

NORTH LITTLE ROCK WASTEWATER TREATMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2024

A meeting of the North Little Rock Wastewater Treatment Committee was held on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, in the administrative offices located at the Faulkner Lake Treatment Plant.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matthews at approximately 12:15 p.m. The roll was called and all Committee members were present. Those in attendance at the meeting were Chairman Matthews, Mr. Gabe Stephens, Mr. Ed Nelson, Ms. Karen Bryant and Ms. Marie Hollowell. Also in attendance were Mr. Michael Clayton, Director, Ms. Alice Fulk, Human Resources Director, Ms. Shelley Cline, Director of Finance, Mr. Sam Hilburn and Mr. Scott Hilburn with Hilburn & Harper, Ltd. and Dawn Harmon.

First, the Committee reviewed the minutes of its June 11, 2024, meeting. There being no questions or comments, a motion was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2024, meeting as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

The Committee then reviewed the cash disbursements for June 2024. There being no comments or questions, a motion was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Ms. Bryant, to approve the cash disbursements for June 2024 reflecting total cash disbursements of \$3,092,082.40 and fund transfers between accounts of \$2,455,949.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Clayton then updated the Committee on the 2024 financial statements. He stated that most corrections have been made and updated and the first quarter financials should be available for review by the Committee at the August meeting.

Next, Director Clayton discussed the Clarifier Mechanism and Structure Coating Project 2024. Faulkner Lake's secondary clarifiers utilize a steel truss gear-driven mechanism that rotates continuously to remove all settleable and floatable solids from the wastewater stream. Due to age and residing in a harsh environment, the steel's epoxy coating is in a state of failure, and it is timely to address it. The primary clarifiers and gravity thickeners experienced similar failures, and a rehab project was recently completed to extend the life of those assets. The secondary clarifier steel mechanisms were budgeted to be recoated this year along with concrete rehab of the Chlorine Contact Chamber. This project also includes rehabilitation of the following:

1. Influent Pump Station Piping

2. Sludge Pump Station Piping
3. Influent Wetwell Hoist Gantry (Faulkner Lake and White Oak)
4. Chlorine Building Hoist Gantry (Faulkner Lake and White Oak)
5. Lagoon MCC Enclosures and Generator (White Oak)
6. Chlorine Contact Chamber Concrete Rehab
7. Aeration Basin Top of Wall Coating

The clarifier manufacturer specified a 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 the Utility's assets. The bid tabulation is provided, and the base bid included lead abatement for the influent pump station piping. Fortunately, while this was in the bidding process, samples taken from the pump station were tested and it was determined that lead abatement will not be necessary. Although the low bidder is determined by the base bid amount, the lead abatement may be deducted from the project and contract amount. The bids, less item 24 for lead abatement, are as follows:

Mongan Painting	\$ 853,500.00
Thomas Industrial Coatings	\$1,182,704.00
Kinard Painting and Sandblasting	\$1,227,000.00

The low bidder, Mongan Painting's statement of bidder qualifications has been reviewed, and this company appears to be adequately capable of performing the work. Eagle Rock Coatings, the local TNEMEC representative, has successfully completed three similar projects with Mongan Painting and those projects went well. The only issue is Mongan's Arkansas Contractor's license was restricted to projects below \$750,000.00 at the time of the bid, but they were concurrently working to renew their license at the unlimited project amount. That has since been resolved as their license is now renewed and upgraded at the unlimited rate. They have also successfully completed projects larger than this one in other states. The 2024 budget includes \$1,200,000.00 for this project. After discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Bryant, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to waive the informality of the low bidder's restricted license at the time of bid, and authorize the staff to award the contract to Mongan Painting in the amount of \$853,000.00 for the Clarifier Mechanism and Structure Coating Project 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

Director Clayton then updated the Committee on the following:

1. The 2023 Audit is complete and will be presented at the August 2024 Committee meeting.
2. Approximately a year ago, one of the Utility's employees was involved in an auto accident. The other party filed a lawsuit and requested \$780,000 in damages. After a two-day jury trial, both parties were found to be at

fault; however, no monetary damages were awarded.

3. Director Clayton is still finalizing the calculation for the tie-on fees. He further added that the policy will have to be amended and all this will be ready for review at the August 2024 Committee meeting.

Chairman Matthews then stated that this is normally the time of year when the Committee discusses raises for the Utility employees. He suggested that since inflation is so high, give all employees a one-time bonus instead of a percentage raise. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Stephens, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to give all employees a \$1,000.00 one-time bonus in August 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

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 12:30 p.m.

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



K. W. MATTHEWS, CHAIRMAN

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



**GABE STEPHENS, VICE-CHAIRMAN/
SECRETARY**