

DRAFT
W₂ASACT MEETING MINUTES
June 8, 2010
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
Department of Natural Resources & Conservation
1625 11th Avenue
Basement Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT INCLUDED:

Mark Smith	DEQ/SRF	Kali Wicks	DOC-QS
Anna Miller	DNRC	Christine Hultin-Brus	OBPP
Fischer	DNRC/RRGL	Larry Gallagher	HUD
Rick Duncan	DNRC	Debra Demarais	DOC-TSEP
Pam Smith	DNRC/RRGL	Alice Stanley	DNRC/RRGL/Reg. Water
Amy Personette	DNRC	Julie DalSoglio	EPA-MT Office
Lindsay Volpe	DNRC/RRGL	James Chamberlain	OBPP
Joan Specking	DNRC	Jim Edgcomb	TSEP
Jay Sinnott	EPA	Brianne Rogers	Senator Baucus' Office

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 June 8, 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. All those in attendance introduced themselves.

Guest speaker, Julie DalSoglio, State Director of US EPA Region 8 dalsoglio.julie@epa.gov 406-457-5025; talked about the highlights on EPA's support on water and infrastructure nationally and statewide. One long standing question is "how to close the funding gap between drinking water and wastewater". EPA said to expect that there will be cutbacks in 2011 for the SRF programs.

UPDATES FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

WORKSHOPS- Bob Fischer: Will get the committee going to reserve locations for the Spring workshops in 2011.

UNIFORM APPLICATION- Jim Edgcomb: No updates.

STANDARD DOCUMENTS- Bob Fischer: New Montana Public Works books are available for \$60.00. Contractors 00900 division, will be updated later.

INTERNET WEBSITE- Pam Smith: Any updates need to go to Pam Smith.

PICNIC COMMITTEE- Bob Fischer & Mark Smith: Decision made to not have a picnic. Instead, people will go somewhere after the meeting in August to sit on the patio.

UPDATES ON ONGOING TOPICS

EMERGENCY GRANTS-

Have had inquiries but no funding of projects as the projects don't qualify as emergencies.

TRIBAL ISSUES

Jim Edgecomb: The Blackfeet project ran into a \$400,000 shortfall so completion in August is optimistic. They are still working on the treatment plant and need to have the distribution system in place in order to test it. The pipeline is currently out to bid. The Crow Tribe is in the construction phase on the lagoon. The EPA has a draft EIA for Phase III (collection and distribution). An RD application is pending on phases 3A and 3B. An Environmental Assessment is needed and federal legislation language has to be changed on this project as the 2010 STAG grant earmark reads "lagoon" and should read "infrastructure improvements".

The Fort Belknap water filtration plant is complete but it is not operating well. It has been turned over to the Tribes with EPA enforcement and technical assistance. The Tribe does not have the funding for training and it is a complex system that requires qualified operators.

REGIONAL WATER PROJECTS

Fort Peck- Dry Prairie

Work on the regional water treatment plant (WTP) continues on schedule for completion in July 2011. The contract for construction of raw water piping from the intake to the WTP was awarded to Apollo Construction. Bids are currently being solicited for installation of water main from the WTP to Poplar, with bid opening scheduled for June 15th. Chloride from the salt-water intrusion plume has reached one of the Town of Poplar wells' zone of influence, and the Town is currently blending water from that well with water from two other unaffected wells to keep the chloride levels down. Another well across the Poplar River is planned as an interim water source until the regional WTP and supply pipeline are completed in 2011.

Dry Prairie is in the process of completing two projects and planning others. The operations and maintenance (O&M) building on the north side of Culbertson was scheduled for completion in May, but has had a few additional delays; Dry Prairie has ordered furniture and fixtures, which will arrive or be installed in the next few weeks. Phase One of the Valley County project, an interim water supply from the Boeing/MARCo WTP to Nashua and rural connections in southeastern Valley County, began the 2010 construction season in late March; the project is over 98 percent complete, and is expected to reach substantial completion in June. Planning and design for the North Bainville (east) and Valley County Phase II (Areas A & C) projects are complete, with plans and specifications recently having been submitted to Reclamation and Montana DEQ for review.

Rocky Boy's-North Central

The Chippewa Cree Construction Corporation (CCCC) is moving ahead with installation of the first and second 6+-mile-long segments of 36-inch steel water main of the Core pipeline which will transport water from the regional WTP to Box Elder. Issues on the easement and rights-of-way processes continue to be active, with Senator Tester's office having recently voiced concerns about the securing of same along the entire 50-mile-long corridor. The Tribe (through the North Central Authority) will receive \$3 million in TSEP Regional Water funds for the purchase of pipeline materials for these Core pipeline segments. Total cost of the construction and materials of the two segments approaches \$17 million.

The Authority's first construction project, providing North Havre County Water & Sewer District with an interim supply from City of Havre, is nearly complete, with substantial completion expected sometime during the month of June. Easement & R/W work continues on the proposed Tiber Area pipeline project, but difficulties with at least two landowners will likely set back the project timetable a number of months.

Dry-Redwater

Authority representatives are still awaiting action on S.637 in the Senate Committee, and for a hearing to be scheduled on the companion bill H.R.4119 in the House. Numerous congressional action monitoring websites still indicate no action on S.637 since the Senate sub-committee hearing on July 23, 2009. There is nothing further to report on the project at this time.

Central Montana (Musselshell-Judith project)

The Central Montana Regional Water Authority is in final stages of negotiations with landowners north of Judith Gap for location of the regional system well-field. The Authority is awaiting a determination from Reclamation of the suitability of a 2007 Draft Appraisal Report (updated to May 2010) as an appraisal level study. The Final Rule resulting from the 2006 Federal Rural Water Supply Act is expected to be published in the Federal Register sometime this summer, which is the Rule the Bureau of Reclamation intends to apply to new regional water projects not yet authorized by Congress. The next Authority meeting will be June 9th in Roundup.

W₂ASACT Project Tracking Sheet- Jim Edgecomb: The Tracking spreadsheet has been revised.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – SECTION 595 PROGRAM

There are 82 Section 595 grant applications and Pam Smith has sent them for people to review and would like to get them back within two weeks. Pam asked the review group to consider the applicants readiness to proceed, administrative orders and whether their funding packages are complete.

STAG PROJECT UPDATES

The applications for 2010 STAG grants are coming in.

PROGRAM/PROJECT UPDATES

Alice Stanley (DNRC/RRGL): There are 112 applications in for RRGL and 29 applications for RDGP.

Larry Gallagher (HUD): They have received 80 pages of federal regulations relating to sustainability.

Anna Miller (DNRC/SRF):

The ARRA funds are outdoing the C Loans. There will be some forgiveness required on the 2010 CAP Grant.

Mark Smith (DEQ/SRF): Currently they are waiting for grant applications. The IUP will be finalized around July 1. Montana had the highest number of green drinking water projects.

Jim Edgcomb (TSEP):

They have 59 applications, and will fund 30 to 35 of them.

OTHER ISSUES

No other issues at this time.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting: August 10, 2010, 1-4 p.m.

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