



Minutes

March 11, 2008, 10:00 – 12:00 PM

NWMSU Board Meeting Room

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

Members Not in Attendance: Norman Ellis, Wayne Voltmer, and Lance Rains

Participants, Advisors, Staff and Visitors: Judy Bowman, Karl Fett, Steve McIntosh, Roger Lehr, Steven Wyatt, Terry Campbell, Andy Shively, Corey Dillon, Chad Higdon, Amy Ryan, Kathy Morgan, Darren Hennen, Marie Steinwachs, Bev Maltsberger, Justin Lee and Jerri Dearmont.

Chairman Harlan Higginbotham opened the meeting at 10:00 am on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 in the Board Meeting Room at NWMSU. Attendance Sheet is in Minute Book. Corey Dillon with Senator McCaskills office, Chad Higdon with Congressman Graves Office and Representatives from the City of Kansas City Water Department were acknowledged.

Minutes were distributed to all members and guests present. Minutes were approved.

UPDATES

Atchison County Proposal – Bruce Hattig was not able to attend this meeting. Bill Hills presented the update. Atchison County Wholesale Water Commission met again with SRF personnel last week in Jefferson City. ACWWC are continuing to work on the necessary paperwork such as legal documents that are needed to get the individual cities representatives to the point they need to be. It is still on line to obligate the SRF loan money with letters of commitments from the individual cities to purchase water (take-or-pay contracts) instead of bond issues from each individual that is required. They have hired a financial consultant to help them find money for start up costs. There is EPA money in place, but it is required to match the EPA money. This money will be used for the feasibility report, easement costs and legal. The City of Craig has withdrawn from this project and the intent is to replace the grant application with Nodaway County PWSD #1, since they are a member of ACWWC. The only timeline is that the grant money has to be spent in a three year time frame. There was a very specific timeline on this project that DNR requested. If the money doesn't get spent, then DNR will get penalized from the IRS. Currently things are moving along, but not as quickly as they had hoped.

Randy Railsback asked if there were many easements to get. At this time it is unknown how many easements are needed. There are new legislation on easements so this process can take time. The attorney for AWWC is Ed Proctor and he is aware of the easement process. The WP committee may need to address this issue with easements. Harlan asked if Phil Lammers would chair an easement committee.

Corp of Engineers Feasibility Study – Steve McIntosh presented the update on the COE Feasibility Study. Currently, the contract with the consultant is not signed. The schedule has dropped back. The contract was scheduled to be out to the Consultant by the COE by mid January which did not happen. The COE and DNR are still negotiating with potential contractors. Possibly by next Wednesday we should have

the second iteration of the contractor costs. There were some delays getting the scope of services out to advertise and since then there is a bid. The potential contractor is Camp, Dresser and McKee (CDM) and they are subcontracting most of the transmission line engineering to Bartlett & West.. Instead of a completion date of July 1, it will probably be the end of September. As far as content, there are over 40 tasks items. There are several primary tasks that are included in the scope of work such as tank and pump station locations, transmission system layout alternatives, preliminary costs estimates and wholesale rate requirements that are necessary for the engineering report and SRF facility plan requirements. The original preliminary cost estimate was \$60,000 to \$70,000 for the contractor portion of the study. The original contractor's cost estimate was \$190,000.

Last week Bartlett and West hosted a negotiating meeting with COE, DNR and CDM contractors and were estimated costs were reduced by \$60,000 to \$70,000. It was suggested to cut costs on calculation of wholesale rate requirements by just doing water supply costs to tap into the waterline per 1,000 gallons, eliminate environmental considerations, limit the number transmission system alternatives including several hubs that may have supplied water, lower report and meeting costs, and eliminate or reduce the evaluation of regional water supply management and operation alternative section.

Committee Reports

Tye Parsons/Randy Railsback – Legislative/Finance Committee

Tye reported that the Great Northwest Days was held in February. One of the priorities at Great NW Days was the Regional WP group and it was presented to the legislators multiple times. It was asked if additional funding would be available in the future and the responses were wait and see how the Atchison County project goes. So it is very important to address these easement questions to make the project work. Randy Railsback touched on the change of leadership and this being a new task and timing being a concern spending the funds. Doyle Childers did announce the \$2.8M of rural water grants, but a fifth grant was also approved for the city of Albany for approximately \$400,000 to help fund their new water tower. This tower is very much a part of the WP because it will serve the water storage needs on the eastern side of the 12-county area. This project will be the first project to spend any grant dollars, because the engineering is complete and the project has been bid out and awarded. Another project that was awarded was Plattsburg for \$300,000 to upgrade water lines and they are currently preparing to bid. These are two projects that are NW MO WP projects that will be done well within the two year deadline.

Amy Ryan – Economic Development/Outreach Committee

Amy updated on the Atchison County survey. The survey will be trimmed to only Atchison County instead of the entire 12-county area. The survey is almost finalized and ready to be mailed to approximately 3,000 customers. A list of approximately 5,000 registered voters from Atchison County will be used and then randomly select the 3,000 addresses from this list. Once approved will make copies and mail them out. The survey needs to be proofed today.

Judy Bowman – Water Partnership By-Laws Finalized

A copy of the approved signed by-laws were distributed to each WP member. Judy thanked Dick, Bob, Randy, Marsha and Harlan for working together to compile these by-laws. The water partnership members need to select alternates and then contact Jerri Dearmont of who that person is. Alternatives are encouraged to attend the meetings.

Bev Maltsberger – Training for Water Board Members

The last training session is tomorrow night in Cameron. There were a total of 137 people registered and of those were 45 systems of the 83 were in attendance. The training consisted of three sessions, 1) Managerial, 2) Technical, and 3) Financial. There was one outside assignment that all the participants were to do and that was to tour Missouri American or their local water plant. A worksheet was completed on this tour. They will receive one hour continuing education credit through the University

of Missouri. The workshops were held in Maryville, St. Joseph and Cameron. Each participant received notebooks with all the information that was used. A pre-evaluation was completed ahead of time and then after each session and then one final follow-up in six months. The participants were very positive and hope they did learn about how meetings should be handled. Findings of the trainings will be presented at the fall conference. Bev thanked everyone who helped with the training.

Business Items

Harlan Higginbotham – Planning Operations Model & Financing

At the January meeting, Mr. Jarocki stated we need to get management and finance in place. Marsha has talked to Tye and the Finance and Legislative committee and Harlan and will work with Mr. Jarocki and will have him at the April meeting to discuss creating a structure and financing model for this area and find the appropriate financing for this project.

Marsha Boone

Funding Feasibility Study

The first effort to raise money to fund the feasibility study was when the reports were mailed along with a checklist. Every water system was asked to make a contribution to show their support. As of today, \$3,600 has been received. Missouri American is also going to make a contribution, but not sure the amount. Steve McIntosh provided a model from Tri-State Water Coalition of their fundraising efforts. They are an incorporated body and they did their fundraising by water use in the various regions. Marsha will work something up that will look like that and discuss it with the WP committee to see if we need to move forward since we are short on funds. We do need to create buy-in to these water systems in the area. We want to see these checks come in, even if they are smaller amounts. The first round was not very direct. Comments from the WP committee say we need to move forward for additional donations. It was mentioned that Florida funds large water districts by taxing properties for future infrastructures. Maybe this needs to be researched. The donations were not mentioned at the Board Training sessions, but may need to. Marsha and Bev will work together on a solution to follow-up with the board training attendees. Randy Railsback stated there are potential donors but they want evidence of how much the study will cost. Steve McIntosh will put together a format of the study to show potential donors of what the study will cost and what is planned for future regional water solutions to show the citizens what is planned. Steve will provide to Marsha and she will complete the overall package for distribution at the next meeting. May want to include the list the current donors. It was mentioned that presentations need to be conducted instead of letters being sent. Power point presentations/handouts need to be made to keep consistence. Much of these presentations will be drafted by next month's meeting. Members need to contact their communities and begin scheduling dates to present.

The June infrastructure summit has been postponed until November. The purpose of the infrastructure summit was initially for legislators and candidates running for office to understand the current status of water and wastewater infrastructure in the State of Missouri and then an overview and what the needs are. It was determined to have it in November and before then have several entity meetings of areas who are having problems with infrastructure. The NW MO project will be looked at and be recognized at that summit. The summit will probably be held in Columbia.

Bill Hills

Report from the Field

Bill Hills attended a council meeting in Skidmore. Skidmore requested information about the WP. Representatives were there from NW MO Regional Council, Nodaway County PWSD #1, Atchison County Wholesale Water Commission and City of Maitland. There are still people that have not heard of the water partnership or that they exist. Bill attended a Rotary Club in Albany and presented on the WP.

Harlan asked if Kansas City Water Department would be willing to give a presentation to the next water partnership meeting.

Adjournment

The Water Partnership meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.