

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2010
Riverbank Building**

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

Council Members Absent: Tim Johnson, MVID and Vice-Chair Mike Fort.

Guests: Greg Schuler DOE (by phone), Don Phillips and Mary McCrea.

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm.

Secretary Moriarty reminded Council members of the importance of tracking their time and filling out their volunteer forms.

Approval of the Minutes from the December 17, 2009 Meeting

Motion:

Council Member Williams moved to approve the minutes of December 17, 2009 as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Additions: None

Changes: Chairman Knott requested agenda items #166 (Public Outreach) and #167(Organizational Transition) be moved up on the agenda.

Motion:

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

Coordinator's Update

It was suggested that Mr. Hatcher establish a timeline; Hatcher agreed to work on a timeline.

Hatcher presented a memo to the Council showing the projects that are affected by the DOE funding cuts and a summary of each task within the project.

Phase IV Implementation Grant

Task 1. Project Management and Administration

Task 2. Administer Study Plans

Task 3. Completed Detailed Implementation Plan (Awaiting review from DOE)

Task 4. Organizational Development and Management

Instream Flow Rule Revision Grant

- Task 1. Domestic Water Withdrawal Study
- Task 2. Septic Recharge Study
- Task 3. Develop a Water Use Tracking System
- Task 4. Winter Flow Study.

Hatcher provided names, contact information and talking points to contact our 12th Legislative District members and a 22nd Legislative District member. Hatcher encouraged the council to write letters requesting extending funding for watershed planning.

Chairman Knott asked Mr. Schuler for his perspective on the recent DOE budget cuts to watershed planning. Schuler stated that watershed planning is simply not a priority and that people services are on the top Governor's list. Schuler reported there is a statewide movement to convey the importance of watershed planning. He urged the Council to take the opportunities to talk to our local legislators and west side legislators such as Kelly Linville and Karen Frazer (Environment and Water Committee member). Schuler shared that many groups have lost funding and watershed planning may be a tough sell right now.

Chairman Knott inquired as to how the current State Bill to combine watershed planning and salmon recovery seems to be gaining momentum. Mr. Schuler not sure how it will do in legislature, but the Governor is wanting to minimize the duplication of studies and to combine like groups. There is concern however that this combination may be geared more toward salmon recovery with a slightly different emphasis. Knott feels the Methow Valley is in a good position because agencies are already collaborating and sharing information.

Council Member Term Renewal

Council Member Ray Campbell's term expired in January 2010. Campbell resigned his position on the Council, effective immediately. His closing remarks: All the regulations in the world can't change what mother nature does up in the hills. Mr. Campbell left the meeting.

Vice-Chair Nominations

Chairman Knott nominated Mike Fort for Vice President. Council Member Welch volunteered to serve a term as Vice President; Council Member Wehmeyer nominated Council Member Welch for Vice President. Chairman Knott called for the vote; 5 votes for Welch and 1 vote for Fort.

Nominations to Fill Unexpired Term

Council discussed Jennifer Molesworth's willingness to serve on the Watershed Council. Knott explained three positions (#1, #3 & #5) on the Council are designated for representatives living in the North, Middle and Lower valley and 3 positions are designated for at-large representative. Chairman Knott suggested since he resided in the North part of the valley he could move into Katharine Bill's vacated position #1 as a North valley representative, leaving his at-large position #6 available to fill for an at-large representative, such as Ms. Molesworth.

The Council discussed contacting the Methow Valley News to update the public on what the MWC has been doing and at the same time announce the Lower valley Council position that is open due to Campbell's resignation. Hatcher will contact MVN and prepare a public announcement to be posted on the website and forwarded to the media, including the radio

stations and out-of-town newspapers.

Motion:

Council Member Bill moved to recommend Jennifer Molesworth be appointed to position #5 of the Methow Watershed Council. The motion was second by Council Member Welch and passed unanimously.

Chairman Knott asked that a poster be placed at the Post Offices in Twisp and Carlton announcing the open position on the board, Hatcher will draft the notice and get it to Secretary Moriarty for posting.

Organizational Transition

The Council discussed the cost of services i.e. secretarial services, website \$220/year for hosting rate and approximately \$200 for updates; Hatcher suggested paying ahead for services. Hatcher will volunteer between 4 - 8 hours per week of his time to help the MWC.

Schuler will watch for funding types that may fit the MWC and our projects. The Planning Unit funds have not been effected by budget cuts; administration funding is still available. There is a grant available for \$15,000 per year for a two year period but it requires a 100% match.

Council discussed finding grant match funds. Hatcher mentioned that if MWC members facilitate other agency meetings this can count as match.

Hatcher reported on an email from Bill Sullivan, Aspect Consulting regarding putting together a tool to track parcels and for water tracking. Aspect Consulting can update the Highlands Associates report to estimate the number of developable lots we have left. If Aspect Consulting is to help with tasks regarding the Instream Flow Rule they will need a timeline and a defined scope to aid them. Knott asked Hatcher to present a timeline with his proposed budget and scope for Aspect.

The Council discussed the diminishing DOE staff and came to the realization that if there are no staff members to consider a rule revision it is a moot point to develop one. Chairman Knott deducted the Council needs a person at the DOE as a sounding board, to provide a reality check for the group. Mr. Schuler told the Council that DOE staff is waiting to see how the budget works out, currently the watershed leads may be reassigned to other branches of the DOE. Schuler will advocate for the Council for now and if he is reassigned he will try to hook the MWC up with a person that can help.

Hatcher intends to produce a budget and develop a scope of work for a rule revision by email because of timeline. Mary McCrea volunteered her time to aid how she can regarding the rule revision.

Public Outreach

Prepare updated article in the Methow Valley News.

Planning Steps for Rule Revision

Lee handed out a memo as follows:

1. Revise Quantities
Propose to DOE that 1.48 cfs be taken from the Reserve in Early Winters, with ½ being assigned to each of the Reaches adjacent to the towns of Twisp and Winthrop.
2. Stipulate use in town
Stipulate that each of the towns may take up to .74 cfs from respective reaches only to be used for domestic water use.

Mr. Schuler cautioned the council to stay consistent with the DIP. Hatcher stated the DIP supports this proposal.

Ms. McCrea asked if there are pending applications in the Early Winters Reach. Mr. Schuler will have a water resources person at the DOE evaluate that question and find out how many applications are currently pending.

Chairman Knott posed the question of whether the council would like to work directly on getting water to the towns or if the rule should be more comprehensive and more inclusive. Council Member Bill suggested a one time request for the towns then prepare a full blown rule revision. Mr. Schuler pointed out the DOE would most likely prefer a comprehensive rule revision and may not be receptive to back to back requests.

Chairman Knott reminded the council that the Lost River Group A interruptible rights are also a priority; the Council should be careful not leave anyone out. Group A and B's relate back to development and any planning the Council does will effect those groups.

Hatcher asked if any leniency would be given due to the budget situation and should the Council concentrate on getting the critical things done now with the hope of getting a chance to do more later if the budget recovers. Mr. Schuler suggested conveying to the legislators the immediate need of the valley while taking advantage of the funding we have left.

Mr. Schuler offered to talk to Mark Schuppe, DOE and Bob Barwin, DOE to find out if they would support a "quick fix" for the Towns or would require a more comprehensive plan. Schuler asked for a formal written request from the Council prior to speaking with Schuppe and Barwin. Schuler will report back to Hatcher regarding the time period for public comment.

Agenda Item: Schuler's report from DOE and public outreach efforts by the Council

By-Laws – Regarding Council Member Absences

Moriarty discussed the by-laws regarding Council Member absence. Currently a Council Member could be removed from the Council if they miss 3 consecutive meetings, Moriarty asked if the Council would like to leave the word "consecutive" in the by-laws or require that no more than 3 meeting be missed with out consideration of dismissal from the Council. The Council decided to leave the word "consecutive" in the by-laws and suggested that maybe designees could be used for members of the 3 Initiating Government positions.

Legislative Water Bills/Issues – Council Member Welch commented on the email that she forwarded to the Council regarding a few legislative water bills. Welch feels that the council should weigh in specifically on Domestic Exempt Wells; it could be very significant. Moriarty will forward Welch's email again for review. The Council discussed gathering individual written comments. Chairman Knott volunteered to draft a letter and circulate it for comment to the

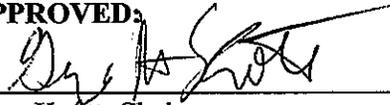
Council.

Mr. Schuler suggested attending the hearing regarding Domestic Exempt Wells and testify, stating it carries a lot of weight if you are prepared and have a good argument.

Adjournment

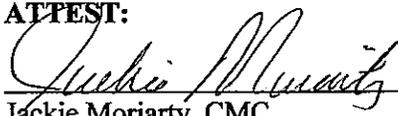
A motion was made by Council Member Williams to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bill and passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary