

**Methow Watershed Council-Special Meeting
Meeting Minutes
March 22, 2012**

Council Members present: Greg Knott, Chair, Brian Fisher, Vicky Welch, Bill Tackman, Dick Ewing, Clint Estes (Council Member Town of Twisp), Hans Smith (Alternate/Town Council Member), Perry Huston, (Okanogan County), Josh Morgan (MVID), Council Coordinator Lee Hatcher and Jackie Moriarty, Secretary. (Council Member Morgan joined the meeting after it began).

Guests: Aimee Grant, Twisp Grant Administrator, Bill Sullivan and Owen Reese, Aspect Consulting, LLC and Mary McCrea, Cascadia Law Group.

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

Introductions

Chairman Knott asked those present to introduce themselves.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Changes: Combine the Technical Review Committee report with the Water Storage Project discussion.

Additions: Approval of the draft letter to the Department of Ecology related to Instream Flow Rule Revision.
 Add the election of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to the Council Member Appointment action item.

Motion:

Council Member Huston moved to approve the agenda with amendments. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fisher and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion:

Council Member Huston moved to approve the 02/23/12 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fisher and passed unanimously.

Budget/Grant Status Report

Aimee Grant, the Twisp Grant Administrator was present to introduce herself to Council and to provide reports related to the status of the Phase 4 and Water Storage Project Grants. Chairman Knott thanked Ms. Grant for her presentation. Ms. Grant will provide monthly status reports to the Council.

Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Hatcher reported on the following:

- He reminded everyone to turn in their volunteer hours.
- He presented Council with a new timeline covering March to September 2012.

- He reported that any information we hope to receive related to watershed funding from the legislation will most likely not be available until April 15, 2012.

Three Initiating Governments Reports

Methow Valley Irrigation District

No report at this time.

Town of Twisp

No report at this time.

Okanogan County

Council Member Huston reported on the following:

- All of the planning documents that Okanogan County is currently revising have only had modest progress and momentum since last month.
- The Volunteer Stewardship Program – No change.
- Water/Exempt wells – Representative Brian Blake requested an opinion from the Attorney General’s Office, the request was withdrawn and no legislative action is expected this session; Council Member Huston will forward a copy of Representative Blake’s request by email to the Council.
- DOE Water Resource Advisory Committee – he reported that DOE is currently working through the back log of water applications and processing them because of a recent mandate.
- He discussed an Airport Advisory Committee that has been formed to review zoning at the 7 municipal airports in Okanogan County.

Action: Council Member Huston will forward a copy of Representative Blake’s request by email to the Council.

Sub-Committee Reports

Political Action Committee

Bill Tackman, Chairman, worked with the committee to draft a letter to be sent out to local Senators, Representatives and the Okanogan County Commissioners regarding watershed funding for the MWC. The committee also asked Twisp Mayor Ing-Moody to forward the letter to the same people since the Town is the MWC’s lead agency. The Council decided on the following next steps: Council Member Tackman, Coordinator Hatcher and Chairman Knott will develop a list of talking points and Council Member Tackman will make contact with the recipients of the letter as a follow up; another letter may follow this process.

Action: Coordinator Hatcher and Chairman Knott will develop a list of talking points and Council Member Tackman will make contact with the recipients of the letter as a follow-up.

Instream Flow Rule Revision Committee

Council Member Smith reported the committee met in March and discussed the draft rule revision that Ms. McCrea is developing.

Water Storage Project

Bill Sullivan and Owen Reese of Aspect Consulting joined the Council to discuss their research related to the MWC Water Storage Project. Mr. Sullivan explained they had met with the Technical Review Committee after researching and reviewing historical documents related to approximately 66 storage sites. They and the committee reduced the list to 8 prospects:

- Uphill Reservoir
- Cub Creek
- Patterson Lake/Elbow Coulee
- Patterson Lake/Moccasin Lake
- Davis Lake
- Walking D Ranch
- Beaver Creek Micro-Storage
- Beaver Creek/Thurlow Pond

They developed a 6 Step Screening Criteria to further rate the viability of the sites:

- Landowner Willingness
- Benefit (agriculture, habitat, municipalities)
- Permitting
- Cost
- Site Feasibility
- Funding Availability (tied to habitat benefit)

Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Reese developed a Screening Matrix to screen the proposed sites including; Project vs. Criteria showing the project, water source, potential volume in acre feet and the above screening criteria. This resulted in a scoring system for the Council's review. The top three project sites were determined by the committee using the matrix:

- Beaver Creek – Thurlow Pond – Micro-storage
- Davis Lake
- Walking D Ranch

Council discussed and asked questions of Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Reese related to the recommendations.

Motion:

Council Member Ewing moved to approve the top three proposed water storage sites as presented by Aspect Consulting and the Technical Review Committee; Beaver Creek-Thurlow Pond/Micro-storage, Davis Lake and Walking D Ranch. The motion was seconded by Council Member Huston and passed unanimously.

Council felt it necessary to give Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Reese specific instruction as to how to proceed if in the next couple of weeks the three sites were found to have fatal flaws that would make them non-viable as water storage sites. The Council asked that they begin the process of studying the chosen locations and knowing that if all three sites are determined non-viable the Council would like them to consider and study Patterson Lake-Moccasin Lake as a fourth option.

Draft Letter to the Department of Ecology Related to the Instream Flow Rule Revision

Council Member Smith provided a draft letter to Council review and approval to be sent to Mark Kemner of the DOE asking them to provide the MWC with an established timeline for initiating the rule revision.

Motion:

Council Member Huston moved to approve the letter be signed by Chairman Knott and sent to the Department of Ecology as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fisher and passed unanimously.

Action: Secretary Moriarty will prepare the letter for Chairman Knott's signature and send it to Mark Kemner.

Organizational Development Committee

Council Member Ewing reported the Organizational Development Committee is working on a draft based on the Walla Walla form of an independent Council. They plan to have the draft ready for Council review and discussion at the May 15, 2012 meeting and hope to have an approved document by the June 21, 2012 Council meeting. The next steps would be to send the document to the Okanogan County Commissioners for their comment (30 day review) and then contact the legislature to see if they could lobby someone to move it forward.

Council Member Ewing discussed starting the process of becoming a non-profit organization; it was decided to wait on that process.

Council Positions

Secretary Moriarty announced that both Vicky Welch and Dick Ewing had submitted letters of intent showing their interest in staying on the MWC in their current positions for another 3 year term. Council Member Ewing is currently in position #3 representing the "Middle" valley and Vicky Welch is in position #4 an At-Large position.

Representatives of the three Initiating Governments were present: Josh Morgan, MVID, Clint Estes, Town of Twisp and Perry Huston, Okanogan County.

Motion:

Council Member Morgan moved to approve the re-appointment of Council Member Dick Ewing to position #3 and Council Member Vicky Welch to position #4 of the Methow Watershed Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member Estes and passed. Council Member Huston abstained from voting.

Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council

Secretary Moriarty provided the by-laws as reference to the requirement to re-elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman at the first MWC meeting of each year. Ms. Moriarty explained that the January meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum and in February she was absent and unable to facilitate the action. Currently Greg Knott is serving as Chairman and Dick Ewing as Vice-Chairman; both agreed to stay in their positions if the Council agreed.

Motion:

Council Member Huston moved to re-appoint Council Member Knott to serve as Chairman and Council Member Ewing to serve as Vice-Chairman for the Methow Watershed Council for 2012. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fisher and passed unanimously.

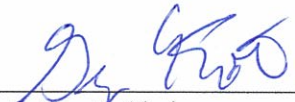
Next Meeting (April 19, 2012) - Agenda Items

- Organizational Development Committee – Interlocal Agreement/Organizational Document
- Instream Flow Rule Revision Committee – Model Rule Revision
- Water Storage Project

Adjournment

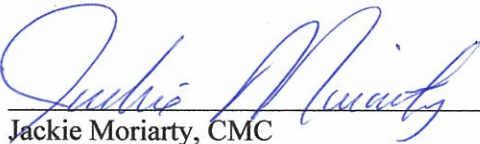
There being no further business to come before the Council Chairman Knott adjourned the meeting at 7:22 pm.

APPROVED:



Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary