

**TRI-STATE WATER RESOURCE COALITION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2011 – 9:00 A.M.
CITY HALL, FIFTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

Welcome:

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

Tracy Holle – City of Cassville, Missouri
Brian Bingle – City of Nixa, Missouri
Gene Stanton – City of Mt. Vernon, Missouri
Chuck Surface – City of Webb City, Missouri
Roddy Rogers – Springfield City Utilities, Springfield, Missouri
Melinda Piper – CPWSD #1, Lamar, Missouri
Bob Nichols – Webb City, Missouri
Jan Tupper – Joplin, Missouri
Ryan Mueller – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Fred Schlegel- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Steve McIntosh – Senator Roy Blunt’s office
Bob Kollmeier – Congressman Billy Long’s office
Gail Melgren – Executive Director, Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
David Hertzberg – City of Joplin
Susan Champlin - City of Joplin
Tom Pittman – Carthage Water & Electric

Approval of Minutes from January 19, 2011:

Mr. Rogers asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from January 19, 2011. Receiving none he asked for a motion to approve those minutes as written.

Tracy Holle moved, seconded by Gene Stanton, that the minutes from January 19, 2011 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

Slide Presentation by Ryan Mueller of MO DNR’s Water Resources Center:

Mr. Rogers introduced Ryan Mueller, Director of the Water Resources Center for Missouri Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Mueller gave a slide presentation entitled, “A Regional Water Resource Perspective.” The presentation discussed many issues related to water resources in the Tri-State footprint including climate trends, water use trends, new population trends, and aquifer level data from groundwater observation wells.

Mr. Tupper asked if the water in the aquifer is under pressure if the level is above the confining unit, and Mr. Mueller replied that is correct. Mr. Tupper explained that the water is not pressurized if it drops below the confining unit, which makes it much more susceptible to contamination entering from the outside.

Mr. Mueller explained that going from a confined to an unconfined aquifer makes the pumping characteristic change. The saturated thickness changes as groundwater levels change.

Mr. Mueller explained that groundwater is a valuable resource but it is not unlimited. Water level decline has occurred locally in high use areas, though other areas within the Tri-State Coalition region have shown little change. Deeper groundwater tables result in higher energy costs. Deeper wells may have to be drilled. Groundwater use could become self-limiting. If the water levels get too deep, it will cost more to get the same amount of water to the surface.

Mr. Mueller explained that recent models simulate additional localized decline under high growth, high demand and extended drought conditions. He hopes to more accurately quantify the water demand, with groundwater monitoring, providing real time information and checks of model predictions. Groundwater should be considered part of the regional solution. It is probably not sustainable to provide all of the region's water needs, but it is definitely an important resource that should be considered part of the regional solution.

Mr. Mueller discussed water sources with respect to project feasibility costs and who will pay for the new water sources. Impacts and compensation are involved with looking at an existing reservoir and potential reallocation. Stakeholders include recreational and flood control interests.

Mr. Mueller explained that the environmental impacts and mitigation are big issues that have changed at the Corp of Engineers' level since 2008 with respect to new reservoir construction and stream mitigation credits, or what you would have to pay for the miles of stream that are impacted from creation of a new reservoir. He discussed the example of a new water supply reservoir in north central Missouri which has a projected cost of \$40 million for the reservoir. The projected stream mitigation costs for that \$40 million dollar reservoir are projected to be over \$200 million.

Mr. Mueller asked if desired growth can occur without water, and suggested that the growth indicated by new census numbers, with its increasing demands, now and in the future, needs to be considered.

Mr. Mueller discussed the strong organization in southwest Missouri with many groups that are concerned with water quality and quantity. He urged these groups to work together. He then asked for questions and comments from the board members, and none were received. Mr. Rogers appreciated Mr. Mueller being present today.

Tri-State Committees

Before proceeding with the remainder of the agenda, Mr. Rogers noted the committees that have been appointed:

- a) Executive Committee: Roddy Rogers, David Hertzberg, Hal VanDaGriff, Matt Barnhart, Pete Rauch, and Bob Williams.
- b) Technical Committee: Pete Rauch (Chairman), Han VanDaGriff, Harold McCoy, and Jan Tupper.
- c) Communications Committee: David Hertzberg, Matt Barnhart, Lynn Calton, Tracy Holle, and Chuck Surface.

- d) Membership: 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, Lynn Calton, Harold McCoy, and Gene Stanton.

Ms. Melgren will send an e-mail to those on each committee to discuss mission and goals. Mr. Roger did not believe it would take everyone a lot of time and effort.

President's Report – Priority List for 2011:

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

Mr. Rogers reported that the starter draft of a three state memorandum of agreement has been received by KS, OK and MO and is being reviewed by all three states.

Corps of Engineers in Kansas City – Stockton Study:

Mr. Rogers reported on two recent meetings: one in Rolla with DNR and the Corps of Engineers/Little Rock, the other with the Corps of Engineers/Kansas City and DNR.

Participants in the Rolla meeting, including Mr. Rogers, Mr. Rauch and Ms. Melgren, discussed the implementation of the scope of work for the population and demand study.

The meeting in Kansas City, also attended by Mr. Rogers, Mr. Rauch and Ms. Melgren, covered next steps with the Corps about Stockton Lake. The Corps/KC offered a \$5,000 “get started” amount and MO DNR agreed to match that \$5,000. Those funds will be used to define future steps related to the possibility of obtaining water from Stockton Lake.

Ms. Melgren explained that the Kansas City Corps will be able to use the Little Rock population and demand data. To make that data more useful to the Corps/KC the counties around Stockton Lake were added to the Corps/Little Rock scope of work.

Mr. Rogers mentioned the meeting with the Little Rock Corps of Engineers and asked Mr. Mueller for additional comments.

Mr. Mueller explained that the final memorandum of understanding between the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the Corps of Engineers was signed on February 2, 2011. He appreciated the Tri-State Water Coalitions' time in reviewing the scope of work. A big component of this study is existing water use profiles from municipal, industrial, and agricultural users. He appreciates Tri-State's support and is working with Phil Walsack with the Missouri Public Utility Alliance to collect as much data as possible.

Ms. Melgren offered to assist as needed, and Mr. Mueller discussed some periodic conference calls involving Tri-State's board members.

Mr. Tupper commented that the water situation is getting worse every day and expressed concern that nothing would be accomplished if water becomes too expensive for people to buy.

Mr. Mueller explained that a portion of the study will focus on what water is being withdrawn and what water is being treated, with additional water being processed through the wastewater treatment plants. The study will also focus on water use efficiency and conservation measures.

Ms. Piper asked Mr. Mueller if his presentation is available on line, and he replied that it is on Tri-State's website.

JMUC:

Mr. Rogers explained that the ad-hoc committee is working on the draft JMUC. Mr. Williams is chairing the committee.

Communications Plan:

Mr. Rogers explained that Ms. Melgren has done a tremendous amount of work and an excellent job on the communications plan. She has received a lot of positive feedback. She explained that the next step will be to tell the story throughout the region, and asked board members to keep their ears open for opportunities to plug Tri-State into speaking engagements for organizations like Chambers of Commerce, Rotaries, Kiwanis Clubs, etc.

The communication tools now developed include a logo, a half page "push card", a one page flyer, a two page flyer, a web page, a large database of contacts and a communications/media protocol.

Tri-State Coalition Bylaws:

Prior to the meeting, copies of the revised bylaws had been distributed to the board members by email for review. Mr. Rogers asked for any additional comments and none were received. He entertained a motion to approve the bylaws.

Jan Tupper moved, seconded by David Hertzberg, that the Tri-State Water Resource Coalition by-laws be adopted as presented. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Membership:

Mr. Rogers mentioned the membership committee's lack of a chair and said he had a board member in mind to fill that position and would talk to that person after the meeting.

Fifth and Sixth Grade Program:

Mr. Rogers asked about participating with one of the global water relief organizations, and Mr. Hertzberg thought that would be a good idea, as did the rest of the board.

Standing Committee Reports:

Executive:

Mr. Rogers reported that the executive committee discussed the possibility of preparing a summary article after each board meeting for distribution to the press and decided that doing press releases for significant events would be more valuable and more efficient for the organization.

The executive committee decided in favor of having board meetings in different locations other than just Joplin. The board will meet in various locations throughout the Tri-State footprint.

Financial:

Mr. VanDaGriff and Mr. Barnhart were not present. Mr. VanDaGriff is serving jury duty and Mr. Barnhart is out of town on company business. Ms. Melgren explained that Tri-State has about \$230,000 in the bank, with little financial activating taking place since the last board meeting.

Technical:

Mr. Rogers explained that Mr. Rauch is absent but that the studies by the Corps of Engineers and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources had already been discussed.

Communications:

Mr. Hertzberg noted the communications plan that Ms. Melgren prepared.

Membership:

There was no report from the Membership Committee at this time.

Legislative/Regulatory:

Mr. Bingle explained that the Legislative Committee has not met, but that the Missouri Legislature is considering Senate Bill 269 which would require auditing of all JMUC's. The bill being considered also states that third and fourth class cities would need to have a vote of their populous for the implementation of a JMUC.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

JMUC:

Mr. Rogers explained that a meeting has been scheduled on March 23 to discuss the JMUC.

Executive Director Report:

Ms. Melgren reported that Gary Pearman continues to support the mission of the Coalition but has declined to continue on the board of directors.

Ms. Melgren has prepared a new membership application form and showed this to the board.

She stated that Allgeier-Martin & Associates had now paid their membership dues for the year, with Harold McCoy continuing to represent them on the board of directors.

Ms. Melgren gave a summary on last November's water conference finances. The net profit was \$5,461.60 after expenses, with Missouri State University and Tri-State Water Resource Coalition splitting this profit. The board was in agreement that she should begin the planning process for another water conference for next fall.

Ms. Melgren reported having presented about Tri-State Water to the Multi-Basin Regional Water Council in Bentonville, Arkansas. They are mainly a water quality group, with Bob Nichols being a member of that group. They have invited Tri-State to join their group. The membership fee is \$50.00. Ms. Melgren thought this to be a good way to become more involved with water quality groups and a good way to share information with Arkansas stakeholders.

Mr. Tupper expressed concerns that Tri-State not try to join every single water group with their hand out for a membership fee.

Mr. Hertzberg thought it might be a good idea to join the Multi Basin Partnership, but suggested that Tri-State develop a policy about how to choose organizations to join.

Mr. Tupper mentioned at least 50 stream team groups just in Missouri. Ms. Piper asked how many of these groups encompass the southwest region and Mr. Tupper thought eight or 10 groups.

Ms. Melgren explained that the Multi-Basin Regional Water Council in Arkansas is a coalition of water groups, just as Tri-State has a coalition of members. The Multi-Basin group members including Elk River Watershed, Environmental Task Force of Jasper/Newton County, the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Grand Lake of the Cherokees, and the Oklahoma Department of Water Quality. Arkansas members include the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality, Arkansas Game & Fish, Arkansas Rural Water Association, the Corps of Engineers, the Beaver Water District, Benton County Government, the City of Pea Ridge, and many other entities.

Ms. Melgren explained that the organization is not just one water group with a single mission, but a large number of organizations, all having missions related to water.

Mr. Hertzberg asked if this is a regional coalition while most stream teams work on a particular water shed. Mr. Tupper thought Tri-State needs to establish a policy regarding memberships in other organizations.

Ms. Melgren stated that this is not only a group with a wide variety of members, but some considerable political clout. It was agreed that feedback about membership in the Multi Basin Regional Water Council would be discussed at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Ms. Melgren and Mr. Rogers will soon meet with the Greene County Commission to share Tri-State's story. Their goal is to visit with mayors, city councils and county commissions in the Tri-State footprint, as time and opportunities allow.

Ms. Melgren will send an annual meeting notice to the regional news media and give them periodic updates of Tri-State's activities.

Comments by Representatives of Federal and State Offices/Agencies:

Senator Roy Blunt:

Steve McIntosh had no new information to report at this time.

Senator Claire McCaskill:

No one was present from Senator McCaskill's office.

Congressman Billy Long:

Bob Kollmeier had no new information to report at this time.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources:

Mr. Mueller discussed two groundwater models, developed by John Czarneki and Joe Richards, which represent new and improved management tools for water in the area. Mr. Mueller's staff will soon be trained in the use of these models and then begin developing alternative groundwater scenarios to model outcomes for areas within the Tri-State footprint, including Joplin.

New Business:

Mr. Rogers asked Ms. Melgren about placing the by-laws on the website.

Adjourn:

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

Chuck Surface moved, seconded by Brian Bingle, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".



David Hertzberg, Vice President, Secretary Pro Tem
3/16/11