

TRI-STATE WATER RESOURCE COALITION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2012
BOARD ROOM, CITY UTILITIES OF SPRINGFIELD

Welcome:

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

Gail Melgren – Executive Director, Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
Gene Stanton – City of Mt. Vernon, Missouri
Pete Rauch – City of Monett, Missouri
Brian Bingle – City of Nixa, Missouri
Lynn Calton – City of Lamar, Missouri
Hal VanDaGriff – Empire District Electric
Roddy Rogers – City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri
Bob Williams – Carthage Water/Electric, Carthage, Missouri
Steve Walensky – City of Cassville, Missouri
Scott Gard – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District
Mike Beezhold – CDM Smith
Donie Grimsley – CDM Smith
Ryan Mueller – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Chad Dulaney – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District
Joe Richards – U.S. Geological Survey, Rolla, Missouri
David Rauch – Senator McCaskill’s Southwest Missouri Office
Mike Ray – City of Branson, Missouri
Fred Schlegel – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Brian Clark – U.S. Geological Survey, Arkansas
Connie Rousseau – City Utilities of Springfield, Missouri

Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2012:

Mr. Rogers asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from July 18, 2012 then asked for a motion to approve those minutes as written. Approval of the minutes were moved by Steve Walensky, and then seconded by Hal VanDaGriff . The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

President’s Report:

Mr. Rogers welcomed Steve Walensky, Public Works Director for Cassville, MO, and new representative for Cassville to the Tri-State Water Coalition board of directors. Mentioning that the board usually meets in Joplin, Mr. Rogers welcomed members to the City Utilities board room and thanked them for making the drive to Springfield which enabled his participation in the meeting.

Standing Committee Reports:

Executive:

Mr. Rogers reported that the executive committee would meet on October 24th in Mt. Vernon, and that one item on the agenda for that meeting was further discussion of membership criteria for JMUC board members.

Financial:

Financial summaries for July and August were distributed. Mr. VanDaGriff reported that expenses since the last meeting were low.

Mr. VanDaGriff reported that, at his request, BKD had submitted a brief written guideline for handling the finances of Tri-State Water Coalition in relation to the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission. Though the SMJMWUC is in its infancy, Mr. VanDaGriff described the importance of defining the financial processes at the outset to maintain effective leadership of both organizations. He stated it is important to remain aware that the two organizations are separate and distinct and should be tracked separately.

Mr. Rogers asked Ms. Melgren if she had defined separate procedures. Ms. Melgren reported that she would track time and expenses separately in the future.

Technical:

Pete Rauch reported on the previous day's meeting of the technical committee which included representatives from MDNR, Corps KC, Corps Little Rock, and CDM Smith, all of whom partnered with Tri-State Water Resource Coalition on the soon to be released regional population and water demand study.

Representatives from that team of partners made a report to the board, starting with Ryan Mueller from MDNR. Ryan thanked the Corp of Engineers for their efforts and coordination for the study, he thanked CDM for their expertise, and he thanked Tri-State Water Coalition members for submitting data. Ryan explained that the report is in final draft form and that MDNR and other partners welcome and request Tri-State Water Coalition board member feedback about the report before

it is released in final form. He described the Planning Assistance to States funding source as being very helpful in pursuing the study.

Mike Beezhold and Donnie Grimsley, both with CDM Smith, reported results of the study, including the structure of the model and the regional population and water demand forecast projections to the year 2060. They described the model as having been designed to accurately reflect a composite of the regional footprint, and develop regional projections, which was the goal of the study. The design model was built to combine the data from communities of vastly different sizes and reflect a regional assessment, rather than an individual system-specific assessment. The model was described as adaptable to future updates.

Chad Dulaney, representing the Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, described the report's footprint, which covers 16 counties in southwest Missouri. The Corps Little Rock District worked with 10 of those counties and the Corps KC District worked with 6 counties. (Scott Gard, of the Corps KC District, was also in attendance.) Chad described the report as creating predictions based on known drivers. He described the model, now built, as a planning tool which can be adapted to future changes in the drivers. He reported that the Corps Little Rock, along with the Corps KC, will next be interested in assessing water supply in the 16 county footprint, in a Phase II study with a timetable around September, 2013.

Mr. Rogers asked a question about the cost of conservation measures vs the cost of "water". Mr. Mueller, of DNR, explained that conservation, and its potential outcomes, was included in the model.

Mr. Rogers expressed appreciation to the Corps, MDNR, and CDM Smith for their efforts. He stated that the Coalition has requested but not yet been approved for a re-allocation study by the Corps for Stockton and Table Rock lakes, and said the results of the regional population and water demand study would lay groundwork for that possibility in the future.

Following the team report about the regional population and water demand study, Mr. Rauch introduced Joe Richards and Brian Clark of USGS to talk about a possible Ozark Plateau Aquifer System study which USGS has applied for grant funding to pursue. See <http://water.usgs.gov/ozarks/index.phtml> and <http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/gwrp>

Mr. Bingle and others on the board expressed strong support for the possible study. Mr. Rogers moved that Tri-State Water send a letter of support for use with the

grant application. Mr. Bingle seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Ms. Melgren suggested that members might consider penning additional letters of support from their individual systems, and could submit them to USGS through her when she submits the Tri-State Coalition letter of support.

Communications:

Ms. Melgren discussed the considerable media coverage of the recent drought and suggested that this recent heightened awareness of water resources might be an opportunity to further educate stakeholders about the importance of water and the mission of Tri-State Coalition. Promotion of conservation within systems dealing with drought was also discussed.

Membership:

Ms. Melgren reminded the board of changes to membership criteria and distributed a revised membership form. She reported that membership invoices for 2013 dues will be sent in November.

Legislative Committee:

Mr. Bingle, chair of the legislative committee, and Ms. Melgren, along with other interested members, will plan to visit with elected officials at the state capitol after the November elections, with a focus on orienting first-time elected officials to the need for water resource planning, and the mission of Tri-State Water Resource Coalition. It was also agreed that the Coalition will plan a visit to Washington DC in the spring to talk with elected officials at the federal level.

By-Laws:

Ms. Melgren distributed a grid showing the members of Tri-State Water Coalition and their status as possible participants in the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission. Participants to date are Carthage Water and Electric, City Utilities of Springfield, Joplin, Lamar, Monett, Mt. Vernon, Nixa, and Webb City. Mr. Williams, chair of the JMUC committee, reported that he would create a first-draft of bylaws for consideration. Once written, participants will convene to discuss and revise.

Executive Director Report:

Ms. Melgren reports she will attend the MPUA conference this month, and also the Kansas Governors water conference.

Planning for the MSU/Tri-State Water conference is well under way.

Ms. Melgren welcomed Steve Walensky to the board.

The board approved continued membership in the Multi-Basin partnership which meets in northwest Arkansas.

The board approved joining the Missouri Economic Development Council.

Ms. Melgren and Mr. Rogers reported having talked with DNR recently about the possible multi-state memorandum of agreement on water resources.

New Business:

Fred Schlegel, with MDNR, gave a brief report on groundwater wells in the region, saying this year brought some all-time lows. There was a Governors' Drought Assistance program for streams used for watering cows. Mr. Schlegel noted this is a good time to fix the ponds – when they are dried up.

Mr. Rogers asked each board member to give a brief description of the effects of recent drought conditions on their system and what steps they had taken to deal with those effects. Each board member around the table gave a brief report on that topic.

Mr. Rogers asked for additional business, and none was received.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned.

Hal VanDerAay
10-31-12