

W₂ASACT MEETING AGENDA
August 11, 2009
10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Department of Commerce Building
301 South Park Avenue
Room 228 (2nd Floor)
Hosted by – Department of Commerce

MEMBERS PRESENT INCLUDED

Nancy Geary	DEQ/SRF	Karen Sanchez	USDA-RD
Mark Smith	DEQ/SRF	Jim Edgcomb	MDOC/TSEP
Anna Miller	DNRC	Debra Demarais	MDOC/TSEP
Bob Fischer	DNRC	Pam Smith	DNRC/CARRD
Rick Duncan	DNRC	Steve Troendle	USDA/RD
Rachel Clark	DEQ/PWS	Craig Erickson	Great West Engineering
Jay Sinnott	EPA	Nick V Clos	M.R.W.S.
Lindsay Volpe	DNRC/CARDD	Gus Byrom	MDOC/CDBG
Joan Specking	DNRC/CARDD	Kathy Brenden	MDOC/CDBG
Larry Gallagher	HUD-Helena Field Office	Frank Kromkowski	MDOC/CDBG

CALL TO ORDER, SIGN-IN SHEET, AGENDA CHANGES

The scheduled meeting of the Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (W₂ASACT) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on August 11, 2009, by Mark Smith, standing in for Todd Teegarden, Chair. A sign-in sheet, agenda and minutes of the last meeting were made available to those in attendance. Gus Byrom moved to approve the minutes; Steve Troendle seconded the motion; the minutes were approved and adopted. There were no changes made to the agenda.

ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

1. Updates (if needed) from subcommittees

Workshops – Bob Fischer reported the dates for the fall workshops are October 14th in Missoula at the Parkside Holiday Inn, October 20th in Billings at the Hilton Garden Inn and October 22nd in Helena at the Red Lion, with blocks of government-rate rooms reserved at each site. These rates will be available one month in advance for those who want to make reservations. The main focus of the meetings will be PER's. A committee meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss the agenda. Please email any suggestions or comments you have for the meetings to Bob (rfischer@mt.gov) within the next 10 days so the committee can discuss them and get the agenda finalized.

Uniform Application – Jim Edgcomb will send more emails requesting *specific* input for changes, due with 10 days.

Standard Documents – Bob Fischer noted no changes. Everyone is dealing with ARRA, so they need to make sure they have the latest versions (June 5th) of anything they are using. The current specifications should be found on the W₂ASACT website. This site seems very useful to the public.

Internet Website – Pam Smith - <http://dnrc.mt.gov/cardd/ResDevBureau/wasact/> - Please let Pam know of any problems. The site can be found by going to the **mt.gov** website. Choose *Government* from the top bar; then select *Infrastructure Grants & Loans*. On this page choose *Wastewater & Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (WASACT)*.

2. **Updates on Ongoing Topics**

Emergency Projects – Bob Fischer / Richard Knatterud – There is only one ongoing project, dealing with contaminated soils removal in Superior using an Environmental Contingencies Program grant. Centerville School has finished their project to disinfect the well and water system, and also replace the pump.

Tribal Issues – Jim Edgcomb/Larry Gallagher and others – Larry will be in Fort Belknap on the 31st and the 1st. They are looking at a redevelopment project close to the old BIA hospital and surrounding housing. The water filtration plant is under construction. Then he will proceed to Fort Peck. If there are issues either there or in Poplar, Larry would like to work closely with anyone involved. Steve Troendle reported the Crow are finalizing design on Phase II and should be out to bid in a couple weeks. The Town of Browning has officially completed applications for the Two Medicine Water Plant and a component of the pipeline to the community. Tentatively, there should be sufficient funds for the project as it now stands. Applications have been received for two wastewater system improvements for the Rocky Boy's Tribe and requests for solid waste equipment for the Northern Cheyenne, Rocky Boy's and Fort Belknap.

Regional Water Projects – Rick Duncan handed out information on the following projects:

Fort Peck- Dry Prairie

The Fort Peck Tribes awarded the contract for construction of the next phase of the regional water treatment plant (WTP) to RSCI of Meridian, Idaho. RSCI has mobilized, and is currently working on placement of structural fill at the site. This 2-year contract will complete construction on the WTP. ARRA funds will be used for the WTP, as well as for construction of water main from the WTP to Poplar, scheduled for completion by the same date as the WTP.

The Tribes and Dry Prairie are jointly working on a project to bring interim water service to the community of Fort Kipp in the southeastern corner of the Fort Peck Reservation. Water will be supplied by a 4-inch pipeline running from a point near the Town of Culbertson to Fort Kipp. The enlarged-capacity upgraded WTP at Culbertson will be the interim source of supply.

Dry Prairie is working on completion of several small projects, as well as preparing for construction on two larger ones. Besides paying for the installation of the third filter bay at the Culbertson WTP, Dry Prairie is nearing completion of construction on the McCabe Loop, which will provide water to the Basin Electric plant under construction north of Culbertson. In addition, the Authority's operations and maintenance (O&M) building will soon be under construction on the north side of Culbertson. In August, construction will also begin on the first phase of Dry Prairie's Valley County project, bringing an interim supply of water from the MARCo plant at Saint Marie to customers between Glasgow and Nashua, including to the Town of Nashua.

Rocky Boy's-North Central

The Chippewa Cree Construction Corporation has utilized \$513,000 of State TSEP

Regional Water funds (RWF) to purchase pipe to bring water from the reverse osmosis plant north of Box Elder to three existing water storage tanks in and around Box Elder. The CCCC has recently advertised for bids on high-altitude valves and appurtenances, as well as for horizontal boring required along that route. These items will also be paid for with TSEP RWF dollars.

The CCCC is finishing placement of gabion wall reinforcement around the existing raw water intake structure at Tiber Dam, and plans to construct the raw water intake superstructure when the gabions are complete. The project will be paid for out of the \$20 million in ARRA funds, the balance of which will go toward installation of the first segment of the 36-inch steel water main which will transport water from the regional WTP to Box Elder.

The North Central Regional Water Authority opened bids and is preparing to award a construction contract on the North Havre County project. This will bring an interim supply of water to the North Havre County Water & Sewer District from the City of Havre. Other projects under consideration by the Authority for the 2011 Biennium are a cooperative venture to construct a shared water storage tank at Sweetgrass, and a plan to provide Riverview Hutterite Colony and the South Chester Water District with interim water supply from Tiber County Water District.

Dry-Redwater

A sub-committee (Water & Power) of the Senate Natural Resources Committee heard testimony on Thursday, July 23, from a representative of the Dry-Redwater Authority on S.637, sponsored by Senators Baucus and Tester, which would authorize a \$112 million project in Garfield, McCone, Prairie, Dawson, and Richland Counties, as well as McKenzie County, ND.

Central Montana (Musselshell-Judith project)

The Authority is negotiating with landowners north of Judith Gap for potential location of a well field for the regional system. Next Authority meeting is August 12th at 1 PM in Harlowton.

WASACT Project Tracking Sheet – Jim Edgcomb handed out a copy of the new tracking sheet and requested that, for now, any changes be submitted to him as they happen.

Army Corps of Engineers – Sect. 595 Program & Projects – Anna Miller noted there was nothing new.

STAG projects – Jay Sinnott reported the annual grant guide was issued last week for Helena, Crow Agency, and Hamilton. He requested any information people might have on the Anaconda West Valley Project.

PROGRAM / PROJECT UPDATES

Anna Miller (DNRC) – The Stimulus grants have increased the number of projects over last year, so things have been very busy. Anna thanked everyone for their help with coordinating funding.

Mark Smith (DWSRF) – Tom Slovarp is back, as well as a new hire, Jodie Bones, to help the SRF program keep up with the Stimulus requirements. 2010 Intended Use Plans for both Drinking Water and Wastewater are now final. Drinking Water applied for and received their most recent CAP Grant. The annual reporting is just ahead.

Nick Clos (MRWS) – Rory Schmidt (<http://mrws.org/staff.html>) is back on an 18 month contract to help with ARRA. The National Conference will take place in Louisville, KY on October 6th through the 8th. Business cards with email were available. Everyone has been very busy!

Steve Troendle (RD) – Recovery Act related items: Each state was granted, through National Rural Water, funding for more staff. Recovery Act money was 80% Loan and 20% Grant. Money is available until 9/30/2010. Because some states have not had a chance to take advantage of the money, RD has funding available. National pooling of unused funds for redistribution will take place this Friday. Shad Weber from the Billings Office left earlier this year and Eleanor Kindness has been hired to replace him. Some applications are coming in with the prospect of being funded in the next year. Buy American requirements are still in flux. Steve thanked everyone for their responsiveness in working with RD. He informed the group that Community Facility Funding needs a match.

Jim Edgcomb (TSEP) – With ARRA, 66 new projects have been funded. TSEP is continuing to finish old projects that were not completed with the last round of funding.

Gus Byrom (CDBG) – This program has been greatly impacted by Stimulus Grants as people went with the grants, rather than CDBG. There are only 2 water and wastewater projects in the applicant pool. Dave Cole is very busy with the \$20 million program on HB645 projects. There is also \$4.5 million for an historic preservation program which needs to be available very soon. The whole division is helping to meet specified timelines.

Larry Gallagher (HUD) – A new program will be introduced which entails working on city rebuilding - Urban Renewal (Neighborhood Stabilization under a new name). HUD is coordinating closely with Dept. of Transportation to focus on walkable and drivable communities. This program is tied with energy initiatives, and there is a general discouragement of funding anything out of the city.

Bob Fischer (RRGL) – This program is on the 2nd cycle of legislative funding, from which 70 – 90 projects were funded. Everyone is busy!

Karen Sanchez (RD) – Bids have been coming in below the engineers' estimates.

OTHER ISSUES AND LOGISTICS OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for October 13, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m., hosted by DNRC

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:10 p.m.