

Methow Watershed Council  
Meeting Minutes  
July 24, 2008  
Twisp Town Hall

Council Members present were: Chairman Katharine Bill, Marty Williams, Greg Knott, Ray Campbell, Nate Wehmeyer, Okanogan County, Tim Johnson, MVID, and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent: Council Members Vicky Welch, Tom Gehring, Nate Wehmeyer, and Vice-Chairman Mike Fort.

Guests present: Rusty Post, DOE.

Chairman Bill called the meeting to order at 6:25pm.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 19, 2008 MEETING**

**MOTION:**

Council Member Campbell moved to approve the minutes of June 19, 2008 as sent. The motion was seconded by Council Member Johnson and passed unanimously.

**HIGHLAND ASSOCIATES UPDATE – ADENDA ITEM #118**

Chairman Bill discussed Kurt Danison, Highland Associates final report on Task 1 of the Rule Revision Scope of Work. Council Member Campbell questioned the information provided showing the Alta Lake State Park irrigation coming out of the Methow River versus the Wells Pool.

The Council discussed the importance of obtaining information regarding the Wilson Ranch from the DOE. After a brief discussion the Council agreed not to request the information; determining that it would not pertain to the Council's work at this point.

The Council discussed the "Emergency Rule". Chairman Bill suggested getting more information regarding the "Emergency Rule" because there are several different uses for the rule. Post volunteered to get copies of the "Emergency Rule" and to research and consult with other DOE staff to get clarification and perspective for the August 21, 2008 meeting. Chairman Bill suggested that the Council should eventually get a legal interpretation.

**COUNTY DATA TRACKING – PROGRESS UPDATE - AGENDA ITEM #125**

This will be added to the next agenda; Council Member Wehmeyer was not present.

**PHASE 4 IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROPOSALS – AGENDA ITEM #106**

The Council discussed the biological impact that winter time takes on fish habitat as well as possible basin transfers. Knott shared that if we could prove there was no impairment on the instream flow it would help all future studies. Council Member Knott promoted the advantages of the MWC, the MRC and the United States Geographical Survey (USGS) working together to fund a study. Knott felt that with funding from the DOE more money could be leveraged for the study working with other agencies and would make the study extremely creditable in the eyes of the DOE.

The Council discussed consumptive use and recharge. Council Member Knott stated that because the valley has such diverse soil types he feels it would be hard for the Council to write a study. Knott suggested putting it in the Request for Proposals and seeing what the consultants propose. The Council agreed.

Chairman Bill suggested a meeting be held by the Council on August 5, 2008 at 5:00 pm to discuss the language for the Request for Proposals for the Phase 4 Implementation Plan. The Council agreed.

**OUTREACH PLAN - MY TURN, ADVERTISING AND WEBSITE— AGENDA ITEM #133**

Chairman Bill reported on her efforts regarding advertising. Bill shared a draft of her second ad that explains what the MWC is doing. Council discussed it briefly and made some suggestion. Chairman Bill will re-draft the ad and email it out to the Council. Bill encouraged everyone to take a look at the new website.

**GRANT STATUS REPORT – AGENDA ITEM #134**

Chairman Bill shared a grant status report that she and Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms developed to keep the Council informed of grant deadlines, budgets and progress. Council found the report helpful and made a few slight changes which were noted and will be passed on to Storms for future reporting.

**TIMELINE – AGENDA ITEM #135**

Chairman Bill shared a timeline showing the following projects: Draft Implementation Plan; domestic use study, both use and withdrawal; Council Coordinator position job description development; and advertising and education project. The Council briefly discussed the advantages/disadvantages to having one consultant provide services for all the tasks versus the tasks being completed by more than one consultant.

**COUNCIL COORDINATOR – THE NEED TO FILL THE POSITION – AGENDA  
ITEM #130**

Council Member Knott suggested that the Council review the job description for the Council Coordinator that was prepared by Clerk/Treasurer Storms and make changes, stating that would save time. Chairman Bill volunteered to circulate the job description among the Council Members for comments.

**WATER BANKING WORKSHOP**

Chairman Bill gave the Council a brief overview of the workshop she had attended regarding water banking, water trust and water leasing. Council Member Johnson reported that the Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) had been looking into water banking and so far has had positive feedback from MVID members.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:**

A motion was made by Council Member Campbell to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Johnson and passed unanimously.

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Katharine Bill, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

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Jackie Moriarty, CMC  
Secretary