

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2010**

Council Member present: Greg Knott, Chairman, Marty Williams, Bill Tackman, Don Phillips, Mike Fort, Tom Gehring (Town Council Member) and Jackie Moriarty, Secretary.

Guests present: Mary McCrea, Cascadia Law Group.

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:12 pm.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Additions:

Deletions: Drafting a 3 Year Plan
 County Comprehensive Plan Update – Perry Huston, Okanogan Planning Department

Motion:

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

Approval of Minutes – October 27, 2010 and November 18, 2010

Motion:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the minutes of October 27, 2010 and November 18, 2010 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed unanimously.

Coordinator's Report

Chairman Knott gave an update to the Council in Coordinator Hatcher's absence.

- An Instream Flow Rule Revision Grant proposal will be submitted on or before December 17, 2010 to re-apply for funding that was taken away due to State budget cuts.
- A Water Storage Operational Grant proposal will be submitted for a water storage project on or before December 17, 2010
- A Water Storage Capital Project Grant proposal will be submitted on or before December 30, 2010.
- Water Storage Capital Project ideas from the Council:
 - Beaver Creek – old ditch systems in the area
 - Dead Horse Lake
 - Elbow Coulee – pump water out of Patterson Lake
 - Wetzell Ditch
 - Beaver Creek – south towards Carlton
 - Thurlow Lake

Sub-Committee Reports

Political Action Committee

Council Member Tackman reported on the following:

- Perry Huston, Okanogan County Planning, was unable to attend our meeting; he will be invited to the January meeting. Tackman will follow up with Mr. Huston regarding Watershed Planning and the Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan.
- Need Watershed Planning support letters from the Town's of Twisp and Winthrop and possibly the City of Pateros.
- On a side note, the question of whether water is pumped from the Methow River into Alta Lake came up. Chairman Knott will research this and report back to the Council.

Action: Council Member Tackman will follow up with Perry Huston.

Action: Support letters for watershed planning are needed from the Towns of Twisp and Winthrop and the City of Pateros.

Action: Chairman Knott will research whether water is pumped into Alta Lake.

Technical Review Committee

Council Member Tackman reported the following:

- He felt that the committee members, himself included needed more notice prior to a meeting being held.
- Technical Review Committee's objectives:
 - Reach Boundaries
 - Define developed parcels and developable parcels
 - Identify parcels that receive irrigation water
 - Sewer district
 - Build-out
 - Identify gauges currently in the rivers other than the gauge near Pateros – Question: Should the gauging be done only near Pateros and not by other gages as defined in the Rule? Chairman Knott has that question into Greg Schuler, DOE.

Action: Coordinator Hatcher will provide information regarding scheduled meetings to the Technical Review Committee in the future.

Action: Invite Greg Schuler to participate in the January MWC meeting.

Council Member Fort volunteered to serve on the Technical Review Committee.

Methow Watershed Council By-Law Amendment

Chairman Knott discussed two proposed changes to the current MWC by-laws related to emergency leave of absence for Council Members after discussion the following was voted on:

Proposed to be added to Article 11- Board of Directors - Section 2.8

“The Board may grant a leave of absence to any Director by a majority vote of the quorum (Section 2.3 – Quorum as defined) of the Board”.

Proposed amendment to Article 11 – Board of Directors – Section 2.3

“Each member of the Board of Directors shall possess one vote on matters before the Board. Voting by proxy shall not be permitted. Fifty percent (50%) or more of the active Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum. In the event that a quorum is not present, the Chair or Vice-Chair, in that order, may resolve

critical issues by holding a Board vote by telephone or e-mail if a quorum is obtainable by these means. No business shall be conducted without a quorum. During a quorum-only vote, all Directors will vote unless a director recuses him or herself on a conflict of interest. Ties will be tabled until the next meeting. Any Director position that misses three unexcused consecutive meetings may be replaced by the three initiating governments”.

Motion:

Council Member Fort moved to approve the By-Law Amendments as agreed upon by the Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member Phillips and passed unanimously.

Action: Amend the By-Laws and present new copies to the Council.

Rule Revision Process

Ms. McCrea volunteered to work with the MWC to facilitate the rule revision process. Ms. McCrea reviewed with the Council definitions regarding the draft rule revision.

- 1) “Allocation” means the designation of specific amounts of water for specific beneficial uses.
- 2) “Appropriation” means the process of legally acquiring the right to specific amounts of water for beneficial uses, as consistent with the requirements of the ground and surface water codes and other applicable water resource statutes.
- 3) “Approved Water System” see WAC 173-548-050(1): a water system in compliance with the state drinking water regulations, chapter 246-290 WAC and the state surface water and groundwater codes, chapters 90.03 and 90.44 RCW.
- 4) “Beneficial Uses” means uses of water for domestic, stock watering, industrial, commercial, agricultural, irrigation, hydroelectric power projection, mining, fish and wildlife maintenance and enhancement, groundwater recharge, recreational, thermal power production, and preservation of environmental and aesthetic values, and all other uses compatible with the enjoyment of the public waters of the state.
- 5) “Commercial Agriculture” means uses related to commercial orchards and vineyards, and commercial livestock and farming operations.
- 6) “Commercial/Light Industrial” *Ms. McCrea will develop language related to the definition based on Council discussion and present it at a future meeting.*
- 7) “Consumptive Use” means a use of water that reduces the amount of water in the reach.
- 8) “Department” means the Washington State Department of Ecology.
- 9) “Domestic Water Use” means, for the purposes of this chapter, use of water associated with human health and welfare requirements, including water used for drinking, bathing, sanitary purposes, cooking, laundering, and other incidental household uses.

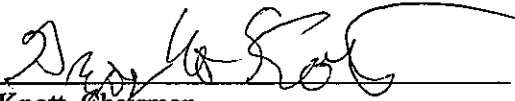
Next meeting

The next meeting will be held Thursday, January 20, 2011.

Adjournment

Council Member Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary