



Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2018

5-7 p.m. – River Bank Building, Twisp, WA

Council Members Present: Dick Ewing, Mike Fort, Andy Hover, Rick Karro, Greg Knott, Bill Tackman, Travis Thornton. Soo Ing-Moody was unable to attend; Jackie Moriarty acted as alternate representative for the Town of Twisp. Ashley Thrasher was unable to attend.

Others in Attendance: Craig Boesel, Vanessa Brinkhuis, Kent Hitch, Perry Huston, Mike Kaputa, Natalie Kuehler, Mary McCrea, Phil Millam, Jennifer Molesworth, Nikole Monter, George Schneider, Marcy Stamper, and Jacquelyn Wallace. Mike Devany attended via conference call.

Minutes recorded by: Sali Kilmer, Administrative Assistant

Non-Procedural Motions

<i>Motion #</i>	<i>Short Title</i>	<i>Yeas</i>	<i>Nays</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
	NO FORMAL MOTIONS ADOPTED			

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Knott at 5:03 p.m.

2. Introductions

3. Approval of Agenda

Mike Fort moved to adopt the Agenda of February 15, 2018, as presented. Bill Tackman seconded, and the motion carried.

4. Minutes – Review and Approval

Andy Hover moved to approve the Minutes of January 18, 2018, as presented. Jackie Moriarty seconded, and the motion carried.

5. Report from the Chair: Greg Knott

Greg reminded Council members to return signed Conflict of Interest statements to Sali for filing.

In an attempt to improve the tracking of action items by the Council, a new column has been added to the agenda, identifying items by a number. The number corresponds to the date of the agenda and action items in ascending order. A summary table will be

added to the monthly minutes to create an “at-a-glance” view of the non-procedural motions passed at each meeting.

Greg and Kent Hitch recently met with the Okanogan Conservation District to discuss funding and possible partnership opportunities for joint projects. The meeting went well, and they walked away with quite a laundry list of options to investigate.

6. Grant Administrator Report: George Schneider

George Schneider reported on the status of the Wolf Creek Twin Lakes Storage project:

- Draft agreement between WCRD and TLAC for a pilot project – A straw agreement has been drafted. It was first presented to and revised by WCRD and then presented to TLAC. Some differing viewpoints have been identified, but George is very optimistic that these can be negotiated and settled fairly quickly. After the next meeting with WCRD, George will seek MWC Technical Committee review and input as well as legal review by Natalie Kuehler.
- Draft Water Rights Strategy memo – Aspect submitted a draft Water Rights Strategy memo on February 14. George has reviewed the document with Tim Flynn, and a revised draft is expected by the end of February. The revised draft will expand beyond the Pilot Project phase to include the water right strategy for the long-term project so everyone involved knows what is coming before investing in the pilot. It will also identify a more precise quantity of water available from this source, answer how much water would be available for mitigation for new out-of-stream uses (such as additional town water supply), outline the mechanism for WCRD to own and sell mitigation water, and describe the current range of the value of mitigation water.
- Next steps – George will forward the draft Water Rights Strategy to Council and Foundation members for review. Comments should be sent to George and Technical Committee Chair, Mike Fort, with a cc to Greg Knott. George will also schedule a meeting with Ecology on the water rights strategy and project concept. Vanessa Brinkhuis suggested that George send the draft water rights strategy to her, and she will forward to Kelsey Collins for review. Additionally, George is developing a list and schedule for outreach to stakeholders, which will include both individual and combined meetings.

Dick Ewing briefly reported on the parallel efforts by TLAC with their grant. The meeting with Ecology went well, and now Aspect is working on preparing a proposal to formally change the Scope of Work. He stated that members of the Twin Lakes development and the Rodeo Grounds have expressed positive support of this project, as it will benefit the habitat and economy of the local area.

7. Methow Watershed Foundation Report: Mary McCrea

Mary McCrea reported that the MWF completed and submitted the grant application to the Community Foundation of NCW for 2018 outreach and education funding. The Community Foundation will be conducting interviews regarding the application on February 20. The MWF is also finishing up the last draft of the Moccasin Lake Foundation grant for the administrative assistant funding. The Foundation is still working on funding sources for the Water 2066 Facilitator and the installation and

maintenance of gauges in the Methow Valley. Vanessa Brinkhuis interjected that though she could not make promises, Ecology grant funding for the Water 2066 Facilitator as well as for the County's request for the parcel study are both looking very hopeful at this point.

Regarding insurance for MWC and MWF, the Foundation has received a quote for \$2,400 annually for full coverage and an a la carte price of \$1,600 a year. Travis Thornton agreed to work with Mary to investigate more closely what the \$1,600 option would cover. In the meantime, the Foundation will continue purchasing the \$160 single event insurance for public presentations.

8. Initiating Government Reports

Town of Twisp: Jackie Moriarty informed the Council that John Fleming has resigned from his position on the Town of Twisp Council. Mayor Soo Ing-Moody will now be representing Twisp on the MWC, with Jackie acting as alternate. Ashley Thrasher has also been appointed to the Town of Twisp Council. Greg Knott informed the Council that next month's agenda will include a possible conflict of interest item regarding Ashley Thrasher.

Town of Winthrop: Rick Karro reported that he has announced to the Town of Winthrop that he will be retiring at the end of April. Therefore, Winthrop will be appointing another representative to the Council, possibly Bill McAdow. Greg Knott expressed hope on behalf of the Council that Rick will stay engaged with the MWC, as he has been a valuable contributor for over fourteen years.

Okanogan County: Andy Hover reported on a recent meeting he had with Ecology, which clarified some things regarding the impact of the newly passed legislation. In WRIA 48, business will proceed much as before. Ecology will further clarify whether debiting against the 2 cfs should happen at the installation of the well or at the issuance of a building permit. Further clarification is also needed regarding the definition of "single domestic", as that impacts how to correctly apply debits against the 2 cfs. He referred to Ecology's February, 2015 Publication No. 15-11-006, "Permit-Exempt Domestic Well Use in Washington State, which defines "domestic" water and "consumptive" use in footnotes on the Executive Summary page. The publication was distributed to all present for reference and a link was added to www.methowwatershed.com. Regarding instream flow gauges, Ecology's assumption is that the river moves at the same rate all of the way down. Andy asked to see the data that backs up that assumption.

Okanogan County is looking at getting rid of Title 20 due to conflicts with SB 6091. There will be a hearing on Monday, February 26 at 3 p.m.

Perry Huston reported that the final Yakama Nation appeal is now off the books based on the new analysis of Wolf Creek. Perry will send the final report to Sali for distribution to Council members. As a representative of the MWC Technical Committee, Mike Fort will join future public meetings with Ecology regarding the upcoming reports on Beaver Creek and Thompson Creek since the Council would like the opportunity to comment on the draft reports.

9. Ecology Report: Vanessa Brinkhuis

Vanessa reported that the MWF PIFA grant application for the metering study is being processed and the Foundation should expect to hear something back in the next couple of weeks. She mentioned that Trevor Hutton has a meeting scheduled next week with the Attorney General. Among other things, Ecology is hoping for further clarification of the definition of single domestic wells.

10. Sub-Committee Reports

Instream Flow Rule Revision & Technical Review Committees: Mike Fort stated that he appreciated the presence of Ecology representatives at the Technical Review Committee meeting held prior to the MWC meeting. He asked Andy Hover whether he had followed up on the tasks associated with the MWC motion of November 16, 2017, regarding presenting to the Colville Confederated Tribes, Yakama Nation, and Department of Ecology that MWC will amend its bylaws to vote by consensus if any one of them chooses to join the Methow Watershed Council. Andy responded that he has not approached the tribes nor Ecology, but has spoken with Twisp and Winthrop representatives who are hesitant to change to consensus. Andy questions whether the tribes will agree to sit at the table with the Council, even if MWC changes to consensus. Vanessa Brinkhuis clarified that Trevor Hutton would be the Ecology representative to approach regarding the consensus decision issue.

Political Action Committee: Bill Tackman mentioned that the PAC is making moves to create communication links with the Attorney General's office. Greg Knott said that the Conservation District suggested making contact with Dan Newhouse's staff. Greg will provide Bill with official MWC letterhead for that purpose.

Outreach and Education Committee: Bill Tackman encouraged all present to attend the last public presentation in the fall/winter series of subject matter expert talks. Jason McCormick will discuss water banking on Tuesday, February 20, 6-8 p.m. at the Methow Valley Community Center. Bill is also working out some bugs on the capability to livestream certain events, like Okanogan County Commissioner's meetings. The hope is to eventually include these links on the MWC website and Facebook page. Bill also had the opportunity to brainstorm with Ecology representatives on subject matter for future outreach presentations. Ecology representatives indicated that they may be willing to participate in future community meetings with a Water Law 101 type of program.

Bylaws Amendment Committee: No report. Ashley Thrasher absent.

Water 2066 Committee: No report. Ashley Thrasher absent.

11. Agenda Items

02-18-01 – Discussion: Accounting Against the Reserve in Chelan County: Mike Kaputa started the discussion by stating that watershed planning and instream flow rule revision are long processes. Many of the same conversations happening at MWC meetings have been going on in Chelan County since 1998. He applauded the Council for their hard work and commitment to the process. He distributed three documents to help the Council understand Chelan County's methodology in accounting against the

reserve: 1) Chelan County Regulation of Exempt Wells map, 2) Final WRIA 45 Reservation Accounting and Metering Plan of June 30, 2009, and 3) Wenatchee Watershed (WRIA 45) 2014 Permit Exempt Reservation Accounting spreadsheet. Mike included the following facts in his presentation:

- Chelan County uses the Certificate of Occupancy as the trigger for debiting against the reserve.
- The Wenatchee Watershed Plan has reservations that apply to each tributary based on population projections and instream flow habitat analysis not to exceed 2% impact.
- Each new permit-exempt well debits the reservation by 380 gallons per day. However, the County is looking at establishing a gauging study to ensure that this number is accurate.
- Ecology administers a Coordinated Cost Reimbursement program in Chelan County, whereby applicants pay to have their water rights processed for domestic use, based on applications for the past 30 years.
- The County is looking at modifying building permit applications to be clear on the exact location of the property and the water source for the well.
- The Wenatchee Watershed Planning Unit involved both tribes, all local governments, and various environmental groups; the unit was governed by consensus. Consensus played a key role later when they had to get special legislative protection of the Wenatchee rule as representatives of the tribe were willing to testify on behalf of the rule.

Mike stated that Chelan Department of Natural Resources is very happy to share technical data and other information with the Methow Watershed Council.

02-18-02 – Action: Council Position #1 and #2 Appointments: Greg Knott informed the Council that all three initiating governments have approved the appointments of Greg Knott to position #1 and Mike Fort to position #2.

02-18-03 – Presentation: Non-profit Insurance Program: See the MWF Report above.

02-18-04 – Discussion: Planning for Policy Discussion with Ecology: Greg Knott stated that the Council has had several informal discussions with Ecology, but the time has come to establish a formal discussion of how to move forward. He proposed that the Council needs to establish well-defined, thoughtful, prioritized questions to outline discussion with Ecology. The following topics were identified as priorities:

- Establish a definition of “single domestic” (i.e., what about shared wells?).
- Regarding water for the towns, how to get mitigation credits for a growing population (i.e., 2 cfs per reach or 14 cfs all together?).

Andy Hover suggested a study session for the purpose of hashing out well defined questions for Ecology. Greg asked for volunteers for a small work group to work on the project. Travis Thornton will coordinate, and the other participants will include Andy Hover, Rick Karro, Dick Ewing, and Mike Fort.

12-17-01 – Continuing Discussion: “Waterwise Program idea: Greg Knott mentioned that this item has been on the agenda for the past several months without gaining much

traction. Dick Ewing suggested that the concept originally proposed by Boo Turner be incorporated into Water 2066.

Public Comments: Craig Boesel shared a brief history of serving on various committees in the Methow Valley. He understands the challenges of a long and stressful process, especially when things are decided by consensus. He applauds the efforts of the Methow Watershed Council to produce results.

Discussion: Agenda Items – Next Meeting: The next meeting agenda may include a continuing discussion on decision by consensus, an insurance coverage presentation, and a discussion on a possible conflict of interest with Ashley Thrasher.

12. Meeting Adjournment

At 7.06 p.m. the meeting was adjourned by Chair Greg Knott.

Greg Knott, Council Chairman

Approved at the March 15, 2018 Council Meeting.