



**Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
October 20, 2022 – Via Zoom

**Council Members Present:** Greg Knott, Mike Fort, Jean Bodeau, Commissioner Andy Hover and Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

**Others in Attendance:** David Cement, Jeanne White

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

**Non-Procedural Motions**

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
	None			

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Mayor Soo Ing-Moody at 5:04 PM.

2. **Agenda:** The agenda was confirmed as presented.

3. **Minutes**

Councilmember Mike Fort moved to approve the June 16, 2022 Minutes. Councilmember Jean Bodeau seconded the motion. June 16, 2022 Minutes were approved.

Councilmember Jean Bodeau moved to approve the September 15, 2022 Minutes. Councilmember Mike Fort seconded the motion. September 15, 2022 Minutes were approved.

4. **Report from the Chair**

Mayor Ing-Moody reported that the letter from the Council was signed and would be sent out to local representatives – including previous and new legislative representatives of the Methow - within the next few days. She also reported that a strategic planning session was to be scheduled (an agenda item) and she hoped all would attend as there will be important conversations.

5. **MWF Report: Chair- Craig McDonald**

Chair Craig McDonald was absent, so Sarah Lane gave the report. Members of MWF had met with other nonprofits to discuss the work process document and financial management. The importance of strategic partnerships and more publicity about MWC work were emphasized.

6. **Subcommittee Reports:**

**Technical Review Committee, Chair: Fort**

Councilmember Fort reported that, due to personnel changes at Ecology, the recommendations of the Task 4 Report would not likely be addressed for some time. Councilmember Fort noted that the County now has a supported number to use, 710 gpd, for qualifying lots under the Methow rule and judicial decisions, and can move forward.

Commissioner Hover said the County is using and publicizing the number. Water use is posted on County website, and has been presented to Yakama Nation, and will be used for debit reports to Ecology. Councilmember Fort suggested the County could give an update on these reports to the MWC.

Councilmember Bodeau said the recommendations can be reviewed during strategic planning.

Commissioner Hover asked if review could lower the number. Councilmember Fort said he thinks with the 710, there is sufficient water for legal lots and supports the current, conservative number. Commissioner Hover said the number probably did not need to be reduced in order to build houses. Only the lower reach is possibly constrained.

Councilmember Fort feels comfortable shelving the project for now.

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

Councilmember Knott reported that the O&E Committee is preparing for winter public meetings. Given that attendance at MWC meetings has been low, he thinks public events can help with public interest. O&E has identified a strategic objective in partnering with other organizations. O&E members have been working to meet with people from other organizations who have funding for work the MWC is interested in.

O&E recently met with Allison Pardis of Trout Unlimited; and Jim Bond, Washington Water Trust's new director. WWT offered some resources developing information. The offered raised questions about the fit with the MWC goals. Councilmember Bodeau will bring this up at the strategic planning session.

Councilmember Knott reported that O&E is also working to contact Irrigation districts, as the largest and longest users of water in the valley, and with whom the MWC has not interacted much recently.

Councilmember Fort described some potential water available for lease from MVID and Barkley. There is potentially 100 acre/ft each, with potential for mitigation use for Twisp. The MWC should follow up on this opportunity.

Mayor Ing-Moody requested the O&E Committee prepare a list of questions for irrigators the MWC can review. Commissioner Hover asked how many users are below diversions for ditches. With the goal of keeping ag alive, it would be worth talking with users about leasing excess water. Councilmember Knott noted moving water is not impossible but it is difficult. Councilmember Fort said leased water remains as instream flow, which individual downstream users can use, but if MVID leased water, it would no longer be available to their users. Commissioner Hover would like to be a part of the conversation with the ditches. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that there is a 5-year review of the water use that moved to well, and if there is surplus, Town of Twisp has first right to purchase. Commissioner Hover asked that a copy of that agreement be shared with Craig Nelson at the Conservation District.

## **7. Ad Hoc Reports**

### **Water Banking Subcommittee, Chair: Tackman/Jumars**

**CRM Subcommittee** – This committee to be ended for now.

**Resilient Methow Report** – Sarah Lane reported that she provided information on water banking and completion of the metering program to Dana Golden at Resilient Methow. The information will be shared through an upcoming Climate Forum event, which will report on work groups in the valley are doing that relates to the Climate Plan.

## **8. Initiating Government Reports**

**Town of Winthrop**- Not present, no report

**Okanogan County**- Commissioner Hover reported that building permits are being tracked and debited from the River Bank tracking program. Reports are updated monthly. Updating every two weeks is desired but limited by staffing.

Commissioner Hover had a meeting with Craig Nelson at Conservation District. They are working on the agreement between the CD and County to set up the new water bank.

**Town of Twisp- Mayor**- Mayor Ing-Moody reported the Town Hall was nearing completion and opening celebration. The MAR feasibility proposal submitted in the spring was turned down by Ecology. The Town is watching water issues closely, especially regarding housing. Potential new developments and annexations are moving forward. A review of water status will be needed after these changes take place to determine what the demand will be.

Commissioner Hover asked about the location of the UGA boundaries, and about how the County can help with infrastructure costs, in order to help with the annexation. The County does not want to subsidize private development but wants to help in the best way for affordable housing development infrastructure. Mayor Ing-Moody requested a meeting with the Town and County in order to prepare for any opportunities for assistance. Commissioner Hover noted that a consultant will be hired to help with zoning, and wants to include towns in the discussion to ensure zoning is appropriate for annexation.

## **9. Ecology Report: Not present, no report**

**10. Presentation:** No presentation

**11. Agenda Item 10.22-01: Public Comment:** No public comment or written comment were received.

**12. Agenda Item 10.22-02: DISCUSSION: Bylaws: Article 2: Administration Sec 2.3 (Attendance)**

Mayor Ing-Moody read section 2.3 of the Bylaws regarding excused attendance, specifically that members must inform the Chair if they cannot attend, and have absence excused. *(2.3 Any member that misses three consecutive unexcused meetings, as determined by the chair, may be replaced by the MWC, with the approval of their appointment by the IGs.)*

The work of the MWC moving forward requires attendance and interest. If current members are not interested in attending, are there others who could join, in the interest of consistent productivity?

Councilmember Fort said it would be appropriate for the Chair to have a conversation with members who are having trouble showing up, and if they are not able to continue, to seek new members. Commissioner Hover said members should be unexcused if they do not answer the quorum call. Mayor Ing-Moody would like to add an agenda item for excusing non attending members, who should be prepared to offer a reason to her. Commissioner Hover suggested adding an excused column to sign in sheet. Councilmember Knott said that he had had to call members regarding attendance during his time as Chair. Mayor Ing-Moody recognized that members are busy, and any decent reason would be accepted. Taking the time to notify the rest of the Council is what matters, as a courtesy. Commissioner Hover thinks keeping Zoom and phone options available will be helpful.

**13. Agenda Item 10.22-03: Schedule Strategic Planning Session**

The Strategic Planning Meeting Agenda was discussed and edited. Commissioner Hover would like to discuss involvement in retiming projects. Members agreed the mission statement does not need to be reviewed. Issues of human resources to do the work need to be considered. The question of should the MWC pursue big projects, or does it have a different role, was asked. Does the MWC take these on or hand them off to others? Mayor Ing-Moody sees the Council playing a supportive role in larger water projects. Councilmember Knott said defining the Council's role can be asked of any project. The meeting was set for November 19 from 9-3:00.

**14. Agenda Item 10.22-04: Outreach Committee report**

Councilmember Knott reported that the O&E Committee is developing a panel discussion with information on drought. He asked what role the County plays. Commissioner Hover said most drought action was Ecology related. Councilmember Knott said previous response was haphazard.

Councilmember Knott raised the following questions regarding a drought planning/ public education event:

- What role can ditches play?
- DOE and CD should be invited
- Fostering public awareness of potential impacts from water shortage and the need to plan ahead
- What can the community do to plan with tools available to it?

Commissioner Hover would like to have a plan in place to provide to DOE in the event of drought declaration.

Councilmember Bodeau said a vulnerability assessment would help identify what sectors would need assistance with water in a drought, and where opportunities are to meet need. Councilmember Knott said the O&E committee would continue discussions with other organizations to inform this presentation.

**15. Agenda Item 10.22-05: Next Steps**

The November meeting is cancelled. Next meeting December 15, 2022; it will be in person with an online option. A new protocol for quorum will include excused and unexcused absences. Online option will be available for the meeting. Commissioner Hover would like to use the Town Hall.

**16. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM

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Mayor Ing-Moody, Council Chair

Approved at the December 15, 2022 Methow Watershed Council meeting