



Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2025

Location: Twisp Town Hall; Zoom

Council Members Present: *Andy Hover, Chair; Boo Turner, Wren Soperanez, Murray Taylor, David Asia, Tim Matsui.*

Council Members Absent: *Seth Miles, Bill Tackman*

Others in Attendance: *Jack Owen, OCD; Ralph Schwartz, Methow Valley News; Jeanne White, Methow Conservancy*

Minutes recorded by: *Sarah Lane, MWC/MWF Administrator*

Recording available [here](#)

Common Abbreviations:

BOCC: Board of County Commissioners

DIP: Detailed Implementation Plan

ECY: Ecology

IG: Initiating Government

LDPP: Local Drought Preparedness Plan (Ecology Grant)

MWC: Methow Watershed Council

MWF: Methow Watershed Foundation

OCD: Okanogan Conservation District

OCWB- OCD Water Bank

Non-Procedural Motions:

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
3.19.25-01	Approve David Asia, New MWC Chair	5	0	1
3.19.25-02	Approve Lorah Super, New MWC Vice Chair	6	0	0
3.19.25-03	Commerce Project Approved	6	0	0

- Meeting Called to order:** *Andy Hover called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.*
- Roll Call.** *Administrator Lane administered the roll call.*
- Guest Introductions.** *Jack Owen, OCD; Jeanne White, Methow Conservancy, and Ralph Schwartz of the Methow Valley News introduced themselves.*
- Agenda:** *Councilmember Asia moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion. Motion approved.*
- Minutes – Review and Approval of February 13, 2025, Minutes and Approval of 3.10.25 Email Voting Proceedings:** *Councilmember Asia moved to approve the Minutes and Email Voting Proceedings. Councilmember Turner seconded the motion. Motion approved.*

Item #	Agenda Item
3.19.25-01	Public Comment-(3 minutes/comment). <i>None</i>
3.19.25-02	Vote for Chair- Nominated: David Asia <i>Councilmember Asia was elected Chair. All approving with Councilmember Asia abstaining.</i>
3.19.25-03	Vote for Vice Chair- Nominated: Lorah Super <i>Councilmember Super was elected Vice Chair, unanimously, no abstentions.</i>

Item #	Agenda Item
3.19.25-04	Introduce New Members, Next Steps <i>New members introduced themselves. Next step will be approval from the BOCC and the Town of Winthrop. Town of Twisp already approved new members.</i>
3.19.25-07	Committee Assignments <i>Members were selected for the MWC Committees: Councilmember Turner will serve on MWF and Outreach. Soperanez will serve on Outreach. (Note: Councilmember Soperanez also offered to serve on the Technical committee after the meeting). Councilmember Taylor will serve on Technical and Policy. Other Council members will remain in their committee roles. Administrator Lane will share an updated Roster after the meeting. Additionally, she will send out a contact sheet to collect members' contact information.</i>
3.19.25-08	Decision: Commerce Grant General Support Statement - White Paper Topics <i>See recording at 17:33 for full discussion.</i> <i>Councilmembers selected the following topics for the three White Papers to be produced under the Commerce Capacity Project:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Organizations and Community Involvement with Water</i> <i>2. Methow Valley water retention strategies</i> <i>3. Municipal water systems</i> <i>And including as previously described,</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>4. Wild Fire Protection</i> <i>Need for a full RFQ process including review with a matrix of qualifications was discussed and agreed.</i> <i>Councilmember Asia made a motion to approve the Commerce project as discussed, with topics as listed above. Councilmember Matsui Seconded the motion. Motion approved.</i>

6. Report from the Council Chair. *No report.*
7. MWF Report, Chair—Mike Bastian. *MWF Chair Bastian was absent. Administrator Sarah Lane reported that the budget is steady, and a budget to actual will be shared next month. Methow Valley Fund grant was no successful. From feedback received, MWF believes a more defined project with more measurable deliverables would be a better fit.*

The Commerce capacity project has been awarded at \$25,000 and contracted. RFQ's for contractors will be published this week. This grant provided liability coverage for the MWF for the first time. LDPP project contract has also been finalized with OCD.

8. Committee Reports:

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair – Lane. Administrator Lane reported that no meeting has been held. However, outreach continues with the newsletter now going to almost 300 people. The Dry Wells article was shared in the newsletter and via press release to Methow Valley News. Project Coordinator Strieby will oversee production of a printed version. The Outreach Coordinator position description will be shared after MWF learns the status of the Icicle Foundation request. There may be a new source of funding for the school water education project. Community partnerships are being explored as well.

Policy Committee, Chair- Super. No report.

Technical Committee, Chair – TBC. No report.

Ad Hoc Committee: Fire Water Connections, Chair - TBC.

9. Local Governments Reports:

Town of Winthrop: No report.

Town of Twisp: No report.

Okanogan County: Councilmember Hover reported that BOCC is discussing the use of cisterns and the need for using legally available water with them.

10. *Members' Report—news from the Community: Councilmember Turner noted that Edelweiss community trucked water during a freezing related outage. The question of who trucked water was raised.*

11. Next Steps. *The MWC members will respond to a poll for setting the next meeting date.*
12. *The meeting adjourned at 4:36 p.m.*

David Asia, Chair

April 23, 2025