

Tongue River Valley Joint Powers Board Workshop

Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2014

Present:

Peter Clark, Norm Anderson, Karen Walters, Randy Sundquist, Joey Sheeley, Bob Wood, Jeff Feck, Randy Bomar, Jack Fritz, Dennis Wagner, Evan Woolston, Lynn Hartje, Carson Steinhorst

Next meeting:

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

I. Announcements

None.

II. Approval of Agenda

Additions: SLIB grant app report, budget hearing

Deletions: None

III. Discussion

Discussion about all old business as follows:

- Bridger Field Services has opted out of this project due to other commitments.
- Public survey was mailed out on Friday, January 17. Already seeing responses.

New business:

- Add treasurer's report to meeting agendas.
- Joey will draft a letter requesting release of JPB funds from Town of Ranchester.
- Discussed and approved securing bonds for signatories.
- Question was asked re: whether or not the JPB needs to have a budget meeting for start-up. Those occur the third Wednesday in July. Will add to agenda at that time.
- Tabled Resolution #1 discussion (needed for SLIB grant); will have a special meeting preceding the workshop in February to finalize.
- SLIB update: SLIB board ok'd Steve Shute's Colorado license for purposed of the Statement of Feasibility. Grant application preparation is moving forward. We can be general about the secondary source of funding for submission, but we must have that finalized by May 31, 2014 in order to be considered for the June 19 award.
- Steve Shute has agreed to act as the TRV JPB's consultant for the project. He will send a basic contract for consideration.
- Discussion with two engineering companies (Western Water Consultants and Vista West Engineering).
 - Randy Bomar asked about SLIB grant needs that would have to be provided by an engineer and what the proposed timeline for construction is. He emphasized being realistic about the grant award and what should/could happen after. All agreed that there are many variables (HB 47, whether or not the JPB is awarded the grant, connecting to MDU or WBI line) that must be considered and a rough timeline is the best that can be done right now.
 - Jack Fritz discussed possible needs for easements (county and state) and possible ROWs (federal and private). WWC can provide those services. Bob

Wood expressed the positive response we've gotten from ag property owners along the proposed routes and their willingness to allow the line to cross. He also explained that the county commissioners had, in past discussions, agreed to allow the line in county ROWs.

IV. Public Communique

Several representatives from MDU were present at the meeting to discuss what, if any, MDU's involvement would be. Bob talked to an engineer in the Billings office who expressed an interest in participating. MDU can't bring the line to the Valley at an economical price, but would be willing to operate the line once the JPB gets it constructed. MDU has several similar agreements with communities in North Dakota.

Discussion turned to pipeline specifics:

- What pipeline pressure would be needed at the 5th street connect.
- How far the distribution line would be installed (to each home/business/etc. and would include the meter).
- If a home or business owner chooses to bypass, will they be able to subscribe later? Yes, but would have to pay the cost of installation from line to house.
- "Farm taps" can be installed along the line to service individual customers before reaching Dayton and Ranchester.
- If MDU agrees to operate the line, the JPB will have to make sure it's built to their specs.
- We would like to see the line run up Tongue River Canyon road as well to serve the homes along the route and the Dayton lagoon.
- Would MDU be involved in the design process? MDU has actually roughed out the line a couple of times in the past.
- Lynn (MDU) expressed that MDU would like to meet with Bob and one or two board members for an initial discussion. Peter declined; all discussion must be addressed to the board directly.

The meeting was adjourned.