

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2010**

Council Members present were: Greg Knott, Chair, Brian Fisher, Marty Williams, Bill Tackman, and Tom Gehring (Twisp Council Member), Coordinator Lee Hatcher and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Guests: Mary McCrea, Cascadia Law Group, Bill Boosman, and Greg Schuler, DOE (by phone) and Bill Sullivan, Aspect Consulting (by phone).

**There was not a quorum until later in the meeting

Bill Sullivan provided two items for Council discussion regarding WRIA 48 Subbasin Boundaries; a document outlining Part I – Delineating Subbasin Boundaries and Part II – Parcels Intersected by Reach Boundaries (broken out into three options) for discussion. He also provided a map, attached, titled Reach Delineations, which showed two different reach boundaries. Mr. Sullivan noted the green lines on the map were developed by the Pacific Northwest Hydrography Framework (PNWHF), as part of a nationwide effort to standardize watershed and sub-basin boundaries based on the best physical and scientific evidence available. The black lines show the boundaries that were developed by the DOE in 1996. The orange areas on the map show where there are discrepancies between the two agencies, which occur primarily near the towns of Twisp, Winthrop, and Mazama.

Part I. - Mr. Sullivan recommended the Council use the DOE subbasin boundary delineation (black line) to determine where the lines come together on the valley floor around Twisp, Winthrop and Mazama. His reasoning was that there is little difference between the two boundaries, and using the DOE boundaries would make one less change in the in-stream flow rule. Determining the hydrologic flow on the valley floor is the most difficult part of determining reach boundaries. Mr. Sullivan stated Aspect Consulting recommends using the black line which would eliminate the disputed (orange) area, and then drawing a straight line of interpolation between the lowest observable hydrologic lines of two converging sub-basin boundaries; that would then define the subbasin boundary. This process should be straight forward and easy to implement and track and there would be no need to re-define if a parcel is sub-divided at a later date. Chairman Knott explained he is an advocate of getting all agencies to recognize one set of boundaries. The Council decided that is an issue to discuss at a later time.

Part II - The Council must decide how to determine how parcels that fall into more than one reach will be managed. Mr. Sullivan gave the Council three options Aspect Consulting has come up with to aid in their decision. It is important to develop a process to determine where parcels are divided between two boundary lines. Below are three of the seven options Aspect reviewed.

Option 1 – Use Parcel Centroid to Relate Parcels to Reaches

The simplest of the three options according to Mr. Sullivan is to determine at the center or Centroid of each parcel using GIS, then assigning the subbasin to that parcel.

Option 2 – Assign Parcel to Whichever Reach it Falls Mostly Within

If 51% or more of a parcel is in a reach; that is the reach in which it is assigned.

Option 3 - Divide Water Use Estimates Proportionally

Divide the parcel by percentage of area into two reaches. Estimate the water usage based on the percentage of the parcel that lies within the reach. Ex: If 70% of the Parcel A is in Reach #1 and 30% of Parcel A is in Reach #2 then the estimated water use in Parcel A is assigned to Reach #1 and 30% to Reach #2.

Aspect recommends using the straight line method (Option I) to connect with geographic locations with Option 1 using parcel centroid to relate parcels to reaches. Defines every parcel to a subbasin and provide flexibility if zoning or subdivisions were to occur, these boundary delineations would remain the same and the method of determining which subbasin they lie in would remain the same.

Chairman Knott suggested picking a test site and testing all 3 options. Sullivan suggested doing a sensitivity analysis at a later point in the process. Chairman Knott discussed the possibility of forming a working committee for testing the theories that would meet once a month just prior to the regular MWC meeting. Council Member Tackman volunteered to serve on the committee and Council Members Fisher and Williams will think about it and report back to Chairman Knott.

Mr. Sullivan stated that developing the process is the most important thing to decide at this time. Deciding what parcels are in each reach will be an ongoing project.

**Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:44 pm.

Approval of the Agenda

Additions: Proposed By-Laws Amendment

Deletions: Water Storage Strategy Development: 1) Storage Ideas; 2) Potential Partners; and 3) Funding (in addition to DOE) and Draft a Three Year Plan. These items will be moved to the November agenda.

Motion:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fisher and passed unanimously.

Approval of the Minutes from the September 16, 2010 Meeting

Motion:

Council Member Williams moved to approve the minutes of September 16, 2010 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

Proposed By-Laws Amendment

Chairman Knott reported Council Member Fort currently has a family emergency and needs a leave of absence from the MWC. Chairman Knott stated that he values Council Member Fort's opinion and would like to see the By-Laws reflect a process to deal with such emergencies. Chairman Knott asked the Council to consider the following motion and be prepared to discuss the issue further at the next meeting:

"I move that the By-Laws of the Methow Watershed Council Article II, Board of Directors be amended by adding a new Section 2.8 – "2.8 – The Board may grant a leave of absence to any Director by a majority vote of the Board. If such a leave is granted then the number required for a quorum will be reduced by one."

Rule Revision Process

Mary McCrea with Cascadia Law volunteered to work with the MWC to facilitate the rule revision process to help make the rule as clear to those preparing it as to those it will govern. Ms. McCrea is preparing templates based on the brainstorming spreadsheet the Council developed in hopes that these discussion documents will cut time and expense in the process.

Greg Schuler, DOE cautioned Ms. McCrea in her preparation of excerpts from the current rule to the Council suggesting that she may want to place a disclaimer on each document she prepares for the Council.

Ms. McCrea shared that WAC 173.548 currently does not have definitions but she was able to pull out some information she felt needed to be defined for clarity and she also pulled some definitions from the Entiat rule. Mr. Schuler suggested to the Council that they do not get overly specific with definitions because it could make things more cumbersome later.

Council discussed how to get the word out about the rule revision discussions, other than using the agenda. They decided to put information provided by Ms. McCrea on the website; she will forward information to Secretary Moriarty. Along with the monthly discussion items it was suggested we provide information on the website regarding the rule making process, what it is, how it works etc.

Ms. McCrea outlined the current permitted withdraw uses and definitions in her handout. Council will take this handout home and return to the November meeting with comments. A copy will be emailed to the absent Council Members so they are prepared for the discussion.

Action: Secretary Moriarty will email the information provided by Ms. McCrea to absent Council Members and post it on the website.

Executive Session – Approximately 30 Minutes to Discuss Personnel

Chairman Knott adjourned into Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss personnel at 6:42 pm

Chairman Knott reconvened into Regular Session at 7:10 pm.

Methow Watershed Council Coordinator's Contract

Council Member Gehring acting on behalf of the Town of Twisp shared the Town's recommendations for changes to the MWC Coordinator's contract:

- Item #12 – Quantify hours and rate
- Item #12 – Strike “approve budgets” and replace with “coordinate with Town of Twisp in developing budgets”.
- #16 – Change due date for invoices and monthly reporting to the Town from the 15th to the 5th of each month and clarify the language concerning “monthly” and “quarterly”.

Council Members did not feel the above changes were substantial enough to hold up the contract process.

Motion:

A motion was made to approve the draft Watershed Council Coordinator contract and authorize the Chair to negotiate with the Town of Twisp and Optimal Niche to finalize the contract. If changes are suggested

by Optical Niche or the Town of Twisp, we authorize the Chair to sign the document if in his opinion the changes are not substantial. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held Thursday, November 18, 2010.

Adjournment

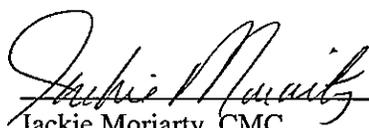
Chairman Knott adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary