

Northwest Missouri Water Steering Team Minutes

February 28, 2006 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 Noon
Northwest Missouri State University Union

WELCOME

Harlan Higginbotham welcomed everyone to the February 28, 2006 water steering team meeting. Introductions were made by all members present.

UPDATE ON COMMUNITY PLANNER POSITION

Frank Veeman, Special Associate to the President with Northwest Missouri State University reported the board meeting was moved to Wednesday, March 1, 2006 due to last weeks icy conditions. The board is to approve the opening position of the Community Planner to begin advertising for this position. The position is for a full or part-time depending on the candidate and will have the ability to work flexible hours. The Community Planner will be housed out of the DNR satellite office on NWMSU campus. The Department of Natural Resources will supply the office with furniture and computers to operate. This position when filled is for an 18 month period and possible more pending funding. The job description will also be posted on Northwest's website at www.nwmissouri.edu.

CLARIFY STEERING TEAM ROLE(S) AND PROCESS (USE USDA/NRCS GUIDEBOOK)

The Department of Natural Resources personnel will be the advisers whereas the Steering Team will act as the decision-makers. Marsha Boone suggested colored table name cards to separate the two roles.

The members decided to use the Planning Guide and will follow as long as they can. It seemed to be a standard document.

Marsha Boone suggested that members can be added to the team, as they are needed.

Mr. Higginbotham suggested the steering team will need a chairman. D.J. Gehrt from Clinton County and Harlan will be the co-chairs.

The members discussed the need for voting rules. The Steering Team is comprised of a nine member board. A quorum will constitute 5 of the 9 members present. The board approved to allow conference call and teleconference voting. Members discussed alternates at the monthly meetings. Alternates will be allowed to attend the monthly meetings; however, if member is absent three in a row or five of the 12 meetings, the member may be replaced at the discretion of all other members. Absences will be excused when the member participates by phone or conference and teleconference calls. Meetings will be held the first Tuesday of each month beginning April 4, 2006 from 10-12:00 pm at the McKemy Building on campus. This site has the ability to make conference and teleconference calls.

The official name of this committee will remain "Northwest Missouri Water Steering Team."

It was opted not to have a facilitator for general meetings, but that facilitation may be required for certain types of planning and decision-making.

Nancy Thomson asked if all the agencies were on board with this team or need to have more such as the Corp of Engineers or Soil Conservationists. D.J. Gehrt said that we have no big water producers such as Maryville, Savannah, Cameron and Missouri-American on the team. Members discussed and decided that this time the team is well represented. Randy Railsback suggested having them as solutions instead of in the planning process.

Mr. Higginbotham asked, "Where are we at in the process?" Referring to page 18 of the Planning Guidebook, Step 1 – Identifying Resource Concerns - was accomplished at the November, 2005 meeting when a list of concerns were collected. Step 2 – Determining Objectives such as the Mission Statement, Scoping Process and Setting up the Planning Team. The team has been selected and they have determined the rules for the monthly meetings. Step 3 – Conducting Resource Inventories. This will be compiled by the new Community Planner when hired. Step 4 – Analyzing Resource Data.

Nancy Thomson and Steve McIntosh have discussed a national competitive grant solicitation sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency. The applicant would be the NW Regional Planning Commission. If funded the support activities by the RPC to the Steering Team and the scoping report will be enhanced. Steve will provide Nancy with an abstract of the EPA project proposal and assist the RPC in facilitating and promoting the EPA application.

Steve also discussed a possible reconnaissance level study for the Grand River Basin that has been proposed and DNR will support if it's objectives are reformulated to assist the NW Missouri Water Study vision and objectives. The funds will be used or flow through the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Scoping funds total \$100,000 and may provide funds for planning, technical information and GIS. These study funds should become available by October 2006

Marsha Boone stated that the Steering Team should develop a regional water public outreach plan and to begin the process as soon as possible, not late in the process. She added that the Steering Team needs to speak with "one voice", and that public needs to hear the message over and over to brand the message. Randy Railsback agreed with the "one voice concept" adding that the public should know of how many job opportunities have been lost because of lack of water. Ms. Boone said that public outreach would be essential to successfully passing bond issues that are likely to follow the water planning process. Ms. Boone said that paying for water is something the public will have to become accustomed to. Nancy Thomson mentioned the campus newspaper and facility advisories to create a media plan. The Steering Team asked Ms. Boone to work on developing a sub-committee to create a media outreach plan. She agreed to contact MDNR public information staff and the media department at the University. She said the sub-committee can develop concepts and present their ideas to the Steering Team. Randy Railsback said that one of the messages we need to make is that we need "Reliable Abundant Source of Water" in this area with the most affordable rates, adding that, people have hauled water for 20 years or more and don't want to pay the cost of water. He said that grant funds are needed to keep the rates down.

The Central Office of DNR has public information officers and NWMSU can help with resources. Mr. Gehrt asked what doesn't DNR have or need for mapping. Steve McIntosh said all major lakes have been inventoried. Northwest Missouri has ground water resources, but these resources are not easily analyzed and opportunities in NW Missouri are limited to river and pre-glacial valley alluvial deposits. The areas Pennsylvanian bedrock deposits yield too little and have a high mineral content. Mr. Gehrt wrote the following on the white board:

Raw Water Sources

- Ground Water
- Surface Water

Treatment Plants Capacity

- Location
- Type
- Capacity

Distribution

- Line Locator
- Line Size

Pump Stations

- Pressures

Water Quality

Need to bring data to the table from the engineers and water partners.

Dave Williams will be traveling to each town and can collect data. Sanitary surveys will be conducted.

The group needs to discuss with the Community Planner what we have talked about. The Community Planner will be paid by DNR and will work for NWMSU. Also have PowerPoint presentation on social marketing at the next meeting.

The next meeting April 4, at the McKemy Building from 10 am to 12 pm, need to discuss compiling resource information data and working with the new Community Planner. A map will need to be sent to each team member to show location of the McKemy Building. Jerri Dearmont will call to reserve the meeting room. Need to contact local engineers for information. Team members can email Breck Summerford with what preliminary engineer reports each of the RPC's have and bring them to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm.

Team Members Present

Curtis Hedrick
Harlan Higginbotham
Bill C. Selby
DJ Gehrt
Randy Railsback
Nancy Thomson

Absent:

Bob Stiens
Ken Minter
Tom Bliss
Stan Wolfe
Terry Maglich

Others Present

Frank Veeman – Northwest
Jerri Dearmont - RCOG
Arnie Kreek - RCOG
Marsha Boone - DNR
Steve McIntosh - DNR
Breck Summerford - DNR
Judy Bowman - DNR