
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Wednesday, 26 July 2023, 7:30 a.m.
MINUTES**

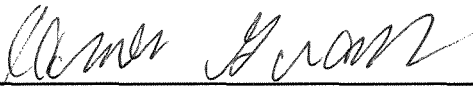
- I. Mr. Granger announced a quorum and called the Utility District board meeting to order at the appointed time. Steven Lockley opened with prayer. Commissioners James Granger, Susan Morgan, Bobby McDade, and Bill Wilkerson were present in person, along with EMCC President Scott Alsobrooks, EMEPA representative Bryce Nester, and Secretary Ike Kiefer. Legal counsel candidate Kacey Bailey attended the first 40 minutes of the meeting.
- II. Agenda approved by unanimous consent.
- III. Minutes of previous meeting of the Utility District board reviewed and approved by unanimous consent.
- IV. New Business:
 - A. Commissioners interviewed Ms. Bailey and discussed her current role with respect to EMEPA and her prospective role with the District. Ms. Bailey departed. Chairman Granger moved to enter executive session for deliberations. Bobby McDade seconded. Motion carried unanimously. After deliberations, the Board returned to open session. Bobby McDade moved to engage Kacey Bailey and the firm of Glover and Young as general counsel to the Utility District subject to the availability of administrative funds from the County. Vice Chairman Morgan seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Secretary tasked to prepare Engagement Agreement and hold until District administrative budget is funded.
 - B. Board discussed Directors & Officers Insurance. Secretary tasked to obtain quote for approval at next meeting.
 - C. Board discussed administrative and legal tasks related to standup of the District, including obtaining a federal tax ID, registering with the Mississippi Secretary of State, and drafting bylaws. Secretary tasked to make as much progress on these as possible short of the involvement of the general counsel.
 - D. Board discussed the opportunity to pursue a Rural Water Association Improvement Grant for planned consolidation actions. Bill Wilkerson moved to pass a resolution to apply for the grant. Bobby McDade seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Secretary tasked to work with Engineering Plus and East Mississippi Planning and Development District (EMPDD) to develop and submit a \$2 million grant application package by the 7 September deadline.
- V. Ongoing Business:
 - A. Secretary relayed updates from Engineering Plus and EMPDD:
 1. Approval of \$240,000 grant for gas line construction from Appalachian Regional Commission;

2. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) commitment to provide temporary license for construction of new District gas line reducing station on their property by February 2024, and final easement by August 2024;
3. District approval for TVA to use \$3,000 portion of \$30,000 of Scoping Study funds already provided to them by Gas District to perform environmental study needed for easement.

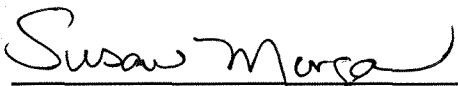
B. Board discussed District budget and secretarial support contract awaiting action from County general counsel. Chairman announced he will speak with Supervisors, Kemper County general counsel, and Engineering Plus in attempt to spur progress on above topics.

VI. Having completed the agenda, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

These minutes approved by the board this 16th day of August 2023.



James Granger, Sr., Chairman



Susan Morgan, Vice Chairman