

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 on file with the County Clerk. Minutes will also be available at our website lcrwd17@myruralwater.com

Rural Water District No. 17, LeFlore County

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2025

Immediately Following General Membership Meeting Which Was Called to Order

Approximately 2:00 PM

- Call to Order: Vicki Cearnal called the meeting to order at 2:50 PM.
- Roll Call: Vicki Cearnal, Chairperson, present. Jean Conklin, Vice-Chairperson, present. Deborah Butler, Treasurer, present. Kendle Ortiz, Secretary, present. Doug Davis, Member at Large, present.
- Election of Officers: Vicki Cearnal stated she had spoken with the other board members prior to the meeting regarding their positions. She asked Jean Conklin if she wanted to continue as the Vice-Chairman. Jean Conklin stated yes. She asked Doug Davis if he wished to continue the remained of his term as Member At Large. Doug Davis stated yes, he wished to continue as Member At Large. She asked Kendle Ortiz if she wished to continue as the Secretary. Kendle Ortiz stated that yes, she wished to continue as Secretary. Vicki asked Deborah Butler if she wished to continue as the Treasurer. Deborah Butler stated that yes, she would continue as the Treasurer. Vicki Cearnal will continue as the Chairman.
- Secretary's Report for December 2024: The minutes from the December 10th BOD meeting had been emailed to the board prior to the meeting. Kendle Ortiz asked if there were any questions or amendments. There were none. Doug Davis made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from December 10th. Jean Conklin seconded the motion. Vicki Cearnal voted aye. Jean Conklin voted aye. Deborah Butler voted aye. Kendle Ortiz voted aye. Doug Davis voted aye. Motion carried.
- Treasurer's Report for December 2024: Deborah Butler had emailed a copy of the Treasurer's report to the board prior to the meeting. A copy of the report will be filed with the meeting minutes. Deborah asked if there were any questions regarding the report. There were none. Deborah Butler stated that they had a phone to use for the office but it needed a phone chip that would cost \$45 and it was under the \$500 but she wanted the board to give permission to John to order it or for one of the other board members to order it. Vicki asked if this would replace the current Grasshopper system. Deborah stated that yes it would replace it and it would be a wash for the cost. Vicki stated that would be fine. Deborah stated that if for some

reason the chip did not work then we would revisit possibly purchasing a phone for the office. Deborah Butler stated that Vicki had asked her to move the office from her home back to the office building. She stated that since we had a public endowment to refurbish the office and she had no desire to work in the office, she would move everything to the office when we hire someone. She stated we had done some initial interviews and wanted the board to arrange to interview the candidates. She stated she planned to do 4 weekly training sessions with whomever we hired. Vicki Cearnal asked Deborah about our annual water loss. Deborah stated that was in her yearly report. She stated that we had an annual water loss of 55.2%. She stated that lowest was 30.15% and the highest was 67.7% for an average of 55.2%. Deborah stated the total cost of the water loss was included in the P&L Report in the 2024 yearly report. Mr. Pipkins stated that there should not be this much water loss and that he did not think that John Butler was doing his job as a water operator with this much water loss. Kendle Ortiz made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Doug Davis seconded the motion. Vicki Cearnal voted aye. Jean Conklin voted aye. Deborah Butler voted aye. Kendle Ortiz voted aye. Doug Davis voted aye. Motion carried.

- Operator's Report for December 2024: John Butler had emailed a copy of the Operator's report to the board prior to the meeting. A copy of the report will be filed with the meeting minutes. John Butler stated that we had passed our Bac-T and that the CL2 report had been turned in. He stated that we had passed our 4th Quarter TTHM's. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the operator's report. John stated that he thought that the district should hire an engineer to do another hydraulic analysis on the water line as there had been many changes since the last one was done. There were also several new developments that were coming in and they would need accurate hydraulics for their engineers. John stated he had one bid from Mears Engineering for \$10,000. Vicki stated we would need at least three bids before we could even consider this. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the new hydraulic analysis. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the height of water at the tank. John stated he generally kept 3 days worth of water stored. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the amount of water stored. John was thanked for his report.
- Old Business:
 - a. Grants update: Deborah Butler stated that there were 4 grants we have applied for and we should find out about those grants this year. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Choctaw Nation Grant for \$2.3 million. She stated we are at the beginning of the Choctaw Nation grant and things are moving along just fine.
 - b. Updates on Pipe Springs interviews, testing and DEQ determination: Doug Davis had called members in the Pipe Springs area, members with active meters, partial usage and inactive meters. He spoke with them regarding water pressure and quality of the water. Doug stated that it could be inconvenient to shower early in the morning. There was a suggestion to move the flush time to 12:30 AM. He stated there were reports of rust in the line and problems with flushing on the property that was eroding the driveway. John had taken a load of gravel and the member had spread it to repair the problem. He stated that Rebecca (member) had mentioned occasions when she was out of water but unsure of how often. Buck Roba is at the highest elevation and runs out first. Mr.

Roba stated he had been out of water for three years and he had been coming to the meetings and asking for this to be fixed and it was still not resolved. He stated he was very frustrated. He stated he had been calling DEQ as well. He stated that currently he had no water as the air pressure in the line had blown apart his pipes and he had to have a plumber come out. He stated the plumber had measured the air pressure in the line at 200 psi. Mr. Roba stated that Jeremy from DEQ had come out and had noted that he had a 40 psi drop in pressure in just 6 minutes. There was a discussion regarding Jeremy's testing for DEQ. Mr. Roba stated that the letter that Jeremy sent out was inaccurate. He stated if Jeremy had waited a little longer, he would have run completely out of water but he stated he had everything he needed. John stated he was going to replace the flush valve with a meter that he can attach to for flushing the line above Mr. Roba. John stated all dead ends were flushed every quarter. John stated he was also going to put in an air relief valve as well to address his problem with high air pressure. John stated he had already ordered the parts and as soon as they came in, he would be doing that. Mr. Pipkins asked why this had not been done already. Mr. Pipkins asked if he was flushing the lines before and after any repairs. John stated that he was. Mr. Pipkins asked how many gallons of water he was flushing. John stated he flushed until the water was clear. Rocky Overgaard stated that was protocol. Mr. Pipkins asked if he was sending out a boil order when he did repairs. John stated he had simply put a sleeve over it so he did not send out a boil advisory. Rocky Overgaard stated that boil orders are sent out by DEQ but a boil advisory was at the discretion of the water system. Rocky told the members that if the operator suspected a problem, he notified DEQ but it was a judgment call whether to send out a boil advisory or not. Mr. Pipkins asked if there are three pumps on the water line why were they out of pressure. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the pumps and pressures on the water line. John stated he had upped the pressure on the pumps and it was blowing out the waterlines. John stated that he had Dennis Hopper from Pumps of Oklahoma coming out to evaluate our pumps and make suggestions on what to do.

- c. Update on hiring Office Assistant and Assistant Water Operator: Deborah Butler stated that she and Kendle Ortiz had done the preliminary interviews for the first three candidates. She stated it was now up to the board to set up a time for a secondary interview. Vicki stated she would do a background check and drug test prior to setting up the secondary interview to eliminate any waste of time. Mr. Pipkins asked why were we hiring an office employee and John a helper if the District is out of money. He stated that John did not need a helper. He stated John could do the work himself. Vicki stated that this was a board decision.
- d. Review and Action on Policy and Procedures: Jean Conklin stated that the policies and procedures were ready except that the flow chart she had included was wrong. Jean Conklin made a motion that we approve the Policies and Procedures (draft version 2) as submitted to board members Thursday with a provision that we review and amend as needed. Doug Davis seconded the motion. Vicki Cearnal voted aye. Jean Conklin voted aye. Deborah Butler voted aye. Kendle Ortiz voted aye. Doug Davis voted aye. Motion carried.

- Unfinished Business - Tabled Motions from December 10, 2024 meeting
 - a. Discussion and Possible Action on time limit for member discussions: Tabled for a Special Called Meeting.
 - b. Discussion and Possible Action on agenda items to be considered during member discussion: Tabled for a Special Called Meeting.
 - c. Discussion and possible action on charges for requested documents under the Open Records Act: Tabled for a Special Called Meeting.
 - d. Discussion and Possible Action on the Ford Truck Repairs or Sale: Tabled for a Special Called Meeting.
 - e. Vicki Cearnal made a motion to table all discussions regarding unfinished business from December 10, 2024 for a Special Called Meeting. Doug Davis seconded the motion. Vicki Cearnal voted aye. Jean Conklin voted aye. Deborah Butler voted aye. Kendle Ortiz voted aye. Doug Davis voted aye. Motion carried.

- New Business
 - a. Review and Possible Action on Billing Process Training Manual: Deborah Butler had sent a copy of the training manual to the board prior to the meeting. Deborah Butler made a motion to accept the Billing Training Manual. Jean Conklin seconded the motion. Vicki Cearnal voted yea. Jean Conklin voted yea. Deborah Butler voted yea. Kendle Ortiz voted yea. Doug Davis voted yea. Motion carried.
 - b. Review of Proposal for Hydraulic Analysis and Engineering: There was a lengthy discussion regarding the need for the hydraulic analysis. Vicki Cearnal asked John Butler to get more bids for the hydraulic analysis and to get in touch with Wall Engineering regarding possibly getting an updated hydraulic analysis from them or a quote for them to do it. He will also reach out to ORWA.

