

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2007
Twisp Town Hall**

Council Members present were: Chairman Katharine Bill, Vice-Chairman Mike Fort, Greg Knott, Marty Williams, Vicky Welch, Ray Campbell, Perry Huston, Okanogan County (standing in for Nate Wehmeyer), Tim Johnson, MVID, Tom Gehring, Council Member Town of Twisp and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent:

Guests present: Rusty Post, Department of Ecology (DOE) and Lee Bernheisel.

Chairman Bill called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 8, 2007 MEETING

MOTION:

Council Member Fort moved to approve the minutes of August 8, 2007 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Johnson and passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #004 & #111 - DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY GRANTS

Secretary Moriarty reported that she had a discussion with both Rusty Post and Cathy Hubbard of the DOE regarding our two pending grants, Rule Revision and Stream Flow. Moriarty stated that in that conversation regarding the Rule Revision Grant with Ms. Hubbard, it was requested that we needed to elaborate on the tasks after having been told that we should be brief and general in our original grant application.

Moriarty reported that in regards to the Stream Flow Grant Ms. Hubbard stated she needed to discuss with Bryan Hopkins of DOE which pool of money this grant will be coming from. Ms. Hubbard confessed to being a bit confused on the issue.

Chairman Bill asked the status on the Administrative Grant and Moriarty reported that grant had been finalized, the Town of Twisp had signed off on it and that she was waiting for the original grant with all signatures to be returned to her for the file.

AGENDA ITEM #006 - SCOPE OF WORK – TASK ONE – PROPOSAL REVIEW

Council Member Fort introduced Kurt Danison, Highlands Associates, and asked Mr. Danison to present his proposal to the council for Task 1. Danison's proposal outlined the following tasks:

A. Update Methow Watershed Plan Table E-4

1. Reduction in number of potential parcels due to conservation easements
2. Adjustment for water allocated to State Parks
3. Adjustment for amount of water currently allocated to the National Forest for campground use
4. Is there a PUD being processed for Early Winters? If so, what is their water requirement.
5. Update amount of water currently being used under DOE's emergency rule (some group a/b systems)
6. Update number of parcels in closed basins

Council Member Fort also requested that Highlands identifies individuals that have irrigation rights or ditch rights and data on stock water.

Danison stated that he was going to go back to the original data he had collected in a previous study and update that information. The Council confirmed with Danison that he would be looking at water availability in all seven reaches.

Danison will provide a written report when he is done with the study. Chairman Bill questioned the report timeline. Danison stated that a finalized report will be presented by December 31, 2007.

B. Seasonal water use evaluation. Suggest a method to determine the monthly use of well water and irrigation water on private land in non-municipal areas of the Methow basin.

C. Average water use evaluation. Suggest a way to use voluntary metering to evaluate the accuracy of the 600 gallon per day average water use estimate in the current Methow Watershed Plan.

Council discussed items B and C of the RFP and decided that those items would need to be addressed in a separate RFP at a later date.

D. Data tracking system. Suggest a mechanism by which the County could transmit development data and water allocation information to the Methow Watershed Council on an annual, ongoing basis. This system would help the Council Members to continuously monitor the water available for current and future development per reach.

Council Member Huston volunteered to work on this item using data available through Okanogan County. Huston will also put a member of the Watershed Council on the list to receive periodic updates.

Council Member Fort presented the council with a spreadsheet outlining mathematical equations that show there is ample water available in the Early Winters Reach to supply water as needed. Rusty Post stated he would take Council Member Fort's figures to the DOE for review.

Both Council Member Knott and Welch expressed their feelings that if the DOE is asking for data that measures and/or monitors water and they are providing the financial backing to do studies, the council should get the data to satisfy the DOE.

The council discussed the procurement processes in which the Town of Twisp has to work. Secretary Moriarty passed out a memo from Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms regarding the criteria and information from the DOE's grant procedure book (the yellow book).

Secretary Moriarty suggested a meeting be set up between a Watershed Council Representative and Colleen Storms to further discuss and investigate the Town's procurement process and DOE policy. A meeting will be set involving Chairman Bill, Council Member Fort, Clerk/Treasurer Storms, Secretary Moriarty and Rusty Post.

MOTION:

Council Member Welch moved to go move forward with the meeting between the Town of Twisp and the Watershed Council representative regarding the request for proposal for Task 1. The motion was seconded by Council Member Huston and passed unanimously.

WEBSITE

Secretary Moriarty discussed the MWC website address that she set up as www.methowwatershed.com. Moriarty explained that Chairman Bill had questioned the conversation at the previous meeting regarding whether the website domain name was suppose to have a .com or a .org extension and whether the word "council" was suppose to be included. Moriarty reported that after listening to the tape the word "council" was stated in the proposed domain name and the .com extension was agreed upon. After discussion the council agreed that the domain name/web address could remain the same if the website header showed Methow Watershed Council.

AGENDA ITEM #112 – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

Secretary Moriarty passed out the previously approved Professional Services Agreement along with a new version prepared by the Town of Twisp's Attorney Scott DeTro.

Moriarty explained that DeTro felt there were a few things missing in the previous agreement and wanted the Watershed Council to consider his revisions.

MOTION:

Council Member Fort moved to approve the revised Professional Services Agreement as submitted. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knott and passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #115 - TASK 5 – RFP OVERVIEW

Chairman Bill discussed the council's timeline and reminded them that Task 5 is coming up soon and that the implementation plan will be the bulk of the work required under the Phase 4 grant. Chairman Bill expressed her opinion regarding the need for professional services to help prepare the Implementation Plan, pointing out that there could be definite benefits going outside the council to seek professional assistance. Chairman Bill asked the council to come prepared to the next meeting to discuss possible contacts that perform this type of work.

AGENDA ITEM #116 - METHOW WATERSHED PURPOSE DISCUSSION

Chairman Bill explained to the council that she and Council Member Knott had discussed having a general discussion amongst the council members about why the council is doing this work, what the purpose of the council is and giving individuals a chance to voice their perspectives on where they would like to see the council go in the future. Council Member Knott shared that he felt this issue should be tabled at this time given the urgency of the current timeline.

MOTION:

Council Member Knott moved to table this item until the January 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS NEW BUSINESS:

SHORELINE MASTER PROGRAM BOARD

Council Member Welch stated that she had been attending the meetings regarding the updating being done to the Okanogan County Shoreline Plan. Welch shared that the board would like a representative from the Watershed Council and that since she was already attending the meetings she would volunteer as the representative with the go ahead from the Watershed Council.

MOTION:

Council Member Knott moved to choose Vicki Welch as our representative to the Shoreline Board. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and the motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Council Member Fort requested permission from the council while meeting with the Town of Twisp to also discuss the preparation of the Implementation Plan RFP.

MOTION:

Council Member Fort moved that the council allow him and Chairman Bill to discuss with the Town of Twisp Request for Proposals for Implementation. The motion was seconded by Council Member Huston and passed unanimously.

METHOW RESTORATION COUNCIL (MRC)

Council Member Knott discussed the Methow Restoration Council which, he explained, deals with restoration projects throughout the Methow Valley including all agencies and non-profits. This group is requesting a representative from the Watershed Council to serve on their board. Council Member Knott reported that the MRC meets once a month on the 3rd Tuesday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. Knott recommend that as the Watershed Council moves into actual projects that we should become aware of this group's activities because they represent a lot of permitting and grant funding agencies. Knott stated that a project endorsement from that group would go a long way. Council Member Huston stated he believed it to be advantageous for Wehmeyer to serve both the Watershed Council as well as Okanogan County.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Fort to appoint Nate Wehmeyer as the Watershed Council's representative on the Methow Restoration Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knott and passed unanimously.

WATER RIGHTS SALES AND TRANSFERS IN WASHINGTON SEMINAR

Chairman Bill requested to attend an upcoming seminar in Spokane on October 23, 2007 titled "Water Rights Sales and Transfers in Washington" provided by Lorman Education Services. Bill stated that the seminar fee is \$359/single and \$349/2 or more. Rusty stated that this type of expense is covered by the DOE Administrative Grant.

MOTION:

Council Member Fort moved to approve Chairman Bill to attend the Water Rights Sales and Transfers in Washington seminar being held in Spokane with fees and expenses to be

paid by the Administrative Grant. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knott and passed unanimously.

Action: Secretary Moriarty will register Chairman Bill for the seminar.

Council Member Knott asked what the procedure is for turning in expenses to the Town of Twisp for reimbursement. Post stated that he would get an example of the expense sheet used by the DOE to Secretary Moriarty.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lee Bernheisel commented on the helpfulness of the Watershed Council website and looks forward to seeing more information provided. Bernheisel conveyed that his main focus is protecting the environment and the natural resources and that it is important to do a seasonal evaluation. Bernheisel also stated what was very important to him was how the other uses besides single family are going to be dealt with because he feels that those uses could have a large impact on the environment.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

There being no further business to come before the Watershed Council a motion was made by Council Member Welch to adjourn the meeting at 8:12. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knott and passed unanimously.

Katharine Bill, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary