



Minutes

January 8, 2008, 12:00 – 4:30 PM

NWMSU Board Meeting Room

Members in Attendance: Harlan Higginbotham, Dale Watson, Curtis Hedrick, Marvin Nickell, Phil Lammers, 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, Wayne Voltmer, and Bob Stiens.

Participants, Advisors, Staff and Visitors: Jerri Dearmont, Breck Summerford, Arnie Kreek, Judy Bowman, Karl Fett, Stan Wolfe, Steve McIntosh, Beverly Maltsberger, Jack Baldwin, Randy Beason, Don Crane, Curtis Livengood, Jerry Perry, Max Noble, Kyra Mills, Anita Dunham, Robert K. Ross, Amy Ryan, Bernie Meyer, Doyle Gray, Ed Proctor, Ann Schlueter, Jerry Baker, Tracey Casburn, Doug Schulte, Kent Fisher, Larry Hicks, Jim Hughes, John Blackford, Terry Campbell, Bill Jarocki and assistant.

Chairman Harlan Higginbotham opened the meeting at 12:05 pm on January 8, 2008 in the Board Meeting Room at NWMSU. Attendance Sheet is in Minute Book. Introductions of new members, guests, Legislators and other agencies were acknowledged.

Lunch was served.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – BILL JAROCKI

Mr. Jarocki, Director of the Environmental Finance Center located at Boise State University was the keynote speaker. Mr. Jarocki presented a power point presentation about the Environmental Finance Center and how they can assist the regional water project. Currently there are nine designated centers in the nation. Mr. Jarocki operates the EPA Region 7 satellite office in Kansas City. Mr. Jarocki works on water and wastewater financing as well as watersheds. The *Directory of Watershed Resources* is an on-line searchable database of financial resources for watershed restoration in several states. The *Guidebook of Financial Tools* provides an overview of a wide range of ways and means that are useful in paying for sustainable environmental systems. The *Plan 2 Fund* is a watershed planning tool that works as a budget for your project. The *Opportunities Prioritization Tool* works with *Plan 2 Fund* to prioritize projects. For more information, visit the website address at <http://efc.boisestate.edu/efc/>.

GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Doyle Childers, Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources was in attendance. Mr. Childers announced \$2.8M has been committed for up to two years, to projects supporting the Northwest Missouri Water Partnership. There are limitations on this funding, which is made available by the sale of bonds at the state level. Once the bonds are sold, these monies must be spent within three years or the monies become taxable. The communities included in this \$2.8M are: Atchison County, Fairfax, Craig, Tarkio and Rock Port, and in Nodaway County, Burlington Jct., Hopkins and Clearmont. A total of 166 applications have been received by DNR so far. At this time it is unclear

if any additional monies will be available in the future. All applications are scored on priority, regionalization, and need. Cities of Plattsburg and Cameron have not heard any feedback from DNR as to how their applications have been scored, but will send letters soon.

ATCHISON COUNTY PROJECT UPDATE: Bruce Hattig with Bartlett & West Engineers gave a brief update on the Atchison County Wholesale Water Commission. The Commission is currently working on the feasibility plan.

APPLICATIONS TO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE CENTER: Joe Boland with the MDNR, Financial Assistance Center spoke briefly about the SRF priority points that will be assigned to applications when board or city council members attend "Board" training. The Clean Water/Wastewater SRF priority point system is currently in process of being changed. It is currently in the rulemaking process, which will take approximately a year before it is effective. The Drinking Water SRF priority point system does not need to go through rulemaking to be amended. Priority points will be added for "Board" training. Final approval of the priority point system lies with the Safe Drinking Water Commission. This is a very important issue and any training that a board receives on any financial management capacity, is listed as a positive on an application. These points can be retroactive only if that same board member(s) are still serving on that board. Bonds have not been sold since 2002 and at that time only \$10M were sold each time. A total of \$50M (\$38M Wastewater and \$12M for Rural Water) were sold this year from two different constitutional articles. These funds must be paid out in three years due to IRS tax complications. If any of these projects have no activity, the funds will be pulled and put towards projects that are moving because of the IRS regulations.

CORP OF ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY STUDY: Steve McIntosh with MDNR, Water Resource Center gave an update about the Phase II Feasibility Study. A handout on the Northwest Missouri Regional Water Supply Transmission System Study was distributed. The Planning Assistance to States (PAS) is a cost share program that is 50% federal and 50% state(local) for a total of \$100,000. The agreement between the Kansas City Corps of Engineers (COE) and MDNR was signed in November. The MDNR contributed \$25,000 towards the study as the state's match. The remaining \$25,000 will come from local contributors of the Water Partnership (WP), as well as in-kind from the WP committee meetings and time contributed towards this project. The WP committee has received \$2,200 from cities and counties to date and anticipate more to be contributed. The COE will contract out to consultants to study on how best to lay the transmission lines. The tasks and responsibilities and timelines have been laid out to see how much it will cost.

Breck Summerford and Steve McIntosh met to review the tasks and have determined there may not be enough money to accomplish all the tasks, but there are additional monies available in the budget for assistance. The current cost is at \$133,000. The COE have reviewed the scope and will be drafted in a few days and go out for request for proposals the week of January 14 with a completion of the study in July 2008. There are three elements to the project: 1) Managerial, 2) Technical, and 3) Financing.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Legislative/Finance Committee: Tye Parsons and Randy Railsback held a meeting in September with DNR staff from the Financial Assistance Center to discuss the \$50M in bond monies of which \$12M is available for rural water grants. The Sketch 7 was distributed to show what the WP has accomplished. It was mentioned that Atchison County Wholesale Water Commission and four other communities will be submitting applications to DNR for a new water plant and water transmission lines.

In October, the sub-committee met with Senator Lager and Representative Thomson to update them on the Water Partnership. Funding and regulatory issues were discussed. It was suggested to have Rep.

Thomson and Sen. Lager take actions on a Consent Bill, putting together legislation that would create a new program supporting regional water systems and requesting an explanation of the 2% MHI rule from the Missouri Water and Wastewater Review Committee.

Great Northwest Day at the Capitol is February 5 & 6 in Jefferson City. One of the priorities of Great Northwest Day this year is the Regional Water Plan, Sketch #7.

Economic Development/Outreach Committee: Amy Ryan announced the marketing research classes on campus will be compiling a survey on "how much people know about the Water Districts". The deadline for the surveys will be February 28. The WP executive committee will review the survey before it is sent out.

Capacity Development: Bev Maltsberger, University Extension will conduct board trainings beginning in February for all 83 water systems. They will be held in Maryville, St. Joseph and Cameron. The training will consist of three sessions, 1) Managerial, 2) Technical and 3) Financial.

Water Partnership By-Laws: Judy Bowman, Kansas City Regional Ombudsman with MDNR, reviewed a draft copy of the by-laws with the Water Partnership and attendees. Judy stated that the proposed by-laws were compiled by a sub-committee consists that also included Harlan Higginbotham, Randy Railsback, Dick VanVactor, Marsha Boone, Bob Stiens and Marsha Boone

Discussion of the by-laws was opened to the floor and several minor changes were recommended. These changes pertained to membership, notification of vacancies, attendance and election of officers. Once discussion ceased, Judy restated the changes that the Partnership was recommending and the proposed wording of those changes.

Manley Tillison made a motion to accept the by-laws changes made today. Huey Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion passed with 12 ayes; 0 nays.

Judy will make the changes and send the document to Harlan for his signature and the signature of the secretary, Dick VanVactor. Signed copies of the by-laws adopted by the group will be made available to Partnership members at the March 11, 2008 meeting.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Harlan Higginbotham, Chairperson announced that a Vice Chairperson and Secretary will need to be elected to the WP Committee, per the bylaws.

A slate of nominees was presented as follows: Tye Parsons as the Vice Chairperson and Dick VanVactor as Secretary. Phil Lammers ceased all nominations. All in favor to elect Tye Parsons as Vice Chairperson and Dick VanVactor as Secretary.

OCTOBER MINUTES

The October 9, 2007 meeting minutes were approved as a consensus.

REPORT FROM BILL HILLS

Bill Hills reported that Atchison County Wholesale Water Commission will be working hard to get items accomplished.

Marsha Boone announced that Phase I Reports were available if anyone needed them. The Phase II Reports will come out after the feasibility plan is complete.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next WP Meeting will be March 11 from 10-2 pm. Lunch will be served. This will be considered a double meeting. No meeting will be held in February.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.