

**Methow Watershed Council  
Meeting Minutes  
July 15, 2010**

Council Members present were:, Greg Knott, Chair, Vicky Welch, Vice-Chair, Marty Williams, Bill Tackman, Don Phillips (Alternate: MVID), Char Schumacher, (Okanogan County) Bill Boosman, (Alternate: Twisp), Coordinator Lee Hatcher, and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent: Mike Fort and Jennifer Molesworth.

Guests: Mary McCrea, Cascade Law, Brian Fisher, MSRF, Greg Schuler, DOE, and Ken Sletten.

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:11 pm.

Chairman Knott called for introductions.

Secretary Moriarty passed out volunteer timesheets to Council members.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

Additions: None

Changes: Moved Council Member Replacement and Future Projects up on the agenda.

**Approval of the Minutes from the May 20, 2010 Meeting**

**Motion:**

Council Member Tackman moved to approve the minutes of June 17, 2010 as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed unanimously.

**Coordinator Hatcher's Update**

Coordinator Hatcher reported on the following:

- The draft Water Use Tracking Database plan and the Domestic Consumptive Use plans were passed out to the Council. The Council was asked to review each plan and be prepared to discuss them at the August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Summary of Grant Status:**

- Phase IV Grant – FY 11 - \$100,000
- Administrative Support Grant – 100% match - \$30,000, need proof of match prior to applying for this grant – Moriarty will check with Clerk Colleen Storms regarding the status of this application.
- Instream Flow Rule Revision (IFRR) – FY11 (place holder) \$50,000 – Schuler reported the MWC had been granted an additional \$60,000 for FY11. Amy Krause, DOE will start the amendment process soon.

## Timeline

- The USGS will be holding a climate change workshop at the Local 98856 on August 11<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00 pm.
- Knott asked whether the deadline for the 1<sup>st</sup> annual water report was feasible for September 2010. Hatcher stated the report will need to be delayed until January 2011; he will make that correction on the timeline.

Chairman Knott asked Mr. Schuler for his prospective as a representative of the DOE for the future of the MWC. Mr. Schuler provided the following guidance:

- Need to contact State representatives to make them aware of the vital work being done by the MWC and the importance of continued funding.
- RCW 90.82 – Bill Zachmann, DOE is working on revisions for implementation measures.
- Coordinate with other WRIA's to be heard at the State level.
- The Columbia River group has money for storage opportunities in tributaries to firm up water supplies and to aid during flooding periods.
- Assess feasibility of water storage
- 29 WRIA's have their Detailed Implementation Plans complete.
- The MWC is seen as a very active and productive group at the DOE Regional Level.
- Washington State is wanting to see projects made from studies and plans; proactive WRIA's will be the groups funded in the future.

Chairman Knott encouraged Council Members to attend the USGS Climate Change workshop. Knott sees this issue important to the MWC for long term planning.

Ken Sletten discussed aquifer recharge. Mr. Sletten asked Mr. Shuler if the DOE supports this type of storage. Schuler responded that the DOE supports "passive" recharge (unlined small storage) and there may be funding in the Columbia River group for such a project. Boosman suggested looking at using public lands in the upper valley for a storage project.

**Action: Add discussion of small storage strategies to the September timeline and agenda.**

## Future Projects

Mr. Schuler reported that Bill Zachmann, DOE is asking the WRIA's to develop a list of future projects by July 20, 2010. Zachmann is developing a comprehensive list for the legislature to show what projects could be done; sort of an investment prospect.

Mr. Schuler explained the MWC should come up with a short description and budget of the project; i.e. type of storage, scale, benefits to the WRIA, and augmented flows. Council also discussed water banking and marketing as a good project. Schuler reported most WRIA's are wanting local control over banking and marketing. Recognizing local control can try to insure the water stays in the basin.

The Council agreed to have Coordinator Hatcher submit to Bill Zachmann, small passive storage as their first priority and water banking as their second priority for future projects.

## **Council Member Replacement**

Chairman Knott reported to the Council that Jennifer Molesworth was being required to forfeit her position (an “at large” position) on the Watershed Council by her employer, the Bureau of Reclamation. The Bureau feels that it is a conflict of interest having Ms. Molesworth work with MWC. Chairman Knott asked Secretary Moriarty to prepare a poster to be posted at the Twisp Town Hall, the Post Office and sent to each member of the MWC for distribution. Ken Sletten and Brian Foster (in attendance) plan to submit a letter of interest for the position. Chairman Knott would like position filled by the September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Action: Secretary Moriarty will prepare a poster and distribute as instructed. Place item on August agenda to review letters of interest.**

## **Evaluation, Selection, Prioritization of Brainstorm Ideas**

### **Reserve Water Transfer Mechanisms**

Include water bank/markets and mitigation banks in IFRR.

- Create a mechanism by which unallocated portions of the reserve may be transferred to downstream reaches where there would be over-riding public benefit and neutral habitat impact.
- Provide for the downstream transfer of a portion of the unallocated 2 cfs reservation from the Early Winters reach for use by the Town of Winthrop and Town of Twisp municipal water systems to meet future growth needs.
- Allow greater flexibility in managing available water resources.

Discussed whether to pursue water banking/marketing independent from IFRR or within the rule. If the rule changing process becomes too difficult water banking should be looked at independently so the MWC is not locked into only one option. Mr. Schuler discussed re-hydrating reserves and the importance of the continued data tracking of a reserve even after it has reached its full build-out.

### **Water Use Analyses**

Analyze exempt wells for legally allowed amount (refer to A.G. opinion)

- Water withdrawal study – DELETE

It was discussed that the Attorney General can not put limitations on something that is exempt without a permitting process; which is not in place at this time. Schuler suggested finding out what the actual use is and then providing conservation education and partner with private owners to reduce water use. Discussed record of examination process in which the questions: is the water there, does it make it to the next point in the river, how much water is there, how do you allocate what is left etc?

Is moving Reservation subject to hydrologic analysis?

- Return flow study

Must show supporting documentation to show the MWC has done their homework. Council Member Williams questioned water rights versus reach allocation. Schuler explained the MWC will need to demonstrate that water is not lost from moving it from the upper reaches to lower in the valley and prove there is no impairment in other areas. It seems that if someone wants to claim there is an impairment imposed on a section of the Methow due to a water transfer, those who are making the claim are not required to prove the impairment, just claim it. Chairman Knott

stated it's likely an impairment claim will come for flows below Twisp. Ms. McCrea questioned if the Water Use Study would need to be done prior to rule revision or could the MWC write into the rule revision a "to be determined" portion of water to the municipalities. Mr. Schuler pointed out that to justify going through the process of rule revision the MWC would want to know what amount of water is left in the reserve prior to beginning the process. Hatcher discussed the hydro geological study that is not now funded; it may just be a matter of a volunteer going through the studies that have already been done and gathering information. Chairman Knott pointed out the USGS has done a lot of hydrogeology work regarding how the reaches operate i.e. gain and loss per reach.

Revise minimum fish flow based on biological needs

- Quantify peak consumptive use – DELETE

Establish target fish flows

Mr. Schuler shared that DOE is encouraging WRIA's to be interactive and proactive to consider fish flows. He suggested a memorandum of agreement could be done with other agencies to show cooperation for instream flow.

- Determine remaining reservation quantities – DELETE

Include Hydro geologic analysis in Reservation transfer between reaches

- Update water demand projections for Twisp and Winthrop

Analyze exempt wells w/spectrum of use

- Evaluate other exempt well uses.

Definition of continuity

- Establish reservation tracking system.

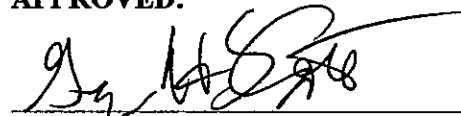
Verify quantity in Early Winters Reach

Coordinator Hatcher recommended leaving the following items from the Brainstorm IFR Revisions/Issues until the next meeting: Administrative Processes, Additional Water Allocation Ideas and Outliers.

### Adjournment

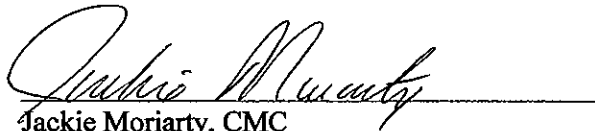
A motion was made by Council Member Schumacher to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed unanimously.

**APPROVED:**



Greg Knott, Chairman

**ATTEST:**



Jackie Moriarty, CMC

Secretary