

Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2015
9 a.m., the MARC, 822 W. Mt. Vernon Blvd., Mt. Vernon, Missouri

MINUTES

Welcome:

President Matt Barnhart called the meeting to order. The following were present:

Brian Bingle – City of Nixa, Missouri
David Hertzberg – City of Joplin, Missouri
Skip Schaller – City of Monett, Missouri
Gail Melgren – Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
Matt Barnhart – Missouri American Water Company
Roddy Rogers - Springfield City Utilities, Springfield, Missouri
Steve Walensky – City of Cassville, Missouri
Jason Choate - Carthage Water & Electric, Carthage, Missouri
Gene Stanton – City of Mt. Vernon, Missouri
Lyn Calton – City of Lamar, Missouri
Chuck Bryant – Carthage Water & Electric, Carthage, Missouri
Mike McCarty – Jacobs
Scott Marrs – Governmental Services Group
Guillermo Espiga – Poseidon Water
Kelly Huffman – Poseidon Water
Roy Epps – Archer Western
Clinton Finn – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Don Lindeman – HDR Engineering
Travis Heier – HDR Engineering
David Stokely – Senator Claire McCaskill
Michael Weller – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Milton Dickensheet – City of Nixa, Missouri

Approval of Minutes from September 16, 2015:

Mr. Barnhart asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from September 16, 2015, and none were received. He asked for a motion to accept the minutes as written.

Roddy Rogers moved, seconded by Steve Walensky, that the minutes from September 16, 2015 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

Standing Committee Reports:

President:

Mr. Barnhart welcomed board members and visitors. He asked everyone in the room to introduce themselves, and each attendee, in turn, did so.

Mr. Barnhart noted that Ms. Melgren's annual review has been completed and that she received an excellent review which included a pay increase. Mr. Barnhart noted that he would like to create a more detailed evaluation criteria for future use.

Mr. Barnhart thanked Steve Walensky and Gene Stanton for agreeing to serve as the nominating committee and asked them to give their report.

Nominating Committee Report :

Steve Walensky and Gene Stanton announced the proposed slate of officers for Tri-State Water Coalition for 2016:

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

David Hertzberg moved, seconded by Chuck Bryant, that the slate of officers for 2016 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Executive:

Mr. Barnhart announced that the evaluation of the executive director had been completed and delivered, with a pay raise now in place.

Mr. Barnhart announced that an executive committee meeting will take place on January 4th.

Financial:

Mr. Bingle noted that a financial summary for July and August was included in agenda packets. He noted the total funds balance was \$447,285.96 at the end of August. This figure included \$47,181.30 in checking and \$400,104.66 in a Prime Advantage money market fund.

Mr. Bingle called attention to the budget for 2016 which was included in board packets. He asked board members to review it and noted the vote for the 2016 budget will be taken at the January meeting.

Mr. Barnhart asked for a motion to approve the financial reports.

Steve Walensky moved, seconded by David Hertzberg, that the financial reports for September and October of 2015 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting “aye”.

Technical:

Mr. Rogers noted the inclusion in board packets of a memorandum from CDM Smith with notes from the last technical committee meeting.

Communications:

Mr. Walensky reported that the stakeholder meeting at Stockton Lake has been postponed. A new date will be announced after the first of the year.

Mr. Walensky called attention to the water conference summary and final financials included in the board packet. He said it was a great conference and reported the overall rating by participants was 9 out of 10.

Mr. Walensky referenced an AP article included in board packets, *Arizona county aims to protect water as foreign firms arrive.*

Membership:

Mr. Stanton referenced a summary of membership for 2016 included in the board packet. He noted that total membership dues for 2016 are projected to be \$143,185.20.

Legislative/Regulatory:

Mr. Hertzberg reminded board members that the Coalition will send a delegation to Washington D.C. in March of 2016. He suggested members consider putting a request for funding into their 2016 budgets so they can attend.

Mr. Hertzberg reported that a Tri-State Water delegation recently visited with DNR staff in Jefferson City, including their full time legislative liaison. He noted that the visit included discussion about future financing vehicles which the State of Missouri could potentially use to help fund the Coalition’s cost for water storage reallocations. Two in particular were the Water Development Fund and the Water Resource Fund.

Mr. Hertzberg referenced a listing of southwest Missouri Senators and House of Representative members included in the board packet. He noted that Tri-State would again be visiting elected officials at the Missouri Capitol during the upcoming session.

Executive Director Report:

Ms. Melgren reported that funding for the fourth and final year of the Stockton Lake reallocation study may not be available as it has been for years one, two, and three, through Planning Assistance to States, from the Corps of Engineers and DNR. If not funded in the next budget cycle, the Coalition may need to contribute funds if no other options are available. Ms. Melgren said this could be a significant amount, but noted the Coalition does have those funds in reserve, if needed.

Ms. Melgren reported being very pleased with the recent water conference. She noted that approximately 130 people attended, 16 sponsors contributed, the Darr Ag facility was top notch, net profit was \$9559.70, of which Tri-State received half, or \$4779.85, and MSU received half. She reported that the evaluations were extremely positive.

Ms. Melgren reported that executive director health insurance through the Marketplace/Coventry was increasing.

Gene Stanton moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that the health insurance premium increase for 2016 be approved. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Ms. Melgren shared a letter of support from Ozark Water Watch, included in the board packet, and reported having recently made a presentation to that organization's board.

Ms. Melgren said she will apply 2015 member committee assignments to 2016 unless otherwise directed.

Ms. Melgren described a shared workspace office in Springfield called CAST (in the Farmer's Park development) and asked the board to consider approving office space for the executive director in this space. Of significant benefit in such an arrangement would be access to an administrative assistant on an hourly basis and also basic tech support. The board indicated its support. Ms. Melgren will include in the 2016 budget for approval in January.

Ms. Melgren shared an NPR article, *Saudi hay farm tests state's supply of groundwater*.

New Business:

Report from the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission:

Chuck Bryant reported that the SWMOJMWUC has elected officers and created a small revenue stream for 2016. New officers are: President, Roddy Rogers; Vice President, Nick Heatherly; Treasurer, Milton Dickensheet; Secretary, Chuck Bryant.

Reports from legislative or agency officials:

There were no legislative or agency reports.

Presentations:

Scott Marrs, from Governmental Services Group, talked with the board about future legislative efforts, with special consideration given to possible funding from the State of Missouri for anticipated water storage costs.

A team from Poseidon Water, Jacobs Engineering, and Archer Western, made a lengthy presentation about a total-package design/build approach, including funding, which they offer for water supply projects.

Adjournment:

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



Skip Schaller, Secretary