



# Centerton Utilities

(Water/Wastewater Departments) (Franchised Utility Permitting)

September 16, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting of the Centerton Waterworks & Sewer Commission called to order by Commissioner Donald Casteel.

**(1) ROLL CALL** – Commissioners present: Melvin Coffelt, Robert Anderson, Donald Casteel, Michelle Haverkamp & TJ Wells. Centerton Utilities' present: Malcolm Attwood, Chad Klingler, John Daniels, Mary Perkins, and Thresia Leimberg. Professional Services present: Jeff Dehnhardt & Tim Mays of ESI, Heather Owens of Harrington Miller, City of Centerton present: Diane Morrison Lloyd.

**(2) Pledge of Allegiance**

**(3) Approval of Consent Agenda:** Commissioner Casteel introduced the minutes of Centerton Utilities from consent agenda August 17, 2025. He asked if anyone had questions or concerns. Commissioner Coffelt made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Haverkamp seconded the motion. No members were opposed, and the motion was carried.

**(4) Old Business:**

a. **Attorney report – Harrington Miller Law Firm - Heather Owens:** Nothing new to report.

b. **Project Updates – Engineering Services, Inc.**

- I. **Hwy 102 Water Tower #4: Jeff Dehnhardt with ESI:** The Highway 102 Water Tower Project is currently approximately 70% complete in terms of contract value. However, the project continues to lag behind schedule, as it has for much of its duration. At present, the contractor has used about 95% of the allotted contract time, though their working schedule remains consistent with previous updates. The contractor continues to target substantial completion by late December or the first week of January. During the past month, the contractor completed erection of the tank structure, installed the internal mixing system inside the bowl, continued painting operations, and prepared for installation of remaining yard piping.

The next major activity will be installation of the pumping system, anticipated to begin soon. Overall, the project is progressing at a steady pace consistent with prior months, with no significant changes to the contractor's planned schedule at this time.

- II. **Hwy 102 Widening – Utilities Relocations: Jeff Dehnhardt with ESI:** The Arkansas Department of Health approved the utility relocation plans on September 4. Staff recommended proceeding to advertise the project for bids. ARDOT plans to start its associated highway project next year, and advertising could begin as early as this Sunday with Commission approval. Twelve easements have been secured, and negotiations continue for the remaining properties. Due to the corridor's complexity, a 45-day advertisement period is recommended, with a bid opening in mid-November and construction anticipated to begin in January.

Commissioner Anderson moved to authorize the advertisement for bids for the Highway 102 Widening Utility Relocation Project. Commissioner Wells seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- III. **Sanitary Sewer – Collection Systems Upgrades: Jeff with ESI:** ESI met with Utility Director Attwood and staff last week to review plans and gather input on the Allen Road Lift Station improvements. Plan design is 75–80% complete. Based on feedback, the project will proceed toward submittal to the Arkansas Department of Health within 30 days. Engineers also reviewed potential additional improvements along the McKissic Creek Interceptor, where new developments (Tower Park and Seba Hills) may be affected by capacity pinch points. Options include upsizing the existing 12-inch line to 15-inch or



# Centerton Utilities

(Water/Wastewater Departments) (Franchised Utility Permitting)

larger to accommodate future growth. The Commission agreed to proceed with current design submittal and continue evaluating the McKissic segment as a separate project. Estimated cost for the Allen Road and collection upgrades is \$9–10 million, with preliminary estimates of \$3–4 million for the additional McKissic improvements if pursued later. Staff and commissioners also met with ADH representatives at the Arkansas Rural Water Conference to discuss ongoing projects and coordination with the Decatur WWTP expansion. ADH indicated that new developments may receive conditional approvals once both the Decatur plant and Centerton's collection improvements are approved, with occupancy permitted upon project completion.

- IV. **Decatur WWTP Status:** Mayor Sharp reported continued progress on the Decatur WWTP expansion, noting that equipment installation is ongoing and major components, including the headworks screens, are now set in place. Electrical work, gates, and associated systems are in progress, and headworks completion remains on schedule. Work on the sludge press system has begun, with a specialized crew from Wisconsin arriving to start installation next week. Coordination continues with ADEQ and the Arkansas Department of Health regarding the modified discharge permit. The agencies are reviewing whether immediate UV disinfection upgrades will be required before plant startup under the revised permit. Engineers are working to negotiate a phased approach allowing the new UV system to come online as needed. The overall project remains on schedule, with startup anticipated around December. Decatur is funding approximately \$6.5 million internally to expand the biological treatment capacity, separate from the headworks project. Mayor Sharp also noted discussions are underway on a future plant expansion (10–12 MGD), with engineering firms already developing a preliminary engineering report to define the scope and cost. He emphasized Decatur's commitment to supporting regional growth and maintaining coordination with Centerton's collection system improvements.

## C. Director's Report:

- I. **Project Planning Worksheet (attached) - Utility Director Attwood:** An updated Project Planning Worksheet was included in the Commission packet. Commissioner Attwood received an updated priority list from the Planning Department last week. He will review and update it accordingly before distribution later this week. The Commission discussed the value of creating a color-coded map overlay showing project locations to visualize their relation to the overall collection system. Utility Director Attwood will prepare this geographic map and updated list for presentation at an upcoming City Council meeting.

- II. **Customer Service Report: Office Manager Mary Perkins** – Nothing new to report.

**Field Operations Report - Superintendent Chad Klingler:** In Field Operations, commission discussed a recent incident involving debris found in a sewer line. The material was located far downstream, making it difficult to determine the exact point of origin. It is believed the debris was deliberately placed into a manhole. Staff will coordinate with the City's Public Works Department to share information on the incident and ensure awareness among their inspection teams.

- III. **Service Line Replacement Program Update** – **Utility Director Attwood** reported that approximately \$107,000 has been spent to date under the current year's contract, leaving a balance just under \$300,000. Progress continues to improve as crews and contractors have refined their workflow and coordination. A significant increase in activity and invoicing is anticipated for September due to additional work orders being issued. The spreadsheet included in the packet reflects completed subcontractor work, with further updates to be incorporated in the next reporting cycle.
- IV. **RJN Group Sanitary Sewer Flow Monitoring & Modeling – Update:** RJN Group recently serviced and calibrated all flow monitors and rain gauges on September 11. One monitor had been tampered with but was repaired, and another experienced minor technical issues; however, accurate flow data is still being calculated based on depth measurements. RJN, ESI, and Centerton Utilities staff held a coordination meeting earlier this month. A shared data folder has been established for information exchange between RJN, ESI, and staff, and RJN has received as-built drawings of the collection system. ESI is assisting with data organization to support model development. ESI field crews are providing



# Centerton Utilities

(Water/Wastewater Departments) (Franchised Utility Permitting)

additional survey work at RJN's request to fill data gaps. Coordination with Colton at RJN remains ongoing to ensure all necessary data is delivered promptly to support completion of the hydraulic model.

## (5) New/Other Business:

- a. **Feasibility Study RFPs** : Commissioner Wells noted staff should proceed with issuing RFPs for a Sewer System Feasibility Study to evaluate long-term sewer service options. Commissioner Anderson stated the study will provide life-cycle costs over a 30-year period, considering operational, maintenance, and financial feasibility for various scenarios—such as full flow to Decatur or split-flow alternatives. Commissioner Anderson presented a draft statement of work outlining expectations for the report and its purpose to inform both the Commission and City Council in future planning and funding discussions.

Commissioner Anderson moved to authorize the Utilities Director to advertise the Request for Proposals for the Sewer System Feasibility Study. Commissioner Haverkamp seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Staff will circulate the draft advertisement language to the Commission for review prior to publication.

- b. **Neptune Mobile Data Collector Quote** : Commissioner Attwood presented a quote from Natsumo for the Neptune Mobile Data Collector, included in the commission packet. The 2025 budget included \$20,000 for this purchase, however, the current quote totals \$21,179.

Commissioner Anderson moved to authorize the purchase of the Neptune Mobile Data Collector and to amend the budget for \$2,000 to cover the additional cost. Commissioner Wells seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- c. **Act 605 Repair Accounts Invoices** - Accountant Daniels presented the following invoices for payment from the Act 605 Water and Sewer Repair Accounts: Freezing Compressor Solutions – \$10,217.00, Calcon, Inc. – five invoices totaling \$12,675.00, Diamond C Construction – \$72,144.58.

Commissioner Anderson moved to approve payment of the invoices as presented by the Act 605 funds. Commissioner Wells seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- d. **Easement Acquisition Payments for 102 Widening – Utilities Relocations** - Utility Director Attwood reported 12 easements approved, totaling about \$45,000. Final project costs will depend on upcoming bid results. Commissioner Anderson recommended proceeding with negotiations as feasible unless amounts become excessive. Commissioner Wells suggested monitoring any offers over 50% of appraised value. Attwood noted most offers have been below full value, with some requiring full payment. Updates will be provided at the next meeting, and any excessive payout request will be reviewed with the Commission prior to payout.

- e. **Standard Specifications Updates – Hydraulic Analysis**: Utility Director Attwood recommended updating the Commission's Standard Specifications to require a hydraulic analysis for new developments at the preliminary plat stage, ensuring adequate system capacity prior to connection. ESI will draft proposed language, and additional specification updates will be included in a broader January 2026 adoption package following ADH review and comments.

Commissioner Anderson moved to direct the Utility Director and engineering consultant to prepare an amendment to the standard specifications reflecting this requirement. Commissioner Wells seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- f. **BWRPWA Annual Meeting**: Utility Director Attwood reported that the Two-Ton Annual Meeting was held recently at the new training facility. No changes were made to officer positions — James Boston remains Chair, Attwood continues as Vice Chair, and Rick Craft of Gentry remains Secretary/Treasurer. Committee assignments also remain unchanged.



# Centerton Utilities

(Water/Wastewater Departments) (Franchised Utility Permitting)

- g. **FY2026 Budget Meeting:** Attwood noted that work has begun on the 2026 Budget, and a budget workshop will need to be scheduled within the next 2–3 weeks to allow presentation to the City Council in November. Attendance will be mandatory as it will be a public meeting.
- h. **Act 605 Training** – Commissioner Wells completed Act 605 training last week during the Arkansas Rural Water Technical Conference.

**(6) Resolutions – None**

**(7) Public Comment –**

- Wendy Henson addressed the Commission, noting that Centerton celebrates its 111th anniversary today. She expressed appreciation to the Commission, staff, engineers, developers, and neighboring cities for their ongoing efforts to improve the community. Henson emphasized the importance of the work being done for the benefit of future generations and thanked everyone for their continued service.
- Diane Morrison-Lloyd, speaking on behalf of Mayor Bill Edwards and Planning Director Lorene Burns, asked about the timeline for additional sewer pinch point work beyond the Allen Road project. The Commission and ESI noted the Allen Road plans are 75–80% complete and will be submitted to ADH within 30 days, with the McKissic Creek work proceeding as a separate project still in early development.

She also discussed the updated project priority list, coordination with Centerton Utilities, and posting of meeting recordings online once audio quality issues are resolved and minutes approved. The Commission further emphasized the need for clear coordination between Planning and Utilities on any future sewer tap swap proposals to maintain accurate capacity record.

- Skip Anderson discussed an easement issue related to the Wolverine Project, noting access problems caused by a missing easement on the Silver Maple plat and requested assistance in resolving the matter. Utility Director Attwood agreed to follow up after the meeting.

Anderson also expressed concern about delays in addressing sewer pinch points and requested a map showing restricted capacity areas to guide developers. Commissioner Wells and Utility Director Attwood confirmed mapping and coordination efforts are underway, and upcoming specification updates will require developers to perform sanitary sewer studies before development approvals.

**(8) Announcements – Next meeting October 21, 2025**

- (9) Adjournment** - Commissioner Casteel asked the attendees if there were any questions. With no further business, Commissioner Anderson made a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Wells 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned.