

ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

**Tuesday, April 27, 2010
10:00 a.m.**

La Junta City Municipal Building
601 Colorado
La Junta, CO

Agenda

1. Call to Order and Welcome
2. Introductions
3. Approve Minutes – February 23, 2010 meeting
4. Presentation on STAG report
5. NEPA Update
6. Next Steps
7. Schedule next meeting

Arkansas Valley Conduit Advisory Committee: Joe Kelley, Doug Montgomery, David Simpson, Joe Petramala, Elmer Bauman, Ken Wagner, Matt Heimerich, Wayne Whittaker, and Claude Schultz.
Alternates: Leonard Talkington, Bill Rich, Bill McCurdy, Norman Noe, and Ronnie Rein.

Arkansas Valley Conduit Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes **February 23, 2010**

Mr. Long called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Mr. Long welcomed all in attendance and introductions were made around the room.

ATTENDANCE

Arkansas Valley Conduit Board Committee members present: Bill Long, and Kevin Karney. **Arkansas Valley Conduit Advisory Committee** members and alternates present: Joe Kelley, City of La Junta; Doug Montgomery, City of Lamar; Ken Wagner, City of Las Animas; Bill Rich, Hasty Water; Norman Noe, South Swink and Homestead; Matt Heimerich, Cowley County Commissioner; and Claude Schultz, Small Water Users Group. **Others** present: Philip Reynolds, SECWCD staff; Kevin Meador and Dan Kugler, Black & Veatch; Tobe Allumbaugh, Crowley County Commissioner; Nancy Moore, Citizen; Dwight Gardner, Senator Bennet's office; Kirk Russell, Colorado Water Conservation Board..

MINUTES

Mr. Long reported that the minutes of the January 26, 2010 meeting were distributed and asked for comments. Matt Heimerich motioned to approve the minutes as written, Ken Wagner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

STAG UPDATE

Mr. Meador distributed a handout and then summarized the work performed on the STAG since the last Advisory group meeting in January. Mr. Meador said that they had started prepping the final report and are fine tuning the engineering pieces. Mr. Meador said that there has been a change to the Scope of Work to reflect the indication from Reclamation that it would be best if a preferred alignment was not chosen in the STAG but rather more work should go into the alternatives and identification of a corridor.

Mr. Meador said the 300 Task group is progressing well with the work MWH is doing. The financial model is ready as part of the 400 Task group and is waiting on the final data to plug in. Merrick and CDM are finishing up the engineering in the 500 Task group. Mr. Kelley asked how the consultants have been performing and Mr. Meador said that they have been doing a fine job.

FULL COSTS OF BEING IN THE CONDUIT

Mr. Reynolds said that Mr. Broderick had an urgent meeting with Reclamation come up today so he would not be able to present on the full costs of being in the conduit as originally planned. In place of that discussion, Mr. Reynolds said he would give an update on several items of interest on the Conduit.

OTHER BUSINESS ITEMS

Mr. Reynolds discussed the project accounting. He said that the 2009 Conduit and STAG accounting was near completion but the loss of the finance person in December slowed the year-end close and that he would have a complete wrap up at the next meeting. Mr. Reynolds gave the invoicing details on the STAG for the consultants as well as for the receivables from Environmental Protection Agency and the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). Mr. Reynolds then reviewed how the \$5 million FFY 2010 appropriations were going to be utilized. He then gave an overview of the FFY 2011 appropriations process and request.

Mr. Reynolds said the District Board approved the East of Pueblo allocation at the March Board meeting. The final allocation was very close to what the Advisory Committee had sent to Board. He said that this year's water allocation will follow the newly approved process.

Mr. Long then introduced Mr. Russell from the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Mr. Russell explained how the CWCB operates and receives its' operating cash. He then explained what is happening at the State Legislature level regarding the use of CWCB's loan money and that the State has taken some of CWCB's money from them. He said one of their funding sources, the severance tax, is doing OK and CWCB is able to utilize those funds for loans.

Mr. Long said that there are discussions currently under way in the lower valley about forming a water authority.

NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be April 27, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in La Junta. The focus of the meeting will be a report on the completion of the engineering portions of the STAG.

Mr. Long adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip Reynolds, Projects Manager

Date