

Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, July 15, 2015
1140 N. Eisenhower Street, Monett, Missouri

Welcome:

President Matt Barnhart called the meeting to order. The following were present:

Andrea Collier – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Bill Gipson (retired)
Brian Bingle – City of Nixa, Missouri
Brian Clark – United States Geological Survey
Chuck Bryant – Carthage Water & Electric
Clinton Finn – Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, Missouri
David Hertzberg – City of Joplin, Missouri
David Stokely – Senator Claire McCaskill
Dennis Pyle – City of Monett, Missouri
Gail Melgren – Executive Director, Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
Hal VanDaGriff (retired)
Jason Choate – Carthage Water & Electric, Carthage, Missouri
Jennifer Henggeler – US Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District
John Grothaus - US Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District
Justin Reaves – City of Willard, Missouri
Loretta bishop – City of Branson, Missouri
Lynn Calton – City of Lamar, Missouri
Matt Barnhart – Missouri American Water Company
Max Springer – City of Mt. Vernon, Missouri
Michael Weller – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Mike Beezhold – CDM Smith
Mike Ray – City of Branson, Missouri
Milton Dickensheet – City of Nixa, Missouri
Murray Bishoff – Monett Times
Penny Speake – Healy Law offices
Pete Rauch (retired)
Ray Weter – Christian County Commission
Roddy Rogers - Springfield City Utilities, Springfield, Missouri
Skip Schaller – City of Monett, Missouri
Steve Walensky – City of Cassville, Missouri
Tom Pittman - Carthage Water & Electric, Carthage, Missouri

Approval of Minutes from May 20, 2015:

Mr. Barnhart asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from May 20, 2015, and none were received. He asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written.

Steve Walensky moved, seconded by Chuck Bryant, that the minutes from May 20, 2015 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Standing Committee Reports:

President:

Mr. Barnhart thanked Mr. Schaller for hosting the meeting, and expressed admiration for Monett's new water treatment plant. He announced that a tour would be available after the meeting for those interested.

Mr. Barnhart asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves, noting that several new visitors were in attendance. He especially thanked those who had driven in from Kansas City and Jefferson City. He noted that Andrea Collier, new head of DNR's Water Resources Center, was in attendance and welcomed her. He noted that Hal VanDaGriff and Pete Rauch, both retired founding board members, were in attendance and recognized the years of service they had provided to Tri-State Coalition.

He announced that the September 16th board and technical committee meetings will take place at the MARC in Mt. Vernon, Missouri.

Mr. Barnhart briefly discussed the tremendous amount of rain that water systems have been dealing with lately and noted that board member Steve Walensky would speak later in the agenda about flooding in Cassville, Missouri.

Executive:

Mr. Barnhart said the executive committee met on June 16th. He reported that the group discussed various issues related to the Coalition but that no action items for the larger board were defined.

Financial:

Mr. Bingle noted that a financial summary for May and June was included in agenda packets. He noted the fund balance was \$468,716.48 at the end of June.

Mr. Bingle reported having separated Tri-State funds into two accounts: \$400,000 remains in a money-market fund which earns interest, and the remainder of the balance was transferred to a no fee small business account. This was necessary because the Coalition was making more withdrawals per month than is allowed on a money market account.

Mr. Bingle recommended the board consider a higher-interest account of some kind after the first of the year.

Mr. Barnhart asked for a motion to approve the financial reports.

Chuck Bryant moved, seconded by Steve Walensky, that the financial reports for May and June of 2015 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

Technical:

Mr. Rogers reported that the technical committee would meet after the board meeting. He said the committee will continue discussions about reallocation assumptions, possible corridors, demand assumptions and methodologies, preliminary alignment hydraulic models, preliminary costs, and treatment options.

Mr. Rogers noted that questionnaires have been distributed to members for updated system information and requested that members return those questionnaires.

Communications:

Mr. Walensky noted that Ms. Melgren has distributed system update questionnaires to larger systems within S.W. Missouri that are not members of Tri-State coalition, including Bolivar, Ozark, Battlefield, Willard, Carl Junction, Neosho, and Nevada.

Mr. Walensky reminded members that a stakeholder meeting is scheduled at Stockton Lake on November 19th, at 1 p.m., at the Corps of Engineer’s Bond Center.

Mr. Walensky referred to a Tri-State Coalition Progress Report included in agenda packets and asked members to review and send feedback to Ms. Melgren.

Membership:

Mr. Stanton was not present. Ms. Melgren noted the presence of Justin Reaves, Public Works Director for the City of Willard. She said Willard is going to join the coalition and Mr. Reaves would be their representative.

Ms. Melgren noted the presence of Larry Martin, Public Works Director for the City of Ozark, and said Ozark is considering joining the Coalition.

Ms. Melgren noted the presence of Ray Weter, Presiding Commissioner of Christian County, and said Christian County is considering joining the Coalition.

Ms. Melgren reported having also talked with Stockton, Republic, Bolivar, Battlefield, Neosho, and Carl Junction about membership.

Legislative/Regulatory:

Mr. Hertzberg reported the session in Jefferson City is over and that meetings with various House and Senate members, as well as agencies, had gone well this session. He said that the Coalition will work again next session to visit with all House and Senate members in the Tri-State footprint to inform them of our mission and possible future funding requests.

Mr. Hertzberg recommended the Coalition send a delegation again to Washington D.C., perhaps in April, 2016. He suggested members consider putting a request for funding into their 2016 budgets so they can participate as part of the Coalition's delegation.

Executive Director Report:

Ms. Melgren reported having submitted the Biennial Registration Report for a domestic nonprofit corporation to the MO Secretary of State's office.

Ms. Melgren reminded the board that the Corps of Engineers at Table Rock Lake had recently updated its Master Plan for the lake, and that Tri-State Water's possible intake sites had been incorporated in the plan. She reported that the next step in the Corps process will be meetings related to an update of the Shoreline Management Plan. She noted having been asked by the Corps of Engineers to participate in the Table Rock Lake shoreline management meetings.

Ms. Melgren reported having recently presented at the Society of American Military Engineers, in Hot Springs, Arkansas, with Chad Dulaney of the Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District.

Ms. Melgren said she plans to participate in the Interstate Council on Water Policy fall meeting, also in Little Rock, and invited others who are interested to join her. The dates are September 29 – October 1, 2015.

Ms. Melgren noted Mike Weller's presence and reported that he will now serve as the Coalition's primary contact with the Department of Natural Resources. She also noted Andrea Collier's presence. Ms. Collier is the new head of DNR's Water Resources Center. Ms. Melgren thanked her for taking the time to drive down for a face-to-face introduction with the board of directors.

Ms. Melgren referred to the new database of all water systems in southwest Missouri. She said the vast majority of the systems are too small to be concerned with. She said the largest systems which are not currently members are of interest and she would reach out to them to ask that they complete a questionnaire about their water system, and also to recruit them as members of the Coalition.

Ms. Melgren called the board's attention to the Tri-State Coalition Progress Report included in the agenda packet. She suggested that this report may work well to keep city councils and boards of aldermen apprised of coalition activities, and also serve as a good communication tool when talking about water issues and Tri-State Water's mission with legislators, agency representatives, lake stakeholders, and other interested parties.

Ms. Melgren reported having made a preliminary request to Missouri Department of Natural Resources for funding support for possible upcoming reallocations. She cited Clarence Cannon Wholesale Water Commission, in north Missouri, as an example of partnership between the State of Missouri and a regional water system.

Ms. Melgren reported that fall water conference planning continues. The dates will be October 22nd and 23rd. The event will take place at MSU's Darr Agricultural Center

New Business:

Mr. Barnhart noted that Ms. Melgren's annual review is due in August. He asked that board members write or call him with feedback to include in the review.

Speakers:

United States Geologic Survey

- **Brian Clark - Hydrologist and Geographic Information Specialist**
 - Update on the Ozark Groundwater Availability Study

Mr. Clark gave an overview of the progress to date on the Ozark Groundwater Availability Study. He walked the board through a series of slides presenting the data collected and analyzed to date. He said the study will likely be complete and ready to publish by the first of 2016.

Mike Beezhold suggested to Mr. Clark that some of the data gathered through the studies for southwest Missouri water supply might help inform the Ozark Groundwater Study.

City of Cassville

- **Steve Walensky – Public Works Director**
 - Update on recent flooding

Mr. Walensky showed drone footage of recent significant flooding in Cassville. He reported that Governor Nixon had toured the damage and pledged to help, and that FEMA and SEMA would soon be engaged.

Several other community representatives reported flooding and damage including, Ozark, Christian County and Branson.

Chuck Bryant suggested participation in a cross-community network of help during disaster which is organized through Missouri Public Utility Alliance. Mr. Walensky suggested Missouri Rural Water Association also provides a helpful network for communities to tap neighboring community support.

Report from the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission:

Ms. Melgren reported that the next SW MO JMWUC meeting will be August 19th, in Mt. Vernon, Missouri, at the MARC.

Reports from legislative or agency officials:

David Stokely, District Director for S.W. MO for Senator Claire McCaskill, reported having attended the meeting to learn about the Coalition and its efforts.

John Grothaus, Program manager at USACE KC, noted a Corps program called Silver Jackets which deals with flood preparedness and flood risk management, and noted their availability to give programs to communities.

Adjournment:

Mr. Barnhart asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Roddy Rogers moved, seconded by David Hertzberg, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".



Skip Schaller, Secretary