

Mayor Brooks Fetters and the Huntington County Commissioners toured Huntington Aluminum Inc. on Monday, Aug. 20, to see the result of a \$1.1 million expansion project the company recently completed. Pictured are (from left) Fetters; Larry Buzzard, president, Huntington County Commissioners; Steve Stamper, general manager and partner, and Roger Kilty, president and majority owner, both Huntington Aluminum; Tom Wall, Huntington County Commissioners; and Rob Miller, vice president, Huntington County Commissioners. Photo by Steve Clark.

## Mayor, commish get look at HA expansion

By STEVE CLARK

Huntington Mayor Brooks Fetters and the Huntington County Commissioners toured Huntington Aluminum Inc. on Monday, Aug. 20, to get a look at the outcome of an expansion project the company initiated earlier this

Founded in 2011, Huntington Aluminum is a

tolling facility that processes metal into ingots and sows for clients in the United States and Canada. The project centered on the introduction of a new rotary to the facility. With the

new unit operational, the company's leadership projects the facility will go from processing approximately 7.5 million pounds of metal a month to 10 mi-

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llion by November.

Steve Stamper, general manager and partner at Huntington Aluminum, says it became clear it was time for the company to expand its operation.

"We (were) turning customers away, so we had to do something," he says. "Either make a decision to grow or watch business go."

The expansion project commenced in February and totaled \$1.1 million. To help facilitate the project, the city and county offered Huntington Aluminum a performance-based grant. Totaling \$80,000, the grant's performance metrics included obtaining approved air permits from relevant environmental regulatory agencies; successfully installing and operating air-emission control equipment; creating eight new jobs while retaining 48 existing jobs; and publicly announcing the project. A final metric obligates the repayment of the grant

should the company cease operations within five years.

Roger Kilty, Huntington Aluminum's president and majority owner, expressed gratitude to Fetters and Huntington County commissioners Larry Buzzard, Rob Miller and Tom Wall for their support of his company.

"I just want to thank everybody for helping us," he stated. "Huntington's a place to start a business, because you guys have been more than helpful."

Fetters commended Kilty and Stamper on their vision for their company and seeing the project through.

"I just want to applaud your courage, because as you grow and expand, those are gut-check kind of moments," he said. "Every time you have to make those decisions, either sit pat or go forward, it always takes boldness and courage and faith to do that."