



**Board Meeting Minutes  
February 15, 2024**

Be it remembered that a meeting of the Pearl River County Utility Authority Board of Directors was held on February 15, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the BoardRoom of the Pearl River County Utility Authority at 921 Goodyear Blvd. in Picayune, Mississippi. In attendance were:

**BOARD:**

Tabatha Butler, President	present by phone
Marcia Johnson, Vice President	present
Quinn Houchin, Treasurer	present
Ernie Lovell, Director	present
Bill Burns, Director	present
Billy Spiers, Director	present
Charles "Chuck" E. Jones, Director	present

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Robert Belknap, Executive Director  
Jessica Spiers, Office Manager  
Amanda Smith, Billing Clerk  
Heather Smith, Board Attorney  
Devin Hedgepeth, Dungan Engineering  
Ray Scott, CPA  
Alan Barefiled, MSU

There being a quorum sufficient to transact business of the Pearl River County Utility Authority, Executive Director Robert Belknap called the meeting to order. The following proceedings were had and done:

**Approval of Consent Agenda Items:**

- January 18, 2024 Board Minutes
- January 2024 Financial Reports (Exhibit A)
- Docket & Off-Docket Items (Exhibit B)
- Monthly Operating Reports (Exhibit C)
- Approve Sewer Adjustments (Exhibit D):
  - a. Angie and Ralph Marchese, 6008 Birdnest Cove, Picayune, MS, for \$299.30 due to broken pipe in the yard that has been repaired.
  - b. Cameron Davis, 725 Cedar Grove, Apt. A, Picayune, MS, for \$2,624.35 due to a broken pipe under ground on the exterior side of the structure and has been repaired.
  - c. Kari Spencer, 11020 Bender St., Picayune, MS, for \$653.35 due to a broken pipe in the yard that has been repaired.
- Approve Travel & Training Requests:
  - a. Brent Gray and Detrich Spikes, March 15, 2024 in Richland, MS for MwPCOA Class II

Wastewater Certification Exam. The exam cost is \$45.0 plus 1-night lodging for each the night before the exam.

Motion to approve by Bill Spiers, seconded by Marcia Johnson. A roll call resulted in the following votes:

Tabatha Butler, President	aye
Marcia Johnson, Vice President	aye
Quinn Houchin, Treasurer	aye
Ernie Lovell, Director	aye
Bill Burns, Director	aye
Billy Spiers, Director	aye
Charles "Chuck" E. Jones, Director	aye

The motion passed 7-0.

Tabatha Butler arrived at 6:20 p.m.

**Public Comments:**

- Virginia Amacker was present to voice her concerns over the issue of a main sewer line running directly through the middle of her property at 106 Dogwood Ln., Poplarville, MS.

**Enter Executive Session To Discuss Real Estate & Litigation.** Motion by Billy Spiers, seconded by Ernie Lovell. A roll call resulted in the following votes:

Tabatha Butler, President	aye
Ernie Lovell, Vice President	aye
Quinn Houchin, Treasurer	aye
Bill Burns, Director	aye
Billy Spiers, Director	aye
Charles "Chuck" E. Jones, Director	aye
Marcia Johnson, Director	aye

The motion passed 7-0.

**Exit Closed Session:** Motion by Marcia Johnson, seconded by Billy Spiers. A roll call resulted in the following votes:

Tabatha Butler, President	aye
Ernie Lovell, Vice President	aye
Quinn Houchin, Treasurer	aye
Bill Burns, Director	aye
Billy Spiers, Director	aye
Charles "Chuck" E. Jones, Director	aye
Marcia Johnson, Director	aye

The motion passed 7-0.

No formal action taken in Executive Session.

**Engineer's Comments:** Devin Hedgepeth provided updates on the three MCWI grant projects three MCWI grant projects listed below:

- a. I-59 Sewer Expansion (Exit 6 to Exit 10) projected bid date is projected to be around mid to late July 2024. Award deadline is August 31, 2024. Timeframe to start the project is between September - October 2024.
- b. Ridgecrest Subdivision Sewer Expansion; Have received majority of signed easements from residents.
- c. Millard Jail Sewer Improvements; 25% of design portion is complete.

No action was taken.

**Rate Study Report/Discussion:** Dr. Alan Barefield with MSU Extension Office conducted a rate study for PRCUA. Dr. Barefield presented his findings based on various scenarios and how a rate increase would financially affect PRCUA over a 5-year period.

No action taken

**Director's Comments:**

- We are required to have (2) Board Members attend the MsRWA Advanced Board Training this year. Marcia Johnson and Tabatha Butler elected to attend.
- Provided overview for 106 Dogwood, Poplarville, MS
- Gave update regarding 615 birdie Circle, Picayune, MS
- Discussed the homeowner of 517 Second St. Picayune, MS did not call 811 before digging and busted the sewer line.
- Provided status on MGCRF Grants

No action taken

**Approve Dungan Engineering Invoice #1 for \$48,300.49 For I-59 Sewer Expansion Project. (100% Reimbursement Item To Be Paid & Reimbursed Through Facility Replacement Account).** Motion by Marcia Johnson, seconded by Bill Burns. A roll call resulted in the following votes:

Tabatha Butler, President	aye
Marcia Johnson, Vice President	aye
Quinn Houchin, Treasurer	aye
Ernie Lovell, Director	aye
Bill Burns, Director	aye
Billy Spiers, Director	aye
Charles "Chuck" E. Jones, Director	aye

The motion passed 7-0. (Exhibit D)

**Approve Dungan Engineering Invoice #1 for \$6,960.35 For The Millard Jail Project. (100% Reimbursement Item To Be Paid & Reimbursed Through Facility Replacement Account).** Motion by Billy Spiers, seconded by Bill Burns. A roll call resulted in the following votes:

Tabatha Butler, President	aye
Marcia Johnson, Vice President	aye
Quinn Houchin, Treasurer	aye
Ernie Lovell, Director	aye
Bill Burns, Director	aye
Billy Spiers, Director	aye
Charles "Chuck" E. Jones, Director	aye

The motion passed 7-0. (Exhibit D)

**Approve Dungan Engineering Invoice #1 for \$20,881.06 For Ridgecrest Sewer Extension Project. (100% Reimbursement Item To Be Paid & Reimbursed Through Facility Replacement Account).** Motion by Bill Burns, seconded by Marcia Johnson. A roll call resulted in the following votes:

Tabatha Butler, President	aye
Marcia Johnson, Vice President	aye
Quinn Houchin, Treasurer	aye
Ernie Lovell, Director	aye
Bill Burns, Director	aye
Billy Spiers, Director	aye
Charles "Chuck" E. Jones, Director	aye

The motion passed 7-0. (Exhibit D)

Ernie Lovell left the meeting at 6:39 p.m

**Board Member Comments:** None

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn by Billy Spiers, seconded by Bill Burns. A roll call resulted in the following votes:

Tabatha Butler, President	aye
Marcia Johnson, Vice President	aye
Quinn Houchin, Treasurer	aye
Ernie Lovell, Director	absent
Bill Burns, Director	aye
Billy Spiers, Director	aye
Charles "Chuck" E. Jones, Director	aye

The motion passed 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:49 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 21, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at 921 Goodyear Blvd. in Picayune, MS.



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Tabatha Butler  
Board President



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Attest: