

**LITTLE ROCK WATER RECLAMATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Held**  
**November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

The Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission ("LRWRC") met at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, in the Board Room of Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority and via livestream.

**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, Schawnee Hightower, Debbie Shock, and Jonathan Semans appeared in-person. Commissioner Marsh appeared via livestream. Commissioner Mays, Waldrip, and Director Hines were absent. Senior Staff Members: Howell Anderson, Michael Rhoda, Walter Collins, John Holloway, Rebecca Burkman, and Harold Hounwanou appeared in person. Greg Ramon and Jean Block appeared via livestream.

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

Vice Chair Hightower noted that the Commission was waiting for a quorum and asked staff to proceed with non-voting items.

Vice Chair Hightower then asked Alexandria Evans, Communications Assistant, to present the Safety Minute.

Tonya Wallace, Program Manager – Engineering Services, presented a demonstration of the Large Diameter Dashboard. She gave a brief overview of the project and did a live demonstration of the website.

Vice Chair Hightower stated that the Commission now had a quorum and then asked the Commissioners if they had reviewed the minutes of the October 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. Being that there were no revisions, Vice Chair Hightower asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

Michael Rhoda, Chief Financial Officer, presented the 2023 LRWRA Operating and Capital Budget. Mr. Rhoda gave the Commission a brief overview of the proposed budget presented to them at the October meeting that included projected revenues, operating and maintenance expenses, capital investments, and debt service. Mr. Rhoda requested the Commission approve the 2023 Total Operating Budget and Financial Plan.

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

Amber Yates, Procurement Administrator, presented a Contract Renewal for Heavy Equipment Lease. Ms. Yates gave a brief background on the lease renewal, the 2023 price increases, and procurement's research into price comparisons with other governmental entities.

Staff requested the Commission approve the contract renewal for LRWRA's heavy equipment lease for a total of \$194,220 during the 2023 fiscal year with Riggs CAT, and to authorize subsequent contract renewals to be approved and signed at the discretion of CEO Greg Ramon if the renewal is within the best interest of the Utility and follows Resolution 2016-16 regarding change order procedures.

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

Next, Ms. Wallace presented an update on the American Rescue Plan Act Funding Application. She noted the State of Arkansas received \$1.573 billion of ARPA funding from the federal government and approved \$280 million to address water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure needs with a cap of \$5 million per agency. LRWRA's application is for repairing and rehabilitating 46 miles of 6-inch to 15-inch gravity sewer mains; 3.7 miles of 21-inch to 24-inch gravity mains; and innovative collection system monitoring technology. The project is located in South Little Rock and the total cost is \$17.2 million with up to \$5 million being funded through ARPA.

She noted the applications would be reviewed and scored by the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission and would approve applications at their December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Commissioner Seamans asked how many applications were allowed per agency, and

Ms. Wallace stated that there wasn't a limit to the number of applications, but the funding was capped at \$5 million.

Mr. Rhoda then presented a summary of the October Financial Report. He explained for October that total revenue of \$5.6 million exceeded budget by \$459,000 (8.8%), and that year-to-date revenues of \$52 million are \$3.2 million over budget (6.2%). Operating expenses of \$2.3 million were less than budget by \$210k (8.4%) with Salaries under budget by \$55k (5.1%), Supplies over budget by \$22k (9.7%), and Contract Services over budget by \$7k (2%).

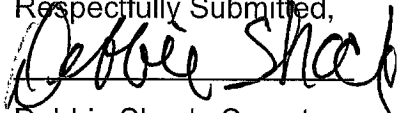
Jean Block, Chief Legal Officer, attempted to give the legal report, but experienced technical difficulties. Kenetta Ridgell, Communications and Outreach Supervisor, subsequently notified the Commission that Ms. Block would send them the legal update.

Greg Ramon, Chief Executive Officer, delivered the monthly highlights that included: Arkansas Education Association Booth, Veteran's Day, Tour of LMWRF, Community Café at Chicot Elementary, ViPS Reading Day, Women of Water Luncheon, the Univision Holiday Greeting, and a Notice of Advertisement for Request for Qualifications for Commercial Real Estate.

Vice Chair Hightower called for other business and there was none.

Vice Chair Hightower stated the next LRWRC meeting would be December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. She then asked if there were any objections to adjourning the meeting. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Debbie Shock, Secretary