

WLSD Planning Committee Meeting
Monday, August 3, 2015 @ 3:00 p.m.
Minutes

Attending: Ray Turri, Jim Mersfelder, Bob Goldfeld, Richard Reis, Charlie Ekstrom, Chip Roraback and Ken Green of WLSD; Dave Prickett of Woodard & Curran; and John Wertam and Bruce Chudwick of Shipman & Goodwin

1. Review positions of DEEP CWF and USDA RD on funding of Regional Alternative project and determine strategy to achieve an optimal funding package for the District

The Committee discussed at length the positions of our two funding partners, CT CWF and USDA RD. Regarding the CWF, we are currently applying to be on the CWF funding list for 2015/16. This requires a SCOPE report (Dave to confirm with DEEP) and taxpayer approval of a resolution to expend funds. Dennis Greci has indicated DEEP is unlikely to co-finance the project with USDA but is willing to fund a discrete part of the project if we break it into several pieces. USDA has indicated they have no funds remaining for this year but are willing to propose our project for funding for 2015/16. USDA is also unlikely to co-finance our project but willing to fund discrete pieces if we split the project. A review of the numbers of the typical financing packages expected from these two sources indicates USDA will likely be more attractive given their 40 year loans compared to CWF's 20 year loans. We are anticipating grant amounts of 25% from CWF and 21-29% from USDA. Our strategy is to continue to actively progress financing packages with both agencies. Any discussions with state or federal representatives will await further local developments.

2. Discussion of Dennis Greci's comments on ad valorem vs user fee payment systems

The committee considered this matter for some time. DEEP appears to favor user fees for O&M expenses of WPCAs while USDA does not appear to have a position on the matter. It was agreed the options (ad valorem vs user fee) for taxpayer funding of the project had to be discussed openly with taxpayers and would be done so in meetings with taxpayers when discussing funding of the Regional Alternative.

3. Review Taxpayer Resolution for Expending Funds for Regional Alternative

Bruce Chudwick talked the Committee through a draft resolution to expend funds for the Regional Alternative. The Committee agreed the draft with a few modifications including the amount of the resolution for a total expenditure of \$15 million.

4. Update on SCADA and I/I Projects

Dave Prickett updated the Committee on the progress of these two projects which are progressing smoothly.

5. Discussion of Community Meeting for Taxpayer Approval of Expenditure for Regional Project

The Committee discussed possible dates of August 29 and Saturdays in September. A meeting with Torrington WPCA officials is a prerequisite before a meeting is held with taxpayers. It was agreed Bruce and Dave needed to attend and John to hold the date open on his calendar. The date, presentation materials, presenters and Chairman of the meeting all need to be agreed ASAP by the President and the Board.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Ken Green, Chairman
August 3, 2015