

Tongue River Valley Joint Powers Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2015

Present: Peter Clark, Norm Anderson, Randy Sundquist, Joey Sheeley, Karen Walters, Bob Wood, Dennis Wagner, Jeff Feck, Jeff Barron, Chad Reed, Pat Blair, Travis Pearson

Next meeting: TBD

I. Announcements

None.

II. Approval of Minutes from February 12, 2015 Meeting

III. Approval of Agenda

Additions: Approve bill payments.

Deletions: None

IV. Discussion

Old business:

- Peter advised that we needed to choose an engineering firm to start work on the feasibility study. He asked for a motion to approve a firm. Joey made the motion to use WWC Engineering. Seconded by Norm. Approved. Norm asked if Peter had had any contact with MDU re: setting up a meeting. Peter is still working on it. Bob Wood asked if Steve Shute would be working with WWC. Peter advised yes, he is our consultant on the project and will need to work closely with WWC.

New business:

- Approved payment of the following bills: \$500.00 to liability pool (renewal), \$100.00 to Wendtland and Wendtland (consultation call).
- Peter advised that, per his call to Wendtland and Wendtland, donations to the JPB are not tax deductible unless we achieve 501(c)(3) status. If we do that, we become a charitable organization and could not accept money from the state.
- Next steps: Peter will set up a meeting with WWC in the next week or so. We will need to determine if we are going to this as a stand-alone gas company or as an industrial customer to MDU. He reviewed the restrictions on the grant funds and feels confident that most of the information is already there, just needs some harder numbers.
- Next meeting tentatively set for April 22.

V. Public Communique

- Bob Wood asked the JPB would only be allowed to hook up the municipalities at first. Peter advised yes, but permitting under PSC would be part of the study. Joey asked if we included an "at large" county member to the JPB, would that possibly satisfy the PSC? Peter advised that we may have to involve the county commissioners. He will look into that.

- Bob asked why permitting with the PSC is a problem. Peter told the audience that it would take a lot more time and would cost approximately \$100K. The study might show that we can do it at the same time, however. Bob followed up asking if the chances of SLIB approval would be better if the county was involved, given that we've always stressed the importance of hooking up ranches and other ag operators along the line's route. Peter acknowledged that it was worth revisiting; he will ask the commissioners to ask their lawyers about it.
- Joey asked if it would be advisable to get the PSC involved at the beginning. Peter thought that it would be possible and the feasibility study might show that.
- Dennis Wagner asked if reps from the board planned to meet with WWC before the next meeting. Peter: yes.

The meeting was adjourned.