



Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2025

Location: Twisp Town Hall; Zoom

Council Members Present: *Andy Hover, Chair; David Asia, Hans Smith, Lorah Super*

Council Members Absent: *Seth Miles, Bill Tackman*

Others in Attendance: *Mike Bastian, Chair, MWF; community members and MWC candidates Wren Soperanez, Murray Taylor, and Boo Turner; Jordana Ellis and Jack Owen, OCD; Sarah Lane, MWC/MWF Administrator, and Sandra Strieby, MWC Project Coordinator. Erin Springer joined the meeting in progress for an interview as an MWC candidate.*

Minutes recorded by: Sandra Strieby

Recording available [here](#)

Common Abbreviations:

- DIP: Detailed Implementation Plan
- ECY: Ecology
- IG: Initiating Government
- LDPP: Local Drought Preparedness Plan (Ecology Grant)
- MWC: Methow Watershed Council
- MWF: Methow Watershed Foundation
- OCD: Okanogan Conservation District
- OCWB- OCD Water Bank

Non-Procedural Motions:

| Motion # | Short Title | Yeas | Nays | Abstain |
|------------|-------------|------|------|---------|
| 2.13.25-01 | | | | |
| 2.13.25-02 | | | | |

1. **Meeting Called to order:** *Andy Hover called the meeting to order at 4:18 p.m.*
2. **Roll Call.** *Administrator Lane administered the roll call. Because a quorum of members was not present, the MWC could not take action.*
3. **Guest Introductions.** *Jordana Ellis introduced herself as the OCD's water resource lead. Jack Owen introduced himself, saying he assists Ms. Ellis with the OCD's irrigation efficiencies program and other work.*
4. **Agenda:** *Absent a quorum, the MWC was not able to take action on the agenda.*
5. **Minutes – Review and Approval of January 16, 2025, Minutes:** *Absent a quorum, the MWC was not able to take action on the minutes.*
6. **Report from the Council Chair.** *Councilmember Hover acknowledged the absence of a quorum.*
7. **MWF Report, Chair—Mike Bastian.** *MWF Chair Bastian presented the 2025 budget adopted by the MWF. Administrator Lane clarified that the purpose of the presentation is to inform MWC members, not ask for approval. Ms. Lane explained the budget format and gave an overview of anticipated but unsecured grant income sources and new expense categories. Grant income information included an explanation of the possible Organizational Capacity Grant funding and some of its parameters. Please see the meeting recording for more detail.*

8. Committee Reports:

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair – Lane. Administrator Lane said there is currently nothing to report. She is preparing an Outreach Coordinator job description.

Policy Committee, Chair- Super. Councilmember Super reported talking with George Schneider about white papers that may be prepared if Commerce awards funding.

Technical Committee, Chair – TBC. Project Coordinator Strieby reported as follows:

- Publication of the dry wells fact sheet has been postponed until next month as time was needed to complete the Commerce grant application.
- Ms. Ellis has requested a contract for work on the LDPP. The MWF has reviewed a draft and staff are working with MWC directors to fine-tune it. Ms. Ellis is developing a scope of work, which will be incorporated in the contract once all have agreed. Staff are working with the MWF directors and tech and outreach committee representatives to schedule a kickoff meeting, at which we expect to learn more about the LDPP process, scope, and timeline.
- We plan to invite irrigators to the April MWC meeting to exchange ideas—as discussed at last month’s MWC meeting.

Water banking: Ms. Ellis reported. ECY has approved the purchase and price of Acquisition 1. The OCD is finalizing the purchase and sale agreement (PSA). An appraisal is underway for Acquisition 2. The OCD has not heard much from the county this year; Okanogan County’s new commissioner has not yet joined the water banking planning group. The county is seeking funding for Pine Creek water rights. The water banking planning team met to discuss the PSA, budget, and a guidance document, which is almost done. Members are developing general business forms and a web site. The OCD has finalized a request for qualifications for legal services for the process—e.g., contracts, purchases. Ms. Ellis reported on several other topics; please see the meeting recording for more detail.

Councilmember Asia asked and Ms. Ellis stated the source of funding for the LDPP: ECY funds.

Ad Hoc Committee: Fire Water Connections, Chair - TBC. Project Coordinator Strieby reported that Wednesday March 12 is looking like the best date for the next fire connections ad hoc committee meeting. The intent is to flesh out the list of connection/withdrawal locations identified in November. If Commerce awards funds for a water-source plan, the group may discuss how best to move forward with that. Ms. Strieby thinks the plan would be a big step toward developing a funding proposal to present to the BOCC this summer, and use to seek DNR, and possibly other, funding in the fall. Councilmember Hover said he will not be available on March 12, but the group can proceed without him. Plans can be fleshed out with the MWC.

9. Local Governments Reports:

Town of Winthrop: Absent

Town of Twisp: Councilmember Smith had nothing to report.

Okanogan County: Councilmember Hover had nothing to report.

10. Members’ Report—news from the Community: Councilmember Super reported attending the CRM meeting she mentioned last month. The scope is smaller than the MWC has been thinking of—more restoration project coordination. Not long after, funding was frozen—source was to be the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

11. Agenda Items:

| Item # | Agenda Item |
|------------|---|
| 2.13.25-01 | Public Comment-(3 minutes/comment). None |
| Item # | Agenda Item |
| 2.13.25-02 | MWF budget approval update. See MWF report, above |
| 2.13.25-03 | Policy Committee charter review. MWC members discussed the Policy Committee’s current charter. The committee was the first to attempt a charter, to be mimicked for other committees if the MWC likes. MWC members discussed a number of factors to consider. The language at the top is intended to acknowledge vision and approach at the time the charter was drafted, when the MWC was still operating under its 2022 strategic plan. The charter is due for an update. If the committee has five members, no more than four can be MWC members, to ensure that committee meetings do not include a quorum of MWC members. The Committee will be staffed by the MWC’s Project Coordinator rather than the Council Administrator. The charter uses the term “consent” where “consensus” was intended. Councilmember Asia gave some suggestions regarding the vision and approach. The MWC’s plan is to review the council’s mission and vision this year. Councilmember Hover suggested considering Dr. Asia’s ideas, and possible edits to the charter, in the context of that review and any changes to the strategic |

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|------------|--|
| | <p>plan. Councilmember Super believes it's important to note areas of concern or disagreement so the MWC can discuss them.</p> |
| 2.13.25-04 | <p>Approve application for Commerce grant funds. Staff and MWC members discussed the Organizational Capacity Grant application submitted earlier in the month, including proposed work and timeline. Administrator Lane is seeking the MWC's approval. MWC members would like to be sure the deliverables will further projects in the council's current work plan and generally support the council's interests. The proposed white papers could support the MWC's transition to a more collaborative organization. Ms. Lane suggested more discussion to fine-tune white paper topics, and noted that the proposed fire-connection plan would support tangible work and could line up the council for a future larger grant. Councilmember Hover would like to be sure all are on the same page before the MWC seeks grants, and understand the benefit to the organization. MWF Chair Bastian spoke in favor of planning that will inform what should be pursued. Councilmembers Hover and Super acknowledged that the MWC is long overdue for a literature review of MWC documents.</p> <p>Administrator Lane linked the proposed white papers to the outcomes of the fall strategic work planning process, including today's discussion of the Policy Committee's charter. The papers would lay groundwork for the MWC to discuss what the council wants to do next. Following further discussion, Councilmember Super summarized what she was hearing: there may be support for a literature review; the MWC is not comfortable with a sole-source contract; MWC members would like more flexibility in defining what to dig into, if that can be done without jeopardizing the council's relationship with Commerce. In the absence of a quorum, the MWC took no action. Administrator Lane suggested the MWC vote on approval of the application via email. Councilmember Hover would like to ensure that the grant scope will be broad enough to allow some flexibility, then discuss it and make a decision. For more detail, please see the meeting recording.</p> |
| 2.13.25-07 | <p>Nominations: Chair, Vice Chair. Councilmember Asia volunteered to serve as MWC chair, with the caveat that he does not want to chair both the MWC and the Technical Committee. Councilmember Super nominated herself to be vice-chair. In the absence of a quorum, the MWC took no action.</p> |
| 2.13.25-08 | <p>Position 1,2, or 3 Candidates. MWC members present interviewed the four candidates, including Boo Turner, standing for Position 1; Wren Soperanez and Erin Springer, standing for Position 2; and Murray Taylor, interested in and qualified for either Position 2 or Position 3. The initiating governments will need to confirm the MWC's recommendations. Administrator Lane will facilitate an email vote so the Twisp Town Council can take action on 2/25. The interviews are included in the meeting recording. Administrator Lane will send the recording to the absent MWC members and ask Councilmember Miles if he wants or is ready to decide. Candidates could be asked to return for a second interview if necessary.</p> |

12. Next Steps. The MWC agreed to change its meeting date and time to 3:00 on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. The next meeting will be held on March 19, 2025.
13. The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Commented [SS1]: Sarah please confirm as I did not take notes on this.

Commissioner Andy Hover, Acting Chair

March 20, 2025