

DESOTO COUNTY REGIONAL UTILITY AUTHORITY
Board of Directors
Regular Meeting
September 20, 2023
9:00 A.M.

- A. OPENING PRAYER – Wayne Spell
- B. CALL TO ORDER

The Directors present at the meeting were:

Director Andy Swims
Director Chris Wilson
Director Barry Bridgforth
Director Joe Frank Lauderdale
Director Tim Tucker
Director Pete Scott
Director Steven Boxx

The September 20, 2023, regular meeting of the DeSoto County Regional Utility Authority Board of Directors was called to order by Director Andy Swims, DCRUA President. He announced there was a quorum.

- C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Director Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes of August 16, 2023. Director Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Full		Flow	
Director Swims	Yes	Director Swims	Yes
Director Wilson	Yes	Director Wilson	Yes
Director Bridgforth	Yes	Director Bridgforth	Yes
Director Lauderdale	Yes	Director Lauderdale	Yes
Director Tucker	Yes	Director Tucker	Yes
Director Scott	Yes	Director Scott	Yes
Director Boxx	Yes	Director Boxx	Yes

- D. APPROVAL OF INVOICES

Director Boxx made a motion to approve all invoices as submitted for payment. Director Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Full		Flow	
Director Swims	Yes	Director Swims	Yes
Director Wilson	Yes	Director Wilson	Yes
Director Bridgforth	Yes	Director Bridgforth	Yes
Director Lauderdale	Yes	Director Lauderdale	Yes
Director Tucker	Yes	Director Tucker	Yes
Director Scott	Yes	Director Scott	Yes
Director Boxx	Yes	Director Boxx	Yes

Exhibit D

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. **7001 Proposal (Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development)** – Request submitted to increase funding authorization from \$130,000,000 to \$150,000,000 for projects already identified in the long-term plan for DCRUA.
2. **Litigation Settlement** – Funds of \$450,000 were deposited by The View into the DCRUA account used specifically for capital projects and expansion of facilities as required by the Court Order.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. **CMOM Program Update** – Audrey Lewis provided update on this program, which has been optional in the past and is now required by the EPA for facilities that meet certain volume limits. Self-assessment is allowed as part of the program. A decision is due 9/30/23 to EPA on how assessment will be completed. Prior components of this study have been completed previously by EAI/WEI and those reports will be incorporated into this report update; however, the current program is much more detailed and covers the entire system. After discussion and the desire by the DCRUA Board to do a self-assessment, a motion was made by Director Bridgforth to accept the Task Order 90 – CMOM Assessment Report presented by EAI/WEI for \$75,600 and it was seconded by Director Tucker. The motion was passed as follows:

Full		Flow	
Director Swims	Yes	Director Swims	Yes
Director Wilson	Yes	Director Wilson	Yes
Director Bridgforth	Yes	Director Bridgforth	Yes
Director Lauderdale	Yes	Director Lauderdale	Yes
Director Tucker	Yes	Director Tucker	Yes
Director Scott	Yes	Director Scott	Yes
Director Boxx	Yes	Director Boxx	Yes

*****Exhibit F1*****

2. **Solids Handling** – G. Brown and J. McCloud with the Pickering Firm presented alternatives for handling solids. Solid handling is a significant expense for DCRUA that is outsourced and expected to continue to escalate. A study was performed in 2019 and this study was reviewed. The costs to bring this process in house would be significant and have ongoing operational costs as well. Additional information was requested regarding updated capital cost estimate and ongoing operational costs.

***** Exhibit F2*****

3. **Executive Director Updates – Wayne Spell**

- Johnson Creek named Plant of the Year by the MS Water Environmental Association
- USACE Low Water Tour cancelled due to covid and will not be rescheduled
- Still working with Bill Shephard, Yazoo, MS Levee Board, for permit to cross the levee.
- SouthGroup reviewed current insurance program and will be obtaining new quotes with higher deductibles
- DCRUA has been asked to sponsor local HomeRun 5k and has done so in the past; however, the current guidance from the MS Attorney General precludes membership in civic organizations and would apply to this as well. Director Wilson stated that charitable donations that do not directly benefit DCRUA are limited and very carefully analyzed. A motion was made to decline the sponsorship by Director Bridgforth and seconded by Director Boxx. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Full		Flow	
Director Swims	Yes	Director Swims	Yes
Director Wilson	Yes	Director Wilson	Yes
Director Bridgforth	Yes	Director Bridgforth	Yes
Director Lauderdale	Yes	Director Lauderdale	Yes
Director Tucker	Yes	Director Tucker	Yes
Director Scott	Yes	Director Scott	Yes
Director Boxx	Yes	Director Boxx	Yes

- Director Bridgforth, Tracy Huffman – EAI/WEI, and Executive Director Spell met with Desoto County Schools, Rob Chase & Jerry White regarding funds remaining from previous projects for the school district that will be used for continued expansion of that project. Documentation is needed from Desoto County Board of Education to transfer funds to be used for expansion.
- DCRUA will appeal to the MS legislature to amend its local and private legislation to increase bonding capacity and allow for membership in chambers.

- Funding for pay applications to be approved and paid from the Draw Account used for capital projects will require a transfer from the Contingency Reserve account to cover payments pending reimbursement from SRF loans and grants.
- The engagement letter for Franks Franks Wilemon and Haygood was signed for the FY23 and FY24 audits. Director Scott made a motion to accept and approve the engagement letter and Andy Swims seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Full		Flow	
Director Swims	Yes	Director Swims	Yes
Director Wilson	Yes	Director Wilson	Yes
Director Bridgforth	Yes	Director Bridgforth	Yes
Director Lauderdale	Yes	Director Lauderdale	Yes
Director Tucker	Yes	Director Tucker	Yes
Director Scott	Yes	Director Scott	Yes
Director Boxx	Yes	Director Boxx	Yes

- The prior purchase order approved by the board August 2023 for Tocowa Electric in the amount of \$20,710 for LED lighting upgrades at Johnson Creek was reviewed further and determined the project should be postponed at this time pending completion of other projects at this location that could alter/change the signage requirements. The purchase order has been voided and sent to vendor.
 - Travel folders for each person attending the WEFTEC conference in Chicago have been provided with detailed information along with any reimbursements due to DCRUA for personal expenses paid by DCRUA when arranging travel details.
4. Nick Manley, Butler Snow, stated the legal representation contract for DCRUA has been the same since 2018 and the budget includes an increase for FY24 and requested the contract be increased by \$20,000 annually to \$200,000. After discussion of services provided and benefits received, Director Bridgforth made a motion to approve the increase in the Butler Snow legal services agreement in amount of \$20,000 and this motion was seconded by Director Scott. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Full		Flow	
Director Swims	Yes	Director Swims	Yes
Director Wilson	Yes	Director Wilson	Yes
Director Bridgforth	Yes	Director Bridgforth	Yes
Director Lauderdale	Yes	Director Lauderdale	Yes
Director Tucker	Yes	Director Tucker	Yes
Director Scott	Yes	Director Scott	Yes

Director Boxx	Yes	Director Boxx	Yes
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5. Travel to Washington, DC and Jackson, MS– Approval for travel during federal and state legislative session to review needs of DCRUA with legislators was discussed. A motion was made to approve travel to both Washington, DC and Jackson, MS during Oct/Nov timeframe with attendees to be determined at a later date by Director Bridgforth and seconded by Director Scott. The motion passed as follows:

Full		Flow	
Director Swims	Yes	Director Swims	Yes
Director Wilson	Yes	Director Wilson	Yes
Director Bridgforth	Yes	Director Bridgforth	Yes
Director Lauderdale	Yes	Director Lauderdale	Yes
Director Tucker	Yes	Director Tucker	Yes
Director Scott	Yes	Director Scott	Yes
Director Boxx	Yes	Director Boxx	Yes

G. EXECUTIVE SESSION

H. PERMITS

OB Park – Olive Branch
 Delta Landing S/D – Hernando
 Valley Crossing S/D – Hernando
 Lick Creek Interceptor Connection – Olive Branch
 Cascades Town Center – Olive Branch

Each application was discussed, and all were approved with the exception of Lick Creek which will be addressed after additional information provided to the board. Director Lauderdale made a motion to approve these permit requests and to table Lick Creek. Director Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Full		Flow	
Director Swims	Yes	Director Swims	Yes
Director Wilson	Yes	Director Wilson	Yes
Director Bridgforth	Absent	Director Bridgforth	Absent
Director Lauderdale	Yes	Director Lauderdale	Yes
Director Tucker	Yes	Director Tucker	Yes
Director Scott	Yes	Director Scott	Yes
Director Boxx	Yes	Director Boxx	Yes

Exhibit H

I. ENGINEERING REPORT

1. Lower Camp Creek Interceptor & Byhalia Overflow – Ross Horton presented the report for Hemphill pay application #14. Director Lauderdale made a motion to approve. Director Tucker seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Full		Flow	
Director Swims	Yes	Director Swims	Yes
Director Wilson	Yes	Director Wilson	Yes
Director Bridgforth	Absent	Director Bridgforth	Absent
Director Lauderdale	Yes	Director Lauderdale	Yes
Director Tucker	Yes	Director Tucker	Yes
Director Scott	Yes	Director Scott	Yes
Director Boxx	Yes	Director Boxx	Yes

***Exhibit I1 ***

A change order for \$383k was presented for approval and board members agreed to table discussion pending additional information regarding changes requested.

A permanent easement of the Williams property with an estimated cost of \$1,500 will be needed to avoid construction delay. A motion was made by Director Lauderdale to approve easement and seconded by Director Swims. The motion passed as follows:

Full		Flow	
Director Swims	Yes	Director Swims	Yes
Director Wilson	Yes	Director Wilson	Yes
Director Bridgforth	Absent	Director Bridgforth	Absent
Director Lauderdale	Yes	Director Lauderdale	Yes
Director Tucker	Yes	Director Tucker	Yes
Director Scott	Yes	Director Scott	Yes
Director Boxx	Yes	Director Boxx	Yes

2. Metro WWTF Upgrade - Ross Horton presented the report for pay application #23 from The Lemoine Company. Director Scott made a motion to approve the payment of the invoice. Director Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows:

Full		Flow	
Director Swims	Yes	Director Swims	Yes
Director Wilson	Yes	Director Wilson	Yes

Director Bridgforth	Absent	Director Bridgforth	Absent
Director Lauderdale	Yes	Director Lauderdale	Yes
Director Tucker	Yes	Director Tucker	Yes
Director Scott	Yes	Director Scott	Yes
Director Boxx	Yes	Director Boxx	Yes

*****Exhibit I2 *****

3. Camp Creek Bank Stabilization – The single pay application and change order reduction were presented for approval to Cleveland Construction. Director Lauderdale made a motion to approve the application and change order reduction. Director Scott seconded the motion. The motion was approved as follows:

Full		Flow	
Director Swims	Yes	Director Swims	Yes
Director Wilson	Yes	Director Wilson	Yes
Director Bridgforth	Absent	Director Bridgforth	Absent
Director Lauderdale	Yes	Director Lauderdale	Yes
Director Tucker	Yes	Director Tucker	Yes
Director Scott	Yes	Director Scott	Yes
Director Boxx	Yes	Director Boxx	Yes

*****Exhibit I3 *****

4. Centerhill Water Reclamation Facility Update - Audrey Lewis requested approval to request a zoning change and conditional use permit, which is needed for the subject property as required by the Desoto County Zoning Ordinance. A motion was made by Director Wilson and seconded by Director Tucker to approve the request. The motion passed as follows:

Full		Flow	
Director Swims	Yes	Director Swims	Yes
Director Wilson	Yes	Director Wilson	Yes
Director Bridgforth	Absent	Director Bridgforth	Absent
Director Lauderdale	Yes	Director Lauderdale	Yes
Director Tucker	Yes	Director Tucker	Yes
Director Scott	Yes	Director Scott	Yes
Director Boxx	Yes	Director Boxx	Yes

J. OPERATIONS REPORT

Inframark Report (Ross Road, Short Fork, and Western Facility)- Eddy Russell presented the operations and maintenance report from Inframark. He stated the

budgeted routine maintenance expense included in the annual contract has been exceeded and a reconciliation with charges will be presented to DCRUA.

***** Exhibit J1*****

Mitchell Technical Services, Inc. (Metro WWTF and Fox Creek) - Bryan Lane presented the operations and maintenance report from Mitchell Technical Services. He also presented a quote for an autoclave required for the lab to replace current equipment. After noting that DCRUA Local and Private, as interpreted by the Mississippi Attorney General, does not require DCRUA to abide by Miss. Code 31-7-13, a motion was made to accept the quote in the amount of \$6,770.70 provided by Director Scott and seconded by Director Boxx. The motion was approved as follows:

Full		Flow	
Director Swims	Yes	Director Swims	Yes
Director Wilson	Yes	Director Wilson	Yes
Director Bridgforth	Absent	Director Bridgforth	Absent
Director Lauderdale	Yes	Director Lauderdale	Yes
Director Tucker	Yes	Director Tucker	Yes
Director Scott	Yes	Director Scott	Yes
Director Boxx	Yes	Director Boxx	Yes

*****Exhibit J2, J3*****

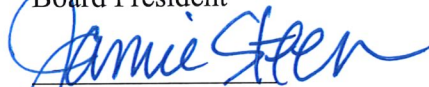
Flow Report *****Exhibit K *****

K. ADJOURN/RECESS

Director Lauderdale made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Swims seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Full		Flow	
Director Swims	Yes	Director Swims	Yes
Director Wilson	Yes	Director Wilson	Yes
Director Bridgforth	Absent	Director Bridgforth	Absent
Director Lauderdale	Yes	Director Lauderdale	Yes
Director Tucker	Yes	Director Tucker	Yes
Director Scott	Yes	Director Scott	Yes
Director Boxx	Yes	Director Boxx	Yes


Board President


Board Clerk