

**Minutes of the
ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

November 21, 2013

A special telephonic meeting of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission was held Thursday, November 21, 2013, at 9:00 a.m., in the Director's Office of Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, 101 East Capitol, Suite 350, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Commissioners in attendance were Ann Cash, Chairman; Corbet Lamkin, Vice Chair; Sloan Hampton; Mike Carter; David Feilke; Jerry Hunton, Neal Anderson; and Don Richardson.

Staff members participating included: Randy Young, Executive Director; Crystal Phelps, General Counsel; Mark Bennett, Chief, Water Development Division; Edward Swaim, Chief, Water Resources Management Division; Blake Walters, Land Resource Specialist; Dave Fenter, Marketing Manager; and Pat Smith, Executive Assistant.

Chairman Cash called the meeting of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission to order. Mrs. Smith called roll.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES; SEPTEMBER 18, 2013

Upon motion by Dr. Lamkin, second by Mr. Hunton, the Commission approved the minutes of the September 18, 2013, meeting.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Proposal for Issues and Recommendations Technical Work Group and Sub-Groups – Mr. Young informed the Commission that he met with the Water Plan Project Team this week to map out the strategy and course of action for next year to complete the update of the Arkansas Water Plan. The planning team will determine initial set of issues, policies, and recommendations from five regions of the state.

The planning team, using a nomination process, will identify a group of persons to be appointed to each of the region subgroups. Recommendations for representatives of these subgroups will be presented at the December 10th Commission meeting. He further recommended that Commissioners chair each of these regional subgroup meetings which will consist of approximately 10 meetings (two in each sub-region). He stressed the importance of keeping the Commissioners fully engaged in this process.

Mr. Young stated that he would mail the Commissioners the outline of the meeting held earlier in the week. He asked that the Commissioners contact him in advance of the December 10th Commission meeting if there were any questions. Dates for the upcoming meetings will be discussed at a Work Group meeting on December 17th and will be made available to the Commissioners.

Mr. Anderson inquired as to who would be supplying the technical data. Mr. Young advised that it will be staff and contractors.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

CONSIDERATION OF SERIES RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$30,000,000.00 STATE OF ARKANSAS WATER, WASTE DISPOSAL AND POLLUTION ABATEMENT FACILITIES OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2013 – Mr. Bennett introduced Mr. Jim Fowler, with Raymond James and Company, Inc., who highlighted the sale of the bonds. The bonds were very attractive to the market as evidenced by the large number of bidders.

Mr. Bennett advised that the bond attorneys were also present to field any questions the Commissioners may have. Upon motion Dr. Lamkin, second by Mr. Anderson, the Commission adopted the Series Resolution for the 2013 Series General Obligation Bonds as presented.

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Bennett presented staff recommendations for the referenced projects below requesting financial assistance from the Water Development Fund (WDF), and the Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal and Pollution Abatement Facilities General Obligation Bond Program (CGO).

Upon motion by Mr. Carter, second by Mr. Richardson, the Commission approved the following recommendations:

DANVILLE (YELL COUNTY) (WDF)

Up to \$350,200.00

PURPOSE OF FUNDS: To replace a 16 inch asbestos cement water line from the water treatment plant and a 6 inch water line and meter station to serve Havana and points west.

The Commission approved a loan for Danville in an amount up to **\$350,200.00** from the Water Development Fund. This loan is for twenty (20) years at three percent (3%) interest. An administrative fee in an amount up to \$10,200.00 is to be retained by the Commission. Approval is contingent upon the city establishing and maintaining a depreciation reserve fund.

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS PUBLIC WATER AUTHORITY (LAWRENCE COUNTY) (WDF)

Up to \$32,960.00

PURPOSE OF FUNDS: To stabilize the intake structure on Spring River.

The Commission approved a grant for Northeast Arkansas Public Water Authority in an amount up to **\$32,960.00** from the Water Development Fund. An administrative fee in an amount up to \$960.00 is to be retained by the Commission. Approval is contingent upon the authority establishing and maintaining a depreciation reserve fund.

PARKERS CHAPEL WATER AUTHORITY (UNION COUNTY) (WDF)

Up to \$298,700.00

PURPOSE OF FUNDS: To make improvements to serve the Beulah Grove area. Current system will discontinue operations and allow Parkers Chapel to serve the area.

The Commission approved a grant for Parkers Chapel Water Authority in an amount up to **\$298,700.00** from the Water Development Fund. An administrative fee in an amount up to \$8,700.00 is to be retained by the Commission. Approval is contingent upon the authority establishing and maintaining a depreciation reserve fund.

WHITE RIVER REGIONAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT (ARKANSAS COUNTY) (WDF)

Up to \$400,000.00

PURPOSE OF FUNDS: To provide interim funding for construction of the Grand Prairie Demonstration project until permanent financing is available.

The Commission approved a deferred loan for the White River Regional Irrigation district in an amount up to **\$400,000.00** from the Water Development Fund. This deferred loan is for ten (10) years with a repayment schedule of eight (8) years at five percent (5%) interest. Payment upon principal is to be deferred for two (2) years and interest to be waived for two (2) years. Disbursements will be made incrementally on an as needed basis. The Commission will not collect an administrative fee on these funds. This loan is to be repaid when permanent financing becomes available.

STATE REVOLVING FUND MATCH (CGO)

Up to **\$2,000,000.00**

PURPOSE OF FUNDS: To provide matching funds for the USEPA grants for the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund.

The Commission approved a grant from the Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal and Pollution Abatement Facilities General Obligation Bond Program in the amount listed above to the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission for the State's matching funds for the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund. The Executive Director is authorized to transfer grant funds to the Arkansas Development Finance Authority as he determines necessary.

DEOBLIGATION OF FUNDS BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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

FELSENTHAL (UNION COUNTY) (00954-WSSW-L)

\$247,200.00

Town chose not to go forward with the loan.

CONSERVATION DIVISION

APPOINTMENTS TO CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARDS

Upon motion by Mr. Hunton, second by Mr. Feilke, the Commission approved the following appointments:

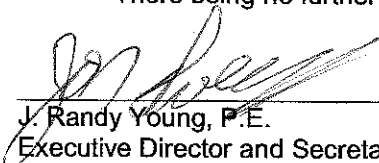
APPOINTMENTS

Grant County CD
Perry County CD
Sebastian County CD

Jerry Hamilton
Karla Bull
Douglas Ellison
Jeffery Efurd

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.


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

Jon Sweeney, PE
Deputy Director/Chief Engineer
Acting for: J. Randy Young, PE

12-12-13
Date

