

Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2007
Twisp Town Hall

Council Members present were: Temp Chairman Katharine Bill, Mike Fort, Marty Williams, Vicky Welch, Nate Wehmeyer, Okanogan County, Tim Johnson, MVID, Tom Gehring, Council Member Town of Twisp and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent: Ray Campbell and Greg Knott.

Guests present: Rusty Post, Department of Ecology (DOE) and Lee Bernheisel.

Temp Chairman Bill called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA AND MINUTES FROM THE MAY 16, 2006 MEETING

Rusty Post, DOE, pointed out a spelling correction on page 2, "Hutson" to "Huston". Mr. Post requested to go on record stating that Perry Huston's remarks on page 2, regarding how the Lead Agency's compensation was set was inaccurate. Post explained that the administrative expenses should not to exceed 25% of the grant total according to the grant guidelines.

MOTION:

Council Member Williams moved to approve the minutes with the correction of the spelling of Perry Huston's name on page 2. The motion was seconded by Council Member Welch and passed unanimously.

Temp Chairman Bill asked that in the future minutes reflect the Agenda Item number be referenced with the agenda item to tie the agenda and the minutes together. Secretary Moriarty asked to add discussion about the website to the agenda.

AGENDA ITEM #001 - TOWN OF TWISP/METHOW WATERSHED COUNCIL MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Secretary Moriarty presented the council with the changes they had requested be made to the draft Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) at the previous meeting.

MOTION:

Council Member Welch moved to accept the Memorandum of Agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #002 – METHOW WATERSHED COUNCIL SCOPE OF WORK

Secretary Moriarty questioned Rusty Post regarding the 10% that was referenced on the Scope of Work budget, asking where those funds were generated. Post explained that matching funds can be generated by using other grants received from outside sources, the lead agency or by tracking the time spent by council members at meetings and doing research. Secretary Moriarty reported that the only update to the scope of work that Town Clerk Colleen Storms did was to reference to the Administration Grant that we applied for June 15, 2007. The council placed the June 19, 2007 updated Scope of Work in their notebooks for future reference.

AGENDA ITEM # 003 - PLANNING UNIT ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT BIENNIUM GRANT

Rusty Post briefly explained the reasoning behind the Legislative action to make \$30,000 available for administrative services to each WRIA. Post reported that at his suggestion Secretary Moriarty submitted the grant asking for \$18,000 for 2007-2008 and \$12,000 for 2008-2009. Post stated that he and Clerk Storms anticipated more for administrative purposes being spent up front because of the lead agency change and the preliminary work being done by Storms and Moriarty.

AGENDA ITEM #004 - BIENNIUM OPERATIONS/PROJECT GRANT

Post stated that initially the regional DOE representatives (Post included) met and evaluated all of their regional projects and rated them on their significance and impact to the region. Post reported that the DOE representatives had met again to reprioritize projects due to agencies dropping out or not needing the funding at this time and that they were able to add the Methow Watershed to the list for Instream Flow Rule Revision. Post stated that this is why he urged Storms and Moriarty to process the grant application on short notice on behalf of the watershed council. Moriarty stated that in Chairman Bill's absence she had contacted Council Member Fort to get his approval on the preliminary submittal of the grant application and was given the go ahead by Fort.

Post reported that the watershed should know by the first part of July what will be funded by the DOE.

MOTION:

Council Member Fort moved to approve the submission of the grant application for the Instream Flow Rule Revision grant. The motion was seconded by Council Member Welch and passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #005 - OFFICER NOMINATIONS

Temp Chairman Bill stated that at the last meeting, and according to Roberts Rules, she had expressed her interest in continuing on in the position of Chairman and that Council Member Fort expressed his interest in being Vice-Chairman for the watershed council.

MOTION:

Council Member Welch moved to appoint Katharine Bill as Chairman and Mike Fort as Vice-Chairman for the Methow Watershed Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member Johnson and passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #006 - DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY GRANT SCOPE OF WORK – TASKS 1

Council Member Fort discussed WAC 173-548 regarding water resources program in the Methow River Basin.

Lee Bernheisel stated that the public needs a coherent idea of how WAC 173-548 affects the Methow Valley. Bernheisel suggested to the council that they hold a large public meeting and do something to grab people's attention and get attendance up. Council Member Welch suggested researching a mapping technique that would show people specific scenarios of changes and consequences to those changes in the valley. The council spoke briefly on the following issues: Wet water versus paper water; water right duplications because of multiple filing period openings; consumptive use versus average daily household use; build out study, irrigation rights and municipal needs; and the 2cfs and the base flow. Post explained that if water rights are duplicated the only way that corrections can be made is for the claimer to contact DOE and submit a change adjudication. Post stated that the Average Daily Household use as determined by and agreed upon by the DOE is 640 gallons per day.

Council Member Fort discussed whether or not the council could seek legal advice and how it is budgeted. Post stated that some issues are covered up to a specific amount by grant monies. Moriarty suggested using Municipal Research Services for legal opinions and that the Town of Twisp was a member and that it is free. Post also relayed that a DOE representative could come out to a meeting and clarify items related to water law.

Council Member Fort reported that he had obtained two compact discs from Okanogan County and he relinquished them the Secretary Moriarty for storage. Fort stated that he would work with Moriarty on inspecting the discs and determining what would be useful for the council to have in hardcopy form.

Council Member Fort relayed his opinion that the rule (WAC 173-548) needed to reflect the council and the community's goals. Fort suggested setting aside an hour at the next meeting to go over the rule together. Fort also discussed closed basins, whether they

should or should not be opened and whether or not the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ARS) can be incorporated into the rule changes.

Action: Moriarty: When preparing the agenda for July set one hour aside for WAC 173-548 discussion.

AGENDA ITEM #007 – PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT/”EXHIBIT A”

As previously requested by the council Clerk Storms prepared a draft Professional Services Agreement including an “Exhibit A” that outlines specific duties and timelines for completion of work.

MOTION:

Council Member Fort moved to approve the Professional Services Agreement/”Exhibit A” as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Johnson and passed unanimously.

AGENDA ITEM #009 – PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

Council Member Fort stated that he had no objection to grammatical changes/suggestions made by Rusty Post. Fort discussed the issue regarding simple majority versus consensus, relating back to the discussion of the three initiating governments appointing new council members when needed. Fort stated that the issue was previously discussed, voted on and the by-laws changed in a prior meeting. Fort feels that one person should not have veto power.

Chairman Bill asked that the council members review Post’s proposed changes to the by-laws and that the council will discuss it at their next meeting.

AGENDA ITEM # 111 – INSTREAM FLOW GAUGING GRANT

Rusty Post discussed the grant application submitted for Instream Flow Gauging. Post explained that this application was a housekeeping item that needed to be formalized by submission through the grant process. Post explained that this grant would provide equipment needed to measure and meter the instream flow. Again Post explained that the projects are based on regional impact and benefit.

Mr. Bernheisel questioned whether the council was considering trying to change the instream flow calculations. Post clarified by explaining that the council would be proposing modifications to the language used to define the rule not actually proposing changes to the calculations of the instream flow.

AGENDA ITEM #112 – WEBSITE

Secretary Moriarty reported that she and Clerk Storms were currently working towards developing a website for the MWC and discussing options with the Town's provider. Moriarty asked council for their suggestions for the site at future meetings.

NEXT MEETING DATE/TIME AND AGENDA ITEMS

The Council set the next meeting date and for Thursday, July 19, 2007 from 6 – 8 pm at the Twisp Town Hall.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Williams to adjourn the meeting at 8:10. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

Katharine Bill, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary