

Rural Water District No. 7, Johnson County, Kansas

Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
September 9, 2025

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Directors present: Mary Nelson, Walter Johnston, Ken McCarty, Charlie Brovont, Shaun Henderson, Dennis Carlson, Chuck Finley, Frank Denning and Bill Locke. Others present: Allan Soetaert, Colin Stalter, Chester Bender, and Mindy Krouch.

Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

**1. Consent Agenda Items**

Chair Nelson requested that the Board of Directors consider the Consent Agenda items. Director McCarty moved to approve the consent items noted on the agenda. Director Locke seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**2. Consider Bids for WME & WMR for Gardner Road & 191<sup>st</sup> Street**

Colin Stalter, District Engineer, started by providing some history of this project area dating back to 2017. He noted that this project encompasses approximately 3 miles of water main improvements along Gardner Road, north of 199<sup>th</sup> Street, and along 191<sup>st</sup> Street east of Gardner Road. Chester Bender of Ponzer-Youngquist outlined the two project sections: Section 1 covers water mains along Gardner Road and 191st to Moonlight, and Section 2 extends east approximately 3,600 feet from 191st and Moonlight. He recommended upsizing Section 2 from an 8-inch to a 12-inch main to improve fire flows to support potential future development. Mr. Bender reported that six bids were received, with Ron Weers Construction submitting the lowest bid for both sections at \$1,364,147.00, which includes the upsizing option of Section 2. Mr. Stalter also discussed utility corridors in the area and noted that this project will help stabilize system pressures. He confirmed the project is included in the 2025 budget and proposed to be funded by internal reserves. Following discussion, Director Carlson moved to award the contract to the low bidder, Ron Weers Construction, Inc along with Bid Alternate #2B, in the amount of \$1,361,147; further, authorizing the Chairman and Secretary to execute the construction contract. Director McCarty seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**3. Consider Billing Software Options**

District Manager Allan Soetaert opened the discussion by explaining the reason for the proposed change in utility billing software. He noted that the District's current software version is no longer supported by the software company (CUSI) and does not meet present-day security standards. Mr. Soetaert provided background on the District's history with CUSI, outlined the alternatives offered, and reported that staff had evaluated five different software solutions. Based on this review, staff recommended moving forward with Current Software as the new utility billing platform. He also explained the resulting need for a third-party printing service and that the transition was being planned for early 2026. The Board discussed options for addressing this requirement. Following further discussion, Director Carlson moved to authorize the District Manager to sign and execute the proposal from Current Software as presented. Director McCarty seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

**4. Consider Property Improvement at 215<sup>th</sup> Street Elevated Storage Tank**

Mr. Soetaert reported that since the tower's construction in the early 1990s, the concrete sidewalk surrounding the tank has experienced significant settling, resulting in an uneven entry through the side garage door. He noted that one bid has been received from Holiday Contracting in the amount of \$17,000, which is below the 2025 budgeted allocation for this project. While he will continue to seek an additional bid, he recommended proceeding with Holiday Contracting if no further proposals are received by September 15. Director Henderson moved to authorize management to proceed as presented. Director Locke seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

## 5. Reports/Updates

### 5a. Chair Updates & Reports

Chair Nelson requested a brief meeting with the Budget Committee following tonight's session. She also invited everyone to the Board Appreciation Dinner on October 11 and asked members to review the conceptual plans for the Four Corners property.

Mr. Soetaert then invited the Board to provide feedback on the conceptual plans.

### 5b. Monthly Report by Staff

Mr. Stalter provided brief updates on the District's active construction projects. He reported on the Geiger Plant, noting that a WME agreement has been executed, and shared that a new NCAC building has been completed on the east side of the airport. He explained that a Notice of Award will be prepared for Weers Construction and outlined a new project at 143rd and Kill Creek Road, which will require a small WME/WMR to reroute an existing line for a planned cul-de-sac serving several new lots. He further noted that Lone Star Prairie has advanced into its second phase of development and that steel work has begun at the TimberRidge Tank, with KLM providing inspections.

Mr. Soetaert reported that the District has entered into an agreement for the phased development at Edgerton Road and 95th Street. He noted ongoing discussions with Water One and Spring Hill, as well as upcoming discussions with Miami County RWD2. He also mentioned a billing discrepancy with the City of Olathe. Looking ahead, he highlighted upcoming items for Board consideration, including a review of benefit unit pricing and a Debt Capacity review with one of the District's consultants, Beth Warren. He further noted that the LPKC Tower is scheduled for cleaning in October and that a public hearing will be held at the October 14 meeting for a proposed loan from Rural Development.

## 6. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Nelson requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Director Carlson moved such. Director Locke seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Time noted was 6:43PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Dennis Carlson, Secretary