

W₂ASACT MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 2011
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Department of Natural Resources
1625 11th Avenue

MEMBERS PRESENT INCLUDED:

Gus Byrom	DOC/CDBG	Pam Higgins	MAP
Anna Miller	DNRC	Kate Miller	DOC/TSEP
Zach Owen	DNRC/RRGL	Clay Landry	USDA/RD
Pam Smith	DNRC/RRGL	Richard Knatterud	DOC/TSEP
Brianne Dugan	SEN. BAUCUS's Office	Lindsay Volpe	DNRC/RRGL
Jay Sinnott	EPA	Bob Fischer	DNRC/RRGL
Nick Clos	MRWS	Mark Smith	DEQ/SRF
Craig Erickson	GreatWest Eng.	Jennifer Olson	DOC
Louise Welsh	DOC/BOI		

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 10:00 a.m. on December 14, 2010. 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.

GUEST SPEAKER

Larry Gallagher postponed until next meeting

ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

1. UPDATES FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

WORKSHOPS- Bob Fischer told the group the dates for the spring workshops are as follows: 02/23 Heritage Inn, Great Falls; 03/09 Hilton Garden Inn, Billings; 03/23 Holiday Inn Parkside, Missoula. CDBG will also be holding ½ day workshops as follows: 02/22 1:30-5:00 Heritage Inn, Great Falls; 03/10 8:30-12:00 Hilton Garden Inn, Billings; 03/24 8:30-12:00 Holiday Inn, Missoula.

UNIFORM APPLICATION- no discussion. The group moved to discuss reassignment and reorganization of committee members at the next meeting.

STANDARD DOCUMENTS- Bob Fischer: Bob worked with the Standard Document committee to reformat margins (which reduced the document by 5 pages) and make updates as needed. He has requested the committee to review the changes and submit comments or approval of the documents before he posts on the web site. Bob noted that most firms have updated forms and are aware that there is no funding agency edition.

INTERNET WEBSITE- Lindsay Volpe: has made updates as needed. Please send in project pictures for web site updates along with any information which is out of date.

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PICNIC COMMITTEE- No discussion

2. UPDATES ON ONGOING TOPICS

EMERGENCY GRANTS-Bob Fischer and Richard Knatterud:

Ophiem has requested funds for a leaky water tank. The tank is frozen and they have brought in alternative tanks. Bob suggested they work with an engineer and continue taking a look at the project this spring.

Jackson has requested an emergency grant for a leaking community septic tank. The tank was installed with emergency funds several years ago. Raw sewage is backing up on the ground and the tank is adjacent to a school. The emergency is probably due to design/pump issues. Kate Miller said she would contact the Quality Schools Grant program to see if Jackson would qualify for a grant from that program.

Libby applied for emergency funds through the governor's office and the environmental contingency account. The community is requesting the funding for an early warning system/PER for the concrete dam which impounds the town's drinking water supply. It was determined that the town should apply for planning grant money when those next come available and the request for emergency funds was denied.

TRIBAL ISSUES-General Discussion

- Crow Agency: Gus Byrom-CDBG is working on an MOU between all involved parties for Wastewater System Improvements for the town of Lodge Grass. The MOU would be between the funding agencies, the tribe, the town and the county. Conference calls are organized by the Department of Commerce and are held weekly among all involved parties. This has proved to be an effective method of communication. Gus offered to set up a tracking spreadsheet for the project, since so many funding agencies are involved. Currently the towns revenues cannot support the wastewater system.
- Fort Belknap: Pam Higgins-the Midwest Assistance Program is working with water users who are not paying for the use of the system. They are working with the tribe, county and community to help develop a rate system. Jay Sinnott, EPA is also working on this project.
- Blackfeet and Crow Agency: Richard Knatterud-DOC reported the pipeline projects are underway and nearing completion. The project is currently under a winter shut down. The tank is going out for bid and should be under construction this summer.

Jay Sinnott added the Crow lagoons did not pass the leak test.

RURAL WATER – Rick Duncan-DNRC Regional Water Systems Update (written 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 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> .

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For on-reservation pipeline segments currently under design, engineer's estimates are as follows: \$8 M for the WTP-to-Wolf Point main project; \$6.7 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 - Construction on the North Bainville project segment proceeded throughout the fall, with about 85% of this project having been completed; the contractor plans to remobilize sometime in April or May. Approx. 65% of the regional water system construction grant of \$3.975 million to Dry Prairie has been drawn down to pay pipeline construction invoices (Kamphuis).

An application for a construction grant on the East Medicine Lake Phase 1 project segment has been reviewed, and can be funded at about 60% of the request. The Authority is in the process of revising its work plans accordingly, so that there will be a Phase 1A in the near future, and a Phase 1B when more funding is made available by either the Federal or State government.

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) has received 90% of the \$3.1 million in regional water construction grant funds for the purchase of pipeline materials for Core pipeline segments from the State of Montana. 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 previously approved galvanized iron pipe materials. Total cost per mile is now calculated at \$1.58 million.*

Bureau of Reclamation recently issued a Final Report on the Value Planning (value engineering) session which was held the week of October 18, 2010, with more attention to the proposed WTP using micro-filtration technology. DNRC has received a copy of the Value Planning results, which are available for anyone wishing more details on the process.

North Central Montana Authority -- 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. After a series of exchanges between DNRC and the Authority in response to the Authority's uniform application for grant funds of \$3.6 million from regional water money authorized by the 2009 Legislature, DNRC recently informed the Authority of a partial award, based on a share of remaining uncommitted funds from the earlier Legislative authorization. At last report, the contractor had gone into winter shutdown.

Dry-Redwater *(This section contains the info from the December report.)*

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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. 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 *(This section contains the info from the December report.)*

For the 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.) 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 in December in Roundup, Harlowton and Lewistown.

W₂ASACT PROJECT TRACKING SPREADSHEET- Jim Edgcomb, DOC, will no longer update the WASACT project tracking spreadsheet. It was decided that the group would discuss Jim's replacement at the next meeting along with the reorganization of committees.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS/STAG/WRDA

Jay Sinnot-EPA

- The Anaconda West Valley (sewer line extension) is making progress and that the grant has been amended to extend the work plan and budget of phase 1.
- Missoula County is now involved with the Seeley Lake Wastewater project. The county has land that may be used for the project.
- Lewis and Clark County will be using the remainder of a STAG grant for a new septic system at Rossiter School.

Evergreen declined a STAG grant and are sending funds back to congress for reallocation (to help with national budget).

Brianne Dugan- Senator Baucus' office discussed current budget updates for the 595/STAG programs. Senator Inouye introduced a 2 year moratorium on earmarks. Senator Baucus is trying to make funds available to Montana through different means than earmarks. The Senator's are encouraging funding requests even though earmarks have been eliminated. They still need to see the requests to prioritize the needs for Montana. The President's Budget -

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget_factsheet_mt

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3. PROGRAM/PROJECT UPDATES

Mark Smith (DEQ/SRF): The DEQ SRF program is working on programmatic and legislative issues. Currently project demand is exceeding funds. Both the drinking water and wastewater programs are in the process of developing intended use plans.

Jay Sinnott (EPA): no updates

Louise Welsh (BOI): Interest rates are doing well and the final rate for Board of Investments loans for the next year will be out on the 22nd. Louise predicts it will probably another year of lower rates.

Jennifer Olsen (DOC): Steve Troendle discussed with her the importance of bringing up income surveys to the group. Currently, RD and CDBG have different requirements for income surveys. It was decided to add a subcommittee to see if it is possible to have a Uniform Survey that everyone in the WASACT group uses.

Nick Clos (MRWS): The annual MRWS conference will be held February 23, 24, 25th in Great Falls. Nick discussed agency display location and times available for set-up. Currently there are over 800 registered for the conference and he is assuming around 1000 will attend.

Kate Miller (TSEP): The TSEP program is considering adding new administrative manual requirements for site title opinion. There are varying requirements from the separate agencies as to the amount of data required for the document.

Gus Byrum (CDBG): Gus is waiting for HUD's FY11 budget to be allocated. Ranked projects are waiting for the funding to be announced.

Clay Landry (RD): He is not sure what RD emergency or other funding levels will be. ARRA funds were \$40 million and their normal fund amounts were \$15 million.

Pam Smith, Zach Owen & Lindsay Volpe (DNRC/RRGL): HB 6 and HB 7 hearings are finished and RRGL is watching HB 316 closely (it could cut 11 projects off proposed project list and diverts funds from RIT to the General Fund).

Larry Gallagher (HUD): Larry sent Pam Smith some information regarding HUD's stance on sustainability. He would like the group to review the information for the next meeting. He will give a presentation at the next meeting on sustainability.

Pam Higgins (MAP): no updates

4. OTHER ISSUES

No other issues at this time.

5. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be hosted by the Board of Investments Intercap Program on April 4, 2011.

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6. *Adjournment*

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:50 a.m.