

**TRI-STATE WATER RESOURCE COALITION  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2009 – 9:00 A.M.  
BASEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM – JOPLIN, CITY HALL**

**Welcome & Introduction:**

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

Greg Perkins – Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, Missouri  
Brian Fredrick - Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, Missouri  
Sieu Dang – Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, Missouri  
Morgan Pearman, Kansas Division of Water Resources (DWR)  
Lynn Calton – City of Lamar, Missouri  
Bob Williams – City of Carthage, Missouri  
Jan Blasé – City of Neosho, Missouri  
Steve Garrett – City of Webb City, Missouri  
Pete Rauch – City of Monett, Missouri  
Hal VanDaGriff – Verona, Missouri, representing Empire District Electric  
Steve McIntosh – Joplin, Missouri, representing Congressman Roy Blunt  
Stacy Burks – Springfield, Missouri, representing Senator Christopher Bond  
Gary Pearman – Blue Ribbon Real Estate, Neosho, Missouri  
Jan Tupper – Joplin, Missouri  
Melinda Piper – Lamar, Missouri  
Don Lucietta – Joplin, Missouri  
Darrell Robertson – Lamar, Missouri  
Jim Triplett – Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas  
David Hertzberg – City of Joplin  
Lynn Onstot, City of Joplin  
Susan Champlin, City of Joplin

Mr. Rauch has asked to make his presentation from the Technical Committee presentation at the beginning of the meeting.

**Report of Technical Committee:**  
**Reservoir Site Screening Study:**

Mr. Rauch discussed the highlights from the press conference of July 7, 2009 which was held in Monett. He showed the power point presentation which was presented at the conference. He explained that Harold McCoy gave a brief history of the Tri-State Water Resource Coalition. The presentation outlined the Black & Veatch study which discussed the use of existing reservoirs versus the construction of a new reservoir. The recently completed Freese & Nichols study discusses potential reservoir sites.

Mr. Rauch explained that the City of Monett handled the paperwork for the Freese & Nichols study since the water coalition cannot legally accept grant funding. The study discusses the

general feasibility for the construction of new reservoir, but that no particular site has been selected. The best resource is the water that is already caught.

The power point presentation discusses the cost estimates for dam construction, land acquisition, environmental issues, delegation, conflicts and relocations, and transmission facilities. The Freese & Nichols study has identified 14 potential sites for reservoirs to serve the entire area or regional areas and provides cost estimates for the four sites that could best serve the area. The site in the Springfield area would be located on the James River and would cost \$631 million, which would be very expensive to bring the water to Joplin.

One potential site to serve the western portion of this area would be along Shoal Creek west of Monett, at a projected cost of \$202 million. Another site in the western area is located on Indian Creek in McDonald County, at a projected cost of \$197 million. An additional site in the eastern portion of this area would cost approximately \$177 million.

The presentation then discusses the cost for new reservoirs versus pumping water from existing reservoirs. The cost for pumping water from Grand Lake is approximately \$200 million, with Oklahoma's moratorium for water leaving that state to sunset on November 1, 2009. The cost for pumping water from water from Table Rock Lake is \$194 million. The report explains that one single reservoir for the entire region is not viable.

Multiple reservoir sites have been identified as viable but would not be cost effective for portions of the region. The costs for construction of a new reservoir are similar to the costs for obtaining water from an existing reservoir. Construction of a new reservoir will require significant permitting efforts and will take 15 to 20 years to develop. The study then discusses the more detailed analysis of water needs and compares individual options of entities and regional alternatives.

After the presentation, Mr. Rauch asked for comments or questions from those present. Darrell Robertson stated that he previously owned property in northern Barton County and asked about discussion which took place approximately 35 years ago regarding the Prosperity and Sylvania reservoir sites. He explained that a USGS easement ran across his property. He owned that property for 15 years. He understood that a fairly sizeable reservoir was to be constructed on the Vernon/Barton County line, but that the USGS decided to cancel all the easements for that reservoir. He saw this site being plotted on a USGS map.

Mr. Rauch explained that the only site he was aware of was a site north of Neosho that was to be a water detention dam, but he did not know what happened regarding this site. Ms. Burks explained that there is no existing funding in the federal program that funds the construction of reservoirs, with the project being "zeroed" out. She stated that funding must be placed in that program annually if the program still exists, and that Senator Bond has been working on establishing a reservoir in northern Missouri for some time.

Mr. Tupper explained that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers thought the NRCS was getting their reservoirs too big and eliminated funding for the reservoirs. He asked that if the reservoir is constructed to flow the water down Shoal Creek, if water could be sent into Kansas and Oklahoma to the western members of the coalition since Shoal Creek flows into Kansas. Mr. Hertzberg explained that Missouri American Water has a 16-inch pipe that pumps water to Galena, Kansas.

### **Report of Membership Committee:**

Mr. McCoy was not present to discuss the activities of the Membership Committee.

### **Report of the Dues Study Committee:**

Mr. Nichols explained that a meeting of the Board of Directors will be held immediately following this meeting to discuss the activities of the Dues Study Committee. Mr. VanDaGriff explained that the committee members have drafted a dues structure. Mr. Nichols stated that the coalition's goal is to generate continuing revenue to hire some professional staff.

### **Report of the Search Committee:**

Mr. Blasé will present a draft copy of the job description and salary range for an executive director to handle the administrative duties of the coalition.

### **Report of Technical Committee:**

#### **Additional Studies in the Pittsburg and Lamar Area:**

Mr. Rauch had no additional comments. Mr. Nichols explained that the study did not offer a viable opportunity for water for that area, but that those communities are exploring possibilities for a screening study. The Freese & Nichols study discussed two potential reservoir sites in the Pittsburg/Lamar area. The Kansas officials are discussing the drilling of wells on the Missouri side, which doesn't have any restrictions on well drilling.

### **Press Conferences – July 7, 2009:**

Mr. Nichols explained that the press conference was successful. The conference was well-attended, with the news coverage being positive. His general opinion is that the coalition is taking the right steps.

### **Future Activities:**

There were no future activities to report at this time.

### **Discussion Items:**

#### **Advocacy Committee:**

Mr. Nichols expressed the need for representatives from the area communities to serve on the advocacy committee.

### **Request to Beaver Water District:**

Mr. Nichols reported that the request to the Beaver Water District has been tabled at this time.

### **Oklahoma Secretary of the Environment Concerning Grand Lake:**

Mr. Nichols has received a call from the staff counsel of the Oklahoma Water Board, who states that the moratorium for water leaving that state to sunset on November 1, 2009. They have passed legislation that essentially states that the watershed must be met before water can be transferred out of state.

Mr. Nichols explained that Grand Lake does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Oklahoma Water Board but is a separate entity. He is attempting to make an appointment to visit with Kevin Easley with the Grand Lake authority. He discussed engaging a water attorney to assist the coalition with this matter.

#### **Expand Tri-State boundaries to include Northwest Arkansas:**

Mr. Nichols had no new information to report on the expansion of the tri-state boundaries to include Northwest Arkansas.

#### **Meeting with State elected officials:**

Mr. Nichols explained that invitations for the luncheon preceding the press conference were sent to all the elected senators and representatives in the coalition area, but that Representative Emery from Lamar was the only one present. Mr. Nichols would like to meet with Representative Ron Richard in the future.

#### **Meeting with County and City officials:**

#### **Meeting with Chambers of Commerce:**

Mr. Nichols explained that no meetings have been scheduled with the county and city officials and the area chambers of commerce.

#### **Forming Stakeholders groups:**

Mr. Nichols explained that no action has taken place regarding the establishment of stakeholders groups.

#### **Consider water conservation program:**

Mr. Nichols had no new information to report at this time.

#### **Report of the Treasurer:**

Mr. Nichols explained that Mr. Barnhart is on vacation this week and thought that approximately \$76,900 exists in the treasury at this time.

#### **Status of forming an implementation organization:**

Mr. Nichols discussed the establishment of an implementation organization that has the ability to issue tax free bonds and has the right of eminent domain. He asked about creating a public utility similar to Missouri American Water or Empire District Electric which would have the right of eminent domain but wouldn't have the right to issue tax free bonds. He discussed the possibility

of approaching the Joplin Industrial Development Authority that issues bonds for private corporations.

Mr. Nichols has visited with Brad Beecher, the chief operating officer for Empire District Electric, who stated that they would be agreeable to being a customer of the organization. Missouri American Water has indicated that they would not be agreeable.

**Public Relations Activities:**

Ms. Onstot wished to thank everyone for their participation in the press conference. Eighty (80) people attended the conference, with the coalition receiving great press coverage. News media from both the Springfield and Joplin areas attended, with the messages being well received. She asked the coalition members to forward to her any letters to the editor or news articles they receive.

Mr. Nichols asked Ms. Onstot about plans to update the coalition's power point presentation. She has received some information from City Utilities of Springfield that she hasn't had an opportunity to review at this time.

Mr. Hertzberg explained that Ms. Onstot spent two weeks' time organizing the press conference. She mailed approximately 220 invitations to area governmental entities and other organizations.

Mr. Tupper asked about visiting with the Joplin Globe, as Wally Kennedy has done a good job marketing the coalition and their efforts.

**Comments by Representatives of Federal and State Offices and Agencies:**

**Senator Kit Bond:**

Stacy Burks had no new information to report at this time.

**Senator Clair McCaskill:**

Mr. Nichols reported that David Rauch from Senator McCaskill's office had another obligation and was unable to attend this meeting.

**Congressman Roy Blunt:**

Steve McIntosh had no new information to report at this time.

**Missouri Department of Natural Resources:**

Greg Perkins had no new information to report at this time. Mr. Nichols understood the DNR is facing some budget cuts at this time.

**Kansas Division of Water Resources:**

Morgan Pearman discussed the moratorium for drilling wells in Kansas and explained that only term permits can be issued at this time. Anyone requesting a permit to drill a well must show an alternative source of water.

Mr. Pearman explained that the Public Wholesale Water Supply District #19 has submitted a new application for a point of diversion located several miles north from the point they initially applied for. The new point would place the intake north of the Jayhawk chemical plant. Review or processing of the application has not started at this time.

The USGS, co-funded with the state of Kansas, has completed a three-year study that addresses water quality in the Ozark aquifer. The publication is posted on the USGS website and is titled: Quality Characteristics of Ground Water in the Ozark Aquifer of Northwestern Arkansas, Southeastern Kansas, Southwestern Missouri, and Northeastern Oklahoma, 2006-07. The following are conclusions from the report:

- 1) The water quality of the Kansas part of the Ozark aquifer is degraded compared to the Missouri part.
- 2) Water quality in supply wells completed in the Ozark aquifer potentially could be degraded with increased water demand from a growing population. Increases in pumping rates at major population centers near the Kansas-Missouri State line or in northeastern Oklahoma may further lower water levels in the Ozark aquifer such that, locally, the natural east-to-west flow gradient decreases and saline water from the western part of the aquifer migrates to the east.
- 3) Lower water levels in the Ozark aquifer may increase the hydraulic gradient between the overlying aquifer system and the Ozark aquifer.

The KGS water quality report is currently being reviewed by the section chief, but no release date has been set. The USGS has tentatively scheduled the release of the model during a public meeting to be held in Pittsburg during the last two weeks of August.

#### **Oklahoma Water Resource Board:**

There was no new information to report at this time.

#### **Old Business:**

There was no old business to report at this time.

#### **New Business:**

There was no new business to report at this time.

#### **Adjourn:**

There being no further business to come before the general assembly, the meeting stood adjourned. The coalition members took a five-minute recess before the Board of Directors meeting began.

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David Hertzberg, Secretary