

**LITTLE ROCK WATER RECLAMATION COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the Meeting Held**  
**February 19, 2025**

The Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission ("LRWRC") met at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 19, 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, and Kenetta Ridgell appeared via livestream. Doug Roe was absent.

Chair Semans brought the meeting to order and called for Mr. Benefield 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 January 15, 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.

Les Price, Director of Engineering Services, presented a Recommendation of Award for Construction - FCWRF Storeroom Addition. Mr. Price gave a brief overview of the need for the storeroom addition and the benefits it would bring to the facility to house equipment and materials for quicker asset repairs.

Staff requested the Commission to authorize CEO Jean Block to enter into a construction contract with Wagner General Contractors, Inc. for the Fourche Creek Water Reclamation Facility Storeroom Addition in the amount of \$1,698,855.

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

Mr. Price then presented a Recommendation of Award for Professional Services - Asset Renewal Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Price provided an overview of the comprehensive plan and its importance for the long-term sustainability of the utility's assets.

Staff requested the Commission to authorize CEO Jean Block to execute the professional services contract with Garver, LLC for the 10-Year Asset Renewal Comprehensive Plan in the amount not to exceed \$495,000.

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

Ryan Benefield, Chief Operating Officer, presented a Purchase Authorization for FCWRF 2025 Contracted Asset Renewal. Mr. Benefield gave a brief overview of the asset renewal project and its expected impact on the facility's operations. He noted that this included the replacement of nine clarifier gearboxes and motors, and rehabilitation of two final clarifiers.

Mr. Benfield requested the Commission approve the purchase authorization for Fourche Creek Water Reclamation Facility 2025 Contracted Asset Renewal Project in an amount not to exceed \$1,600,221.88 and to authorize CEO Jean Block to enter into a contract with AmerInd Contracting.

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

Harold Hounwanou, Director of Collection System Maintenance, presented a Purchase Authorization for a Construction & Repair Dump Truck. Mr. Hounwanou provided an overview of the need for the dump truck and how it would enhance the utility's maintenance capabilities.

Commissioner O'Guinn asked what the utility does with the old unit, and Mr. Hounwanou replied that it would be retired and auctioned on *GovDeals.com*. Staff requested the Commission approve the purchase authorization to replace one dump truck in the amount of \$161,969.00 and to authorize CEO Jean Block to enter into a contract with Doggett Freightliner.

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

Angie Tillman, Accounting Supervisor, presented a summary of the January Financial Report. She noted this is a preliminary report due to it being early in the month. She explained in January that there was total revenue of \$5.9 million more than budget by \$364k. Operating expenses of \$3 million under budget by \$128k with Salaries over budget by \$123k (7.8%), Supplies are under budget by \$73k (-27.4%), and that Contract Services under budget by \$110k (-30.2%).

Jean Block, Chief Executive Officer, then introduced the new Chief Legal Officer, Deanna Ray. Ms. Ray greeted the Commission and gave background on her previous work experience and her first few weeks of working at LRWRA.

Ms. Block began her highlights by recognizing the service of former Commissioner Ganelle Holman for her 8 years of service to the Commission. She then highlighted: the NACWA Winter Conference; Engineers Week; LRCHS Science & Engineering Fair; Arkansas Scholars Presentation; and MLK Day of Service.

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 meeting would be April 2, 2025. He then asked if there were any objections to adjourning the meeting. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Prentice O'Guinn, Secretary