

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2011**

Council Members present: Greg Knott, Chairman, Bill Tackman, Mike Fort, Brian Fisher, Don Phillips, (MVID), Tom Gehring (Town Council Member), Hans Smith (Town Council Member Alternate), Perry Huston (Okanogan County Planning), Council Coordinator Lee Hatcher and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Guests present: Mary McCrea, Cascadia Law Group and Bill Sullivan, Aspect Consulting.

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Changes: Move MWC Vacant Positions to the top of the agenda and move Gain/Loss Memorandum up under Water Withdrawal Study.

Additions: Letter to Okanogan County Commissioners.

Motion:

Council Member Huston moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – May 19, 2011

Motion:

Council Member Fort moved to approve the minutes of 05/19/11 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Tackman and passed unanimously.

Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Lee Hatcher reported on the following:

- We are on schedule with the timeline.
- He reminded Council Members to fill out their volunteer timesheets.
- He reported on the Grant Administrative meeting held May 18th; Mayor Ing-Moody, Town Council Member Smith, MWC Chairman Knott and himself. The Department of Ecology (DOE) grants will take us through June 30, 2011; the grants are currently approximately 89% complete.
- Mayor Ing-Moody announced her resignation as the Town of Twisp's grant administrator; the Town will be advertising and hiring soon to replace her.
- There has been no news from the DOE regarding the FY12-13 grants.
- There have been no updates regarding the USGS Grant regarding climate change.

Three Initiating Governments Reports

Town of Twisp

Council Member Smith had nothing to report at this time.

Methow Valley Irrigation District

Council Member Phillips had nothing to report at this time.

Okanogan County

Council Member Huston reported the Okanogan County Commissioners are still working on the Comprehensive Plan and then it will go back to the Planning Commission. There has been no change in the County Shoreline Master Plan.

Sub-Committee Reports

Political Action Committee

Council Member Tackman contacted Senator Linda Evans-Parlette to report the MWC's progress and financial situation. Coordinator Hatcher suggested Council Member Tackman send the Aspect draft memorandum to the Senator.

Technical Review Committee

Coordinator Hatcher sent a hydrology report to the Technical Committee for their review.

Draft Letter to the Okanogan County Commissioners Regarding the Comprehensive Plan and Watershed Planning

Secretary Moriarty read into record a list of Council member "yes" votes by email approving the draft letter to the Okanogan County Commissions regarding the Comprehensive Plan and Watershed Planning. Secretary Moriarty will retain the emails as proof of approval.

Action: Post a copy of the letter to the County Commissioners on the website after approval from Okanogan County Planning Director Huston; allowing enough time for delivery to the Commissioners.

Vacant Council Positions

Motion: Council Member Fort moved to recommend to the Three Initiating Governments to appoint Dick Ewing to the middle valley position (#3) and to appoint Katharine Bill to the At-Large position (#5). The motion was seconded by Council Member Fisher and passed unanimously.

Motion: Council Member Gehring (Town of Twisp) moved to approve the appointments of Dick Ewing and Katharine Bill as recommended by the Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member Philips (MVID) and passed. Council Member Huston (Okanogan County) abstained from voting.

Instream Flow Reservation Tracking Database and Water Withdrawal Study

Coordinator Hatcher reported that both the Instream Flow Reservation Tracking Database and Water Withdrawal Study were sent to Greg Schuler of the DOE for his review. Mr. Schuler believes that both studies meet grant requirements. Hatcher reviewed an email from Mr. Schuler pointing out three areas he recommended the Council give some additional attention:

- 1) In the document "Instream Flow Reservation Tracking Database, WRIA 48, May 11, 2011, page 11, "Defining stream management reach boundaries", paragraph 2, last sentence: Please remove that this has been adopted by Ecology. The document currently doesn't need to be adopted by

Ecology, it only needs to be completed and submitted as part of the information required to support a future rule revision process for Chapter 173-548 WAC.

The Council agreed with this recommendation.

- 2) Table 5 in the same document does not include any data for the Early Winters Reach. Even if this reach has not had any building permits issued during this time frame it should still be included.

Council agreed to insert Early Winters Reach data.

- 3) In the Water Withdrawal Study, WRIA 48, Twisp, Washington, May 10, 2011: The document evaluates permit exempt indoor domestic use, exempt outdoor use, and exempt uses associated with stock water. The discussion does not address industrial/commercial uses that may be covered under a permit exemption. While these uses may not be effecting the reserves currently, they may in the future. The documents should recognize permit exempt industrial uses in some manner.

The Council discussed Commercial Use; Hatcher reported that it was left out on purpose. He suggested a letter of transmittal be attached saying that the Council purposely left it out because there was nothing to analysis at the time. Council Member Fisher suggested putting the reference in the report introduction because a letter of transmittal could possibly be lost or separated from the report.

“Proposed language” – “Because commercial/industrial uses are not included in the 2 cfs reservation established under the Instream Flow Rule Chapter 173.548 WAC, it was not considered when estimating quantities of water currently remaining in the reservation for each reach. Should the rule be revised to include industrial use, reservation quantities can be re-estimated by updating the instream flow tracking database as new information becomes available”.

Greg Schuler agreed with the above proposed language being added to the Water Withdrawal Study.

Future discussions to be held by the Council: Commercial/Industrial uses; closed basins and building a list of variables that can be inserted into the database.

Motion:

Council Member Fisher moved to adopt the report with all of the above changes agreed upon by the Council; adding the “proposed language” into the Introduction – 3rd paragraph. The motion was seconded by Council Member Phillips and passed unanimously.

Gain/Loss Analysis

Council discussed the draft memorandum from Aspect Consulting regarding the Gain/Loss Analysis. This study must prove that the hydrology is such in the valley that water from the Early Winters Reach remains part of the instream flow down to Winthrop and Twisp and that there is not a physical structure or obstruction that diverts water around the Towns. It was suggested that a statement be placed on page 3, paragraph 2, second sentence – Reference stating that there does not appear to be a physical structure or bedrock impediment between the Early Winters Reach and Twisp. Bill Sullivan of Aspect will make that change.

Mr. Sullivan shared with the Council that Aspect used the Konrad Report and improved on it regarding Early Winters and also compared it against historical records.

Council Member Ewing suggested the addition of the following language “It is not the intent of this report to address the observed issue that groundwater and surface water is in continuity in other reaches

that could be considered in the Methow Basin". Chairman Knott asked the Technical Committee to meet and review the Gain/Loss Analysis.

Coordinator Hatcher sent an electronic copy of the analysis to Mr. Schuler at this point in the meeting for his review.

Motion:

Council Member Ewing moved to set a Special Council meeting for June 23, 2011 at 5:00 pm to review the Gain/Loss Analysis. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

Action: Set a special meeting for June 23, 2011 @ 5:00 pm.

Three-Year Organizational Plan

Coordinator Hatcher and Ms. McCrea provided a memo to the Council outlining a pilot local water management program (RCW 90.92). Ms. McCrea volunteered to talk to a representative of the Walla Walla watershed planning group who are currently planning under this program; she will report back at the July 21, 2011 meeting. Ms. McCrea suggested as part of the organizational plan a transition timeline and steps be developed for a future meeting.

Action: Hatcher and McCrea will develop a transition and timeline.

Sub-Committees

Chairman Knott suggested two sub-committees are formed to aid in the Council's list of work to be complete: a Rule Revision Committee and an Organizational Development Committee. Coordinator Hatcher thanked the Technical Committee for their hard work.

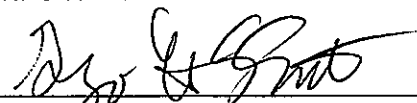
Next regular meeting/Agenda Items

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, July 21, 2011 at 5:00 pm at the Riverbank Building. Agenda items: Sub-Committee – Composition and Scope; Recharge Water Quality and Organizational Development.

Adjournment

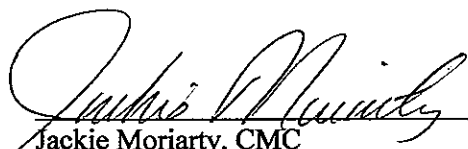
Council Member Fisher moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Phillips and passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary