

Tongue River Valley Joint Powers Board Meeting Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2016

Present: Peter Clark, Eric Lofgren, Joey Sheeley, Randy Sundquist, Karen Walters, Jack Fritz (WWC), Bob Wood, Melissa Butcher (PB Comm.), Chad Reed (WWC)

Next meeting: April 28, 2016

I. Announcements

II. Approval of Minutes from February 23, 2016 Meeting

III. Approval of Agenda

Additions: Public meeting dates

Deletions: None

IV. Discussion

Old business: None

New business:

- *Financial report:* Approved payment of \$19,937.75 to WWC. Approved payment of \$500.00 to LGLP.
- *Feasibility study update (WWC).* Please see attached summary. Additions to that are added below.
 - Alignment Options: Randy asked when the preferred alternative will be decided. Jack: before the final draft; will ask Chad to provide preliminary alternative analyses before that. Increasing capacity at the 5th Street connection alternative is not possible, but it should have enough capacity for the foreseeable future and will allow the JPB to explore build-back options for the future.
 - Easements: No additions to the notes WWC provided.
 - Connection costs: No additions to the notes WWC provided.
 - Financial analysis: WWC will run financial models for both the 50% and 75% grant possibilities prior to issuing the final report. MDU will have to apply for a new rate. Rosie Berger suggested to WWC that State Revolving Fund money might be available; have not heard back from her on that yet. Peter said that that fund is water-based and we'd probably have better luck with the Business Council funding options.
 - Operations and Maintenance: MDU does not want to cover meters; the JPB/WWC has asked that they reconsider.
 - Funding: No additions to the notes WWC provided.
 - Draft report: Draft report almost ready for review; need public meeting results for final.
 - Public Relations (Melissa Butcher): Public meetings are set for April 14 in Ranchester. The Dayton meeting will be on April 12 or 13; no preferences were indicated by board members so Melissa will decide. Meeting notifications will be

mailed out by March 25, 2016. Posters will be distributed to communities next week. An ad will be placed in the Country Bounty as it is delivered to all residents in the TR Valley. Direct invitations will be sent to municipal and county elected officials. WWC will invite Steve Shute. PB Communications will present a 10-minute Power Point presentation, hitting on the most salient points (preferred alternative and economics of conversion). Comment forms will be available to fill out at the meeting or to take and send in later.

- A follow-up survey will be sent that will be relevant the sensitivity analysis and strengthen the case to SLIB. The survey will be two-phase: first, invite residents to take the survey and second, send a letter to those who have not responded.
- Melissa asked if the board wanted to have a stand-alone meeting to present the final report. The board decided that that would probably not be well-attended so will make the presentation at a regular board meeting.

V. Public Communique

Randy asked that WWC and PB Communications focus on just what SLIB wants to know.

Bob suggested that, as this is an election year and we could lose county commissioners, we should get the current commission pinned down on the ROWs as we don't know how future members would respond. Chad and Peter suggested that they should be able to do that with a simple resolution.

Bob also suggested that, in light of the lower propane prices, the presenters emphasize the monthly vs. quarterly/biannual bills.

Bob then commended WWC on the work they've done this far.

The meeting was adjourned.