

**Methow Watershed Council  
Special Meeting Minutes  
December 17, 2009  
Riverbank Building**

Council Members present were: Chair Katharine Bill, Vice-Chair Mike Fort, Greg Knott, Vicky Welch, Marty Williams, William Boosman, Mayor, Town of Twisp, Nate Wehmeyer, Okanogan County, Coordinator Lee Hatcher and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent w/ notification: Tim Johnson, MVID

Council Members Absent w/o notification: Ray Campbell

**Guests:** Jennifer Molesworth

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

Secretary Moriarty reminded Council members of the importance of tracking their time and filling out their volunteer forms.

**Approval of the Minutes from the November 19, 2009 Meeting**

**Motion:**

Council Member Wehmeyer moved to approve the minutes of November 19, 2009 as presented. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

Additions: None

Changes: Coordinator Hatcher requested agenda item #165 (Planning Steps for Rule Revision) be tabled.

**Motion:**

Chairman asked the Council if they agreed with the agenda change; Council agreed.

**Coordinator's Update**

Coordinator Hatcher announced to the Council because of the status of the State budget, funding for Watershed Planning had been cut effective 06/30/10.

The Council discussed the need for a SEPA for the Detailed Implementation Plan; Council Member Wehmeyer will talk to Okanogan County Planner Perry Huston.

Hatcher discussed the possibility of partnering with Wildfish Conservancy (John Crandall) for match money. Hatcher believes we could partner with this group for public education outreach.

**Council Member Term Renewal and Officer Nominations**

Chairman Bill announced she would be resigning her position effective January 31, 2010 due to personal reasons. The Council discussed a few people they considered good replacements: Jennifer Molesworth, Rick Karro and Don McIvor.

**Agenda Items:**

Stats on missed meetings and bylaw discussion regarding meeting attendance

Chair and Vice Chair nominations and elections

Nominations for Bill's vacant position

Expired positions Greg Knott (received written confirmation from Mr. Knott wanting to stay on Council) and Ray Campbell (no written or verbal confirmation of Mr. Campbell's intentions)

**Motion:**

Council Member Fort made a motion to nominate Greg Knott to serve as Chairman of the MWC for one year. The motion was seconded by Council Member (Mayor) Boosman and passed unanimously.

**Announcement**

Chairman Bill announced a water rights workshop will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 at the Twisp Pub, doors open at 6:00 pm and the workshop starts at 7:00 pm. The workshop is being hosted by the Washington Water Project of Trout Unlimited (formerly the Washington Rivers Conservancy). Council Members agreed to be involved in the presentation.

**Funding Issues**

Hatcher reported to the Council, the Inflow Rule Revision Grant in the amount of \$174,000 will not be approved by the DOE because of the State's budget cuts. The Phase IV grant funding will end on June 30, 2010 also because of budget cuts.

Mayor Boosman discussed the Town's position to the news of this budget cut. Boosman explained the Town is also making cuts due to the economy but he still sees the importance of being involved with the MWC.

Council Member Knott voiced his concern over the DOE making the MWC stick to the projects that were originally outlined in the Phase IV grant, instead of being able to adjust the project to best benefit the MWC in light of the budget cuts. Hatcher shared that Greg Schuler, DOE would be happy to work with the MWC to amend the grant.

Council Member Knott felt that the group should not quit working because of decreased budget, but instead the MWC should leverage the money that remains to apply for other grants and work with other agencies. The Council agreed a key piece of information needed is the water withdrawal study.

The Council discussed obtaining a 501(c)(3) non-profit status so the MWC would be eligible to apply for all granting funds including those who do not fund government projects. Knott pointed out the MWC may also tag on to another agency that has their non-profit status for grant funding.

Council Member Knott shared information about legislation being considered to combine watershed planning and salmon recovery.

Council Member Fort shared his prospective. If the DOE has already agreed on 600 gallons per day as a withdrawal average and 50% as a recharge average, why shouldn't the MWC move forward with the rule revision using these averages.

The Council then discussed the possibility of using the remaining grant funds to have Aspect Consulting write a OCPI to allow transfer from the Early Winters Reach to the Town's of Twisp and Winthrop or having them draft a skeleton of a rule revision.

The Council discussed the following: 1) Can Aspect Consulting provide a skeleton of a rule revision with our budget and timeframe; 2) Can the Council retain Hatcher's services; 3) Is the Town of Twisp willing to continue providing Secretary Moriarty's services; 4) What is the cost of the webpage; and 5) What is the town able to do if they are not getting any money? The Council requested a report for the next meeting.

**Motion:**

Council Member Knott directed Coordinator Hatcher to contact Aspect Consulting to see if they are able to draft an instream flow outline given that the budget is limited and funding ends June 30, 2010. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

The Council discussed the following items:

Concentrate on the rule revision and providing water to the Towns.

Need an accurate listing of total parcels in each reach to determine how much water is left based on 600 gpd.

Talk to Dick Ewing regarding partnering with Twin Lakes Coalition.

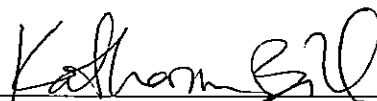
Directed Coordinator Hatcher to find other funding sources, checking with possible funding agencies to see if municipalities are eligible to apply for funding, check into pursuing a 501(c)(3) for the MWC.

Coordinator Hatcher will prepare a memo to legislators listing key talking points and include that watershed planning can help our economy.

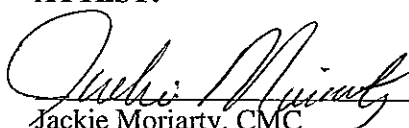
**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Council Member Wehmeyer to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

**APPROVED:**

  
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Katharine Bill, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
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Jackie Moriarty, CMC  
Secretary