



David Kidd: Steering Growth at Emory & Henry College

By Su Clauson-Wicker

David Kidd, Emory & Henry College Director of Capital Design, Construction and Project Management, has worked with Anderson & Associates, now Hurt & Proffitt, on major college projects over the past four years, but his history with the firm stretches back to the beginning of his career.

"I was about 20 years old when Anderson asked me to join their surveying team," Kidd says. "I was half of a two man surveying team on Interstate 85 in North Carolina, back in 1993."

After Kidd graduated from Bluefield State College and began working for Virginia Tech, he interacted with the firm on projects. Later as engineer for Washington County, Virginia, he worked with them again. So when he was hired in February 2013 to oversee construction of Emory & Henry's \$21-million McGlothlin Center for the Arts, Kidd saw familiar faces when the firm performed the site engineering.



Since Kidd joined the private college, Emory & Henry has experienced a building boom, with construction underway on several new residence halls scheduled to open next fall. Another ongoing project is renovation of Emory & Henry's new School of Health Sciences in Marion, site of the former Smyth County Community Hospital. The 15-acre property now houses the College's Doctor of Physical Therapy and Masters of Occupational Therapy programs, with a Masters in Physician Assistant program slated to begin next fall.



Navigating America's Big Ditch



By Joe Schuppe: Land Surveyor with H&P

In February of 2016, I won the opportunity to paddle the length of the Colorado River through Grand Canyon National Park. For the cost of twenty-five bucks, I gave the U.S. Park Service five dates throughout the

2017 calendar year under which my name was then entered for their annual lottery, as if into a hat, and I won a launch January 2nd. I chose for my five entries mostly winter dates, because in early January my name was competing with only a handful of other names, and my chances of winning were decent. My pool of January 2 contained fifteen names. On June 6, 2016, the applicant pool contained 1,190 names. Far fewer people want



to paddle Grand Canyon in winter. I chose winter, alone, and self-supported out of a canoe. Some people think I'm an idiot.



When my name was plucked out of the hat, I won a Park Service permit to launch from Lee's Ferry, in Northern Arizona, and paddle 280 miles to another boat ramp out on Lake Mead called Pearce Ferry. Lake Mead is the lake impounded by Hoover Dam. Grand Canyon National Park begins at Lee's Ferry, ends just above Pearce Ferry, and contains the most regulated section of river in the United States. You can't do any paddling or camping on the Colorado River through Grand Canyon without a permit issued by the National Park Service (NPS) in their annual lottery, and in the winter months, they allow one launch a day. So it was with great excitement at having been finally chosen, and with slight trepidation at the prospects of launching alone, that I loaded my canoe for eighteen days and paddled through Grand Canyon.



My canoe of choice was a fourteen foot long, thirty-one-inch wide open boat, and I carried all of my camping gear and food strapped tightly to the hull with various d-rings and webbing loops and cam straps and carabiners. The space in the boat not taken up with dry bags of food and warmth I filled with float bags, which are big nylon bladders that hold nothing but air and help keep water out of the canoe when crashing through big waves. I knelt



on a foam pedestal, and buckled myself to the boat with both knee and thigh straps in the hopes that if the boat tipped over, I would be able to roll it back upright and continue paddling. Sometimes I can do that; sometimes I can't. If I can't roll it back upright, I exit the boat and go for a swim.

The canoe is a small boat in the waters of Grand Canyon, and the word that repeats itself, over and over in my head is "enormous". Everything down there feels enormous. At mile 88, near Phantom Ranch, the hike to the South Rim from the river is nine miles. The hike to the North Rim is 14. Behind you snakes eight-eight miles of river, before you waits 192

more. The trails of the main corridor wind between faults and creeks and side canyons that splinter like fractals, and these trails wrap through an intricate maze of broken earth and climb a vertical mile before reaching the plateaus of the rims. Always, in every direction you turn, loom the impossible walls of rock.

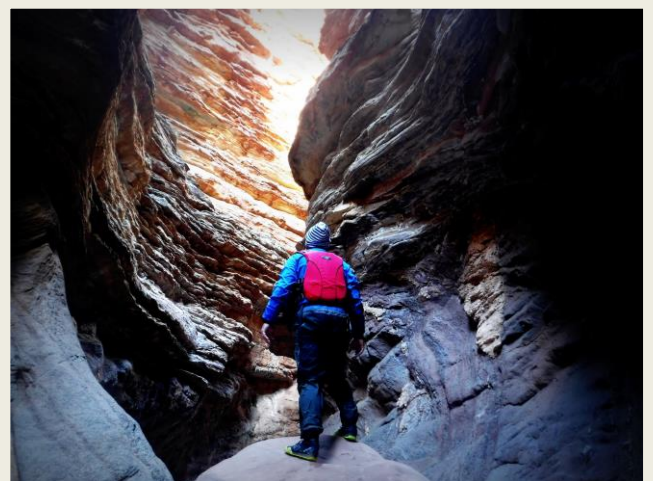
The Colorado River, for the month of January, was flowing at an average of 15,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), fluctuating on a twenty-four hour cycle between 11,000 and 19,000 cfs, dependent upon releases from Glen Canyon Dam. Below the Little Colorado, mile 66, the water looked like chocolate pudding, but changed quickly to a burnt red or orange depending on flow from side canyons or the color of the rock. January turned out to be a wet month. With that much volume, the river bounces between the walls and off the bottom and bubbles to the surface in boils and swirls into whirlpools and folds into watery blankets, and then squeezes down into legendary wave trains and big holes. And then there was the noise of all of that water pushing lways between the cliffs, a constantnoise from which I couldn't escape. Even in the quiet, flat sections, the river was a constant and overwhelming presence. Such that from the small, sandy beaches of my campsites, with the river always pushing through and the rock walls stepping away like a giant set of benches in every direction, I became nothing more than a speck at the bottom of a gigantic ditch in the middle of a wide, empty desert.

A river trip through Grand Canyon offers much to see and explore, and eighteen days was barely enough time for a mad dash to catch the tiniest glimpse. From the ancient geology up through the remnants of Indian Life (Indian Tribes still own





huge chunks of land on the south side of the river), and then into the 19th and 20th centuries with the modern era of Western Exploration, the canyon is like a giant storyboard, and a trip down the river is like reading a fascinating book that will span a billion years if you let it. From the wobbling perch of a canoe, I found myself, in the end, overcome with the magic of the place, filled with gratitude for the opportunity, humbled by the scale, and anticipating many more trips down through America's Big Ditch.



Upcoming Conferences

March 5-7: VLWA Conference

Mike Wilson, Director of Municipal/Government Engineering will be attending the VLWA conference held in Richmond, VA. Sessions will feature topics from every sector of the Virginia water community.



March 29-March 31: VA Brownfields Conference

Chris Nixon, Director of Environmental Services will be a guest speaker of the conference, held in Fredericksburg, VA. Chris will present on Asbestos issues. Representatives from our Blacksburg and Lynchburg office will also be attending.



March 29-March 31: VEDA Spring Conference

The VEDA Spring Conference will be held at the Omni Charlottesville Hotel on March 29-31, and the line-up will focus on partnerships and collaborations to tie in VEDA's year-long theme of Partnering for Progress. The Spring Conference will focus on how a region can leverage all of its localities' assets. Representatives from our Lynchburg and Blacksburg offices will be attending.



April 5-6, 2017: Virginia GIS Conference

Hurt & Proffitt is will be exhibiting and attending the 27th annual Virginia GIS Conference, held by the Virginia Association for Mapping and Land Information Systems (VAMLIS) at the Inn at Virginia Tech & Skelton Conference Center on April 5-6. The conference features trainings and workshops for GIS professionals, and a vendor reception will be held on April 6. H&P will have representatives from our Lynchburg and Blacksburg offices attending. Be sure to stop by our booth to say hello.



April 5-7, 2017: VTCA Conference

The VTCA conference will be held in the Hampton Roads Convention Center on April 5-7. H&P will have representatives from Blacksburg and Lynchburg attending. The statewide is focused solely on Virginia's dynamic transportation program and the impact it has on the construction, engineering and aggregate industries, and the future of Virginia's transportation program.



April 24-26: VRWA Conference

Hurt & Proffitt is excited to exhibit at the 29th annual Virginia Rural Water Association (VRWA) Conference, at the historic Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center in Roanoke on April 24-26. This year's program will give water and wastewater professionals the opportunity to attend training sessions to introduce them to the latest industry advancements, meet with water and wastewater suppliers and service companies, and mingle with other operators around the state. H&P will have representatives from our Lynchburg and Blacksburg offices attending. Stop by booth number 302 to see us.



DCR Dam Safety — Call for Grant Applications

DCR Dam Safety has posted 2017 grant application information to their website. This year's application will be a little different than previous applications. A brief summary of the 2017 Grant Application is provided below:

- **Applications are due by 4 pm March 31, 2017**
- Approximately \$1.2 Million available
- Reimbursement grant up to 50% of engineering expenses
- Proposed projects include services such as hazard classification, EAP, spillway analysis, Preliminary Engineering Reports, etc.
- Detailed project application with competitive scoring of submitted projects
- Projects to be completed within 12 months of award
- Projects completed prior to February 15, 2017 are not eligible for reimbursement

If you are interested in applying for Grant assistance for upcoming engineering services, please contact Mike Wilson, PE, Director of Municipal/Government Engineering at mdw@handp.com or call 434-847-7796. We look forward to discussing the current requirements of your dam's operating certificate with you.

For more information visit the DCR Dam Safety website at <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/dam-safety-and-floodplains/>



Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation



Funding Your Project with the RD Utilities Services Program



H&P has worked on over 50 water and sewer projects funded by Rural Development over the past 40 years.

Funding is one of the first hurdles a project must overcome in order to move from the planning phase into design and construction. In order to better serve our clients, and to help this process move more efficiently, H&P keeps up-to-date on available funding programs and their requirements. One program that can provide competitive funding opportunities is the USDA Rural Development Rural Utilities Services Program.

H&P has worked on over 50 Rural Development (RD) projects over the past 40 years. The RD Water & Waste Disposal Program allocates loans and grants for clean and reliable drinking water systems, sanitary sewage disposal, sanitary solid waste disposal, and storm water drainage to households and businesses in eligible areas.

Areas that may be served by this program include rural areas and towns with fewer than 10,000 people. RD Community Programs Specialist Cyndy Hines says, “Don’t be discouraged if the entire population of your community is over 10,000 people. RD can focus only on the service area that the project will serve. If the population of that area is 10,000 or less, RD can work with you in order to accommodate your funding needs.”

RD accepts applications year-round. The loan interest rates and grant eligibility are based on the median household income for the area which the project will serve. RD offers up to a 40-year payback period, based on the useful life of the facilities financed with a fixed interest rate.

If your project requires more than one funding source to make the cost feasible, Rural Development welcomes additional funding partners. Diverse funding packets enable municipalities to improve infrastructure and service without burdening citizens with high rate increases.

Cyndy Hines encourages municipalities to contact RD for water and sewer funding needs. “It doesn’t cost anything to call us,” she says. “We can answer any questions you might have, and can help you from conception to completion.”



Teamwork between clients and funding agencies is one of the main components of a successful project. H&P can also help you navigate this process. We will work closely with you and your funding representatives to make the project successful and cost effective. A list of representatives follows this page.

For more information on how H&P can help you with your funding needs, contact Brian Cossman, at (434) 847-7796 or email Brian at blc@handp.com.



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