

**Methow Watershed Council
Special Meeting Minutes
October 29, 2009
Riverbank Building**

Council Members present were: Chair Katharine Bill, Greg Knott, Vicky Welch, Marty Williams, Tim Johnson, MVID, Coordinator Lee Hatcher and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent w/ notification: Mike Fort and Nate Wehmeyer.

Council Members Absent w/o notification: Ray Campbell and Tom Gehring.

Guests: Greg Schuler, DOE, (by phone), Tim Flynn, Aspect, (by phone), Mary McCrea, Tracy Bradford, Ken Sletten and John Lomison.

Chairman Bill called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

Approval of the Minutes from the September 29, 2009 Meeting

Motion:

Council Member Williams moved to approve the minutes of September 29, 2009 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Johnson and passed unanimously.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Additions: None

Changes: None

Motion:

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

Coordinator's Report/Timeline

Coordinator Hatcher stated he will be updating the timeline after the Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) is approved. Hatcher reported approximately 25% of the funds from the Phase IV 2nd Year grant have been expended and the Instream Flow Rule Revision Grant is still being worked on by the Department of Ecology (DOE) and Town of Twisp.

Final Draft Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) Public Comment Review

Tracy Bradford submitted public comments and was present at the meeting. Ms. Bradford inquired as to whether there was money available to set up a watershed information office to help valley residents understand water trusts/banking and their water rights. Mr. Schuler reported there are other WRIA's currently offering information offices. Mr. Schuler offered to provide a list of those WRIA's so the MWC could contact them for ideas.

Council Member Knott explained the MWC is just in the process of planning the implementation of the Watershed Master Plan and sees an information office as something in the future. Mr. Sletten briefly discussed the state budget and the fact funding may become scarce in the future for these types of projects.

The Council Members present agreed the MWC needs to take a larger role in public education as referred to in the DIP. Ms. McCrea suggested valley residents would be more comfortable with volunteers from the MWC instead of the DOE.

Council Member Knott thanked Ms. Bradford for her comments and agreed the MWC should make people aware of water rights issues through workshops, volunteers and partnering with other agencies. Knott suggested a committee be formed to research these ideas; he volunteered to serve on the committee.

Ken Sletten submitted public comments and was present at the meeting. The Council discussed Mr. Sletten's comments by number and importance.

#2 & #3 - Mr. Sletten pointed out the confusion of contact information in the current DIP. It was decided the Town Hall and MWC phone numbers would appear in the DIP and the MWC website address.

#6 – Mr. Sletten questioned the fact stated in the DIP: “Over 80% of WRIA 48 is owned by the Federal Government”. Mr. Sletten reported according to documents he has read the percentage is at least 85%. Mr. Flynn agreed to confirm the percentage with Gary Reed of the US Forest Service .

#11 - Mr. Sletten suggested a list of acronyms and definitions should be added to the DIP; the Council agreed.

#12 – Mr. Sletten questioned the impact thinning and undergrowth control of the forest would have on the instream flow. Council Member Knott shared his knowledge that there is only a small percentage of the forest that could actually be controlled, the majority is untouchable. Knott did agree the MWC should stay engaged in the Forest Management Plan, but he felt it was not an issue for MWC to spend a lot of time on.

#16 – Mr. Sletten cautioned MWC members about section 6.1.2 which reads: “Encourage users of new exempt wells measure and report monthly average and annual water usage to MWC”. After discussion it was decided by the Council to add the words “to voluntarily” after well in the above sentence on page 24, 3rd bullet.

Council Member Williams discussed adding the word “voluntarily” to Table 12, it was pointed out that Table 12 was taken directly from the Watershed Master Plan and could not be altered. Council Member Knott pointed out that if left as is it could be a distraction to the rest of the plan and he felt by adding “voluntarily” would show the Council's intent. Mr. Flynn suggested adding it into the appendix; another suggested adding it as a footnote. The Council agreed to have Mr. Flynn research and decide the appropriate place for the addition.

The Council briefly discussed a review and/or change process for the Watershed Master Plan. Mr. Schuler shared some WRIA's are considering a 5 year review process.

Council Member Williams questioned why on Table 12 – Section 6 under Plan Reference it was left as “unknown”; Mr. Flynn stated it was copied directly from the Watershed Master Plan. The Council discussed adding a reference to Table 12 that it was added to the DIP as it reads in the Watershed Master Plan.

#23 – The above discussion satisfied Mr. Sletten's comments.

#18 - Mr. Sletten discussed Section 6.2 – Preserve Agricultural Lands and Uses stating down zoning of agricultural land could be a detriment. Council decided to add the words “to discourage” to the second sentence in the first full paragraph starting with “The first component...” – page 26.

#15 – Mr. Sletten requested the phrase “best available science” be changed to “peer reviewed science”. The Council decided to delete the words “and based available science” from the last paragraph last sentence on page 23.

The Council decided to delete the last sentence in the first paragraph of Section 5.3 – Approval Process which read: “Ecology acceptance is subject to approval by the legislative authority of Okanogan County following a public hearing”. – page 19.

Secretary Moriarty questioned if Perry Huston, Okanogan County Planning had reported back to the MWC regarding the need for a separate SEPA process for the DIP. Coordinator Hatcher will contact Mr. Huston regarding the issue.

Motion:

Council Member Welch moved to approve the Detailed Implementation Plan as amended with comments and to forward the plan to the Department of Ecology for review and approval. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knott and passed unanimously.

Council Member Williams asked Mr. Schuler if he was satisfied with the DIP as amended and passed. Mr. Schuler stated he is the person to review the DIP and he felt the MWC had done a great job.


Council Member Knott shared his surprise of receiving only 3 public comments regarding the DIP. Secretary Moriarty shared with the Council her efforts in getting the word out to valley residents regarding the public comment period. Ms. McCrea suggested providing pro-bono information clinics once a month. It was suggested that a list of issues be developed with a statement such as “Why does it matter to you”? to get peoples attention. Ms. McCrea and Ms. Bradford volunteered to help with developing a list of ideas. Mr. Schuler suggested appointing MWC members to attend other agency meetings to keep them up on current MWC issues.

The Council briefly discussed the advantages of group wells versus individual exempt wells.

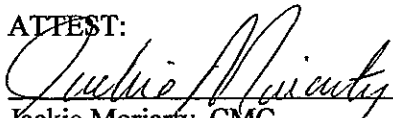
Chairman Bill announced the next meeting would be held on November 19, 2009 at 5:00 pm.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Council Member Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knott and passed unanimously.



Katharine Bill, Chairman

ATTEST:


Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary