

TRI-STATE WATER RESOURCE COALITION  
MEETING OF MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2014 –9:00 A.M.  
MARC, MOUNT VERNON, MISSOURI

Welcome:

President David Hertzberg called the meeting to order and asked those in attendance to introduce themselves. The following persons were present:

**Members:**

David Hertzberg, City of Joplin  
Bob Williams, Carthage Water & Electric  
Lynn Calton, City of Lamar, Missouri  
Gene Stanton, City of Mount Vernon  
Hal VanDaGriff, Empire District Electric Company  
Steve Walensky, City of Cassville  
Mike Ray, City of Branson  
Skip Schaller, City of Monett

**Guests:**

Fred Schlegal, Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Wally Kennedy, Joplin Globe  
Steve McIntosh, Senator Blunt's office  
Gail Melgren, Senator McCaskill's office

Approval of Minutes from January 15, 2014

Mr. Hertzberg asked for corrections or additions. There being none, Bob Williams moved for approval, which was seconded by Lynn Calton. Motion carried with all voting "aye."

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Executive:**

Mr. Hertzberg indicated that revisions to bylaws to make them consistent with existing procedures would be considered in the future.

**Financial:**

Mr. VanDaGriff reported a balance of approximately \$431,000, and that a bill for unemployment taxes for prior years had been assessed and paid in the amount of \$2,100. The assessment was a result of an oversight by the accounting firm.

**Technical:**

Mr. Styron announced that a meeting of Technical Committee members with Corps of Engineer personnel and Ryan Mueller of Missouri Department of Natural Resources was scheduled for April 9, 2014 in Springfield. The purpose of the meeting is to work toward defining the scope of a Phase III study in preparation of a reallocation request for water from one or more reservoirs and obtaining funding for the Phase III study.

**Communications:** No report.

Mr. Walensky suggested that Tri-State should consider having a Facebook page and updating the website. He also indicated that the Table Rock Lake Master Plan update included a reference to the possibility that Table Rock Lake could be used a drinking water source.

Steve McIntosh stated that because congressional action would be required for reallocation, the mention of Table Rock Lake as a water source in the Master Plan did not represent any real commitment of the Corps to providing drinking water from Table Rock.

**Membership:** No report.

**Legislative/Regulatory:** No report.

**Ad Hoc Committee Reports:**

**JMUC:** No report.

**Executive Director Report:**

Mr. Styron reported that he, Roddy Rogers, Harold McCoy and Bob Nichols had attended a meeting arranged by Mr. Nichols with Darrell Townsend, Assistant General Manager of the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA), on February 18, 2014.

At that meeting, Dr. Townsend related that Grand Lake is managed with the priorities of recreation, hydropower, and flood control. The top priority of maintaining a water level within a narrow range for recreation; because of the recreational priority, improvement of water quality for fishing, boating and swimming was very important to GRDA. Dr. Townsend also stated that he believed that there was an opportunity to build a case for use of water from Grand Lake for public water supplies in adjacent states as a part of a program that would lead to improvements in water quality. He expressed an interest in working with Tri-State and others in this direction.

Mr. Styron also reported attend a presentation on March 13, 2014, in Pittsburg, Kansas, made by Susan Metzger of the Kansas Water Office, regarding the updating of the Kansas Water Plan. He said that Ms. Metzger pointed out the Spring River was one of the only unallocated streams in Kansas and could be an important source of drinking water. Other points of the presentation included a discussion of substantial water losses due to leaks in rural water district distribution systems in Southeast Kansas; declining water levels in aquifers; heavy dependence on Rayburn Lake, near Burlington, for public drinking water supplies in the Neosho River Valley; and consideration by the Corps of Engineers of a canal for taking Missouri River floodwaters from Northeast Kansas to western Kansas.

Mr. Styron indicated that Dr. Townsend and Bobbie Wendt of the Kansas Water Office were interested in speaking to Tri-State in the near future.

Finally, Mr. Styron reported attending a presentation of the Spring River Watershed Management Plan in Carthage in early March, at which persons from several agencies discussed

various degrees of impairment of the Spring River and its tributaries and described assistance and strategies for mitigation of urban and non-urban non-point pollution.

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

Fred Schlegal of DNR indicated that the Spring River Watershed Protection program was a part of the Our Missouri Waters initiative that was being promoted by DNR Director Sarah Parker Pauley, and which would also include, in Southwest Missouri, the Sac and Niangua basins.

Mr. Schlegal also mentioned that DNR was paying attention to changes in conservation pools being considered for Table Rock and Bull Shoals reservoirs.

Steve McIntosh indicated that "minimum river flow" legislation affects Bull Shoals, but not Table Rock, and should not affect allocations.

Gail Melgren said that Sarah Parker Pauley has spoken about Our Missouri Waters in her address to Tri-State's 2013 water conference and that Senator McCaskill had indicated interest in infrastructure projects.

Steve McIntosh said that the Build America Act being considered in Congress was a "bipartisan, bicameral bill" that would provide infrastructure financing. Gail Melgren added that Tri-State should investigate whether its potential projects would qualify for financing under this program.

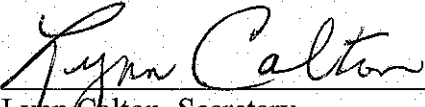
Bob Williams pointed out that Congress was considering additional restrictions on the income tax exemption of interest on state and local bonds, which could increase borrowing costs.

**New Business:**

Mr. Hertzberg indicated that he expected to call an executive committee meeting in the near future and that a performance review for Mr. Styron would be appropriate.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Hertzberg called for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Mr. VanDaGriff. There being no objection, the meeting was adjourned.

  
Lynn Calton, Secretary