

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
October 17, 2007
Twisp Town Hall**

Council Members present were: Chairman Katharine Bill, Marty Williams, Ray Campbell, Nate Wehmeyer, Okanogan County, Tom Gehring, Council Member Town of Twisp and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent: Vice-Chairman Mike Fort, Greg Knott, Vicky Welch and Tim Johnson, MVID.

Guests present: Rusty Post, Department of Ecology (DOE) – 6:30 pm.

Chairman Bill called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2007 AND
OCTOBER 2, 2007 MEETING**

MOTION:

Council Member Campbell moved to approve the minutes of September 20, 2007 and the October 2, 2007 special meeting as sent. The motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed unanimously.

WATERSHED COUNCIL'S PURPOSE

Council Member Gehring asked if in the near future the council could hold an informal discussion regarding the council's purpose as a group. Chairman Bill agreed that a discussion would be helpful. Council Member's Campbell and Williams shared some history of their knowledge and experience of how the water situation got to this stage in the Methow Valley.

**AGENDA ITEM # 006 - DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY RULE REVISION
GRANT APPLICATION**

Secretary Moriarty presented a proposed version of the Rule Revision Grant. Moriarty explained her confusion regarding the DOE Grant process and stated that the time line for the Rule Revision Grant, in which Highland Associates has prepared a contract, may be affected with the delay of this process.

The Council began discussion on the tasks outlined in the grant application. Council Member Williams discussed the original focus of the group which was to move water from the Early Winters reach to supply Twisp and Winthrop with the water they needed.

The Council discussed water usage data that may exist for the Lost River area and possibly other areas of the upper valley.

Rusty Post joined the meeting at approximately 6:30 pm. Council Member Williams asked Post to explain the tasks outlined in the grant application. Task 6 – Preliminary draft of a revised Instream Flow Rule for the Methow Valley: Post explained that he had added Task 6 as a way to pull together the information that the Council had gathered by completing tasks 1-5. Post explained that we could take that draft and begin circulating it in the community and to key people for their opinions as well as it being a starting point for the DOE to begin analyzing it for technical or legal problems prior to the final proposed revision.

Council Member Williams questioned if the Council had to do a rule revision if they only wanted to move water rights to Twisp and Winthrop and to possibly light industrial from the Early Winters Reach. Post explained that wanting to move water from the Early Winters Reach does constitute a rule revision or in other words an amendment to the current rule.

Council Member Campbell questioned the timeline in respect to whether the work could be completed in a timely manner. The Council discussed whether the work that Highland Associates is being contracted for is important to do now. Chairman Bill stated she felt that the data that Highlands Associates would be providing to the Council would be valuable to have and a good place to start. Post explained to the Council that there could be many items listed in the Implementation Plan, the Rule Revision being one part, but the plan should reflect ideas to manage water on a long term basis. Council Member Campbell agreed that the work that we are contracting to have done by Highland Associates is important. Campbell asked for more time to read over and absorb the information provided by Post.

Secretary Moriarty explained that Kurt Danison, Highlands Associates, had already prepared and submitted a contract for approval to the Town and asked Council for direction. Moriarty was asked to call and explain to Mr. Danison that the timeframe had changed.

Action: Secretary Moriarty will call Kurt Danison and explain the timeline and ask him to hold off on doing the work until contacted.

Action: Rusty Post will take the Council's suggestions regarding the grant application and work on a more detailed task list.

GUEST SPEAKER – BOB BARWIN, DOE NEXT MEETING

Council discussed setting a date for the next meeting. Chairman Bill suggested November 8th or 21st as meeting dates. Post suggested having Bob Barwin, DOE as a guest speaker at the November meeting to answer questions and clarify some issues for the Council. Council Member Campbell asked Secretary Moriarty to confirm with as many Council Members as possible their attendance at this meeting.

Action: Secretary Moriarty will check with the Council Members regarding the above dates for the next meeting and report to Post in order that Mr. Barwin's attendance can be confirmed.

Chairman Bill discussed the lack of direction and comprehension she feels the council has regarding what actually needs to come first and how each project fits in to the overall plan for watershed planning. Post volunteered to do a grid that lays out a more comprehensive direction for the council to follow.

Action: Post will prepare a grid/timeline for the council to follow.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 8:12. The motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed unanimously.

Katharine Bill, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary