

**TRI-STATE WATER RESOURCE COALITION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2013 – 9:00 A.M.
JOPLIN CITY HALL, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Welcome:

President Roddy Rogers called the meeting to order. He asked those present to introduce themselves. The following were present:

Brian Bingle – City of Nixa, Missouri
Lynn Calton – City of Lamar, Missouri
David Hertzberg – City of Joplin, Missouri
Dean Kruithof – City of Branson, Missouri
Melinda Piper – CPWSD #1, Lamar, Missouri
Pete Rauch – City of Monett, Missouri
Roddy Rogers – Springfield City Utilities, Springfield, Missouri
Gene Stanton – City of Mt. Vernon, Missouri
Steve Walensky – City of Cassville, Missouri
Bob Williams – Carthage Water/Electric, Carthage, Missouri
Fred Schlegel – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Don Lucietta – Senator Roy Blunt’s office
Steve McIntosh – Senator Roy Blunt’s office
Dick Scott – Olsson Associates
Brian Clark – United States Geological Survey
Tom Pittman – City of Carthage, Missouri
Bob Nichols – Webb City, Missouri
Gail Melgren – Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
Susan Champlin - City of Joplin, Missouri

Approval of Minutes from November 14, 2012:

Mr. Rogers asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from November 14, 2012, and none were received. He asked for a motion to approve those minutes as written.

Pete Rauch moved, seconded by Brian Bingle, that the minutes from November 14, 2012, be approved as written. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

Approval of Bylaws change RE Treasurer:

Mr. Rogers reminded the board of the suggested bylaws change presented at the November, 2012, board meeting which allows the Treasurer to serve unlimited terms, provided the board approves. This change is designed to allow financial stability and continuity. Mr. Rogers explained that the slate of officers for 2013 was dependent upon the change, to allow Mr. VanDaGriff to continue serving as treasurer. Ms. Melgren stated that the treasurer will be evaluated and approved by the board on an annual basis.

David Hertzberg moved, seconded by Pete Rauch, that the bylaws be amended to allow the treasurer to serve unlimited one-year terms, provided the board approves the treasurer on an annual basis. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

Approval of New Officers:

Mr. Rogers asked for the approval of new officers for 2013 as follows:

Officers:

President – David Hertzberg

Vice-President – Matt Barnhart

Immediate Past President – Roddy Rogers

Secretary – Lynn Calton

Treasurer – Hal VanDaGriff

At Large Board Members:

Pete Rauch – Chair of the Technical Committee

Bob Williams – Chair of the Joint Municipal Utility Commission (JMUC) Committee

Mr. Rogers asked for a motion to accept the slate of officers for 2013.

Gene Stanton moved, seconded by Bob Williams, that the slate of officers for 2013 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

President’s Report:

New president Mr. Hertzberg thanked Bob Nichols, the first president, who started the Coalition, and also Mr. Rogers for his last two year of excellent leadership. Mr. Hertzberg noted that the Coalition has made gigantic progress and that he was honored to serve as President for the coming year.

Standing Committee Reports:

Executive:

Mr. Hertzberg stated that he will chair the executive committee, which will consist of himself, Roddy Rogers, Matt Barnhart, Hal VanDaGriff, Lynn Calton, Pete Rauch, and Bob Williams.

Financial:

Ms. Melgren stated that Hal VanDaGriff will continue to serve as chair of the financial committee.

Mr. VanDaGriff was ill and unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Hertzberg reported that the current bank balance is \$327,828.52. Ms. Melgren stated that this includes payroll for January 1, but not January 15. This balance includes all the dues collected to date. Ms. Melgren distributed financial reports for November and December, 2012.

Technical:

Mr. Rauch stated that the members of the technical committee will be himself, Roddy Rogers, Hal VanDaGriff, Steve Walensky, Paul Crabtree, Tom Pittman, and Milt Dickensheet. Mr. Rauch and Ms. Melgren will consider other interested parties for service on the technical committee if there is an interest.

Ms. Melgren stated that the water demand study is now complete and will be posted on Tri-State's website. She discussed the regional nature of the water demand projections in the report, commenting that the difference in size between the biggest providers and the smallest providers within the region was significant and created a need to blend the data to develop an accurate regional assessment. Ms. Melgren reminded the board that the regional projections should not be used at a utility specific level, and said that a note to that effect has been added to the final report.

