

Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority
Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2008

A board meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority (the Authority) was held at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2008. The meeting was conducted at the First Security Bank Annex located at 100 W. Emma Street, Springdale, Arkansas. Board members attending were Chairman Mick Wagner, Vice Chairman George Spence, Treasurer Bruce McElroy, Secretary Jack McHaney, Travis Greene, Robert Hukill, 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, Britt Vance and Charles Killian with USI Engineering, Mike Bender with the city of Bentonville, Eric Haussermann, and Michael Lindsey with Morgan Keegan. Members of the news media were duly notified according to the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.

Chairman Wagner opened the floor for consideration of the July meeting minutes. Fred Jack made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Travis Greene seconded the motion, which was approved by the board without dissent.

Michael Lindsey presented the financial statements through August 31, 2008. The Authority ended the month with \$2,999.82 in operating cash in the bank, total assets of \$47,377,212 and liabilities of \$47,540,211. To date, the Authority's operating fund has earned revenue of \$59,713 and has incurred \$117,761 in expenses.

Mr. Lindsey presented the audit and financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2007. Beall Barclay and Company prepared the audit and financial statements. George Spence made a motion to accept the audit as presented. Mayor Jack seconded the motion, which was approved by the board without dissent.

John Sampier took the floor to provide his report from the executive director. Hearing no questions concerning his written monthly report, Mr. Sampier stated that he continues to work toward a regional solution to bio-solids. He said that high fuel costs and recent closing of landfills to future deliveries of bio-solids might make a regional effort more cost effective.

Chuck Nickle updated the board on the status of the conveyance lines. Mr. Nickle said that the projects have been advertised and bids will be received on October 16. He stated that this date may be delayed. Overall, the project is on budget and should finish on schedule in the summer of 2010. However, the schedule is dependent upon receipt of a discharge permit. Mr. McElroy asked if the engineers bid out the pipeline separately from the construction bids. Mr. Nickle said that they selected the type of pipe to be used and then obtained bids from the pipe manufacturers. Mayor Jack asked if the Authority would be the one that would be buying the pipe. Mr. Nickle said that the contractor would actually buy the pipe, but the Authority has bid the price for the pipe. This reduces some of the uncertainty in the bidding by contractors and provides a more level playing field for all bidders since the price of the materials is not a factor.

Jack McHaney recommended that staff put together information and provide an update to the member cities governing bodies.

Britt Vance updated the board on easement acquisition efforts. He stated that eleven easements remain to be purchased. The Authority should end easement acquisition within budget. Charles Harwell said that

he will ask the board to file condemnation suits if the Authority and the remaining property owners cannot resolve their differences. Mr. McElroy made a motion authorizing Mr. Harwell to file condemnation suits if necessary to obtain easements for the conveyance lines. Mr. McHaney seconded the motion, which was approved by the board without dissent.

Mr. Sampier said that the state health department has approved the location of the treatment facility's discharge point on the Osage Creek. The Authority will be fencing their property around the discharge point and installing signage to discourage swimming at this location.

Steve Yonker informed the board that final design of the treatment plant is complete. The Environmental Protection Agency is currently reviewing the permit application. The Benton County Planning Commission approved a large-scale construction permit. Also, Burns and McDonnell completed the additional cultural resource investigations required by the state's historic preservation office. A report will be issued shortly and the Authority should have approval from the Corp of Engineers for the conveyance lines soon. Burns and McDonnell are currently in the bidding phase of their contract with bids being opened on October 16. Mr. Spence asked how quickly work would start once construction contracts were awarded. Mr. Yonker said that a contractor might begin work as soon as 30 days after being awarded the bid. Construction on the conveyance lines will take approximately 18 months and construction on the conveyance lines is scheduled for 16 months.

Mayor Jack asked if any issues were found in through the additional cultural resource investigation. Mr. Yonker said that there has been nothing found that would cause the conveyance system to be re-routed from its present location.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

Approved:

Jack McHaney, Secretary