

# **EXHIBIT C**

## **APPROVED SEPTEMBER 7, 2022**

### **MINUTES**

#### **SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEES ON CITY, COUNTY, AND LOCAL AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, July 27, 2022**

**9:00 AM**

**Room A, MAC**

**Little Rock, Arkansas**

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Committee members present: Senators Gary Stubblefield, Chair; Scott Flippo, Mark Johnson, and Dan Sullivan. Representatives Lanny Fite, Chair; Howard Beaty, Frances Cavanaugh, Andrew Collins, Carol Dalby, Megan Godfrey, Delia Haak (virtual), Mark Holcomb, Mark Perry, Johnny Rye, Jamie Scott, Keith Slape, and Les Warren

Other members present: Senator Ronald Caldwell. Representatives Rick Beck, Mark Berry, Stan Berry, Cameron Cooper, Les Eaves, Kenneth Ferguson, Jimmy Gazaway, David Hillman, Aaron Pilkington, Joy Springer, and Dwight Tosh

Senator Stubblefield called the meeting to order.

#### **Approval of Minutes for the August 18, 2021, Meeting [Exhibit B]**

Representative Godfrey made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Senator Flippo, and the motion carried.

#### **Investing in Arkansas's Water and Wastewater Infrastructure: Overview of Statewide Industry Needs**

Mr. Michael Clayton, President, Arkansas Water and Wastewater Managers Association (AWWMA); Mr. Heath Ward, Past President, AWWMA; and Mr. Dennis Sternberg, Executive Director, Arkansas Rural Water Association; were recognized and provided an overview of statewide industry needs and access to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

#### **Urgency in Decision-Making Exacerbated by Current Economic Conditions: The Process in Undertaking Improvements/Expansions**

Mr. Daniel Dawson, General Manager, Searcy Water Utilities; Ms. Thea Hughes, General Manager, Jacksonville Wastewater Utility; Mr. Rick Pulvirenti, P.E., Chief Operating Officer and Director of Engineering Springdale Water Utilities; Mr. Heath Ward, Executive Director, Springdale Water Utilities; Mr. John Choate, General Manager, Tri-County Regional Water Distribution District (RWDD); Mr. Leon Cotton, Tri-county RWDD; Mr. Robert Dale, Board Chairman, Tri-County RWDD; and Mr. Mike Neil, Facility Manager, Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority; were recognized and discussed the process in undertaking improvements, expansions, industry needs, and access to the ARPA funds.

#### **Discussion from Engineering Firms Concerning the Bid Process and Marketplace, Time Horizon, and Cost Consideration in Today's Economy**

Mr. Jerry Martin, Water Team Leader, P.E., Process and Infrastructure Project Manager, Garver Engineering; Mr. Matt Dunn, President, Crist Engineers; Mr. Aaron Benzing, P.E., Vice President of

Client Relations, Hawkins Weir Engineering; Mr. Bryon Hicks, P.E., Chairman and Chief Financial Officer McClelland Engineering; and Mr. Brad Hammond, P.E., Arkansas Office Leader, Olsson Engineering; were recognized. Mr. Hammonds provided the committee with a handout titled, “2022 Construction Inflation Alert.” The presenters discussed issues and concerns with wastewater, the bid process, cost considerations in today’s economy and the need for ARPA funds.

**Discussion Concerning Project Financing**

Mr. Kevin Faught, Senior Vice President, Stephens Incorporated, was recognized and discussed project financing, the bond funding process, and rates impacted by inflation.

**Discussion by Local Government Officials Concerning the Need to Invest in Arkansas’s Water and Wastewater Infrastructure**

Mr. Doug Kinslow, Mayor, Greenwood; Mr. Kent Smith, Mayor, Biscoe; Mr. Jonas Anderson, Mayor, Cave City (virtual); and Mr. Hillrey Adams, Mayor, Mountain Home; were recognized and discussed issues and concerns with Arkansas’s water and wastewater infrastructure.

**State’s Response to Date From Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Infrastructure Funds**

There was no discussion on this topic.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.