



**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
February 16, 2023 – Via Zoom

**Council Members Present:** George Schneider, Lorah Super, Bill Tackman, Jean Bodeau, Jeff Sarvis, and Commissioner Andy Hover.

**Council Members Absent, Excused:** Greg Knott, Mike Fort, Mayor Ing-Moody

**Others in Attendance:** Chris Allen, Allyse \_\_, David Clement, Susan Crampton, D. Chapel, Jordana Ellis (CD), George Grable, Mallory Hirshler (WDFW), Heather Simmons (ECY), C. Tilley, and Jeanne White (MC)

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

Recording available here: [2.16.23 MWC Meeting](#)

**Non-Procedural Motions**

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
2.16-01	Motion to create new Policy Committee regarding water for housing, towns and related issues.	5	0	1

- Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jean Bodeau at 5:03 PM. Administrator Lane confirmed attendance.
- Agenda:** Commissioner Hover moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Tackman seconded the motion, motion carried.
- Minutes:** Commissioner Hover moved to approve the January 21, 2023 Minutes as confirmed via email earlier. Councilmember Sarvis seconded the motion; motion carried.
- Attendance:** Councilmembers Knott, Fort and Mayor Ing-Moody were excused.
- Report from the Chair:** Chair Bodeau gave the following updates:
  - Conflict of Interest forms for 2023 are due from all members
  - Councilmembers Schneider and Super have been ratified by Okanogan County Board of Commissioner and Town of Winthrop. Town of Twisp will review the request at its February 28 meeting.
  - Chair Bodeau has had conversations with Councilmembers, and has developed a committee roster for 2023.
  - A meeting has been set up with Sage Park (Ecology), Heather Simmons (Water Resources) and Nigel Kingsbury (new Water Master for the Methow). Meeting is February 21 at 11:30. Members should let Administrator Lane know if they wish to participate.
- MWF Report: Chair- Craig McDonald**  
Chair McDonald was absent; Administrator Lane reported that the MWF discussed grants in detail at the last meeting. Mike Bastian was appointed Chair of the Finance Committee. Finances are in good condition.
- Subcommittee Reports:**

**Technical Review Committee, Chair: Fort** No Report

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

Administrator Lane gave the report in Councilmember Knott’s absence. She reminded members that the Drought in the Methow Presentation takes place March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Winthrop Library, and should be a very informative event. Topics

covered include hydrographic modeling of drought conditions, presented by Christopher Konrad; and Washington drought law framework, presented by Jon Culp.

The committee is also working on a Water Law 101 presentation and an irrigator's meeting for this spring.

Councilmember Tackman asked about plans for recording the Drought presentation for the public, stating that this is something that should be available to the public.

## **8. Ad Hoc Reports**

### **Water Banking Subcommittee, Chair: Tackman**

Councilmember Tackman reported that due to time constraints, the Water Banking committee was not able to meet; however, a report was sent to members from Okanogan Conservation District (CD). Councilmember Super reported that the CD had a meeting with Ecology the previous day, and asked Jordana Ellis (CD), to report.

Ellis reported that the purpose of the meeting was a pre-application meeting for a second application. Ecology's legal team is reviewing the new water right, and also developing a framework for identifying acceptable rights for funding. There continues to be lag on processing the grant with no new news, but the CD can submit this second application. Ellis reports that Ecology thinks the time lag is nearing its end, and all applications will be able to move forward on a parallel track. The new program manager is Vanessa Brinkhuis. The new grant manager is Melisa Snoberger.

Councilmember Super said that the legal questions Ecology is dealing with relate to language in the proviso regarding defining eligibility and valid rights. The proviso funding is moving under the Streamflow Restoration program. Chelan County is the first applicant for proviso funding. More patience is needed.

**Housing Report** – Administrator Lane reported that she and several MWC/MWF members attended the Housing Solutions Network meeting the week previous. Key takeaways included the conclusion that MWC members should meet with Towns and County to discuss what support is needed from the MWC for water for building affordable housing. Lane reported that Mark Easton, Twisp Town Council, had presented on Twisp growth, and stated that if all current and proposed projects go forward, the population of Twisp could double. In many cases, annexation into town UGAs is the method of adding denser housing. Lane also talked with Simon Windell of the Methow Housing Trust, leading the HSN meeting, and he said he wanted to talk with the MWC.

**Resilient Methow Report** – Administrator Lane had no update other than continuing work with RM's administrator, Dana Golden, to plan the March 9 drought presentation.

## **9. Local Government Reports**

**Town of Winthrop**- Councilmember Jeff Sarvis had no report

**Okanogan County**- Commissioner Hover had no report.

**Town of Twisp- Mayor**- Mayor Ing-Moody was not present; no report

## **10. Ecology Report**

Heather Simmons, new Section Manager for the Water Resource Program, introduced herself. She is very new in this position, and has worked with Ecology for ten years. She has worked with Methow Salmon on some grant related projects. Nigel Kingsbury, new Water Master for the Methow, was unable to attend this meeting, but will be in the Methow around March or April. Both Simmons and Kingsbury would like to meet with MWC members again.

## **11. News From the Community:**

Councilmember Super reported that there will be a WA State water supply availability forecast meeting tomorrow via Zoom. She will share information with interested members. Jeff Marti, Ecology, is the contact for the meeting.

Councilmember Tackman reported that he is serving on Twisp Planning Commission, and attended a standing room only meeting last week. One item discussed is a 52-lot subdivision at the old school site. The Planning Commission will meet again in March. People attending commented on the projected population increase with concern.

## **12. Presentation:** No presentation

## **13. Agenda Item 2.16.23-01: Public Comment:**

Jeanne White asked if the meeting with Sage Park was available to the public. It is not.

Written comment was received via email from Mark Westerfield of Winthrop: "As owners of Rocking Horse Bakery building, we just became aware of how outdated and poorly maintained the water supply is in Winthrop. Requiring an Ordinance for running water all Winter to avoid frozen pipes. Spread across all users in Winthrop at 3 to 4 gallons a day that has to be well over several thousands of gallons every Winter, for a city that claims a lack of water. All because the city defers responsibilities for water lines to property owners in violation of State WAC."

Councilmember Sarvis said the Town of Winthrop was aware of the issue, and had no response at this time.

**14. Agenda Item 2.16.23-02: MWF Bylaws Update**

Chair Bodeau said that because MWC Bylaws do not require MWC approval of MWF Bylaws, this is an informational item. No questions or comments were proffered, other than one typo found by Councilmember Super.

**15. Agenda Item 2.16.23-03: ACTION: Approve 2023 Budget**

Chair Bodeau suggested that, since Craig McDonald and Mike Fort were not present to go over the budget, that this item be postponed to March.

**16. Agenda Item 2.16.23-04: DISCUSSION: Committee Assignments and Overview**

Committee assignments were reviewed, including committees needing new Chairs, and numbers of members. The Technical committee has a lot of interest.

Councilmember Tackman made a motion to add a Policy Committee to look at water for housing, towns and related issues. Councilmember Super seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**17. Agenda Item 2.16.23-05: DISCUSSION: Meeting Format**

Council members discussed whether MWC should meet in person or via Zoom, or both, and at what frequency. Consensus was to meet in person approximately quarterly. Members of the public will continue to be invited to join via Zoom.

**18. Agenda Item 2.16.23-06: Next Steps**

- MWF Bylaws on March Agenda
- Members email if interested in attending the Ecology meeting 2/21
- Complete COI forms
- Put the Drought event on calendars
- Contact Councilmember Super for water advisory meeting info

**19. Adjournment:**

Councilmember Sarvis moved to adjourn; Commissioner Hover seconded the motion; meeting adjourned at 7:09 PM

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Councilmember Jean Bodeau, Council Chair

March 16, 2023