TRI-STATE WATER
Resource Coalition

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, August 15, 2018
9 a.m., Monett City Park Casino, 101 S. Lincoln Ave, Monett, MO 65708

MINUTES

Welcome:
President Skip Schaller called the meeting to order. The following were present:

Casandra Ludwig – Carthage Water & Electric
Chuck Bryant – Carthage Water & Electric
David Stokely – Senator Claire McCaskill's office
Devin Smith – Kansas City District Corps of Engineers
Gail Melgren – Tri-State Water Coalition
Jane Hood – Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Jason Choate – Carthage Water & Electric
Jeff Brizendine – CDM Smith
Joe Kelley – City of Mt. Vernon
Joe Richards – United States Geological Survey
John Forrester – Allgeier Martin
Loretta Bishop – City of Branson
Matt Barnhart – Missouri American Water Co.
Michael Weller – MO Department of Natural Resources
Mike Ray – City of Branson
Milton Dickensheet – City of Nixa
Phil Walsack – Burns & McDonnell
Roddy Rogers – City Utilities of Springfield
Sarah Stewart – CDM Smith
Scott Marrs – Governmental Services Group
Skip Schaller – City of Monett

Approval of Minutes from May 16, 2018:
Mr. Schaller asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from May 16, 2018, and none were received.

Matt Barnhart moved, seconded by Mike Ray, that the minutes from May 16, 2018, be approved. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Standing Committee Reports:

President:
Mr. Schaller welcomed participants to the meeting and asked for self-introductions.

Mr. Schaller said that the Coalition's accounting firm, BKD, recommended the adoption of policies for Whistle Blower, Conflict of Interest, and Record Retention. He noted that Ms. Melgren sent draft copies of all three by email in preparation for the meeting. He asked for comments or questions regarding the policies and none were heard.

Matt Barnhart moved, seconded by Milton Dickensheet, that the three policies be approved as drafted. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Executive:
Mr. Schaller announced that the Executive Committee had not met since the last board meeting.

Financial:
Treasurer Mike Ray reported that monthly financial reports were included in board packets. The balance in checking on July 31, 2018, was $30,342.39. The balance in the prime advantage account was $404,664.63. The total assets for the Coalition as of July 31, 2018, were $435,007.02.

Milton Dickensheet moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that the financial report be approved. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Communications:
Jason Choate reported that an updated legislative flyer was included in board packets. He said a goal for next year was the development of a regional communications plan. He noted the web site has been updated. He reported that a progress report about the Coalition was sent by email prior to the board meeting. He said water conference planning for 2018 is under way.

Membership:
Ms. Melgren noted that she and Mr. Schaller went to Lamar to visit with the new city administrator, Russ Worsley, and the city's mayor, Kent Harris. They discussed the Coalition and its goals. Mr. Worsley and Mayor Harris aked questions and indicated an interest in continuing their affiliation with the Coalition.

Legislative/Regulatory:
Ms. Melgren reported that the $180K requested of the state legislature last year did go through. The Coalition will use the funds to pay $150K for the Coalition's contributed funds for the fifth and hopefully last year for the Stockton Lake reallocation study, plus $30K to pay part of the cost of a rate study being planned with Corps of Engineers KC and Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

Ms. Melgren noted that a revised legislative flyer, which includes this year's request for funds from the legislature, was included in board packets. She asked for any suggested changes and heard none.

Scott Marrs reviewed the previous session and talked about the legislative session coming up. Several Coalition members noted his success at shepherding the Coalition's request for funds during the last session. Mr. Marrs noted several key legislative positions which are either already filled, or will hopefully soon be filled, by legislators from Southwest Missouri, including Governor Parsons, Scott Fitzpatrick, Curtis Trent, Cody Smith, Mike Cunningham and David Sater. He suggested the Coalition work assertively with these representatives.

Technical:
Mr. Rogers reported that the scope of work for the upcoming rate study and economic impact analysis has been signed by the KC District of the Corps and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. He noted an interest in adding a staging and timing element to the study.

Executive Director Report:
Ms. Melgren noted that the annual 990 had been filed.

Ms. Melgren reported that the 2018 water conference planning is in full swing.

