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

July 14, 2026

6:00 pm

- **PRAYER:** Doug Davis 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; Robert Cearnal, David Conklin. The Sign-in sheet will be on file with these Minutes.
- **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Vicki Cearnal called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.
- **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Vicki moved to accept the agenda as posted. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. Buck voted yea. The motion passed unanimously.
- **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Jean Conklin, Secretary, presented the Minutes of the June 16, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting, making one correction. Jean moved to approve the June 16, 2026 Minutes as corrected. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. Buck voted yea. The motion passed unanimously. The corrected June 16, 2026 Minutes were approved.
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kendle Ortiz, Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for June 2026. Billing Recap is not available for June 2026 since we read meters and bill on the 15th, but once again, we are operating in a deficit (approximately -$3000). We have had unusually heavy water consumption related to (1) issues with the new line construction, and (2) putting the newly-conditioned standpipe back in service (see Operator's report). We are hoping that the revenue for customer water use will pick up soon. Shelly has sent out 4 packets for new-customer inquiries.

  June's expenditures exceeded the budget by approximately $8000. Vicki asked Kendle to meet to go line-by-line through the spending, to focus on specific areas that need attention. Kendle indicated she would like to look at spending in general, to find expenses that can be delayed or discontinued. They will arrange their schedules to accomplish both goals.

  The RIG grant has a remaining spendable balance of $505 to fully utilize the grant. Vicki directed Billy to find another $606 in like-kind equipment to fully utilize the grant funds.

  Ronnie questioned the necessity of all 5 members reviewing the AMEX bill. Kendle emphasized that the risk of fraud is great with a payment source that has so many variables, including diverse paper trails. Jean reiterated the importance of carefully scrutinizing the monthly bills, especially this one large "invoice", and recommended we continue our AMEX review procedure.

Kendle moved to approve the June 2026 Financial Reports. Ronny seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. Buck voted yea. The motion passed unanimously. The July 14 2026 Treasurer's Report and the June 30 2026 Financial Report will be filed with these Minutes.

- **OPERATOR'S REPORT:** Billy Page, Operator, summarized his June 16 - July 14 Operator's Report, to be filed with these minutes. One correction should show the leak near Booster #1 is showing up in the tinhorn location. With the leak presently at 9 gpm, Billy will contact the state to see if they will cooperate on the repair/replacement of the tinhorn.

  Jean suggested we have Shelly send a $25 "Finders Reward" to Novella Guinn for notifying of the recent Hwy 63 main line break across from the Big Cedar Church.

  Jean also suggested Shelly send a thank you note to James Looney, Mena Water District, for their one-time financial assistance in the PRV rebuild at the vault near the Master Meter.

- **GRANTS UPDATE:**

  1. Update: Standpipe and Line Replacement, funded by DWSRF/SUDC/Choctaw Nation: We are close to completion on the original part of the project. The line still needs to be pressurized. There is $254,500 remaining, which should be sufficient to install approximately another 7,000 feet of line, which is straight line with no bores. Lone Hickory (the contractor) agreed to honor the original $35/foot bid for any extra line & will proceed until the budget is fully spent.

  2. Update: OWRB grant for line replacement of Pipe Springs: OWRB wants all the money fully spent by September 30 2026 deadline.

  - Pre-Construction meeting is scheduled July 30, 1pm.
  - Pre-Bid-Opening Meeting is scheduled Aug 4, 1pm. This will be a Special-Called Meeting for Aaron Mears to open bids, review all documents, accept and sign off on the project. ARPA money will be utilized. We will then have a special called meeting at approximately 5 PM to accept the low bid contractor.

  3. Update: Kiamichi River Bore Project: Per Vicki's recent email, we are short about $22,000 because the lowest bid exceeds the grant amount. Our treasury is too low to pay for it ourselves. Some considerations:

  We have submitted the RIG-5 reimbursement, but it may not be funded until the end of the year. We may have an award letter before then, but that is uncertain.

  We can submit a request to Choctaw Nations for funding.

  We can consider a loan from Communities Unlimited.

  We can consider funding it ourselves at this time to keep the project moving ahead and hope that RIG will reimburse us.

  Kendle mentioned that when the RIG money comes, we'll be fine to pay the overage. Billy is concerned he won't be able to offer adequate pressure to the 2 new connections. Kendle commented the bid is good, the weather is good, the river is low, and we should borrow the money from Communities Unlimited to proceed. When the Rig money comes in we can pay off the loan. All members concurred. **Vicki moved to proceed to investigate borrowing approximately $22,000 from Communities Unlimited to proceed with the Kiamichi Bore**

Project. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea. Buck voted yea. The motion passed unanimously.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

  1. *Remaining funds from Standpipe & Line Replacement Grant:* Based upon the meeting with Wall Engineering and Lone Hickory, we now have approximately $254,000 in remaining funds from the Standpipe and Line Replacement that can be used on the project. At $35.00 a foot, we should get an additional 7,000 feet of line that will continue 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 Buck voted yea. The motion passed unanimously.

  2. *Approve pay application dated June 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 June 18,2026 in the amount of $103,035.94, to pay Lone Hickory which will be submitted to Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.** Buck seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. The motion passed unanimously.

  3. *Discussion and possible approval of line replacement extension budget.* See Grants Update #1, above.

  4. *Discussion and possible action for resolution to submit RIG-5 grant application.* Shelly is submitting a $3,000 RIG grant request for the following: 2 monitors & arms, 2TB portable external hard drive, printer/scanner, Dell 2026 Pro tower for Windows 11, Keyboard, mouse, misc. office supplies including paper & toner, external antennae booster to strengthen cell & internet signals. It was suggested that she include the $22,000 Kiamichi Bore deficit, rounding a new RIG-5 grant application up to $25,000. **Vicki moved to accept the Rig 5 Resolution.** Ronnie seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Ronnie voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. The motion passed unanimously.

- **OLD BUSINESS:** Ronnie inquired on the status of the Internet and Building Security budget approved last month. Starlink is already installed and working well; a roof mount (on order) will improve the installation. Billy assisted with that installation. Shelly is continuing to research the other security items needed and will proceed to facilitate those improvements.

  Forestry Permits: Billy mentioned that the Pipe Springs project will not need forestry permits.

- **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, Buck voted yea. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Signed:____________________ Seal: