



**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

February 28, 2019

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

**Council Members Present:** Dick Ewing, Mike Fort, Perry Houston, Greg Knott, Bill McAdow, Bill Tackman, Travis Thornton, Ashley Thrasher.

**Others in Attendance:** Vanessa Brinkhuis (call-in), Lee Burnheisel, Ryan Fortier, Natalie Kuehler, Mary McCrea, Jason Paulson, George Schneider, Marcy Stamper (MV News), Lorah Super (call-in), and Jeanne White

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrative Assistant

**Non-Procedural Motions**

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
2-19.01	Terminate Wolf Creek Project and move responsibility for the remaining funds to the Methow Watershed Foundation and ask Foundation to repurpose the remaining funds, and Council will write two letters: one to Arletta and one to Wolf Creek expressing thanks for working with us.	7	0	0
2-09.02	Council approves and accept proposal from Lisa Daily-Wilson, for amount of \$32K for Water 2066.	6	0	1

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ashley Thrasher at 5:02

**2. Introductions**

All in attendance introduced themselves.

**3. Agenda – Review and Approval**

Removed Agenda items 3 and 4. Agenda approved.

**4. Minutes – Review and Approval**

Move to Greg to approve, Mike second, minutes approved unanimously

**5. Report from the Chair**

Conflict of Interest Statements will be emailed to Council members. Sign and bring to next meeting.

**6. Ecology Report**

Vanessa reported that Trevor Hutton of Ecology has scheduled some meeting with the county to discuss mitigation options in the Methow.

There are a number of grant updates. Ecology is processing the amendment for Wolf creek/Twin Lakes. They are holding off in order to receive feedback from Council, regarding what to do with the remaining money. There is an additional request for \$10K for Water 2066. Hutton approves, so the request is going up through the chain for approval.

Mary McCrea asked why Council is not included in meetings with County on mitigation. Vanessa responded that this is just a preliminary meeting. Vanessa can relay Council interest in attending these meetings. Greg ask Vanessa to check in with Trevor regarding upcoming closed basin meetings, proposing a similar meeting on domestic wells in closed basins. Vanessa asked Greg to please send a proposal in email.

#### **7. Grant Administrator Report**

George reported that he met with the Tech committee last week to discuss obstacles, mainly Arletta's concern over their water right, and operating principles for the project. Wolf Creek and Arletta have since notified George in writing that they don't want to support the project. Arletta cited water quality and quantity reasons. George thinks project principles would protect these. Wolf Creek doesn't want further scrutiny of their water right by Ecology and no longer wants to participate. George feels Aspect looked into that issue thoroughly. Options are to push back, try to change minds, get Council to try; or let it go. Need to decide what to do with remaining grant funds and how to proceed with the project. Out of \$115K, 9K left.

#### **8. MWF Report**

Mary reported that the Moccasin Lake grant was submitted for \$4K. Members of the Foundation also had an interview with Community Fund folks regarding request for \$2K. Decision will be in March. This grant will pay for pamphlet project. Next Foundation meeting will discuss long term funding strategy. Greg reminded the Council that Reclamation is leaving the River Bank Building, and we will need budget and new meeting location around April. Options – City Hall? Aero Methow? Winthrop Town Hall?

#### **9. Initiating Government Reports**

**Town of Twisp- no report**

**Town of Winthrop-**

Bill reports, not much to say related to watershed. Old pipes in Heckendorn to be replaced this summer, which will save water. Question – how much of a percentage loss is there now? Would be educated guess. Bill doesn't know off the top of his head, but can find out.

**Okanogan County-**

Perry reports that the Comp plan is in progress. Goal to get draft EIS out in April. Did adopt water steady area in upper Tunk. Prevents review of most applications.

Regarding closed basins, the County is interested to know what Ecology is willing to talk about. Once 20-year water budget is determined, they will be able to figure out mitigations. This is in relation to WRIA 49, but 48 will be interested in outcomes. It will mean moving from "paper water" discussions to real world ways to get water back in the ground. The County is discussing cisterns, concern over health issues is driving discussion to wells and ways to replace water in the ground as mitigation.

Mike asked if there is a preferred alternative for the Comp Plan. Perry replied, not until EIS is reviewed on Comp Plan.

Bill T. asked about zone map showing as final adoption and about shape files on County's website. Perry said that those already have been approved, as well as being part of operating under the 2014 approved Plan. Shape files are integrated but not part of zoning.

Bill asked about shoreline mapping, which requires calling in to the County and how it's integrated. Perry said that it's a call and check now.

Bill M. asked if a realtor has a property without a well, is information available to check on the website if it can be drilled? Perry says that is an issue that people can call in and ask. The County can say that something looks OK, but the site analysis process is the definitive method. Info is also not 100% available yet, including shape files for all basins. Hope to eventually have shape files that are searchable by parcel number.

## **10. Sub-Committee Reports**

### **Technical Review Committee, Chair – Fort**

Wolf Creek Decision needs to be made. Mike proposes the project be terminated, and MWF look at what to do with remaining funds. We learned a lot, but didn't accomplish a lot. Vanessa said that once MWF decides what they would like to do, they should let her know.

Mike -made a Motion to terminate the Wolf Creek Project and move responsibility for the remaining funds to the Methow Watershed Foundation and ask Foundation to propose a repurpose of the remaining funds, and direct the Foundation to write two letters – one to Arletta and one to Wolf Creek expressing thanks for working with us. Dick Second motions

Mary stated it was a Council project and letters should come from Council. Mike accepted that as an amendment. The Motion passed unanimously.

Aspect has been granted extension for database. It should be done in two weeks. Demonstration should happen at the next meeting. Ashley said Aspect would like to present at 5PM next meeting. No concerns, will be scheduled so.

### **Political Action Committee, Chair – Knott**

Nothing to report

### **Outreach and Education Committee, Chair – Knott**

Greg reports: Dates for public talks have scheduled. March 26 and April 14. Theme will be effects of recent large fires in Methow, not just last year's, and hydrology and sediment. John Crandall is slated for May, but not confirmed. Public presentations for database and meters are also being scheduled by Tech committee. Mary to present on water banking at these meetings. Greg would like Ecology back to present on wells at these meetings as well.

### **Water 2066 Committee, Chair – Thrasher**

Will be going into exec session first.

## **Executive Session: Review of Water 2066 RFP's 5:48- 5:54**

### **Agenda Item 2.19.01: Presentation of RFP Responses**

Subcommittee met and made recommendation. Greg made a Motion that the Council approve and accept the proposal from Lisa Daily-Wilson, for amount of \$32K. Mike seconded the Motion.

The Scope of Work was amended so that Final Report will be additional item, and that is what the additional funds requested from Ecology are for.

The vote was 6 Yea's, no Nay's and Perry abstained, as he was not directed by the County on this vote. Natalie asked about Lisa's qualifications. Vanessa recommended her for her work. Mary noted her work in Skagit.

### **Agenda Item 2.19.02: Impressions from Grange Meeting**

The background information Trevor provided was appreciated, as it was especially valuable for public.

Greg thanks presenters.

Bill T. wished it had gone longer

75 people attended, standing room event.

Natalie thought the engagement level of public was impressive.

Andy was commended for providing forthright answers.

The public is there for the education, and it shows. This helps with issue of people feeling they are being taken from, when they are active in leaning more and problem solving.

Trevor's clarity about answers coming from community and it not being an easy, and willing to work on it was appreciated.

Greg thanked Marcy for article in the Methow Valley News, as it recreated the positive tone of the meeting.

Katie Haven Of County Watch was thanked for making the video link of the meeting available.

#### **11. Agenda items for next meeting**

Dave Hilton/Cisterns

Presentation on Database

#### **12. Public Comment**

Lee Burnheisel reported that he wrote a letter to Trevor Hutton regarding adjudication for the Methow watershed so we can know where we sit with all water rights. It would be the first adjudication to include ground water. Ecology is looking for a test basin. We threw our hat in in 1990, but there wasn't money. Now there is. Will Council support adjudication? This can address closed basins as well as they are based on surface water. Adjudication would provide more certainty.

#### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 P.M.

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Ashley Thrasher, Council Chair

Approved at the March 21, 2019 Council meeting.