

FINAL W2ASACT MEETING NOTES
Meeting of June 16, 2015, 9-11:30am
DNRC, Bannack Room

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Paul LaVigne, Chair	DEQ/PPA/SRF
Rick Duncan	DNRC/CARDD
Bob Fischer	DNRC
Julie Flynn	MBOI/INTERCAP
Bill Herbolich	DNRC/ADD/RDB
Sonja Hoeglund	DNRC
Anna Miller	DNRC/CARDD/SRF
Jenn Rider	DEQ/PPA/SRF
Mark Smith	DEQ/PPA/SRF
Pam Smith	DNRC
Alice Stanley	DNRC
Todd Teegarden	DEQ
Steve Troendle	USDA/RD
Lindsay Volpe	DNRC/CARDD

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mark Bostrom	DNRC/CARDD
Sienna Meredith	EPA
Mark Ockey	DEQ/WQPB
Jeremy Perlinski	Morrison-Maierle
Robert Ray	DEQ
Gary Wiens	DEQ
Erinn Zindt	MAP

Via Conference Call-In:

John Camden	MRWS
Karen Sanchez	RD

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

Paul LaVigne, Chair, called the scheduled meeting of the Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (W2ASACT) to order shortly after 9am, on Tuesday, June 16, 2015. Sign-in sheet was routed, agendas and copies of previous meetings minutes made available to all those in attendance. Per Paul's request, members briefly introduced themselves, stating their affiliations. The minutes from the March 10, 2015 meeting were approved and adopted. Note: Minutes may be briefer, focus on decisions group makes.

ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:**Mid-Stream Project Derailments:**

- Projects derailed for any number of reasons mid-planning (Community distrust of engineer/reason project is needed, council turnover, new mayor, cost overruns, etc.) Becoming challenge of getting community back on track with project
 - Look at what's in best interest of town/community for longevity:
 - Ability to repay loan & maintain facility in long run, keep project affordable without getting involved in politics
 - Possibly set 60 day time limit on decision by community to accept/decline funding package
 - Focus on educating communities with what they are truly committing to (small towns w/out engineer on staff can be at a disadvantage); build bridge between out-going and in-coming councils as they turn over (example of joint meetings of councils to ease hand-over of project). Need community-based advocate: (example) EPA has communities set aside funds for Compliance Officer for duration of project

- Third party or re-review of project by current engineering firm or VE (Value Engineering company) if community wants to explore other options during planning phase (community should be mindful cost could decrease OR increase)
- Draw up prospectus for what community's options are during planning phase; make it noted that community must pay portion of second PER/exploration of other options (historically, funders only help pay for first PER-communities responsible for exploring other options)

Montana Residency Requirements:

- General consensus: if there are any federal funds involved in project, residency requirements do not apply, due to "free and open competition."

UPDATES FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:

WORKSHOPS

- Fall workshop presentation to focus on applications, engineer hiring and importance of planning for project, alternative analysis, etc . it was suggested that W2ASACT present to League of Cities and Towns at their annual conference (Oct 7-8, 2015, Bozeman, MT), as well as the MACo annual conference (Montana Association of Counties). Present W2ASACT as united front/resource. Suggestion to also present at MEDA (Montana Economic Development Association)

UNIFORM APPLICATION AND STARDARD DOCUMENTS

- Only received updates from DOC for the uniform application; all updates should be received by end of July. Will schedule a committee meeting should any updates be extensive.

INTERNET WEBSITE

- DNRC has new website: everyone to check links/pages/etc for issues & send any changes/updates/comments/questions to Lindsay Volpe

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- None at this time

REGIONAL WATER PROJECT UPDATE (Provided by Rick Duncan, DNRC)

- **Fort Peck- Dry Prairie** –The **Fort Peck Tribes** have tried on several occasions to convert the regional water treatment plant (WTP) near Wolf Point from chlorine to chloramine disinfection process. Each time something has occurred to disrupt the conversion process chemistry, including a high run-off event, and routine scheduled maintenance. The conversion is now scheduled to take place in June.

The Frazer-to-Porcupine Creek main pipe segment is currently under construction after having been awarded to Apollo Construction of Wenatchee. The firm has done several other construction projects for the Fort Peck Tribes. Construction is scheduled to conclude in 2016. Ongoing work on construction of branch service lines between Poplar and Wolf Point has continued since spring remobilization, and are expected to be completed during the 2015 construction season.

Plans for the next major project for on-Reservation infrastructure include the mainline north from a point east of Poplar to the north Reservation boundary. That plan is under development, and will likely be bid next year.

Dry Prairie -- Construction on the Medicine Lake-to-Plentywood (ML-PW) segment has reached substantial completion.

Construction on the short pipeline segment between Porcupine Creek and the Town of Nashua was postponed until 2015. With completion of the Tribes' Frazer-to-Porcupine Creek mainline, this short segment will bring regional WTP water to Dry Prairie's western service area, allowing Dry Prairie to begin providing water from the regional WTP into areas of Valley County which are currently being served by water from the MARCo WTP at St. Marie. DNRC received a uniform application in May from Dry Prairie for funding of the Nashua connection, and Valley County Area "B" to serve homes west of Glasgow.

Dry Prairie earlier notified the Town of Culbertson of the Authority's intention to disconnect from the Town's supply for interim source. Actual date depends upon the conversion of the regional WTP to chloramine disinfection, but Dry Prairie staff estimates that the chloraminated water will arrive at the eastern boundary of the Fort Peck Reservation around the Fourth of July. With minimal complications, they will have regional water to Plentywood by the end of July.

- **Rocky Boy's-North Central: North Central Montana Authority** – Construction on the Authority's Conrad-to-Brady project is complete. The District has been receiving Conrad water through Authority water mains since early in January. There have been some problems with disinfection residuals, and there are chlorination-to-chloramination disinfection conversions here as well. Indications are that the chlorine feed portable disinfection unit currently located in Brady will continue to be used on an interim basis for several months, until all required chloramination metering and monitoring equipment needed for the Conrad-to-Brady line is in place and properly calibrated. Estimated timeline for conversion is Fall 2015. For the Shelby-to-Cut Bank pipeline segment, with Shelby the interim source of supply, plans and specifications have been reviewed by Drinking Water SRF. There is a bid opening scheduled for tomorrow (6/17/15) afternoon in Great Falls. Easements and rights-of-way for the construction corridor are still being negotiated; the DNRC is including language in two construction grants currently being concluded which will require that all easements be negotiated and in place before any construction grant funds can be disbursed on this project segment. Funding from the State of Montana and the Federal government will be for a project of estimated cost of \$15 million.
- **Dry-Redwater:** At present, the Dry-Redwater Authority (DRWA) is working with members of the Montana Congressional delegation, and last week a bill for Federal authorization of both the Musselshell-Judith regional project and Dry-Redwater regional project were introduced by Senator Daines, with support from Senator Tester. There is a hearing scheduled for Thursday, June 18th, before the Water and Power Sub-committee of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, of which Senator Daines is a member. The DRWA Chairman, Jerry Meissner, is currently in traveling to Washington DC to provide testimony. The Sidney South project continues to provide water supply and limited sewer service to businesses and residences south of Sidney. DRWA owns and operates the water and sewer mains outside of the Sidney city limits. Water is provided via a pipeline from City of Sidney to commercial lots and residential subdivisions south and southwest of town. Sewage collection for a limited number of lots is through sewer mains carrying the waste to the City of Sidney's treatment facilities. Richland County has financed construction, and the Authority is operating the lines with assistance from operators from Sidney. Further sewer and water extensions are planned by the Authority, with anticipated financial assistance from Richland County.
- **Central Montana** (Musselshell-Judith project)* : The draft Feasibility Study Report submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation in 2013 reached the end of an historic review period earlier in the year. The Benefit-to-Cost ratio has been determined to exceed 1.0, and the Authority has been

notified that its study complies with the provisions of the Rural Water Supply Act of 2006 and the rules adopted relating to same. As noted, the Authority has been included in the federal authorization bill recently introduced by Senator Daines.

The 2015 Legislature authorized TSRWS funding of a ground water monitoring project in the Judith Basin by the Authority, based on an RDGP grant application. The monitoring will be implemented in 2015 and run for 3 years.

DNRC & TSEP APPLICANTS/FUNDING

- None at this time

CONGRESSIONAL UPDATES

- None at this time

EMERGENCY PROJECTS

- None at this time

TRIBAL PROJECTS

- None at this time (questions: ask Sienna Meredith)

W2ASACT FUNDING AGENCY SPREADSHEET

- Keep track of spreadsheet in excel file
 - Suggestion to update yearly during a W2ASACT Meeting; all update single hard copy
 - Update spreadsheet before this fall's MACo and League meetings-send any updates to Lindsay Volpe
 - Gus is no longer contact in CDBG; grants consolidated under new contact: Andrew Chanania

W2ASACT PROJECT TRACKING SHEET

- After much discussion, Mark Smith moved to discontinue the Project Tracking Sheet. Motion was seconded by Steve Troendle. Paul LaVigne, Chair, asked for any further discussion; finding none, he put motion to a vote: "All those in favor of Mark's motion to discontinue the W2ASACT Project Tracking Sheet, say 'aye'." Response was unanimous in favor of motion. Motion carried and W2ASACT Project Tracking Sheet is hereby discontinued.

OTHER

- Discussion on Eastern Montana re: oil and gas industry slow-down, how communities are responding and how it affects the Natural Resources tax revenue that funds projects
- Brief discussion on White Sulphur Springs PER situation

LOGISTICS OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, September 15, 2015 9-11:30am

Host: DEQ, Rm 45 (Basement of Metcalf Building)

MEETING ADJOURNED by Paul LaVigne, Chair, at 12:15PM