

**ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**  
**September 20, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) was held in person and via Zoom on Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 8:33 a.m. at the Department of Agriculture, 1 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205.

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

Staff members in attendance included: Chris Colclasure, Director; Ryan Benefield, Deputy Director; Debby Dickson, Water Development Section Manager; Matthew Brooks, Engineer Supervisor; Leah Johannes, Program Fiscal Manager; Dewania Coleman, Program Fiscal Manager; 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; Michael Bynum, Attorney, Inoussa Zaki, Chief Fiscal Officer and Wes Ward, Arkansas Secretary of Agriculture and others attending virtually.

A list of guests is attached to the minutes.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: July 12, 2023**

*Upon motion by Mr. William Anderson, seconded by Mrs. JoAnne Bush, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the meetings held on July 12, 2023.*

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

**General Agency**

- The Arkansas Department Finance Authority successfully closed on \$120 million in revenue bonds for the State Revolving Fund Program. This is the first bond sale in this program since 2011. We will use these funds to boost our available cash flow for water and wastewater projects.
- On July 24, 2023, we issued a Non-Riparian Permit to the Saline Regional Public Water Authority to withdraw water from the Ouachita River for drinking water. This permit will be good for 50 years and gives them the ability to withdraw up to 24,643 acre-feet annually (22 MGD), with certain conditions. As you recall, we held a public hearing and had a public comment period.

- We have requested two 1 - year extensions for our feral hog funding. One extension was approved by USDA APHIS for a NE Arkansas Feral Hog project, and one is pending from NRCS for the 12-county feral hog pilot through conservation districts.
- We are engaging in two large contracts that were reviewed by the Arkansas Legislature last week. One is with Freeze and Nichols out of Fort Worth Texas who will be conducting a navigation feasibility study on the Red River in Southwest Arkansas. The study is being conducted in partnership with Louisiana and will cost approximately \$2.7 million. The second contract is with Horner and Shifrin, Inc out of St. Louis MO to conduct lead service line inventory for communities with a population of \$50,000 or less. This inventory is in partnership with the Arkansas Department of Health and the contract is estimated at \$1.2 million. This inventory will help guide the lead service line funding from the Infrastructure and Investment and Jobs Act.
- Governor Sanders issued an executive order on August 21<sup>st</sup> directing the Department of Agriculture and us to conduct a comprehensive analysis and report of Arkansas' water needs and update the Arkansas Water Plan. This is something that we are excited to get started on and appreciate the Governor's Leadership around water resources. Following the executive order, we began finalizing an agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers to begin the scoping component of the plan which will focus on what do we need to change from the current plan (2014). This is where we take a hard look at the vision, goals, and objectives and available water use demands and projections. The first phase will take about a year and the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will take approximately 2 years.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REPORT** - Mr. Inoussa Zaki, Chief Fiscal Officer, presented the financial assistance report dated August 31, 2023. There were no questions.

**LEGAL** – Mr. Michael Bynum, attorney with the Department of Agriculture had nothing to report, he will be the NRD interim attorney for the time being. Going forward the number one priority will be keep the duties moving, making sure staff has day by day services they need.

**IRRIGATION PROJECT UPDATE** – Megan Perkins, Conservation Program Coordinator with the Conservation section at NRD gave an update on the irrigation projects.

- Bayou Meto - Canal 1,000 phase 3.1 construction has continued with the contactor back on site, should finish when the next month. There was a site visit last week. Phase 3.2 designs are complete, real estate acquisition are ongoing, expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year. For contactor awards early 2024. Expected to be completed by 2026.
- Grand Prairie – Sub Pump station contract is the final stages of being awarded. 18 month contract at the longest. Entergy will handle the work; they have some deigns work to complete. Construction to start next year. Pump station reprocurement has been put out to bid, will close on August 17. Waiting on the final discussion from the Corp. This work will complete the pump station. Phase 1 canal completed by summer 2024.
- White River Irrigation District is fully funded for the first 12 miles of canal, construction 55 miles of irrigation pile line. Phase 2 to start next year.

**CLEAN WATER SURVEY** – Rudd Coffey, with Northbridge Environmental reported on the Clean Water Needs Survey. The survey is an assessment of capital investment needed nationwide for publicly owned wastewater collection and treatment facilities to meet the water quality goals of the Clean Water Act. The survey is required by Congress to be conducted every 4 years. The information collected by the Clean Water Needs Survey is used strictly to generate a report to Congress quantifying the nation’s total wastewater infrastructure needs and not for compliance with or regulatory purposes. The data collected for Arkansas was conducted over 2022.

**THOMAS POND PETITION** – Whit Montague, Engineer Supervisor with Dam Safety section at NRD presented a petition from Travis Hubbard that would require Bobby K. Davis, the dam owner, to comply with permitting and dam safety rules, Ark. Code Ann. § 15-22-214. Mrs. Montague recommends the Commission deny the request on the grounds of the petitioner, downstream residents, and the dam owner agree the deleterious impact on releases from Thomas Pond Dam can be alleviated through improvements of the downstream drainage system and the dam; and Thomas Pond Dam is a small, low hazard structure; and does not present an immediate danger to human life.

*Upon motion by Mr. Neal Anderson, seconded by Mr. Bill Poynter, the Commission unanimously approved to deny Thomas Pond Petition.*

**GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND WORK PLAN** – Ryan Benefield, Deputy Director of NRD presented the General Obligation Bond Work Plan. We have entered a new biennium and with every new biennium we do a work plan and request approval of selling obligation bonds.

Cheryl Schluterman, Director with Raymond James presented the GO Bonds workplan. Bonds were issued by the State, acting by and through the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, pursuant to the Arkansas Water, Waste Disposal and Pollution Abatement Facilities Financing Act of 2007; Act of 1997 and the Constitution of Arkansas.

Under the 2007 Act, the Commission is authorized to issue general obligation bonds of the State for non-refunding purposes upon authorization by the Governor in a total principal amount not to exceed \$300,000,000. No more than \$100,000,000 of such bonds may be issued to finance and refinance the development of irrigation facilities. After the issuance of the Series 2023 Bonds in the amount of \$43,000,000, the aggregate principal amount of bonds issued that count against the \$300,000,000 limitation is \$196,500,00, leaving a balance of \$103,500,000 authorized. The aggregate principal amount of such bonds issued that count against the \$100,000,000 irrigation facilities limited is \$50,000,000, leaving a balance of \$50,000,000 authorized.

Under the 1997 Act, the Commission is authorized to issue general obligation bonds of the State for non-refunding purposes upon authorized by the Governor in a total principal amount not to exceed \$260,345,000. After the issuance of the Series 2022A Bonds in the amount of \$23,535,000, no additional bonds may be issued under the 1997 Act.

*Upon motion by Mr. William Anderson, seconded by Mrs. JoAnne Bush, the Commission unanimously approved the general obligation bond workplan.*

**WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT SECTION**

*Upon motion by Mr. Neal Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Joanna Bush, the Commission unanimously approved the following staff recommendations for financial assistance and increased in financial assistance.*

Debra Dickson, Water Development Section Manager, with Water Resources Development section at NRD presented staff recommendations for the referenced project below requesting financial assistance and an increase in financial assistance from General Obligation Bond (CGO), Arkansas Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF), and Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (CWSRF).

**FINANICAL ASSISTANCE:**

**Mountain Home** **\$7,000,000**  
**Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Phase 2**

Total Project Cost	\$17,000,000.00	Program Funding	CGO
Loan	\$7,000,000.00	Median Household Income	\$40,606
Principal Forgiveness	\$0.00	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	36.75%
Initial RBF	0.89%	Population Served	12,825
Final RBF	1.28%	County	Baxter

**Project Description:**

The project is to replace and upgrade existing equipment at the wastewater treatment plant that is now 25 and 35 years old. It also includes eliminating the use of chlorine and sulfur dioxide gas for disinfection purposes being replaced with an ultraviolet disinfection system. The scope of work for the project is attached. Any failure of this aged treatment equipment can result in the wastewater treatment plant not meeting their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. A polluted discharge into Hicks Creek can cause degradation of the creek, which in turn flows into Big Creek and thence to the White River.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$7,000,000.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the City of Mountain Home 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 \$700,000.00 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.

**Paragould Light Water and Cable** **\$5,509,500**  
**WWTP Headworks Improvements**

Total Project Cost	\$7,346,000.00	Program Funding	CWSRF
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Loan	<b>\$5,509,500.00</b>	Median Household Income	<b>\$48,031</b>
Principal Forgiveness	<b>\$0.00</b>	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	<b>40.93%</b>
Initial RBF	<b>0.61%</b>	Population Served	<b>31,043</b>
Final RBF	<b>0.67%</b>	County	<b>Greene</b>

**Project Description:**

The WWTP Headworks Improvement Project consists of the demolition and removal of the existing headworks structure and grit structure. A new concrete structure will be constructed with (3) channels to house the (3) Vulcan mechanical screens, compactors, and washers. There will be (2) channels to feed the (2) Pista Grit vortex grit removal systems. After screening and grit removal a by-pass channel will utilize a weir gate to divert any flow exceeding 6 GD to our hydraulic overflow lagoon. A concrete apron with a curb and drain will be constructed to house a screening bopper and grit hopper. Also included in the project is all the piping, valves, fittings, and appurtenances necessary to connect to the existing piping.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$5,509,500.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the City of Paragould 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 \$550,950.00 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.

**Alzheimer**

**\$1,606,172**

**Elevated Water Tank, Waterline, and Meter Replacement**

Total Project Cost	<b>\$1,606,172.00</b>	Program Funding	<b>DWSRF</b>
Loan	<b>\$1,606,172.00</b>	Median Household Income	<b>\$26,221</b>
Principal Forgiveness	<b>\$0.00</b>	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	<b>39.79%</b>
Initial RBF	<b>1.16%</b>	Population Served	<b>696</b>
Final RBF	<b>3.52%</b>	County	<b>Jefferson</b>

**Project Description:**

The City proposes to install a new waterline from the new elevated tank to connect to an existing 6" waterline on W 6th Ave. The new waterline will consist of approximately 1,850-feet of SDR-21 PVC, 200-feet of 12" steel encasement for a road bore and a railroad bore. 100-feet of the SDR-21 PVC will be installed via open cut.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$1,606,172.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the City of Alzheimer 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 \$160,617.20 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.

**Arkadelphia** **\$4,250,000**  
**Water Service Line Inventory and Replacement**

Total Project Cost	<b>\$4,250,000.00</b>	Program Funding	<b>DWSRF</b>
Loan	<b>\$4,250,000.00</b>	Median Household Income	<b>\$32,883</b>
Principal Forgiveness	<b>\$0.00</b>	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	<b>51.48%</b>
Initial RBF	<b>0.47%</b>	Population Served	<b>10,380</b>
Final RBF	<b>0.66%</b>	County	<b>Clark</b>

**Project Description:**

The project consists of completing all work required to bring the city of Arkadelphia into compliance with the Revised Lead and Copper rule by October 2024. In order to facilitate this goal, several individual steps must take place.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$4,250,000.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the City of Arkadelphia 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 \$425,000.00 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.

