



# LIGHTNING ROUND

**MAY 2017**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### **JUNE 15**

KPP Board Meeting  
Wichita, KS

### **JUNE 16-21**

APPA National Conference  
Orlando, FL

### **JULY 20**

KPP Board Meeting  
Wichita, KS

### **AUGUST 3**

Power Supply Meeting  
KMU McPherson, KS

### **AUGUST 17**

KPP Board Meeting  
Wichita, KS

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

A few of Greensburg's fleet of bicycles in their free bike share program



## **Gus Collins, Winfield, Appointed to KPP Board**



Gus Collins, Director of Gas and Wastewater Utilities for the City of Winfield, was appointed to the KPP Board of Directors during their May meeting last week. Gus, a former City Manager in Wellington, has been well-known to the KPP family for many years.

The seat now occupied by Gus became vacant due to the resignation from the Board by James Ging. James joined KPP in January 2017. According to the Pool's organizational documents, his seat, representing an unexpired term, was to be filled by the action of the Board of Directors. The KPP Board and Staff heartily welcome Gus! ■

## **Hart, Callaway, Ludwig Recognized by KMU**

Representatives from 3 KPP member cities were given special recognitions earlier this month. Recognitions were made during the annual KMU Conference held in Wichita. Ira Hart, electric utilities superintendent in Kingman, was recognized for his 30 years of service and presented the prestigious Edgar P. Schowalter Award.

See **MEMBERS RECOGNIZED** on page 3

## **Power Supply Meeting Set for August 3rd**

Mark your calendar for the next Power Supply Meeting to be held on August 3 at the KMU Training Center in McPherson, KS. KPP members met on March 28 to discuss long term power supply and gave seemingly unanimous approval for a professional study as a precursor to making any future power supply commitments. A follow

See **POWER SUPPLY** on page 3

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
(CONTINUED)**

**SEPTEMBER 29**

KPP Board Meeting  
Wichita, KS

**SEPTEMBER 29 & 30**

KPP Fall Planning Retreat  
Wichita, KS

**OCTOBER 19**

KPP Board Meeting  
Wichita, KS

**NOVEMBER 2**

KPP Board Meeting  
Wichita, KS

**NOVEMBER 16**

KPP Board Meeting  
Wichita, KS

**DECEMBER 15**

KPP Board Meeting  
Wichita, KS

**DECEMBER 15**

KPP Annual Meeting  
McPherson, KS



## Contract Signing Initiative in Final Stages

Twenty of twenty-four Member cities have now signed on to the newly proposed power purchase contract. The contract, initially discussed at the Fall Planning Retreat last September, has been the topic of discussion at governing body meeting ever since.



See **CONTRACT SIGNING** on page 3

## Ging Appointed to SPP Transmission Working Group

James Ging, KPP's Director of Engineering Services, has been appointed to the Transmission Working Group (TWG) of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP). The appointment was announced by SPP last week. TWG is responsible for planning criteria to evaluate transmission additions to the bulk electric grid. Also important to this group's responsibilities are the coordinated planning efforts among SPP utility members and the oversight of transmission contingency evaluations.



See **GING APPOINTED** on page 3

## GENERAL MANAGER MESSAGE

### Centralized Resource Planning? What's That?

By Mark Chesney, KPP CEO/General Manager

Could you indulge a walk down memory lane? I have a point – I promise!

Many decades ago the electric utility model was a central power generating station owned by a utility serving only its native customers within a defined territory. Resource planning was also centrally situated taking into account the growth of that same customer base. Providers occasionally bought power from their neighboring utilities with whom they were electrically connected. They did this under unusual circumstances and their customers were never the wiser.

Decades later, utilities saw advantages to doing some "joint" or "shared" resource planning. After that, life began to move very quickly and the next thing you knew, energy was traded like a commodity and resource planning



See **GENERAL MANAGER** on page 4

## MEMBERS RECOGNIZED (continued from page 1)

Bill Callaway, recently retired utilities superintendent in Clay Center, was presented the Daryle Nielsen Distinguished Service Award for Mutual Aid. Kyler Ludwig, city administrator in Greensburg, was appointed to the KMU Board of Directors.

Presentations and announcements were made by Colin Hansen, KMU Executive Director. All three serve on the KPP Membership Committee.

(picture left to right: Ira Hart, Bill Callaway, and Kyler Ludwig)



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## POWER SUPPLY (continued from page 1)

up meeting was promised at that time with the intent to provide the results of the study well in advance of the Fall Planning Retreat to be held in September.

The agenda for the Power Supply Meeting will also include a discussion and presentation concerning utility scale solar installations. As cities begin to receive inquiries for solar, KPP, KMU and others are working to develop a model easily adopted by cities. The solar discussion will be preceded by an industry representative presentation outlining the motivation held by cities who have already adopted such utility scale technologies.

The August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting will begin at 11:00 with lunch to follow. In the coming weeks, members will be requested to provide an RSVP on attendance and lunch.

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## CONTRACT SIGNING (continued from page 2)

Mayor Don King, Waterville, was recently heard to say to his Council that when KPP members sign on to the proposed contracts, an alignment will occur among the membership that will facilitate operational decisions – particularly from a financial perspective. Shortly thereafter, the City Council unanimously gave approval, on May 8<sup>th</sup>, with compliments to KPP for making their membership productive and reassuring.

Mayor Bob Dixon, Greensburg, offered similar comments before their Council unanimously gave contract approval on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Mayor Dixon went on to extend invitations to come to Greensburg for commemorative activities on the evening of May 4<sup>th</sup> – the 10-year anniversary of massive tornado damage resulting in 11 deaths. Carl Myers, Vickie Matney and Mark Chesney were present on the evening of the 4<sup>th</sup> to participate and represent KPP.

Only one city – Attica – has openly declined to sign the contract. Other cities reportedly are to have it on their agenda within the next 30 days or so.

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## GING APPOINTED (continued from page 2)

James' appointment to the TWG marks the second KPP officer serving on an SPP group or committee. For several years Larry Holloway, KPP's Assistant General Manager of Operations, has been a member of the SPP Market Operations and Policy Committee (MOPC). The MOPC is the final gateway for all policy recommendations being directed to the SPP Board of Directors.

The SPP oversees the bulk electric grid and wholesale power market in the central United States. Its membership is comprised of a diverse group of utilities and transmission companies in 14 states.

James, formerly a member of the KPP Board of Directors, has been employed at KPP since January 1, 2017.

## GENERAL MANAGER (continued from page 2)

revolved around the central efforts of a regional transmission organization (RTO) with a very large footprint (in our case – 14 states). Even so, resource planning called upon the collaborative synergy of many utilities examining the prospect of load growth. Also considered was where future generation should be situated to have the best hope of minimizing cost and maximizing investment. To be sure, transmission availability has been the primary thrust in modern times.

Things have changed. Now grass roots voices have much to say about where generating resources should be installed. They are speaking as loudly and as forcefully as any deliberative discussion involving two or more parties within or across a large region. Advancing technologies and renewable resources have seen to that.

So, utilities that have been accustomed to waiting upon the results of a formal, collaborative process now have folks in their town talking about how this project or that project can be installed today in your city's backyard and you can save power cost in the process.

Let me be clear like crystal – we don't begrudge that. There is a place for diversity of resource. There is merit to self-determination. There are also signed contracts, regulations and statutes each presenting its own set of limitations and requirements. All of these things can probably be melded nicely with some forethought and advanced planning which will require some patience. In the meantime, we are concerned about accuracy of information disseminated. For example, last year, when it was announced that KPP had signed a co-development agreement with GridLiance for the partnering of transmission assets, I got solicitations from developers wanting to enlighten me on how KPP's members could avoid transmission costs by installing solar collectors in our members' cities. Unfortunately, those particular developers did not understand the appropriate details of the Southwest Power Pool tariff. Worse, I fear that some have made presentations locally which, likewise, have not presented a full picture when presenting a side-by-side cost comparison. I do not accuse anyone of intentionally misleading their listeners. I presume it has much more to do with ignorance than with ethics. And once again, I do not begrudge anyone for acting upon newly derived values of many in society – values that separate and apart from the associated economics. My point is simply that there is some well-motivated and well-intentioned haste in moving away from a centralized planning process to an opportunity that is just sitting there waiting to be captured.

You and I know that this important discussion is not going away. That's why KPP, KMU and others are planning together in an effort to roll out a program that can be signed onto by any city in the interest of their citizens and their budget. This undertaking has proven to be more challenging than anyone would prefer. So, while we ask you to be patient, we also promise that this discussion will be front and center at our future gatherings.

## **Things You Might Like to Know**

- ◆ Jason Newberry and Shane Shields were appointed to the KPP Membership Committee as alternates from Wellington by the Wellington City Council.
- ◆ KPP staff will provide demonstrations of a pole testing drill at various locations next month. Notifications will go out once dates and locations are determined.
- ◆ Look for the first *Member Spotlight* on the new KPP website ([www.kpp.agency](http://www.kpp.agency)) under the *Member* menu. This spotlight is on Greensburg's municipal recovery from the tornado ten years ago.
- ◆ KPP's website will also carry updates on the Power Supply Committee activities under the *Members Only* menu for *Projects*. *Members Only* requires website registration.
- ◆ Stephanie Peterman is the new city clerk in Holyrood, replacing Neysa Brown who retired in March.

## Save the Dates for KPP's Fall Planning Retreat

KPP will again host its Fall Planning Retreat in Wichita this year. In what has become a KPP tradition, this year's event will be the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Retreat involving all KPP members. The dates for this year's Retreat are September 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

Twice held in the Kansas City area, response to last year's event in Wichita was quite positive. Meetings and lodging will again be centered at the Hotel at Old Town in Wichita with sessions across the street at the hotel's Conference Center. Although the agenda and Retreat outline is still being finalized, plans will include spouse activities as has also become traditional. Power supply planning will likely be the center topic to be accompanied by breakout or roundtable sessions.

KPP will renew its offer instituted last year of covering the expenses of lodging and meals for 3 representatives of each city (spouses also included). As many representatives prefer to check-in on Thursday, the first general session is expected to commence at 11:00 AM on Friday.



### KANSAS POWER POOL STAFF

#### MARK CHESNEY

*CEO/General Manager*

#### LARRY HOLLOWAY

*Assistant General Manager  
for Operations*

#### VICKIE MATNEY

*Controller*

#### AHMAD KHAN

*Senior Director of Wholesale Electric  
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#### CARL MYERS

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