

## W2ASACT MEETING NOTES

Meeting on October 13, 2018, 9:30 am to 12 pm

Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, 1539 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conf. room 225

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### Members and participants present:

Anna Miller	DNRC - CARDD	Mike Abrahamson	DEQ - ENG - WW
Barbara Burkland	US EPA	Nan Gabriel	Bear Paw Dev
Craig Erickson	Great West Eng	Pam Nelson	Commerce - BOI
Denise Cook	DNRC - CARDD	Rick Duncan	DNRC - CARDD
Gabe Priebe	MDT - Utilities	Shelby Atchison	USDA - RD
John Camden	MRWS	Sonja Hoeglund	DNRC - CARDD
Lindsay Volpe	DNRC - CARDD	Steve Giard	MDT - Utilities
Lisa Moisey	Bear Paw Dev	Steve Troendle	USDA - RD
Mark Smith	DEQ - ENG - DW		

### Via Conf. Phone:

Erin Zindt	Midwest Assistance Pgm
Karen Bucklin-Sanchez	USDA - RD
Rick Stryker	Performance Engineering
Rika Lashley	Morrison Maierle

DEQ - DRF – Drinking Water State Revolving Loan program  
 DEQ – Montana Department of Environmental Quality  
 DEQ - WRF – Wastewater State Revolving Loan program  
 DNRC - SRF - Wastewater State Revolving Loan program  
 DNRC – WRF - Drinking Water State Revolving Loan program  
 FDB – Financial Development Bureau  
 MAP – Midwest Assistance Program  
 MBOI – Montana Board of Investments  
 MRWS – Montana Rural Water Systems  
 RDB – Resource Development Bureau  
 TSEP – Treasure State Endowment Program

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### Call to Order, Sign-in Sheet, Agenda Changes

Chair Anna Miller called the scheduled meeting of the Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (W2ASACT) to order at 9:32am, on Tuesday, October 13, 2018. The sign-in sheet was routed and the meeting agenda and draft minutes from the July 17th meeting were distributed. Those present and those via telephone briefly introduced

themselves. There were no revisions to the July 17<sup>th</sup> minutes, which were approved and adopted.

Lisa Moisey began by noting that she took Michelle's place at Bear Paw Engineering. Louise Welsh with the Board of Investments (BOI) said their Executive Director is now Dan Villa. Louise Welsh introduced Pam Nelson who took Julie Flynn's place at the Board on Investments. Louise also mentioned that a few people will be retiring at BOI and they have a new loan with the City of Glasgow through the InterCap program.

Anna asked about Pam's background. Pam said she is originally from Montana and has recently moved back from Seattle. Since there were new members present, Anna explained what WASACT is and who makes up the group. Lisa added that she and Nan with Bear Paw Development represent communities. Erin Zindt with Midwest Assistance Program gave an overview of her role and said that MAP helps to get safe water to communities and is now starting to work with wastewater projects.

Mark Smith noted that over the next few months, 4 staff members in the Engineering bureau will be retiring. Mike Abrahamson is going to be filling in for Paul LaVigne. Kevin Smith is now in the bureau chief position that Todd Teegarden occupied.

Lindsay Volpe said the hopefully CARDD will have a new engineer hired as the next RPG grant cycle will be open in January. Lindsay passed around copies of the 2019 Legislature project list of RRGL Applications.

Steve Troendle introduced Shelby Atchison, who is an intern at USDA Rural Development.

## **Presentation**

### Gabe Priebe and Steve Giard from Montana Department of Transportation, Right-of-Way Bureau, Utilities Engineering

Gabe began by pointing out a project map on MDT's website: [https://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/docs/tcp\\_montana\\_map.pdf](https://www.mdt.mt.gov/travinfo/docs/tcp_montana_map.pdf). He continued by talking about the 5 districts that the Utilities Division has, and these are listed on the handout. The districts are located in Missoula, Butte, Great Falls, Glendive and Billings. He went over the map from the website and noted that projects were shown on the map. These are highway projects where there will be utility impacts. His staff needs to meet the utility at 30% project design to ensure that any utility work is done ahead of highway work. This lessens the possibility that a road will have to be re-done after a project is complete. He added that MDT prefers that water and wastewater work be done by separate contractors.

Anna said going over funding is helpful to see how we can work together on a project. Gabe agreed with Anna and mentioned having funding requirements while showing the project map and some of the details it contains, which is indicated in the map's legend. Federal and state tentative construction projects 2018-2022. This map is updated each December. An example of the map's detail is the Conley Street Bridge in Deer Lodge, which has a date of 2020. The map shows urban projects as well as wetland projects.

Regarding project coordination, Anna added that many bigger towns have a staff to help, whereas the smaller communities have a consultant. Steve suggested referring folks to one of MDT's 5 districts for funding help. Gabe continued by saying that storm drain projects present the most conflicts. Steve added that if MDT constructs a road over a water or wastewater infrastructure that is outdated, this presents a problem. He said communities need to assess before a project goes into construction.

Craig Erickson added that MDT works with communities to update water or wastewater systems since many small communities cannot do the work on their own. Steve stressed the importance of aligning projects with funding early on. He continued with who is at their 5 districts. The handout shows the name and phone number, but not the city they are in.

District	Name	City
1	Shane Stack	Missoula
2	Duane Liebel	Butte
3	Steve Prinzing	Great Falls
4	Jim Frank	Glendive
5	Rod Nelson	Billings

Gabe suggested having a project checklist include contacting MDT as a requirement. Anna Miller and Mike Abrahamson mentioned having a Right Of Way permit. Steve added that MDT needs to be involved at the planning stage. Anna said that we could send our approved grant list to MDT. Many communities request loans after they start a project. Mike added that at the Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) level, we could require consultants to solicit to MDT. Karen Sanchez added that the map and info from MDT is very helpful and hopes that communities can access it.

Gabe pointed out that often the people who attend meetings are not always the ones in charge of projects. Karen asked if someone from MDT would be present at EJC? Rika added that she is the chair of a public outreach committee for two groups and a one-page handout would be good to have. Anna asked about a summary of MDT goals with projects and who to contact at MDT. Gabe will follow-up on that after speaking with the planning department. Barb added that when we are working with communities on a project, we may want to mention looking ahead 20 years. Steve said if we know there are concerns or issues, we need to communicate.

It was suggested to add Gabe and Steve to the WASAST email group. Denise will take care of that.

## Program Updates

John Camden with MRW – John reminded all of the next MRW conference February 20 – 22, 2019 at the Best Western in Great Falls. John said that National Rural Water is their parent company and USDA is their biggest funding agency ahead of the EPA and DNRC. John said MRW hired Erin Wall in Source Water Protection. The February MRW conference is the 40<sup>th</sup>. They are expecting over 900 people and about 150 vendors. Anna asked about registration and John said it will be open the first part of December.

Erin Zindt – MAP – Erin reported that they have a staff of 3, which includes Erin. The regional manager for Montana and North Dakota is currently wearing 2 hats.

Lindsay Volpe, DNRC – Lindsay said the DNRC Planning Grants may close the end of February. The program won't have a lot of money. It is time to start planning for upcoming projects and also get ready for the Legislative session, which starts January 7<sup>th</sup>. The Governor's budget should be posted November 15<sup>th</sup>. Lindsay added that TSEP project list will be out then also. Sonja added that DNRC's private grant program is almost out of funds.

Dept. of Commerce BOI – Pam Nelson mentioned that BOI is dealing with retirements.

Steve Troendle – USDA – RD – Steve said RD needs to hire a technician out of the Billings office and they will be fully staffed. Steve mentioned ULOs (Unliquidated Obligations). There is a short list of about a dozen projects. These were through FYE. RD started with more grant/loan money. The program did not receive applications to spend the money allocated. Last year, RD received over \$41 million in applications. Anna added that the Revolving Fund Program and Rural Development work well together.

Mike Abrahamson, DEQ – Mike said that the Engineering bureau is getting a new people to replace those who are retiring.

Barbara Burkland, EPA – Barb noted that her office is trying to get funding to help the tribes in Montana. This is where the EPA has to help with funding. The tribes need help with completing the funding applications. Barb said her office is trying to prioritize projects. There is talk of conducting an emergency "table top" exercise in Havre. There were not enough people for the last meeting, so they discussed projects and funding.

Rick Duncan, DNRC Regional Water:

**North Central Montana Authority (NCMRWA)** – NCMRWA's plans to expand use of Shelby water to Shelby North, or Segment W5-A, providing water to Oilmont County Water District (CWD) and the new Ninemile CWD by autumn of 2020 were again discussed. Montana DEQ has granted conditional approval for the Shelby North project segment construction. However, NCMRWA cannot provide water to those systems until it is demonstrated that the Shelby wellfield, treatment and storage can adequately serve the additional demand. DNRC continues to work with the Authority and the City on detailed proposals for wellfield and treatment upgrades.

**Rocky Boy's** – The Chippewa-Cree Tribe asked for \$50 Million in Federal appropriations to construct the first 11 MGD phase of the regional water treatment plant (WTP); announcements will be forthcoming as to the outcome of Congressional action on that request. A combination of carryover funds and new appropriations may be sufficient to allow the Tribe's engineer to submit plans and specifications for review in 2019. If adequate funding is realized, it is anticipated that the first phase of the WTP will go out for bid sometime later in the new year. The Bureau of Reclamation, NCMRWA and the Tribe all continue to analyze and propose cost reductions which would keep those costs below the Federally authorized ceiling for the entire project.

**Fort Peck Tribes** – The Tribes have officially transferred responsibilities for project oversight and system operation to a separate governing council. There are several former tribal council members on the new board, including Chairman Bill Whitehead. On-reservation construction on the R-Y Road project continues, which will pipe regional WTP water to the northern reservation boundary as a third point of interconnection with the Dry Prairie system. Work is proceeding on installation of service mains and lines in eastern rural areas of the reservation.

**Dry Prairie** – Dry Prairie’s recent construction projects include a storage tank near Saint Marie, booster pump stations at Saint Marie and Nashua, final mainline connection between Nashua and the Glasgow area, and Valley County Area “F.” The Authority is currently planning construction from the northern reservation boundary to Flaxville and Scobey in 2019, and to Westby in 2020, pending sufficient Federal project funding.

**Central Montana** – The Judith Basin groundwater monitoring project, to demonstrate that the system’s planned withdrawal from the Madison Formation aquifer will not affect other area users, is nearing completion. Planning and design work on the first construction phase continues, which would supply water from the Ubet wellfield near Judith Gap to the City of Harlowton. The engineer’s estimated cost for this first phase is in the range of \$10.5 Million. Federal authorization of the Musselshell-Judith Regional Water System, with an estimated price tag of \$92 Million, may happen yet in 2018.

**Dry Redwater’s 3<sup>rd</sup>** construction project, to the Sidney Circle subdivision area southwest of Sidney, is well advanced, with most of the new water main already installed. The new modular booster pump station is scheduled to arrive either later this month or early in November. With project completion, the Authority will serve about 55 new customers. Efforts towards receiving a Federal authorization are ongoing, with several pieces of proposed legislation under consideration by Congress. Senators Daines and Tester are cosponsors in the Senate, and Congressman Gianforte has introduced a companion bill in the House.

**Workshops** – Erin has been handing out the WASACT brochures but at the last conference, not many wanted to talk.

**Congressional Update** – No representatives in attendance. Anna mentioned that Federal agencies have funding to December 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Website** – Let Lindsay know if we need to post/link anything on the WASACT website.

End of Updates

Next meeting will be in early January 2019. More details will be emailed to the group. Also, Denise will scan the handouts from the meeting and email to the people on the phone.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32.

Minutes taken by Denise Cook