

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
June 17, 2010**

Council Members present were:, Mike Fort, Jennifer Molesworth, Bill Tackman, Don Phillips (Alternate: MVID), Tom Gehring, (Town Council Member), Coordinator Lee Hatcher, and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent: Chairman Greg Knott, Vicky Welch, Marty Williams and Char Schumacher, Okanogan County.

Guests: Bill Boosman (Twisp Mayor), Mary McCrea, Cascade Law, Pam Jenkins (Winthrop Planning Commission), Tim Flynn, Aspect Consulting and Greg Schuler, DOE.

Coordinator Hatcher called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

Introductions

Secretary Moriarty passed out volunteer timesheets to Council members.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Additions: None

Changes: None

Approval of the Minutes from the May 20, 2010 Meeting

Motion:

Council Member Fort moved to approve the minutes of May 20, 2010 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Molesworth and passed unanimously.

Coordinator Hatcher's Update

Coordinator Hatcher reported on the following:

Two pre-authorization letters have been submitted to the DOE; one for the use of the Phase IV funding and the other for the use of the Instream Flow Rule Revision (IFRR) funding. Hatcher explained that currently there is a \$50,000 "place holder" for IFRR funding for FY11. Hatcher is not sure how much funding the Watershed Council will receive for the IFRR in FY11, but is proposing a budget of \$102,000 to pay for the Domestic Water Tracking and Domestic Water Use Study.

Timeline

Hatcher reviewed the June – December 2010 timeline. Hatcher pointed out the Riverbank Building tenants will be holding an open house on June 25th to show the community which agencies are represented in the valley and what they do. Hatcher also pointed out the October deadline for the Preliminary Estimate of Outdoor Water Use that is being produced by Aspect Consulting.

Water Data Tracking and Domestic Water Withdrawal Project Updates

Tim Flynn, Aspect Consulting discussed the current water data tracking project he is working on for the Watershed with the deadline of June 30, 2010. Flynn explained that he is developing a database structure for future and current build-out with an approach to quantify water withdrawal minus what water is determined to be returned to the river. Flynn provided Council with an example of a MS Access database template, which he explained interfaces well with the geographic information system (GIS) for mapping purposes and will be structured around tax parcel ID numbers. Eventually the database will be populated with information from the GIS database and the Okanogan County Assessor's Office. Council Member Fort suggested contacting Susan Bergdoff, local DOE Water Master for information.

Greg Schuler discussed the concept of reserves per reach being built back up after build-out is complete; another good reason to have a tracking database. Regardless of what agencies the Council decides to use to gather the data, the Council needs to establish criteria and stick to it for continuity.

Consumptive Use

Mr. Flynn discussed outdoor consumptive use; since it has been reasonably determined that indoor use does not vary and outdoor use from household to household does.

- Return flow from on-site septic systems; developing an approach with the Department of Health's (DOH) guidance.
- What have other WRIA's observed?
- What is the science that has been done?
- Look at all IFR for recharge determination.
- 85%-90% of assured return for on-site septic systems – need to find the science to backup this claim.
- Typical irrigated areas; finding an average.
- Aerial photos to determine irrigated lands within parcels.
- July and August peak irrigating usage.
- Figure consumptive use by month; assume a one month lag time from pumping to river effect.
- Discussed reach boundaries and parcels; Council Member Fort stated that WAC 173-548 defines the reaches.
- Discussed what to do if parcels are divided between reaches.

Mr. Schuler reported on a concept being researched to develop an interactive website for water based information. The Council felt that having a tool of this type available would be beneficial; Schuler will report back to Bill Zachmann that the MWC is in favor of the interactive website proposal.

Evaluation, Selection and Prioritization of Brainstorming Ideas.

Hatcher referred the Council to the MWC Instream Flow Rule Revision Brainstorming sheet that had been developed and collated from the May brainstorming session.

Ms. McCrea discussed the 2005 Entiat rule (WAC 173-546), pointing out several important details which include mostly clarifications and definitions (ex: domestic water use, what a public

water system means, what the reservation means, senior right holder). They included a section regarding hydraulic continuity ground water and surface water, priority base provides restrictions, i.e. water conservation and efficiency. Mary will email the points she pulled from the Entiat rule to Hatcher for distribution to the council. Ms. McCrea asked the Council to consider the Entiat rule definitions; they may add substance to the rule.

Instream Flow Rule Water Allocation Revisions

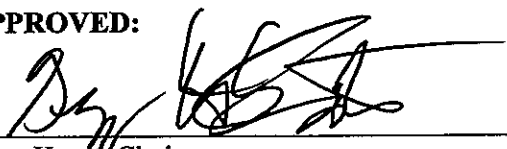
- Reservation transfer to individuals. – Discussed the reservation being a quantity of water that is available for future allocations; which are then considered water rights. Proving ground water hydraulic continuity, valuable information to obtain.
- Allow unallocated Reservation to be transferred downstream to towns. Duplication, delete from list.
- Address the Attorney General’s opinion on amounts for lawn and garden, and commercial use. Analyze exempt wells for legally allowed amount. Currently a resident with an exempt well can use 5,000 gpd and in addition unlimited stock water. Council discussed the term “reasonable use” regarding gardens and lawn with no acreage limitation. Discussed redefining an exempt well which could include single resident domestic use, stock watering, lawn and garden, and industrial. Council decided that further consideration was needed regarding which uses would be allowed under the reserve.
- Define relationship between 5,000 gpd and 2 cfs reservation. Are exempt wells to be counted against the reserve? This needs to be clarified/defined in the revision of the rule.
- Establish water credits back to the Reserves for strategies that enhance instream flow including water credit for recharge back to the Reserve. Discussed a way to track water rights that are relinquished. Schuler stated if several houses were to go to one group well system credit could go back to the reserve. Schuler just wanted the Council to consider there are ways that water can go back into the reserve and needs to be tracked.

Council discussed zoning versus water planning and voluntary relinquishment of a portion of the water a residence is allowed but may not be using (voluntary conservancy).

Adjournment

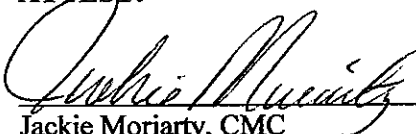
A motion was made by Council Member Fort to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Molesworth and passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary