

W₂ASACT MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 2010
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Department of Commerce
301 South Park

MEMBERS PRESENT INCLUDED:

Gus Byrom	DOC/CDBG	Craig Erickson	Great West Engineering
Anna Miller	DNRC	LeAnn Books	Morrison-Maierle, Inc.
Larry Gallagher	HUD	Kate Miller	DOC/TSEP
Zach Owen	DNRC/RRGL	Heather Sobrepena-George	DOC/BRD
Pam Smith	DNRC/RRGL	Alice Stanley	DNRC/RRGL/Reg. Water
Kali Wicks	DOC/QSP	Valerie Short	DOC/TSEP
Lindsay Volpe	DNRC/RRGL	Jason Smith	DOC/STEDC
Jay Sinnott	EPA	Pam Higgins	MAP
Bob Fischer	DNRC/RRGL	Kirk Keysor	USDA/RD
Nick Clos	MRWS	Jim Edgcomb	DOC/TSEP
Steve Troendle	USDA.RD	Frank Kromkowski	DOC/CDBG
Kathy Brenden	DOC/CDBG	Brianne Dugan	SEN. BAUCUS
Joan Specking	DNRC	Richard Knatterud	DOC/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 12, 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; Bob Fischer seconded the motion; the minutes were approved and adopted. All those in attendance introduced themselves.

GUEST SPEAKER

Kali Wicks – Department of Commerce, Quality Schools Grant Program

Kali was invited to the meeting to discuss the Quality Schools grant program offered through the Department of Commerce <http://commerce.mt.gov/qualityschools/default.mcp.x>. The Program, created by HB 152, provides a competitive grant program for (1) school facility and technology grants; (2) matching planning grants; and (3) emergency grants for public school districts in Montana (elementary districts and high school districts as defined in 20-6-101, MCA, or a K-12 school district as defined in 20-6-701, MCA).

Some of the schools that have received grants for water infrastructure include: Helena Elementary, Cascade, Amsterdam, Poplar school districts and Harlem High.

The funds for Quality Schools grants come from the timber harvest on common school trust lands, mineral royalties transferred from the guarantee account in 20-9-622, MCA, and rental income received from power site leases as provided in 77-4-208, MCA, deposited into the school

W₂ASACT MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 2010

facility and technology account. The program has received \$12 million for total project costs and will be recommending \$20 million in funding for the next biennium.

ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

1. UPDATES FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

WORKSHOPS- Bob Fischer updated the group on the dates for the spring workshops. They are as follows: 2/23 Heritage Inn, Great Falls; 3/9 Hilton Garden Inn, Billings; 3/23 Holiday Inn Parkside, Missoula.

UNIFORM APPLICATION- General Discussion. There are no changes to the Uniform Application at this time. Each program needs to look at the new EJCDC standard contract documents and 00900 language for any changes that may affect their programs. The changes could possibly affect SRF, RD, CDBG. The Standard documents and Uniform Application committees will further discuss adding language for community emergency plans (RD currently requires emergency response plans).

STANDARD DOCUMENTS- There have been no changes. See above.

INTERNET WEBSITE- Pam Smith: Updates to member list will be going around and available for the next meeting.

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.

- The Rocky Boy reservation have a funding request to RD for to help with impacts from recent flooding on the reservation. DNRC approved an emergency grant for the tribe to purchase bottled water, but no one from the tribe has ever filled out the paperwork to request the funds. It was not known if the Tribe requested funding from the Environmental Contingency account through the governor's office or if they applied for funding under the Disaster & Emergency Services. FEMA should be covering the costs for overall losses.
- Richard Knatterud: The Browning project is underway and currently pipeline is being built. Issues with the bid process has held up construction of the tank. Treatment plant construction is being **remobilized and should by mid December**. The Crow Lagoon project is nearing completion.
- Gus Byrum: Lodge Grass has retained Morrison and Maierle as engineers to complete a PER on a wastewater system for the community. A PER for the water system is being completed by another company. The town has experienced problems in personnel turnover and shortage of funds. The Department of Commerce is giving the community a grant for \$15,000 to assist in their accounting efforts. The community does not have the funds to purchase insurance so in an effort to assist the community, the Coal Board has contracted directly with Morrison and

W₂ASACT MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 2010

Maierle to write a PER for wastewater. DNRC has some planning grant money that has been “turned back” and can assist too, but their contract has to be with either the Crow Tribe or the County. MAP is working with the community and Pam Higgins said someone from MAP will contact DNRC about the planning grant. Gus reported that there is a weekly phone call between the town, Morrison and Maierle, the Dept. of Commerce and the Governor’s Office to try to coordinate grant efforts.

- Fort Belknap-Steve Troendle. The water treatment plant is up and running- there was no final inspection done but the plant is functioning. Fort Belknap is struggling with operator issues and MAP is trying to assist with the operator mentoring program.

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

Fort Peck –Dry Prairie

Fort Peck

- The work on the final phase of the Tribes’ regional water treatment plant (WTP) continues on schedule for completion in August 2011.
- Construction of the raw water piping from the Missouri River intake to the WTP has been awarded, with expected start-up delayed due to waiting on title policy on Tribal lands, and completion of easement work; construction was to commence in September 2010.
- For on reservation pipeline segments currently under design, engineers estimates are as follows” \$5.8 million for the WTP to Wolf Point main project; \$9 million for the Wolf Point to Frazer main segment; and \$3.1 million for area service lines between Wolf Point to Poplar.

Dry Prairie

- Two projects are in the process of being completed, constructing two new segments and planning another.
- The operations and maintenance (O&M) building on the north side of Culbertson was originally scheduled for May completion; substantial completion was achieved in August.
- Phase 1 of Valley County project, an interim water supply from Boeing/MARCo WTP to Nashua and rural connections in southeastern Valley County, achieved substantial completion June 17th.
- Planning, design and bid-letting phases for the North Bainville (east) and Valley County Phase II (Areas A & C) projects are complete.
- The North Bainville pipeline project is currently at 35% completion, with less than 30% of the contract time expired. A TSEP regional water system construction grant was recently finalized, which grants Dry Prairie \$3.975 million of State of Montana funds for the project.

Rocky Boy’s-North Central

Chippewa Cree

- Chippewa Creek Construction Corporation (CCCC) has been installing the first and second 6 +/- segments of 36-inch steel water main of the Core pipeline which will transport water from the regional WTP to Box Elder. The total cost of the two segments is approximately \$17 million.
- Work is also proceeding on the project to build the raw water intake pumping plant. The caisson and substructure are complete, and work has been proceeding on the superstructure construction.

The North Central Montana Authority

W₂ASACT MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 2010

- First construction project (providing North Havre County water and sewer district with interim supply from City of Havre) reached substantial completion In June.
- The Authority opened bids on the Tiber area pipeline project September 1st. 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. DEQ has not yet approved the plans and specs and the grant application to DNRC was lacking needed information to approve the grant.

Dry-Redwater

- The Authority applied for feasibility study funds from the Bureau of Reclamation in July, and received notification of **funding for \$240,000. The total study cost is \$480,000.** The funds were made available as result of Congress authorizing over \$2 million of funding for projects seeking to comply with provisions of the Rural Water Supply Act of 2006.

Central Montana (Musselshell-Judith project)

- The Authority applied for study funds from the Bureau of Reclamation in July, and received notification that a maximum of \$200,000 for study costs would be available in August. The funds were made available as result of Congress authorizing over \$2 million of funding for projects seeking to comply with provisions of the Rural Water Supply Act of 2006. 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

W₂ASACT TRACKING SPREADSHEET-Jim Edgcomb: There are no changes to the Tracking Spreadsheet until projects have been approved by the 2011 Legislature.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS/STAG/WRDA - Brianne Dugan: WRDA, 595 project funding will be probably be included in an Omnibus appropriation. Regional water projects submitted full amounts for a total of **595.5** million. The Interior Appropriations Bill includes the Crow Tribes' 2009 application for wastewater Lagoons. Jay Sinnot: STAG projects-the Big Hole River diversion dam coming along nicely; Evergreen is working on PER with NO annexation to Kalispell; Em-Kayan **outstanding.**

3. PROGRAM/PROJECT UPDATES

Alice Stanley (DNRC/RRGL): No updates.

Pam Smith & Lindsay Volpe (DNRC/RRGL): RRGL is in the process of sending out notification of grant application ranking letters to all 112 applicants. It is expected that about 50 grants will be funded in the 2011 Legislative session. DNRC staff members are working on the Governor's Budget books for the RRGL and RDG program. The size of the books will generate a large cost and the staff is exploring alternative options to publishing the usual amounts.

Gus Byrum (CDBG): Staff members are wrapping up ranking on 16 projects. Possibly eight projects will receive funding, but that is contingent upon federal funding for FY 2011. The CDBG program is expecting around seven million as a consistent level of funding .

W₂ASACT MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 2010

Gus is working with Gallatin Gateway WSD to assist them in funding options for their wastewater project. The Four-corners area by Bozeman was denied SRF funding as population densities are too low. Anna Miller added that they didn't have 50% development within the area. Steve Troendle also added that RD has the same concerns and they cannot add any funding. The priorities of SRF program are to fix existing system issues and not to pay for new systems in previously undeveloped areas.

Anna Miller (DNRC/SRF): Anna hopes that the SRF funding will be included in the continuing resolution for same funding level as 2010.

Mark and Paul (DEQ SRF) have been working on intended use plans since June. Currently, SRF is putting the intended use list together. 90% of the projects are moving forward and in general, bids are coming in low.

Larry Gallagher (HUD): HUD has a new office of sustainability opening this month. 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. They are discouraging the sprawl developments of the past.

Jim Edgcomb (TSEP): TSEP is done scoring and ranking. They have given their recommendations to the Division Administrator and will meet with the Governor's office in the coming month. Jim is working on the Governor's Budget Book. TSEP is still trying to fill an open position.

Frank Kromkowski (CDBG): CDBG is currently reviewing Public Facility applications. They received 16 applications; 11 water/wastewater and 5 others. Ranking sessions for all 16 applications will take place the 1st week of October. \$7.8 million CDBG is estimated to receive \$7.8 million for the next fiscal year. Housing Application Guidelines will be released next month (September 2010).

Pam Higgins (MAP): Pam gave a rundown of her staff around the state (names, contact info.) and suggested to look at the MAP website for further details. She emphasized that technical assistance to communities is FREE to all that could use it.

Kate Miller (TSEP): Kate is now working half time with the new Quality Schools Grant program and half time for TSEP.

Jay Sinnott (EPA): Jay requested that Dave Aune, from Great West Engineering, be invited to the next WASACT meeting to give a presentation on the "feasibility of regional wastewater systems".

Steve Troendle (USDA RD): This quarter, Rural Development interest rates have dropped to the lowest they have ever been. Rural Development has \$16 million of applications waiting for funding. The WASACT meeting in June 2011 will be held in Bozeman.

4. OTHER ISSUES

No other issues at this time.

W₂ASACT MEETING MINUTES
October 12, 2010

5. *NEXT MEETING*

The next meeting will be hosted by DNRC in the DNRC Bannack Room, December 14th, 2010, 10 a.m.

6. *Adjournment*

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:14 p.m.