

Tri-State Water Resource Coalition  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, September 16, 2015  
9 a.m., the MARC, 822 W. Mt. Vernon Blvd., Mt. Vernon, Missouri

**Welcome:**

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

Brian Bingle – City of Nixa, Missouri  
David Hertzberg – City of Joplin, Missouri  
David Rauch – Senator Claire McCaskill  
Dennis Pyle – City of Monett, Missouri  
Gail Melgren – Executive Director, Tri-State Water Resource Coalition  
Loretta bishop – City of Branson, Missouri  
Matt Barnhart – Missouri American Water Company  
Michael Weller – Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Mike Ray – City of Branson, Missouri  
Penny Speake – Healy Law offices  
Roddy Rogers - Springfield City Utilities, Springfield, Missouri  
Steve Walensky – City of Cassville, Missouri  
Tom Pittman - Carthage Water & Electric, Carthage, Missouri  
Kyle Slagle – Empire District Electric Co.  
Gene Stanton – City of Mt. Vernon, Missouri  
Doug Healy – Healy Law Firm  
Shane Barks - U.S. Geological Survey  
Bud Sherman – Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Steve McIntosh – Senator Roy Bunt

**Approval of Minutes from July 15, 2015:**

Mr. Barnhart asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from July 15, 2015, and none were received. He asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written.

**Dennis Pyle moved, seconded by Steve Walensky, that the minutes from July 15, 2015 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.**

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**President:**

Mr. Barnhart welcomed board members and visitors to the September board meeting. He especially thanked those who had driven in from Little Rock, Rolla, and Jefferson City. He complimented the MARC as a great facility and nice asset for Mt Vernon. He noted that the

location change from Joplin to Mt. Vernon was done to provide a more central location for all members, to even out commute times.

Mr. Barnhart asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves.

**Executive:**

Mr. Barnhart asked the executive committee to meet after the board meeting to discuss the executive director's annual review.

**Financial:**

Mr. Bingle noted that a financial summary for July and August was included in agenda packets. He noted the total funds balance was \$447,285.96 at the end of August. This figure included \$47,181.30 in checking and \$400,104.66 in a Prime Advantage money market fund.

Mr. Bingle reminded the board about 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.

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

Mr. Bingle noted that the Arvest credit card was discontinued and a new credit card through Central Bank of the Ozarks has been established.

Mr. Bingle reported that he and Ms. Melgren will be working on a budget for 2016 to be presented at the November meeting.

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

**Mike Ray moved, seconded by Gene Stanton, that the financial reports for July and August of 2015 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".**

**Technical:**

Mr. Rogers reported that the technical committee would not meet after the board meeting. He noted that CDM Smith had nothing new to report as of today, though the initiatives in play continue to move forward at an acceptable rate.

Mr. Rogers reminded board members that questionnaires have been distributed to members for updated system information and requested that members return those questionnaires, if they have not already done so.

Mr. Rogers invited Chad Delaney, from the Little Rock Corps office, to give a status update for the current studies.

Mr. Dulaney reported that the Kansas City and Little Rock offices of the Corps of Engineers have been working to more fully align the Phase III and reallocation studies of Tri-State Water. He said that the Table Rock Lake reallocation study request is currently in the budget and has a good chance of making it through, though it could drop out, and there is no surety until the budget is signed by the President. Mr. Dulaney also noted that there are two allocation studies running through the Little Rock office right now that will iron out some issues which he believes will work to the advantage of a reallocation study for Table Rock Lake, if and when it is funded.

### **Communications:**

Mr. Walensky announced that the annual fall water conference will take place on Thursday and Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Springfield, at the Darr Agricultural Center, a facility of Missouri State University. Ms. Melgren thanked those members who have signed up as a sponsor, invited others to sponsor if interested, and said would be sending the E-Flyer out again in next few days. She asked everyone to help promote the event.

Mr. Walensky reminded members that a stakeholder meetings is scheduled at Stockton Lake on November 19<sup>th</sup>, at 1 p.m., at the Corps of Engineer's Bond Center.

Mr. Walensky referred to a Tri-State Coalition Progress Report included in the agenda packets. He complimented Ms. Melgren for her work in creating the report and suggested it will be a useful tool for marketing the mission of Tri-State Water Coalition.

### **Membership:**

Mr. Stanton reported that membership invoices will go out in November.

Ms. Melgren noted that Pierce City has expressed interest in membership in Tri-State Water.

### **Legislative/Regulatory:**

Mr. Hertzberg reminded board members that the Coalition will 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. Ms. Melgren said that she has received feedback from Corps HQ that May would be a good time for a visit.

Mr. Hertzberg reported that a delegation will be visiting with DNR staff, including the full time legislative liaison, on October 25<sup>th</sup>. After the DNR visit the delegation will visit elected officials at the Capitol.

### **Executive Director Report:**

Ms. Melgren reminded the board that the Corps of Engineers at Table Rock Lake recently updated its Master Plan, and that Tri-State Water's possible intake sites have been incorporated in the plan. She reported that the next step in the Corps' process is an update of the Shoreline Management Plan. She reported having attended the two Table Rock Lake shoreline management meetings so far, with the goal of contributing feedback about the importance of water quality for Table Rock Lake as it is a potential future public drinking water lake.

Ms. Melgren reported that fall water conference planning continues. The dates will be October 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The event will take place at MSU's Darr Agricultural Center. She said most of the work is complete and now are focused on signing up attendees. She asked everyone to help promote the event.

Ms. Melgren reported that Workman's Compensation insurance for this year remained the same cost and has been paid.

Ms. Melgren said she will be speaking at the National Waterways Conference in Little Rock Arkansas later in the week.

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

Ms. Melgren referenced an article included in board packets which described subsidence in California.

Ms. Melgren requested that the board join the Interstate Council on Water Policy, a membership of \$1500 annually.

**Brian Bingle moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that Tri-State Coalition's membership in the ICWP be approved. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".**

**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.

**Report from the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission:**

Mr. Rogers talked with the board about how Tri-State membership dues might be balanced against membership dues for the S.W. MO Joint Municipal Water Utility. The board concluded that Tri-State dues will continue unchanged, regardless of what system the S.W. MO Water Utility decides to assess its members for membership dues.

**Reports from legislative or agency officials:**

There were no agency reports, other than the report made by Chad Dulaney of the Little Rock Corps District, given during the technical committee report.

**Adjournment:**

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

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



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Skip Schaller, Secretary