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

September 8, 2026

6:00 pm

- **PRAYER:** Jean Conklin opened the meeting with prayer.
- **ROLL CALL:** *Present:* Vicki Cearnal, Chairman; Jean Conklin, Secretary; Kendle Ortiz, Treasurer; Buck Roba, Member-at-Large.

  Absent: Ronny Blake, Vice Chairman;

  Guests: Shelly Goodwin, Office Manager; Billy Page, Operator; Glen Maclin.
- **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Vicki Cearnal called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.
- **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Vicki moved to amend the agenda to include discussion of reimbursement for cost of repairs. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea. Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. The motion to amend the agenda passed unanimously. Vicki moved to accept the amended agenda. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. **The motion to approve the amended agenda passed unanimously.**
- **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Jean Conklin, Secretary, presented the Minutes of the August 04, 2026 Board of Directors Meeting, with the correction of including John Butler, guest. Jean moved to approve the August 04, 2026 Minutes as corrected. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. The motion passed unanimously. **The August 04, 2026 Minutes were approved.**
- **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Kendle Ortiz, Treasurer, presented the Financial Report for August 2026. The Billing Recap for August 2026 was $16,468.10, which is a small profit, but inasmuch as we have been operating at a deficit for most of this year, this is a welcome change. We still have a significant amount of water loss due to line construction and repeated PRV failures.

  Our customer count is 172, which has finally risen to our count several years ago. The slow recovery trend is expected to continue, with several new connections predicted for the near future.

  Jean moved to approve the July 2026 Financial Reports. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. **The**

September 08 2026 Treasurer's Report was approved unanimously and will be filed with these Minutes.

- **OPERATOR'S REPORT:** Billy Page, Operator, summarized his August 5 - September 08 Operator's Report. Billy was asked to explore options for standpipe fill level. Pressure irregularities and volume loss from Mena was discussed; he is running on pump & bypass to get up to 2000 gal/hr. Standpipe height needs to be added to SCADA; D6 is going to work together with Billy on that. Vicki suggested 4-way conference call (Steve, Rando Debo/Wall Engineering, Lone Hickory, Billy) to get the standpipe issues resolved. Mena's contract is 35 gal per minute/90 pounds pressure. The Operator's Report will be filed with these minutes.

- **GRANTS UPDATE:**

  1. Update: OWRB grant for line replacement towards Pipe Springs: Digging has begun; then the Forest service stopped construction due to a permitting dispute. Aaron Mears understood that since ODOT leased with easements the area in which we are doing maintenance to an existing line, no further permits were necessary. Nolan/Forest Service believes this project may fall into a categorical exclusion, but we will not know that until next week. New grant extension date secured by Mears is October 31. Culpability might rest with Mears inasmuch as they should have cleared this.

  2. Update: Kiamichi River Bore Project: We are waiting on USDA engineering for approval so project can begin.

- **NEW BUSINESS:**

  1. *Discussion & possible action on outstanding standpipe project funds due.* The project low bid was over the total of grants available. At that time, the project was scaled back to equal what funds were available. However the budget numbers were never amended by Wall Engineering, which in turn inflated the amount of available contingency funds when we agreed to use those funds to extend the line replacement in the change order. This is the cause of the $144,000 shortage.
  2. *Discussion and possible action for additional SUDC funding for line replacement on Hwy 63, part of the standpipe project. The p*roject as awarded came in over the amount of funds available due to the engineer's calculation error = a shortage of $144K of funding. SUDC ($500K grant) has agreed to add $144 to that grant. Discussion followed. **Vicki moved to approve executing documents to amend SUDC grant from $500K to $644K.** Buck seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. **The motion passed unanimously.** Vicki will contact our Attorney to fine-tune the documents, to include a provision that we preserve the option to invoice Lone Hickory for future damages if more PRV-related repairs become necessary.
  3. *Approve pay application dated August 20, 2026 in the amount of $355,211.08 for the Standpipe Project.* Choctaws will fund the remaining $489,000. Vicki moved **to approve pay application dated August 20, 2026 in the amount of $355,211.08 for the Standpipe Project.** Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. **The motion passed unanimously.**

voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. **The motion passed unanimously.**

4. *Regarding damages caused by the defective PRV:* Vicki requested Billy to present an itemized cost, ASAP, of all expenses-to-date related to damages caused by the defective PRV that was installed by Lone Hickory.

- **OLD BUSINESS:** *Discussion and final approval for $22,067.70 loan from Communities Unlimited for the additional funds for the Kiamichi River Bore project from USDA.* Regarding the Communities Unlimited loan in the amount of $22,067.70 at 6% with a 10 year term, monthly pmt of $245.01: Jeremy/Choctaws called, requesting us to maintain the direction intended for the extra money needed for the project. Vicki will call Chris at CU, to see if we can stall on funding since the project is still pending USDA approval. Buck moved **to table action on moving forward on the signatures for the Communities Unlimited loan until next month's meeting, or sooner if necessary**. Kendle seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. **The table motion passed unanimously.**

- **ADJOURNMENT:** Having no further business, Vicki moved to adjourn the meeting. Buck seconded the motion. Vicki voted yea, Jean voted yea, Kendle voted yea, Buck voted yea. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 pm.

Signed:_____ Seal: