Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, November 21, 2019
10:00 am, the MARC, 822 W Mt Vernon Blvd, Mt Vernon, MO

MINUTES

Welcome:
President Jason Choate called the meeting to order. The following were present:

Andrea Collier – Barr Engineering
Clinton Finn – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Devin Smith – KC District Corps of Engineers
Doug Colvin – City of Nixa
Emma Schneider – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Gail Melgren – Tri-State Water Coalition and SWMO Joint Municipal Water Commission
Jason Choate – Carthage Water & Electric
Jen Henggeler – Kansas City District Corps of Engineers
Jeremy Parsons – City of Ozark
Joe Kelley – City of Mt. Vernon
Joe Richards – United States Geological Survey
Lacy Hirschvogel – Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities
Laura Kelley – CDM Smith
Loretta Bishop – City of Branson
Mary Norell – City of Stockton
Mathew Kirsch – Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Matt Barnhart – Missouri American Water
Mike Pessina – City Utilities of Springfield
Mike Ray – City of Branson
Phil Walsack – Burns & McDonnell
Roddy Rogers – City Utilities of Springfield
Skip Schaller – City of Monett
Tim Feather – CDM Smith

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:
Mr. Choate asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from August 21, 2019, and none were received.

ACTION: Mary Norell moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that the minutes from August 21, 2019, be approved. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Standing Committee Reports:

President:
Mr. Choate welcomed attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Executive:
Mr. Choate reported the executive committee's recommendations for officers/executive committee for 2020. Ms. Melgren noted that though officer terms are for one year, each officer may serve for two years, which has been the tradition of the board.

President – Chuck Bryant, Carthage
Past President – Skip Schaller, Monett
Vice President – Matt Barnhart, Missouri American, Joplin
Treasurer – Mike Ray, Branson
Secretary – Doug Colvin, Nixa
At large – Roddy Rogers (technical committee chair)
At large – David Hertzberg (legislative committee chair)

ACTION: Doug Colvin moved, seconded by Mary Norell, that the slate of officers for 2020 be approved. The motion carried with all voting "aye".

Financial:
Doug Colvin reported that monthly financials were included in board packets. As of October 31, 2019, the balance in checking was $11,509.10, and the balance in the Prime Advantage account was $399,836.01. Total assets of the Coalition were $411,345.11.

ACTION: Skip Schaller moved, seconded by Doug Colvin, that the financials through October 31, 2019, be approved. The motion carried with all voting "aye".

Communications:
Mr. Choate reported that Southwest Missouri Council of Governments continues to work on the communications update. He also reported that a focus group was held in Joplin on September 4th. City leaders and elected officials attended, helping to refine key messages for SWMO Water.

Membership:
Ms. Melgren reported there are 18 members of Tri-State Water Coalition. Of those 18 members, 7 are also members of the SWMO Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission. There are several municipalities who are members of Tri-State but not members of SWMO Municipal Water Commission: Pierce City, Stockton, Willard, Republic and Ozark. Ms. Melgren said these municipalities have been invited to join the Commission and the necessary materials have been sent to them to do so.

Ms. Melgren reminded the board that an ad hoc committee to discuss membership dues for 2020 had been recruited at the last board meeting. That committee was composed of Chuck Bryant, Skip Schaller, David Hertzberg, Matt Barnhart and Roddy Roger. Their goal was to consider the transition toward funding the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission in addition to Tri-State Water Coalition. Ms. Melgren described the committee recommendation as being to decrease by 20% the dues paid by members of Tri-State Water Coalition who are also members of the SWMO Joint municipal Water Utility Commission. The 20% not paid to Tri-State Water Coalition in 2020 would then be assessed as dues for SWMO Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission members for 2020.

ACTION: Skip Schaller moved, seconded by Jason Choate, to reduce by 20% the Tri-State Coalition membership dues for 2020 for those members who are also members of the SWMO Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission. This will be done with the understanding that the 20% amount will then be charged in dues for SWMO Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission members. The motion carried with all voting "aye".

Legislative/Regulatory:
Ms. Melgren reminded the board that State funding is being sought through DNR's Multi-Purpose Water Fund. This fund received about $10M in state appropriation from the legislature during the 2019 legislative session and will continue to seek state appropriations annually. Ms. Melgren has submitted an application to DNR for SWMO Water to become an approved organization, allowing receipt of funds from the fund. Ms. Melgren has also submitted a separate request for $985,000 for 2020. In anticipation of possible receipt of those funds, Ms. Melgren asked the board to approve the development of a scope of work to address the work components of the request.

ACTION: Skip Schaller moved, seconded by Mary Norell, that approval be given to Ms. Melgren to develop a scope of work for components of the funding request to DNR. The motion carried with all voting "aye".

Technical:
Roddy Rogers reported that the fifth Rate Study workshop took place December 4th. He noted that water demand gaps and estimated rates per 1000 gallons (for the current two corridor alternatives) were included in board packets.

Executive Director Report:
Ms. Melgren reported that a successful fall water conference took place October 10th. She said attendance was approximately 150 people. Through written evaluations the attendees rated the conference as 8.3 out of 10. A financial summary of the event was included in board packets.

Ms. Melgren reported that the recent request for proposals for legal services netted proposals from ten law firms. The selection committee (Skip Schaller, David Hertzberg, Roddy Rogers and Ms. Melgren) narrowed that field to six firms with whom they conducted phone interviews. From the pool of six phone interviews, the committee narrowed the field to two firms with which they

held face to face interviews. The committee selected Lathrop Gage/David Shorr and team. She noted that the next steps for legal work include development of take and pay contracts with members for reallocated water storage in Stockton Lake, and also development of a contract for purchase of water storage from USACE.

ACTION: Skip Schaller moved, seconded by Mike Ray, that Lathrop Gage be hired. The motion carried with all voting "aye".

Ms. Melgren reported that she continues to touch base with Grand River Dam Authority and the State of Oklahoma about possible future water storage from Grand Lake. She said GRDA is going through a FERC permitting process and won't be in a position to talk further until the FERC process is complete. She noted a letter to GRDA which was included in board packets.

Ms. Melgren announced dates for the annual spring Interstate Council on Water Policy conference: March 31 – April 2. She noted that the annual trip to DC would be in conjunction with the ICWP conference and asked any members who wish to attend to make note on their calendars.

Ms. Melgren said she will be participating in a meeting of the Planning and Policy Division, HQ, USACE at their request on December 11th. The goal is to find improvements to USACE processes and policies in advance of WRDA 2020.

Ms. Melgren asked Mr. Barnhart to give an update on Missouri American's potential reservoir in Joplin. Mr. Barnhart reported that Mo Am is in the permitting stage.

New Business:

Report from the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission:
Mr. Rogers reported that the SWMO Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission met prior to the current Tri-State Water Coalition meeting. At that meeting they elected officers for 2020, approved hiring Lathrop Gage/David Shorr, and approved membership dues for 2020.

Reports from legislative or agency officials:
Kansas City District Corps of Engineers – Jennifer Henggeler gave a Stockton Lake Reallocation Study update. She reported that the reallocation report has slipped back a bit but estimated time to completion of draft is still 2020. After completion of the draft report it will go through several reviews within USACE. The current goal for a completed report is December, 2021. She said the evaluation of alternatives is still underway and the KC District Corps of Engineers is seeking SWMO Water's preference between two alternatives. The first alternative (5) assigns all of the requested water storage from the multi-purpose pool. The second alternative (7a) assigns part of the storage from the multi-purpose pool and part of the storage from a 1'8" pool raise. Ms. Henggeler briefly described pros and cons for each alternative. She noted that further discussions would take place at the technical committee meeting scheduled for after the board meeting.

CDM Smith – Laura Kelley reported that topics of discussion at the recent Rate Study workshop included demand gaps, updated corridor alternatives, and cost allocation options.

Presentations:

David Shorr – Partner in Charge, Lathrop Gage, Jefferson City/Columbia offices. Mr. Shorr introduced himself, his team, and his firm to the board by phone. A "placemat" of information was included in board packets. Mr. Shorr noted that engagement letters are being drafted for both Tri-State Water Coalition and for SWMO Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission.

Joe Richards – Hydrologist, U.S. Geological Survey. Joe gave an update on the Ozark Plateaus Regional Aquifer Study. He described a possible additional study focused on southwest Missouri to further refine the information for Southwest Missouri. USGS would match $35K and SWMO Water's likely cost would be approximately $74K.

Adjournment:

Skip Schaller moved, seconded by Mary Norell, that the meeting be adjourn. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

The next Tri-State Water Coalition board meeting will be February 19, 2020.

Jason Choate, President Alternate (secretary absent)