

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2013**

Council Members present: Greg Knott, Chairman, Brian Fisher, Mike Fort, Bill Tackman, Dick Ewing, Hans Smith (Alternate/Twisp Mayor Appointee), Char Schumacher (Okanogan County), Lee Hatcher, Coordinator and Jackie Moriarty, Secretary.

Guest: Dave Holland, Watershed Lead, DOE

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:11 pm.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Additions: None

Changes: None

Motion:

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion:

Council Member Smith moved to approve the minutes of March 21, 2013 as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Grant Administrator's Report

A Phase IV Grant report was provided by the Town Grant Administrator for the Council's review.

Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Hatcher reported on the following:

- He reminded everyone to turn in their volunteer slips.
- He provided the April – July 2013 timeline – He was asked to add the May 8, 2013 meeting with County Commissioner Campbell and John Wyss, Farm Bureau to correct the dates of the May, June and July MWC meetings.
- He thanked the Technical Committee for their help on the Water Storage Project. Trout Unlimited and Aspect Consulting LLC have a contract for Task 4 and Trout Unlimited and John Crandall; Confluence Aquatics have a contract for Task 5 related to habitat. Trout Unlimited is going to adjust the budget for Task 4 and shift \$5,000 to Lee Hatcher, Project Manager's budget for data collection; land owners are currently being contacted.

Council Member Fort discussed MWC member's liability; Chairman Knott will research the possibility or need of having individual agreements with landowners indemnifying them or MWC members from liability for injury.

Action: Chairman Knott will research any possible liabilities.

Council discussed developing quality standards related to having third party collecting data for Aspect's work on Task 4. Council Member Fort's concern is that the data is included in the report being produced by Aspect and then the data gathering method or the qualification of the person gathering the data is questioned by DOE. Aspect's deadline for providing a final document to the MWC is March 2014.

Chairman Knott requested that each of the Committees work on a timeline showing the projected date of completion for the work they are currently doing.

Action: Add the May 8, 2013 meeting with County Commissioner Campbell and correct the dates of the May, June and July MWC meetings.

Three Initiating Governments Reports

Okanogan County

Council Member Schumacher reported the Okanogan County Critical Areas ordinance should be moving from the Planning Commission and to the County Commissioners for their review soon.

Town of Twisp

There was nothing to report at this time.

Methow Valley Irrigation District

No representative was present.

Sub-Committee Reports

Political Action Committee

Chairman Tackman reported there would be a meeting with the committee, County Commissioner Campbell and John Wyss of the Farm Bureau on May 8, 2013 at 1:00 pm.

Technical Review Committee

Council Member Fisher stated there was nothing new to report at this time.

Instream Flow Rule Revision Committee (IFRR)

Council Member Smith reported that the next IFRR committee meeting would be on May 7, 2013 at 5:00 pm at the Riverbank Building

Organizational Development

Committee Chairman Ewing reported that he, Chairman Knott and John Wyss met and discussed three areas of the proposed legislation that need revision consideration. Under Board's authorities, duties, and responsibilities - Section 1(h) currently reads "Acquire water rights by donation, purchase, or lease" the proposed additional language is "for the purpose of retaining water rights in WRIA 48, mitigation and preserving water for agriculture"; Section 2 in part currently reads "The board may acquire, purchase,

hold, lease, manage, occupy and sell real and personal property, including water rights, or any interest in water rights” the proposed additional language is “necessary to implement projects and goals defined in the Detailed Watershed Plan or future revisions thereof”; and Section 4 the proposed additional language “Funding the Watershed Board will be its ability to store water, acquire water rights for the water bank and lease or sell water as long as the water rights are retained in the WRIA”.

Mr. Holland was asked to check into the legality of MWC leasing water outside of the WRIA while retaining the rights within the WRIA.

It was suggested by Mr. Wyss that the MWC create a business plan outlining in part the composition of the board, purposes of buying water or land, long-term goals and a funding strategy.

Funding Strategy

Coordinator Hatcher reported on his recent redirection related to pursuing a non-profit status for the MWC. Hatcher needs to find Directors and Incorporators; Greg Knott, Lee Hatcher, Dick Ewing and Brian Fisher volunteered to be the initiating Incorporators and Hatcher will continue to seek persons interested in serving as directors. Coordinator Hatcher stated that he is getting some of his information by reviewing the Nisqually by-laws. Hatcher was asked to circulate by email a copy of the Nisqually by-laws for council review.

Council Member Fisher moved to authorize Coordinator Hatcher to proceed with the development of non-profit status for the MWC. The motion was seconded by Council Member Ewing and passed. Council Member Smith abstained from voting.

Action: Coordinator Hatcher will email a copy of the Nisqually by-laws to the Council for their review.

Next Meeting (May 16, 2013) - Agenda Items


May agenda items:

- Funding Strategy/Non-Profit

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council Chairman Knott adjourned the meeting at 6:49 pm.

APPROVED:



Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary