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MINUTES

INTERSTATE COUNCIL ON WATER POLICY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MAY 3, 2018

The meeting took place by phone. Director participants included: Julie Cunningham (Chair), Brian Atkins (Vice Chair), Pam Bush (Second Vice Chair and Secretary), Dru Buntin, Drew DeHoff (Treasurer), Kirsten Michelsen, Heidi Moltz, and Ed Swaim. Executive Director Sue Lowry also attended. Vice Chair Brian Atkins has alerted Sue he would be unable to attend. Earl Lewis stood in for Ginger Harper (who is on detail with the Corps), joining at Item 4.b.

- 1) **Call to order** – Julie Cunningham called the meeting to order shortly after 11 a.m. Eastern. No additions or changes to the draft agenda were proposed. These minutes reflect the significant issues reviewed and resolutions adopted.
- 2) **Minutes of April 5, 2018** – Drew moved for approval of the Minutes of the April 5, 2018 Board meeting. Kirsten seconded his motion, and the Minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

3) **Treasurer's Report (Drew DeHoff)**

Fiscal Report. Drew reported that the Commerce Bank checking account held \$36,633; the PayPal account \$537; and the Wells Fargo (WF) account \$4,000 (for a total of \$41,170). At this time last year, ICWP had a little over \$33,000. The lower balance last year was attributable to our not collecting some dues because of financial issues experienced by some members, and less activity during the period between Ryan Mueller's departure and Sue Lowry's engagement as Executive Director. Drew reported payables of \$4,792 to Avocet Consult (Sue's firm), which he expected to remit within the week; the \$100 monthly web hosting bill; and \$3,100 for the annual subscription to E&E Wire.

Checking Acct. Transfer. If we keep an average balance of \$25,000 in the WF account, we get some free wire transfers and cashier checks. Sue transferred to WF a sum sufficient to maintain that no-fee status. Once Drew has been added to the WF account, he will cut checks from the Commerce account in "a couple of chunks" to transfer the balance. Ryan had not yet shipped ICWP's projector and miscellaneous other items to Sue, and it was agreed sufficient funds should be reserved in the Commerce account to cover his shipping expenses.

Annual Budget for June Board Mtg. Drew will make sure Sue has all bank statements for the last fiscal year to provide her with a basis for developing an annual budget in advance of the June Board meeting/call.

Western States – Round Table. Re monies owed to Western States Water Council for the Round Table, Sue reached out to Tony Willardson and received a spreadsheet of expenses from Cheryl, who is still working her way through the receipts. Net gain or loss from the event has not yet been determined.

Federal Tax Filing (Form 990). Ryan filed for an extension for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. Ryan will complete the 990 and share it with Sue and Drew at least one week before the May 15 deadline. ICWP formerly used an accounting firm to prepare this filing at a cost of \$2,500, but decided we should take a stab at preparing the form ourselves to save money.

4) Executive Director’s Report (Sue Lowry)

- a) NIDIS Mtg. On April 20 Sue circulated a report on the NIDIS meeting. NIDIS paid most of the airfare, and Sue stayed an extra day and a half for Hill visits, including to the offices of several House and Senate Approp’s subcommittee members.
- b) Exec. Director Hand-Off. Ryan sent Sue a thumb drive containing his and Peter’s records.
- c) ICWP Website. Jason at Oturia has generally been responsive. It would have been nice given the Senate deadline to have our fact sheet posted more quickly (Sue sent it to Jason on a Thursday and he posted it the following Tuesday). But he is adding tabs and buttons to make the site more of an archive. New content was posted under Stream Gage Support. In accordance with Board direction in March, Sue contacted Josh at RedAnt and told him we are not in a position to financially or otherwise to engage him at this time. They parted on good terms – RedAnt may become an affiliate member.

There are still a couple of Board member bio’s missing. If yours is one (Kirsten and Dru!), please send it to Sue!

- d) Instream Flow Council (IFC) Mtg (April 25-26). IFC holds a meeting every three years in Ft. Collins, CO. Sue attended and made good contacts in the fish and wildlife community, getting ICWP back in people’s minds. (Among others, she ran into Barney Austin of AquaStrategies in Austin, TX). In response to a question about the purpose of IFC, Sue explained that many states have an instream flow coordinator (WY has 5-6). IFC developed and published a book on the state of the science. It emphasizes that “minimum” flows aren’t enough – the entire hydrograph defines the habitat – and explains how to work with water rights. Several Canadian provinces were also represented. An update was provided for each region, and there was discussion of instream flow politics.
- e) ICWP Membership. Sue has developed a master list of our members and is adding names to a list of prospective members. She is assembling a list of states that are not represented and will ask the Board for likely prospects and contacts. She plans to send a USGS funding update to all members and prospects.
- f) USGS Funding. Sue is focused on reminding members that ICWP cares about stream gaging. She spoke with Rep. Betty McCollum’s staffer (4th Distr. MN) and with a Senate staffer who works on the USGS budget. (The latter was unclear on how the co-op program funds gages.) She submitted [outside witness testimony](#) to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for Interior,

Environment and Related Agencies by the deadline, and it is posted on the website, along with a [fact sheet](#) on FY19 USGS stream gaging program funding needs.

Sue is considering whether ICWP should do the multi-party sign-on letter every other year – in the non-WSWC Round Table years – given the resources required to put it together. In the years when WSWC joins us for the Round Table, we could simply remind members why stream gages are so important.

Sue is developing a Congressional contacts spreadsheet to identify House members and Senators on relevant appropriations subcommittees and which ICWP members states are represented.

- g) USACE Planning Assistance to States (PAS). Beverly Hays is the nationwide program manager for PAS (as well as for FPMS, the Corps' Flood Plain Management Services program). She is physically located in Mobile, AL. She would be willing to come to Oklahoma City to speak with us and would love to see ICWP support additional funding for these programs. She would appreciate any feedback on successful projects. Hays noted that even with dollars flowing to these programs, it can be difficult to allocate funds. She noted that some opportunities were opening up for Tribes, making funding more competitive for states.
- h) Committees. ICWP has three committees with appointed chairs – Legislation and Policy (Pam); Science and Data (Amy); and Interstates (Drew). All have historically been loose as to members and work plans. It was agreed we could benefit from a day or day-and-a-half long retreat to develop topics and projects for the committees to focus on. Dates in August were discussed.

5) Upcoming Meetings.

2018 Annual Meeting. The 2018 Annual Meeting will be in OKC during the week of October 8 (likely Wed.-Thurs., Oct. 10-11). Topics for discussion may include Water Planning, Southwest OK Drought Resiliency, and Tribal Water Rights, among others.

2019 Annual Meeting. The 2019 Annual Meeting will be in Tuscaloosa, AL.

2019 D.C. Round Table/ Hill Visits.

Summer Retreat. It was agreed a summer retreat in August is desirable if participants' budgets and calendars can accommodate it. Objectives would be: Set committee work plans; review Strategic Plan.

1st Thursday Board Meetings. Our upcoming Board meetings are: June 7 and July 5, 10 a.m. Central.

6) Other Business. D&O insurance was not discussed. Add to June agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately noon.