

Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority  
Meeting Minutes  
March 31, 2009

A board meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority (the Authority) was held at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2009. The meeting was conducted at the First Security Bank Annex located at 100 W. Emma Street, Springdale, Arkansas. Board members attending were Vice Chairman George Spence, Treasurer Bruce McElroy, Larry Fletcher, Travis Greene, Frank Holzkamper, Fred Jack, Bob McCaslin, John Ratzki, and Chris Weiser.

Also attending were John Sampier, the Authority's executive director, Charles Harwell with Cypert, Crouch, Clark and Harwell, Steve Yonker with Burns and McDonnell, Chuck Nickle and Britt Vance with USI Engineering, Mike Bender with the city of Bentonville, Bill Ammons with OMI, Robert Smith with the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, John Henley with *The Morning News of Northwest Arkansas*, and Michael Lindsey with Morgan Keegan.

Mr. Spence opened the floor for consideration of the January and February meeting minutes. Fred Jack made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Chris Weiser seconded the motion, which was approved by the board without dissent.

Michael Lindsey presented the financial statements through February 28, 2009. The Authority ended the month with total assets of \$47,208,044 and liabilities of \$48,682,506. To date, the Authority's operating fund has earned revenue of \$10,000 and has incurred \$30,919 in expenses. Taking into account interest, depreciation and amortization the Authority had a net change in total assets of approximately (\$40,206). Larry Fletcher made a motion to receive the financial statements as presented. Mayor Jack seconded the motion, which was approved by the board without dissent.

Mr. Lindsey presented the audit for 2008. After a brief discussion, Mr. McElroy made a motion to accept the audit. The motion was duly seconded and approved by the board without dissent.

Mr. Weiser informed the board that the finance committee met prior to the meeting to conduct an employee evaluation of the Authority's executive director, John Sampier. Mr. Weiser stated that the committee voted to increase Mr. Sampier's annual salary to \$86,500, which is the amount budgeted for 2009. Mr. Weiser made a motion to approve the salary increase. Mayor Jack seconded the motion, which was approved by the board without dissent.

Mr. Sampier provided a report from the executive director. He stated that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has not responded to the latest permit request from the Authority, but he hoped to receive official notice from them later in the week. The Authority is requesting a three year permit allowing a discharge of 1 mg/l of phosphorus. Mayor Jack asked if the Authority would be receiving any reports on the stream monitoring study the Authority is funding. Mr. Sampier stated that in the past the board has received an annual report, but he will inquire about receiving more frequent updates. Mr. Fletcher asked if the Authority ever decided to add a second monitoring location upstream from the Authority's planned discharge point. Mr. Weiser stated that the cities of Springdale and Rogers have commissioned a study of water quality above the Authority's discharge point. Mr. Fletcher recommended that the Authority

revisit the prospect of adding a second monitoring station upstream of the discharge point at some future date.

Steve Yonker provided an update on the construction of the treatment facility. He stated that the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality has published a construction notice and that the Authority could authorize construction to begin as soon as mid-April. He stated that they are continuing to study advance filtration options in case the EPA requires the Authority to meet the discharge limit of 0.1 mg/l for phosphorus. Mayor McCaslin asked how much the original filtration system cost. Mr. Yonker said that it was approximately \$1.2 million. Mr. Weiser asked if the treatment facility would have generators to provide backup power. Mr. Yonker said that they are included in the final design. Vice Chairman Spence asked if the delay in a decision from the EPA is holding up construction of the treatment facility. Mr. Yonker said that it was not a cause for delay at this point. Mayor Jack asked who would be providing construction oversight. Mr. Yonker stated that they will have a resident engineer onsite.

Chuck Nickle provided an update on the construction of the conveyance lines. He stated that they hope to have a GIS tracking website up in April so that anyone can go online and observe the progress of conveyance line construction. Also, USI Engineering met with US Fish and Wildlife regarding a storm water permit. The USFW want changes to the stream crossings, which will add to the cost of the project and will require the approval of a change order. Britt Vance informed the board that both construction contracts have been awarded and that only one easement remains to be settled. Mr. Vance stated that USI is also working on securing a second federal grant and hope to have those funds in the next few months. Mayor Jack asked if there would be a resident engineer assigned for the conveyance lines. Mr. Vance confirmed that there would be a person tasked with overseeing construction on behalf of the Authority.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Approved:

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Jack McHaney, Secretary