TRI-STATE WATER RESOURCE COALITION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015 – 9:00 A.M.
CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Welcome:

President Matt Barnhart called the meeting to order. 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
Brian Bingle – City of Nixa, Missouri
Lynn Calton – City of Lamar, Missouri
Skip Schaller – City of Monett, Missouri
Steve Walensky – City of Cassville, Missouri
Mike Ray – City of Branson, Missouri
Loretta Bishop – City of Branson, Missouri
Jason Choate – Carthage Water & Electric, Carthage, Missouri
Tom Pittman - Carthage Water & Electric, Carthage, Missouri
Michael Weller – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Jerry Kendall – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Erin Lepper – Missouri Department of Natural Resources Water Resources Center
Clinton Finn – Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Springfield, Missouri
Matt Hough – Congressman Billy Long's Office
Steve McIntosh – Senator Roy Blunt's Office
Wally Kennedy – Joplin Globe
Gail Melgren – Executive Director, Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
Nick Heatherly – City of Joplin, Missouri
Susan Champlin - City of Joplin, Missouri

Approval of Minutes from January 21, 2015:

Mr. Barnhart asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from January 21, 2015, and none were received. He asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written.

Steve Walensky moved, seconded by Lynn Calton, that the minutes from January 21, 2015 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Standing Committee Reports:
President:

Mr. Barnhart reported that a delegation from Tri-State Water recently traveled to Kansas City and to Little Rock to meet with the Kansas City District and the Little Rock District Corps of Engineers, respectively. These were touch-base visits intended to share information and continue the good relationships between all involved. Mr. Barnhart noted that the two districts continue to work cooperatively and that progress toward reallocations is being made. He noted that funding

for the Stockton Lake Reallocation Study, and for an analysis of Pomme De Terre Lake, is in place.

Mr. Barnhart reported that he, Mr. Rogers, and Ms. Melgren will visit Washington, DC, for legislative and agency visits on April 13-14, 2015.

Executive:

Mr. Barnhart reported that the executive committee met recently and drafted a revision of the bylaws, a copy of which was included in the board packet. He asked for comments or corrections.

Mr. Rogers recommended a change on Page 8, Section 5, referring to directors accepting contributions or gifts on behalf of the Coalition. He suggested not only directors of Tri-State but also their family members should be included.

Ms. Melgren stated that Page 8, Section 5, would read, "The Board of Directors and individual directors and their families may not accept on behalf of the Coalition any contribution, gift, bequest, or devise as a favor or advantage granted or expected in return for something."
Mr. Barnhart asked for a motion to approve this amendment.

David Hertzberg moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that an amendment be made to Section 5 on Page 8, entitled "Gifts" as stated in the previous paragraph. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Mr. Barnhart asked for approval of the bylaws revision, including the amendment as approved in the previous motion.

Roddy Rogers moved, seconded by David Hertzberg, that the bylaws be approved as amended in the previous motion. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Financial:

Mr. Bingle referenced the financial reports for January and February in the board packet. The ending balance was $500,019.77. He said BKD has filed the 2014 state and federal tax returns.

Mr. Bingle suggested that Tri-State consider CD's or other possible investments rather than leave the balance in checking. Ms. Melgren offered to look into investment options and noted that any investments would need to be relatively short term and liquid because of the possible need for contributed funds or other pay-outs.

Steve Walensky moved, seconded by Brian Bingle, that the financial reports for January and February of 2015 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Technical:

Mr. Rogers noted good visits with the Kansas City and Little Rock Corps of Engineers. He noted the continued helpful engagement of Mo DNR. He stated that CDM Smith continues to move

forward with the Project Management Plan. He said Tri-State will be distributing a questionnaire in the near future to regional systems. He said the technical committee has been considering possible corridors for pipelines and other broad brush-stroke elements of future water infrastructure. These elements are part of the reallocation study currently under development for Stockton Lake.

Communications:

Mr. Walensky referenced an LA Times article, included in the board packet, addressing the current drought. He noted that efforts made by Tri-State Water in southwest Missouri will ensure that our communities will not suffer the kinds of challenges that California is now facing during a severe drought. Mr. Walensky emphasized the importance of Tri-State, its ongoing initiatives, and the importance of long-term water resource management.

Ms. Melgren reported having updated the Tri-State website.

Membership:

Mr. Barnhart stated all the 2015 membership dues have been paid with the exception of a couple of entities.

Legislative/Regulatory:

Mr. Hertzberg reported that he, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Barnhart, and Ms. Melgren traveled to Jefferson City during February to meet with the MDNR and with House and Senate legislators. Mr. Rogers and Ms. Melgren attended and gave testimony at a hearing on House Bill 213 related to joint municipal utility commissions (JMUC's).

Ms. Melgren and Mr. Bingle made a separate trip to Jefferson City to visit with legislators.

Ad Hoc Committee Reports:
JMUC:

Mr. Barnhart reported an upcoming trip to the Clarence Cannon Wholesale Water Commission in northern Missouri to see how they operate.

Executive Director Report:

Ms. Melgren stated that the JMUC is looking at developing technical, financial, and legal capacities. They will start reaching out to projects like Atchison County and Clarence Cannon to learn from their experiences.

Ms. Melgren reported that MDNR is working toward development of a state water plan. She said DNR would like to include Tri-State's project as a priority project in the state water plan.

Ms. Melgren reported having visited in Columbia with Clark Thomas, a USDA RD representative who oversees state infrastructure for water. She also visited with Mark Hultgren who supervises

the USDA RD office out of Springfield. Both men expressed interest in Tri-State and will speak at the May board of directors' meeting.

Ms. Melgren will speak at the Missouri Water & Wastewater Association (MWWA) conference at Lake of the Ozarks on March 30.

Ms. Melgren reminded the board of an invitation she distributed for Bob Williams' retirement reception on Thursday, April 2.

Ms. Melgren reviewed the meeting schedule for Tri-State Water's board and technical committee meetings, along with the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission board of director's meetings. Every other month, on the third Wednesday of the month, the Tri-State board of directors meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. The technical committee meetings will following at approximately 10:00 a.m. The Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission meetings will begin at 1:30 p.m. on the same day. Some Tri-State members attend all three meetings, while others do not.

Ms. Melgren asked about alternating the meeting locations. She reported that some of the eastern members have indicated it would be nice to not always be making the trip to Joplin. Mr. Bingle supported alternating the meeting locations. He suggested the possibility of meeting in Mt. Vernon or Monett. Ms. Melgren said the May meetings will take place in Joplin due to President Matt Barnhart's schedule, but she suggested holding the July meetings in Springfield, Mt. Vernon or Monett.

Mr. Rogers asked about access requirements for the various meetings. Ms. Melgren stated that Tri-State Water Resource Coalition is a 501c4 and though not obligated to hold public meetings has always chosen to make its board of directors meetings open to the public. She said the technical committee is a standing committee of Tri-State and has not held public meetings, and the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission is a governmental subdivision whose meetings are subject to Sunshine Law requirements.

Ms. Melgren served as speaker for a Good Community Committee meeting in Springfield.

She met with Branson's City Administrator, Bill Malinen, who expressed interest in water issues and in Tri-State Water Coalition. Mike Ray and Loretta Bishop represent Branson at Tri-State's meetings.

Ms. Melgren raised the question of whether Tri-State Water Resource Coalition or the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission would actually receive the possible water storage reallocations. She said that the Corps has guidelines for entities who receive water storage contracts and those guidelines will be explored further when a reallocation is closer.

Ms. Melgren met in Tulsa with Nikki Fuller, executive director for Southwestern Power Resources Association, which represents power interests who benefit from hydropower use of water storage in Table Rock and Stockton Lakes.

Ms. Melgren visited with Chuck Bryant, Bob Williams' replacement at Carthage Water & Electric. He has been transitioning into leadership for some time and has familiarity with JMUC's on the electricity side.

Ms. Melgren visited with the Dade County Commission, who were receptive of Tri-State's mission. She suggested holding a stakeholder meeting next fall at Lake Stockton.

She also visited with the Lawrence County Commission, who were very interested in Tri-State's mission.

Ms. Melgren attended a governor's press conference in Willard.

She visited with Lyndell Fraker, who chairs the Mo House of Representatives Utility Infrastructure Committee that Tri-State testified in front of.

Ms. Melgren recently visited in Columbia with Floyd Gilzow and Phil Walsack from Missouri Public Utility Alliance.

Ms. Melgren recently visited with Scott Miller, general manager of Springfield City Utilities.

She has also recently visited with the cities of Republic, Ozark, and Battlefield.

Hal VanDaGriff has retired from Empire District Electric Company. He was a founding member of Tri-State. Ms. Melgren attended his retirement reception.

Ms. Melgren reported that the Corps and MDNR are interested in gauging which water suppliers in southwest Missouri will be interested in participating in regional water projects. The technical committee has created a questionnaire which it will send to water supply systems.

A delegation from Tri-State Water will visit and tour the Clarence Cannon Wholesale Water Commission on Tuesday, March 24. Ms. Melgren has invited their executive director to speak at the next meeting of the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission.

Ms. Melgren reported that the Corps of Engineers are starting the process of revising their shoreline management plan for Table Rock Lake. She expects a lot of public comment relating to regulations regarding docks, shoreline mowing, and other issues.

Ms. Melgren has been invited to a luncheon with General Bostick, U.S. Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other senior Corps Little Rock leaders next Thursday.

Ms. Melgren reported that the planning committee for a 2015 water conference has begun to meet. Tentative date for the conference is November 5 and 6. She welcomed suggestions on agenda items.

Ms. Melgren distributed a couple of articles of interest related to national water supply.

New Business:

Comments by Representatives of Federal and State Offices/Agencies:

Matt Hough introduced himself as the new representative for Congressman Billy Long's office. He expressed interest in what is happening with water supply and noted current drought challenges in California. He stated the Corps of Engineers shoreline management plan update at Table Rock Lake will be a very contentious issue. He noted that activities in Congressman Long's office have been very limited due to his daughter's serious illness.

Clinton Finn appeared as the new liaison to MDNR's Southwest Regional Office. He has worked for MDNR for 19 years and recently assumed the position previously held by Greg Perkins and Fred Schlegel. Mr. Perkins has retired, with Mr. Schlegel assuming a role in MDNR's wastewater division.

Mike Weller appeared representing MDNR's Water Resources Center. He has begun working with Tri-State's technical committee.

Erin Lepper, also with MDNR's Water Resources Center, discussed efforts currently under way to define elements of a state water plan. MDNR is looking at three options, with varying levels of detail, ranging from 18-month completion to 36-month completion. They would prefer doing the more detailed version but may need to go in stages because of cost.

Adjournment:

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

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

Skip Schaller, Secretary