



Monthly Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2022 -7 p.m. – Via Zoom

Council Members Present: Greg Knott, Mike Fort, Dick Ewing, Alyssa Jumars, Bill Tackman, Jean Bodeau, Soo Ing-Moody, Jeff Sarvis, and Andy Hover

Others in Attendance: Chris Allen (AESI), Tyson Carlson (Aspect), D Chapel, Jay Chenault (AESI), David Clement, Susan Crampton (OWL), Mark Edson (MVID), Curtis Koger (AESI), Don Nelson (MVN), Lorah Super (MVCC, CD), Travis Thornton, Jeanne White

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

Non-Procedural Motions

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
2.22-01	Motion the approve the MWF/MWC 2022 Budget	9	0	0

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Mayor Ing-Moody at 5:03PM.

2. Roll Call of Council Members

3. Agenda – Additions or Changes

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. Minutes – Review and Approval

Councilmember Sarvis moved to approve the January 20, 2022. Commissioner Hover seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

5. Report from the Council Chair:

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that the Water Banking committee met since the last MWC meeting to working on water banking priorities. Several MWF members met with the Community Foundation to discuss the grant proposal submitted 1/31.

6. MWF Report: Chair- Mike Fort

Councilmember Fort reported that the MWF reviewed the proposed annual budget. Some items have been added for technical items. The organization is in a good position in part due to the contract with the County.

7. Subcommittee Reports:

Technical Review Committee, Chair – Fort

Councilmember Fort reported that a draft of the Task #4 final report was submitted to council for this meeting. The final report is due May 31, 2022. A pilot program report is also due. About \$9000 remains currently in the grant, and some funds will remain after this grant is complete. Councilmember Fort intends to see if funds can be used for outreach. Public Comment is invited on Task #4 as well.

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair- Knott

Councilmember Knott reported the committee is developing a list of presentations to make. An event for MWF/MWC is in the works. The purpose is to talk about water with other people, possibly make tabling available for other groups. It is planned for June 25, 2022. Councilmember Knott made a request for planning assistance.

Ad Hoc Reports

Water Banking Subcommittee - Councilmember Tackman will defer until the agenda item.

CRM Subcommittee – No Report

Resilient Methow Report – Lane reported an idea for the RM Committee to be a sort of clearinghouse for volunteers and ideas generated from the RM Hub. Ideas could be adopted, vetted, or passed on the IGs as a recommendation.

8. Initiating Government Reports

Town of Winthrop- Councilmember Sarvis reported that Winthrop was working with Aspect to get source approval for a second well.

Okanogan County- Commissioner Hover said that the County and Conservation District have been meeting to work on an MOU. Work is proceeding slowly due to staffing. Commissioner Hover also stated he believed MWC would need to start considering habitat in its work in order to stay relevant.

Councilmember Tackman asked Commissioner Hover to explain the status of the lifted building permit moratorium. Commissioner Hover said building permits are coming in. The County is waiting for a decision matrix to be completed so permits can be issued appropriately. Issuance of permits should begin in the next week.

Councilmember Tackman asked for confirmation that no subdivisions or short plats are being developed. Commissioner Hover said that a subdivision could happen with mitigation water. Councilmember Tackman asked for examples of mitigation. Commissioner Hover said that he knows of one ag right being converted to year around with storage, that Ecology approved. Councilmember Ewing asked if any of the water can come from the 2cfs reservation, and the answer was no.

Councilmember Bodeau asked how conversion of agriculture water to SFD as mitigation would work. Commissioner Hover said a person would put ag water in a pond to infiltrate, mitigating for the time no water right is available. Bodeau asked is this a per applicant process or whole valley approach. Commissioner Hover said if towns want to use water banking water for full year use, the county will need to come up with a storage project to convert to full time use. He believes the county needs to look for storage possibilities, and referred to a storage study of local lakes. Commissioner Hover wants to know if there is potential for a publicly owned project that allows for mitigation, approved by Ecology and law. Commissioner Hover asked Tyson Carlson from Aspect about the precedence for this kind process. Carlson confirmed it is a process in use to stretch it to year around use. The concern is around minimum instream flows in the winter during use. Reducing of peak demands and shifting impact to to winter is good in many basins, but the Methow is challenged to meet minimum flows. Councilmember Fort asked if this process gets around the Foster decision. Commissioner Hover said he thinks yes, because it does not impair winter flows by stretching out the use. Councilmember Fort thinks Foster will be a roadblock.

Councilmember Knott asked Commissioner Hover if the County is going to do storage analysis with mitigation as outcome and what is the role for MWC. Commissioner Hover would like to see the MWC brainstorm where to start for a project like this. He provided the example of Chelan County, which is using

beaver dam analogs in incised creeks to store water, which is quantified and put toward reserves. Mike Kaputa has some studies on this work. MWC needs to be involved to look at initial direction regarding how and what kind of projects to do.

Councilmember Tackman asked about public records for the approved conversion discussed previously. Commissioner Hover said it would be in Ecology public records. Councilmember Tackman asked if any platting had been applied for, and the answer was no.

Town of Twisp- Mayor Ing-Moody reported that the Twisp Council ratified Jean Bodeau for the MWC, and they discussed the water banking priorities document.

9. Ecology Report: No report

10. Presentation: No Presentation

11. Agenda Item 2.17.22-01: Public Comment

The following written public comments were received via email prior to the meeting:

- Roger Rowatt: I was listening in on Thursday's meeting and agree with Andy Hover that the valley's ditch companies need representation on the council. CCC was instrumental in the water bank funding for the Methow valley and also represents 185 water rights users in the valley. I think the ditch companies collectively should appoint a member to the council to represent them. If you would please forward this email to the board members and put it on next month's meeting agenda for discussion. Thank you for all the good work the council does.

In-Person Comments:

- Lorah Super: Offered her help for the water banking discussion; she can answer questions from the CD perspective. Lorah said she's pretty sure the approved ag right conversion is the Copperstone development. She has records. Her understanding is that Ecology approved an extension of the construction timeline.
- Mark Edson: (via chat/text) Regarding the conversion of agriculture water to domestic use - Does this include [any] ag water [or] seasonal use, within the confines of any irrigation district, or does this apply only to private ownership water rights outside of any of the irrigation districts?? Commissioner Hover said that it is up to irrigation districts individually if they want to sell their water.

12. Agenda Item 2.17.22-02: Discuss Water Banking Priorities for WRIA 48

Councilmember Tackman noted Councilmember Bodeau is interested in being on the Water Banking committee, but is concerned that would create a quorum. Council discussed the issue and Councilmember Bodeau's role, determining that Mayor Ing-Moody and Administrator Lane will contact members of the committee to determine continued interest in serving and go from there.

Councilmember Ewing, referring to the Priorities list, said that many possibilities are listed, not all are legal, and there are some nuances to flesh out. We are looking at what we can do now and in the future. Councilmember Bodeau said we should be looking at technical issues and feasibility for items, such as those for storage.

Mayor Ing-Moody asked who is responsible for mitigation. Commissioner Hover said in the case of project specific mitigation, a project proponent would do the engineering and science review and bring it to the County. In the case of a city, town, or the County doing a public mitigation project, water would be available according to listed priorities. Commissioner Hover said he doesn't think the MWC has the capacity for a project.

Mayor Ing-Moody said the Twisp Town Council reviewed the Priorities. The Twisp Council needs more time to consider them and hear feedback from the public. There will be a chance to comment at the next week's meeting. They generally liked the list; believed water for towns is a top priority, and preferred the MWC version of the list.

Dick Ewing asked if the list was approved, does the MWC have to wait for the town to approve? Mayor Ing-Moody said each can approve the list as its own entity. The MWC can send an approved list to the CD separately from the towns.

Councilmember Ewing moved to approve the MWC's Draft WRIA 48 Water Banking Priorities as written. Councilmember Fort seconded the motion.

Councilmember Bodeau said items C2 and 3 should be clarified to note mitigation would be required. Commissioner Hover said it should also say "if the 2 cfs is not available". Commissioner Hover also said that he'd like to see ag listed 2nd in order, as reflected in Water 2066. Lane said the WB discussed the current water issues as the reason SF was placed above ag. Councilmember Ewing thinks that if ag water is available, it may be used to subdivide, but it will depend on the original intent of the seller. Commissioner Hover noted this list would only be used if the seller didn't express a preference.

Councilmember Knott said that he doesn't want SFD in position two and three. Towns and Ag should come before. Councilmember Knott also questioned the "watershed and sub watershed" language. Clarified would be to use "basin and subbasin" or the intent to use water as close to the original use as possible.

Councilmember Sarvis summarized the points of change desired so far:

- Domestic being placed over ag
- "Close as possible to origin of use" language
- Frame oversight questions as recommendations
- Recommend an advisory board with WRIA 48 members

Commissioner Hover asked who was supposed to answer the governance questions section. Mayor Ing-Moody said the questions came up during the committee meeting. Commissioner Hover said the bank would be operated by the CD according to state rules. Representation is through the County's role in developing the MOU.

Lorah Super clarified that the CD is managed by a board of elected officials. Because the bank is public, she thinks it will have public board or interested party advisory board. Regarding the value of water, the CD is currently working with a consultant to learn the process. Mayor Ing-Moody would like some thought on the composition of such a board.

Councilmember Tackman asked if the MWC should submit comments to the water banking committee. The Council discussed how to address the current motion in light of the desire to return the work to the committee. Councilmember Ewing withdrew his motion, and Councilmember Fort agreed to the withdrawal as well.

Feedback to the committee should be given to Sarah either on the Google doc, or in a word doc. Commissioner Hover asked about taking out the management questions. Councilmember Tackman said he'd like them left in. Lane said they could be rephrased as recommendations. Feedback is due in one week.

*Lorah Super noted in the chat that governance details are being worked out by the CD.

13. Agenda Item 2.17.22-03: Review and Approve 2022 Budget

The 2022 MWF/MWC Budget was reviewed. Councilmember Ewing made a motion to approve the budget. Councilmember Fort seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

14. Agenda Item 2.17.22-04: Review Task #4 Draft Report (Metering)

Councilmember Fort presented the draft Task #4 Report. The report should be complete by next month's meeting. Comments can be sent to Councilmember Fort

15. Agenda Item 2.17.22-05: Next Steps

- Water Banking priorities Draft 2: Lane will send document out for comments
- Review Task #4 Report
- Mayor Ing-Moody and Lane will email water banking committee members regarding continued membership/ Councilmember Bodeau's offer.
- Councilmember Fort asked for an update on Twisp's MAR proposal. Mayor Ing-Moody said the application has been submitted.
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16. Adjournment: Councilmember Ewing moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilmember Hover seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:56PM

Mayor Ing-Moody, Council Chair

Approved at the March 17, 2022 Methow Watershed Council meeting