

**Methow Watershed Council  
Meeting Minutes  
July 21, 2011**

Council Member present: Greg Knott, Chairman, Bill Tackman, Brian Fisher, Dick Ewing, Tom Gehring (Town Council), Char Schumacher (Okanogan County Planning), Council Coordinator Lee Hatcher and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Guests present: Mary McCrea, Cascadia Law Group, Marty Williams, Vicky Welch, Ruth Dight, Pam Jenkins and Twisp Mayor Soo Ing-Moody.

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

Chairman Knott presented long time Council Member Marty Williams with a plaque thanking him for his years of insight and hard work for the Methow Watershed Council; Williams recently resigned his position as a member of the Council.

**Agenda Additions and Deletions**

Deletions:       None

Additions:     Vice-Chair Position and Council Coordinator Contract.

**Motion:**

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

**Approval of Minutes – June 23, 2011 – Special Meeting**

**Motion:**

Council Member Fisher moved to approve the minutes of the 06/23/11 special meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Tackman and passed unanimously.

**Coordinator's Report**

Coordinator Lee Hatcher reported on the following:

- Reminder to all present to fill out their volunteer forms.
- Reviewed the timeline for July – December 2011.
- He shared there should be a Planning Unit Support grant available from the DOE for administrative costs from July 1 – October 31, 2011 in the amount of \$16,000.
- Mayor Ing-Moody reported that the MWC should hear whether any of the three pending grants for FY 12-13 have been awarded in mid-August.
- He reported the Watersmart Grant awards for the climate change work he is doing should be announced at the end of August.
- He is researching a NOAA Fisheries grant that could be used for both climate change and water storage projects.

**Motion:**

Council Member Fisher moved to allow Coordinator Hatcher to develop a letter of intent for the NOAA Fisheries Grant; the letter of intent will be circulated amongst Council Members for their review. The motion was seconded by Council Member Tackman and passed unanimously.

**Action: Hatcher will write the letter of intent for the grant and circulate it to the Council Members.**

Hatcher discussed pursuing grant support for his and Ms. McCrea's work on Organizational Development and Watershed Management.

**Action: Council directed Hatcher to pursue grants for the work listed above.**

**Three Initiating Governments Reports**

Town of Twisp

Mayor Ing-Moody shared with the Council that she was in the process of hiring a new Grant Administrator for the Town.

Methow Valley Irrigation District

No representative was present.

Okanogan County

Council Member Schumacher reported the critical areas plan is still being worked on by the County Planning Commission.

Chairman Knott asked Council Member Schumacher if she had heard anything regarding the letter that was sent from the MWC to the County Commissioners regarding planning and watershed planning; Council Member Schumacher will check with the Commissioners Clerk and report back to Knott.

**Sub-Committee Reports**

Political Action Committee

Council Member Tackman had nothing to report at this time.

**Vice-Chair Position**

Council Member Tackman nominated Council Member Ewing to fill out the unexpired 6 months as Vice-Chair. Council Member Ewing accepted the job and the Council agreed unanimously to the appointment.

**Coordinator Contract**

Council Coordinator Hatcher discussed his contract with the Council. He asked that his new contract encompass FY 12-13 (July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2013). He asked that his limit be increased to \$50,000 per year contingent on funding and approval from the MWC and the Town.

**Action: Set up a meeting for an Evaluation for Coordinator Hatcher; this process is part of his FY11 contract.**

**Aspect Consulting Contract**

Chairman Knott explained that it would be unwise at this point to change consultants because of the history that Aspect Consulting has with the MWC. Secretary Moriarty stated that according to the Town’s procurement policy, Aspect Consulting can be considered a sole source because they have been serving the MWC since it was formed. Moriarty will check the current base contract and determine if another contract needs to be approved.

**Action:** Moriarty will make suggested changes to Hatcher’s contract and determine if the Aspect Consulting contract is still valid.

**New Sub-Committees**

The Council discussed forming two new sub-committees – Rule Revision and Organizational Development. Council Member Ewing suggested forming the Organizational Development committee after he and Ms. McCrea shared some additional information with the Council.

**Rule Revision Committee**

Volunteers were: Hans Smith, Greg Knott and Bill Tackman; Smith will serve as the Chair.

**Technical Committee**

Council decided the Technical Committee would now be comprised of: Don Phillips, Bill Tackman, Mike Fort and Brian Fisher; Greg Knott will serve as an alternate and Tackman will serve as the Chair.

Each committee will designate someone to take notes and those notes will be submitted to Secretary Moriarty for distribution to the Council at their following regular meeting and to retain as part of the permanent record.

**Recharge Water Quality**

Ruth Dight a resident of the Lower Methow and a planner provided the Council with maps and handouts regarding the danger to water quality from septic recharge. Ms. Dight is concerned about condensed zoning in the Methow Valley and the groundwater contamination issue from septic tanks improperly installed or dilapidated from age.

Council Member Schumacher volunteered to invite the Okanogan County Department of Health (DOH) to the September MWC meeting to address the Council on the issue and to share what they are currently doing to diminish the risk.

Ms. Jenkins commented that agriculture fertilizer can also be a contributing factor to increased levels of nitrates in the water.

Ms. Dight feels that the Methow Valley is at risk for groundwater contamination because of the hydrology of the valley.

RCW 90.92 addresses contamination and other issues related to watershed planning.

**Action:** Council Member Schumacher will invite DOH to the September meeting and Council Member Fisher will discuss the issue with John Crandall, Wildfish (Mr. Crandall is currently working on a project through Centennial Clean Water and may be able to provide the Council with some information).

## **Organizational Development – Legal Opinions**

Ms. McCrea discussed 4 legal options for the MWC to consider.

- Option 1 – Statutory Management Board – Recommended Option
  - Under this option the MWC would become a statutorily authorized water management entity under 90.92. A pilot plan for this type of entity is what Walla Walla currently plans under.
- Option 2 – Associated Methow Water Management Board (MWMB) Support Foundation – Recommended with Option 1
  - Form a non-profit corporation with the sole mission being to raise funds for the MWMB; this is being done successfully by the Nisqually Watershed.
- Option 3 – Special Purpose District – Not Recommended
  - Establishing a special purpose district allowed under RCW 39.80.020; there is no such chapter currently for watershed planning.
- Option 4 – Fisheries Enhancement Groups – Not Recommended
  - These groups are authorized under RCW 77.95 as non-profits; it is unlikely to be implementable.

Option 1 would comply with the requirements in the Methow Watershed Plan and the Detailed Implementation Plan.

Council Member Ewing discussed three documents previously emailed to the Council members for review: 1) the 2009 Cascade Water Alliance Bylaws; the Cascade Water Alliance Interlocal Contract and RCW 39.34 Interlocal Cooperation Act; he also mentioned RCW 24.06. The Cascade Water Alliance board is comprised of all government representatives. Council Member Ewing felt that these documents were worth a review by the Council.

### **Organizational Development Committee**

Volunteers were: Dick Ewing, Bill Tackman and Soo Ing-Moody or Tom Gehring; Dick Ewing will serve at the Chair.

The Council also discussed Local Improvement Districts and Special Districts as options. It was suggested to invite a representative from the Walla Walla watershed and the Cascade Water Alliance to a future meeting.

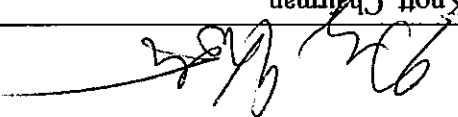
### **Next Meeting Agenda Items**

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, August 18, 2011 at 5:00 pm at the Riverbank Building. Agenda items: Continued work on Rule Revision; Coordinator Lee Hatcher's Contract; and Aspect Consulting Contract

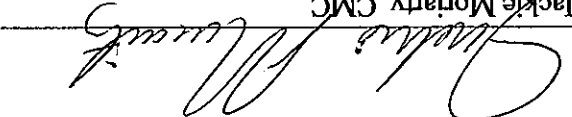
Adjournment

Council Member Schumacher moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

**APPROVED:**

  
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Greg Knott, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
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Jackie Moriarty, CMC  
Secretary