



**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
January 18, 2024 –Location: Zoom

**Council Members Present:** Greg Knott, Mike Fort, George Schneider, Lorah Super, Bill Tackman, Jean Bodeau, Hans Smith, Tim Matsui, Sally Ranzau, Jacob Gates, Andy Hover

**Council Members Absent:**

**Others in Attendance:** Chris Allen, (AESGEO), Susan Crampton, Jordana Ellis (OCD), Mallory Hershler (WDFW), Craig McDonald (MWF), Hannah Mittelstaedt (MWC Staff)

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

[Recording available here.](#)

**Non-Procedural Motions**

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
1.18. 24-01	Commissioner Hover elected Vice Chair	7	0	1
1.18.24 -02	Begin the groundwork to establish a new Council position for irrigators to be represented.	7	1	0
1.18.24 -03	Extend open position one until February meeting	8	0	0
1.18.24 -04				

- Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jean Bodeau at 5:01 PM. Administrator Lane confirmed attendance.
- Agenda:** Commissioner Hover moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mayor Ranzau seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- Minutes:** Councilmember Knott moved to approve the December 14, 2023; Minutes as amended. Commissioner Hover seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
- Report from the Chair:** Council Chair Bodeau welcomed new members to the meeting. She introduced the new hire Hannah Mittelstaedt. Mittelstaedt will be ramping up into work beginning March 1 and will be managing Policy, Technical and Water Banking committees. Bodeau noted that the Outreach committee needs a new chair, the Council needs a vice chair, MWF needs more members, and there is an open position on the Council.

**5. MWF Report: Chair- Craig McDonald**  
MWF Chair McDonald reported the need for new members from both Council and community. No Council update was offered at this time. McDonald reported that MWC/F ended the year with \$11,788. The 2022 Methow Valley Fund grant was spent out. The County contract was not fully spent, but it is anticipated to be in 2024 with the new contractor. The 2024 MVF grant application was submitted. Several MWF and MWC members are working with Okanogan County Conservation District (OCD) on the drought planning grant application. MWF is not eligible on its own for funding.

McDonald said that the MWF and MWC need to work on a funding plan as the County contract may not be renewed after 2025. There was some discussion regarding the drought grant eligibility. The administrator confirmed via email to Ecology that MWF is not eligible for the Drought Planning Grant. Councilmember Super said the OCD is actively in the coordinating process with MWC/F, with a meeting planned on Friday to discuss the grant.

## 6. Committee Reports:

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

Councilmember Knott reported that as he is retiring from his position, a new outreach chair will be needed.

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

Councilmember Super reported that the Policy committee did not meet. Members are needed. Super is hoping Twisp and Winthrop representatives will participate on the Policy committee. Super gave a high-level overview of the Policy Committee focus. Related to Policy, Councilmember Super noted the legislature was in session. She noted the Council is not very able to respond to bills and would like to talk about how to share information. Council members agreed with the importance of being informed. The Council previously had a legislative affairs committee.

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

Councilmember Schneider reported the Tech committee will meet the next day with the main topic being discussion about the Ecology drought grant and partnership with the OCD. Councilmember Schneider asked Councilmember Fort about the status of the ASR review for Twisp. Fort reported the idea had been tabled for now, and that he had let Andrew Denham, Twisp Public Works, know that the MWC is available to assist.

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

Councilmember Tackman reported that the Water Banking committee met in December. MWC wants to provide input on governance and mitigation rules development. Jordana Ellis, OCD, was invited to provide additional information. Of note, two grant applications were combined, two sales agreements are being negotiated for water in the Methow. An interlocal agreement with the County was signed regarding management partnership. The County is working on the application regarding Pine Creek water in WRIA 49.

## 7. Local Government Reports

**Town of Winthrop-** New Town of Winthrop representative Jacob Gates gave the report for the town. He reported that repairs for their well #2 are nearly done but anticipates it will not be a permanent fix.

**Town of Twisp-** New Twisp Mayor Hans Smith introduced Tim Matsui as the alternate for the Council for Twisp's position. Matsui brings a strong interest in housing.

Mayor Smith shared his discussion on possible conflict of interest with his other employer, the Yakama Nation. He will be serving on the MWC as Twisp Mayor, and nothing he says should be construed as representing the Yakama Nation. This agreement with Yakama Nation allows him to not need to recuse himself from any discussion.

Mayor Smith reported on recent water system improvements; plans to review the water system plan, water rights and water use projections in the works.

In relation to the previous discussion on ASR for Twisp, Smith reported that some Twisp water is already required to be returned to the river to keep permits valid. Councilmember Fort wants to know if there is any discharge water available for an ASR.

Commissioner Hover spoke about housing needs. Towns are suited for growth with infrastructure and to prevent sprawl. Mayor Smith noted growth is limited by treatment capacity. A new treatment capacity project should meet needs for the next 20 years. Twisp looks to have sufficient water for 20 years projected growth. Housing projects are under review.

Councilmember Knott asked if a partner who wanted to keep some water in stream could be found to help finance additional water systems.

**Okanogan County-** Commissioner Hover reported that the first set of Zoning Code Amendments are out for comment. The first section has a lot regarding water. Hover reported that people are contacting him regarding when water bank water might be available, with an interest in converting it. He tells them that agricultural rights are not a strong option for conversion. (*Note: see video for more details on this discussion.*) Hover said no ag water has been converted to

other uses in the Methow, but it has happened in other parts of the state. He is informing people who call to ask about mitigation credits that currently there is no timeline for completion of a program. A priority list for how water is to be used needs to be developed.

Commissioner Hover commented regarding the development checklist for WRIA 48, that it is still in the legal realm, and he has no comment. Councilmember Bodeau noted that mitigation was mentioned in the Zoning Updates. Councilmember Super commended the County for the improvements.

Councilmember Knott asked about the water being used in Mazama for businesses. Commissioner Hover said (and Councilmember Fort confirmed) he believed it was set up with a water right. Knott reminded the Council that water use for businesses is likely to come to the forefront as more people want to build businesses. Hover noted that next to the lower Methow, the Mazama area is closest to being out of reserves. Councilmember Bodeau said this issue could go to the Policy committee.

**8. News From the Community:** Councilmember Knott reported that representatives of the Skyline ditch have concerns with failing infrastructure.

**9. Ecology Report:** None

**10. Presentation:** None

**11. Agenda Item 1.18.24-01: Public Comment:** None

**12. Agenda Item 1.18.24-02: Vice Chair Position Open**

Chair Bodeau opened nominations for Vice Chair. Several council members were nominated and either declined or said they would need to think about it. Commissioner Hover offered to serve and was nominated. Hover was elected Vice Chair unanimously, with Hover abstaining.

**13. Agenda Item 1.18.24-03 Open Council Position One**

Chair Bodeau reported that no applications were received for position one. Councilmember Fort suggested Councilmember Bodeau move to position one, and that her at large seat be opened.

There was an in-depth discussion related to the open question of adding a seat for an irrigation company representative. Councilmember Super moved to begin the groundwork to establish a new Council position for irrigators to be represented. Mayor Ranzau seconded the motion. Following discussion, Commissioner Hover called the question. Motion passed with one opposed.

Commissioner Hover moved to extend the opening for position one until the next MWC meeting. Councilmember Knott seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Councilmember Bodeau said Councilmember Fort was willing to continue in position two. This appointment needs to go to the Initiating Governments for approval.

**14. Agenda Item 1.18.24-04: Next Steps**

The need for committee volunteers was noted. Commissioner Hover asked administrator Lane to request the governments to endorse Mike Fort's continuing in position two. The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2024, via Zoom.

**15. Adjournment:**

Councilmember Knott made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Super seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.

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Councilmember Jean Bodeau, Council Chair

February 15, 2024