

**NORTH LITTLE ROCK  
WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD MONDAY, JULY 10, 2023**

A meeting of the North Little Rock Wastewater Treatment Committee was held on Monday, July 10, 2023, in the administrative offices located at the Faulkner Lake Treatment Plant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matthews at approximately 12:12 p.m. The roll was called, and all members were present. Those in attendance at the meeting were Chairman Matthews, Mr. Ed Nelson, Ms. Karen Bryant, Mr. Gabe Stephens, and Ms. Marie Hollowell. Also in attendance were Mr. Michael Clayton, Director, Ms. Tangelia Marshall, Human Resources Director, Ms. Kayla Koba, Senior Accountant, Mr. Sam Hilburn with Hilburn & Harper, Ltd., and Dawn Harmon.

First, the Committee reviewed the minutes of its June 13, 2023, meeting. After review, a motion was made by Ms. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve the June 13, 2023, minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee then reviewed the cash disbursements for June 2023. A motion was made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Stephens, to approve the cash disbursements showing total cash disbursement of \$2,618,287.47 and fund transfers between accounts of \$2,172,165.71. The motion carried unanimously. Director Clayton advised that the Utility was seeking reimbursement from FEMA for those items highlighted in red due to recent storm damage.

Upon motion made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Stephens, the Committee unanimously approved the financial statement for June 2023.

Director Clayton informed the Committee that the clarifiers at Faulkner Lake utilize a steel truss gear-driven mechanism that rotates continuously to remove all settleable and floatable solids from the influent wastewater stream. Due to age and residing in a harsh environment, the epoxy coating is in a state of failure, and it is timely to address it now. Primary Clarifiers 1, 2 and 3 have the original coating that is 22 years old. Sludge Thickener 3 has the original coating that is 27 years old. Primary Clarifier 4 and Sludge Thickener 2 are only 10 years old but have begun to fail prematurely as evidenced by areas of outer coating flaking off, exposing the primer coat. Several large areas of blistered coating on these two units also indicate imminent coating failure. Additionally, each unit's

steel support portions of the walkways have some rust areas, and the concrete effluent launder of Primary Clarifier 4 and Sludge Thickener 3 have exposed aggregate that needs to be rehabilitated. The clarifier manufacturer used a specific coating provided by the epoxy coating company TNEMEC. The staff contacted the local representative and obtained appropriate specifications for materials and procedures for proper surface preparation and installation. This information was used to advertise for bids in search of a qualified contractor to rehab our assets. The bid results are as follows:

Thomas Industrial Coatings	\$649,470.00
Mongan Painting & Sandblasting	\$630,405.00
Paladino Painting	\$620,000.00
Kinard Painting & Sandblasting	\$522,372.00

The bid submitted by Kinard has been reviewed, and this company appears to be adequately capable of the work. Eagle Rock Coatings, the local TNEMEC representative, has successfully completed several similar projects with Kinard and has not had any issues. Eagle Rock Coatings will be hired separately, at a nominal price, to provide the Utility with professional inspection services. The 2023 budget includes \$650,000.00 for this project. It was also noted that this rehab will extend the life of a clarifier 12 to 15 years. After further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to authorize the staff to award the contract to Kinard Painting & Sandblasting to rehab the Faulkner Lake Primary Clarifier and Gravity Sludge Thickeners in the amount of \$522,372.00. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee then discussed the purchase of a CCTV inspection truck. The CCTV inspection truck is one of the most valuable tools in NLRW's toolkit regarding the maintenance and operation of the gravity sewer lines in the collection system. NLRW has about 655 miles of gravity sewer lines where a CCTV inspection truck would be used for inspection and review. A CCTV inspection truck utilizes high-resolution cameras and advanced imaging technology to capture detailed footage of sewer lines. This allows for accurate and comprehensive assessment of the condition of pipes, identifying potential issues such as cracks, blockages, root intrusions or structural defects. By accurately pinpointing problems, the Utility can prioritize maintenance efforts and prevent catastrophic failures, minimizing service disruptions and associated costs. Until #140, a diesel-powered CCTV truck, was destroyed by a vehicle fire on the afternoon of June 1, 2023. The vehicle was purchased in November of 2018 for \$212,502 and \$173,543 has been written off in depreciation. A claim was filed with the Municipal Vehicle Program with the Arkansas Municipal League and after a \$1,000 deductible being applied to the claim, a check for \$63,060 was paid to NLRW. The staff has received quotes from a

couple of cooperatives and recommends purchasing an IBAK CCTV truck from Vacuum Truck Sales & Service, LLC for the Sourcewell purchase contract amount of \$256,713.80. The estimated time for delivery is between 160 and 180 days. A motion was then made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Ms. Hollowell to purchase the IBAK CCTV truck from Vacuum Truck Sales & Service, LLC through Sourcewell for \$256,713.80. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Clayton then informed the Committee that Item (7) on the Agenda goes hand-in-hand with Item (6). The operation of the IBAK camera system requires purchases and implementation of several software and hardware components. Several phases for the transition to the Phoenix operating software are necessary to utilize IBAK camera system. Below are some of the major items or tasks required for the complete implementation of the operating system:

Phoenix Software and implementation	\$52,750.00
Dedicated server for Phoenix software	\$10,217.07
SQL installation and setup on server	\$ 2,000.00
Modification of GIS database	NLRW Staff
Integration of Phoenix with Portal	NLRW Staff
ArcGIS Pro-Upgrade from 2.7 to 3.1.2	NLRW Staff

A motion was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Ms. Bryant, to authorize the staff to make the necessary purchases for software, hardware, and implementation of the Phoenix operating system to integrate with current workflow using various vendors and contractors for \$64,967.07. The motion carried unanimously.

Based on recent billings and projections, Director Clayton advised the Committee that the Utility is realizing a savings of \$98,000 to \$100,000 on Entergy billings.

Burkhalter Technologies, Inc. was awarded the contract for the Dixie and Baring Cross Basins Pipe Bursting 2021 Rehabilitation Project on October 24, 2020, in the amount of \$1,275,595.00. The project involves rehabilitating the wastewater infrastructure in the designated basins using pipe bursting as the pipe replacement method. The staff has identified several sections of 8" Ductile Iron Pipe (DIP) on the West side of Highway 107 and North of Kiehl Avenue that requires immediate attention due to extensive corrosion and failure. These sections, approximately 555 linear feet in length, are causing operational issues for North Little Rock Wastewater. The corroded pipe is primarily attributed to the corrosive action caused by several food establishments connected to the sewer main. The staff has evaluated various rehabilitation methods, including Cured-In-Place Pipe (CIPP) and Pipe Bursting, to address the pipeline's rehabilitation needs. However, both

methods were deemed inappropriate for this particular case. It is recommended that the Committee authorize the staff to execute Change Order #1 for the Dixie and Baring Cross Basins Pipe Bursting 2021 Rehabilitation Project, approving the expenditure of \$240,524.50. This will enable the necessary open cut pipe replacement to address the failure and corrosion issues associated with the 555 linear feet section of the 8" DIP. The estimated cost for this Change Order #1 is \$240,524.50 which will be funded through the 2023 budget. After further discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Mr. Stephens to authorize the staff to execute Change Order #1 for the Dixie and Baring Cross Basins Pipe Bursting 2021 Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$240,524.50. The motion carried unanimously.

The staff advertised and received bids for the "Broadway Area Pipe Bursting 2023 Collection System Renewal" on Thursday, June 22, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. The project consists of rehabilitation of approximately 24,279 linear feet of 6" and 8" sanitary sewer mains via the pipe bursting method and reconnection of approximately 315 active services. The low bid was submitted by Horseshoe Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$2,695,324.00. However, the Committee has received information that the contractor's license held by Horseshoe Construction, Inc. has expired which invalidates the bid. Looking at the other bids received, there is approximately a \$1 million dollar difference between the other 2 bids. Additionally, some of the unit price numbers seem to be incorrect. Therefore, after a lengthy discussion, a motion was by Mr. Nelson, seconded by Ms. Hollowell to table this item and give the staff additional time to perform due diligence to determine the legitimacy of the bidder and to further validate the numbers. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Clayton then updated the Committee with regard to the following which required no action at this time:

1. Ms. Tangelia Marshall, Human Resources Director, has submitted her resignation. She is moving to Atlanta, Georgia to take a new job which she feels better suits her at this stage in her life.
2. Director Clayton then introduced Kayla Koba who is the Senior Accountant with the Utility.
3. The Utility is going to have to purchase some new vehicles. With the shortage of vehicles in the past few years, the State Contract, has not been able to meet the prices set forth in the contracts.
4. Director Clayton then informed the Committee that he has received a Notice from ADEQ concerning a Consent Administrative Order due to the land application permit at Dougan Farms. He reminded the

Committee that ADEQ performed an inspection at the land application site on June 30, 2022. During the inspection, it was determined that three (3) violations of the land application project existed and required action by NLRW. The contractor, J & B Tanker, Inc., was responsible for compliance with the NPDES Permit, however, ultimately NLRW staff is responsible for the contractor to comply within the requirements of the Permit and Contract Manual. A suspension of the work was sent to the contractor on September 2, 2022. Director Clayton believes that the fine will be somewhere around \$5,400.00 but he has a meeting scheduled with ADEQ next week and will advise the Committee of any new developments.

5. With all the new projects coming in the near future, Director Clayton thinks this is a good time to start putting together numbers for the 2024 budget to fund a 4<sup>th</sup> construction crew which will be responsible for heavy construction and open cut projects. This crew could be responsible for 8 to 10 projects per year.

There being no further action to come before the Committee, a motion was made by Mr. Nelson to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:20 p.m.

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**



K. W. MATTHEWS, CHAIRMAN

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**



VICE-CHAIRMAN/SECRETARY