

**MINUTES**  
**ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**December 15, 2021**

The regular meeting of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) was held in person and via WebEx/teleconference on Wednesday, December 15, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. at the Arkansas Department of Agriculture, 1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205.

Commissioners in attendance in-person were Chairman Bruce Leggitt, Vice Chairman Roy Reaves, Eddie Glover, JoAnne Bush, William Anderson, and Jamie Burr. Commissioners Bill Poynter, Will Brewer, and Neal Anderson were not able to participate in the meeting.

Staff members in attendance included: Chris Colclasure, Director; Ryan Benefield, Deputy Director; Debby Dickson, Program Fiscal Manager; April Harris, Administrative Analyst; Richard Dawson, Engineer Supervisor; Whit Montague, Engineer Supervisor; Darla Brooks, Program Fiscal Manager; Tate Wentz, Water Quality Division Manager; Mark Bennett, Water Development Chief; Megan Perkins, Conservation Program Coordinator; Jim Battreal, Geology Supervisor; Kolton Jones, Attorney; Cynthia Edwards, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture; and others attending virtually.

A list of guests is attached to the minutes.

Chairman Leggitt called the ANRC meeting to order, and roll was called.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: September 15, 2021, and October 20, 2021**

*Upon motion by Mr. Roy Reaves, seconded by Mrs. JoAnne Bush, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the meetings held on September 15, 2021, and October 20, 2021.*

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR** – Director Colclasure began by highlighting events occurring within the Arkansas Natural Resources Division (ANRD):

- Section goals have been set
- Strategic marketing (e.g. ad created to get more participation for the tax credit program)
- Engaging more with partners
- New staff additions to ANRD: Megan Perkins & JP Fairhead who were with the AR Dept. of Agriculture are now with ANRD. Tate Wentz is the new Water Quality Division Manager in the Unpaved Roads/319 Section.
- Staff no longer with ANRD: Miccah Barton, Blake Forrest, Monique Sanders. Mark Bennett is retiring after 34 years with the agency and Jim Battreal is leaving after 21 years.
- E-mail regarding update of the American Rescue Plan sent out to stakeholders
- Clean water & drinking water funds expected to increase due to infrastructure investment jobs act which will bring nearly \$528 million into the state for water/wastewater; dollar match issue expected
- ANRD occupational licenses (11) recently presented to legislature & approved
- Director Colclasure attended Arkansas Association Conservation Districts (AACD) board meeting

Next, updates on sections within the agency were given:

#### Groundwater

- fall monitoring for the year has been completed
- twenty tax credits have been received.

#### Conservation

- 80 board certificates have been issued
- 170 nutrient applicator certification renewal notices have been sent out
- Director Colclasure stated he & Megan Perkins recently traveled to New Orleans to attend the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association annual meeting to promote the Bayou Meto & Grand Prairie projects

#### 319/Unpaved Roads

- Currently gathering stakeholder input on rules for the unpaved roads program
- Request for 319 grant proposals has been sent out (due by January 31, 2022)
- Working with stakeholders to revise the nutrient reduction strategy for the state

#### Water Resources Development

- Currently managing approximately 127 water/wastewater projects & 17 levee projects across the state
- Requested review & approval of our Fiscal Year 2022 and Fiscal Year 2023 general obligation bond program

#### Floodplain/Dam Safety

- Reviewing proposals of local communities for flood mitigation grant assistance
- Reviewing floodplain mapping priorities for the current fiscal year
- Meeting with stakeholders to discuss potential applicants for high hazard dam grants

Chairman Leggitt introduced & welcomed new commissioner Jamie Burr.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REPORT** - Mr. Inoussa Zaki, Chief Fiscal Officer, presented the financial assistance report dated November 30, 2021. Mr. Zaki also reported on the FY2020 Legislative Audit assessment which included a reportable finding wherein a payroll clerk erroneously keyed information to the wrong personnel number, however, the mistake was caught and fixed ahead of time. Additional levels of control have been implemented and reported to Legislative Audit.

**LEGAL** – Director Colclasure reminded the commissioners that a Statement of Financial Interest is to be completed and returned to the Secretary of the State Office by January 31, 2022.

Attorney Kolton Jones stated Act 605 would be addressed by Director Colclasure.