Ms. Melgren explained that the next step of the Coalition's technical committee will be the study of water supply in the region. As with the just completed study, Tri-State Water Coalition will partner with the Corps of Engineers (Kansas City and Little Rock districts, who will again work collaboratively), the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and CDM Smith. Funding is secure and data collection has begun. Chad Dulaney from the Corps/Little Rock, Scott Gard from the Corps/K.C., and Ryan Mueller from MoDNR will make a presentation at the March board meeting about this next phase of study. The estimated completion date for this study is September, 2013. Once the water supply study is complete it will be paired with the water demand study just completed and then a gap analysis study is planned.

Ms. Melgren and Mr. Rauch agreed that Tri-State Coalition should be in shape financially to contribute the funds required to finance the gap analysis – approximately \$600K.

Mr. Rogers asked if the \$600K was the approximated total cost of the study or if it was only part of the total cost. Ms. Melgren stated it was her understanding that the approximately \$600K would be the total cost for the study. Mr. Rauch stated that October, 2013, was the earliest that payment would be due, and Ms. Melgren reminded the board that payments could be spread out over three years.

Communications:

Mr. Hertzberg noted that Matt Barnhart has agreed to serve as chair of the communications committee. Mr. Kruthof offered to serve on that committee also.

Ms. Melgren showed those present a booklet prepared by North Central Missouri Regional Water Commission. The booklet was developed in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and contains pictures and descriptions about their water supply efforts. She suggested the possibility of preparing something similar to share Tri-State Water Coalition's story.

Ms. Melgren discussed the Table Rock Lake master plan revision currently underway. Table Rock Lake's current master plan dates from the 1970's and hasn't been revised since then. Mr. Rogers stated that Tri-State Water Coalition supports the addition of drinking water to the listed uses for Table Rock Lake water in the revised plan.

Mr. Kruthof stated that the amount of feedback being received about the master plan revision by the Corps of Engineers is immense.

Mr. Rogers and Ms. Melgren attended one of the Corp's public hearings about the Table Rock Lake master plan revision, at Reeds Spring high school. Hundreds of people attended – a much larger crowd than anticipated - many with an interest in the use of land around the shore line of Table Rock Lake, which is not part of the current master plan revision process.

Mr. Kruthof stated that many of the issues about docks and shore line protection relate to protection of the water quality of Table Rock Lake. He said that Table Rock Lake is currently at one of its lowest levels. He cautioned that people around the lake will be concerned that if it becomes a water supply lake the lake level will be drawn down further, even though that is not the case. He suggested that communication will be very important to help people understand uses of lake water and impacts on lake levels. In the case of a reallocation to drinking water from a current use, the net effect on the level of the lake would be zero.

Ms. Melgren asked about the possibility of participating in a state-level study of water supply by the League of Women Voters of Missouri. The board agreed it would be a good use of her time.

Ms. Melgren commented that though the drought continues media coverage of drought seems to have diminished. She asked if the board would like to hear a report on regional water levels at the March meeting, and Mr. Hertzberg thought it would be a good idea.

Mr. Hertzberg noted that last November's water conference was a big success, providing an excellent platform for communication about water issues.

Mr. Hertzberg asked about creating a speakers group to visit with different boards or clubs to assist Ms. Melgren in relaying Tri-State's message.

Mr. Walensky stated that Cassville is taking a strong interest in the Table Rock Lake activities and asked Ms. Melgren about sharing Tri-State's mission with people in that area.

Membership:

Mr. Hertzberg stated that Mr. Rogers has agreed to serve as chair of the membership committee. Gene Stanton will also serve on the membership committee. Mr. Hertzberg is seeking any other interested parties to serve on that committee.

Mr. Rogers discussed the issue of chambers of commerce being members of Tri-State. Ms. Melgren explained that Tri-State's membership is limited to municipalities, water providers, and non-profit organizations. She stated that a chamber of commerce is a non-profit organization who represents for-profit organizations. They can't be members of a joint municipal utility corporation, but she thought there would be some benefit to having them as members of Tri-State. Mr. Rauch thought having them as members is a plus.

Mr. Williams asked if there are any chambers who wish to be members of Tri-State, and Ms. Melgren replied that the Springfield and Webb City chambers have been members.

Mr. Williams stated that Tri-State previously targeted chambers as being members, but that they haven't shown much interest in the Tri-State Water Coalition.

Mr. Bingle preferred that Tri-State apply its efforts to those members who would be municipal water providers. He is not suggesting that Tri-State shouldn't approach and extend invitations to chambers of commerce, but he thought Tri-State's communications and membership drives should be focused on those entities who can serve on the board.

Mr. Hertzberg recommended focusing on municipalities and discussing other non-profit organizations at a later time.

Ms. Melgren will communicate with the chambers but not spend much time trying to recruit them as members.

Mr. Rauch noted that Ms. Melgren already has open channels with many of the chambers, and she stated that they like to know about Tri-State's activities.

Mr. Williams stated that many chambers prefer to avoid the issue of possible shortages in long-term water supply because they see it as a negative for economic development. Mr. Hertzberg discussed last year's voluntary conservation efforts in Joplin and agreed that there is sometimes a reluctance to advertise the issue from an economic development perspective. Mr. Rauch commented that economic development prospects will benefit directly from the results of Tri-State's efforts.

Ms. Melgren provided everyone a revised board listing with contact information. She welcomed Carl Francis, the Police Chief and Interim City Administrator for Webb City, to the board. Mr. Walensky made a correction to his email address on the roster.

Ms. Melgren has invoiced dues and sent reminder notices to those who have not yet paid. She has visited with the board of directors of Ms. Piper's Public Water Supply District No. 1 about Tri-State's mission, and their participation in Tri-State. Ms. Piper stated that her board has been discussing whether or not to continue membership in Tri-State Water Coalition. They will gather some additional information for their next meeting on February 7.

Legislative/Regulatory:

Mr. Hertzberg stated that Mr. Bingle has agreed to serve as chair of the legislative/regulatory committee and asked Mr. Bingle for any reports. John Bartosh will also serve on the legislative/regulatory committee.

Mr. Bingle had reviewed both the House and Senate in the State of Missouri, and didn't see any bills affecting water resources at this time.

Mr. Hertzberg asked about a visit to Washington, DC. Ms. Melgren said the House and the Senate are both in session during the week of February 25, the week of March 12, or three weeks during April that would work. She asked who would be interested in going, and Mr. Bingle, Mr. Rauch, and Mr. Rogers indicated they would be able to go.

Ms. Melgren has a calendar of committee assignments for the senators and house representatives from Southwest Missouri. She suggested visiting with people who will be making decisions related to reallocation of water from the two lakes – Stockton and Table Rock. She would like to visit with the Corps of Engineers’ headquarters as well while in D.C.

Ms. Melgren suggested planning a couple of visits to Jefferson City this spring. On January 23, she and Mr. Bingle will attend the “Salute to Legislators” from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. She will visit with Ryan Mueller with the DNR that day and will attend the legislative event in the evening. On January 24, she will meet with Harry Bozoian, the new deputy director of the DNR, who now oversees the Water Resource Center along with several other areas of the DNR.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:

JMUC:

Mr. Hertzberg stated that Mr. Williams will continue to serve as chair of the JMUC committee. Bob Williams, Roddy Rogers, Lynn Calton, David Hertzberg, Gene Stanton, Brian Bingle, Pete Rauch, and Carl Francis will serve on the committee. Mr. Williams explained that the membership on the committee is open to anyone who is a contracting member of the JMUC.

Mr. Williams anticipates one or more additional Tri-State Water Coalition members for membership in the JMUC, once their local governing body approves. A meeting of the JMUC committee is scheduled for Thursday, January 31, at 2:00 p.m. in Carthage, to discuss bylaws.

Mr. Williams has reviewed the draft bylaws and thinks they are very workable with likely only a few changes needed. Those bylaws were started in 2010 along with the joint contract, and then set aside while the committee focused on only the joint contract. A draft copy of the bylaws was sent to the committee members in December.

Mr. Williams stated that several board members have not formally designated the director and the alternate for their entity, and reminded the board that this was a requirement.

Mr. Rauch asked about passing an ordinance to that regard and Mr. Williams replied an ordinance or a resolution is required. For a utility board, a resolution will suffice, or either an ordinance or a resolution if a city council is involved. Mr. Williams stated that Joplin, Monett, Nixa, and Webb City still need to complete their process of designation of JMUC board member and alternate.

Executive Director Report:

Ms. Melgren distributed a summary outlining the income and expenditures for the water conference in November, 2012. She reported good attendance, good speakers, good sponsors – though not as many as last year – a net profit for the event, and excellent post-conference feedback from the audience.

Ms. Melgren reminded the board about the terms of the memorandum of agreement between Missouri State University (MSU) and Tri-State Water for the annual water conference. Expenses are paid first, then MSU receives a fee for providing accounting and registration services, then the net profit for the event are split. This year the net profit was approximately \$8,400 (with

continuing education credits still outstanding). Tri-State will receive a check for approximately \$4,000 from MSU - half of the net profit from the event once all expenses are paid.

Ms. Melgren would like to hold next year's conference at a different facility. MSU has a large and effective agriculture department and has constructed the Bond Center at Darr School of Agriculture for use by their agriculture students. It has beautiful new conference facilities that will accommodate up to 600 people. Costs will be lower than a hotel. The tentative date is November 14-15, 2013.

Ms. Melgren stated that Mr. Rogers, Mr. Rauch, Greene County, MSU, MoDNR and the City of Springfield sit on the planning committee for the conference. She welcomed anyone else who wishes to participate in the conference planning committee. Planning meetings will start in February for the fall, 2013, conference.

Ms. Melgren mentioned a national group called the Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP), who pulls together state water planners into a national group that discusses water management and planning. They have a conference the week of April 16 in Washington, DC, which will also include many federal level decision makers. Ms. Melgren asked the board about attending this meeting.

Ms. Melgren discussed the new National Blue Way System, a designation from the Department of the Interior, which the White River Basin has received. It is an attempt by the Department of the Interior to take a more comprehensive watershed approach to water resource management and engage stakeholders at local level in the management of water resources. The program was started at Federal level but will be governed at local level. It is just forming and Ms. Melgren will attend a meeting in Rogers Arkansas soon to learn more.

Ms. Melgren reported having been to the State Line power plant with Hal VanDaGriff. She also recently visited MSU's Experiment Station and Journigan Ranch, where there are plans to implement water use best practices for farm/ranch operations.

Ms. Melgren has been attending meetings of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce government relations committee. She will make a presentation to city council in Bolivar on February 12, and will prioritize a list of possible new Tri-State members for this year. Ozark has expressed interest in Tri-State.

Ms. Melgren will continue to attend meetings of the Missouri Economic Development Council and the Multi-Basin Partnership.

She noted that executive committee meetings will be held on an as-needed basis for 2013.

Ms. Melgren reported having toured Paul Crabtree's family farm operation, with Mr. Crabtree continuing to be interested in Tri-State's work and serving on the technical committee.

Comments by Representatives of Federal and State Offices/Agencies:

Mr. Schlegel, Mr. Lucietta, and Mr. McIntosh had nothing new to report at this time.

New Business:

Mr. Rogers received an e-mail from a city official from Neosho requesting a presentation by Tri-State. Ms. Melgren stated that Neosho was a former member of Tri-State, having dropped out when their city was going through some difficult financial strain.

Ms. Melgren gave the board members a listing of meeting dates for 2013.

She mentioned maintaining contact with stakeholders in Oklahoma, including at the Water Resources Board, Office of the Environment, and GRDA.

Ms. Melgren shared two articles. The first references a proposal for a pipeline to ship water west from the Missouri River to arid western states - a good example of the tightening competition for water as a resource. The second article referenced the San Diego County Water Authority, which represents 24 cities and agencies including the City of San Diego. They approved a contract to buy out what will be the western hemisphere's largest sea water desalination plant. The agency will pay more than twice what it costs to bring water from Northern California and Colorado into San Diego. They want to reduce their vulnerability to drought and minimize their competition for water - a good example of the rising cost of providing water.

Adjourn:

Mr. Hertzberg asked for any additional business, and none was received. He asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Roddy Rogers moved, seconded by Pete Rauch, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".



Lynn Calton, Secretary