

**Town of Twisp
Special Council Minutes
03/16/11 - 5:30 PM**

Meeting called to order at 5:32 pm by Mayor Ing-Moody.

Council Members Present: Clint Estes, Mayor Pro-Tem
 Tom Gehring
 Hans Smith
 Traci Day
 Bob Lloyd

Staff present: Public Works Superintendent Howard Moss and Clerk/Treasurer Jackie Moriarty.

Water Rights Issues

Tim Flynn and Bill Sullivan of Aspect Consulting introduced themselves and gave Council a brief history of their educational backgrounds and of their work and experience in the Methow Valley related to water issues.

Mr. Flynn began by providing the Council definitions of terms and acronyms they may hear during this discussion.

Mr. Flynn reiterated the current water situation for the Town of Twisp as follows: the Town has a water right that allows the use of 224 acre feet (AF), which equals an instantaneous quantity of 1600 gallons per minute (GPM) and a lease with the Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) for an additional 400 AF of seasonal irrigation water only. The Department of Ecology (DOE) has not at this point been able to resolve the request from Twisp to convert any irrigation rights to year-round use rights.

Mr. Flynn discussed the history of water use and pumping records of the Town from 2001-2010; with several different water conserving efforts on the Town's part. The pumping has consistently gone down from 373.9 AF per year in 2001 to 204 AF per year in 2010. When discussing converting water rights from seasonal irrigation to year-round use, Mr. Flynn pointed out that anytime a water use is changed it has to be shown that the change will not affect any other users.

Based on the drop in pumped water over the last 10 years Mr. Flynn suggested the Town ask the Department of Health (DOH) to recalculate the Town's Equivalent Residential Units (ERU's). Based on projected growth information calculated by Accountant Colleen Storms in 2009 the Town would need approximately 100 AF of additional water rights to accommodate growth for the next 20 years.

Water Right/Supply Options

Mr. Flynn provided the following potential options to the Town Council:

- Appropriation from the Early Winters Reservation/Reach (WAC 173.548) – The Methow Watershed Council (WRIA 48) is working on a rule revision that would potentially provide water to both Twisp and Winthrop.
- Purchase/Transfer Existing Water Rights – Change a water right to year round use.
- Mitigation via Upstream Storage – New water right offset by storage benefits.
- Mitigation Water Bank – New water right offset placing existing water rights into State Trust Program.
- MVID – Change existing transfer to year round use.
- Developer Offset – Bring new water rights to offset additional ERU demand.
- Use of Reclaimed Water – Treated Wastewater Treatment Plant effluent.

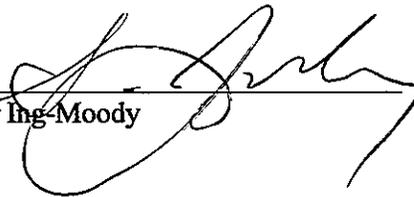
Moving water between stream gauges is possible even from downstream, however transfers from upstream are looked upon more favorably by the DOE. Mr. Flynn told Council there may be some seasonal irrigation rights for sale. He pointed out the pros and cons of a direct purchase and transfer of a water right versus a purchase and transfer into the State Trust Program. Council Member Gehring asked if one method is more cost effective than the other; Mr. Flynn stated the cost is about the same.

If the Town was to look at a water storage project approximately 6 AF per month would need to be stored and released during the winter low flow period to offset additional year round use.

Mr. Flynn suggested possibly trying to restructure the MVID agreement.

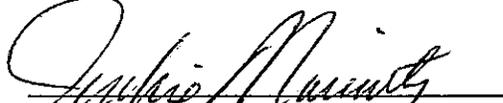
There being no further business to come before the Council, Mayor Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

APPROVED:



Mayor Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Jackie Moriarty