

W2ASACT MEETING NOTES
 Meeting on February 4, 2020, 9:30 am to 12 pm
 Dept. of Natural Resources & Conservation, 1539 11th Ave, 1st floor Montana Room

Members and participants present:

Alex Huffield	KLJ Eng	Kevin Smith	DEQ
Anna Miller	DNRC - CARDD	Lindsay Volpe	DNRC - CARDD
Autumn Coleman	DNRC - CARDD	Lisa Moisey	Bear Paw Dev
Bryant Higgs	APE	Maria Jackson	Great West Eng
Burke Honzel	MT DES	Mark Bostrom	DNRC - CARDD
David C Larson	DNRC - RDB	Mark Smith	DEQ - ENG - DW
Denise Cook	DNRC - CARDD	Rick Duncan	DNRC - CARDD
Erin Wall	MRWS	Savannah Morgan	DOC - BOI - Intercap
Jason Mercer	Morrison Maierle	Sonja Hoeglund	DNRC - CARDD
Jorri Dyer	DNRC - CARDD	Toni Henneman	Legislative Services
Kari Smith	DEQ - Water Quality		

APE – Advanced Pump & Equipment
 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
 KLJ – Kadrmas Lee & Jackson Engineering
 MAP – Midwest Assistance Program
 MBOI – Montana Board of Investments
 MRWS – Montana Rural Water Systems
 RATES – Rural and Tribal Environmental Solutions
 RDB – Resource Development Bureau
 TSEP – Treasure State Endowment Program

Via Conf. Phone:

Erin Zindt & Michelle Pond, MAP
 Steve Troendle, USDA-RD

Call to Order, Sign-in Sheet, Agenda Changes

Anna Miller, Chair, called the scheduled meeting of the Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (W2ASACT) to order at 9:37am, on Tuesday, February 4th, 2020. The sign-in sheet was routed and the meeting agenda and draft minutes from the December 10th meeting were distributed. Those present briefly introduced themselves. Anna asked if there were any revisions to the September 10th

minutes. A motion was made, and seconded, to accept the minutes and the December 10th minutes were approved and adopted.

Guest Speaker: Burke Honzel with DES (Disaster & Emergency Services) which is under the Department of Military Affairs

Wildfires and Floods

Burke's department works with many different partners including DNCR and DEQ Energy and HAZMAT. One of the state's biggest hazards is wildfire. Flooding is another concern and involves factors like shelter, sandbags and National Guard activation. DES conducts exercises and training and planning, which is about 90% of the work that DES does, in order to prepare to respond to a disaster. A lot of the work that DES performs has impacts at a local level.

Burke said in the last 10 years disasters have been more frequent and more intense. Education and planning help in being able to effectively respond. Weather events, beetle-kill, and flooding (post fire) are top concerns. In 2017 Montana had approximately 39 local disaster declarations, 11 of which became state declarations, and none were federally declared. Wildfires don't typically rise to a Presidential Declarations. In 2018 there were 2 federal disasters declared due to flooding in May and again in June/July. DES works with FEMA on the recovery efforts to include all the affected jurisdictions in the disaster declaration and bringing back the community to pre-disaster conditions, as close as possible. Depending on the projects, communities may also look at improving a project, such as upgrading damaged culverts, to reduce the possibility of future damage. Mitigation is a long-term commitment. DES's mitigation supervisor is Sara Hartley and she knows more about the funding sources. Burke will pass information on to the Mitigation Section as well.

Recovery

Recovery funding after a disaster can be done at different levels – local, state, and federal. State declared disasters may be able to utilize the Disaster Fund which can help with publicly owned infrastructure, such as roads, with no insurance. There are differences in what and who is eligible for recovery funding at a state or federal level. Rural electric Co-ops and some other organizations, are only eligible for funding under a Presidential declaration. Under a Presidential declaration, FEMA works with the state and local jurisdictions to determine the damages and eligibility. If FEMA approves, the public assistance funding is a 75/25% cost share.

Recovery funding is based on what happened because of a disaster. If lack of maintenance is why the infrastructure was damaged, then the repairs may not be eligible for assistance. It is important to document everything and keep records of what maintenance has been done. Damage from a disaster may require immediate repairs, which need to be documented when they happen for potential reimbursement. If a site can wait to be repaired, it may be beneficial to wait on the repair and look at improving the project. However, the flooding that occurred in May of 2018 wasn't declared a presidential disaster until August and due to construction season, some projects didn't

start until the next year. Documentation is a must, as FEMA likes to tell us, FEMA trades paper for money.

Mitigation

Burke said that 6% of all funds spent on presidential disasters nationally will be set aside for funding the Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities (BRIC) grant program. Funding can be applied for to conduct projects to mitigate wildfire, flooding and other hazards, as well as infrastructure projects. The BRIC program allows the state to apply for up to 10 large infrastructure mitigation projects, and this past year up to \$33 million in total funding. The large project cap used to be \$2 million per project but is not up to \$10 million in Federal funding. This grant program is a 75% federal /25% local match grant. Through this program the Plains lagoon and water treatment plant project is now eligible because of the changes to the program. Because of the change in the river and the project mitigating the potential loss or disruption of services, moving the treatment plant out of the hazardous area was eligible. Last week Plains applied for just over \$6M in Federal funding for the project and expected to hear back on the approval for funding in August. This is a big deal for the state as well as Plains as this is the largest project that has been applied for from the state.

In the Bozeman watershed, there is a fire concern with ash in the watershed. The City of Bozeman, Gallatin County and other partners are working to put together a plan to address some of the wildland fire concerns. This area includes federal and private land along with state and county land. There are also lots of structure and many impacts throughout the systems to consider.

Burke suggests being involved with local DES managers and their planning efforts; knowing where funding is available; and working with partners. Mitigation planning will help to reduce impact from disasters and water, wastewater should be part of the process.

Kari Smith asked if people know who their DES managers are? Burke replied probably not. They are county workers and they may not be reaching out to everyone. They typically reach out, work with First Responders, Law Enforcement and sanitarians. Burke will send a link to contact emergency managers. Anna asked if a small system needs fencing or cameras, can they ask DES? Burke replied yes, they can contact their emergency manager to look at funding opportunities that may be available. DES has helped with generators, fencing and monitoring projects in the past through Homeland Security Funding. Now, cyber security is more of an issue and priority for funding. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)'s must rank projects that are being applied for under the State Homeland Security Grant program. Communities should be involved in what projects they are applying for and focusing on their most important.

Anna asked about cyber security. Is DES involved? Burke replied that DES is becoming more involved. Many companies have outside vendors doing their cyber security. Communities may apply for cyber projects to do assessments or upgrades to help improve and protect their systems. Kevin Smith asked about LEPC and whether there is a federal mandate for states to have districts in Montana or is it county? LEPCs are mandated by Federal Law EPCRA – the state has designated each county as a

planning district through MCA. LEPCs are established to look at Hazmat response, but within the state we recommend the LEPC be utilized as an All Hazard Response planning committee. As part of EPCRA Hazmat facilities are required to supply the LEPC and the state with Tier 2 chemical reports. DEQ owns the system – database which tracks Tier 2 Reports. Anna asked who is the first contact with an emergency? The local emergency manager can help provide guidance and coordination along with the local responders. LEPCs and communities should also work with county commission. His office worked with Corps of Engineers to help Plains conduct protective measures in the past. He suggested not bypassing the county.

Anna added that the Town of Plains wanted streambank restoration – mitigation. Burke said his staff is excited about Plains project because it is the largest project that the state has applied for under Mitigation. Anna mentioned that TSEP and RRGL have planning grants. Burke noted a Technical Assistant Grant for up to \$150K for preliminary engineering on projects may be applied for. Burke added that FEMA has a Cost Benefit Analysis that a project must meet for a project to be eligible. A lot goes into the county to have a multi-hazard mitigation plan. DES wants to get approval from FEMA to conduct regional plans rather than individual county plans. They still have to do every 5 years, but not every county will have to do it as they could be part of and adopt the regional plans. Sonja asked if the grant be used to write a mitigation plan? Yes – for project or planning and still the 75/25% cost share. Sonja added that mitigation work on Indian Reservations is not under the BIA. Burke said yes, tribes are eligible to apply for mitigation funding and, some of the tribes have plans. Tribes may go through the state or directly to FEMA. The Blackfeet and Crow tribes have had projects.

Anna thanked Burke for presenting today. He will follow-up by sending some info on Emergency Manager contacts, which will then be sent to the group.

Break 10:20 to 10:35

Program Updates

Anna Miller with DNRC

- Referenced a Helena Independent Record news article about Infrastructure Funding. To fund HB 652, \$80M to \$100M in bonds are to be issued. Anna handed out copies of the article.
- A2ES has a new address.
- The DNRC Rate Study is being updated and should be available at MRW. Thanks to Bill Herbolich and Sonja Hoeglund for their work on the info and maps.
- Marc Golz, who retired from the Engineering Bureau at DEQ, is at Anderson Montgomery.
- RRGL Applications are due May 15th.
- Workshop Committee: Erin Zindt said they only had one call. Autumn added that we would schedule a second call.
- Steve Troendle noted that technical assistance money from RD was provided to AWWA. He will send out the final MRW agenda for the March 25th workshop.

- Erin Wall said registration is open. The Montana Rural Water conference theme is “2020 Vision, Remember the Past”.
- Anna added that there is a \$100 registration fee for tables and it must be paid up front.
- Erin Wall added that there is a full-day class for clerks and that is new this year. There will be a contest at MRW meeting: “Who has the best drinking water”, so bring a quart size jar of your system’s water to the MRW meeting.
- Anna reminded all to book their motel room as rooms are going fast.

Committee Updates

Workshop

Erin Zindt is working on the funding workshop and asked if anyone has ideas for a case study at the workshop. Autumn said she would confirm with InterCap and Erin said she will confirm with the Department of Commerce. Lindsay added that the video is old. Anna said we have another video on CD that shows beakers like a chemist uses to demonstrate funding. Erin asked how long that video is? Anna replied that it is 10 minutes long. Erin mentioned a place to show where to find resources. Erin reported that MAP has one more operator, bringing their total up to four. They received the DEQ contract. She said they can visit projects. Her office is working with RW and RD.

Discussion started on the funding spreadsheet. A suggestion was made to change the name to “WASACT Resources”. Karen added that planning will be this fall so maybe for next year, “Consultations” could be available, and also have meetings with community leaders. Anna said we may have to meet upstairs. Erin suggested we encourage people to meet with agencies now. Steve said we could have “Structured Consultations”. He suggested adding a “Resource Team” and having a brief description of the community’s needs.

Discussion continued with Steve suggesting a 15-20 minute “huddle”. Anna said we could mention at the beginning of the workshop, getting a list of who might need help and want to meet with agencies after the workshop. Then we could set up a time and place at the end of the conference. John added that December 20, 2019 is the deadline for putting something on the agenda. Autumn noted that the workshop sheet will go out in mass numbers. John said that an agenda is needed at the conference. John reminded all of Montana Rural Water’s (MRW) new address: 525 Central Ave, M6, Great Falls, MT 59401. Erin asked about a survey at the end of the conference and Anna replied that we could hand it out at noon. Erin added that the survey will provide some insight into communities’ needs.

Uniform Application and Standard Documents

David Larson said the application is updated and on online on the WASACT website. Applicants can download the pdf and work with that. David is still working on the section 090900. He may insert American Iron & Steel language. He has not heard back with confirmation.

A question was asked about Boiler Plate Info on contracts and the Agency Specifications. An email from TSEP was cited. The Delivery Assistance Program grant awards are due out by the end of winter. CDB program is beginning the process. The Coal Board is due January 27th. Check with Gus Byrom.

David reported that there are only 2 Emergency Grants to review – Bridger Pines and Greenfields. Someone asked if TSEP has emergency funding dollars and the answer is yes.

WASACT Website

Lindsay Volpe said she would put Burke's info on the website. She said the link for the Uniform Application works. One number had been off. The RRG application is not yet posted. We will let you know when RRG applications are online. It is unknown when TSEP applications are up.

Program Updates Continued

Lisa Moisey with Bear Paw Engineering

Lisa said MSU Northern has 2 open positions – Director of Training & Development. And a part-time position is funded by DNRC, Formerly Barb Kaufman's position.

Toni Henneman with Legislative Services

Toni cited "SJ3" – alternate septic system which includes failed systems, pivot hookups. They are looking at funding options to help people.

Jorri Dyer with DNRC

The Watershed Grant funding has increased to \$35K per application, per biennium. Those applications are due February 26th.

Autumn Coleman with DNRC

The funding table has been updated and it on the website. There will also be copies at the MRW conference. Please let Autumn know whether or not you have changes to the table. For the RDG program, applications should be posted by the end of the week.

Kari Smith with DEQ

Through the Water Quality Division's community's coordination and outreach, DEQ has visited more than 25 communities each requiring assistance with various aspects of environmental compliance. The smaller communities (less than 1,000 pop) are overwhelmed with infrastructure challenges.

Sonja Hoeglund with DNRC

The Private Grant Program has \$45K left in funding. There are 10 grants out for septic tank replacement or city connects. The grant cycle is open until the funds are gone.

Kevin Smith with DEQ

The Engineering bureau is hiring another Engineer to work with the Clean Water Act and with subdivisions. The position is listed on LinkedIn.

Alex Huffield with KLJ Engineering

KLJ staff is waiting on the next construction season to be underway.

Maria Jackson with Great West Engineering

It is grant writing season at Great West, so they are busy.

Mark Bostrom with DNRC

In the spring, the Executive Planning Process will start and we will continue to coordinate.

Jason Mercer with Morrison Maierle

The firm is busy with applications.

Savannah Morgan with BOI/ Intercap

Savannah mentioned the marketing process. They will know more February 24th about the next year interest rate.

Erin Wall with MRW

Erin is working with Sara Maloy on Water Supply Planning. She hopes to have copies ready for the Water Summit and for the MRW Conference.

Mark Smith with DEQ

They have a project cycle starting. Mark also talked about the Intended Use Plan and the ranking of applications and added that they will go over those at MRW meeting. We are heading into construction season.

Lindsay Volpe with DNRC

There is a lot going in the Resource Development Bureau. We have the next round of applications. There were flooding issues in Choteau caused by ice jams on the Sun River. With the mild weather, some construction has continued in winter. We have 53 Planning Grants. She asked how we can share more information. She handed out the

RRGL Planning Grant Winter 2020 application list. Let Lindsay know if you see any errors.

Erin Zindt with MAP

Erin is working on Technical Assistant and Training.

Steve Troendle with RD

Steve reported that there is no RD allocation of funds at this time. Right now, his office can't do much. When they can, it will be at the last minute. Steven mentioned connection to a public system. Section 504 is for residences without adequate water and wastewater service. He said there is funding available if eligibility requirements are met. There is also help for people under the ADA.

With RD vacancies, western Montana is not covered at this time. We are doing the best to maintain coverage. There is an architect position open. This used to be an Engineering position. They were oversubscribed on planning grants. There was an issue with Lodge Grass. It was a \$4.3M project. 6 months ago, the contractor got a judgement for additional funding. Steve would like to do a funders-only call to go over all possibilities on the problem.

There is disaster money. Steve said 21 counties are eligible to receive help. In a county that had federal disaster declaration. \$650K is a good amount of help. He asked for patience with RD in the process. Maria asked if there is a list of the counties and Steve said to ask Craig Erickson.

Rick Duncan with DNRC Regional Water

Fort Peck Dry Prairie

The 3rd interconnection between Dry Prairie and the Tribal system at the northern Reservation boundary is being completed, and there will be a dedication ceremony in the spring. With substantial funds available through Bureau of Reclamation, the project sponsors expect a 2023 completion date. Flaxville and Scobey will most likely be connected next year. Raw water intake improvements have substantially reduced the volume of silt (fines) entering the regional water treatment plant (WTP) near Wolf Point.

Rocky Boys North Central

Work recently began on the WTP at Tiber. Most of the construction work for the first year plus will be at or below grade. The estimated completion of this phase is mid to late 2022; it is designed to provide 11 million gallons per day.

Through both the Chippewa-Cree Construction Company and North Central Regional Authority, additional pipeline will be installed to make water available to more customers when the first phase of the WTP comes on-line. Loma, Big Sandy and Havre main pipeline segment are in preliminary design phases. Bureau of Reclamation funds are down a few million dollars from the previous year's levels, so all regional projects will

likely see reductions. Rick spoke of an interim water supply for the west side and the Shelby north segment, to be served by the City of Shelby's wellfield. They need an upgrade to an ultraviolet disinfection station at the Shelby treatment facility.

Central Montana Musselshell Judith Basin

The Authority is still waiting on Congressional Approval for its water project. Northeast of Judith Gap is the location of a recently completed second new well. The next big step is construction of the segment (pipeline) from the wellfield to Harlowton, with an estimated cost of \$13M.

Dry Redwater

Sidney Circle subdivision is currently receiving City of Sidney water through mains owned and maintained by the Dry-Redwater Authority. The water supply project came in under budget. They are also working with Richland County to fund installation of wastewater collection mains, with treatment at the new Sidney wastewater plant. Dry-Redwater is the only regional authority in the State that is involved in both drinking water supply and wastewater collection and treatment.

Congressional Update – Nothing is happening during the Impeachment trial.

Anna said regarding the Continuing Resolution, the federal government passed a one-month resolution until December 20, 2019.

End of Updates

Steve Troendle added a note about the 2014-2018 census survey data and Brady, Montana, which at \$123,500 Median Household Income, is the 3rd richest in the state. So we know the data has problems because this is incorrect.

Next meeting will be tentatively May 5. Details will be out in advance.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Minutes taken by Denise Cook and reviewed by Anna Miller. Presentation reviewed by Burke Honzel. Region Water update reviewed by Rick Duncan.