



**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
May 19, 2022 -7 p.m. – Via Zoom

**Council Members Present:** Greg Knott, Mike Fort, Alyssa Jumars, Bill Tackman, Jean Bodeau, and Commissioner Andy Hover

**Others in Attendance:** Michael Bastian (MWF), Tyson Carlson (Aspect), Jay Chenault (AESI), Kelsey Collins (ECY), Susan Crampton, Mark Edson (MVID), Mike Kaputa (Chelan Co), Kelsey March, Craig McDonald (MWF), Craig Nelson (CD), Allison Parks, Roger Rowatt, Noah Wentzel, Jeanne White (MC)

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

**Non-Procedural Motions**

<b>Motion #</b>	<b>Short Title</b>	<b>Yeas</b>	<b>Nays</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
5.22-01	Accept and submit the Task #4 Metering report as presented	5	0	0

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by the Vice Chair, Councilmember Alyssa Jumars, at 5:02PM.

**2. Roll Call of Council Members**

**3. Agenda – Additions or Changes**

The agenda was approved as presented.

**4. Minutes – Review and Approval**

Councilmember Bodeau moved to approve the April 21, 2022 MWC Minutes. Councilmember Tackman seconded the motion which passed with Commissioner Hover abstaining.

**5. Report from the Council Chair:** No report

**6. MWF Report: Chair- Craig McDonald**

MWF Chair McDonald reported on finances, which are in solid shape. The organization’s 990 has been filed. MWF is working on sharing with other organizations the work process document, and hopes to have several conversations about best practices for grant and budget management. Commissioner Hover asked for clarification on the purpose of the Community Foundation funds, which is to provide education, outreach and support the upcoming Confluence event.

**7. Subcommittee Reports:**

**Technical Review Committee, Chair – Fort**

Councilmember Fort deferred to the evening’s agenda item for this report.

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

Councilmember Knott reported on work happening for the Confluence event, taking place June 25, from 1-4PM. Invitations will be going out shortly.

## Ad Hoc Reports

**Water Banking Subcommittee** – Deferred until Craig Nelson (CD)'s arrival; Commissioner Hover invited Nelson to give a water banking update:

Craig Nelson reported Tyson Carlson of Aspect is leading the processes for exploring water rights purchase and grant proposal. Carlson is reviewing the draft documents and will recommend changes. The CD has met with the potential seller, and is also looking for any other potential sellers now, due to the tight timeline for the grant application. Funding expires June 30, 2023, and indications suggest it will not be renewed.

**CRM Subcommittee** – No report, no meeting.

**Resilient Methow Report** – Sarah Lane reported that the RM Hub is working on the idea of “spokes” from the Hub to relevant organizations linked with plan sectors.

## 8. Initiating Government Reports

**Town of Winthrop**- No report

**Okanogan County**- Commissioner Hover reported that all building permits are now going through the River Ban database for reserve tracking. Every time a permit exempt well is installed, it is debited against the reserves in WRAs 48 and 49, using 710 and 348, respectively. A static view of the database is now up on the Commissioners' webpage.

**Town of Twisp**- No report

**9. Ecology Report:** Kelsey Collins reported that funding for water banking grants need to be obligated by June of 2023, and Ecology wants to receive completed applications by February 2023.

**10. Presentation:** Mike Kaputa, Director of Chelan County Natural Resources department, presented on Chelan County mitigation strategies and water banking. [View the recording here.](#)

Topics covered included:

- Water banking:
  - New water banking infrastructure code is built on existing codes.
  - Some specific basins have been adjudicated.
  - 13 acre-feet in Lake Chelan purchased. Mitigation certificated are issued with building permits.
- Water transactions:
  - 10-12 transactions have been completed in order to support growth mitigation.
  - Purchase for instream flows support through NFWF funds.
- Water Code
  - Adopted 2022 in the “Big 3” Basins, Chelan, Wenatchee, Entiat.
  - To obtain water to build, there is a \$1000 admin fee and a \$1000 mitigation fee, if NOT in an A or B system, when an exempt well is needed.
  - Reserves in three tribs of the Wenatchee are close to 100%.
  - Balancing fees tolerance with the ability to stay solvent is tricky. Paid \$500 per acre/ft for initial water.
  - Almost twice the price in Suncadia and Kittitas.
  - Tracked in a program similar to River Bank.
- Water Projects
  - On farm irrigation efficiencies.
  - No specific requirements for indoor/outdoor use, though commissioners are looking at use. (Green lawns).

- Consumptive use savings can be credited, but due to Foster, some times of year cannot be mitigated. Based on September consumptive use equivalent.
- Alluvial Storage
  - 12-inch Lidar used to identify incised areas that could be used to store water, repair flood plains, force the water table up, and delay release of water.
  - Potential for mitigation credit through incised channel storage.
  - Looking at Forest Service lands, FS is supportive of green infrastructure with net ecological benefit.
  - Camas Meadows example- could retain 180 acre/ft and modeling has shown year-round instream flow benefits. Ground water table has risen several feet.
  - Proving benefit from beaver dams is difficult, requiring lots of monitoring. Must show water is retimed.
  - Councilmember Fort noted that bringing water back to original hydrographs does not result in any new water.
  - Chelan Water resources is the lead for volunteer stewardship program- mostly irrigation efficiencies.
- Water Resource Planning
  - Participates with: Icicle work group, Lake Chelan planning unit, Wenatchee Water working group, Entiat Watershed planning unit, and Stemilt Partnership.
  - Collaboration critical.

**Key Takeaways:**

- Follow up with Mr. Kaputa and Craig Nelson to see if there can be support for extending the water banking funding legislatively. Commissioner Hover noted that Reps Goehner and Steele are supportive and still on the appropriations committee, even if they are not Okanogan Reps any longer.
- Mr. Kaputa will share alluvial storage models and upcoming data.

**11. Agenda Item 5.19.22-01: Public Comment**

- a. Mark Edson, Director MVIC, commented that he has been reviewing the MVID mission statement and its multiple districts. MVID uses more water than Twisp and Winthrop together. Mr. Edson will continue to advocate for representation, along with Roger Rowatt.

**12. Agenda Item 5.19.22-02: DISCUSS: Plans for “Confluence” event**

The invitee list was shared, as well as the text of the invitation. Council members are requested to attend.

**13. Agenda Item 5.19.22-03: APPROVE: Final Draft Task #4 Metering Report**

Councilmember Fort has presented the Final Draft Task #4 Report. It recommends that Ecology do a peer review of the number 710 gpd single family domestic consumption.

Councilmember Knott moved to accept and submit the Task #4 report as presented. Councilmember Bodeau seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**14. Agenda Item 5.19.22-04: DISCUSS: Technology needs of the MWC/F**

The tech needs of the MWC/F we discussed. On the wish list:

- Library function
- Cloud and physical backup
- Searchable data
- An RFP for tech support should be developed

**15. Agenda Item 4.21.22-05: Next Steps**

- a. Confluence event: final information
- b. Tentative list of presentation and detailed budget for June meeting
- c. Follow up on Water Banking
- d. Give Methow discussion

**16. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM

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Mayor Ing-Moody, Council Chair

Approved at the June 16, 2022 Methow Watershed Council meeting