



Water Partnership Team (WPT) Meeting
10:00 AM – 12:00, Tuesday, January 9, 2007
The Station, Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville, MO
Co-Chair – Harlan Higginbotham

Members in Attendance:

Dale Watson – Andrew County	Huey Jacobs – Dekalb County
Curtis Hedrick – Atchison County	Manley Tillison – Gentry County
Norman Ellis – Buchanan County	Bill Selby – Harrison County
Marvin Nickell – Caldwell County	John Dudeck – Holt County Sub for Ken Kurtz
Zac Johnson – Daviess County	Bob Steins – Nodaway County
Dick VanVactor – Worth County	

Members Not In Attendance:

D. J. Gehrt - Clinton County
Ken Minter – Nodaway County Volunteer

Non Voting Members in Attendance:

Tom Bliss – MO-KAN RPC	Karl Fett - KCRO
Randy Railsback – Green Hills Exec. Dir.	Marsha Boone – Project Coordinator
Lance Raines (Alternate)	Judy Bowman - Ombuds
Tye Parsons – NW Regional Council	David Williams - DNR
Beverly Maltsberger – Un. Mo Exten.	Bill Hills – Consultant

The Water Partnership Team Meeting was called to order by Harlan Higginbotham, Co-Chair.

Guests:

Stan Wolfe, USDA, Anita Dunham, NRCS; Sid Douglas, Attorney for NWMO Wholesale Water Commission.

Harlan called the meeting to order and welcomed back Norm Ellis, who returned after recuperating from heart surgery.

Harlan then discussed the membership roles and responsibilities.

Roles and Responsibilities: Harlan discussed the responsibilities of the delegates for the 12 counties. He said that they need to think carefully about accepting the challenge of engaging their county in water issues in the coming year. It was emphasized that the delegates need to be dedicated to the project, attend the meetings, utilize their resources and talk about the water situation in NW Missouri. He said that members need to work with media in their county and consult with people in the community that are trusted by others. Harlan said “It is a matter of pulling people together, people from your county, to develop a plan/vision for the future, and folks must be willing to commit the time and effort.” The message that needs to be stressed is that the area needs to secure a regional supply for the future and coordinating efforts like sharing resources, staff, and one plant backing up another. The seven hubs identified from the water treatment systems survey, he added, should be a part of a regional plan.

David Williams addressed the group and talked about a key public issue the WP will face, cost. He gave a presentation on the cost of bottled water as opposed to water in faucets, comparing several brands of

bottled water. He also conveyed the message bottled water is an unregulated source of water unlike the water districts. And comparatively, bottled water is much more costly than water from our own faucets, dispelling the theory that piped water costs too much.

Later, Lance Raines and Randy Railsback brought up that there is a lot of misinformation circulating in the communities. They suggested that the plan be referred to as “a vision” and a way of thinking, rather than a plan that has already been created.

Curtis Hedrick and Sid Douglas said that there is only the rest of this year to develop a plan with the assistance of the DNR. A request was made for a newsletter to inform and keep all interested parties up to date will hopefully be available Feb. 1st. Members were asked to send in names and addresses of officials from their district that would benefit receiving the information so that a database can be established.

Marsha spoke, saying that the WP needs to have an active working board, linked to a large pool of community leaders to further engage communities in the planning process. Members, she said, should seek out and address community organizations, to ‘light a fire’ in the community about accessing abundant water for future needs. Marsha explained that members will be expected to work with University of MO Extension to create county committees to ‘vision’ how abundant water would affect the county and its economy.

Executive Committee:

Harlan gave the names of the people he asked to serve on the executive committee. They are:
Bob Stiens
Dick VanVactor
Randy Railsback

Determining Unmet Water Needs:

Bill Hills is gathering information from the counties regarding their water lines and distribution systems to determine who is and who is not being served. Bill said that accurate geographic layers need to be identified for the districts in order to determine where lines could go. He will contact the districts and utilize the baseline information to find distribution systems. The end goal is to map all of the lines then determine the unmet needs.

Retreat Planning:

Beverly Maltzberger is hosting the WP Retreat (which was rescheduled for February 15 due to weather) with these goals 1) building relationships among board members, 2) clarifying responsibilities of the members, and 3) identifying possible options to consider for the community plan.

Town Hall Meetings Scheduled:

Feb. 20 – Albany – Humley Whaley Center
21 – Maysville
22 – Savannah
27 – Hamilton
28 – Gallatin
Mar. 1 – Bethany
6 – Plattsburg
7 – St. Joseph

These four have yet to be scheduled:

Worth
Holt
Atchison
Nodaway

Public Outreach Committee:

Marsha is holding a meeting this afternoon at 1 PM at the Satellite office.

Other Business:

The meeting scheduled for tonight at Bethany is ready to go. There will be several attending from the WPT and the DNR. There has been a list of contact numbers copied for the public in order to be able to reach their delegates, as well as maps, and refreshments.

Travel Expense:

At the present time, there are very limited funds available for extras, so it was decided to wait to see where things stand down the road before mileage is paid.

Notebooks:

Notebooks were handed out to the Delegates and several guests. These notebooks will be used to compile all information for WPT members and regular attendees.

Adjourned: The meeting was then adjourned.