

Methow Watershed Council  
Meeting Minutes  
June 19, 2008  
Twisp Town Hall

Council Members present were: Chairman Katharine Bill, Vice-Chairman Mike Fort, Marty Williams, Ray Campbell, Nate Wehmeyer, Okanogan County, Tim Johnson, MVID, Tom Gehring, Council Member Town of Twisp, and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent: Council Members Greg Knott and Vicky Welch.

Guests present: Mary McCrea, Kurt Danison, Highlands Associates, Rusty Post, DOE and Jennifer Molesworth, USBR.

Chairman Bill called the meeting to order at 6:09 pm.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Chairman Bill added a report on the Growth Summit.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 20, 2008 MEETING**

**MOTION:**

Council Member Gehring moved to approve the minutes of May 20, 2008 as sent. The motion was seconded by Council Member Johnson and passed unanimously.

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

Kurt Danison of Highlands Associates began by discussing apparent discrepancies between the previous data and current data regarding build-out. Danison stated that he has gone over the information several times and feels confident that the numbers he has are accurate.

Mr. Danison went through the Statement of Work according to his contract with the Methow Watershed Council: Reduction in number of potential parcels due to conservation easements; Estimate number of single family residences with irrigation water; Adjustment for amount of water currently allocated to state parks; Adjustment for amount of water currently allocated to the National Forest for campground use and stock watering; Investigate status of Wilson Ranch water right and report on current water use. Include research on any plans for a PUD and if a development is planned, proposed water use; Update amount of water currently being used under DOE's emergency rule (some group a/b systems); and Update number of parcels in closed basins.

Danison stated that Sandra Strieby is working with him on several aspects of this project and has prepared some of the reports that were provided to the Council. Danison stated that in regards residential dwellings he has been gathering data using market improvement value information.

Council Member Campbell shared that irrigation water for the Alta Lake State Park is drawn out of the Wells Pool not the Methow River

Danison reported that the DOE was contacted by Ms. Strieby and stated they did not have any information on the Wilson Ranch in the Early Winters reach. Danison pointed out that gathering that information may be more work then dollars allocated concluding that in order to obtain the information a request for public documents may have to be submitted to the DOE.

Danison reported that Rusty Post, Council Member Knott, Chairman Bill and he had met regarding closed basins and closed basin boundaries. Council agreed that the Golder sub-basin boundaries map is the most accurate. Council Member Fort stated he may be able to obtain a closed basin map.

Danison stated that he is still looking for more closed basin and irrigation district information and requested that if Council members had this information to please forward it to him.

Rusty Post suggested adding footnotes to the columns on Danison's spreadsheet to show what is included for clarity.

Chairman Bill suggested that in Table 1 Mr. Danison take out 2003 information and just show pre-1977 dwelling units and the 2008 data. Bill suggested that Danison's work would set a standard for the Council, and that then they could move forward and continue updating the spreadsheet as new data was received.

Post suggested that if the Council wants to redefine the boundaries that now would be the time. Defining the reaches in terms of how many people are going to be in the reach, water availability, development, management and drainage making the boundaries simple and clear to understand.

Chairman Bill questioned if there was more money available to extend Danison's contract. Secretary Moriarty will ask that question of Clerk/Treasurer Storms.

**HIGHLANDS ASSOCIATES AGREEMENT ADDENDUM AGENDA - ITEM #131**

Chairman Bill shared that Danison had provided the Town of Twisp and Watershed Council an addendum his contract extending his deadline for completion of the 8 tasks to June 30, 2008.

**OKANOGAN COUNTY DATA TRACKING – AGENDA ITEM #125**

Council Member Wehmeyer reported that he had talked to Perry Huston, Okanogan County Planning Director, regarding well log information and that they have had an intern entering that information into a data base. Council Member Wehmeyer also stated that the Okanogan County Health Department houses some well log information.

Rusty Post reminded the Council that Mr. Huston had reported that the County was going to report back to the Council regarding what kind of information they were tracking. Chairman Bill reiterated the need for an annual update on building permits to go along with well log information to determine water adequacy.

Council Member Wehmeyer will discuss these needs with Mr. Huston and report back to the Council.

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

Chairman Bill presented and discussed the draft Phase 4 Implementation Plan Scope of Work for the first year.

Post suggested breaking down Task 2.2 for clarity and to better budget for each item.

The Council discussed an available Administrative Grant in the amount \$9,000 to supplement administrative costs in FY 09. Council agreed to apply for the grant.

**MOTION:**

Council Member Fort moved to accept the Phase 4 Implementation proposed scope of work with modifications discussed by the Council for Section 2.2. The motion was seconded by Council Member Campbell and passed unanimously.

**INSTREAM FLOW RULE REVISION – QUESTION #5 – AGENDA ITEM #132**

Chairman Bill began discussion on Council Member Campbell's proposed fifth question: Why do we even have a 2cfs? Bill stated she has study the subject and found it to be an arbitrary number. Council Member Campbell feels that we are working on assumption. Chairman Bill stated that with the work that Mr. Danison is doing we will be building a good foundation to work forward.

Mr. Post shared that scientists studied the whole valley and considered closing the entire valley to development basically claiming it to be a closed basin prior to picking the 2cfs number.

Council agreed to leave the 2cfs as is and continue study dwellings.

### **WEBSITE, ADVERTISING – OUTREACH PLAN – AGENDA ITEM #133**

Chairman Bill stated that she felt that her serving as the Project Coordinator would be a conflict of interest and plans to continue to work for the Council as a volunteer.

Katharine reported that she intended to do three “My Turn” articles in the Methow Valley News to provide history and education about Watershed Planning and where we hope to go in the future with watershed planning.

Chairman Bill reported that she had received two quotes for website and graphic advertising design. A quote from Earth and Sky of \$712 for ad design and campaign of 4 ads (publishing costs would be separate) and logo and \$1,500 for a website update; and another quote from Medicine Wheel for \$500 to reorganize the current website; Katharine is already working with Medicine Wheel on the website.

Post stated that ads are important for public education.

Chairman Bill reported that she would have mockups of the designs for the July meeting.

Council Member Fort suggested a full page or fold out section in the newspaper, stating that you can never educate the citizens enough in his opinion.

#### **MOTION:**

Council Member Fort moved to approve up to \$1,500 be spent for ads, logo and website to be presented to the Council at the July meeting. The motion was seconded by Council Member Campbell and passed unanimously.

### **PROJECT COORDINATOR**

Chairman Bill read into record the job announcement for a Project Coordinator that had been previously ran. Bill reported that there were no resumes submitted.

Council briefly discussed what wage would be set for this position. The Council agreed that the wage would be contingent upon the stage of planning and project type at the time. Chairman Bill requested that discussion regarding a Project Coordinator be tabled until the Council begins Phase 4 Implementation. The Council agreed.

### **OKANOGAN COUNTY GROWTH SUMMIT – AGENDA ITEM #129**

Chairman Bill discussed the presentation that she gave on the Watershed Council’s behalf at the Okanogan County Growth Summit on June 11, 2008.

Chairman Bill reported that she had attended a Methow Restoration Council on June 17, 2008 meeting. Discussion was held regarding the Big Valley reach assessment, (Old Rocking Horse Ranch to Wolf Creek) biological value of the Big Valley reach, habitat

quality indicators and water quality. Bill stated that the group discussed adding water quantity in the study. Mr. Post pointed out the great benefits in sharing information and assisting other agencies.

Jennifer Molesworth, USBR, spoke about Big Valley habitat indicators, stream flow, water temperature and that they are currently collecting data. Post discussed coordinating projects to leverage funding

### **CONSULTANT MEETINGS**

Chairman Bill reported that both Aspect Consulting and Skillings/Connolly had requested a meeting and representatives of the Council met with them and gained knowledge of what their companies can do for the Council. Secretary Moriarty questioned whether each consultant should be aware that they can meet with the Council or should the consultant take that initiative to contact the Council. Council Members agreed that the consultants should make the contact.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

#### **MOTION:**

A motion was made by Council Member Fort to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Wehmeyer and passed unanimously.

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Katharine Bill, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Jackie Moriarty, CMC  
Secretary