

Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 20, 2016
9 a.m., 711 Breckenridge Road (fire station), Mt. Vernon, MO 65712

MINUTES

Welcome:

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

Aaron Jones – Allstate Consultants
Andrea Collier – MDNR
Brian Bingle – City of Nixa, Missouri
Clinton Finn – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Craig Davis – MCD & Assoc.
Dick Scott – Olsson Assoc.
Eric Dove – HDR Engineering
Gail Melgren – Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
Gene Stanton – City of Mt. Vernon, Missouri
Hal VanDaGriff – retired board member
Jason Choate - Carthage Water & Electric, Carthage, Missouri
Jeremy English– HDR Engineering
Kyle Slagle – Empire District Electric Co.
Lyn Calton – City of Lamar, Missouri
Matt Barnhart – Missouri American Water Company
Michael Weller – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Milton Dickensheet – City of Nixa, Missouri
Paul Crabtree – S.W. Mo Irrigators Assoc.
Richard Huizinga – USGS, Mo Water Science Center
Roddy Rogers - Springfield City Utilities, Springfield, Missouri
Shawn Nichols – Mo American Water Co.
Skip Schaller – City of Monett, Missouri
Sreedhar Upendram – MDNR

Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2015:

Mr. Barnhart asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from November 18, 2015, and none were received. He asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written.

Lyn Calton moved, seconded by Gene Stanton, that the minutes from November 18, 2015 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

Standing Committee Reports:

President:

Mr. Barnhart reported on a meeting he and Ms. Melgren attended recently in Jefferson City about possible state funding for regional water utility projects. Attendees included DNR director Sara Parker-Pauley, Senator Richards and other senators, Representative Flannigan and other representatives, Joe Boland from EI ERA, and representatives from the E. Locust Creek project and Little Otter Creek project in north Missouri.

Executive:

Mr. Barnhart announced that the executive committee met on January 4th. They approved hiring Mueller Consulting to write a white paper which will report on existing water supply contracts in Missouri, existing water supply statutes in Missouri, recent water supply project funding by the Missouri legislature, an overview of recent guidance and technical memoranda released by the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding water supply storage reallocations, and considerations for Tri-State regarding future water supply storage funding.

The executive committee also agreed to recommend approval of office space at CAST Workspace Cooperative in Springfield for the executive director, along with use of an administrative assistant on an as-needed/bill per-hour basis, with a cap of 40 hours per month.

The executive committee also agreed to recommend hiring lobbyist Scott Mars.

The executive committee discussed goals for 2016. Their recommendations are included in board packets.

Financial:

Mr. Bingle noted that a financial summary for November and December was included in agenda packets. He reported the total funds balance was \$419,991 as of December 31, 2015. This figure included \$13,519.47 in checking and \$406,471.53 in a Prime Advantage money market fund.

Lyn Calton moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that the financial reports for November and December of 2015 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Mr. Bingle referred to copies of the budget for 2016, included in board packets. He noted the draft budget had been distributed at the November board meeting and that the current budget included the addition of a white paper, office space and administrative assistance, and lobbyist, per recommendations of the executive committee.

Skip Schaller moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that the budget for 2016 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

Technical:

Mr. Rogers noted the inclusion in board packets of a draft two-page technical summary, *Southwest Missouri Water Supply Study Fact Sheet*. Mr. Rogers noted this is a draft in process and asked for suggestions for improvement. He said the fact sheet is intended for use with the general public. It briefly lists progress to-date related to water demands, supply availability, and reallocation requests.

Communications:

Ms. Melgren asked that each board member define one to three organizations which might write letters of support for Tri-State Water Coalition. An example letter of support was included in board packets.

Membership:

Mr. Stanton reported that invoices for 2016 were sent out in November. Some payments are in but most are outstanding.

Legislative/Regulatory:

Ms. Melgren reported that she will be gathering updated information about water storage costs in order to refine Tri-State’s request to the State of Missouri/DNR for help with funding.

Executive Director Report:

Ms. Melgren reminded the board that funding for the fourth and final year of the Stockton Lake reallocation study may not be available as it has been for years one, two, and three, through Planning Assistance to States from 50/50 funders the Corps of Engineers and DNR. If not funded in the next budget cycle, the Coalition may need to contribute funds if no other options are available. Ms. Melgren said the cost would be around \$300,000.

Ms. Melgren reported having requested from the Corps an updated timeline, amount, cost, O&M, interest rate, amortization rate for possible future water storage from Stockton Lake.

Ms. Melgren noted that the next board meeting will include information about projects in the U.S. that are somewhat comparable to Tri-State Water Coalition’s project goals – and how they are structured.

New Business:

Report from the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission:

Roddy Rogers reported that the SWMOJMWUC has not met since the last Tri-State Water board meeting.

Reports from legislative or agency officials:

Chad Delaney, from the Corps Little Rock District, reviewed the current status of Corps studies, including the Project Management Plan, Phase III study, and Stockton Lake Reallocation request. Mr. Delaney reported that the request for a Table Rock Lake reallocation study is still in the Corp's federal budget request and has a good chance of receiving funding. He reported that CDM Smith, whose representatives could not attend the meeting due to inclement weather, would like additional guidance about Phase III. Roddy Rogers suggested scheduling a conference call in the near future with CDM, the Corps, DNR, and the Tri-State technical committee.

Mike Weller, Missouri DNR, expressed interest in further analysis of current supply and demand numbers (by region), rather than just looking at the calculated projected gap.

Andrea Collier, Missouri DNR, discussed options the State of Missouri/DNR has been investigating which might serve as vehicles for possible future state funding of regional water supply projects. Two water funds currently exist in statute which might be used. They are the Multipurpose Water Resource Program Renewable Water Program Fund (Section 256.435 to 256.445 RSMo) and the Water Development Fund (section 256.280 to 256.350 RSMo). She also discussed possibilities related to the development of a state infrastructure bank. The fourth option she discussed was an appropriation through the legislature from general revenue.

Presentations:

Craig Davis, MCD & Associates, and Aaron Jones, Allstate Consultants, made a presentation about the North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission's East Locust Creek Reservoir project, including information about the possibility of developing the Multipurpose Water Resource Program Renewable Water Program Fund into a revolving fund for state regional water supply projects.

Adjournment:

Kyle Slagle moved, seconded by Skip Schaller, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".



Skip Schaller, Secretary