

# **Tongue River Valley Joint Powers Board Special Meeting and Workshop**

## **Meeting Minutes**

*March 27, 2014*

*Present:* Peter Clark, Norm Anderson, Karen Walters, Randy Sundquist, Joey Sheeley, Bob Wood, Jack Fritz, Doug Lofgren, John Maronick

*Next meeting:* TBD

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### **I. Announcements**

None.

### **II. Approval of Agenda**

Additions: Media Releases, May 14 meeting with SourceGas

Deletions: None

### **III. Discussion**

Old business:

- Resolution #2 and verification (Sec. of State) that JPB authorization has been filed were sent to SLIB.
- Update on HB 47 – signed by the governor with the original effective date to allow our application to be reviewed for the June 19, 2014 award.

New business:

- Treasurer's report: Bills from Steve Shute (\$1500), PB Communications (\$679), postage (\$21), and Tony Wendtland (\$176.40) reviewed and approved for payment.
- Discussed sending thank-you notes to the volunteers who have helped out so far. Joey will get those drafted.
- Budget request for fiscal year 2015: we expect to need more this year. If the grant/loan is approved, we'll move forward with pre-engineering, RFPs, etc. Legal review of the documents will also be needed. Randy asked that we offer to return whatever funds are not used, if any, to offset the request. Bob Wood mentioned that, even though the board needs to ask for a larger amount this year, it's easier to return what's not used than to ask for more later. He also mentioned that, if we get and take the SLIB loan, there is a 1% origination fee (\$35K) that will need to be paid. Peter acknowledged that it's difficult to ask for more funds, but the agencies we're relying on for the bulk of the funding will want to know that there is buy-in into the project by the participating entities, so they must be prepared to put up the funds necessary.
- Steve Shute's contract was reviewed and will be sent to Tony Wendtland for a final review.
- Peter told attendees that he was recently contacted by Laurie Warner of the USDA rural development office in Sheridan. He said Warner expressed an interest in the project and offered the possibility that her office could provide a loan through their energy efficiency program. Selling points included the fact that there is no origination fee, no penalty for early pay-off, and the interest rate is slightly lower than SLIB. Also, grant funds are to be used first (preferable); SLIB requires loan funds to be used first.

- Peter also said that he has been informed that SourceGas has scheduled an invitation-only meeting, on May 14 in Cheyenne, with government officials, state agencies, and other producers to address the “underserved” communities in Wyoming. He will contact the meeting organizer to express his interest, as the JPB’s representative, to be included.
- An April workshop will be set up, date to be determined, and we hope to have Steve Shute, the Wyoming Pipeline Authority director (Brian Jeffries) and Laurie Warner from the USDA at the meeting to discuss funding options.

#### **IV. Public Communique**

- Bob Wood: Is the SLIB loan/grant a single package? If the JPB is looking at other funding sources, can the loan be returned? Peter: We’ll check on that.
- A question was asked about the possible time-frame. All acknowledged that we have a lot of prep work to do before any construction starts. Jack Fritz (WWC) mentioned the BLM ROW, state land easements, county road ROW negotiations, railroad bore, the necessity for at least two design phases, and the preparation of a bid package as parts that will have to be addressed first.
- Randy expressed his belief that the work we’ve done (the board, as well as all of the other volunteers) with the tools we’ve been given beats all of MDU’s attempts.

The next meeting will be decided at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned.