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

May 12, 2026

6:00 pm

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

  Guests: Billy Page, Operator; Shelly Goodson, Office Manager; Kathleen Matthews; Fred Matthews; Dalia Lavender; Bernadine Himes; Kelly Pipkins; Daniel Furney. The Sign-in sheet will be on file with these Minutes.
- **Call to Order:** Chairman Vicki Cearnal called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.
- **Approval of Agenda:** Vicki moved to approve the agenda as filed; Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. The agenda was approved as filed.
- **Secretary's Report:** Jean Conklin, Secretary, presented the Minutes of the April 14, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting. Jean noted the DWSRF Pay Application (New Business, Item 1) should be revised to read "DWSRF Pay Application #6." Ronnie expressed his displeasure of the minutes in general, noting that the minutes should state that Billy was authorized to purchase the RIG Grant materials. There was no motion, so no notation was required. Buck expressed his wish to see every item detailed in the minutes. Jean explained per ORWA guidelines, minutes are to serve as an official and legal record of the decisions and actions taken during meetings; minutes are not to be a transcription. Kendle moved to approve the April 14, 2026 Minutes as corrected. Jean seconded the motion. Kendle moved to amend the motion to table voting on the April 14, 2026 minutes subject to revisions. Jean seconded the motion. Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea, Vicki abstained because she was absent for the April 14 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The corrected April 14, 2026 Minutes will be presented for approval at the June 9, 2026 Meeting.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Kendle Ortiz presented the Financial Report for April 2026.

  Jean moved to approve the April, 2026 Financial Reports. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. The motion passed unanimously. The April 2026 Financial Report will be filed with these Minutes.

Shelly mentioned that we lost 2 customers last month, but will be getting 4 new customers soon, raising our client base to 171 accounts.

- **Operator's Report:** Billy summarized his last-month's Operator's Report. Discussion was held about Billy's relationship with the line installation contractors and the inspector. Vicki clarified that Billy does need to be visiting the line installation job site. Discussion was held about the Inspector's performance. Buck, Billy and Kendle will meet with the Inspector at 9am on May 13 at the Water Office. The purpose of the meeting is to reiterate that Billy is the Inspector's boss + to review our Inspector expectations + to review how the Inspector's compliance to our expectations will be handled. Billy noted that there may be some resistance to the heightened oversight. The suggestion was made that subject to the outcome of the May 13 meeting, Billy be prepared, if necessary, to take over the Inspector's job until we hire another Inspector. Billy agreed.

  Billy explained the need to excavate the pipe on River Lane for leak detection purposes. Estimated cost for excavation alone is approximately $3500.The present cost of water = $3.25/$1000, so the ongoing water loss is becoming burdensome to the District. Billy's preference is to attempt to slip a 4" pipe inside the 6" line, rather than continuing to search for the leak in the extremely deep line. That portion of the line serves 20-22 customers. No grant has been searched for or secured yet, so the expense will be fully borne by the District. Billy was instructed to get 3 quotes for the 4" pipe and the excavation. Billy noted that we may need to ask for mercy from DEQ for the compromised volume and pressure until we get it fixed.

  Discussion was held about the lawn mowing at the office. Previous labor cost was $75 per mowing, every 2 weeks. Brandon Routh volunteered to do a 1x trial mowing at $60, to see if he would want to continue at that rate. The Board agreed to have Billy ask Brandon to proceed with the trial mowing to see if he wished to pursue that arrangement on a 2-week cycle.

- **Grants Update:**

  1. Update: Standpipe and Line Replacement, funded by DWSRF/SUDC/ Choctaw Nation: Today's report from the contractor indicated substantial completion will be mid-June; final completion is projected for mid-July. There is $167,000 remaining in contingency: those funds may be used to lay additional line. At approximately $35/foot, we can expect to receive almost one more mile of line than originally planned.

  2. Update: Kiamichi River Bore Project: This project is slated to begin in early summer.

  3. Update: RIG Equipment Update: The purchasing of all equipment provided by the RIG Grant is complete. 5 suppliers were set up; requisitions have been submitted and we are waiting for reimbursement from the RIG Grant. This is an 80/20 Grant: 80% RIG funding is $24,000; RWD17 funding is $6000.

  4. Update: ORWB grant for line replacement of Pipe Springs: Survey preparation work is stalled due to Mears Engineering refusal to proceed due to overgrowth and fear of snakes, etc. Brandon Routh has agreed to clear the survey areas per Mears Engineering recent request. It is anticipated that Surveyors on the ground will follow promptly.

- **New Business:**

  1. Approve Pay Application on the Standpipe/Line Project. Vicki moved to approve the balance due of $183,408.00 on the Contractor's Pay Application dated March 18, 2026, with $89,095.03 to be requested from SUDC funds, and $94,312.07 to be requested from Choctaw Nation. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. The motion was passed unanimously.

  2. Approve Pay Applications and Inspector Fees to be paid from Choctaw funds. Vicki moved to approve the Contractor's Pay Application dated April 20, 2026, in the amount of $311,300.50; to approve Wall Engineering Invoice #5 in the amount of $11,192.40 dated March 29, 2026; and to approve $7,000.00 for Inspector's Fees — all to be requested from Choctaw Nation. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. The motion was passed unanimously.

  3. Review and consideration of change order to bore at ODOT culvert. The work change directive #1 order from Wall Engineering is to bore (instead of original plans for open cut) at the ODOT culvert. Cost is $56,250.00 for a 1" bore. This is the final creek bore of the line project. Vicki moved to approve the $56,250.00 change order. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck abstained. The motion was passed.

  4. Customer request to consider waiving a fee on two (2) reconnect fees. Shelly explained that one customer's tenants have caused excessive water bills, but that the owner was difficult to contact due to lack of accurate contact information. All the charges are now caught up on those accounts. The customer requested we waive the 2 reconnect fees @ $125 each. Concern was expressed that we are setting a precedent that we could regret. Vicki stated the fee schedule needs to be reviewed and suggested we consider including some form of grace provision for difficult situations. Vicki moved we waive these 2 reconnect fees of $125 each. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted no, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted no. The motion was passed.

  5. Light Pole at the Standpipe. Billy requested we provide lighting at the Standpipe. Per Rich Mountain Electric, the installation fee will be $12.50, with $8.85 monthly fee thereafter. Billy was instructed to proceed with the installation request.

- **Old Business:** There was no Old Business.

- **Adjournment:** Having no further business, Vicki moved to adjourn the meeting. Buck seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.

Signed:____________________ Seal: