

Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2009
Riverbank Building

Council Members present were: Vice-Chairman Mike Fort, Greg Knott, Ray Campbell, Vicky Welch, Marty Williams, Nate Wehmeyer, Okanogan County, Tom Gehring, Council Member Town of Twisp, Coordinator Lee Hatcher and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent: Chairman Katharine Bill and Tim Johnson, MVID.

Guests present: Rusty Post, DOE and Dick Ewing, Lori Triplett and Ed Rhinehart of the Twin Lakes Aquifer Coalition.

Vice-Chairman Fort called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Council Member Knott requested the MWC timeline be placed on the agenda as a permanent item and that the Council review it tonight.

MOTION:

Council Member Wehmeyer moved to approve the agenda with the addition. The motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 18, 2008

MOTION:

Council Member Wehmeyer moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed unanimously.

TIMELINE REVIEW

Coordinator Hatcher reviewed with Council the items listed for the month of January on the timeline:

- Review DIP Prioritization Process
- Begin study design for Domestic Use Study
- Prepare for 3 month review of Coordinator
- MWC Elections
- Request 2008 building permit data and well data from County
- Seek funding for Winter Fish Study

The Council briefly discussed Coordinator Hatcher's upcoming three month review. Secretary Moriarty will contact both Chairman Bill and Clerk/Treasurer Storms and produce a suitable review based on the Hatcher's contract.

Council Member Knott inquired as to when Aspect Consulting would be coming to another MWC meeting; Coordinator Hatcher reported that Bill Sullivan would be attending the February meeting.

Council discussed the two open positions #3 Vicky Welch and #4 Marty Williams. Secretary Moriarty confirmed that both Council Members Williams and Welch had submitted a letter requesting they remain in their positions for another 3 year term. Council Member Knott recommended that Marty Williams and Vicky Welch be appointed to another 3 year term. Council Member Gehring representing the Town of Twisp and Council Member Wehmeyer representing Okanogan County (in the absence of Council Member Johnson MVID) accepted the recommendation of Council as two representatives of the three initiating governments, in accordance to the By-Laws and approved their appointment by a majority vote.

Council Member Wehmeyer reported that he had been trying to obtain the data tracking information requested by the MWC. Wehmeyer stated that he needed to know whether the Council wanted information on building permits that were finalized or that had been applied for in 2008. Wehmeyer shared that when he contacted the Okanogan County Health Department he was told that all of the well log information was on the Department of Ecology website. The Council began discussing reach boundaries which concluded in requesting Secretary Moriarty do a search of the previous minutes to confirm if a decision had been reached when Kurt Danison had done his research. Council decided that Wehmeyer's tracking should be based on building permits that were issued by reach and occupancy records for 2008.

Coordinator Hatcher was asked if he had made any progress in his search for additional funding for the Winter Fish Study. Hatcher reported that he had been working with Aspect to find funding at this point.

TWIN LAKES AUQUIFER AND RESTORATION PROJECT

Dick Ewing, Lori Triplett and Ed Rhinehart of the Twin Lakes Aquifer Coalition presented their work so far on the Twin Lakes Aquifer and Restoration Project. Mr. Ewing presented the project, shared the groups achievements so far, shared data and photos and answered questions of the MWC.

Mr. Ewing upon completion of the presentation asked the MWC to review the draft study and consider backing the project.

PLAN STRATEGY PRIORITIZATION

Coordinator Hatcher began discussion on the Detailed Implementation Plan Prioritization Process. Council Member Knott shared the way that he would group the list as follows:

1st Grouping

- 1. Develop Water Storage
- 2. Artificial Groundwater Recharge
- 3. Protect Artificial Recharge and Existing Unlined Irrigation Canals
- 4. Enhance Artificial Recharge Using Unused Unlined Irrigation Canals
- 5. Preserve Agricultural Lands and Uses
- 6. Modify WAC 173-548
- 11. Environmental Benefits of Unlined Irrigation Canals
- 12. Groundwater Recharge from Unlined Irrigation Canals for ASR Projects
- 16. Habitat

2nd Grouping

- 7. Closed Basins
- 8. “Use It or Lose It”
- 9. Tentative Determination
- 10. Re-appropriation of Water Use
- 13. Water Claim Amnesty
- 14. Water Allocation and Economic Impacts
- 17. Buyer Seller Water Agreements

3rd Grouping

- 15. Canal Management Plans
- 18. Forest Management Plans
- 19. Floodplain Management Plan
- 20. Drought Management Plan

MOTION:

Council Member Campbell moved to approve the groupings as listed above. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wehmeyer and passed unanimously.

The Council decided to combine #5 Preserve Agricultural Lands and Uses with #17 Buyer Seller Water Agreements. Council Member Welch voiced her concern regarding seasonal agriculture water being converted to year-round domestic water.

The Council discussed if it was necessary to prioritize within each grouping by sequencing and decided to sequence only the 1st grouping as follows:

1st Grouping

- Modify WAC 173-548 1-A
- Preserve Agricultural Lands and Uses/ Buyer Seller Water Agreements 1-B
- Develop Water Storage 1-C
- Artificial Groundwater Recharge 1-C
- Protect Artificial Recharge and Existing Unlined Irrigation Canals 1-C
- Enhance Artificial Recharge Using Unused Unlined Irrigation Canals 1-C
- Environmental Benefits of Unlined Irrigation Canals 1-C
- Groundwater Recharge from Unlined Irrigation Canals for ASR Projects 1-C
- Habitat 1-C

MISCELLANEOUS

Council Member Welch reported that a draft Shoreline Master Plan (SMP) is available on the Okanogan County Planning Department website for review. Welch suggested that a link to the SMP be placed on the MWC site.

Council Member Welch reported that she had attended the County Comprehensive Plan Summit. Welch stated that Okanogan County Planning Director Perry Huston could use any water studies regarding the Methow Valley.

DOE GRANT APPLICATIONS – 2009-2011

Council Member Fort provided the Council a report he generated showing maximum build out information. Fort explained his point as being the 5,000 gallons per day allowance for an exempt well should not be a part of the 2 cfs in the Early Winters Reach. Council Member Fort requested the Council’s help in writing the DOE to request water be transferred to the Town of Twisp and the Town of Winthrop.

MOTION:

Council Member Campbell moved to add the issue of transferring water to the Town of Twisp to the next agenda. The motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Wehmeyer to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Welch and passed unanimously.

Katharine Bill, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary