



Waterline improvement project complete

After years of planning, exploring a wide range of options, and seeking various avenues for funding, the waterline improvement project at Great Plains Industrial Park has finally come to fruition.

The project, which included the replacement of 4.5 miles of 1940s, 12-inch ductile iron waterline and rehabilitation and modifications to an existing water tower, was completed late last year.

Branco Enterprises, Inc. of Neosho, Missouri was the contractor responsible for construction of the new waterline, and Maguire Iron of Sioux Falls, South Dakota rehabbed the water tower. Olsson Associates provided engineering oversight throughout the project.

In addition to construction of the new waterline and rehabilitation of the water tower, Great Plains previously invested more than \$140,000 in the system replacing eighteen leaking valves at the water treatment plant.

Reliable infrastructure is a key factor in the site selection process. The improvements that have been made offer current and future tenants a consistently more reliable water system.

These improvements are also expected to significantly reduce the overhead costs of operating the water treatment plant by conserving millions of gallons of water every year.

Already, in the first full month of operation since completion of the project, Great Plains is seeing marked improvements. In January 2018, nearly 5.2 million gallons of water were pumped from the river and treated for use at the industrial park. Of that, more than 3.2 million gallons were lost due to flushing and leaks. In January 2019, only 3.6 million gallons of water were diverted from the river, and less than 1 million gallons were lost to flushing and leaks. It is expected that this

number will continue to decrease in the coming months as operations at the water treatment plant continue to be tightened.

“Prior to starting this project, we had hoped to decrease the amount of water pumped from the river by 40 million gallons annually. Seeing the January numbers, it is clear we are taking the right steps to reach this goal,” property manager Tim Peoples said. “I am excited to see this decreasing trend continue.”

As a quasi-municipality with no taxing authority, Great Plains worked diligently to find an avenue for funding the much needed waterline improvements at the industrial park. In August 2017, the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) filled the funding gap.

Great Plains was awarded up to a \$1 million grant to complete the water infrastructure improvements at the industrial park. The grant award required a 50% match from Great Plains.

“Our water distribution system was in a severe state of disrepair,” project manager Becky Dantic said. “EDA funding filled the gap and provided the assistance needed to see the successful completion of this project.”

Total contracts awarded on the waterline project after all change orders amounted to \$910,740.75, bringing the project in under the \$1 million budget.

“We look forward to wrapping up this project with EDA, and to potentially working with them on our future endeavors,” Dantic said. “This is only the beginning.”



New fire hydrants and isolation valves were installed by Branco Enterprises, Inc.



Water tower 2 received a fresh coat of interior paint as part of the improvement project.

FEATURED PROPERTY



Open Space, Large Doors, High Voltage

Building 203 at Great Plains Industrial Park offers 20,618 sq. ft. of open space. With three large roll-up doors, a wet riser fire suppression system, and 480v, 600amp, 3-phase electric service in place, Building 203 is ideally suited for light manufacturing.



Short or long-term leases are available on a variety of other structures.

www.greatplainsindustrialpark.com

(620) 421-1228

County appoints new board members

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Wood
Chairman

Gary Beachner
Vice Chairman

Montie Taylor
Secretary/Treasurer

Dan Peterson
Past Chairman

Ray Feess
Dan Manners
Ken McNickle
Linda Proehl
Brian Williams

Ex-Officio Members

Rob Riffin

Craig VanWey

Doug Allen

Debbie Lamb

Pam Henderson

Kari West

Linseh Johnson

Great Plains Staff

Becky Dantic
Project Manager

bdantic@parsonsk.com

Tim Peoples
Property Manager

tpeoples@parsonsk.com

Four new individuals have been appointed by the Labette County Commission to serve as members of the Great Plains Development Authority board of directors after resignations of long-time members.

Linda Proehl has been appointed to a three-year term, filling the position previously vacated by Tisha Mitchell; Ray Feess was appointed to a two-year term, filling the position previously held by James McCarty; Ken McNickle was appointed to a one-year term, stepping into Mike Reed's position; and Brian Williams was appointed to a one-year term, filling the position recently vacated by Steve Lewis.

Board appointments are typically three-year terms, unless the incoming member is being appointed to fill the unexpired term of a resigning member. Position terms are staggered to ensure there is never a complete turn-over of all members in the same year.

The Great Plains board is made up of nine members. All members are unpaid volunteers appointed by the Labette County Commission to provide oversight of the day-to-day operations of Great Plains Industrial Park.



Bob Wood presents a clock to Steve Lewis after his resignation from the Great Plains board of directors.

In order to be considered for a position on the Great Plains board, an individual must be a resident of Labette County. Aside from the residency requirement, Great Plains strives to maintain a board that includes people with diverse backgrounds and various expertise.

The Great Plains Development Authority board of directors meets the second Thursday of every month at 8:00 a.m. in the Parsons Municipal Building City Commission Room, 112 South 17th Street, Parsons, Kansas. All meetings are open to the public.



Montie Taylor administers the oath to incoming board members. Left to Right: Ray Feess, Linda Proehl and Ken McNickle.

Red Bull Distribution Co. signs lease

Red Bull Distribution Company (RBDC), an affiliate of Red Bull North America, has picked Great Plains Industrial Park as the location of its newest warehouse/ distribution operation. RBDC has signed a 2-year lease on building 1629 at the former Kansas Army Ammunition Plant.

The RBDC website states that the company was established to exclusively distribute Red Bull products in the United States. To date, the company employs more than 2,000 people nationwide at its 82 warehouses in 22 states.

Becky Dantic, Project Manager at Great Plains expressed her elation over this recent development. "Red Bull is a nationally recognized brand, and their decision to locate at Great Plains helps provide momentum as we continue to re-

develop this unique property. We are excited to work with Red Bull, and to do our part to help their brand grow."

At this time, Red Bull employs two drivers/salespeople out of the Great Plains location. These individuals are responsible for delivering product,

providing customer service and increasing the Red Bull brand in the region. For more information about Red Bull Distribution Company, visit their website: www.redbulldistributioncompany.com.



Building 1629 at Great Plains Industrial Park is the new home of Red Bull Distribution Company.

For more recent news visit our website: www.greatplainsindustrialpark.com

Great Plains Development Authority

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TO: