

LITTLE ROCK WATER RECLAMATION COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting Held
May 18th, 2022

The Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission (“LRWRC”) met at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 18th, via livestream. The public was asked to email any public comments.

Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission

Ganelle McBryde, Chair
Schawnee Hightower, Vice Chair
Debbie Shock, Secretary
Chris Marsh, Commissioner
Richard Mays, Jr., Commissioner
Jonathan Semans, Commissioner
Lauren Waldrip, 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: Commissioners Ganelle McBryde, Debbie Shock, Schawnee Hightower, Jonathan Semans, Richard Mays, Chris Marsh, and Director Hines. Commissioner Waldrip was absent. Senior Staff Members: Greg Ramon, Jean Block, Howell Anderson, Michael Rhoda, Walter Collins, and Harold Hounwanou. Rebecca Burkman and John Holloway were absent. The commissioners appeared via livestream.

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

Chair McBryde then asked the Commissioners if they had reviewed the minutes of the April 20th and April 26th meetings. Being that there were no revisions, Chair McBryde asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

Chair McBryde asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

Tonya Wallace, Program Manager - Facilities, presented a Recommendation of Award for Construction for Wastewater Collection System (2019 Flood Damage). She explained that large diameter pipes and manhole infrastructure located in Fourche Creek Bottoms is a critical component of the Wastewater Collection System for the city of Little Rock. During the May to June 2019 flooding event in Little Rock, a natural disaster declaration was issued June 8, 2019, making Pulaski County eligible for FEMA grant funds. There is 7,985 feet of large diameter sewer mains located in the Fourche Bottoms that was damaged during this flood event. Staff requested the Commission to approve the bid of and award the contract to SAK Construction, LLC. of O'Fallon, Missouri in the amount of \$7,571,350 for the FEMA Wastewater Collection System Project and authorize CEO Greg Ramon to execute the necessary documents. This is subject to the concurrence of the Arkansas Natural Resources Department.

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

Ms. Wallace then presented a Change Order Approval for Construction for Boyle Park, Rebsamen, and I-630 Project. She explained that this change order will address three lines segments deemed with a classification of expedited on the repair schedule. While work was being performed on our High Street Diversion Structure in the Fourche Bottoms our consultant found these sewer mains were leaking during a surcharged situation. Under these circumstances the pipes were placed in the expedited category and need to be rehabilitated as soon as possible. Once we found this issue with our sewer main, we requested grant assistance from ADEM to mitigate catastrophic damage to our sewer main in another flooding event.

ADEM approved a grant in the amount of seventy-five percent of project cost, up to \$300,000, to be paid from Arkansas State Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The remaining twenty-five percent of the funds will be paid from what we budgeted for large diameter repairs in 2022. Due to a 48-inch cured in place pipe unit price not established in the current contract, we requested two quotes from two highly qualified CIPP contractors to gauge if we were receiving a fair price. Suncoast submitted the lowest price in the amount of \$456,456 and the second quote was \$595,000. LRWRA has worked with Suncoast Infrastructure, Inc. on multiple projects other than the current contract, and has been satisfied with their performance. Mr. Ramon thanked the staff for working with ADEM and FEMA to accomplish this project and for fostering a good working relationship.

Staff requested the Commission approve the construction change order for Suncoast Infrastructure, INC. of Florence, Mississippi in the amount of \$456,456 and authorize CEO Greg Ramon to execute the change order for the I-630, Rebsamen & Boyle Park Rehabilitation Project.

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

Quentin Nelson, Project Engineer – Collection Systems, presented Recommendation of Award for Construction – (Pipe Burst/Relay-in- Place) - Infiltration/Inflow Reduction Program Rose Creek, Rebsamen, Rock Creek, Grassy Flat. Mr. Nelson explained that this project will help mitigate wet-weather overflows by rehabilitation of the existing sewer system to reduce Infiltration/Inflow, address Consent Administrative Order (CAO) related issues, and that it includes rehabilitation by pipe burst and relay in place methods. Staff requested the Commission to accept the unit prices submitted by Arkansas Cleaning & Televising, LLC – conditional upon Arkansas Natural Resources Division concurrence, and authorize the CEO Greg Ramon to enter into a contract for the Infiltration & Inflow Reduction Program – Rose Creek, Rebsamen, Rock Creek, Grassy Flat basins Contract 1 (Pipe Burst/Relay in Place).

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

Amber Yates, Procurement Administrator, presented Recommendation of Award for Biosolids Hauling and Land Application Services. Ms. Yates explained that this item is budgeted, that the Invitation to Bid (ITB) procurement process was completed to obtain pricing and a term contract for this service, and if approved, the contract will have an initial one-year term with the option to renew up to six additional years. Staff requested the Commission approve the recommendation of award for the removal and beneficial use of biosolids land application for \$979,810 and to authorize the CEO Greg Ramon to enter a contract with J&B Tanker, Inc. 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 regarding change order procedures.

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

Ms. Yates then presented Purchase Authorization for Property, Fiduciary, and Cyber Liability Insurance Policies. She explained this policy covers: LRWRA equipment and structures for a total asset value of approximately \$345.5 million with coverage through *Cincinnati Casualty Company* with a \$181,015 premium; Covers our management and administration of employee retirement accounts with coverage through *Travelers Casualty and Surety* with a \$3,334 premium; Covers protecting LRWRA during a cyber-attack with coverage through *Lloyd's of London* with a \$19,470 premium.

Staff requested the Commission approve the purchase authorization of these insurance policies for \$203,819 and to authorize the CEO Greg Ramon to bind coverage for the utility and sign the insurance policies and to authorize subsequent policy renewals to be approved and signed at the discretion of the CEO if the policies are within the best interest of the Utility and follows Resolution 2016-16 regarding change order procedures.

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

Next, Michael Rhoda, Chief Financial Officer, presented a summary of the April Financial Report. He explained for April that total revenue of \$5.3 million exceeded budget by \$98,000 (1.9%), and that year-to-date revenues of \$21.4 million are \$543,000 over budget (2.6%). Operating expenses of \$2.4 million were less than budget by \$88,000 (3.6%). Mr. Rhoda then gave an update on how inflation was affecting the LRWRA budget. He noted that projected expenses for Chemicals were up 54.6%, Cyber Security Insurance was up 20.0%, and Biosolid Hauling was up 89.7%. Vice Chair Hightower asked how Mr. Rhoda felt about inflation going through this year and next. Mr. Rhoda said LRWRA is in a good position due to conservative budgeting, but it's difficult to put together an upcoming year's budget with difficult to predict costs.

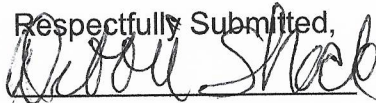
Jean Block, Chief Legal Officer, then gave the Legal Update. She highlighted: status of ongoing litigation; the North Gaines Street Project; the Entegrity Solar Project; Arkansas Environmental Law Conference; and announced Rebecca Burkman as the new Director of Environmental Affairs.

Greg Ramon, Chief Executive Officer, then delivered the monthly highlights that included: AWW&WEA Conference, UALR Earth Day, Buyer of the Year Award, Neighborhood USA, Minority and Women Owned Business Panel, Women of Water at the Little Rock Zoo, Arkansas Economic Development Commission Video, Recruiting Event at Little Rock Air Force Base, Advertisement for Professional Services for Solids Handling Master Plan, and the Entegrity Solar Update.

Chair McBryde called for other business and there was none.

Chair McBryde stated the next LRWRC meeting would be June 15th, 2022. She then asked if there were any objections to adjourning the meeting. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Debbie Shock, Secretary