Director Colclasure began by stating Act 605 resulted from a task force which was put together by the legislature in 2017. Act 605 passed during the last legislative session and the responsibility of

promulgating the rules was given to ANRD. On October 20, 2021, ANRD presented the draft rules to its Commission for consideration, and they were approved. The draft rules were then sent to governor's office and the Bureau of Legislative Research. Both were approved as written. A thirty day public comment period was issued wherein 17 written comments were received. The comments did not result in any substantive changes to the rules. However, clarifications & modifications were made to the rules. The Commission was given a copy of the comments as well as the revised draft rules. Director Colclasure stated the rules are consistent to the statute which is very descriptive.

Director Colclasure asked the audience if anyone attending the meeting would like to make a comment on the draft rules for Act 605; no comments were made. He then asked the Commission for their vote to move forward with the rules so they can be presented to the rules committee of the legislature.

*Upon motion by Mrs. JoAnne Bush, seconded by Mr. Jamie Burr, the Commission unanimously made a motion to approve the rules of Act 605 to be finalized.*

## **WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT SECTION**

Mrs. Debby Dickson presented staff recommendations for the referenced project below requesting financial assistance from the Arkansas Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), the Water Development Fund (WDF), and the Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Fund (WSSW).

*Upon motion by Mr. Eddie Glover, seconded by Mr. William Anderson, the Commission unanimously approved the following staff recommendations for financial assistance:*

## **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:**

### **City of Marble Falls**

#### **Newton County**

#### **Project: Sewer Improvement District**

#### **Project Description**

The existing facility located in Marble Falls is currently owned by the Marble Falls Sewer Improvement District (MFSID). The facility is in the latter stages of the life cycle and is requiring significant rehabilitation for prolonged use. MFSID is planning to partner with a development by the name of "Down By The Falls" to build a nature experience site. The proposed development is planning to send the sanitary sewer flow generated to the existing MFSID facility, which in its current state would put the existing facility over capacity. This proposed sewer project will include an inspection and rehabilitation of the in-use portion of the existing collection system along with building a new portion to the collection system to service the new development.

#### **Project Financial Information**

The current monthly residential sewer bill for Marble Falls is \$55.00 based on 4,000 gallons of usage. Marble Falls will be required to increase their residential sewer rates by 29%, which equates to \$70.95 for a 4,000-gallon bill. The commercial rate will be set at a level to cover the remaining debt service. Should it be determined during the term of this loan that the rates are not

sufficient in covering required debt service along with operation and maintenance costs, Marble Falls will be required to increase rates. The current three-year (2017-2019) average Median Household Income (MHI) provided by UALR for Marble Falls is \$47,685. Marble Falls listed their residential and commercial sewer customer base for this project at 23 and 1, respectively.

Marble Falls is currently \$11,348.94 past due on loan #00850-WSSW-L with ANRC, with an outstanding balance of \$31,691.00 on December 1, 2021. However, Marble Falls has been submitting monthly payments in accordance with the approved payment plan since December 2017. The approved payment plan has an estimated payoff date of December 2033.

#### **Estimated Sewer Project Costs**

Construction:	\$2,478,150
Contingencies	371,810
Engineering – Planning, Design & Construction	341,995
Engineering – Inspection	0
Legal Fees	0
Administrative	0
Capitalized Interest during Construction	0
Issuance Fee (3% of \$591,858 Loan)	17,756
<u>Wastewater Total Estimated Capital Cost:</u>	<u>\$3,209,711</u>
<u>Local Contribution</u>	<u>-1,600,097</u>
<u>Total ANRC funding</u>	<u>\$1,609,614</u>

#### **Executive Director's Recommendation**

Recommend the commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$609,614 (includes 3% issuance fee) and a grant in the amount of \$1,000,000 from the Water Sewer Solid Waste Fund Program. Furthermore, contingent on continued receipt of payments per the approved payment plan, the executive director of the commission is authorized to forgive any outstanding balance of the Marble Falls loan (#00850-WSSW-L) with ANRC upon substantial completion of the project.

In addition, authorize the executive director of the commission the discretionary authority to increase the amount of financial assistance to the applicant for bid overruns by an amount up to 10% of the commission funding amount (\$160,961) without returning to the commission for approval. Such increase in financial assistance shall be granted only after consultation with the commission chairman. Any financial assistance increases pursuant to this section shall be reported to the commission in its entirety at the next regularly scheduled commission meeting.

If approved, the Executive Director will establish any necessary combined annual borrower rates and additional terms and conditions including the requirement to establish and maintain a depreciation reserve fund.

## **North Little Rock Wastewater**

### **Pulaski County**

**Project:** Maumelle to White Oak Diversion & Various Interceptor Projects

#### **Project Description**

North Little Rock Wastewater Utility's (NLRWU) project encompasses 10 projects which are detailed below.

#### **Project #1. Dark Hollow Interceptor Rehabilitation**

Interceptor rehabilitation for the Dark Hollow Interceptor Basin is underway using Cured In-Place Pipeline rehabilitation (CIPP). The project includes internal lining of approximately 9,221 linear feet of 18", 24", 30" and 36" Reinforced Concrete Pipe interceptors using CIPP technology with the rehabilitation of existing manholes.

#### **Project #2. Maumelle to White Oak Diversion**

Install bar screens and convert existing influent pump station to a transmission pumping station at the Maumelle Water Reclamation Facility and construct 25,547 linear feet of 24" force main to the White Oak Water Reclamation Facility. The construction of an equalization basin is also part of the project. Design is complete and easement acquisitions underway. It is projected to advertise for bidding in February or March of 2022.

#### **Project #3. Lower Riverside Interceptor Rehabilitation, Ph. I**

Interceptor rehabilitation is necessary using Cured In-Place Pipeline rehabilitation (CIPP) for the existing 54" RCP Lower Riverside Interceptor from the Faulkner Lake Treatment Plant to Campbell Road. The project includes internal lining of approximately 4,344 linear feet of 54" Reinforced Concrete Pipe interceptor sewer lines using CIPP technology and construction of access manholes for the rehabilitated interceptor.

#### **Project #4. Lower Riverside Interceptor Rehabilitation, Ph. II & III**

The project is an extension of Phase I and it includes internal lining of approximately 12,794 linear feet of 54" Reinforced Concrete Pipe interceptor sewer lines using CIPP technology and construction of access manholes for the rehabilitated interceptor.

#### **Project #5. Five Mile Creek Interceptor Rehabilitation**

Interceptor rehabilitation is necessary using Cured In-Place Pipeline rehabilitation (CIPP) for the existing Interceptors in the Five Mile Creek Basin. The project includes internal lining of approximately 25% of the existing interceptors within the FMC Basin and it is projected to be approximately 9,376 linear feet of 24" through 36" Reinforced Concrete Pipe interceptors using CIPP technology and includes the rehabilitation of manholes.

#### **Project #6. Shillcutt Interceptor Capacity Upgrades**

The existing 24" RCP Interceptor needs to be replaced using the open cut method with a 36" pipe to increase the hydraulic capacity of the gravity system within the Shillcutt Basin. The project includes installing approximately 5,698 linear feet of 36" pipe with a new bore under Interstate 40.

**Project #7. Upper Riverside Interceptor Rehabilitation, Ph. III**

Interceptor rehabilitation is necessary using Cured In-Place Pipeline rehabilitation (CIPP) for the existing Upper Riverside Interceptor also known as the Pike Avenue Interceptor. The project includes internal lining of approximately 5,825 linear feet of 30" Reinforced Concrete Pipe interceptors using CIPP technology and includes the rehabilitation of manholes.

**Project #8. Dark Hollow Interceptor Capacity Upgrades**

The existing 24" RCP Interceptor needs to be replaced using the open cut method with a 36" pipe to increase the hydraulic capacity of the gravity system within the North Hills/Dark Hollow areas. The project includes installing approximately 6,094 linear feet of 36" pipe with a new bore under Union Pacific Railroad.

**Project #9. Dark Hollow Redwood Tunnel Interceptor Rehabilitation, Ph. I**

Interceptor rehabilitation is necessary using Cured In-Place Pipeline rehabilitation (CIPP) for the existing Redwood Tunnel Interceptor also known as the Dark Hollow 48" Interceptor. The project includes internal lining of approximately 2,727 linear feet of 48" Reinforced Concrete Pipe interceptors using CIPP technology and includes the rehabilitation of manholes.

**Project #10. Dark Hollow Redwood Tunnel Interceptor Rehabilitation, Ph. II**

The project is an extension of Phase I and the interceptor rehabilitation is necessary using Cured In-Place Pipeline rehabilitation (CIPP) for the existing Redwood Tunnel Interceptor also known as the Dark Hollow 48" Interceptor. The project includes internal lining of approximately 1,940 linear feet of 48" Reinforced Concrete Pipe interceptors using CIPP technology and includes the rehabilitation of manholes.

**Project Financial Information**

The current monthly sewer bill of NLRWU is \$29.33 based on 4,000 gallons of usage. NLRWU will be required to approve a 5-year step-rate increase that will result in an approximate increase of 32%, which equates to \$38.86 for a 4,000-gallon bill, by January 2026. Should it be determined during the term of this loan that the rates are not sufficient in covering required debt service along with operation and maintenance costs, the city will be required to increase rates. The current three-year (2017-2019) average Median Household Income (MHI) provided by UALR for North Little Rock is \$42,254. NRLWU listed their sewer customer base for this project at 40,506. NLRWU is current on all loans with ANRC.

**Estimated Project Costs (ANRC)**

Contingencies	\$44,980,000
Engineering-Planning, Design, Construction	0
Engineering-Inspection	0
Legal	20,000
Administrative	0
Estimated Capitalized Interest During Construction	0
<b>Total Estimated Capital Cost:</b>	<b>\$45,000,000</b>

**Breakdown of Costs by Project**

1. Dark Hollow Interceptor Rehab	\$2,000,000
2. Maumelle to White Oak Diversion	18,200,000
3. Lower Riverside Interceptor Rehab Phase 1	4,700,000
4. Lower Riverside Interceptor Rehab Phase 2	9,600,000
5. Five Mile Creek Interceptor Rehab	3,400,000
6. Shillcutt Interceptor Capacity Upgrades	2,400,000
7. Upper Riverside Interceptor Rehab	2,000,000
8. Dark Hollow Interceptor Capacity Upgrades	2,000,000
9. Dark Hollow Redwood Tunnel Interceptor Rehab Phase 1	1,500,000
10. Dark Hollow Redwood Tunnel Interceptor Rehab Phase 2	1,000,000
Total Estimated Capital Cost:	\$46,800,000
Less – Estimated City Funds	1,800,000
Total ANRC funding	\$45,000,000

**Executive Director's Recommendation**

Recommend the commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$45,000,000 from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund Program.

In addition, authorize the executive director of the commission the discretionary authority to increase the amount of financial assistance to the applicant for bid overruns by an amount up to 10% of the commission funding amount (\$4,500,000) without returning to the commission for approval. Such increase in financial assistance shall be granted only after consultation with the commission chairman. Any financial assistance increases pursuant to this section shall be reported to the commission in its entirety at the next regularly scheduled commission meeting.

If approved, the Executive Director will establish any necessary combined annual borrower rates and additional terms and conditions including the requirement to establish and maintain a depreciation reserve fund.

**City of Ratcliff****Logan County****Project: Meter Replacement****Project Description**

Ratcliff's project encompasses replacing outdated water meters with new digital, cellular read meters. Ratcliff plans to buy a total of 643 meters ranging in size from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 2 inches. This project will allow Ratcliff to collect water usage data more accurately.

**Project Financial Information**

The current monthly water bill inside and outside of Ratcliff is \$34.40 and \$36.60 based on 4,000 gallons of usage, respectively. Ratcliff will be required to increase their inside and outside water rates by 25%, which equates to \$43.00 and \$45.76 for a 4,000-gallon bill, respectively. Should it be determined during the term of this loan that the rates are not sufficient in covering required debt service along with operation and maintenance costs, the city will be required to increase rates. The current three-year (2017-2019) average Median Household Income

(MHI) provided by UALR for Ratcliff is \$31,572. Ratcliff listed their inside and outside water customer base for this project at 29 and 614, respectively. Ratcliff has no outstanding loans with ANRC.

**Estimated Water Project Costs**

Construction:	\$250,000
Contingencies	25,000
Engineering – Planning, Design & Construction	20,000
Engineering – Inspection	5,000
Legal Fees	0
Administrative	0
Capitalized Interest during Construction	0
Issuance Fee (3%)	9,000
<b>Wastewater Total Estimated Capital Cost:</b>	<b>\$309,000</b>

**Executive Director's Recommendation**

Recommend the commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$309,000 (includes 3% fee) from the Water Development Fund Program.

In addition, authorize the executive director of the commission the discretionary authority to increase the amount of financial assistance to the applicant for bid overruns by an amount up to 10% of the commission funding amount (\$30,900) without returning to the commission for approval. Such increase in financial assistance shall be granted only after consultation with the commission chairman. Any financial assistance increases pursuant to this section shall be reported to the commission in its entirety at the next regularly scheduled commission meeting.

If approved, the Executive Director will establish any necessary combined annual borrower rates and additional terms and conditions including the requirement to establish and maintain a depreciation reserve fund.

**Central Arkansas Water**

**Pulaski County**

**Project:** Perla Water and Sewer Rehabilitation (Initial Phase)

**Project Description**

On Thursday, December 9th, 2021, The Hot Spring County Circuit Court appointed Central Arkansas Water (CAW) receiver of the City of Perla water and wastewater systems.

The scope and purpose of the proposed project is to fund a study to identify system deficiencies, determine the capital improvements required for operations of the systems in a financially viable manner and to provide a preliminary opinion of the cost associated with those improvements. The improvement considerations include the installation of significant, immediate improvements to the systems to ensure sustainable compliance with EPA, Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), and Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment – Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulatory standards in the operation of the System.



## **General Services**

1. Acquisition of data and record documents required for the study and potential rate analysis for the Systems including all billing and accounting systems utilized.
2. Project Management in the development of all deliverables required by this scope of work.
3. Interview current staff to document all known system deficiencies.
4. Coordinate with outside agencies such as but not limited to, the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH), Arkansas Rural Water, Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment – Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, and the city of Malvern to gather information required for the performance of this scope of work.
5. Capacity Requirements - Estimate immediate and long-term capacity requirements for the System through the evaluation of population statistics, historic water usage, seasonal usage variations, peak flow ratios, and other factors deemed appropriate.
6. Existing Water and Wastewater Systems - Provide a comprehensive investigation of water sources, distribution system, and wastewater collection system.
  - a. **Sources:** Provide an overview of existing water supply options including a system inventory.
  - b. **Deficiencies:** Provide an evaluation of all identified deficiencies including a preliminary recommendation and preliminary cost opinion to bring the distribution and collection systems in compliance with ADH requirements and CAW's standards.
  - c. **Water Distribution:** Provide an overview of the distribution system including a comprehensive system inventory including but not limited to, piping, valves, fire hydrants, blow-offs, pressure reducing valves, booster stations, and storage tanks using system maps and record drawings. Review records to determine the system's current meter configuration including service line materials, metering practices, lost water amounts, water main break frequency, and isolation valve spacing. This scope of services specifically excludes pipeline condition, assessment, surveying services, distribution system mapping, field investigations to locate and/or identify system components, and identification of easement coverage.
    1. **Water Quality Analysis:** Review source water and distribution system water quality. Review sampling program and sampling points with ADH, perform advanced water quality analysis for regulated and unregulated contaminants as well as Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP) testing to thoroughly evaluate water quality and improvements needed to ensure sustainable compliance. Distribution system flushing to enhance water quality.
    2. **Hydraulic Model:** Use available record documents to prepare a hydraulic model compatible with CAW's modeling software to determine water age within the distribution system and evaluate system design and performance against CAW Outside Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Standards. Distribution system flushing to evaluate system pressures and calibrate the hydraulic model.

**3. Cross-Connection Control Program:** Use available records and customer listing to evaluate and set up a CCC program for Perla.

- d. Wastewater Collection: Provide an overview of the collection system including a comprehensive system inventory including but not limited to, piping, valves, grinder stations, and lift stations using system maps and record drawings. Review records to determine the system's configuration including service lateral materials, overflows, and sewer main break frequency. This scope of services specifically excludes pipeline condition assessment, surveying services, system mapping, field investigations to locate and/or identify system components, and identification of easement coverage. Along with the creation of a hydraulic model using available record documents to prepare a hydraulic model compatible with CAW's modeling software.

7. Water and Wastewater System Transition - Identify short-term capital improvements that may be required, if any, during the transition period. Provide conceptual level engineering design of identified improvements including a preliminary opinion of probable construction cost.

8. Water and Wastewater System Consolidation - Coordinate and identify specific capital improvements required to incorporate the Systems into CAW's system, providing a conceptual level engineering design of all required improvements including a preliminary opinion of probable construction cost.

9. Prepare a Preliminary Engineering Assessment Report, which will contain schematic layouts, sketches, and conceptual design criteria with appropriate exhibits to identify the capital improvements concluded as necessary by the Engineer for the proposed consolidation. The Assessment will include the opinion of total project cost.

10. Present a summary of the recommendations of the System Assessment Report to NRD staff and invited guests.

11. The deliverables associated with the System Assessment Report shall be as follows:

- a. Preliminary Engineering Assessment Report
- b. Inspection Reports
- c. Digital copy of the Hydraulic Model
- d. Digital copies of all meeting minutes and reports

### **Project Financial Information**

The current monthly water and sewer bill of Perla is \$54.08 and \$23.10 based on 4,000 gallons of usage, respectively. The current three-year (2017-2019) average Median Household Income (MHI) provided by UALR for Perla is \$33,757. Perla listed their retail customer base for this project at 786.

<b><u>Estimated Project Costs</u></b>	<b><u>Water</u></b>	<b><u>Sewer</u></b>
Catalog Assets and Populate CAW CIS, CMMS, GIS	59,500	10,500
Facilities Assessment/PER	42,750	12,250
System Flushing	10,000	0
Sewer System Cleaning	0	75,000
Rate Study	12,750	2,250
<b>Wastewater Total Estimated Capital Cost:</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>

### **Executive Director's Recommendation**

Recommend the commission approve a grant in an amount up to \$225,000 from the Water Sewer Solid Waste Fund Program.

### **DE-OBLIGATION OF FUNDS:**

Mrs. Debby Dickson reported on the below referenced funds to be de-obligated from the Arkansas Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and the Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Fund (WSSW).

#### **Rosston (01257-DWSRF) \$55,843.22**

De-obligate funds in the amount of \$55,843.22 that were approved in November 2019 from the Arkansas Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Project is complete.

#### **Fordyce Rural Water Association (01329-WSSW) \$313,643.00**

De-obligate funds in the amount of \$313,643.00 that were approved in January 2021 from the Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Fund (WSSW). Declined funding.

#### **North White County Rural Water PFB (01167- DWSRF) \$1,127.00**

De-obligate funds in the amount of \$1,127.00 that were approved in July 2021 from the Arkansas Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Project is complete.

**CONSERVATION SECTION** – Megan Perkins reported on the below appointments and reappointments:

#### **Appointments to Conservation District Boards**

Clark County	Ignacio Aguirre
Perry County	Andy Mercer
Rich Mountain	Mike Hendricks

#### **Reappointments to Conservation District Boards**

Fulton County	Luis Covas
Fulton County	Logan Stone
Nevada County	Matt Wingfield

*Upon motion by Mr. Roy Reaves, seconded by Mrs. Joanne Bush, the Commission unanimously approved the appointments & reappointments to Conservation District Boards.*

Chairman Leggitt called on Director Colclasure to discuss a situation of which we were reached out to by the Drew County Conservation District Board to investigate. He stated there is a board member not attending meetings there. Our rules are specific in stating if a board member misses three consecutive meetings, the director of NRD will investigate and report back a recommendation to the Commission. Director Colclasure stated after his investigation, he recommends that a hearing is held.

After much discussion, the decision was made for the ANRD Land Resource Specialist and the Conservation Program Coordinator to make an in-person contact with the board member. Upon visiting with the board member they are to find out if he would like to remain on the board, and if not a letter of resignation will be ready for him to sign. The outcome will be reported back to the Commission, and it will be decided if a hearing should be held.

At this time, no commission action is made concerning the Drew County Conservation District board member.

### **ACTIVITY REPORTS**

Activity reports were presented by Mike Sullivan, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Debbie Moreland, Arkansas Association Conservation Districts (AACD); Dr. Mike Daniels, U of A Cooperative Extension Service; Drew Westerman, U.S. Geological Survey; Trevor Timberlake, US Army Corps of Engineers; and Dr. Bruce McGowan, U of A at Pine Bluff School of Agriculture.

### **OTHER**

**Adoption of Schedule of Meetings for 2022:** Meeting dates were presented for the upcoming year, and no objections were made to the following dates: January 19, 2022; March 16, 2022; May 18, 2022; July 20, 2022; September 21, 2022; November 16, 2022.

**Elections of Officers for the year 2022:** Chairman Leggitt recommended the 2022 chairman & vice-chairman be chosen, as customarily done, which is the current vice-chairman moves into the chairman position, and for the senior commissioner under the current vice-chairman, to move into the vice-chairman position. Chairman Leggitt asked for a motion to be made for Roy Reaves to become the chairman and Will Brewer become vice-chairman during the calendar year of 2022.

*Upon motion by Mr. Eddie Glover, seconded by Mrs. JoAnn Bush, the Commission unanimously approved that Commissioner Roy Reaves be the chairman in 2022, and Commissioner Will Brewer will be the vice-chairman in 2022.*

**Resolution No. 2021-02:** Director Colclasure presented Resolution No. 2021-02 in recognition of Mark Bennet, Water Development Chief of the Arkansas Natural Resources Division. Mr. Bennett is retiring from the agency after 34 years of dedicated service. *Upon motion by Mr. Roy Reaves, seconded by Mrs. JoAnn Bush, the Commission unanimously accepted Resolution No. 2021-02.*

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, the commission unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.



Chris Colclasure  
Director

1/20/2022  
Date