

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2013**

Council Members present: Greg Knott, Chairman, Brian Fisher, Bill Tackman, Hans Smith (Alternate/Twisp Mayor Appointee), Char Schumacher (Okanogan County), Josh Morgan (MVID), Coordinator Lee Hatcher and Jackie Moriarty, Secretary.

Guest: Dave Holland, Watershed Lead, DOE

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

Introductions

Chairman Knott introduced Dave Holland the new watershed lead for the MWC out of the Central Regional DOE Office. Mr. Holland gave the council some history of his work with the DOE.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Additions:

Changes: Delete Grant Report

Motion:

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion:

Council Member Smith moved to approve the minutes of January 17, 2013 as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Tackman and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Hatcher reported on the following:

- He reminded everyone to turn in their volunteer slips.
- He provided a February – July 2013 timeline
- He reported a Master Services Agreement and a Project Specific Agreement (Task 1) between himself (Optimal Niche) and Trout Unlimited (TU) were being prepared.
- A Scope of Work between Aspect Consulting and TU is also being prepared and will be brought to the Council for review and approval.

Three Initiating Governments Reports

Methow Valley Irrigation District

There was nothing to report at this time.

Town of Twisp

Council Member Smith presented the Council with a letter recusing him from any involvement with the current legislation that the MWC is working on related to Organizational Development.

Council Member Smith reported that despite the Town's current work on water acquisition the Town is still supportive of the work by the MWC related to the Instream Flow Rule Revision for the long-term.

Okanogan County

Council Member Schumacher reported that the Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan and Environmental Impact Study should be going out for a 60 day comment period soon, the Critical Areas Ordinance is still being worked on by the Okanogan County Planning Commission and the Shoreline Master Plan is being reviewed by the DOE.

Sub-Committee Reports

Political Action Committee

Council Member Tackman reported most of the Political Action Committee's work is rolled into the Organizational Development Committee at this point. He has been in contact with Linda Parlette and her staff and the Okanogan County Commissioners regarding the current legislation.

Technical Review Committee

Council Member Fisher reported that the Project Specific Agreement and the Scope of Work document will continued to be worked on and reviewed. Fisher stated that Lisa Pelly, TU is aware that all budget changes must go before the MWC. Chairman Knott suggested developing an organizational chart so that as the project progresses everyone knows who to report to on which task.

Instream Flow Rule Revision Committee (IFRR)

Council Member Smith reported the committee will be bringing information to the MWC for review and input within the next couple of months. The Office of Columbia River (OCR) has been made aware of the funding need for the IFRR. Council Member Smith suggested the Town Administrators, Chairman Knott and Coordinator Hatcher set a meeting to develop a proposal for the DOE regarding IFRR; this would be a proactive method to show the MWC is ready and needs funding.

Legislative Update

Coordinator Hatcher reported that he, in Council Member Ewing's absence traveled to Olympia to testify on our current legislation (SB5677) regarding organizational development. Hatcher reported that three other agencies also testified: Yakama Nations opinion was "other"; the Sierra Club's opinion was "negative" and Evan Sheffels of the DOE's opinion was "other". From all the information Coordinator Hatcher could gather the MWC will need to obtain much more local support. Hatcher was encouraged by the testimony given by Senator Parlette and that she has assigned one of her staff members to this legislation.

Coordinator Hatcher also discussed HB1924 which would extend watershed planning funding beyond the four years set out in the Phase IV; Hatcher has already sent a letter of support for this bill and urged everyone to send a letter as well.

Coordinator Hatcher will send a link to both of the above mentioned bills out to the Council. Hatcher stated you can watch the video of the testimony given for SB5677.

Chairman Knott commended Coordinator Hatcher for his testimony in Olympia, stating that Hatcher was ready and willing to go over on short notice and did a great job representing the MWC.

Action: Coordinator Hatcher will send a link to both SB5677 and HB1924 for Council's review and supporting comments.

Chairman Knott brought up two things: 1. He asked Council Member Schumacher if she could facilitate setting up a meeting between him and Commission Campbell; 2. He asked Council to consider how the MWC could strategize to get public involvement in SB5677. Knott confirmed that he had gotten a nod from the Cattleman's Association via Victor Stokes.

The Council agreed to develop an action plan of which groups needed to be contacted and develop a list of talking points so each group gets the same message from the MWC. Coordinator Hatcher will schedule a Political Action Committee meeting.

Funding Strategy

Coordinator Hatcher reported on what it takes to become a 501(c)(3)/non-profit group. The Council discussed people that would possibly consider being members of a non-profit group. Council Member Smith reminded the Council that non-profit groups cannot be affiliated with political issues. Smith also discussed a possible opportunity to work with the Office of Columbia River (OCR). Coordinator Hatcher discussed with the Council the option of private donations. Chairman Knott asked Secretary Moriarty if funding from a private source could be ran through the Town's financials; Moriarty will research it and report back.

The Council agreed to hold off on having Coordinator Hatcher do anymore work on a non-profit status at this time and directed him to focus on working with the OCR and pursuing private donations.

Action: Secretary Moriarty will research the question of whether private funds for the MWC can be ran through the Town of Twisp financials.

Annual Report

Chairman Knott discussed the requirement by the DOE for the MWC to do an annual report. Mr. Holland gave the Council some information related to building an annual report. It was suggested that we obtain copies of the Entiat and/or Wenatchee WRIA annual reports as guides.

Elections

Position #5 – Lower Methow Valley and Position #6 – At Large expired for Bill Tackman (#5) and Brian Fisher (#6) as of January 2013. Letters of intent to continue in their positions for three more years were received from both members. There were representatives from all three initiating governments present at the meeting to vote.

Motion:

Council Member Smith moved to approve the re-appointment of Bill Tackman to Position #5 and Brian Fisher to Position #6 of the Methow Watershed Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member Schumacher and passed unanimously.

Each year a Chairman and Vice-Chairman are appointed.

Motion:

Council Member Fisher moved to re-appoint Greg Knott to the position of Chairman and Dick Ewing to the position of Vice-Chairman for 2013. The motion was seconded by Council Member Tackman and passed unanimously.

Next Meeting (March 21, 2013) - Agenda Items


March agenda items:

- Water Storage Project
- Funding Strategy
- Member Status

Adjournment


There being no further business to come before the Council Chairman Knott adjourned the meeting at 6:53 pm.

APPROVED:



Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary