

**Minutes of the
ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
March 16, 2016**

The regular meeting of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission was held Wednesday, March 16, at 9:30 a.m., at Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, 101 East Capitol Avenue, Suite 350, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commissioners in attendance were Chairman Mike Carter, Don Richardson, Neal Anderson, Fred Fowikes, Sloan Hampton, Ann Cash, Bill Poynter and Bruce Leggitt. Jerry Hunton was absent.

Staff members participating included: Randy Young, Executive Director; Ryan Benefield, Deputy Director; Edward Swaim, Water Resources Division Manager; Mark Bennett, Water Development Division Manager; Adrian Baber, Conservation Division Chief; Cynthia Bearden, Agency Controller; Crystal Phelps, General Counsel; Tommy Wren, Government Relations Manager; Deanna Ray, Assistant General Counsel; Lori Nakai, Public Information Specialist; Dave Fenter, Grants Manager; Darla Brooks, Financial Programs Manager; Todd Fugitt, Geology Supervisor; Trevor Timberlake, Engineer Supervisor; Marylen Smith, Program Coordinator; Debbie Dixon, Grants Coordinator; Blake Walters, Land Resource Specialist; Bob Fowler, Land Resource Specialist; Cody Harrington, Land Resource Specialist; Gina Wilson, Construction Finance Analyst; Nate Salinas, Engineer; and Carla Hill, Executive Assistant.

Chairman Carter called the meeting of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission to order.

A list of guests is attached to the minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: January 20, 2016

Upon motion by Mr. Don Richardson, second by Mr. Sloan Hampton, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the January 20, 2016 regular meeting.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Introduction of New Commissioner – Director Young recognized newly appointed Commissioner Bruce Leggitt.

Appointment of Commissioner to the Arkansas Agriculture Board – Director Young asked the Commission appoint a member to serve on the Arkansas Agriculture Board in accordance with Ark Code Ann. § 25-38-207 to replace former Commissioner David Feilke. Upon motion by Mr. Don Richardson, second by Mr. Bill Poynter the Commission unanimously approved Commissioner Jerry Hunton to represent the Commission. Mr. Hunton accepted the appointment.

STATUS REPORT ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Mrs. Cynthia Bearden presented the financial assistance report dated February 29, 2016. (A copy of the report is attached to the minutes.)

LEGAL ISSUES

Status of Levee Legislation – Mrs. Crystal Phelps gave an update of the proposed levee bill that recommends the involvement of levee and conservation districts in establishing safety guidelines.

Comments received on Title 2 and Request to Approve Further Revisions to Title 2 - Mr. Neal Anderson made a motion, with second by Mr. Bill Poynter to adopt the response to all comments as presented by Mrs. Phelps. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution of Appreciation – Commissioner Ann Cash moved a resolution of appreciation be presented to Edward Swaim in recognition of his work on the Arkansas Water Plan. Mr. Bill Poynter made a second to the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT DIVISION –

Mr. Mark Bennett presented staff recommendations for the referenced projects below requesting financial assistance from the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund (CWRLF); the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF); and Water, Sewer, Solid Waste (WSSW).

Upon motion by Mr. Neal Anderson, second by Mr. Fred Fowlkes, the Commission unanimously approved the following recommendations.

MCNEIL (COLUMBIA COUNTY) (CWRLF)

Up to \$250,000.00

PURPOSE OF FUNDS: Wastewater treatment plant improvements including installing 2 aerators at sewer ponds and replacing filter media in rock reed filter beds.

The Commission approved loan funds in an amount up to \$250,000.00 for the Applicant from the Arkansas Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund in accordance with the established funding priorities. The Executive Director will set the combined annual borrower rate and loan terms. Approval is contingent upon the Applicant establishing and maintaining a depreciation reserve fund.

MARSHALL (SEARCY COUNTY) (DWSRF)

Up to \$1,200,000.00

PURPOSE OF FUNDS: Rehabilitate and/or replace existing water lines to mitigate water loss in the Marshall Public Water System.

The Commission approved funds in an amount up to \$1,200,000.00 for the Applicant from the Arkansas Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund of which the total amount will be in the form of a loan with principal forgiveness in accordance with the established funding priorities. The Executive Director will set the combined annual borrower rate and loan terms. Approval is contingent upon the Applicant establishing and maintaining a depreciation reserve fund.

OLD BELLA VISTA POA (BENTON COUNTY) (DWSRF)

Up to \$500,000.00

PURPOSE OF FUNDS: Replacement of aged water mains in order to conform to ADH requirements and to reduce maintenance & water loss costs.

The Commission approved funds in an amount up to \$500,000.00 for the Applicant from the Arkansas Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund of which the total amount will be in the form of a loan with principal forgiveness in accordance with the established funding priorities. The Executive Director will set the combined annual borrower rate and loan terms. Approval is contingent upon the Applicant establishing and maintaining a depreciation reserve fund.

RISON (CLEVELAND COUNTY) (DWSRF)

Up to \$350,000.00

PURPOSE OF FUNDS: Replace aging water meters.

The Commission approved funds in an amount up to \$350,000.00 for the Applicant in the form of a loan from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund in accordance with the established funding priorities. The Executive Director will set the combined annual borrower rate and loan terms. Approval is contingent upon the Applicant establishing and maintaining a depreciation reserve fund.

FULTON (HEMPSTEAD COUNTY) (WSSW)

Up to \$20,600.00

PURPOSE OF FUNDS: Repair and/or replace sewer pumps.

The Commission approved funds in an amount up to \$20,600.00 for the Applicant from the Water, Sewer & Solid Waste Fund in the form of a grant. An administrative fee in an amount up to \$600.00 is to be retained by the Commission. Approval is contingent upon the Applicant establishing and maintaining a depreciation reserve fund.

DEOBLIGATION OF FUNDS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Bennett reported that the Executive Director has deobligated funds for the following:

<u>HAMPTON (CALHOUN COUNTY)</u>	<u>\$450,000.00</u>
(01044-CWSRF-L)	
(01045-CWSRF-F)	<u>\$450,000.00</u>

BREAK

CONSERVATION DIVISION

APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS TO CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARDS

Mr. Adrian Baber presented Conservation District Board Appointments to the Commission. Upon motion by Mr. Don Richardson, second by Mr. Fred Fowlkes, the Commission unanimously approved the following appointments:

APPOINTMENTS

Baxter County
Perry County

Jim Turnbo
Rayford Windle

Upon motion by Mrs. Ann Cash, second by Mr. Bill Poynter, the Commission unanimously approved the following reappointments:

REAPPOINTMENTS

Benton County
Grant County
Lafayette County
Nevada County
Newton County
Poteau River
Randolph County
Rich Mountain
St. Francis County
Union County

Ronnie McGhee
Josh Hardin
Gaythor Crank
Shane Meador
Denver Smith
William L. Free
Bill Bailey
Allen Stewart
John McDaniel
Rhonda Rudder

Mr. Cody Harrington, Land Resource Specialist, introduced Ms. Patricia Perry, St. Francis Conservation District Office Manager. Ms. Perry gave a thorough review of the district's many activities including education projects and involvement in federal and state programs.

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION

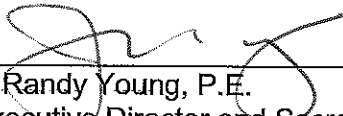
Arkansas Water Plan Implementation Update - The water plan update report was given by Mr. Edward Swaim. His focus covered data from watershed management plans, usage of water meters, and the tax credit program.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Activity reports were presented by the following: Mr. Rocky Harrell, Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts; Ms. Amanda Mathis, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; and Drew Westerman, US Geological Survey.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Mr. Don Richardson made the motion to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Bill Poynter.



J. Randy Young, P.E.
Executive Director and Secretary

5-18-16
Date