



Monthly Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2019

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

Council Members Present: Dick Ewing, Mike Fort, Andy Hover, Greg Knott, Bill Tackman, Travis Thornton, Ashley Thrasher.

Others in Attendance: Vanessa Brinkhuis (by phone), Craig McDonald (by phone), Melanie Rowland (MVCC), and Jaqueline Wallace (TU).

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 5:00 P.M.

2. Introductions

All introduced themselves

3. Agenda – Review and Approval

Andy moved to approve Greg seconded. Agenda was approved.

4. Minutes – Review and Approval

Greg moved to approve the April Minutes with the correction of striking the 3rd sentence in the Okanogan County report, as it was not accurate and could not be reconstructed accurately from memory or context. Travis seconded. Minutes approved.

5. Report from the Chair

Ashley reported that Outreach presentations wrapped up with presentation from John Crandall. Database meetings wrapped up as well.

We received the 2066 grant from Ecology. Contract is in signing phase with Washington Water Trust. Bill requested a copy of the full contract. Ashley will send the contract to all Council members.

6. Ecology Report

No report

7. MWF Report

Ashley reported that the MWF had a discussion on strategic planning and set future meetings to be second Tuesdays at 5:00 P.M. An annual budget and annual report are proposed to increase our outreach regarding project and goals. Work plans are proceeding for the pamphlet

8. Initiating Government Reports

Town of Twisp- Absent



Town of Winthrop- Absent

Okanogan County-

Andy reported Ecology did a study at the mouth of the Methow and gave Andy a report and outline containing all the property that does not affect the mainstem flows. These properties are in continuity with the Columbia, and are located from Alta lake to Anton Creek and around to the head of Watson Draw. Greg noted that he talked with Carlene Anders about that delineation, and she didn't think it would affect the town of Pateros. Andy said that is not true, because Pateros could get a water right out of the river. Any exempt well in that area is not subject to base flows. Andy expects to get a shape file shortly from Ecology.

Travis asked about land segregation and requirements to show water under discussion by the County, as well as progress with zoning. Andy explained that exempt SEGS (less than 4 lots, 5 plus acres), do not require to show where water is coming from. Andy thinks there should be a subdivision break point where people don't have to show water availability. However, in the case of Campbell/ Glenn, dividing below 5 acres was not allowed without going through SEPA to show water. Mike asked if County is approving Group B's. Andy said no, unless there is a water right. It is not approved for a 5000 gpd exempt well. Also, a seasonal water right cannot be turned into a different use that affects groundwater. Travis asked if it is accurate that if 80 acres was exempt seg'ed into 4 20's, then another buyer can subdivide into 4- 5's. Yes, but the county is not putting water on the face of the plats. The county is looking at how it the parcels are created.

In the Kittitas County case – Campbell /Glenn – if it is a project, it is a group system. If someone splits 20 acres, it is seen as a project. Large lot seg is considered a project. Projects get 1- 5000-gal exemption.

Andy said that state laws says if it is 5 acres or more or 4 lots or less, you don't have to show water. In Okanogan County it is 20 acres or more or 4 lots or less. The project has to show legal water and adequate amount at building permit stage. Then you are treated as a single entity. For example, if 80 acres are divided into 4, and 4 buyers buy them, they can each have 5000 gpd exempt.

Dick asked about progress on the comprehensive plan. Planning commission should have drafts of comprehensive plan shortly. Dick asked when the comment period would be. Comments were requested for the determination of significance, and EIS will be written and out for comment soon.

9. Sub-Committee Reports

Technical Review Committee, Chair – Fort

Mike reported that Parker is ready for us to look at the Aspect Database for Chelan, which is in GIS. Mike will send out a Go to Meeting schedule to all so those wish to attend can respond and be a part of that meeting. Mike can provide the database for anyone who would like to look at it.

Outreach meetings are complete and decisions need to be made on the best way to validate the 710 gpd. Peer review? Meters? Bill stated quite a few people wanted to participate in the metering program. Mike said that before we start metering, we have to look at how that project will be



completed. Dick noted that we need to know base information about the property water use. Mike said there will be a profile created. Mike says we are looking at telemetry units and he is looking at how to anonymize the data, as people have concerns about how the data could be tied to them as individual users.

The Aspect report needs to be peer reviewed to satisfy the Ecology grant to support or disprove the 710 gpd. We can't currently get enough meters for statistical significance, so end goal of grant needs to be determined as well.

Closeout for Wolf Creek has been done and needs to be reviewed by Ecology. Mary needs to send a written request for shifting the funds, which can then be approved.

Greg asked what we learned from the meetings. Bill said people have concern over losing water. More education is clearly needed, especially the relationship between 5000 gpd and the 2 cfs. Good promotion helped get people to the events.

Political Action Committee, Chair – TBD

Greg reported discussion is taking place. It's been five years since Carlton Complex and people who have not been able to rebuild are concerned about their water rights being relinquished. It might be possible to add an exemption for the time frame to existing legislation. Vanessa responded that trust water right program could be of help. Greg noted that is not the case with exempt wells in closed basins, and this is not what Ecology wants to enforce.

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair – Knott

Greg reported that the MWC tabled at the Drought information program hosted by the Conservation District. Four people attended. Takeaway from the event is that Washington State does not have a drought management plan. Drought plans have very specific levels tied to actions. Greg thinks the MWC should be active in local drought management planning. Travis asked what this plan would do. Greg said it would be a local planning effort that would help with transfers of water. Andy says there's already such a program in place. Emergency transfers need to happen within two weeks of drought declaration. Canal companies and towns can change rate structures. Irrigation districts can create water "parking" places in advance for when drought happens.

Ashley asked for a suggestion moving forward. Greg think we need to start looking for funding for drought management.

Jaqueline said Ecology is putting together planning for drought leasing through TU starting August for third cutting mitigation. Price will be per acre. Price likely to be \$200-400 per acre. Council members discussed what price it would take to get farmers to participate. It is potentially more like \$1000+ water mitigation when water is available again in fall.

Water 2066 Committee, Chair – Thrasher

Water 2066 grant is underway. The first 2066 committee meeting with the contractors is being planned for the last part of June. Ashley asked for opinions about how to do successful public meetings. Two community meetings will take place back to back this summer. Planning with Lisa has to be complete before meetings happen. Bill suggested connecting with the Conservancy. Lorah and



Rachel Youngberg at MVCC asked about meeting materials as well. Partnering with the Conservancy and MVCC could help 2066 be quite effective.

Agenda Item 5.19-01 -2 CFS Discussion

Mary has drafted legislation to protect the 2 cfs. Then the discussion of if and when the rule is opened can take place. Bill would like to see a schedule of when that conversation takes place, and how, among outreach events. Mike has concern about the public process that begins when the rule is opened, and that the legislation to protect be in place prior. Travis is concerned about the efficacy of potential legislation. Andy believes legislation should be vetted by our local legislators before trying to move it forward. The MWC could potentially officially support such legislation. Andy said the County would officially support on their own. Andy thinks a joint letter from all governments would carry weight. Andy thinks Mary should go to the 7th district for sure to vet potential legislation. Travis noted that 2066 is an opportunity to get consensus, and also know what barriers there could be to legislation.

10. Agenda items for next meeting

None were noted.

11. Public Comment

Melanie agrees with Andy that if Yakima, MVCC and County along with Futurewise, were on board with a plan for what would change in the rule, things would move much more easily. MVCC is willing to talk and if desired changes can be determined, MVCC will be on board. Melanie thinks there needs to be interim steps during the Water 2066 process. Thinks vision step is first, then figuring out what and how steps can happen.

Mike noted that under Watershed plans under 90-82, we already have approved moving 2 cfs from Early Winters, but there's no enforcement option for the agreement. Vanessa stated that there's not enough funding to implement all of the work in the watershed plans. Trevor wants to see stakeholder reengagement to move forward. Greg stated that the Plan simply moves ahead any revisions we want to make to higher priority, not that Ecology agreed to implement the plan. Vanessa stated that it is the goal to have public support of these plans. Annie Salbini is a rulemaking process contact Vanessa recommends we talk to.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 P.M.

Ashley Thrasher, Council Chair

Approved at the June 20, 2019 Council meeting.