

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2012**

Council Members present: Greg Knott, Chairman, Dick Ewing, Brian Fisher, Bill Tackman, Mike Fort, Hans Smith (Alternate/Twisp Mayor Appointee), Char Schumacher, (Okanogan County), Josh Morgan (MVID), Jackie Moriarty, Secretary and Lee Hatcher, Coordinator.

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Additions: None

Changes: None

Motion:

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion:

Council Member Schumacher moved to approve the minutes of September 20, 2012 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Grants

A Phase IV Grant report was provided by the Town Grant Administrator for the Council's review; Chairman Knott asked for better descriptions to be added to Task 3-5.

Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Hatcher reported on the following:

- He reminded everyone to turn in their volunteer slips.
- Timeline – November 2012-February 2013.
- Provided a sub-committee schedule; thanked all of the committee members for their work.
- Announced that Bill Zachmann, DOE is the MWC temporary WRIA lead.

Three Initiating Governments Reports

Town of Twisp

Council Member Smith reported the Town of Twisp is still working on water acquisition.

Methow Valley Irrigation District

There was nothing to report at this time.

Okanogan County

There was nothing to report at this time.

Sub-Committee Reports

Political Action Committee

Committee Chairman Tackman asked to defer this report until later in the meeting.

Technical Review Committee

Committee Chairman Fisher reported the Technical Committee had met in October to discuss the Memorandum of Agreement with Washington Water Project Trout Unlimited for the Water Storage Capital Grant.

Instream Flow Rule Revision Committee

This discussion was deferred until later in the meeting.

Washington Water Project Trout Unlimited (WWPTU) – Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Chairman Knott explained some history related to the work that is being done by several agencies in the Davis Lake/Bear Creek area including WWPTU. WWPTU is currently conducting water right investigations in that area and contracting with Aspect Consulting. Chairman Knott disclosed that WWPTU is a client of his company Van Hees Environmental, LLC and that Lee Hatcher, Optimal Niche is one of his sub-contractors. Chairman Knott suggested that the MWC develop a Conflict of Interest policy for occasions such as this to address the appearance of fairness and transparency within the MWC. Council Member Fisher disclosed that he has done work for WWPTU in the past.

Chairman Knott also reported to the Council that WWPTU, as lead agency and the DOE have already signed a contract for the \$210,000 Water Storage Capital Grant.

*MVID representative Josh Morgan joined the meeting at 5:45 pm.

Chairman Knott recused himself from running the meeting and participating in the MOA discussion and negotiations. Vice Chairman Ewing took over the meeting and began the discussion based on a draft MOA provided to the Council. Council Member Fort reported on his conversation with Lisa Pelly, WWPTU Project Coordinator regarding the draft MOA; Ms. Pelly expressed her need to have the DOE review and approve the MOA.

Council discussed the responsibilities of the MWC and of the WWPTU making minor changes.

Action: Chairman Knott will draft proposed language for a Conflict of Interest Policy and bring it to the next meeting for review by the Council.

Motion:

Council Member Fisher moved to approve the preliminary Memorandum of Agreement between the Methow Watershed Council and the Washington Water Project Trout Unlimited for the Water Storage

Capital Grant and to allow the Technical Committee to pursue negotiations with the WWPTU. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

Chairman Knott took back control of the meeting.

Political Strategy for Organizational Development

Council Member Ewing gave the Council a timeline of events thus far regarding to meetings and discussions related to organizational development legislation. He and Mary McCrea have a phone conference with Derek Sandison scheduled for November 20, 2012. Chairman Knott suggested that environmental groups be contacted asking for letters of support. Coordinator Hatcher has identified other WRIA's and their legislative supporters for possible contacts.

Action: Chairman Knott asked that Council Member Ewing develop a list of environmental groups that can be contacted for letters of support.

Strategy for Instream Flow Rule Revision

Council Member Smith reported that Ms. McCrea is about 2/3 of the way done with a revised draft of the Instream Flow Rule Revision (IFRR). The MWC should see the draft in a couple of months for review. Council Member Smith asked Coordinator Hatcher to check with the DOE regarding possible funding sources for the IFRR.

Next Meeting (December 20, 2012) - Agenda Items

December agenda items:

- Conflict of Interest Policy
- Funding Strategy
- Political Strategy for Organizational Development
- Review the Memorandum of Agreement between the MWC and WWPTU.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council Chairman Knott adjourned the meeting at 7:15 pm.

APPROVED:



Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary