

Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2008
Twisp Town Hall

Council Members present were: Chairman Katharine Bill, Vice-Chairman Mike Fort, Marty Williams, Ray Campbell, Nate Wehmeyer, Okanogan County and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent: Council Members Greg Knott, Vicky Welch, Tim Johnson, MVID, and Tom Gehring, Council Member Town of Twisp.

Guests present: John Crandall, Mary McCrea and Lisa Pelly.

Chairman Bill called the meeting to order at 6:14 pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Gray and Osborne Engineers, request for approval of a Consistency Statement for the Town of Twisp's Water Comprehensive Plan.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 10, 2008 MEETING

MOTION:

Council Member Campbell moved to approve the minutes of January 10, 2008 as sent. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

HIGHLANDS ASSOCIATES CONSULTANTS AGREEMENT – AGENDA ITEM #118

Secretary Moriarty reported that the Consultants Agreement with Kurt Danison, Highlands Associates for Task 1 of the Instream Flow Rule Revision Grant Scope of Work was signed by Mayor Nations on February 2, 2008. Moriarty shared that Mr. Danison is interested in attending our March meeting to give an update on his progress.

INSTREAM FLOW RULE REVISION OUTLINE DISCUSSION – AGENDA ITEM # 123

Chairman Bill reported that she, Greg Knott and Rusty Post developed an outline from guidelines out of Table 12 of the Water Basin Plan. Chairman Bill read into record the 4 main questions that were identified: 1) Who will benefit from transferred water; 2) How is consumptive water use measured; 3) What water should be transferred; and 4) How will water in the 2 cfs reserves be managed and transferred?

Council Member Fort asked if the winter usages for the Towns of Twisp and Winthrop could be obtained.

Action: Secretary Moriarty will get the winter average uses for both Twisp and Winthrop.

The council had a brief discussion regarding RCW 173-548, where it was stated the Department of Ecology (DOE) is not following the RCW in regards to closed basins. Some Council Members felt that an agreement regarding RCW 173-548 would never be reached. Chairman Bill shared that she feels that the Methow Watershed Council has a bad reputation with the DOE and wants to move forward using RCW 173-548 correctly.

Council Member Campbell pointed out that a question should be added to the outline of why 2 cfs, how was that amount determined. The council agreed.

MOTION:

Council Member Campbell moved to adopt the Instream Flow Rule Revision Outline as the official discussion document for the next four meetings. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

INSTREAM FLOW RULE REVISION OUTLINE – QUESTION #1 – AGENDA ITEM #123

The council discussed question #1 of the outline – Who will benefit from transferred water? Who should be ‘eligible’ to use the 2 cfs reserve in addition to single family domestic and stock users?

Council Member Williams feels that 1.48 cfs should be split between the Towns of Winthrop and Twisp and that the .52 cfs should remain in the Early Winters Reach.

Council Members agreed to the following use priorities: 1) Municipalities (Twisp and Winthrop), 2) Existing Group A & B users currently with interruptible rights; and 3) Single Family Domestic use.

The Council discussed Single Family Dwellings versus Public Developments and decided that because it was not their job to dictate zoning the excess water would be on a first come first basis.

TOWN OF TWISP/MVID WATER ISSUES – TOM TEBB, DOE – AGENDA ITEM #124

Secretary Moriarty reported that because of scheduling conflicts Tom Tebb of the DOE was unable to come to discuss the Town of Twisp’s water issues with the Council. Chairman Bill asked Moriarty to try to reschedule Mr. Tebb to attend the March 20, 2008 meeting.

Action: Secretary Moriarty will contact Tom Tebb and reschedule the meeting date.

COUNTY DATA TRACKING SYSTEM – AGENDA ITEM #125

Council Member Wehmeyer shared copies of maps and a data spreadsheet developed by Okanogan County with DOE information that was updated in the summer of 2007 regarding wells and water rights in the Methow Valley. Council Member Campbell and Mary McCrea, Washington Rivers Conservancy asked that an electronic version of the data spreadsheet be emailed to them.

Action: Secretary Moriarty will email the data spreadsheet provided by Council Member Wehmeyer to Council Member Campbell and Mary McCrea.

WATER RIGHTS WORKSHOP WITH WASHINGTON RIVERS CONSERVANCY – AGENDA ITEM #126

Lisa Pelly and Mary McCrea of the Washington Rivers Conservancy were present to propose a joint workshop to provide basic water rights information to landowners. Ms. Pelly suggested a date of Monday, April 14, 2008 at the Twisp Pub from 6:30 – 8:30 pm.

Ms. Pelly shared with the Council that the Washington Rivers Conservancy was a non-profit organization based in Wenatchee serving Central Washington with funding to help landowners with irrigation efficiency, conservation work, water rights education and being a liaison between landowners and the DOE. Funding for the Washington Rivers Conservancy comes from private agencies and the DOE.

Ms. Pelly and Ms. McCrea would like to come back to the March 20th meeting with a proposed agenda. Secretary Moriarty suggested having information regarding the current water moratorium on hand in case of questions.

CONSISTENCY STATEMENT – REGARDING THE TOWN OF TWISP WATER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Secretary Moriarty reported that she had been contacted earlier in the day by a representative of Gray and Osborne Engineers, requesting approval of a Consistency Statement for the Town of Twisp Water Comprehensive Plan by the Methow Watershed Council. Moriarty stated that she would have more information at the next meeting.

INSTREAM FLOW RULE REVISION OUTLINE – QUESTION #2 – AGENDA ITEM #123

Chairman Bill asked everyone to review Question #2 and be prepared at the next meeting to discuss it.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

Katharine Bill, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary