



Minutes

September 16, 2008, 10:00-2:00 pm

The Station, NWMSU

Members in Attendance: Harlan Higginbotham, Marsha Boone, Bill Hills, Curtis Hedrick, Marvin Nickell, Manley Tillison, Richard Graner, Bob Stiens, Dick VanVactor, Ken Minter, Tom Bliss, Randy Railsback, Mark Sitherwood, Bradley Kurtz (alternate), Don Nothstine (alternate) and Tye Parsons

Members not in Attendance: Dale Watson, Zac Johnson, Huey Jacobs, Lance Rains (alternate), Arnie Kreek (alternate), and Mark Gaugh.

Participants, Advisors, Staff and Visitors: Steve McIntosh, Breck Summerford, Jerri Dearmont, Liz Grove, Ben Nelson, Anita Dunham, Bruce Hattig, Pat Toby, Roger Lehr, Scott Gard, Meghan Hemenway, Steven Wyatt, Jeff Thorn, Darren Hennen, Jeff Shamburg, Richard Baldwin, Kyra Mills, Jerry Smith, Joe Boland, Doug Schulte, Bernie Meyer, Mike Wood and Larry Nespica.

Harlan Higginbotham introduced new attendees to the Water Partnership meeting.

NEW MEMBERS

Harlan Higginbotham introduced the new Holt County member, Mark Sitherwood, Presiding Commissioner from Holt County. The new member from Clinton County is Mark Gaugh who was unable to attend the meeting. New members must be approved by the voting membership. Dick VanVactor made a motion to accept Mark Sitherwood and Mark Gaugh as the new members to the Northwest Partnership, seconded by Bob Stiens. Motion approved.

Bradley Kurtz from Oregon, Missouri and Don Moore from Lathrop are new alternates.

MINUTES

The June minutes were emailed to all members and participates and available at the meeting. Dick VanVactor, Secretary has read the June minutes. Marvin Nickell made a motion to approve the June minutes. Dick VanVactor seconded the motion. Motion approved.

CORP OF ENGINEERS/MODNR STUDY

Bruce Hattig and Jeff Shamburg with Bartlett & West Engineers presented an update on the feasibility study for the 50% stage. Those who are involved with this study for the Water Partnership include: MoDNR, COE, CDM and Bartlett & West. The presentation included potential population growth for the entire area for the year 2030. The maximum daily use is projected to be 27.97 mgd for the entire 12-county region. The sketch 7 layout was used for this study. Three different water suppliers were included in the study: Plattsburg, Missouri-American and Atchison County Wholesale Water Commission. A survey was completed of the three suppliers to identify the current and future capacities. It was determined that ACWWC could supply 6 mgd, Plattsburg 6 mgd and MO-AM 15 plus

mgd. The project would include a total of nine pump stations (200-1300 HP), six elevated storage tanks (400,000 -2M gallons) and 299 miles of pipeline with pipe sizes range from 8" to 36". The total projected costs for the entire 12-county region is estimated at \$147,389,500. The breakdown will consist of \$14,240,000 for pump stations, \$9,317,500 for water storage tanks, and \$123,832,000 for pipeline. The size of pipe will adequately serve new customers in the future. In December, the 90% completion plan will detail engineering, easements and land. Rate issues will also be presented at the December meeting. Any comments from this presentation will be added to this plan. All comments must be given to Bartlett & West in one week. There was a lengthy discussion of the study.

PLAN2FUND

Meghan Hemenway with the Environmental Finance Center was in attendance to work with the partnership on goals and objectives for the 12- county area as a group. The Plan2Fund is a strategic plan that helps you through a project. The Plan2Fund will be divided into four different groups: Mission, Goals, Objectives and Tasks. The group interacted with Meghan to give their ideas for the various groups. Meghan will take all the ideas and incorporate into the Plan2Fund. Log on to website at: <http://efc.boisestate.edu> and click on Tools. The Username and Password for the site: NWMWP and NWMWP2008. Marsha asked if the plan will be in place for the Symposium to use for outreach. The plan will include rates, where local support will come from and what to ask legislators. Meghan stated absolutely, but it depends on how much is completed today and how committed everyone is to using this tool and trusting it. This plan can be updated throughout the phases of this large project.

Committees & Other Business – Marsha Boone

The existing planning money from DNR has been extended until February 16, 2009. Even though the meeting in August was not held, conference calls have been held.

The Managerial Sub-Committee consists of 10-12 entities is steered by Tom Bliss, with Mo-Kan Regional Council. Those serving on the committee include: Bob Ross with Northwest Wholesale Water Commission, Don Moore with City of Lathrop, Bernie Meyer with MO-AM, Mark Gaugh with City of Cameron, Tye Parsons with NW MO RPC, Brock Pfof with White Cloud Engineering/Construction, DJ Gehrt with City of Plattsburg, Huey Jacobs with DeKalb County 1, Randy Railsback with Green Hills PRC, Bill Hills, Charles Garst with Atchison County Wholesale Water Commission, Marsha Boone, Judy Bowman and Harlan Higginbotham. The purpose for this sub-committee is to look at future funding options for the Partnership in order to continue with an on-going project since the extended contract will expire. An independent consultant will be hired to work with the sub-committee. The consultant that is hired will work with the partnership. These decisions will need to be ready for the symposium in January 13, 2009. By the end of Phase 2, a completed Phase 2 report, a COE study, good membership and plan on how the funding is going to be resumed to use as a toolbox.

The toolbox can be used for Phase 3. A Public Engagement Sub-committee will need to be organized in order to sell this project. This committee will include: legislators, city officials, county officials and large water users. At some point a bond issue will take place for funding. This group will need to be organized quickly. Harlan suggested the county representatives need to initiate this sub-committee.

Symposium IV is scheduled for January 13, 2009. The COE study will be complete and the Phase II reports will also be complete to distribute. Legislation is still in session in January. Great Northwest is the first week of February. Last year the legislative group took the 12-county water project to Great Northwest Days. Items for legislation are now being collected from northwest Missouri for their next year 2009 legislation.

The Missouri University of Extension are applying for a \$5,000 grant for a public awareness campaign for the need and cost of water in the 12-county area.

The Water Partnership will need to approve each of the sub-committees. Tom Bliss has agreed to steer the Managerial committee. A motion from Tye Parsons to allow a managerial sub-committee. Manley Tillison seconded motion. Motion passed. Bob Stiens made a motion to approve the formation of a Public Engagement Sub-committee. Curtis Hedrick seconded motion. Motion passed. Need to hear from the Water Partnership committee as to who can serve on the Public Engagement committee. Water Partnership members will need to get names to Marsha or Anita by next week.

Bills Hills – Can We Afford It

Mr. Hills attended the two-day Tri-State Water Resource Coalition meeting. They are located in southwest Missouri. The Coalition is currently made up of Missouri, Kansas and Oklahoma and looking at a fourth state being Arkansas. They have issues there similar to what we have here since there is water everywhere and why do we have an issue due to all the lakes and part of that is called ownership of precede ownership. The cost and money are also issues. Grantees must meet the 2% of median household income to get grants for water or sewer. The MHI here range from \$45.79 to \$69.38 of an average monthly bill using 5,000 gallons of water. The average water bill with 2% would be \$53.88 a month using 5,000 gallons. Two years ago the average monthly bill was \$37.72 which means a 43% increase before being eligible for any grants. All the systems need to be looking at some type of water rate analysis to determine if these systems are charging the customers correctly. This subject was also mentioned at the water board trainings. It was mentioned that maybe a sub-committee needs to be formed in reference to increased water rates.

Meghan stated the financial dashboard is now available which has rates on the Environmental Finance Center website. It was suggested to show this dashboard at the symposium as a sample.

WRAP-UP

The two sub-committees need to begin work. Marsha will work with Judy Bowman on the Public Engagement sub-committee, but need a member to help with this committee. Tom Bliss is working with the managerial committee.

The next meeting dates are: October 14, November 13, December 9, January 13 is the Symposium IV and February 10 will be the last meeting.

Meghan will present at the next meeting. The goal is to have the financial strategy