

**TRI-STATE WATER RESOURCE COALITION
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2009 – 9:00 A.M.
BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM – JOPLIN, CITY HALL**

Welcome & Introduction:

Bob Nichols called the meeting to order and welcomed those present for attending. He then asked those present to introduce themselves as follows:

Carl Hayes - Cherokee County Health
Mike Hightower - Neosho, Missouri
Lynn Calton – City of Lamar, Missouri
Darrell Robertson – Lamar, Missouri
Tom Pittman – Carthage, Missouri
Don Lucietta - representing Congressman Roy Blunt
Christen Lee - Wyandotte Nation, Wyandotte, Oklahoma
Bob Nichols – Chairman, Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
Steven F. Garrett – City of Webb City, Missouri
Morgan Pearman – Kansas Department of Agriculture’s Division of Water Resources
(DWR)
David Statt – KDHE, Chanute, Kansas
Kevin McClintock – Carthage Press, Carthage, Missouri
Jim Triplett – Biology Department, Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas
Roddy Rogers – City Utilities of Springfield, Springfield, Missouri
Melinda Piper – CPWSD #1, Lamar, Missouri
Pete Rauch – City of Monett, Missouri
Hal VanDaGriff – Verona, Missouri, representing Empire District Electric
Darieus Adams – Jasper County Commission
Bob Kulp – Neosho, Missouri
David Rauch – Springfield, Missouri, representing Senator Claire McCaskill
Steve McIntosh – Joplin, Missouri, representing Congressman Roy Blunt
Jan Tupper – Joplin, Missouri
Paul Crabtree
Harold McCoy – Allgeier, Martin & Associates, Joplin, Missouri
Gary Pearman – Blue Ribbon Real Estate, Neosho, Missouri
Greg Perkins – Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, Missouri
Matt Barnhart – Missouri American Water, Joplin, Missouri
David Hertzberg, City of Joplin
Lynn Onstot, City of Joplin
Dan Pekarek, City of Joplin Health Department
Susan Champlin, City of Joplin

Approval of Minutes:

David Hertzberg gave a summary of the minutes from the Board of Directors Meeting of December 17, 2008. Mr. Nichols introduced everyone, with discussion following regarding the

expansion of contributions into the Springfield area. Mr. Rauch reported from the Technical Committee about expanding the report to the west, with the delivery of February for the final report. Mr. Nichols and Mr. Rauch met with the Army Corps of Engineers in Little Rock, Arkansas, in October.

Mr. Nichols met with the Kansas City Corps and presented a report on that meeting. He will meet with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on January 6, 2009, in Rolla. He has scheduled interviews for attorneys in Kansas City for January 7. He has also been working with the Beaver Water District, with Oklahoma still having a moratorium until 2011. Northwest Arkansas is also interested in joining in the coalition.

Mr. Hertzberg stated that a motion was made by Jan Tupper, with a second by Bob Williams, to approve the Frieze & Nichols revision of their agreement. A treasurer's report was presented, and the election of officers was passed, with the process being started for the signature cards on the bank account.

Mr. Nichols explained that the minutes are correct, but that the Rolla meeting with the DNR did not occur. The meeting was postponed primarily because a new DNR director was taking office and had not been announced. Ryan Mueller felt that it would be better to wait until the new DNR director takes office. Even though a new director has now been appointed, Mr. Mueller suggested that the coalition wait a few more weeks to discuss their issues.

Mr. Nichols explained that Northwest Arkansas has not asked to join the coalition, but that the coalition is planning to ask them to join. He asked for any additional corrections to the minutes.

Mr. Tupper moved, seconded by Mr. VanDaGriff, that the minutes be approved with the above two corrections as stated by Mr. Nichols. The motion passed, with all voting "aye".

Report of Membership Committee:

Harold McCoy did not have a report from the membership committee at this time.

Report of Technical Committee: **Status of Reservoir Study:**

Pete Rauch reported that the Technical Committee and the Board of Directors will meet on February 19, to receive a final draft report from John Routledge with Frieze & Nichols. The report is in its final stages of completion, with the Technical Committee meeting with him to discuss that report. The final report will be completed in early March.

Discussion Items: **Request to Beaver Water District:**

Mr. Nichols explained that the Beaver Water District has agreed to explore with the coalition of providing water primarily to the western part of our area. The City of Neosho, Missouri American Water, Empire District Electric, and the City of Pittsburg have indicated an interest in exploring that. Mr. Nichols was not sure the City of Neosho needs any additional water before the year 2030, but that the coalition is discussing water needs throughout 2060.

Oklahoma Secretary of the Environment Concerning Grand Lake:

Mr. Nichols explained that the coalition has an appointment with the office of the Secretary of the Environment of Oklahoma on Monday, January 26. He asked if any board members would be available to attend this meeting.

Meetings with water attorneys:

Mr. Nichols explained that he and Chuck Brown have met with three law firms in Kansas City. They have a meeting scheduled with a fourth firm in Nevada tomorrow, January 22. He stated that some of these firms have strengths and weaknesses with regard to water issues or organizational structure. One firm has experience with water issues and organizational structure but would be quite expensive.

Expand Tri-State boundaries to include Northwest Arkansas:

Mr. Nichols has a meeting scheduled on Friday, January 23, with the Multi-Basin Regional Water Council in Northwest Arkansas. Their situation is different in that they have the water, and we want the water.

Meeting with State elected officials:

Mr. Nichols asked the board members about scheduling meetings with the state senators and representatives. Ron Richard's staff will assist with this.

Meeting with County and City officials:

Mr. Nichols explained that Jasper County Commissioner Jim Honey is the vice-president of a Southwest Commissioners' Group, and that he would like the coalition to meet with that group.

Meeting with Chambers of Commerce:

Mr. Nichols has not scheduled any meetings with the Chambers of Commerce at this time.

Forming Stakeholders groups:

Mr. Nichols explained that the coalition members have discussed forming some stakeholders groups but have not done anything in that area at this time.

Report of the Treasurer:

Matt Barnhart explained that the current balance is \$75,947.64. He had a deposit from the Ozark Coalition of \$1,000 to reach that amount. He will be cutting a rent check and has received another check to deposit.

Mr. Nichols noted that the \$1,000 check was the coalition's share of the profits from the seminar that was conducted last September with the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks here in Joplin.

Public Relations Activities:

Mr. Nichols asked Lynn Onstot for any updates, and she had no activities to report at this time.

Mr. Nichols explained that the coalition members need to develop a stronger case of water needs and revamp their power point presentation.

Environmental Task Force Conference, March 27, 2009:

Mr. Nichols explained that an environmental conference has been scheduled for March 27, 2009, at the La Quinta Inn. The program will consist of representatives from Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas to discuss their water plan. Mr. Nichols stated that moderators will be present, and that he has asked Mayor Gary Shaw about presenting the welcome comment. The noon speaker will discuss the impact of global warming on dams and reservoirs.

Comments from Senator Bond's Office:

Stacy Burk was not present in the audience to represent Senator Bond.

Comments from Senator McCaskill's Office:

David Rauch discussed the changes in Washington, DC, and that there has been much discussion regarding stimulus plans and whether the stimulus dollars might be available for planning purposes for this group. He explained that even though the stimulus package may total as much as \$825 billion and includes a wide variety of a focus as to where these monies will go. The goal of the stimulus package is to stimulate the economy and create jobs, and would be utilized for projects that are ready to begin construction within 90 to 180 days. These would be projects that have already been planned and are ready for construction.

Pete Rauch asked David Rauch if that money will come back to various state agencies, and he replied that the stimulus plan would send money back to the state and federal agencies. This will not be an ear-marked bill, in that the individual senators or congressmen will not be identifying pet projects. The money is likely to be allocated to the various agencies.

David Rauch explained that his office is keeping a list of projects to monitor what is being proposed, but that no member of Congress will dictate where that money goes.

Pete Rauch asked if these proposals that various entities are developing should be provided to the state agencies, such as the DNR. David Rauch suggested making contact with your counterparts and the DNR and other state or federal agencies and asking for their suggestions. He explained that the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) has identified some projects that are ready for construction if the money is forthcoming. He stated that substantial amounts of these stimulus dollars will be used for highways and bridges.

Comments from Congressman Blunt's Office:

Steve McIntosh discussed using the existing programs and backlogs of projects. He stated that the Army Corps of Engineers has a backlog of projects which far exceeds their ability, but he

mentioned quite a reference in several areas in the stimulus bill to backlogs of projects. He explained that \$550 billion is proposed to be spent on projects, with another \$275 billion of tax cuts, for a total of \$825 billion. He stated that the stimulus package covers virtually all of the federal agencies. He explained that \$30 billion is allocated to highway construction, with an additional amount being allocated to transportation. Mr. McIntosh thought the senate proposal will mirror the house proposal fairly closely.

Mr. McIntosh mentioned a bi-state water conference that is being scheduled for April 16 -17 in Rogers, Arkansas. Mr. McCoy stated that DNR is checking to see which projects will be able to go in 120 days.

Mr. Hertzberg visited with the DNR last week, and they explained that when the stimulus bill is signed, the deadline is 180 days, but that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) needs four weeks to submit the funding to the states, so the states will have 120 days to allocate their funding.

Comments from State Agencies:

Kansas:

Morgan Pearson presented a report from the Neosho Basin discussed the increased understanding and adjustment of management of the Ozark Plateau qualifier and the Spring River being needed to ensure a sustainable water supply for southeast Kansas. He explained that a water quality report will be available sometime in March. His report includes the following recommended actions:

- 1) Continue and complete the inter-agency strategy to address the complex water issues of multistate cooperative management, ground water declines and quality, surface water contamination, and public water supply concerns.
- 2) Use the USGS Regional Ozark Aquifer Study as a management decision support tool to assist DWR in determining the need for continuation or removal of the moratorium on new ground water rights in southeast Kansas, and develop appropriate management strategies.
- 3) Use the water quality monitoring network established by DWR as a decision support tool.
- 4) Continue interstate communications concerning the development of new water supplies or the use of existing supplies in adjoining states.
- 5) Support public water supplier (PWS) efforts to work cooperatively and acquire funding for infrastructure needs for cooperative regional supply systems.
- 6) Coordinate with Spring River WRAPS and other groups to provide additional information to the public.

Mr. Nichols stated that a speaker from Kansas make a presentation at the conference on March 27.

Oklahoma:

No one appeared representing the Oklahoma state agencies. Mr. Nichols reported that two speakers from Oklahoma will be present at the conference on March 27.

Missouri:

Mr. Nichols stated that a speaker from Missouri will be present for the conference on March 27.

Greg Perkins appeared representing the Missouri DNR. Pete Rauch asked if the entities should be submitting these stimulus projects to the DNR for permitting or for review. He expressed concern about the DNR receiving so many projects and getting them turned around in a timely fashion.

Mr. Perkins explained that the DNR is trying to deal with the projects through the state revolving fund (SRF) program. That is where the state is expecting the money to come, with allocations being made through the SRF program. He was not sure if a priority ranking system will be involved. He anticipated that if a priority ranking system is used, the funding will go to the entities who already have projects with plans completed who are ready to receive funding to begin construction.

Mr. VanDaGriff asked if there is currently a backlog of projects, and Mr. Perkins replied that there is a backlog of projects that are on the verge of being approved and probably could be ready for construction by the time the stimulus package is approved.

Jan Tupper explained that there are many more projects on the list than what will be funded through the stimulus plan. He stated that this money is not supposed to require a match by the entities, with grant programs requiring a local match. He explained that enough projects are designed and ready for construction to use whatever stimulus funding the state receives.

Mr. Perkins explained that the projects on the list are in various stages of facility plan submittals and approvals, and whether they can meet the 120 days of shovel readiness is another issue.

Pete Rauch asked if there will be zero (0) interest through the SRF, but Mr. Perkins was not sure. Mr. Nichols stated that the coalition does not have any projects that are ready for construction at this time. Mr. Perkins thought the process would be very similar for Kansas and the other states.

Mr. Nichols explained that at the conference on March 27, an overview will be presented of the underground studies that have been conducted both in Missouri and Kansas.

Conservation Preservation:

Mr. Nichols showed those present a power point presentation on water conservation. This presentation outlines the purpose of the Tri-State Water Resource Coalition and how water can be used more efficiently. He explained that more industry is being brought into this area, with the population expanding. Water conservation postpones a need for additional water if everyone conserves the current water supply. Conserving of water saves energy, which saves money.

The Tri-State Water Resource Coalition is currently seeking rights in Grand Lake, Stockton Lake, and Table Rock Lake. The coalition is discussing the Beaver Water District and possibly constructing two or three new reservoirs.

Mr. Nichols discussed water conservation efforts in the Dallas-Fort Worth area and stated that they are investigating three possible reservoir sites and are seeking water in Oklahoma. They wish to capture that water before it goes into the Red River and the Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. Nichols discussed the placement of specifications in local building codes to require water-efficient fixtures. He stated that conserving water reduces water bills, and that saving hot water

reduces energy bills. Conserving water reduces the cost of treatment and pumping, which saves the customers money. Conservation of water would hopefully postpone the need to develop an additional water supply.

Mr. Nichols explained that the water situation is a regional issue. He hoped that the coalition might sponsor symposiums or workshops to discuss the promotion of water conservation and to develop a more complete video or power point presentation. He suggested teaming with other water-related organizations to promote conservation.

Old Business:

Pete Rauch explained that 70 percent of Monett's water usage is industrial. Monett has several food industries, with some of that high water usage being mandated by the USDA inspectors. These industries have certain guidelines where they have to use so many gallons of water per bird that they process as a mandate. He thought that the technology may be available to lower those kinds of standards.

Mr. Barnhart explained that Missouri American Water had a 10.8 percent water loss throughout their system during 2008. They will conduct more surveying to reduce the water loss and to conserve water.

New Business:

There was no new business to come before the coalition at this time.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to come before the Tri-State Water Resource Coalition, Mr. Nichols thanked those present for attending and adjourned the meeting.

David Hertzberg, Secretary