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Board Report - March/April

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OMPA is a wholesale power company owned by 42 municipal electric utilities. OMPA provides economies of scale in power generation and related services to support community-owned electric utilities. The members of OMPA serve approximately 250,000 Oklahomans. This publication is issued by OMPA as authorized by the OMPA General Manager. 425 copies have been prepared and distributed at a cost of \$700. [74 O.S. § 3105(B)]

OLP Champion Page 3



outlet

news from your Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority

Award Named For MESO Executive



Tom Rider, right, the long-time Executive Director for Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma, was honored with the very first Tom Rider Professional Development Award at the MESO Public Power Conference in Tulsa in April. Presenting him with the award, at left, is Altus Electric Director Mike Villareal, who served as the MESO Board President this year. For more, see page 6.

Secretary discusses state projects at annual meeting

Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment Ken McQueen updated OMPA members on recent activity by the state during his keynote address at the OMPA Annual Meeting in Edmond in March.

McQueen told attendees about how Oklahoma has combined forces with Louisiana and Arkansas to chase funding from the Department of Energy that would

allow them to construct a “hydrogen ecosystem”, or a “hydrogen hub” in the region. They are calling the project HALO for the word “hydrogen” and the first letter of the three states involved, and hope to secure as much as \$7 billion.

“As we look forward into the future,

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Annual meeting: Continued from Page 1



Above and left, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment Ken McQueen speaks to the membership at the Annual Meeting. Above and right is acting APPA CEO Jeff Haas.

hydrogen is not something that is going to help us a few years from now, this is really going to be a long-term thing," McQueen said. "If you look at the two options to decarbonize the transportation sector you have batteries and you have hydrogen. As I look at those two options, I think hydrogen is really the only alternative."

McQueen said a potential hydrogen hub would involve power generation, the manufacture of fertilizer and a transportation corridor to get the hydrogen where it needs to go.

The Secretary said that his office uses survey data from the Energy Information Administration to track the trends in resource mixes, both locally and regionally. He noted that, in 2022, a record 43 percent of energy from Oklahoma came from wind generation.

"If you're a renewable energy person, you're probably applauding

that," he said. "The big question moving forward will be about how we implement that on the grid while remaining reliable and affordable."

McQueen also updated the membership on potential rule changes that could impact power supply, including an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule being discussed that would impact the affordability of coal generation.

"If those come to fruition, we'll see even more pressure on our coal plants," McQueen said.

McQueen was appointed in 2022 by Gov. Kevin Stitt and is responsible for 36 state agencies, boards, compacts and commissions, as well as advancing policies that encourage economic growth. He previously served as U.S. EPA Region 6 Administrator and U.S. EPA National Energy Policy Advisor. He was also New Mexico's Cabinet

Secretary for Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources.

APPA Acting CEO Speaks About Organization

Jeff Haas, acting President and CEO of the American Public Power Association, spoke to the OMPA membership about recent developments across the industry.

He said that the APPA's recent legislative priorities have focused on supply chain issues, climate change issues, incentives, permitting reform and grid security. The most recently-developed business plan focused on strengthening grid security and association excellence.

The APPA recently finished a survey of its membership that showed 1 in 5 members said they have had project developments stalled because of

Continued on Page 3

supply chain problems. Haas also noted that the APPA has survey information available for salaries, governance, and tax payments and contributions.

Haas noted the efforts of OMPA staff and members in leading APPA objectives, including General Manager Dave Osburn scheduled to be the next Chair of the APPA Board of Directors, OMPA's Palma Lough the Chairman of Customer Connections, Ponca City Mayor Homer Nicholson serving on the Policy Maker's Counsel and OMPA's Andrea Simmons, Michael Watts and Jennifer Smith all serving on various boards or committees.

General Manager Reviews Year

General Manager Dave Osburn updated the membership on the most significant developments of the previous year.

On the generation front, another coal plant was slated for retirement, as the Pirkey Power Plant shuttered

operations in recent weeks. It was the third OMPA coal asset in the last four years to be retired. Osburn said that the other plants that are part of the resource mix are performing well and expected to remain in service.

The Kaw Hydrofacility is scheduled for a mutli-year rehabilitation in an effort to improve reliability and extend its lifespan. The cooling tower at the Ponca City Repowering Project has also experienced some recent improvements.

Osburn said that OMPA also is working to ensure it meets new rules enacted by the Southwest Power Pool which increases the percentage of reserve margins power suppliers must have on hand from 12 to 15 percent, effective in 2023. He also noted how the accreditation process for resources is changing and could reduce the accredited capacity of current assets.

"We expect to be good with our resources for the next year or two, but this will be monitored closely," Osburn

told the membership.

Some of OMPA's noteworthy events from the previous year included legislation approved and signed into law that removed the Authority's restriction on serving new members, removed a prohibition against participating in nuclear projects and removed some requirements under the competitive bidding act.

Staff and the Board also developed and approved its first Business Plan meant to serve as a comprehensive guide for OMPA's future. And another distribution engineer was added to the staff at OMPA.

Some of the priorities for the next two years noted by Osburn included managing coal plant decommissioning expenses, challenges with cybersecurity, responding to changing reliability standards by authorities, implementing new business plan action items and developing an updated power supply plan for the next 5-6 years.

Marlow An Our Local Power Champion



Marlow was presented with the Our Local Power Champion award at the Annual Meeting. Receiving the honor were, middle, city manager Jason McPherson and, right, electric superintendent Chris Dilbeck. The award is given each year to an OMPA member that exemplifies an extra effort in promoting the benefit local municipal electric utilities bring to their communities.

Congratulations to MESO's Tom Rider

As you can see in this edition of the Outlet, a lot of activity has taken place. OMPA, MESO, and our member cities have been very busy.

First, I want to congratulate Tom Rider on a great career and having a new MESO award named in his honor. Professional development was always important to Tom and this award is a fitting tribute.

Since the last issue, OMPA held its Annual Meeting in Edmond. We appreciate all of those who attended and heard some informative updates

General Manager's Report

David W. Osburn



from our Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment, and Jeff Hass of APPA.

I want to offer my congratulations

to the team from Ponca City who took home awards from the APPA Lineworker's Rodeo. That is quite an accomplishment.

Back here at OMPA, we have been busy assisting our members with numerous projects helping to improve their systems. The OMPA Power Production Team has been busy maintaining our generation fleet and getting prepared for another summer run season.

Until next time, be safe and good luck on all your endeavors.

Board Reports



Highlights From March 2023 Board of Directors Meeting



- Recognized Homer Nicholson and Jason McPherson for perfect Board attendance in 2022
- Approval of CUP interim review award to Edmond Public Works Authority and Tonkawa Municipal Authority, respectively
- Approval of CUP recertification award to Perry Municipal Authority
- Approved revised Capacity Purchase agreements for OMPA generating members
- Approved changes to OMPA's Demand & Energy Efficiency Program as recommended by the Programs and Services Committee
- Approved Black & Veatch to provide engineering services to facilitate the excitation system replacement at the Kaw Hydrofacility
- Authorized staff to issue bids for the replacement of the excitation system at the Kaw Hydrofacility
- Approved a resolution authorizing repayment of costs associated with the Kaw Rehabilitation Project
- Approved sending an OMPA linecrew to participate in the Light Up Navajo project

Highlights From April 2023 Board of Directors Meeting

- Approved CUP Interim Review Award to Altus Municipal Authority
- Approved Amendment No. 2 to Power Sales Contract for Perry Municipal Authority, Watonga Public Works Authority, Okeene Public Works Authority and Marlow Municipal Authority, respectively
- Approved, subject to final review and approval of the General Manager and General Counsel, of consent and agreement for North Fork Solar Project to finance construction
- Accepted Fiscal 2022 Audit

The next Board of Directors meeting is scheduled to be held at 10 a.m. on May 11 at OMPA offices in Edmond.

Perfect Attendance



Both Marlow's Jason McPherson, middle, and Ponca City's Homer Nicholson, right, were recognized at the March Board meeting for having perfect attendance at Board meetings in 2022. McPherson, who has been on the Board since 2016, was re-elected to his position later that day. Nicholson is the Board Chair.

City Update

City striving for better growth, involvement

Karrie Beth Little has a saying at 410 W. Main St. in Watonga.

"Absolutely — we will figure it out."

To Little, as Watonga's city manager, and other city officials, that saying means figuring out how to best connect local businesses and job-seekers with resources they need to help develop and grow the workforce.

"Ultimately, what we're doing is filling the needs and ... being involved and invested," Little said.

Watonga, the seat of Blaine County, began as a tent city in 1892 and currently has a population of around 2,800.



The Watonga Cheese Factory, which had opened in 1940, closed in 2007 due to damage from Tropical Storm Erin and was later relocated to Texas.

Diamondback Correctional Facility also closed in 2010, leading to a "major economic loss" in Blaine County and a decrease in its total population as more than 300 jobs were lost.

"That was devastating to our community," Little said.

Little said the impact of the closure had a "ripple effect" on Watonga.

Eventually, the city got to a point where the ripples subsided, and, for a while, Watonga stayed that way —

waiting for Diamondback's doors to reopen because, as Little said, "There was always the hope that it would."

Now, more than a decade after the closure, Little said the city of Watonga is striving to focus on the businesses — current and future — that is there.

"(The focus is) to find jobs for our local people and to make jobs available for people who want to relocate to the area," she said. "We still have viable businesses in our area that aren't going anywhere, and they're great."

Additionally, in the last couple of years, a new Love's convenience store opened in Watonga off of Oklahoma 33, and the Lucky Star Casino expanded to add a convention center, hotel, bar and restaurant.

Little said trucking, oil and pipeline companies also have popped up near Watonga.

"Things are still happening in rural Oklahoma," she said. "Whether people are here temporarily or permanently,

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MESO Public Power Conference



Former Kingfisher City Manager and OMPA Board member Dave Slezickey, middle, was presented with the Pruett-Lamb Lifetime Achievement Award at the MESO Public Power Conference in Tulsa in April. Slezickey recently accepted a position at The Village as the city's manager. The award is named after former Pryor director Gary Pruett, as well as long-time OMPA Board Chair Charles Lamb of Edmond.

Former Marlow Clerk Betty Mackey was honored at the MESO Public Power Conference with the Drake Rice Customer Service Award. Accepting the honor on Mackey's behalf was City Manager Jason McPherson and the new City Clerk, Amber Smart. The award is named after former OMPA Director of Member Services Drake Rice.



OMPA staff presented at the MESO conference, including Palma Lough at left speaking on the Power Cost Adjustment and Alex Mucha above speaking to a packed house on metering. OMPA's Jennifer Smith also joined a panel on mutual aid at the conference.

Watonga's Little added to Board, others confirmed or re-elected at Annual Meeting

Karrie Beth Little, the City Manager of Watonga, was approved as the newest member of the OMPA Board of Directors at the March meeting. Little was chosen by the Board to replace Kingfisher's Dave Sleziekey, who took another position with a non-OMPA city.

Little was hired as Watonga's City Manager in August of 2021, replacing the interim manager, Larry Mitchell. Sleziekey's departure also left a void at Board Secretary, where Edmond's Glenn Fisher was chosen.

Four other members of the OMPA Board were also either re-elected or confirmed by the electors at OMPA's Annual Meeting.

Other Board members who were re-elected included Jim Greff, Jason



Karrie Beth Little

McPherson, and Chuck Ralls.

Greff is the Board Vice Chair and the City Manager of Prague. He has been on the Board since 2014. McPherson has served on the Board since 2016 and is the City Manager of Marlow. Ralls has been on the Board since 2016 and is the City Manager of Comanche.

Patty Witchey, who was confirmed by electors, joined the Board in 2022 and is the Treasurer for the Town of Laverne.

Ponca Energy wins at national lineman rodeo

Linemen from the City of Ponca City once again performed well at a national competition of their peers at the American Public Power Association's (APPA) National Lineworker's Rodeo in Kansas City in March and April.

Ponca City's Tomas Alvarez, Austin Fry and Keenan Pappan took first place in the Hurtman Rescue event with a time of 1 minute, 2 seconds. Apprentice Wyatt Hubbard also represented Ponca City Energy in the apprentice events.

Ponca City was one of the smaller municipalities competing at the APPA rodeo this year.

Forty-one utilities had competitors in the apprentice and/or journeyman competitions. The "rodeo" is a series of competitive events demonstrating lineworker skills and safe work practices.

"We're so pleased by the participation this year of lineworkers representing public power utilities from communities across the nation," said Jeff Haas, APPA Acting President & CEO. "The friendly competition is all about safety, training, comradery, and pride in the craft."

The awards honor lineworkers' expertise, and the events are judged on safety, work practices, neatness, ability, equipment handling, and timely event completion. All safety rules established by APPA's 17th edition Safety Manual were



observed during events.

There are two levels of competition within the rodeo: journeyman and apprentice. The journeyman teams consist of three members – two climbers and a ground person – and can include an optional alternate. Journeymen have years of experience within the electric utility trade, while an apprentice lineworker is newer to the craft.

Utility reliability recognized by APPA



Six OMPA member utilities were recently recognized by the American Public Power Association (APPA) for their reliability.

The APPA's Certificate of Excellence in Reliability recognizes utilities with average SAIDI in the top quartile of SAIDI including or excluding Major Event Days (MEDs) based on EIA data in 2017-2021.

The OMPA members who were honored included the City of Comanche, the City of Kingfisher, The Town of Olustee, the City of Marlow, the Town of Okeene and the City of Tecumseh.

APPA helps electric utilities track power outage and restoration data through its subscription-based eReliability Tracker service. Only the utilities who subscribed to the eReliability Tracker service and have verified their annual data in the eReliability Tracker are eligible for the certificate. Once per year, APPA's Reliability Team compares this data to



Members of Marlow Electric with their reliability certificate from the APPA.

national statistics tracked by the U.S. Energy Information Administration for all types of electric utilities.

"It's encouraging to see year after year that public power's track record for providing highly reliable service is backed up by data," said APPA Director

of Research and Development Paul Zummo. "These utilities are the best of the best when it comes to keeping the lights on. And these communities should be proud of their local power providers and appreciate the hard work that goes into earning this recognition."

City Update

City recognizes former mayor Gene Brown

Duncan City Council took time during its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 28 to recognize two former Duncan Area Enhancement Trust Authority (DETA) members.

After the invocation, flag salute and roll call, Mayor Robert Armstrong took



a moment to recognize former members for DETA Gene Brown, who is also a former mayor, and Carolyn Rodgers, who is responsible for making City of Duncan known as the Crapemyrtle Capital.

Armstrong started honoring the

two by sharing the quote: "A city grows great when its elders plant trees, the shade of which they know they will never sit in."

He said that quote is both figurative and literal — "as long as they're crapemyrtles," he said jokingly.

"On behalf of the Duncan Enhancement Trust Authority, we thank former Mayor Gene Brown and Carolyn Rodgers for their service and dedication to the beautification and enhancement of our fair city and their service on the board," Armstrong said.

— Duncan Banner

OMPA launches website for investors

OMPA has partnered with BondLink to create a new website for investors looking to learn more about the Authority.

The website can be found at www.OMPAbonds.com.

The information presented to investors and the public is intended to promote OMPA's financial strengths and some of its ongoing economic developments.

"At OMPA, one of our goals this year is to increase awareness of our future bond offerings so more investors are aware of the ongoing improvements we're making to Oklahoma's utility system," said Dave

Osburn, OMPA General Manager. "This is a great resource that'll fuel our commitment to being fully transparent with our communities, customers, and investors."

This investor relations website is one of many recent technological advancements the Authority has launched in recent months, including its newly redesigned website, OMPA.com.

Other municipalities in the region, including the State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Water Resources Board, Oklahoma Capitol Improvement Authority, and Oklahoma Utility Securitization Bonds, partner with BondLink to better engage investors

and manage their outstanding debt.

"We're proud to partner with energy companies like OMPA who are establishing better standards for investor transparency, especially in today's turbulent market," said Colin MacNaught, CEO and co-founder of BondLink. "We look forward to partnering with OMPA as they continue to advance their programs and find additional ways to trailblaze."

To learn more about Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority's financing programs, access their existing materials, and sign up for alerts so you stay in the know about future updates, please visit www.OMPABonds.com.

Addressing The State Legislature

OMPA Chair and Ponca City Mayor Homer Nicholson speaks to members of the Oklahoma State Legislature at the Oklahoma History Center in April. The event was organized by OMPA as a way to educate the legislature on the Authority's history and the state of the power industry. Representatives from many OMPA members attended the luncheon, as well, some with their local representative.



City Update

Council gives okay to plan for city amenities

The Altus City Council met in April to move forward on a number of projects for the city.

The Council gave the green light to Thompson's Pool, a local company, to handle extensive additions to the Altus City pool.

The additions will include new features like a splash pad and a lazy



river.

In addition, the council approved working with Red Sky Constructors for a major park and plaza project for downtown Altus.

That project aims to create a fun outdoor space for residents to enjoy and hold events in.

Altus Mayor Robert Garrison said

the approvals are a part of the city's ongoing expansion efforts.

"Altus is a city that is growing and doing things," he said. "A lot of that is attributed to our city manager and his staff getting grants, and a lot of the things that get these projects going - the citizens of Altus passed that MAPS project that helps fund these projects we have going on. Everywhere you look in Altus, there's something going on."

The council also approved awarding a contract to Pippin Brothers of Lawton to replace the HVAC equipment at the city Library.

— KSWO

City Update

Edmond mayor wins race over challenger

Edmond Mayor Darrell Davis was reelected to his second term in April over challenger Brian Shellem. While Davis will be a familiar face on the Edmond City Council, newcomers Tom Robins and Barry Moore each won their first terms.

With all precincts reporting, Davis received 6,479 votes (or 51.99 percent) to Shellem's 5,983 votes (or 48.01 percent).

"Thank you, Edmond, for your confidence to reelect me and ensure we keep the momentum going!" Davis



said in a statement texted to NonDoc.

Davis was first elected mayor in May 2021 when he received about 62 percent of the city's vote against homebuilder Nathan Walters. That election made Davis the city's first Black mayor.

Prior to his 2021 election, Davis served nearly 10 years as Edmond's Ward 3 councilman. He was first appointed to the Edmond City Council in November 2011 and was reelected to four-year terms in May 2013 and May 2017.

Shellem is the president of Advanced Automotive Equipment. He was the lead plaintiff in a 19-month lawsuit which resulted in the Oklahoma Supreme Court narrowly ruling that Edmond Public Schools' COVID-19 quarantine policy violated state law.

Both Tom Robins and Barry Moore narrowly won their respective bids for the open Ward 1 and Ward 2 Edmond City Council seats, topping opponents Ashley Bradley and Judy Rau. Owing to Edmond's unusual election rules, all registered voters can cast ballots in the general election for each City Council ward.

Robins will succeed Ward 1 Councilman David Chapman, while Moore will succeed Ward 2 Councilman Josh Moore.

— Nondoc

Watonga: Continued from Page 5

we're investing."

Local businesses, Little said, generate sales tax revenue for Watonga — allowing the city to continue working on improvements and keeping people hired.

So, she said, those businesses became a focus for the city: "to see what they needed and make sure they were successful, as well as our community and citizens — how do we help them get jobs, find jobs and retain jobs," Little said.

To do that, Little said the Watonga Economic Development Authority was revitalized to develop and grow the workforce by being the "bridge" between applicants, employers and resources for businesses.

An Economic Development Program was begun, and Watonga partnered with other businesses like Chisholm Trail Technology Center and the Watonga Library.

"We just said, 'What can we do together,'" Little said. "'What can we do for our businesses in town and future businesses? How can we help?'"

Watonga began hosting one class every month to do that. At the first class, Matthew Davis, an Enid attorney, and author of "The Art of Preventing Stupid: How to Build a Stronger Business Strategy through Better Risk Management," gave a presentation and handed out copies of the book.

Last month, a WEDA Business Development Workshop was held, outlining how to identify a business' needs, launch an apprenticeship program with help from the Oklahoma Office for Workforce Development and sustain long-term workforce solutions.

And on Wednesday, Feb. 22, another event was held. The informative meeting outlined all of the things that Western Oklahoma Workforce Development Board can do for business owners.

Kim Jenkins, economic development coordinator for the city of



Watonga, said there has been a "great response" from the local community so far.

"All sorts of businesses showed up," Jenkins said. "We had banks, local stores and pharmacies there. We had a nice mix of people, and they went back and have already talked to their staff, and quite a few of them have already signed up with (OOWD)."

Little said the monthly classes with the Economic Development Program are tailored to what she and other city officials are hearing from the local businesses.

"I think just 'opening the door' is monumental at this phase," she said, adding that classes on taxes, how to market businesses and job resources are in the works.

And the benefits of each class that the city of Watonga sponsors are "limitless."

"You and I sitting here today might think, 'Well, I don't know if that's a benefit or not,' but to the person who is benefiting, they're like, 'This is exactly what I was looking for,'" Little said. "There's no limit to what they could be for different people for different things."

That goes right back into the, "Absolutely — we'll figure it out," saying, and Jenkins said she hopes that through this Watonga's businesses will have the most skilled employees possible.

And, Jenkins said, city hall's doors are always open.

"Come see us," she said. "There's opportunities out there, and we're looking for them. That's the bottom line."

"Karrie Beth likes to say, 'We have to try. It might work. It might not. But how will we know unless we try?'" Jenkins said of the city manager.

Little said she hopes Watonga continues to move forward and be innovative, adding it's important for rural towns and cities to "do their part" in the overall bigger picture for Oklahoma and for the United States.

"We can't all be an Oklahoma City or a Tulsa or a Lawton or an Enid," Little said. "But we can be the best that we are, and I think that's what we're trying to do — do our part and be the best Watonga we can be."

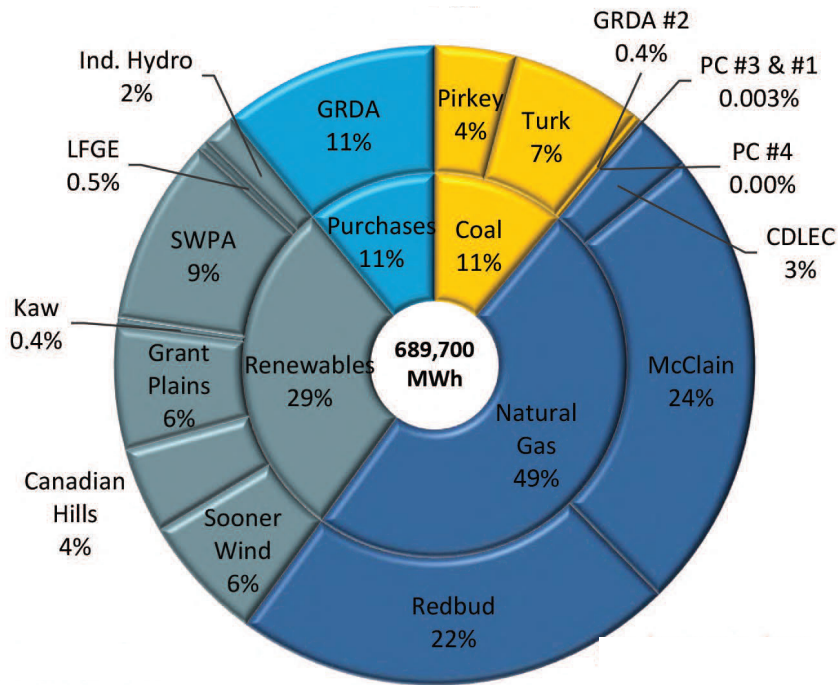


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