

**TRI-STATE WATER RESOURCE COALITION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2011 – 9:00 A.M.
CITY HALL, FIFTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

Welcome & New Coalition/Board Member Introduction:

Chairman Roddy Rogers called the meeting to order. He asked those present to introduce themselves. The following were present:

Tracy Holle – City of Cassville, Missouri
Lynn Calton – City of Lamar, Missouri
Hal VanDaGriff – Verona, Missouri, representing Empire District Electric
Brian Bingle – City of Nixa, Missouri
Pete Rauch – City of Monett, Missouri
Gene Stanton – City of Mt. Vernon, Missouri
John Rice – City of Mt. Vernon, Missouri
Matt Barnhart – Missouri American Water Company
Roddy Rogers – Springfield City Utilities, Springfield, Missouri
Bob Nichols – Webb City, Missouri
Melinda Piper – CPWSD #1, Lamar, Missouri
Bill Johnson – Joplin, Missouri
John Bartosh – Jasper County Commission
Steve McIntosh – Senator Roy Blunt’s office
David Rauch – Senator Claire McCaskill’s office
Bob Kollmeier – Congressman Billy Long’s office
Wally Kennedy – Joplin Globe
John Hacker – The Carthage Press
Gail Melgren – Executive Director, Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
David Hertzberg – City of Joplin
Susan Champlin - City of Joplin

Recognition of Bob Nichols Service:

Mr. Rogers expressed the Coalition’s appreciation to Mr. Nichols for his vision, dedication, and commitment. A plaque was presented to Mr. Nichols honoring him for his service to the Coalition. The plaque states, “With deepest gratitude, Robert Nichols, Tri-State Water Resource Coalition, founder and board president, 2003-2010. For your years of service and guidance, the coalition exists because of your efforts.”

Mr. Nichols appreciated his association with the Coalition, and Mr. Rogers hoped that Mr. Nichols would continue to be involved with the Coalition in the future.

Approval of Minutes of November 17, 2010:

Mr. Rogers asked for comments or corrections to the minutes of the meeting of November 17, 2010.

Matt Barnhart moved, seconded by Pete Rauch, that the minutes of the meeting of November 17, 2010 be approved as written. The motion passed, with all voting “aye”.

President’s Report:

Priority List for 2011:

Mr. Rogers offered a list of priorities for 2011 with seven goals. He discussed the priorities and explained that the memorandum of understanding and the Corps of Engineers study are vital and are equally important, so he placed those as the two number one goals for 2011.

1) **3-State Memorandum of Understanding (Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma):**

Mr. Rogers explained that at our fall 2010 conference, during a panel discussion, state water office officials from Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma talked positively about the possibility of creating a memorandum of agreement between the three states regarding shared water resources. The coalition cannot make that happen but can certainly encourage and facilitate. To that end, as follow-up to the conference panel, Tri-State has drafted a document to send to the state water agencies in MO, KS and OK as a suggested starting-point MOA, along with an invitation to help in any way possible. Ms. Melgren has prepared a draft memorandum of agreement , with Mr. Rogers preparing a cover letter to the state water agencies from Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

Harold McCoy moved, seconded by Brian Bingle, that the Coalition forward the starting-point draft memorandum of agreement to the state water agencies from Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma. The motion passed, with all voting “aye”.

1) **Corps of Engineers in Kansas City Stockton Study:**

Mr. Rogers discussed a previous meeting with the Corps of Engineers in Arkansas regarding Table Rock Lake. He would like to meet with the Corps of Engineers in Kansas City during February to begin a similar study on Stockton Lake.

2) **Joint Municipal Utility Corporation:**

Mr. Rogers explained that there is still some work to be done with the joint municipal utility commission . He suggested establishing a sub-committee to review the documents and report back to the board of directors.

3) **Communications Plan:**

Mr. Bingle and Mr. VanDaGriff will report on the communications plan later on the agenda.

4) **Tri-State Coalition By-Laws and Committee Structure:**

Mr. Rogers explained that draft by-laws have been developed and asked the board members to forward their written comments to Ms. Melgren, with a final draft being presented for approval at the next board meeting.

Mr. Rogers appointed several committees as follows:

- a) Executive Committee - Roddy Rogers, David Hertzberg, Hal VanDaGriff, Matt Barnhart, Pete Rauch, and Bob Williams.
- b) Technical Committee – Pete Rauch, Hal VanDaGriff, Harold McCoy, and Jan Tupper.
- c) Communications Committee – David Hertzberg, Matt Barnhart, Lynn Calton, Tracy Holle, and Chuck Surface.
- d) Membership Committee – Hal VanDaGriff, John Bartosh, and Melinda Piper.
- e) Legislative/Regulatory – Brian Bingle, Pete Rauch, and David Hertzberg.
- f) Finance – Hal VanDaGriff, Matt Barnhart, and David Hertzberg.
- g) Ad-Hoc Committee (JMUC Task Force) – Bob Williams (Chairman), Matt Barnhart, Harold McCoy, and Gene Stanton.

