



Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2024

Location: Twisp Public Building Meeting Room and Zoom

Council Members Present: Mike Fort, George Schneider, Lorah Super, Bill Tackman, David Asia, Hans Smith, Andy Hover.

Council Members Absent: Jacob Gates

Others in Attendance: Kathy and Rolf Borgersen (Futon), Susan Crampton, Mark Edson, Jordana Ellis (OCD), Greg Knott, Kraig Mott (Foghorn), Wren Soperanez, Murray Taylor, Jeanne White (MC)

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

[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

WB- OCD Water Bank

Non-Procedural Motions:

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
	None			

- 1. Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Andy Hover at 5:04 PM. Administrator Lane confirmed attendance.
- 2. Agenda:** Councilmember Super moved to approve the agenda. Mayor Smith seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- 3. Minutes:** Mayor Smith moved to approve the February 15, 2024; Minutes as presented. Councilmember Schneider seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
- 4. Report from the Chair:** Commissioner Hover gave no report.
- 5. MWF Report: Chair- Craig McDonald**
MWF Chair McDonald was absent. Administrator Lane reported that the MWF did not meet and there are no outstanding issues currently.

6. Committee Reports:

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair: Lane

Administrator Lane reported the Outreach committee has a couple events coming up:

- Farmers Market on May 18
- “Methow Drought” with Washington Water Trust and Trout Unlimited on May 22 at the Winthrop Library. Commissioner Hover asked Lane to check on Ecology’s inclusion for the May 22 event.
- Outreach is also exploring potential for Water Quantity education partnering with Classroom in Bloom at the school garden.
- Fall events for a water banking update and another farmers market booth are planned.

Policy Committee, Chair: Super

No report

Technical Committee, Chair: Schneider

Councilmember Schneider reported the Technical committee will focus on the following while awaiting news on the LDPP grant work:

- Residential well challenges. Staff created documentation for research and drafts of community information.
- New contracted staff hired to replace previous.
- Looking at discussing emergency water with towns and seeing what is needed to set this up.
- Following up with irrigators.

Commissioner Hover noted he has requested the Health Dept. to draft a cistern ordinance. The state also has a legal water trucking policy.

Water Banking, Chair: Tackman

Councilmember Tackman reported the committee did not meet and asked Jordana Ellis, OCD, to give an update. Ellis reported:

- Barkley amendment with Ecology moving forward.
- Ecology accepted Okanogan County’s Intent to Purchase Pine Creek water right. Sullivan Lake Intent also accepted, but Ecology needs more information.
- County is considering hiring water resource staff.
- With a new grant cap of \$4M, OCD is looking for more water rights to purchase.

7. Local Government Reports

Town of Winthrop- Councilmember Jacob Gates was absent.

Town of Twisp- No Report

Okanogan County- Commissioner Hover reported BOCC met with Ecology’s new Central region director, David Bowen. A new draft zone code is coming out, including elements to codify how water is used for single family domestic based on the Methow Rule and court decisions, with the hope of being more transparent. David Asia was approved by BOCC as a new Council member.

8. News From the Community:

Councilmember Super shared about Claire Waichler’s art project entitled “Twisp’s Entanglement with the Methow River.”

Councilmember Tackman shared he received an email regarding exempt segregation surveys newly requiring by the planning department a statement on deed or drawing stating that exempt segregations must be in compliance with RCW 173-548. Commissioner Hover said this was related to the Campbell-Gwinn

ruling. Councilmember Tackman said it was concerning because nothing was provided in writing about this requirement. Commissioner Hover said it was required to ensure that it was clear that the County, in the act of approving an exempt segregation, was not saying there was legally available water. Commissioner Hover will follow up.

Ellis of OCD also added that drought was now officially declared in most of the state, opening funding related to drought mitigation.

9. Ecology Report: None

10. Presentation: None

11. Agenda Item 4.18.24-01: Public Comment

Greg Knott, former MWC member, and now community member, said he is excited about education opportunities coming up and would be happy to be included. He requested the Council approve technical experts and other skilled community members to be allowed to serve on committees at the request of the chairs. He proposes that community committee members are non-voting.

12. Agenda Item 4.18.24-02: Irrigators Forum

Commissioner Hover opened the conversation by noting that the irrigators are an important group for the MWC to engage with. Agriculture is important in the community, and the MWC has resources that can help irrigators. [Full discussion here](#) at 0:36:13. Key points:

- There are questions about the benefits and detriments to piping ditches.
- Storage and other drought mitigation options are of interest, especially with spring run-off.
- Risks for open ditches of property damage are a concern. MWC? Okanogan County may be able to help find funding.
- Ditches would like more information about options for excess water should they pipe. (Water banking?)

13. Agenda Item 4.18.24-03: Future of MWC (Continued)

Commissioner Hover initiated the discussion with the question: How does MWC stay relevant? MWC current work centers around outreach and education, coordinating drought response, and irrigator discussion.

Councilmember Fort asked what is the MWC without funding? The County contract expires in 2025. Commissioner Hover said the work of the MWC needs to remain relevant to receive County funding as a value to County residents.

Councilmember Super noted the non-decision-making power of the MWC. MWC value stems from collective water management and working together. Kraig Mott (Foghorn) noted the potential to coordinate fire water availability with ditches. MWC could coordinate discussions between ditches and fire departments. Councilmember Super said MWC has relevance in partnerships such as the LDPP application with OCD. A follow up on the fire water idea is desired, with potential invite to fire districts to June meeting.

Councilmember Schneider facilitated strategic planning five years ago, and said it seems like MWC is turning its attention from things like rule change now but developing new ideas. He sees the County as a potential long-term source of funding and would like to see permanent funding happen. Commissioner Hover said that relevance such as discussed today is needed, along with scope of work and deliverables.

14. Agenda Item 4.18.24-04: Discussion: Vetting Process for Community Committee Members

A discussion of the practices for accepting community volunteers on MWC committees took place. The Council decided to leave membership of committees to the discretion of committee chairs, with updates to

the full Council of prospective community members. Community chairs should provide justification for community volunteers. These members will be non-voting and included on committee rosters to be updated and available to Council.

15. Agenda Item 4.18.24-06: Open Council Position One

Commissioner Hover directed the Administrator to keep posting the open position.

16. Agenda Item 4.18.24-05: Election of Chair

No nominations were made for the position of Chair. Continued to next meeting.

17. Agenda Item 4.18.24-07: Strategic Planning Scheduling

The goal of strategic planning will be to develop a work plan with grantable ideas. May agenda will include review of current plan and a discussion of a wish list for work to be done.

18. Agenda Item 4.18.24-08: Next Steps

- Next meeting will be May 16, 2024. Location TBD. Mayor Smith offered the Civic Building space as available.
- Invite Fire Departments to June Meeting.
- Send out 23-24 Strategic Plan for review for discussion in May.

19. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Commissioner Andy Hover, Council Vice Chair

May 16, 2024