



Monthly Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2025

Location: Twisp Civic Center and Zoom

Council Members Present: *David Asia, Chair; Andy Hover, Hans Smith, Lorah Super, Murray Taylor, Boo Turner; Tim McGuire (Twisp alternate)*

Council Members Absent: *Seth Miles, Wren Soperanez*

Others in Attendance: *Sarah Lane, MWF/MWC Administrator (remote); Rita Stewart, MWC Outreach Coordinator; Sandra Strieby, MWC Project Coordinator; Susan Crampton*

Minutes recorded by: *Sandra Strieby, MWC/MWF Project Coordinator*

[Recording available here](#)

1. Call to order: David Asia called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.
2. Roll Call. Administrator Lane administered the roll call.
3. Guest Introductions. Susan Crampton introduced herself. Others present introduced themselves as a courtesy to Tim McGuire, who was attending for the first time.
4. Agenda – Additions or changes, Approval. Councilmember Turner moved to approve the agenda; Chair Asia seconded; motion carried.
5. Minutes – Review and Approval of June 25, 2025 Minutes. Councilmember Smith moved to approve the minutes with the following amendment: Councilmember Turner was absent. Councilmember Hover seconded; motion carried.
6. Presentation: None
7. Agenda Items

Item #	Agenda Item	Presenter
9.24.25-01	LDPP Update: Project Coordinator Strieby reported on recent activities, including summer outreach and community meetings. The survey timeline remains unknown. A review of published literature related to drought is underway and will inform the risk assessment. The risk assessment timeline will be extended. Incorporating the results of the MWC's perceptions of drought interviews will be on the agenda for discussion at the next LDPP planning session, in mid-October. Council member Super asked whether the LDPP project may consider monitoring the groundwater project wells; Strieby replied that it could be included in the LDPP project list. Some discussion followed.	Strieby

9.24.25-02	Firewater Project Next Steps: Administrator Lane showed slides created by Chair Asia, who explained the project. Based on FD #6 priorities and the findings of the feasibility study completed earlier this year, the Douglas County PUD acclimation site was identified as a possible location for a firefighting water connection. The PUD is amenable to the idea. In his role as County Commissioner, Councilmember Hover has been working with the PUD, Okanogan County Electric Co-op, and others to develop a plan, including providing for power and access. He will present his findings to the PUD commissioners and will work with the DNR on funding. FD #6 will maintain the fire connection once it's established. In response to questions, Hover said the project could be built next year if funding can be secured; the total cost is estimated at \$200-250K.	Asia
9.24.25-03	Tech Committee Community Interview Interim Report: Chair Asia presented an overview and preliminary analysis of the Perceptions of Drought interviews. Councilmember Taylor, Committee Chair Bastian, and Asia analyzed the interviews independently. They used a model, and did not confer about how to interpret the material. There were 21 interviews; due to the small number, the statistical value is questionable. The interviews contain a lot of anecdotal information. Analysis showed a lot of concerns about projected impacts, and quite a spread in responses to questions about current impacts and motivation to take action. Irrigators are less concerned about impacts because of what they perceive to be the security of their water rights. Representatives of recreation and private water users gave higher impact scores; some are already making accommodations. Tribes feel they have the most to lose, and gave higher impact scores. Some mitigations were suggested; they are presented, but no endorsement by the council is implied. The information will be presented for use in developing the LDPP. Councilmember Hover noted that conservation measures may not be cost effective—e.g., a pivot system uses water more efficiently than hand lines, but incurs high power costs. Power rate structure may also work against irrigators; it is affected by power needs of the growing residential population.	Asia/Bastian
9.24.25-04	Tech Committee Member Recommendation: council members discussed the procedure for appointing a committee member. The committee chair can appoint a new member; the council would like to be apprised and know the new member's motivation for joining. The council will talk further in October.	Bastian
9.24.25-05	Oct 2 Supporter Happy Hour: Councilmember Turner reminded those present of the event scheduled for next Thursday at 5:00 in Your Space at TwispWorks. Administrator Lane thinks about 22 plan to attend, including MWC members. Lane and several councilmembers are expanding outreach to encourage attendance. Fundraising is not on the agenda. Outreach Coordinator Stewart explained the event will feature	Turner/Stewart

	food and beverages and three, 5-minute presentations, promoting conversation about what the MWC is working on.	
9.24.25-06	Budget Discussion- BOCC Request: Administrator Lane reported that the MWF met last week and discussed next year's budget. The MWC will need to coordinate with Councilmember Hover on making a request to the BOCC for the next year or two. Hover said the county faces considerable shortfalls, but encouraged Lane to prepare a request and send it to all three county commissioners. Lane will draft a letter for Chair Asia's signature.	Bastian/Lane
9.24.25-07	Letters of Support Process: the MWC's by-laws do not address letters of support that may be requested by other organizations. Council members discussed procedural needs and challenges. Because governments are involved, any letter of support would need full consensus. Email voting might be acceptable during the summer recess. Non-response by council members other than governments would constitute abstention. Administrator Lane will draft a by-law for council consideration. The MWC will need to let requesters know that letters of support take time; the council will need at least a week to prepare and approve a letter.	Asia

8. Report from the Council Chair. Chair Asia had no more to report.

9. MWF Report, Chair – Michael Bastian. Administrator Lane reported that the Give Methow campaign will start 10/1. She will send a Funday Monday reminder each week. Council members are free to share those and MWC newsletters. The MWC's planned event on 10/2 will be an opportunity to touch base with supporters and project partners, and let them know what we're working on.

Lane reported that the MWF talked about next year's budget at the last foundation meeting. The budget includes \$8K in Give Methow funds; critical as grants are often not funded until mid-spring. The MWF will request \$20K from Okanogan County to cover basic functions, outreach. With LDPP and grants, the 2026 budget will be ca. \$100K. The MWF will target the Methow Valley Fund and Icicle Fund as grant sources, and hopes to be more successful this year.

a. Next MWF meeting, October 16, at 2:00 p.m. The time may have changed. The MWF will talk about budget; MWC members are welcome to attend; it will be a Zoom meeting. Councilmember Super asked whether there is a backup plan in case the county is not able to provide the requested funding. Lane is looking into other grant options. There is not much of a backup plan.

10. Committee Reports

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair – Turner. Councilmember Turner reported that, overall, the MWC has gotten good exposure through LDPP events. The May Farmers' Market was valuable, other events less so. At the market, MWC representatives fielded a variety of inquiries; generally, people don't know about the council. The organization has not been very visible. Discussion; the MWC needs tangible output that impacts people, actionable visible projects. The planned Twisp River fire connection will be one. What else? Speaks to lack of understanding about what this watershed is. If people are not impacted, they are not interested. Do more next year if funds are adequate—schoolyard science, e.g. The MWC has access to good data, could bring that info into education. The council can

also work to be present, visible—the LDPP helps—we are talking to people. Increasing visibility is a long process.

Council members discussed LDPP outputs and the MWC’s role. Can the MWC be a stronger partner in implementation? The Risk Assessment will include a lot to make people think, can be a driver toward projects. Tangible, graspable projects that people can understand may help people understand the council and its role. How the work will be funded remains a question. Chair Asia suggested summarizing the Perceptions of Drought interview information for the newspaper. Turner agreed that would be a good supplemental effort; we should do it.

Council members discussed responding to comments on white papers. Currently there is no strategy to do that. The Perceptions of Drought interviews have legs and align with the work the council is doing with the OCD. Turner recommends we put our heads together about how to use them, make them visible, bring the information to light.

The council will co-host a beaver restoration tour in October. The more we can do in creating events, the better. Frequency drives recognition and visibility. Outreach Coordinator Stewart will put together a small display in the Winthrop library, with surveys available. For 2026: education, visibility. The MWC will co-host a First Tuesday presentation in the spring, choosing an expert who can speak to how water supply impacts individuals. One idea: the Perceptions of Drought findings, with information about the LDPP, including the risk assessment.

Stewart reported that the MWC will have a booth at the Farmers’ Market on 10/18. Presentations from allied organizations will be a more regular feature of meetings.

Policy Committee, Chair - Super. Councilmember Super reported that the committee did not meet this summer, will reconvene when there is a policy to discuss. Councilmember Smith asked about Rule revision. Super has it on her list, thinks there is a webinar to come.

Technical Committee, Chair – Bastian, Acting Chair. The technical committee’s focus has been on analyzing the Perceptions of Drought interviews.

Ad Hoc: Fire Water, Chair - Open. Covered above.

11. Local Governments Reports

Town of Winthrop. Not represented

Town of Twisp. Councilmember Smith reported that the town is actively engaged in updating its water system plan. Modeling will tell whether mechanics are sufficient for further development. The town is also interested in consumption, further allotment/additional connections. Smith expects the plan to be done in the spring.

Okanogan County. Councilmember Hover left the meeting early and was not present to report.

12. Members Report: News from the Community and Upcoming Events. Councilmember Super reported on water banking. The first Methow right is close to being in the bank; it’s going through the water conservancy board. Negotiations are ongoing with the Barkley Irrigating Company for some extra water. Both are ag rights only. They are high in the watershed, so applicable/available for lease in a wide area. Okanogan County waited too long to apply for funds to secure a Pine Creek water right. Jordana Ellis is consulting with the CTCR (Colville Tribes), others about funding to secure that right. Super also thinks other conversations are underway, including with the Okanogan-Tonasket Irrigation District re a lease to the water bank. Aspect Consulting is helping with a web site for the water bank.

Councilmember Super reported on a permitting workshop held by MVCC in May. About 70 attended. MVCC is working to develop a unified set of answers to frequently-asked permitting questions. In the fall, MVCC will hold a workshop for realtors. Councilmember Turner asked whether there is a role for the MWC. Super is not certain; she does see opportunities to collectively help all feel more comfortable working with unified answers, especially realtors working with matters related to water.

Councilmember Super reported on and showed slides about the Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) designation program. Source: federal clean water act; states administer. Ecology administers the program in Washington. The designation recognizes high functioning, high quality waters, and affects how Ecology considers new permits. Super is engaged in pre-nomination work on a local designation.

13. Next Steps

a. Tasks

b. Next Agenda Items

i. Next Meeting Dates Scheduled

1. Wednesday October 22, 3:00PM. The Methow Okanogan Beaver Project will be at the meeting. Chair Asia has invited Melanie Rowland, WA Fish & Wildlife Commission.
2. November – Wed before Thanksgiving – Reschedule? Decided to meet 11/19. Need to check on space availability.
3. December - Christmas Eve- Reschedule? Decided: pencil in 12/17.

ii. Location: Twisp Civic Building

1. Idea: Meet in rotating locations for more valley coverage: Winthrop Library, Twisp Town Hall, Methow Community Club, Mazama Community Club. (Not discussed)

14. Adjourn. Councilmember Smith moved to adjourn; Councilmember Super seconded. Motion carried; Chair Asia adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.