SOUTHWEST MISSOURI JOINT MUNICIPALWATER UTILITY COMMISSION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015 – 1:30 P.M.
JOPLIN CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Call to Order:
Interim Chairman Bob Williams called the meeting to order. The following were present:

Nick Heatherly – City of Joplin, Missouri
Roddy Rogers – Springfield City Utilities, Springfield, Missouri
Bob Williams – Carthage Water & Electric, Carthage, Missouri
Milton Dickensheet – City of Nixa, Missouri
Lynn Calton – City of Lamar, Missouri
Skip Schaller – City of Monett, Missouri
Carl Francis – City of Webb City, Missouri
Gail Melgren – Executive Director, S.W. MO Joint Municipal Water Utility Commission
Susan Champlin - City of Joplin, Missouri

The following were absent:
Gene Stanton – City of Mt. Vernon, Missouri

Review of Previous Meeting Notes
Mr. Williams asked for feedback about the notes from the previous meeting, and none was received.

Interim Chairperson's Report (Bob Williams):
Mr. Williams has announced his retirement date for April 3, 2015. His successor is Chuck Bryant, who will also replace him on the Tri-State Water Coalition board. Mr. Bryant has headed Carthage Water & Electric's electric department for several years. He is a member of the Missouri Electric & Utility Commission and is well versed on those issues.

Ms. Melgren thanked Mr. Williams for shepherding the long process of development forward for the SWMJMWUC, from writing the Joint Contract, to writing of the bylaws, to leading the first official meeting today.

Structure for Future Planning:
Ms. Melgren stated that this is the JMUC's inaugural meeting since the Joint Contract and the Bylaws were both approved. She suggested that the next few months be devoted to the development of a few key capacities: legal, financial, technical, and administrative.

Officers and Committees:
Mr. Williams and Mr. Rogers agreed to serve as interim Chair and Vice-Chair until elections can occur.

Nominating Committee:
Roddy Rogers and Nick Heatherly agreed to serve as a nominating committee. They will present a slate at the next meeting.

Technical Considerations:
Mr. Williams stated that the technical committee for the SWMJMWUC's sister organization, Tri-State Water Resource Coalition, continues to work diligently to secure an additional future water supply source for southwest Missouri. Once that supply has been obtained, the SWMJMWUC will build one or more projects to deliver the water to southwest Missouri communities.

Provided the request(s) for reallocation of water storage from Stockton, Pomme de Terre, and/or Table Rock Lakes are approved by the Corps of Engineers, Mr. Williams did not know if the Corps would allocate to private suppliers or only to municipalities. He suggested that if the reallocations were made to only public entities then Joplin could execute a contract to utilize that resource then contract with Missouri American Water. He suggested there might be similar arrangements between Aurora and Empire District Electric. Mr. Williams did not want to enter into a contract with Missouri American Water without Joplin's approval, or enter into a contract with Empire District Electric without Aurora's approval.

Ms. Melgren will contact the Corps and ask for additional clarifying information regarding responsibility for reallocated storage.

Ms. Melgren noted that considerable discussion took place while the SWMJMWUC was being formed about including private companies on the SWMJMWUC board of directors. It was eventually decided that a public utility commission required board members that were public. Mr. Williams did not believe it was legal under Missouri law for private companies to be board members in the JMUC, though they will be important participants for projects.

Financial Considerations:
Staffing:
Mr. Williams stated that the money collected to date for development of additional long-term regional water supply capacity belongs to the sister organization of the SWMJMWUC, Tri-State Water Resource Coalition. Those funds have been invested to develop additional water source(s)/supply. He noted that members of the SWMJMWUC are also Tri-State Water Coalition members and have contributed significantly to the dollars invested in Tri-State Coalition.

Mr. Williams thought funding and staffing of the SWMJMWUC should be discussed together. He suggested the JMUC should form an executive committee to discuss funding issues, and to visit with Missouri American Water and Empire District Electric to discuss their participation.

The board discussed how best to develop a dues structure. Mr. Williams did not believe the JMUC should create double costs for its members by charging dues in addition to Tri-State's dues. He stated that Missouri American Water wants to partner with the JMUC as much as possible, but they don't anticipate payment for development of the JMUC's resources.

Mr. Williams stated the JMUC has a legal obligation to keep all of the expenses of the SWMJMWUC separate from those of Tri-State Water Coalition. Funds have been saved on the Tri-State Coalition side to pay for contributions to the technical studies required for the successful reallocation of water storage from Corps Lakes. Ms. Melgren noted that Tri-State Coalition funds may not be spent by the SWMJMWUC.

Ms. Melgren stated that the JMUC has very little need for money at this point, other than a small amount for staff time and a few office supplies, but as a source of supply gets closer, expenses and a need for staff will increase to develop projects. The JMUC and Tri-State Water Resource Coalition will share staff time for now. As the executive director for both organizations, Ms. Melgren will track her time and expenses for each organization.

Mr. Rogers suggested one possibility for dues would be having the Tri-State membership dues be reduced by a percentage that would then be used for an independent payment of dues to the JMUC. Mr. Heatherly suggested the dues could be pro-rated with specified percentages going to Tri-State and to the JMUC, and the amount going to the JMUC increasing, and the amount going to Tri-State decreasing, over time.

Mr. Williams explained that once projects are underway the major invoices will be based on a JMUC member's participation in project(s). Smaller invoices will be for staffing and operations.

Ms. Melgren noted that Tri-State Coalition's dues run on a calendar-year schedule, being due at the beginning of each year, so that process won't take place again for another year.

Mr. Williams suggested that all expenses could be divided between both organizations, although sometimes it might be hard to distinguish when something benefits Tri-State more than it benefits the JMUC. Perhaps education and advocacy expenditures would belong to Tri-State, while the studies and everything leading toward a project is probably a JMUC function. Mr. Williams stated that it is time to begin splitting those membership dues so the JMUC operation receives funding. Mr. Williams recommended a 50-50 split between Tri-State and the JMUC for Ms. Melgren's salary, office equipment, and other miscellaneous expenses.

Old Business:
There was no old business to discuss at this time.

New Business:
Ms. Melgren stated that the technical committee for the Tri-State Water Resource Coalition is moving forward. She invited the JMUC members to attend the technical committee meetings.

The next meeting will be in March. Ms. Melgren will send out a notice.

Adjournment:
Mr. Williams asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Nick Heatherly moved, seconded by Roddy Rogers, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried, with all voting "aye".

Roddy Rogers, Interim Vice Chairman