

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

Council Member present: Greg Knott, Chair, Bill Tackman, Brian Fisher, Dick Ewing, Mike Fort, Hans Smith (Alternate/Town Council Member), Don Phillips (MVID) Council Coordinator Lee Hatcher and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Guests present: Tim Flynn, Aspect Consulting and Pam Jenkins.

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

Agenda Additions and Deletions

Deletions: Dave Hilton, Okanogan County Planning – Septic Recharge

Additions: Council Member Ewing – Walla Walla Interview
Council Member Smith – Phase IV Grant

Motion:

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

Approval of Minutes

Motion:

Council Member Ewing moved to approve the minutes of the 10/20/11 meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fisher and passed unanimously.

Coordinator's Report

Coordinator Hatcher reported on the following:

- He presented a grant status summary update:
 - Discussed the Water Storage Site Analysis and Implementation Grant - \$210,000 is not contingent on matching funds.
 - The SAARP/Climate Change Grant – Should hear of possible award by June 2012.
 - Still waiting to hear from DOE about a contract for the Water Storage Feasibility Grant - \$98,000.

Action: Coordinator Hatcher will develop a general timeline for the December meeting.

Three Initiating Governments Reports

There were no Initiating Government reports at this time.

Sub-Committee Reports

Political Action Committee

Council Member Tackman reported on the following:

- He met with the Okanogan County Commissioners, Monday, November 7, 2011. Council Member Tackman discussed the highlights of the Aspect Consulting memorandum to try to give them a clear picture of what the MWC was doing. Council Member Tackman felt that the meeting went well. Solveig Torvik, a writer for the Methow Valley News and Methow Grit was present at the commissioners meeting. Ms. Torvik followed up after the meeting by interviewing Chairman Knott and Coordinator Hatcher. Chairman Knott felt good about the interview and looks forward to reading her article. Council Member Tackman shared that Sheila McLean is also interested in the aquifer and instream flow, she will be contacting Chairman Knott for more information. Chairman Knott stated the more information out to the public on what the MWC is doing the better.

Okanogan County Volunteer Stewardship Program

Council Member Ewing gave the Council an update regarding a meeting he attended related to the new Volunteer Stewardship Project. Council Member Ewing explained the project is to protect and enhance agricultural areas when they abut critical areas. Work plans will be developed by local groups and the Conservation Commission will review them. This project will allow the county to enhance agricultural areas without having to opt into the Growth Management Act (GMA). The County will need to adopt a resolution opting in to the program, discuss with other agencies, include local WRIAS, etc. The County has until January 2012 to make a decision, funding will drive the workload; WRIA's will most likely be the target for the work because of their experience. MWC can choose to be part of the work party or not, there is time to make a decision. The budget for the development of a work plan is \$150,000. Okanogan County Commissioners will need to decide whether to opt in no later than 6 months after funding is available. Funding will come from the Conservation Commission to Okanogan County. The Council decided to wait to see how this issue unfolds prior to making any decisions regarding their involvement.

Motion:

Council Member Tackman moved to have Council Member Ewing attend the next meeting to observe only and report back to the Council. The motion was seconded by Council Member Philips and passed unanimously.

Council Member Smith thanked Council Member Ewing for volunteering to attend the meetings as a MWC representative.

Technical Committee

Council Member Tackman reported on the following:

- The Technical Committee discussed how to maintain the integrity of the water tracking database software and where and how many locations to store the original CD's (Aspect Consulting retains one copy).
- Define when and how modifications to formulas are made.
- Who should be responsible for distribution of the CD.
- Mr. Flynn suggested that either Aspect Consulting or another professional do all updates to the software and that they be done in five year intervals.

Chairman Knott asked that the Technical Committee form a recommendation for the Council for a future meeting.

Organizational Development Committee

Council Member Ewing discussed the following:

- Eleven questions were written by Chairman Knott and Coordinator Hatcher and asked in an interview with Cathy Schaeffer, Walla Walla Executive Director by Council Member Ewing. The questions were:
 - What were the issues that prompted forming your Alliance?
 - How is the Alliance organized and who has the primary driving power?
 - How much do affected locals and irrigation districts have a say in what is being done in the Alliance?
 - Can you describe the issues you face with state and federal agencies in trying to keep water management beneficial to both human uses and fish needs?
 - Has the Alliance been able to obtain funding to scientifically identify true water issues and fish needs vs. assumed ones?
 - If the Alliance wasn't formed where would you be now?
 - How are local citizens represented?
 - What is your capacity to raise and receive/manage money?
 - What are your current sources to sustain your organization?
 - What would you change in regard to the Alliance if you could do so?
 - What are your limits of authority for the Alliance and how does it interface with Ecology and local governments?
- He went over the information he gathered during his interview.
- One negative requirement identified was that the DOE has to be both the initiator and backer of a program like this and it also requires legislative approval because it is a pilot program.
- Mary McCrea is working on a document that compares the Walla Walla plan with what the Methow Valley would need from such a program.
- Chairman Knott asked that Council Members review the written Walla Walla plan and be prepared to discuss it at the December MWC meeting.
- Council Member Ewing will be contacting the Cascade Water Alliance and asking the same questions and will present that information to the Council.

Phase IV Budget

Council Member Smith reported that DOE notified the Town of Twisp after the first submission for repayment for work done by Mr. Hatcher and Town staff that there was approximately \$670 that was not spent in the FY10-11 and that amount had to be subtracted from the FY12-13 budget. Council decided that the money would be deducted from the line item for Aspect Consulting related to Instream Rule Revision.

Water Storage Feasibility Study Scope

Coordinator Hatcher reported on a meeting he and several council members had with the DOE regarding the water storage feasibility study and capital project. The group developed a set of criteria for where possible storage projects sites would be in the Methow. The MWC needs to narrow site possibilities down to 2-3 sites by June; sites that have proven hydrogeological capabilities to supply water to irrigators and to protect habitat. Hatcher developed a work schedule just for the feasibility study for Aspect Consulting. The Technical Review Committee will be very involved in this work; a task order for Aspect Consulting will need to be developed and allow time for the technical committee to review and approve it.

Tim Flynn discussed where the source water will come from, who will be benefitted, where will funding come from and how will permitting be handled. There may be other projects already going on in the valley that may couple with the storage project.

Motion:

Council Member Ewing made a motion to have the Technical Review Committee work with Coordinator Hatcher to develop a task order for the feasibility study and to be allowed to present it to Aspect Consulting with no further need for Council action and have Council Member Smith as a representative of the Town Council to work with MWC to expedite the process. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fisher and passed unanimously.

The Technical Review Committee will meet November 29th at 5:00 pm.

Instream Rule Revision Committee

Council Member Smith reported on the following:

He presented for the Council’s review a two- phase Purpose and Scope, a draft Rule Revision Discussion Topics List, a request for direction from the Council relating to the topics list, the original MWC In-Stream Flow Rule Revision Brainstorm table (revised by the committee). Council Member Smith would like the Council to consider presenting the brainstorming document to key organizations when it is finalized.

Chairman Knott asked Council to review the documents presented and be prepared to discuss them at the next meeting.


Agenda Item

The Cascade Water Alliance Interview

Adjournment

Council Member Tackman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Smith and passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary