Tri-State Water Resource Coalition

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes

July 08, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Tri-State Water Resource Coalition was called to order at The Casino, 101 South Lincoln, Monett Missouri on July 8, 2025, at about 9:08 a.m. by Travis Cossey, President. The Tri State meeting was concurrent with the Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility (JMUC) meeting.

SELF INTRODUCTIONS

Board Members Present:

Krista Shurtz, City Utilities of Springfield via Zoom
Skip Schaller, City of Monett
Travis Cossey, City of Nixa
Jeremy Parsons, City of Ozark
Jason Choate, Carthage Water and Electric
Karen Haynes, City of Republic via Zoom
Kendall Powell, City of Branson via Zoom
Matt Barnhart, MO Am
Kim Kinder, Dade County
Roddy Rogers, Executive Director

In Attendance:

Connie Ford, MPUA
Derek Linam Mo Am
John Fortuna, Jones and Fortuna via Zoom
Lewis Jones, Jones and Fortuna
Penny Speake, Healy Law Offices, via Zoom
Jason Stutesman, City of Nixa
Mark Griffin, CDM Smith
Phil Walsack, Burns and McDonnell
Jack Schaller, Olssen
Terry Leeds, Garver, via Zoom
Chad Johnson, CDM Smith
Jen Henggeler, COE via Zoom
Michael Weller, DNR, via Zoom

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion by Matt, seconded by Jeremy to approve Tri State minutes from April 1, 2025. Approved by Board vote.

TRI STATE MEMBERS

Branson, Carthage, CU, Joplin, Monett, Mt Vernon, Nixa, Ozark, Republic, City of Springfield, Liberty Utilities, Greene County, Jasper County, Missouri American Water, Dade County, Willard, and Pierce City.

Officers are as follows:

Pres-	Travis Cossey
Past Pres-	Skip Schaller
VP-	Jason Choate
Treasurer-	Skip Schaller
Secretary-	Krista Shurtz

REPORTS

Executive Committee-

All member entities who desire to take water storage have authority, have established authority, or are going through the approval process to establish authority to sign the pass-through contract once the COE contract is final. Roddy gave additional details in his report.

Tri State Financial Report-Skip Schaller

As of 07/2/25 Central acct balance is:	$146,682.88	Money Market
	$ 3,578.66	Checking

Technical

PAS funding agreement – CDM Smith is conducting the PAS funded Corridor Studies, Hydraulic Model, and Timing/Permitting Studies. Chad Johnson gave an update. They now have established a robust hydraulic model to analyze different scenarios. Right now, they have 4 pump stations included. Kim said Dade County take point could be Lockwood and or Greenfield. Chad presented an overall 20-year timeline which included 7 phases to constructing the project. Optimistically, it could be 10-15 years or as long as 30-40 years. There are lots of moving parts including ROW acquisition. Final report for this phase of corridor studies is in draft. Roddy highlighted the need for JMUC to coordinate new JMUC intake construction with CU expansion on the intake site, but noted the COE seemed flexible on whether approached separately or together. Met with COE on regulatory requirements and it is on their radar. District which takes lead is TBD. Stockton project office for now.

COE Report -Jennifer Henggeler

Jen originally thought she needed to wait for the new ASA to be appointed before moving our contract forward but Meredith LaDart at HQ said they can go ahead and get started. Jen will need to update the contract with FY 2010 prices, determine who from the COE needs to review it, and then send to Roddy after reviewing. She has already established budget funds in 2027 for mitigating the pool raise on Aldrich wetland, buoys, and cultural sites. The total cost of these mitigations is about $2.25 million. Wetland design is complete, and a shoreline survey needs to be completed to see if any cultural sites need mitigation. Previously, 4 of 30 potential sites had been identified.

DNR-Michael-Weller

DNR is working on a proposal for funding on the reallocation. Once completed we plan to meet with the new Director. Michael indicated that they are looking at paying the storage cost outright from the Multipurpose Fund followed by remittances to the fund by SWMO Water. They are still working on an amortization schedule with the Financial Assistance Center. While some of it will be a loan, the entire amount won't necessarily need to be paid back. There may even be possible funding for future phases of the project. All options include a lump sum up front with stair stepped payments over time not unlike what Roddy had proposed. Michael also introduced Sandra Buescher whose job is to oversee and administer the Multipurpose Fund, which is a very good thing for the fund. Roddy said that Sandra had been good to work with and on top of the recent transition between our two Multipurpose Fund requests.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Roddy said that Carthage, Springfield CU, Monett, Ozark, Republic, Willard, Dade County, Mo Am and Nixa (9) have either established pass-through contractual authority with their governing bodies, are in the process of doing that, or have contractual authority without taking to their governing bodies. We have 17 members in Tri State and JMUC combined. Joplin, Branson, Liberty, Mt Vernon, and Pierce City -opted out (5). Greene County, Jasper County, City of Springfield (3) are not water providers.

Anticipate being poised to sign 9 pass-through contracts to take all of the approved reallocation of 90,790 ac ft (estimated yield of 38 mgd).

Roddy expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak at Monett, Ozark, Republic, Willard, and Carthage board meetings in May and June.

We anticipate getting a final contract from COE to sign by JMUC. Then we will get all entities to sign pass-through. Then JMUC/Roddy will sign and send the COE contract and all signed entity contracts back to COE for approval.

Skip ask about how voting would be approached on Stockton project issues wr to those who opted out still having a vote. There was discussion on similar situations within power pool projects. Penny said there could be a project agreement that could cover this. Kendall expressed concern and desire that the organization would continue to pursue the original overall mission to meet gap needs for everyone and that our mission would not be reduced to just a Stockton project. Branson (and others) has been a faithful, supportive, and engaged member and taking water from Stockton with Table Rock in their backyard is understandably a hard sell especially considering they have a near term supply. There was consensus that we would stay on course to pursue the additional needed supply from Table Rock and Pomme for all members and the whole region. It was discussed there will undoubtedly be additional needs from those who realize later that they need additional water supply or from new members.

Consistent with that, Roddy reported he is working on update letters (draft was provided to the board) for Pomme De Terre and Table Rock requests to fill our remaining gap need for SWMO Water. The Stockton reallocation will only meet about 70% of the gap need—based on demand studies that are now approaching 10 years old. Lewis asked Jen if she could find/supply any info on the status of the Table Rock chain of lakes study and she said she would see what she could find out. She also said she has funds ready for an update of demand studies as it related to our Pomme De Terre request. All agreed this is needed and a good next step in addressing the remainder of the gap need.

Annual Water Conference- date set for September 23. — “Reliable Water in an Unreliable World”. Planning a slightly abbreviated conference to end midafternoon. All were ok with the draft agenda provided.

DNR FUNDING- We zeroed out the balance of the first award which totaled $1,045,000 and made the first five requests from the second award ($750,000). The work we have accomplished with the contracts, analyzing demands and needs, studying the technical aspects of the reallocation, developing JMUC contracts, materials for individual entity boards, hydraulic studies, permitting studies, and corridor studies—would not have been possible without these funds from DNR and Michael’s consistent, steadfast support and work on our behalf. We would not be where we are today without him, and he deserves a lot of credit for making SWMO’s future possible.

Roddy conducted the quarterly meeting with Springfield Greene County Future of Water committee who helps plan the conference. This is made up of leadership within the water community.

Roddy will present to H2Ozarks next week.

Jones and Fortuna activities

Prepared final draft pass-through contracts. Worked to address entity attorney concerns and comments, Prepared facts sheets.

NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Next Meetings-- October 14 and January 13

Roddy pointed out that recent AWWA Journals had several articles highlighting regionalization in California, Iowa, and other places, nationwide and that this strategical approach to the water future is part of AWWA's initiative 2050. Eighty two percent of the 50,000 US community water systems are small or very small and serve 9% of the population. Eight percent are large or very large and serve 82% of the population. Small systems on their own will struggle to meet the challenges of source water, infrastructure, cybersecurity, PFAS, and workforce. Regional collaboration will reduce the inefficiency of everyone doing everything. We are on the leading edge of what is coming with the water industry. This will likely lead to a national water infrastructure system for which SWMO Water could be a hub.

Roddy will follow up on a request from Skip to send the proposal from MPUA for providing administrative services to the board for review.

Connie reported that MPUA/ Lacey Hirschvogel is taking opportunities to lobby for sustaining the Multipurpose Fund.

In anticipation of a request for him to be an NWSA board member, Roddy said he thought we had approved full NWSA membership in a previous meeting but could not remember for sure. Matt made a motion seconded by Skip to move from Affiliate membership ($2500) to full ($5000). It passed. (Review of the minutes afterward showed that the board had approved this via its inclusion in the budget at the October 2024 meeting.)

Motion to move into/out of Closed Executive Session by Skip, 2nd by Matt and passed.

Executive Session

A break was taken at about 10:18 AM to allow non-Board members to depart from the meeting. The closed meeting resumed at about 10:46 AM.

Contractual and legal discussions were held in closed session, and only actions resulting from the closed meeting are included in any minutes.

Board members and the attorneys in attendance at the open meeting attended the executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the closed and open meetings were adjourned by the previous motion at about 11:38 AM.

Krista Shurtz

Krista Shurtz, Secretary