



Monthly Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2019

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

Council Members Present: Dick Ewing, Mike Fort, Andy Hover, Travis Thornton, and Ashley Thrasher
Others in Attendance: Lee Bernheisel, Vanessa Brinkhuis, Mary McCrea, Craig McDonald, Melanie Rowland (MVCC), Jacquelyn Wallace (TU), and Jeanne White (MC).

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrative Assistant

Non-Procedural Motions

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
7.19-01	Approve the water management questions for Water 2066	5	0	0
7.19-03	Change of Meeting Dates	5	0	0

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Ashley Thrasher 5:00 P.M.

2. Introductions

All introduced themselves.

3. Agenda – Review and Approval

Ashley will add meeting location information to her report. Dick moved to approve. Andy seconded. Agenda was approved.

4. Minutes – Review and Approval

Dick moved to approve the June Minutes. Mike seconded. The minutes were approved as presented.

5. Report from the Chair

Ashley reported that this is our last meeting in the River Bank. We can meet at Twispworks for \$20 per meeting. Ashley would encourage the Council to contribute to cover the cost of the meeting. Bill asked if Ashley checked with the Community Center. Ashley said the next meeting will be at Twispworks and she will pay for the first rental, and will check at the Community Center for next meetings.

Agenda Item 7.19-03: Change of Date for August and September Meetings: Ashley proposed meeting the 4th Thursday of August and September, and all agreed to the change.

6. Ecology Report

Vanessa sent information after last month’s meeting about drought-related grant funding that was included in this month’s meeting packet. Next round of streamflow restoration grants packet was also included. Application period will begin Feb 2020 and be open for two months. TLAC has been successfully closed and Mary’s request to transfer balance has gone through Trevor and now is in budget office. Vanessa will check next week for status.



Dick asked, regarding TLAC funding, did it close due to changes in funding? Not sure if it has been re-scoped. The Water Resources grant is the fund from which the money came.

Lee asked if any streamflow notices have been sent yet. Streamflows have been hovering above minimum. Vanessa will ask Mark Shuppe for a current update. Potential curtailment letters were sent, but not sure if any interruptions have happened. Lee stated that from June 15-July 1, according to his calculations, the Methow has been below minimum, and that we'll be below minimum by the end of the month. Vanessa said there is a hotline that is updated mostly daily, and there is a phone number to call that was included in the letter. Andy clarified that junior rights holders will not be notified of curtailment, but will need to call in to the phone number in the letter to see if they are affected by low flows. Mike asked if the decisions are being made from the Pateros gauge, and Vanessa said yes.

7. **MWF Report.**

Kent Hitch has resigned position on the MWF board. Mary asked Council members with potential names for the board to contact Mary. MWF is looking for 3-4 positions.

The Strategic Plan for the next year has been completed.

Work on the MWC pamphlet has begun, and hope is to complete by mid-September

Grants are going to be reviewed for potential to fund a part time ED. Current bank balance is \$9925.

8. **Initiating Government Reports**

Town of Twisp- No report

Town of Winthrop- No report

Okanogan County-

Andy reported 5-acre minimum rezone in the lower valley (school dist. line down to Pateros at the continuity line for Methow water v Columbia water) was upheld at public hearing recently. He hopes this will get rolled into planning process. Andy had discussion with Public Health regarding their mandate and instream flows which don't jibe well. In particular, group system: Health Dept thinks less holes are more environmentally sound but with instream rules, that is not allowed. State de-regulated group B, but Okanogan County has a group B plan. Okanogan County does regulate Group B system by water testing.

Lee asked about County working with Ecology on 173-548 and in particular regarding a draft County resolution to spell out policies regarding exempt wells, and asked if Andy could give a summary on what the County and Ecology are working on. Andy said that anything the County does in regard to 173-548 are land use decisions. It's on the County to decide if they are following all applicable laws and must interpret 173-548 in relation to land use. Hence, a well drilled pre-76 has different implications than post, and same for closed basins. The County is hoping to get Ecology and tribes and other stakeholders in the room to discuss the potential resolutions. Lee asked if it's true that Ecology won't give legal advice, and Vanessa said she has not been involved in the process and can't answer. Lee thinks Ecology should be handling how state rules are interpreted. Dick said that he



thinks that this is a result of the Hirst decision, where counties are required to make rules in accordance with the law. Lee asked when the draft will be available. In the draft, Lee said there was an idea presented that exempt wells could be limited for indoor use with low flows.

Mary asked, since MWC is a representative of this county, why isn't an MWC member included in stakeholders list? Andy said MWC should be. Andy said interpretation of rule that is quite dynamic. Ecology will send info about a rule, then someone will go direct to Ecology and someone else will say, that's not how it will be done. County is attempting to craft policy to insure certainty with this draft resolution.

Travis said this has bearing on Water 2066 and what happens after that. Regarding domestic wells drilled, will other than indoor domestic uses, such as commercial, be interruptible? Andy said 90-44-050 allows for 5000 gpd for indoor, 5000 for commercial, watering of ½ acre, and unlimited stock water. Lee disagreed. Travis reiterated a request for Council to be included in the process.

9. Sub-Committee Reports

Technical Review Committee, Chair – Fort

Committee is reviewing the type of meters to be used. Mike will change the zoning parameters in the database to 5 acre minimum recently changed.

Agenda Item: 7.19.02: Review DIP Responsibilities, Fort Motion Mike said he will work on adding the 5-acre zoning change to the database, will work on a report, and will bring it to the next meeting.

Political Action Committee, Chair – TBD No report

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair – Knott No report

Water 2066 Committee, Chair – Thrasher

Dates for meeting have been set for September 18 and 19, and Sarah is working on the outreach calendar. Progress report from contractors is included in the meeting packet. Please provide feedback on drafts included and reports to Ashley. Interested Groups plan will be complete by next meeting. Interested Groups list should be sent out, and has been revised to include: Colville, Yakama, Okanogan County, Towns of Twisp and Winthrop, Methow Conservancy, MVCC, Farm Bureau, MSRF, Irrigators (4 large irrigation districts), WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

Ashley suggest we invite realtors and others left off this list to the community meeting. Andy asked about NOAA – Travis said with WDFW cooperating, and Feds not concerned about water use per se, WDFW should be the choice. Lee asked about OWL being taken off the list, and Ashley said it was a narrowing process, and that OWL will be invited to the community meeting. Ashley will reach out for irrigator contacts at Barkley, Chewuch, MVID, Skyline. Bill would like to see companies talk to constituents and bring info to the meeting.



Agenda Item 7.19-01: Approval of Water 2066 Water Management Questions

Ashley said the MWC needs to approve water management questions prepared by Water 2066 contractors.

Dick asked if there is an option to use retired ag water rights to provide for small ag/small commercial gardens. Andy and Travis explained it would just be a change of location of use needing to be approved through the water conservancy board. **The Council would like to add a question about water banking and public knowledge/process about available water for purchase or transfer. Is the Council OK with approving the concept not the final wording on this item?**

Melanie asked regarding section 3 – that it seems to be related to Comp Plan. Comments are due on Comp Plan Sept 3, and she is concerned that these questions raise Comp Plan issues without being able to provide feedback. She doesn't want the question to be confusing to the community. Ashley said there will be a presentation before the visioning, so we could highlight that issue.

Melanie asked about how much people know about how much water is available for future development, in relation to planning this, how much do people know? Feels people are fairly confused about water information, and are we going to provide information? We don't have questions about what people know. Presentation ahead will help. Sarah said that there is a plan to provide some educational postings ahead of the meeting as well. Dick noted disconnect between people being willing to live in towns and people who want to live out in County.

Travis moved to approve the water management questions with the addition of a water banking questions without further review. Dick seconded. All approved.

10. Agenda items for next meeting

DIP Report (Mike), Water 2066 Interested Party Plan.

11. Public Comment

None

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 P.M.

Ashley Thrasher, Council Chair

Approved at the August 22, 2019 Council meeting.