



Monthly Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2023 – Via Zoom

Council Members Present: Greg Knott, Mike Fort, George Schneider, Lorah Super, Bill Tackman, Mayor Soo Ing-Moody and Commissioner Andy Hover.

Council Members Absent, Excused: Jean Bodeau

Others in Attendance: David Clement, Susan Crampton, Mark Edson (MVID), George Grable, Mallory Hirschler, Nigel Kingsbury (ECY), Travis Thornton, Jeanne White (MC)

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

Recording available here: [3.16.23 MWC Meeting Recording](#)

Non-Procedural Motions

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
3.16-01	2023 MWF/MWC Operational Budget Approved	7	0	0

- 1. Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Mayor Ing-Moody at 5:10 PM. Administrator Lane confirmed attendance.
- 2. Agenda:** Agenda was confirmed as presented.
- 3. Minutes:** Councilmember Schneider moved to approve the February 16, 2023 Minutes. Councilmember Super seconded the motion; motion carried.
- 4. Attendance:** This item was not addressed.
- 5. Report from the Chair:** No Report
- 6. MWF Report: Chair- Craig McDonald**
Chair McDonald was absent; Administrator Lane reported that the MWF discussed the operational budget in relation to miscellaneous spending and finance policy to outline procedure. Grants were discussed. Mike Bastian was elected MWF Finance Committee Chair. He plans to check in with committee chairs regarding budgets and spending.
- 7. Committee Reports:**
Outreach and Education Committee, Chair: Knott
Councilmember Knott reported on a very successful Drought Presentation event attended by about 80 people. Working with Methow Valley Citizens Council, Okanogan Conservation District (OCD), and Resilient Methow was a good partnership. A link to the recording is on MWC's website. Next topics to be presented on include Water law 101, and water banking; Outreach is also working on a round table event with valley irrigators.

Policy Committee, Chair: Super
Councilmember Super reported that the first Policy committee met February 28, 2023. Councilmembers Bodeau, Sarvis and Mayor Ing-Moody attended. (Councilmember Fort was unable to attend)

Super stated she would like to develop a committee charter to frame the purpose and scope; she asked if other committees have a charter, and for other committees provide info if there is any.

Councilmember Super wants to be sure in looking at legal and policy issues, that what the committee does is relevant and useful to the MWC. There is an opportunity to be a sounding board for the local governments by examining policy issues. Criteria to use to choose topics, through mission and DIP were discussed. Some topics include looking at the county database and the MWC's IFR; protecting instream flows; and history of issues.

Commissioner Hover asked Councilmember Super to keep in mind that regarding legal issues, remember that governments have their own attorneys. He also requested that in regard to policy, framing as advisory and looking at how policy would be implemented is important. Super said at this point, the committee would be looking at existing policy. The committee could seek legal opinions, but recognizing that opinions are varied. The committee may also look at past council work such as water 2066.

Technical Committee, Chair: Schneider

Councilmember Schneider reported that the committee discussed the information that would be presented at the drought presentation March 9. Drought planning work will be a first task.

Water Banking, Chair: Tackman

Councilmember Tackman reported that OCD is still waiting to finalize the grant, but that Craig Nelson is confident things will come together. The committee discussed the potential lease of Twisp water downstream.

8. Local Government Reports

Town of Winthrop- No Report

Town of Twisp- Mayor Ing-Moody reported the Twisp Council met as of this week. The water lease issue was on the agenda. The proposal has been denied. Mayor Ing-Moody thinks it was a good opportunity to consider real life possibilities of leasing.

Councilmember Tackman said it was a good wake up call. Several people called him with concerns about the proposal including potential conflict of interest regarding Aspect Consulting working for both Twisp and Auvil Fruit. Mayor Ing-Moody said she had questions about the data as the water assessment for the town was based on metering (current) and 20-year build out (historic and not currently accurate). Commissioner Hover said he did not think there was conflict for the Twisp Council, but potentially there was for Aspect. Councilmember Tackman felt there was a clear conflict of interest for Aspect, which will have the potential to continue as Aspect does so much work for local entities. Councilmember Super said the OCD could speak to Aspect about sharing client data concerns. Councilmember Fort said to ask for another person to represent parties if needed.

Councilmember Knott asked why the proposal was denied. Mayor Ing-Moody said the proposal was not supported because out of basin transfer are not supported, Auvil Fruit is no longer a local family company, and the finances **in-sufficient.**

Councilmember Tackman said situations like these would be good to review in the water banking committee about town needs and priorities of use for water. He asked about the current status of Twisp and Winthrop.

Mayor Ing-Moody stated the town still needs a better understanding of municipal water. Delivery infrastructure has improved and water use per capita is reduced. The town will need more water to maintain growth, with reserves for uncertainty in planning, and industrial and commercial uses. Councilmember Tackman asked to see how the report was calculated.

Okanogan County- Commissioner Hover reported the county has been in discussion with OCD about the county possibly purchasing the Pine Creek water in WRIA 49. If the proviso \$2M cap was removed, it could be run through the OCD water bank.

Regarding development of water code, not much is happening. Existing code is being reviewed. A consultant needs to be hired.

9. News From the Community: No reports

10. Ecology Report

Nigel Kingsbury, new Water Master for the Methow, was not initially present. Mayor Ing-Moody reported that a good informational exchange and meeting took place with Kingsbury, Heather Simmons and several MWC/MWF members.

Kingsbury did join later and reported he has reviewed the Aspect memo, but hasn't looked at IFR yet. He needs access to the database. Councilmember Fort said he would send information to Kingsbury.

11. Presentation: No presentation

12. Agenda Item 3.16.23-01: Public Comment:

No written Comment received.

Mark Edson (MVID), said he is very interested in attending the ditch meeting (irrigator's round table, that the Outreach committee has been working on.) He feels very strongly about keeping water in the Methow Valley.

Commissioner Hover asked if there are more people within irrigation district boundaries who would want to irrigate who cannot access water. Edson said that is being reviewed via work with Aspect, to define how much water are they legally allowed to have versus how much is going to customers. Water conservation is a topic for MVID customers. Commissioner Hover feels ditches need to be involved with drought mitigation planning. Edson said there should be ways to move water to users who need it more than others. Commissioner Hover said thinks there is potential for temporary transfers in a drought.

13. Agenda Item 3.16.23-02: MWF/MWC Operational Budget

Councilmember Fort presented the 2023 MWF/MWC Operational Budget, noting that it can be updated as needed, and it adequate for current needs. Councilmember Tackman made a motion to approve the 2023 MWF/MWC Operational Budget. Commissioner Hover seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

14. Agenda Item 3.16.23-03: Next Steps

- a. Drought Planning
- b. River Bank and IFR comparisons (after some work is done on what is relevant to each)
- c. Ecology watermaster presentation request: speak on role in regard to drought situation

15. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM

Councilmember Jean Bodeau, Council Chair

April 20, 2023