

ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
January 17, 2024

The regular meeting of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) was held via Zoom on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 9:30 a.m.

Commissioners in attendance were as follows: Chairman Eddie Glover, Commissioner Neal Anderson, Commissioner Bruce Leggitt, Commissioner William Anderson, Commissioner JoAnne Bush, Commissioner Roy Reaves, Commissioner Bill Poynter and Commissioner Will Brewer. Vice Chairman Jamie Burr was not able to participate in the meeting.

Staff members in attendance included: Chris Colclasure, Director; Ryan Benefield, Deputy Director; Debra Dickson, Water Development Section Manager; Leah Johannes, Program Fiscal Manager; Matthew Brooks, Engineer Supervisor; Megan Perkins, Conservation Program Coordinator; Mary Elizabeth Lea, Agriculture Program Specialist; Blake Forrest, Groundwater Geology Supervisor; Tate Wentz, Water Quality Section Manager; Whit Montague, Dam Safety Supervisor; Jay Whisker, State Water Engineer Supervisor; Fred Wiedower, Deputy CFO of Department of Agriculture; and Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture and others attending virtually.

A list of guests is attached to the minutes.

Chairman Gover called the ANRC meeting to order, and roll was called.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: November 15, 2023

Upon motion by Mr. William Anderson, seconded by Mr. Neal Anderson, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting held on November 15, 2023.

REIMBURSEMENT OPTIONS:

Upon motion by Mrs. JoAnne Bush, seconded by Mr. Bruce Leggitt, the Commission unanimously approved option 1.

Every state board may ... authorize expenses reimbursement for each board member for performing official board duties. The expenses reimbursement shall not exceed the rate established for state employees. These expenses shall include travel expenses such as:

Mileage:\$0.52/mile

Lodging:
Standard:\$107/night
Hot Springs: \$111/night

Meals/incidentals* (overnight stays only):
Standard: \$44.25/day
Hot Springs: \$48.00/day

*Meals and incidentals include costs such as parking and telephone charges, etc.

Note: The meals and incidentals amount above is reflective of first and last day of travel, which by rule is reduced by 25%. The listed rate is consistent with standard commission meetings.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR – Director Colclasure began by highlighting events occurring within the Arkansas Natural Resources Division (NRD):

General Agency

- **General Obligation Bond Work Plan** has been reviewed by the Department of Finance and Administration, Legislative Council and has been sent to the Governor’s office for proclamation consideration and we have received a favorable response so we should have it back soon. We hope to have a series resolution before you in February.
- **Administrative Rules** – we are processing rule changes as part of the 2023 legislative session. As you will see we have three rules on this agenda at various stages of the process and others that we are changing to match recent law changes.
 - **Commission approval of the draft**
 - **30-day public comment period and public hearing (filing on the Secretary of State’s website)**
 - **Commission final review and approval**
 - **Rules Committee**
- **Conservation District Strategic Planning** - we held a two-day strategic planning process focused on conservation districts. We are working with our partners to better position districts conservation delivery. One area of note is the improving how we communicate natural resource priorities across the state. Partners in the effort include Conservation Districts, AACD, AACDE, NRCS, AGFC, Cooperative Extension, NRD (William Anderson) and the Forestry Division.
- **Alliance Project** - We are seeking appropriation to spend the funds. We have scheduled a training with the districts on January 30. We intend to implement the program in: Jefferson, Arkansas, Drew, Lincoln, St. Francis, Craighead, and Cleveland Counties. Under the program producers will be eligible to receive \$100/acre for implementing climate smart practices (\$15 million over three years). We will target 800-1,000 producers across the 6-7 counties.
 - Targets under the program include:
 - Cropland Acres 74,384
 - Pasture/Range Acres 30,310
 - Animal Units 22,707
- **General Peoples visit** - We hosted Brigadier General Kimberly Peoples of the US Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Division in late November. We were able to meet with the Governor’s Office and tour both the Bayou Meto and Grand Prairie projects.
- **Water Plan** - The Corps is very close to awarding the contract for the state water plan. We anticipate our first kick off meeting to occur within the next two weeks. This will be the first step before starting the scoping process and stakeholder engagement.

- **Levee Study** – We are working cooperatively with the Commissioner of State Lands Office and the Corps on Levee Inventory project. We are in the very early stages, but the goal is to create a statewide inventory of all the levees in the state.
- **Reminder about Statements of Financial Interest due 1/31/24**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REPORT – Mr. Fred Wiedower, Deputy CFO of the Department of Agriculture presented the financial assistance report dated December 31, 2023.

Commissioner Reaves asked how are the investment were handled? Mr. Wiedower stated this is in a state treasury cash fund and the state treasury pays interest based on all the state whole funding within the treasury. It’s a competitive rate.

INTERNAL CONTROL AND COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT

Upon motion by Mrs. JoAnne Bush, seconded by Mr. Roy Reaves, the Commission unanimously approved the audit by Arkansas Legislature Audit.

WATER PROVIDER FINAL RULE AMENDMENTS (ACT 545)

Upon motion by Mr. Roy Reaves, seconded by Mr. William Anderson, the Commission unanimously approved the amendments to Act 605 of 2021 through Acts 545 and 691 of 2023.

Jay Whisker, State Water Engineer Supervisor with the Water Management section at NRD presented the amendments to Act 605 of 2021 through Acts 545 and 691 of 2023 were passed during the 2021 General Legislative Session.

Act 545

- Eliminated the requirement for a rate study to be completed before a provider begins a major development project.
- Provided clarification on the appropriate use for funds held in a required refurbishment and replacement account; and
- Added flexibility to the time requirement for providers to implement the new rates determined by a rate study.

Act 691

- Repealed language that established a deadline of December 31,2022 for current members of provider boards to receive provider training; and
- Abolish the water provider training advisory board provided for in Ark. Code Ann. § 14-234-805.

REPEAL OF POULTRY REGISTRATION RULES (ACT 600)

Upon motion by Mr. William Anderson, seconded by Mr. Neal Anderson, the Commission unanimously approved the amendments to Act 600.

Megan Perkins, Conservation Program Coordinator with the Conservation section at NRD presented the amendments to Act 600 that was passed during the 2023 General Legislative Session.

Act 600

- Transferred the Poultry Feeding Operations Registration Program to the Department of Agriculture.
- Repealed the subsection which provide that portions of the registration program may be delegated to conservation districts.
- Repealed the subsection providing that conservation districts mat retain a portion of the annual registration fee.

CONSERVATIONS DISTRICT RULE AMENDMENTS (ACT 690)

Upon motion by Mr. Roy Reaves, seconded by Mr. William Anderson, the Commission unanimously approved the amendments to Act 690.

Megan Perkins, Conservation Program Coordinator with the Conservation section at NRD presented the amendments to Act 690 and 691 that were presented and passed in the 2023 General Legislative Section.

Act 690

- Act 690 transferred the responsibilities of a conservation district election from the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission to the governing body of the conservation district. The governing body as defined by ACA 14-125-301 “The governing body of the district shall consist of five (5) directors, elected or appointed pursuant to this chapter.”
- The governing body of the district is responsible for:
 - All expense of the election.
 - Supervise the conduct of the election.
 - Publish the results and report results of the election to the Secretary of State.
 - Appointed directors constitute the District Election Committee, which shall conduct the election on behalf of the district.
- Changes made to this law reflect current practice as dictated in Title 2 with responsibility shifting from the Executive Director the Arkansas Natural Resources Division to the governing body of the district. Therefore, in practice the basic procedures for an election have not changed.
- The legislation does not impact the current terms of elected directors, the district election cycles, nor the date an election is held, 2nd Tuesday in March. The legislation also does not impact the qualifications of an elector.

Act 691

- Act 691 transferred the responsibilities of the appointment and reappointment of conservation district directors from Arkansas Natural Resources Commission to the elected directors of a conservation district.
- In practice, the basic procedures for appointment and reappointment remain the same. Qualifications for appointment and reappointment do not change.

Stylistic Changes

- Minor name changes and stylistic changes were made for consistency with other Department rules.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT SECTION - Mrs. Debby Dickson presented staff recommendations for the referenced project below requesting financial assistance and change in funding from the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF), Arkansas Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) and General Obligation Bond Fund (CGO).

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Upon motion by Mr. Neal Anderson, seconded by Mr. Will Brewer, the Commission unanimously approved the following staff recommendations for financial assistance.

Beebe, City of		\$3,999,730	
Hidden Valley Subdivision Gravity Sewer Expansion			
Total Project Cost	\$3,999,730.00	Program Funding	CWSRF
Loan	\$3,999,730.00	Median Household Income	\$51,975
Principal Forgiveness	\$0.00	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	46.54%
Initial RBF	0.5%	Population Served	8,437
Final RBF	0.62%	County	White

Project Description:

The proposed project includes approximately 9,700 linear feet of gravity sewer main including US Highway 67/167 road bore for the Hidden Valley Subdivision Extension. This work entails only the extension of the main to the edge of the subdivision.

Recommendation:

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$3,999,730.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the City of Beebe from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund. If approved, the executive director will establish any necessary terms and conditions.

Authorize the executive director of the commission division the discretionary authority to increase the amount of financial assistance to the applicant for bid overruns by an amount up to 10% of the commission funding amount \$399,973.00 without returning to the commission for approval. Such increase in financial assistance shall be granted only after consultation with the commission chairman. Any financial assistance increases pursuant to this section shall be reported to the commission in its entirety at the next regularly scheduled commission meeting.

Walnut Ridge, City of		\$3,600,000	
Water Service Line Inventory & Replacement			
Total Project Cost	\$3,600,000.00	Program Funding	DWSRF
Loan	\$147,600.00	Median Household Income	\$39,784
Loan-Lead Service Line	\$3,452,400.00	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	40.49%

Initial RBF	0.74%	Population Served	5,384
Final RBF	1.01%	County	Lawrence

Project Description:

The proposed project consist of completing all work necessary to make the City of Walnut Ridge compliant with the revised EPA Lead & Copper rule by October 2024. The City does not have a robust inventory of meter locations or service types in a georeferenced format, and a survey of all system meters must be performed to develop an intial inventory. Once surveying is complete, a list of service line types and conditions must be generated on both the customer side and utility side of each meter. Field work exposing and observe the service line on each side of the meter will be required. Information about each meter will be documented and used to develop a comprehensive service line inventory in accordance with the requirements of the revised Lead & Copper rule.

Recommendation:

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$147,600.00 from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund and a loan in the amount of \$3,452,400.00 from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund – Lead Service Line to the City of Walnut Ridge. If approved, the executive director will establish any necessary terms and conditions.

Authorize the executive director of the commission division the discretionary authority to increase the amount of financial assistance to the applicant for bid overruns by an amount up to 10% of the commission funding amount \$360,000.00 without returning to the commission for approval. Such increase in financial assistance shall be granted only after consultation with the commission chairman. Any financial assistance increases pursuant to this section shall be reported to the commission in its entirety at the next regularly scheduled commission meeting.

Community Water System		\$2,000,000	
Water Treatment Plant Expansion-Engineering			
Total Project Cost	\$2,000,000.00	Program Funding	DWSRF
Loan	\$2,000,000.00	Median Household Income	\$48,400
Principal Forgiveness	\$0.00	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	36.65%
Initial RBF	1.06%	Population Served	18,000
Final RBF	1.29%	County	Cleburne

Project Description:

The proposed project is for engineering design only, a separate funding application will be made for funding the construction. Community Water System currently operates a ten million gallon per day water treatment plant on Greers Ferry Lake. CWS has experienced usage nearing existing capacity limit; a capacity expansion is required to meet current and future needs.

Recommendation:

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$2,000,000.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the Community Water System from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund. If approved, the executive director will establish any necessary terms and conditions.

Authorize the executive director of the commission division the discretionary authority to increase the amount of financial assistance to the applicant for bid overruns by an amount up to 10% of the commission funding amount \$200,000.00 without returning to the commission for approval. Such increase in financial assistance shall be granted only after consultation with the commission chairman. Any financial assistance increases pursuant to this section shall be reported to the commission in its entirety at the next regularly scheduled commission meeting.

Central Arkansas Water		\$1,000,000	
2024 Lead & Copper Revised Rule Compliance Project			
Total Project Cost	\$1,000,000.00	Program Funding	DWSRF
Loan	\$1,000,000.00	Median Household Income	\$56,928
Principal Forgiveness	\$0.00	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	44.38%
Initial RBF	*%	Population Served	365,000
Final RBF	*%	County	Pulaski

Project Description:

The proposed project is a critical initiative aimed at ensuring the delivery of safe and lead-free drinking water to our community. CAW has spent a significant amount of resources dedicated to eliminating lead from their distribution system following the Flint, MI crisis in 2016 and prior to the filing of the EPA’s Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) in December 2020 (with an effective date of the LCRR being December 16, 2021, and the compliance date of October 16, 2024). CAW’s Lead Service Line (LSL) Replacement program replaced the vast majority of all remaining lead service lines at a cost of nearly \$370,000; with the majority spent in 2018 and 2019. CAW’s 2024 LCRR Compliance Project is a comprehensive initiative designed to continue to address the critical need for safeguarding the health and well-being of our community by ensuring the delivery of safe and lead-free drinking water. This project will focus on surveying and identifying service line materials, creating a comprehensive service line inventory, and implementing necessary measures to achieve full compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) revised Lead and Copper Rule.

Recommendation:

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$1,000,000.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to Central Arkansas Water from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund. If approved, the executive director will establish any necessary terms and conditions.

Authorize the executive director of the commission division the discretionary authority to increase the amount of financial assistance to the applicant for bid overruns by an amount up to 10% of the commission funding amount \$100,000.00 without returning to the commission for approval. Such increase in financial assistance shall be granted only after consultation with the commission chairman. Any financial assistance increases pursuant to this section shall be reported to the commission in its entirety at the next regularly scheduled commission meeting.

Freedom Public Water Authority		\$1,535,455	
Water System Improvements			
Total Project Cost	\$1,535,455.00	Program Funding	DWSRF
Loan	\$1,535,455.00	Median Household Income	\$43,750
Principal Forgiveness	\$0.00	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	44.87%
Initial RBF	1.66%	Population Served	2,061
Final RBF	2.62%	County	Polk

Project Description:

The proposed project is to replace approximately 775 of the existing meters with new meters and to rehabilitate the existing Highway 8 West and Hatfield water towers to include blasting and recoating the interior and exterior, extending the overflow pipe, roof vent, and other associated appurtenances. The Authority also proposes adding a leak detection mapping system.

Recommendation:

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$1,535,455.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the Freedom Public Water Authority from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund. If approved, the executive director will establish any necessary terms and conditions.

Authorize the executive director of the commission division the discretionary authority to increase the amount of financial assistance to the applicant for bid overruns by an amount up to 10% of the commission funding amount \$153,545.00 without returning to the commission for approval. Such increase in financial assistance shall be granted only after consultation with the commission chairman. Any financial assistance increases pursuant to this section shall be reported to the commission in its entirety at the next regularly scheduled commission meeting.

INCREASE IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

Upon motion by Mrs. JoAnne Bush, seconded by Mr. Neal Anderson, the Commission unanimously approved the following staff recommendations for an increase in financial assistance.

Oak Grove Water Users Association		\$1,339,000	
Additional Funding for Storage Tank & Pump Station Installation			
Total Project Cost	\$5,564,060.00	Program Funding	CGO
Loan	\$1,339,000.00	Median Household Income	\$37,966

Principal Forgiveness	\$0.00	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	54.65%
Initial RBF	0.93%	Population Served	3,402
Final RBF	1.19%	County	Crawford

Project Description:

The Commission previously approved an amount up to \$3,195,060 in a loan from the Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal, and Pollution Abatement Facilities General Obligation Bond Fund at the July 2021 commission meeting to fund the Storage Tank and Pump Station Installation project. Oak Grove Water Users Association (OGWUA) is requesting additional funding and expansion of the scope.

This request is driven by a proposed rate increase from the water supplier, Van Buren Municipal Utilities (VBMU). VBMU reads all the OGWUA water meters, which are currently manual-read meters. VBMU incurs significant labor cost associated with manual-read meters and notified OGWUA of an increase to the service rate associated with manual-read meters, anticipated increase of 110%. VBMU does not anticipate an increase to the service rate associated with radio read meters, since that type of meter requires significantly less labor cost to read. Therefore, OGWUA has elected to upgrade all system water meters to radio read meters, to avoid this rate increase from VBMU.

In November of 2022, the Commission approved an additional funding request to bring the total funding in an amount up to \$4,225,060 for the installation of a new 500,000-gallon elevated storage tank and pump station. The inadequately sized storage tanks have different overflow elevations with one tank out of service to prevent operational issues. The new storage tank will also allow the WUA to meet the required 24-hour net-effective storage demand while also increasing the overall system pressure due to its higher elevation. In addition, this project will increase available fire protection flow throughout the system.

Recommendation:

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$1,339,000 (including a 3% origination fee) and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the Oak Grove Water Users Association from the Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal, and Pollution Abatement Facilities General Obligation Bond Fund. If approved, the executive director will establish any necessary terms and conditions.

Authorize the executive director of the commission division the discretionary authority to increase the amount of financial assistance to the applicant for bid overruns by an amount up to 10% of the commission funding amount \$130,000.00 without returning to the commission for approval. Such increase in financial assistance shall be granted only after consultation with the commission chairman. Any financial assistance increases pursuant to this section shall be reported to the commission in its entirety at the next regularly scheduled commission meeting.

Ratcliff, City of		\$1,000,000	
Change in Scope			
Total Project Cost	\$1,000,000.00	Program Funding	DWSRF
Loan	\$1,000,000.00	Median Household Income	\$35,891
Principal Forgiveness	\$0.00	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	32.43%

Initial RBF	1.15%	Population Served	2,306
Final RBF	1.51%	County	Logan

Project Description:

The Commission approved \$1,595,689, in the form of a loan, on November 15, 2023. Following the approval the City discovered the system had a issue with one its tanks on Booneville Mountain. This has resulted in the request to postpone the Lead Pipe Replacement project and address the water storage tanks. There are two tanks at the site and the older steel tank developed a significant leak. Maguire Iron was contacted to repair the tank and it was drained for the repair and inspected. The interior of the tank has significant degrading of the metal and alot of scaling has formed. Once it is cleaned, Maguire stated that more leaks would likely develop and a lot more repairs would be required. The amount to repair the tank would not add any significant life to the tank, so it has been recommended to remove and replace. We are requesting that the this current application be modified to allow the city to do the tank replacement and only a small portion of the main extensions. We are also asking that the maximum loan amount be reduced to \$1 million as this will be the maximum the utility would like to have its rates absorb at this time.

Recommendation:

Recommend the Commission approve the change in scope and reduce the loan to an amount up to \$1,000,000.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the City of Ratcliff from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund. If approved, the executive director will establish any necessary terms and conditions.

Authorize the executive director of the commission division the discretionary authority to increase the amount of financial assistance to the applicant for bid overruns by an amount up to 10% of the commission funding amount \$100,000.00 without returning to the commission for approval. Such increase in financial assistance shall be granted only after consultation with the commission chairman. Any financial assistance increases pursuant to this section shall be reported to the commission in its entirety at the next regularly scheduled commission meeting.

Mena, City of		\$7,750,000	
Additional Funding for Iron Forks Water Treatment Plant			
Total Project Cost	\$22,912,500.00	Program Funding	DWSRF
Loan	\$7,750,000.00	Median Household Income	\$33,553
Principal Forgiveness	\$0.00	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	44.87%
Initial RBF	0.89%	Population Served	5,647
Final RBF	1.10%	County	Polk

Project Description:

The City of Mena was first approved for \$7,000,000, at the May 26, 2021, Commission meeting. After opening bids, it was discovered that additional funds will be required to complete the project. The purpose of this project is to replace the existing clear well and high service pump station to comply with the ADH requirements and replace the existing treatment process equipment that has reached or exceeded its expected service life. In addition, upgrades will be made to bring the remainder of the facility up to current design standards. The proposed project will also upgrade the controls and electrical systems at the Raw Water Pump Station; replace the two (2) existing Solids Contact Clarifier

mechanisms; replace the filter media, valves, and controls in the existing Gravity Filters; construct a central Chemical Building and provide redundant chemical feed pumps; replace the lime feed equipment and recoat the existing lime silo; construct a new baffled Clearwell; construct a new High Service Pump Station; upgrade the plant electrical system; rehabilitate the existing operations building; construct a new Maintenance Building, and make general improvements to the plant site. These proposed improvements will reduce the workload on the limited available staff at the WTP by increasing automation, decrease the risk of a critical process unit failing, and allow the existing Irons Fork WTP to continue to serve the City of Mena and Polk County for the next 20 years.

Recommendation:

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$7,750,000.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the City of Mena from the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund. If approved, the executive director will establish any necessary terms and conditions.

Authorize the executive director of the commission division the discretionary authority to increase the amount of financial assistance to the applicant for bid overruns by an amount up to 10% of the commission funding amount \$775,000.00 without returning to the commission for approval. Such increase in financial assistance shall be granted only after consultation with the commission chairman. Any financial assistance increases pursuant to this section shall be reported to the commission in its entirety at the next regularly scheduled commission meeting.

DE-OBLIGATION OF DUNDS:

Mrs. Debby Dickson reported on the below referenced funds to be de-obligated from the Arkansas Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) and Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF).

Recipient	Agreement # or Project #	Commission Date	Amount Approved (Up to)	Amount De-Obligated	Fund	Comments
Clinton, City of	01182-DWSRF-L	09/19/2018	\$1,000,000	\$467.67	DWSRF	Project Complete
Texarkana Water Utilities	23-148	09/15/2023	\$3,551,000	\$3,551,000	DWSRF	Declined Funding
Texarkana Water Utilities	23-149	09/15/2023	\$1,533,000	\$1,533,000	DWSRF	Declined Funding
Texarkana Water Utilities	23-150	09/15/2023	\$3,240,000	\$3,240,000	DWSRF	Declined Funding
Altheimer, City of	02387-DW-L	11/15/2023	\$1,606,172	\$1,606,172	DWSRF	Declined Funding
Lincoln, City of	02449-CW-L	11/15/2023	\$1,425,000	\$1,425,000	CWSRF	Declined Funding
North White County Rural PFB	02395-DW-L	11/15/2023	\$2,721,045	\$2,721,045	DWSRF	Declined Funding
Trumann, City of	02345-DW-L	11/15/2023	\$1,151,782	\$1,151,782	DWSRF	Declined Funding

AMERICAN RESUCE PLAN ACT (ARPA) – Ryan Benefield, Deputy Director gave an update on ARPA funding.

ARPA Schedule

Construction Start Date Deadline

March 31, 2024

Construction Complete Deadline

December 31, 2026

Items Complete to Date

- 107 agreements fully executed, \$57,133,232.65 disbursed – 21%.
 - 25 agreements fully disbursed.
- Fund De-Obligated
 - Felsenthal \$398,504 DW (declined)
 - Lincoln \$287,790 DW (declined)
 - Lewisville \$150,380,11 DW
 - Bearden \$111,143,72 DW
 - Lewisville \$420,024.53 WW
 - **Total** **\$1,367,842.36**
- Drinking Water waitlist #1 Cleveland County awarded - \$1,000,000.
- 61 projects currently under construction.
- 25 projects are 100% complete.

Next Steps

- Work to get all projects under construction by March 31, 2024.
- Ensure all project bid documents have project completion deadlines prior to November 2026.
- Prepare to authorize additional funding in May to projects where bids exceed available funding.
- Award de-obligated funds to waitlist projects capable of meeting project deadlines.
- Complete disbursement of all funds by December 31, 2026

Commissioner William Anderson asked can we partially fund a project with ARPA money? Mr. Benefield stated we can. Any project that got completed and work done after March 2021 was potentially eligible for these funds. Even if they are complete and we have to use this money to reimburse them for loans.

Mr. Chris Colclasure asked if the projects on the waiting list that weren't award ARPA funds up front decide to move forward with their projects will they be in better shape, should we get down to them sense they started? Mr. Benefield stated correct, that is where the criteria is, can you meet the deadlines.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Activity reports were presented by Mike Sullivan, USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Debbie Moreland, Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), Mike Daniels, UA Cooperative Extension, Dr. Bruce McGowan, UA of Pine Bluff (UAPB), Drew

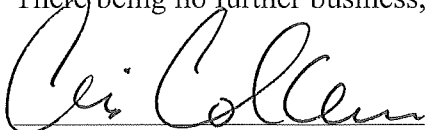
Westerman, US Geological Survey (USGS), Bailey Talor, Division of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) and Jaysson Funkhouser, Crops of Engineers.

OTHER

Reminder next Commission meeting is February 28 in North Little Rock in conjunction with Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) annual meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the commission unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.



Chris Colclasure
Director

3/5/23
Date