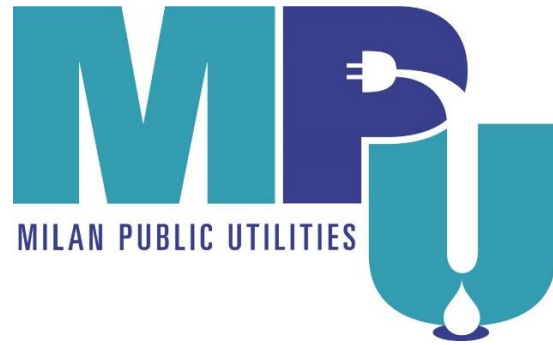


# Milan Public Utilities TMEPA Member Spotlight September 2017



*Jason Griggs  
General Manager*



Jason Griggs became the General Manager of Milan Public Utilities (MPU) on January 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year. Griggs was formerly the Finance Director and Director of Economic Development for the City of Milan, Tennessee. Griggs spent 7 years as the manager of a small water/wastewater system in West Tennessee before being hired to work for Milan. Griggs states, “I had the great privilege to work with my predecessor, David Scarbrough, for one month before he retired. David is a seasoned LPC Manager with a wealth of knowledge and he made the transition extremely easy. David Scarbrough is a class act! I am very blessed to have inherited a utility that was very well managed. We have 40 employees and they are some of the most competent, talented people I’ve ever met. We have one 40-year veteran, five employees with over 30 years of service, and the majority of our employees are 20 plus year employees. The average employee tenure is 17 years.”

Being new to the electric industry, Griggs admits that he has faced some challenges. Griggs states, “I have been embraced by such a welcoming, helpful group of LPC Managers in West Tennessee. The relationships I have made with TVA, TVPPA, and TMEPA have been phenomenal. Fortunately, I work for an extremely supportive Mayor and Board. Having a background in water/wastewater utilities, I feel that I am fluent in that industry, but the Board realized there would be a learning curve for me regarding the electric industry. It has been challenging to quickly get up to speed with many of the issues and challenges that are present in the electric industry. For example, it’s been challenging to be thrown in to the middle of TVA’s Rates and Contracts discussion regarding the 2018 rate increase, TVA’s long-term financial plan and rate methodologies, pole attachment regulations, solar, the impacts of DER and how the LPC needs to offer solutions to the DER demands of ratepayers, dark fiber leasing, and Fiber To The Premise (FTTP). Also, it’s been interesting to understand the multifaceted relationship the LPC has with TVA, in that TVA is my wholesale power supplier, my regulator, my partner in Economic Development, Customer Service, Comprehensive Services Program, Solar Programs, as well as several other programs that benefit ratepayers. It’s also been challenging to grasp the needs and characteristics of my local LPC. MPU has 8,160 active accounts. 52% of the rate payers are located within the 9 square miles of the City of Milan, but the other 48% of the ratepayers are located within a 200 square mile area outside of the City of Milan. We serve ratepayers in 3 counties. We look like a Municipal Electric System inside the city limits, but we look like a co-op outside of the city limits.”

Looking to the future, Griggs states, “I’ve been assessing the future needs of the utility over the last 9 months. I’ve already begun to re-appropriate a handful of employees and assets to better serve the current needs of the utility and the ratepayer. I’m working to develop a 3-5 year plan that will include building fiber to all of our substations, implementation of a SCADA system for essential operational functions, and I want to implement AMI metering. My board chairman recently tasked me with developing a plan to light fiber services and provide Fiber To The Premise (FTTP). As you can see, we have lofty, yet much needed goals. I have to develop a smart plan to achieve these goals, fund projects, and keep rates responsibly low.

# Milan Public Utilities By The Numbers

## Electric

- 8,160 Active Meter Sites
- 520 Miles of Overhead Lines
- 15 Miles of Underground Lines
- 169 Transmission Poles
- 12,682 Distribution Poles
- 26 Miles of Fiber Optic Cable

## 4 Substations

- Manner Frank Rd.
- Wahl St. (Original & Oldest)
- South Milan
- Carroll County

## Water

- 4,564 Water Meter Sites
- 589 Fire Hydrants
- 22 Lift Stations
- 4 Water Wells at ~1,700 GPM each
  - Maycor Tank = 750,000
  - Kefauver Tank = 250,000
  - Nance St. Tank = 500,000
  - Clear Well at Water Plant = 1,250,000 (*On Generator Back-up*)
- 4 High Service Pumps at ~1,800 GPM
- Water Plant Capacity is 6 Million Gallons Per Day (MGD)

## Wastewater

- We currently average 1 MGD
- WWTP Influent / Effluent Capacity is 2.55 MGD
- WWTP Average Flow is 700,000 gallons ("Dry Day")