

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

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

Guest: Lee Bernheisel and Dave Holland, Watershed Lead, DOE

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Additions: None

Changes: None

Motion:

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion:

Council Member Fisher moved to approve the minutes of February 21, 2013 as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Morgan and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Lee Bernheisel, a representative of the Okanogan Wilderness League (OWL) voiced his concern regarding the introduction of the organizational development legislature relating to authorizing the establishment of a watershed management board in the Methow. Chairman Knott explained the MWC's process over the past several months in creating this legislation.

Grant Administrator's Report

A Phase IV Grant report was provided by the Town Grant Administrator for the Council's review. Chairman Knott reported that as of March 30, 2013 Mary McCrea was retiring and was no longer going to be involved with the MWC; Knott expressed his gratitude for her work with the MWC and stated she would be missed.

Coordinator's Report

In Coordinator Hatcher's absence Chairman Knott reported on the following:

- He reminded everyone to turn in their volunteer slips
- He provided a March – July 2013 timeline
- Outreach for Senate Bill 5677/ the establishment of a watershed management board
- Davis Lake Water Storage Capital Project

Three Initiating Governments Reports

Okanogan County

Council Member Schumacher reported there was nothing new at this time. Chairman Knott asked if Council Member Schumacher could facilitate a meeting between him and Okanogan County Commissioner Campbell.

Town of Twisp

There was nothing to report at this time.

Methow Valley Irrigation District

There was nothing to report at this time.

Sub-Committee Reports

Political Action Committee

Chairman Knott reported that Council Member Tackman will be taking over more duties to help in Council Member Ewing's absence.

Technical Review Committee

Council Member Fisher reported on the following:

- They are working to launch the Water Storage Capital Project Tasks 3 and 4.
- Trout Unlimited and Lee Hatcher, Optimal Niche now have a contract for his role as project manager.
- Scope of data collection – Mr. Hatcher will help with this task to reduce costs.
- A 3 month project extension may be needed, if granted this would put the project completion date September 30, 2014.
- There will be a project kick-off meeting in April
- Landowner contact must start now
- Must ascertain that data that is gathered by outside agencies and volunteers is creditable, possibly a set of control standards should be developed. This could be discussed at the kick-off meeting. The need to use other agencies and volunteers to collect data became necessary because of the budget.

Instream Flow Rule Revision Committee (IFRR)

Council Member Smith presented a table laying out the discussion details from their March 5th committee meeting; New Information; Funding Considerations; Target Audience (water resources policy group -- Lacey WA); and Plan of Execution

Council Member Smith discussed the following topics:

- Phase I and II of the Purpose and Scope of the MWC IFRR Committee
- The IFRR Rule Revision Discussion Topics List
 - Conservation Standard
 - Consumptive Use Definitions
 - Expanding Reservation Uses
 - Monitoring Requirements

- Moratoriums
 - Organizational Development
 - Permit Exempt Wells
 - Permit Issuance Priority
 - Retain Water Rights within WRIA 48
 - Reservation Transfers
 - Clarify Authority and Jurisdictional Responsibilities
- An Ecology Suggested Outline – Scoping Document for Instream Flow Rule Revision
 - Overview of Existing Instream Flow Rule
 - Overview of Revised Rule
 - Technical Studies and Watershed Planning Recommendations relating to Revising Instream Flow Rule
 - Key Issues
 - Outreach
 - Staffing
 - Timeline
 - CR-101, CR-102 and Rule Adoption

Mr. Holland stated that funding is unclear at this time but having a good clear plan improves funding chances.

Council discussed the committee focus and making sure the discussion is consistent with the Watershed Plan, the need to divide up the workload in order to succeed and the need for a strategy plan for public outreach.

Organizational Development

There is nothing to report at this time.

Water Storage Capital Project

All new information was covered in the Technical Committee report.

Funding Strategy

There is nothing to report at this time.

Member Status

Chairman Knott reported that Council Member Ewing is helping out where and how he can while recovering and Council Member Welch is out of state at this time.

Next Meeting (April 18, 2013) - Agenda Items

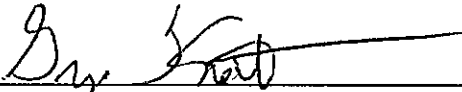
March agenda items:

- Funding Strategy

Adjournment

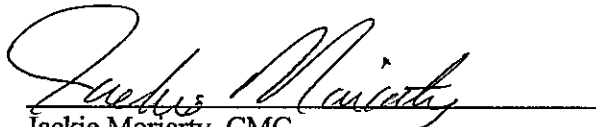
There being no further business to come before the Council Chairman Knott adjourned the meeting at 6:23 pm.

APPROVED:



Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary