

**W<sub>2</sub>ASACT MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 12, 2011**  
**10 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**Department of Commerce, Board of Investments**  
**2401 Colonial Drive, 3rd Floor, Helena**

**MEMBERS PRESENT INCLUDED:**

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Gus Byrom	DOC/CDBG	Pam Higgins	MAP
Anna Miller	DNRC	Zach Owen	DNRC/RRGL
Clay Landry	USDA/RD	Alice Stanley	DNRC/RDB
Pam Smith	DNRC/RRGL	Richard Knatterud	DOC/TSEP
Cheryl Ulmer	SEN. TESTER	Lindsay Volpe	DNRC/RRGL
Jay Sinnott	EPA	Bob Fischer	DNRC/RRGL
Nick Clos	MRWS	Mark Smith	DEQ/SRF
Craig Erickson	GreatWest Eng.	Craig Pozega	GreatWest Eng
Louise Welsh	DOC/BOI	Joan Specking	DNRC

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**CALL TO ORDER, SIGN-IN SHEET, AGENDA CHANGES**

Pam Smith, Chair, called the scheduled meeting of the Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (W2ASACT) to order at 10:10 a.m. on April 12, 2011. 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; Zach Owen seconded the motion; the minutes were approved and adopted.

**GUEST SPEAKER, Larry Gallagher, HUD *Building a Better Tomorrow Today***

Larry was invited to discuss sustainability. Larry presented information about how HUD in Montana is working towards sustainability, the 6 livability principals, transportation, and sustainable community partnerships.

Why does the link between social-economic-environment management matter? It matters because the overlap of the three topics is sustainability. We need to focus our management on sustainability and building stronger, sustainable communities through strategic coordination. Sustainability can be a platform for other outcomes – education, health, and housing. In order to address sustainability, the Federal government has put forward an executive order to curtail waste. On June 16, 2009, EPA joined with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to help improve access to affordable housing, more transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment in communities nationwide. Through a set of guiding livability principles and a partnership agreement that will guide the agencies' efforts, this partnership will coordinate federal housing, transportation, and other infrastructure investments to protect the environment, promote equitable development, and help to address the challenges of climate change. All federal agencies are participating in the executive order.

HUD is encouraging the 6 livability principals and Smart Growth. The 6 livability principals include the following: 1. Provide more transportation choices, 2. Promote equitable, affordable housing, 3. Enhance

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economic competitiveness, 4. Support existing communities, 5. Coordinate and leverage federal policies and investment, and 6. Value communities and neighborhoods.

HUD in MT is working on transportation. Missoula bought 3 new buses and gave an old one to the transportation program *Highline Opportunity Link*. Opportunity Link has been funded by grant funds up to this point and is recently charging a small fee. Almost no transit system is self sustaining.

HUD is also promoting affordable housing. "Drive until you qualify" took the mortgage problem to its height. If you remove one car from a household, you could apply \$100,000 to a mortgage. HUD suggests enhancement of economic competitiveness through reliable timely access to employment centers and training. To do this, they support existing communities through transit oriented mixed use development; Coordinate policies and leverage investment work with DOT/ transit on where they are spending money and how we can get coordinated projects-share info to improve work; Value communities and neighborhoods enhance unique communities by making them walkable, rideable, and accessible.

Montana is on the obese list due to lack of transportation opportunities (non vehicle) and poor nutrition. Montana also has the third oldest population per capita.

Montana has two sustainable communities in the works: East of Billings partnership master plan and Missoula is working on the old mill site. Helena has received a walkability grant.

Larry reminded us that every state has a coordinator to help pull resources together. Job creation is #1 priority, sustainability is #2.

**ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

**UPDATES FROM SUBCOMMITTEES**

Subcommittee discussion-everyone. At several people's suggestion, the group decided to combine the Uniform Application Committee and the Standard Documents Committee. Pam took input as to everyone's preferences for committee assignments and told the group she would send out an updated list the following week.

**WORKSHOPS-** Bob Fischer-Bob suggested selecting dates for fall workshops. Fall workshop dates are as follows: October 6-13-20<sup>th</sup>: 6<sup>th</sup> Billings Hilton Garden Inn/Commerce; 13<sup>th</sup> Helena Colonial Hotel/SRF; 20<sup>th</sup> Missoula RRGL.

Workshop comments received from attendee's seems to be to want more information on how to walk through the entire funding process for a community. The workshops went well overall.

**UNIFORM APPLICATION** - No discussion.

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**STANDARD DOCUMENTS** – There is a new 00900 with latest April 08 Public Works Spec. There is no funding agency edition of general conditions.

**INTERNET WEBSITE** - Pam Smith: updates were sent out last fall. Updates will be done once a year.

**PICNIC COMMITTEE** - No discussion

**UPDATES ON ONGOING TOPICS**

**EMERGENCY GRANTS** - Bob Fischer and Richard Knatterud:  
Bob Fischer –

- 1) Jackson Water and Sewer District called him with a wastewater problem. They need a planning grant. The problem does not appear to be a threat to the school.
- 2) Opeheim has a leaking water tank. The plan at present time is to get an inspection outfit in there when it thaws.

Richard Knatterud –

- 1) Greenacres is a mobile home park south of Kalispell and is working with TSEP. They need to connect to the city of Kalispell. The mobile home park is providing affordable housing in the Kalispell area.

**TRIBAL ISSUES** - General Discussion.

- Lodge Grass - Gus Byrom reported the ongoing conference calls being held with Lodge Grass and all funding agencies. Currently the group is comparing notes and working together on what the environmental requirements will be. There may be some on the same complications with Lodge Grass as with the Crow Agency including site selection and floodplain issues. The Rural Development planning grant has not yet been signed. The agency is waiting on the federal budget, to determine how much funding Rural Development will have.
- Crow Agency - Jay Sinnott- Phase 4A is being scaled back due to funding issues. Originally it was for pipe and a UV treatment system.
- CSKT housing authority- Jay Sinnott – The Confederated Salish Kootenai Tribal housing authority is getting a grant for \$1 million to put in meters on 18 communities.
- Blackfeet - Richard Knatterud - nothing changed with this project, since it is in winter shutdown conditions. MAP is conducting a rate study for Browning. As soon as weather permits, the construction of the water tank in Browning will get underway.

**RURAL WATER** – Rick Duncan-DNRC Regional Water Systems Update

**Fort Peck- Dry Prairie**

Final phase of the **Fort Peck Tribes'** regional water treatment plant (WTP) continues on schedule for completion in August 2011. The building was fully enclosed last fall, and inside construction and

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equipment installation has continued throughout the winter. Photos are available at <http://fortpecktribesmni.org/water-treatment-plant.htm>. 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, and is scheduled for bidding this spring; \$9 M for the Wolf-Point-to-Frazer main segment; and \$3.1 M for area service lines between Wolf Point and Poplar.

**Dry Prairie** is well into construction on the North Bainville and Valley County Phase 2 segments, and is tentatively approved for a TSRWS grant for what is now referred to as East Medicine Lake Phase 1A.

Construction on the **North Bainville** project segment proceeded throughout the fall, with a large percentage of this project having been completed. The contractor went into winter shutdown, and due to the record snowfall in NE Montana, will probably not be able to fully remobilize until sometime in May.

**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. 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 current cost per mile is \$1.58 million.\* The Bureau of Reclamation recently awarded the project an additional \$7.67 million in "second round" ARRA funds, with the stipulation that the money will be spent on pipeline Segments #1 and #2.

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 work proceeding.

Bureau of Reclamation convened a value engineering session for the system last fall, and the results of that study, including the Tribe's and the Authority's response, in the form of an accountability report are available from the Authority, or can be viewed at the DNRC offices.

The **North Central Montana Authority's** first construction project, providing North Havre County W&S District with interim supply from City of Havre, was completed June of 2010. North Central is billing the District, and is buying water from Havre.

The Authority opened bids on the Tiber Area pipeline project on September 1<sup>st</sup>. The low bid for the project came in at more than \$800,000 less than the engineer's estimated \$3.4 million. The Authority's executive committee authorized issuance of a Notice to Proceed, the pre-construction conference took place October 12<sup>th</sup> in Havre, and construction started shortly afterwards. With the exception of an approximate 10-day period, the contractor has worked through the winter, with the project about 85% complete as of last week. A TSRWS grant for \$2.49 million was approved recently for the project, which will allow the Authority to use other funds which were committed to this project for future interim project segments. Several construction options are currently under consideration by the Authority's Executive Committee and the engineering firms.

**Dry-Redwater**

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The Authority received 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. Authority representatives were informed by Senator Baucus' office earlier this year that their authorization bill had been reintroduced in Congress by the Senator. Dry-Redwater Authority continues to work with Reclamation in order to advance their authorization request. The Board recently amended its by-laws to stipulate that the Conservation Districts of Garfield, McCone, Richland and Dawson Counties will own the system (similar to Dry Prairie's organizational format), and there will be three representatives selected by each of those 4 CDs on the board of directors.

**Central Montana** (Musselshell-Judith project)

The Central Montana Regional Water Authority received study funds from the Bureau of Reclamation in July, to a maximum of \$200,000 of study costs in August. 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 intend to apply for feasibility study funds from Reclamation through the next round of funding under the provisions of the 2006 Act, which process is currently underway. Scoping meetings (in order to demonstrate NEPA compliance) were held in December in Roundup, Harlowton and Lewistown.

**W<sub>2</sub>ASACT TRACKING SPREADSHEET**- Richard-nothing to add at this time

**ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS/STAG/WRDA**

Cheryl Ulmer: Cheryl told the group that Senator Tester's office would like to know where funding is needed. They will try to help with funding issues by working through federal agencies. Currently, Senator Tester's office is working on FY2012 budgets. They are also working on the definition of an *earmark*.

Jay Sinnot – Jay updated the group on STAG grants. The Anaconda grant is now underway. A Draft PER was submitted to DEQ and comments have been received back.

Seeley Lake wastewater district is negotiating with Missoula County to represent the district. Randy Gordon has left his position with the district.

***COST OF PER'S FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION*** – Everyone

Discussion took place on the cost of planning grants and how we as a group might help contain the costs. This discussion was placed on the agenda after DNRC was approached by an engineering firm for a planning grant for a community of 600 people that would potentially cost \$90,000. This would include the I&I survey and video survey.

Richard Knatterud told the group that TSEP received 32 PER planning grant applications so far. Ten to eleven of these are bridges and ten of the water and wastewater projects contain an RRGL funding component in the budget. TSEP will be able to fund about 60 applications with the appropriated money. It was decided that the Uniform Application/Standard Documents committee will look at the language in

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the Uniform Application to determine if we as a group are asking too much for preliminary design. Many of the projects that rank higher have included elements of design that have typically been done in final design and as part of the greater project, such as, I&I survey and video surveys. These are not required in the Uniform Application, but the information is useful in defining the problem. The question is of affordability. The DOC/BOI Inter-cap loan program can also provide loan funding for a PER and many communities turn to obtain funding to complete their projects.

**PROGRAM/PROJECT UPDATES**

**Mark Smith (DEQ/SRF):** The DEQ/SRF program is working on programmatic and legislative items. Currently, project demand is exceeding available funds. Both the Drinking water and Wastewater programs have begun the intended use plans.

**Jay Sinnott (EPA):** no updates

**Louise Welsh (BOI):** no updates

**Anna Miller (DNRC):** The DNRC/SRF program has been working on a number of projects that are getting ready to bid. A lot of the funding will depend upon the Continuing Resolution for the federal budget for 2011 and then for 2012.

**Nick Clos (MRWS):** no updates

**Gus Byrum (CDBG):** Frank Kromkowski has retired. CDBG is closely watching Congress for FY11 awards. Planning grants for the CDBG program are due this Friday. Construction grant applications have been pushed back to Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Clay Landry (RD):** Rural Development hopes to know what funding is by Friday, as all other federal agencies. Currently there are no cost overruns for bids from projects.

**Pam Smith, Zach Owen & Lindsay Volpe (DNRC/RRGL):** The RRGL program is waiting for HB 6 to be signed by the governor. The funding line is currently through to project number 65. The program will not know what their funding is for sure until HB2 and other ancillary funding bills are finalized. RRGL is working on new rules. Planning grants application announcement will go out end of month or when the bill is signed by the governor.

**Larry Gallagher (HUD):** The general section for NOFAS will be published as soon as the federal budget is finalized.

**Pam Higgins (MAP):** MAP has printed a manual on the formation of a Water and Sewer District and when it is finalized, will be posted on W2ASACT website. Pam will bring copies of the manual to the next meeting for distribution.

**OTHER ISSUES**

No other issues at this time.

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**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be hosted by the Department of Commerce on June 14th, 2011.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:14 p.m.