

Whisenhunt David Dwight
 Form 4
 February 17, 2012

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287
 Expires: January 31, 2005
 Estimated average burden hours per response... 0.5

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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 Whisenhunt David Dwight

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 55 WAUGH DRIVE, SUITE 1000
 (Street)

HOUSTON, TX 77007

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 KIRBY CORP [KEX]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 02/15/2012

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Exec VP - Engine Systems

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 ___ Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) Price | | | |
| Common Stock, par value \$.10 per share | 02/15/2012 | | A ⁽¹⁾ | 1,991 A \$ 0 | 10,571 | D | |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$ 65.28 | 02/15/2012 | | A | 3,271 | 02/15/2015 ⁽²⁾ 02/15/2019 | Common Stock 3,271 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Whisenhunt David Dwight 55 WAUGH DRIVE, SUITE 1000 HOUSTON, TX 77007 | | | Exec VP - Engine Systems | |

Signatures

G. Stephen Holcomb, Agent and Attorney-in-Fact
 **Signature of Reporting Person
 02/17/2012
 Date

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Restricted Stock awarded under the 2005 Stock and Incentive Plan for Kirby Corporation.
- (2) Option is exercisable 33% after one year, 67% after two years and 100% after three years from date of grant.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.