

**Methow Watershed Council  
Meeting Minutes  
March 17, 2011**

Council Members present: Greg Knott, Chairman, Marty Williams, Bill Tackman, Mike Fort, Brian Fisher, Don Phillips, (MVID), Hans Smith-Alternate (Town Council Member), Char Schumacher (Okanogan County Planning), Council Coordinator Lee Hatcher and Jackie Moriarty, Secretary.

Guests present: Mary McCrea, Cascadia Law Group, Tim Flynn, Bill Sullivan and Parker Wittman of Aspect Consulting, Bill Boosman, Pam Jenkins and Greg Schuler, DOE (by phone).

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:07 pm.

**Agenda Additions and Deletions**

Change: Chairman Knott moved the Sub-Basin Boundary Memo Approval up to Technical Review Committee Update

Deletions: USGS Climate Change Model Presentation  
Draft Three Year Plan

Additions: Secretary Moriarty requested time at the end of the meeting for Housekeeping items.

**Motion:**

Council Member Schumacher moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes – February 17, 2011**

**Motion:**

Council Member Fort moved to approve the minutes of 02/17/11 as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fisher and passed unanimously.

**Coordinator's Report**

Coordinator Lee Hatcher reported on the following:

- He passed out and reviewed his written report.
- He facilitated the recent Climate Change meeting; there were 95 in attendance.
- Organizational Development – The Memorandum of Agreement between Twisp and the MWC needs to be revised.
- Presented and reviewed the January – June 2011 timeline.
- Water for America Grants – Funds may be available for Climate Change funding.

**Three Initiating Governments Reports**

**Town of Twisp**

Town Council Member Smith reported the Town had a water rights workshop with Tim Flynn of Aspect Consulting; Twisp is working to refocus the Town's vision.

## Okanogan County

Council Member Schumacher reported another public hearing for the Okanogan County Comprehensive Plan will be held on Monday, February 21, 2011 at the Liberty Bell High School at 5:00 pm.

## Methow Valley Irrigation District

Council Member Phillips had nothing to report at this time.

## Sub-Committee Reports

### Political Action Committee

Council Member Tackman reported on the following:

Approximately 8 million is currently slated for watershed planning; Senator Linda Evans-Parlette is supportive of this budget line item.

### Technical Review Committee

Council Member Tackman reported the following:

The committee reviewed a memo drafted by Aspect Consulting to the DOE regarding methodology for delineation of stream management unit boundaries in the Methow River. The committee is recommending approval by the Council of this memo and for it to be submitted to the DOE. Coordinator Hatcher presented the Council with a proposed motion.

### **Motion:**

Council Member Fisher moved to approve the Stream Management Reach Boundary Delineation – WRIA 48 memo as written by Aspect Consulting, without modification and adopted as part of the Instream Flow Rule Revision project and shall be transmitted to the Washington State Department of Ecology. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

Mr. Schuler stated that he has already let representatives of the DOE know the memo is coming.

## Aspect Consulting Water Tracking Database Update and GIS Presentation

Mr. Sullivan reported on the following:

- Aspect is still waiting for some water data from Group A and Group B system users.
- He will bring conservation and build-out information and findings to the next meeting.
- Assigning characterizations to each parcel.
- Discussion regarding a parcel counting against a reserve.
- Working to determine Group A boundaries.
- Determining development date of parcels.
- Working towards the goal of setting out clear logic in the assumptions.

Parker Wittman, Aspect Consulting introduced the GIS Water Tracking Database to the Council and explained how the database was developed. A series of overlays such as residential, developed, exempt well and public water systems (inside and outside) make up the maps. Mr. Flynn reported the Technical Committee taking a conservative approach on the count and use per well; Mr. Schuler cautioned Aspect

to be sure to report their approach on this to DOE. Chairman Knott stated that if a good defensible number for water usage can be established it will also work as an early warning for when we are running low on water availability.

Mr. Sullivan will draft the Water Tracking report; deadline 03/31/11.

**Action:** Coordinator Hatcher will draft a proposed motion to approve the report for the next meeting.

### **Rule Revision Process**

Mary McCrea led discussion on the following:

- Inside and outside use for up to ½ acre.
- Municipalities – Group A & B interruptible
- 5,000 gpd exemption from regulatory permitting process.
- If the Council proposes to move the 2 cfs between reaches it needs to be addressed in the new rule.
- Discussed limited resources and whether the use totals can be changed.
- Discussed the original rule allowance of 5,000 gpd and the Attorney General's recent reconsideration of how it can be used.
- Storage and water banking possibilities in the Methow.
- Should the Council even attempt to define a gpd amount or just use the 2 cfs as a gauge and let DOE enforce based on our data?

**Action:** Coordinator Hatcher will provide Lewis River and Walla Walla County information for Council's review and consideration.

**Action:** Mr. Schuler will ask the DOE policy department if water use totals can be redefined in the new rule.

### **Housekeeping**

Secretary Moriarty passed around a card for everyone to sign wishing Council Member Welch a speedy recovery.

Secretary Moriarty reported that terms for both Council Members Knott (#1) and Fort (#2) expired in January. Moriarty asked if Knott and Fort were interested in staying on the Council in their positions; they both agreed to another 3 year term.

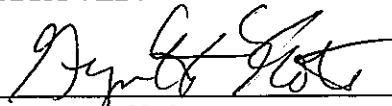
### **Motion:**

Council Member Phillips moved to re-appoint Council Member Knott to position #1 and Council Member Fort to position #2 of the Methow Watershed Council; term ending in 2014. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith (alternate for Twisp) and passed unanimously. (Only representatives of the Three Initiating Governments vote on appointments).

### **Adjournment**

Council Member Fisher moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

**APPROVED:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Knott, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jackie Moriarty, CMC  
Secretary