LITTLE ROCK WATER RECLAMATION COMMISSION
Minutes of the Meeting Held
April 1, 2026

The Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission ("LRWRC") met at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at the LRWRA Conference Room and via livestream.

Little Rock Water Reclamation Commission

Jonathan Semans, Chair
Daryl Brown, Vice Chair
Prentice O'Guinn, Secretary
Schawnee Hightower, Commissioner
Chris Marsh, Commissioner
Molly McNulty, 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
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
Jody Sims, Director of Facilities Asset Management

Attendees included: Commissioners Semans, Brown, O'Guinn, Hightower, McNulty, Clark and Director Hines appeared in person. Commissioner Marsh was absent. Senior Staff Members: Jean Block, Michael Rhoda, Ryan Benefield, Deanna Ray, Harold Hounwanou, Angela Brooks, Les Price, Jody Sims, Doug Roe, Rebecca Burkman, Cary Beth Lipscomb, and Kenetta Ridgell appeared in person.

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

Next, Chair Semans asked the Commissioners if they had reviewed the minutes of the February 18, 2026, meeting. Chair Semans asked if there were any objections to approving the minutes. Hearing none, Chair Semans asked if there was a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

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

Skip Mellor, Manager of Collection System Maintenance, presented a 20-year service award to Joshua White, Storeroom - Inventory Control Specialist. He gave remarks on Mr. White's dedication to the utility and thanked him for his service.

Jean Block, Chief Executive Officer, presented special recognition awards to Glen Brandon, Crew Leader, and Seth Escamilla, Equipment Operator. She commended them for their bravery while on duty, noting that their actions saved a motorcyclist's life.

Mikel Murders, Manager - Pretreatment & Sampling, then gave the Department Spotlight He briefly introduced the Pretreatment team and gave an overview of the department's role in the utility.

Michael Rhoda, Chief Financial Officer, presented a resolution to reduce the minimum balance held in the Cash Reserve for the Authority's self-insured employee healthcare plan. The cash reserve was established in October 2021 by LRWRC Resolution 2021-06 in the amount of $800,000.00. Due to interest earnings and strong plan performance, the reserve balance currently exceeds $884,000.00, and no transfers have been required to fund plan expenditures. Additionally, the healthcare plan operating account currently maintains a balance of approximately $1,000,000.00.

Mr. Rhoda requested reducing the minimum cash reserve balance to $500,000.00 and requested adoption of Resolution 2026-01 approving the reduction of the minimum balance requirement from $800,000.00 to $500,000.00.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Ms. Block presented a recommendation of award for professional services for strategic planning consulting services. She reviewed the Authority's recent strategic focus and the value of a formal strategic plan to establish clear direction, support improved decision-making, enhance performance transparency, and strengthen organizational culture.

Ms. Block outlined the Request for Qualifications process, noting that eleven firms responded; an evaluation committee reviewed and scored all proposals, and the three highest scoring firms were interviewed in mid-February. Based on the evaluation, staff selected Arcadis U.S., Inc. as the most qualified firm, and pricing was subsequently disclosed and negotiated. The proposed scope of work includes a comprehensive organizational assessment, internal and external stakeholder engagement, employee workshops, development of a five-year strategic plan, and delivery of the final plan by mid-November.

Ms. Block requested authorization for the Chief Executive Officer to execute a professional services contract with Arcadis U.S., Inc. for strategic planning consulting services, as identified in Bid No. 25014, in the amount of $249,961.93.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Les Price, P.E., Director of Engineering Services, presented a request for authorization of a Phase 1 construction contract under the Construction Manager at Risk delivery method for the FCWRF Headworks Gate and Concrete & Final Clarifier Concrete Rehabilitation project. He reviewed the scope of Phase 1, which includes concrete rehabilitation at the final clarifiers and purchase of slide gates for Phase 2. He also reviewed the Guaranteed Maximum Price submitted by Van Horn Construction, Inc. The project is included in the approved Capital Improvement Program.

Staff requested the Commission authorize the Chief Executive Officer to negotiate and execute the Phase 1 GMP contract with Van Horn Construction, Inc., in an amount not to exceed $2,452,520.00.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Kira Wise, Project Engineer, Facilities, presented a recommendation of award for construction of the FCWRF Lagoon Decant Structures Repair project. She reviewed the bid process, including the bid opening on March 3, 2026, and noted that Doxa Construction of Sherwood, Arkansas, was the low bidder. She reviewed the anticipated construction schedule and confirmed the project is included in the Capital Improvement Program.

Staff requested the Commission authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a construction contract with Doxa Construction in the amount of $246,554.00.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Quentin Nelson, P.E., Engineering Manager for Capital Improvements, presented a purchase authorization request for construction of the annual Trenchless CIPP Sewer Main Rehabilitation project. He reviewed the scope of work, which includes rehabilitation of approximately 17,129 linear feet of sewer main, cleaning and televising before and after rehabilitation, and bypass pumping. He explained the work will be completed under the OMNIA Partners cooperative purchasing contract. The project is included in the 2026 Capital Budget.

Staff requested the Commission authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract with SAK Construction, LLC, of O'Fallon, Missouri, in the amount of $1,441,361.45.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Jody Sims, Director of Facilities Asset Management, presented a purchase authorization request for the LMWRF PLC Replacement project, noting that the existing programmable logic controllers have reached end-of-support status and pose increased reliability, safety, and cybersecurity risks. He explained that a special procurement with Brown Engineers

LLC, the original system developer, was recommended due to proprietary control logic and to reduce implementation risk and project duration. The total project cost is $425,000.00, which is within the approved 2026 LMWRF asset renewal budget.

Staff requested approval of a purchase authorization and authorization for the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract with Brown Engineers LLC.

Mr. Sims then presented a purchase authorization request for wet well cleaning at the Little Maumelle Pump Station. He reviewed the condition of the pump station, the need to remove accumulated debris to prevent equipment damage, and the procurement process under the on-call cleaning and televising contract. He noted one bid was received from Compliance Envirosystems, LLC, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The project is included in the 2026 Operations and Maintenance Budget for contract services.

Staff requested the Commission approve the purchase authorization in the amount of $441,146.00 and authorize the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract with Compliance Envirosystems, LLC.

A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Doug Roe, Director of Accounting and Finance, presented the February 2026 Financial Update. He reviewed operating revenues and expenses, noting residential and commercial consumption trends and variances from budget. He reported that salaries were over budget due to fewer vacant positions, while benefits and contract services were under budget. Mr. Roe concluded with an overview of cash flow, investments, bond coverage, reserves, and outstanding debt.

Deanna Ray, Chief Legal Officer, then gave the Legal Update. She noted continued work on reviewing contracts; working with procurement; reviewing and updating policies; and addressing personnel matters.

Jean Block, Chief Executive Officer, gave the CEO Highlights that included: Final CAO Report; AWWMA speaker; Adopt-a-Street Department of Health Tour; New Website; SoMardi Gras; CAW Job Shadow; Reading Day at Watson; Little Rock Marathon Volunteer Set-up.

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 May 13 and June 17. He then asked if there were any objections to adjourning the meeting. Hearing none, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Prentice O'Guinn, Secretary