

W₂ASACT MEETING MINUTES

October 13, 2009

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Building

1625 11th Avenue

Bannock Conference Room - Downstairs

Hosted by – DNRC

MEMBERS PRESENT INCLUDED

Todd Teegarden	DEQ/SRF	Christine Hultin-Brus	OBPP
Nancy Geary	DEQ/SRF	Pam Higgins	MAP
Anna Miller	DNRC	Nick Clos	MRWS
Bob Fischer	DNRC	Jim Edgcomb	MDOC/TSEP
Rick Duncan	DNRC	Karen Sanchez	USDA/RD
Rachel Clark	DEQ/PWS	Steve Troendle	USDA/RD
Lindsay Volpe	DNRC/CARDD	Craig Erickson	Great West Engineering
Joan Specking	DNRC/CARDD	Pam Smith	DNRC/CARRD
Alice Stanley	DNRC /Resource Dev.	Kathy Brenden	MDOC/CDBG
Erin Thielman	MDOC/TSEP		

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 October 13, 2009, by Todd Teegarden, Chair. A sign-in sheet, agenda and minutes of the last meeting were made available to those in attendance. Anna Miller moved to approve the minutes; Kathy Brenden seconded the motion; the minutes were approved and adopted. There were no changes made to the agenda. All those in attendance introduced themselves

ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

1. Updates (if needed) from subcommittees

Workshops – Bob Fischer – The fall workshops are set to go. They will be held 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. Make sure payments are in order. A copy of the agendas was made available.

Uniform Application – Jim Edgcomb - A new application (minor changes) will be available at the workshops. It will soon be available online.

Standard Documents – Bob Fischer – Montana Public Works Standard Specs Draft is out for review and expected to be published before the end of this year. The uniform specs may then be modified to match. Karen Sanchez said the USDA/RD is required to use the current EJCDC documents. She has forwarded the 2007-2008 edits package to the consulting engineers with instructions to use this edition. Bob recommended the agencies purchase the Montana Public Works Standard Spec in about a month to be used by the first of next year. This is currently required by RD

Internet Website –Pam Smith – The Uniform Application will be available as soon as Jim sends it.

2. **Updates on Ongoing Topics**

Emergency Projects – Nothing to report

Tribal Issues – Steve Troendle reported the Blackfeet received a grant for Phase 3 of their water project. It is still waiting for a final MOA for Phase 2, in order to go to bid on Phase 3. The Crow Project just bid Phase 3 and should be under contract soon. Karen Sanchez mentioned the implementation of the Manager Mentor Program (Funded jointly by IHS and RD) in Ft. Belknap, Northern Cheyenne, and Crow Agency, to train managers of the treatment plants.

Regional Water Projects – Rick Duncan handed out the following report.

Fort Peck- Dry Prairie

The regional water treatment plant (WTP) work continues by RSCI of Meridian, Idaho, which mobilized in July of this year on the 2-year contract. Construction of water main from the WTP to Poplar is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2010.

The Tribes' and Dry Prairie's cooperative project to bring interim water service to the community of Fort Kipp saw dirt moved beginning the first week of October. Trenching work began near Culbertson to tie-in to existing lines, and is moving toward the Big Muddy. Tribal staff are overseeing horizontal boring under some wetlands and the Big Muddy on the Reservation.

Dry Prairie is working on completion of several projects, as well as managing two others which began in the summer. Construction is complete on the water main known as the McCabe Loop, providing water to the Basin Electric peaking power plant under construction north of Culbertson. Work on the Authority's operations and maintenance (O&M) building on the north side of Culbertson is now under way. In August construction also began on the first phase of Dry Prairie's Valley County project, to bring interim water supply from the Boeing/Montana Aviation Research Company water treatment plant (WTP) at Saint Marie to customers in southeastern Valley County, including the Town of Nashua. An update received last week indicated that the contractor had finished installation and testing of thirty-six miles of water main on the project.

Rocky Boy's-North Central

The Chippewa Cree Construction Corporation (CCCC) has finished placement of gabion wall reinforcement around the existing raw water intake concrete caisson at Tiber Dam, and initial work on the raw water intake superstructure has started. The \$20 million in ARRA funds which the Chippewa-Cree Tribe recently received will pay for that work, as well as installation of the first segment of 36-inch steel water main which will transport water from the regional WTP to Box Elder. Issues on oversight of the easement and rights-of-way process recently raised by Reclamation's real estate office are currently under review by all parties.

The North Central Regional Water Authority convened a pre-construction conference on the interim North Havre County project the day after Labor Day, and pipeline installation work began the week of September 14th. Water from the City of Havre to the North Havre County Water & Sewer District may yet occur during Autumn 2009, depending upon the weather's effects on construction. An application to DNRC is currently under review which

would construct water mains from Tiber County Water District to Riverview Hutterite Colony and the South Chester Water District as interim water supply; estimated cost of that project is \$4.7 million. An upgrade of Tiber County WD's existing surface water treatment plant would be required, and the estimated \$225,000 in sunk costs for the upgrade would have to be shared amongst the three parties.

Dry-Redwater

Authority board members are patiently waiting on a pending Senate sub-committee's report to the full Senate Natural Resources Committee regarding S.637, sponsored by Senators Baucus and Tester, which if passed by Congress 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 October 14th at 1 PM in Roundup.

WASACT Project Tracking Sheet – Jim Edgcomb said the new tracking sheet is being updated. He is still recording additional information, and the updated sheet should be completed by the next meeting. The current information should be available on the website. [W₂ASACT Statewide Project Tracking Table](#)

Army Corps of Engineers – Sect. 595 Program & Projects – Pam Smith - The current bill has gone to the Conference Committee and should be voted on soon with approximately 15 projects to be funded in the amount of \$4.8 million.

STAG projects – Todd Teegarden reported EPA indicated the appropriation bills are likely to be passed soon, with information regarding funding to come.

PROGRAM / PROJECT UPDATES

Steve Troendle (RD) – Approximately \$25 million in projects have been funded this year, up slightly from last year. About \$10 million in grants and loans for (5 projects) was funded by ARRA. The list of old projects to close out continues to shorten. Eleanor Kindness is working out very well in Billings. Karen Sanchez is a very valuable worker, having reviewed 30 PERs this year. Thanks! Karen expressed great appreciation for all the cooperation and help received from MRWS and MAP. A final definition of 'American Made', as applies to RD, has been received. Unused ARRA funding will begin to roll over by November 1, 2009. This means money should be available within 30 days of the beginning of the new year. At the beginning of any project development, there needs to be good communication between communities, consultants, and all funding sources to eliminate re-figuring project funding packages. This will streamline the funding process and help develop the best project for the community.

Rick Duncan (DNRC) – This year the Legislature appropriated \$8 million in one-time funds, which is nearly all obligated through grant applications and actual grant agreements.

Bob Fischer (RRGL) – RRGL Supplement to Uniform Application will be available at the workshops. It would be helpful to get addresses of those attending, so any additional information can be mailed to them.

Anna Miller (DNRC) – VERY busy with SRF project funding. There are approximately \$17 million in funds to be distributed among water projects. In a normal year there are about 15 drinking water SRF projects, this year there are over 32 projects. \$16.7 million in ARRA funding has been obligated for drinking water. Additional funds came from Public Bond sales, TSEP, RRGL, CDBG, WRDA, STAG, RD and regular SRF loans. The total project costs are about \$33 million.

\$16.7 million in ARRA funding has been obligated for Wastewater, as well as additional money from Public Bond sales, TSEP, RRGL, CDBG, WRDA, STAG, RD and regular SRF loans, for a total of \$67 million. All ARRA funds must be contracted and have loans closed by February, 2010. Thanks for all the input others have provided. Todd mentioned that there is a possibility of receiving re-obligated funds by March, 2010. According to EPA, 'Buy American' requirements may be eliminated for future funding, but the 'Green' projects will remain.

Pam Smith (DNRC) – Over half of potential projects have been contracted.

Jim Edgcomb (TSEP) – Approximately half of projects are contracted and ready to proceed. TSEP plans to have three program specialists in the future. Erin Thielman is the first of the new specialists to be hired. Friday was Kim Hayes' final day. Her position is being advertised. Erin and Debra Demarais will be handling Kim's projects until another person can be hired.

Kathy Brenden (CDBG) – CDBG has just finished the Public Facilities ranking and expects to announce grants by the end of week.

Pam Higgins (MAP) – MAP is just wrapping up Manager Mentor Programs. Under the Operation and Maintenance Program, they are busy working with communities on MGA testing. Pam attended the National Conference in DC, reinforcing the goal of more positive coordination between MRW and MAP, as has been done in Wyoming.

Alice Stanley (DNRC) – Pam has been very busy with Planning Grants for Growth Policies, Capital Improvement Plans, Grant Writing, and Non-Public Renewable Resources. Points have been redistributed on the applications. Steve T. mentioned having grant money to be used, so Pam Smith will provide him with a list of possible projects. Steve will screen this list for the possibility of RD's help.

Nick Clos (MRWS) – Nick attended the National Conference in Louisville, KY. He felt it was very good. The spring conference is always held the week of Presidents' Day.

OTHER ISSUES AND LOGISTICS OF NEXT MEETING

The most current W₂ASACT mailing list is located on the website. [WASACT LIST](#)
The next meeting was scheduled for December 8, 2009 from 10:00 a.m., hosted by the Department on Environmental Quality in the Metcalf Building

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.