

currents

winter 2010

G R A N D R I V E R D A M A U T H O R I T Y



THE POWER OF THE HOME TEAM

Moving GRDA towards a brighter future ...

OUR PEOPLE ARE OUR POWER



Kevin A. Easley
Chief Executive Officer
Grand River Dam Authority

They maintain high voltage power lines, operate sophisticated energy delivery systems, keep track of the organization's dollars and cents and do a hundred other jobs that help keep the lights on. Round the clock, the work they do powers the organization that powers much of Oklahoma.

However, away from the job, many Grand River Dam Authority employees also power their communities. Their free time is not their own. Instead they are giving it away to the ball team that needs a coach, to the young karate students that need confidence, or to the local school board that needs a dedicated member. They help their communities respond to disasters like floods, fires or car accidents. They sell programs at Friday night football games and cookies at Saturday morning bake sales.

Some even organize volunteer fire departments in their communities. That's what Bud Chancellor did. A 22-year GRDA employee, serving as Superintendent of Maintenance at the GRDA Salina Pumped Storage Project, Bud is featured in this issue of the *Currents*.

Of course, we cannot highlight them all here; nor could we fit them all on the special cover of this issue. However, I felt it was appropriate to recognize the real power behind GRDA's public power ...our employees.

On the job, their efforts help GRDA meet its goals: delivering low-cost, reliable electricity; serving as an economic development engine for Oklahoma; and protecting the natural resources under its control. Off the job, their community-minded efforts are also making for a brighter, warmer, safer place to live, work and play.

Thanks to all of you as well, who are working to do the very same thing.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin A. Easley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Front cover: Serving as school board members, coaches, and emergency response personnel; these are just a few of the ways GRDA employees volunteer time in their hometowns.

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Board of Directors ...

STILLWATER'S KERNS ELECTED TO GRDA LEADERSHIP POST



Betty Kerns
GRDA Board Chair

Betty Kerns (Stillwater) has been elected by her peers on the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA) Board of Directors to serve as board chair during the next year (Sept. '09 – Sept. '10). GRDA is the wholesale electric supplier to Stillwater and has provided the city with power since 1987.

With her election, Kerns becomes only the second woman in GRDA history to serve as chair. Barbara Conner (Langley) served as chair for six months in 2003.

Appointed to a seven year term on the GRDA Board by Oklahoma Governor Brad Henry in October 2008, Kerns represents economic development interests, lake enthusiasts and property owners. Since her appointment she has also served as chair of the GRDA Assets Committee.

“The opportunity to serve on this board is important to me for a number of reasons,” said Kerns. “Living in Stillwater, which happens to be one of GRDA’s largest electricity customers, I see firsthand the benefits of Oklahoma public power. Meanwhile, serving on the GRDA Board gives me the chance to help guide and promote those benefits for all GRDA customers.”

Kerns has served as a member of the board of directors of Southwest Bancorp and the Stillwater National Bank. Other areas of involvement have included service as chair of CompSource Oklahoma Board of Managers; president of The Foundation for Sheltered Workshop of Payne County; board of directors of the Payne County CASA Association and board of trustees of Stillwater Medical Center.

“Director Kerns’ record of service speaks for itself,” said GRDA Chief Executive Officer Kevin Easley. “We look forward to her continued leadership as GRDA Chair in the year ahead. Her leadership will be beneficial in the many challenges and opportunities we have before us.”

The election took place at the GRDA Board’s September 9 meeting in Vinita. Kerns will succeed Brent LaGere (Chandler) in the chair post.



Approved by Lake Hudson Stakeholders Working Group ...

LAKE HUDSON SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Next stop, Washington, D.C.

That is where the Lake Hudson Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) is headed now that the Grand River Dam Authority Board of Directors has given its approval.

The board approved the plan at its September 9 meeting, following a presentation by GRDA Assistant General Counsel Casey Davis. With that stamp of approval, the Hudson SMP moves on to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) where it must receive final approval, following a public comment period.

“As a result of getting to know the lake and the people who love it, I feel we have developed a plan that accurately reflects the values and needs of the Lake Hudson community,” said Davis.

The development of the Hudson SMP grew out of request from FERC. The federal agency has oversight of the nation’s hydroelectric power projects and, in September of 2006, issued GRDA a new license to operate Robert S. Kerr Dam. Lake Hudson was created with the construction of the dam in 1964.

In essence, an SMP is a blueprint for the shoreline now and in the future. It is the plan to manage the multiple resources and uses of Hudson’s shoreline in a manner consistent with FERC license requirements and public purposes. Because of that, the input from lake area stakeholders was very important to the development process.

“We realize Lake Hudson is not only a recreational destination but also part of the economic engine that helps drive this area of Oklahoma,” said GRDA Chief Executive Officer Kevin Easley. “So we really commend the stakeholders for their participation in this effort. It not only allows GRDA to achieve its goal of being a proper steward of the lake, but will also help keep this economic engine running properly.”

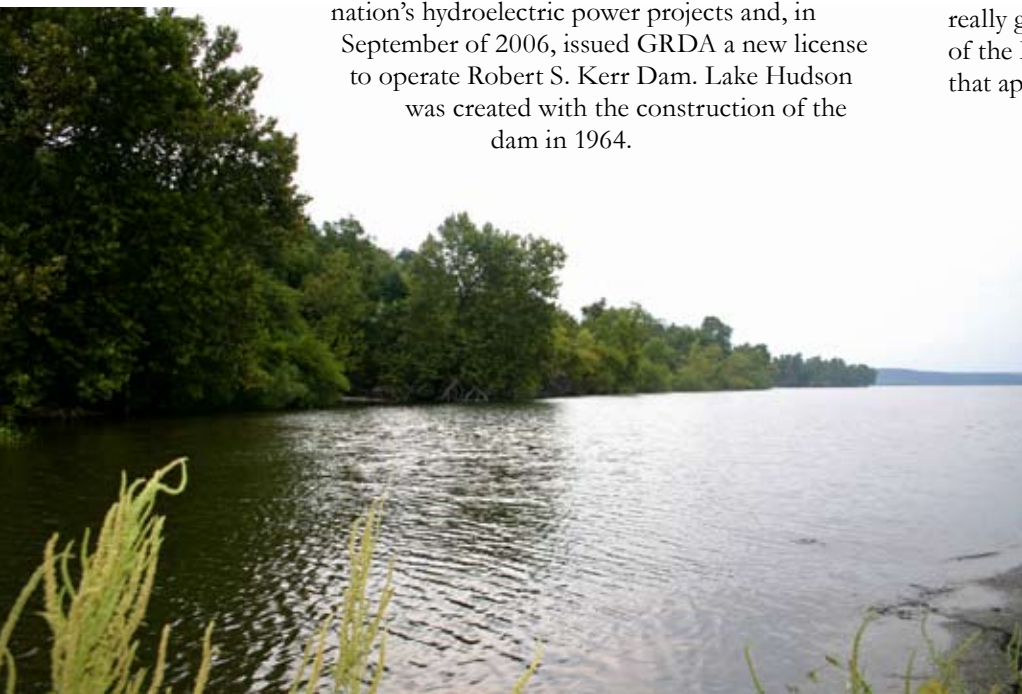
Marc Hudson, a member of the Hudson SMP Stakeholder Committee who has resided on the shores of Lake Hudson for 35 years, said the process was “positive in every way.”

“It was great that the lake area residents were given the opportunity to really get involved in the planning,” said Hudson, a former president of the Lake Hudson Association. “It’s the first time I can remember that approach being taken. All around, the whole process went well.”

Lake Hudson boasts 200 miles of scenic shoreline and 12,000 surface acres of water by the Ozark foothills. The second lake constructed on the Grand River system, Hudson is the “little sister” lake to Grand Lake O’ the Cherokees. Though often referred to as Oklahoma’s best kept secret, Hudson is well known among anglers and annually ranks among the state’s best bass fishing destinations. The lake was named after the late Wash Hudson, a Tulsa attorney and former member of the GRDA Board of Directors.

The Grand Lake SMP, submitted to FERC by GRDA earlier this year, is also awaiting final approval. For more information on GRDA lakes, visit www.grda.com.

Scenic shorelines define GRDA’s Lake Hudson.
(photos and layout by Kyle Pendleton)



GRDA Customer Spotlight ...

CITY OF COLLINSVILLE



Decorative lights adorn city hall in Collinsville.

As the pace of life in the 21st century continues to seemingly accelerate, many people dream of finding a place to slow down, to enjoy the view and a soft breeze from the front porch. Many are finding such a place in the historic community of Collinsville.

Though it is located just minutes away from the metropolitan rush of Tulsa, Collinsville is far removed in terms of lifestyle. Thus, it offers the best of both worlds.

According to city statistics, the community has one of the fastest growing school districts in Oklahoma and housing permits have more than tripled since 1997. The healthy business climate is evident with the construction of a new housing development, consisting of 800 new homes, which will be completed in the next few years. A new bridge and buried utility lines are just a couple of the projects that the community has recently completed. Many more projects are currently in planning and in progress.

"PUBLIC POWER IS ABOUT QUALITY OF LIFE, IT KEEPS THE COSTS DOWN AND IT IS HOME-OWNED AND OPERATED...IT IS AN INVESTMENT THAT YOU MAKE IN YOUR COMMUNITY."

"We are growing," said Pam Polk, City Manager. "There is a lot happening, we have grown ten percent in the past three years I've been here. It's exciting to be on the ground floor of this growth."

The growth can be attributed to the many amenities that the community has to offer, including a quality of life that is hard to match. Polk also believes that Public Power --- where the city owns its own electric distribution system -- is part of the equation.

"Public power is about quality of life, it keeps the costs down and it is home-owned and operated," she said. "It is an investment that you make in your community."

The Grand River Dam Authority has partnered with Collinsville to achieve those goals. The relationship dates back to 1940 and the city recently signed a new, long-term contract with the Authority. GRDA will supply Collinsville with low-cost, reliable power for at least the next 35 years.

"We have a good relationship with GRDA, they have been good to us, they are in the community to continually keep the programs going," said Polk. "It's a good partnership; small towns are not able to afford the cost of some items. For instance, we have utilized their FLIR [Forward Looking Infrared] camera and it's great that we can call if we have a problem and they are here to help, plus, it is a good cost."

The GRDA infrared camera services are utilized by GRDA customers and public power partners, as a way to detect "hot spots" in electric equipment. Thus many problems can be located, and repaired, before they really become expensive.

While excited about the growth and what it means for the community, Polk believes that it can be managed without compromising what makes Collinsville a truly great place to call home. One of her goals, as city manager, is to provide amenities and quality of life that people want and expect while retaining the small-town appeal. After all, the home-grown charm has been 110 years in the making.

There is a definite tangible quality to the quiet hospitality and hometown atmosphere that permeates the community of 5,200. It springs from the brick paved streets, streams up the steps of welcoming bungalows built in the 1900's craftsman style and flows to the distinctive character and determined spirit of the community as a whole. Such characteristics are tempting to those looking for a place to put down roots. And for those born and raised here? Well, there's no place like home.

Collinsville Chamber of Commerce executive secretary Wanda Nyberg confirms that many of the new residents were drawn simply by the appeal of the town.

"People are absolutely charmed by our downtown. They drive down Main Street and are fascinated," she said, speaking from the Chamber's office, which is housed at 11th & Main Street in a former bank building built in 1910.

She speaks from experience, Nyberg and her husband Dale, moved to the area in 1994 and fell in love with the town and found that the stars seemed to absolutely sparkle in the night sky over Collinsville's countryside. She admits the stars were always there but now, without competing lights, they were able to see them much more clearly.

It's easy to understand the outsider's fascination with the community and its century-old brick buildings proudly lining the broad street that runs through the picturesque town. Most of the store fronts feature colorful awnings and large plate-glass windows, reminiscent of times gone by that beckon visitors and locals alike to come on in and browse a selection that includes the quirky and hand-made.

"We have a variety of shopping here," said Nyberg. "People are amazed by what they can purchase here in town. We have some small, personally owned shops that provide unequalled customer service and also some very talented artists specializing in fine art and jewelry. And we do have one of the oldest Farmer's Markets in the state."

However, the appeal of Collinsville is nothing new, though it was the fertile prairie land and abundant coal beds that drew the first settlers

to this part of Indian Territory. The Sante Fe Railroad soon provided a convenient means to ship surplus crops and coal to customers outside of the territory.

Incorporated in 1899, the small but progressive community of 200 was one of the first in Indian Territory to have a municipally-owned light and power plant. An ad placed in the Collinsville News in 1909 advertised that “Day Current Now On”. The Collinsville Electric Light and Power Company was ready to furnish customers with fans, bells, alarms, light and heat. Proud of the new modern convenience, the company urged residents to have their buildings wired now and get the benefit of electric current.

The brick buildings that rise from the prairie and house the shops have provided a solid foundation for the community. Most were constructed during the economic boom that the zinc smelters brought to town. Shortly after statehood, the community grew with the discovery of natural gas, the largest field in the territory at the time, and then exploded in growth in 1911 with the arrival of two huge zinc smelters. The smelters ran off and on until the early 1920’s.

Ted Wright, a fourth generation Collinsville Cardinal and the unofficial town historian, explains that most of the bricks that make up the building and the streets were made at the Collinsville brick plant. The Coffeyville Vitrified Brick and Tile Company of Kansas opened the factory in 1906 and continued operating until 1962, shipping its bricks all over the United States. Ted’s great-grandfather came to Collinsville in May 1899 and started the Collinsville News, Collinsville’s oldest continuous business and Tulsa County’s oldest newspaper.

“The bricks that say Collinsville are most popular today,” he said as his eyes scanned the cobbled street.

After the war, the demand for the ore began to taper off and so did the town’s population. It may have been a setback for the community but it was not a knockout. The residents simply returned to their roots -- the land -- and continued to bloom on the prairie. Oklahoma’s first Future Farmers of America chapter was established by Collins-



Top left: Garden path at the St. Therese Catholic Church in Collinsville.
Middle and bottom left: The Santa Fe Railroad has rolled through Collinsville since the late 1800s.
Right: Historic downtown.

ville High School students in 1922. Just over 20 years later, the town received the designation of “the Dairy Capital of Oklahoma” in 1948 from the staff of Oklahoma A&M College (now Oklahoma State University).

Through all the economic turns of the first half of the century, city leaders remained convinced that public power was still best for Collinsville and its residents. The sentiment expressed in the Collinsville News at a much earlier date that, “the revenue secured for the municipality has been a great relief from the worries of taxation necessary to maintain city government. It has provided funds for many improvements which the average community doesn’t have,” still resonated. And residents entertained hopes that public power may be a way for the city to attract new businesses.

“IT IS LIKE THE COMMUNITY IS HELPING THE COMMUNITY; IT IS SELF-SUSTAINING.”

A meeting was held in 1940 to determine whether or not to purchase power from GRDA. The report in the Collinsville News details the savings the partnership would bring to the community but the deciding factor was that, with GRDA, the city would have the ability to supply power for industries “that might be induced to come here and use the cheap electricity.”

Polk agrees with the early city leaders and their choice of public power, today she manages those very improvements referred to so long ago.

“The money stays here,” she said. “It goes back into the community in streets and in parks, continuing to improve upon both has been and is always part of the goal. Also, public power is also about safety for Collinsville, we run our own EMS service. It is like the community is helping the community; it is self-sustaining.”

The same determined spirit that saw the community through the tough economic times more recently saw it through a tough winter. The frigid temperatures and destructive ice storm of Dec. 07 left

the community in frozen devastation. As soon as possible, residents bundled up and rallied around each other and the community. Meeting before daylight at the high school on a cold Saturday morning they began to clear away the destruction one tree limb at a time.

“We were hit especially hard,” said Nyberg. “But, the volunteer clean-up was incredible, over 250 people showed up to help. It was wonderful to see the community spirit like that; it reminded me of why I love this community.”

In an open letter of thanks, published in the January 9th edition of the Collinsville News, Mayor Stan Sallee expressed his gratitude for just such a community. GRDA crews worked alongside crews from Pryor, Claremore, Sallisaw, Stilwell and Dallas Planetary Utilities, Inc.

The partnership between Collinsville and GRDA goes well beyond supplying electricity; the partners work together, hand in hand, to promote and support the community as a whole.

Nyberg is also appreciative of what that means for the Chamber of Commerce. GRDA supports the chamber in its goal to enhance and support economic development.

“GRDA is a good supporter of our chamber and our community; it’s a big deal in our town. They are a good corporate partner and it’s nice to know that they are there to help,” she said.

For current Collinsville residents and many potential future residents, it’s also nice to know that such a community -- with a colorful history and inviting charm -- is alive, well and thriving in the 21st century.



A brick-paved street in Collinsville.

COAL YARD

Public power never stops for the crews that man the Grand River Dam Authority's Coal Fired Complex (CFC) Coal Yard. Processing over 120,000 tons of Wyoming coal each week means working around the clock for each five person crew. Six trains, 135 cars, each filled with 120 tons of coal pull into the yard each week.

As of September 2009, the railcars are new state-of-the-art aluminum construction. According to John Zibert, Fuels and Transportation Superintendent, the aluminum cars are good for GRDA and our customers.

"The aluminum fleet is the best and most current equipment available," he said. "The cars are bigger, which is good for our customers because we receive more coal per trip. They are cost effective and also fewer trips mean less wear and tear on the trains."

The coal is mined at Wyoming's Powder River Basin. The Powder River Basin is the largest source of coal in the United States and contains one of the largest coal deposits in the world. GRDA coal is presently being supplied by the Peabody Energy Corporation, the largest private coal company in the world.

GRDA purchases coal from the company's Caballo and Rawhide mines. The Rawhide has been in operation since 1976 and the Caballo since 1978.

"This vein of coal stretches for about 200 miles North to South," said Zibert, a 28-year employee. "The Caballo mine is their largest, producing millions of tons of coal per year. We get approximately three million tons of coal from there each year."

After stopping for an inspection in Alliance, Nebraska, the GRDX train winds its way through Kansas and tracks into the coal yard to be unloaded by the rotary dumper. Without being uncoupled from the rest of the train, each car is positioned in the dumper and rotated 160 degrees on its side. As the car is rolled over, like dumping a bucket, the coal pours into hoppers to be transferred, via conveyor belts, to either short-term or long-term storage piles. GRDA stores over one million tons of coal in long-term storage while a three or four day supply makes up the short-term storage.

Stacking and storing a million tons of coal, that reaches almost 100 feet in the air at the highest, requires precision and skill to say the least. Adding to the difficulty is the fact that coal is subject to spontaneous combustion and the surface must be kept at a sloped angle.

"Coal gives off gases and it generates heat. It can't be wet but, it also needs a certain amount of water applied to facilitate compaction and minimize the dust," said Zibert. "We pack it as tight as we can get it with rubber tired heavy equipment to eliminate the fire potential and erosion."

The GRDA Coal Yard Crew uses a piece of equipment known as the Stacker Reclaimer to do just that: stack and then reclaim coal from the piles.



The crew layers the coal much like you would layer your homemade lasagna. By using wheel tractor-scrappers the new coal is spread out in these layers (lifts) on top of a previously compacted layer, and then the dozers roll back and forth over the new layer forcing the air out, reducing the coal's ability to self-ignite. Layer after layer is applied and then compacted and all the while the slope must remain constant in order to shed any water. The 60+ ton dozers can only handle a certain incline and still be able to roll back and forth over the layers; maintaining the proper balance is critical.

As both short and long-term storage is exposed to the elements, wind and rain can wreak havoc on the stockpile, eroding and cutting gulleys causing additional work in reclaiming the coal back from ditches and settling ponds. The coal yard crews maintain the stockpile's profile by smoothing and rolling over them with the heavy equipment.

"We have used a crusting agent as a surface treatment for the last couple of years, sealing the top surface. It is like a thin blanket, the wind and rains can't penetrate and it protects against weathering," said Zibert.

Included in this process are the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality's regulations regarding dust, transport and storage. The crews are continuously conscious of the rules which govern the fossil fuel. As the coal is transferred from point to point a dust treatment agent is applied which mitigates the dust. Also, each storage point of the coal yard must pass a regular opacity test which measures dust particles.

"We make sure our numbers are in compliance, and if a situation should arise, adjustments to the operations are made," said Zibert. "We operate under a DEQ permit that was granted at the CFC's inception and we work tremendously hard to keep all our equipment in top operating condition."



Alumimun rail cars carry GRDA coal from Wyoming's Power River Basin.

The collective efforts are paying off as GRDA strives to reuse the coal byproducts. There are 30 trucks a day that haul fly ash and bottom ash out of the plant site to be reused as road base materials, waste treatment and concrete mixture additives.

"The effort GRDA has made to reuse the byproducts is commendable. It is a useable product with great benefits," he said.

An internal audit is also performed each year. A coal pile survey which includes a comprehensive test reveals exactly how much coal is in the stockpiles and on the yard. Plant operations always know how much coal is there.

The demand for coal is continuous and the activity in the coal yard reflects that demand. Coal will be supplied to the Coal Fired Complex (CFC) generating units twice during each shift. Take that times three shifts and it equals coal being conveyed to the units for at least 12 hours in a 24 hour period. That all adds up to a combined 13,000 tons of coal being burned by Units 1 and 2 each day

"We try to keep the units full at all times," said Zibert.

The Stacker Reclaimer, equipped with a huge rotating bucket wheel is pressed into service to recover coal from the stockpiles.

It is also used to stack coal into a reclaimable pile. From there, it is transferred to a conveyor belt and sent to the units for fuel. The two conveyors that feed the plant move 1,600 tons of coal per hour combined.

The coal yard department is also responsible for properly sizing the coal before it is sent to the units. According to Zibert, the coal arrives in three and four inch lumps. Before being sent to the units, the coal is passed through two 400-horsepower crushers and reduced to 3/8" size. The boiler units are equipped with multiple 500 ton storage silos to receive and store this coal. The CFC keeps ap-



GRDA Fuels and Transportation Superintendent John Zibert has been on the job in the coal yard for over 20 years.

continued on page 16...

A beneficial Grand Lake partnership ...

GRDA AND THE GRAND LAKE AUDUBON SOCIETY



Clockwise from upper left: A Cardinal perches in the trees near Grand Lake; Wood Ducks like this one are benefiting from the efforts of the Grand Lake Audubon Society (photo courtesy of Tom Whipple) and finally, a female House Finch takes advantage of a feeder near the Bernice State Park Nature Center.



Flying in for fall...Though a few stay around all year, most Pelicans fly in for a Grand Lake visit in late September.

While most of the Grand River Dam Authority's public power partnerships revolve around supplying low-cost, reliable electricity, the organization is also proud of other partnerships that exist to enhance quality of life, or in some cases, wildlife.

Created in 2004, the GRDA Ecosystems Management Department exists to bring a greater focus to ecosystems and lake management issues all along the Grand River system. With nearly 70,000 surface acres of water and the ecosystems of the Grand River under its control, GRDA's goal is to be a good steward of those natural resources.

Recognizing this commitment on GRDA's part, the Grand Lake Audubon Society (GLAS) approached the Authority in 2003, hoping

to form another beneficial partnership. Established by local birding enthusiasts in 1987, GLAS members joined the National Audubon Society to promote conservation of wildlife and natural environments. This time, Grand Lake's feathered friends – specifically wood ducks – were targeted as the chief beneficiary of their conservation efforts.

“We knew the problems facing the wood duck population in the Central Flyway; primarily declining habitat, so we decided a beneficial project would be to build and set up wood duck boxes,” said GLAS member David Forrester. He felt that a small remote island near his home would provide the perfect location for the boxes and began putting together the plan.

“We made presentations at our local chapter and received approval from our president, Vicki Hatfield, to include it as one of our projects,” he said. “We then contacted GRDA and [Ecosystems Management Director] Dr. Darrell Townsend for approval of our plans.”

Once the nesting boxes were in place, one more important step had to be taken to recognize the effort: giving the new wood duck habitat a fitting name.

Again, the group received GRDA’s approval and applied to the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) to have the name change reflected on its maps. Today, that “Audubon Island” does appear on those OWRB maps.

However, if you ask a GLAS member, the proudest accomplishment is still the success of the boxes; they have remained through high waters and are used annually by wood ducks.

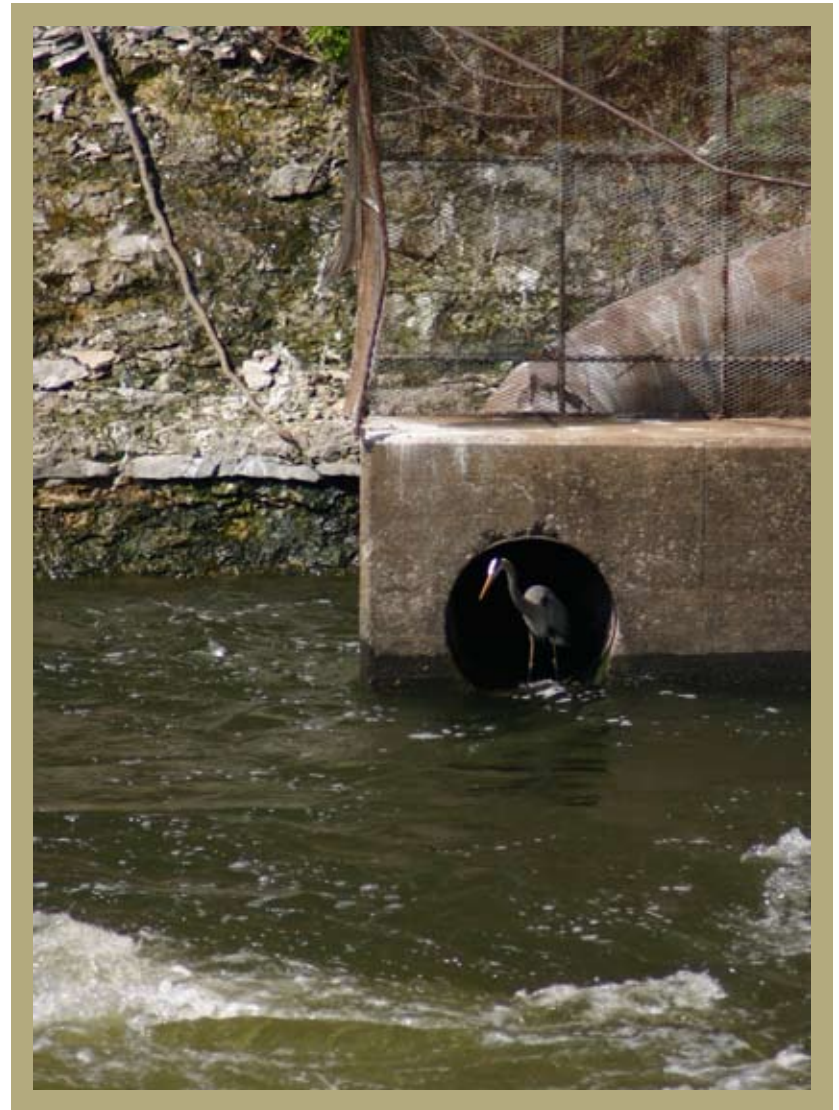
“We put those boxes on the north side of the island, away from boat traffic,” said Forrester. “After two years we found the signs that they had either nested or were trying to nest.” When not inhabited by “woodies” the nest boxes have provided shelter for owls, starlings and even a squirrel.

Meanwhile, GLAS continues its wildlife-friendly efforts around Grand Lake. The group sponsors programs such as “Audubon Adventures” for 3rd through 5th graders, as well as special conservancy projects. GLAS also plays an active role in supporting the annual Pelican Festival held in Grove, Oklahoma (on Grand Lake) each September.

“We wanted to encourage both adult and youth interest in nature,” said George Webb, who now shares the GLAS presidency with his wife, Frances. “We educate the public on the need to protect wild birds and animals.”

GLAS also does some accounting along the way. Each year it takes part in the National Audubon Society’s Christmas Bird Count (CBC). On any day, chosen between December 14 and January 14, GLAS members divide into teams and cover six segments (approximately 15 square miles) in the lakes area to record any and all birds spotted within an 8 hour time frame. The last CBC was the 109th for the national society and the 18th for GLAS.

While the GRDA Ecosystems Department will continue its efforts to educate the public, enhance the habitat and promote good stewardship of natural resources, groups such as GLAS will do the same. Together, they form a powerful partnership that benefits the GRDA lakes area.



The early birds get the best seat too... A Heron stakes his claim inside a drainage pipe just below Pensacola Dam. When Herons visit the dam, this pipe is always the most coveted location.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, birding is now the number one sport in America. There are currently more than 45 million birders in the U.S. alone. Birding is rewarding for individuals and families alike. Sibley's Book is a great place to start for those interested in birding.

The first challenge of birding is to find the birds. Birds are often heard before they are seen because they are not always out on a branch in full view. But, if you look and listen you will soon discover them all around, in trees, on shrubs and atop of signs.

Lake Area Birds

Year-Round

Pileated Woodpecker
 Downy Woodpecker
 Red Headed Woodpecker
 Red Bellied Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker
 Great Blue Heron
 Killdeer
 Belted Kingfisher
 American Crow
 Northern Cardinal
 Eastern Bluebird
 Carolina Chickadee
 Carolina Wren
 Tufted Titmouse
 Northern Mockingbird
 American Goldfinch
 Blue Jay
 American Robin
 Brown Thrasher
 Red Tailed Hawk
 Black Vulture
 American Kestrel
 American Coots
 Ringed-billed Gulls
 Great Horned Owl
 Red-winged Blackbirds
 Eastern Meadowlark
 American Goldfinch
 Pied-billed Grebe

Double-crested Cormorant
 Canada Goose
 Mallard
 Wood Ducks

Summer

Ruby-Throated Hummingbird
 Baltimore Oriole
 Cliff Swallow
 Eastern Phoebe
 Great Egret
 Cattle Egret
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher

Winter

Bald Eagle
 Dark Eyed Juncos
 White Throated Sparrow
 White Crowned Sparrow
 Song Sparrow
 Ruby Crowned Kinglet
 Yellow-rumped Warbler
 Cedar Waxwing

Arriving in August

Green Winged Teal Aug 16
 Wilson's Snipe August 9
 White-breasted Nuthatch Aug 30
 Osprey Aug 20

Arriving in Sept

American Pelican around last week of Sept. few stay all yr.
 Great Egret by Nov 18

Leaving by Jan 9

Common Yellowthroat by Jan 9

Arriving in Oct

White-throated Sparrow Oct 1
 Harris Sparrow Oct 12
 White-crowned Sparrow Oct 1
 Dark-eyed Junco Oct 1
 Purple Finch Oct 25

Arriving in December

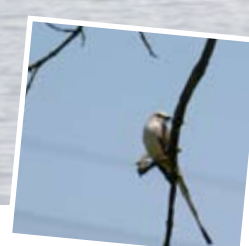
Bald Eagle Dec - Feb although we have some all year

Leaving in Sept

Baltimore Orioles leaves by Sept 25
 Cliff Swallow by Sept 28
 Bank Swallow by Sept 20
 Prothonotary Warbler by Sept 1

Leaving in Oct

Ruby-throated Hummingbird by Oct 18
 Eastern Kingbird by Oct 1



GRDA employee spotlight ...

THE POWER TO EFFECT POSITIVE CHANGE

Jack Kemp declared “The power of one man or one woman doing the right thing for the right reason, and at the right time, is the greatest influence in our society”. That sort of influence has incredible power to effect positive change and much like a stone cast into a still pond; the ripples continue to expand until they reach the outermost edges.

It sounds simple enough- doing the right thing- but just because it’s right doesn’t mean it’s easy. All can see a need whether it’s in the life of a friend, family member or community, but it takes courage, commitment, selflessness, time, and effort to see the need is met. All across Oklahoma, and the nation as well, that kind of desire to see a need met is really what brought public power into so many communities. In the early 20th century, a desire for electricity drove many people to make sacrifices; to donate time, energy and money, so that one day, their community would see the benefits of owning and operating its electric distribution system.

Of course, electricity is not always the final goal of powerful public efforts. Sometimes, the power within them causes citizens to create something out of nothing, to benefit their communities in other ways.

Just ask Bud Chancellor, the soft spoken superintendent of the Salina Pumped Storage Project (SPSP). He recognized the need for a volunteer fire department in his small, close knit community of Kenwood.

“Before, the Salina Fire Department was making all the runs and you’re looking at 15 minutes to get here,” said Bud, who has helped maintain the hydroelectric generators for 22 years.

Serving on the 911 Board in Delaware County, he knew 15 minutes is a long time to wait if you are suffering cardiac arrest or your house is

being threatened by a grassfire. He knew in his heart that a Kenwood Fire Department could respond much quicker and the loss of lives or property could be significantly lessened.

No doubt, the need was there, and the entire community knew it. But, Bud felt strong enough about his desire to see the new fire department that he willingly took on the work and responsibility to see it become a reality. His commitment didn’t seem odd to him, after all, this was



GRDA’s Bud Chancellor was instrumental in establishing the Kenwood Volunteer Fire Department.

his home; he was raised in these beautiful rolling hills of Northeast Oklahoma and now he and his wife Joy were here raising their children here. Why wouldn’t he do it?

He spoke to a couple of coworkers who were volunteer firemen in their communities and they gave him some names and numbers. He first contacted the Rural Fire Coordinator for District 1 William Gilliam, in the fall of 1995 to discuss the possibility of starting a Kenwood Volunteer Fire Department.



Though it was just a dream in 1996, the Kenwood Volunteer Fire Department boasts nine trucks and 18 volunteers today.

And so began the paperwork, the training, and scrambling to gather up useable equipment. Bud spoke to some members of the community to see if they would be interested in joining, 20 men came aboard. He knew he had the support of his wife, he had counted on it, but now he was seeing it in the community as they got behind the idea. In the spring of 1996 daylight was seen as the Kenwood Fire Department was at last a reality. It was real and it was official, but until late in the fall of 1996, it was located at Bud's house.

“My dining room was the office and my front yard was the parking lot for the fire trucks,” he said. “There are still 10 of the original 20 members on the current roster.”

It was through the Forestry Service that the fledgling department was able to get trucks on loan. The first two were 1940 Kaiser Jeeps and

the first pumper truck was pieced together using a cab, chassis and a pumper bed that was found in a junkyard.

“The Forestry Department receives military surplus equipment and trucks, they loan it to rural fire departments for use,” he said. “As long as you keep it in operation, it is yours to use. When you no longer need the truck or equipment, you return it as is.”

Rural departments are also able to take advantage of a Forestry Department's program where trucks are made available if the fire departments can get them into service within 180 days and keep them in service for one year. If those conditions are met the Forestry Department will sign the title of ownership over to the fire department.

