

Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2008
Twisp Town Hall

Council Members present were: Chairman Katharine Bill, Vice-Chairman Mike Fort, Greg Knott, Marty Williams, Vicky Welch, Ray Campbell, Nate Wehmeyer, Okanogan County, 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), Mary McCrea, John Crandall Wild Fish Conservancy, Jay Kehne, North Central Washington Resource Conservation and Development (NCW RC&D), Ken Sutton, Okanogan County Salmon Recover Steering Committee and Pam Jenkins.

Chairman Bill called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Secretary Moriarty reported that Kurt Danison, Highland Associates would not be present. Ken Sutton requested time to discuss ground water recharge. John Crandall requested time at the end of the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY 21, 2008 MEETING

Rusty Post suggested one change to page two regarding a comment he made about availability of water and Council Member Gehring shared that a comment recorded as being made by Council Member Knott was actually made by him.

MOTION:

Council Member Wehmeyer moved to approve the minutes of March 20, 2008 as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed unanimously.

NORTH CENTRAL WASHINGTON RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT – JAY KEHNE – AGENDA ITEM #128

Jay Kehne, NCW RC&D coordinator, was present to discuss an opportunity coming up involving NASA. Kehne reported that NASA is participating in a societal project regarding tracking stream flows and other hydrological issues. NASA wants to put researchers to work to develop solutions to water problems. They have done one project so far and plan to pick four other areas in the United States. Mr. Kehne feels that our

area, which includes north up into Canada and would be an excellent site because of our diversity regarding water use and that the project would be an international venture with Canada where information could be shared. Kehne pointed out that this is a great opportunity to bring revenue into our area and to solve water issues.

Mr. Kehne asked for the Council to come up with ideas and forward them to him as soon as possible. Council Member Knott suggested: 1) stream temperatures of the main streams, Twisp, Methow and Chewach; stream flows where is groundwater going and how much water is needed to grow forests. Council Member Gehring suggested that snow pack and water content information would be valuable.

The Council agreed to participate in the survey process and Mr. Kehne stated he would be in touch with more details.

INSTREAM FLOW RULE REVISION OUTLINE – QUESTION #3 – AGENDA ITEM #123

Chairman Bill began discussion on question #3 of the instream flow rule revision outline: What water should be transferred? i.e. only water from the Early Winters reach or water in other reaches that are not fully allocated?

Council Member Williams felt that the Council should just concentrate on transferring water from the Early Winters reach.

Council Member Knott wants to make sure while developing the criteria for the rule revision the Council takes a broad look at all the reaches and remains flexible regarding water transfers in other basins/reaches if it becomes appropriate. Chairman Bill added that if the Council keeps the language generalized to all reaches and uses criteria triggers based on development with the exception of Early Winters the revision would be clear and flexible.

The Council agreed to discuss more of the details when they have more information and when the rule making discussion begins.

Rusty Post shared with the Council that a transfer of water from Early Winters would require a four part test DOE requires for all water transfers. The test would have to demonstrate that the water from Early Winters actually comes downstream to the point that the Municipalities would be withdrawing the water.

Chairman Bill clarified that for the purpose of rule making the Council would need to acknowledge that a transfer would be subject to the four part test DOE requires.

MOTION:

Council Member Knott moved to retain the ability in the rule revision process to move water between reaches when available. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS/CONSULTANTS LIST – AGENDA ITEM#127

Secretary Moriarty reported to the Council that she had prepared and submitted for publication a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the purpose to establish a consultants list for 2008-2009. Moriarty stated that the RFQ had been published in the Seattle Times, Wenatchee World and the Methow Valley News with a deadline for receipt of Friday, May 2, 2008; hand delivered by noon to Town Hall, received or postmarked ground or air. Moriarty requested names of those Council Members that were interested in meeting and rating the RFQ's. Chairman Bill, Council Members Knott, Fort and Gehring volunteered to meet at Town Hall on May 7, 2008 at 9:00 am.

WASHINGTON RIVER CONSERVANCY WATER RIGHTS WORKSHOP

Chairman Bill reported that the Washington River Conservancy workshop was well attended (approximately 90 people) and very informative. Chairman Bill thanked Mary McCrea and Pam Jenkins for their hard work and participation in the workshop.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Council Member Knott suggested adding an agenda item to May's agenda to discuss public meetings and community education. Knott feels a plan should be developed to keep people interested and informed about the Council's work.

OKANOGAN COUNTY SUMMIT MEETING

Ms. Jenkins shared that Okanogan County was holding a summit on June 11, 2008. Chairman Bill asked Nate to find out about the summit and report back at the next meeting.

ANNUAL WATER USE PLAN

Council Member Welch addressed the issue of preparing an Annual Water Use Plan and asked when the report should be submitted and what it should contain. Council Member Knott suggested that the Council add it to the May agenda.

AQUIFER RECHARGE

Ken Sletten, Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Steering Committee, was present to discuss aquifer recharge. Mr. Sletten stated that the Upper Valley Salmon Recovery

Board would like the Methow Watershed Council to take the lead in scoping and identifying locations for recharge. Sletten feels that if an aquifer recharge project is not identified by next spring an opportunity will slip away for funding in the Methow. Mr. Sletten suggested that possibly old abandoned ditches could be used for recharge.

OTHER AGENCIES

John Crandall, Wild Fish Conservancy, discussed the Methow Restoration Council (MRC) and the Methow Watershed Council (MWC) pointing that their primary function in the valley as fish habitat and water quality for the MRC and water quantity for the MWC. Mr. Crandall briefly touched on the ways that each agency could help the other.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Knott to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wehmeyer and passed unanimously.

Katharine Bill, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary