

**TRI-STATE WATER RESOURCE COALITION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2013 – 9:00 A.M.
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Welcome:

President David Hertzberg called the meeting to order. He asked those present to introduce themselves. The following were present:

Brian Bingle – City of Nixa, Missouri
Lynn Calton – City of Lamar, Missouri
David Hertzberg – City of Joplin, Missouri
Dean Kruithof – City of Branson, Missouri
Pete Rauch – City of Monett, Missouri
Roddy Rogers – Springfield City Utilities, Springfield, Missouri
Bob Williams – Carthage Water/Electric, Carthage, Missouri
Tom Pittman – City of Carthage, Missouri
Mike Ray – City of Branson, Missouri
Fred Schlegel – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Ryan Mueller – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Jason Choate – Carthage Water/Electric Plant
Brian Clark – USGS, Fayetteville, Arkansas
Mike Beezhold - CDM Smith
Chad Dulaney – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock, Arkansas
Scott Gard – U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City, Missouri
Edward Parker – U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City, Missouri
Dick Scott – Olsson Associates
Gail Melgren – Senator Claire McCaskill’s office
Susan Champlin - City of Joplin, Missouri

Approval of Minutes from May 15, 2013:

Mr. Hertzberg asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from May 15, 2013, and none were received. He asked for a motion to approve those minutes as written.

Brian Bingle moved, seconded by Dean Kruithof, that the minutes from May 15, 2013 be approved as written. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

Standing Committee Reports:

President:

Executive:

Mr. Hertzberg stated that Ms. Melgren announced her moving on to Senator McCaskill’s office, with the executive committee becoming a search committee. They have progressed through the interview process and are beginning to enter into negotiations and checking of references.

Mr. Hertzberg explained that the position has not been publicly advertised, with five individuals being interviewed. All are strong candidates, so he asked for a motion to give the executive committee the authority to proceed with the negotiation process.

Dean Kruithof moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that the executive committee be given the authority to proceed with the negotiation process. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

Mr. Rogers asked about continuing to the next phase. To expedite filling the position, Mr. Hertzberg requested the authority to hire an executive director based on references and negotiations, so that someone would possibly be on board by the September meeting.

Mr. Rogers asked about the intent of proceeding into negotiations, and if the committee and the applicant can come to terms within the budget, to extend a job offer.

Dena Kruithof moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that the previous motion be amended to grant the executive committee the authority to extend a job offer. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

Financial:

Mr. VanDaGriff was unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Rauch reported a fund balance of \$353,500.00.

Technical:

Mr. Rauch asked for Mike Beezhold from CDM Smith to make this presentation. Mr. Beezhold plans to discuss the details of his study during the technical committee session.

Communications:

Matt Barnhart was unable to attend this meeting. There was nothing new to report at this time.

Membership:

Mr. Rogers will meet with Bolivar on Tuesday, July 23, to present Tri-State’s mission and get them interested in joining Tri-State.

Legislative/Regulatory:

Mr. Bingle had nothing new to report at this time.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

JMUC:

Mr. Williams stated that the by-laws have been sent out for review and originally planned to vote on the by-laws at this meeting. He asked the board members to send him any comments within the next two months. He will plan on voting on the by-laws at the September board meeting.

USGS Update on Aquifer Study:

Brian Clark appeared representing the U.S. Geological Survey and stated that within the USGS, there is a groundwater resources program. During the early 2000's, Congress asked the USGS how much water is available. The GWRP initiated this program to assess the nation's water and began conducting studies during 2004. The power point map shows those studies that are completed, those studies that are underway, and some proposed studies. The Ozark Aquifer system was chosen as one study to submit proposals to move to the next phase.

Everything depends on future funding. The Ozark groundwater availability study covers most of the Ozarks in Missouri, a large part of northern Arkansas, and small portions of southeast Kansas and northeast Oklahoma. The USGS is tasked with looking at the situation from a very regional prospective, but they know there are more ongoing local issues. They try to encapsulate enough of that so that the tool that is developed may be used future issues that may come up.

Mr. Clark discussed the salt water/fresh water type of interface in the west. The study area goes south to the Arkansas River, north to the Missouri River, and east basically to the Mississippi River. The area covers about 60,000 square miles.

One of the major tools in this study is basically building a numerical model of the entire region. He incorporates water use, stream flow, and different properties with rock and fining layers to determine how the water is moving in that system. There are many springs throughout the area, including some of the largest springs in the nation such as Mammoth Springs and Big Spring.

Mr. Clark discussed the southern part of the study area having the unconventional shale gas exploration in the Boston Mountains in Arkansas. The development of the many wells in this area requires a lot of water, which becomes a concern.

This study provides more information into that subsurface and how things are moving. The power point map shows the centers of the faults and the wells that are in the areas. A study conducted during the 1980's and 1990's encapsulated the Ozark Aquifer. A model from that study illustrates the resolution of dealing with computational capacity at that time.

Mr. Clark discussed the timeframe and anticipates completion of the study in 2017.

Comments by Representatives of Federal and State Offices/Agencies:

Mr. Schlegel and Mr. Mueller had nothing new to report at this time. The representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had nothing new to report.

Ms. Melgren has been with Senator McCaskill's office for about four weeks and has been learning about an even broader range of issues. Senator McCaskill is interested in Tri-State, and Ms. Melgren looks forward to continuing to learn about what Tri-State is doing and the progress that they are making. She asked the board members to let her know if Senator McCaskill can assist them in any way.

New Business:

Mr. Hertzberg asked for any new business to come before the board of directors, and none was received.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hertzberg asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. He stated that the technical committee will meet following the board meeting.

Bob Williams moved, seconded by Pete Rauch, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".


Lynn Calton, Secretary