

Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2008
Twisp Town Hall

Council Members present were: Chairman Katharine Bill, Vice-Chairman Mike Fort, Greg Knott, Marty Williams, Vicky Welch, Ray Campbell, Tim Johnson, MVID, Tom Gehring, Council Member Town of Twisp and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent: Nate Wehmeyer, Okanogan County.

Guests present: Rusty Post, DOE

Chairman Bill called the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Council Member Fort requested time to give a report on the Aquifer Storage and Recharge conference he attended.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 17, 2008 MEETING

MOTION:

Council Member Fort moved to approve the minutes of April 17, 2008 as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

HIGHLANDS ASSOCIATES UPDATE – ADENDA ITEM #118

Chairman Bill discussed and gave out handouts and maps of the presentation given by Kurt Danison of Highlands Associates at the previous meeting held on May 15, 2008. Discussion was held regarding a member of the Council spending time to help Mr. Danison understand exactly what the Council is wanting out of the research he is working on for the Instream Rule Revision.

The Council revisited a few of the questions that Mr. Danison needed clarification on such as: mother-in-law houses and how they should be counted; conservation lands and how many houses can be placed on one well.

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Chairman Bill discussed hiring a project coordinator that could also be used to work with Mr. Danison. Chairman Bill reported that Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms had attended the May 15th meeting and shown that she and Secretary Moriarty would not be able to use the Administrative Grant money budgeted for 2008 prior to the fiscal year ending on June

30, 2008. Council discussed possibly compensating either Chairman Bill or Council Member Knott to work with Mr. Danison. Council Member Fort cautioned against perception and/or appearance of a volunteer Council Member being paid. Council agreed that if a Council Member was compensated it would depend on budget and would only be for the duration before a project coordinator could be hired. Council Member Knott felt that finding the right person for the job was very important.

MOTION:

Council Member Fort moved to pay up to \$50 per hour for a Council Member on an interim measure to work with Kurt Danison, Highlands Associates. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knott and passed unanimously.

INSTREAM FLOW RULE REVISION OUTLINE – QUESTION #4 – AGENDA ITEM #123

Chairman Bill began discussion on question #4 of the Instream Flow Rule Revision Outline: How will water in the 2 cfs reserves be managed and transferred? When will “water use reports” be compiled and warnings sent to the County and Ecology when 90% of the 2 cfs allocation is reached in any reach? Chairman Bill suggested the annual water use report could be submitted now because the Council was formed approximately one year ago or it could be submitted at the end calendar year. Bill stated that Danison’s work is vital for reporting because we can build on his work each year to update report. Council Member Fort discussed a precedence regarding add backs for septic systems in Skagit County. Fort confessed being confused regarding the process at which a percentage for add backs could be calculated. Rusty each area is different, DOE needs some study a specific number based on a specific study. Fort agreed

Post interjected that there is no annual water use report due at this time since we currently have no data to account for and track. Council Member Welch suggested February or March would be a good time to report each year, Council Member Knott concurred. Chairman Bill suggested conservancy measures should be tracked and included in the report. Council Member Welsh suggested that out of basin water transfers should be track as well. Welch explained that she felt that the public should be made aware of transfers and educated as to how transfers affect the valley.

Council Member Fort asked if conservation measures are proven to be used and can the water saved be added back into the 2 cfs. Post explained that if instream water flows are met for example by conservation measures then junior rights users get to use their water longer.

Chairman Bill reiterated what should go into the report as being: water use per reach, updated development numbers every year, March 30th; conservation measures; out of reach transfers; building permit data; and capacity per reach.

OKANOGAN COUNTY DATA TRACKING – AGENDA ITEM #125

Council Member Wehmeyer was not present to discuss the data tracking being done by Okanogan County.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS - AGENDA ITEM #127

Secretary Moriarty reported that Chairman Bill, Council Member Gehring and Council Member Knott met on May 7, 2008 to review and rate the ten request for qualifications received. Moriarty passed out a roster of eight consultants and shared that two others were not placed on the roster because their companies did not perform the work the Council Members felt may be needed. Moriarty stated that the rating criteria was based on similar projects, qualifications and firm experience, firm’s design approach, local professionals, overall proposals and firm references. Based on the ratings the qualifying consultants were put in order of highest rated to lowest on the roster.

MOTION:

Council Member Fort moved to approve the consultants list for 2008-2009 as proposed. The motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC MEETINGS/COMMUNITY EDUCATION PLAN

The Council discussed ways to promote the work being done on watershed planning, holding public meetings to discuss current issues and a way to provide the community educational information. The suggestions were: Placing an ad containing a status report; timing the annual report with a Town meeting; submitting a “My Turn” ad in the Methow Valley News sharing what the Watershed Council is doing; monthly ads in the newspaper sharing agenda items and date and time of meeting; designing a new website and matching ad design; and to extend an opportunity to educate Liberty Bell High School students as to what the Watershed Council is and what they do. Council Member Knott volunteered to contact the high school.

MOTION:

Council Member Knott moved to authorize Chairman Bill to approach local graphic designers and web site designers for quotes. The motion was seconded by Council Member Welch and passed unanimously.

OKANOGAN COUNTY GROWTH SUMMIT – AGENDA ITEM #129

Chairman Bill stated that she had not heard any news on the Okanogan County Growth Summit.

2010 – 2011 BUDGETING

Rusty Post reported that he and Clerk/Treasurer Colleen Storms submitted place holders for two grants to DOE on May 16, 2008; Priority #1 – Instream Flow Rule Revision Phase II - \$185,000; and Priority #2 – Ground Water Recharge Project Phase I - \$180,000. Post briefly discussed the details of each proposal and reminded the Council these funds are contingent upon the Legislature. Chairman Bill discussed submitting the Phase 4 Implementation Grant and volunteered to review her previous draft of the scope of work and discuss it at the next meeting.

AQUIFER STORAGE AND RECHARGE CONFERENCE

Council Member Fort reported on the Aquifer Storage and Recharge (ASR) Conference he attended the beginning of May. Fort shared three projects in separate locations (Walla Walla, Idaho and Oregon) he found interesting: Flooding old irrigation ditches; taking water out of ditch transportation and flooding three wells located in permeable lava; and putting water down a 600 foot well down to a hard rock layer providing recharge as well as generating power using the water being put down the well. Council Member Fort found the conference very informative.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Fort to adjourn the meeting at 8:05. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knott and passed unanimously.

Katharine Bill, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary