

Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
August 21, 2008
Twisp Town Hall

Council Members present were: Chairman Katharine Bill, Marty Williams, Vicky Welch, Nate Wehmeyer, Okanogan County, Tim Johnson, MVID, Tom Gehring, Council Member Town of Twisp, and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent: Council Members Mike Fort, Greg Knott and Ray Campbell.

Guests present: Rusty Post, DOE and Lee Bernheisel.

Chairman Bill called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions or changes to the agenda

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 24, 2008 MEETING

MOTION:

Council Member Welch moved to approve the minutes of July 24, 2008 as sent. The motion was seconded by Council Member Williams and passed unanimously.

COUNTY DATA TRACKING PROGRESS UPDATE – AGENDA ITEM #125

Council Member Wehmeyer reported that after speaking with Okanogan County employee Gene Wilson who is in charge of their GIS information, he found that electronic records only go back as far as 1995. Wehmeyer also reported that there is an approximate 25% chance of error due to subdivisions and how the parcel numbers are assigned.

COUNCIL COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION – AGENDA ITEM #130

Chairman Bill presented a draft job description for a Council Coordinator and asked for Council comment. Bill asked for volunteers to serve on a committee to review coordinator submissions; volunteers include Marty Williams, Tim Johnson and Katharine Bill. The Council briefly discussed the draft job description and agreed to proceed. Secretary Moriarty was asked to publish the job announcement once in the Wenatchee World and three times in both the Methow Valley News and The Chronicle starting on August 22, 2008 with a deadline of September 12, 2008.

OUTREACH – ADS, MY TURN & WEBSITE – AGENDA ITEM #133

Chairman Bill reported that she had written a “My Turn” article for the Methow Valley News and that Council Member Knott was currently proofing it for her.

GRANT STATUS REPORT – AGENDA ITEM #134

Secretary Moriarty presented the monthly Grant Status Report to the Council. Moriarty reported that there were no changes from the June report because no reimbursement requests had been submitted to the DOE since the June meeting. Chairman Bill asked what Town Clerk/Treasurer Storms request submission schedule was and stated that if there were no changes there was no reason to report each month to the Council.

TIMELINE – AGENDA ITEM #135

Chairman Bill presented a poster size copy of the timeline she prepared for the Council and asked that it be kept at Town Hall and posted for each meeting. Rusty Post questioned the timeline and suggested a more realistic breakdown of items. Chairman Bill offered to make some changes and reprint the timeline for the next meeting.

HIGHLAND ASSOCIATES MAPPING PROPOSAL – AGENDA ITEM #139

Chairman Bill reported that Kurt Danison of Highland Associates proposed preparing maps of the irrigation districts and of closed basins based on the work he recently completed for the Council at a cost of \$2,500. It was suggested that Okanogan County and/or the Department of Natural Resources may already have maps with this information. Council Member Wehmeyer will inquire to whether the County has these maps on file. Lee Bernheisel shared that he remembers the DOE having maps of closed basins. Rusty Post will check with DOE. The Council agreed to revisit this issue if maps with this information could not be found.

CONSULTANT SELECTION PROCESS – AGENDA ITEM #140

Chairman Bill discussed the Request for Proposals for the Phase 4 tasks. A committee was selected and includes: Katharine Bill, Mike Fort, Greg Knott and Ray Campbell. Post volunteered to help with rating criteria and developing questions.

EMERGENCY RULE – AGENDA ITEM #141

Rusty Post discussed the emergency rule, first by explaining there has been more than one emergency ruling. For example in 1991 an emergency rule was passed to amend the existing current instream rule to close certain basins and in 1994 an emergency rule was passed to allow Planned Development to get Group “B” users. Mr. Post explained that most emergency rules expired within 4 to 6 months and that all emergency rules expired by 2001. Lee Bernheisel discussed the Lost River Group “A” interruptible rights stating to his knowledge that this the only one in the Methow that exists and he considers it to be

an error on the DOE's part. Mr. Bernheisel also stated that the emergency rule for interruptible water rights in Lost River only affects the irrigation not household use.

Mr. Bernheisel requested a council packet be provided to him for future meetings.

The Council spoke briefly about the article in the Methow Valley News regarding the request from the Town of Twisp to transfer irrigation rights from MVID to domestic use.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION:

A motion was made by Council Member Wehmeyer to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

Katharine Bill, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary