TRI-STATE WATER RESOURCE COALITION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2014– 9:00 A.M.
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MINUTES

Welcome:

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

David Hertzberg – City of Joplin, Missouri
John Bartosh – Jasper County Commission
Kyle Slagle – Empire District Electric Company
Roddy Rogers – Springfield City Utilities, Springfield, Missouri
Bob Williams – Carthage Water & Electric, Carthage, Missouri
Brian Bingle – City of Nixa, Missouri
Lynn Calton – City of Lamar, Missouri
Skip Schaller – City of Monett, Missouri
Gene Stanton – City of Mt. Vernon, Missouri
Steve Walensky – City of Cassville, Missouri
Chuck Bryant - Carthage Water & Electric, Carthage, Missouri
Jason Choate – Carthage Water & Electric, Carthage, Missouri
Tom Pittman - Carthage Water & Electric, Carthage, Missouri
Fred Schlegel – Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, Missouri
Erin Lepper – Missouri Department of Natural Resources Water Resources Center
Bob Nichols – Freese & Nichols
Gail Melgren – Executive Director, Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
Susan Champlin - City of Joplin, Missouri

Approval of Minutes from September 17, 2014:

Mr. Hertzberg asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from September 17, 2014, and none were received. He asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written.

Bob Williams moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that the minutes from September 17, 2014 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Standing Committee Reports:
President:

Mr. Hertzberg stated that this meeting will serve as the annual board meeting, with a technical committee meeting to follow.

Mr. Hertzberg reported that several board members traveled recently to Little Rock, Arkansas, with Ryan Mueller from MDNR, to visit with Colonel Paul, Chad Dulaney, Trish Anslow, and Randy Hathaway of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Little Rock District office. Representatives from the Kansas City Corps District office participated by teleconference.

Discussion centered on reallocation requests for Table Rock and Stockton Lakes, including the scope of work for Phase III of the cooperative technical studies between the Corps, DNR, and Tri-State Water Coalition.

Executive:
The Executive Committee had not met since the last board meeting.

Financial:

Mr. Slagle reported the ending balance as of October 31, 2014 was $398,407.46.

He said Tri-State served as a sponsor for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) governor's conference on natural resources.

He noted dues of $50.00 were paid to the Multi-Basin Partnership. They are a water stakeholders' group for northwest Arkansas and southwest Missouri.

Mr. Slagle referred to a handout included in the board packets which listed the financial services currently being provided to the Coalition by BKD, LLP. He said after evaluation he considers BKD to be providing good value to Tri-State Coalition. He recommended that BKD be retained. The board agreed and took no action to change their financial services provider.

Technical
Mr. Rogers announced that a technical committee meeting was scheduled to start upon completion of the board meeting, topics of discussion to include the Stockton Lake allocation study, scope of work for phase III of technical study, the project management plan with CDM, and funding issues. Stakeholders from CDM, DNR, and the Corps of Engineers will participate.

Mr. Rogers stated that the Kansas City and Little Rock districts of the Corps of Engineers continue to work in tandem to consider both Stockton and Table Rock Lakes, considering both immediate needs and long-term needs for the overall region. The Kansas City Corps have been funded up to a level of $250,000 for a reallocation study.

The Phase III studies are estimated at $300,000, with a cost share between DNR and the Corps in Little Rock. A memorandum of agreement has not yet been signed.

Mr. Rogers suggested Tri-State will likely work in phases to meet immediate and then long-term needs.

Communications:
Mr. Walensky noted that communications materials cannot be fully revised until membership has been completed for 2015.

Ms. Melgren reported having revised Tri-State's slide presentation. She can adapt the presentation to cover 15 minutes or up to an hour.

Ms. Melgren asked the board if there is interest in re-naming the Coalition, for example from Tri-State Water Coalition to the Southwest Missouri Water Coalition. She noted that members now all

hail from Missouri, though future projects could serve communities in Oklahoma and Kansas. She noted that Tri-State Water Coalition is already well known by its current name.

Mr. Walensky noted that he is often asked about the "Tri" in the Coalition's name. Mr. Hertzberg stated a preference for keeping the current name. Mr. Rogers thought either name would work.

There being no further discussion, the board moved on with no action regarding change of name.

Membership:
Mr. Stanton reported that membership dues for 2014 are now caught up except for Webb City and Missouri American. Webb City is slated to approve the payment at their next city council meeting, and Missouri American is still evaluating their current count. As has been the case for the past couple of years, City of Joplin will pay for connections within the city boundary and Mo Am will pay for connections outside the city's boundaries but within southwest Missouri.

Mr. Stanton touched upon current and possible future memberships. Current members are municipalities, counties, and water providers both public and private. He suggested that a letter of support be developed to allow a broad range of regional stakeholders the opportunity to weigh in as supporters of Tri-State Water Coalition's mission without having to be members. Those letters of support can then be used to promote the Coalition's mission.

Ms. Melgren reported having visited with several counties, some are members – Jasper, Stone; some have expressed interest – Christian, Taney; – and others have said the membership fee is not doable in their budgets – Newton, Greene. Ms. Melgren stated that counties pay $500 annually for membership in Tri-State Water Resource Coalition instead of the fee per water provider which is calculated by multiplying number of water connections by half of the DNR Primacy Fee. The board discussed whether counties should be members or perhaps signors of letters of support. No firm conclusion was drawn.

Mr. Stanton and Ms. Melgren will draft a template letter of support to share with the board at the next meeting.

Ms. Melgren said that regardless of membership, she will be communicating to county commissions and other key stakeholders in the region.

Mr. Williams expressed concerns that water districts are carving out territory with no requirement to demonstrate a water supply for that territory. He suggested that Tri-State should be visiting with legislators about requiring water districts to demonstrate what supply they will use to meet the needs of potential future customers. He expressed concerns that water districts will want Tri-State Coalition to provide water cheaper to their areas than the Coalition provides water to its own customers.

Ms. Melgren said that invoices for 2015 will be mailed in the near future. She asked everyone to send her their self-reported number of connections so she could calculate their membership dues and mail invoices. She noted that she will use self-reported numbers if she has received them and otherwise she will use DNR's count.

Legislative/Regulatory:

Mr. Bingle reported that he and Ms. Melgren have developed a plan to visit with regional constituents, beginning with county commissions. Tri-State will also travel to Jefferson City to visit with House and Senate members after the first of the year when session has started, and make a trip to Washington, D.C. in the spring.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:
JMUC:

Mr. Williams stated that Ms. Melgren has sent the draft bylaws to JMUC members for final review and comment. A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 25, to enact the bylaws. The meeting will take place at 11:00 a.m. at Mr. Williams' office in Carthage.

New Business:
Mr. Hertzberg reported that he and Roddy Rogers served as the nominating committee for the 2015 slate. He noted that Kyle Slagle has assumed additional duties with Empire District Electric Co. and so cannot continue next year as Treasurer, though he will continue on the board of directors.

Mr. Hertzberg asked for approval of the following slate of officers for 2015:

President – Matt Barnhart
Past President – David Hertzberg
Vice President – Lynn Calton
Secretary – Skip Schaller
Treasurer – Brian Bingle

The executive committee for 2015 will include the president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and past president, along with two at-large positions - Roddy Rogers, who will continue as technical committee chair, and Bob Williams, who will continue as the JMUC committee chair.

At this time the committees and committee chairs for 2015 are anticipated to be:

Communications – Steve Walensky, Chair
Finance – Brian Bingle, Chair
JMUC – Bob Williams, Chair
Legislative – a new chairperson must be appointed
Membership – Gene Stanton, Chair
Technical – Roddy Rogers, Chair

Gene Stanton moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that the slate of officers put forth by the nominating committee for 2015 be accepted. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Executive Director Report:

Ms. Melgren noted that Mr. Barnhart has been ill and sent his regrets for being unable to attend today's meeting. She expressed her condolences to Bob Williams, whose mother passed away recently.

Ms. Melgren reported on a visit she made to Stockton Lake to see CU's water intake and pump station.

Ms. Melgren stated that Tri-State's workmen's compensation policy is paid and in place.

Ms. Melgren reported having tried several times to schedule a meeting with the mayor and the city administrator of Branson regarding their membership.

She has visited with the Southwest Power Resources Association's new executive director, Nikki Fuller, and plans a visit with her in-person soon.

Ms. Melgren said the scope for the Phase III studies will be discussed during the technical committee meeting after the board meeting. A contract between DNR and the Corps will likely be signed in the near future. Financing is in place and everything appears to be moving forward with DNR and both the Kansas City and the Little Rock Corps of Engineers.

Ms. Melgren reported having made a presentation at the recent Governor's Conference on Natural Resource, sponsored by DNR. She thinks people state-wide are becoming more aware and informed about water supply issues. Mr. Walensky stated that Ms. Melgren did an excellent job representing Tri-State Water Coalition with her presentation at the conference.

Ms. Melgren will visit with BKD staff following the technical committee meeting. A new person, Kelli Walker, is now managing the Tri-State account for monthly reports, but partner Troy Hill remains the same.

Ms. Melgren noted that the upcoming visit to the Kansas City Corps of Engineers is to meet and visit with Colonel Sexton. Other KC Corps staff will attend.

Ms. Melgren reported visiting with staff from Congressman Long, Senator Blunt, and Senator McCaskill's offices.

Ms. Melgren reported having visited with David Casaletto, who is executive director for the Upper White River Basin Foundation (DBA Ozark Water Watch), a group of stakeholders having an interest in the White River system, especially Table Rock and Beaver Lakes. She told the board about Mr. Casaletto's strong support for Table Rock Lake becoming a public drinking water supply lake since it benefits water quality efforts. According to Mr. Casaletto, if a lake is a public drinking water supply lake the standards for water quality increase, as do grant opportunities. In addition, Mr. Casaletto hopes that a large regional water supply project might provide opportunity to retire some antiquated and problematic drinking water supply outfits.

Ms. Melgren mentioned possible future visits with stakeholders around Stockton and Table Rock Lakes. She noted that recreational interests will likely be skeptical of Tri-State's activities for fear that use of the lakes for drinking water supply might drop lake levels, although in fact all a change in allocation really does is redistribute the apportionment of water supply storage in the lake without changing the managed level of the lake. She noted that informational meetings specific to lake stakeholders will likely help mitigate concerns, and will further education and advocacy efforts.

Ms. Melgren reported having visited with Kyle McClure, lobbyist for Springfield City Utilities; Ray Weder, Christian County commissioner; Rob Dixon of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, and Mayor Bob Stephens of Springfield.

Ms. Melgren reported having visited with the Stone County Commission to give an update about Tri-State Water Coalition's activities. Their presiding commissioner, Dennis Woods, has been involved in water issues at state level, including through work with the Clean Water Commission.

Ms. Melgren reported having visited with the Taney County Commission. They have requested more information on Tri-State.

Ms. Melgren reported having attended three Spring River watershed planning meetings hosted by DNR. Water quality efforts, especially non-point source, were discussed. Ms. Melgren said that at each meeting she made a point to applaud efforts to keep pollutants out of water bodies as the cost to remove those pollutants downstream is high for water providers.

Ms. Melgren reported that several board members recently had dinner with Bob Nichols, Tri-State's founding president. Ms. Melgren noted Mr. Nichol's presence in the audience and thanked him again for his years of service to the Coalition.

Ms. Melgren visited with Rick Hess, City Manager of Battlefield. She has also reached out to Republic, and visited again with Ozark about their interest in Tri-State membership.

Ms. Melgren has received an invitation to be a speaker at the MWWA Conference in April in Osage Beach.

Ms. Melgren presented an article, "The Risks of Cheap Water," which describe the water scarcity situation in California.

Comments by Representatives of Federal and State Offices/Agencies:

Mr. Schlegel from DNR described California as having no limit on the amount of groundwater that can be withdrawn by a farmer. He also described how groundwater levels can now be determined by satellites, so all the apparatus associated with measuring the depth of water in the wells is not needed. The satellites use the gravity of the earth. Water underground changes the speed of the satellites as they pass over the earth. They can detect the minute difference and calculate water underground.

Ms. Lepper from DNR represented the Water Resources Center. She noted support for Tri-State's efforts on the Phase III report. She offered her assistance to Tri-State, having recently moved over to the Water Resource Center staff. She stated that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has a lot of information, with a website called the value of water that is really useful.

The Water Resources Center tracks major water uses but does not have the means to enforce the registration of major water users for irrigators, municipal, and industrial uses.

Adjournment:

Mr. Hertzberg appreciated being president of Tri-State for the last two years. Ms. Melgren said she felt sure she spoke for the entire board when she thanked Mr. Hertzberg for his service to the organization.

Mr. Hertzberg asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Bob Williams moved, seconded by Steve Walensky, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Skip Schaller, Secretary