

**Methow Watershed Council
Special Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2009
Riverbank Building**

Council Members present were: Chair Katharine Bill, Vice-Chair Mike Fort, Greg Knott, Vicky Welch, Marty Williams, Tim Johnson, MVID, Perry Huston, Okanogan County Planning, Coordinator Lee Hatcher and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent w/ notification: Ray Campbell and Tom Gehring.

Council Members Absent w/o notification:

Guests: Greg Schuler, DOE, Tim Flynn, Aspect, Lee Bernheisel, Don Phillips, Colleen Storms, Clerk/Treasurer Town of Twisp, and Mary McCrea.

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

Approval of the Minutes from the August 29, 2009 Meeting

Motion:

Council Member Welch moved to approve the minutes of August 20, 2009 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Additions: None

Changes: None

Motion:

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

Coordinator's Update

Coordinator Hatcher updated the Council on the September – December 2009 timeline, focusing on grant submittal date deadlines and setting a process to gather public comments for the draft DIP.

DIP Discussion

4. Prioritization

The Council discussed the importance of keeping in mind the stipulation in the Watershed Master Plan (WMP) of a self-sustaining publicly controlled entity or a special purpose district.

It was suggested the Council should consider keeping their prioritization list as general as possible so that if an opportunity for funding becomes available they would be able to proceed.

5. DIP Development

5.2 Coordination with Municipal Water Right Holders or Group A Water Systems

A better definition was added to distinguish between Municipal A system and regular Group A systems.

5.3 Approval Process

The Council discussed the importance of entering into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for obligations mentioned in the DIP. Mr. Schuler explained that a contractual agreement is more binding and holds an agency more accountable for the obligation.

Mr. Flynn pointed out the importance of including the Department of Ecology (DOE) in the DIP process for a swifter approval.

6. Strategies and Actions to Implement

6.1 Modify Chapter 173.548 WAC

The Council discussed the WMP making no distinction between Group A & B users. Mr. Schuler defined Equivalent Residential Units (ERU) as population served or the consumptive use numbers.

The Council decided to remove bullets #2 and #4 on page 22; Mr. Flynn will insert a new paragraph based on Council discussion.

6.1.1 Implementation Actions

On page 23 the Council agreed to add the language "include adaptive management", bullet #1 insert "quantify" in place of "estimate"; and bullet #2 insert "determine" in place of "estimate".

6.1.2 Implementation Responsibilities

The Council discussed entering into an MOA with the DOE and Okanogan County regarding the maintenance of a database and tracking allocations from the reserve.

Change bullet #3, page 24 to read "Encourage users of new exempt wells to measure and report monthly average and annual water usage to MWC".

6.1.3 Implementation Schedule

Mr. Schuler suggested an MOA to facilitate a Pre-Proposal Statement of Inquiry/CR 101, because of restrictions and staff cuts.

6.2 Preserving Agriculture Land and Uses

6.2.1 Implementation Actions

Bullet #1 - Add a location of where the information can be accessed after the word "education".

6.5.1 Implementation Responsibilities

Mr. Schuler suggested replacing the word "or" with the word "and" in this paragraph.

6.6.4.1 Implementation Actions

Add the DOE to the list of agencies to coordinate with in case of a drought.

7.2 Other Funding Sources

Discussed possible partnerships with other agencies in the valley.

1.2 Watershed Setting

Discussed the breakdown of water systems and how they are classified by the Department of Health.

2.1 SEPA Review of Watershed Plan

Council discussed the SEPA process the Watershed Planning Unit went through during the adoption of the WMP. Perry Huston will review the SEPA done previously to determine if the Council needs to go through the SEPA process again for the DIP.

Motion:

Council Member Welch moved to approve the final draft of the DIP as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

The Council discussed a procedure for soliciting public comment:

Changes will be completed by Mr. Flynn and forwarded to Secretary Moriarty for distribution on October 6, 2009:

- An ad will be placed in the Methow Valley News.
- The public comment period will be October 7 – 28, 2009; 21 days.
- The final draft will be placed on the website with instructions on how to forward public comment.
- Review copies of the DIP will be placed in the Twisp and Winthrop Libraries.

Motion:

Council Member Knott moved to approve the process for public comment for the DIP as outlined. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

Chairman Bill set a special meeting for October 29, 2009 at 5:00 pm to consider all public comment received.

Grant Update

Hatcher reported the Phase IV grant will be awarded to the MWC, however Hatcher shared that approximately \$12,000 was not spent in FY09 and the MWC has had to relinquish that amount but will receive the maximum funding of \$100,000 for FY10. Hatcher report the Instream Flow Rule Revision grant will be awarded in the amount of \$174,000, which will fund:

1. A domestic water use study
2. A septic recharge analysis
3. Develop a water use tracking system
4. Winter Flow Study

The Winter Flow Study will be done with the help of the USGS, \$30,000 will go to them USGS for their participation in the task.

Mr. Schuler discussed funding applications for FY12-13 and that they may be due earlier than in previous years; he will contact Hatcher with the dates when they are available.

Request for Proposals – Domestic Water Withdrawal and Septic Recharge Analysis

The Council discussed proposals for the domestic water withdrawal and septic recharge analysis project coming up.

Motion:

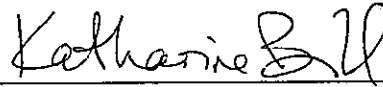
Council Member Knott moved to award Aspect Consultants the domestic water withdrawal and septic recharge analysis project. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

Water Use Tracking Report

Hatcher discussed the water use tracking report due in November; Hatcher will be searching for a model for this report.

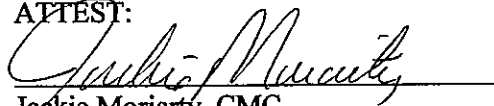
Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Knott to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.



Katharine Bill, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC

Secretary