

**TRI-STATE WATER RESOURCE COALITION  
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2010– 9:00 A.M.  
CITY HALL, FIFTH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Welcome & Introduction:**

Roddy Rogers acted as chairman and called the meeting to order. He welcomed those present for attending. The following were present:

Lynn Calton – City of Lamar, Missouri  
Hal VanDaGriff – Verona, Missouri, representing Empire District Electric  
Brian Bingle – City of Nixa, Missouri  
Jan Tupper – Joplin, Missouri  
Gary Pearman – Blue Ribbon Real Estate, Neosho, Missouri  
Matt Barnhart – Missouri American Water Company  
Thomas Pittman – Carthage Water & Electric  
Fred Schlegel – Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
Bob Nichols – Webb City, Missouri  
Jim Whitford – Webb City, Missouri  
John Bartosh – Jasper County Commission  
Mike Pence – Joplin, Missouri  
Gail Melgren – Executive Director, Tri-State Water Resource Coalition  
David Hertzberg – City of Joplin  
Susan Champlin - City of Joplin

**Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2010:**

Mr. Rogers asked for comments or corrections to the minutes of the meeting of June 16, 2010.

**Jan Tupper moved, seconded by Hal VanDaGriff, that the minutes of the meeting of June 16, 2010 be approved as written. The motion passed, with all voting “aye”.**

**Report of Membership Committee:**

There were no new activities to report at this time.

**Report of Technical Committee:**

**Status of Freese and Nichols Study:**

Mr. VanDaGriff explained that the technical committee has reviewed the Freese and Nichols auxiliary study on reservoirs and recommended some minor changes. The recommendations have been returned to John Rutledge to make the changes.

**Future Activities:**

Once the study is completed, the Coalition will meet with interested stakeholders from the areas that would potentially be involved.

Mr. McCoy will soon visit with officials from Pittsburg to gather feedback.

#### **HDR concerning Corps Study:**

Mr. Nichols explained that he, Mr. Rogers and Ms. Melgren met with several representatives from HDR recently. No particular projects were on the table, but the Coalition was able to meet with HDR reps face to face and better understand HDR's capacities. Mr. Nichols does not believe they have access to conduct the Corps study.

Mr. Nichols, Ms. Melgren and Ryan Mueller from MO DNR are working to schedule visits with the district engineer of both Corps districts.

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

Mr. Barnhart explained that the 2009 tax return has been submitted and that Ms. Melgren has been paid through July 15th. He said Webb City has paid to renew their membership in the Coalition. The treasurer's report shows a current balance of \$166,752.87. The Coalition still owes a portion of the Freese and Nichols contract amount, payment of \$250.00 for the tax return, and about \$500 in administrative expenses.

Mr. Nichols discussed the Coalition's commitment to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources for \$25,000 for a proposed population/demand study. Mr. Tupper asked where the \$25,000 is coming from, and Mr. Nichols thought from the Coalition's general fund.

#### **Status of Communication Plan Proposal:**

Ms. Melgren sent a request for qualifications (RFQ) to four different firms and received a proposal from just one of those firms - Mark Maness & Assoc. Mid America Media, Opinion Research Assoc. and Noble all declined to submit a proposal.

Mr. Nichols asked the board if there were any concern with receiving only one proposal. There was agreement that the firms were given the opportunity to submit an RFQ and so our process had been adequate.

Ms. Melgren will work with Mr. Bingle and Mr. Vandagriff, who have agreed to help, to create a proposal for the board to consider by email vote within the next couple of weeks.

#### **Consider Agreement between MO-AM & Coalition:**

Mr. Nichols discussed the utility district that the Coalition is trying to form, and that corporations do not belong in the same capacity that the cities can. He explained that the agreement is a mechanism that allows private corporations to be members of the board with the same rights that the cities have.

Mr. Nichols stated that it has been suggested that the Coalition negotiate directly with Missouri American Water (MO-AM), rather than handle all negotiations through attorneys in K.C. He stated that Chuck Brown, a local attorney, has agreed to sit with Coalition members to help in these discussions.

Mr. Barnhart recommended meeting with the representatives from Mo-AM to discuss the agreement rather than going entirely through the K.C. attorneys, as it will save the Coalition expense. He will give Mr. Nichols the names of the contact people from MO-AM.

Mr. Bingle asked about MO-AM becoming a future recipient of water as a water provider. He asked if other water districts would also benefit as recipients of water supply. If so, he wondered if Coalition members anticipate entering into agreements with them as well, or if the Coalition is trying to pursue them as partners in Tri-State Water Resource Coalition.

Mr. Barnhart explained that MO-AM currently services other entities with water, and that their agreements stated that the MO-AM will still have the ability to serve those communities even though they are not members of the Coalition.

Mr. Tupper explained that some of the rural water districts were formed under the rural redevelopment act and have casually joined our Coalition. He expressed concern about how some of those districts were formed. He mentioned a water district in the Lamar area that is a member of the Coalition, and Mr. Nichols recalled several water districts in Kansas as being members. Mr. Barnhart will send to the board members a list of those who have paid dues this year.

Mr. Bingle questioned the need for Exhibit "A" if the private corporations have the same rights as all the governmental entities. Mr. Nichols asked the board members about omitting Exhibit "A".

**Mr. Nichols moved, seconded by Mr. Tupper, that the agreement with Missouri American Water be approved without Exhibit "A". The motion passed, with Mr. Barnhart abstaining, and the remaining board members voting "aye".**

#### **Status of Water Conference – November 18 & 19, 2010:**

Ms. Melgren explained that Missouri State University and the Tri-State Water Resource Coalition are planning their third annual water conference. A committee is developing the agenda, with the final agenda to be complete in the near future.

The conference will cover global, national and state water supply realities. Regional water issues and the role of the Tri-State Water Resource Coalition will be discussed. Discussion will cover regulatory issues, multi-state agreements, water loss, water quality, watersheds, and how the quality piece intersects with the supply piece. Water economics and competing uses of water will also be discussed.

Ms. Melgren reported that she will soon be sending a sponsor letter to Coalition members along with an electronic flyer. She asked that Coalition member organizations consider sponsoring the conference, and also that they pursue other potential sponsors. She asked that Coalition members help promote the event by sharing the electronic flyer.

Mr. Nichols explained that the Coalition would benefit from attendance of the conference by elected officials. He stated that there will be many newly elected officials by November, and he would like the Coalition to invite elected officials as guests.

**Mr. Nichols moved that the Tri-State Water Resource Coalition invite elected officials to the water conference as guests of the Coalition, with any expense to the conference above \$500 to be covered by him.**

Mr. Hertzberg asked where the line should be, since some of the Coalition board members are elected officials. He asked if any of the county officials would be offended that they are not offered the same thing. Mr. Nichols would not have a problem with including the county officials.

Ms. Melgren asked if Mr. Nichols was suggesting that all elected officials, from the cities to the counties to the state and federal level, be invited as guests. Mr. Nichols thought maybe the city mayors in addition to state and federal elected officials.

Ms. Melgren recommended a fee of \$20.00 because if it's free, people are very happy to sign up and then not show up. If they must pay a nominal fee, they tend to sign up and then come. She did not object to Mr. Nichols' suggestion in any way, but said that if you waive the fee for some, you must do it for all and allow any elected official to come as a guest.

Mr. Hertzberg explained that Mr. Tupper has been active in the past on a city level. Mr. Tupper stated that Joplin's mayor has the same authority as the other council members. He stated that Joplin pays for the Missouri Municipal League and other organizations and must draw the line somewhere, but the leaders in Joplin are the council people.

**Mr. Barnhart seconded the motion previously made by Mr. Nichols. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".**

#### **Executive Director's Report:**

Ms. Melgren reported options for running payroll. Arvest Bank, which handles Tri-State's checking account, does not offer adequate payroll services. The Joplin Chamber submitted a proposal to run payroll, but a mandatory 401K contribution and the need to have Tri-State employees become Chamber employees were downsides to their proposal. BKD quoted the same cost as the Joplin Chamber and provided more services without the downsides.

**Mr. Nichols moved, seconded by Mr. Bingle, that the Tri-State Water Resource Coalition use BKD for payroll and accounting services. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".**

Ms. Melgren reported that a corporate credit card application is in process. The Coalition recently obtained tax exempt status from the State of Missouri. She presented copies of this document to board officers. She reported that upon receiving the expense account credit card, she will purchase office equipment. She has been working on building organizational infrastructure, for example by creating an expense reimbursement form and a credit card expense reporting form. She distributed her new business cards to those present. She has been building relationships with board members. She plans future visits to the Kansas City and Little Rock Corps of Engineers offices and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

She will continue to work from the executive goals approved by the board members, with a priority on conference planning, communications planning, and organizational development, while visiting with board members and stakeholders.

**Public Relations Activities:**

There were no new activities to report in this area.

**Status of Developing Education Program for Fifth and Sixth Grade Students:**

Mr. Hertzberg has been visiting with Dr. C. J. Huff from the Joplin School District, who is arranging a meeting with those staff who are in charge of the fifth grade curriculum. Mr. Barnhart explained that Missouri American Water also has a similar program, and several board members indicated they would like to attend the meeting with the Joplin schools.

Mr. Hertzberg explained that once the format has been set up, he plans to use the same format for the Webb City and Carl Junction school districts, and other school districts in the future.

**Consideration of Directors and Officers/Employment Practices Liability Insurance:**

Ms. Melgren presented a quote comparison to the board for D&O and Employment Practices insurance. Having requested proposals from Naught-Naught Ins., Ollis Ins., and State Farm Ins., Tri-State had four proposals to consider – three from Naught-Naught and one from Ollis. State Farm did not submit their quote by the deadline.

Of the four companies, Ms. Melgren recommended Great American Insurance Company, the second to lowest bid. The lowest bid was submitted by Insurisk, but they are not admitted to the Missouri Department of Insurance, do not cover part time employees and volunteers, do not submit to financial review, and they do not offer the extras that Great American does.

Ms. Melgren reported that Great American would allow, for an additional fee, the separation of D&O from Employee coverage so that each category could be covered for \$1 mill., \$2 mill. or \$3 mill. - the quote comparison offered coverage amounts.

The coverage applies to “insured persons who were, now are or shall be directors, trustees, officers, employees, volunteers or staff members of the organization/subsidiaries including any executive board members and committee members whether salaried or not.”

Mr. Rogers asked about the separate policy fee listed for each quote, and if it is a one-time set-up fee. Ms. Melgren replied that this annual fee goes to the provider, while the local company’s fee is incorporated in the premium amount.

Mr. Bartosh asked about waiting for a quote from State Farm but Mr. VanDaGriff thought they had received adequate time to respond.

**Mr. Nichols moved, seconded by Mr. VanDaGriff, that the Tri-State Water Resource Coalition accept the bid from Great American Insurance Company in the amount of \$1,382.00 for \$2 million worth of D&O and Employee Practices coverage, and that the two-year rate be locked in.**

Ms. Melgren asked board members if they wanted separated or shared \$2 million coverage, and the board agreed on shared coverage.

**The motion as stated above carried, with all voting “aye”.**

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

**Senator Kit Bond:**

No one was present to represent Senator Bond’s office.

**Senator Claire McCaskill:**

No one was present to represent Senator McCaskill’s office.

**Congressman Roy Blunt:**

No one was present to represent Congressman Blunt’s office.

**Missouri Department of Natural Resources:**

Fred Schlegel explained that Brian Fredrick has been setting meters and collecting data and has submitted a report for 2009. This report is available on the DNR website. The report summarizes the amount pumped during 2009 for 11 metered irrigation wells. Fourteen (14) meters are currently set out, with monitoring to take place for the following four years. After that time, a comprehensive summary report will give all the various years that the data has been collected plus a projection for the future.

Mr. Nichols asked Mr. Schlegel for a link to the DNR website so he can forward the 2009 report to Tri-State board members.

**Kansas Division of Water Resources:**

Morgan Pearman from the Kansas Division of Water Resources was unable to attend this meeting. Ms. Melgren received a report on his latest activities, which was distributed to board members.

**Oklahoma Water Resource Board:**

No one was present to represent the Oklahoma Water Resource Board.

**Old Business:**

There was no old business to report at this time.

**New Business:**

Mr. Bartosh asked about committee members, and if there is a reason the Coalition doesn't invite more private industry to be represented on the board of the directors, since they are the ones who are actually using the water and will need water.

Mr. Nichols explained that the membership dues structure provides for industries to join the Coalition. He stated that in the past the Coalition has not worked very hard to gain new members.

Mr. Bartosh asked if it would be beneficial to start visiting with the industries about joining the Coalition. Mr. Nichols replied that Ms. Melgren will assist the Coalition in that area. The board members would like to encourage the industries to join the Coalition.

There was some discussion about how the structure of the board might need to change if memberships increase. Ms. Melgren suggested the formation of a committee of board members to discuss membership issues and make recommendations to the board about membership policy and board structure, to give direction to membership efforts.

Mr. Nichols explained that the current bylaws limit the size of the board of directors. He suggested expanding the size of the board of directors but expressed concern about having 30 to 40 members on that board. He suggested the possibility of having a smaller executive committee to make decisions on certain matters. He stated that this item will be placed on the next agenda.

Mr. Nichols explained that several months ago, the board of directors decided to meet every two months instead of every month, beginning in July. The board members decided to stick with that calendar and so will meet again in September.

**Adjourn:**

There being no further business to come before the Board of Directors, the meeting stood adjourned.



---

David Hertzberg, Secretary