“One of our tankers was acquired that way and we have recently received another truck under that program that will be put into service soon,” he said.

Between the Forestry Service, grants and the community, the fire department received the support necessary to get it up and running. The first few years of operation also saw a lot of fundraisers.

“We applied for grants and had the annual membership dues which were \$35.00,” he said. “We had bake sales and yard sales. We were grateful for any help we could get.”

The first year in service, the Kenwood volunteers received training in structure fire fighting and answered six calls. Their training has significantly increased, as has the number of emergency calls; last year there were a total of 126.

As fire chief, Bud places a priority on the training the firemen receive. That training includes: structural firefighting, wild land firefighting, vehicle extrication, swift water rescue, propane emergencies, HAZMAT, Helicopter landing zone, and emergency vehicle driver’s training and first responder emergency medical. Also, each month there are 2-4 hours of in-house training.

“Seven of our 18 volunteers are certified in emergency medical care. We are able to provide basic life support and first aid prior to ambulance arrival,” he said. “Our department is also a First Response Agency meaning we are under medical control of a physician and can administer oxygen to our patients.”

The emergency medical training has proven to be crucial because most of the calls received are medical and Kenwood is at least 15 miles from an ambulance service. Bud was right; his department can respond to those calls in less than 15 minutes and treat the patients once they get there.

“It’s good to be counted on when they call,” he said.

The department may have started out small but it continues to grow. From Bud’s front yard to the school yard and then in November of 1996, the volunteers built a 60’ x 60’ building on leased land from Kenwood School. Just three short years later, another 40’ was added to house more trucks. A couple of years ago, the fire department was able to purchase property behind the fire station, which included an old home and large shop building on the property. Both have been commandeered into service.

“We use the shop building for storage and the house for training scenarios. We have a smoke machine and are able to make it very realistic for our firefighters going in to a structure fire,” he said. “We are in the process of adding on to our current 60’ x 100’ building. This add-on will include three more truck bays, an office and a meeting/training room. The more you practice, the better prepared you can be for an emergency.”

The fleet of emergency vehicles has seen growth in number as well. Today, the department boasts of nine trucks which include four brush rigs, two tankers, one support truck and one rescue truck. Good

news also came in 2001 when the citizens of Delaware County voted to approve a quarter-penny sales tax to be shared by the 20 county fire departments.

The department is also under contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to protect the nearly 50,000 acres of Indian trust land located in the area.

“We protect the land against wildland fires,” he said. “Melvin Mashburn of Grand Gateway is our rural fire coordinator and works very hard for the rural fire departments. Without all of this support we could not have improved to where we are now.”

Where they are now is an Insurance Service of Oklahoma (ISO) rating of 4/9. The amount of work it has taken to achieve such

a high rating (having 1,000 feet of hydrant equals a 4) has been worth it because it benefits the entire community, cutting the amount of home insurance premiums in half.

“We have had people calling wanting to know what our insurance rating is and if they can get it,” he laughed. “We’ve also had insurance offices calling wanting to verify a homeowner’s address to see if they were in the coverage area. Most of the time it will end up being 20 to 25 miles from us, they were wanting to use our ISO to get cheaper insurance on their home. It makes us feel good about what we have accomplished here; people want to be a part of it.”

Looking back on how far the department has come and what has been accomplished, Bud is grateful for the support.

“We have come a long way,” he said. “But talk with any volunteer firefighter and he or she will tell you that despite the hard work, missed meals and lack of sleep, they love what they do. I love it as much now as I did in the beginning; it’s a joy to me.”

Finding joy in community service. That’s really what “public power” is about.



On the job... Chancellor oversees the maintenance operations of the GRDA Salina Pumped Storage Project.


...continued from page 11.

proximately 6,500 tons of this crushed coal in these storage bins for feeding into the generator units. These day-use storage bins allow the coal yard crews the time needed to do all the other daily responsibilities, such as equipment checking and wash down.

“All said, it’s a great place to work that gives you the satisfaction of knowing all your efforts are providing a product that is relied on and appreciated by so many homes and businesses,” said Zibert.



The GRDA Coal Fired Complex is located adjacent to the MidAmerica Industrial Park, just east of Chouteau, Oklahoma.



1. From the coal yard, coal travels first into storage silos and then into pulverizers. It is then ground to the consistency of talcum powder and injected into the boilers for combustion.

2. Boiler walls are comprised of miles and miles of steel tubing, filled with water. As the coal burns in the boiler, that water is converted to steam at 2,400 pounds per square inch (psi) and 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit. This pressurized steam is then forced over the blades of the turbine, making it spin.

3. The turbine spins a generator motor within a magnetic field at a constant 60 revolutions per second. This action produces electricity at 24,000 volt.

4. Using electric transformers, the electricity is “stepped up” to 345,000 volts.

5. High voltage electric power lines then transmit the electricity to distribution substations where another transformer “steps down” the power for use by GRDA customers.

How GRDA turns coal into electricity

GRDA industrial customer ...

SOLAE: "INNOVATION THROUGH NATURE"

Solae may be a Grand River Dam Authority industrial customer located in the MidAmerica Industrial Park, but its products can be found as far away as the Middle East and as close as the shelves of the local grocery store. An ingredient manufacturer, whose motto is "Innovation Through Nature", Solae competes in the global market providing food manufacturers with 'better ingredients for better living.'

"About half of the products produced at Pryor are shipped internationally," said Plant Manager Dave Ellis. "We deliver to our customer a protein source that is 90 percent or higher. It goes into infant formulas, emulsified meat systems and dry-blended beverages."

The ingredients the company manufactures are made from the soybean, which has been a part of the human diet for thousands of years, but it has only been within recent years that the health benefits of the soybean were seriously considered and even more seriously researched. Solae has been a driving force in this field, investing in research for more than 30 years. According to the company, Solae soy ingredients have been used in more than 80 percent of all clinical research on soy protein and researchers at more than 180 leading universities and academic institutions have used Solae brand soy protein in 400 studies.

"We have been working closely over the last decade plus with the academic community to provide the soy used in many of the recent health claim studies. These studies show the potential positive impact soy has on the heart and cholesterol," said Ellis.

Because Solae manufactures complete proteins, the company competes with meats, eggs and milk products at a very competitive dollar-per-pound cost. The company states, "our product provides economic, functional, nutritional, and health benefits many segments of the food market, including: meat and poultry products, consumer food products, dairy alternative products and nutritional products.

Created in 2003, Solae is a joint alliance between DuPont and Bunge Limited, but the company has had a presence in the MidAmerica Industrial Park, and a relationship with GRDA, since 1976. According to Ellis, the factors that originally drew the company to the area are still just as important as they were 33 years ago.



"The Ralston plant opened here in 1976," he said. "It was the abundant water, competitive energy rate, delivery costs, and the workforce. Rail transportation in the area is also an advantage for us, as well as the central location."

A lot may have changed over the past three decades but the Grand River Dam Authority's ability to provide low-cost, reliable power has remained constant. Though, in Ellis' opinion, the competitive electric rates are just one of the reasons the partnership between Solae and GRDA is so strong.

"The service from GRDA is exceptional," he said. "We have a solid working partnership. I have worked in other places and have not always experienced the superior service and reliability GRDA provides; you guys do a heck of a job."

"IT WAS THE ABUNDANT WATER, COMPETITIVE ENERGY RATE, DELIVERY COSTS, AND THE WORKFORCE. RAIL TRANSPORTATION IN THE AREA IS ALSO AN ADVANTAGE FOR US, AS WELL AS THE CENTRAL LOCATION."

Solae and GRDA share a commitment to their customers and it is apparent. Both offer their customers support as well as their resources.

“We pride ourselves in providing food ingredient solutions to our customers, not just food ingredients,” said Ellis. “We partner with our customers by offering not just the products, but the product application expertise that can be of additional value beyond the economics or the functional attributes we provide.”

While not immune to the tough economic times, Solae has experienced growth over the last decade. The health of the company is as healthy as their product. Many manufacturers include the Solae brand on their packaging as a “trust mark.”

“We are an industry that takes a renewable resource, soy, and provides innovative food solutions to customers,” said Ellis.



Left: Solae Plant Manager Dave Ellis.

Above: An aerial view of the Solae facility in the MidAmerica Industrial Park.

Seven questions for Pryor Municipal Utility Board's Assistant General Manager ...

OKLAHOMA'S PUBLIC POWER TEAM:

ANDY RICHARD

Editor's Note: After nearly three decades of service with the Municipal Utility Board (MUB) in the GRDA municipal customer community of Pryor, Assistant General Manager Andy Richard retired November 1. However, before he could get away, we presented this longtime Oklahoma Public Power Team member with seven questions.

1. How long have you been with Pryor MUB? What positions have you held?

I started to work for the Municipal Utility Board on December 14, 1981. My retirement date will be November 18, 2009, making my career with MUB one month short of 28 years. My first position was Administrative Manager. In 1996, the Board reorganized the management position and I was then selected as Assistant General Manager.



2. How has Pryor's public power status benefited the community?

The Municipal Utility Board provides reliable and, if not the lowest utility cost as a package, we are one of the lowest in the State of Oklahoma. The MUB transfers funds to the City of Pryor's General Fund for use in providing services for the citizens of Pryor. By being a Public Power Community, the MUB provides services to the citizens of Pryor that a private utility company would charge the City of Pryor for. Examples of these services are street lighting, traffic signals, help with community projects, and various other services.

Plenty of room for golf clubs... Richard stands beside a new Jeep that he will put to good use in retirement.

3. No doubt, you have seen many changes in your years with Pryor MUB. What are the most notable changes?

The most notable changes in the utility business are technology, computers and equipment, which have helped us provide reliable services without expanding our work force.

4. You have been very involved with the overall Oklahoma Public Power Team during your career. What do you think Oklahoma public power communities have in common? What advantages? Challenges?

Oklahoma public power communities all have one goal, and that is to provide reliable power at a reasonable cost. The response when outages occur are quick due to the fact that service crews live locally and this allows them to respond and restore power. Public power communities work for our citizens. Any profits stay in the city to enhance services and provide funds for improvements, and not taken out of state to provide dividends for stockholders. I would say the biggest challenge facing public power communities is finding qualified electric linemen, which appears there is a shortage of in our industry, and replacing linemen has become a challenge.

5. What are your proudest accomplishments in your tenure as part of Pryor MUB?

My proudest accomplishments while working with MUB are several. In 1989, we finished construction of a new Wastewater Treatment Plant. We have upgraded our electric distribution system. We have plans on constructing a new water tower and plans on upgrading and renovating the West Side Sub Station. The MUB and the Pryor Public Schools constructed a fiber optic system and connected all of the schools and city owned buildings with a local area network providing internet and e-mail services.

6. Pryor MUB and GRDA have been public power partners throughout your tenure. Can you reflect on that partnership and why you feel it's important for both partners?

Grand River Dam Authority is important to the City of Pryor/MUB. The partnership is over 50 years old and has grown over the years. GRDA provides reliable power and services that MUB needs to maintain Pryor's electric distribution system. If we have a problem GRDA maintenance personnel respond to help us, sometimes before we know that we had a problem. The Municipal customers of GRDA are important to the authority of all the cities which have signed long term contracts for power, which allows GRDA to plan for the future, knowing what the power requirements are for the cities.

7. Finally, what does retirement hold for you?

I have mixed feelings about retiring. MUB is a great place to work. I have become friends with the majority of the work force. I am going to miss coming to work. This will be a new phase in my life. Patty, my wife has just returned from a one year deployment with the U.S. Navy. She is a Navy nurse and was stationed in Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. After she retires from the Navy in July 2010, we will load the Jeep and head west to backpack and do some four-wheeling, and of course play golf at least three times a week.

We salute the Women In Business



GRDA is proud of our Administration workforce.



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