



**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

August 22, 2019

5 -7 p.m. – Twispworks Conference Room, Twisp, WA

**Council Members Present:** Dick Ewing, Mike Fort, Andy Hover, Soo Ing-Moody, Jeff Sarvis, Bill Tackman, and Ashley Thrasher

**Others in Attendance:** Lee Bernheisel, Susan Crampton, Natalie Kuehler, Craig McDonald by phone, and Lorah Super.

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrative Assistant

**Non-Procedural Motions**

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
	No motions were made			

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Ashley 5:05 P.M.

**2. Introductions**

All introduced themselves, including new member Jeff Sarvis for Winthrop

**3. Agenda – Review and Approval**

Bill moved to accept the agenda as is; Mike seconded the motion. Agenda was approved.

**4. Minutes – Review and Approval**

Andy asked for an amendment to minutes in section 8, last paragraph. Mike moved to approve as amended, Andy seconded. Minutes approved as amended.

**5. Report from the Chair**

Ashley welcomed Jeff Sarvis as the new representative from Winthrop. She reported that Vanessa’s job has changed and her replacement will start working with the council in September. Ashley reported that our next meeting will be held in room 7 upstairs in the Community Center. Soo said the Town Hall can be available if she can attend. Ashley requested Council members to all plan to attend Water 2066 and bring a dozen refreshments of some type. Water 2066 will be held September 18 and 19 at the MV Community Center.

**6. Ecology Report**

No Report

**7. MWF Report**

Ashley reported for Mary from Mary’s email: We are monitoring expenditures on the metering project and Water 2066. We are working on the water pamphlet and hope to have that in progress by October, as it has been delayed. We will be participating in GiveMethow again, which is open Oct 1-31. We will be sending email notices out to prior donors with a



heads up. The big news is we have a new board member, Wyatt Southworth. We are still recruiting others. The final strategic plan is available, Sarah will email it to Council and Foundation.

## 8. Initiating Government Reports

### **Town of Twisp-**

No report

### **Town of Winthrop-**

No report

### **Okanogan County-**

No report

Ashley asked about an RFQ for a GIS database and Andy clarified that it is for WRIA 49.

## 9. Sub-Committee Reports

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

**Agenda Item 18.19-01: DIP Report.** Mike asked for direction. Ashley said it is to report usage.

Report: The Committee had a meeting with a meter rep. They now have five meters to install, and they all communication data digitally. Install will be paid for by the project for existing homes. A draft letter for volunteer recruitment in building permit packets will go to the county for review probably tomorrow. The meters are \$340 plus install, and are connected via Verizon and contracted for 10 years of service.

Lee asked if inside and outside water is separated. Mike said no. All water use will be measured. The meter will be installed downstream of the pressure tank. Ashley asked Andy if the County would require a meter for all new exempt well building permits. Andy said many folks are afraid of this as a step toward taxing exempt water. Andy said perhaps requiring a meter for 5 years only on new builds might help. Andy doesn't see the need for this as a permanent mandate unless it is for a group system. Travis asked if the County was imposing any conditions on new building permits regarding indoor or outdoor use on the exempt amount per day. Andy said no for residential. Travis asked regarding commercial use. Andy said for commercial, the water would be interruptible. Andy said Ecology's Basin report defines use as lawn and/or garden for residential. Andy clarified that if someone applied for residential, but used water for commercial, that person is inconstant with the permit purpose. Ashley asked if the Council wants to bring up the request for requiring meters on new buildings. Mike said that Andy had not supported the idea and so the Council had dropped the idea in the past.

Andy asked where data was to be collected, and who would have access. Mike said it is collected on a servicing website and is password protected. Mike said perhaps using the 10 years of data and letting collection sunset after that time would help people be more comfortable. Dick said that the data will help true the 710 gpd. Lorah asked about the number of meters desired. Mike said we need as many as possible. Lorah said she'd support the effort through promotion through the Conservation District to try to get more volunteers involved and help settle taxation fears. Mike would like to see 20-30 per reach to be able to achieve statistically significant data. Andy asked if we have a volunteer list yet, and Mike said yes. Dick asked if the number of people in the house with



the metering would be considered. Mike said no. Water won't be allocated per number of bedrooms.

**Political Action Committee, Chair – TBD**

No Report

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

No Report

**Water 2066 Committee, Chair – Thrasher**

Ashley described a community workstation design document that was not in email. Andy asked who designed it. Travis said Lisa, with help from the IC committee. Andy asked about question 2, the dots next to the cities question. Andy didn't think the representative list was very good. He thought the list wouldn't lead to much choice. Discussion followed about how to represent towns and choices for that question.

Press releases have been going out. We are going to do radio and newspaper. Sarah said a specific invite to the Council will go out Monday and asked for it to be shared widely. Natalie added Twispworks and the FB topics of interest page.

Andy asked that for workstation 5, on land use, that facilitators specify that water can be used for commercial, but it needs to be stated that it is currently interruptible. Travis asked how this works. Andy said that such businesses must have a mitigation plan in place in order to have permit approved for times when water is interrupted, such as bottled water or an infiltration gallery. Mike asked how this could be done. Andy said one option is storing spring runoff. Natalie asked what happens for building permits if someone applies for a business in the County. Andy said he didn't know how much consumptive use would be applied to such a situation. Travis and Mike and Natalie all stated they did not believe that mitigation diversion could be legal from an exempt well. Natalie said that Ecology is issuing interruptible water rights.

Natalie also said the line between residential and commercial such as in a bed and breakfast for use of water is hard to define. Andy asked if commercial use can be defined under the RCW, he defines water use as commercial for anything that is not domestic, that is, for business use. Natalie said that in order for water to be considered residential, according to recent court ruling, it has to be owner occupied at least 60 days. Andy said BnBs have to be counted as a full-time residence under the reservation rules. Soo said for the town, the definition is that the owner has to live at the bed and breakfast. Andy said, if you build a 7-bed house, and use it as bnb, only 5000 can still be used, in the county on an exempt well.

**Agenda Item 8.19-02: Personal Invitations for Water 2066:** Ashley asked for feedback on Agenda item number 2. Members asked to make sure to add realtors. Ashley asked for members to send name, address or email to her for said folks to be included. Lorah noted that with all vision processes going on the valley – comp plan, climate change, etc. – that it would be good to get these processes linked. How do we integrate? How will people know we will share the information between processes? Something to consider.



### **Agenda items for next meeting**

WRIA water usage report from Mike. Mike asked for a reminder.

### **10. Public Comment**

Susan Crampton said she knows lots of people who have their attention on our work and are paying attention. Lorah shared her appreciation for the work of the Council's deliberations.

Lorah supports Travis's suggestions about the County being careful about the county's approval of uses of the 2 cfs. Lorah was at the water law conference last week and has all the power points on a USB. (Sarah will get copy of presentations). Mike said we are not dealing with the people who are using most of the water, and that we are asking the people who use the least of it to solve the problem. Lorah asked, how do get at the question of why so much water is being used, for example, for alfalfa. Susan asked why we're not looking at this. Mike said because this use was not considered in the watershed plan.

Andy said selling water rights out of the valley would actually help keep water in the stream. Natalie said items like irrigation going into piping is not counted as a savings. Mike said it did not change the quantity of water in the river. It does not increase evapotranspiration. It goes into the ground and retimes the water going into the river. Instream rules are regulated without counting these savings and additions.

Soo said the town has the same issue. Part of the water is accounted for while some (returns) are not. Studies are being done, but there is no formula for accounting for all the processes for retimed and recharged water. Ecology has yet to formally acknowledge this fact. Natalie said that these efforts are happening on County levels. Lorah says the info she has, has models. Andy asked- are we going to deal with mitigation or are we going to stop growing? Andy said he's reviewed much of that information and that's why they use that. Mike said that basically what we do is change the hydrograph, and that there are many, many models, all assumption driven. Lorah says we have an opportunity to learn from all that has been done to date. However, none are based on ending growth.

Soo thinks the difference on the pace of growth, and they are basin-specific: Having planning that is very specific to our own situation, looking at our own variables, and coming up with acceptable parameters. Natalie said many communities have dealt with this through the courts. We have an opportunity not to do so. Andy said the problem is defined by if you think we have enough water or not. Andy said the County does not really say what you can do with your water. Andy goes back to the Basin plan. Andy says he wants the County to be provided with policy to say what to do. Travis said that the current practice sounds like personal mitigation, un-administrable plans. Andy asked if mitigation should be on a large, trackable plan. Ecology would like to see basin-wide mitigation. Andy asked if we could look back at projects proposed in watershed plan. Travis said Water 2066 is that opportunity to say what we want and determine if it's not possible under current rules. Natalie hopes what comes out of 2066 will develop policy to guide the County. Travis agreed that Ecology not providing a way to implement their rules is extremely difficult. Andy said that this is the purpose of the Council.



Andy said, the question is with the water we have, what can we support. Now, what do we want to have? Mike reiterated that we should have the goal of providing info to the commissioners through the Water 2066 process.

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 P.M.

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Ashley Thrasher, Council Chair

Approved at the September 26, 2019 Council meeting.