

Regular Board of Directors *Meeting Notes*

February 8, 2020

Presentation of the BTU Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) Financial Audit

Mr. Joe Hegwood, City of Bryan Chief Financial Officer, introduced Ms. Amanda Eaves of BKD, L.L.P. to present the findings of the FY20 Financial Audit. Ms. Eaves reviewed the report and informed the Board that BTU received an unqualified opinion and that there were no weaknesses to report in the audited financials.

Approval of a Resolution to Recommend Approval of a Bond Ordinance to Authorize Bond Issuance for the BTU City Electric System

The Board approved a resolution to recommend the approval of a bond ordinance to the Bryan City Council authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds for the City Electric Distribution Service Center Project, and to pay the cost of the issuance.

Approval of a Contract for the Steele Store to Smetana 138kV Transmission Project

Mr. Randy Trimble, BTU Executive Director of Energy Delivery, presented the bid tabulations for the Steele Store to Smetana 138kV Transmission Project. Staff determined that Mesa Line Services, LLC provided the lowest responsible bid, suitable schedule, and the best value for BTU. The Board unanimously approved a contract with Mesa Line Services, LLC.

Presentation of an Update Regarding the Lake Bryan Dam

Mr. Wes Williams, BTU Executive Director of QSE and Production, presented an update regarding several surface slides on the Lake Bryan Dam. Mr. Williams stated the engineering firm Freese and Nichols is assisting with the evaluation and strategies to repair the slides.

Texas Municipal Power Association Update

Mr. Gary Miller, BTU General Manager, informed the Board that all outstanding issues with the TMPA/CHARAH sale of the Gibbons Creek Steam Electric Station have been resolved, and closing is set for February 10, 2021.

BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803
email: ContactBTU@btutilities.com

www.btutilities.com

Hours of Operation

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

Board of Directors

Mr. A. Bentley Nettles, Chairman
Ms. Rosemarie Selman, Vice Chairman
Mr. Pete J. Bienski, Jr., Secretary
Mr. John A. Bond
Mr. Paul Madison, Sr.
Mr. Greg S. Owens
Mr. Paul Turney
Mr. Jason Bienski, Ex-Officio
Mr. Buppy Simank, Ex-Officio

General Manager

Gary Miller

Executive Directors

Randy Trimble
David Werley
Wes Williams

Division Managers

James Bodine
Nick Cook
Shawndra Curry
Ken Lindberg
Clay Lindstrom
Vicki Reim
Gary Massey

Doug Lyles, Chief Risk Officer

City of Bryan

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

BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

KIOSKS

BTU Drive Thru – 205 E. 28th St. (Open 24 Hours)
HEB Grocery – Tejas Center on Villa Maria
HEB Grocery – Texas Ave. & Hwy 21

WAYS TO PAY



CASH



CHECK



CARD

Bring your BTU account number, BTU bill, keycard or reminder letter.

Important Numbers

Billing/Collections/Connects
(979) 821-5700

Electrical Outage/Lines Down
(979) 822-3777

Distribution/Line Design
(979) 821-5770

LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

April 18 is Lineman Appreciation Day

Line workers were brought to the forefront of most Texans' minds mid-February this year. The historic winter weather event that affected the entire state caused energy shortages prompting rolling outages and damage to electric infrastructure due to the ice and snow. Locally, Bryan Texas Utilities (BTU) crews worked tirelessly to restore power to those affected by the storm damage. However, while there may be times when the job is the most difficult, line workers serve the community diligently each day.

There are many nights spent away from families restoring power due to storms, but there is also challenging work done daily to maintain existing lines and construct new facilities. These everyday heroes serve a territory spanning nearly 650 square miles in the Brazos Valley, and they are highly trained to do so. BTU linemen spend years developing their knowledge base and skills in both the classroom and the field. Working in such a dangerous environment requires focus, a strong commitment to safety, and a desire to serve others.

The inconvenience to our customers when the power goes out is not lost on our linemen. That's why they don't stop working until the job is done. Sometimes that means rotating 16-hour shifts for days at a time during storm restoration efforts. Other times, it may be a call away from their child's sporting event to respond to a vehicle hitting a utility pole.

At BTU, we are proud to have consistently lower than average outage durations. Our customers also experience outages less frequently than the average customer in Texas. Our linemen are an essential part of making that possible. This Linemen Appreciation Day, we celebrate the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice made by line workers every day. **Don't forget to #ThankALineman!**



APRIL 18

#THANKALINEMAN



BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES



BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES **SPOTLIGHT**

Greg OWENS

Member, BTU Board of Directors

Greg Owens is one of Bryan Texas Utilities' newest board members, appointed by the Bryan City Council in November, 2020. He is a proud member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 1995, receiving his degree in Business Management. Owens has put this degree to good use, as he owns two ServPro franchises: ServPro of the Brazos Valley and ServPro of Temple & Belton. He also dabbles in real estate, particularly ranches and tracts of property.



A native of Monroe, Louisiana, Owens and his family arrived in Texas in 1998 when his father was transferred to a job in Richmond. On his second day at Kempner High School, he met Julie Tschatschula, and the two have been together ever since that day.

Greg and Julie have raised three children in their Bryan home. Their oldest son, Hayden, is a member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Class of 2023, while daughter, Ashley, and youngest son, Matthew, are both honor students at St. Joseph Catholic School. Julie describes Greg as "the most fair, giving, and generous person. He will make sure that the best outcome is accomplished in anything he is involved with." Owens cites his proudest achievement as "being able to provide for my family."

Owens is definitely not a home body, as he enjoys "hunting, boating, and ranching – anything I can do outdoors with my kids and wife!" As if those weren't enough hobbies, he also enjoys fishing, shooting skeet, real estate, and spending time with his family. The Owens' especially enjoy spending time working cattle at their ranch in the Hill Country, and look forward to eventually retiring there someday. "We are growing our cattle herd each year, adding in other breeds to expand our livestock."

Not only does Owens bring a strong knowledge of business to the BTU Board, he has also previously served on the Bryan City Council for eight years, with four of those years as

Mayor Pro Tem. Additionally, Owens has served as Chairman of the Bryan Zoning Board of Adjustments, and has also served on the City of Bryan Audit Committee, Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Board, Brazos County Public Health Board, Bryan Business Council Liaison, City of Bryan Building Standards Committee, and the City of Bryan/Brazos County Economic Development Foundation Board. Owens has also been a Guest Lecturer at A&M's Mays Business School and is a member of the Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce.

When Owens was asked who has been the strongest influence in his life, he replied "My grandfather, for sure. While he was alive, there was not one idea that I didn't pass by him. He was the most successful person in my life and I looked up to him for everything. He loved cattle ranching and real estate- so following in his footsteps has shown me how to become successful in the same ventures. I am very passionate about my real estate and helping families find their dream ranches and property."

Owens is looking forward to bringing his experience to the BTU Board, as he enjoys working with others while serving the community. He is optimistic about the future of the Brazos Valley and sees "significant opportunity for growth in both rural and urban areas. It is exciting to serve a dynamic, growing community."



BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES SPOTLIGHT

SNOOK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ten miles west of Easterwood Airport, just off FM 60, lies the City of Snook. Originally settled in the 1880's by Czech immigrants, Snook is likely better known to outsiders as the home of Sodalak's Original Country Inn, Slovacek Sausage Company, and Chilifest. However, the citizens of Snook know of an additional attribute: the Snook Independent School District (ISD).

Snook ISD was formed in 1949, 12 years after several smaller schools in the community consolidated into a single school building. Today, Snook ISD consists of a Pre-K – 5th Grade campus and an adjoining 6th – 12th grade campus located on a single property, and it serves over 500 students.

Snook ISD earned a rating of "B" on the 2019 Texas Education Agency's (TEA) accountability rating system, making great progress from the TEA rating of "Improvement Required" from five years earlier. One of the reasons behind this progress is Brenda Krchnak (pronounced kirk-nok), who was hired as the ISD's Superintendent in the fall of 2014, after serving two years as Assistant Superintendent of Coldspring ISD.

After an initial semester of observation, Krchnak made impactful changes in the spring 2015 semester. "It took a lot of putting systems in place," said Krchnak. "We refocused on curriculum – what we were teaching, how we were teaching, and who was doing the teaching." That spring, the ISD replaced 35 percent of the staff. "By the 2015-16 school year, we were well on our way to receiving the 'Met Standard' rating, and in the spring of 2016 we received that rating."

One of the more impressive statistics for Snook ISD is their dropout rate of only 0.6 percent – well below the Texas statewide average of 1.9 percent. Krchnak attributes the low dropout rate to the closeness of the school to the community it serves. "We know our kids well, we know the families well, and we typically know their situations," says Krchnak. "Our goal is when every child leaves here, they have a high school diploma."

As of the fall semester of 2020, students at Snook High School have both dual credit and dual enrollment options. The school district is participating in the University of Texas (UT) OnRamps program, which provides dual enrollment college credit for high school students taking classes in History and English. The OnRamps program is different from other dual enrollment programs in that the high school instructors go through 80 hours of training from UT to become certified to teach the classes, which are proctored by UT. Students can earn up to 12 credit hours, which can be transferred to any college.

All students can apply for the OnRamps program, and the cost is \$99 for economically disadvantaged students and \$149 for all others. If the student passes the college credit portion of the class, Snook ISD then provides a \$100 reimbursement to the student.

Snook ISD also wants to make sure 100 percent of its students have access to electronic learning opportunities, with the overall goal to make sure each student can check out an



electronic device and access the internet. Through a funding program from the TEA, the ISD has been able to use 50 percent state funding and 50 percent local funding to purchase these devices. The ISD provides Ipad to Pre K and 1st graders, Chromebooks to 2nd through 8th graders, and laptops to its high school students. The school has also partnered with Verizon to purchase 100 HotSpots to provide internet to students who don't have access to the internet at home.



To meet the needs of its current and future students, Snook ISD has recently been heavily investing in upgrades to the facilities on campus. A new Activity Center was built to enhance the Fine Arts and Theatre programs, and a new, modern cafeteria also doubles as a theatre for student performances. The gym lights were upgraded to LED lights, which also resulted in a BTU SmartBUSINESS rebate of \$1,190.

The highlight of all the recent upgrades is the new multi-purpose stadium, which boasts an artificial turf field, 8-lane track, and field house. This allowed Snook to host home football games on campus for the first time last fall, giving the students and the community the opportunity to enjoy the Friday night lights in their own city. Krchnak is looking forward to hosting more events in the stadium. "We're very excited this spring to be hosting multiple track meets, bringing people to our community that may not have had a reason to come to Snook before now."



Darrell St. Clair, Snook ISD Business Manager, is optimistic about the future of Snook ISD as well as the community itself. Because of a new subdivision being built a stone's throw away from the school, St. Clair says, "Even calculating conservatively, in three to five years, we could see anywhere from 10 to 25 percent growth." Krchnak agrees, adding "The district is definitely going to grow."

"A lot of parents don't want their kids in big schools, so this is a good alternative to be able to come to a small school, be extremely involved in a small school environment that has excellent facilities and a good accountability rating," says Krchnak. "What's been the hold back for Snook to grow is that there has been no [available] housing. Because that's changing, I think we're going to see that growth."



EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS IN *Bryan*

Spring has arrived in Bryan, and that means it's the perfect time to get out and take advantage of all the outdoor amenities Bryan has to offer!



ENJOY BEAUTIFUL LAKE BRYAN

Find room to breathe and soak up the sunshine at Lake Bryan, an outdoor recreation oasis in the heart of the Brazos Valley. With more than 20 miles of hiking, biking and running trails, swimming areas, campgrounds and a variety of fish stocked by Texas Parks & Wildlife, there are plenty of opportunities to immerse yourself in nature and escape the hustle and bustle of everyday life. There are even opportunities to rent kayaks and paddleboards for your day at the lake!

Find more information at lakebryan.com.

EXPLORE ONE OF BRYAN'S PARKS

When school is not in session, you can find tons of people outdoors enjoying nature at one of more than 50 parks we have in Bryan. Many of these parks have plenty of shaded areas, playgrounds, BBQ grills, basketball courts and walking trails. Whether you want to enjoy a healthy lifestyle and need a place to go jogging in the mornings, or just want to have a family cookout, these parks are made with every member of the community in mind. Learn more about each park and its amenities at:

<https://www.bryantx.gov/parks-and-recreation/parks-and-facilities-listings/>



EXPERIENCE FIRST FRIDAY IN HISTORIC DOWNTOWN BRYAN

Enjoy live music, art and an array of shopping and dining options in Historic Downtown Bryan on the First Friday of each month. This is a free, family-friendly event that typically features live performances at The Palace Theater, as well as performances hosted by various downtown businesses. You can expect to find members of the Brazos Valley Farmers' Market selling their goods on Main Street, as well as shops and restaurants open extra late into the evening.

Learn more about First Friday at www.downtownbryan.com/first-friday-1.



FIND LOCALLY-MADE GOODS AT THE LOCAL AND THE BRAZOS VALLEY FARMERS' MARKET

Held seasonally in the spring and fall, The Local is a weekly, outdoor market featuring artisans, farmers, producers and crafters from across the Brazos Valley. From fresh foods including bread and honey, to homemade soaps and handcrafted jewelry, The Local features a variety of vendors each week.

The Local's season runs from March through early June. Check the full schedule and find more details at <https://www.thelocalbcs.com/>

The Brazos Valley Farmers' Market is a pet-friendly, year-round farmers' market supporting our region's farms by connecting consumers directly to local food producers. The Brazos Valley Farmers' Market is open every Saturday from 8 a.m. – noon at 500 N. Main Street in Historic Downtown Bryan. The market features more than 50 vendors, and is your go-to spot for locally-grown foods!

You can learn more about the Brazos Valley Farmers' Market and their vendors here: www.brazosvalleyfarmersmarket.com/



TAKE A DIP AT A BRYAN POOL

Summers in Texas can get pretty hot. (Who are we kidding, spring and fall can be that way too!) There's no better way to cool off than at one of our three community pools. The Bryan Aquatic Center boasts an Olympic-sized heated pool, two waterslides, the only public diving board in the area, a zero-depth entry area that's perfect for families, and plenty of space for everyone to bask in the sun! Or, try Henderson Harbor or Sadie Thomas Pool for a change of scenery.

The Bryan Aquatic Center is open for lap swimming year-round, and recreational swimming hours generally begin at the end of May. Henderson Harbor and Sadie Thomas Pool also generally open at the end of May for the summer season. Details on admission, pool passes and hours for each of the pools are available at <https://www.bryantx.gov/parks-and-recreation/pools-and-aquatic-facilities/>.

COOL OFF AT A SPLASH PAD

Bryan's splash pads are the perfect spot to cool off for a few minutes during a hot afternoon, and Bryan has three of them! Free access is available at Gloria Stephan Sale Park, Tanglewood Park and Tiffany Park.

