



Monthly Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2024

Location: Twisp Town Hall Meeting Room, Zoom

Council Members Present: George Schneider, Lorah Super, David Asia, Tim Matsui, Seth Miles, Andy Hover

Council Members Absent: Hans Smith, Bill Tackman

Others in Attendance: Todd Bohle, Chris Allen (AESI), Susan Crampton, Wren Soperanez (MWC applicant), Sandra Streiby (MWC Contractor), Boo Turner

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

OCWB- OCD Water Bank

Non-Procedural Motions:

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
11.21.24-01	Approve Staff to Complete Dry Well Fact Sheet with Towns	6	0	0
11.21.24-02	Approve CCC Piping Support Letter	6	0	0

- Meeting Called to order:** by Acting Chair Andy Hover at 5:18PM
- Roll Call and Guest Introductions**
- Agenda:** Councilmember Super moved to approve the November 21, 2024, agenda. Councilmember Asia seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- Minutes – Review and Approval of September 19, 2024, Minutes:** Councilmember Super moved to approve the September 19, 2024 Minutes. Councilmember Asia seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- Agenda Items:**

Item #	Agenda Item
11.21.24-01	Public Comment-(3 minutes/comment) No Comments

Item #	Agenda Item
11.21.24-02	<p>Discussion: What To Do with the Detailed Implementation Plan For Full Conversation, see 11.21.24 Meeting Recording, at 4:21 Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DIP Created in 2009, after Watershed plan was adopted- DIP spells out that MWC would continue as a community information source and implementers of the DIP. DIP was approved by Ecology, which also lends approval to the existence of the MWC. • Due to multiple judicial decisions, approved uses of reserve water were limited. • As Commissioner, Hover has never been in favor or opening the rule. The original MWC wanted to open the rule to 1) change the definition of group use, and 2) move water down from Early Winters reach of the reserve. • USFW, Colville Tribes, and Yakama Tribes all said no to the idea of moving reserve water down valley. • MWC has discussed doing a CRM process to open the rule, but it takes a lot of resources. • Potential for MWC to review Watershed Plan to identify currently relevant issues and bring to the public. • Watershed planning in 2024 is difficult. For example, town water rights are not considered in the reserve. • Data sources: watershed resources management program document on the website, (Groundwater in the Methow Valley 1976); 2011 Memo to the Council from Aspect. • One of the issues for water resources is climate changes: weather patterns, faster runoff, etc. • Baseline flows/ instream flows don't reflect changing conditions. <p>Councilmember Super posed: if the DIP reflected the desires at the time to change the rule to meet needs according to knowledge of the time, is it now outdated? Without a public process, would changing it have validity? Commissioner Hover said there is a process for amending the DIP contained in the 2005 Methow Watershed Plan.</p> <p>Councilmember Matsui suggested that MWC development of a policy paper on how the Reserve can be used now, would be informative. There is a need for understanding the water budget and different types of water use. Streiby noted education and outreach could help with best practices and conservation.</p> <p>Councilmember Super noted the MWC has primarily been concerned with quantity not quality. A CRM could bring more interests to the table to discuss quantity and quality, with more groups at the table.</p> <p>Commissioner Hover appreciated this type of discussion. He would like the Council to discuss, in the near future, how the Council would like to see growth proceed. Housing and density are very important.</p>
11.21.24-03	<p>Review and Approve Dry Well Fact Sheet Streiby presented the Dry Well Fact Sheet. Councilmember Super moved to approve staff to work with Twisp and Winthrop on final language and publish the document upon final agreement of edits. Councilmember Asia seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously.</p>
11.21.24-04	<p>Approve CCC Piping Support Letter Councilmember Matsui moved to approve the CCC Support Letter. Councilmember Schneider seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Lane will send the letter to Hover for signature and send to CCC/OCD.</p>
11.21.24-07	<p>Position 1 or 2 Candidates The Council decided to review all candidates at the January 2025 meeting.</p>
11.21.24 -08	<p>Translating Key Documents (Agenda Item added after approval) Councilmember Asia asked for this item to be discussed. He would like to see key MWC documents translated into Spanish. Councilmember Super noted that it is easy for a direct translation to lose some key elements. Working with a bilingual person to translate is more effective. OCD may have some resources. New outreach person can make a recommendation of documents to translate.</p>

6. Report from the Council Chair – No Report

7. MWF Report, Chair – Craig McDonald absent. Lane Reporting
 - a. MWF applied to Icicle Fund for \$10,000.
 - b. Give Methow netted \$9140.
 - c. Next MWF meeting is December 5 or 6. MWC member needed to attend next MWF meeting. Councilmembers Super is available December 5. Councilmember Asia may be able to attend.
8. Committee Reports:
 - Outreach and Education Committee, Chair – Lane
 - Policy Committee, Chair- Super
 - Technical Committee, Chair – Schneider
 - Water Banking Committee - Tackman
9. Local Governments Reports:
 - Town of Winthrop: Councilmember Miles reported on a water pump failure.
 - Town of Twisp: No report
 - Okanogan County: No report
10. Members Report: News from the Community: No report
11. Ecology Report: None
12. Next Steps
 - a. Tasks
 - i. Dry Well Fact Sheet Completion
 - ii. CCC Support Letter Sent
 - iii. New potential members contacted
 - b. Next Agenda Items
 - i. Confirm Committees for 2025
 - ii. Positions 1&2
 - iii. Update LDPP progress
 - c. Next Meeting Date
 - i. December 19 meeting cancelled. Next meeting January 16, 2025.
13. Meeting adjourned 6:59 PM

Commissioner Andy Hover, Acting Chair

January 16, 2025