Pursuant to the Open Record's Act: The minutes of the Rural Water District No. 17, LeFlore County are available to its members upon request. Copy rates are posted at the RWD No. 17 LC office and are on file with the County Clerk. Approved minutes will also be available at our website https://lcrwd17.myruralwater.com

Rural Water District No. 17, LeFlore County

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2026

6:00 pm

- **Prayer:** Dave Conklin opened the meeting with prayer.
- **Roll Call:** Present: Ronny Blake, Vice Chairman; Jean Conklin, Secretary; Kendle Ortiz, Treasurer; Buck Roba, Member-at-Large.

  Absent: Vicki Cearnal, Chairman (attended remotely by phone)

  Guests: Billy Page, Operator; Shelly Goodson, Office Manager; Christian Browder, Choctaw Nation Representative; Jeremy McBride, Choctaw Nation Representative; Dave Conklin; Doug Davis; Vicki Davis; Mike Redmond, Mears Engineering. Sign-in sheet is on file with these Minutes.
- **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.
- **Approval of Agenda:** Jean moved to approve the agenda as filed. Kendle seconded the motion. Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. The agenda was approved as filed.
- **Operator Report:** Billy Page presented his Operator's report. See attached.
- **Secretary's Report:** Kendle, outgoing secretary, presented the December 9, 2024 minutes. Jean moved to approve the December 9, 2024 Minutes. Kendle seconded the motion. Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. The December 9, 2025 minutes were approved.

  The minutes for the January 17, 2026 Annual Meeting and the January 17, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting were not available for approval. Kendle Ortiz, outgoing secretary, will send both minutes to the Board for review. They will be presented for approval at the March 17 Board Meeting.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Kendle presented the Treasurer's Reports for December 2025, and January 2026. Kendle moved to approve the December, 2025 and the January 2026 Treasurer's Reports. Jean seconded the motion. Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. The December 2025 and the January 2026 Treasurer's Reports were approved.

- **Grants Update:**

1. Standpipe and line replacement is ongoing, funded by DWSRF/SUDc/Choctaw Nation. Roy Hall is our new Inspector on site. Current work is both at the standpipe site and the beginnings of digging and boring for line replacement. The largest bore is 75% complete, and 2,500 feet of line is complete. The total amount of line replacement is to be approximately 20,000 feet, so the progress represents about 10% completion. The Forestry Service is asking for all creeks, dry or wet, to be bored and to replace the sign at Beech Creek when it is bored. Discussion followed. Jeremy indicated he would reach out to the Forest Service for details and the requirement.

2. The electrical panel grant from ORWB has been completed, fully funded and paid in full. Billy noted that a control panel was added to the electrical panel for Pipe Springs; this should resolve an intermittent outage problem.

- **New Business:**

1. Presentation and approval of plans for USDA Grant Project on the Kiamichi River at River Road.

   Mike Redmond, Mears Engineering, presented their completed plans and specifications. This is the replacement of line at the Kiamichi River on River Road, which is critical to our members across the river and to the south. It will include 540 feet of slick bore and 339 feet of trenching at 5' depth. Permits are not granted yet; they are pending input from outside sources. When complete, Mears expects construction to begin approximately 2 months after bid advertising has begun. There was discussion about the minimum depth. Concerns were expressed that 5' was not adequate because the fluctuations in river volume during storms causes erosion. Ronnie moved "to approve plans as presented by Mears Engineering". Buck seconded. Following further discussion, Ronny moved "to amend his motion that Mears Engineering would present 5' on the base bid with an alternate bid of 10', with the understanding if the 10' bid is accepted, they will deduct the 5' portion". Kendle seconded. Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea on the amendment. The amendment was passed. The amended motion was presented: "To approve plans as presented by Mears Engineering, with the understanding that Mears Engineering would present 5' on the base bid with an alternate bid of 10', with the understanding if the 10' bid is accepted, they will deduct the 5' portion". Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted no on the motion as amended. The plans packet presented by Mr. Redmond will be filed with these Minutes. The Board thanked Mr. Redmond for attending and presenting.

2. Presentation and approval of resolution for a new grant of $1,150,000 Pipe Springs project to be funded by ORWB/ARPA..

   Jeremy McBride, Choctaw Nation, presented information on the grant opportunity that he facilitated; our project was eligible because it is a shovel-ready project. Jeremy indicated that Mears Engineering will need to submit an updated engineering report. Kendle read the Resolution. Ronny moved to accept the Resolution as presented. Kendle seconded the motion. Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. The motion was passed. The Resolution was signed by Board members present; Shelly was instructed to scan the Resolution and transmit it to Vicki to e-sign. Vicki will file the Resolution. The Resolution is attached. The Board thanked Mr. McBride for his exceptional efforts on our behalf.

3. Approve pay application #4 for Lone Hickory for the ongoing Standpipe/Line Project.

The Engineers and the Board have approved the pay application #4 for Lone Hickory, which is a total of $46,382.00. This represents payment of construction for the Standpipe Project. Kendle moved "to approve the pay application #4." Jean seconded the motion. Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. The motion to approve the Lone Hickory pay application #4 was approved.

- **Old Business:** There was no Old Business.
- **Adjournment:** Having no further business, Ronnie moved to adjourn the meeting. Jean seconded the motion. Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Signed: Vicki L Crane

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