

Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, May 17, 2017
9 a.m., Monett City Park Casino, 101 S. Lincoln Ave, Monett, MO 65708

MINUTES

Welcome:

President Skip Schaller called the meeting to order. The following were present:

Andrea Collier – Barr Engineering
Cassandra Ludwig – City of Carthage
Chuck Bryant – City of Carthage
Clinton Finn – MO Department of Natural Resources
David Hertzberg – City of Joplin
Devin Smith – USACE
Don Lucetta – Senator Blunt’s Office
Drew Landol – Empire District Electric Co/Liberty Utilities
Eric Dove – HDR
Gail Melgren – Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
Jack Schaller – Olsson Associates
Jason Choate - Carthage Water & Electric
Jeff Farah - Jacobs, St Louis
Jennifer Henggeler – USACE
John Schumacher – USGS
Loretta Bishop – City of Branson
Lynn Calton – City of Lamar
Mark Ellickson – Opinion Research Associates
Michael Beezhold – HDR
Mike Ray – City of Branson
Milton Dickensheet – City of Nixa
Roddy Rogers – City Utilities of Springfield
Sara Stewart – CDM Smith
Scott Marris – Governmental Services Group
Skip Schaller – City of Monett
Todd Archer – CDM Smith

Approval of Minutes from January 18, 2017:

Mr. Schaller asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from January 18, 2017, and none were received. (The March meeting had been cancelled as there were no action items for the board at that time.)

Milton Dickensheet moved, seconded by Lynn Calton, that the minutes from January 18, 2017 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

Standing Committee Reports:

President:

Mr. Schaller welcomed participants to the meeting and asked for self-introductions.

Mr. Schaller noted that the representative from Empire District/Liberty Utilities has changed from Kyle Slagle to Drew Landoll. Mr. Schaller welcomed Mr. Landoll to the board.

Mr. Schaller reviewed the current executive committee members for 2017:

Officers:

President – Skip Schaller (City of Monett)

Past President – Matt Barnhart (Missouri American Water Company/Joplin)

Vice President – Chuck Bryant (Carthage Water & Electric)

Treasurer – Mike Ray (City of Branson)

Secretary – Gene Stanton (City of Mt. Vernon)

Ad Hoc Executive Committee Members

Roddy Rogers – Technical Committee Chair, Past President (City Utilities of Springfield)

Nick Heatherly – JMUC liaison (City of Joplin)

Mr. Schaller reported that Nick Heatherly has retired and so his seat on executive committee requires a new person. He noted that David Hertzberg had replaced Mr. Heatherly as public works director for City of Joplin.

Mike Ray moved, seconded by Chuck Bryant, that Mr. Heatherly’s position on executive committee be filled by David Hertzberg. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

Executive:

Mr. Schaller reported that the executive committee met April 19, 2017. At Ms. Melgren’s request the executive committee approved an adaptation in her work hours from full time to $\frac{3}{4}$ time, with a proportional shift in pay.

Mr. Schaller reported that the executive committee recommended switching meetings of the Coalition board from every other month to quarterly. Ms. Melgren said she would check the bylaws to see if there was any conflict with quarterly, rather than every other month, meetings.

Financial:

Treasurer Mike Ray, noted that monthly financial reports for January, February, March and April, 2017, were included in board packets. The ending balance for checking in April was \$112,361.14.

The ending balance in the Prime Advantage account was \$401,906.52. The total assets for the Coalition as of April 28, 2017, were \$518,267.66.

Ms. Melgren noted that the Coalition is very likely going to need a six figure amount to pay the Corps of Engineers in Contributed Funds to finish the Stockton Lake reallocation, as well as to pay for other tasks which will be required related to the reallocated storage.

David Hertzberg moved, seconded by Milton Dickensheet, that the financial report be approved. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

Technical:

Mr. Rogers reviewed the several current tasks of the Coalition working in parallel: Phase III, Stockton reallocation study, Pomme de Terre reallocation study, Table Rock Lake reallocation study. He reported again that the Table Rock Lake reallocation study has been paused until the COE Little Rock District completes a study of the entire White River System. He noted that this is likely helpful for the Coalition as it allows a more phased approach to development of long term water supply in southwest Missouri.

Communications:

Mr. Choate reported that Marc Maness has completed the human centered design interviews, having done 25 across the region. Mr. Manes’ report was included in board packets. Information from those interviews have been used to inform the writing of questions for the regional survey.

Mr. Choate noted that Mark Ellickson is in the process of developing the survey for use in the region to gather citizen opinion about water issues. Citizen opinion will be surveyed first, then other groups like business, heavy users, elected officials and municipal leaders will be surveyed.

Ms. Melgren noted that critical to success of the survey effort will be to find many points of distribution for the survey – preferably electronic. In addition to electronic surveys, Mr. Ellickson’s company, Opinion Research Associates, will do phone surveys.

Membership:

Mr. Calton noted that Mr. Choate and Ms. Melgren recently visited with David Cameron, city administrator for the City of Republic, and that Mr. Cameron indicated a desire to join the Coalition, contingent upon his city council’s approval.

Mr. Calton reported that the Coalition has 16 members: Branson, Carthage, CU of Springfield, Empire/Liberty, Greene County, Jasper County, Joplin, Lamar, Missouri American Water Company, Monett, Mt. Vernon, Nixa, Pierce City, Republic (contingent upon council approval), Springfield and Webb City.

Legislative/Regulatory:

Mr. Hertzberg reported that he, Mr. Rogers and Ms. Melgren recently visited DNR in Jefferson City, meeting with new deputy director Dru Buntin along with Michael Weller and Sherri Stoner, Darlene Groner (SRF) and Joe Boland (EIERA).

Mr. Hertzberg reported that Mr. Schaller, Mr. Rogers and Ms. Melgren will visit Washington DC soon where they will talk with Corps of Engineers HQ, EPA, and members of all the federal delegations.

Mr. Marrs, from Governmental Services Group, reported on the session just completed in Jefferson City.

Mr. Marrs and Mr. Hertzberg discussed the possibility of asking the Missouri legislature to approve a \$1 place-holder in next session's budget. That way, if and when the Corps approves the reallocation of water storage in Stockton Lake in the fall of 2018 (the current timeline) a line item in the Missouri budget would already exist and the Coalition could request funding to help pay for the reallocated storage space once the Corps gives its approval.

Executive Director Report:

Ms. Melgren reported the Coalition has join the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG).

Ms. Melgren noted the Coalition has responded in the Federal Register to the Corps of Engineers proposed rule changes for water supply. That response, *Comments on Proposed Water Supply Rule*, was included in board packet to give board members an idea of potential contractual components the Coalition will consider if and when a reallocation contract is negotiated.

Ms. Melgren noted that the survey work being done for the Coalition by Opinion Research Associates will also serve to develop a more robust communication network within the region.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Report from the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission:

Mr. Rogers noted that the SW MO JMWUC last met June 8th.

Reports from legislative or agency officials:

Brian Clark, with USGS, reported that the Ozark Aquifer Study continues to move forward and may be complete in another year.

Presentations:

Surveying Attitudes & Beliefs About Water in SW MO: Mark Ellickson – President, Opinion Research Associates; Professor, Political Science, Missouri State University

Funding Cycles in the State of Missouri: Andrea Collier - Senior Environmental Engineer, Barr Engineering; Former director, Water Resources Center, Mo Department of Natural Resources

Update Stockton Reallocation and Transmission Routes/Tri-State Coalition Progress: Brenda Macke, CDM Smith, and Jen Henggeler, Corps of Engineers, Kansas City

Adjournment:

Milton Dickensheet moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

The next Coalition board meeting will be August 16, 2017.



Skip Schaller, president (secretary absent)