



Minutes

April 9, 2008, 10:00-2:00 pm
The Station, NWSMU

Members in Attendance: Harlan Higginbotham, Dale Watson, Curtis Hedrick, Marvin Nickell, Zac Johnson, Huey Jacobs, Manley Tillison, Dick VanVactor, Ken Minter, Tom Bliss, Randy Railsback, Lance Rains, Tye Parsons, Marsha Boone, Bill Hills, and Richard Graner.

Members not in Attendance: Norman Ellis, Phil Lammers, Wayne Voltmer, and Bob Stiens.

Participants, Advisors, Staff and Visitors: Eileen Irvine, Rick Bradley, Elmer Davis, Raymond Henagan, Bruce Hattig, Bernie Meyer, Sean Hennessy, Roger Lehr, Andy Shively, Terry Campbell, D.J. Gehrt, Kathy Morgan, Chad Higdon, Bill Jarocki and Jerri Dearmont.

Introductions were made by all in attendance.

Changes to the agenda included: Deletion of Economic Development Committee and Corp of Engineer Study due to committee members being absent. No update to the Legislative Committee report.

Minutes were distributed to all members. With no corrections made to the March 11, 2008 minutes, Dick VanVactor made a motion to approve the minutes. Manley Tillison seconded motion. Motion passed. (13 ayes, 0 nays)

Committee Reports/Updates

Atchison County Wholesale Water Commission – The commission is currently working on interim financing. Bruce Hattig and Ed Proctor met with Joe Boland with SRF. An interim loan through SRF is not an option. The commission has SRF and EPA grant monies, but need match monies in order to move forward. To meet SRF requirements, the commission needs over \$2M in place in order to complete the design, obtain easements, legal costs and a contractor bid for DNR to release the SRF loan and grant funds. A total of \$18M is estimated to complete the overall Atchison County project. Bruce Hattig and Ed Proctor intend to present at the May meeting in reference to easements that need to be acquired for the project. The environmental assessment can not begin until the funds are released. Bruce has a spreadsheet that shows project costs. The next Atchison County Wholesale Water Commission is tomorrow night (Thursday, April 10). Timing and money are the big factors for this project. Local banks in Atchison County have been contacted for matching funds. With there being no existing facility in place or other collateral, this causes a problem for entities to loan monies. The contracts with the other communities are presently being developed. Most recently, Nodaway County PWSD #1 is now a member and Craig has stepped down.

Fundraising Presentation - Conference calls are conducted almost every Monday with DNR staff, Bill Hills, Harlan Higginbotham and other key representatives from the executive committee. It was decided another month was needed to put the presentation together for the members. Judy Bowman will assist and at the May meeting, Judy will review the presentation with members. Members need to compile a list of who they will be targeting, who needs to hear it and who you will be soliciting funds from, in each county.

Social Marketing Plan 2008 – Marsha Boone has an initial draft of the plan, but will need more time. Roundtable discussions will be held in the communities, but the feasibility study needs to be completed first, before these discussions are held. The feasibility study is being pushed back, so the symposium will follow the feasibility study and the roundtable discussions. Need to get articles out to newspapers about the real cost of water and educate the public about who is the water partnership and what we are doing. Marsha will have the draft plan next month and the member presentation available in power point and handouts along with WP reports and county stats. Marsha is to work on newspaper articles about who will accept a written article verses who will not. Steve McIntosh is working on the cost of the feasibility with the COE which will be part of the presentation.

The quarterly commissioners meeting (16 Counties) will be held in Holt County on June 19. Bill Hills and Harlan Higginbotham will attend to give a presentation about the water partnership.

The Missouri Farmer's magazine placed a good article in their magazine. It can be viewed on the WP website.

Planning Organizational Structure – Bill Jarocki with the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) from Boise State University was in attendance to speak about planning. There is a satellite office in Kansas City at the EPA office. Bill stated there have been questions asked about financing strategy for this project. Bill suggested that the WP needed to know the goals, objectives and tasks before moving forward with this project. There are currently 83 separate water systems, all with different rates. The major accomplishment at point has been a baseline study and Sketch #7. The regions' needs or possible management models have not been discussed. The Planning Stage consists of: First, the MISSION, which is already established, second, are the GOALS (water supply, affordability, sustainable, things that meet the mission statement); third are OBJECTIVES from the goals (how do you make it affordable, sustainable, etc.); fourth are TASKS (specific budgets and timelines) and last is how to IMPLEMENT it, such as managing and billings. These tasks need to be met before a financing plan can be established. Hopefully the feasibility study will show how the 12-county area can come together and interconnect based on the available water sources, so that all 83 systems will have reliable water based on an affordable costs and how to finance such a project. A demonstration of a Plan2Fund model was given from the EFC website. The Plan2Fund is a Watershed Planning Tool developed by the EFC at Boise State University that helps organizations determine their funding needs to meet the goals and objectives of their project. This tool can be set up by the EFC at no cost to the partnership.

Rock Port Telephone Company was on hand to discuss connectivity by installing fiber optic to monitor called the "stadia system". One suggestion was made towards how the mission statement reads "customers needs", when it would make more sense to read "water distribution".

Next Meeting Date - The next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 13 from 10:00-12:00 pm, location to be determined. Topics for the next meeting will include: 1) Easement presentation from Bruce Hattig and Ed Proctor, 2) Kansas City Water Services Department presentation, 3) Fundraising presentation from Judy Bowman, 4) Economic Development Update and 5) Feasibility Study update. The planning session will be delayed until June.

Members were reminded again to appoint an alternate. Members can email the information to Jerri and they are invited to the next meeting in May.

Assignments - Members need to work on goals from the counties they represent.

Harlan Higginbotham stated he would like to have Tye Parsons serve on the executive committee. Members did not oppose to this decision.

Adjournment - Dick VanVactor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 pm. Manley Tillison seconded motion. Meeting adjourned. (13 ayes, 0 nays).

