



Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2024

Location: Zoom

Council Members Present: Mike Fort, George Schneider, Lorah Super, David Asia, Hans Smith, Seth Miles, Andy Hover

Council Members Absent: Bill Tackman

Others in Attendance: Chris Allen (AESI), Susan Crampton, Mark Edson, Sandra Streiby (MWC Contractor)

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

[Recording available here.](#)

Common Abbreviations:

DIP: Detailed Implementation Plan

ECY: Ecology

IG: Initiating Government

LDPP: Local Drought Preparedness Plan (Ecology Grant)

MWC: Methow Watershed Council

MWF: Methow Watershed Foundation

OCD: Okanogan Conservation District

OCWB- OCD Water Bank

Non-Procedural Motions:

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
	None			

- 1. Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Andy Hover at 5:08 PM. Administrator Lane confirmed attendance.
- 2. Agenda:** Councilmember Super moved to approve the agenda. Mayor Smith seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- 3. Minutes:** Councilmember Super noted one typo and moved to approve the May 16, 2024; Minutes as amended. Mayor Smith seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
- 4. Report from the Chair:** Commissioner Hover reported meeting with the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board; that there is funding available for fire water connections being discussed; and he is willing to continue as Chair until someone else steps up.
- 5. MWF Report: Chair- Craig McDonald:** McDonald was absent. Administrator Lane reported that finances are stable, with Okanogan County funds expected to be spent out before the end of the year. MWF received a donation from Moccasin/Pigott family this month, and the OCD won a grant for the LDPP of almost \$500K,

of which the MWC is included as a planned subcontractor with a \$60K budget. MWF continues to watch the budget and work on fund development.

6. Committee Reports:

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair: Lane

Administrator Lane reported Mike Bastian attended Kid's Fishing Day. Would like to develop our own table/activity for next year. The drought mitigation event with TU and Washington Water Trust went well, though was lightly attended. Outreach members staffed a booth at the farmer's market and conversed with several folks; and work continues on outreach projects with the school district with grades 4 and ninth grade outdoor rec. Outreach events for the fall include another farmer's market day, and a place holder for water banking updates to the community.

Policy Committee, Chair: Super

Councilmember Super met with new Project Coordinator Strieby to discuss priorities and needs of the committee. Members are needed to explore and evaluate ideas for action by the council.

Technical Committee, Chair: Schneider

Councilmember Schneider reported that work continues for dry residential well solutions with the towns of Winthrop and Twisp. Schneider will present at the next Winthrop Town Council meeting. Publicity can happen once a draft agreement for water use by dry well owners can be developed, with rules, requirements, and limitations. Other ideas for emergency wells or authorizing existing wells outside of town have been dropped in favor of this plan.

Commissioner Hover clarified that the dry well emergency water should be only available temporarily during a drought, and not as a supplement of over development. Schnieder confirmed water would only be provided in a drought only and not as a primary water source. Councilmember Super stated work through the LDPP could also help confirm these agreements.

Water Banking, Chair: Tackman

Councilmember Tackman was absent. Administrator Lane and Project Coordinator Streiby met with Jordana Ellis, who reported water banking did not have new updates at this time. Commissioner Hover said that the County is looking for a water resource person.

7. Local Government Reports

Town of Winthrop- Councilmember Seth Miles (Winthrop alternate) in attendance. No report.

Town of Twisp- No Report

Okanogan County- Commissioner Hover reported that the Planning Director has just received recommendations from the Planning Commission regarding updated zone code changes.

8. News From the Community:

Councilmember Super, through her role with MVCC, heard from a member with a question about whether storm drains are filtered before reaching surface water. Super realized she did not know how they worked and that creates education opportunity. Mayor Smith investigated the storm drain system after last month's meeting. Twisp storm drains drain into dry wells, and those are vacuumed out. There is no direct discharge from storm drains to the river in Twisp. Councilmember Miles believes this is the case for Winthrop as well and will confirm.

Commissioner Hover said he was talking with some farmers with concern about their irrigation. These farmers had concerns over the MWC as a regulatory body. Hover assured them the Council was supportive of agriculture and not a regulatory body.

9. Ecology Report: None

10. Presentation: None

11. Agenda Item 6.27.24-01: Public Comment

No Public Comment

12. Agenda Item 6.27.24-02: Discussion: Bylaws regarding position requirements

Bylaws regarding positions was reviewed for Upper, Middle, and Lower Methow positions, as well as the steps for proposing and voting on an amendment. The question is whether the Council wants to change the requirements for positions on the Council.

Councilmember Fort said he does not see a need for changing the current bylaw. Mayor Hans said he believes this discussion arose from the lack of a person in this position, with people interested from other locations. Mayor Smith thinks that if there are interested parties, but not in the geographic area, we let good potential volunteers go by the wayside.

Councilmember Super feels that changing bylaws for a temporary problem, eliminating geographic representation, would be premature. The summer could be used for additional outreach efforts. Commissioner Hover agrees, saying he likes the representation, but also likes having a full council.

13. Agenda Item 6.27.24-03: Discussion: Irrigation water for fire protection, next steps

Commissioner Hover said that Cody Accord (Fire Dist. 6) needs to be involved as a next step in this process, regarding where locations are needed or desired for water for tenders, and then cross reference and see if they match irrigation takeoff locations. Councilmember Super would ask Greg Knott and Mike Fort to participate in a meeting with Accord, and noted this could involve the Wildfire Protection Plan. Commissioner Hover noted there is DNR funding; that irrigation companies are not penalized for fire water use. Work on meeting with Accord will be the next step.

14. Agenda Item 6.27.24-04: Open Council Position One

No candidates applied for position one. Outreach will persist in the region and through the paper.

15. Agenda Item 6.27.24-05: Election of Chair

No nominations were made for the position of Chair. Continued to next meeting.

16. Agenda Item 6.27.24-06: Strategic Planning Scheduling

A Strategic Planning session will be scheduled by Administrator Lane closer to fall for October. The council discussed how to address strategic planning regarding the DIP and the current work plan.

17. Agenda Item 6.27.24-0X: David Asia Historic Peak Flow Review

David presented a [graph of historic peak flows](#) recorded at Pateros WA gauge.

18. Agenda Item 6.27.24-07: Next Steps

- Next Meeting September 19, 2024

19. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 PM.

Commissioner Andy Hover, Council Vice Chair

September 19, 2024