

Tongue River Valley Joint Powers Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2014

Present: Peter Clark, Norm Anderson, Karen Walters, Randy Sundquist, Joey Sheeley, Jeff Feck, Greg Reid, Dennis Wagner

Next meeting: TBD

I. Announcements

None.

II. Approval of Agenda

Additions: None

Deletions: None

III. Discussion

Old business:

- Solicitation letter distributed and responses currently at \$2400. Need \$4000 to match the county commission's offer.
- SLIB status: No new news. Peter monitors the website for changes. He also pitched the project to Mark Gordon.
- Update on requests from participating entities: Dayton has pledged \$10K, as did the Town of Rancheater and School District #1. Rancheater and SD #1 will contribute \$5K now and the rest as needed.

New business:

- Peter gave a summary of the meeting in Cheyenne with the gas companies, etc. The group was interested in learning what the JPB was doing and how gas could be provided to other communities in Wyoming. Take-aways: Public Service Commission was supportive of our efforts; no one was aware that the Wyoming Pipeline Authority (WPA) could possibly help with funding; no one was aware that the USDA Rural Development office was interested in helping.
- June 19, 2014 SLIB grant/loan award meeting: Norm and Peter plan to travel to Cheyenne for the award and plead our case again, if necessary.
- Budget: the JPB made minor changes to the FY 2014-2015 budget, including adding in the \$4000 in matching donations we have asked for and the SLIB grant line item can be added/deleted by the third reading.
- The board approved payment to PB Communications to cover Melissa Butcher's costs for her staff (approximately \$1018). Other approved bill payments: Local Gov't Liability Pool insurance (\$500), Town of Dayton (\$327.89 for postage), and Enerplus (\$146 for copier usage).

IV. Public Communique

Norm Anderson informed the board and audience that people are asking that, if they make a donation, will it apply to their hook-up. As this is a donation for JPB administrative costs, the answer is no.

Norm also advised the JPB that the Rotary Club would be willing to help in any way.

Norm also reminded the JPB that Colin Betzler (SC Land Trust) that the Trust would be interested in a partnering opportunity to create a walking path along the pipeline ROW.

Randy Sundquist reminded the board that we need to look at all options/alternatives for funding in case the grant is not approved; we should start the groundwork for that very soon. Peter advised that he is still trying to put together a meeting with the USDA and WPA towards that end.

Dennis Wagner asked what the next step would be if/when we get at least initial funding. Peter said we would use that money to leverage for loans to cover the balance and we would, at the very least, start the engineering process.

Jeff Barron (WWC) asked about the timeline for the Request for Proposal. Peter advised that we would start that process at the next meeting; there's not much we can do until we have some funding available.

The JPB is starting to hear from contractors/suppliers interested in providing parts and services. A question was asked about conversion costs. Peter advised that the JPB is looking at options, one of which is to carry no-interest loans to be paid back with the monthly gas bill. He has asked our consultant how to structure that. He has the info and will read through it before the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned.