

MINUTES
of the
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Artesian Hotel, Casino & Spa
Sulphur, Oklahoma
October 20, 2022

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MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES PRESENT

Italics indicates virtual attendance .

ALASKA	Emma Pokon
ARIZONA	Amanda Long-Rodriguez
CALIFORNIA	
COLORADO	
IDAHO	Jerry Rigby
KANSAS	Earl Lewis
MONTANA	Anna Pakenham Stevenson
NEBRASKA	Tom Riley
NEVADA	Micheline Fairbank
NEW MEXICO	
NORTH DAKOTA	<i>Andrea Travnicek</i> Jennifer Verleger
OKLAHOMA	Julie Cunningham
OREGON	
SOUTH DAKOTA	Nakaila Steen
TEXAS	Jim Risk
UTAH	

WASHINGTON

Mary Verner

WYOMING

Jeff Cowley

STAFF

Tony Willardson

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jen Verleger, Chair of the Executive Committee, called the meeting to order and requested self introductions for those attending both in-person and virtually.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on August 4, 2022 in Polson, Montana were moved for approval and the motion was seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORT ON BUDGET AND FINANCES

a. FY2021-22 Budget Status Report

Tony reported on the budget, and changes since the last meeting. He presented final estimates of income and expenses for past fiscal year, noting receipt of full dues from 17 States. We do not yet have our end of year financials from our bookkeeper. Therefore, we have estimated what our final expenses should be for FY2022. Estimated income for FY2022 was \$1,143,856.37 compared to total estimated expenses of \$788,775.42 and that leaves a balance of \$355,080.95. However, that includes restricted funds for development of our Water Data Exchange (WaDE) from philanthropic supporters.

b. WaDE Grant Status

- IOW BHP & Moore Foundation Grants
- Water Foundation Grant
- USBR WaterSMART Applied Science Matching Grant

We budgeted income of \$54,998 from the Moore Foundation through Duke University for WaDE work, and \$166,992.71 from the BHP Foundation, also through Duke's Nicholas Institute. The Moore agreement ended on September 15, and we are writing our final report. The BHP agreement is for five years, with \$150,000 in the first year and \$150,000 in the second year. October 1 is the beginning of Year 2. [Subsequent funding drops to \$75,000 in Year 3 and \$37,500 in Year 4

and Year 5.] It also includes reimbursements from BHP and Moore for WaDE work done from January to April 2022, that was not received until recently in the current fiscal year. I have now included those receipts in this year's budget. There is some lag in receipt of funds as we account for our expenditures and submit reimbursement requests, but these two payments were unusually delayed.

The Water Foundation, with funds from the Walton Foundation, has committed \$510,000 for WaDE work, half of which was received in FY2022 and the other half to be received in the current fiscal year. These funds have been used to pay a contractor, Don't Panic Labs (DPL), for help in building our Western Water Data Access and Analysis Tool (WestDAAT). The DPL costs to date have substantially exceeded the dedicated funding, and has subsequently been covered by the WSWC, while we await the remaining promised funds. We received \$255,000 in April 2022 and anticipate another \$255,000 after the first of the new year. These funds come in a lump sum, and we periodically report on how we have spent the money.

We have also received a \$200,000 WaterSMART grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation via their applied sciences program for WaDE. This funding is for two years, and we have yet to access this money, as we have first sought to exhaust our Moore funds and BHP Year 1, grant funds.

So we currently have four different grants that we're administering related to WaDE and it requires some balancing and coordination to maintain our cash flow and cover our expenses. Again, our overall WaDE budget is in the black, but the grant funds will be carried forward to meet our future WaDE expenses.

Our budget projections for FY 2023 are that our income will be a little over a million dollars. That does include the WaDE related funding. Our projected total expenditures may be about \$100,000 less than that.

All of this is "soft" money of limited duration and we continue to work on future opportunities for continued funding. We have sufficient funds to cover a couple of years work on WaDE and WestDAAT. Hopefully, we can find a more permanent source of revenue to maintain the WaDE work that we're doing, which we think is valuable for the federal agencies and the Council and Council members.

d. FY2022-23 Budget Discussion

As far as the proposed budget, without WaDE funding, we would not have some \$60,000 or so accruing as grant overhead to the Council's budget, so subtract that from our estimated \$100,000 surplus we think we might have at the end of FY2023.

The other important reason for our projected surplus related to Cheryl's retirement, and the fact that we have not filled the policy analyst position that has been vacant for now over a year. [We have all had to pick up the slack!] Julie Groat is assuming some of Cheryl's responsibilities, but we

have also hired a contractor to handle some of the financial tracking and reporting. We're still sorting out what we will need as far as permanent staff and possible contractors.

We have also had a contractual arrangement with Erica Gaddis, former Director of the Utah's DEQ Division of Water Quality, and her expertise and assistance has been tremendously helpful, particularly related to addressing potential regional approaches to regulations under the Clean Water Act related to Waters of the United States (WOTUS).

In August, the Committee approved the proposed FY2023 budget and authorized the Management Subcommittee authority to make changes as needed.

e. Dues

So far, we have received \$346,500 of our estimated \$561,000 in dues payments. As you know, the Committee approved two dues increases, the first a \$3,000 increase from \$30,000 to \$33,000 (the first increase in nearly a decade) and a second increase of \$3,000 to \$36,000 effective July 1, 2023 for FY2024. These increases were intended to help support replacing open staff positions. At this point, we are still evaluating what we need as far as staff. Given this uncertainty I've been a little hesitant to make a commitment on hiring new staff.

We will be following up with a second notice for those States that have yet to pay their current dues.

SUNSETTING POSITIONS

As usual, the sunseting positions are addressed by the working committees.

Position No. 438 – Urging NASA to enhance their focus on water resources research applications

Position No. 439 – Supporting implementation of the SECURE Water Act

Position No. 440 – Supporting legislation requiring the federal government to pay state filing fees in state general stream adjudications.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT/WSWC ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Tony highlighted some of the WSWC activities listed under Tab E.

FUTURE WSWC MEETINGS

Jen outlined options for future meetings with Kansas and North Dakota next up to host meetings. There was some discussion and ultimately it was decided to hold the spring meetings in

Nevada, and the fall meetings in Kansas, given weather considerations. Further, the members were open to holding the summer meetings in Alaska, if that is possible, and having North Dakota host the summer meetings in 2024.

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Tony referred to a page under Tab B, noting the need for appointment letters from the governors confirming changes in their representation on the WSWC.

SUNSETTING POSITIONS FOR SPRING 2023 MEETINGS

- Position No. 441 – Sub-seasonal to seasonal weather research, forecasting, and innovation
- Position No. 442 – The Bureau of Reclamation’s maintenance, repair and rehabilitation needs
- Position No. 443 – The Reclamation Safety of Dams Act of 1978
- Position No. 444 – The transfer of federal water and power projects and related facilities
- Position No. 445 – The National Levee Safety Act of 2007, levees and canal structures
- Position No. 446 – The clean and drinking water state revolving funds and state tribal assistance
- Position No. 447 – Rural water and wastewater project/infrastructure needs and program

OTHER MATTERS

There being no other matters, the meeting was adjourned.