



Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2020

5 -7 p.m. – Via Zoom

Council Members Present: Dick Ewing, Mike Fort, Greg Knott, Andy Hover, Soo Ing-Moody, Sally Ranzau, Bill Tackman, Travis Thornton

Others in Attendance: Lee Bernheisel, Candis Graff (WA DOE), Curtis Koger, Craig McDonald (MWF), Jasmine Minbashian (MVCC), Jason Paulsen (MC), Melanie Rowland (MVCC), George Schneider, Lorah Super (MVCC)

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrative Assistant

Non-Procedural Motions

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
10.15-01	Motion to not merge the MWC and MWF	6	1	1

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Travis Thornton at 5:03 PM

2. Agenda – Review and Approval

Dick moved to approve the Agenda; Greg seconded. The agenda was approved by consent.

3. Minutes – Review and Approval

Greg moved to approve the September 17, 2020 minutes and Dick seconded. The minutes were approved by consent.

4. Report from the Chair

Travis reported that he attended the Twisp Town Council meeting. He presented his take on the situation for the Twisp Council's consideration.

5. Ecology Report

Candis has nothing to report from Trevor, and is here mostly to hear about 2066 review.

6. MWF Report

Greg reported that at the last meeting the MWF reviewed finances, which are in the best shape they can be. There is a BoR grant coming up that is a potential funding source for us. It requires 50% match, which could come from Ecology and also from volunteer hours contributed by the board.

Sarah gave a report on Give Methow. We are a little ahead of last year. Please share the video to potential donors. Travis thanked Greg and Ashley for creating the video.



Travis asked if the BoR grant could be considered for funding CRM. Greg said it is for in the ground projects, not sure if CRM would fit, and said he would contact BoR for clarification if CRM would be a fit.

Greg reported the RFP has been set to four people, for the MWF/MWC conversations.

7. Initiating Government Reports

Town of Twisp-

Soo reported that Travis's time was well spent at the Town Council meeting, Soo's impression was that the presentation was to ask for the town's continued participation, which they're happy to do.

Soo reported that the construction projects are in the works and will continue in to the spring as a sidewalk comes into being. Also, a water meter replacement project is in the works.

Travis clarified, that he was asking the town to continue to participate in the facilitated conversation, in which the merger is still up for discussion, and not say no up front.

Soo said it's slightly different than she thinks the Council understood, but the conversation will continue.

Town of Winthrop-

Sally said she thinks it would be beneficial for the MWC to present to the Winthrop Town Council, and offered dates in December or January. Travis and Sally discussed schedule.

Okanogan County-

Andy reported that he introduced the topic of the merger to the other commissioners, and also had a conversation with Mayor Ing-Moody. Questions include what the goals of this merger are. The Council has the three governments that have authority to implement work in the current format.

Travis said he thinks there is some identity crisis. Travis said the Twisp Council also saw the value of the Council as an advisory group. The MWC bylaws only outline one duty, to implement the DIP and do not speak to advising. The Council hears from others that they'd like to see the Council implement other actions as well, such as the CRM. So, according to Travis, those are the questions: what are we, and who are we going forward, how do we need to refine our mission and goals, and do we need to be two separate organizations. That's the point of facilitated conversations.

Andy brought up the example of the MWF reporting on the potential for the BoR grant, and said the Council needs to lead discussions on project ideas, and that he would bring these discussions to the agenda.

Andy said the draft addendum for WRIA 49 process is out and he would email it to Council. Comment is due by October 19, he thinks.



Travis asked about the 2020-06 work plan. Andy said the Commissioners were currently concentrating on budget, and there is not a timeline for the work plan currently. Also, the County is currently seeking legal opinions from land use attorneys on 173-548.

8. Sub-Committee Reports

Technical Review Committee, Chair – Tackman/Fort

Mike reported five meters have been installed and 6 are up next. Sandra will meet with the plumber October 19 to get a bid on remaining sites.

The database has not been updated yet. Andy noted that there is a database in the works for WRIA 49 that could be adapted for 48, and would eliminate the need for updates.

Political Action Committee, Chair – Knott

No report

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair – Knott

Main outreach is currently through the newsletter

9. Resilient Methow – Lane

Sarah will send out a list of community identified top priority issues for water in regard to climate. The Council should review this list and make sure there are no glaring missing items.

10. Agenda Item 10.15-01 and 10.15-02 MWC/MWF Merger: Response from Governments and MWC/MWF Strategic Planning Next Steps (Combined conversation)

Most of this item was covered in previous items. Soo asked for further clarification about the action for this item, if it is to plan the facilitated meeting. She is in favor of discussing what will make the organization more effective, and agrees there is an identity crisis and a desire to re-assess goals, as well as how do we move forward.

Sally asked that Council representative present to the Winthrop Town Council as well, and read Jeff's email that is in favor of not merging and to pursue 2066 follow up.

Soo noted the elected Council members offer representation. Andy noted that not much had moved forward since completion of the DIP.

Greg described the RFP process and Sarah will send out the final version. The goal is to complete this work by the beginning of the year. Closing date for RFP is Nov 10.

Mike doesn't see the possibility of merger under current structure. Mike made a motion that the Council discuss and vote on the acceptability of a merger. No second.

Andy moved that the MWC will not merge with the MWF. Soo seconded the motion.

Travis stated that the Council does not have a legal, statutory structure. The Council follows bylaws by mutual consent. The Council would not be immune to legal action, and needs to come up with a structure that provides members protection. Also, there are members of the Foundation who joined not to manage funds, but to work on water issues. Is there a way to preserve participation and representation? Travis supports continuing the discussion for these reasons.



Greg said that there is clarity needed on roles and responsibilities, since some one the Council thought the Foundation was overstepping. He wants to preserve the representational seats and the role of IGs on Council and address and solve awkward relationship of MWF and MWC.

Soo said it was unfortunate that MWF members thought it was anything other than a fiduciary board. She said MWC does not have liability because it is an advisory group without statutory existence. Participation of IGs gives the Council authority. Work is needed on strategic planning and implementation. The Council is vital and important. There is authority in representation.

Bill says adding people to the Council would dilute representation. There was never any other role for the MWF than financial, and he feels the MWF overstepped by working on outreach, etc.

Andy asked about ho positions are advertised. Sarah shared that interested people were reluctant to run for seats if the current reps wanted to stay, and joined the MWF instead. Andy said competition is necessary if a person wants to participate on the MWC.

Greg asked how we continue to include the interest and energy of MWF members. Andy noted subcommittees.

The vote was called. Travis abstained, Greg voted no, and the remainder voted yes. Motuon carried.

Greg noted a discussion on structure was still needed even without a merger.

11. Agenda Item 10.15-03 Water 2066 Final Report- Discussion on Impressions

Council discussed the outcome of Water 2066 Final Report. Mike said we were missing tribal participation, a key for success in moving forward noted by facilitator Lisa Dally Wilson. Sarah noted we did have an interview with Colville's and would be able to add it when the notes were approved. Andy said Yakamas may be able provide input via the County.

Andy was asked what uses he sees for the report, moving forward. He notes that the survey did not capture a statistically significant portion of the community, and would like to see more stakeholder involvement.

Greg said Water 2066 will inform a process such as CRM.

Travis said he thought Dally Wilson meant we could not implement change without the Tribes, and that Water 2066 was not a flawed project without them at this point.

12. Agenda Item 10.15.-04 – DIP discussion/ review priorities Agenda item struck

13. Agenda Item 10.05-05 - Letter to County re: Water meters on new residential buildings -

recommendation and purpose: Travis reported the letter is still in draft form. Andy said that he wants the recommendation from the Council because it will have more weight with fellow commissioners.



14. Agenda items for next meeting

1. RFP responses
2. Letter to County re: Water meters
3. Project topics TBD

15. Public Comment

Lee Bernheisel said he thinks the point of what water is about in the Methow is being missed. Thinks 90.54 guides the process, and most people would be surprised what it says, that water in the Methow is water of the state, and that all people in the state have a right to the water. Thinks 90.82 was in opposition to this, and that Ecology has failed in their protection of these waters. Would like the state to form a new group in the area. Lee does not think this group will move forward. Ask Ecology to do something in this valley.

Melanie thinks in regard to the conversation of restructuring coinciding with the presentation of Water 2066, that the Council needs to have a plan, and to put together a structure that will pay attention to 2066.

Jasmine said the discussion of merger is getting a thorough vetting. She suggested moving to executive session or some other side process. Council leadership is needed on 2066, current ordinances, CRM and other topics.

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

Travis Thornton, Council Vice- Chair

Approved at the November 19, 2020 Council meeting.