

STATE OF THE DISTRICT

Rural Water District No. 17 LeFlore County — Recap of 2024

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

2024 was a very busy year, with 12 Regular Board of Directors Meetings and 10 Special Called Meetings totaling over 60 hours. Our Water District was awarded \$2,637,000.00 in grants this year! Grants provided in-line meters, flush hydrants, electrical engineering for the Pipe Springs area, leak detection equipment, and a new truck for the District. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma announced on August 27th their award of \$2,300,00.00 to begin resolving the DEQ Notice of Violations and Consent Orders at the standpipe (the water tower) and approximately 3 miles of water line replacement. This was a significant award for our district! The 2-year project will begin soon.

By year-end, the District had applied for \$3,000,000.00 in additional grants to provide more water line replacement, booster pumps and much needed work in the Pipe Springs area. These funding sources are both state and federal in nature.

We also received word that an endowment has been given to our District to renovate our aging office building. The “bones” of our building are sound, but it is expensive to heat and cool, difficult to keep clean (rodents and bugs), and in need of some major and minor repairs, including ADA Handicap Access required by one of our grants. No District funds will be used for this renovation project that will begin soon.

Governor Stitt issued an Executive Proclamation of “LeFlore County Rural Water District #17 Day” to honor our completion of the Long-Range Sustainability Plan. Only 14 (out of 1324) other districts in Oklahoma have achieved this accomplishment. On the local front, DEQ, Oklahoma Rural Water Association and Communities Unlimited presented our Long-Range Sustainability Award at a ceremony in Big Cedar.

In November, our District was nominated for and awarded the “Oklahoma Water for 2060 Excellence Award”, presented by the Oklahoma Rural Water Resources Board at the annual Governor’s Water Conference. This award is confirmation that our District, while faced with significant hurdles, is moving towards sustainability and excellence in water delivery to our Customers.

We had one Board Of Director position filled at our Annual Meeting on January 25th. Deborah Butler was the only nominee for the 3-year position. The Board elected Deborah to continue serving as Treasurer. The other Board members returning to serve the balance of their terms are Vicki Cearnel (Chairman), Jean Conklin (Vice Chairman), Kendle Ortiz (Secretary) and Doug Davis (Member at Large).

Our goal is to have an effective and transparent Board. **Monthly meetings are held the second Tuesday every 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, financial reviews and operator updates. The interest and input of our customers helps us to deliver on the needs for today and to plan for the future. **Please consider joining us at our monthly meetings!**

Customers are encouraged to sign up for email and/or text messages to receive current information, notices and alerts. Our website continues to grow. We continue to add news, updates, alerts, meeting agendas, minutes, forms and documents on our website: lcrwd17.myruralwater.com. There you can also now sign up on a secure link to pay your bill online and see your billing history.



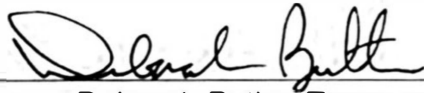
Vicki Cearnal, Chairman



Jean Conklin, Vice Chairman



Kendle Ortiz, Secretary



Deborah Butler, Treasurer



Doug Davis, Member-at-Large