

STATE OF THE DISTRICT
Rural Water District #17 LeFlore County

Recap of 2023 and Looking Ahead:

“Taking care of our system requires meeting today’s needs and tomorrow’s goals.”

2023 was a remarkably busy year for our Rural Water District! After being awarded a \$30,000 USDA Engineering Grant, a \$100,000 Rural Infrastructure Grant, along with \$27,715 from LeFlore County, we were able to purchase all the materials to replace and upgrade all our customer meters with radios, acquire billing software, and some 2 inch meters for the main line. The Engineering Grant provided us with a fully completed hydraulic analysis along with the official engineering reports required on all grant applications.

After re-writing our Bylaws and Policies and Procedures at the end of 2022, we began completing all the paperwork necessary to fulfill the Oklahoma Long Range Sustainability Program, which is a comprehensive set of assessments, tools and other aid that all focus on supporting and promoting system sustainability. Taking care of our system requires meeting today’s needs and tomorrow’s goals.

By the close of the year, our District had applied for over \$3,732,030 in grants. We are hopeful this year to receive significant funds that will address the needs for repair at the tank, a chlorination station and at least four miles of line replacement lines that are the most fraught with significant leaks.

We received word on January 5 that we had been awarded another \$100,000 Rural Infrastructure Grant. It will provide for 7 flush stations and 38 gate valves. The gate valves will provide significant assistance with leak detection.

The new billing software and process supports online payments, electronic billing and autopay. Sign up to receive email and/or text messages with all the current information and alerts. We have continued to add forms, documents, news, updates, and alerts through our website: lcrwd17.myruralwater.com. We are always looking for suggestions!

We had two Board Of Director positions elected at our annual meeting on January 9. Matt Pollard and Vicki Cearnal were voted to serve a three year term as Member at Large and Chairman, respectively. The other Board members returning to serve the balance of their terms are Jean Conklin (Vice Chairman), Kendle Ortiz (Secretary) and Deborah Butler, (Treasurer). Our goal is to have an effective and transparent Board.

Monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday each month at 6:00 PM in the RWD #17 LeFlore County Water Office, 21981 State Hwy 63. Our meetings address projects, immediate needs, standard minutes and financial reviews and operator updates. Our members 'interest and input helps us to deliver on the needs for today and to plan for the future. Please consider joining us at our monthly meetings!