5) Membership:

We have two new members in the last six months: Mt. Vernon and Cassville. Mayor Tracy Holle from Cassville and Public Works Director Gene Stanton from Mt. Vernon were both welcomed to the board. Mr. Rogers expressed the need to further increase the Coalition’s membership. Mr. McCoy stated that membership is everyone’s responsibility.

6) Fifth & Sixth Grade Program:

Mr. Hertzberg discussed the need to become more aggressive with this program. Ms. Melgren suggested that Mayor Holle is a former fifth-grade school teacher who can assist with this endeavor.

Treasurer’s Report:

Mr. Barnhart, treasurer through the end of 2010, reported that the current balance is \$248,726.00. He has paid several invoices and explained that several Coalition members have recently paid dues.

Technical Committee Update:

Pete Rauch reported that the scope of work for the upcoming population and demand study is in its final stages of review and approval with MO DNR and the Corps of Engineers Little Rock office.

Communications Plan:

Mr. Bingle reported that the consultant for our new communications plan is near completion of the project and is within budget. The new web page is up, the board agreed with the choice of a new logo that Mr. Bingle and Mr. VanDaGriff suggested, a database of stakeholders is finished, a two page handout is complete, a one page hand-out is near completion as is a half-page “push card” for use with legislators and also a power point presentation.

David Hertzberg moved, seconded by Pete Rauch, that the new logo for the Tri-State Water Resource Coalition be adopted. The motion passed, with all voting “aye”.

Executive Director’s Report:

Water Conference Review:

Ms. Melgren explained that the water conference of November 18 & 19, 2010 was very successful, with 107 individuals paying for the conference. Those individuals represented a broad geographic region and a variety of important stakeholder groups. Elected officials were invited for no cost, but only a few elected officials did attend the conference. Ms. Melgren explained that the expenses for the conference were not yet fully accounted for and so her report was preliminary. She will make a full financial report about the water conference at the next Coalition meeting.

Mr. Bingle thought the water conference is an educational program since almost everyone uses ground water. He stated that Mr. Rogers’ presentation at the water conference was phenomenal. He suggested that Mr. Rogers make that same presentation again during a general membership meeting of this coalition.

Ms. Melgren stated that Ryan Mueller’s power point presentation was also full of useful information. She suggested inviting Mr. Mueller to make his power point presentation at a future coalition meeting and to answer questions.

Letter of Public Testimony About MO DNR’s Water Resource Center :

The Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee is currently accepting public testimony about MO DNR. Ms. Melgren and Mr. Rogers have prepared a letter to submit to the committee in support of MO DNR’s Water Resource Center. Ms. Melgren asked for approval from the board members to send this letter.

Mr. VanDaGriff moved, seconded by Ms. Holle, that the letter of public testimony for MO DNR’s Water Resource Center be forwarded to the Missouri Senate Appropriations Committee. The motion passed, with all voting “aye”.

Regional Meetings with Community Leaders:

Ms. Melgren met with Joplin Mayor Mike Woolston and discussed the possibility of the Coalition or the City of Joplin hosting a regional meeting to bring together community leaders from the west side of the footprint served by the Coalition. She suggested the possibility of doing the same with the City of Branson, bringing together a leadership grouping on the east side. These meetings would be to inform community leaders about the Coalitions mission and to share with them the solid foundation of research the Coalition has assembled. Ms. Melgren suggested the Coalition consider holding these kinds of meetings but said she was not sure when the time would be right given the other priorities on the agenda for the year.

Board Meeting Notifications:

Ms. Melgren posted the agenda for today's meeting on the coalition website and sent the agenda to the board members. She asked the board members for their suggestions about who should be copied on the board notice for meetings. She will continue to post upcoming agendas on the Coalition's web site, as well as minutes from previous meetings.

Welcome Congressman Billy Long's Ag/Business Rep:

Ms. Melgren thanked Bob Kollmeier from Congressman Billy Long's office for attending this meeting. Mr. Kollmeier is the agriculture and business representative for Congressman Long.

Communications:

Ms. Melgren will continue working with the consultant on the communications plan, which is near completion... Ms. Melgren suggested that everyone check out the new web page. She mentioned that the slide presentations from the fall water conference are now posted under Events. She will continue to write articles and attend meetings with the coalition partners. She distributed an essay about infrastructure.

Bylaws:

Mr. Rogers and Ms. Melgren will collect feedback about the draft bylaws revision sent electronically to board members, and will revise the by-laws and present a finished copy for the next coalition meeting.

Membership and 2011 Budget:

Ms. Melgren presented a list of everyone who had been invoiced and those who had paid. She was unable to locate addresses for Mary Johnson and Steve Lacey. She explained that \$142,983.880 has been received through the 2011 membership dues and anticipates coalition expenditures of \$146,000 during 2011. With the current buffer of funds in the bank, the Coalition should be in good financial position for 2011. Ms. Melgren showed a map of the region which showed community water use. She plans to reach out to non-member communities, starting with the largest users of water.

Salute to Legislators Attendance and Possible Chamber of Commerce Memberships:

Ms. Melgren mentioned the "Salute to Legislators" event being sponsored by the Springfield Chamber of Commerce on January 26, 2011 in Jefferson City. Mr. Bingle stated that this event is a Springfield/Branson salute to legislators which gives the region an opportunity of sharing its story with the legislators in southwest Missouri.

Ms. Melgren explained that the coalition does not have memberships with any chambers of commerce, but that chambers are members of the coalition. She asked about chamber membership and chamber participation to be able to reach out into the business communities of the area.

Mr. Hertzberg explained that involvement with the Chambers of Commerce is very important, but that since all the Coalition board members are substantial donors to those chambers he did not see the need for the Coalition to become a member of all the chambers in southwest Missouri.

Pete Rauch asked Ms. Melgren to visit with the Monett Chamber of Commerce about joining the coalition because of their industrial footprint.

Presentations About Tri-State:

Ms. Melgren has been invited to visit with the Multi-Basin Partnership Group in Arkansas to discuss the Tri-State Water Resource Coalition, and will be visiting them during February. Mr. McCoy stated that Ms. Melgren does not have to ask for permission to go speak to groups or to publish articles – that these activities are part of her job and she should feel free to pursue them.

Board of Directors:

Ms. Melgren distributed the current contact information for the board of directors.

Comments by Representatives of Federal and State Offices and Agencies:

Senator Roy Blunt:

Steve McIntosh welcomed the Coalitions new board members, Cassville and Mt. Vernon, saying they added geographic diversity and expanded representation for important constituencies. He believes the coalition is moving in a very good direction. He will not have an office but will work from his home, and will be dealing with issues in a 16-county area which includes Truman Lake, Stockton Lake, Lake Pomme De Terre, and Table Rock Lake.

Mr. McIntosh thought the Coalition is doing a good job in communicating to the right groups and have come a long way in public perception. He thought the Kansas City Corps of Engineers will be very cooperative with the Coalition's efforts.

Mr. McIntosh asked the board members for their contact information since Senator Blunt moved to the Senate. Mr. McIntosh will have new contact information and will report to a deputy chief of staff in Kansas City. He plans a Springfield mailing address.

Senator Claire McCaskill:

David Rauch explained that Congress is back in session. He complimented the Coalition for their recent efforts, including an expanded board and improved communications. He expressed continued interest in the Coalition's mission.

Congressman Billy Long:

Bob Kollmeier appeared representing newly-elected Congressman Billy Long. He will have an office in Springfield. He thanked the Coalition for their invitation to attend and said he looked forward to working with the group in the future.

Mt. Vernon City Administrator:

John Rice, City Administrator for Mt. Vernon, Missouri, new member of the Coalition, praised the Coalition's regional efforts related to future water supply. He promoted the idea of regional cooperation and collaboration as being beneficial for moving agenda items forward more effectively than if each smaller town tried to move things forward on their own.

Old Business:

There was no old business to conduct at this time.

New Business:

Mr. Hertzberg brought some old reports of a Prosperity Lake study that the Corps of Engineers prepared in 1980. He distributed those Coalition members C who wanted them.

Ms. Melgren commented that this report says Stage 2 and asked if there was a Stage 1 study, and Mr. McCoy thought the first stage was prepared during the 1960's. He explained that Stage 2 was a proposal to construct a reservoir that was dependent upon Missouri American Water's predecessor taking water, and that they would not take water at that time.

Mr. Rogers asked the board members to review the by-laws and for Mr. VanDaGriff to review the dues structure. The next board meeting will take place in March, with an executive board meeting during February.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, Mr. Rogers asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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



Matt Barnhart, Secretary