

Tongue River Valley Joint Powers Board
Meeting with the Wyoming Pipeline Authority
Meeting Minutes

August 2, 2014

Present: Peter Clark, Karen Walters, Joey Sheeley, Brian Jeffries, Mary Keating-Scott

Peter, Karen, and Joey met with Brian Jeffries and Mary Keating-Scott in Casper on August 2, 2014 to discuss the progress of the natural gas pipeline and what the WPA could do to assist.

Peter gave a history of the project to date.

Brian offered that financing the project might hang up on the fact that the JPB is asking for several million dollars before we have a first customer. Peter told him that that has been considered and the JPB has discussed the pre-subscription option to ensure financing.

Mary asked where the current operating budget came from; Peter gave her the history of the JPB and our latest fundraising campaign.

Peter told Brian and Mary about the meeting in Cheyenne with the gas companies and several governmental agency reps in May. They were unaware of the meeting and asked for the call-in info for the next meeting on August 6.

Brian provided us with a model produced in 2008 that had more hard numbers re: the costs of construction. He suggested that the JPB build out a similar model as this would likely be very helpful in our funding search. He also suggested that we ask WAM if it could put in some of the funds for the model as the organization could use the model to encourage other communities to move forward with a natural gas project. A more in-depth model should include "what if" cases, costs of propane delivered vs natural gas delivered. Steve would be an obvious choice to work up a rate case. Although the Public Service Commission likely wouldn't be involved, Brian thought it would be a good idea to give them a copy as well as they might be able to help with the fatal flaw analysis. Any vetting the JPB can get from various agencies can go a long way in making funders more comfortable with the project. He expressed concern about the estimated cost to connect to the WBI line; his experience is that it can cost significantly more than the \$50K estimate. He offered to help the JPB put together the request, but would have to have an estimate of the gas needs on a peak day (model? Steve?)

Mary suggested that the JPB talk to the Business Council (Dave Spencer) as they could be a good source of information and/or funding options.

Brian added that building the transmission line would likely be the toughest as that is the portion that must be built before the first customer is added. Asking for a grant for the transmission portion and then the loan for the distribution segments could help.