

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2010
Riverbank Building**

Council Members present were: Chair Greg Knott, Marty Williams, Jennifer Molesworth, Tom Gehring, Town of Twisp, Don Phillips (Alternate), MVID and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent: Vice-Chair Vicky Welch, Mike Fort and Nate Wehmeyer, Okanogan County.

Guests: Bill Tackman

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

Secretary Moriarty reminded Council members of the importance of tracking their time and filling out their volunteer forms.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Additions: None

Changes: None

Approval of the Minutes from the January 21, 2010 Meeting

Motion:

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the minutes of January 21, 2010 as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed unanimously.

Chairman Knott shared with Council that Coordinator Hatcher was absent due to a family emergency.

Timeline – March-September 2010

The Council reviewed a timeline provided by Hatcher for the period of March –September 2010. Knott pointed out reference to two upcoming Climate Change Project workshops/public meetings that will be held by the USGS. Council Member Molesworth reported that the USGS will conduct a pilot study of the Methow River. The USGS will be using existing information on stream flow, vegetation and precipitation to produce a model showing impacts on hydrology and vegetation as a result of changes will be to the to climate.

Chairman Knott discussed the Annual Water Use Report that is due in June. Knott feels it is a good idea to roll up all the information that we have now including the Highlands Association information into this report. Knott reported that Mary McCrea has produced a plat of all new domestic wells by decade started in 1970's. Knott believes by using McCrea's information and applying the 600 gpd information we should be able to determine how much water is left in each reach.

Council discussed their concerns regarding preparing a rule revision and the fact that Ecology may not have staff to review it. Knott shared a discussion with Bill Zachmann, DOE Grants Officer who suggested MWC do what Walla Walla did and go directly to our State

representatives and request a threshold legislative earmark for the MWC's work.

Agenda Item: Legislative Outreach – Greg Knott.

Confirmation of Council Position #5 by the Three Initiating Governments - Agenda #164

Secretary Moriarty announced the representatives from the Three Initiating Governments met on January 25, 2010 at 12:45 pm to discuss the appointment of Jennifer Molesworth to the MWC. At the regular meeting of the MWC in January the Council discussed Greg Knott being placed into position #1 (Katharine Bill's vacated position) leaving position #6 (an at large position) available to recommend appointment of Jennifer Molesworth. With Ray Campbell's resignation from the Council this would then leave position #5 (Lower Valley) open.

On January 25, 2010 a motion was made by Council Member Gehring to shift Chairman Knott into position #1 and to accept the recommendation of the Council and appoint Jennifer Molesworth to position #6. The motion was seconded by Council Member Johnson and passed unanimously.

Chairman Knott discussed Don Phillips being determined by the MVID as an alternate for Council Member Johnson. Secretary Moriarty will obtain a copy of the MVID minutes to confirm this appointment. Chairman Knott thanked Phillips for stepping up to volunteer as an alternate.

Chairman Knott introduced Bill Tackman. Mr. Tackman shared that he lives on McFarland Creek, making him eligible for the Lower Valley position (#5) on the MWC. Mr. Tackman shared that he is a surveyor and gave Council a brief history of his experience with water in the valley. Tackman was a member of the Lower Valley Advisory Board for a couple of years. He is interested in the experience and education of being on the Council.

Knott discussed trying to find a representative from Pateros to come to meetings when there are issues that pertain to the lower valley.

Motion:

Council Member Williams moved to recommend Bill Tackman for position #5 (Lower Valley) of the Methow Watershed Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member Molesworth and passed unanimously.

Chairman Knott explained to Tackman that the appointment would need to be confirmed by representatives of the Three Initiating Governments before it was official.

Rule Revision

Chairman Knott discussed the option of transferring a portion of the early winters reach water to the Towns then completing a more comprehensive rule revision at a later date. Knott reported that Greg Schuler and Bob Barwin seem to be fine with the idea, however Knott received a message from Schuler that he had more information; Knott has not gotten a call from him yet. Tim Flynn, Aspect Consulting cautioned Knott that it could be a mistake. Knott explained the DOE has an obligation according to the Watershed Plan to consider a rule revision by the MWC and if we only asked for transfer of water to the Towns, they may consider that as fulfilling their obligation and MWC would not have another chance at rule revision again or for a very long time. Flynn and Knott agreed that if the MWC proceeds in this direction we would need something in writing

from the DOE showing the action did not fulfill the obligation.

Knott shared that Rusty Post weighed in on this idea. Post suggested moving water to Lost River at the same time to alleviate their issues with interruptible rights. It was then mentioned that Copperstone, in the lower valley is also looking for uninterruptable domestic water. The Council discussed whether they had decided if A & B existing groups would be taken care of as well as future A & B groups. It was asked if Lost River was in continuity with Early Winters; no, water would need to be transferred up stream. Copperstone has converted some irrigation to year-round, but has had to sacrifice a good portion of the right. Tackman discussed that the DOE has been approving several Group B permits.

Gehring asked Council if they were to get written confirmation from DOE that transferring water to the Towns would not fulfill their obligation referenced in the Watershed Plan and a comprehensive rule revision would still be considered, is getting water to the Towns still the Council's number one priority; the Council agreed it is. The Council then discussed the likelihood that there are other applications that have been submitted to the DOE for Early Winters water. The Council felt this is important information to acquire before moving forward.

Council discussed the discrepancies between the Health Department and the DOE and that neither agency seems to know what the other is doing. Bill Zachmann shared information that may require watershed planning be based solely on the 5,000 gpd allowance instead of determining a more accurate number, if this is the case the MWC's work is a moot point...according to Chairman Knott.

Agenda Item: At the March meeting the MWC needs to strategize about the best way to use the grant funds that are still available.

IFRR Scope and Budget

Tim Flynn, Aspect Consulting pointed out he may be able to help with the Domestic Water Study.

Water Tracking Scope and Budget

Mr. Flynn can work with Okanogan County to build, at minimum a skeleton or template of a water tracking database and then MWC would need to find ways to fill in the rest of the information, possibly a volunteer. This tool would be used to determine over time how much water is left in each reach.

DIP SEPA Status

The Council discussed that Perry Huston, Okanogan County Planner had never determined if the DIP need to go through a SEPA process.

Outreach Efforts

Chairman Knott reported that the Wenatchee World had contacted some major water planners in the Methow Valley, including some of the Council Members to ask them to prepare a 200-500 word summary about Methow Valley water issues. Knott shared that he had written, in part on the rule revision, reserves and water for towns.

Legislative Issues – Chairman Knott discussed an email originally sent by Council Member Welch listing several legislative issues for the Council to review. After the last meeting Knott re-sent the Council the list by email but did not receive any comments. Knott discussed the DOE's proposed fee schedule for processing permits. Knott felt that while it's important to cover actual costs this fee schedule would be overwhelming to a private citizen. Knott explained the purpose of bill is to reduce the back log of permits that are clogging up the system. Chairman Knott asked for Council's approval for him to write a letter or testify against this rate structure. Council was agreeable to Knott representing the Council on this issue.

If you are in a que for processing you can move yourself ahead of other people if you pay a fee. Council felt that is unreasonable, it's for rich people not everyday citizens. Knott will send a draft letters to the Council for approval on these two issues.

Adjournment

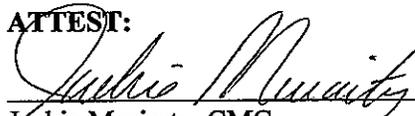
A motion was made by Council Member Phillips to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary