

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2011**

Council Member present: Greg Knott, Chairman, Marty Williams, Bill Tackman, Mike Fort, Brian Fisher, Don Phillips, (MVID), Tom Gehring (Town Council Member), Perry Huston (Okanogan County Planning), Council Coordinator Lee Hatcher and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Guests present: Mary McCrea, Cascadia Law Group and Lee Bernhisel.

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:13 pm.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Deletions: None

Additions: None

Motion:

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

Approval of Minutes – March 17, 2011

Motion:

Council Member Fort moved to approve the minutes of 03/17/11 as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fisher and passed unanimously.

Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Lee Hatcher reported on the following:

- May – June 2011 Timeline – Important upcoming meeting dates
 - Technical Review Committee – May 16, 2011
 - MWC – May 19, 2011
 - Technical Review Committee – June 13, 2011
 - MWC – June 16, 2011
- Bureau of Reclamation Watersmart Grant approximately \$200,000 to continue work on Climate Change is due May 13, 2011; Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) will be the lead on this grant.
- DOE Fiscal Years 12 & 13 grant funding is undetermined at this time; but because of the work the MWC is doing we seem to be ranking high as far as funding priority.

Three Initiating Governments Reports

Town of Twisp

Council Member Gehring had nothing to report at this time.

Methow Valley Irrigation District

Council Member Phillips had nothing to report at this time.

Okanogan County

Council Member Huston reported the Okanogan County Commissioners will be deliberating on the public comment gathered in regards to the County Comprehensive Plan. Any changes made will then go back to the County Planning Commission where they will conduct at least one more public hearing regarding the Commissioner's draft. Huston announced the County is currently working on all of their planning documents including the Shorelines Master Plan.

Sub-Committee Reports

Political Action Committee

Council Member Tackman reported on the following:

- The County Commissioners requested Watershed Planning not be referenced in the Comprehensive Plan.

Technical Review Committee

There was not a meeting.

Draft Letter to the Okanogan County Commissioners Regarding the Comprehensive Plan and Watershed Planning

Chairman Knott presented to the Council for review a letter he drafted to the Okanogan County Commissioners regarding water planning and land use. In the letter Chairman Knott is asking the County to work with the MWC to plan for future water management. Knott asked that the Council Members review the letter and have any comments back to Secretary Moriarty by Friday, May 13th. Chairman Knott will implement the comments and have a letter ready for passage at the May 19th meeting.

Action: Hatcher will prepare a resolution for passage of the letter.

Rule Revision Process

Mary referred everyone to her May 2, 2011 draft definitions. The Council discussed which uses should be allowed in the reserve and quantity. Coordinator Hatcher reported that Walla Walla and Lewis County have limits currently but are vulnerable to a challenge according to Greg Schuler, DOE. Hatcher explained his understanding that we can't set the quantity in the rule only how it is used, however the Council could submit recommended limits to be reviewed by the Legislation for their consideration. McCrea discussed the possibility of setting limits to what can be taken from the reserve, separate from the State exempt well amounts. The Council was reminded that ground water and surface water are both regulated separately.

Council discussed possible options:

- No quantities
- Don't put a quantity in the rule and debt reserve.
- Single domestic only gets the determined gallons per day (gpd) from the reserve.

Action: Ms. McCrea will contact the DOE Attorney General Division to ask about her proposed reserve use and quantity language.

Chairman Knott discussed prioritizing uses and quantities; prioritize how much can be acquired under the rule.

Vacant Council Positions

Chairman Knott announced that Council Member Welch (Position #3 – Middle) and Williams (Position #4 – At Large) have announced their resignation for their Council positions on the MWC. Council Member Welch was not present but Chairman Knott thanked her and Council Member Williams for all of their hard work and years of service. Chairman Knott asked Secretary Moriarty to work with him regarding advertising these two positions and he asked that the current Council Members mention these open positions to others.

Action: Secretary Moriarty and Chairman Knott will work on advertising the two open positions.

Appointment of a Vice-Chairman

Chairman Knott suggested Council wait to elect a Vice-Chairman until we have a full Council; Council Members agreed.

Draft Three Year Plan

Coordinator Hatcher proposed to the Council two mission scenarios from the draft Three Year Plan he prepared; Hatcher asked Council to choose which scenario they would like to work towards.

Mission Scenario 1 – Report water use and projected water use, coordinate information with water related entities, and educate the public about water use issues in the Methow River Watershed.

Mission Scenario 2 – Actively manage the watershed water supplies for a sustainable balance between human and ecological needs by employing voluntary strategies for optimizing water use, and providing on-going public education and awareness information.

Each scenario outlined organizational responsibilities, organizational development, operational description, MWC and staff and operating facilities and equipment.

The Council agreed to work towards Mission Scenario 2 at this time.

USGS Climate Change Project – Resolution #11-001 – Regarding Submission of a WaterSmart Grant Application Through the Bureau of Reclamation

Coordinator Hatcher presented Resolution #11-001 requesting a blanket approval for future grant application submittals from the Council. Hatcher explained again that a WaterSmart Grant is available through the Bureau of Reclamation and due for submission on May 13, 2011; he requested the Council's approval. Hatcher also explained that the Town of Twisp would not serve as lead on this grant because WaterSmart Grants are only available to non-profit agencies not governments and that MSRF would serve as lead with the administrative cost of 13%. The proposed grant submittal would be for \$200,000 to further fund Coordinator Hatcher's work with Climate Change. Secretary Moriarty reminded Chairman Knott that MWC would need to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement or a contract with MSRF if the grant was received and administered by them.

Motion:

Council Member Fisher moved to approve Resolution # 11-001 as presented. Council Member Fort seconded the motion. Council Member Fisher then asked to amend his motion to change the language slightly to include the words "as approved by the MWC"; Council Member Fort seconded the amendment and the motion passed. Council Members Gehring and Fisher abstained from voting.

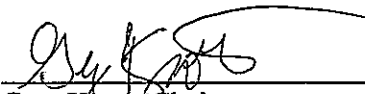
Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 5:00 pm at the Riverbank Building. Coordinator Hatcher and Secretary Moriarty will work on agenda items prior to the meeting.

Adjournment

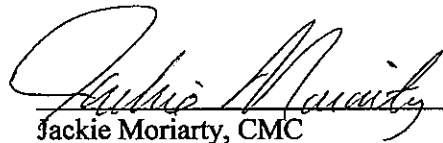
Council Member Fort moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fisher and passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary