

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2010**

Council Member present: Greg Knott, Chairman, Marty Williams, Vicky Welch, Brian Fisher, Bill Tackman, Don Phillips, Char Schumacher (Okanogan County), Tom Gehring (Town Council Member), Lee Hatcher, Coordinator and Jackie Moriarty, Secretary.

Guests present: Dick Ewing, Twin Lakes Aquifer Coalition (TLAC) and Bill Sullivan, Aspect Consulting (by phone).

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Addition: Governor's proposed Executive Order #10-06, Okanogan County's Comprehensive Plan and Shoreline Master Plan and Dick Ewing – Twin Lakes Aquifer Coalition Update.

Deletion: Drafting a 3 Year Plan

Motion:

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

Approval of Minutes – October 21, 2010

Motion:

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

Sub-Committee Reports

Council Member Tackman reported he had talked to Mayor Ing-Moody prior to her meeting with Senator Linda Evans-Parlette to share with her issues important to the MWC; Tackman has not been able to make contact with the Mayor to see how the meeting went.

Chairman Knott discussed forming a sub-committee to work on the technical mapping of the boundary reaches and will work with Aspect Consulting on water tracking and water withdrawal and recharge. Council Member Tackman had previously volunteered and will serve as the Chairman. Council Members Fisher and Phillips also volunteered to work with Tackman; Coordinator Hatcher will work with the group.

Chairman Knott discussed his proposed change to the by-laws to allow for a leave of absence for Council Members. Chairman Knott will circulate proposed language to the by-laws to the Council for their review and consideration at the next meeting.

Council Member Gehring announced to the Council that Town Council Member Hans Smith has been named as an alternate to the MWC. Gehring asked for a meeting with Chairman Knott to further discuss the Coordinator's contract.

Chairman Knott and Council Member Tackman will serve as liaisons to state, county and local politicians regarding issues that affect MWC. Council Member Gehring volunteered to help where a letter or call from a Town Council Member could help.

WRIA 48 Subbasin Boundaries

Bill Sullivan, Aspect Consulting reported he has been working on the following items since the October meeting:

- Database Tracking Program – Working with Okanogan County/GIS to identify gaps in information; the County is being very helpful.
- Identifying Group A and B groups.
- Identified Facility Inventory – Coming up with representative information for WRIA 48.
- Engage all system managers to get updated data.

Since the Council's previously concurred with Option #1, Mr. Sullivan provided maps showing reaches that were derived from the PNWHG for Council's review.

- Map #1 – Pateros/Alta Lake Area – Good agreement/no conflicts.
- Map #2 – Twisp Area – Good agreement.
- Map #3 – Twisp Detail – Good agreement.
- Map #4 – Winthrop Area – Disagreement – Upper and lower Methow Reach – Affected area approximately 9,100 acres/377 parcels.
- Map #5 – Winthrop Detail – The Council discussed boundary line adjustment and using the topographical line temporarily until water movement can be determined.
- Map #6 – Mazama Area – Disagreement – Early Reach/Creek Reach/Upper Methow River Reach – Affected area approximately 6,500 acres/580 acres.

Chairman Knott discussed control points and gage placement for flow measurement; currently the DOE currently requires measurements be taken at the Pateros gage. Knott pointed out the discrepancy in the way the rule is written and how it is currently being enforced by the DOE.

Coordinator Hatcher asked Mr. Sullivan what the Council's deadline is for making the decisions on the boundary line delineations. Mr. Sullivan stated they need the information prior to the completion of the Water Tracking Database task deadline; January or February. The sub-committee priorities are determining options, consequences, and outcome and the pros, cons and affects of each for Council consideration.

Action: Coordinator Hatcher was asked to contact Greg Schuler to find out if control points will be used in the future or if the Pateros gage will continue to be the only flow measurement point.

Water Storage Grant Development

Coordinator Hatcher discussed the submission of Fiscal Year 12 & 13 grant requests, based on the future projects submitted about 3 months ago to the Bill Zachmann of DOE.

1. Completion of the Rule Revision
 - a. Hydrogeology information.
 - b. Support information regarding Rule Revision, currently being worked on with the aid of Mary McCrea – goes along with Table 12 information.

2. Storage Projects

- a. Literature search – gathering and analyzing current information already done by other agencies.
- b. Injecting water into the aquifer – delay for low flow times.
- c. Identifying small storage sites.

Coordinator Hatcher wants to come up with a grant for a capital project to serve as a place holder due to the uncertainty of State funding.

Hatcher asked Council for their storage project ideas and any potential partnerships the MWC could obtain. Council Member Welch inquired if anyone had discussed removal of the riprap along the shoreline for bank storage. Other suggestions were ground augmentation/restoring old ditches, micro storage and increasing current lake capacities. Council Member Knott suggested best chance of aquifer recharge is to use what we have; Patterson and Pearrygin Lakes capacity could be increased.

Grants are due to the DOE December 17th

Chairman Knott and Council Member Gehring discussed setting a regular meeting between himself, Coordinator Hatcher and a Town representative for the day before the MWC meeting at 8:00 am.

Governor's Executive Order on Rule Making

Chairman Knott stated the MWC needs to put pressure on State Representatives to stop Executive Order 10-06 which would stop rule making. The MWC needs to track the executive order and hold DOE to their current obligations to WRIA 48.

Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan and Shoreline Master Plan

Council Member Welch discussed the MWC and how the revisions to the Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan and Shoreline Master Plan could affect water planning in the Methow Valley. Some groups have asked the County to consider climate change and water availability when working on these plans. Council Member Welch asked Council if they felt it was necessary to comment on the County's Plans. No action was taken.

Twin Lakes Aquifer Coalition

Dick Ewing representing the Twin Lakes Aquifer Coalition (TLAC) reported he had recently met with Aspect Consulting and the DOE to investigate the possibility of interfacing the TLAC with the Columbia River Basin Project. Mr. Ewing stated the TLAC will be looking to the MWC for support above and beyond the letter of support previously written. A copy of the prospectus will be sent to the MWC; Aspect Consulting is assisting the TLAC. Mr. Ewing offered to come and update the MWC anytime in the future.

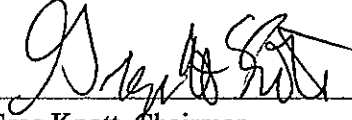
Next meeting

The next meeting will be held Thursday, December 16, 2010.

Adjournment


Council Member Fisher moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Welch and passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary