



STATE OF ARKANSAS
**BUREAU OF
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH**

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August 28, 2017

Meeting Notice

**WATER PROVIDER LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE
of the
ARKANSAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Legislative Members

Sen. Ronald Caldwell
Sen. Alan Clark
Sen. Scott Flippo

Rep. Fredrick J. Love
Rep. Justin Boyd
Rep. Tim Lemons

Non-Legislative Members

Mr. Mark Bennett
Mr. Jack Critcher
Judge Rick Davis
Mr. Daniel Dawson
Ms. Jennifer Enos
Mr. Alan Fortenberry

Mr. Tom Fox
Mr. Barry Haas
Ms. Alexandra Johnston
Mr. Dale Kimbrow
Mr. Dennis Sternberg
Mr. Barry Weathers

The **Water Provider Legislative Task Force** will hold its first meeting on **Wednesday, August 30, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. in Room B, 5th Floor, MAC Building**. The MAC building is located behind the Capitol. Entrance to the 5th Floor is through the doors of the MAC Building facing towards the back of the Capitol, and has a tan awning covering the sidewalk leading out to the street.

At the first meeting, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives will act as joint chairs. Legislative members of the Task Force shall choose a chair or co-chairs and a vice chair or vice co-chairs from within their number. All members of the Task Force are voting members for the purpose of setting agendas, establishing quorums, putting together reports, and all other purposes. A majority of the members of the Task Force shall constitute a quorum. The Task Force shall also establish rules and procedures for conducting its business. The Task Force was established by Act 1056 of 2017. For additional details, please see the Act. The attachments contain the formal meeting notice, a copy of Act 1056, a list of Task Force members and their contact information, and a draft of the proposed Rules of Procedures.

A meeting agenda will follow at a later date. For questions or additional information, please feel free to contact Karen Holliday, legislative staff assigned to the Task Force.

Karen Holliday
Senior Legislative Analyst
Bureau of Legislative Research
One Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Little Rock, AR 72201
501-537-9167
karenh@blr.arkansas.gov

WATER PROVIDER LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE
Act 1056 (SB 376) of 2017

APPOINTMENTS

The Task Force shall consist of the following:

(1) The *President Pro Tempore* of the Senate or his or her designee

Senator Scott Flippo
P.O. Box 705
Bull Shoals, AR 72619
870-445-5371
scott.flippo@senate.ar.gov

(2) The *Speaker* of the House or his or her designee

Representative Justin Boyd
1509 South 37th Street
Fort Smith, AR 72903-2946
479-262-2156
justin.boyd.pharm.d@gmail.com

(3) The Chair of the *Senate* Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs or his or her designee

Senator Alan Clark
P.O. Box 211
Lonsdale, AR 72087
501-262-3360
alan.clark@senate.ar.gov

(4) The Chair of the *House* Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs or his or her designee

Representative Tim Lemons
38 Brentwood Cove
Cabot, AR 72023-7301
501-605-7565
arstrep43@gmail.com

(5) A member of the *Minority* party of the General Assembly

Appointed by the President Pro Tempore *and* the Speaker

Representative Fred Love
P.O. Box 4963
Little Rock, AR 72214-4963
501-612-3939
fjlove@att.net

(6) A member of the *Majority* party of the General Assembly

Appointed by the President Pro Tempore *and* the Speaker

Senator Ronald Caldwell
120 CR 393
Wynne, AR 72396
501-682-6107
ronald.caldwell@senate.ar.gov

(7) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ARNC), or his or her designee

Mark Bennett, Chief of Water Development
Arkansas Natural Resources Commission
101 East Capitol, Suite 350
Little Rock, AR 72201
501-682-3978
mark.bennett@arkansas.gov

(8) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission (AEDC), or his or her designee

Alexandra Johnston, Division Director, Rural Services Arkansas Economic Development Commission 900 W. Capitol Ave, Suite 400 Little Rock, AR 72201 501-682-6012 ajohnston@arkansasedc.com	Jean Noble* AEDC jknoble@arkansasedc.com 501-682-7389 *serves while Alex is on maternity leave mid-Sept. until early December
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(9) The Chair of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, or his or her designee

Tom Fox
FTN Associates
3 Innwood Circle, Ste. 220
Little Rock, AR 72211-2449
501-225-7779

(10) A member or staff person of the Arkansas Municipal League (ARML)

Appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives

Jack Critcher, Legislative Liaison
Arkansas Municipal League
P. O. Box 38
North Little Rock, AR 72115
501-940-4777 (C)
jcritcher@arml.org

(11) A member or staff person of the Association of Arkansas Counties (AAC)

Appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate

Judge Rick Davis
Garland County Judge
501 Ouachita Avenue, Room 210
Hot Springs, AR 71901
501-622-3602 (O)
501-617-3851 (C)
rdavis@garlandcounty.org

(12) An active Arkansas home builder

Appointed by the Governor

Barry Weathers, Owner
Weathers Construction
3133 Mount Tabor Road
Cabot, AR 72023
501-941-9414
*email address will be added later

(13) A member of the Arkansas Rural Water Association (ARWA)

Designated by the Chief Executive Officer of the Arkansas Rural Water Association

Dennis Sternberg, ARWA CEO
Arkansas Rural Water Association
P.O. Box 860
Lonoke, AR 72086
501-676-2255
arwads@arkansas.net

(14) A member of the Arkansas Water Environment Association (AWEA)

Designated by the President of the Arkansas Water Environment Association

Jennifer Enos, Wastewater Facilities Director
Springdale Water Utilities
P.O. Box 769
Springdale, AR 72764
479-756-3657
jenos@springdalewater.com

(15) A member of the Arkansas Water and Wastewater Managers Association (AWWMA)

Designated by the President of the Arkansas Water and Wastewater Managers Association

Daniel K. Dawson
General Manager
Searcy Water Utilities
P.O. Box 1319
Searcy, AR 72145-1319
501-268-2481
d.dawson@cablelynx.com

(16) A member of the Arkansas Water Works and Water Environment Association (AWW&WEA)

Designated by the Chair of the Arkansas Water Works and Water Environment Association

Alan Fortenberry, P.E.
Chief Executive Officer
Beaver Water District
P.O. Box 400, 301 N. Primrose Rd.
Lowell, AR 72745-0400
479-756-3651
afortenberry@bwdh2o.org

(17) A member of Central Arkansas Water (CAW)

Designated by the Chief Executive Officer of Central Arkansas Water

Dale Kimbrow, Manager of Planning, Regionalism & Future Water Source
Central Arkansas Water
221 East Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 1789
Little Rock, AR 72203
501-377-1282
dale.kimbrow@carkw.com

(18) A consumer advocate with water conservation knowledge or interest from the staff or membership of the Arkansas Citizens First Congress or the staff's or membership's designee

Appointed by the Governor.

Barry Haas
804 Konrad Court
Little Rock, AR 72223
501-821-4097
bhaas@sbcglobal.net

The legislative members of the Task Force shall choose a chair or co-chairs and vice chair or vice co-chairs from within their number to lead the Task Force:

--All members of the task force are voting members for the purpose of setting agendas, Establishing quorums, and putting together reports

--The Task Force is tasked with providing:

- (A) A Vision Report for where Arkansas should be in the future
- (B) An Action Report
- (C) Best Practices for providing new service and any other area the Task Force chooses to report on

A report on all tasks completed by **January 1, 2019** be given to

1. Governor
2. Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission
3. Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce
4. Arkansas Municipal League
5. Association of Arkansas Counties
6. Water providers
7. Members of the Senate Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs (2019)
8. Members of the House Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs (2019)

Karen Holliday, Task Force Staff
Bureau of Legislative Research
Little Rock, AR 72201
501-537-9167
karenh@blr.arkansas.gov

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.
Act 1056 of the Regular Session

1 State of Arkansas
2 91st General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: S3/1/17 H3/27/17

A Bill

SENATE BILL 376

4
5 By: Senator A. Clark

For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO CREATE THE WATER PROVIDER LEGISLATIVE TASK
9 FORCE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

11 TO CREATE THE WATER PROVIDER LEGISLATIVE
12 TASK FORCE.

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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

18
19 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY.

20 Arkansas Water Provider Legislative Task Force.

21 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

22 (1) Utilities by their inherent nature are often monopolies;

23 (2) The people grant these monopolies as a way of enhancing
24 service and economic development and not the opposite;

25 (3) If service is being well provided, the most people possible
26 are enjoying the use of the service, and economic development is aided, then
27 it may be said the monopoly is being used well;

28 (4) If service is not well provided, many people are denied
29 service, and economic development is diminished or thwarted, then it may be
30 said the monopoly is not being used well;

31 (5) A monopoly should not be granted or allowed to continue in
32 the same hands if the people served or people who should be served are being
33 harmed;

34 (6) No utility provides a more basic need for human life and
35 economic development than a water provider;

36 (7) To this date in the state, no monopoly has been given more



1 power to decide whether to serve or not to serve than a water provider;

2 (8) It has been brought into question if water providers in some
3 locales are doing the best job to provide the best service to the most people
4 and to enhance economic development;

5 (9) To determine whether a water provider is providing
6 adequately or not in exchange for the monopoly granted, there need to be
7 standards by which to judge the water providers; and

8 (10) The people of this state deserve to have a fair set of
9 standards when seeking to obtain a service so basic to human life.

10 (b) The General Assembly intends that a water provider:

11 (1) Should not have to provide water outside the areas that the
12 water provider has agreed to serve;

13 (2) Does not have to bear any cost to provide new service within
14 the service area unless the water provider bears that cost for the same type
15 of new service to all customers within the service area;

16 (3) May set rates that vary by location and political
17 subdivision, unless the water provider has required an agreement to do
18 otherwise when service is established; and

19 (4)(A) Shall not be required to extend water lines or provide
20 water for any area that the water provider has not agreed to serve.

21 (B) As used in this subdivision (b)(4), "agreed to serve"
22 means any area that the water provider has agreed to serve by original
23 charter and any area the water provider has agreed to serve in subsequent
24 actions, including without limitation accepting water lines and providing
25 service.

26 (C) All areas within the platted area of a municipality or
27 water district shall be included whether or not there is a water main
28 directly adjacent to a water customer.

29 (c) The General Assembly intends that a water customer:

30 (1) Within a service area of a water provider, shall not be
31 discriminated against based on race, gender, marital status, religion, or the
32 political subdivision within which the water customer resides, except that:

33 (A) Different types of water customers may have different
34 sets of rules as may be practical for those type of divisions; and

35 (B) This subdivision (c)(1) does not affect a water
36 provider's right to set different rates for water itself, based on geographic

1 location or political subdivision;

2 (2) Within a water provider service area, cannot be made to meet
3 new requirements to obtain water unless all similar water customers,
4 regardless of location, also meet those requirements; and

5 (3) Within a service area already serviced by a water provider,
6 shall not be required to annex into a municipality or other political
7 subdivision if that requirement was not in place when the area became part of
8 the water provider's service area.

9 (d)(1) To provide a better water provider system, to aid in obtaining
10 basic water service for as many Arkansans as possible, and to enhance
11 economic development in the state, there is established the Water Provider
12 Legislative Task Force.

13 (2)(A) The task force shall study and provide a blueprint for
14 water security and development for the state.

15 (B) The blueprint shall include the best practices for
16 providing water to the most citizens in as broad a way and as economically as
17 possible and providing for the water needs and practices to bring economic
18 development to the state in a dependable and structured way.

19 (3) The task force shall consist of the following:

20 (A) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate or his or her
21 designee;

22 (B) The Speaker of the House of Representatives or his or
23 her designee;

24 (C) The Chair of the Senate Committee on City, County, and
25 Local Affairs or his or her designee;

26 (D) The Chair of the House Committee on City, County, and
27 Local Affairs or his or her designee;

28 (E) A member of the minority party of the General Assembly
29 to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of
30 the House of Representatives;

31 (F) A member of the majority party of the General Assembly
32 to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of
33 the House of Representatives;

34 (G) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Natural
35 Resources Commission or his or her designee;

36 (H) The Executive Director of the Arkansas Economic

1 Development Commission or his or her designee;

2 (I) The Chair of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce or
3 his or her designee;

4 (J) A member or staff person of the Arkansas Municipal
5 League to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

6 (K) A member or staff person of the Association of
7 Arkansas Counties to be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate;

8 (L) An active Arkansas home builder to be appointed by the
9 Governor;

10 (M) A member of the Arkansas Rural Water Association to be
11 designated by the Chief Executive Officer of the Arkansas Rural Water
12 Association;

13 (N) A member of the Arkansas Water Environment Association
14 to be designated by the President of the Arkansas Water Environment
15 Association;

16 (O) A member of the Arkansas Water and Wastewater Managers
17 Association to be designated by the President of the Arkansas Water and
18 Wastewater Managers Association;

19 (P) A member of the Arkansas Water Works and Water
20 Environment Association to be designated by the Chair of the Arkansas Water
21 Works and Water Environment Association;

22 (Q) A member of Central Arkansas Water to be designated by
23 the Chief Executive Officer of Central Arkansas Water; and

24 (R) A consumer advocate with water conservation knowledge
25 or interest from the staff or membership of the Arkansas Citizens First
26 Congress or the staff's or membership's designee, to be appointed by the
27 Governor.

28 (4) The legislative members of the task force shall choose a
29 chair and vice chair from within their number to lead the task force.

30 (5) All members of the task force are voting members for the
31 purpose of setting agendas, establishing quorums, putting together reports,
32 and all other purposes.

33 (6) The task force is tasked with providing:

34 (A) A vision report for where Arkansas should be in the
35 future;

36 (B) An action report;

1 (C) Best practices for providing new service and any other
2 area the task force chooses to report on; and

3 (D) A report on all tasks completed by January 1, 2019, to
4 the Governor, the Director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission,
5 the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, the Arkansas Municipal League, the
6 Association of Arkansas Counties, water providers, and the members of the
7 Senate Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs and the House Committee
8 on City, County, and Local Affairs of the Ninety-Second General Assembly.

9 (7)(A) The task force shall conduct its meetings at the State
10 Capitol Building or another site selected by the chair.

11 (B) Meetings of the task force shall be held at least one
12 (1) time every three (3) months but may occur more often at the call of the
13 chair.

14 (C) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker
15 of the House of Representatives shall:

16 (i) Call the first meeting of the task force within
17 sixty (60) days of the effective date of this act; and

18 (ii) Act as joint chairs of the task force at the
19 first meeting.

20 (8) The task force shall establish rules and procedures for
21 conducting its business.

22 (9) If a vacancy occurs on the task force, the vacancy shall be
23 filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

24 (10)(A) Legislative members of the task force shall be paid per
25 diem and mileage as authorized by law for attendance at meetings of interim
26 committees of the General Assembly.

27 (B) Nonlegislative members of the task force shall serve
28 without compensation but may receive reimbursement under § 25-16-902.

29 (11)(A) A majority of the members of the task force shall
30 constitute a quorum for transacting business of the task force.

31 (B) No action may be taken by the task force except by a
32 majority vote at a meeting at which a quorum is present.

33 (12) The task force may expend funds and resources in carrying
34 out its purpose and responsibilities that are appropriated or funded to the
35 task force by the General Assembly or a third party.

36 (13) The task force expires on January 1, 2019.

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/s/A. Clark

APPROVED: 04/06/2017

WATER PROVIDER LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE
(Act 1056 of 2017)
RULES OF PROCEDURE

PURPOSE: The purpose of these rules is to establish rules and procedures for conducting the business of the **Water Provider Legislative Task Force** and to inform the members of the Arkansas General Assembly and the public of the procedures and rules of the task force.

DUTIES:

1. The task force is required by Act 1056 of 2017 to:
 - a. Study and provide a blueprint for water security and development for the state; and
 - b. Recommend best practices to enhance economic development in the state through a dependable and structured way to aid as many Arkansans as possible in obtaining basic water service
2. On or before January 1, 2019, the task force is tasked with providing a Vision Report on where Arkansas should be in the future, an Action Report, and Best Practices for providing new service, plus any other area the task force chooses to report on.
3. On or before January 1, 2019, the task force is to provide a report on all tasks completed to the Governor, the Director of the Economic Development Commission, the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, the Arkansas Municipal League, the Association of Arkansas Counties, water providers, and the members of the Senate Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs and the House Committee on City, County, and Local Affairs of the Ninety-Second General Assembly.
4. The task force expires on January 1, 2019.

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE: Except as otherwise specified by these rules, the rules of the Arkansas House of Representatives and the Arkansas Senate shall be observed by the task force, insofar as they are applicable. If an applicable rule does not exist or the House and Senate rules are incompatible, the chair(s) shall decide the issue.

1. **Quorum.** The task force is made up of six (6) members of the General Assembly and sixteen (16) non-legislative members. A majority of the all the members of the task force shall constitute a quorum for transacting business of the task force.
2. **Action.** No action may be taken by the task force except by a majority vote at a meeting at which a quorum is present.
3. **Roll Call.** The task force shall vote by voice vote unless a roll call vote is requested by two (2) or more task force members. Roll call votes shall be recorded in the meeting minutes.

4. Motions. A motion shall receive a second to be considered for action by the task force.
5. Public Comment. The chair may provide the public an opportunity to speak during a task force meeting to allow for public comment on issues before the task force.
6. Minutes. Staff shall produce minutes of each task force meeting to be adopted by the task force at the subsequent scheduled meeting.

DRAFT