

**TRI-STATE WATER RESOURCE COALITION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2009 – 9:00 A.M.
FIFTH FLOOR 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:

Bob Nichols – Chairman, Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
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)
Pete Rauch – City of Monett, Missouri
Lynn Calton – City of Lamar, Missouri
Tom Pittman – City of Carthage, Missouri
Steve McIntosh – Joplin, Missouri, representing Congressman Roy Blunt
Stacy Burks – Springfield, Missouri, representing Senator Christopher Bond
Harold McCoy – Allgeier, Martin & Associates, Joplin, Missouri
David Hertzberg, City of Joplin
Lynn Onstot, City of Joplin
Susan Champlin, City of Joplin

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Nichols asked for comments or corrections to the minutes of the meetings of March 18, 2009 and April 15, 2009.

Harold McCoy moved, seconded by Pete Rauch, that the minutes of the meetings of March 18, 2009 and April 15, 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. McCoy serves on this committee. He explained that \$140,000 was raised during the last fund raiser, with that amount being used as a basis to move forward on. The committee members looked at different scenarios on raising money. They discussed the different proposals, with \$300,000 being 100 percent of what being proposed, and \$228,000 to be raised at 75 percent.

Mr. McCoy stated that the committee discussed the office costs and other overhead costs and prepared a sliding scale outlining the annual operating costs. He explained that if you allow

\$150,000 for the employee and a \$30,000 cost for a secretary, the annual operating cost would total \$438,000. The annual cost would be \$358,000 if you allow \$100,000 for the employee. The committee's goal is an estimated annual operating cost of \$358,000. Mr. McCoy estimated a minimum annual cost ranging from \$306,000 to \$358,000. He did not believe a staff person would be hired during the first year for a considerable amount of time.

Mr. McCoy discussed what is being proposed. At 100 percent, the cost for private wells will be \$2,000 per million gallons per day. The individual membership cost would be \$100.00, with \$250.00 and \$500.00 for non-profit organizations. The cost would be \$324.00 for the first 1,000 connections, with \$3.00 for the next 3,000 connections, \$2.76 for the next 3,000 connections, and \$1.08 for 100 percent funding. The cost eventually goes down to 54 cents for additional connections. The current dues for cities are 50 cents per person, with a current fee of \$2,000.00 for wells. Mr. McCoy suggested doubling the last fund raiser.

Mr. Nichols asked Mr. McCoy for a written explanation, and he replied that he will ask Mr. VanDaGriff to approve the proposed fee structures. Mr. Rauch understood that the fee structure is similar to the primacy fee on a per-meter basis with a sliding scale.

Mr. McCoy explained that Springfield's annual cost would be \$100,000. Joplin's share will be approximately \$47,000, with Missouri American Water's share also being around \$47,000. The committee will prepare written documentation for the coalition members.

Mr. McCoy mentioned another committee that is drafting the qualifications of the individual who would be hired by the coalition, and that the coalition must set some salaries and discuss a budget. He explained that the dues study committee recommends doubling the present due structure to increase revenues. He stated that some adjustments may be required in the future, in that Joplin and Missouri American Water are currently paying as much as Springfield.

Report of the Search Committee:

Mr. Nichols explained that this committee's first assignment was to develop a job description and application form, and to seek applicants. He stated that representatives from the City of Joplin, Springfield City Utilities, and Empire District Electric serve on this committee. He thought the job description relates more to quality than quantity. He asked those present to forward their comments to Mr. McCoy, Mr. Hertzberg, or Mr. Blasé.

Report of Technical Committee:

Release of the Reservoir Site Screening Study:

Additional Studies in the Pittsburg and Lamar Area:

Press Conferences – July 7, 2009:

Future Activities:

Mr. Rauch will have the Freese and Nichols study available for the press conference on July 7. He asked if only one press conference is being planned at this time, and Mr. Nichols initially thought about holding a water conference to discuss water resources and conservation.

Mr. Nichols understood that only one press conference is being planned at this time, although he originally proposed a press conference in Springfield and a press conference in Joplin. He

discussed the need to begin an educational program in the near future. He discussed a previous attempt by Springfield City Utilities to establish a reservoir on the James River. He asked the technical committee to meet with the consultants prior to the press conference.

Mr. Nichols asked about payment for the travel expenses for the consultant. Mr. Hertzberg asked Mr. Nichols if he is still planning the press conference for the first week of July, and he suggested that those who wish to meet with the consultant do so on July 6th.

Mr. Nichols received a suggestion not to hold a press conference in Springfield, and to hold a press conference only in Joplin. He had reservations that this would imply to the eastern part of the area that this is really a Joplin study. He proposed holding the conference in Monett where Mr. Rauch (the chairman of the technical committee) resides. He thought the conference would take place during the morning.

Ms. Onstot explained that the Joplin Globe is the only news media that has been following this issue at all. Mr. Rogers explained that this is a tri-state issue, with Springfield being a member of this coalition. Mr. Rauch stated that the main issue is receiving water from already-impounded reservoirs.

Ms. Onstot explained that a beginning comment for the press conference is the time that it takes to get a project like this off the ground. Mr. Rauch asked about having a single conference and to give the history of the coalition, how it started with Jack Whitman's study, so that everyone knows exactly what is happening. He also recommended discussing the difficulties the coalition has had in proposing to obtain water from already-impounded reservoirs, and why the coalition proceeded with this. He explained that if you discuss only the reservoir study, you only know one of the chapters but don't know the whole story.

Ms. Onstot mentioned having several speakers for the press conference, with certain people having certain roles. Mr. McCoy explained that the print media will cover the entire conference, with the other media having only 30 seconds, with a concise message in 30 seconds. He stated that the person who does the interview must have a prepared statement. He commented that newspaper circulation is quickly decreasing, with the young people receiving their news only through television or the internet. Ms. Onstot will see if one of the local television stations will do an in-depth story on the Tri-State Water Resource Coalition itself. Ms. Burks mentioned the possibility of a media packet.

Mr. Rauch explained that the initial splash is what really gets everybody's attention, and the more information you can get out to the public, the more effective the coalition will be. Mr. McCoy explained that the print media needs the information a day ahead of the other media.

Mr. Nichols sent the board members beginning documentation for a press package. Ms. Burks asked if Table Rock will be included in the press conference, and Mr. Nichols replied that was correct. Ms. Burks asked Mr. Nichols if he has spoken with any of the county officials, mayors, or city administrators in the Table Rock area. Mr. Nichols replied that he has not visited with those officials. Mr. Rauch explained that this will not only focus on Table Rock, but all of the options the coalition has explored.

Ms. Burks asked about visiting with the county officials and city administrators in the Table Rock area prior to the press conference. She expressed concern about these officials saying that they knew nothing about these discussions prior to the press conference taking place. Ms. Onstot agreed with those behind-the-scene meetings with anybody who might be affected by this information. She suggested meeting with the major stakeholders who are interested in these issues prior to the press conference. Ms. Burks explained that the issue is taking water out of someone's lake, regardless of who owns that lake, in that they will say it is their lake.

Mr. Fredrick discussed the exploration of the available allocations from regional impoundments, and Ms. Burks expressed concern regarding comments that will upset the people in those areas.

Mr. Rogers explained that this is a high-level study. He stated that we are not currently building those reservoirs, but that this is a screening study. Mr. McIntosh explained that if a location for a reservoir is shown on a map, people think that is exactly where it is going to be. Ms. Burks explained that perception is the reality, and that if a location is shown a map, there will be an immediate pick, that people and the media think this is the perception of what has been done.

Mr. McCoy explained that no matter what the coalition does, they will make somebody mad. He agreed that we need to say that a study has been conducted to look at existing reservoirs and to look at alternatives. He explained that the people in the Stockton Lake area, the Grand Lake area, or any of the other area lakes look at the water as their water. He explained that those people will oppose the coalition seeking water in their areas no matter what. He stated that this reservoir study has been made public.

Ms. Onstot explained that some media sources have not made an issue of this study. Mr. McCoy explained that a comment should be made during the press conference that the coalition has requested the Corps of Engineers to study for the allocation. Mr. Nichols asked Mr. McCoy if he has made some presentations, and he replied that he has met with county commissioners throughout southwest Missouri and explained that the coalition has requested funding to conduct a preliminary study of the Table Rock and Taneycomo reservoirs. He also stated that this study on new reservoirs would be available in July.

Ms. Onstot asked about mailing a standard letter to all mayors and city administrators in the area explaining that the coalition will be holding this press conference, and that if they have questions, to please contact the coalition members prior to the press conference. Mr. Nichols asked Ms. Onstot to prepare an initial draft letter.

Mr. Rauch asked about additional studies in the Pittsburg and Lamar area, and he asked Mr. Nichols about any further discussion. Mr. McCoy visited with John Bailey of the City of Pittsburg regarding a smaller impoundment north, to see if they would be interested.

