

Tongue River Valley Joint Powers Board Workshop

Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2014

Present: Peter Clark, Norm Anderson, Karen Walters, Randy Sundquist, Joey Sheeley, Bob Wood, Jeff Feck, Randy Bomar, Jack Fritz, Dennis Wagner, Doug Hansen, Lynn Hartje, Carson Steinhorst, Larry Oswald, Chris Johnson, Wayne Ransbottom, Marty Kobza, Tony Wendtland, Linda Lofgren, Marshall Hood, Lea Hood, Hannah Wiest

Next meeting: 7 p.m, February 20, 2014. Lucille Alley Room, Dayton Town Hall

I. Announcements

None.

II. Review and Approval of the minutes of the January 22 and February 11, 2014 meetings

III. Approval of Agenda

Additions: Discussion of survey results, status of HB 47

Deletions: None

IV. Discussion

Discussion about all old business as follows:

- Treasurer's report: All three participating entities have contributed the initial \$2K each (\$6K total) that was committed. A total of \$1401 has been spent so far; one outstanding bill of \$45 from Wendtland and Wendtland for review of the SLIB grant was approved for payment. We have not received a bill from Melissa Butcher for the cost of the mailing list and printing of the survey.

New business:

- Update on Board of County Commissioners meetings: Peter attended three BOCC meetings during which the commissioners reviewed our grant package, as required by SLIB. Deficiencies were addressed and the package was resubmitted. Peter asked for a written review to be included in the final package. The commission staff brought up four points of objection, three of which were addressed satisfactorily in their review letter. Peter asked that the BOCC base their decision and review on the merits of the project, not the completeness of the grant application.
- It was discovered that the Attorney General's office did not file the JPB verification with the Secretary of State's office. Linda Lofgren is waiting for verification that that has been completed and copy sent to SLIB to be included with the grant package.
- Peter also presented the grant package to SD #1 board, requested a review, and thanked them again for the funding.
- The SLIB grant application package has been sent to Cheyenne; the final summary was written to include the health and safety reasoning for the application ("heat or eat" argument based on propane costs).

- Doug Hansen, MDU regional director from Billings, introduced himself to the board and offered any assistance he could moving forward. Peter asked if MDU was interested in operating and maintaining the line; they are. Doug is cautious about Steve's cost estimate as they don't know the route, conditions, and load capacity needed. Bob Wood asked Doug if he'd received Steve's info and if he'd had a chance to review it. Doug admitted there were some materials in Steve's estimate that he wasn't familiar with and he still believes the estimated cost won't complete the project. Peter informed Doug that, going forward, he needs to contact the board with any questions or concerns. Bob has done a great job acting as a consultant, but the JPB doesn't want to continue getting information second-hand.
- Survey update: approximately 1220 pieces were mailed out to 5 different zip codes that could potentially be affected by the natural gas line. Approximately 20% were returned, either online or via USPS. Respondents were overwhelmingly in favor of it.
- Update on HB 47: Passed the House on the third reading, but implementation date was amended to July 1, 2014. If this passes with that date, the JPB will not be eligible for the grant award in June 2014. Marty Kobza said Jeremy Smith is in Cheyenne, working to get that wording changed to the original "immediately" wording.
- Randy Bomar asked the MDU reps if they would provide pipeline specs for the RFP. Doug replied that they rely on CFR 192 and API 1104. He recommended that the JPB strongly consider using an engineering company for designing the route, specs, load at the end, and that it be sized for the next 15 years of potential growth. Peter said that yes, the JPB had always planned on using an engineering company; that would be decided with the RFP. And we'll be planning to size it for 40 years as that's the length of the loan.

V. Public Communique

Wayne Ransbottom suggested that the MDU reps send one of their lobbyists to Cheyenne to offer support for HB 47 and to let SLIB know that MDU supports the project.

The next meeting will be decided at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned.