

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2012**

Council Members present: Greg Knott, Chair, Brian Fisher, Vicky Welch, Mike Fort, Bill Tackman, Dick Ewing, Clint Estes (Council Member Town of Twisp), Hans Smith (Alternate/Town Council Member), Council Coordinator Lee Hatcher and Jackie Moriarty, Secretary.

Guests: Jeff Lewis, DOE Section Manager and Mary McCrea, Cascadia Law Group.

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Introductions

Chairman Knott asked those present to introduce themselves. Jeff Lewis was joining the MWC for the first time. Mr. Lewis gave a brief background on his experience and reported he is stationed out of the DOE office in Yakima.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Additions: Town of Twisp/Aspect Consulting – Mitigation related to acquiring water rights
 Jeff Lewis, DOE – Report on State Funding

Motion:

Council Member Fisher moved to approve the agenda with amendments. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ewing and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Motion:

Council Member Ewing moved to approve the 03/22/12 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fisher and passed unanimously.

Budget/Grant Status Report

The Council reviewed monthly graphs showing the status of our 3 grants provided by Grant Administrator Aimee Grant. The council asked Coordinator Hatcher to work with Ms. Grant on revamping the graphs to better meet the Council's needs.

Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Hatcher reported on the following:

- He reminded everyone to turn in their volunteer hours.
- He presented Council with an updated timeline.
- He gave an update on the Beaver Relocation Project.
- Employees of Aspect Consulting, LLC will be contacting the land owners of the three proposed water storage sites on April 23, 2012. Coordinator Hatcher will contact landowners by phone on April 20, 2012.
- Chairman Knott reminded the Council that the Technical Committee would need to set aside extra time for review of Aspect's work.

- Council Member Smith reported Rule Revision work is on hold until July 2012 and asked that Coordinator Hatcher make adjustments to the timeline.
- DOE Section Manager Lewis announced to the Council that the \$50,000 for the Phase 4 Grant will be available to the MWC for fiscal year 2013.

Three Initiating Governments Reports

Methow Valley Irrigation District

Representative not present.

Town of Twisp – Water Rights Mitigation

Council Member Smith reported on the Town of Twisp's need to invest in a mitigation project to acquire additional water rights. Council Member Smith explained that he had spoken to Aspect and Council Members urging the importance to work towards a common project that would benefit MWC and the Town. Council Member Fort pointed out that the Water Shed Plan has always identified getting water to the municipalities as a priority.

Okanogan County

Representative not present.

Sub-Committee Reports

Political Action Committee

Bill Tackman, Committee Chairman reported on the following:

- The need to tie watershed funding to our Organizational Plan.
- A letter of appreciation from the MWC should go out to all of the Senators and Representatives that were contacted regarding the continuance of watershed funding during the legislative session.

Action: Coordinator Hatcher will draft a letter and provide it to Secretary Moriarty for disbursement.

Organizational Development Committee

Coordinator Hatcher provided a copy of Mission Scenario 2 the Council had previously reviewed and approved for the Council's use during this discussion:

- Organizational Responsibilities/Additional Responsibilities
- Organizational Development
- Operational Description
- MWC and Staff
- Operating Facilities and Equipment

Council Member Ewing reported that the committee started with the Walla Walla template (Pilot Local Water Management Program); reviewing each section making changes only when necessary. Ewing stated the committee felt that even though some of the sections did not pertain to the MWC as this time it was better to leave those sections in there to make too many changes and have it seen as a red flag to the DOE during their review period

The MWC discussed the following:

- Section 90.92.050(3) related to services that could be provided that would have fees associated with them.
- Section 90.92.080 – Local Water Plan and how it would be facilitated and how the Council could provide a mechanism for people to protect their water and to work together to protect against water transfers out of the basin; an alternative to the current State water banking system. The Council could provide education related to the importance of keeping water in the valley.
- Facilitate a way to bring people together that have water they are not using and people that are looking for water to get the water to where it is most needed.
- Provide a local place for local landowners to get the help they need regarding water issues.

Council Member Ewing will send out a revised copy based on the discussions to all Council Members giving everyone 2 weeks to comment. After the Council has had time to review and approve the plan it will go to the County Commissioners for their review. Council Member Ewing will contact Perry Huston, Okanogan County Planner to see if he can present the plan to the Commissioners during his weekly reporting time. The Commissioners will have 30 days to review and comment and then it will go to the legislature for their review.

Action: Mr. Lewis volunteered to provide a list to Council Member Ewing and Mary McCrea of other WRIA's that may be interested in this approach.

Action: Council Member Ewing will email a revised copy of the plan out for Council review.

Motion:

Council Member Ewing moved to approve that he and Mary McCrea amend the plan based on the Council's discussion and prepare the revised document for Council review giving them a two week review period and after the Council meets to review the revised document and agrees on the revisions it will be sent to the County Commissioners for a 30 day review time. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

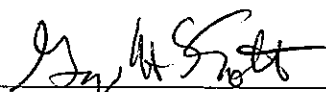
Next Meeting (May 17, 2012) - Agenda Items

Coordinator Hatcher and Secretary Moriarty will discuss agenda items prior to the next meeting.

Adjournment

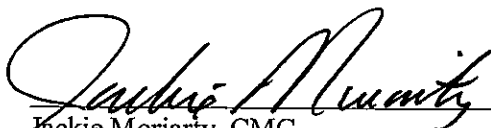
There being no further business to come before the Council Chairman Knott adjourned the meeting at 7:18 pm.

APPROVED:



 Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



 Jackie Moriarty, CMC
 Secretary