

W₂ASACT MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2010
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Department of Commerce
301 S. Park Avenue
Basement Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT INCLUDED:

Mark Smith	DEQ/SRF	Kate Miller	TSEP
Paul LaVigne	DEQ/SRF	Dave Cole	DOC/CDD
Anna Miller	DNRC	Gus Byrom	CDBG/DOC
Bob Fischer	DNRC/RRGL	Ellen Hanpa	DOC/Coal Board
Rick Duncan	DNRC	Sandy Kust	MAP
Alice Stanley	DNRC/RDB	Pam Higgins	MAP
Pam Smith	DNRC/RRGL	Nick Clos	MRWS
Amy Personette	DNRC	Steve Troendle	USDA-RD
Alicia Stickney	DNRC/RRGL	Jay Sinnott	EPA
Lindsay Volpe	DNRC/RRGL	Larry Gallagher	HUD
Joan Specking	DNRC	Brianne Rogers	Senator Baucus' office
Jan Langel	DNRC/Water	Yulberton Sandcrane	N. Cheyenne Tribal Council
Debra Demarais	TSEP	Annamarie Robinson	Bearpaw Development
Jim Edgcomb	TSEP	Christine Hultin-Brus	Governor's Budget Office
Richard Knatterud	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 10:03 a.m. on February 9, 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; Alice Stanley seconded the motion; the minutes were approved and adopted. There was an amended agenda to have Annmarie Robinson from Bear Paw Development to speak on projects for consideration in upcoming funding cycles and funding strategies. All those in attendance introduced themselves.

Guest speaker, Jan Langel from the Water Resources Division did a presentation on changes that occurred during the 2009 Legislation, (HB40 and SB396) on water rights law and how they may affect infrastructure projects(s). He explained the updated permit and application process. If anyone has further water rights questions, please contact Kim Overcast at 406-444-6614 or e-mail her at kovercast@mt.gov.

UPDATES FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

WORKSHOPS- Bob Fischer: Spring of 2010 workshops are scheduled for February 17th at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, March 3rd in Missoula at the Holiday Inn, and March 10th in Billings at the Hilton Garden Inn.

UNIFORM APPLICATION- Jim Edgcomb: Every two years the committee meets to see if changes are needed to the Uniform Application or the Preliminary Engineering Report outline. There are no updates at this time.

STANDARD DOCUMENTS- Bob Fischer: No updates at this time. Right now the committee is waiting for the updated Montana Public Works Standard Specs to come out. Each agency will need to purchase a set. The standard supplement will be updated at that time.

INTERNET WEBSITE- Pam Smith: Lindsay Volpe(RRGL) has checked all the links on the website and has updated what is there. A brief presentation will be given at the workshops to show people what is on the site. Please let Pam know if anyone notices updates that are needed.

VIDEO COMMITTEE- Bob Fischer: A new WASACT video is something to consider in the next couple of years.

UPDATES ON ONGOING TOPICS

REGIONAL WATER PROJECTS

Rick gave the group a brief presentation on water rights issues for all of the regional projects. He also gave a brief status update on the projects.

Fort Peck-Dry Prairie

Work on the regional water treatment plant (WTP) by RSCI of Meridian, Idaho has continued through the winter months, to stay on schedule for completion of the WTP by July 2011. The equipment that Apollo Construction has been awaiting for completion of the clear well and washwater recovery basin (2nd phase of the regional plant) has arrived. The contract for construction of raw water piping from the intake to the WTP was recently awarded to Apollo.

The Tribes' and Dry Prairie's cooperative project to bring interim water service to the community of Fort Kipp resulted in water flowing to the community from the Culbertson WTP beginning January 12. There was an article in the January 14 edition of the Fort Peck Journal.

Dry Prairie is working on completion, management and planning of several projects. Work on the Authority's operations and maintenance (O&M) building on the north side of Culbertson is over 60% complete, but there have been some delays associated with coordination in ordering and arrival of materials. The first phase of the Valley County project, bringing interim water supply from the Boeing/MARCO WTP at Saint Marie to southeastern Valley County, is in winter shut-down mode except for work on meter vaults, electrical connections, and pressure testing of completed segments; over 90 percent of the project has been completed. Planning, design and hydraulic modeling for the North Bainville and Valley County Phase II projects are in process, including preliminary work for pipeline routing and necessary easement acquisition.

Rocky Boy's-North Central

The Chippewa Cree Construction Corporation (CCCC) has completed plans for installation of the first and second segments 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 raised by USBR's real estate office has resulted in Reclamation taking responsibility for that entire process. The Tribe has applied (through

the North Central Authority(for \$2 million in TSEP Regional Water account funds for the purpose of acquisition of pipeline materials.

The North Central Montana Regional Water Authority let two contracts- for pumping station and pipeline installation work- in the fall of2009. Winter conditions have prevented completion of the project to bring an interim supply of water from the City of Havre to the North Havre County Water & Sewer District, but the contractors expect substantial completion by April.

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

Dry-Redwater

Authority board members are still awaiting a 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 \$115 million project in Garfield, McCone, Prairie, Dawson, and Richland counties, as well as McKenzie County, ND. A companion bill – H.R. 4119- was introduced by Representative Rehberg in the House in November.

Central Montana (Musselshell-Judith project)

The Authority is nearing completion of negotiations with landowners north of Judith Gap for potential location of a well field for the regional system. Reclamation is currently considering allowing the appraisal report compiled by the Authority in 2007 to be used as an appraisal level study for Federal purposes. Next Authority meeting is February 10th at 1 p.m. in Harlowton.

W₂ASACT Project Tracking Sheet

Jim Edgcomb: No new updates

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – SECTION 595 PROGRAM

Pam Smith: The Congressional offices are waiting for the submittals of FY 2011 grants. The grant deadline is March 1st, 2010. There will probably be about \$5 million in grants available this fiscal year.

STAG PROJECT UPDATES

Jay Sinnott: Bozeman, Missoula and Butte STAG grant projects will go to construction this year.

PROGRAM/PROJECT UPDATES

Steve Troendle(USDA/RD):

RD has a new employee, Kirk Kaiser. RD has \$30 million in applications on hand and are \$2 million short in funding for loans and \$6 million short for grants. Steve also told the group that Bob Parsley has retired.

Anna Miller (DNRC/SRF):

Anna handed out the drinking water and wastewater spreadsheets showing how the ARRA funds were spent on the different projects and that the state is spreading the funding and jobs around. They will

have the loans closed by the February 17th deadline. The projects exceeded the 20% requirement for Green Infrastructure.

Paul LaVigne(DEQ/SRF):

The DEQ staff has done a tremendous job. They have had 8-10 people working on 60 projects and 3 to 4 loans will be closed. FY 2010 Appropriations are higher for both Drinking Water and Wastewater program. Principle forgiveness which is similar to the ARRA loans will be 30% for water and 15% for wastewater loans. Wastewater demands exceed supply and some applicants may be turned away.

Gus Byrom (CDBG):

The CDBG program is still waiting to hear from Washington on how much money they will receive for their CDBG grants.

Jim Edgcomb (TSEP):

The TSEP program is expecting 80 applications and will be able to fund only about 30 of them.

Dave Cole (Community Affairs Division):

Dave told the group that he and his staff have been ranking historical grants for Commerce. They have also been very busy in contracting about \$10 million in grants for local government.

Dave was congratulated on his retirement by the committee and was thanked for his years of public service and dedication to communities in the State of Montana.

Pam Smith (RRGL):

Pam said that the RRGL program is expecting 130 grant applications on the May 15th deadline.

Sandy Kust (MAP):

MAP is presenting training seminars for Boards including what the legal responsibilities of Board membership is. MAP is also working with Fort Belknap Tribe through their managing mentors program.

Nick Clos (MSWS):

Nick just reminded everyone the Montana Rural Water Conference will be held in Great Falls in several weeks.

OTHER ISSUES

- Yulberton Alec Sandcrane from the Northern Cheyenne Reservation came to address group on funding issues for water issues on his reservation. The water is below standard and would take approximately \$781,000 for upgrades and a new well. Sandy Kust from MAP is working with the tribe to assist them in completing funding applications and project development.
- Annmarie Robinson presented specific projects she is working on and asked for W₃ASACT's input in funding strategies for these particular communities.
 - Loma County Water District submitted plans to DEQ-Public Water Supply and were told it would cost \$28,000 for DEQ to review the plans. She estimated that the project would lose 1 ½ miles of pipe because of the fee. She is exploring the idea of applying to the SRF program for interim funding. The SRF program would review the plans for free.

- Carter Chouteau County Water and Sewer District has had a problem with operators submitting timely reports. The EPA has now found that the water system is groundwater under the influence of surface water (GWUISW) and has served an Administrative Order. To fix the GWUISW the district will have to consider a treatment plant which may cost the approximately 40 rural users \$1.7 million. Users on this system already pay \$100 per month or more just for water.

- Christine Hultin-Brus asked the group if anyone knew about the town of Lodgepole having to haul water. The Governor's office had an inquiry, but no one in the group had heard of this.

- Pam Smith will call a meeting with state agency representatives to discuss updating the 2003 Report to the Governor.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for April 13th, 10 a.m. at the DNRC.

MEETING ADJOURNED (approximately 2:00 p.m.)