



Monthly Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2023 – Winthrop Library Community Room/ Zoom

Council Members Present: Greg Knott, Mike Fort, Lorah Super, Bill Tackman, Jean Bodeau, Soo Ing-Moody

Council Members Absent: George Schneider, Andy Hover

Others in Attendance: David Clement, Susan Crampton, Jordana Ellis (OCD), Hannah Mittelstaedt

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

Recording not available

Non-Procedural Motions

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
12.14-01	None			

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jean Bodeau at 5:02 PM. Administrator Lane confirmed attendance.
2. **Agenda:** Councilmember Knott moved to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Super seconded the motion. Motion approved.
3. **Minutes:** Councilmember Super noted corrections to the minutes and moved to approve the October 26, 2023, Minutes as amended. Councilmember Fort seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
4. **Report from the Chair:** Council Chair Bodeau thanked Mayor Ing-Moody for thirteen years of service, including serving as chair and on the Policy Committee, as she leaves the Mayor role and steps down from the Council. Councilmembers added their appreciation. Mayor Ing-Moody said that the new Mayor, Hans Smith, has been sworn in and will take office on January 1, 2024.
5. **MWF Report: Chair- Craig McDonald**
MWF Chair McDonald was absent. Councilmember Fort (MWF Treasurer) reported that funding is stable, a new contractor is being hired, grants are targeted for the new year, and the County contract was renewed for two years.
6. **Committee Reports:**
 - Outreach and Education Committee, Chair: Knott**
Councilmember Knott reported that as he is retiring from his position, a new outreach chair will be needed. Administrator Lane reported that many successful outreach events were held in 2023. She reminded everyone that the videos are available via links on the MWC website. Work on a grant application to the Community Foundation is underway that will ask for funding for 2024 outreach.
 - Policy Committee, Chair: Super**
Councilmember Super reported that the Policy committee is figuring out workload now that Council approved the slate of issues to review. Town representation is needed on the committee. Community members interested in policy may also be acted. The drought grant was discussed.

Technical Committee, Chair: Schneider

Councilmember Schneider was absent. Councilmember Super discussed the logistics of Ecology's drought planning grant. Super reported: This grant will likely involve all committees. Engaging stakeholders and user groups will be needed. This grant opportunity only pays for planning, no projects. Preapplication meetings are being offered. The grant closes in March, and funding would be available probably by fall 2024 at the soonest. OCD has met internally to discuss partnerships. MWC would be a strong partner for work in the Methow side of the County, along with other organizations. Government entities and certain watershed planning groups are eligible; it is uncertain if MWC is eligible on its own. OCD could be the leading organization, unless another entity wants to do it. MWC needs to establish main points of contact with the OCD to work on grant planning. \$1.6 million will be available statewide. Super thinks the local proposal will be around \$500K.

Mayor Ing-Moody asked if more than one application could come from an area. Councilmember Super said she thought more than one consultant working on different sub-projects for each WRIA under one grant, could be handled by OCD. Mayor Ing-Moody thinks MWC may be eligible independently. Councilmember Knott thinks that the MWC should operate independently if it can. Councilmember Super thinks the application may be more competitive with meeting requirements such as "over-burdened communities" by combining geographic areas. Mayor Ing-Moody noted that the WRIA 48 is also considered over-burdened. She wants to see actionable items come out of planning

Water Banking, Chair: Tackman

Councilmember Tackman reported an update from Jordana Ellis at the last Water Banking committee. He asked Administrator Lane to send the last meeting notes to the Council. He reported that the Water Banking committee wants to clearly understand how the MWC can participate and assist in the final product of the OCD water bank. The MWC is requesting to be involved. The timeline to completion of the bank set up is about a year and a half.

Ellis (OCD) said that outreach and gathering information is very helpful. A "harvest document" from the November 17 meeting will be ready to share soon. The survey will reopen to collect information. The survey results and draft OCDWB-BOCC interlocal agreement will be sent to Administrator Lane shortly. The agreement has not been signed. The OCD water bank is expecting appraisal revisions to be returned soon. Policy and guideline outlines are being discussed for near-term work. Ellis reported that the second grant is being added to the first grant as an amendment. The County application for Pine Creek is proceeding. Councilmember Tackman noted the opportunity to take feedback through the reopened OCDWB survey. Councilmember Super would like it to be promoted through different entities for more opportunity.

7. Local Government Reports

Town of Winthrop- No report

Town of Twisp- Mayor Ing-Moody reported that Mayor-Elect Smith will join the Council representing the town. Twisp has treatment plan improvement projects in the works to support growth, annexations, and businesses, including affordable housing. Councilmember Knott asked if the improvements were to the design. Mayor Ing-Moody said they were for water quality and capacity. Funding is through the state with town match and includes rate increase for users. Councilmember Knott said there is a better use for discharge water, and maintaining quality can assist with that. Mayor Ing-Moody said the new Mayor is in agreement with that idea. The town is working toward a public works system that is sustainable for any issues that come.

Okanogan County- No report

8. News From the Community:

Chair Bodeau reported that Curt Bovee is stepping down from Wolf Creek Reclamation District, is stepping down and a position is open.

Councilmember Super reported that the Community Foundation of North Central Washington is opening a new office in Omak with a staff person there to support local nonprofits better.

Councilmember Tackman asked Councilmember Super about an update on the MVCC -Okanogan Country lawsuit (regarding building checklist). No ruling has been made at this time.

9. Ecology Report: None

10. Presentation: None

11. Agenda Item 12.14.23-01: Public Comment:

Comment emailed from Virginia O’Kelly: I wanted to let the council know that I will be ending my Position #1 as an Okanogan County Water Conservancy Board member as of March 31, 2024. This means there will be one open position and 2 alternate positions open starting in April 2024. For those interested, there will be a weeklong training in January that is required to be a voting member. Please contact Lisa DeVera at ldevera@nwi.net so she can get any interested people enrolled. They would need to apply to the county for the one open alternate position in order to get the free training by the Dept. of Ecology. I will try to attend this evening’s meeting in case anyone has questions. I hope to use some of the knowledge I have gained in my position and apply it to more local issues starting in April. I would be interested in a position on your council in the future, but the timing is not right now. Respectfully, Virginia O’Kelly, Twisp

Virginia O’Kelly also said now is the time to contact the County if interested in the position, in order to attend the required yearly training.

12. Agenda Item 12.14.23-02: Discussion: Open Council Position (Pos 1) and renewal (Pos 2), to be seated in January

Chair Bodeau said that Greg Knott’s position will be open in January, as he is resigning. This is for Position One, Upper Methow. A notice has been in the Methow Valley News. A letter of interest should be submitted to methowwatershed@gmail.com by January 5, 2024. Applicants must be residents of the Methow and meet the geographic requirements. Email Administrator Lane with questions or letters. Position Two, held by Mike Fort also renews in January, and he has expressed interest in continuing in the position.

13. Agenda Item 12.14.23-03 Discussion: Vice Chair Position Opens in January

Chair Bodeau reported that the Vice Char position will be open when Mayor Ing-Moody steps down. Please let the Chair know if you are interested in serving in that role. Bodeau also announced that a new person is in the process of being hired but will be announced when the paperwork is complete.

14. Agenda Item 12.14.23-04: Next Steps

Mayor Ing-Moody thanked Councilmembers Fort and Tackman for staying on. Councilmember Tackman expressed his thanks for the service of the Mayor and Councilmember Knott. Chair Bodeau will host a gathering later in the winter to celebrate Mayor Ing-Moody and Councilmember Knott.

Councilmember Knott noted the location for applications for his position: North of township line 35N.

Administrator Lane noted the next meeting is set for January 18, 2024, at the Winthrop Library for council and Zoom for public.

15. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 5:59 PM.

Councilmember Jean Bodeau, Council Chair

January 18, 2024