

COLORADO RIVER REGIONAL SEWER COALITION
March 18, 2010
11:00 a.m.
Board of Directors' Meeting
1255 Marina Boulevard, Bullhead City, Arizona 86442
City Council Chambers

ATTENDEES

Voting Membership Present

Mayor Jack Hakim	Bullhead City
Mayor Mark Nexsen	Lake Havasu City
Andy Jones	Colorado River Sewage Systems (JV)
Peggy Roefer	Southern Nevada Water Authority (by phone)
Sandy Pierce	(by phone)
Edgar Dymally	Metropolitan Water District of So. Cal. (by phone)
Jim Nafsey	Metropolitan Water District of So. Cal.
Dave Brownlee	City of Needles
Tom Sockwell	Mohave County Supervisor

Also Present

Terry Bracy	Bracy, Tucker, Brown & Valanzano (by phone)
Tracy Tucker	Bracy, Tucker, Brown & Valanzano (by phone)
Michael Bracy	Bracy, Tucker, Brown & Valanzano (by phone)
Timothy Bracy	Bracy, Tucker, Brown & Valanzano (by phone)
Bob Leuck	Bullhead City
Becky Blasius	Bureau of Reclamation
Susan Betts	Bullhead City

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nexsen called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m. Roll call was taken and it was determined that there is a quorum.

1. Secretary's Report—Mark Nexsen

The December 17, 2009 minutes were presented for approval. Tom Sockwell made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Andy Jones seconded the motion. A verbal vote was taken on the motion with all in favor. Motion carries.

2. Treasurer's Report – Dave Brownlee

Mr. Brownlee reported that our beginning balance was \$52,654.97. All revenues are \$139,435.41. There were expenses for Bracy Tucker Brown and Valanzano in the amount of \$30,590.00 leaving us with an ending balance as of December 17, 2009 of \$161,500.38.

Andy Jones made a motion to approve the treasurer's as written. Vice Chairman Jack Hakim seconded the motion. A verbal vote was taken on the motion with all in favor. Motion carries.

3. Discussion of Legislative Advocacy Activities – Terry Bracy, Tracy Tucker, Michael Bracy

Update on Lower Colorado River Protection Act, H.R. 3481

BTBV recently met with staff of Rep. Grijalva's office to review the feedback CRRSCo leadership has received from water agencies and other officials on the Lower Colorado River Protection Act. We received positive feedback and a willingness to work together to address the reasonable concerns raised by constituency groups. We will work over the next couple of weeks to frame these issues to help secure broader support for the measure.

FY 2010 Interior and Environment Appropriations

BTBV submitted on behalf of Bullhead City, Lake Havasu City and Needles the FY 2010 Appropriations requests to the respective Members of Congress to ask for their support for earmark funding under the EPA-State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG). Initially, there were positive indications that the respective Members would submit the funding requests, however, a recent position taken by House Republicans on earmarks make it unlikely that the key House sponsors will participate in the appropriations process.

Earmark Reforms

On Wednesday the leadership in the House announced that they will impose a one-year ban on earmarks directed to for-profit entities in their FY2011 spending bills. The following day, the Republicans in the House went a step further and decided to ban all earmarks in the appropriations bills as well as other measures, including tax and tariff legislation. It is still unclear whether the Senate will comply with this pledge. Some within the Senate Republican leadership are concerned that eliminating earmarks only puts the funding decision in the hands of the Administration, where they would be able to determine the recipients rather than Congress.

While a ban on earmarks can be viewed as a move toward more fiscal restraint, many see it as political symbolism. In fact, of the \$1.3 trillion in fiscal Year 2010 discretionary appropriations, earmarks totaled roughly \$10.2 billion.

Changing Dynamics and New Approach for CRRSCo

In a twist of irony, Congress' turn against earmarks may prove to be an advantage to Arizona. It will have two principal impacts – first, in the Congress Appropriators will suffer a loss of power to Authorizing chairmen such as Rep. Grijalva. The second impact is in the Administration, where agencies will have additional money to target grants into areas of interest and need to CRRSCo communities.

Our firm has been known for its success in the grant-making process, most recently by leading the City of Tucson to winning the 5th largest TIGER transportation grant, \$63 million for a modern streetcar system. We have alerted our grants coordinator to redouble efforts to search for any grant opportunities for CRRSCo communities that relate to the core objectives of the organization – protecting the watersheds which feed the Colorado River.

We would ask that each CRRSCo community appoint its own grants coordinator, someone who has had prior experience seeking support in the Federal process, and to make that person available for a conference call this month where we will discuss best practices and how we can achieve the highest degree of success through a series of funding opportunities. Success will depend on the creativity of your grant coordinator as well as our ability to channel efforts in the most productive directions.

This approach has two advantages. It allows a congressional delegation, which is uncomfortable with an earmark approach, but is used to strongly advocating for regional communities with the federal agencies through the grant-making process to play an active role in CRRSCo's strategy and success. Second, decisions made by the federal agencies are often based more on substance than politics. CRRSCo communities have a great case to make.

4. Discussion of possible action to establish CRRSCo priority projects for the Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations Bill – Chairman Mark Nexsen

Chairman Nexsen reported that currently there are two projects requests and that Needles is working on a third. There is a request from Bullhead City regarding a lift station rehabilitation and reconstruction project. It's a \$4M total cost and a \$2M grant is what they are requesting. Lake Havasu City is requesting \$1.5M for an effluent injection disposal. Mr. Way commented that Needles is looking at a major development at the north end of the city which is going to require a new small sewer package plant. The overall price is approximately \$3.6M and Needles would be looking at funding 50%. Tracy Tucker commented that all the projects that are submitted have a 45% local match requirement that you have to be able to outline and justify in advance when the project is submitted.

5. Update concerning the water quality database project – Andy Jones, CRRSCO representative and Becky Blasius-Wert, BOR Representative

Andy Jones discussed the following:

The TAC meeting met at the Southern Nevada Water Authorities water treatment facility on October 22, 2009. The TAC members met with Becky Blasius, Susan Holmes and Peggy Roefer. They described to us and showed us their water quality database. It's a very thorough program that they are operating and it will be a great tool for us to have access to. We discussed the priorities of our pollutants that we would like to monitor and identify and work with the SNWA's database in order for us as members of CRRSCo and as our staff can work with outside agencies and develop a more thorough quality database from Lake Mead all the way down to the Southern End of the Colorado River. We discussed everything pertaining to parameters and came to the conclusion that once the contract is signed by CRRSCo, at that point we could start being reimbursed for the hours our staff and our members doing this database work.

Becky Blasius wanted to reiterate that at the last meeting in September there was some discussion on the plan of study at the time and that there were some questions about verbage. Maureen George was tasked at taking a look at that and making some changes to the plan of study and she did that. We've submitted that back to the TAC members.

Chairman Nexsen commented that the contracts were brought in today and will be signed.

6. Set next meeting date

The next meeting will be on Thursday, June 17, 2010 in Lake Havasu City at 11:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. A vote was taken on the motion with all in favor. Chairman Nexsen declared the meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.