

**DRAFT W2ASACT MEETING NOTES**  
**Meeting of September 15, 2015, 9-11:30am**  
**DEQ Metcalf, Rm 45 (Basement)**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Paul LaVigne, Chair      DEQ/PPA/SRF

John Camden              MRWS

Rick Duncan              DNRC/CARDD

Bob Fischer                DNRC

Julie Flynn                MBOI/INTERCAP

Bill Herbolich            DNRC/ADD/RDB

Sonja Hoeglund          DNRC

Jenn Rider                DEQ/PPA/SRF

Mark Smith                DEQ/PPA/SRF

Pam Smith                DNRC

Steve Troendle          USDA/RD

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mark Bostrom            DNRC/CARDD

Craig Erickson          Great West Engineering

Jake Maciag              Senator Testor's Office

Sienna Meredith        EPA

Erinn Zindt                MAP

Rika Lashley              Morrison-Maierle

**Via Conference Call-In:**

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, September 15, 2015. Sign-in sheet was routed, agendas and copies of previous meetings notes made available to all those in attendance. Per Paul's request, members briefly introduced themselves, stating their affiliations. The notes from the June 16, 2015 meeting were approved and adopted.

**ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION:****Discuss next W2ASACT Chair:**

- DEQ's two year term of chairing W2ASACT meeting is coming to an end
  - Next meeting: decide on which group is up to chair meetings (may be DNRC's turn)

**UPDATES FROM SUBCOMMITTEES:****WORKSHOPS**

- DOC still participating in workshops (not participating on W2ASACT committee for workshops)
- League of Cities and Towns Workshop: Bozeman, Friday, Oct 9, 2015, 9:30-10:15, Best Western: focus on planning
- MACo (Montana Association of Counties): no time slot available
- MEDA (Montana Economic Development Association): Montana Infrastructure Town Hall Meeting, Billings (Oct 13-14, 2015 (2-5pm)); agenda is still very fluid, will set up conference call when more information becomes available
- Montana Rural Water Conference: Great Falls, Feb 17-19, 2016 (W2ASACT presenting 17th); staying with same format, spruce up agenda, confirm with DOC presenters. Suggestions for meeting at other venues, facilitated "speed-dating" format with individual funding groups represented at separate tables (tailored presentation specific to questioner)

### **UNIFORM APPLICATION AND STANDARD DOCUMENTS**

- Working on minor changes to Uniform Application (to be posted to website Oct 1<sup>st</sup>; let committee know if you want printed copies)
  - Updates (finalizing this week, sending out to committee for comment)
    - Program Description (RD)
    - Budget Categories changes (to better match Engineering Agreement)

### **INTERNET WEBSITE**

- All is running smoothly; contact Lindsay Volpe with questions/comments

### **NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- None at this time

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

- **Fort Peck- Dry Prairie** – The **Fort Peck Tribes** tried on several occasions to convert the regional water treatment plant (WTP) near Wolf Point from chlorine to chloramine disinfection process. In July, the in-plant conversion process finally achieved successful conclusion.
  - \*The Frazer-to-Porcupine Creek main pipe segment under construction by Macon Construction, (which has done several regional water project segments for the Fort Peck Tribes), is scheduled to conclude in 2016. Work on the segment is approximately 70% complete.
  - \*Ongoing work on construction of branch service mains between Poplar and Wolf Point, which had continued since spring remobilization, is now complete. Service connections are being installed, with about half of the total of 180 done, and the remaining to be completed in 2015.
  - \*Bids were recently opened for installation of service line mains between Poplar and Fort Kipp.
  - \*Plans for the next major on-Reservation infrastructure include the mainline north from a point east of Poplar to the north Reservation boundary. That phase is under development, and will likely be bid in 2016.

**Dry Prairie** -- Construction on the Medicine Lake-to-Plentywood (ML-PW) segment reached final completion in June 2015. With the successful process conversion at the regional WTP allowing push of chloraminated water to users both on- and off-Reservation, Dry Prairie began receiving chloraminated water mid-July, gradually replacing chlorinated water service to Bainville, Froid, Medicine Lake, Antelope and hundreds of rural customers. On August 5<sup>th</sup>, Dry Prairie began serving Plentywood for the first time. Disinfection by-product levels are down, markedly.

  - \*Construction on the short pipeline segment between Porcupine Creek and the Town of Nashua was recently bid and awarded. 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. There will be a DNRC TSRWS construction grant and a Drinking Water SRF (DW-SRF) loan later in the project, which will supplement Federal project funds used for the Nashua connection, and the Valley County Area "B" segment which will serve homes west of Glasgow.
- **Rocky Boy's-North Central: North Central Montana Authority** – As previously reported, construction on the Conrad-to-Brady project was completed in 2014, and the District has been receiving Conrad water through Authority water mains since early in January. There were some problems with disinfection residuals; chlorination-to-chloramination disinfection conversions were implemented 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, until all required

chloramination metering and monitoring equipment is in place and properly calibrated. Estimated timeline for conversion is Fall 2015.

\*For the Shelby-to-Cut Bank project segment, a bid opening on June 17<sup>th</sup> saw 14 bids received. Bids were extremely competitive, and the total for the two schedules (one for pipeline, and the other for a storage standpipe and a booster pump station) came in well below the engineers' estimates. Easements and rights-of-way for the construction corridor were still being negotiated well into August, but those are now complete. DNRC has or will be including language in two construction grants for the segment which require that all easements be in place before any construction grant funds can be disbursed on this project segment. The Authority will also be required to certify to the State that this process is complete whenever submitting construction invoices for reimbursement.

- **Dry-Redwater:** In June a bill for Federal authorization of both the Musselshell-Judith regional project and Dry-Redwater regional project was introduced by Senator Daines, with support from Senator Tester. There was a hearing on Thursday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, before the Water and Power Subcommittee of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, of which Senator Daines is a member. The DRWA Chairman, Jerry Meissner, travelled to Washington DC to provide testimony. No recent news on this bill (S. 1552), but there is some energy for having it considered before the full Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Representative Zinke is reported to be having a companion bill draft prepared for possible introduction in the House.

\*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 certified operators from Sidney. Further water extensions are planned by the Authority, including to what is known as East Yellowstone (including the MDU facility), as well as Sidney Circle subdivision, with financial assistance from Richland County and a uniform application for TSRWS grant funds and a loan from DW-SRF.

- **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 2015. 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 may well be implemented in 2015, and will run for 3 years.

#### ❖ **Brief discussion regarding status of Seeley Lake project**

#### **CONGRESSIONAL UPDATES**

- None at this time

#### **DISCUSSION REGARDING TOWN OF NEIHART PWS**

- History & current situation given by Sienna Miller; other members provided additional and updated information to assist. RD is in discussion with Neihart; town is currently on DWSRF

Project Priority List. Suggested follow up with town in regards to RD and that issues are being addressed (esp. those listed under enforcement action), and with Anna Miller on funding

### **EMERGENCY PROJECTS**

- Philipsburg (inquiry):
  - Both sewer and drinking water problems (sinkholes in main road in town caused by old storm water system, rate increase voted down by town council, town wants to do all work themselves). Starting application process for planning grant.
  - Low water pressure in one part of town-recommended looking into planning grant
- Froid (inquiry):
  - Lift station on sewer system needs replacing

### **TRIBAL PROJECTS**

- Retrofits to Ft. Belknap Water Plant; awaiting test results. System should be up and running
- Crow Agency WW Ph4: ICDBG cancelled 1/4mil. in funding
- Ft Peck Regional Water Treatment Plant: runoff and sedimentation/intake issues; evaluations currently in progress

### **W2ASACT FUNDING AGENCY SPREADSHEET**

- Lindsay Volpe updated on website; all as current as possible

### **OTHER**

- ❖ **Brief discussion regarding Trailer Terrace South Winds**
- ❖ **Montana Rural Water**
  - Dan Kyle resigned; Jim McGown taking his place as national director
  - Conference Feb 17-19, 2016; call for papers (mrws.org) for presentation openings
- ❖ **Programmatic Updates:**
  - **Paul LaVigne:** update on DEQ re-org: Water permitting bureau has been moved to the Planning Division with other water programs and certain sections moved to improve water integration efforts
  - **Sienna Meredith:** no director of MT EPA office, Denver office is acting for vacancy. Shelly Noland now working w/EPA under RATES contract. Ask Sienna for tribal updates.
  - **Julie Flynn:** Board of Investments about to hire Chief Investment Officer
  - **Steve Troendle:** PER Reviews/Application Reviews, Oct 1 soft roll-out of "RD Apply" for online applications; staffing updates
  - **Rick Duncan:** December 3, 2019 projected retirement date
  - **Bob Fischer:** electronic PER is coming down the line in the near future
  - **No Updates At This Time:**
    - Craig Erickson, Mark Smith, Rika Lashley, John Camden, Erin Zindt, Jake Maciag, Bill Herbolich, Sonja Hoeglund, Pam Smith, Karen Sanchez

### **LOGISTICS OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday, December 15, 2015 9:30-12pm

Host: Board of Investments; location TBD

**MEETING ADJOURNED** by Paul LaVigne, Chair, at 11:35am