



**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

November 15, 2018

5-7 p.m. – River Bank Building, Twisp, WA

**Council Members Present:** Dick Ewing, Mike Fort, Andy Hover, Soo Ing-Moody, Greg Knott, Travis Thornton, and Ashley Thrasher.

**Others in Attendance:** Vanessa Brinkhaus (by telephone), Kent Hitch, George Schneider, Natalie Kuehler, Mary McCrea, Jasmine Minbashian, Jennifer Molesworth, Marcy Stamper, Lorah Super, and Jacquelyn Wallace.

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrative Assistant

**Non-Procedural Motions**

<i>Motion #</i>	<i>Short Title</i>	<i>Yeas</i>	<i>Nays</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
	<i>No motions were made</i>			

**1. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Knott at 5:03 p.m.

**2. Introductions**

None were made

**3. Agenda – Review and Approval**

Andy Hover moved to approve the agenda and Ashley seconded the motion. The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent of all members present.

**4. Minutes – Review and Approval**

Ashley moved to approve the minutes and Andy seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved by unanimous consent of all members present.

**5. Report from the Chair**

- a. **December meeting date:** Thursday, December 13, 2018 was selected for the December meeting of the MWC.
- b. **Nominations for new positions open in December with elections in January:** Greg announced he will not continue as chair in 2019. A chair and vice chair will be elected in January. Greg will continue on the council. Additionally, positions three and four, currently held by Dick Ewing and Travis Thornton respectively, are up for reaffirmation or election at the January 2019 meeting.
- c. **Roberts Rules and a new minutes format:** Greg discussed moving to using the Roberts Rules for Committees and Small Assemblies. Discussion around the level of detail in the current minutes, and usefulness of tracking discussions, took place. It was generally agreed that the minutes could be pared down in detail, but including the relevant discussion was desired for transparency.

It was also clarified that the chair does not bring forward a motion, nor vote unless there is a tie.

## 6. Grant Administrator Report

George Schneider reported on the Wolf Creek Project:

- Ecology has approved the time extension for the grant to the MWF (Mary sent the signed amendment in this week), so we have until December 2019 to keep MWF/MWC involved through the grant. There is approximately \$10,000 remaining in that budget.
- He understands from Vanessa, that Mark has transferred from OCR to the Central Regional office of Ecology, so we will want some clarification from them as to their roles on this project going forward.
- George will be facilitating a meeting at Sun Mountain on Dec. 28 with representatives from Arletta Corp (John Barline and Jim King, plus Wes Hover), TLAC, and WCRD. The agenda has not been finalized yet, but the overall goal is to discuss the current plan for the pilot and the upcoming studies sponsored by TLAC, and to get the parties assured that no impairment of water rights will arise from operation of the project.

## 7. Ecology Report

Vanessa reported that water use estimates and tracking data projects are moving forward. She will be working with Ashley to move forward on Water 2066 as well.

The first 9094 grant cycle is done, look on Ecology's website to review applications. Most applicants are on the west side, and decisions will be made by next year. Mary asked when the next cycle will be for streamflow restoration grants. Vanessa stated at the biennium at a minimum, and hopefully in the next fiscal year.

The rules for 9094 are currently undergoing edits.

Greg noted a request made three months ago for updated closed basin mapping. Is there a technical review status update? Vanessa stated there was not. She will follow up with John Kirk and will email the update to the Council by the December 13 meeting if possible.

George asked about to Mark Shuppe's new position. Vanessa said he is now in the water resources program, replacing Sue Berdorf-Berry. They are awaiting confirmation that he will continue in his role in the Wolf Creek/Twin Lakes Project. Mark will remain at Central offices in Yakima.

## 8. MWF Report

Mary reported that the water use grant was being signed by Rose and then Vanessa.

Give Methow raised \$3301.01, a new high. Methow Valley Fund grant opens December 1 through January 31, and the committee will be discussing that opportunity.

Greg notes that budget visioning will take place at the December MWF Meeting.

## 9. Initiating Government Reports

### Town of Twisp-

Soo Reported that the town is working on a solution for the erosion issue at Covenant Church.

### Town of Winthrop-

No Report, Bill absent.

### Okanogan County-

WRIA 49 planning continues. A list of potential members has been developed. The goal for first meetings is by 2020.

Soo attended the Bill Ruckelshaus/ Tribes meeting regarding planning for development in smaller towns. How land use affects economies was a focus. Ruckelshaus Institute is reviewing GMA's after 25 years of use, to see what works and what doesn't. Existing water law and growth management are identified as main areas of concern. Pateros and Twisp were the only towns at the meeting.

**Agenda Item 11-18-01 Recent Closed Basin Ruling Report:**

Andy reported receiving an email from Sage Park regarding needing to meet ASAP with Perry, Andy and DOE, this being how information about the Closed Basin first came to him. Ecology told Okanogan County there can no longer be drilling in restricted areas of closed basins. Even if a well has been constructed, if it has not been put to beneficial use, it will not be recognized. Also, a well may not be drilled to disprove hydraulic continuity under the new rule, in restricted basins. The County to date had not received anything in writing from Ecology on this issue, and Ecology will not be making a statement about it. Okanogan County think approximately 1117 lots are affected by this ruling. The county determined this by doing a search for \$0 improvement lots. Andy asked if outreach can be done through the Watershed Council.

Questions for Ecology about the ruling are based on the original Water Resources Management document created prior to the rules. Andy pointed out that household and stock watering/Ag use are accepted uses in the closure in the glossary of the document. 173-548, pre 1991 lays out closures with those exceptions in French, Gold, Beaver and Wolf Creeks. Andy questions the proceedings and lack of public hearing for the decision making.

Andy met with the Health Department about cisterns as an alternative to wells. Currently they are not allowed. Health Department will look at counties that do allow them for guidance. Under 2 cfs, there are no water purveyors. A house would need to have a lifetime contract for water to be approved to be built with sufficient water. Currently, no potential building permits are effected.

Dick thinks Ecology needs to do a modification to the rule. Withdrawal of water from public use has its own governing RCW that disallows modifying the rule.

Greg asked what the Council can do to help. If the rule is to be changed, comments must be taken on all parts of the rule to change a small part.

Mike suggested an outreach effort with meetings in Methow, Twisp, Winthrop and Mazama. Andy can attend. Vanessa will bring back info to Trevor. She said Sage and Trevor are the ones to help with outreach efforts. Realtors will be a key audience. Greg will work with Bill T. to schedule meetings, preferable to start in January with Ecology representatives on board. The County can provide funds for outreach. Soo noted this will be a good time to go to the legislature to protect the 2 cfs rule so it can be addressed.

**10. Sub-Committee Reports**

**Instream Flow Rule Revision & Technical Review Committee, Chair – Fort**

Will have something to report as soon as the grant is up and running.

**Political Action Committee, Chair – Tackman**

No report

**Outreach and Education Committee, Chair – Tackman**

No report

**Water 2066 Committee, Chair – Thrasher**

**Agenda item 11-18-02:**

Ashley requested that everyone review the notes from the planning meeting, and get back to her any changes in one week. Notes will be posted on the website after that.

Three phases were identified for Water 2066.

Phase 1 is the Community Process, which includes two parts: 1) Community Workshops; 2) Stakeholder Meetings. A series of framing questions will be developed to be used at these meetings to reveal the "Community Vision".

Phase 3 will be to hire someone to do policy analysis on rules and laws and how they interact with the vision and identify where policy change is needed.

Phase 4 the work will go to committees and others to enact.

Greg stated that Lisa gave feedback that the Council is firm in its vision and needs to confirm with citizens.

Mike asked if the County and towns will be on board making this an effective plan. Andy and Soo think yes, if this work creates a desire to follow through with vision and policy change.

Next steps:

- Re-write RFP and work on official award of grant so RFP can be released January 1.
- Someone will check in with Ecology to ensure that this approach will help us be consistent with what they are dealing with.
- Vanessa will talk to the group. She thinks there will eventually be a strategy for opening the rule. Ensured consensus among stakeholders is key. We don't have a location funding priority but our projects are competitive.

Acquisition, storage, altered water management and ESA listed species are priorities.

#### **11. Agenda items for next meeting**

Water 2066 – Ashley

Closed Basin Outreach – Bill T/ Mike

Proposed Legislation for Out of Basin Water Transfers – Mary

Proposed Legislation to Protect 2 CFS Rule – Soo (Soo has talked with Rep. Steele about this.)

#### **12. Public Comment**

None given.

#### **13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

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Greg Knott, Council Chairman

*Approved at the December 13, 2018 Council meeting.*