Ms. Melgren reported that she and Mr. Rogers continue their involvement with the State Water Plan.

Ms. Melgren described a trip that she, Skip Schaller, and Roddy Rogers, took to Picher, Oklahoma, at the request of Tim Kent of the Quapaw Tribe. Picher is an old mining area with a labyrinth of underground tunnels left over from mining days. Those tunnels have now filled with water which is contaminated by the metals that were mined. The group toured the area around Picher and discussed its history. The Quapaw have discussed treating underground water to drinking water standards and the possibility of selling that water. They hope to secure EPA Superfund Site funds to help with the cost of developing treatment. Ms. Melgren reported that the concept sounds productive but the reality will still be years in the making, so it is not a practical source of additional supply for the Coalition to consider.

Ms. Melgren reported that a big milestone has been completed in the Stockton Lake reallocation request process – the list of alternatives for water supply has been narrowed from ten to three. Ms. Melgren said 37 people were on the conference call, including Roddy and Skip, and also including a representative for SWPA who had asked several questions. Ms. Melgren reminded the board that SWPA opposes the Coalition's water reallocation request. Ms. Melgren shared a timeline given to participants during that call:

March, 2019 – Tentatively selected plan
May, 2019 – Draft report/EA
October, 2019 – Agency decision milestone
January, 2020 – Director's report

Ms. Melgren reported having met recently with Lacey Hirschvogel and Connie Ford from Missouri Public Utility Alliance. Ms. Melgren said that MPUA compiles a very comprehensive annual rate study for systems in Missouri. With MPUA's permission, Ms. Melgren created a document which disaggregated water providers from Southwest Missouri, a copy of which was included in board packets. Ms. Melgren noted that rates vary quite a bit by community and that rate moves up and down vary quite a bit also. She noted this document can serve as a starting point for a discussion about rates for the rate study.

Ms. Melgren reported having gotten quotes from two companies to review and re-do web site. Quotes were high so Ms. Melgren redid them herself in Wordpress. She asked the board to review and send any comments. Unless feedback from the board directs her to engage a firm, she will leave as is.

Ms. Melgren noted the Tri-State Coalition Progress Report which she recently sent to board members. She said it can serve as a summary progress report about the Coalition - to make the story of the coalition more accessible than the foot high stack of technical Reports now complete. She will post on the web site.

Ms. Melgren reiterated that a communication plan for the region will be taking shape in the coming year. Its purpose is to educate the region about water supply, underscore its crucial importance to quality of life and economic development, and prepare community residents and leaders to make an informed decision about the possible purchase of water storage from Stockton Lake.

New Business:
There was no new business.

Report from the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission:
Mr. Rogers said the Joint Utility Commission (SW MO Water Commission) has not met since the last Tri-State Water Coalition meeting, and the next meeting date is set for November, 21, 2018.

Reports from legislative or agency officials:
Michael Weller, from MO DNR, reported that the State of Missouri/Department of Natural Resources state water plan process is ongoing, He said they are starting to see results so is an exciting time. He said the department is very busy currently because of drought across the state. He noted the signing of the PAS Scope of Work for the Rate Study and Economic Impact Analysis Study for the Coalition, and said he does not yet know how all the fund transfers will work.

Devin Smith, from KC District Corps, reported on the ongoing Stockton Lake reallocation study. He confirmed the Alternative Milestone conference call and timeline Ms. Melgren gave earlier in the meeting. He said KC District is waiting for all the funds to be in-house for the rate study and economic impact analysis before sending a contract to CDM.

Presentations:
Sarah Stewart, with CDM Smith, discussed the scope of work for the upcoming studies. It calls for a workshop approach. Diane Kemp will be our facilitator. Sarah said Diane is very experienced and capable. The process will ask communities about whether or not they think they will purchase water, and perhaps when they might be in a position to buy water. Sarah confirmed can help with timing/staging and funding options. She mentioned having recently completed a WIFIA application for a client.

Adjournment:
Matt Barnhart moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that the meeting adjourn. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

The next Tri-State Water Coalition board meeting will be November 21, 2018.

Joe Kelley, Secretary