Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2020
Virtual Meeting: Host CU

MINUTES

**Welcome:**
President Chuck Bryant called the meeting to order. The following were present:

Brad Gray – City of Willard
Chuck Bryant – Carthage Water and Electric
David Hertzberg – City of Joplin
Doug Colvin – City of Nixa
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
Lacy Hirschvogel – Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities
Laura Kelley – CDM Smith
Stephanie Crawford – City of Branson
Matt Barnhart – Missouri American Water
Mike Ray – City of Branson
Roddy Rogers – City Utilities of Springfield
Skip Schaller – City of Monett

**Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:**
Mr. Bryant asked for any corrections or additions to the minutes from November 20, 2019, and none were received.

ACTION: **Skip Schaller moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that the minutes from November 20, 2019, be approved. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".**

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**President:**

Mr. Bryant welcomed attendees and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Executive:
Mr. Bryant reported that executive committee had not met since previous meeting.

Financial:
Doug Colvin reported that monthly financials were included in board packets. As of May 6, 2020, the balance in checking was $24,568.54, and the balance in the Prime Advantage account was $440,216.70. Total assets of the Coalition were $464,785.24.

**ACTION: Skip Schaller moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that the financials through May 6, 2020, be approved. The motion carried with all voting "aye".**

Communications:
Mr. Choate reported that the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments has completed the revised communications plan. The revised logos, graphics and key messages will now be used to revise all communication tools. He reminded the board that the "umbrella" logo for SWMO Water will sometimes be used to represent both the Tri-State Water Coalition and the SWMO Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission.

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 will need to join the SWMO JMUC in order to purchase water reallocation from Stockton. They have been sent the necessary materials.

Legislative/Regulatory:
Ms. Melgren reported that Multipurpose Fund considerations are still in progress at Missouri DNR. Their attorneys have slowed things down for all MO regional water projects under consideration. They are structuring the program internally and considering Rules guidance. COVID creating all sorts of additional pressures within DNR so slow progress on the Multipurpose Fund.

Ms. Melgren reported that WRDA 2020 is currently creating a lot of discussion at federal level.

Technical:
Mr. Rogers reminded the board that an alternative has been selected for the Stockton Lake reallocation study which is a hybrid of both the multipurpose fund (45,750 acre feet) and the flood pool (49,000 acre feet). This alternative has the least negative impacts to the lake and downstream. Mr. Rogers noted that issues related to cultural/tribes and hydropower are still in discussion. He said the draft reallocation report will be posted for public comment around the end of June.

Mr. Rogers reported that the Rate Study, including individual community reports, is in the final stages of completion.

Mr. Rogers said that scopes of work for next-step technical studies have been pushed back due to COVID and delays in Multipurpose Fund funding.

**Executive Director Report:**

Ms. Melgren noted that the Stockton Lake reallocation request is scheduled for USACE reviews in the rest of 2020. It is then scheduled to go to the Assistant Secretary of the Army approximately February, 2021. She said it could be at the ASA for 2 months, or for two years. Different requests have spent different amounts of time in the ASA's office. She said the creation of the contract/agreement with USACE will take approximately 1 ½ years.

Ms. Melgren noted the communications plan had been sent and asked for feedback.

Ms. Melgren reported the annual fall water conference is scheduled for October 8th. Presentations lined up are DNR/State Water Plan, State of MO climatologist Pat Guinan, the Drought Mitigation Center, CDM Smith/SWMO Water Rate Study.

Ms. Melgren noted the ICWP spring conference had been cancelled. With COVID and offices closed the annual trip to Washington D.C. was cancelled.

Ms. Melgren suggested joining the National Water Supply Alliance (NWSA) – a national group whose sole purpose is to advance the interests of water suppliers. Created in 2017, membership includes state, regional and local governments, as well as wholesale water providers and utilities who rely on water supply stored in Corps of Engineers facilities.

Ms. Melgren reported having talked with Tim Luft, VP Legal for Missouri American Water about the Stockton reallocation.

Ms. Melgren reported that USACE has raised the possibility of a lower cost to evaluate a change in the dam safety (DSAC) rating for Stockton Lake. That series of studies has been anticipated to cost ~$500,000 but could be lower. USACE has asked about the possibility of SWMO Water contributing funds to complete the DSAC study.

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

**Reports from legislative or agency officials:**
*Kansas City District Corps of Engineers* – Jennifer Henggeler gave a Stockton Lake Reallocation Study update. She said the reallocation report 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. The selected alternative assigns part of the storage from the multipurpose pool (45,750 acre feet) and part of the storage from a 1'8" pool raise (49,000 acre feet) for a total of 39 MGD. She noted that the selected alternative will be used to create the draft Stockton Lake reallocation report which will be available for public comment in a couple of months.

**Presentations:**
*CDM Smith* – Laura Kelley reported that the Rate Study is nearing completion. It will include demand gaps, updated corridor alternatives, and cost allocation options.

*MO DNR Financial Assistance Center* – Hannah Humphries reported on various potential funding mechanisms for water storage reallocation and for transmission infrastructure. Her findings will be included as a chapter in the Rate Study.

**Adjournment:**
**Skip Schaller moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that the meeting be adjourn. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".**

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

Chuck Bryant, President