

## **Tongue River Valley Joint Powers Board Meeting**

### **Meeting Minutes**

*September 24, 2014*

*Present:* Peter Clark, Norm Anderson, Joey Sheeley, Karen Walters, Dennis Wagner, Jeff Barron, Jack Fritz, Dave Spencer

*Next meeting:* October 29, 2014

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#### **I. Announcements**

None.

#### **II. Approval of Minutes from August 28, 2014 Meeting**

#### **III. Approval of Agenda**

Additions: Dave Spencer, Wyoming Business Council, will discuss other possible funding options for the pipeline.

Deletions: None

#### **IV. Discussion**

Old business:

- SLIB application update: The grant application has been submitted; we need to approve the resolution for the loan portion and that's due by October 12. SLIB asked the same questions about the grant application as they did the first time. Peter updated the summary and asked/received permission to respond as we did with the first application. Peter sent a letter to our local legislators to remind them about the project and its importance. He also sent a letter to the WAM office asking for them to possibly set up a meeting with Governor Mead to pitch the project. Peter also sent an e-mail to Doug Hansen (MDU – Billings) asking about the feasibility of partnering now. Rec'd an out-of-office reply, so nothing to report yet.

New business:

- No new bills for approval/payment at this time.
- Resolution for SLIB loan application approved.
- Discussion with Dave Spencer of the Wyoming Business Council
  - Dave asked for a summary of the project thus far. Following Peter's presentation, Dave asked about the cost of conversion (uncertain at this time), how subscription would work (the JPB can't do much with that until we have more information about the construction/planned implementation. But the plan is to sign up subscribers at, potentially, a \$500 one-time-only hook-up fee).
  - Dave asked if MDU would have an ongoing surcharge after that. The Board informed him that, currently, MDU was not part of the project.
  - Dave suggested that the towns of Dayton and Ranchester could most likely apply for community block grants that could be used to pay for low/moderate income subscriber hook-up. This would accomplish two tasks: 1) make sure those who meet the requirements are able to hook up and 2) enable the Board to present that demographic as pre-subscribers, with the towns and school district.

- Dave also mentioned the Community Readiness Program. He's not sure if business council/SLIB monies can be mixed, but suggested that Peter ask where they stand on the subject. The downsides to this grant are 1) it requires a 15% match and 2) the next application deadline is June 2015, with the award not granted until January 2016.

## **V. Public Communique**

Covered during the discussion with Dave Spencer.

The meeting was adjourned.