

LITTLE ROCK WATER RECLAMATION COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting Held
April 2, 2025

The Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission ("LRWRC") met at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 2, 2025, via livestream due to inclement weather.

Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission

Jonathan Semans, Chair
Daryl Brown, Vice Chair
Prentice O'Guinn, Secretary
Schawnee Hightower, Commissioner
Chris Marsh, Commissioner
Christina Clark, Commissioner
Director Lance Hines, Ex Officio Member

Little Rock Water Reclamation Authority Personnel

Jean Block, Chief Executive Officer
Michael Rhoda, Chief Financial Officer
Ryan Benefield, P.E., Chief Operating Officer
Deanna Ray, Chief Legal Officer
Walter Collins, P.E., Director of Operations
Rebecca Burkman, Director of Environmental Affairs
Harold Hounwanou, P.E., Director of Collection System Maintenance
Les Price, P.E., Director of Engineering Services
Doug Roe, Director of Accounting & Finance
Kenetta Ridgell, Director of Communications and Community Engagement
Angela Brooks, Director of Human Resources

Attendees included: Commissioners Hightower, Clark, O'Guinn, Marsh and Semans appeared via livestream. Director Hines was absent. Senior Staff Members: Jean Block, Michael Rhoda, Ryan Benefield, Deanna Ray, Walter Collins, Harold Hounwanou, Rebecca Burkman, Angela Brooks, Les Price, Doug Roe and Kenetta Ridgell appeared via livestream.

Chair Semans brought the meeting to order and called for Mr. Roe to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Next, Chair Semans asked the Commissioners if they had reviewed the minutes of the February 19, 2025, meeting. Being that there were no revisions, Chair Semans asked if there were any objections to approving minutes. Hearing none, Chair Semans asked if

there was a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Harold Hounwanou, Director of Collection System Maintenance, presented a Purchase Authorization for a New Concrete Pump Trailer. Mr. Hounwanou provided an overview of the need for a new concrete pump trailer and its benefits for maintenance operations. He noted the current concrete pump trailer was purchased in 2008. In 2024 it spent 7 months in the shop for maintenance and has reached the end of its useful life.

Staff requested the Commission approve the purchase authorization to procure the concrete/grout trailer in the amount of \$126,100.93 and to authorize CEO Jean Block to enter a contract with Longhorn Line Pumps of Fort Worth, TX.

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

Rebecca Burkman, Director of Environmental Affairs, presented a Purchase Authorization for Inductively Coupled Plasma - Mass Spectroscopy. Ms. Burkman explained the importance of purchasing the device. She noted that the machine is the gold standard for metals analysis and would significantly reduce turnaround time for some lab results from 7-10 business days to as little as 24 hours.

Staff requested the Commission to approve the purchase authorization for an Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry instrument in the amount of \$152,499.83 and to authorize CEO Block to enter a contract with Agilent Technologies, Inc.

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

Ms. Burkman presented a Purchase Authorization for FCWRF – Maintenance Building Waterproofing Project. Ms. Burkman discussed the need for waterproofing the maintenance building and that a similar project was completed at the Fourche Administration Building last year.

Staff requested the Commission to approve the purchase authorization for the Fourche Creek WRF Mechanic Building Exterior Water Proofing Project in the amount of \$124,237 and to authorize the CEO to enter a contract with Harness Roofing & Waterproofing, Inc of Mabelvale, Arkansas.

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

Les Price, Director of Engineering Services, presented a Recommendation of Award for Professional Services – Little Maumelle WRF Sludge Transfer Line Assessment or Two

Rivers Pump Station. Mr. Price presented the recommendation for professional services to assess the sludge transfer line or Two Rivers Pump Station.

Staff requested the Commission to authorize CEO Jean Block to negotiate and execute the professional services contract with Crist Engineers for the Study Phase of the Little Maumelle Sludge Line Assessment or Two Rivers Pump Station in the amount not to exceed \$306,970.

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

Mr. Price presented a Recommendation of Award for Professional Services – FCWRF Biosolids Optimization (Sidestream). Mr. Price provided an overview of the biosolids optimization project at FCWRF and its benefits.

Staff requested the Commission authorize CEO Jean Block to execute the professional services contract with Black & Veatch for the Sidestream Treatment - Biosolids Optimization Study in the amount not to exceed \$860,282.

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

Mr. Price then presented a Recommendation of Award for Construction – 65th St. Sewer Rehabilitation (CIPP). Mr. Price discussed the need for sewer rehabilitation on 65th St. area.

Staff requested the Commission to authorize CEO Jean Block to enter a construction contract with SAK Construction, LLC for the 65th Street Sewer Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$710,528.05.

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

Doug Roe, Director of Finance & Accounting, presented a summary of the February Financial Report. He noted this is a preliminary report due to it being early in the month. He explained in February that there was total revenue of \$5.8 million more than budget by \$187k. Operating expenses of \$2.6 million under budget by \$146k with Salaries on budget, Supplies are under budget by \$26k (-9.7%), and Contract Services under budget by \$83k (-16.9%).

Jean Block, Chief Executive Officer, gave the CEO Highlights that included: Little Rock Marathon Volunteering, March Madness Townhall, AWWMA Spring Workshop, State of the City Involvement Fair, Raftelis Grant Writing Contract, LMWRF Horace Mann MS Tour, and University for Parents at Carver Elementary.

Chair Semans called for any old business, and there was none.

Chair Semans called for any new business, and there was none.

Chair Semans stated the next LRWRC meetings would be May 7 and June 11, 2025. 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 "Prentice O'Guinn", is written over a horizontal line.

Prentice O'Guinn, Secretary