

Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2009
Riverbank Building

Council Members present were: Chair Katharine Bill, Vice-Chair Mike Fort, Greg Knott, Vicky Welch, Marty Williams, Tom Gehring, Council Member Town of Twisp, Nate Wehmeyer, Okanogan County Planning, Coordinator Lee Hatcher and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent w/ notification: Ray Cambell and Tim Johnson, MVID.
Council Members Absent w/o notification:

Guests: Tim Flynn, Aspect, Bill Sullivan (by phone) Aspect, Lee Bernheisel, Mary McCrea and Jennifer Molesworth.

Chairman Bill called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 16, 2009 MEETING

MOTION:

Council Member Welch moved to approve the minutes from the July 16, 2009 meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Additions: DOE Update – Rusty Post
Kittitas Groundwater Rule Summary Update – Greg Knott

MOTION:

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

COORDINATOR'S REPORT/TIMELINE

Coordinator Hatcher passed out and reviewed the recent grant deliverables and completion reports. Hatcher reported a pre-authorization letter for the Instream Flow Rule Revision II and Phase IV year 2 had been submitted. Hatcher presented a press release submitted by the Department of Ecology to the Methow Valley News reporting on the grants received by the Methow Watershed Council.

Timeline review

- September 10, 2009 – Final/Draft Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) from Aspect. DIP out to public comment for 21 days.
- October 25, 2009 – Final DIP
- November – Complete Annual Water Use Report
- DIP Deadline Completion – October 31, 2009
- December 17, 2009 – Kick-off Fiscal Year 2010-2011 – Contract Tasks

After the September 17, 2009 meeting, post the draft DIP on the website, advertise in the Methow Valley News that the plan is available for review and locations that the plan can be obtained and Hatcher will be responsible to develop a list of agencies the DIP should be provided to for review.

KITTITAS GROUNDWATER RULE SUMMARY

Tim Flynn, as requested by Council Member Knott gave the Council an update on the Kittitas Groundwater Rule Summary. Flynn discussed: Exempt wells (moratoriums), future appropriations, water banks, return flows with consideration to outdoor watering, municipal treatment facilities and septic systems.

DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN DISCUSSION

Section 6.5 – Statutory & Policy Changes

- Water storage in closed basins
- Develop a companion description document to explain the DIP
- Weather cycles
- Education to agricultural users – exceptions to relinquishment

Section 6.6 – Management Tools

Canal Management – Unlined canals, riparian issues, benefits of expediting water for minimal loss versus trees dying and habitat.

Section 2 – Updates Since Watershed Plan Approval

Council agreed not to address habitat and to refer the issue to Methow Recovery Council (MRC); MRC chose to address water quantity. Council Member Knott volunteered to provide Mr. Flynn with MRC information.

Section 5.3 – Approval Process

Change “consensus” to “simple majority”.

Section 6.1 – Modify Chapter WAC 173-548

- Mr. Flynn discussed whether the Council would like to put in the plan that the 2 cfs could be treated as a reserve.
- Flynn suggested adding wording to expedite a transfer process.
- Chairman Bill suggested that the Council concentrate on developing the basic foundation of the DIP and add on other options later.

Chairman Bill stopped discussion on the DIP to address a process for individual comments and the timeline. The Council decided to have individual comments submitted to Secretary Moriarty by August 26, 2009, then to have the comments forwarded to Chairman Bill for review by her or a committee if necessary and then forwarded to Mr. Flynn for his review by August 31, 2009.

Mr. Post suggested the Council may need to consider having 2 meetings per month during the DIP process.

DOE UPDATE

Mr. Post updated the Council on a staffing change which will effect his position as the liaison/lead for the MWC. Mr. Post announced he will be moving to Spokane to take on a new position in that area and the MWC will now have Greg Schuler as their liaison/lead. Chairman Bill thanked Mr. Post for his assistance to the MWC.

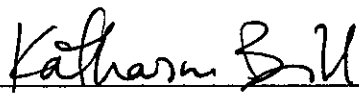
NEXT MEETING

The next MWC meeting was set for Thursday, September 17, 2009 starting at 6:00 pm.

ADJOURNMENT


MOTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Fort to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wehmeyer and passed unanimously.



Katharine Bill, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary