

Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
December 18, 2008
Twisp Town Hall

Council Members present were: Chairman Katharine Bill, Mike Fort, Greg Knott, Vicky Welch, Marty Williams, Tom Gehring, Council Member Town of Twisp, Coordinator Lee Hatcher and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent: Ray Campbell, Tim Johnson and Nate Wehmeyer.

Guests present: Tim Flynn and Bill Sullivan, Aspect Consulting, Rusty Post, DOE, Jennifer Molesworth, Bureau of Reclamation and Ken Sletten, Okanogan County Farm Bureau.

Chairman Bill called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Chairman Bill added discussion on the revised timeline.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE NOVEMBER 18, 2008

MOTION:

Council Member Fort moved to approve the minutes of November 18, 2008 as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

MWC TIMELINE

Chairman Bill briefly reviewed the recently revised timeline dated December 2008 – October 2009.

OUTLINE DIP DRAFT PROCESS/ASPECT CONSULTING KICKOFF MEETING

Chairman Bill introduced Tim Flynn, Project Manager and Bill Sullivan, Engineer of Aspect Consulting. Mr. Flynn gave a brief history of Aspect Consulting and provided an outline for the kickoff meeting:

- Introductions
- Scope of Work – Task 1
 1. Review existing literature
 2. Methods to estimate indoor/outdoor use
 - a. Existing meter data, GIS methods, timing

3. Outline voluntary metering program
 - a. Public outreach considerations
4. Project timeline and cost
 - a. Methods to estimate – look at existing data
 - b. Lot size, density use, Highlands Associates information, ditch use, GIS
5. Metering – pros and cons – What would be a representative sample?
6. Timeline to provide timely grant submission and planning
7. Direct the Detailed Implementation Plan
8. Mechanism for WRIA transfer
9. Other WRIA's, regulatory guidance
10. Develop range of options
 - a. Coordination with MWC and other agencies
11. Provide recommendations
12. Project timeline and cost

Other Task 1 related issues discussed:

1. Water exchange program – Best way to utilize the 2cfs, bank transfers, water trusts
2. Aspect recommends the implementation of water banking
3. Obtain sample language from WRIA 27 presently going through the rule revision process
4. Council Member Knott – Focus on the purpose and need for a water transfer.

Council Member Fort briefly discussed the relationship or in his opinion lack of relationship regarding the 5,000 daily water allowance versus the 2 cfs.

Chairman Bill discussed qualifying water use, such as recharge measuring the return flow and what is withdrawn from the household; volunteer metering and an alternative method of measuring using criteria such as lot size, specific areas in the valley, mapping techniques and population.

- Scope of Work – Task 2
 1. Outline the Detailed Implementation Plan
 2. Prioritize implementation actions
 - a. Joint effort with Coordinator Hatcher
 3. First draft of Detailed Implementation Plan
 - a. Review and input from MWC
 4. Second draft of Detailed Implementation Plan

It was recommended to establish actions and prioritization because of importance to grant funding.

- Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP)
 1. Outline
 2. Required Elements
 - a. RCW 90.82.043

3. Example Outline
 - a. The example provided to the MWC by Aspect was the WRIA 30 Action Table with prioritizations and responsibilities
4. Customize for WRIA 48
 - a. Next Steps
 - b. Priority listing of recommendations extracted from the Methow Basin Planning Unit.
 - i. Methow Watershed Council
 - ii. Protect and enhance management methods that benefit the Methow Basin
 - iii. Modify WAC 173.548
 - iv. Legal policy and discussions
 - v. Water management tools
 - vi. Other actions

Council Member Fort gave a brief history regarding the Methow Basin Planning Unit sharing that the two priorities were water storage and revising the rule (WAC 173.548).

Rule revisions and water management were discussed as two separate issues Mr. Flynn felt that some of the MWC issues could be handled outside the rule revision.

Mr. Flynn felt that a discussion should be held regarding water storage and how it may be achieved as well as the concept of artificial recharge strategies.

Mr. Sullivan reviewed the Detailed Implementation Plan timeline.

DOE IMPLEMENTATION GRANT PROPOSALS – INSTREAM FLOW RULE REVISION PHASE II AND GROUND WATER STORAGE AND RECHARGE – 2009- 2011

Coordinator Lee Hatcher gave the Council an update regarding the status of the 2009 – 2011 biennium grants. Hatcher relayed that two grants had been submitted within the deadline, the instream flow rule revision phase II and the ground water storage and recharge grants. Rusty Post discussed the funding climate at the state level currently and shared that the grants were prioritized because all projects may not be funded as they were in the past.

SHORELINE MASTER PLAN DRAFT

Council Member Welch reported to the Council regarding the draft Shoreline Master Plan (SMP). Welch has been representing the MWC and reporting back from time to time regarding progress. Council Member Welch reported that in the draft SMP there are provisions relating to water storage and that she feels that the MWC should review that section to confirm it fits in with the direction the Council is going.

2009 COUNCIL MEMBER NOMINATIONS

Council discussed the nominations for the 2009 Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

MOTION:

Council Member Fort moved to retain Katharine Bill as Chairman and himself (Mike Fort) as Vice-Chairman for 2009. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knott and passed unanimously.

TWIN LAKES RECHARGE PROJECT

Mr. Flynn discussed briefly the recharge study happening at Twin Lakes and shared that Dick Ewing was involved in the project. It was suggested that we request that Mr. Ewing come to a future meeting and discuss the project with the MWC.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ken Sletten, Okanogan County Salmon Recover Steering Committee discussed recharge and shared that he is extremely encouraged by the MWC's high level of discussion regarding recharge. Mr. Sletten relayed that he is concerned that the Bureau of Reclamation feels that it will take 5 years for a winter fish study to be completed.

HILLIS RULE

Mr. Flynn discussed the DOE's consideration of a rule change called the Hillis Rule. The Hillis Rule would expedite a priority processing of water rights with several conditions. A project that was water budget neutral with environmental benefits would be considered. This rule change may develop a 3rd qualifying criteria and that would be to allow priority processing of water rights for new water storage projects which would be considered a beneficial use. Mr. Flynn urged the Council to consider lobbying for this rule change.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Fort to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knott and passed unanimously.

Mike Fort, Vice - Chairman

ATTEST:

Jackie Moriarty, Secretary - CMC