**Tri State Water Resources Coalition**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Minutes**

**October 14, 2025**

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## 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 October 14, 2025, at about 9:20 a.m. by Skip Schaller, Past President. The Coalition meeting was concurrent with The Southwest Missouri Joint Municipal Water Utility (JMUC) meeting.

## SELF INTRODUCTIONS

**Board Members Present**:

Krista Shurtz, City Utilities of Springfield
Skip Schaller, City of Monett
Travis Cossey, City of Nixa
Jeremy Parsons, City of Ozark
Jason Choate, Carthage Water and Electric
Kendall Powell, City of Branson via Zoom
Dan Johnson, City of Joplin via Zoom
Roddy Rogers, Executive Director

**In Attendance**:

Derek Linam, MO Am via Zoom
Connie Ford, MPUA
Lacey Hirschvogel, MPUA
Brandon Renaud, MPUA
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 via Zoom
Michael Weller, DNR
Sandy Buescher, DNR

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## APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

There was no quorum, so no votes were taken within the Coalition.

## 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:

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| 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 or have established authority to sign the pass-through contract once the COE contract is final. Roddy gave additional details in his report.

### Coalition Financial Report-Jeremy Parsons

As of 10/02/25 Central acct balance is: is $145,780.42 in Money market — Skip/Travis
$ 3,579.37 in checking

### Technical

PAS funding agreement – CDM Smith has completed the first of multiple PAS funded Corridor Studies including Hydraulic Model, and Timing/Permitting Studies. Final report issued for review. It is a good report including a permit matrix/guide; hydraulic modeling showed need for a total of four to six tanks and pump stations depending on the alternative/configuration. They developed a phased approach over 20-25 years dependent upon several variables—including ROW, funding, permitting. Roddy stated the report is what he had hoped for and envisioned. He will send out the report so board members can review it. It illustrates the magnitude of the project and the potential variations in hydraulic mitigations. It is a good starting point that can serve as a guide/manual going forward. Permitting will be a major effort, and the concise/compact table included will be helpful. It is similar to one that worked well for a 1990s Stockton project by CU. Roddy thanked CDM Smith for meeting our needs and listening to our requests.

**COE Report -Jennifer Henggeler**

Jen was absent as a result of the Government shutdown but has updated the contract with FY 2010 prices ($27,493,000), is determining who from the COE needs to review it and will then send to us for our review. The total reallocation is 6.49% of usable storage based on COE calculations. No WRDA implementation guidance is required. (a process necessary for some WRDA items)

**DNR-Michael Weller**

DNR has prepared a proposal for funding on the reallocation, and it was provided to the board for discussion later in the meeting. We plan to meet with the new Director at the appropriate time. Michael said that there are more projects now seeking funding and it is possible there will be less appropriations for the fund going forward. They are trying to plan ahead with respect to funding needs vs what is available.

He said that while the reallocation funding is not in the form of a contract like our current two contracts for PAS and other expenses, that they have broadly communicated within DNR that DNR has made a verbal commitment to us.

Michael reported that legislation on credits for return flows has been authored and sent forward for review and implementation. When the COE accounts for /calculates water in and out of a reservoir, it is based on absolute volume in the reservoir. If the legislation is passed, return flows are not counted against the user. This is a rare instance where the COE needs state policy for the authority to do something. It will benefit SWMO Water by gaining credits for water that returns/flows back to the watershed from where it came. (Would specifically apply to Springfield which sits on the White River/Sac River watershed divide.)

MPUA(Lacey) said they will try to help in advocating and Michael indicated it would be good for each of our entities' Government Affairs staff to help advocate too. Connie/MPUA said they could highlight benefits for other entities in MPUA (like Macon) who have reservoirs and or reallocations. Lewis emphasized the positives that this gives more control into local utilities hands, saves significant monies, results in getting more water from the same volume of storage, and is just good policy.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Carthage, Springfield CU, Monett, Ozark, Republic, Dade County, Mo Am and Nixa (8) have either established pass-through contractual authority with their governing bodies 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, Willard and Pierce City -opted out (6). Greene County, Jasper County, City of Springfield (3) are not water providers.

Joplin will be served by MOAm. Branson is served by Taneycomo and sits right on Table Rock so is interested in any reallocation that might result from that request later. Pierce City and Willard have had limited time and engagement with the organization relative to its history. So, there were essentially only two (Liberty and Mt Vernon) opt outs from actual water providing entities that have been engaged for any length of time.

After a lengthy and challenging process, Willard opted out. Roddy recommended redistributing their 0.5 mgd to Nixa. Nixa and CU had both been first to express interest in extra if available. CU(Krista) has said it makes more impact for a smaller taker, and they are already taking a more significant percentage. They would take anything that no one else wanted but are ok for it to be redistributed to Nixa. There was no discussion or opposition.

Krista made a motion, seconded by Travis for the 0.5 md (1195 ac ft) originally included in the studies for Willard, to go to Nixa. Motion passed.

Anticipate being poised to sign 8 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 Carthage City Council on August 12 and other boards and councils over the past several months.

We anticipate getting a final contract from the 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.

Roddy provided an updated letter (draft) 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. Jen has funds ready for an update of demand studies as it relates to our Pomme De Terre request.

Annual Water Conference- was held on September 23. — “Reliable Water in an Unreliable World”. Overall successful. 141 attendees.
Had we not been up against a conference that took away all the operators, we would likely have hit second highest attendance of 148 and near the record of 161. Don’t have final budget numbers but anticipate being in the black. (Subsequent to the meeting, received preliminary numbers indicating around $16,000 would be available to split between MSU and SWMO Water.) Other takeaways from eval comments for possible improvement--

1) In past years we have had comments to the effect of needing less technical and engineering content so, tried to follow up on that this year. This year, there were comments on desiring more technical and engineering content. Not sure where that balance is--
2) It was evident from the comments that several are hearing this for the first (or second or third) time and/or haven’t heard all the things we have already covered several times in the previous 14 years—like conservation, engineering, demand analysis, etc.

3) Can provide evals if desired.  Didn't know MSU was going to use a different eval form. Will go back to the previous forms which are better.
4) It seems the shorter format was well received overall.
5) Good food.
6) Bad sound.
7) Previous years comments on presentations were too long.  This year comments on presentations being too short.
8) Requests for filming/sending slides
9) Speaker ratings-RR 4.77/14.3 JH-4.43/13.1; JS-4.21/12.7; CJ-4.75/14.2; SB-4.67/14.1

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.

**Jones and Fortuna activities**

Prepared final draft pass-through contracts. Worked to address several member entity attorney concerns and questions. Prepared facts sheets which were very hel[ful.

Roddy asked them to prepare/adjust Nixa's contract for an extra 0.5 mgd/1195-acre feet. And prepare the JMUC/DNR contracts with final amounts and percentages plus the 25% OH fee or a similar flat amount included in the unit price.  Even though we could get funding—we need to prepare (by establishing funds in the JMUC account) in the event funding would be unavailable at some point.

**NEW/OLD BUSINESS**

Continue to work with MPUA on providing a suite of support activities including IT, financial, tax and accounting assistance, and other admin support.  Everyone agreed this type of one stop shop for utility services is unique and proprietary and there is no need to ask for proposals. Roddy reported that we have also initiated discussions on how SWMO Water and MPUA might come together for mutual benefit to the organizations and all of its members.  This would require an arrangement that allows private entities an equal voice in SWMO Water business and projects and not be limited in any way

Brandon Renaud of MPUA presented a proposal for approximately $28,000 annually to provide the services described above. This would be in addition to annual membership of $14,000.  The written proposal was provided to the Board ahead of time. Costs for financial services are estimated to be about the same as with Forvis. Website work is not needed at this point. May be in the future.  Jason made a motion, seconded by Jeremy to have MPUA provide these services targeted to start in January and the motion passed.

Roddy asked the board to consider support for a National Water Supply Alliance legislative effort in cooperation with hydropower at a national level to establish water as a priority with the

COE and agree with hydropower to work together rather than against each other on reallocations. It would be similar to the legislation SWMO Water has already benefitted from—$20 million cost savings. This would likely be a $50,000 level of support. SWMO Water could/would benefit from this one too. We have pending requests for the other 30% of our gap need and $50k spent now would be better than multiple hundreds of thousands on our own later. However, there is no guarantee of success. Roddy included it in the proposed budget that was presented later in the meeting, and it will result in a one-year deficit of about $28,000. There are funds in the account to cover it. Travis made a motion seconded by Jeremy to support this effort at $50,000 and the motion passed.

Roddy attended the September NWSA meeting and was elected to the Board.

Budget/Dues—a budget was provided that included the same total expenses as last year (Tri State and JMUC combined). There were shifts in some amounts—primarily more taxes budgeted for JMUC and less for Tri State as well as more expenses for JMUC and less for Tri State since we have transitioned into operating from JMUC.

Krista made a motion seconded by Jason to approve the budget and motion passed.

Next Meetings-- January 13 and April 14, 2026.

A break was taken at about 10:30 to allow those who did not want to stay for a more detailed DNR funding discussion to leave.

Reconvened about 10:40. Everyone had chosen to leave or drop offline except attorneys, board members, and Michael and Sandy of DNR.

**DNR FUNDING**—held discussion on DNR funding alternatives and issues.

Roddy reviewed the original SWMO proposal designed for us to pay 16% and DNR 84%. It included a ten-year delay in any payments with two stepped increases in percentage paid over the last 20 years of a 30-year amortization period.

The DNR response includes paying for the storage cost outright from the Multipurpose Fund in two lump sum payments to the COE through the JMUC with SWMO Water making remittances to DNR to pay back half. The first DNR payment to be made upon execution of the COE contract with JMUC and the execution of the JMUC contracts with DNR. Second DNR payment at 10-15 years in accordance with WRDA legislation but those funds would be set aside by DNR now. JMUC to make payments to DNR starting after contract execution and based on the amortized amount of ½ the cost of the reallocation.

There was discussion with DNR on different approaches.

Travis made a motion, seconded by Skip to adjourn into closed session and to reconvene into open session as needed to discuss and motion passed at about 11:10.

Michael and Sandy left the building while the board discussed further.

**Executive Session**

Discussed details of DNR funding and contract structure.

Open session was reconvened and Michael and Sandy returned at about 11:35

**Open Session**

Michael and Sandy were told what we had come to consensus on and they/DNR will follow up with an amortization table and schedule of payments to reflect that.

Lewis will begin work drafting contracts.

Michael said that while there could be funding for future infrastructure, that we would need to seek other sources of funding for a project this large.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meetings were adjourned by a motion by Skip, seconded by Krista and approved by vote at about 11:55 AM.

Krista Shurtz

Krista Shurtz, Secretary