



Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2018

5-7 p.m. – River Bank Building, Twisp, WA

Council Members Present: Dick Ewing, Mike Fork, Andy Hover, Rick Karro, Greg Knott, Bill Tackman, Travis Thornton. John Fleming was unable to attend; Mayor Soo Ing-Moody acted as alternate representative for the Town of Twisp. Ashley Thrasher was unable to attend.

Others in Attendance: Kent Hitch, Perry Huston, Natalie Kuehler, Bill McAdow, Mary McCrea, Phil Millam, Jennifer Molesworth, Jackie Moriarty, Jacquelyn Wallace

Minutes recorded by: Sali Kilmer, Administrative Assistant

Non-Procedural Motions

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
01-18-01A	2018 MWC Elections – Greg Knott, Chairperson	8	0	0
01-18-01B	2018 MWC Elections – Mike Fort Vice, Chairperson	8	0	0
01-18-01C	2018 MWC Elections – Greg Knott, Position #1	8	0	0
01-18-01D	2018 MWC Elections – Mike Fort, Position #2	8	0	0
01-18-02	Decision by Consensus Change (postpone to 2/15/18)	8	0	0
01-18-03	Approval of Water 2066 Funding Request (Facilitator)	8	0	0

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Knott at 5:02 p.m.

2. Introductions

3. Approval of Agenda

The following amendment to the Agenda for the January 18, 2018 meeting was proposed:

- Greg Knott – Move the “Elections of 2018 Officers and Members” to the first agenda item.

Dick Ewing moved to adopt the Agenda of January 18, 2018, as amended. Andy Hover seconded, and the motion carried.

4. Minutes – Review and Approval

The following amendments to the Minutes of the December 21, 2017, MWC meeting were proposed:

- Andy Hover – In the third sentence of the Okanogan County report, change “basins” to “tributaries”.

- Soo Ing-Moody – In the fourth paragraph of the Decision by Consensus Change section, change the second sentence to “However, she recalled that **prior to the formation of the Council** by the enabling legislation, it did work under consensus.”
- Soo Ing-Moody – Correct the spelling of Sally Ranzau’s name.

Bill Tackman moved to approve the Minutes of December 21, 2017, as amended. Andy Hover seconded, and the motion carried.

5. Report from the Chair: Greg Knott

Greg reminded Council members to return signed Conflict of Interest statements to Sali for filing.

Greg and Andy Hover reported on the January 17, 2018 meeting in Wenatchee with Ecology officials (Sage Park, Central Regional Director; Trevor Hutton, Water Resources PM, and Vanessa Brinkhuis, Grant Administrator). Greg and Andy felt that their meeting objectives had been accomplished – to have a face-to-face talk about the structure, purpose, and goals of the Methow Watershed Council and what the MWC aims to achieve in the future. It was a very cordial meeting, and Greg and Andy came away with the sense that Ecology definitely wants to stay engaged with the Council and its activities. Ecology even requested a conference call number whereby they would be able to attend MWC meetings remotely. Specific subjects discussed and/or clarified by Ecology include:

- WRIA 48 Status under SB 6091 – Since WRIA 48 has an existing instream flow rule, we are not required to form a WRE committee under SB 6091. This legislation also authorizes the issuance of \$300,000,000 to fund watershed restoration and enhancement projects. Ecology could not say whether we would be excluded from the funding, since we are not required to form a committee.
- Consensus decisions – Ecology affirmed that things (i.e., rule changes) are much more likely to move forward if the groups or committees proposing the changes operate on a consensus basis.
- 2 cfs – Andy asked whether Ecology perceives the 2 cfs reserve as a “water right”. In other words, if we open the rule up for revision, could someone question the 2 cfs reservation? Ecology indicated that the 2 cfs reservation could be at great risk if we went forward with rule revision at this time. Greg asked what the risk is if we do nothing? Ecology is fairly confident that the rule will stand as written, unless it is opened up to revision, necessitating public comment.
- Early Winters – Andy asked if there was a way to move Early Winters water downstream without a rule revision. Ecology responded that they may be open to thinking outside the box with regard to getting the 2 cfs down to the towns.
- Single domestic wells – Andy asked for a definition of “single domestic” wells. Ecology’s initial response was, “one house, one well.” Andy further asked about sub-divisions. Ecology responded that if it smells like a group, it is a group. However, Andy did not get the sense that subdivisions are in danger, as there seems to be some latitude on the interpretation of “single domestic.”
- Consumptive use – Greg asked whether there is statewide agreement on consumptive use. Ecology said no, but acknowledged that municipal return flows are a critical issue that needs to be addressed. Andy and Greg stressed to

Ecology that the MWC is very interested in the discussion about return flows and municipal supply.

- Mitigation – Mitigation has to begin with water for water and then may move on to more creative solutions especially if water is not available within the basin for mitigation. Ecology indicated that statewide there will be movement on this issue. They advised MWC to talk to Chelan County regarding their mitigation experience.
- Water 2066 – Ecology seemed very enthusiastic and supportive about the vision for Water 2066.

The overall impression Greg and Andy were left with is that Ecology could not provide the conclusive answer to all of the questions asked, but that they are happy to be engaging with MWC and to get the ball moving forward. They are still working on researching the answers to the questions previously submitted by Okanogan County. Greg will follow up with a thank you email and a request for further dialogue on the unanswered questions.

6. Grant Administrator Report: Greg Knott

In George Schneider's absence, Greg Knott informed the Council that a draft agreement regarding the pilot project has been presented to TLAC and WCRD for their review.

7. Methow Watershed Foundation Report: Mary McCrea

Mary McCrea reported that the MWF was unable to hold their January meeting due to inclement weather. The Foundation is pursuing a quote for insurance coverage for the MWC and MWF. Preliminary estimates place the cost at about \$2,400 annually. The final insurance proposal will be brought before the Council for approval.

The Foundation has also been working on securing grant funding for 2018. The Community Foundation of North Central Washington grant is due January 31. If received, this funding will support public outreach and education efforts. Later, the Foundation will re-apply for the Moccasin Lake grant, to be used to fund the administrative assistant position (in addition to the Give Methow funding). Additionally, Ashley Thrasher has asked the Foundation to explore grant funding sources for the Water 2066 facilitator position. (See the Agenda Item, Action: Approval of Water 2066 Funding Request.)

Mary asked whether the Council would like the Foundation to pursue funding for installation of the gauges to measure instream flow in the Methow Valley. It was clarified that the Council would like to see funding obtained for not only the installation but also for the maintenance of the gauges. Jennifer Molesworth mentioned that there may be some grant applications due later in the spring that could potentially fund the gauges purchase, installation, and maintenance.

8. Initiating Government Reports

Town of Twisp: Soo Ing-Moody stated that she had nothing new to report.

Town of Winthrop: Rick Karro reported that he had nothing new to report.

Okanogan County: Perry Huston reported that the County is issuing decisions again. The last appeal from the Yakama Nation will most likely be resolved soon. Dick Ewing

asked for an analysis of the impact of the Hirst decision on the issuance of building permits in Okanogan County. Perry stated that there has been little to no impact on the number of permits issued. The change attributed to the Hirst decision is that now the County is involved at the point of the land sale. Perry mentioned that the comprehensive plan draft will go to the Commissioners next week, and will possibly be up for first public review next month.

9. Sub-Committee Reports

Instream Flow Rule Revision & Technical Review Committees: Mike Fort stated that there was nothing new to report.

Political Action Committee: Bill Tackman stated that there was nothing new to report.

Outreach and Education Committee: Bill Tackman reported that the presentation on the Washington Trust Water Rights program was well attended by over 100 community members. The talk was recorded and is now available on www.methowwatershed.com and on the Methow Watershed Facebook page. Everyone was encouraged to mark their calendars for the February 20 presentation by Jason McCormick on water banking.

Bylaws Amendment Committee: No report. Ashley Thrasher absent.

Water 2066 Committee: No report. Ashley Thrasher absent, but she submitted the “Water Community Forum” draft summary of January 13, 2018, for review. See the agenda item, “Approval of Water 2066 Funding Request” below.

10. Agenda Items

01-18-01 – Action: Elections of 2018 Officers and Members: Greg Knott was the only nomination for the position of Chairperson. *Mike Fort made a motion to elect Greg Knott as the MWC Chairperson. Dick Ewing seconded, and the motion carried.*

Mike Fort was the only nomination for the position of Vice Chairperson. *Bill Tackman made a motion to elect Mike Fort as the MWC Vice Chairperson. Andy Hover seconded, and the motion carried.*

Greg Knott was the only nomination for Position #1 (Upper Methow Valley). *Mike Fort made a motion to elect Greg Knott for MWC Position #1 (Upper Methow Valley). Bill Tackman seconded, and the motion carried.*

Mike Fort was the only nomination for Position #2 (At-large). *Greg Knott made a motion to elect Mike Fort for MWC Position #2 (At-large). Andy Hover seconded, and the motion carried.*

Sali Kilmer will send the election results for positions 1 and 2 to the initiating governments for approval.

01-18-02 – Discussion: Decision by Consensus Change: Greg Knott started the discussion by having the November 16, 2017 motion regarding the consensus decision read:

“Ashley Thrasher made a motion to present to the Colville Confederated Tribes, Yakama Nation, and Department of Ecology that MWC will amend its bylaws to vote by consensus if any one of them choose to join the Methow Watershed Council. Mike Fort seconded, and the motion carried. Dick Ewing abstained. None of the initiating governments were present for the vote.”

He then opened up the discussion first to proponents of the consensus vote idea.

Andy Hover stated that he believes SB 6091 is going forward, which calls for the creation of water planning committees based on consensus. Even though most likely WRIA 48 will not be included in that requirement, he understands that Ecology is much more willing to work with groups governed by consensus. Further, he does not see the MWC moving larger projects forward without buy-in from the tribes.

Perry Huston said that based on his experience, the Yakama Nation and the Colville Confederated Tribes will not agree to be a seated member of a committee unless the group is governed by consensus.

Travis Thornton reminded the Council that they are not an executive or policy making group. Rather, the MWC is an advisory group tasked with implementing the Detailed Implementation Plan. He argued that without all voices at the table being in agreement, the recommendations put forward by the Council are diluted. Consensus invites involvement and gives the final recommendations much more power.

Bill Tackman agreed with Travis’s statement that the only way the MWC will have any real teeth is to present a recommendation backed by a consensus of stakeholders.

Mike Fort stated that history has shown that to move a recommendation forward, we must have consensus. Especially with regard to rule revision, Ecology will look for tribal buy-in. The only way to achieve tribal buy-in is to change to vote by consensus.

Greg Knott interjected that in addition to the above arguments for consensus, much of the funding available is only granted to consensus-driven groups that are all inclusive of stakeholders, including governments, tribes, NGO’s, and other interest groups.

Rick Karro stated that at this time, the Winthrop Town Council is against the MWC changing to consensus vote. He is not comfortable voting on the issue without taking it back to the Winthrop Council. He may be open to some form of modified consensus, but then again, would need to have time to take the question to his town council for consideration. Additionally, he reiterated that Ecology is obligated to move the rule revision forward, since they already agreed to that provision when they signed onto the Methow Watershed Plan.

Soo Ing-Moody clarified that the Town of Twisp has no problem whatsoever with full inclusion and welcomes working with the tribes and Ecology to solve water issues. However, she questions representation on the Council and the weight of each vote. She stressed that the purpose and objectives of the MWC needs to remain very clear and that we should go back to the roots of why we are here. She argued “we don’t even have consensus on consensus” as an example of how progress gets stalled when not

everyone in the room can agree. Further, she wonders whether tribal inclusion can be sought without changing to consensus. She is aware of at least one other board that is not consensus driven in which there is tribal participation. Finally, she stated that this is not the right time to make a change like this, with so much up in the air at the state level with regard to legislation.

Mike Fort and Bill Tackman argued that they have been hearing that the timing is wrong to move changes forward for more than fifteen years. They are ready to actually put a recommendation forward that will accomplish something.

Soo clarified that she highly values the work of the Methow Watershed Council and agrees that we need to continue working on the issues, not holding off. It is the change to consensus vote that she wants to postpone for the time being.

Dick Ewing questioned what exactly is meant by “consensus” as there are several versions ranging from full consensus to a modified form. He suggested that the Council ponders how they want to operate, going forward.

Andy Hover proposed a meeting between the initiating governments, Ecology, and the tribes to discuss what it would take to get them to the table. He will work with the Town of Twisp and the Town of Winthrop to arrange a meeting.

Mike Fort made a motion to postpone consideration of the consensus vote to the February 15, 2018, agenda. Dick Ewing seconded, and the motion carried.

01-18-03 – Action: Approval of Water 2066 funding request: *Mike Fort made a motion to authorize the Methow Watershed Foundation to pursue grant funding for the Water 2066 Facilitator position at \$35,000 a year. Andy Hover seconded, and the motion carried.*

01-18-04 – Discussion: MWF Grant Funding Opportunities: See the MWF report.

01-18-05 – Presentation: Non-profit Insurance Program: Deferred to next month’s agenda.

01-18-06 – Continuing Discussion: “Waterwise” program idea: Discussion deferred, due to lack of time.

Public Comments: Deferred, due to lack of time.

Discussion: Agenda Items – Next Meeting: The next meeting agenda may include a continuing discussion on decision by consensus, an insurance coverage presentation, and a continuing discussion on the “Waterwise” program idea.

11. Meeting Adjournment

At 7.06 p.m. the meeting was adjourned by Chair Greg Knott.

Greg Knott, Council Chairman

Approved at the February 15, 2018 Council Meeting.