

**ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES**  
**February 4, 2021**

A meeting of the Arkansas Valley Conduit (AVC) Committee was held on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 11:03 a.m. via electronic and telephonic means.

Chairman Kevin Karney announced a quorum was present for the AVC Committee.

**AVC COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kevin Karney - Chairman, Howard "Bub" Miller – Vice Chairman, Dallas May, Carl McClure, Bill Long, and Jim Broderick

**AVC COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT AND EXCUSED:**

None

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Curtis Mitchell and Pat Edlmann, SECWCD Board Members; Jason Meyer, P.E., GMS Inc.; Kevin Meador, Lee Miller, Leann Noga, Garrett Markus, Chris Woodka, Margie Medina, and Patty Rivas, SECWCD staff; Christine Arbogast, Kogovsek & Associates.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Carl McClure moved, and Dallas May seconded approval of the August 20, 2020 AVC meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Mr. Meador explained the primary purpose of the meeting is to get approval to award a contract to GMS of Colorado Springs. He introduced Jason Meyer, P.E. of GMS, whose firm has worked with about half of the participants in the AVC over the years. GMS has the ability to work with participants not just in design, but in cost, funding and the regulatory process.

Mr. Meyer explained that GMS will work with each participant on their connections. Individual meetings will review water systems; evaluate water loss, water quality, pressures, distribution and storage; and define recommended improvements for connection to the AVC pipeline to include disinfection, corrosion control, booster pumping or pressure reduction, system improvements to reduce water loss, and integration with existing facilities.

Those factors would define the financial impact in which federal, state or local funding is available, and define a funding scenario for participants. That, coupled with AVC charges, will give a picture of the impact on user rates. Finally, those factors can be used with the timeline of construction for the AVC to assist with financial planning.

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Mr. Meador said the focus is on west-to-east, the entire route of AVC needs to be considered, and we cannot ignore those on the east end of the line. Community meetings with the larger communities first, will begin as early as March.

Mr. Meador explained that a financial model has been developed by Black and Veatch, and the information from GMS will be used to improve the data in the model. This will give the participants an idea of not only their own costs, but the overall costs of the Project.

Mr. Karney asked if regionalization and consolidation will be looked at in the study.

Mr. Meyer said spur lines have been defined, and the proximity of systems needs to be studied. The biggest concern about consolidation is water loss within systems. Mr. Meador said consolidation could help in financing.

Mr. Karney asked if we would look at savings of costs, such as not having to pump water.

Mr. Meyer said that would be part of the overall cost estimation for operations and maintenance.

Mr. Mitchell asked about water quality, with regard to bringing in a different water source. Specifically, he mentioned internal corrosion, lead and copper rules, and introduction of by-products.

Mr. Meyer replied that there is concern from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment about water quality issues, and GMS is prepared to work through these issues with participants.

Mr. May asked who would be responsible for pumping water to Eads at May Valley, understanding that the AVC line is gravity fed to that point.

Mr. Meador explained that May Valley's delivery point is fed by gravity, and the spur line up to Eads is part of AVC.

Mr. May said it is important to not get bogged down in details of AVC, but continue to look at the big picture.

Mr. Broderick said there will be more meetings to explain the details of AVC, and that many of the details are still fluid. Future presentations will look at the issues with more depth so the Board will have the chance to review details prior to going to communities.

Mr. Karney asked when meetings with participants will begin, or whether newsletters would be sent out.

Mr. Broderick said meetings will be in the March time frame, with larger communities first. As GMS progresses with work, we will have more details for each community. We have to spend time to review the project, and then update communities regularly about progress.

Mr. Edelman asked about the timeline for the project and the ability to pay for participants.

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Mr. Meador said the structure of the financial model was completed in January, and the task now is to get the correct information into the model. There are two parts of the model, one which looks at the overall costs of the AVC, and a second which looks at participant costs.

Mr. Edelmann asked if the model will be periodically updated.

Mr. Meador confirmed that the model will be revised as information is available. Mr. Broderick said there would be a range of costs presented that will be refined as new data comes in. We know that cost is a factor for everyone, and the costs have to be available as part of the Colorado Water Conservation Board loan.

Mr. Long said the work is timely and absolutely necessary. He said GMS has worked well with Las Animas and has secured several million dollars for the city as well as providing the technical expertise to complete water delivery and wastewater projects.

Ms. Arbogast gave an update on the status of federal actions and proposals. AVC got an additional \$3 million for FY2021 through the plus-up process. This is important because the Office of Management and Budget is support for the AVC. We are waiting for the FY 2022 Budget Request from the Biden Administration, which will be later this year. There is serious talk about an infrastructure bill in both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate, driven by the need for an infrastructure plan. AVC could be included, as construction has started for part of the water line. The District has sent a request for funds to develop designs past the first reach and to fund a water delivery contract with Pueblo Water.

She added that both Senator John Hickenlooper and Representative Lauren Boebert have been named to their respective natural resource committees, which is good for the District and for AVC.

**ACTION ITEM:**

Mr. May moved, and Mr. McClure seconded the following motion.

“I move that the AVC Committee recommends to the Southeastern Colorado Activity Enterprise Board that the Board approve a Contract for Professional Services Between the Southeastern Colorado Water Activity Enterprise and GMS, Inc. Consulting Engineers.”

Motion passed unanimously.

**INFORMATION ITEMS:**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

None

**NEXT MEETING**

Not determined

**ADJOURN**

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Chairman Karney adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Woodka,  
Senior Policy and Issues Manager