

**TRI-STATE WATER RESOURCE COALITION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2009 – 9:00 A.M.
FIFTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM – JOPLIN, CITY HALL**

Welcome & Introduction:

Jan Tupper acted as chairman and called the meeting to order and welcomed those present for attending. He then asked those present to introduce themselves as follows:

Roddy Rogers – City Utilities of Springfield, Springfield, Missouri
Brian Fredrick - Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, Missouri
Greg Perkins – Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, Missouri
Morgan Pearman, Kansas Division of Water Resources (DWR)
Matt Barnhart, Missouri American Water Company
Christie Barnhart, Missouri American Water Company
Lynn Calton – City of Lamar, Missouri
Tom Pittman – City of Carthage, Missouri
Mike Hightower – City of Neosho, 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
David Rauch – Springfield, Missouri, representing Senator Claire McCaskill
Harold McCoy – Allgeier, Martin & Associates, Joplin, Missouri
Mike Walker - Allgeier, Martin & Associates, Joplin, Missouri
Billy Everett – Missouri Rural Water, Ava, Missouri
Gary Pearman – Blue Ribbon Real Estate, Neosho, Missouri
Bobbi Wendt – Kansas Water Office, Topeka, Kansas
Steve Meyer – Springfield, Missouri
Jan Tupper – Joplin, Missouri
Steve Murray – Jefferson City, Missouri
Jim Triplett – Pittsburg State University, Pittsburg, Kansas
Mark Doolan – Environmental Protection Agency, Kansas City, Kansas
Derek Spellman – Joplin Globe
Lynn Onstot, City of Joplin
Susan Champlin, City of Joplin

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Tupper asked for comments or corrections to the minutes of the meeting of May 18, 2009.

Harold McCoy moved, seconded by Matt Barnhart, that the minutes of the meeting of May 18, 2009 be approved as written. The motion passed, with all voting “aye”.

Report of Membership Committee:

Mr. McCoy had no new activities to report at this time.

Report of the Dues Study Committee:

Mr. VanDaGriff explained that the dues study committee members have discussed the possible hiring an executive director for the coalition. They have looked at this operation as a business in general and have developed four different salary ranges. He explained that the due structure is basically the same format as the primacy fees that most entities pay.

Mr. VanDaGriff explained that some coalition members have no meters, and that the dues study committee must determine what is fair to them. Mr. McCoy explained that \$139,000 was collected the last time that membership dues were collected. Mr. VanDaGriff stated that \$301,830 would be raised annually at 100 percent, with \$228,000 being raised at 75 percent. He thought the committee's recommendation would be the collection of dues at the 100 percent to start the business side of the coalition operations.

Mr. Rogers asked about consideration of a maximum cost. Mr. McCoy stated that the proposed budget includes legal fees and some engineering costs and not just a director's salary and support.

Mr. Tupper asked for a motion to accept the report of the dues study committee.

Roddy Rogers moved, seconded by Harold McCoy, that the report presented by the dues study committee be approved. The motion passed, with all voting "aye".

Report of the Search Committee:

Mr. Blasé was not present. Mr. McCoy had a draft copy of the report but recommended tabling discussion until the next meeting of the coalition. Mr. Barnhart had some additional comments for this report and asked for any additional comments to be forwarded to him by the end of this week.

Report of Technical Committee:

Reservoir Site Screening Study:

Mr. VanDaGriff explained that the reservoir site screening study is complete.

Additional Studies in the Pittsburg and Lamar Area:

Mr. VanDaGriff explained that Bob Nichols, Pete Rauch, and John Bailey will meet on July 6 to discuss additional studies in the Pittsburg and Lamar area. Mr. McCoy asked Mr. Calton to attend this meeting and explained that the biggest user in that area is the Empire District Electric plant.

Press Conferences – July 7, 2009:

Mr. VanDaGriff explained that the press conference on July 7 will be held at the City Park Casino in Monett at 10:00 a.m. (Please note that later in the meeting this time was determined to be 2:00 p.m. instead of 10:00 a.m.) The park is located at the intersection of Routes 60 and 37, and to proceed south on Route 37 about 100 yards and turn into the main park entrance.

Future Activities:

Mr. VanDaGriff had no future activities to report at this time.

Discussion Items:

Advocacy Committee:

Mr. McCoy explained that Bob Nichols has discussed forming an advocacy group, but the group has not met as of this time.

Request to Beaver Water District:

Mr. Tupper reported that no new information has been received regarding a request the Beaver Water District.

Oklahoma Secretary of the Environment Concerning Grand Lake:

Mr. Tupper reported no new information regarding Grand Lake, but that Bob Nichols has been trying to arrange a meeting with the Oklahoma Secretary of the Environment.

Expand Tri-State boundaries to include Northwest Arkansas:

Mr. Barnhart reported that the boundary expansion is contingent upon the request to the Beaver Water District.

Meeting with State elected officials:

Mr. Tupper reported that Bob Nichols is in the process of scheduling a meeting with the state elected officials, but no meeting has been scheduled at this time.

Meeting with County and City officials:

Meeting with Chambers of Commerce:

Mr. Tupper reported that Bob Nichols will be scheduling meetings with the county and city officials and the area chambers of commerce, but no meetings have been scheduled at this time.

Forming Stakeholders groups:

Mr. Tupper explained that after the press conference, the coalition will begin putting together a stakeholders group.

Consider water conservation program:

Mr. Barnhart asked if this program is for future conservation of the water, and Mr. Tupper replied that this program would consist of guidelines that can be adopted by cities and other entities.

Report of the Treasurer:

Mr. Barnhart explained that he is now legally the treasurer. He received a \$50.00 deposit from the last conference, with \$25.00 being paid to the Environmental Task Force for their participation in the conference. Chuck Brown, the coalition's attorney, was reimbursed \$174.34 for the room rental when the coalition members visited with attorneys in Kansas City. A payment was made for

office rent, with the coalition still owing the City of Monett \$2,316 for the remaining balance for the Freese and Nichols study. Membership dues were received from CPWSD #1, which includes Barton, Dade, Cedar, and Jasper Counties. The current account balance is \$77,367.30.

Status of forming an implementation organization:

Mr. Tupper explained that the implementation of this organization was contingent upon the acquisition of an attorney. Mr. McCoy explained that the coalition members have elected to do nothing at this time.

Public Relations Activities:

Ms. Onstot will be mailing a notice to some of the area stakeholders, such as the cities, chambers of commerce, water districts, and other interested agencies. The letter is currently in final draft form. The letter will be mailed in 130 city contacts, 45 chambers of commerce, county commissioners, water districts, and other interested agencies. The letter will include an invitation to the press conference on July 7 and background information about the coalition.

Ms. Onstot discussed the need for educational effort, as this will be the coalition's first real outing in their endeavor to find a future water resource and to let people know what activities have been taking place. She did not believe much time should be allocated to the reservoir site study versus the other coalition activities, in that the coalition currently does not legally have the authority to be building reservoirs.

Ms. Onstot recommended that Mr. McCoy serve as the emcee and introduce the coalition members to the group and the media. She thought that the main message should be that the coalition is looking at all options.

Mr. Tupper explained that when the coalition was first formed, the members did many speaking engagements before a lot of groups, but no speaking engagements have recently taken place.

Ms. Onstot explained that the Public Information group of this committee recommended to not give the perception that any one solution has been determined at this point. She also discussed the lack of education on the eastern side of the coalition area and thought the press conference would be a call to interested groups that would like more information.

Mr. Tupper explained that formal requests have been made to the Army Corps of Engineers regarding Stockton and Table Rock Lakes. He still thought the western side of the coalition area could get water from Grand Lake.

Ms. Onstot suggested moving the press conference back from 10:00 a.m. to allow travel time from two metropolitan areas. Mr. McCoy explained that the news media do not like to attend early morning meetings. Those present discussed moving the press conference time to 2:00 p.m.

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:

David Rauch had no new information to report at this time.

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.

Kansas Division of Water Resources:

Morgan Pearman discussed the water quality reports and model and explained that the USGS has tentatively scheduled the release of the model during a public meeting in late August. The USGS water quality report is also tentatively scheduled to be released on July 1. The KGS water quality report is currently being reviewed by the section chief, so no release date has been set.

Quarterly water level measurements were conducted during the second week of June. Compared to measurements completed last June, water level measurements in Crawford County and northern Cherokee County appeared to increase while levels in southern Cherokee County decreased.

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 Tri-State Water Resource Coalition, Mr. Tupper asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Hal VanDaGriff moved, seconded by Matt Barnhart, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion passed, with all voting “aye”.

Lynn Onstot for David Hertzberg, Secretary