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**

**June 19, 2026**

**12:00 pm**

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

  *Absent (excused):* Buck Roba, Member-at-Large

  *Guests:* Billy Page, Operator; Shelly Goodson, Office Manager; Robert Cearnal. The Sign-in sheet will be on file with these Minutes.
- **Call to Order:** Chairman Vicki Cearnal called the meeting to order at 12:06 pm.
- **Approval of Agenda:** Vicki moved to add 1 item to the agenda:
  1. Consider budget for technology & security implementation. Vicki moved to approve the agenda as amended; Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. The agenda was approved as amended.
  2. Consider the "ratify exception" policy for fee waiver that was given last month to Heather Green.
- **Secretary's Report:** Jean Conklin, Secretary, presented the Minutes of the April 14, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting. Ronny moved to approve the April 14, 2026 Minutes as corrected. Kendle seconded the motion. Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Vicki abstained because she was absent for the April 14 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The corrected April 14, 2026 Minutes were approved.

  Jean Conklin, Secretary, presented the Minutes of the May12, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting. Jean moved to approve the May 12, 2026 Minutes. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. The motion passed unanimously. The May 12, 2026 Minutes were approved.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Kendle Ortiz, Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for May 2026. She noted she was unable to include a bank activity report because of a software glitch; all other reports were presented. Billing Recap for May 2026 was $12,455.54, which is down $1,154.56 from last month. We are running about $6K short of

anticipated income. We are hoping that water use will pick up with the warmer weather, gardens and more people coming to spend time for the summer.

1st national Bank is changing their name to Monument Bank. It is an internal change, with no impact to our accounts.

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

- **Operator's Report:** Billy Page, Operator, summarized his last-month's Operator's Report, to be filed with these minutes. DEQ routinely mentions 2 flush hydrants that should be present on the north side of Hwy 63. Inasmuch as we have 1 valve in stock, it was suggested that Billy install that valve at the first location at his convenience. The 2nd location is of lesser impact, as it is only 1 residence.

  Billy expressed his frustration about the Booster station #1 panel going out frequently. Billy was asked to create a history timeline of the problems = a paper trail to pursue supplier replacement, if needed, prior to warranty expiring. Billys notes indicate that the Booster #1 panel was put into service early December, 2025.

  Excavation of 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.

- **Grants Update:**

  **1. Update: Standpipe and Line Replacement, funded by DWSRF/SUDC/ Choctaw Nation:** There is approximately $135,000 remaining in contingency: those funds may be used to lay approximately 1/2 mile of additional line including other expenses to complete various details The contractors anticipate a finish timeline mid-to-end of August, 2026.

  **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.** Based upon the meeting with Wall Engineering and Lone Hickory, we have approximately $135,000 in remaining contingency funds that can be used on the project. At $35.00 a foot, we should get an additional 1/2 of line that will start where it stopped based upon plans, come to the Kiamichi River bridge on SH 63 and then beyond headed westward.

  Vicki moved that **any and all funds remaining from the contingency amount listed in the budgeted project be used to extend the water line as far west as possible**. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. The motion passed unanimously.

  2. Approve pay application dated May 18, 2026 for standpipe/line project to include contractor fees and engineering fees to be paid from Choctaw and DWSRF grant funds Vicki moved to **approve the pay application dated May18,2026 in the amount of $726,913.15, to pay Lone Hickory which will be submitted to Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma**. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. The motion passed unanimously.

  Vicki moved to **approve the pay application dated May 27,2026 in the amount of $23,006.50 to pay Wall Engineering, which will be submitted to DWSRF for payment**. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. The motion passed unanimously.

  3. Approve inspector fees for May 1-31, 2026 and June 1-15, 2026 to be paid from Choctaw Funds. Vicki moved to **approve the invoices dated May1 through June12 in the amount of $9,800.00 to be paid to Roy Hall, inspector, which will be submitted to Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for payment**. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. The motion passed unanimously.

  4. Approve pay application for to date invoices for engineering fees to be paid from OWRB ARPA grant funds. Vicki moved to **approve invoices from Mears Engineering LLC in the amount of $46,487.50 for work performed in relation to the Pipe Springs booster/line project and will be submitted to OWRB for payment**. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. The motion passed unanimously.

  5. Approve pay application for dirt work performed in conjunction to the surveying work. Vicki moved to **approve the invoice in the amount of $1,430.00 payable to Routh and Son in support of the surveying work performed in relation to the Pipe Springs booster/line project being funded by the OWRB ARPA grant. Further RWD 17 will advance funds from savings in order to pay this vendor at this time and submit for reimbursement through the grant at such time as the survey is billed**. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. The motion passed unanimously.

  6. Review of bid tabulations, consider and approve low bid contractor for Kiamichi River bore project to be funded by USDA. Vicki moved to **accept the approved low bidder, B&H Construction LLC in the amount of $146,093.70 for the Kiamichi River bore project being funded by the USDA ECWAG**. Jean seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Discussion was held regarding the application to Choctaw Development Fund and RIG for funds necessary to complete the Kiamichi River bore project. Vicki moved to **apply to the Choctaw Development Fund and RIG for $22,068.70 which represents a construction shortfall between the Opinion of Cost of $124,025.00 submitted with our grant application and the low bid submitted by B&H Construction LLC in the amount of $146,093.70**. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Discussion was held regarding replacement tires for the District vehicle. First estimate from Mode Tires in Poteau is $1126.00. Kendle moved for **Billy to get 3 bids for tire replacement, and proceed with the lowest bid, using the Credit Card for purchase**. Vicki seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Discussion was held regarding the need to move forward with enhanced security measures for the building and our technology. Jean estimated a budget of $100/month would cover 2 Security Cameras, Starlink WIFI, continuous Cloud Backup, more secure Email, VPN, Cloud Drive, and Password Management. Ronny moved to **approve $100/month budget for technology and security improvement and equipment, with Vicki assigning a committee to work with Shelly on the overall project**. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. The motion passed unanimously. Vicki appointed Jean and Kendle to work together with Shelly on the project.

10. Discussion was held regarding board members concern that a recent board action (reconnect fee waiver for Heather Green set a precedent that overrode our Policies and Procedures. To correct the procedure to undo motions made at previous meetings, Vicki moved to **ratify our exception to our fee schedule for Heather Green, while recognizing that the exception was not in line with Policies and Procedures. We will continue to leave our adopted Rates and Fee schedules as they currently exist.** Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Old Business:** There was no Old Business.
- **Adjournment:** Having no further business, Vicki moved to adjourn the meeting. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 pm.

Signed:____________________ Seal: