

Draft W₂ASACT MEETING MINUTES
December 13th, 2011
10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
DNRC-Bannack Conference Room
1625 11th Avenue, Helena, MT

MEMBERS PRESENT INCLUDED:

Pam Smith	DNRC/RRGL	David Schultz	IHS
Kirk Keysor	USDA/RD	Jay Sinnott	EPA
Steve Troendle	USDA/RD	Joan Specking	DNRC/CARDD
Anna Miller	DNRC/CARDC	Craig Erickson	Great West Engineering
Karen Sanchez	USDA/RD	Christopher Dorrington	MDT
Mark Smith	DEQ/SRF	Richard Knatterud	DOC/CDEV-TSEP
Pam Higgins	MAP	Alice Stanley	DNRC/CARDD
Rick Duncan	DNRC/Regional Water	Louise Welsh	DOC/ BOI
Amy Personette	DNRC/CARDD	Joan Specking	DNRC/CARDD
Shelley Nolan	DEQ/PWSB	Zach Owen	DNRC/RRGL
Barbara Burkland	EPA	John Comdon	MRWS
Carole Boerner	IHS	Lindsay Volpe	DNRC/CARDD
Gus Byrom	DOC/CDBG	Nick Rich	DOC/BRD/CDBG-ED
Tom Erskine	Interstate Engineering-Billings	Christine Hultin-Brus	OBPP
Westen Knudson	IHS	Jennifer Olson	DOC/CDEV
Todd Rydquist	IHS	Jason Hrdlicka	IHS
Richard Knatterud	DOC	Kirby Campbell-Rierson	Sen. Max Baucus

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 10:30 a.m. on December 13, 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; Steve Troendle seconded the motion; the minutes were approved and adopted.

GUEST SPEAKER, Carole Boerner, PE, US Indian Health Service, Environmental Health and Engineering

Carole discussed the importance and foundation of the Indian Health Service (IHS) for Indian people. Not only is health care important but she explained the importance of having good waste disposal and having safe clean drinking water. She gave an overview of the Environmental Health and Engineering section.

There are 8 priority items:

- Maintain Deficiency Inventories;
- Provide Environmental Engineering Services;
- Project Development;
- Fund Water, Wastewater, Solid Waste Projects;
- Provide Professional Design and Construction Services;
- Provide Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Training and Technical Consultation;
- Advocates for Indian people on Environmental Issues; and
- Provide Emergency Response Services.

W₂ASACT MEETING MINUTES
December 13, 2011

During questions and discussion after her presentation, Carole said that more coordination is needed on regional water in the state, but the tribes need to be the driving force.

ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

UPDATES FROM SUBCOMMITTEES

WORKSHOPS - Bob Fischer: The spring WASACT workshop will be in conjunction with Rural Water. The dates are as follows: February 22nd in Great Falls, February 29th, 2012 at the Billings Hilton Garden Inn hosted by Commerce; March 13th in Missoula at the Holiday Inn hosted by DNRC/SRF.

UNIFORM APPLICATION/STANDARD DOCUMENTS – Richard Knatterud: Uniform Application is complete. Copies of the application are available for distribution.

INTERNET WEBSITE – Lindsay Volpe: No updates.

INCOME SURVEY – Steve Troendle: called a meeting of the subcommittee (Monday, December 12) and went through formats for CDBG, TESEP, and RD. There are concerns about inaccurate data, and they will work on the format to make it useful for everyone's needs.

UPDATES ON ONGOING TOPICS

EMERGENCY PROJECTS - Bob Fischer and Richard Knatterud:

- Eureka has pumping facility problems from being vandalized and the pump burned. They are currently waiting for insurance settlement.
- Black Eagle – has contacted Bob Fischer and Richard, but more information was requested from the water and sewer district.

TRIBAL PROJECTS – Gus updated the group on the Lodge Grass project and how the planning is coming along.

REGIONAL WATER – Rick Duncan-DNRC Regional Water Systems Update.

Fort Peck- Dry Prairie

Final phase of the **Fort Peck Tribes'** regional water treatment plant (WTP) is complete. Substantial completion is reported to have been achieved the week of December 5th, with a punch list to follow this week. Photos are available at: <http://fortpecktribesmni.org/water-treatment-plant.htm>.

The WTP-to-Poplar pipeline segment is nearing completion. The contractor is currently pressure and leakage testing the main, and it was reported on December 12th that once that process is complete, the pipeline will be shut down until the spring of 2012.

WTP-to-Wolf Point main project and the Wolf-Point-to-Frazer main segment bid-lettings in September came in almost \$700K under the engineer's estimate. Pipe materials are currently being obtained for those segments, and construction is scheduled for completion during the summer of 2012.

On an additional planned segment, from Poplar to Brockton, the Tribes have sufficient funds remaining to bid that portion; plans and specifications were recently submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation, and after a review and comment period, this segment will go out for bids early in the spring of 2012.

W₂ASACT MEETING MINUTES
December 13, 2011

Dry Prairie

Has substantial completion on the North Bainville project segment, and Valley County Phase 2 pipeline work is done. Construction on the North Bainville project pipelines was 100% complete in mid-summer, with a few service connections (meter vaults, etc.) and final disinfection of portions of the pipeline more recently complete. A 500K water storage tank is currently up and being leak-tested on the west side of the project, and after that is finished the installation of insulation and the outer shell. Engineers report some difficulties with completion of the leak tests.

Dry Prairie received a \$2.49 million Regional Water System (TSRWS) construction grant for East Medicine Lake Phase 1A, in May. The Authority awarded contracts on bids for a booster pump station and a storage reservoir in July. The pipeline contract for all of East Medicine Lake Phase 1 was bid in August, with the low bid coming in at approximately \$700K over the engineer's estimate. The pipeline for East Medicine Lake Phase 1B was included in the bid package, and that has been approved for an additional \$722K regional water system construction grant from funds available in FY2012, as well. DNRC, DEQ and Dry Prairie have worked on alternatives to funding which will allow Dry Prairie to complete all portions of East Medicine Lake Phase 1, as advertised. At Monday's (December 12th) Dry Prairie board meeting, project engineers reported that nearly 42 miles of pipeline on EML Ph.1 have been completed, with a stop-work order issued for winter shutdown.

Components of a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system for Dry Prairie have been designed, and several project segments have been bid and awarded. Contractors have completed tower bases for several towers on the east side of Dry Prairie's service area, and several towers are scheduled to go up shortly after the beginning of 2012.

*Anna Miller reported: Dry Prairie qualified for 2011 Allocation loan plus some loan Forgiveness. (\$1.7 million/\$500,000 forgiven)

Dry Prairie has requests for man camps, and would have to do a plant expansion, to get more water out of Culbertson. There was a 200 lot subdivision in Bainville proposed, but Culbertson is unable to supply additional water to Dry Prairie.

Rocky Boy's-North Central

The **Chippewa Cree** Construction Corporation (CCCC) has finished the first and second 6+-mile-long segments (Segment #1 and #2) of 36-inch steel water main of the Core pipeline to eventually transport water from the regional WTP to Box Elder. Total cost of the two segments was approximately \$17 million. Additional money from the State of Montana, first and second-round ARRA funds and regular annual appropriations from Congress allowed the CCCC to push the pipeline east to within a few miles of the future connection with Hill County Water District's supply pipeline, which currently gets its water from the Marias River.

Work on ARRA-funded phases of the raw water pumping plant at Tiber Dam is complete. The 2010 work on substructure and foundation completed preparations for building the facility's above-grade structures. Block and brick-laying work was complete in mid-summer of this year, and construction of the roof on the facility was finished in August. Doors were installed in September. Pumps will be added during a later phase. The CCCC has been in contact with the BIA to turn over the keys to the facility.

W₂ASACT MEETING MINUTES
December 13, 2011

The **North Central Montana Authority's** construction of the Tiber Area pipeline project, which began in October 2010, is complete. The pipeline will be used to wheel water from Tiber County WD to the Core pipeline segments which are now complete, for pressure and leakage testing.

Evaluation of several construction options under consideration by the Authority's Executive Committee and its consulting engineering firms resulted in consideration of a plan to bring an interim supply of water from the city of Conrad -- which receives its water from the Pondera Valley Canal Company (PVCC) -- to Brady Community Water & Sewer District. Preliminary design work has been completed, and right-of-way and easement efforts continue, but there are complications due to differing points of view as to what Conrad can do with the treated water received from the Canal Company. Federal dollars would cover 80% of project costs, and a DNRC hardship determination for Brady District has resulted in the State of Montana responsible for three-quarters of the remaining 20%, regardless of timing.

Other project segments currently under study and consideration are: service to Hill County, which would receive water from the regional WTP through the Core pipeline, and; interim service to Cut Bank using city of Shelby wellfield as the source.

Dry-Redwater

Issues concerning non-availability of water rights for a municipal system from the Yellowstone River basin are currently under discussion. Reclamation has suggested that the Authority could purchase water from either the Northern Cheyenne Tribe or the Crow Tribe out of Yellowtail Reservoir. Information (from DNRC Water Rights) gauging stations on the Yellowstone near Glendive and Sidney clearly indicates that in-stream flows drop below Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks reservations at certain times of the year.

Central Montana (Musselshell-Judith project)

The well field site northwest of Judith Gap has been secured through written agreements with the property owner. A \$300,000 Resource Development Grant combined with some of the federal monies for the next round of studies is now designated for use on the first test well to be drilled at the Judith Gap field, at a location known as Ubet well field. The Authority advertised for bids in September, and received two bids both of which were substantially over the engineer's estimate.

The Authority plans to re-evaluate the process, and will discuss the situation and other matters at its bimonthly meeting on December 14th.

W₂ASACT TRACKING SPREADSHEET- Pam Smith: All agencies responded with updates to the spreadsheet except Commerce. The spreadsheet distributed was as up to date as possible without the missing information.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS/STAG/WRDA

STAG program update - Jay Sinnott: Only one project not awarded (Em-Kayan Village), they need to disinfect and upgrade pipes. Grants for Crow Agency awarded for lagoons, some money may be lost.

595 program update - Kirby Campbell-Rierson: no news, ACOE money is going to help flooding costs. The earmark ban is will last for the next two years.

W₂ASACT MEETING MINUTES
December 13, 2011

PROGRAM/PROJECT UPDATES

Anna Miller: Staying busy with projects and keeping them all moving forward. Currently have 10 projects ongoing. Some are wrapping up and others have shut down due to winter and will continue when weather permits. Over 12 projects will bid after the 1st of year. SRF is seeing some savings on projects. Biggest wastewater projects are Bozeman wastewater treatment plant and Bigfork wastewater plant. Also the biggest water project is with Bozeman. No allocation for 2012 yet.

Steve Troendle: Ag Bill has passed. He is hoping to pull in some money to get more projects going. The agency has closed out all but two projects that are over 60 months old, these two projects total \$583,000.

Nick Rich: DOC/BRD/CDBG-ED- The MT Department of Commerce CDBG-Economic Development program has evolved. The program is much more involved with economic development projects requiring water and sewer infrastructure that can sometimes be a phased portion of a larger local government project. Typically our projects are for industrial parks, business infrastructure, and more often now medical facilities or campuses. Keep CDBG-ED in mind as a potential funding source when working with local governments during project development and planning.

Jennifer Olson: CDBG Allocations-\$5.4 million for FY 2012. TSEP Application will be on the Web by the end of December 2011. The TSEP application due date is May 4th and the CDBG application due date is in March.

Lindsay Volpe and Pam Smith: The RRGL Application is now on the Web and will be printed in the next couple of weeks. Applications are due May 15th, 2012, and will also be accepted electronically.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be hosted by Commerce, February 7th, 2012. Commerce will chair the WASACT meetings for the next two years.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:00 p.m.