

Our Mission

To be the leading consultant solving the engineering or land surveying problems unique to rural-urban communities and their enterprise—government, business, and agribusiness. And in the process, to build trust and lasting relationships with the people among whom we work and live. ◀

Seamless conversion at KPL as founders finalize ownership transition

Follows more than a decade of planning

Kuehl and Payer, Ltd. announced a change in ownership this past January when its founders, Neal Kuehl and Robert Payer completed their final transfer of stock to the firm's remaining partners. The two men founded the firm in 1983 and have seen the firm grow to over 40 employees and 9 partners over the last 26 years. KPL has offices in Storm Lake, Algona, and Sac City.

But for clients and most of the public, the change in ownership will hardly be noticed.

For one thing says Bob Payer, "This isn't a sudden thing. Neal and I have been preparing for a new generation of partners almost since we began the firm and we've been slowly transferring ownership to our other partners over a number of years."

"We also introduced a formal management transition program about ten years ago," adds Neal Kuehl. "Not wanting to see the firm flounder like some firms we've known when their founders have retired, we started planning early for this transition. We introduced an operating committee of three partners that managed the company's day-to-day business. The leadership role on the committee was changed annually and all partners were rotated through the committee."

"We also turned our executive positions over to other partners a few years ago. Ivan Droessler took over my position as Company Treasurer five years ago. And Don Etlar took over from Neal as Company President three years ago. This has allowed us the time to personally mentor our future leadership."

"We firmly believe this prolonged and more or less formalized transition program will ensure that Kuehl and Payer, Ltd. is poised for

continued growth and is well positioned to serve our present and future clients. We have every confidence that this second generation of owners will continue the principles upon which our company was founded."

"Not that either of us is going to retire just yet," Bob chuckles.

"We are still going to be here as full-time employees of the firm. Just not as owners".

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A special day of honor

NEAL AND BOB were honored by the KPL staff at a recent all company meeting held at Buena Vista College. The two, both graduates and strong supporters of Iowa State University, were presented plaques engraved with their names and accomplishments which will become part of the alumni wall at the Iowa State Center. ◀



KPL works with Sac County Solid Waste Agency in waste reduction planning

EVERY THREE years Iowa landfills are required to file a Comprehensive Plan for Solid Waste Management with the Department of Natural Resources. Policies for reducing the waste stream are analyzed, procedures for meeting goals are evaluated and changes in strategies for waste management are developed. Kuehl and Payer is assisting the Sac County Solid Waste Agency in its current three year assessment and replanning process.

Says Tom Grafft, "The purpose of this triennial planning cycle is to evaluate waste reduction efforts in the county and to improve efficiencies. We are now in planning for the next triennial period for the Sac County Planning Area."

Plans call for a waste reduction goal of 25% from the baseline year. Planning areas who meet their goals get a reduction in the tipping fees they are required to pay to the state. Tipping fees help fund solid waste management programs such as processing for recycling, transfer station operations, or hazardous waste recovery programs.

"The 2006 Plan review showed that the 25% reduction had not been met so the landfill was assessed a higher tipping fee. Additionally, the State of Iowa mandated that the Sac County Solid Waste Agency implement a unit-based pricing program in each community to reduce the amount of pickup at the curb. The County also constructed a satellite household hazardous waste collection center at the landfill where residents can properly dispose of everyday cleaners, solvents, and other household chemicals free of charge."

The current review shows that the county still does not meet its 25%

reduction goal. "So we are now investigating new policies and procedures to reduce the waste stream. Since the household hazardous collection program was fairly successful, as part of the new plan we are looking at ways to divert more waste.

"One of the areas we are looking at is implementing a construction materials diversion program and a wood recovery program."

If contractors could be encouraged to separate wood from other refuse, the wood could be ground into chips and used as a secondary product such as mulch for Sac County residents to use in landscaping. The program would target commercial generators and large scale construction.

The landfill authority would work with contractors to recycle not only wood but metals, cardboard, and other construction waste. In return, the county is considering incentives for contractors. For instance recycling or diversion participants might get a reduction in the fees they pay the landfill.

"Such a program could result in a potential diversion of 400 tons of solid waste per year and that would get the landfill above the 25% goal."

But such programs are not without their own costs.

"Sometimes, the end result is that it is cheaper for the county to pay the tipping fee than to develop complicated recycling programs. So, our next big step in the planning process is financial analysis. We'll be deciding which or what combination of approaches will be the most cost effective for the county."

The plan is scheduled to be complete by May 1. ◀



Aerial view of the Sac County Landfill. The 2006 Plan review showed that the 25% reduction had not been met so the landfill was assessed a higher tipping fee.

PROJECTS

Buena Vista County sewer report and recommendations

RECOMMENDATIONS RESULTING from the **Buena Vista County sewer study** led by Neal Kuehl will go to the project steering committee on March 24. "Alternatives are being studied for low pressure sewer systems and septic tank effluent pump systems with options for the systems to be operated by a formed Sewer District: the City of Storm Lake or Iowa Lakes Regional Water System," says Neal. "The City of Alta is also being considered as the recipient of waste from Lake Creek. No agreements have been made yet but all parties are discussing the situations."

Plans and specifications for the **Laurens water plant renovation** are nearing completion. John Devitt is working on the plans and

Neal is completing the specifications with an intended bid date in April.

New or improved **wastewater treatment systems** are under study or design in **Alta, Odebolt, Newell, and Sioux Rapids** at the present time. The first three are in excess of \$2 million dollars each with Sioux Rapids estimated to cost approximately \$500,000. All three are under contract with Kuehl and Payer, Ltd. and are each in various stages of planning.

Neal also reports that the **Denison onsite chlorine generation facility** has been completed and is currently generating 0.8% sodium hypochlorite for the 3.5 million gallon a day (MGD) water plant. Final punch lists and O and M training are all that remain to be completed—probably during the week of March 16.

Bob Payer reports that two projects which have been

underway for the **City of Storm Lake** have been, or are, ready for bid. The **reconstruction of the East portion of Expansion Blvd.** was let last week. The second project which follows will be scheduled for a late April letting. It involves doing an **overlay on five blocks of both West Fourth and West Fifth streets.**

Plans developed for a **bridge in Clay County** are ready for submission for permitting with final design to follow. "This will complete the Spencer Beltway along with the west by-pass," says Bob. Bid letting is expected in November with construction in 2010 and 2011.

Bob is also doing a **storm drainage study in the central part of Storm Lake.** "We're looking at means and methods to retain or treat water in an area east of the Sara Lee Plant that enters the storm sewer that ties into the existing retention ponds."

Curt Wiseman reports that construction of the **lift and force**

main in Leland is close to completion. Nick Frederiksen was the project observer, "and things went really well," says Curt.

"The **Early lagoon project** is also near completion, it's in the punch list stage. And the **Buena Vista County recycle center** is also finishing construction." Bids have also been let for a **lift main improvement and force main construction project for Goldfield.** Work is anticipated this spring.

"We are also hot in design on the **Rockwell swimming pool.** And plans are finished for the **Algona municipal utilities project.** This involves a site plan and grading for an eventual warehouse.

"**Livermore has hired us to do a sanitary sewer.** This project involves an outfall line upsizing and also a new relief line.

"We're also working on easements for a small **storm sewer project for Algona,** working with **Swea City on an evaluation of the waste water collection system,** and we're

putting together plans and specs for a **new well for Woodland Hills."**

In the area of **management and local government services,** Clarence Krepps has completed a **public safety evaluation for the City of Shenandoah.** "This involved the police, fire, and dispatching services," says Clarence. "We're also **looking for a city manager for Oskaloosa."**

In animal waste projects, Ivan Droessler reports that site development plans for a **Hawkeye Pride layer facility in Hancock** were submitted for permitting on February 19. "Site development construction and grading for the planned six million bird operation is to be completed this year. Additional **design for a three cell area lagoon for the treatment of egg waste** is also underway for this facility. Tom Grafft is managing that project and Steve White is assisting on engineering." Permit application is expected in April.

On **turkey expansion projects for Sara Lee, Phase Two development**

and construction site grading for **two five-barn turkey sites** is to be completed this spring. "**One new five-barn site has been designed for development this year with four additional five-barn sites** yet to be sited. In addition **two three-barn sites from Phase One are to be expanded to four-barn sites** this year. Steve White is heading site development design."

Ivan also reports that **plans and specs for Cell A-3 construction at the Cherokee Landfill** have been approved by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Bid letting is set for April 9 with construction to be completed by September 1. "The project involves the construction of a **composite liner** under an approximately three acre cell and is estimated at \$0.5 million."

Kent Rode reports that KPL has been hired by **Algona to make some traffic signal improvements at Highway 169 and McGregor Street.** "This involves the right hand turn lanes on McGregor and dedicated left turning signals on **Continued, PROJECTS, page 4**

News about KPLers

Heidi Rode inducted into Chi Epsilon

HEIDI RODE will be inducted into the Chi Epsilon Fraternity at Iowa State University. This is a National Honorary Civil Engineering Fraternity. Her father, Kent, was inducted in this same fraternity 32 years ago as a lifetime member. Heidi, a junior, is also on the dean's list.

Happy birthday

To **Kathy McGuire** whose birthday is April 9, to **Jon Myers** whose birthday is May 9; to **Jon Hanson** whose birthday is May 15; to **Lisa Hefty** whose birthday is June 3; to **Nick Frederiksen** whose birthday is June 15; to **Tim Brown** whose birthday is June 21; and to **John Devitt** whose birthday is June 29. ◀◀

New digs

The office in Algona is being remodeled to provide additional workspace and offices. Life will be nice when all is finished and tidied up.

But, wait, is that Kent Rode using the vacuum trying to hurry things along? Nice work, Kent! ◀◀



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PROJECTS, continued ...

Highway 169. There have been a lot of accidents in this area and we're aiming to improve the traffic flow.

"And as soon as the weather breaks, we'll be finishing **paving at the Emmetsburg Industrial Park**. That was started last year and all underground work is complete. We're waiting for a decision from the **Algona City Council on the 2.5 mile recreation trail**. Part of the trail may be relocated. And in Cherokee, the **Hy-Vee distribution center has site work, dirt work, and staking complete** and they have started to pour the footings."

Tom Edgerton reports that **construction staking for 10 miles of County Road N-60 in Palo Alto County** has started. "We are also doing a **topo boundary for Newell-Fonda School**."

Drainage news

Ivan Droessler reports that the construction on **five miles of open ditch clean out of Drainage District 6, Calhoun County**, will be done this year. L.A. Carlson is the contractor. The clean out of approximately **five miles of the Losey Open Ditch, Monona County**, is also scheduled for work. Construction staking and inspection on both these projects will be led by Greg Villegas with assistance from Jon Myers.

The **tree clearing on Drainage District 122, Calhoun County** is to be finished this spring. "This facility also has a petition filed for clean out. The survey is to be gathered this spring with a report in early summer."

Tree clearing on Lateral 2, Drainage District 34, Buena Vista County has been awarded to Carnavan Sand and Gravel. Completion is expected by December 1.

FEMA repairs for 2008 storm damage continue. Two projects, Oliver Lake Lateral 1 and Grey Lateral D, Monona County, involve bank repair. Final plans and specs are being prepared by Brian Blomme with work to be completed this spring.

A hearing on the engineer's report for **McCandless Lateral 8, Monona County**, is set for April 8. This involves a **1.5 mile improvement to an existing open ditch**.

Don Etler reports that KPL has been appointed to do a **large tile main project for Drainage District 65, Pocahontas County**. "We have also been appointed to provide services for **Drainage District 23 and Drainage District 5, Wright County**. Both of these involve **closure of ag drainage wells** with state cost share assistance. **Drainage District 5** involves approximately **2.5 miles of new main**. Kent Rode will be managing those projects.

"Nick Roethler is busy **designing CREP treatment wetlands** and we anticipate several to be built this year.

"Finally, the federal infrastructure incentive package included a large amount of additional money to go into the state revolving loan fund for projects which can contract by February 2010. The treatment of wetlands are eligible for 20% additional SRF money. We believe that the Iowa Plan projects would be eligible and good candidates."

If you would like more information about these or similar projects, talk to any of the people mentioned. ◀

TRANSITION, continued ...

Says Don Etler, who continues as President, "To most people and to most clients, nothing is really changing. And although the ownership of the firm has changed, our commitment to our clients remains the same. The leadership and direction that Neal and Bob have provided over the years has been imperative to the success of our firm."

Kuehl and Payer, Ltd. offers professional services in civil engineering, agricultural engineering and land surveying. Design services include water and wastewater infrastructure and treatment, aquatic centers, streets and highways, subdivision, agricultural drainage, storm water management, wetlands, animal waste management and solid waste management.

Says Don Etler, "Our goal continues to be the leading consultant solving the engineering and land surveying problems unique to rural-urban communities and their enterprise—government, business, and agribusiness.

"In this mission, we strive to build trust and lasting relationships with the people among whom we work and live."

The current partners include Don Etler, Ivan Droessler, Scott Shevel, Curt Wiseman, Tom Edgerton, Jeff Krueger, and Kent Rode. ◀

KPL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Engineer. Opening for an individual with a PE designation and agricultural engineering expertise. Consulting experience is a plus.

Engineer. Opening for an individual with a PE designation and transportation engineering expertise. Consulting experience is a plus.

For more information contact Clarence Krepps at ckrepps@kpltd.com