



Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2025

Location: Twisp Civic Center and Zoom

Council Members Present: *David Asia, Chair; Lorah Super, Murray Taylor, Boo Turner; Tim McGuire (Twisp alternate), Seth Miles*

Council Members Absent: *Andy Hover, Wren Soperanez*

Others in Attendance: *Sarah Lane, MWF/MWC Administrator; Rita Stewart, MWC Outreach Coordinator; Susan Crampton, Melanie Rowland (WDFW Commissioner); Alexa Whipple, Methow Okanogan Beaver Project*

Minutes recorded by: *Sarah Lane, MWC/MWF Administrator*

Common Abbreviations:

BOCC: Board of County Commissioners

DIP: Detailed Implementation Plan

ECY: Ecology

IG: Initiating Government (Okanogan County, Towns of Twisp and Winthrop; previously Methow Valley Irrigation District)

LDPP: Local Drought Preparedness Plan (Ecology Grant)

MOBP: *Methow Okanogan Beaver Project*

MWC: Methow Watershed Council

MWF: Methow Watershed Foundation

OCD: Okanogan Conservation District

OCWB- OCD Water Bank

[Recording available here](#)

1. Call to order: David Asia called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.
2. Roll Call. Administrator Lane administered the roll call.
3. Guest Introductions. Susan Crampton introduced herself as interested public. Alexa Whipple, Director of MOBP introduced herself.
4. Agenda – Additions or changes, Approval. Chair Asia requested a change in order of the agenda to allow Melanie Rowland to be there for the MOBP presentation. Councilmember McGuire moved to approve the agenda as amended; Councilmember Super seconded; motion carried.
5. Minutes – Review and Approval of September 24, 2025, Minutes. Councilmember McGuire moved to approve the minutes. Councilmember Super seconded; motion carried.

6. Agenda Items

Item #	Agenda Item	Presenter
10.22.25-01	Public Comment: Susan Crampton thanked the Council for their work.	Asia
10.22.25-02	Firewater Project Next Steps: Councilmember Hover had planned to go to a PUD commission meeting to seek formal approval to develop the fire fighting water well site on Twisp River, but he has been busy. Chair Asia asked if the Council supported Asia offering to attend in place of Hover. The Council agreed (no vote) that they support this strategy.	Asia

10.22.25-03	Bylaw Change: Letters of Support Process: MWC needs to develop a standard process to approve Letters of Support requested by other entities. Administrator Lane presented a draft addition to the Bylaws. The Bylaws Addition will be brought to the November meeting for a vote. Council members may review the draft language on the Council's shared drive. Lane will share a link after the meeting for any edits. Lane requested that Councilmember McGuire bring it to Councilmember Smith's attention for review.	Asia
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7: Guest Introduction: Melanie Rowland, member of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, arrived and introduced herself.

8. Presentation: [Recording available here](#). Go to time stamp 16: 53.

Alexa Whipple, Director of Methow Okanogan Beaver Project presented wide-ranging information on MOBP work and facilitated a discussion of questions from the MWC. Key take-aways: beavers are allowed to be harvested in the state, with no tracking of numbers. Problem beavers are allowed to be removed without a permit any time of the year on private property. Whipple would like to see trapping restricted at least on public access beaver restoration sites. Interested parties should stay tuned for opportunities to support this effort. It is clear that beavers and beaver dam analogs have a great deal of potential to store water and improve environmental conditions. Whipple also stressed the need for improved grazing practices, and support for virtual fencing. A tour of a local restoration site has been scheduled for Councilmembers and public on November 6, 2025.

9. Agenda Items Continued:

Item #	Agenda Item	Presenter
10.22.25-04	Review: Working Draft Budget 2026: Administrator Lane presented the working draft budget approved by the MWF. Several grants will be sought to support education. LDPP funding continues into 2026. Key need is for Okanogan County to continue to fund the base operations. Members discussed potential ways to let the BOCC know how important this funding is, including partners contributing support statements. Lane will follow up with Councilmember Super to develop ideas.	Lane
10.22.25-05	Discussion: Alternate locations for MWC meetings: The idea was raised to move MWC meetings to other locations in the Methow Valley in order to reach more community members. Administrator Lane will share a proposed schedule.	Asia
10.22.25-06	Discussion: Permit exempt well: Chair Asia shared that 126 new wells have been drilled in Okanogan County since the beginning of the year. 42 of these are in the Methow. Asia would like to further explore the idea of creating an exempt well offset program, which could fund projects such as MOBP. Asia asked if the Council supported him researching the idea further: if a similar program is used anywhere else; how Ecology might view the idea. The Council, without a vote, supported Asia in learning more and reporting back to the Council.	Asia

8. Report from the Council Chair. Chair Asia had no more to report.

9. MWF Report, Chair – Michael Bastian. Administrator Lane reported that cash flow is tight. A working draft budget for 2026 was approved. Due to the uncertainty of funding, MWF is approving a working budget for the time being and will reassess in late March 2026. The Give Methow campaign continues through 10/31, and encouraged members to give and to share promotional material. MWF discussed the successful donor event,

a. Next MWF meeting, November 13, at 12:00 p.m.

10. Committee Reports

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair – Turner. Outreach Coordinator Stewart reported that a display featuring MWC and the LDPP survey is up at the Winthrop Library. Stewart is working on developing a schedule of local organization presenters to attend MWC meetings to share about their work. Participation with Methow Conservancy's Schoolyard Science as a special presenter is getting sorted out.

Policy Committee, Chair - Super. No report

Technical Committee, Chair – Bastian, Acting Chair. Chair Asia reported that the technical committee would like to add community member Mellisa Brumer. A topic of discussion was on how to get the LDPP survey out to the public, including paper copies for non-tech savvy people.

Ad Hoc: Fire Water, Chair - Open. Covered above. Councilmember Turner would like to coordinate with outreach for promoting this project.

11. Local Governments Reports

Town of Winthrop. Councilmember Miles attended a conference on water plan development. Key topic is replacing leaking pipes to address water loss.

Town of Twisp. No report.

Okanogan County. No report.

12. Members Report: No reports

13. Next Steps

a. Tasks

1. Beaver Tour: Administrator Lane will send an RSVP link in the MWC newsletter.
2. Chair Asia will be researching topics discussed above and bringing information to Council.
3. Administrator Lane will send a follow-up email to Council with informational items.
4. Chair Asia would like to actively recruit a member for position five.

b. Next Agenda Items

i. Next Meeting Dates Scheduled

1. Wednesday November 19, 3:00PM. Location: Twisp Civic Building
2. Wednesday December 17, 3:00PM. Location: Twisp Civic Building

14. Adjourn. Councilmember Super moved to adjourn; Councilmember Taylor seconded. Motion carried; Chair Asia adjourned the meeting at 4:53 p.m.