

CWEP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Carthage Water & Electric Plant Board met in regular session June 18, 2025, 3:00 p.m. at the CWEP Office, 627 W. Centennial, Carthage, MO.

Board:

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Schmidt -Secretary | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sid Teel - Member |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Ross- President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tom Garrison – Member |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Darren Collier -Vice President | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Gier - Member |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jack Perkins - Liaison | |

Staff:

- | | |
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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chuck Bryant-General Manager | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Choate-Director of Water Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cassandra Ludwig-General Counsel | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelli Nugent/CFO |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Peterson-Director of IT & Broadband | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kevin Emery-Director of Power Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Megan Kirby- Executive Assistant | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephanie Howard-Economic Development Manager |

Others present: Mayor Bren Flanigan, Council Member Jana Schramm

President Ross called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion by Gier and seconded by Collier to approve the minutes as presented of the regular meeting of May 12, 2025, passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS:

A motion by Garrison and seconded by Teel to approve disbursements for May in the amount of \$4,450,250.07, passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The May financial summary reflected a change in net position of \$429,388 which exceeded the budget of \$1,282 by \$428,106. This is in large part due to the ARPA grant funding received by the wastewater department this month that was budgeted in a different month. Year to date, the utility has exceeded the budgeted change in net position. This has much to do with the revenue from the Dogwood plant as well as stable power prices, and better than expected investment earnings. Each department has also worked to keep costs down as much as possible. Revenues for the electric department and the communication department are under

budget for the year through May, while the water and wastewater departments are slightly ahead of budget.

A motion by Schmidt and seconded by Collier to approve the May 2025 financials passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION PERIOD: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Presentation by Roddy Rogers

Roddy Rogers, Executive Director of Southwest Missouri Water gave a presentation to the Board regarding water scarcity concerns in the future and an update of the decades-long process with the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission (“JMUC”) to obtain water from Stockton Lake to use for drinking water. Roddy discussed the status of the project, explaining that the Army Corps of Engineers and the JMUC have finally come to an agreement for the price and terms of the water purchase, and that the agreement was approved and finalized by Congress in the Water Resources Development Act. Roddy explained that the next step in the process is for each entity that will be accepting the water to sign an agreement with the JMUC for the water purchase, and for the JMUC to sign the overall purchase agreement with the Corps.

2. Consideration of Resolution 2025.01

In conjunction with Roddy Rogers’ presentation, General Manager Bryant presented to the Board Resolution 2025.01, a resolution recommending and requesting the City Council of Carthage, Missouri, enter into a Water Storage Subcontract with the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission. The Board discussed benefits and potential drawbacks to moving forward with the water purchase, noting that moving forward now with signing the contract guarantees a seat at the table and that failure to sign the agreement (and back out of the project) at this phase could prevent CWEP from receiving the water in the future, when drought conditions are predicted to exist. The Board discussed options to potentially sell the rights to the water to other JMUC members in the future. General Manager Bryant commended Jason Choate for his efforts representing CWEP on the JMUC Board, where he currently serves as vice-president.

A motion by Schmidt and seconded by Collier to approve Resolution 2025.01 as presented, passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the construction of a new parking lot on Centennial Avenue

GM Bryant discussed the construction of a new 20,632 square foot parking lot on the corner of Centennial Avenue and Forest Avenue, across the street from CWEP's Centennial Complex. Bryant explained the lot will be used for parking for the community room and CWEP staff as needed, noting that the current lot is frequently full when there are events taking place in the community room. The project will involve excavation and grading of the site, as well as the installation of concrete curbing, sidewalks, a retaining wall, fencing, and associated labor. The total estimated cost for the project is \$350,709.12, and can be completed in accordance with the General Construction and Operational Maintenance Services contract with Randy Dubry Construction.

A motion by Garrison and seconded by Schmidt to approve using Randy Dubry Construction to construct the new parking lot for \$350,709.12, passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of bids for tree trimming and vegetation management services

General Manager Bryant presented to the board two bids received in response to CWEP's IFB for tree trimming and vegetation management services. The companies responding were Jasco Tree Service and Poor Boy Tree Service, the latter of which has been CWEP's tree trimming contractor for a number of years. Among those bids, Jasco Tree Service offered the lowest cost and met all requested specifications in licensing requirements. GM Bryant mentioned CWEP staff believe Jasco will be able to perform all of CWEP's needs under the contract.

A motion by Collier and seconded by Gier to approve awarding the tree trimming and vegetation management bid to Jasco Tree Service, passed unanimously.

5. Selection of board officers for FY26

Board President Ross reminded the board of his suggestion at the prior meeting for potential FY26 board officers, a slate which includes Collier as President, Schmidt as Vice President, and Teel as secretary. President Ross opened the nominations to the board for alternative suggestions, but none were raised.

A motion by Garrison and seconded by Gier to approve the proposed slate of officers as presented, passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS:

CFO Nugent noted that inventory is coming up the final week of June and reminded the board that both June and FY25 year-end financials will be presented in August rather than July.

Director of Water Services Choate updated the board on the status of the ARPA CIPP project, noting it is entering its final mile, having been delayed by the heavy rains experienced throughout the month of May.

Director of IT/Broadband Services Peterson announced that CWEP has reached 3,000 fiber services, which was a goal of his team for this fiscal year.

Director of Power Supply Emery explained the low capacity factors for Dogwood and Sikeston for the month can be attributed to scheduled maintenance and should improve next month as both are already back online or scheduled to be back online within the week.

GM Bryant thanked all who attended the company picnic and thanked the picnic committee for the effort they put into making it a fun event for all. He announced that CWEP has welcomed four interns for the summer, introducing them and letting the board know where they would be working. He congratulated Maddie Winder on the upcoming birth of her baby, noting she is out of the office on maternity leave. GM Bryant also discussed the status of annual performance evaluations, noting they will wrap up before the start of the new fiscal year. Finally, he informed the board that he attended the APPA National Conference earlier in the month, where he was selected to serve on the Executive Committee for the APPA Board, an honor bestowed upon only a handful of APPA Board members. He expressed his enthusiasm to be able to represent CWEP as he serves on the executive committee in the upcoming year.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Board President Ross echoed GM Bryant's comments regarding the picnic and thanked all who helped make it a success.

Vice President Collier inquired about Marian Days preparations. He also thanked the board for the FY26 officers selection, noting he is looking forward to serving as President.

At 4:42 pm, a motion by Collier and seconded by Teel to close a portion of the regular meeting pursuant to § 610.021(3), the hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees by the public governmental body when personal information about the employee is discussed, and § 610.021(13), individually identifiable personnel records, performance ratings or records pertaining to employees or applicants for employment, of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, passed unanimously via a roll call vote.

Collier:	Aye
Garrison:	Aye
Gier:	Aye
Ross:	Aye
Schmidt:	Aye
Teel:	Aye

The meeting went into closed session.

At 5:53 the meeting returned to open session. Garrison moved to adjourn, Collier seconded, and the meeting adjourned.

President – Ron Ross

Secretary – Brian Schmidt

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