



Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2024 –Location: Zoom

Council Members Present: Mike Fort, George Schneider, Bill Tackman, Jean Bodeau, Hans Smith, Jacob Gates, Andy Hover

Council Members Absent: Lorah Super

Others in Attendance: Chris Allen, (AESGEO), Susan Crampton, Mark Edson, (MVID), Jordana Ellis (OCD), Mallory Hershler (WDFW), Craig McDonald (MWF), Jeanne White (MC)

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

[Recording available here.](#)

Common Abbreviations:

MWC: Methow Watershed Council

MWF: Methow Watershed Foundation

OCD: Okanogan Conservation District

LDPP: Local Drought Preparedness Plan (Ecology Grant)

WB- OCD Water Bank

IG: Initiating Government

DIP: Detailed Implementation Plan

Non-Procedural Motions

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
2.15. 24-01	Approve 2023 Year End Financials	6	0	0
2.15.24 -02	Approve 2024 MWC MWF Operations Budget	5	0	1
2.15.24-03	Approve Jean Bodeau as Chair 2024	6	0	0

- 1. Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jean Bodeau at 5:01 PM. Administrator Lane confirmed attendance.
- 2. Agenda:** Commissioner Hover moved to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Fort seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- 3. Minutes:** Councilmember Tackman moved to approve the January 18, 2024; Minutes as presented. Councilmember Fort seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
- 4. Report from the Chair:** Council Chair Bodeau gave no report.
- 5. MWF Report: Chair- Craig McDonald**
MWF Chair McDonald reported that a grant was submitted for the Methow Valley Fund. He presented the Finance report, noting that most cash on hand will be spent by the end of the year. Current work plans for contracted staff are being reviewed by the chair. The current work plans will be provided to the Council. Councilmember Tackman is willing to serve on the MWF.
- 6. Committee Reports:**
Outreach and Education Committee, Chair: Lane
Administrator Lane reported that as she is willing to serve as the new outreach chair. The committee reviewed the budget and potential outreach efforts for 2024 at its last meeting.

Policy Committee, Chair: Super

Councilmember Super was absent. No report.

Technical Committee, Chair: Schneider

Councilmember Schneider reported the Tech committee met, with the main topic being the Ecology LDPP grant in partnership with the OCD. Council contracted staff will work with OCD staff and the Tech Committee to finish the work, including budget. Councilmember Schieder reported a community volunteer for the Tech committee. Commissioner Hover said vetting regarding conflict of interest and training as to how the Council works. Mayor Smith noted in the past experts were invited to help on the recommendation of appointed committee members. Knowing how recommendations were generated would be important.

Water Banking, Chair: Tackman

Councilmember Tackman had no report. Jordana Ellis, OCD, said the Barkley water banking application was proceeding. Okanogan County is applying for two parcels of water in WRIA 49, Pine Creek and Sullivan Lake. OCD staff met with Rep. Steele, who is supporting an edit to the funding proviso that would lift the \$2M cap per organization for water banking funding. Several Council members provided questions for the survey OCD will post again during the WB start up. Councilmember Fort and Commissioner Hover discussed the wording of survey questions.

7. Local Government Reports

Town of Winthrop- Councilmember Jacob Gates reported that he is meeting with Chewuch Canal about Pearrygin water rights. Well #2 will be in in about two months. The Winthrop Council will enact a subdivision moratorium at its Feb 21 meeting. More water connections will be available soon and remain available for single house projects.

Town of Twisp- Mayor Smith reported discussing the discharge water potential with Councilmember Fort. Twisp will review this with Aspect. Town of Twisp will participate in the LDPP.

Okanogan County- Commissioner Hover reported there is a Zone Code Update hearing on Feb. 20. Hover expressed interested in a presentation at a recent Methow Conservancy presentation on hydrograph changes due to climate change. It could be possible to make the use of unused open canals for capturing spring runoff as a non-consumptive use feasible.

8. News From the Community: None offered.

9. Ecology Report: None

10. Presentation: None

11. Agenda Item 2.15.24-01: Public Comment:

No comments.

12. Agenda Item 2.15.24-02: Open Council Position One

Council Chair Bodeau directed the notices regarding the open Position One to stay active until filled.

13. Agenda Item 2.15.24-03: Discussion: Irrigators Position on Council: Next Steps

Item Tabled.

14. Agenda Item 2.15.24-04: 2023 Year End Finance Report: Discussion and Approval

Councilmember Fort moved to approve 2023 Year End Report. Councilmember Tackman seconded the motion. Motion approved.

15. Agenda Item 2.15.24-05: 2024 MWF and MWC Operational Budget: Discussion and Approval

Councilmember Fort made a motion to approve the 2024 Operation Budget for MWC and MWF. Fort noted the need to confirm actual funds and communicate budget changes. Motion passed with Mayor Smith abstaining.

16. Agenda Item 2.15.24-06: Special Topic: Future of MWC/ Initial Conversation

Council Chair Bodeau opened a discussion on the future of the MWC, noting that it may be time to look at how the Council operates, what its purpose is, and what remains of original work plans. ([See recording for full discussion](#)).

Bodeau noted several options:

1. Status Quo
2. Apply for Watershed Partnership status under 39.34.200
3. Hire Full Time ED
4. Review the DIP and update
5. Move MWC as a project under another NGO
6. Sunset MWC

Discussion Points:

- Funding
- Previous planning still relevant? (DIP never approved by IGs)
- Effect of new laws
- ASR potential (Towns and County partnership)
 - High Flow, non-consumptive storage
 - Beaver dam analogs
- Cold water refugia
- Outreach to community for feedback on priority use of water
- All volunteer work is sometimes taxing for members

Public Comment invited on this topic:

Mark Edson shared that MVID as a past initiating body, decide they didn't want to be involved . He thinks this was a mistake. He believes moving forward, irrigation needs to have a voice on MWC.

Homework/Next Steps:

- What are other watershed groups formed under 90.82 doing now?
- What is the County getting from supporting MWC?
- Call Water Resources at Ecology re watershed groups
- Review DIP – What and Who to do tasks

17. Agenda Item 2.15.24-07: Nominate and Confirm Chair

Councilmember Fort nominated Councilmember Jean Bodeau to continue as Chair. Commissioner Hover seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

18. Agenda Item 2.15.24-08: Next Steps

Next meeting will be March 21, 2024. It may be held at Twisp Public Building.

19. Adjournment:

Mayor Smith made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Fort seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Commissioner Andy Hover, Council Vice Chair

March 21, 2024