

Tongue River Valley Joint Powers Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2015

Present: Peter Clark, Norm Anderson, Randy Sundquist, Joey Sheeley, Karen Walters, Jack Fritz, Bob Wood, Dennis Wagner, Jeff Feck, Randy Bomar, Jeff Barron, Chad Reed, Pat Blair, Marshall Hood, and Laurie Walters-Clark

Next meeting: TBD

I. Announcements

None.

II. Approval of Minutes from January 28, 2015 Meeting

III. Approval of Agenda

Additions: Peter: revised grant contract.

Deletions: None

IV. Discussion

Old business:

- Peter advised the board and audience that the revised contract has been signed and returned. The 20% engineering cap and matching funds wording were removed.
- WWC Engineering and Vista West Engineering reps presented the board with their interpretation of the grant contract and how each would proceed in order to show SLIB the feasibility of the natural gas line project. Peter asked WWC to clarify how they define conversion vs consumption rates as the two are very different and could make a big difference. Peter also asked if WWC will figure in starting with just hooking up inside each municipality vs outside. Jack Fritz confirmed that they would. Jack also emphasized that when revenues are expected will be key. Randy Bomar (Vista West) stressed that if we intended to put out a Request for Proposal, Vista West has extensive experience with those and Statements of Interest. He also suggested that the board set up a committee to discuss ideas for the RFP.

New business:

- Approved payment of the following bills: \$33.34 to PB Communications, \$239.54 to reimburse Town of Dayton for the trip to Cheyenne.
- Peter thanked WWC and Vista West for their presentations, but instead of choosing a firm at the meeting, he wanted the board to have a chance to review the information before making a decision.
- Next meeting tentatively set for February 25.

V. Public Communique

- Bob Wood asked if the board would have to resubmit the grant/loan apps again. Peter confirmed yes. Loans are available every month, but can't be ready for the grant until the October award.

- Dennis Wagner expressed concern about the viability of the 5th street connect. Peter assured that we would not go with that plan unless and until it is approved by MDU. Still trying to set up a meeting with them.
- Marshall Hood asked if we could apply for a loan for the full amount now and apply for a grant to reduce the loan later. Not likely, but worth looking into.
- Peter said that counties in northeastern Wyo are looking at setting up a 4-county economic development entity. They have asked Dayton and Ranchester about upcoming projects. Peter told them about the gas line; possibly an alternate source of funding.

The meeting was adjourned.