Mr. McCoy explained that there are three or four areas up north, including the City of Pittsburg, the rural water districts, the Empire District Electric plant, and the City of Lamar. An impoundment with about 10 million gallons per day would handle that entire area. Mr. McCoy explained that John Bailey is under contract to the City of Pittsburg through his engineering firm and serves as the director of utilities for Pittsburg.

Mr. Nichols explained that Mr. Bailey's concern was that the screening study really did not provide any information on how Pittsburg and Lamar were to be served. Mr. Nichols mentioned Sites 1 and 2 in their area and explained that Mr. Rauch asked Mr. Rutledge to include these sites in their study. Mr. Nichols stated that these areas have the options of buying water from Missouri American Water or constructing new reservoirs. He stated that Mr. Rutledge is coming to Joplin the day before the press conference and can visit with members of the coalition and city officials prior to the conference. Mr. Rauch asked about a meeting with the Springfield officials.

Mr. Nichols understood that Pittsburg is not experiencing any major water draw-downs in their wells. He stated that Jim Vandyke with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has good knowledge of groundwater in that area, and he states that is correct. It was mentioned that several communities had water problems two years ago during a drought situation but are not experiencing any problems at this time.

Mr. Perkins suggested looking at those communities and water districts in Vernon County, in that they are having water quality issues with the salt water and radioactivity. He thought some of these entities would join the coalition if a reservoir would become available. Mr. McCoy thought their demand on a reservoir would be insignificant. Mr. Perkins explained that some of the communities in the western part of Vernon County are really struggling with their water quality.

Mr. Hertzberg asked about previous discussion regarding the use of the Marmaton River, and Mr. Perkins replied that was strictly the City of Nevada. Mr. Nichols mentioned a water district either formed or trying to form to get water from Baxter Springs, and that they thought they would receive stimulus funding to make that a reality. He stated that they are not ready to do any construction or to even conduct any studies.

Mr. Nichols asked Mr. Rauch if the press conference lies outside the scope of the study. Mr. Nichols explained that a cost estimate was prepared to include the Pittsburg/Lamar study and the press conference. Mr. Hertzberg thought the cost for the press conference would be \$5,000 or less.

Mr. Rogers asked if there are two additional scopes, being the Springfield group and the press conference. Mr. Rauch stated that the Greene County officials may wish to meet with the consultant prior to the press conference, and that the coalition must pay whatever expenses are incurred if the consultant makes two trips to this area.

Mr. Nichols mentioned discussion about looking at Lake Taneycomo. He visited with Brad Beecher, the vice-president of operations for Empire District Electric, and discussed the fact that Branson received their water from Lake Taneycomo. Mr. Beecher explained that this is a small reservoir, and Mr. Nichols stated that a lot of water flows through that reservoir that could be captured. Mr. Nichols asked Mr. Beecher if the coalition could explore that reservoir, and he indicated no objections, but that some major issues may result with those entities who currently use water in that area. Mr. Nichols did not believe Lake Taneycomo really has anything to offer.

Mr. Nichols thought the coalition should keep all of these issues active, but he thought the coalition should choose two or three things that they really wish to pursue. He suggested maybe visiting with the legislators in the Grand Lake area. Mr. Rauch explained that it was mentioned during the last coalition meeting that Oklahoma's moratorium for water leaving that state may end

later this year. Mr. Nichols has attempted to visit with officials from the Grand Lake Dam Authority.

Mr. Nichols mentioned a previous meeting with the Grand Lake Dam Authority, and Mr. Hertzberg explained that the City of Miami arranged that meeting. Mr. Nichols explained that the coalition should keep all of these issues active but need to identify one or two items and really work on those items. He explained that when the screening study is publicly acknowledged on July 7, the coalition won't have any new studies in progress.

Discussion Items:
Advocacy Committee:

Mr. Nichols discussed the creation of an advocacy committee, and he has asked each board member to identify one or more leading citizens in their communities who would have an interest in being a member of this group. He explained that this is to be an educational group to inform the public first that there is a need for additional water, and to keep the public informed of the coalition's activities. The following individuals are members of the advocacy committee:

Greg Burris, City Manager, City of Springfield
Glenn Dolence, former Mayor for the City of Webb City
Ron Lankford, Superintendent, Webb City R-7 School District
John Moore, Executive Director, Upper White River Basin Foundation
Tim Smith, County Administrator, Greene County
John Twitty, General Manager, City Utilities, City of Springfield

Mr. Nichols and Mr. Rauch will make other contacts for service on this committee. Mr. Nichols suggested Mike Pence as a potential committee member. He explained that Mr. Moore has agreed to chair the committee.

Request to Beaver Water District:

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

Oklahoma Secretary of the Environment Concerning Grand Lake:

Mr. Nichols mentioned that discussion regarding Grand Lake took place earlier in the meeting.

Expand Tri-State boundaries to include Northwest Arkansas:

Mr. Nichols had no new information at this time.

Meeting with State elected officials:

Mr. Nichols will visit with Ron Richard about scheduling a luncheon meeting on July 7th when John Rutledge from Freese and Nichols is present in this area. The guest list would include the senators and representatives from this area. Mr. Rauch explained that the new justice center in Mt. Vernon would be available for this meeting.

Meeting with County and City officials:

Mr. Nichols did not believe he would include the county and city officials in the luncheon meeting.

Meeting with Chambers of Commerce:

Mr. Nichols had no new information at this time.

Forming Stakeholders groups:

Mr. Nichols thought that the advocacy committee would fill this need. He thought that Rob O'Brian from the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce may have some suggestions for individuals to serve on the advocacy committee. He also asked Mr. Hertzberg if someone from the Joplin City Council may be interested in serving on the committee.

Consider water conservation program:

Mr. Nichols had no new information at this time.

Report of the Treasurer:

Mr. Barnhart was absent from this meeting. Mr. Nichols thought the account balance is still \$75,602.64, the same as last month, with no changes. Mr. Hertzberg is in the process of having the 2008 tax return prepared.

Status of forming an implementation organization:

Mr. Nichols had no new information at this time.

Public Relations Activities:

Mr. Nichols asked Ms. Onstot for any additional comments. She will work on the press conference and draft a letter to be mailed to all the surrounding entities notifying them of the conference. Mr. Nichols has sent Ms. Onstot the latest version of the coalition's power point presentation. Mr. Perkins suggested mailing a notice of the press conference to the representatives from Silver Dollar City. He also suggested mailing the notice to the area chambers of commerce.

Ms. Onstot asked the board members to e-mail Mr. Nichols or herself the names of any additional organizations or individuals who they thought should receive a notice of the press conference. Mr. Fredrick also suggested placing the press conference notice on the coalition's website. Mr. Nichols suggested developing a story on Springfield and the surrounding communities and their need for water, as he has received some projections from Mr. Rogers regarding their future need for water.

Old Business:

Mr. McCoy suggested following up with each Corps of Engineers office and finding out their funding status before July 7th. Mr. Nichols will contact these offices for that information.

New Business:

Mr. Fredrick explained that 15 meters have been distributed, so he will be receiving some water usage figures from these sites.

Mr. Pearman asked his supervisor for updates on Pittsburg and has no new information to report at this time. He stated that Public Wholesale Water District No. 19 is forming in the Baxter Springs area, but he has received no new information from them at this time.

Mr. Pearman is still awaiting the release of both the water quality report from the USGS and the KGS. He still anticipates receiving the USGS report during mid-May and the KGS report in late May, with the USGS model release during early June. He anticipated the quarterly well network (moratorium) in the near future. Water level measurements and quality samples will be taken during the second week of June.

Mr. Pearman explained that the Spring River basin meter order is included in the moratorium area. He stated that the majority of the water rights located within the Spring River basin have been field inspected and brought into compliance with the order requiring water flow meter installation. Approximately 18 water rights remain that have either been granted extensions of time, or that are not currently being used.

Mr. Pearman explained that the sub-basin water resource program includes updates for the field summary for the Ozark Plateau Aquifer, and have also posted a bi-annual newsletter. This field summary and newsletter can be viewed at the KDA website, ksda.gov under the sub-basin water resource management program and Ozark Plateau Aquifers.

Mr. McCoy mentioned discussion of building an off-stream reservoir on the Neosho River, and Mr. Pearman mentioned some previous studies on a potential reservoir. He will obtain additional information for the coalition.

Mr. Nichols explained that the next board of directors meeting is scheduled for June 17th, but that he will not be present for this meeting. Mr. McCoy asked if it would be necessary to schedule a meeting, and Ms. Onstot thought it would be a good idea to have a meeting prior to the July 7th press conference.

Ms. Onstot asked for the names of the speakers for the press conference, and Mr. Nichols replied John Rutledge from Freese and Nichols, Pete Rauch from this coalition.

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