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Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission
May 18, 2026
Minutes

The Rogers Waterworks and Sewer Commission held its monthly meeting at 4:00 PM, May 18, 2026, at the Rogers Water Utilities Administration Building located at 601 S 2nd Street.

Present were Commissioners Paige Sultemeier, Derek Morgan, Kathy McClure, Chairperson Jene' Huffman- Gilreath and Jerry Carmichael. Rogers Water Utilities staff present were Aaron Short, Jered Sigmon, Brian Sartain, Jennifer Hoffman, Todd Beaver, Travis Tripodi, Mario Morales, Johnny Lunsford and Brent Dobler. Robert Frazier with the Frazier Law Firm was in attendance.

Chair Huffman-Gilreath called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. She then opened the Public Forum. With no participants, she proceeded to close the Public Forum.

Chair Huffman-Gilreath then called for action on the minutes from the April 20, 2026, Water and Sewer Commission meeting. Commissioner McClure made a motion to approve the minutes from April 20, 2026. Commissioner Sultemeier seconded. All in favor, minutes were approved.

Chair Huffman-Gilreath then recognized Jered Sigmon to present the financial reports. Billed revenue in the Water department for April 2026 was up 32.3% from April of 2025 at $1,855,279. This included 105,956,800 gallons sold to the City of Bentonville for $192,000. The fiscal year total net income in the Water department was $6,115,445 at 62% of Budget. Water consumption was up 57% at 360,196,878 gallons. Residential/Commercial/Industrial consumption was up 12.4% year over year. The percentage of Fiscal Year Passed is 83%. Water revenues are 75% of budget and expenses are 83% of budget. Capital spending is 47% at $5,031,361.

The Sewer department billed revenue for the month of April 2026 is up 25.2% from April 2025 at $2,107,830. Fiscal year total net income in the Sewer department was $9,070,157 at 97% of Budget. Sewer consumption was up 8.1% from April of 2025 at 202,699,300 gallons. Residential/Commercial/Industrial consumption was up 23% year over year. The percentage of Fiscal Year Passed is 83%. Sewer revenues are at 87% of budget and expenses are at 81% of budget. Capital spending is 44% at $20,886,596.

Unrestricted cash reserves for April 2026 in Water are $27,907,934 and in Sewer are $29,137,443. Restricted funds in Water are $3,277,080 and in Sewer are $1,841,260. Total restricted and unrestricted cash reserves are $62,163,717. Impact and access fees collected in April 2026 totaled $382,000. YTD impact and access fee actuals are 53% of FY25 total and 35% of the FY26 budget. The twelve-month rolling average for unaccounted-for water stands at 9.0%.

Chair Huffman-Gilreath then recognized Brian Sartain to present the Engineering Reports. Brian began by updating construction progress on the Chateau sewer main project. He then gave an update on the RPCF solids handling facility and ended with an update on the RPCF capacity improvements EQ basin design concept. He ended with project development plan review trends and an ongoing project status report.

Chair Huffman-Gilreath then recognized Todd Beaver to present the Rogers Pollution Control Facility reports. Work continues on both the new dryer and SCADA projects. Todd was asked to attend and present at a residuals conference in Kansas City. His presentation specifically covered how RWU had chosen and implemented the Huber dryer equipment. The plant treated 344.3 MG in April including approximately 74.3 MG of I&I. The average daily flow for the month was 11.5 MGD. These flows included 6.85" of rain over 12 events. The historical average rainfall for April is 4.98".

Chair Huffman-Gilreath then recognized Travis Tripodi to present a design services contract with WER Architects for design of the Rogers Water Utilities Field Operations Facility. Travis showed an overlay map explaining that this project will be part of a city campus including fire department training, parks and recreation, RWU field operations, and the new animal control facility. Staff recommend approval of the design services agreement with WER architects, with the total (hourly services or lump sum) amount not to exceed ($1,019,050). Staff further requests authorization to negotiate the final form and content of the agreement. Commissioner McClure made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Sultemeier. All in favor, motion carried.

Chair Huffman-Gilreath then recognized Travis Tripodi to present an engineering proposal for the Industrial Area Service Expansion East project. He explained that this request is for professional services associated with the design of approximately 8,500 linear feet of 12" water main for Rogers Water Utilities. This project would potentially supply a larger volume of water to the west side of the Rogers Executive Airport. Ultimately, the airport would need to install a line from east to west and underneath their runways and taxiways to build out a "grid" that would lead to higher volumes at the airport. Staff recommend approval of the design services agreement with CEI, with the total hourly services amount not to exceed $327,015. Staff further request authorization to negotiate the final form and content of the agreement. Commissioner Carmichael made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner McClure. All in favor, motion carried.

Chair Huffman-Gilreath then recognized Travis Tripodi to present an easement acquisition for the Veteran's Park/Beacon Circle Sewer project. Travis opened the GIS map to show the Commission exactly where and why this easement was required for the new sewer project alignment. This project will streamline some complex sewer piping into a more manageable system that will also be easier to maintain and reduce inflows by moving out of drainage ways. The easement acquisition firm will be Contract Land Staff. Staff recommend approval of the easement acquisition service proposal from Contract Land Staff in the amount of $44,144. Commissioner McClure made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Carmichael. All in favor, motion carried

Chair Huffman-Gilreath then recognized Travis Tripodi to present bid results for a road bore underneath 8th Street just south of Hudson. This project will be done in-house and will result in closing a loop that will also aid in moving water both to and from our Rogers Executive Airport service area and points northeast. RWU crews cannot bore, so this request is for the boring contract only. Two bids were received, the lowest bid coming from Simon Ground Works for $55,800. Staff recommend acceptance of the bid from Simon Ground Works for the boring services in the amount of $55,800. Commissioner Carmichael made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner McClure. All in favor, motion carried.

Chair Huffman-Gilreath then recognized Brian Sartain to present the selection of the Construction Manager at Risk for the Rogers Pollution Control Facility Capacity Improvements project. Brian began by informing the Commission that RWU had a selection committee composed of RWU administration, engineering, and RPCF staff to evaluate qualifications from three respondents: Crossland Heavy, Flintco, and Garney. The project is to be designed and constructed in two phases using the CM/GC delivery method. Phase 1 preconstruction services encompass constructability reviews, value engineering, estimating, and scheduling activities. Phase I is complete when there is agreement on the project schedule and when all have agreed to a guaranteed maximum price (GMP). Phase II consists of the construction services, in which the CM/GC assumes the general contractor role, encompasses further design review, secures the procurement of subcontractors and vendors or self-perform elements of the construction (where permitted and at the Owner's discretion), and to ultimately construct and successfully commission all new facilities. All three companies were interviewed by the selection committee and the highest scored firm was Crossland Heavy Contractors. It is the recommendation of the selection committee to award the contract to Crossland Heavy Contractors. If approved by Commission, staff will move forward with contract negotiations with CHC and return to seek approval of the negotiated terms of the CM/GC Agreement. Commissioner Sultemeier made a motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner McClure. All in favor, motion carried.

Chair Huffman-Gilreath then recognized Jered Sigmon to present RESOLUTION 26-13 DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES FOR DEPOSITORIES FOR THE ROGERS WATERWROKS AND SEWER COMMMISSION AND THE ROGERS WATER UTILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Jered explained that this was simply an update to the signatories list to reflect the new Water and Sewer Commission Chair, Jene' Huffman-Gilreath. Commissioner Carmichael made a motion to approve RESOLUTION 26-13 DESIGNATING AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES FOR DEPOSITORIES FOR THE ROGERS WATERWROKS AND SEWER COMMMISSION AND THE ROGERS WATER UTILITIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, seconded by Commissioner Morgan. All in favor, Resolution 26-13 is adopted.

Chair Huffman-Gilreath then recognized Jered Sigmon to present the proposed FY27 Budget. Jered noted that the proposed budget reflects the adopted rate increases effective 7/1/26. He also explained that RWU has made a more conservative revenue estimate for access & impact fees since RWU was not able to collect the budgeted amount in the current year. The proposed budget will be an infrastructure heavy capital budget due to the commencement of design and construction on the RPCF Capacity Improvements, a project estimated to cost approximately $120 million. This project will require RWU to issue additional long-term sewer debt, which has been planned for and is included in the adopted rate structure. Cash reserves will remain above all required minimums. He then went over revenue, expense, income and reserve budgets for both the water and sewer departments as well as the capital projects for both departments. Commissioner McClure made a motion to approve the proposed FY27 Budget, seconded by Commissioner Sultemeier. All in favor, motion carried and proposed FY27 Budget approved.

Chair Huffman-Gilreath then recognized Robert Frazier to present RESOLUTION 26-14 APPOINTING AN ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS FOR THE WESTERN CORRIDOR TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT; AUTHORIZING FILING OF EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. Mr. Frazier explained that on October 20, 2025, the Commission passed its Resolution 25-31 authorizing RWU to purchase easements and rights of way for the Western Corridor Transmission Line Project and it has become necessary in some cases to acquire easements and rights of way or other property interests for this project through eminent domain proceedings. This Resolution appoints Brent Dobler, the Superintendent of the Rogers Water Utilities and Acting Secretary of the Commission, as an organizational representative on any eminent domain proceedings pertaining to the Western Corridor Transmission Project.

Commissioner Carmichael made a motion to approve RESOLUTION 26-14 APPOINTING AN ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS FOR THE WESTERN CORRIDOR TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT; AUTHORIZING FILING OF EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEEDINGS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, seconded by Commissioner McClure. All in favor, Resolution 26-14 is adopted.

With no further business, Chair Huffman-Gilreath adjourned the meeting at 5:31PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Dobler, Acting Secretary
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