

**Minutes of the  
ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION  
November 15, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission was held Wednesday, November 15, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. at Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, 101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 350, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Don Richardson, Vice Chairman Fred Fowlkes, Neal Anderson, Sloan Hampton, Jerry Hunton, Bruce Leggett, Bill Poynter, Roy Reaves, and Ann Cash.

Staff members in attendance included: Executive Director Bruce Holland; Ryan Benefield, Deputy Director; Edward Swaim, Water Resources Division Manager; Mark Bennett, Water Development Division Manager; Adrian Baber, Conservation Division Chief; Sharonica Crutchfield, Administrative Services Manager; Lori Nakai, Public Information Specialist; Dave Fenter, Grants Manager; Jim Battreal, Geology Supervisor; Bill Ruck, Engineer Supervisor; Bob Fowler, Land Resources Specialist; Vicki Walden; Administrative Specialist III; Gina Wilson, Construction Finance Analyst; Amanda Owens, Legal Support Specialist and Carla Hill, Executive Assistant.

A list of guests is attached to the minutes.

Chairman Richardson called the meeting of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission to order and welcomed back Commissioner Cash.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 20, 2017**

Upon motion by Mr. Roy Reaves, second by Mr. Bill Poynter the Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the September 20, 2017 meeting.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**- Mr. Bruce Holland, Executive Director

The Director gave an update on the Feral Hog Action Committee and the Beautiful Buffalo River Action Committee

**Status Report on Financial Assistance Programs** - Mrs. Sharonica Crutchfield, Administrative Services Manager, presented the financial assistance report dated October 31, 2017. (A copy of the report, Attachment "A", is attached to the minutes.) She stated Legislative Audit had no findings in the ANRC Internal Control and Compliance Assessment.

**Resolution 2017-04** – Chairman Don Richardson presented former Commission Chairman David Feilke with Resolution 2017-04 recognizing him for his contributions to the state of Arkansas.

**Resolution 2017-06** – Commissioner Neal Anderson presented Commission Chairman Don Richardson with Resolution 2017-06 recognizing him for his contributions to the state of Arkansas.

**Appeal of Jacksonville-Sherwood Water Plan Compliance Decision** – Ryan Benefield  
Deputy Director Ryan Benefield announced Judge Griffen ruled in favor of ANRC’s decision for Sherwood to distribute water and sewer service to the disputed area. The rule will be final November 16 if Jacksonville does not appeal.

**Proposed Rule Changes to Titles 18, 20, and 21 resulting from Act 248 of 2017**

- Ryan Benefield

Mr. Benefield informed the Commission of Act 248 of 2017, codified at § 17-1-106 that requires all state boards and commissions to promulgate rules to address hardship experienced by active duty service members, returning military veterans, and their spouses related to compliance with administrative rules regarding the issuance of licenses, certificates, and permits. Upon motion by Mrs. Ann Cash, second by Mr. Fred Fowlkes, the Commission unanimously approved the motion to promulgate the rules.

**WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT DIVISION** – Mr. Mark Bennett

Mr. Bennett introduced Mr. Daniel Allen with Raymond James & Associates, Inc., who gave a legislative update informing the Commission of proposed House and Senate bills involving tax rate adjustments and bonds.

Mr. Bennett presented staff recommendations for the referenced projects below requesting financial assistance from the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund (CWRLF), Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), and Water, Sewer, Solid Waste (WSSW).

Upon motion by Mr. Fred Fowlkes, second by Mr. Neal Anderson, the Commission unanimously approved the following applications.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:**

NORPHLET – Union County (CWRLF-L) Up to \$600,000  
PURPOSE OF FUNDS: Construct approximately 23,250 feet of 6-inch force main pipeline to connect the chlorination structure at the exiting treatment ponds to a discharge point at Smackover Creek. Customers 319.

The Commission approved loan funds in an amount up to \$600,000 for the City of Norphlet from the Arkansas Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund in accordance with the established funding priorities. The loan repayment schedule will not exceed twenty (20) years. The Executive Director will set the combined annual borrower rate and loan terms. Approval is contingent upon the City establishing and maintaining a three percent (3%) depreciation reserve fund.

RIVERSOUTH RURAL WATER DISTRICT – Franklin County (DWSRF-L) Up to \$3,000,000  
PURPOSE OF FUNDS: Connect water system to the Franklin-Sebastian PWA and water line improvements along Deer Track Trail and Highway 23. Customers 1695.

The Commission approved loan funds in an amount up to \$3,000,000 for the RiverSouth Rural Water District from the Arkansas Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund in accordance with

the established funding priorities. The loan repayment schedule will not exceed twenty (20) years. The Executive Director will set the combined annual borrower rate and loan terms. Approval is contingent upon the District establishing and maintaining a three percent (3%) depreciation reserve fund.

MIDWAY PUBLIC WATER AUTHORITY – Crittenden County (DWSRF-L) Up to \$550,000  
PURPOSE OF FUNDS: Replace water meters – to capture revenue losses from aging meters and reduce operating costs for meter reading services. Customers 880.

The Commission approved loan funds in an amount up to \$550,000 for the Midway Public Water Authority from the Arkansas Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund in accordance with the established funding priorities. The loan repayment schedule will not exceed ten (10) years. The Executive Director will set the combined annual borrower rate and loan terms. Approval is contingent upon the Authority establishing and maintaining a three percent (3%) depreciation reserve fund.

WABBASEKA – Jefferson County (WSSW-G) Up to \$92,700  
PURPOSE OF FUNDS: Rehabilitate two (2) sewer lift stations. Customers 127.

The Commission approved grant funds in an amount up to \$92,700 for the Town of Wabbaseka from the Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Fund. An administrative fee in an amount up to \$2,700 is to be retained by the Commission. Approval is contingent upon the Town establishing and maintaining a six percent (6%) depreciation reserve fund.

DEOBLIGATION OF FUNDS:

ALICIA (01091-WSSW-G) Up to \$280.34

Deobligate unspent grant funds in the amount of \$280.34 that were approved in September of 2016 from the Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Fund. Project has been completed.

RUNNING LAKE (01060-WDF-L) Up to \$77,250.00

Deobligate loan funds in the amount of \$77,250.00 that were approved in January of 2016 from the Water Development Fund. By letter dated August 21, 2017, the District has informed the Commission that these funds were not needed for completion of the project.

TURRELL (01033-WSSW-G) Up to \$2,880.00

Deobligate unspent grant funds in the amount of \$2,880.00 that were approved in September of 2016 from the Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Fund. Project has been completed.

In closing Mr. Bennett announced Little Rock Wastewater Utility's Sewer Service Line Replacement Program through the Arkansas CWSRF program was awarded one of five national PISCES Exceptional Project awards for 2017.

**CONSERVATION DIVISION** – Mr. Adrian Baber

Appointments to Conservation District Boards:

Mr. Adrian Baber presented Conservation District Board Appointments to the Commission. Upon motion by Mrs. Ann Cash, second by Mr. Roy Reaves, the Commission unanimously approved the following appointments:

Cleveland County  
Logan County

Kermit Puterbaugh  
Randy Siebenmorgen

**ACTIVITY REPORTS**

Activity reports were presented by Mrs. Amanda Mathis, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; Mrs. Debbie Moreland, Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts; Mr. Jaysson Funkhouser, US Army Corps of Engineers; and Dr. Mike Daniels, UA Cooperative Extension Service.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Adoption of Schedule of Meetings for 2018:** Upon motion by Mrs. Ann Cash, second by Mr. Roy Reaves, the Commission unanimously approved the following schedule of dates for 2018: January 17, 2018; March 21, 2018; May 16, 2018; July 18, 2018; September 19, 2018; and November 14, 2018.

**Elections of Officers for 2018:** Nominating Committee Chairman Neal Anderson recommended officers for 2018: Mr. Fred Fowlkes, Chairman, and Mr. Jerry Hunton, Vice Chairman. Upon motion by Mr. Neal Anderson, second by Mrs. Ann Cash, the Commission unanimously approved the recommendation.

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Mr. Don Richardson adjourned the meeting.



Bruce Holland  
Executive Director and Secretary



Date