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Steve Pellei - Making The World A Better Place, Starting in Virginia

By Drew Menard

As the Division Director for the Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water's Financial & Construction Assistance Program (FCAP), Steve Pellei takes pride in helping communities and other funding recipients as they meet basic human needs. FCAP provides funding assistance to waterworks throughout the Commonwealth, helping them meet their capital improvement needs.

"In many ways, what we do [at FCAP] is not really a job; it is more of a calling," Pellei said. "In the program we are always looking to continuously improve so that we can maximize the benefit of our program to Virginians.....that passion for trying to do the right thing, and to assist people in need,

have been the driving force that makes the program a success."

He is very grateful to his hardworking staff, including those in Southwest Virginia (Evington-based managers April Helberg and Anthony Hess, Lexington-area manager Lisa Bailey and Lexington supervisor Keith Cornagey, as well as Roy Soto in Richmond) who work closely with Hurt & Proffitt on a number of projects.

"It's an incredibly dedicated and hard-working staff," Pellei said. "They are the best in the world, every single one of them has got their heart in the right place."

Pellei has served in his current role since 2008, after joining the Office of Drinking Water in 2004. His path to public service in

Virginia is the culmination of a journey that took Pellei around the world, seeking to understand other cultures and meet needs overseas.

After graduating with a civil engineering degree from UConn, Pellei joined the Peace Corps and spent 27 months in Thailand working on various engineering projects.

"I knew if I would do it at any point in life, I had to do it then," he recalled. "I got more than I actually gave—you realize, in many ways, how blessed we are in this country."

Pellei said he also realized how similar human beings are, despite language or cultural differences. At the core, we share in our common humanity.



Upon returning to the United States, Pellei spent two and a half years working with the state revolving loan fund in Southern Arizona, on Indian reservations.

"I recognized that we had needs right here in our country," he said.

Pellei continued on to receive a Masters Degree in engineering from NC State. He then worked in both public

service with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, and the private sector, spending three years at a consulting firm as he moved to Virginia.

I recognized that I enjoy being a public servant," Pellei recalled. From the firm, he landed at the Office of Drinking Water.

Pellei's love for people and cultures is evident; he enjoys meeting

new people and experiencing exotic cuisine. He and his wife, Miho, (married 20 years), have five children (ages 9-19) who enjoy traveling and tackling home projects together. He and his family have a planned trip to Japan this summer to visit Miho's family. Pellei is involved in church and the Knights of Columbus. He's fluent in Thai and works to improve his Japanese each day.



H&P Sponsors Free Little Library at Appomattox Town Park

The Appomattox County Public School System is always actively pursuing creative ways to promote education both inside and outside the classroom. As part of this effort, the school system has launched a community outreach initiative called Raider Aid which challenges educators to connect with community members. An Appomattox Kindergarten teacher, Tyler Cooke, proposed a project to the school board that would connect the school, community, and increase literacy outreach for the Town of Appomattox.

The project involved constructing and installing a Little Free Library at the Appomattox Town Park, Courtland Field. Little Free Libraries are a worldwide literacy initiative putting books into the hands of children and adults alike at no cost. These libraries are based on a “take a book, share a book” premise.

With the help of local businesses and community members such as Hurt & Proffitt, J.E. Jamerson and Sons, Appomattox Glass, John Wright, and Roy Murray, the project construction launched in January of 2019. Mrs. Cooke and her husband, Glenn Cooke, a geotechnical engineer at Hurt & Proffitt, designed and constructed the library from concept to completion. On May 15th of this year the inaugural ribbon cutting ceremony was held for the very first Appomattox Little Free Library. In attendance was Appomattox County

School Board members, Town Park board members, and Mrs. Cooke’s kindergarten class, who stocked the Little Free Library with books donated by the community.

Hurt & Proffitt appreciates the opportunity to support such initiatives and community school systems and looks forward to seeing literacy grow in the Appomattox community.



Employee News

H&P is pleased to welcome and also acknowledge the following employees in a variety of departments. Our staff continues to grow as we proudly serve our communities.



