



Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 20, 20225 -7 p.m. – Via Zoom

Council Members Present: Greg Knott, Mike Fort, Dick Ewing, Alyssa Jumars, Bill Tackman, Soo Ing-Moody, Jeff Sarvis, and Andy Hover

Position 6 Applicants: Michael Bastian, Jean Bodeau, Mark Edson, Sam Lucy, Michelle Schmidke, Lorah Super

Others in Attendance: Annie-, Curt Bovee, Jay Chenault, John Crandall, Susan Crampton (OWL), Mark Easton, Craig McDonald (MWF), Virginia O’Kelly, Jason Paulsen (MC), Roger Rowatt, Isabelle Spohn, Travis Thornton, Jeanne White,

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

Non-Procedural Motions

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
1.22-01	Motion to clarify Motion 10.21-01 to read “Motion to end the Metering project and to complete Task 4 keeping the Single Domestic and Stock Use number of 710 gpd and updating with best available science.”	6	0	2
1.22-02	Motion to extend Sarah Lane’s contract through 12/31/22	8	0	0
1.22-03	Mayor-Ing Moody Elected Chair of the MWC	7	0	1
1.22-04	Councilmember Jumars Elected Vice Chair of the MWC	8	0	0
1.22-05	Councilmembers Dick Ewing and Alyssa Jumars reappointed to positions 3 and 4, respectively	6	0	2
1.22-06	Jean Bodeau elected to MWC Position 6, At Large	5*	0	0
1.22-07	CFNCWA Proposed Grant Application Topics Approved by MWC	5*	0	0
1.22-08	Motion to provide a letter of support to the Town of Twisp for its MAR Feasibility Streamflow Restoration grant application	4*	0	1

**Members left the meeting part-way. A quorum was still present.*

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mayor Ing-Moody at 5:03PM.

2. Roll Call of Council Members

3. Agenda – Additions or Changes

The agenda was approved. Commissioner Hover noted his report would be brief.

4. Minutes – Review and Approval

Commissioner Hover moved to approve June 2021, September 2021 and November 2021 minutes.

Councilmember Sarvis seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Councilmember Fort’s request to clarify and amend motion 10.21-01 regarding Task #4 and removing the reference to ESSB 6091 was discussed. Councilmember Fort proposed: “Motion to end the Metering project and to complete Task 4 keeping the Single Domestic and Stock Use number of 710 gpd and updating with best available science.” Councilmember Tackman made a motion to accept that clarification. Councilmember Fort seconded the motion. The motion carried with Councilmember Knott and Mayor Ing- Moody abstaining.

5. Report from the Council Chair: Chair Mayor Ing-Moody made no report.

6. MWF Report: Chair- Craig McDonald

MWF Chair McDonald reported on the current stable financial situation, including additional donations. The MWF has reviewed a first draft of the 2022 budget, and will present it at the February 2022 meeting. The MWF also vote to extend Lane’s contract through December 31, 2022, in order to align with the County grant fiscal year. Approval from the MWC was requested. Councilmember Fort made a motion to extend Sarah Lane’s contract through December 31, 2022. Councilmember Knott seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The MWF is also looking for more members. Mayor Ing-Mood and noted that the Council needs to discuss the role of public volunteers and process for public volunteers.

7. Subcommittee Reports:

Technical Review Committee, Chair – Fort

Councilmember Fort reported that Task #4 of the Metering Program is being completed, and will be presented for review at the next Council meeting.

A report on water use was also presented by the Technical Committee. Councilmember Fort reminded the group that the sample was small; ten meters, and that the numbers are withdrawal numbers.

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair- Knott Councilmember Knott deferred his report until February but noted the subcommittee had a good brainstorming session.

8. Ad Hoc Reports

Water Banking Subcommittee - Councilmember Tackman deferred to the Water Banking Agenda item.

CRM Subcommittee – Councilmember Jumars reported that the work has been tabled until February or March so the Water Banking group could get its work done. Commissioner Hover noted that the CRM process would still be important due to the challenges for using the 2 cfs. The community will still need to discuss water needs, possible rule change, mitigation, storage and etcetera.

Resilient Methow Report – Lane reported that Resilient Methow Hub was asked for a support letter for the Town of Twisp’s MAR feasibility proposal for Streamflow grants. The Hub is also considering ways to encourage CAP priorities in the Town of Twisp Comp Plan process. Perhaps the MWC will also want to comment on this process.

9. Initiating Government Reports

Town of Winthrop- No report

Okanogan County- No report

Town of Twisp- No report

10. Ecology Report: No report

11. Presentation: No Presentation

12. Agenda Item 1.20.22-01: Public Comment

The following written public comments were received via email prior to the meeting:

Water Banking Questions/Comments – Virginia O’Kelly

I have a few questions about the Water Banking document attached to the Jan meeting. If you have time during the meeting, I think they would be good to share. If not, you can respond in an email or postpone until Feb. Please note I am very new to this issue but my questions might be what others in the "public" might be wondering when this is presented.

1. Has your Water Banking committee already completed the pre-assessment meeting with Ecology? What was the outcome of that meeting?

2. Water Banking documents should identify who created the document and a statement of intent from the committee members i.e., goal of conservation with priority of water availability for agriculture in the valley.
3. If water is to be taken out of the valley, who has input in terms of selecting the "leases"? Will it be to the highest bidder? Will they be able to lease the water in a different county? state?
3. Will there be terms of priority during a drought or inability to provide water to existing rights? A "lease" looks like a "promise" for the stated time frame. We have no idea how climate change is going to affect WRIA 48 over the next few years. "Temporary" needs to be defined and how the lease would be affected in years of drought."

The State is working on drought mitigation legislation so we should align with them, when possible, to avoid conflict between local and state actions.

With Respect,
Virginia O'Kelly, Twisp

Councilmember Selection Attributes – Natalie Kuehler

I am writing to suggest a few characteristics of a new member that I think the Watershed Council would benefit from and I hope the Council and Initiating Governments might keep in mind as a new candidate is selected:

1. A solid understanding of current water law issues in the Methow, whether by personal experience as an affected landowner or by virtue of professional expertise or other civic engagement.
2. An understanding of the *physical* water connectivity issues in the Methow, especially as groundwater wells are concerned.
3. A demonstrated commitment to the Council, but prior attendance of Council meetings.
4. An ability to keep an open mind and process new information as it becomes available.
5. Diversity in representation of interested stakeholders and stakeholder organizations.

In-Person Comments:

- Lorah Super: generally supportive of the MAR concept, and wants people to go into it knowing that a majority of the water developed by the project would go to instream flow and habitat. The benefit of a MAR is minimized by the need to meet minimum streamflow. New water rights would be required. Super thinks what the Town wants seems a little different from the consultant's proposal.
- John Crandall: Regarding MAR, there are already several storage feasibility resources in existence. Asked how current storage projects are doing. Those should be reviewed before moving to new areas. The issues of timing and storage need to consider changes due to shifts in flow regime due to climate, and need to be evaluated for fish. He believes water should not just be taken when it exceeds minimum flows; ecological significance needs to be considered.

- 13. Agenda Item 1.20.22-02: Nominations and Elections of Chair and Vice Chair:** Mayor Ing-Moody was nominated to continue as chair by multiple councilmembers. Councilmember Sarvis seconded the nomination. Mayor Ing-Moody was elected unanimously while herself abstaining.

Councilmember Jumars was nominated as Vice Chair by Mayor Soo Ing-Moody. Multiple seconds were made. Councilmember Jumars was elected unanimously.

- 14. Agenda Item 1.20.22-03: Confirm Council Positions 3 and 4; Review and Select Candidates for Position 6**
Jeff Sarvis made a motion to reappoint Councilmembers Dick Ewing and Alyssa Jumars to MWC positions 3 and 4, respectively. Councilmember Fort seconded the motion. Motion passed with Councilmember Ewing and Commissioner Hover abstaining.

Commissioner Hover spoke regarding the increased involvement from the public, with an unprecedented six applicants for Position 6. Hover would like the MWC to consider representation of irrigation districts on the Council again. Mayor Ing-Moody noted that addition would require a bylaws change.

Mayor Ing-Moody asked for the candidates to address the Council, and said a motion would be accepted for a nominee. Michael Bastian, Jean Bodeau, Michelle Schmidke, Sam Lucy, Mark Edson, and Lorah Super all introduced themselves and gave a brief summary of qualifications (See LOIs from candidates).

Commissioner Hover noted the strong qualifications and diversity of representation offered by the group.

Councilmember Knott suggested non-selected candidates consider joining the MWF. They may also be contacted by MWC committee chairs.

Councilmember Sarvis commented on the good field of candidates. He supports election of Jean Bodeau, and would like to discuss adding a position for ditch representation.

Mayor Ing-Moody asked each candidate to comment on their ability to commit time, energy and desire to committee work as well as council meetings. All affirmed their willingness to do so. The Mayor asked each to address any possible conflicts of interest.

Super noted she will need to be clear on what “hat” she is wearing. Bodeau noted she would excuse herself from any decisions that involve any of her clients. Mark noted that he was the director of MVID. No other candidates spoke to conflict of interest.

Commissioner Hover moved to appoint Jean Bodeau to Position 6. Councilmember Fort seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

15. Agenda Item 1.20.22-04: Discuss and Confirm Community Foundation Grant Focus

Administrator Lane presented a draft budget and outline for education and outreach to be applied for to the Community Foundation of North Central Washington (CFNCWA). Elements include education and outreach regarding water banking and CRM, a public event, and six education topics presented to the community. Councilmember Knott made a motion to support the grant application focus. Commissioner Hover seconded the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

16. Agenda Item 1.20.22-05: Request for a Letter of Support from the MWC for the Town of Twisp MAR Application.

Mayor Ing-Moody presented the request from the Town of Twisp for the MWC to write a support letter for the Streamflow Restoration grant proposal they are working on with AESI for MAR feasibility. A goal will be to balance water needs and to not cause impairment to flows. This grant is to do a feasibility study, and does not obligate moving forward with a project.

Commissioner Hover directed this comment to John Crandall: He would like to invite a presentation from technical folks on where water storage can best go.

Councilmember Fort moved to approve an MWC letter of support for the Town of Twisp MAR grant application. Commissioner Hover seconded the motion. The motion passed with Councilmember Sarvis abstaining due to no input on the issue from Town of Winthrop. He also noted he was not sold on the concept.

17. Agenda Item 1.20.22-06: Discussion- Draft Water Banking Priorities for WRIA 48

Commissioner Hover reported that a meeting on water banking occurred recently. Because each right needs to be assessed as it comes into the bank, the County and the Conservation District plan to develop a blanket agreement on operations in general. Each right will need to be individually assessed for use potential as it comes in. There are no current storage projects ready to use an incoming right. Hover asked if a right coming in could later be put into storage, and (Ecology) said it hasn't been done before.

Commissioner Hover said that the draft priorities excerpt presented at this meeting were written by Craig Nelson at the Conservation District, and has not been reviewed fully. The MWC Water Banking committee did meet and review this list. Commissioner Hover said there could be two different sets of priorities- one that the CD sets of

for WRIA 49, and a set of priorities for WRIA 48, because there are different needs. Commissioner Hover said this draft list can be reordered, edited, and he would like to get a WRIA 48 specific document that he can give the CD as negotiations continue about the agreement.

Councilmember Tackman stated his concerns that this is very early in the process, and learning is happening concurrently. Councilmember Tackman wants to be sure the Council and community have an opportunity to review the priority list and have as much input as possible. Councilmember Tackman said that the MWC needs to continue to be involved in the process, while not slowing it down.

Commissioner Hover suggested splitting the work into two tasks: 1) review the priorities- are there any missing or needing to be taken off? And 2) review the ranking.

Councilmember Tackman agreed; keeping it simple and still getting input from the public at large. He noted, for example, that WRIA 48 has more concerns about SFD, while WRIA 49 focuses on agriculture. Commissioner Hover wants the CD to focus on WRIA 49 needs. Councilmember Jumars asked about other concerns. Commissioner Hover said he had discussed leasing water, so that the water bank can continue to operate with a source of revenue for administration. For that reason, he said that leasing water was added to the end priorities list, with the idea that it would be leased for a limited amount of time. Councilmember Jumars clarified that out of basin leasing would only be allowed after there were no in-basin users interested. Commissioner Hover agreed, saying that water would be available first come, first served, with no bidding wars. Commissioner Hover does not want this to be a bank selling water to the highest bidder.

Councilmember Jumars asked if the major sticking point might be the use of residential water. Councilmember Tackman doesn't see anyone being happy about water being transferred out of the valley, even if it is at the end of the list. He feels strongly about getting as much public input as possible. Councilmember Jumars asked what that process would look like. Councilmember Tackman thinks a survey or outreach program would be possible, as well as the MWC going to irrigation districts and other stakeholders for more input. Commissioner Hover asked about the information contained in Water 2066. Councilmember Tackman said its important to have public comment on this list.

Commissioner Hover noted that if the seller specifies the use for the water, it would define the future use. Councilmember Fort said that Ecology would have the final say. Commissioner Hover said that a seller could sign a contract with the bank for intended use. Councilmember Tackman said that education is needed, for example, about how Ecology restrictions would interact with the desires of the seller.

Councilmember Fort said the list should be bound by current law. He does not believe, for example, that a water right will ever be able to be converted to year-round use except for maybe for a MAR project.

Mayor Ing-Moody noted there is more work to do on this list. She would want this list to go to the town councils. Commissioner Hover agreed with all that had been said, and that he wants the Council to have input, as the water bank may be up and running soon.

Councilmember Jumars asked what the timeline is for providing feedback. Commissioner Hover asked Lorah Super when the soonest a right might be ready for the water bank. Super said Nelson is getting a consultant to walk the CD through the process for the first purchase and sale agreement. Super believes this work can happen simultaneously with the CD's work. If priorities can be solidified by spring, that would be a good timeline.

Councilmember Jumars asked about continuing water banking meetings to develop this list, and to whom comments should be addressed. Commissioner Hover said he wants to have a formalized document from the MWC that states the priorities the MWC agrees to. Councilmember Jumars asked if the draft list provided by the CD could be used in this discussion. Commissioner Hover agreed. Councilmember Fort asked if this list was specifically related to the \$2 million. Commissioner Hover said the potential water bank is limited to \$2 million total, inclusive of the \$2 million for WRIA 48. Each applicant is limited to \$2 million of this appropriation. Mayor Ing-Moody disagreed with this assessment. Commissioner Hover said it doesn't matter where the water is coming

from, the priorities are independent in their importance and priorities need to be set. Mayor Ing-Moody said the MWC would like to join in meetings with the CD, County and Ecology. With the commissioners asking for a recommendation from the MWC, Mayor Ing-Moody said how important it was for MWC members to attend these meetings.

Mayor Ing-Moody also reminded the group about the 33% required to go to instream flow for water purchased from the \$2 million. Transparency is important in the process, and knowing how the priorities get decided, and will make people more comfortable if this process is to be succinct and trust-building.

Councilmember Tackman agreed with next steps (below) presented by Mayor Ing-Moody, with having another subcommittee meeting, and being able to provide useful comments. Commissioner Hover suggested he could facilitate a meeting with DOE and the water banking committee, and asked members to email questions to him in advance.

Councilmember Sarvis said that this work has been mostly done and priorities are known. He thinks towns should be higher on the list. Commissioner Hover said that that may be true, and that his goal is to have the WRIA 48 priorities imbedded in the agreement prior to or at the same time a right is taken into the bank.

18. Agenda Item 1.20.22--07: Next Steps

Water Banking committee meets again and makes the list available for public comment.

Town Councils review the list

Further review by Conservation District and Commissioners

19. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:18PM

Mayor Ing-Moody, Council Chair

Approved at the February 17, 2022 Methow Watershed Council meeting