

Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2008
Twisp Town Hall

Council Members present were: Chairman Katharine Bill, Vice-Chairman Mike Fort, Greg Knott, Vicky Welch, Ray Campbell, Nate Wehmeyer, Okanogan County, Tom Gehring, Council Member Town of Twisp and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent: Marty Williams and Tim Johnson, MVID.

Guests present: Kent Woodruff, Forest Service.

Chairman Bill called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Chairman Bill removed the Department of Ecology (DOE) update due to Rusty Post's absence. Council Member Welch requested discussion be held to set a meeting date.

MOTION:

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 6, 2007 MEETING

MOTION:

Council Member Wehmeyer moved to approve the minutes of December 6, 2008 as sent. The motion was seconded by Council Member Welch and passed. Council Member Fort abstained because he was absent at that meeting.

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY GRANTS

Rule Revision Grant – Agenda Item #104

Secretary Moriarty reported that the scope of work for the Rule Revision Grant had been submitted on December 18, 2006; the draft contract had been received from the DOE for review; the contract was reviewed by Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms and Rusty Post; the official contract was received and signed by Mayor Vern Nations on January 10th and would be mailed back out to the DOE on January 11, 2008. Moriarty reported that according to the contract the grant was effective as soon as both parties signed it.

Phase IV Implementation Grant – Agenda Item #106

Council Member Knott after a meeting with Secretary Moriarty and Rusty Post and a separate meeting with Chairman Bill and suggests that the council reconsider submitting the scope of work for the Phase IV Implementation grant until June 2008. Council Member Knott explained that there were three reasons to wait to submit the grant scope of work: If the Council waited until June it would fall into the DOE's fiscal year which would simplify financial issues; the who, what, where, how and when details need to be agreed upon; and the Council needs to identify what will be the storage/recharge projects. Council Member Welch requested that Knott prepare a specific list of questions to be answered by the Council.

MOTION:

Council Member Knott moved to submit the Phase IV Implementation Plan Grant in June 2008. The motion was seconded by Council Member Welch and passed unanimously.

Council Member Fort stated that as the Council proceeds they need to check back and make sure their direction is consistent with the Watershed Plan.

Chairman Bill shared a comment from Sara Walker, Entiat Watershed Council, in her group she suggested that everyone set their personal frustration aside and focus on the tasks. Bill agreed and hopes our group can follow their example.

MOTION:

Council Member Knott moved that he and Chairman Bill meet and prepare a list of priorities via email prior to the next meeting and that sub-committees be formed at the next meeting to speed up progress. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

HIGHLANDS ASSOCIATES CONTRACT – AGENDA ITEM #118

Secretary Moriarty was directed to contact Kurt Danison, Highland Associates, when the grant is in effect to start work on Task 1 of the Rule Revision Scope of Work.

Secretary Moriarty reported that developing a consultants list for future projects would consist of the Council: Developing criteria for a Request for Qualifications (RFQ); developing an evaluation process; deciding where advertising should be done; and deciding if the list should be developed for a one or two year period. Moriarty explained that the advertising is the most expensive part of the process however if the Council decided not to develop a list, advertising would be a large expense every time a consultant was needed for a project.

MOTION:

Council Member Welch moved to develop a consultants list for a 2 year period. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knott and passed unanimously.

COUNCIL MEMBER TERMS – OFFICER NOMINTAIONS – AGENDA ITEM #120

Council Member Gehring reported that via phone he and Nate met to discuss the two expired council positions as required according to the Methow Watershed Council By-Laws. Secretary Moriarty reported that both current Council Members Katharine Bill and Mike Fort were interested in continuing on the council. Gehring reported that he and Nate feel that both should remain on the Council. Secretary Moriarty stated that Tim Johnson, MVID representative, was also in favor of the decision made to keep both members. Johnson was unable to attend the meeting with Gehring and Wehmeyer. Secretary Moriarty reported that the only nomination received was from Council Member Knott, nominating Katharine Bill for Chairman and Mike Fort for Vice-Chairperson.

MOTION:

Council Member Knott moved to re-elect Katharine Bill for Chairman and Mike Fort for Vice-Chairman. The motion was seconded by Council Member Campbell and passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT – AGENDA ITEM #122

Moriarty distributed a finance report prepared by Clerk/Treasurer Storms showing to-date expenditures for administrative costs. The finance report showed that approximately 1/3 of the \$18,000 budgeted for FY08 has been used for training (Chairman Bill), administrative costs for Storms and Moriarty and overhead.

SET REGULAR MEETING DATE AND TIME

The Council discussed which weeks and days of the month worked best for their current schedules. The Council agreed to set meetings for the third Thursday of each month from 6:00-8:00 pm.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Shorelines Management Program

Council Member Welch reported on the Okanogan County Shoreline Management Program meetings she has been attending as a MWC representative. Welch explained that Kurt Danison, Highlands Associates, is working on this project with the County and that it is going slowly. So far they are in the data gathering stage trying to identify and designate bodies of water to evaluate and include in the plan.

Methow Restoration Council meeting

Council Member Knott announced there would be a Methow Restoration Council Meeting on Tuesday, January 15, 2008 starting at 10:00 am at the Forest Service Complex.

Beaver Reintroduction Plan

Kent Woodruff, Forest Service, shared with Council a new program that they are currently studying and seeking partners and funding to restore head waters. The program involves relocating beavers from the valley floor higher up in the mountains where their damming efforts are proving to protect and promote water storage.

The Council decided to consider this project when they discuss the storage and recharge projects.

Council Member Fort urged everyone to revisit RCW 173.548 for the next meeting on Thursday, February 21, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Gehring to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Welch and passed unanimously.

Katharine Bill, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary