



Monthly Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2022 – Via Zoom

Council Members Present: Greg Knott (arrived 5:26), Mike Fort, Dick Ewing, Bill Tackman, Jeff Sarvis, Mayor Soo Ing-Moody, and Commissioner Andy Hover.

Council Members Absent, Excused: Alyssa Jumars and Jean Bodeau

Others in Attendance: Christian Kar, Lorah Super (CD, MVCC), Jeanne White (MC)

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

Non-Procedural Motions

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
12.22-01	Motion to approve the 2023 Work Plan, with cost items to be approved by the MWC.	7	0	0

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Soo Ing-Moody at 5:08 PM. Administrator Lane read the roll.
2. **Agenda:** The agenda was confirmed as presented.
3. **Minutes**
Commissioner Hover moved to approve the October 20, 2022 Minutes. Councilmember Fort seconded the motion. October 20, 2022 Minutes were approved.
4. **Attendance**
Alyssa Jumars excused. Mayor Ing-Moody described how to let the chair know when members wish to be excused. Members need to simply contact the chair to say they will not be at a meeting.
5. **Report from the Chair**
Mayor Ing-Moody reported that members of MWC and MWF had a productive five-hour strategy session in November to discuss work of the Council for 2023 and looking further in the future as well. Members of the Council also recently met with Representative Steele regarding water banking funding, which will be reported on later.
6. **MWF Report: Chair- Craig McDonald**
Chair Craig McDonald was absent, so Sarah Lane gave the report. Current balance in the bank is a little over \$19,000; approximately \$8000 of that is restricted use. Give Methow brought in about \$8400, and was a great fundraiser for all of the valley this year. The MWF extended Lane’s contract through 12.2023 and give an increase in pay. The MWF also reviewed and approved changes to the MWF Bylaws, including allowing for online/email voting, succession, etc.
7. **Subcommittee Reports:**
Technical Review Committee, Chair: Fort
Councilmember Fort is looking forward to working on housing issues for the valley through the technical committee. Commissioner Hover asked what the work might entail. Fort said he does not know yet, but has reviewed information on the issue. Mayor Ing-Moody said that this is part of the new strategic plan and a recognition that water is an important part of housing in the valley. Commissioner Hover commented that regarding what the community wants affordable housing to look like, we should find out from people who need the housing. There is likely a difference between what some people want the housing to look like versus what is affordable. The issues with potential ski hill development influenced creation of the Methow Rule, to prevent condos and other undesired uses. The affordability of building multifamily is much better than single family. Being able to use UGA’s and provide water for building

affordably will be important. Mayor Ing-Moody said the Council needs to be a part of the conversation, but that the MWC has a role related to water.

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair: Knott

Councilmember Knott not being present, Administrator Lane reported that the committee has been busy. They met with Resilient Methow and the Conservation District to plan a community presentation on Drought Mitigation. The committee is also working on plans to have a roundtable meeting with irrigators, and other potential presentations such as water law 101.

8. Ad Hoc Reports

Water Banking Subcommittee, Chair: Tackman/Jumars

Councilmember Tackman reported on the meeting with Representative Steele, attended by Tackman, Craig Nelson, Lorah Super, Jean Bodeau, Mayor Ing-Moody and Sarah Lane . The primary concern was extending the funding window for water banking funds. Rep. Steele believes he will be on the budgeting committee and able to support extending the funding. Attendees at the meeting discussed the potential for another water bank purchase. The committee should hear more about the success of this request around February. Tackman is not sure where issues will end up, but is happy with the direction. Mayor Ing-Moody thinks the extension will go through. Tackman notes he's not sure how the MWC will fit in to this work, but sees that water banking will play a role in solving some problems such as the need for water in UGA's, and following this work should be a focus of the Council moving forward.

Resilient Methow Report – Councilmember Ewing has not been in touch with Resilient Methow folks. Sarah Lane reported that the Outreach committee has been working with Resilient Methow's administrator, Dana Golden, to plan the drought presentation.

9. Local Government Reports

Town of Winthrop- Councilmember Jeff Sarvis reported on the development of a 56-unit affordable housing project, through the Housing Trust. It received grant funding support. Winthrop is updating its water system plan. Aspect analyzed the town's water rights and determined its rights are in good shape. Winthrop is working on infrastructure, including the line under the bridge. There is a final draft of the town's sewer facility plan. The town is moving away from using lagoons as they are no longer sufficient.

Councilmember Tackman asked about the timeline to replace lagoons with a treatment facility. Councilmember Sarvis replied that funds are in hand, and once Town Council is up to speed, it should be complete in less than five years, likely just two years. Commissioner Hover asked about the makeup of the housing project. Sarvis said it mostly single family and duplex.

Okanogan County- Commissioner Hover reported on his monthly meeting with Craig Nelson of the CD. Commissioner Hover called the regional director Sage Park, regarding the difficulty with Ecology of getting applications complete, and heard about the difficulties with staffing. Hover also asked Aspect consultant Tyson Carlson how long changing over water rights would take. Through Ecology, he thought it might not ever happen, but through the local water Conservancy Board, estimates are 6-9 months to get the water right handled. Commissioner Hover said the County plans to apply for funds to acquire water rights in WRIA 49.

Town of Twisp- Mayor- Mayor Ing-Moody reported the Town of Twisp passed its budget including work on a new well. The Town continues to look for and need water rights. During public comment at the last Town Council, a person commented with concern about what the 300 new homes approved for Twisp will look like. Town of Twisp is not in as good of financial shape. Median income is not high. Affordable work force housing is needed and water to serve it.

10. News From the Community:

Mayor Ing-Moody introduced this new agenda item, which was identified as potentially useful during strategic planning. Council members can share what they hear from the community.

Commissioner Hover said he has heard from people supporting affordable housing, and that he anticipated the water bank playing a role. Mayor Ing-Moody noted that the type of water going in the bank and how it can be used will matter. Commissioner Hover said that it would be helpful for the Technical Committee to review and report on indoor consumed water numbers to inform the water bank. Indoor use has a return rate of 90%, making the consumed portion small. Councilmember Fort said that he thinks the County would need to look at restricting outdoor use of

mitigation water. Mayor Ing-Moody said that return flows have not been considered to date, and it would be helpful to have the Technical Committee review this issue. Commissioner Hover said for now the 710/day is the number being used to debit from reserves. Looking at how Kittitas and Yakima Counties employ water use numbers would be informative as well.

Councilmember Tackman said regarding the priorities list for use of mitigation water, the MWC has a key role in identifying uses, and that towns should be at the top of the list. Commissioner Hover clarified that towns and UGAs have a priority need, not rural areas unable to access reserves. He thinks about 90% of the community is on board with these priorities. Councilmember Tackman stated that providing water to less than above-board developments is not the purpose, and that he would like to see development in the UGAs.

Mayor Ing-Moody said that this type of conversation is why this agenda item was initiated.

Councilmember Knott said he is hearing concerns about rumors from Upper Methow constituents regarding negotiations between Winthrop and the Chewuch canal, and that the town could help by providing public information. Councilmember Jeff Sarvis said the town has a resolution to share and still has work ahead on the project.

11. Ecology Report: Not present, no report

12. Presentation: No presentation

13. Agenda Item 12.15-01: Public Comment:

No written public comment was received.

Christian Kar commented that he is working with Commissioner Hover to try to find a water right so he can work on an affordable housing project. He is also looking for water through water banking. Kar is looking for information on pricing.

Mayor Ing-Moody said pricing will depend on the type of right and the established priorities for its use. Councilmember Fort said he sees problems with direct conversion. Commissioner Hover said he is talking about rights associated with storage projects.

14. Agenda Item 12.15-02: DISCUSS and APPROVE 2023 Work Plan

Mayor Ing-Moody invited discussion on the 2023 Work Plan developed at the strategic planning session. Councilmember Sarvis said he had not attended the meeting, read the plan and supports it. It is flexible if other priorities come up. Mayor Ing-Moody said this plan would inform the 2023 budget.

Councilmember Fort made a motion to approve the 2023 Work Plan. Councilmember Knott seconded the motion.

Mayor Ing-Moody said the 2023 plan does have full funding. Councilmember Tackman expressed concerns about approving the plan without seeing a full budget. Several members said they are confident that the plan does not obligate spending. Commissioner Hover would like to see specific project budgets approved before spending. Mayor Ing-Moody said she is hearing general approval of the plan goals. Councilmember Tackman said he would support the motion with a change in language regarding the proposed costs. Commissioner Hover offered an amendment to the motion clarifying that proposed costs in the plan are to be approved by the MWC in a budget.

The amended motion passed unanimously. Mayor Ing-Moody expressed appreciation for the time and work that went into developing the plan.

15. Agenda Item 12.15-03: 2023 Council Positions – To be renewed: Positions 5 and 6; to be filled: Position 4

Mayor Ing-Moody opened discussion on 2023 Council positions. At Large Position Five, held by Jean Bodeau and Lower Methow Position Six held by Councilmember Tackman are up for renewal. Councilmember Tackman stated that he would like to continue serving. Mayor Ing-Moody said she had a conversation with Councilmember Bodeau who was absent, and that she also wants to continue serving.

Mayor Ing-Moody announced that At Large Position Four, held by Councilmember Jumars, is being vacated with her resignation. Councilmember Ewing, Middle Methow Position Three also announced he is resigning his position. Jumars

and Ewing were thanked for their service. Both positions will be advertised as open, and interested people could also apply for positions Five or Six as well.

Councilmember Knott nominated Councilmembers Bodeau and Tackman to continue serving in their respective positions. Councilmember Sarvis seconded the nomination. Commissioner Hover clarified that the vote on the motion would take place in January.

16. Agenda Item 12.15-04: Elections – Open nominations for Chair and Vice Chair

Mayor Ing-Moody opened nominations for Chair and Vice Chair. She said she is willing to continue in the Chair role. Councilmember Tackman nominated Mayor Ing-Moody for Chair. Councilmember Fort seconded the nomination.

Councilmember Knott nominated Councilmember Bodeau for Chair, and Mayor Ing-Moody for Vice Chair. Councilmember Tackman said he knows Mayor Ing-Moody is very busy and is doing a great job. He thinks Councilmember Bodeau could also do a good job as Chair. Councilmember Fort said he'd be happy with either. Mayor Ing-Moody withdrew from her nomination for Chair. Commissioner Hover seconded Councilmember Knott's nomination.

Councilmember Knott then nominated Mayor Ing-Moody for Vice Chair. Councilmember Fort seconded the nomination. Mayor Ing-Moody stated her heart was in it to help, and that she will be happy for the break. The job of Chair is hard, but couldn't be done without the work of members and committees.

17. Agenda Item 12.15-05: Next Steps

- Finance committee to meet regarding budget.
- Water Banking will likely meet next in February, and will keep up to date until then.
- Outreach Committee will present its upcoming presentation plan and share information regarding conversations with Washington Water Trust in January.
- Councilmember Sarvis noted the importance of keeping up with development and infrastructure needs.

18. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM

Mayor Ing-Moody, Council Chair

Approved at the January 19, 2022 Methow Watershed Council meeting