

**TRI-STATE WATER RESOURCE COALITION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2012 – 9:00 A.M.  
CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Welcome:**

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

Matt Barnhart – Missouri American Water  
Brian Bingle – City of Nixa  
Lynn Calton – City of Lamar  
David Hertzberg – City of Joplin  
Harold McCoy – Allgeier, Martin & Associates  
Pete Rauch – City of Monett  
Roddy Rogers – City Utilities of Springfield  
Gene Stanton – City of Mt. Vernon  
Jan Tupper – City of Joplin  
Hal VanDaGriff – Empire District Electric  
Bob Williams – Carthage Water & Electric  
Mike Walker – Allgeier, Martin & Associates  
Bob Nichols – City of Webb City  
Bob Kollmeier – Congressman Billy Long’s office  
Don Lucietta – Senator Roy Blunt’s office  
Steve McIntosh – Senator Roy Blunt’s office  
David Rauch – Senator Claire McCaskill’s office  
Gail Melgren – Executive Director, Tri-State Water Resource Coalition  
Susan Champlin - City of Joplin

**Approval of Minutes from November 16, 2011:**

Mr. Rogers asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from November 16, 2011. Receiving none, he asked for a motion to approve those minutes as written.

**Hal VanDaGriff moved, seconded by Jan Tupper, that the minutes from November 16, 2011 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.**

**President’s Report:**

Mr. Rogers reviewed the seven strategic goals set by Tri-State for 2011. The updated bylaws are complete. Tri-State will continue to serve as facilitator for a memorandum of agreement between Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri when needed (as always in the MOA process, the states, not Tri-State, will decide on final language and procedures). Studies related to population and water demand in the Tri-State footprint, conducted by the Corps of Engineers (K.C. and Little Rock offices) and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, are ongoing.

Progress continues with the Joint Municipal Utility Commission (JMUC) joint contract. The JMUC committee will meet one more time for a final review before presenting a draft for a vote at the March meeting. Once approved, next steps include recruiting signatory members, the establishment of a board of directors, and creation of by-laws.

Communication efforts continue. An informational meeting is scheduled for February 3, 2012, in Stockton, for stakeholders from the Stockton Lake area. Mr. Rogers and Ms. Melgren have made several visits to different communities in Tri-State's region to share information about Tri-State.

Mr. Rogers explained that the goals for 2012 will be similar to those of 2011, including the memorandum of agreement, the population and demand studies, the JMUC, communications and membership, and the fifth and sixth grade program.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

#### **Executive:**

Mr. Rogers reported that the executive committee has not met since the last Board meeting.

#### **Financial:**

Mr. VanDaGriff reported that all bills have been paid, with a current bank balance of \$285,281.20. He asked if BKD has completed its review of past records and establishment of processes for Tri-State and Ms. Melgren replied yes. There is one outstanding issue from the review which is still being processed, related to a 990 from a past year.

#### **Technical:**

Pete Rauch distributed preliminary reports on population and employment projections through the year 2060 for six counties in Tri-State's area around Stockton Lake. Population and employment in those counties slowed or declined except in Polk County. Population and employment in southwest Missouri as a whole is up.

Ms. Melgren explained that this preliminary data was supplied by the Kansas City Corps of Engineers for the six counties around Stockton Lake which are part of the current population and demand study. The Little Rock Corps will provide similar information for the other counties within the Tri-State footprint.

Ms. Melgren explained that three water providers (Ozark, Missouri; Greene County Public Water Supply #1, and Jasper County Public Water Supply #1) have not provided requested data to DNR. Various board members agreed to contact those providers. She stated that DNR is conducting a modeling workshop on January 23-24 for the population and demand study.

#### **Communications:**

Ms. Melgren distributed agendas for the upcoming Stockton Lake stakeholder meeting. Mr. Hertzberg asked who has been invited. Ms. Melgren replied that approximately 40 invitations were sent. Invitees from the counties around Stockton Lake include elected officials, municipal and county employees, private business people, Chamber of Commerce representatives, and water

supply and utility people. Immediately after the invitations were extended, a local marina owner contacted the Stockton newspaper and KY3 TV station in Springfield to express concern about reallocation of water in Stockton Lake. Ms. Melgren suggested this is exactly why an informational meeting is needed – to introduce Stockton Lake stakeholders to Tri-State Water Coalition and its mission, and to explain the facts about how Corps lakes work. The meeting is informational only, hosted by Tri-State Water Coalition, with support from the Corps of Engineers K.C. office and Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

### **Membership:**

Ms. Melgren distributed a spreadsheet showing membership information from 2011 and new membership information for 2012. She explained that efforts last year to communicate with stakeholders around Table Rock Lake have been successful and that City of Branson's board of aldermen recently voted to join the Coalition.

Ms. Melgren explained that Joplin residents have in the past been covered by membership payments from both Missouri American Water Company and City of Joplin. For 2012 membership Mo Am will pay only for connections it maintains that are within the Tri-State footprint but outside the city limit of Joplin. City of Joplin will continue to pay for connections within its city limits. Joplin's connections are down considerably due to tornado damage. This will decrease Tri-State's income, but Ms. Melgren said that Tri-State will still be in good financial shape. As of the date of her report, projected income will decrease for 2012 from approximately \$153,000 in 2011 to approximately \$137,000 in 2012.

Ms. Melgren reminded the board that an application for membership from Olsson & Associates, discussed last board meeting, was still outstanding and requiring response. The board spent some time discussing possible additional restrictions on membership for Tri-State Water Coalition. Consideration was given to restricting membership of for-profit consulting firms due to potential future conflict of interest, and also individuals (other than those founding members already serving on the board) because they do not represent constituent groups. A distinction between general membership and a decision-making position on the board of directors was discussed. A distinction between membership criteria for Tri-State Water, which will continue to serve as an education and advocacy organization, and the future JMUC, which will implement any building project(s), was discussed. The matter was tabled with the understanding that the membership committee will again discuss the issue and make recommendations to the board.

Ms. Melgren reported that she has visited with the Diamond representative about membership for 2012. He indicated he would visit with the Diamond city council regarding Tri-State, but did not sound enthusiastic about continued membership. Ms. Melgren suggested that if any board members have contacts in Diamond, Missouri, they might touch base and encourage continued membership.

### **Legislative/Regulatory:**

Mr. Bingle explained that Missouri House Bill 1179 is the only current legislation having relevancy to water. Southeast Missouri is trying to restrict the movement of water from their district to other districts.

## **Ad Hoc Committee Reports:**

### **JMUC:**

The final cut-off for comments related to the draft joint contract was December 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Williams reported that a meeting will be scheduled of the JMUC committee before the first part of March to take a final pass through the document. A final version will be offered for a vote in March.

Mr. Rogers asked if the entities should defer approval of the JMUC through their governing bodies until Tri-State's Board has approved the final document. Mr. Williams replied that is correct, in that some changes may still be made. Mr. Rogers appreciated Mr. Williams' knowledge and work on the agreement. After a final version of the joint contract has been approved by the Tri-State board, members are encouraged to talk to their governing bodies about becoming a signatory. Ms. Melgren is available to talk to governing bodies; to tell the story of regional water supply, the mission of Tri-State Water, and the purpose of the joint contract/JMUC.

Mr. Hertzberg explained that Mr. Rogers and Ms. Melgren did an excellent job visiting with Joplin's City Council.

Mr. Williams announced that he has an example ordinance that can be adapted by other communities to authorize membership in the contract.

### **Executive Director Report:**

Ms. Melgren gave the board members a list of 2012 meeting dates, with a revision to move the November date up a week (Nov 14) so it does not conflict with the Thanksgiving holiday.

Ms. Melgren presented to board members two articles from Cassville's local newspaper. Cassville was losing money on both water and sewer, and after much heated discussion, and a tie-breaking vote by Mayor Tracy Holle, adopted new rates that would not only cover water expense with water revenue, but also allow for some accrual of capital for water maintenance and improvement projects. The second article explains that Mayor Holle had resigned and is relocating to Joplin with her husband. Consequently, Ms. Holle will no longer serve as a Tri-State board member. Cassville's city administrator told Ms. Melgren that a city alderman has been assigned to serve as representative for Cassville with Tri-State Water. Mr. Rogers asked Ms. Melgren if Cassville's new representative is supportive of Tri-State's mission. Ms. Melgren reported that she has not received any communication from the new alderman representative.

Ms. Melgren explained that the Branson board of aldermen recently voted to join Tri-State. She stated that their city administrator has experience with large water projects and will bring a terrific perspective to Tri-State. She recommends that Branson be given a board seat.

Ms. Melgren explained that the water conference in November was very successful, with about 150 people in attendance. She thanked the board members for their sponsorships and participation at events. A final financial summary will be ready by the March board meeting. Pete Rauch thought the conference location was great.

Ms. Melgren and Mr. Rogers discussed Tri-State and the JMUC with Joplin City Council recently. Ms. Melgren also presented to the Aurora Rotary Club recently.

Ms. Melgren explained that a few months ago the executive committee had discussed having meetings elsewhere, in different member's communities, but because of convenience they have continued to be scheduled in Joplin. She asked that board members let her know if they would like to schedule meetings in other locations. Otherwise they will be held in Joplin.

Ms. Melgren reported that City of Springfield has incorporated long-term water supply into its legislative priorities. She suggested that other board members' organizations consider including long-term water supply in their legislative priorities also.

Mr. Bingle explained that Nixa is a member of the Springfield Regional Economic Partnership, a regional economic development organization, and that this group defines legislative priorities for its ten counties which are then promoted in Jefferson City.

Ms. Melgren talked about possible trips for 2012, including traveling to Washington, DC, to visit with elected officials and the Corps of Engineers. She also mentioned the possibility of visiting other regional water organizations/projects, for example Great Northwest Wholesale Water Commission, Clarence Cannon North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission, Atchison Wholesale Water Commission, or Lewis & Clark Regional Water System.

Ms. Melgren and Mr. VanDaGriff met with a representative from Edward Jones and discussed the possibility of investing some of Tri-State's cash on hand. They did not believe this would be worth pursuing given the time required to implement and monitor and the small return which would result.

Ms. Melgren asked about visiting with heavy industrial users of water in the region. Pete Rauch explained that they certainly have a vested interest in the long-term water supply. Mr. Tupper stated that those who own wells have an interest.

Mr. Tupper explained that DNR is currently holding stakeholders meetings about significantly increasing the costs for reviewing plans and permits.

**Comments by Representatives of Federal and State Offices/Agencies:**

David Rauch had nothing new to report on reallocation study funding. He stated that Congress will be discussing the debt ceiling. He re-emphasized the budget challenges and restraints of the federal government.

Steve McIntosh discussed funding for studies and will be meeting with the general in charge of the southwest division of the Corps of Engineers.

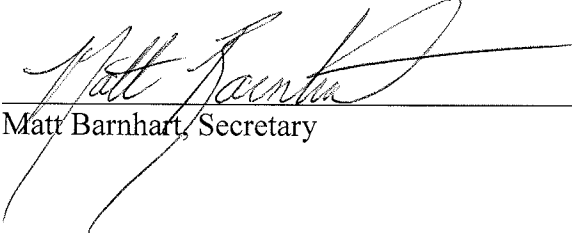
**New Business:**

There was no new business to discuss at this time.

**Adjourn:**

Mr. Rogers asked for any additional business to come before the Board of Directors. Being none, he asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

  
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Matt Barnhart, Secretary