



# Big River The Value Adder Resources

January 2005 The official Newsletter of Big River Resources Volume 4, Issue 1

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## Board of Directors

Name	Affiliation
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### LLC Executive Committee

Raymond E. Defenbaugh, President, CEO, Chairman	LLC, Co-op
Andy Brader, V. Pres ident	LLC, Co-op
Les Allen, Treasurer	LLC, Co-op
Gene Youngquist, LLC Secretary	LLC, Co-op

### Managers / Directors

Jeffrey Coale	LLC
Steve Core	LLC
Terry Davis	Co-op
Dr. John Dooley	LLC
Pay Edmonds (Coop Secretary)	LLC, Co-op
Steve Giertz	LLC, Co-op
Jim Gunter	LLC, Co-op
Johnny Johnson	LLC
Larry Lagowski	LLC
Steve Mallams	Co-op
Brian Thome	LLC
Jeff Roskam	LLC
Gary Sanberg	Co-op
Chris Schwarck	LLC
Kirk Siegle	LLC, Co-op
Rich Siegle	Co-op
Larry Unkrich	LLC, Co-op

# Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Big River Resources Co-op is rapidly approaching. The date is set for **February 26, 2005**. Saturday was chosen hoping it gives those who have regular obligations through the week an opportunity to attend. The time and location will remain as last year, that being 1:30 PM at the Burlington Memorial Auditorium.

The format will resemble last years meeting with reports from the officers and management. Topics to be covered during the business session will include plant operations, finances, future plans, etc., as well as the nominating committee report.

Additionally, we plan on having a keynote speaker from the National Renewable Fuels Association, providing there is not a conflict with this individuals duties in Washington as congress will be in session.

Also, it is currently anticipated that an announcement will be made relative to a dividend distribution in the range of 8 to 10 %. This seems to be a fair assessment of the distribution at this point in time, baring any unforeseen circumstances between now and the end of February.

Watch for further information in your mail relative to election of directors, meeting agenda, parking, keynote speaker, special announcements, etc.

Larry Unkrich

## *NEW YEAR...NEW LOOK*

Greetings! As we approach our first anniversary of actual plant operation and assess aspects that deserve more attention, the frequency of our newsletter comes to mind. We are going to make a concerted effort to send newsletters on at least a bi-monthly basis starting with this January issue. This will keep the membership more up to date on current activities, provide a platform for reviewing some past decisions, and also provide information on the future.

Several possible topics come to mind for future issues. These include reviewing plant production, DDGS markets as related to the river, the recent two-day strategic planning session held in Monmouth, future expansion possibilities, an update on grain delivery options, year-end financial reviews, local news related to the plant, and plant personnel highlights, to just name a few. Members are encouraged to suggest additional topics that would be of interest.

We have revised the newsletter format in order to put more information in a smaller, more economical space. Any comments regarding these changes would be welcome as the newsletter should reflect the desires of the membership.

Larry Unkrich

## *BRR/UBE MANAGEMENT CHANGES*

As most of you know, Big River Resources has retained United Bio Energy to perform certain management and marketing related tasks at the plant. UBE was formed just prior to our startup with several key employees coming from both Fagen and ICM. Two of the positions which UBE provides staffing for are the General Manager and the Grain Merchandiser.

Each of these positions will be seeing a new face in the near future. Edgar Seward, our General Manager, has accepted a position with UBE in Iowa Falls. Edgar will be putting to good use his many technical skills in this newly created position. Ty Weisendanger, our Grain Merchandiser, has been given the opportunity to exercise his grain buying talents in the home office of UBE in Wichita. As we have gotten to know and appreciate the dedication and work ethic of these two individuals, it is difficult for us to see them depart. However, we respect their desire to improve themselves through new challenges and promotions, and want to take this opportunity to wish each of them the very best in the future.

UBE is already taking steps to fill each of these positions. An interim GM is already in place. His name is Rick Brehm and he introduces himself below. Rick will be our GM until the position is permanently filled and that, by the way, will be a part of his duty while he is with us. Everyone should feel free to stop in and say hello to Rick during his stay here in Burlington. As for the Grain Merchandising, Ty is still here and will remain until his replacement is in place. Interviews are presently being set up for that position.

One should not forget that both BRR & UBE are start-up companies, somewhat like the ethanol industry itself, and will, from time to time, experience changes in personnel.

Larry Unkrich

### *Interim General Manager*



Hello! I am Rick Brehm and will be filling in as General Manager at Big River Resources until a permanent replacement can be found. If you should ever have any questions or concerns, my door is always open, and I can easily be reached by telephone. The last few months have been very successful for Big River Resources. Ethanol production is near the top of the industry. Distillers Grain sales are outstanding, both in volume as well as market price. The plant staff has become very skilled at running the plant and production rates reflect their abilities. During November, Big River piled corn west of the plant to avoid turning away customers. As of this writing, we have started to bring the corn into the plant and found it to be of high quality. Over the upcoming months, we will be working to identify and complete projects that will streamline the plant and make Big River more efficient.

### *“Corny” Times*

Well it's tough to consider that we have been buying grain for ten months. Since April 12, the first day we took corn, we have dumped a little over ten million bushels. I am very pleased that for the most part we have had no lines and have not had to shut off trucks because we are full too often. I want to thank everyone for being patient the first few months we were in business. We have made huge strides in our department as far as paying for grain everyday and just handling the book work here at our location. I want to thank

Lanette Byerly (formerly Burlington ADM employee) for coming aboard as our Grain Merchandiser's Assistant and being a big asset for Big River. I want to remind everyone that we will buy more than your committed bushels. We also have bids all the way out to July of 2005. If you are interested in our Average Trimester program, please remember to give me a call prior to the beginning of the Trimester. Thank you for all your business!

Ty Weisendanger, Grain Merchandiser



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## Mission Statement

To improve and stabilize the agricultural economic resources of the multi-state region by establishing corn based ethanol as the premier renewable fuel.

Join us on the Web!

[www.bigriverresources.com](http://www.bigriverresources.com)

Big River Resources Cooperative Recently received the  
Iowa Venture Award  
An Award That Recognizes Growth And Achievement

## Optimal Production Rates

Yet, another year is almost behind us. This year has been both rewarding and very challenging. The plant is performing well over nameplate capacities. We are currently running at 125% of nameplate design. This is due to the state of the art design by ICM, quality construction completed by Fagen, and a lot of hard work from both our Board Members and employees. We here at Big River Resources are ever vigilant in both our preventative maintenance and our operation management to optimize plant performance.

Next year we will look at more opportunities to further optimize production and lower production costs. CMMS (Computer Maintenance Management System) will be installed further streamlining the preventive maintenance system. Studies are currently being performed on expansion opportunities for Big River Resources, LLC. I am sure next year will be filled with many challenges and opportunities. I am confident that the team assembled here at Big River will rise to meet these challenges.

I am proud of all our staff and thank them for all of the long hours, hard work, and commitment they have shown thus far. I am grateful to the Board of Directors for giving us the tools and the support needed to operate the facility. Lastly I would like to thank you the investors, for giving us the opportunity to come to work for Big River Resources.

Stan Janson, Plant Manager

## Who you gonna call ...

## Maintenance!



WOW... it has almost been a year since we all came together as a team to produce the worlds' next most valuable source of fuel. We have been putting the shop together, learning the process, going through startup, setting up preventive maintenance schedules, training on equipment (ongoing) and actually getting out and fixing stuff has been fun, exciting, and a great learning experience for the Maintenance Group.

We look forward to the possibility of expansion. Priorities for us in 2005 are training, eliminating bottlenecks within the present process, maintaining our preventive maintenance schedules, installing the CMMS offered by ICM, and assisting in the implementation of new equipment and processes.

Rich Grasso, Maintenance Manager

## Helpful Hints From The Scale House

- Please watch your speed coming in and leaving the plant. It is posted at 5MPH.
- Always be careful and follow the DOT regulations as there are DOT stationed along the highways to our plant from time to time.
- The Scale house operates on Channel 8 for those who have a CB. If you do not, please wait for the flashing lights and keep your eye out for the Grader to wave you on.
- Weigh in and weigh out on the same scale every time if possible.
- On days that a barge is being loaded the inside scale (East side) is reserved for corn The Outside scale (West) is for barge trucks.

Material Handling Team

