

North Central RFC (originally known as the Minneapolis RFC/)

Dean Braatz recalls the first day at work, in early June 1979, at the new Minneapolis RFC was one of shock when we opened the door to a large empty room on the first floor of the old airport terminal that showed three telephones setting on the floor. The phones were working but there was no furniture or chairs to be seen. The first assigned staff were three of us, Larry Longsdorf, Mike Anderson and myself. The next few days we spent hitting the other federal agencies in the Twin Cities to see what second hand furniture and chairs they had and were willing to give away. We were lucky to bring back chairs, tables and desks after a few days on the job. The first contact with the outside came shortly after our coming together, it was the computer terminal; the Hetra Company had the contract. This was a large piece of equipment containing the card reader and printer which linked us with the mainframe computers in Washington, D.C.. Mike spent a lot of time getting this item on-line and running so we could begin to load our own hydrologic model runs and set up data files. The basic models, etc, were handed off from the Kansas City RFC. The name for the new river forecasting office in Minneapolis came later. I recall going over several names and we finally settled on the North Central River Forecast Center. After several months the office was moved to the second floor in the old airport terminal where it remained until March of 1995, I believe.

This past June 3, 2009 the “baby” RFC turned 30. The office was originally located in the old airport terminal building. The original staff was comprised of the following:

Dean Braatz	Hydrologist-In-Charge
John Seemann	Deputy HIC/Operations
Kathy Giese	Secretary
Larry Longsdorf	Flash Flood Hydrology
Pat Neuman	Snow Hydrology
Jim Jacques	Computer Specialist
Doug Merrigan	Hydrologist
Mike Anderson	Hydrologist
Tom Fero	Hydrologist
Martin Vance	Electronic Technician

Vera Matich, Hydrologist, arrived November 1979 and Julius Moore, Hydrologist, arrived January 1980. North Central RFC started issuing forecasts officially on January 2, 1980.



The photo to the left shows the men who have/are served as HIC at the North Central River Forecast Center. From left to right:

Dan Luna	2001 - 2008
Dean Braatz	1979 - 2001
Scott Dummer	2008 – present

Here is the AFOS message (CRHADMCRRH) announcing Larry Longsdorf's retirement.

... NORTH CENTRAL RIVER FORECAST CENTER ...
... HAS IT'S FIRST RETIREE ...

LARRY LONGSDORF, FLASH FLOOD HYDROLOGIST AT THE NORTH CENTRAL RFC, MINNEAPOLIS, MN WILL RETIREE FROM FEDERAL SERVICE MARCH 2, 1991 AFTER OVER 33 YEARS SERVICE.

LARRY ENTERED FEDERAL SERVICE IN APRIL 1957 WITH THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND SERVED WITH THAT AGENCY UNTIL TRANSFERRING TO THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN MAY 1971 AT THE KANSAS CITY RFC, KANSAS CITY, MO.

IN MAY 1973, HE WAS SELECTED TO FILL THE CENTRAL REGION FLASH FLOOD HYDROLOGIST POSITION AND SERVED IN THAT CAPACITY UNTIL 1979 WHEN THE BRAND NEW NORTH CENTRAL RFC OPENED FOR BUSINESS.

WHILE IN THE REGIONAL OFFICE AT KANSAS CITY, LARRY ATTENDED THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PURSUING THE MASTERS AND PHD DEGREES IN CIVIL ENGINEERING.

NOT ONLY IS LARRY OUR FIRST RETIREE FROM THE RFC, HE IS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL STAFF WHO OPENED THE DOORS OF THE RFC ALMOST 12 YEARS AGO. DURING THOSE 12 YEARS THE MANY CHANGES IN THE WAY WE BETTER SERVE OUR USERS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO HIS PROFESSIONALISM AND EXPERTISE IN THE FIELD OF HYDRAULICS AND HYDROLOGY.

LARRY AND BEV, HIS WIFE OF 33 YESARS, PLAN TO EXIT THE CITY LIFE AND INITIALLY LIVE IN "GOD'S COUNTRY", THE NORTH WOODS OF MINNESOTA AT THEIR CABIN NEAR BARNUM, MN. HOWEVER, WE'VE ALL BEEN ASSURED THAT THEIR 35 FOOT MOTOR HOME WILL BE FULLY UTILIZED WITH LOTS OF TIME ON THE ROAD DOING WHAT RETIREES SHOULD DO... ENJOYING.

LUNCHEON TOAST/ROAST WILL BE HELD IN LARRY'S HONOR AT A YET TO BE DETERMINED LOCATION FRIDAY MARCH 1, 1991. FOR ADDITIONAL DETAIL CALL THE RFC.