Nick Ferguson, EIT, is a graduate of James Madison University with an engineering degree and previously worked at VDOT. He will join our Lynchburg Engineering Department.



Lauren White, a recent graduate of Sweet Briar College with a degree in Environmental Science, will join our Lynchburg Engineering Department.



Mandy Hartmann has joined our Materials Testing group in Lynchburg as a Technician. She is currently attending Central Virginia Community College, studying to be a certified welder.



Greg Woodard, a graduate of New River Community College, has joined our Blacksburg office as a Materials-Testing Technician. He has several years of experience working construction and has done pipeline work and drilling for the energy industry.



Ben Jasko has joined Blacksburg Survey's seasonal hiring for the summer and will be serving as a Rodman. He is currently attending Virginia Tech, studying Public Relations, and is a member of the VT Snow Club.



After long hours of studying, having to sit through a brutal test, followed by an agonizing wait for results, Andrew Fagan from our Blacksburg office has passed his PE exam. Congratulations, Andrew!

Letter From the President



Wow! Schools, colleges and universities are already out and the new graduates are jumping out into the new world. Congratulations to all those who have labored (whether student, parent, or loved one supporting them) to get them to this monumental milestone. It's an exciting time and an anxious one all rolled up in one big event. Enjoy the moment and take full advantage of the opportunity to celebrate!

We are excited to be welcoming three interns to H&P for the summer. A couple are returning and one is new to us. We are looking forward to having some of the brightest and best from Virginia Tech, Virginia Military Institute, and Old Dominion University join us this year. Our internship program is continuing to grow and Christina Dudley, our Human Resources Director, has done a fabulous job improving the experience for everyone.

Our Blacksburg office just transitioned two employees from internships/part time to full time employment in our survey and engineering departments in that office. If you know of a college student who might be interested in an internship with H&P have them contact Christina (cdudley@handp.com).

The sun is rising higher in the sky and the temperatures are rising too. That means summer is getting in full swing. I hope everyone enjoys the beautiful weather and has a very safe and happy summer!

Bif



The Jamestown Settlement: H&P Begins Repair of Pier

The Jamestown Settlement in Williamsburg is a common destination for Virginia public elementary school field trips and history lovers worldwide. Each year over 500,000 visitors to this living-history museum take in the Powhatan Indian Village, colonial fort, and re-creations of the three ships that sailed from England to Virginia in 1607.

The Susan Constant, Godspeed, and Discovery are moored at a pier that was constructed as part of a 1994 renovation; over the 25 year life of the pier, eight named storms have passed nearby the facility. The severe weather conditions, coupled with the high volume of foot traffic, have

contributed to areas of deterioration on the pier.

The team of Hurt & Proffitt and Clark Nexsen was selected by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation (a Virginia state agency) to design repairs to the pier, with the primary component being replacement of the existing decking and portions of the substructure. The original pier consisted of two South American hardwoods: 3" x 10" Ipe (pronounced EE-pay) for the decking, and Dinizia excelsa for the substructure. Due to its strength, durability, and availability, Greenheart was selected as the replacement timber for the pier repairs. Greenheart is sourced from Guyana, so





product lead time was an important factor in the project schedule.

Another requirement of the improvement plan was for visitor access to be maintained throughout construction; this was accomplished through the use of a second, smaller pier, and a phased approach that allowed a portion of the main pier to be reopened to visitors ahead of final project completion.

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The project was awarded for construction to Crofton Industries, who has gone through countless drill bits and saw blades as they've worked with these incredibly hard, dense timbers. Despite the chal-

lenges, the team-based approach between Owner, Engineer, and Contractor have contributed to a successful project thus far.



Day of Caring



H&P staff volunteered for Lynchburg's Day of Caring on May 15, 2019. Staff spread mulch at Camp Kum Ba Yah along the trail, tree house and zip line staircase as well as pulled weeds and completed some overall trimming. Staff helping are pictured above include (front row) Amanda Dodgion and Donnie Scrivener. Back Row: Tim Bagby, Patrick Proffitt, Scott Beasley, Craig McBride, Mike Ewers and Troy Williams. This is just one way H&P proudly gives back to the community.



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