

LITTLE ROCK WATER RECLAMATION COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting Held
February 22nd, 2023

The Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission ("LRWRC") met at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 22nd, in the Board Room of Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority and via livestream.

Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission

Schawnee Hightower, Chair
Lauren Waldrip, Vice Chair
Jonathan Semans, Secretary
Chris Marsh, Commissioner
Debbie Shock, Commissioner
Ganelle McBryde, Commissioner
Director Lance Hines, Ex Officio Member

Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority Personnel

Greg Ramon, Chief Executive Officer
Howell Anderson, P.E., Chief Operating Officer
Jean Block, Chief Legal Officer
Michael Rhoda, Chief Financial Officer
Walter Collins, P.E., Director of Operations & Facilities
John Holloway, P.E., Director of Engineering Services
Rebecca Burkman, Director of Environmental Affairs
Harold Hounwanou, P.E., Director of Collection System Maintenance

Attendees included: Commissioner Hightower and Director Hines appeared in-person. Commissioners Semans, Marsh, and Shock appeared via livestream. Senior Staff Members: Greg Ramon, Jean Block, Howell Anderson, Michael Rhoda, Walter Collins, John Holloway, Rebecca Burkman, and Harold Hounwanou appeared in person.

Chair Hightower brought the meeting to order and called for Mr. Anderson to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Hightower then asked Anthony Farler, Laboratory Coordinator, to present the Safety Minute.

Mr. Walter Collins, Director of Operations and Facilities, spoke on the passing of LRWRA employee Danny Robnett. He noted his passion for public service, his long tenure at the utility, and the love for his family. He then acknowledged Mr. Robnett's wife, Mary Robnett, and presented her a glass water-droplet statue in honor of Danny Robnett's life and service.

Chair Hightower asked the Commissioners if they had reviewed the minutes of the January 18th meeting. Being that there were no revisions, Chair Hightower asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

Chair Hightower then asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

Next, Chair Hightower called on Greg Ramon to present the 2022 Sierra Club Annual Report. Mr. Ramon explained that compliance with the Sierra Club Settlement requires the utility to submit a report annually. The current report outlines mitigation efforts that the utility made in 2022. Mr. Ramon also stated that the utility is still on track to meet the requirements of the Sierra Club Settlement and the Administrative Order from DEQ by January 1, 2024.

Being that there were no questions from the Commission, Chair Hightower requested a motion to accept the 2022 Sierra Club Annual Report. A motion was made, seconded, and accepted unanimously.

Cary Beth Lipscomb, Engineering Manager – Capital Improvements, presented a Recommendation of Award for Professional Services for a Pump Station and Force Main for Port of Little Rock Development. She explained that in the anticipation of growth in the Port of Little Rock, the Thibault Pump Station and Force Main project supports the development of a sewer extension to a proposed new pump station site for the Thibault Pump Station. The proposed new pump station is anticipated to have a sewer flow of approximately 2 million gallons per day (MGD) and a service area of approximately 936 acres. This project will also include a new 10—inch force main. The proposed pump station would include a three (3) position pump station with the readiness to be expanded to a five (5) position pump station when needed to accommodate future growth in the Port of Little Rock.

Staff requested the Commission ratify the review committee's choice of Garver and authorize CEO Greg Ramon to negotiate and execute the engineering services pre-construction services contract. The contract will not exceed \$477,032 for the Thibault Pump Station and Force Main - Design Consultant Contract for Pre-Construction Phase Services. Procurement procedures were followed in accordance with LRWRA Guide to Procuring Goods and Services as adopted by the Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission on June 20, 2001 and revised June 8, 2010, and State professional services procurement code (ACA § 19-11-804).

Chair Hightower requested a motion to approve. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Howell Anderson, Chief Operating Officer, presented a Recommendation of Award for Commercial Real Estate Services. He explained that land acquisition is critical to support Biosolids management and disposal and gave a brief background on biosolids and land application.

He stated the reason he was presenting this now was an increased concern for reliable access to land application sites. He explained these commercial real estate services will be utilized to locate and coordinate the purchase of approximately 500 - 800 acres of land for the beneficial use of biosolids land application. He noted preferably, the property will be located on the East side of the Arkansas River and within approximately 20 miles of the FCWRF. Chair Hightower asked about the uses of the land once Biosolids are applied. Mr. Anderson stated it could grow crops, but that process is more regulated, but that growing hay or using it for pastureland for cattle is less regulated.

Mr. Anderson requested the Commission approve the recommendation of award for a term contract for commercial real estate services and to authorize CEO Greg Ramon to enter into a contract with Kelley Commercial Partners and to authorize subsequent contract renewals to be approved and signed at the discretion of the CEO if the renewal is within the best interest of the Utility and follows Resolution 2016-16 in regard to change order procedures.

Chair Hightower requested a motion to approve. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Michael Rhoda, Chief Financial Officer, then presented Resolution 2023-04 entitled:

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE INTENT OF THE LITTLE ROCK
WATER RECLAMATION COMMISSION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF
CERTAIN ARKANSAS DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AUTHORITY
(ADFA) BONDS AND TO ADVANCE FUNDS TO PAY COSTS OF
SEWER FACILITIES' INSTALLATIONS AT CERTAIN AREAS WITHIN
THE CITY OF LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS WITH THE FUNDS TO BE
REIMBURSED BY LOAN PROCEEDS FROM TAX EXEMPT ADFA
BONDS.**

Mr. Rhoda gave a brief background on a previous resolution. He noted Resolution 2023-03 was adopted by LRWRC in January 2023, to restructure five Arkansas Natural Resources Division (ANRD) Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) bonds totaling \$221.4M with the following principal amounts as of October 15, 2023. After further consultation with bond counsel, staff decided to exclude the 2020A RLF bond since its proceeds will not yet be fully drawn by October 2023. Debt service payments for the 2020A RLF coincide with the restructured bond debt service payments with both bonds having identical terms (30 years at 2.25%). Therefore, the favorable financial impact as previously presented from the restructuring is unchanged. Mr. Ramon noted that the approved item would be voted on by the Little Rock Board of Directors in March.

Mr. Rhoda requested the Commission approve Resolution 2023-04 – a resolution approving the restructuring of four (4) city of Little Rock, Arkansas revenue bonds secured by revenues of the water reclamation system and issued as part of the state clean water revolving loan fund program; and repealing Resolution 2023-03.

Chair Hightower requested a motion to approve. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Mr. Rhoda then presented a summary of the January Financial Report. He explained for January that total revenue of \$5.4 million exceeded budget by \$199,000 (3.8%). Operating expenses of \$3.2 million more than budget by \$53,000 (1.7%) with Salaries over budget by \$42k (2.4%), Supplies over budget by \$6k (2.7%), and Contract Services under budget by \$24k (9.3%).

Jean Block, Chief Legal Officer, then gave the Legal Update. She highlighted: status of ongoing litigation; Leadership and Development 2.0; monitoring legislation on solar projects; and contracts.

Greg Ramon, Chief Executive Officer, delivered the monthly highlights that included: Arkansas Food Bank, Video shoot at AFWRF, Readers' Choice Awards, Blueprint Publication Features, Black History Month Social Media Campaign, LRCHS STEM Fair, National Engineers Week, Contract Updates, and an Advertisement for Bids for Construction for Large Diameter Main Upsizing near Booker Arts Magnet Elementary School.

Mr. Ramon noted that the utility had to make an emergency purchase for the Adams Field WRF Pump Station. Two of the six pumps had their impellor crack and the total cost was \$115,000 and above his spending authority, but it was necessary to move forward with the order. He stated the new equipment will be arriving by March 20th.

John Holloway, Director of Engineering Services, then gave a brief contract update on annual renewals.

Chair Hightower called for other business, there was none.

Chair Hightower stated the next LRWRC meeting would be March 15th, 2023. He then asked if there were any objections to adjourning the meeting. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Semans', written over a horizontal line.

Jonathan Semans, Secretary