



**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

June 15, 2023 – Winthrop Library Community Room/ Zoom

**Council Members Present:** Greg Knott, George Schneider, Lorah Super, Bill Tackman, Jean Bodeau

**Council Members Absent, Excused:** Mike Fort, Soo Ing-Moody. Jeff Sarvis, Andy Hover

**Others in Attendance:** Drew \_\_\_\_, David Clement, Jordana Ellis (OCD), Nigel Kingsbury (ECY), Craig McDonald (MWF)

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

Recording available here: [6.15.23 MWC Meeting Recording](#)

**Non-Procedural Motions**

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
6.15-01	To Accept Dr. Cook’s Offer Including Aspect for an Expert Panel Presentation	5	0	0

- 1. Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jean Bodeau at 5:04 PM. Administrator Lane confirmed attendance.
- 2. Agenda:** Councilmember Knott asked that agenda item 5.18.23-03 be moved to the Outreach Committee report. Knott moved to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Schneider seconded the motion. Motion approved. moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Knott seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
- 3. Minutes:** Councilmember Knott moved to approve the April 20, 2023 Minutes. Councilmember Super seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
- 4. Attendance:** Attendance was not reviewed.
- 5. Report from the Chair:** Council Chair Bodeau had no report.
- 6. MWF Report: Chair- Craig McDonald**  
MWF Chair McDonald reported he is working on follow up with the County regarding the Contract for services. The MWF Finance Committee is continuing work on a finance policy and committee budget template. Work will continue over the summer. MWF will not meet in July or August.
- 7. Committee Reports:**  
**Outreach and Education Committee, Chair: Knott**  
Councilmember Knott reported that the Committee will host a table at the Farmer’s Market in Twisp around Give Methow time. A meeting of irrigators was held June 13, and was well attended with very good discussion. MWC gains useful information regarding drought and other topics by hosting. Another meeting will take place in about six weeks. Many people who work as directors or managers of the irrigation companies are approaching retirement age. Capturing institutional knowledge, and cross training incoming ditch directors is another a benefit of the meetings. Councilmember Tackman said the MWC can help through the transitions. Knott said MWC is there to help the group get functional and act as a catalyst. Councilmember Schneider thought if the irrigators are going to work together, there should be a position for them on the Council. Knott said he’d like to see an irrigation representative in his seat when he leaves the Council in January.

Councilmember Knott reported on the offer from Professor Joe Cook at WSU to present, along with Dan Haller/Aspect Consulting, on the topic of Water Economics in October. Knott wants to be sure there is no conflict of interest in including Aspect.

Councilmember Knott made a motion that the MWC accept Dr. Cook's offer to help with a public presentation on water pricing in October. The offer includes providing funding for the participation of Aspect Consulting on an expert panel discussing this topic.

Councilmembers discussed the issue, determining that Aspect already had widespread interaction with water transactions throughout the Methow. Other panelists are included. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Policy Committee, Chair: Super**

Councilmember Super reported on completing Charter, Criteria for Policy Issues, and Report Formatting documents. Criteria guide the work of the committee and define the purpose, related to potential policies to review. The list of potential policies to review is still being worked and should be ready for presentation in September. Councilmember Knott asked for clarification on the purpose of the committee. Chair Bodeau said the purpose came from strategic planning, and the recognized need to look deeper at some issues and potentially provide recommendations in the Council's advisory role. Councilmember Super said there may not be a recommendation for every issue. Council members were asked to share any comments on the documents with Super by August 25.

#### **Technical Committee, Chair: Schneider**

Councilmember Schneider will report during the Agenda item.

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

Councilmember Tackman deferred to Jordana Ellis (Okanogan Conservation District) for this report. Ellis reported that the OCD's contract for the first water banking grant was signed on May 16, 2023, for \$932,723. This is for the first acquisition and setting up the water bank. 60.8 acre/feet is planned to be purchased. 40.5 ac/ft would be available for mitigation. The structure of the bank and work on the County partnership were also funded.

ODC applied for a second grant on May 11, 2023, for the purchase of the excess Barkley water. This is 90 ac/ft. of which 60.6 ac/ft would be available for mitigation, at a cost of \$941,800. Total applications: \$1,873,523; nearly the \$2M cap.

Craig Nelson met with the Okanogan County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on 6/6/23. Commissioner Branch was appointed to the water banking planning group.

Next steps include contracting with West Water Research for the appraisal; apply for the change application; develop interlocal agreement with County; and potential approval of grant #2.

Ellis clarified that the water received so far comes from the Methow and stays in the Methow. Councilmember Knott asked if water is being sought in WRIA 49. Ellis said OCD was limited by the \$2M cap, but in partnership with the County, could work towards another purchase with County as applicant. If possible, the County will seek to obtain Pine Creek water, 225 ac/ft held by the Office of the Columbia River. 50 ac/ft of this is available for municipal mitigation.

The OCD will use the Water Conservancy Board for change requests, for efficiency. **The OCD is requesting input from the community regarding priorities of use of mitigation allotments.** Chair Bodeau asked if there are plans for engaging a community group and stated it will be valuable to hear from the community. Councilmember Tackman asked about the timeline. Ellis said Fall and Winter will be a good time to engage. Councilmember Super said, as a CD board member, she knows the structure is not developed yet, and the public will be involved. Follow-up is also needed with the governor's staff to clarify the \$2M cap. Super noted CD meetings are public.

## **8. Local Government Reports**

**Town of Winthrop-** Absent

**Town of Twisp-** Absent

**Okanogan County-** Absent

**9. News From the Community:**

Councilmember Super reported on the Copperstone planned development in its third attempt to get a 54-home development off the ground. This is of interest to the Council as the first retiming project proposed, to be used for luxury vacation homes. Super believes the water right has not been perfected and the engineering has not been done. Currently in comment period, with lots of public engagement, and it is not popular.

Councilmember Schneider asked if this project could use the water bank. Councilmember Tackman thought this was an inappropriate use for the water bank. Councilmember Super said this project requires re-timing. The concern will be if this project can be successful and other projects try to mimic it.

Chair Bodeau noted the successful Sunny M campaign and said there may be water issues associated with it.

**10. Ecology Report:**

Nigel Kingsbury reported that 54 curtailment letters are prepared to go out to junior users in the Methow as instream flow is just 350 cfs over minimum. 62 rights entailing 77 cfs are going to be curtailed. Councilmember Super asked if Ecology can measure instream flow to ensure curtailment. Kingsbury said he would expect to see a spike on the gage from users turning off.

**11. Presentation: None**

**12. Agenda Item 6.15.23-01: Public Comment:**

No written Comment received.

No public comment

**13. Agenda Item 6.15.23-02: Drought Project Planning Update**

Councilmember Schneider shared the current draft Drought Project plan and reported on progress. He introduced the plan ideas to the Winthrop Chamber of Commerce. The Technical Committee developed a survey and distributed it, with very poor results to date.

The plan includes reviewing sectors with potential to be impacted by drought. Tasks and budget to be developed soon. Chair Bodeau asked if the tasks and scope of work will be something a contractor does or if it can be done with the committee. Councilmember Super noted upcoming drought funding from Ecology that could fund some work. The Climate Impact Group at UW is another potential resource. Councilmember Schneider wants to see an outcome where community resilience is increased and hardship reduced.

~~**14. Agenda Item 6.15.23-03**~~

**15. Agenda Item 6.15.23-04: Summer Schedule**

No Summer meetings of MWC full council. Committees will continue to meet as needed. Next Meeting September 21, 2023.

**16. Agenda Item 6.15.23-03: Next Steps**

a. Ask Methow Conservancy to speak to MWC about Sunny M.

b. Proposed discussion: Adjudication in closed basins .

**17. Adjournment:**

Councilmember Super moved to adjourn. Councilmember Schneider seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:42 PM

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Councilmember Jean Bodeau, Council Chair

October 26, 2023