I’m grateful to live in Bryan and be near her. That’s another phenomenal thing I love about this area: The connection with A&M. And I’m excited that we’re growing our partnership with them. Working with the College of Education in Human Development, where I actually got my Ph.D., we’ve created

a Good Neighbor Project where we partner together to better serve our students. We are blessed with so many partnerships. So, I’m excited about that. All of this is in addition to our already established partnerships with Blinn College. We are thankful for the support and collaboration from A&M, Blinn, and the many wonderful organizations and community members who care so much about our school community.”

On funding challenges facing Bryan ISD and school districts statewide:

“Well, we want to increase academic achievement for all children, want to increase choices, want to make sure that there’s a niche for every child to find what they love, what they’re passionate about. And those become extremely more challenging when we’re not seeing any gains in funding.

"So, for example, one of the things that I'm most concerned about in our state now is the amount of money that is going towards funding charter schools. It's not a problem to have a choice. Choice is a great thing. We need to have choices to make us all better. My request to those making decisions is, 'Provide us with adequate funding and we'll create the choices within public schools. Additionally, hold charter schools to the same public school standards and accommodate all students.' Despite funding obstacles, I am proud that Bryan ISD currently offers 13 programs which allow choices for our students. We are committed to providing as many opportunities as possible for our children.

"For example, an exceptional choice is that we have an early college high school (Bryan Collegiate). One hundred percent of the (Bryan Collegiate) 2018 graduation class was accepted to a four-year university and had average of 52 college hours already complete by the end of high school. Fourteen of those students earned associate's degrees. There are many examples of choice in Bryan ISD. In particular, at the comprehensive high schools, Bryan and Rudder, students can choose from many areas of interest such as advanced academics, career and technical education, fine arts, athletics, leadership and club activities. We recognize the importance of providing a variety of opportunities for students.

"While we continue to offer all these choices, we need to be funded adequately to take care of our faculty. And salary is one of the things that I've been looking at. As a result, I've done some strategic equity adjustments. I believe in the Brazos Valley, regarding school staff salary, we are, in general, behind the Metroplex and Houston area. So, we have to look at that, but that takes funding in order to compensate our employees. And I think that's critical for attracting and retaining teachers and principals."

On her vision for Bryan ISD:

"My vision is that every child reaches their full potential. And that's different for everyone. Some kids want to graduate from school and go to work. Some kids are heading right down to the big A&M University and some kids will attend an Ivy League college. We've got kids doing all kinds of things. So, to me, I believe that we prepare them for whatever their niche is. I want every student, no matter what they choose to do, to be successful when they graduate from our district.

"We do that by bringing in the best people that we can find to serve the children. And we do that by creating a culture that has high expectations and a culture that is positive and it's about growing people.

"This book, I thought I might show it to you. 'Bringing Out the Best in People.' This is aligned to my vision. This is from my grandmother... It's an old book. When I was a teacher, my grandmother gave me this book. And there's newer versions out, but the title is what is really my philosophy. This is my philosophy of life. This is what we're supposed to do. And for me as superintendent, this isn't just the little kids, this is bringing out the best in our teachers, our principals, our administrators. How do we bring out the best in them so that they can have joy in serving? Because that's what it's about. And I truly find joy in this work. I

always have. Every job that I've had from first-grade teacher on, I find joy.

"Now, there's days when the buses aren't rolling right, and you find out that decisions were made that you maybe wouldn't have made the same decisions. It's not as joyful, but you always look for the joy. And so that's my philosophy, so to speak. And I've shared this with all of my leadership team. And I shared this at convocation last year, that this is what I believe in.

"Another thing that I'm really proud of is that I finished what I call 'Soup with the Supt.'" I went to every single school and I stayed the entire lunch duration and allowed the staff come in and visit with me about anything on their mind. So, they had an opportunity to talk to me about safety, they had an opportunity to talk to me about curriculum, anything. And from those meetings, I've taken the feedback to the leadership team and we're working on several things. So, I've been very busy listening. That's one of the things I would say that I've accomplished my first year. I've had meetings with head custodians, meetings with the cafeteria managers in the district, meetings with the bus drivers. I would call it a real grassroots approach to hearing what people are saying because they're the ones who know."

On what she's excited about for the 2018-2019 school year:

"I'm excited about continuing with the positive culture. I think we're moving in the right direction. I get a lot of feedback about that. Our theme this year will be 'Opportunity Awaits, #Tellthestory.' Last year was 'Encourage the heart. #Tellthestory.' And I think we've got to keep telling our story about all the wonderful things that are going on in this district because it is amazing. It is incredible what kids are doing and learning and what kind of choices that they have.

"We're going to also be busy this year with planning for the Career and Technical Education Center (CTE) that will open in August 2019. We purchased the land off of Mumford Road – 119 acres and it's got two buildings... And we have formed a CTE advisory board to help us plan for course offerings in the short and long term. We are thankful for the tremendous community support and can't wait to see what the future holds for our students.

"I'm excited about having a year under my belt. I want to see continued growth with all academic areas, especially in our advanced academics program. We've done a lot of things this year and we'll continue to do more to strengthen those courses. All of the Explore, Odyssey, Inquire, Gifted and Talented, Advanced Placement, and International Baccalaureate courses add value to our students education.

"I want to be a superintendent who is approachable and who listens to students, staff, parents and community. I want to make decisions in the best interest of students. I want Bryan ISD to be the best District possible. I'm excited about the work and grateful for the opportunity to serve this wonderful community."