

DRAFT

W₂ASACT MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2010

10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

1625 11th Avenue

Bannack Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT INCLUDED:

Dave Aune	Great West Engineering	Anna Miller	DNRC/CARDD
Larry Gallagher	HUD	Kate Miller	DOC/TSEP
Zach Owen	DNRC/RRGL	Pam Smith	DNRC/RRGL
Kali Wicks	DOC/QSP	Lindsay Volpe	DNRC/RRGL
Jay Sinnott	EPA	Pam Higgins	MAP
Bob Fischer	DNRC/RRGL	Nick Clos	MRWS
Amy Personette	DNRC/CARDD	Richard Knatterud	DOC/TSEP
Alice Stanley	DNRC/RDB	Gus Byrom	DOC/CDBG
Heather Sobrepena- George	DOC/ICED		

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 10:05 a.m. on December 14, 2010 by Pam Smith, 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; Mark Smith seconded the motion; the minutes were approved and adopted. All those in attendance introduced themselves.

GUEST SPEAKER

Dave Aune – GreatWest Engineering

Dave was invited to the meeting to discuss Regional Wastewater Treatment Facilities – Regional Systems versus Regional Management. The two main examples he provided were the Helena Valley and Gallatin County.

Dave compared the costs between the two systems and the variability of time required for each system. When designing a system, Dave felt it was imperative to focus on the goals of the project(s) because it is extremely expensive. It is important to use stair stepping for the long term planning process, which can take 50 to 75 years. Another key to planning is evaluating the population densities the project would serve in the future.

A case study he featured was on the Helena Valley. Planning has been under way since 1998 for treatment and collection broken up by service areas in the Helena area sponsored by the county and city. By comparison, a collection system for the Helena Valley area would cost around \$90 million and a Regional Treatment Plant would cost around \$75 million. Dave also discussed other communities in Montana to show how growth might affect the Helena area.

ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

1. UPDATES FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

WORKSHOPS- Bob Fischer discussed the reorganization of the planning committee. The group is getting too big and as chair of the committee, he only wants one representative from each agency. The representatives include: TSEP-Richard Knatterud; DNRC-Pam Smith and Bob Fischer; SRF-Mark Smith; RD-Steven Troendle or Karen Sanchez Bucklin; Intercap Program; and Louise Welsh. The planning group will meet on 12/20 at 1:30 p.m. to discuss general planning information.

Bob Fischer updated the group on the dates for the spring workshops. They are as follows:

- February 23, 2011 at the Heritage Inn, Great Falls;
- March 9, 2011 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Billings; and
- March 23, 2011 Holiday Inn Parkside, Missoula.

UNIFORM APPLICATION- No updates.

STANDARD DOCUMENTS- No updates.

INTERNET WEBSITE- Lindsay Volpe: has been working on and requested project pictures to post.
Pam Smith: Member list and links on the web site have been updated.

PICNIC COMMITTEE- No updates.

2. UPDATES ON ONGOING TOPICS

EMERGENCY GRANTS- Bob Fischer and Richard Knatterud reported that no requests have been made for emergency grant funds.

TRIBAL ISSUES-General Discussion.

- Crow Agency: Jay Sinnot-The Phase 4a project potentially could receive another STAG Grant pending congressional approval. The total project cost is \$4.5 million. The cost was driven up to comply with new surface drinking water rules. Gus Byrom-CDBG is working on wastewater system improvements in LodgeGrass. He is currently developing an MOU between the community of Lodge Grass, the Crow Tribe, the County and all involved funding agencies. There has been no discussion of a regional system for that area to date. All involved parties participate in a conference call every Friday and it is proving to be successful for project progress.
- Fort Belknap: Pam Higgins-MAP has been meeting with all involved parties. The Indian Health Service is nationally trying to get program together to coordinate technical assistance. Pam Higgins is hopeful that Fort Belknap will have a plan of action ironed out by the end of March. Pam Smith said that she was able to pay an RRGL invoice to Fort Belknap with the assistance of MAP and Heather Sobrepena-George from Economic Development at Department of Commerce. Pam Higgins also commented on MAP working with the college to establish users and fees.
- Browning: Richard Knatterud-The pipeline project is making good progress and they recently reached a shutdown awaiting a bond counsel opinion. The shutdown will not last long. The tank is out to bid.

RURAL WATER – Rick Duncan, DNRC presented updates as follows:

Fort Peck –Dry Prairie

- The final phase of the Fort Peck Tribes’ regional water treatment plant (WTP) continues on schedule for completion in August 2011;
- The concrete work is complete, and the building has been fully enclosed, with inside construction and equipment installation scheduled to continue throughout the winter. Photos are available at <http://fortpecktribesmni.org/water-treatment-plant.htm>; and
- The revised construction calendar anticipates completion of this final phase could occur as early as May 2011.

For on-reservation pipeline segments currently under design, engineer’s estimates are as follows:

- \$5.8 M for the WTP-to-Wolf Point main project;
- \$9 M for the Wolf-Point-to-Frazer main segment, and
- \$3.1 M for area service lines between Wolf Point and Poplar.

Depending upon levels of Federal funding, the Tribes could have the majority of the southern transmission main to the eastern (and perhaps western) reservation boundary constructed by the end of 2014. *

Dry Prairie

- Dry Prairie has completed phase 2 and, is well into construction on two newer segments, and has submitted an application for funding of another;
- Phase 1 of the Valley County project, using interim water supply from the Boeing/MARCo WTP achieved substantial completion June 17th;
- The operations and maintenance (O&M) building on the north side of Culbertson reached substantial completion in August;
- Construction on the North Bainville project segment has proceeded throughout the fall, with a large percentage of this project having been completed;
- The contractor recently went to winter shutdown, and will remobilize sometime in April or May;
- A regional water system construction grant of \$3.975 million to Dry Prairie has recently been drawn down by approximately \$2.35 million to pay pipeline construction invoices.
- Valley County Phase II projects are being completed. Bids were opened in June. Construction of pipeline, water storage tank and pump station installation was done by 4 construction firms through the summer and fall of 2010.

Rocky Boy’s-North Central

- The **Chippewa Cree** Construction Corporation (CCCC) has installed the first and second 6+-mile-long segments (Segment #1 and #2) of 36-inch steel water main of the Core pipeline which will transport water from the regional WTP to Box Elder;
- The Tribe (through the North Central Authority) received \$2.85 million of \$3 million in regional water construction grant funds for the purchase of pipeline materials for these Core pipeline segments, with the balance payable upon receipt of the final report for the project segment

- The total cost of the two segments was approximately \$17 million. Use of steel pipe materials, as required by the Bureau of Reclamation, has increased the cost per mile by about \$400,000 (installed), compared to the previously approved galvanized iron pipe materials. Total cost per mile is now calculated at \$1.58 million.*
- Work has also proceeded on the raw water pumping plant at Tiber Dam. The caisson and substructure were completed several years ago; more recent work has involved substructure and foundation, in preparation for building of the superstructure, with block and brick laying having begun; and
- The Bureau of Reclamation recently held a value engineering session for the system, with more attention to the proposed WTP using micro-filtration technology. DNRC expects to hear more on the results of the value engineering study soon.

The North Central Montana Authority

- The North Central Montana Authority's first construction project, which provides North Havre County W&S District with interim supply from City of Havre, reached substantial completion in June. The final report for the project segment has been received and the grant agreement (\$1 million of State funds) has been closed out. North Central is billing the District, and is buying water from Havre;
- The Authority opened bids on the Tiber Area pipeline project on September 1st. The low bid for the project came in at more than \$800,000 less than the engineer's estimated \$3.4 million;
- Sunk costs involved in the upgrade of the Tiber County Water District's WTP are to be paid in equal shares by Tiber County, South Chester, and Riverview Colony;
- DNRC has sent the Authority a series of comment letters in response to the Authority's uniform application for grant funds of approximately \$3.6 million from regional water money authorized by the 2009 Legislature; and
- The Authority's executive committee authorized issuance of a Notice to Proceed on September 21st, and the pre-construction conference is scheduled for October 12th in Havre. DNRC has advised officials of the Authority that they are proceeding at their own risk, due to their not yet having received approval of their grant application from DNRC. At last report, the contractor had not yet gone into winter shutdown.

Dry-Redwater

- The Authority applied for feasibility study funds from the Bureau of Reclamation in July, and received notification of Reclamation funding of \$240,000 of a total study cost of \$480,000 in August. The funds were made available as a result of Congress authorizing over \$2 million of funding for projects seeking to comply with provisions of the Rural Water Supply Act of 2006; and
- Authority representatives were informed by Senator Baucus' office earlier in the year that their authorization bill was still awaiting action on S.637 in the Senate Committee, and that they needed to work with Reclamation in order to advance their authorization request. A draft feasibility study had been prepared previously, and Dry-Redwater will work with the Montana Area Office of Reclamation to augment sections of the report identified as needing further work.

Central Montana (Musselshell-Judith project)

- The Central Montana Regional Water Authority applied for study funds from the Bureau of Reclamation in July, and received notification of Reclamation funding of a maximum of \$200,000 of study costs in August. (These funds were also made available as a result of Congress authorizing over \$2 million of funding for projects seeking to comply with provisions of the Rural Water Supply Act of 2006.); and
- The Authority received a determination from Reclamation as to the suitability of a 2007 Draft Appraisal Report (updated to May 2010) as an appraisal level study. They hope to apply for feasibility study funds from Reclamation through the next round of funding under the provisions of the 2006 Act, which process may begin as early as January 2011. Scoping meetings (in order to demonstrate NEPA compliance) were held last week in Roundup, Harlowton and Lewistown.
- ****Information in this version has been amended from the oral report, as presented on December 14, 2010.***

W₂ASACT TRACKING SPREADSHEET- No updates.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS/STAG/WRDA - Jay Sinnott, EPA-Evergreen declined their grant and are sending funds back to congress for reallocation (to help with national budget). Anaconda (2001 grant) is set to expire in 12/31/2010. The Big Hole Diversion Dam is complete. Jay attended a final inspection of the Rattlesnake sewer development area project and was pleased with the project. Bozeman wastewater treatment plant update: Last week the project was 75% complete and is on schedule to be completed 01/12. The project in total costs \$55 million.

3. PROGRAM/PROJECT UPDATES

Pam Smith, Zach Owen & Lindsay Volpe (DNRC/RRGL): The 2011 RRGL Budget book is available. The legislative fiscal office and the governor's budget office do not agree on the funding line for the RRGL projects, but we can expect to have funds for 49-56 projects.

Gus Byrum (CDBG): Gus is waiting for HUD FY11 budget. Projects are waiting for the funding to be announced.

Heather Sobrepena-George (DOC/BRD): Legislative update: slated as a one-time program for the second biennium.

Anna Miller (DNRC/SRF): SRF is wrapping up many ARRA projects and getting the intended use plans finalized.

Larry Gallagher (HUD): Sustainability and minimum energy standards have become priorities for HUD financing. Today, 60% of household income is spent on housing and transportation. HUD is encouraging Enterprise Green Community Development and regional planning. Larry will be presenting information on EPA/DOT sustainability at the next meeting.

Pam Higgins (MAP): Pam updated the group about MAP staff changes. The updated water and sewer documents are available and she'll be bringing a few examples next meeting.

Kate Miller (TSEP): no updates

Jay Sinnott (EPA): no updates

Nick Clos (MRWS): The annual MRWS meeting will be February 23, 24, 25th in Great Falls. Nick handed out registration packet info.

4. OTHER ISSUES

No other issues at this time.

5. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be hosted by DEQ, February 8th, 2011. Meeting details to be determined.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:25 p.m.