

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2012**

Council Members present: Greg Knott, Chair, Brian Fisher, Clint Estes (Council Member Town of Twisp), Hans Smith (Alternate/Town Council Member), Perry Huston, (Okanogan County), Josh Morgan (MVID), and Council Coordinator Lee Hatcher. (Council Member Ewing joined the meeting after it began).

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Introductions

Chairman Knott introduced Josh Morgan the new representative of the Methow Valley Irrigation District and Twisp Town Council Member Clint Estes as the new Town representative; Chairman Knott welcomed them to the MWC.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Deletions: Instream Flow Rule Revision Committee Report

Additions:

Motion:

It was moved to delete the Instream Flow Rule Revision Committee Report be deleted from the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Hans Smith asked Council to look specifically at the 12/15/11 minutes in reference to whether the Council approved the Instream Flow Rule Revision Committee packet as a whole or individually.

Motion:

It was moved to approve the minutes of the 11/17/11 meeting as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Motion:

It was moved to approve the minutes from the 12/15/11 meeting as presented subject to confirmation that the documents were approved as a package. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Hatcher reported on the following:

- He requested that members record their volunteer hours for January and February on the sign-in sheet.
- Provided a schedule related to the water storage project.
- Discussed finalizing the Instream Flow Rule Revision for now until we obtain more funding.
- Reminded Council we have the Capital Grant coming up in July.

- Handed out grant tracking reports w/graphs from Twisp Grant Administrator Aimee Grant; Hatcher reported grants are on track.
- Discussed that as of June 30, 2012 the MWC will not have any administration funding.
- Discussed an email he received from Bill Zachmann, DOE, sharing the possibility that funding for watershed planning could be eliminated by March 1, 2012.

Motion:

It was moved to direct the Political Action Committee to draft a letter to be sent out to our local senators and representatives asking for their support for continued funding for watershed planning. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Council Member Huston suggested making the letter very specific, pointing out the tasks that will be completed with the funding. Huston asked a template go out to the County and Smith asked that a draft be prepared in time for the February 28th Town Council meeting for their consideration.

Three Initiating Governments Reports

Methow Valley Irrigation District

No report at this time.

Town of Twisp

Council Member Smith read into record a letter from Mayor Soo Ing-Moody related to the Town's separate contract with Aspect Consulting, LLC regarding water rights acquisitions.

Okanogan County

Council Member Huston reported on the following:

- Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan – new draft available on the County website.
- Okanogan County Zoning and Subdivisions.
- Okanogan County Shoreline Master Plan – almost completed.
- Okanogan County Critical Areas Plan – it's at the Planning Commission level and should be ready for public review in April 2012.
- The Volunteer Stewardship Program – funding still questionable.
- Water/Exempt wells
- DOE Water Resource Advisory – he will be meeting with this group.

Sub-Committee Reports

Organizational Development Committee

Chairman Knott reported on a discussion he had with Council Member Ewing (Chair of the ODC). Ewing is currently revising existing documents he had gathered from Walla Walla and Cascade to compile a document that works for the MWC. Knott reported he had asked Ewing to consider keeping the committee smaller than in the Walla Walla plan. Council Member Ewing will bring a draft of this document and a draft interlocal agreement to next council meeting for review. The Council will be asked to review, comment and guide the committee in making decisions on the direction the council wants to take in becoming an independent Council. Two other points made were: 1) what level of agency involvement the Council wants and; 2) how the DOE will handle the adjudication process. Chairman Knott felt that the adjudication process may be a fatal flaw in the Walla Walla plan.

Instream Flow Rule Revision Committee

Council Member Smith reported that there was no report from Mary McCrea at this point.

Water Storage Project

Coordinator Hatcher reported that the Technical Review Committee met with Tim Flynn and Bill Sullivan of Aspect Consulting and went through and set up initial criteria for water storage sites and reviewed existing studies that have been conducted in the valley. The plan is to identify 6 to 8 sites and narrow that estimate down to approximately 3 projects and to determine cost allocations and identify any fatal flaws in the proposed sites. Hatcher distributed a map to the Council that showed the potential project sites; those circled in red were selected during this first go-round. Aspect will then determine what sites may get water back to the river with a lag of approximately 3 months, reduce river temperatures, provide possible irrigation benefits and possibly eliminate irrigation ditch diversions.

Chairman Knott felt that Aspect did a great job researching documents and interviewing people related to prior studies. Chairman Knott discussed the projects identified on the map explaining either why the project was left on the list or why it was eliminated:

- Uphill Reservoir
- Cub Creek
- Patterson Lake/Elbow Coulee
- Patterson Lake/Moccasin Lake
- Davis Lake
- Walking D Ranch
- Beaver Creek Micro-Storage
- Beaver Creek/Thurlow Pond

Council Member Ewing suggested that the Twin Lakes project could be incorporated and discussed with Aspect; it could possibly be done through the Columbia Basin Project/Hillis Project.

Aspect will come to the March 2012 meeting and recommend their choice of projects and ask for Council's comments. Final documents will be provided to the Council in June 2012.

Financial Status/Strategy

Chairman Knott discussed that the MWC is running out of Administrative funding which will affect how MWC secretarial duties are performed. Funding for both Coordinator Hatcher and Grant Administrator Aimee Grant is available through the Water Storage Capital Grant.

Organizational Development Committee – CONTINUED

Council Member Ewing provided a draft of the organizational document that was discussed earlier in the meeting prior to Council Member Ewing's arrival. Further discussion will be held at the March 2012 meeting after the Council has had a chance to review the document.

Council Positions

Coordinator Hatcher is waiting to hear from Council Member Welch to see if she would like to continue on as a Council Member.

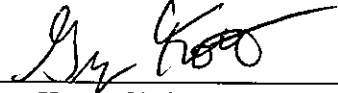
Next Meeting Agenda Items

- Organizational Development Committee – Interlocal Agreement/Organizational Document

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council Chairman Knott adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm.

APPROVED:



Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary