



Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2024

Location: Twisp Public Building Meeting Room and Zoom

Council Members Present: Mike Fort, George Schneider, Lorah Super, Hans Smith, Andy Hover, (Tim Matsui, Twisp alternate)

Council Members Absent: Bill Tackman, Jacob Gates

Others in Attendance: David Asia, Susan Crampton, Mark Edson, (MVID), Jordana Ellis (OCD), Virginia O’Kelly, Wren Soperanez

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

WB- 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 5:01 PM. Administrator Lane confirmed attendance.
- 2. Agenda:** Councilmember Super moved to approve the agenda. Mayor Smith seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- 3. Minutes:** Mayor Smith moved to approve the February 15, 2024 Minutes as presented. Councilmember Schneider seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
- 4. Report from the Chair:** Commissioner Hover gave no report.
- 5. MWF Report: Chair- Craig McDonald**
MWF Chair McDonald was absent, Administrator Lane reported that the Community Foundation grant was unsuccessful and will have budget implications. The MWF is working on developing a fundraising plan. Identifying the community needs the MWC meets would be beneficial, as that has not happened since Water 2066. Commissioner Hover feels the drought projects will help with public interface. Administrator

Lane reported that the Strategic Plan is due for an update. With Jean's departure, Craig is taking over contracted staff oversight. Scheduling the strategic plan will be added to the April agenda.

6. Committee Reports:

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair: Lane

Administrator Lane reported the Outreach committee identified items that can be cut from the budget for now. Outreach will work on expanding outreach, such as through is working on water education ideas with Classroom in Bloom. Lorah identified an opportunity with Washington Water Trust regarding drought tools. Outreach will be at two farmers markets.

Policy Committee, Chair: Super

Councilmember Super reported that the Policy did not meet as there continues to be a membership/ leadership gap for this committee.

Technical Committee, Chair: Schneider

Councilmember Schneider reported that some work on drought issues such as dry well solutions will move forward, now that work on the LDPP grant application is done and the grant submitted.

Water Banking, Chair: Tackman

Councilmember Tackman was absent. Jordana Ellis, OCD, gave an update.

Barkley:

- Received amendment to add Barkley acquisition to current Grant.
- Revising budget to fit into existing tasks.

Guidance documents:

- In Planning team review.
- Once reviewed will be shared with OCD board & OCC for comment/review.

County Application:

- Letter of Intent for Pine Creek acquisition sent to ECY for comment, per ECY request. This right is held by ECY Office of Columbia River.
- Members of County Staff are getting signed into EAGL the DOE grants and contracts portal. Once that is done the application can be opened and Aspect will assist with submitting County application to ECY department of OCR for Lake Sullivan acquisition signed and being submitted by Aspect.

Proviso Revision:

- [PSSB5949CapitalBudgetBill.pdf \(wa.gov\)](#) section 6020 pg. 131: Changes:
 - New applicant cap changed from \$2 million to \$4 million. OCD looking for additional acquisitions. Total Pilot Program funding allowance has not increased.
 - Open to all "rural counties" not just headwater basins = more competitive.
 - Permits purchase of rights already held in a water bank

7. Local Government Reports

Town of Winthrop- Councilmember Jacob Gates was absent.

Town of Twisp- Mayor Smith reported that Twisp is not expecting drought impacts to its water system or water rights. Twisp public works is hiring an assistant director.

Okanogan County- Commissioner Hover reported BOCC will meet with the new ECY regional director next week and will discuss drought. Hover remains interested in the potential for using the freshet in spring/ top of the hydrograph for aquifer recharge/ retiming/small scale storage. Understanding of feasible location is needed. WWT and AESI (who applied for a feasibility project with Twisp to ECY and were unsuccessful) have some of this data. Commissioner Hover sees keeping water in the river as an MWC issue.

8. News From the Community: None

9. Ecology Report: None

10. Presentation: None

11. Agenda Item 3.21.24-01: Public Comment: No comments.

12. Agenda Item 3.21.24-02: Future of MWC (Continued)

Commissioner Hover tabled the agenda item until April.

13. Agenda Item 3.21.24-03: Discussion: Irrigators Position on Council: Next Steps

Commissioner Hover asked Mark Edson about communication with other ditch directors. Mr. Edson feels that the irrigators have a role on the Council, and it is important for the future of water in the valley.

Commissioner Hover addressed the representative issue of having one irrigator member in a position on the Council making it difficult to communicate with the other irrigator organizations. Commissioner Hover would like to see the MWC host an irrigators discussion quarterly with representatives from each company.

Commissioner Hover spoke to the representative value of the MWC. Councilmember Schneider asked about the details of the recent vote regarding an irrigators seat. It was clarified that a vote had approved the Council to move forward with background work to investigate adding an irrigator position, with no task or committee assigned. Councilmember Super discussed the value of the irrigators group that has been meeting informally in 2023. Councilmember Schneider supports working with the irrigators within a forum. The Council is currently waiting to hear from irrigators what support and purpose they want for this forum. Councilmember Super noted that two current applicants are associated with irrigators. Next steps: Convening the irrigators group again. Adding an agenda item to be added for the April meeting for irrigator representatives to attend and share information about how the MWC can help them.

14. Agenda Item 3.21.24-04: 2024 Conflict of Interest Forms

Administrator Lane reminded members these forms are needed.

15. Agenda Item 3.21.24-06: Open Council Position One

Commissioner Hover directed the Administrator to keep posting the open position.

16. Agenda Item 3.21.24-05: Open Council Position Six.

Four candidates applied for Position 6 At Large: David Asia, Mark Edson, Virginia O’Kelly and Wren Soperanez. All candidates gave a statement. The council then interviewed each candidate separately. (Full interviews available via recording link, top of document.)

Commissioner Hover called for nominations. Councilmember Schneider nominated David Asia to Position 6. Councilmember Super seconded the nomination. Councilmember Fort nominated Mark Edson. Commissioner Hover seconded the nomination. Commissioner Hover called for any other nominations three times. No other nominations were offered. Commissioner Hover called for discussion, and members gave their views on the candidates.

Commissioner Hover called for the vote. Councilmembers Schneider, Super and Mayor Smith voted for David Asia. Commissioner Hover and Councilmember Fort voted for Mark Edson. David Asia was offered the position, pending approval of the Towns of Twisp and Winthrop, and the Board of County Commissioners.

17. Agenda Item 3.21.24-07: Nominate and Confirm Chair

No nominations were made for Chair. Items to be revisited in April, and Commissioner Hover said he would continue to fill in for the Chair until one can be elected.

18. Agenda Item 3.21.24-08: Next Steps

Next meeting will be April 18, 2024. Location TBD

19. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Commissioner Andy Hover, Council Vice Chair

April 18, 2024