

KSAAP - GPDA Transferred!

May 13, 2005, started like most others in Southeast Kansas, but before lunch bells rang, the unnerving news of the Congressional Base Realignment and Closure Act's (BRAC) impact on the region shattered the calm.

The Kansas Army Ammuni-

tion Plant was slated for closure. The result would mean the loss of a strong regional employer and its 328 jobs in munitions manufacturing, and 11 civilian military positions.

A small group of community leaders met that afternoon to determine how to best re-

spond. Within a short time they, and others, had decided that it would be in the community's best interest to not fight the BRAC decision.

Instead they wanted the community to be first in line for acquisition of the property from the Army, work with

Day & Zimmermann to continue its operation outside of its government-owned/company-operated status, and develop the remainder of the property to create jobs.

Seven years, three months and two days later chairman

Continued on p. 2



Signing Complete: Chairman Bob Wood (center) indicates completion of his signature on the deed transferring the final acreage to Great Plains Development while vice chairman Dan Peterson (left) and Gary Beachner (right)

look on. Other board members standing are (l to r) past-chairman James McCarty, ex-officio Rob Riggins, Pete Rhodes, Steve Lewis, CEO Dan Goddard, Carolyn Kennett, secretary/treasurer Montie Taylor and George Knox.

Cont'd p.1
Transferred

Bob Wood put his signature on the deed, as the board gathered around—noting that it was one of the last of the BRAC sites to transfer.

Regardless of much frustration during those seven years, smiles and handshakes filled the room on Wednesday.

“Finally! ... For Real,” read the text on the celebratory cake.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Wood
 Chairman

Dan Peterson
 Vice-chairman

Montie Taylor
 Secretary/Treasurer

James McCarty
 Past Chairman

Gary Beachner
Carolyn Kennett
George Knox
Steve Lewis
Pete Rhodes

—EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS—
Jack Martin

Labette Co. Commissioner

Rob Riggan
 KS Dept. of Wildlife,
 Parks & Tourism

Craig VanWey
 KS Dept. of Commerce

STAFF

Daniel Goddard
 Chief Executive Officer

Ann Charles
 Deputy Director

Marti Morris
 Office Manager

Larry Hastings
 Property Manager



Left: Past chairman James McCarty visits with fellow board member Steve Lewis and his wife Cheryl, owners of Realty Inc. Cheryl spent hundreds of hours reviewing the deed and surveys for conveyance of the massive property.

Below: Smiles abounded as chairman Wood's signature was signed to the deed, completing the transfer of 6,248 acres of the KSAAP property.



Attendees at the meeting to convey the property included Bill Wheat from the original planning authority (2nd from right above), counsel David Markham, and (center below) Rep. Rich Proehl.



Transfer is logical

Now that we know the transfer of a total of about 6,800 acres of the former Kansas Army Ammunition Plant to the Great Plains Development Authority (GPDA) is a reality, we need to analyze how it happened and what we do next.

More than seven years ago, immediately following the closure announcement, a small group of citizens met to start planning the community's approach. This effort evolved into a steering committee and the organization and recognition by the Department of Defense of the Local Redevelopment Planning Authority.

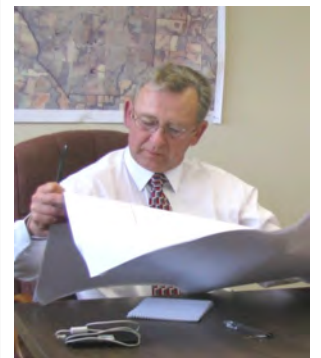
Later, the GPDA was formed with members appointed by the County Commission. The GPDA's responsibility was to make application for the property transfer and implement the

redevelopment plan. From day one, the goal was to obtain the property but not at the expense of Labette County citizens.

At any time during the process, the GPDA could have pulled the plug. However the vision of these citizens, who collectively have invested thousands of hours in the project, is far reaching. New goals are being set to achieve the vision of a thriving industrial complex where jobs are created and companies invest in our community.

Achieving the vision will take more than the core people who have worked to get to this point. It will take the entire community, citizens, businesses, civic organizations, and government officials, to be successful. We all need to pull together to convince prospective companies that Southeast Kansas

FROM THE CEO'S DESK



Daniel Goddard,
 Chief Executive Officer

and the Great Plains Industrial Park is a great place to do business. In our next newsletter, I will provide a personal example of how people (companies) decide to relocate or start a business.