**Ashdown** **\$12,510,650**  
**Water Distribution Improvements**

Total Project Cost	<b>\$12,510,650.00</b>	Program Funding	<b>DWSRF</b>
Loan	<b>\$12,510,650.00</b>	Median Household Income	<b>\$38,079</b>
Principal Forgiveness	<b>\$0.00</b>	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	<b>45.74%</b>
Initial RBF	<b>0.58%</b>	Population Served	<b>4,261</b>
Final RBF	<b>3.86%</b>	County	<b>Little River</b>

**Project Description:**

The City of Ashdown proposes to replace approximately 21,800 feet of 12 inch a water main, 4,100 of 10 inch water mains, 16,150 feet of 8 inch water mains, 81,300 of 6 inch water mains, 12,320 feet of 4 inch water mains, 8,900 feet of 3 inch water mains, 185 fire hydrants. According to the Sanitary Survey, the City of Ashdown has 50% of PVC water mains. The proposed project will replace the

remaining 50% cast-iron and galvanized water main. The proposed project will also include replacing existing meters with a drive-by system. The proposed project also includes an emergency connection to TWU in the event Ashdown's wells were to fail or require service.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$12,510,650.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the City of Ashdown 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 \$1,251,065.00 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 \$150,000,000  
Jack H. Wilson Water Treatment Plant Renewal and Resiliency Project**

Total Project Cost	<b>\$150,000,000.00</b>	Program Funding	<b>DWSRF</b>
Loan	<b>\$150,000,000.00</b>	Median Household Income	<b>\$54,011</b>
Principal Forgiveness	<b>\$0.00</b>	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	<b>43.20%</b>
Initial RBF	<b>*%</b>	Population Served	<b>500,000</b>
Final RBF	<b>*%</b>	County	<b>Pulaski</b>

**Project Description:**

The Wilson Water Treatment Plant Renewal and Resiliency Project includes approximately \$150 million worth of improvements, summarized in the recent 2021 comprehensive engineering report/study which documents condition and remaining useful life of the WTP and includes significant capital improvement recommendations to renew the plant as well as increase performance and plant optimization. The Wilson Water Treatment Plant is essential to Central Arkansas Waters's operations, and therefore critical to the supply of drinking water to about 500,000 people, or 1 in every 6 Arkansans. It is the largest water treatment plant in the state. This project involves improvements to rehabilitate the plant, restore its efficiency and effectiveness, and increase its functional life. The Wilson Plant is approaching 70 years old and has equipment that has been well maintained, but is at the end of its useful life, as well as components in need of structural rehabilitation.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$150,000,000.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the 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 \$15,000,000.00 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.

**Dorcheat PWA** **\$548,825**  
**Water Meter Replacement**

Total Project Cost	<b>\$548,825.00</b>	Program Funding	<b>DWSRF</b>
Loan	<b>\$548,825.00</b>	Median Household Income	<b>\$38,306</b>
Principal Forgiveness	<b>\$0.00</b>	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	<b>43.82%</b>
Initial RBF	<b>1.46%</b>	Population Served	<b>11,562</b>
Final RBF	<b>1.54%</b>	County	<b>Columbia</b>

**Project Description:**

The improvements will include replacing 800 existing water meters with an ultrasonic water meter system.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$548,825.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the Dorcheat 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 \$54,882.50 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.

**North White County Rural Water** **\$2,721,045**  
**Rocky Point Road Improvements**

Total Project Cost	<b>\$2,721,045.00</b>	Program Funding	<b>DWSRF</b>
Loan	<b>\$2,721,045.00</b>	Median Household Income	<b>\$44,791</b>
Principal Forgiveness	<b>\$0.00</b>	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	<b>38.72%</b>
Initial RBF	<b>1.40%</b>	Population Served	<b>5,973</b>
Final RBF	<b>1.40%</b>	County	<b>White</b>

**Project Description:**

The proposed project includes installation of a new 6” SDR-17 PVC water main along Rocky Point Road from Highway 258 to Bucks Road and a new 4” SDR-17 PVC water main along Rocky Point Road from Bucks Road to the termination of the system at the approximate northern corporate limits of the City of Judsonia (approximately 22,100 linear feet total). Additionally, the project includes a 3,100 linear feet extension along Bucks Road and connection to the existing 4” main at Yankee Road to create a loop in the Rocky Point Road region of the NOWCO System. Lastly, the project includes a 5,620 linear foot extension between Powder Fork Road and Capps Road to create a second loop in the Rocky Point Road region of the NOWCO System. The location of the project is along Rocky

Point Road from AR-2558 to the northern corporate limits of the City of Judsonia and southern extents of the North White County Rural Water service territory.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$2,721,045.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the North White County Rural 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 \$272,104.50 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.

**Paragould**

**\$9,482,814**

**Water Treatment Plant Upgrade**

Total Project Cost	<b>\$12,643,752.00</b>	Program Funding	<b>DWSRF</b>
Loan	<b>\$9,482,814.00</b>	Median Household Income	<b>\$48,031</b>
Principal Forgiveness	<b>\$0.00</b>	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	<b>40.93%</b>
Initial RBF	<b>0.45%</b>	Population Served	<b>31,043</b>
Final RBF	<b>0.61%</b>	County	<b>Greene</b>

**Project Description:**

This project involves treatment plant upgrades in order to upgrade system components at the Paragould Water Treatment Plant as well as install air flotation, plate settler or other clarifier type(s) in order to increase maximum plant capacity.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$9,482,814.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the City of Paragould 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 \$948,281.40 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.

**Wynne**

**\$4,300,000**

**Water Service Line Inventory and Replacement**

Total Project Cost	<b>\$4,300,000.00</b>	Program Funding	<b>DWSRF</b>
Loan	<b>\$4,300,000.00</b>	Median Household Income	<b>\$39,144</b>
Principal Forgiveness	<b>\$0.00</b>	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	<b>41.51%</b>

Initial RBF	<b>0.76%</b>	Population Served	<b>8,299</b>
Final RBF	<b>1.18%</b>	County	<b>Cross</b>

**Project Description:**

This project consists of completing all work required to bring the City of Wynne into compliance with the Revised Lead and Copper rule by October 2024.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$4,300,000.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the City of Wynne 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 \$430,000.00 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.

**Texarkana Water Utilities \$3,551,000**

**North State Line 36" Water Line Replacement**

Total Project Cost	<b>\$3,551,000.00</b>	Program Funding	<b>DWSRF</b>
Loan	<b>\$3,551,000.00</b>	Median Household Income	<b>\$41,707</b>
Principal Forgiveness	<b>\$0.00</b>	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	<b>46.83%</b>
Initial RBF	<b>1.10%</b>	Population Served	<b>29,387</b>
Final RBF	<b>1.28%</b>	County	<b>Miller</b>

**Project Description:**

This project replaces failing mainline transmission Cast Iron pipe that has shown continued deterioration over the past few years.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$3,551,000.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the City of Texarkana 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 \$355,100.00 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.

**Texarkana Water Utilities \$1,533,000**

**East Street 12" Water Line Replacement**

Total Project Cost	<b>\$1,533,000.00</b>	Program Funding	<b>DWSRF</b>
Loan	<b>\$1,533,000.00</b>	Median Household Income	<b>\$41,707</b>

Principal Forgiveness	\$0.00	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	46.83%
Initial RBF	1.10%	Population Served	29,387
Final RBF	1.24%	County	Miller

**Project Description:**

The East Street 12" Water Line Replacement project consists of replacing approximately 8,000 LF of 6" water mains along East Street, from Boyd Rd to Blackman Ferry Rd, and continuing south to Old Blackman Ferry Rd with 12" water mains. This project will result in an increase of water flow capacity, water pressure due to less dynamic loss, and available fire flow at nearby fire hydrants above 500 gpm.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$1,533,000.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the City of Texarkana 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 \$153,300.00 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.

**Texarkana Water Utilities**

**\$3,240,000**

**Lakewood Elevated Tank**

Total Project Cost	\$3,240,000.00	Program Funding	DWSRF
Loan	\$3,240,000.00	Median Household Income	\$41,707
Principal Forgiveness	\$0.00	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	46.83%
Initial RBF	1.10%	Population Served	29,387
Final RBF	1.29%	County	Miller

**Project Description:**

The Lakewood Elevated Tank project consists of the construction and installation of a 500,000-gallon Elevated Storage Tank that will replace an existing standpipe. The pressure plane currently has a standpipe for pressure maintenance, but no elevated storage; this project provides much greater operational flexibility within the Lakewood pressure plane. Additionally, the elevated tank will reduce Disinfection By-Product formation by eliminating the unusable storage volume in the current standpipe, as well as providing additional pressure storage.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$3,240,000.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the City of Texarkana 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 \$324,000.00 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.

**INCREASE IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:**

**Greenland** **\$3,204,000**

**Additional Funding for Wastewater System Rehabilitation**

Total Project Cost	<b>\$7,014,300.00</b>	Program Funding	<b>CWSRF</b>
Loan	<b>\$3,204,000.00</b>	Median Household Income	<b>\$63,489</b>
Principal Forgiveness	<b>\$0.00</b>	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	<b>37.79%</b>
Initial RBF	<b>0.44%</b>	Population Served	<b>1,259</b>
Final RBF	<b>1.99%</b>	County	<b>Washington</b>

**Project Description:**

The existing collection system and lift stations are 20 to 40 years old and are approaching or exceeding the end of their useful life. In addition, the existing lift stations and force mains are nearing capacity, especially during wet weather flows. The proposed project includes replacing existing lift station 18 (LS18) and corresponding force main. A new, larger wastewater lift station, approximately 6,200 feet of force main and approximately 5,300 feet of gravity main are required. In addition, a new supervisory control, and data acquisition (SCADA) system that will allow the City of Fayetteville and its wastewater facilities management contractor to actively monitor the new lift station in real time. A backup on-site natural gas generator will be installed as part of the project to ensure continued operations during power outages. Security fencing around the entire lift station site will be installed.

The project was approved for funding with a loan in an amount up to \$2,192,866 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$1,617,434 from the AR Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund program in 2021. Recent flow monitoring revealed the need for a larger lift station and force main than originally designed. An increased cost in construction materials and labor have also led to the need for additional funding to complete the project. In August 2022, the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission approved a request for an additional \$735,700 and in July 2023 an additional \$750,000 for components of this project. The total project cost, along with the applicant contribution of \$550,000, is \$9,050,000.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$3,204,000.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the City of Greenland 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 \$320,400.00 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.

**Dumas - Pickens****\$154,884****Additional Funding for Pickens Waterline Extension**

Total Project Cost	<b>\$531,878.93</b>	Program Funding	<b>DWSRF</b>
Loan	<b>\$154,884.00</b>	Median Household Income	<b>\$34,783</b>
Principal Forgiveness	<b>\$0.00</b>	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	<b>54.58%</b>
Initial RBF	<b>1.41%</b>	Population Served	<b>5,238</b>
Final RBF	<b>1.41%</b>	County	<b>Desha</b>

**Project Description:**

The City of Dumas is requesting funding for the installation of a waterline from Dumas connecting to the town of Pickens, estimated 9,300 feet. The construction of the waterline will allow Pickens to purchase wholesale water from the City of Dumas, thereby eliminating the need for Pickens to replace their aging tank. This regionalization of water distribution will provide Pickens with a more reliable source of water.

The project was approved for funding with a loan in an amount up to \$376,99 from the AR Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund program in 2021. An increased cost in construction materials and labor have also led to bid overruns. The City of Dumas is requesting an additional \$154,884 for total project cost of \$531,879 to award and complete this project.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$154,884.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the City of Dumas 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 \$15,488.40 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.

**Runyan Acres SID #211****\$8,155,412****Additional Funding for WWTP Improvements**

Total Project Cost	<b>\$8,931,412.00</b>	Program Funding	<b>CWSRF</b>
Loan	<b>\$8,155,412.00</b>	Median Household Income	<b>\$66,631</b>
Principal Forgiveness	<b>\$0.00</b>	Low to Moderate Income Percentage	<b>34.31%</b>
Initial RBF	<b>1.00%</b>	Population Served	<b>1,549</b>
Final RBF	<b>1.46%</b>	County	<b>Saline</b>

**Project Description:**

Runyan Acres Sewer Improvement District (SID) 211 serves an incorporated area north of Sherwood and west of Gravel Ridge and Jacksonville. Runyan Acres is approximately 15 miles north of Little Rock and 9 miles west of Jacksonville. The wastewater treatment plant is out of compliance of its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limitations. In the period from August 31, 2018, to August 31, 2021, Runyan Acres had 90 effluent violations including 40 fecal

coliform exceedances, 22 dissolved oxygen violations, 14 pH violations, 13 total suspended solids exceedances, and 1 nitrogen exceedance. The existing aeration basin and clarifier have experienced extensive deterioration and erosion. The activated sludge basin is creating enough water movement to go underneath the concrete apron and erode the clay bank. The erosion is causing the concrete to become unstable and break off into the sludge basin in numerous places and expose the clay bank to further erosion. The clarifier is full of algae which is leading to algae sloughing off into the weir and trough of the clarifier. Of this project, \$230,000 is budgeted for the new SCADA Monitoring System as part of the project's Cyber Security components. The SCADA system will provide system-wide monitoring and partial control of the wastewater treatment plant.

The project was approved for funding with a loan in an amount up to \$770,000 from the AR Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund program in June 2023. An increased cost in construction materials and labor have also led to an updated cost estimate, the district is requesting an additional \$8,155,412 for total project cost of \$8,931,412 to award and complete this project.

**Recommendation:**

Recommend the Commission approve a loan in an amount up to \$8,155,412.00 and a loan with principal forgiveness in an amount up to \$0.00 to the Runyan Acres Sewer Improvement District #211 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 \$815,541.20 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 FUNDS:**

Recipient	Agreement #	Commission Date	Amount Approved (Up to)	Amount De-Obligated	Fund	Comments
Reed	01273-DWSRF-F	03/18/2020	926,421.00	45,466.00	DWSRF	Project Complete
Wright Pastoria WA Meters	01324-DWSRF-L	11/18/2020	356,460.00	9,683.94	DWSRF	Project Complete
Wright Pastoria WA Improvements	01320-DWSRF-L	11/18/2020	64,650.00	2,562.37	DWSRF	Project Complete
Imboden	02047-WDF-L	12/02/2022	170,886.00	170,886.00	WDF	Project Complete
RiverSouth Rural Water District	01153-DWSRF-L	11/15/2017	1,705,00.00	12,800.00	DWSRF	Project Complete
Alma	23-086	06/22/2023	5,391,540.00	5,391,540.00	DWSRF	Declined funding
DeQueen	23-046	06/22/2023	1,316,675.00	2,089,470.00	CWSRF	Declined funding
Etowah	23-073	06/22/2023	608,661.00	608,661.00	CWSRF	Declined funding
Highland	23-052	06/22/2023	2,147,264.00	2,147,264.00	CWSRF	Declined funding
Horseshoe Ben	23-064	06/22/2023	967,390.00	967,390.00	CWSRF	Declined funding
Jennette	02328-CW-L	06/22/2023	491,616.50	200,724.00	CWSRF	Reduction in scope
Jennette	02329-CW-L	06/22/2023	363,034.50	148,027.00	CWSRF	Reduction in scope
Maumelle Water Corp.	23-081	06/22/2023	2,798,737.00	2,798,737.00	DWSRF	Declined funding
McGehee	23-088	06/22/2023	1,989,322.00	1,989,322.00	DWSRF	Declined funding

Recipient	Agreement #	Commission Date	Amount Approved (Up to)	Amount De-Obligated	Fund	Comments
Murfreesboro	23-044	06/22/2023	395,727.00	395,727.00	WSSW	Declined funding
Murfreesboro	23-044	06/22/2023	114,543.00	114,543.00	WSSW	Declined funding
New Hope WA	23-045	06/22/2023	397,154.00	397,154.00	WDF	Declined funding
Searcy	23-080	06/22/2023	1,100,000.00	1,100,000.00	CWSRF	Declined funding
Star City	23-072	06/22/2023	986,592.00	986,592.00	DWSRF	Declined funding
Tollette	23-049	06/22/2023	4,335,213.00	4,335,213.00	CWSRF	Declined funding
Weiner	23-074	06/22/2023	1,405,753.00	1,405,753.00	DWSRF	Declined funding

**WATER WELL CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE** – William Anderson, Chairman of the Water Well Construction Committee reported the first meeting was held August 31, 2023. The committee will meet quarterly, and if issues or a hearing come up before the next scheduled meeting, a separate meeting will be held. The committee discussed rulemaking, disciplinary issues, ethical complaints, evaluation of applicants, and rule changes. The Natural Resources Division will partner with the Arkansas Water Well Contractors Association (AWWCA) at the January meeting. Staff will be attending the meeting and plan to work with the Association on training classes.

The Water Well Construction Committee passed a recommendation that the approval of applicants for testing and apprenticeship be delegated to the staff rather than approved by the committee. The staff will ensure that all applicants for testing or apprenticeship meet the current eligibility requirements. Staff will provide a report at committee meeting.

*Upon motion by Mrs. Joanna Bush, seconded by Mr. Neal Anderson, the Commission unanimously approved the delegate of reviewing applications and approval of those that can test to the delegated staff.*

**Drillers and Pump Installers scheduled to take their test**

- Blake Cabit, Betts Environmental Recovery, Adel, GA
- William Prochaske, Professional Technical Support, Baton Rouge, LA
- Travis Nofzinger, Nofzinger Well Repair, Hunter, AR
- Darryl Hendrix, Nofzinger Well Repair, Hunter, AR
- Michael Raines, Beaver Lake Pump Service, Garfield, AR

**Driller and Pump Installers Apprentices**

- William Martin, M&M Well Drilling, LLC, Biggers, AR (both)
- Aaron Gerberich, W.E. Pender & Sons, Inc., Texarkana, TX
- Joseph Moore, M&M Well Drilling, LLC, Biggers, AR
- Stefan Struwig, Arkansas Well Supply Company, McCrory, AR
- Justin Haney, Flippin Pump Service, Flippin, AR
- Randal Rankin, Valentine Water Well service, Lincoln, AR
- Lisa Kirkland, Kirkland Well Drilling, Caulfield, MO

*Upon motion by Mrs. Joanna Bush, seconded by Mr. Jamie Burr, the Commission unanimously approved the drillers and pump installers for examination, and drillers and pump installer apprentices.*

**SOIL CLASSIFIERS** – Edgar Mersiovsky, with the Soil Classifiers board gave a brief history, went over the duties and how the process works to become a certified soil classifier. The duties of the Soil Classifiers Board have been transferred to the Natural Resources Commission under Act 691. The Board will continue to conduct the examinations and certification of the soil classifiers.

**ACTIVITY REPORTS**

Activity reports were presented by, John McAlpine, Arkansas Association Conservation Districts (AACD), Stacie Wassell, Division of Environmental Quality, Dr. Bruce McGowan, University of Arkansas Pine Bluff, and Dr. Laura Ruhl-Whittle, U.S. Geological Survey

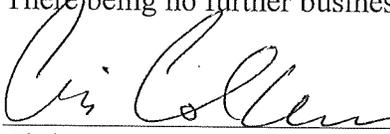
**OTHER**

Commissioner Neal Anderson volunteered to be the chair for the committee to recommend officers for 2024.

Commissioner Joanna Bush asked if any American Rescue Plan Funding (ARPA) funding had been returned. Ryan Benefield gave an update, yes some of the funds were returned and those funds were awarded to projects on the approved waiting list.

**ADJOURN**

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

  
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Chris Colclasure  
Director

9/22/23  
Date