

**Methow Watershed Council  
Meeting Minutes  
April 15, 2010**

Council Members present were: Chair Greg Knott, Vice-Chair Vicky Welch, Jennifer Molesworth, Mike Fort, Char Schumacher (Okanogan County), Bill Tackman, Don Phillips (Alternate: MVID), Coordinator Lee Hatcher, and Secretary Jackie Moriarty.

Council Members Absent: Marty Williams and Tom Gehring.

**Guests:** Greg Schuler, DOE (by phone).

Chairman Knott called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

Introductions

Secretary Moriarty passed out volunteer timesheets to Council members.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

Additions:     None

Changes:        None

**Approval of the Minutes from the March 15, 2010 Meeting**

**Motion:**

Council Member Fort moved to approve the minutes of 03/15/10 as amended. The motion was seconded by Council Member Schumacher and passed unanimously.

**Timeline – March-November 2010 – Coordinator Hatcher's Update**

Coordinator Hatcher discussed the March-November 2010 timeline. Knott suggested holding a brainstorming session in May for the rule revision to get all ideas out on the table. Knott suggested needing a separate timeline for the rule revision; which Hatcher promptly presented the Council with a detailed Instream Flow Rule Revision Project Schedule he had drafted.

**Review of Instream Flow Rule Revision Refunding Grant Application**

Hatcher presented an Operational Project Grant Request Form for review by the Council. The document included project type, description, scope of work, deliverables, estimated costs, budget, rule revision timeline and proposals of work from Aspect Consulting - Water withdrawal, support tasks for Instream Flow Rule Revision and tracking.

Shuler explained the DOE C101 process. After the DOE has the proposal it will be sent out to a list of people proposing Instream Flow Rule Revision allowing general input and notice of the project. C102 is the formal process for rule revision.

Hatcher explained his next steps will be working on the task orders for Aspect Consulting. Schuler suggested color coding the FY10 (ending June 30, 2010) items for processing and getting them into Amy Krause as soon as possible. Discussed the Administrative Grant currently

available for \$30,000, which requires a 100% match, Hatcher assured the Council we have match money and he will discuss the submission of the grant with Clerk Storms.

Council Member Fort questioned why the Council should have to prove the amount of water in the Early Winters reach and re-evaluate the amount of water to go to the municipalities if those amounts were already determined in the Watershed Plan. Fort pointed out the Watershed Plan is set and the Detailed Implementation Plan is just a tool. Fort doesn't feel the proposed grant should expand upon the Watershed Plan; there could be implications. Knott reported an annual tracking report is due. Knott asked the question, if the amount of water that the municipalities have has changed, shouldn't those numbers change as well. Schuler suggested reviewing the accounting because it's been several years since it has been evaluated, in order to see what the Council is working with we need to count all new users and ensure the quantity. Fort stated he was not against the way the grant was written; rather he was concerned that the Council not change the Watershed Plan.

**Motion:**

Council Member Fort moved to approve the Project Grant Request as written for fiscal year 2010. The motion was seconded by Council Member Molesworth and passed unanimously. The Council will review and comment back on the FY11 portion of the grant request and discuss it at the next meeting.

Hatcher asked the Council Members to review FY11 grant request and get comments to him by May 13<sup>th</sup>. Hatcher will work with Clerk Storms regarding submission of the grant request for FY10.

FY10 grant request items are as follows:

- May 1 – June 30, 2010 - Domestic Water Withdrawal and Recharge Study developed in the previous grant Phase IV-year 1, implementation, deliverables, monthly reports, year end reports tasks 1.02 and 1.03.
- Develop a Water Tracking System – Complete task 2.02 and progress report.

**Instream Flow Rule Revision Brainstorm Session**

Chairman Knott suggested each Council Member contact their constituents to get feed back regarding the rule revision, bring their ideas to the next meeting and be prepared to compile a list. After the list is compiled the Council would submit it to the DOE for comment. Council Member Schumacher feels that DOE may misconstrue some of the items on the list and suggests after the list is compiled the Council evaluates it before it goes to the DOE. Council Fort feels that contacting constituents prior to the DOE's C101 process may cause some negativity. Chairman Knott feels that speaking with constituents in an informal way may help the process. Knott feels all comments should be considered and then see if it fits the Watershed Plan.

Schuler stated comments received may not have anything to do with rule revision but a Council Member could offer a solution to the problem and make them feel that their point is important.

Brainstorming meeting in May and re-evaluate the list produced in June.

Schuler discussed with Council the importance of engaging and acknowledging the Fish and Wildlife in this process and keeping them in the loop. Knott shared that the Watershed Council chose not to discuss habitat and instream flows. Interface is already established with the MWC's

involvement with the Methow Restoration Council. Chairman Knott realized Schuler was referring to the Fish and Wildlife's opinions on the downstream transfer of water. Schuler stated he would be willing to help with this conversation. The Endangered Species Act and Tribal issues are also matters to discuss as this process continues. Schuler stated that if Fish and Wildlife are satisfied with the proposal the tribes may have less issues and the Council may avoid challenges later with the tribes. Knott suggested Hatcher do a presentation to the MRC when the MWC has a more solid plan.

The Council discussed the return of the Watershed budget and the ability to do the full rule revision versus just the transfer of water to the municipalities.

**Adjournment**

A motion was made by Council Member Schumacher to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm. The motion was seconded by Council Member Welch and passed unanimously.

**APPROVED:**

  
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Greg Knott, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
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Jackie Moriarty, CMC  
Secretary