

Water Steering Team
Minutes
April 4, 2006
10-12:00 pm
McKemy

INTRODUCTIONS

Randy Railsback, Executive Director of the Green Hills RPC in Trenton,
Marsha Boone, Community Assistance Office with DNR, Jefferson City,
Nancy Thomson, Ex. Dir. of the NW MO Regional Council of Governments, Maryville,
Steve McIntosh, Water Resources Center with DNR, Jefferson City,
Judy Bowman, DNR Kansas City Regional Office Ombudsman,
David Williams, Water Specialist, Public Water Drinking Program in the Northwest
Missouri Satellite office, Maryville,
Carl Fett, DNR, Kansas City Regional Office,
Bob Broz, University of Missouri, Water Quality Extension Program,
Kerry Cordray, Public Information Coordinator for MoDNR in their Field Services
Division,
Bob Stiens, Nodaway County Commissioner,
Ken Minter, Nodaway County, Retired Northwest Aquatic Biologist,
Frank Veeman, NWMSU,
Curtis Hedrick, Superintendent of Utilities, Tarkio Board of Public Works,
Harlan Higginbotham, Co-Chair, Retired Chemist from NWMSU,
Breck Summerford, DNR Jefferson City,
Jerri Dearmont, Grant Administrator/Secretary with NW MO Regional Council.

Tom Bliss, Executive Director, MO-KAN RPC, St. Joseph and
D.J. Gehrt, Co-Chair, City of Plattsburg were also in attendance.

REVIEW MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 28 MEETING

Minutes were distributed to each person who was in attendance. These minutes are available on the RCOG website: www.nwmorcog.org. Dr. Higginbotham asked Jerri Dearmont to read the minutes in order to help focus the meeting. After the minutes were read, Mr. Higginbotham asked if there were any corrections or additions. Corrections to the minutes included: Changed the word, recognize to reconnaissance; changed MoDNR to NWMSU will supply the office furniture and computers to operate; changed objectives to objections; deleted Kansas City Regional Office and left Central Office of DNR; changed yield to little, to yield too little; change once to one voice; changed accustom to accustomed and changed abundance to abundant.

Need to only monitor steering team attendance. Terry Maglich and Stan Wolfe are advisory only. Be sure to identify the team that is in attendance. Mr. Cordray said that if the Team was ever questioned as to whether we had additional outside input, so we will continue to list as such. Marsha Boone, Breck Summerford and Steve McIntosh will continue to edit minutes. Mr. Higginbotham stated he did not see where we agreed to operate on a consensus basis. This was added to the minutes along with the voting rules. No other additions or corrections were made. Revised minutes will be placed on the webpage.

MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Higginbotham stated we had talked about it but not really put a Mission Statement into words. A suggestion for a Mission Statement was “To help determine the most cost effective solutions for accessing high quality abundant drinking water for the region.” The goal is to help get drinking water to all of northwest region/county region. It is important to say who is going to benefit by what we do. A mission statement usually has three parts such as, who are we, what we do and who benefits from what we do.

Nancy wrote the mission statement on the white board as Mr. Higginbotham quoted. It was asked if the statement says who we are and no it did not. We are a coalition of stakeholders, a cooperate effort, we have representatives from education, county government, city/county, we represent 12 counties. It was mentioned that we do not have to define the entire membership as long as the statement is broad enough and pulls them all in. If this is being taken to the citizens, we need to provide as much more accessible than accessing. Is the main purpose to bring the most cost effective solution or is our purpose something broader. Is there a long-term aspect is another question that was mentioned. Some people say we already have a long-term cost effective solution. Are we looking at both a regional stand point or also long-term? The mission is to provide high quality drinking water, but for some people it will be cost effective, but affordable, high quality is better than cost effective. After much discussion the initial mission statement reads:was:

“Coalition of local and regional stakeholders to provide long-term, affordable, abundant, high quality drinking water for the citizens of northwest Missouri.”

This statement will give you who is doing it, why we are doing it and who is going to benefit from it. The long-term was omitted, but then added back into the statement. A lot of short term work has been done because of grant funding and such and it's about merging with other systems and so if we are looking at solutions that are long-term and they want to keep their water plant that is not a long-term solution. Are we going to have to convince people that the regional approach is going to provide long-term solutions verses keeping individual water plants. Why are we doing such a big regional plan and why don't we just build a plant. In some cases a regional approach is long-term but often the regional approach is more cost effective long-term. It's just not the source and abundance but the cost sharing over a great many people that is more cost effective than everybody doing their own thing. The tag line is why more regional--because it's a more cost effective, long-term solution, and that is what is different in this approach.

One of the issues to be discussed, is the purpose of the committee. Scoping and getting all the information on the table and evaluating the problems and the opportunities--that is the work of this committee. The danger or a potential problem can be if the Steering Team is perceived as a to that makes the decision maker of where the water is purchased or who is going to make the final call. If we don't explain that at the onset of this, then we have a problem. This should be carefully explained to avoid problems. This is a team that has the ugly thankless job of doing all the leg work and the ground work to scope what the potential problems and opportunities are without actually making the final decision on how we are getting the water. We are not actually providing the plan. Steve McIntosh mentioned drinking water supply, but is that primary focus or the only focus of the group. Are we looking at water supply in general or as industrial water needs for agricultural or for processing? It was suggested to take drinking out of the mission statement. The mission is to gather the data and develop a plan for long-term, affordable,

abundant water. Do we want to include in the mission statement that we have indeed compiled all the data or information? Probably not in the mission statement. This group will be creating a scoping plan to get to the point to where we can develop an actual strategy to turn the water on. Steve McIntosh stated the committee is getting water to the spigot as far as the mission statement is concerned. This group will make those financial decisions about providing those sources to do this. Need to be very clear to the public about what is being said about this group. Randy Railsback stated that last time it was mentioned, should the Corp or other people be here because they will probably be part of the solutions and if there are others out there that think they should be at the table are they part of the solutions or are they part of the research to develop a plan. We are trying to develop a plan so we can tell our funding agencies that also in order for a long-term solution to be had they also need to buy in for this larger plan than just this local jurisdiction. We need a grant that fits our local problems.

Steve McIntosh asked if drinking water supply the primary focus or the only focus of the group. Are we looking at water supply in general or as industrial water needs for agricultural or for processing? It was suggested to take drinking out of the mission statement. The mission is to gather the data and help develop a plan for long-term, affordable, abundant water. This group will be creating a scoping plan to get to the point to where we can develop an actual strategy to turn the water on. Steve McIntosh stated the committee is getting water to the spigot as far as the mission statement is concerned. This group will make those financial decisions about providing those sources to do this. Need to be very clear to the public about what is being said about this group.

After 18 months we have completed the terms of the contract with the university people. We have delivered the scoping plan in an 18 month period and then the team is done with this phase of it and with that scoping plan we go to the next phase. At that point we try to on with hiring the Community Planner was to make it very clear with the Planner was their job was done and we may very well hire them for an implementation phase, but we only have funding for them up to 18 months to develop this scope of plan with this committee. So is the community planner developing the plan or are we developing the plan. Yes, it's there to extract from this team and help this team develop this plan. It's not coming from one person's head, it coming from this team. Steve mentioned he still has a concern that it is a plan. Mr. Broz said the intention to implement the plan is not missing from the sentiment from the statement that we have so far. Maybe it should be more expressed in some way. We have struggled with this same issue trying to determine the product of what that position would have to produce and that the final analysis was the scoping plan to complete their job and they may very well be hired over, pending the money in order to help with the implementation. Maybe a sub-statement needs to come under the mission statement.

Randy Railsback stated that last time it was mentioned, should the Corp or other people be here because they will probably be part of the solutions and if there are others out there that think they should be at the table; are they part of the solutions or are they part of the research to develop a plan. We are trying to develop a plan so we can tell our funding agencies that in order for a long-term solution to be had they also need to buy in for a larger plan than just a local jurisdiction. We need a grant that fits our local problems.

After 18 months when we have completed the terms of the contract with the university and have delivered the scoping plan in an 18 month period and the team is done with this

phase of it, we go to the next phase. The Community Planner position only has funding for up to 18 months to develop this scope of plan with this team. Is the community planner developing the plan or are we developing the plan? Yes, it's there to extract from this team and help this team develop this plan. It's not coming from one person's head, it coming from this team. Steve mentioned he still has a concern that it is a plan. Mr. Broz said the intention to implement the plan is not missing from the sentiment from the statement that we have so far. Maybe it should be more expressed in some way. We have struggled with this same issue trying to determine the product of what that position would have to produce and that the final analysis was the scoping plan to complete their job and they may very well be hired over, pending the money in order to help with the implementation. Maybe a sub-statement needs to come under the mission statement.

Mr. Broz asked is the purpose of the committee to identify the alternatives to provide long-term affordable water as opposed to developing a plan. So we may want to add identify alternative solutions. This does not get us to providing, but we have looked at all the options and here are our recommendations.

Coalition of local and regional stakeholders to identify solutions for a long-term, affordable, abundant, high quality water supply for the citizens of Northwest Missouri.

If the main goal as a committee is to say what the options are, where the sources of water are and what we can basically do for a good long-term supply, that means we are going to look at all the options and make a decision that here is our recommendation that we will take forward to the group. As an outside assistant, what is the committee doing, we are going to develop a plan for you, but if our job is to look at the identifiable solutions and then we will come up with a recommendation based on all the expertise on what we feel is going to be the best as far as the regional stakeholders, that would be much more acceptable to me. In the long run we want a long-term solution that people can relate too. We have funds to do a state water plan and this means so much and every new director had an idea of what a plan should be. Harlan said the committee is going to identify solutions and then turn it over to the professionals to implement the solutions. Yes, and after looking at all these possible solutions, this is what the team strongly suggest what we do. Steve mentioned the first alternative is the environmental impact statements or other studies and don't do anything is your first alternative. Most of the people don't think that is a viable solution.

FUNDING POSSIBILITIES

Steve mentioned a couple of funding possibilities and updated on these. Marsha and Steve have been working on a draft to go to EPA. It is a national competition and thinking of multiple partners to submit this grant to help fund some of the different activities of committees and support groups and regional planning agencies. Steve thinks there would be more of an opportunity if the director of DNR to ask for the funds and maybe he can get more political support then if we try and do it on our own. Another grant is the reconnaissance study for the Corps of Engineers. The 604b focuses on a grant through EDA. Steve is a little concerned with this grant because it focuses more on water quality management planning and not sure how that will work into high quality water. If we can identify that there are communities with less than adequate water supply because of water quality contamination then that is a good part of our study. This is why we want to get people off the water they are on because they have an atropine or

ammonia problem or that part of the study could be funded by the water quality management funds.

Some of the funds that Nancy mentioned have been tapped into for the community planner position and would not go for administration. Marsha mentioned the three RPC's would strengthen the applications. Harlan asked about support for the individual members who have travel and expense. This is Nancy's intent to get money to for all the groups who have to travel who have incurred expense because of time. Marsha said the way she read the 604 is that it is for planning purposes and she didn't think that would be a problem. In the grant application Steve mentioned we need to make sure we have travel and meetings and if there is more support that is needed to let the grant writers know. There is no match requirement for the 604b grant. Mr. Broz mentioned that Shelbina has a 604b and they built in travel and an engineering firm to do a lake study and more. They compiled a booklet to distribute to people at the end to help support the concept on why we need to help protect the water supply for outreach. In the grant, it must say how the funds will be spent, there is a 10% total amount to move without changing the budget. Steve asked do you want to have input upon these abstracts of these grants other than the meetings or post them to the team. They can be faxed or emailed on what they are doing with the grants. The Corps of Engineering grant can be faxed as well.

Harlan said we need to develop an overall plan as to how we are going to go about acquiring all the data we need. Will we do this on a county by county basis or rural water supplies? Breck Summerford stated the information they have in their department is to start looking at each county on what they have in the way of water supply and available capacities. David and Breck still need to get together because David will be visiting some of these districts. The data needs to be in table form and not just county by county and see how each county is set up for large supply and look at water availability and compare to population served and not served in those counties and see what demands are not met in each county. This is actually being done right now on a county by county basis. Some counties do not have a regional water supply development and those counties need to develop a group to form a water district board to come together and actually legally form. This need to be part of this process to figure out which areas are going to take more work because they do not have any water supply service in their area now. Breck and David are looking at these things now. This will then be presented to the team to see the whole picture. Harlan asked if there is some way the group can help. Breck said they will be working with the local communities and water systems trying to get the accurate information. There are items on the computer but may not be up-to-date. Breck said he does have the Atchison County report that was updated as well as the five-county area spreadsheet that was updated by the NWMORCOG and Nancy has called the water district in her area for updates and have contacted Brock Pfoest with White Cloud Engineering and Andy Macias with Snyder's & Associates who have volunteered to give any data you need. Breck also has copies of studies from Missouri American and Northwest Wholesale Commission. Randy Railsback presented a narrative on every town in the three counties of Caldwell, Daviess and Harrison and some of them have had recent preliminary engineering reports done and some have been quit some time ago and some don't have an engineering firm contracted and we have put together a list of projects that we have currently funded or in development of water or sewer in the Green Hills region.

Steve McIntosh presented a report from NRCS of a project in Iowa. The report was passed around for people to review. The project is West Tarkio Creek and it looks as if the project will go. It will provide water supply for Shenandoah and Clarinda, Iowa and some of the discussion was whether this project will bring water down to Missouri or what their intentions are. It is a \$63M project, 50/50 cost share, it will provide 4 million gallons per day, which is about the same as Mozingo east of Maryville. Presently, their peak demand is 2.6. The project in Sullivan County is going to produce \$6M for every million gallon and Iowa will cost \$16M for every million gallon. So it must be a much flatter area and the land must be more costly. The cost share for Sullivan County is 75% instead of 50%.

COMMUNITY PLANNER POSITION

We have qualified for a good candidate for the Community Planner position. Tentatively the interviews are set for April 12. At least one or two will be interviewed that day. If we find out that they are not qualified, the process will be started over. Those interviewing the candidates include Marsha Boone, Nancy Baxter, Breck Summerford and Mike Wells. A computer will be provided by the NWMSU and will be setup through DNR's network system. Nancy asked if there is any clerical support and there will be an intern available for the Community Planner. If there is a need for support, Lee's Summit can provide.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Kerry Cordray has offered to help the team. Marsha wants to have an individual that understands how to go out and market a message and help prepare the public for in the region for some of the work we are doing and have some background helping us put this message into a package and help market it. It was talked about having a social marketing presentation, but need to hold off on this until at least the next meeting. Kerry and Marsha will work on a presentation for the group and also be looking towards the university to who we can bring in to help us here.

Kerry Cordray has been working for DNR for 10 years as a Public Information Coordinator for four different divisions of the department. Karl Fett was his boss at one time. Prior to that he spent 15 years in public broadcasting and radio and went from the media side to the PR and marketing side. Kerry told Marsha that he didn't think we were ready to do any talk about marketing until we have done this work. We need to know what we are doing or what we are encouraging that people in our communities will do before we start talking about any messages to support this. The mission statement is a good start initially to get into a mission statement. Kerry has worked in Air, water protection, the computer but may not be up-to-date. Breck said he does have the Atchison County report that was updated as well as the five-county area spreadsheet that was updated by the NWMORCOG and Nancy has called the water district in her area for updates and has contacted Brock Pfoest with White Cloud Engineering and Andy Macias with Snyder's & Associates who have volunteered to give any data you need. Breck also has copies of studies from Missouri American and Northwest Wholesale Commission. Randy Railsback presented a narrative on every town in the three counties of Caldwell, Daviess and Harrison and some of them have had recent preliminary engineering reports done and some have been quit some time ago and some don't have an engineering firm contracted and we have put together a list of projects that we have currently funded or in development of water or sewer in the Green Hills region.

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STEERING TEAM COMPOSITION

This has been discussed at each meeting as to whether we need more representatives on this team. Currently there are 8 out of 12 counties represented. Nancy mentioned when the team was setup, the three RPC directors were included as since they work with all the counties with water projects. It was suggested since there are only 8 out of 12 is not a good percentage. It was asked if they need to be individual water treatment or individuals in that county. Some of the research needs to come from the counties, but maybe there is an individual that can gather the information that is needed. Need to bring whoever to the table to hear from the region such as the county commissioners and mayors. Need to have full meetings to update and would welcome to have them join us or appoint someone from their region. Need to have an open discussion on the agenda

and it may provide good information and may benefit by asking other organizations to present to our group.

Another way to make more room at the table is to create sub-committees and invite other people who are not involved. Tom Bliss has had questions from people in his area on whether they can participate which is Andrew, Buchanan, Clinton and DeKalb. There are two experts who have volunteered from the university and so everybody else is working with the funding for or distribution of water. A solution was proposed to identify two or three people in each of these counties and have them on a mailing list and make them aware they are invited and allow them to decide to come to the meetings and then they can decide whether they need to be here. It was asked on how can a person become a member since it can be increased. David Williams attended the Northwest Wholesale Commission meeting in King City last week and they would like to have one person to be part of this team as a representative. This would include Buchanan, De Kalb and part of Gentry. Their group has been meeting for 2 1/2 or 3 years now and they would like to be a part of this, but need to know how to become a member.

Marsha said the comment from Doyle Childers, Director of DNR is that we need to make because there has been some questions on this group about whether American Water or the Wholesale Water group concerns about trying to dictate which way its going to go before we get a chance to discover it. It would seem that they need to come in with the county in mind, whoever it is. Randy mentioned from the last meeting we needed a structure and got organized and are moving on it that we have achieved those things. Most of the county commissions are interested in what kind of solutions there are and what we are going to accomplish. Harlan asked how do we extend this invite? Not sure if we know who we are inviting, is it the American Water or commissions. The county commission, water districts and the cities are the players. Between the RPC's, RCD's and DNR, they should have a good idea at who should be looking at this to determine who those 2 to 4 players per county who would have an important role or if all we do is send them the minutes and if they are interested in attending a meeting they need to RSVP and again if they read the minutes and see that someone is representing them, but at least they would have the information.

The list of people who were invited to the water conference was invited because of their connection with water. It was asked if this water group would be convened again, answer, yes. Why not have this group back to see who is interested. This is the core group. It was suggested to have them back at the next meeting to introduce the Community Planner and the Community Planner can work with them on what they need. The larger water group will only meet occasionally since the steering team was formed. The water group needs to define the purpose of this large group that has been left hanging. Providing a Community Planner is hired, the water group could be invited at the next meeting. It was suggested to invite three different districts to present instead of a broadband invitation. We need to select now who we want to come in and how we want to handle the invitation. David Williams has a list of all districts and contact persons. At some point need to invite all the water people so they have a chance to speak about their area.

What do these people need to talk about and what their ideas are for their systems? Such as needs and solutions; supply and how large is it, demand and limitation and how do you plan to answer your needs and how can others help you. Marsha said she would be

interested to hear if there are any water conservation initiatives going on that we need to know about and if so are they working.

David Williams asked if the next meeting was the right meeting to invite the large group to meet the new planner who has been on board one day. Nancy and Marsha agreed that they need to meet the people and be introduced as quickly as possible. This person has an 18 month period only. The planner needs to get familiar with the steering team and then open up to the large group. It was agreed to introduce the planner to the steering team first and then prepare them to the larger group. It was suggested to have the Water Steering Team to meet with the planner in the morning and a reception in the afternoon. As soon as we hear about the planner we can plan then. DJ will ask Clinton County to do a presentation.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURN

The next Water Steering Team will meet on Tuesday, May 2 from 10-12 pm. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for the McKemy Building. The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 pm.

The minutes of these meetings are open to the public and they are available on the RCOG website: www.nwmorcog.org.