Tri-State Water Resource Coalition
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
January 13, 2026

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 January 13, 2026, at about 9:05 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
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
Kim Kinder, Dade County
Dan Johnson, City of Joplin
Mike Beatty, Liberty Utilities
Matt Barnhart, MO America via Zoom
Karen Haynes, City of Republic via Zoom
Roddy Rogers, Executive Director

In Attendance:

Derek Linam, MO Am via Zoom
Shelby Canole, 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
Jack Schaller, Olssen
Chad Johnson, CDM Smith via Zoom
Michael Weller, DNR, via Zoom

Sandy Buescher, DNR, via Zoom
Jen Henggeler, COE via Zoom
Clinton Finn, via Zoom- DNR via Zoom
Stephanie-Republic notetaker, via Zoom
Mike Smith, MPUA via Zoom

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Approval of Tri State minutes from October 14 and July 8, 2025, motion by Skip Schaller, seconded by Kendall Powell. Approved by Board vote. (There was not a quorum at the October meeting.)

CURRENT TRI STATE MEMBERS Branson, Carthage, CU, Joplin, Monett, Nixa, Ozark, Republic, Pierce City, Liberty Utilities, Missouri American Water, Greene County, Jasper County, City of Springfield, Willard, Dade County. Roddy reported Mt Vernon has dropped.

Tri State Officers

Officers took office on January 14, 2025. Roddy proposes that this slate be reelected for another year to January 2027 as Tri State Officers can serve two consecutive one-year terms. Treasurer may serve unlimited one-year terms.

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

Election of Officers

Motion by Skip Schaller, seconded by Krista Shurtz for approval to reelect the slate of officers as presented. Approved by Board vote.

REPORTS

Executive Committee–

No Report

Tri State Financial Report - Skip Schaller

As of 01/03/26 Central acct balance is $ 164,447.73 in Money Market
$ 3,580.09 in Checking

Central Bank changed as necessary for the transfer. FORVIS to complete the last quarterly report. After that, it will be transitioned to MPUA. Skip has established MPUA access to bank accounts.

Technical

Planning assistance to states study report is done (first phase). These are the PAS funded Corridor Studies, addressing Hydraulic Modeling, and Timing/Permitting. Working with Chad Johnson to go through comments. Roddy's/JMUC comments to be incorporated—some in next phases.

Report from COE – Jen Henggeler

Jen will provide the final reallocation cost to be contracted for which is anticipated to be approximately $27 million. That is 6.49% of the cost of usable storage. Jen said it will be very similar to the bifurcated contract like City Utilities of Springfield had in 1993. The contract will be structured to reallocate all storage, but payments will be made in two increments.

Jen will provide the draft to us and DNR for us to be able to review in parallel with COE staff and will provide an estimated timeline for Division review prior to it going to the ASA.

Jen confirmed that no WRDA implementation is required.

Report from DNR – Michael Weller

A Multipurpose Fund contract between DNR and JMUC has been drafted with blanks that are dependent on the final COE contract. DNR would pay 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. Once the COE contract is finalized, DNR will complete the remaining sections. Jen will send the draft contract to DNR for concurrent review.

Sandy reminded that at the last meeting, a 14-year amortization for the first half followed by a 15-year amortization for the second half with no overlap had consensus from the board. She recommended revising this to two 15-year cycles with no overlap. A motion was made to approve this DNR contract structure with a one-year delay, followed by the 15-year first term, and then immediately begin the second 15-year term with no overlap. The JMUC motion was made by Jason Choate, seconded by Travis Cossey, and approved by Board vote.

Return flows legislation has been drafted and filed in both the Missouri House and Senate. The legislation will benefit any city and allocation that returns water to COE reservoirs. MPUA is supporting advocacy efforts. It will be broadly scoped legislation that will benefit the whole state. It could benefit both CU Springfield and Joplin in our case. Jason asked if rivers are included and Michael said no because there are no reallocations from rivers.

This legislation provides for water that returns/flows back to the watershed from where it came to be credited to the user.

Lewis asked whether it would be helpful to develop a one-page explainer and have members write letters in support of the return flows legislation. Michael responded that this would be helpful.
Jason asked about the interest rate on repayment, and Sandy stated it is 2%.

Jason asked whether the loan could be paid off early, Sandy responded she will work to incorporate that.

Krista asked whether the first payment would be due before September 2026. Sandy responded no, but it may be due in 2027.

Executive Director Report

Adjustments were made to pass-through contracts to account for DNR funding and a user group so that only off takers have a say in the process. All contracts will be signed concurrently. It also sets the admin fee at a flat fee instead of a percentage and includes a Stockon Users group to allow only those with contracts to make decisions on the Stockton reallocation. They have been provided to the board along with an explainer and will need to be signed once the COE finals the federal contract.

Final conference proceeds were $8,427, which was the second highest (2024 highest) total on record.

Drafts complete-on update letters for Pomme De Terre and Table Rock requests to fill the remaining gap needed for SWMO Water. Holding these until the DNR funding is final to avoid confusion.

The Stockton reallocation will only meet about 70% of our gap need—based on demand studies that are now approaching 10 years old.

Any other Business

Roddy reported we have signed a contract (previously provided) with MPUA to provide a suite of support activities including IT, financial, tax and accounting assistance, and other admin support. After several attempts we have transferred access to our QuickBooks financial records from Forvis to MPUA. Still working on IT, bank, and financials. MPUA and Forvis are working together on the transition.

National NWSA/Hydro legislative effort

Limited time has become an issue with the WRDA cycle. Hydropower agreed to work with NWSA to just take a small portion of the issue, transparency from the COE with regards to projects and charges, for this legislation. Then continue to work for a more substantial agreement for the next 2028 WRDA cycle.

Roddy asked those who haven't to please submit dues payment. He asked for help avoiding vendor systems if possible. This would save setting up passwords and usernames and filling out lengthy forms for 17 entities since this is membership dues, not a vendor commodity.

Future Meetings-- April 14 and July 8. July 8 may need to be changed. That will be addressed at the next meeting.

Motion by Jeremy Parsons. Second by Dan Johnson to go into closed session.
Approved by Board vote.

Executive Session

A break was taken at about 10:15 AM to allow non-Board members to depart from the meeting. The closed meeting resumed at about 10:25 AM.

Discussions of legal issues and contracts on reallocations of storage were held in closed session, and only actions resulting from the closed meeting are included in any minutes. Board members, the attorneys, and administrative support in attendance at the open meeting attended the executive sessions.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the closed and open meetings were adjourned by a motion from Travis Cossey and seconded by Kim Kinder at about 11:07 AM.

Krista Shurtz 4/15/2026

Krista Shurtz, Secretary