



**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

May 20, 2021 5 -7 p.m. – Via Zoom

**Council Members Present:** Dick Ewing, Mike Fort, Greg Knott, Alyssa Jumars, Mayor Soo Ing-Moody, Bill Tackman

**Others in Attendance:** Lee Bernheisel (OWL), Jay Chenault (AESI), Susan Crampton (OWL), Peter Dykstra, Tim Flynn, Jason Hoffman (Info Corp), Natalie Johnson (MVN), Curtis Koger (AESI), Craig McDonald (MWF), Jasmine Minbashian (MVCC), Jamie Morin, Craig Nelson (OCD), George Schneider, Lorah Super (MVCC), Jaquelyn Wallace (TU), on Wetzel, Jeanne White (MC), Jan Young (County Watch)

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

**Non-Procedural Motions**

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
5.21-01	Motion to approve the 2021 MWC Strategic Plan and Work Plan	5	0	0

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mayor Ing-Moody at 5:15 PM

**2. Roll Call of Council Members**

**3. Agenda – Additions or Changes**

Councilmember Ewing moved to approve the May 20, 2021 Agenda, and Councilmember Knot seconded the motion. The minutes was approved unanimously.

**4. Minutes – Review and Approval**

Councilmember Knot moved to approve the April 15, 2021 minutes, and Councilmember Jumars seconded the motion. The minutes was approved unanimously.

**5. Report from the Council Chair**

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that conversations have been having regarding water baking potential. Mayor Ing-Moody attended a meeting called by Craig Nelson of the Okanogan Conservation District on water banking, and has been talking with Department of Ecology about grant funding for a CRM.

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

MWF Chair Craig McDonald reviewed the May Finance report. Key item to note is funding request to the County is being pursued. Councilmembers Fort and Jumars met with OCC, and OCC will be meeting with the Mayors of Twisp and Winthrop to have a conversation as initiating governments to define the relationship.

A grant to Moccasin Lake Foundation has been submitted. The MWF purchased a two-year membership to Grantstation to look for other grants

**7. Subcommittee Reports:**

### **Technical Review Committee, Chair – Fort**

Councilmember Fort reported on three items: database update, metering and water quality (which Councilmember Knott will report on).

Regarding the database, the Council has been asked to review Aspect's information on database calculations. The County has to report to Ecology on water use from WRIAs 48 and 49, and have chosen to combine them into a new database reporting both. The County thinks the database developed for 49 should work for 48, and has asked the Council to review this information. This includes information on the database counting historical, existing and future SFD development, based on certain assumptions. The other document deals with how much water is used by SFD in WRIA 48. The numbers for the two WRIAs are close but not the same. Okanogan County is requesting that the Council approve the County to report the SFD current usage (no future forecast sent to Ecology) using their newer database. The Technical Committee will submit a recommendation to the Council next month and asks members to review the information.

In regard to metering, Councilmember Fort said that the final report for the grant is due March of next year. In preparation, an outline has been developed. Two things for members to consider: Shall the Council support continuing installing meters in single family residences to get a statistically viable number for the report, or should the numbers given by the two studies for 48 and 49 be used for reporting? Councilmember Fort believes the Aspect numbers are sufficient and to recommend to be used by Ecology, resulting in closing the metering project, which Councilmember Fort believes is desirable.

Councilmember Knott reported on the second meeting of the water quality group, who is looking at projects to apply for approximately \$176,000 water quality funding available from the County, specifically to address the effects of increased development on water quality. The group decided rather than using funds for any particular model, they would like to produce data that can help County, town and anyone else interested in making water management decisions. The potential projects include making an inventory of existing temperature data of water related organizations in the Methow. There is a huge amount of temperature data from the last decades, but the information has not been summarized, and is not accessible to the public. The task would be to organize and curate the data so that it more assessable. Part two would be to evaluate existing data to see if there are questions that have not been asked yet that could be answered with existing data. Part three would be to have another FLIR overflight of the river, to compare to a flight last done 10 years ago. Data generated can be used in conjunction with existing data to answer questions.

The water quality group includes Councilmembers Knott and Jumars, John Crandall of MSRF, and Steve Ralph.

Mayor Ing-Moody asked that the Technical Committee bullet point the information from the Aspect reports, and to give their recommendation based on that. Councilmember Fort asked Councilmembers to reach out the Technical Committee members with any questions before the next Council meeting.

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

Lane reported the committee discussed its work plan, and topics newsletters will cover for the next year. Newsletter topics will also tie to the agendas of Council meetings. Mayor Ing-Moody said the focus is on providing quality and timely information.

## **8. Ad Hoc Reports**

**Strategic Planning, Chair - Thrasher** No Report

**Resilient Methow Report – Lane** No Report

**9. Initiating Government Reports**

**Town of Twisp-** Mayor Ing-Moody reported construction for the civic building project has started.

**Town of Winthrop-** No Report

**Okanogan County-** No Report

**10. Ecology Report:** No Report

**11. Presentation:** No Presentation

**12. Agenda Item 5.20-01: Approval of the MWC/F Strategic Plan and Work Plan**

Mayor Ing-Moody asked for a motion to approve the new Strategic Plan. Councilmember Jumars made a motion to approve the Strategic Plan. Councilmember Knott seconded the motion and thanks George Schneider for his work on it. Motion passed unanimously.

**13. Agenda Item 5.20-02: MWC Recommendation on Aspect's data and report**

Councilmember Fort said background was covered in his Technical Committee report, and that the basics of this request is that the responsibility for the MWC to report use numbers would be removed and agree that the County can do that based on the Aspect assumptions used for the WRIA 49 database, which Fort believes are the same as for 48. Councilmember Fort is not prepared to make a motion at this time.

Councilmember Ewing asked if the database referenced is the database Aspect developed in 2011. Councilmember Fort said it is that one which was also updated in 2019.

Councilmember Knott noted that the assumptions in the two systems are not identical, and does the Council believe the assumptions in the County database are accurate given that they are different than the database made for the MWC.

Mayor Ing-Moody asked again for the Technical Committee to summarize the information for the Councilmembers to review at the next Council meeting.

**14. Agenda Item 5.20-03: Discussion: CRM: How do we begin to form this group and engage the community**

Mayor Ing-Moody introduced the discussion referencing the last meeting. Will this be a CRM? What might it look like? How do we engage and start the conversation? Mayor Ing-Moody has been having discussions on funding, which we need for guiding the process. In talking with Sage Park at Ecology, there will be up to \$10,000 available, but what Park is really looking for initially is a scope of work, before funding is confirmed. Park also provided a lead on some other non-Ecology grant funding. There is also potential for assistance from Washington State Conservation Commission staff, with Ecology covering the cost, or in-house staff from Ecology. Determining what the MWC wants to achieve is the first step. Mayor Ing-Moody asked the Council to discuss this topic.

Councilmember Fort said that being aware of the resource should be primary. He believes the basin is overallocated. There are two sources of water: Single Family Domestic, or the possibility of doing an MAR if a water right for high flows can be obtained. The resource is extremely constrained, and outcome of a CRM should recognize this.

Councilmember Tackman recommended a committee form to develop the scope.

Councilmember Ewing asked if there is truly access to the 2 cfs for SFD, or is it currently impaired because of Campbell and Gwinn. Councilmember Tackman said that he wants to identify function and issues for forming the group. Councilmember Ewing said he's wondering if this is an issue. Mayor Ing-Moody noted that part of the discussion is also what we eventually want to see, and perhaps a water budget that looks different in the future. What do we ideally want to see?

Councilmember Knott agrees with Councilmember Tackman's point and expanded on it recommend a special meeting of the MWC to develop the scope of work. Councilmember Tackman suggested a chair was needed for a scoping group, and was recommended for the job. Mayor Ing-Moody offered assistance to Tackman in order to form this group. Councilmember Jumars was asked to be co-chair, and agreed to do so. A special meeting will be held to develop scope for this work, which Mayor Ing-Moody noted, does not need to named 'CRM'.

#### **15. Agenda Item 5.20-04: Discussion: Water Banking**

Mayor Ing-Moody introduced an initial discussion on water banking in the Methow, based on the funding provided by the state. Funding is different than was requested, and information was provided about the state operating and capital budgets, in which \$2 million has been earmarked specifically for the Methow over the next two years. This discussion is meant to prepare the Council to help others understand water banking through these funds.

Councilmember Ewing asked who was responsible for this funding being achieved. Mayor Ing-Moody said Rep. Steele was the main proponent of the proviso. Ewing asked what the expectation was compared to what was received. Mayor Ing-Moody noted one difference was it was originally conceived of as an agricultural water bank, and that the final proviso does not limit it to ag.

Councilmember Ewing asked if an ag water right is purchased and then leased or sold as ag, does 1/3 of water need to go instream for fish. Mayor Ing-Moody read the proviso language and confirmed that condition. Ewing said that will limit accessibility to ag. If the water is purchased, does that condition the water that could be used for year-round use for municipal, exempt of commercial use. Councilmember Fort said that water would be subject to an ROE, and currently Ecology is not approving any change of use. Mayor Ing-Moody thinks this is a question for experts to answer.

Councilmember Jumars asked if any water rights could be transferred out of the basin.

Councilmember Ewing asked about the entity that will be formed to manage the water bank, as it is meant to have a public component; who will be the public entity, and how will a 501c3, or other entity be formed for this partnership. Mayor Ing-Moody noted the Conservation District might be such an entity.

Craig Nelson of the Conservation District was called on to speak to this topic. He noted that the 1/3 requirement for instream only applies to these particular funds. If funding comes from another source, that is not required. In regard to public- private partnership, the topic will be discussed in June after the bill has been signed, and more details will be discussed with Ecology as well. Mayor Ing-Moody clarified that the CD will be specifically receiving \$125,000 for water banking.

Councilmember Tackman asked Councilmember Fort the view of the Water Conservancy Board. Fort said that it is easier to put water in that take is out, and that in some cases the ROE can be done up front. Councilmember Tackman said his concern is ag water rights being converted to something else, and wondered about Ecology's position on that. Councilmember Fort said his view is that the original use and time of the rights is not likely to be changes.

Mayor Ing-Moody would like the next meeting to help with understanding of how a water bank will work and its processes. Ecology will be represented at the next meeting. If there are other questions on water banking, send them to Mayor Ing-Moody and Lane.

**16. Agenda Item 5.20-05: Next Steps**

- Recommendation on Aspect water data from the Technical Committee-Fort
- Presentation on water banking: Trevor Hutton and Paul Jewell
- Special meeting on CRM scope- Tackman/Jumars
- Scope of Work for water quality (maybe July)- Knott

**17. Agenda Item 5.20-06 Public Comment**

Jasmine Minbashian encouraged the MWC to think about the collaborative process with water banking as a component and be inclusive of Water 2066 data which may help with finding funding.

**18. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

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Mayor Ing-Moody, Council Chair

Approved at the June17, 2021 Council meeting.