- Open Member Discussion:
 - a. Deborah Butler stated that we had one hardship case to review. The hardship application was reviewed by the board. Deborah Butler made a motion to approve the hardship application. Jean Conklin seconded the motion. Vicki Cearnal voted yea. Jean Conklin voted yea. Deborah Butler voted yea. Kendle Ortiz voted yea. Doug Davis voted yea. Motion carried.
 - b. Buck Roba stated that he was out of water and has been for three years now. He stated he has come before the board on multiple occasions and still has the same problem. There was a lengthy discussion regarding line pressure and flushing of the waterlines. John stated he was flushing for 20 minutes every night and that was keeping the levels around 0.2 mpl. Rocky Overgaard asked if it was the flush time and John stated he had been adjusting the flush times to try to assist the issue. There was a suggestion to change the flush time to 12:30 AM. Mr. Roba stated that he should not be out of water. He stated that if there was anyone on the line using water he would be out of water. Mr. Roba stated that he had water just fine for seven years. He stated it will be three years in March that he started having issues with being out of water. Doug Davis stated that there should be a forensic analysis of what changed around that time to try to

determine what caused his water issue. Mr. Roba stated that John had resolved the issue that he had been having with the electrical at the pump but he is now having issues of not having water. John stated that the small pump had been rebuilt and now had a 2" meter stopping head pressure at 50 psi. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the pumps and line pressures. Mr. Roba stated that Jeremy from DEQ had come out and evaluated the water pressure. Mr. Roba stated he observed a 40 psi drop in 6 minutes but he stopped before the water ran out, which it would have run out had he continued. Rocky Overgaard stated that it was probably his judgment not to run the line out of water. Mr. Roba stated that the letter that Jeremy put out stated that there were no issues and that was not true. Kelly Pipkins stated that house never ran out of water before this. Mr. Roba stated that at this time he actually had no water because the air pressure had blown up his water line. He stated the plumber he had come out measured the air pressure in the line at 200 psi and that when he turned on the water his faucet and pipes would shake. John Butler stated that was the first he was hearing about this issue. Mr. Roba stated he had been talking to this bunch for years and had tried to get DEQ involved as well. He stated he was still without water. Mike Robinson asked to speak to the members. Mr. Robinson stated he was a retired DEQ worker and he was not a member but he was familiar with our district. He stated that this district had been having problems since it was put in. Mr. Robinson stated it was not put in right, that the damage is done and has been done since it started 25 years ago. He stated it was done so poorly that the district won a lawsuit against the contractor. Mr. Robinson stated that all that has been done was put band-aids on it. Kelly Pipkins stated that the district won millions and did not do anything. John Butler stated that the district actually won \$800,000. Mr. Robinson stated that the issue here is that fussing about it doesn't fix anything. He stated that he has heard three times that there are new subdivisions coming in. He stated there is work that needs to be done and the static you are giving John isn't helping. He stated that he was proud when we got a public water system but it has been problems and headaches since it was put in. Vicki Cearnal said we are literally dealing with problems from the past, the current and the future. It is three different problems all at the same time. Mr. Roba stated that he believed the flushing may have started his current problem. John says he flushes 20 minutes a night, and as it stands, he runs out of water every night. Mr. Roba stated it takes 2-3 hours for the water to recharge the line. Mr. Roba stated that it has been better lately. Rocky Overgaard asked Mr. Roba if his water had been better during the night. Mr. Roba stated he had not been up checking it. Kelly Pipkins stated that he had made repeated offers to help solve the Pipe Springs water problem "but you won't take me up on it". Kelly Pipkins asked who was the engineer? He stated when Aaron Mears came to talk to them regarding the problems he stated he had never even been in the pump house. John Butler stated that the engineer who came worked for Aaron Mears. He stated his name was Mike Redmond. He was the engineer who came and ran the pressure logs. Mr. Roba asked why was the air pressure so high? John Butler stated that an air pressure relief valve would be installed as soon as the parts come in. Mr. Roba stated if he had water in the lines, we would not have the air pressure problem. Rocky Overgaard stated that we should do a forensic evaluation and look back and see what

happened around that time. Kelly Pipkins stated that something should have already been done. DEQ could have already done this. He stated that 25 psi is a requirement. Rocky Overgaard stated that a water tank in that sensitive area to keep water in the line could be a solution at least in the short term. He stated that might be something that was cheaper than the new construction. Mr. Roba stated that when they spoke with Aaron Mears that he stated he had not engineered it with a tank because the district did not ask about a tank. John stated that he had spoken with Mike Redmond about a possible tank at Pipe Springs. John Butler got Mike Redmond on the phone and on speaker he told the members that John had spoken to him about a tank but that he had not mentioned that to Aaron Mears. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the Pipe Springs waterline, the possibility of the line collapsing and possible things to be done. There was a discussion regarding the engineer report from Mears Engineering. Rocky Overgaard stated that he should have put it in a FACT format with alternate solutions listed 1-2-3. Vicki stated that he put in two options. Mr. Roba stated that no one had mentioned that. Rocky Overgaard stated that it may have been an expense reason that Mears Engineering went with the option he did; that in the long run it was probably more cost effective to do the new construction. He did not know. Kelly Pipkins stated that his offer still stands to work with John to help get water up to Pipe Springs. Rocky Overgaard stated we have an action plan to address the problem. 1. John will meet with Dennis Hopper from Pumps of Oklahoma. 2. John will install an air pressure relief valve as well as a meter at the top of Pipe Springs to flush the line. 3. Check about changing the times of the auto flushes to help with having water. Kelly Pipkins interjected that if you would fix the pump at booster 3 it would help. John stated that all I can do is what I can do. Lisa Craven asked to be recognized. She stated she did not want to step on any toes and she told Buck Roba that she was sorry he was out of water. She stated to Kelly Pipkins that what she is seeing and hearing from him is that if they do not take your opinion then you get offended. Lisa explained her struggle to get water to her house and in the end they paid to have a meter put in. She stated that having water here was a blessing. Lisa again stated she was sorry Mr. Roba did not have water. Mr. Roba stated that after three years everything has been said or suggested but, here I am without water. He stated they could have dug a water line by hand to his house in all this time. Rocky Overgaard stated that we have an action plan for his problem. Mr. Roba stated that he wanted water 24/7 right now. Vicki Cearnal stated that we had given him Doug Davis as a liaison with the board. Doug David said that if Mr. Roba wanted to burn up his phone that was okay with him. Mr. Roba stated that there had been progress but not enough. Kelly Pipkins stated that if one person made a complaint about water pressure that it has to be taken care of and that was what Jeremy from DEQ was doing out here. Jeremy stated he understood the problem and then he lied. Jeremy stated he had all he needed but if he had let that water run it would have run out of water. A pressure lower than 25 psi is actionable and he saw a 40 psi drop in 6 minutes. Rocky Overgaard stated that the only Notice of Violation for the district was unpermitted booster pump that has a plan to correct it. Rocky Overgaard stated we have an action plan of things we can act on. He stated there was the red and black coloration in the water. He stated there could be various reasons for that. There

could be pressure in the line knocking deposits loose and that is why I think that is an isolated incident. Vicki Cearnal stated that she wanted to clarify for everyone that Mr. Roba had water. She stated that the way he was talking made it sound like he never had water. Mr. Roba stated that he was out of water part of the time. Rocky Overgaard asked Mr. Roba is it your opinion that the flushing is the reason for your being out of water? Mr. Roba stated that "it was the water pressure end of story". Mr. Roba stated anytime anyone used water he would be out of water. Rocky Overgaard stated that since he was here, he would go to Mr. Roba's house and observe the water pressure. He stated he did not have any way to measure the pressure. Mr. Roba stated he had a way to measure the pressure. Mr. Overgaard stated he would update the enforcement today and there would be a consent order. Mr. Overgaard stated he did not have any test kits with him but that he would send one to John in order to test the water quality at Mr. Roba's home. Mr. Roba asked if it would specifically test for the concentration of iron. Rocky Overgaard stated he was unsure but it was a comprehensive water quality test. Vicki Cearnal stated she thought they should have a Special Called Meeting to discuss the possible consent order. Mr. Roba asked if they could attend the special called meeting. Vicki Cearnal stated that all meetings were open. Vicki thanked everyone for their time. She stated that due to Robert's Rule of Law that comments can be limited during a meeting.

- Adjournment: Vicki Cearnal made a motion to adjourn. Deborah Butler seconded the motion. Vicki Cearnal voted aye. Jean Conklin voted aye. Deborah Butler voted aye. Kendle Ortiz voted aye. Doug Davis voted aye. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:43 PM.

Signed: Kendle Ortiz

