



**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

March 15, 2018

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

Council Members Present: Dick Ewing, Mike Fort, Andy Hover, Rick Karro, Greg Knott, Bill Tackman, Ashley Thrasher. Soo Ing-Moody was unable to attend; Jackie Moriarty acted as alternate representative for the Town of Twisp. Travis Thornton was unable to attend.

Others in Attendance: Lee Bernheisel, Michael Devany, Katie Haven, Perry Huston, Natalie Kuehler, Bill McAdow, and George Schneider. Vanessa Brinkhuis attended via conference call.

Minutes recorded by: Sali Kilmer, Administrative Assistant

**Non-Procedural Motions**

<b>Motion #</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Yeas</b>	<b>Nays</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
	NO FORMAL MOTIONS ADOPTED			

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Knott at 5:05 p.m.

**2. Introductions**

**3. Approval of Agenda**

*Andy Hover moved to adopt the Agenda of March 15, 2018, as presented. Ashley Thrasher seconded, and the motion carried.*

**4. Minutes – Review and Approval**

The following amendments to the Minutes of the February 15, 2018 MWC meeting were proposed:

- Andy Hover – Correct the spelling of Mike Fort’s name.
- Jackie Moriarty – Remove “a” from first sentence of first paragraph on page 3.

*Bill Tackman moved to approve the Minutes of February 15, 2018, as amended. Andy Hover seconded, and the motion carried. Ashley Thrasher abstained, stating she was not in attendance for the meeting.*

## **5. Report from the Chair:** Greg Knott

Greg reported that he was approached by a firm specializing in ground water modeling and assessments that would like to make a presentation to the Council. The firm creates high resolution models focused on localized impacts. Greg suggested that the WRIA 49 planning group might be interested in the topic, and thus proposed a joint presentation for interested individuals from the two groups. Perry Huston stated that WRIA 49 has a planning meeting scheduled for April 2 at 1:30 p.m. Perry and Greg will work together to coordinate the presentation. Mike Fort interjected that two of these studies have been done in the past and they have not balanced, making him leery of doing a third study. Andy Hover stated that it doesn't hurt to at least hear the presentation.

## **6. Grant Administrator Report:** George Schneider

George Schneider reported on the status of the Wolf Creek Twin Lakes Storage project:

- Draft agreement between WCRD and TLAC for a pilot project – George will be meeting with Wolf Creek next week to work at getting closer to agreement. When close to final agreement, he will seek MWC Technical Committee review and input as well as legal review by Natalie Kuehler.
- Draft Water Rights Strategy memo – Aspect submitted a draft Water Rights Strategy memo on February 14. George has reviewed the document with Tim Flynn, and a revised draft is expected March 16. The revised draft will expand beyond the Pilot Project phase to include the water right strategy for the long-term project so everyone involved knows what is coming before investing in the pilot.
- Valve installation – George will follow up with Reclamation on installation of the valve.

Dick Ewing briefly reported on the parallel efforts by TLAC with their grant. Aspect has prepared a draft scope of work, which George reviewed. The draft has been submitted to Ecology, and they are awaiting feedback. The new SOW is the “fatal flaw” step. In order to proceed with the project, TLAC must come up with 1) the water purifying system, and 2) permission from affected property owners. The SOW also indicates TLAC's interest in Thompson Creek as a possible water source, but this is not included within the timeframe of the pilot project. Dick clarified that the purpose of the pilot is to see what sort of affect this project will have on conditions of the lake and to understand its mitigation impacts. Down the road, Thompson Creek may potentially provide the complete amount of water needed for mitigation.

## **7. Methow Watershed Foundation Report:** Greg Knott

In Mary McCrea's absence, Greg reported that the March 13 MWF meeting resulted in a draft planning budget, which was included in the meeting packets. He clarified that this is a “wish list” and will be discussed at a future MWC meeting. In the meantime, he asked Council members to review the draft and send comments to him and Mary. Particularly, he asked Council members to look for any projects or items that may have been left out or things included that should not be there. Dick Ewing suggested that the budget would be easier to read with subtotals.

## **8. Initiating Government Reports**

Town of Twisp: Jackie Moriarty said that the Town of Twisp had nothing relevant to report.

Town of Winthrop: Rick Karro reported that once the Town of Winthrop formally decides on his replacement as the representative on the Council, the Town Clerk will email Greg and/or Sali. Most likely Bill McAdow will be the new Winthrop representative on the MWC.

Okanogan County: Commissioner Andy Hover reported that recently, the County rescinded the “water availability” portion from Ordinance 20. They are working with Ecology on the process for ensuring water availability. They are also working on a FAQ to help people through the process. The County is continuing to issue building permits and is tracking every well legally being drilled and tying these to the database. Questionable well proposals (like those inside of closed basins) are being referred to Ecology. The County is being very careful and is basing decisions on the current shape files as well as the new maps for Wolf Creek and Beaver Creek. Perry will email the Wolf Creek and Beaver Creek reports to Sali for distribution to Council members.

Andy distributed printed handouts from the database being used by Okanogan County to track the water resource inventory. Looking at the handouts, in six out of the seven reaches in WRIA 48, with current zoning we will stay well under the 2 cfs reserve per reach (based on 350 gallons per day withdrawn, resulting in 3000 plus well connections per reach). The goal of the County is to get to a point where they have a number to apply to every connection. Regarding the Lower Valley reach, currently it includes the confluence of the Twisp River all the way down to between Pateros and Brewster. At what point do these change to wells on the Columbia as opposed to the Methow River?

Perry Huston reported that regarding new land division proposals, Ecology seems to be leaning towards “one lot, one well.” Greg Knott interjected that even though this may seem illogical in some cases, Ecology is bound by the rule as written. Perhaps if the legislature were to define single-use domestic, Ecology would have more latitude in this area.

## **9. Ecology Report: Vanessa Brinkhuis**

Vanessa reported that Trevor Hutton’s meeting with the Attorney General had to be rescheduled for a future date. He is hoping this meeting will result in clarification to some parts of the Methow Rule. John Kirk, Technical Supervisor, is hoping to attend an upcoming MWC meeting to provide information on the question about gaging by reach.

Vanessa had no updates on the grant applications, as they are still being processed by Ecology headquarters. Greg Knott let Vanessa know that Ashley Thrasher and Sali Kilmer are the contact persons for the Water 2066 facilitator grant agreement.

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

Instream Flow Rule Revision & Technical Review Committees: Mike Fort reported that the Travis Thornton led task force will be meeting March 20 to work on requesting Ecology’s clarification and interpretation of aspects of the Methow Instream Flow Rule. He also mentioned that the MWF budget planning wish list includes projects for ground proofing the County database and consumptive use. He referred to the November 1,

1995 Report of Examination included in the Council packets which concluded that the on-site wastewater treatment system in a development operates with no evaporation during winter months and, therefore, results in no consumptive use during that time so that winter withdrawals for domestic purposes are not subject to the Methow Rule.

Political Action Committee: Bill Tackman has been in contact with Mike Kaputa regarding how rule revision and protection of the reserve were done in Chelan County. Bill is researching what needs to be done to protect our reserve through legislative action. This would need to be done prior to opening up the Methow Rule for revision.

Outreach and Education Committee: Bill Tackman reported that Jason McCormick's February 20 presentation on water banking was attended by over thirty community members. The video has been uploaded, and links will be available on [www.methowwatershed.com](http://www.methowwatershed.com) as well as our Facebook page early next week.

Plans are in the works for another round of community outreach meetings in Methow, Twisp, and Mazama this spring. Later in the summer, there may be more outreach meetings regarding the language of the legislative protection for the 2 cfs reserve. Another series of subject matter expert presentations will begin in the fall. Additionally, Ecology representatives have indicated that they would be willing to do a joint outreach with MWC at a Twisp Farmer's Market booth this spring or summer.

Bylaws Amendment Committee: Ashley Thrasher stated that she is hoping to put the revised bylaws before the Council at the April MWC meeting. At least two weeks prior to the meeting, she will send out a red-line version of the document, showing changes made to the previous version.

Water 2066 Committee: Ashley Thrasher will be in communication with Vanessa Brinkhuis regarding the process for securing the grant for a Water 2066 facilitator. She is working on a draft RFQ for the position. The job will include 2-3 months of pre-planning, a year-long period of facilitating committee meetings, and a report at the end of the study session.

## **11. Agenda Items**

03-18-01 – Discussion: Thrasher Potential Conflict of Interest: Greg Knott explained that Ashley Thrasher is currently serving as an at-large representative on the Methow Watershed Council. Recently, Ashley was appointed to the Twisp Town Council. The question is whether this poses a conflict of interest? It may give the appearance that the Town of Twisp has two votes on the MWC, while the at-large population is under-represented. Also, as an at-large representative, would Ashley be willing to vote differently than Mayor Moody, who is representing the Town of Twisp's interests?

Andy Hover stated that Okanogan County usually has two representatives present at MWC meetings, and they both speak freely. If he is not able to attend, Perry Huston acts as alternate representative. He suggested that the Town of Twisp could do the same, having a primary and an alternate representative.

It was suggested that Ashley bring the matter back to the Town of Twisp for a decision. Because of her crucial involvement with Water 2066, perhaps Ashley could become the

primary Twisp representative and Mayor Moody could be the alternate. This would leave the #6 at-large position open for a new appointment.

03-18-02 – Report: Thornton Task Force: Travis Thornton was unable to attend, but in his absence, George Schneider reported that the group has a work session scheduled for March 20, 4-8 p.m. George has been asked to act as facilitator for the meetings. His understanding is that the goals of the study group include:

- Identify and prioritize what parts of the Methow Rule need clarification.
- Come up with answers to the areas in question that the Council would like to hear from Ecology.
- Devise a strategy for conveying the results to Ecology.
- Brainstorm a list of next steps.

Andy Hover stated that if he receives any clarification from Ecology between now and the time of the meeting, he will forward it to Sali for distribution.

Public Comments: Lee Bernheisel is looking for information on a \$900,000 earmark for irrigation piping which was inserted into the capital budget after it was passed by the Senate and the House. He has asked Ecology and the Governor's OFM, but has not received a reply. He would like to know who requested this money as well as get some information on the project in order to get it into the public realm. Andy Hover stated that this money came through RCO as a supplemental appropriation. Kaleen Cottingham or Steve Martin with RCO may have more information. Natalie Kuehler stated that Barkley Irrigation requested the funding and suggested that Lee contact Trout Unlimited for more information.

Discussion: Agenda Items – Next Meeting: The next meeting agenda may include a discussion on the MWF planning budget, a decision on the revised bylaws, and an update by the Thornton task force.

## **12. Meeting Adjournment**

*At 6:44 p.m. the meeting was adjourned by Chair Greg Knott.*

---

Greg Knott, Council Chairman

*Approved at the April 19, 2018 Council Meeting.*