



**KEMPER COUNTY UTILITY DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Wednesday, December 18, 2024, 8:00 a.m.**

**MINUTES**

The regular meeting of the Kemper County Utility District ("KCU D" or the "District") was held on December 18, 2024, at 8:00 a.m., at the Kemper County Courthouse Annex, 230 Main Avenue, Dekalb, MS 39328.

Chairman Morgan declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order. Present were the following Commissioners: Tony Luke, Bobby McDade, Susan Morgan, and Jonathan Coleman. Also present were Ike Kiefer of Empirical Energy; Keith Evans of Rea, Shaw, Giffin & Stuart, LLP; and legal counsel Kacey Bailey.

**Agenda.** The agenda for the meeting was presented. Motion was made by McDade and duly seconded by Luke to approve the agenda as presented. After discussion, the agenda was approved and passed by unanimous vote. Voting yea: Luke, McDade, Morgan, and Coleman. Voting Nay: None.

**Minutes.** The minutes of the November 20, 2024, regular meeting were presented. Motion was made by McDade and duly seconded by Luke to approve the November 20, 2024, minutes. After discussion, the November 20, 2024, minutes were approved and passed by unanimous vote. Voting yea: Luke, McDade, Morgan, and Coleman. Voting Nay: None.

**New Business.**

The checking account balance was provided (\$21,041.00) as the Financial Report.

Two items were presented as the Claims Docket: (1) \$990.20 for legal services by Glover, Young, Hammack, Walton & Simmons; and (2) \$157.16 for administrative services by Empirical Energy. Motion was made by Luke and duly seconded by McDade to pay said claims on the Claims Docket. After discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote. Voting yea: Luke, McDade, Morgan and Coleman. Voting Nay: None.

**RESOLVED**, that the Kemper County Utility District shall pay the claims of \$990.20 to Glover, Young, Hammack, Walton & Simmons; and \$157.16 to Empirical Energy.

The report from Terrell Temple of Engineering Plus was discussed as well as follow up questions. Temple reported that the water line work should begin mid to late January 2025. Temple advised that he had contacted McKee on 12/17/24 asking about signing the change order. The project length has increased from 3.12 to 4.43 miles. They advised this morning the change order will be returned shortly.

Temple had a Zoom meeting with Kinder Morgan earlier this month. Kinder Morgan has hired a consultant to design their required work. The site has shifted slightly to better meet Kinder Morgan's needs, only about a 75' shift south along the fence on the Moore property. This slight shift will not impact additional property owners. Temple surveyed it last week and that survey is being sent to Kinder Morgan. Some critical equipment has been ordered and should be in this summer. Kinder Morgan company policy requires that it perform an environmental assessment on the site where it will be working. Kinder Morgan was told that TVA had already completed a thorough environmental assessment. Kinder Morgan asked for copies of the TVA report to include as references in the Kinder Morgan report. Kinder Morgan has been provided the meter station design for review.

With respect to easements, easements have already been secured for most of the line since the utilities will be within the existing power line easements. Temple hopes to have the appraisal for the school property (16<sup>th</sup> Section land) back soon. He is working Weyerhaeuser in two phases. Obtaining the easement under the power line seems to be relatively easy. However, there are three locations of Weyerhaeuser property where new property must be purchased since trees will have to be cut. This land cannot be used for growing trees in the future which necessitates their purchase. The costs, which are being determined, will be paid by the County. That will take more work, but it is not critical to getting started.

Bailey provided update on the REDLG application and reported information from Jason Rushing at USDA that there was a Maximum Loan Reduction. Congress passed a Continuing Resolution. This means only \$10 Million is available for RED Loan funds for Q1. Recent accounting indicates demand for RED loan funds is eight times the amount of funds available, and USDA anticipates a similar level of funding as last year when a full year of appropriations is provided. Due to constraints with appropriation, Senior Leadership decided to revise the FY 2025 maximum loan from \$2 Million to \$1 Million to help distribute funds and clear some of the backlog of applications. This decision was based on majority positive feedback from State Offices, electric coops and electric coop associations indicating a reduction would be preferred. A Notice published on November 21, 2024 indicating a revision for Q2, Q3, and Q4 to \$1 Million maximum in REDL funds. If there is a RED Loan request over \$1 Million for Q2, Q3, Q4, the intermediary should consult with the applicant to revise the project scope. Applicants will not have to resubmit a new application based upon communications with USDA. USDA will not be able to fund the loan and grant this quarter.

Keith Evans of Rea, Shaw, Giffin and Stuart discussed services that it can provide the District, including audit services and quarterly and year end compilations.

The annual meeting will be on January 8, 2025. Election of officers will follow at the next regular meeting (January 15, 2025).

It was necessary to designate the Kemper County Courthouse Annex as the location for the Annual Meeting. Upon motion by Luke, seconded by McDade, and after discussion, it was unanimously approved that the location of the Annual Meeting will be Kemper County Courthouse Annex, 230 Main Avenue, Dekalb, MS 39328. Voting yea: Luke, McDade, Morgan, and Coleman (telephonically). Voting Nay: None.

Kiefer discussed posting notices of the meetings for 2025.

#### Old Business

There was no old business.

Being no further business to come before the meeting, the regular meeting was adjourned upon motion of Morgan, seconded by Luke, and passed by unanimous vote. Voting yea: Luke, McDade, Morgan, and Coleman (telephonically). Voting Nay: None.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kacey Bailey

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These minutes approved by the board this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025.

  
Susan Morgan, Chairman

  
Bill Wilkerson, Secretary