



Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 17, 2025 - Via Zoom

Council Members Present: *Lorah Super, Vice Chair; Boo Turner, Murray Taylor, Wren Soperanez, Seth Miles, Tim McGuire (Twisp alternate)*

Council Members Absent: *David Asia, Andy Hover, Hans Smith*

Others in Attendance: *Sarah Lane, MWF/MWC Administrator; Rita Stewart, MWC Outreach Coordinator; Gilda Wheeler, Michael Bastian (MWF).*

Minutes recorded by: *Sarah Lane, MWF/MWC Administrator*

[Recording available here](#)

Non-Procedural Motions:

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
12.17.25-01	Motion to approve grant application targets and topics 2026.	6	0	0

1. Call to order: Vice Chair Lorah Super called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.
2. Roll Call. Administrator Lane administered the roll call.
3. Guests in attendance: Gilda Wheeler, Mike Bastian (MWF),
4. Agenda – Additions or changes, Approval. Councilmember Turner moved to approve the agenda with amendments to reflect Councilmember Super chairing the meeting and Administrator Lane's addition of another grant topic to discuss; Councilmember Miles seconded; motion carried.
5. Minutes – November minutes were not available for review.
6. Presentation: None
7. Agenda Items

Item #	Agenda Item	Presenter
12.17.25-01	<i>Public Comment: None</i>	<i>Super</i>
12.17.25-015	<p><i>Soperanez Letter: Listen in full at timestamp 4:55.</i></p> <p><i>Soperanez spoke to the opportunity to weave on the ground projects from restoring water cycle along with our current projects in a way that will create residence and address fire and drought risk, water availability for salmon and humans. Soperanez wants to help the collective efforts in this work to move forward together.</i></p> <p><i>Councilmember Miles asked for projects available to look at. Soperanez talked about a project they are working on, that is on private property on Beaver Creek, with an active beaver present. Council is invited to see this project. Councilmember Turner spoke about the difficulty of bringing the threads together on possibilities. Super asked if Soperanez is proposing hands on restoration projects for the MWC to initiate, which is accurate. Super spoke to the past view of MWC, which was to leave restoration to other groups doing that work. Super asked Chris Johnson, Methow Salmon, why we have not worked together. Johnson said that MWC had said no to these projects in the past. Soperanez said they are trying to get more partners working on their current project.</i></p>	<i>Soperanez</i>

12.17.25-02	<p><i>Discussion: 2026 Strategy and Goals</i></p> <p>Councilmember Turner spoke to the discussions about future strategy for MWC, and the need to plan further ahead. Turner would like to initiate pre-scoping for strategic planning to lead to a multi-(five) year planning approach. Turner would like to start with a SWOT review for the organization and watershed. Turner suggests providing an exercise for members to complete in between meetings, with a discussion in February.</p> <p>Administrator Lane described the last strategic work planning session November 2024, where work remaining from 2009 DIP was reviewed. Water storage and drought were two remaining issues. Lane emphasized the need to understand MWC's foundational goals and future planning. 2026 seems pretty set with drought planning (LDPP), firewater, and outreach, but planning is needed for future work. Councilmember Super asked if more clarity is needed now. Lane said that given staff and current projects there seems to be enough direction at this time.</p> <p>Councilmember Taylor said it is important to discuss aspirational ideas, and looking ahead. Turner agrees and spoke to the need to know exactly what we want to do, so that our readiness is apparent to grantors. Turner feels MWC is in a changing phase. Super spoke to the need to understand our work in relation to the valley's other organizations. Super would like to see MWC expand restoration goals and relationships. Councilmember Miles also sees this as a growing role for MWC and new ways we can support this work in the community. Miles would like to see water storage projects such as Soperanez discussed. Councilmember McGuire said we need to know, what is MWC well equipped to do. Miles suggested talking with other organizations to brainstorm ideas about concerns that MWC can address.</p> <p>Lane said next step would be to draft a worksheet for Council. Soperanez offered to help with this process. Mike Bastain said we should look at funding opportunities to go with work plans and a longer-term vision.</p>	Turner
12.17.25-03	<p><i>Approve: Grant Goals for Icicle and Methow Valley Funds</i></p> <p>Lane presented the grant topic goals for Icicle, Commerce, and Methow Valley Fund. Councilmember Miles made a motion to support the planned grant applications due January. Councilmember Taylor seconded the motion; motion carried.</p>	Lane
12.17.25-04	<p><i>Discuss: Reduce Meetings for Cost Reduction (See item 13b)</i></p> <p>Administrator Lane discussed the potential need to cut the number of meetings based on available funding. Lane will provide a proposed meeting schedule for 2026 in January, when the outcome of the County funding request is known.</p>	Lane
12.17.25-05	<p><i>Nominations: Positions 5 (open) and 6 (David Asia) for renewal</i></p> <p>Councilmember Turner nominated David Asia to continue in Position 6. Councilmember Miles seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations.</p>	Super
12.17.25-06	<p><i>Nominations: Chair</i></p> <p>Councilmember Turner nominated David Asia to continue as the MWC Chair. Councilmember Taylor seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations.</p>	Super

11.19.25-07	<i>Nominations: Vice Chair</i> Councilmember Turner nominated Lorah Super to continue as the MWC Vice Chair. Councilmember Taylor seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations	<i>Super</i>
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8. Report from the Council Chair. Chair Asia was absent.

9. MWF Report, Chair – Michael Bastian. Mr. Bastian reported that MWF will have around \$6000 at the beginning of the year. MWF is working on contracting through work orders with contracted staff to align with grants.

10. Committee Reports

a. Outreach and Education Committee, Chair – Turner. Councilmember Turner and Administrator Lane will be working on newsletter guidelines for contributors addressing things such as word length and dates due.

b. Policy Committee, Chair - Super. Councilmember Super had no report.

c. Technical Committee, Chair – Bastian, Acting Chair. No report Councilmember Turner would like to feature Perceptions of Drought interviewees in the newsletter.

Ad Hoc: Fire Water, Chair - Asia, Acting Chair. Asia was absent. The Council supports his continued efforts to make an agreement with PUD.

11. Local Governments Reports

Town of Winthrop: Councilmember Miles reported that Winthrop is seeking funding from a WA state health department fund to replace leaking water mains and rehabbing well lines, proceeding to supply lines that are nearly 80 years old. First part of the project will be \$4 million, and the next phase \$3-6 million.

Town of Twisp: No report

Okanogan County. Councilmember Hover was absent.

12. Members Report: News from the Community and Upcoming Events. Councilmember Turner spoke about the recent flooding. People are curious about risk related to large wood restoration structures. Councilmember Super discussed MVCC's nominations of the upper Methow and Chewuch as outstanding resource waters. More to come in mid-January. Super also spoke about the realtors development education workshop with many sessions on water, trying to address what realtors and their clients need to know.

13. Next Steps

a. Tasks:

- i. SWOT survey development (Boo, Wren, Sarah); and context: what are other groups doing.
- ii. Contact AESI folks

b. Next Agenda Items

- i. Elections
- ii. 2026 proposed meeting schedule
- iii. Firewater progress/MOU
- ii. January meeting: Wed., Jan 28, 2026; 3:00 pm, location TBA.

1.

14. Adjourn. Councilmember Miles moved to adjourn; Councilmember McGuire seconded. Motion carried; Vice Chair Super adjourned the meeting at 4:41 p.m.