

**Methow Watershed Council
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2010**

Council Members present were: Chairman Greg Knott, Jennifer Molesworth, Mike Fort, Marty Williams, Char Schumacher (Okanogan County), Don Phillips (Alternate: MVID), Tom Gehring, (Town Council Member), Coordinator Lee Hatcher, and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent: Vicky Welch.

Guests: Greg Schuler, DOE (by phone), Rick Karro and Lee Bernheisel.

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:12 pm.

Introductions

Secretary Moriarty passed out volunteer timesheets to Council members.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Additions: None
Changes: None

Motion:

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

Approval of the Minutes from the April 15, 2010 Meeting

Motion:

Council Member Williams moved to approve the minutes of 04/15/10 as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Fort and passed unanimously.

Coordinator Hatcher's Update

Coordinator Hatcher reported on the following:

- A contract has been submitted to Tim Flynn, Aspect Consulting for his review regarding the Water Withdrawal and Recharge Study and Water Use Tracking System; work to be completed by June 30, 2010 (FY10).
- Phase 4 Grant funding is available in the amount of \$100,000
- Administrative Grant funding is available in the amount of \$30,000 with 100% match. Match money will be obtained from USGS.
- Greg Schuler explained to Council there is \$50,000 secured in the current Instream Flow Rule Revision grant in part for work done up to June 30, 2010 with the remainder going into FY11. Schuler assured Council there was more money coming in FY11 and that he should know how much around June 15th. When funding is verified a contract amendment will need to be done for the additional funding.
- Hatcher reported the USGS will give us monthly costs incurred for work done on climate

- change issues for in-kind match.
- Agenda Item: Planning for FY11 Amendment

Council Member Fort discussed Exhibit A-1 regarding supporting the growth of the towns. Fort was concerned about distinguishing between giving the towns the amount of reserve that was in the original plan or having to support growth (ex: annexation) in the future. Council Knott discussed the meaning of that point was to encourage people to build in towns to reduce the amount of wells being drilled in the unincorporated areas which would ultimately protect the aquifer. A suggestion was made for the Council to consider revising the original plan.

Motion:

Council Member Fort moved to approve the Instream Flow Rule Revision Amendment 1 as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Gehring and passed unanimously.

Timeline – June - December 2010 and the Instream Flow Rule Revision Project Schedule

Hatcher reviewed the June – December 2010 timeline pointing out the following:

- Tim Flynn, Aspect Consulting will be joining the June Council meeting by phone to discuss water tracking database development. The database will contain information from 1976 to present.
- In September the tracking data schedule should be done along with our annual report.
- Methow Restoration Council meetings dates are the 3rd Tuesday of every month.
- Hatcher discussed the fact that DOE is considering combining habitat and watershed.

Council Member Fort discussed the gallons per day (gpd) projection. Chairman Knott stated the development of the database tracking should give the Council a defensible gpd to work with.

Council discussed group water systems and the fact that DOH has some group systems that are metered.

Okanogan County Commissioners Letter/DOE

Chairman Knott discussed on a letter that was sent to the DOE by the Okanogan County Commissioners regarding watershed planning in WRIA 48. Council Member Schumacher apologized on behalf of the commissioners for the oversight of the MWC not receiving a copy of the letter. Schumacher shared that Perry Huston, Okanogan County Planner was unavailable to attend this meeting but would speak to the Council upon request. Chairman Knott shared with the Council his take on the Commissioners feeling that the MWC was an advisory committee, when the MWC was first established the County was the lead agency; Twisp took over the lead soon after. Knott explained the MWC is chartered with the State. Knott stated he did not want this issue to become a distraction to the Council.

Instream Flow Rule Revision Strategy/Brainstorming Session

Chairman Knott structured the brainstorming session by going around the room and having everyone give one idea as Coordinator Hatcher wrote them on the board, they are as follows:

Is the reservation transferable to individuals?

Unallocated 2 cfs to municipalities.

Are 5,000 gpd legally allowed for exempt wells in the Methow aquifer since 1976 and do they have to be used in the reserve to see if there is anything left out of each reach?

Amend rule versus full rule revision; is it a possibility?

What triggers the process between the two? (previous question)

The building permit process needs to require that you demonstrate you can not use a group system.

Development of water bank, water markets or exchange (mitigation).

How does the recent attorney general opinion factor into the rule revision; lawn and garden?

Relationship between the 2 cfs and 5,000 gpd exempt wells.

Analyze exempt wells with a spectrum of use.

Order of priorities the same; do not elevate any one group (ex: domestic above instream flow).

Permit exempt wells create industrial small agricultural use.

Protect ability to grow your own food.

Include hydro-geology demonstration if water is transferred; is water still at the point of withdrawal.

Remove concept of reaches and just have 14 cfs.

Modify the "use it or loose it" rule.

Include table 12.

Revise original plan.

Would moving water from the reserve to the towns be subject to hydro-geology demonstration?

Reserve can only be moved downstream not upstream.

Recharge credit back into the reserve.

Establish revised fish flow numbers based on biological needs.

Establish target fish flows.

Establish credit for strategies that enhance instream flows.

DOE's enforcement role on withdrawal on exempt wells for water master.

Establish 1976 as priority date.

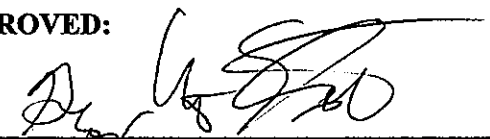
Why is DOE waiting for MWC?

Clarify regulatory threshold – The amount that can be exceeded or how long threshold is exceeded; unit excedence, enforcement, duration.

Adjournment


A motion was made by Council Member Williams to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Molesworth and passed unanimously.

APPROVED:



Greg Knott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Jackie Moriarty, CMC
Secretary