



Monthly Meeting Minutes
 September 20, 2018
 5-7 p.m. – River Bank Building, Twisp, WA

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

Others in Attendance: Vanessa Brinkhaus, Kent Hitch, George Schneider, Phil Millam, Natalie Kuehler, Mary McCrea, Melanie Rowland, Roger Rowatt, Jacquelyn Wallace, Jasmine Minbashian, and Lee Bernheisel.

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>
9-18-03	<i>Decision; Water 2066 October planning meeting: Mike Fort's motion "The meeting should be open to the public and Lisa will invite public participation and comment as she sees fit"</i>	9	0	0

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Knott at 5:06 p.m.

2. Introductions

Jasmine was introduced by Phil.

3. Agenda – Review and Approval

Andy Hover moved to approve the agenda. There was no second. The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent of all members present

4. Minutes – Review and Approval

Andy Hover noted corrections to be made to the minutes of August 16, 2018, and the minutes were approved by unanimous consent of all members present

5. Report from the Chair

Greg asked Sarah to review for those present, how to find and set up the RSS feed for Ecology. Sarah did so and those present reported they were able to set up the feed.

6. Grant Administrator Report

George Schneider gave an update on Wolf Creek Project. Areas of concern are that some portion of the operational spill is picked up downstream for irrigation by Wes Hover. Less water is being saved in reality than as planned. It diminishes water available from 200 acre/feet to something less, which needs to be determined based on Wes' use of ground and surface water. The other issue is impairment. The Arletta Corp sent a letter to Ecology stating that they weren't against the project, but they want Ecology to protect their interests as a senior water right holder. There is a request for Ecology to perform an impairment analysis prior to the start of the pilot project. It was hoped the pilot could be performed first.

Project goals are to save water, repurpose water for Twin Lakes water levels, and to retire water back to the Methow as mitigation for water for towns.

Work is happening with Ecology and Aspect Consulting to figure out a way forward. \$10,000 is left of the budget. A time extension has been requested of Ecology to allow for continued engagement. The scope of work is being completed. George met with the Technical Committee today.

Kent asked about a timeline for analysis. George stated the TLAC scope of work is kind of out of their hands. Dick said the scope of work has not been approved because of the outstanding questions. George feels Ecology is reluctant due to the impairment question, so no timeline has been established. The work will take several months, we just have to wait to begin, with no power to act on the questions.

7. Ecology Report

Vanessa reported that she met with Okanogan County and the Technical Committee. They are drafting two separate grant agreements and wanted to clarify the duplication of tasks, including the reservation accounting. The County will meet with the Technical Committee (Mike). The County has to project use in WRIA 48 and 49. The database can be beneficial with updated reservation accounting database. The County needs to figure out how to tie well logs and building permits into the database. Ecology is looking for an annual report for estimating water use and current use.

Vanessa reported that 6091 is now RCW 9094. There will be \$500 million available for funding projects. The first funding opportunity is available Oct 1-31, 2018, and awarded by priority by basin.

Priority 1: Planning Basins

Priority 2: Salmon Critical Basins (16 basins)

Priority 3: Project Types- Water for water, acquisitions, banking, and improvements

Priority 4: Outside of Planning Basins

Priority 5: Habitat restoration projects

Net ecological benefit is important.

The priorities are drafted as a rule, and will be presented in Omak at the Omak Library, October 3, from 12:30-3:30. Also presented at the Central Regional Office in Union Gap, October 2, from 12:30-3:30.

Dick said WRIA 48 is exempted because they have a rule.

Andy asked if a city water right could be reserved and extended it so county future use can use the city water right/service.

Vanessa answered that the priority is to offset exempt use, not for municipalities to extend. If it offsets an existing use, it could be used.

WRIA 49 is a salmon critical basin.

Ecology will focus on getting the rule out and ranking projects for funding.

The Draft rule comes out during the first funding opportunity, and they are using the draft rule and 9094 as interim guidance for doing so.

8. MWF Report

Mike reported no quorum for the meeting. Those present reviewed the Treasurer's report, talked with George, and discussed postcards for Give Methow Campaign. Greg reminded everyone of the current opportunity to give.

9. Initiating Government Reports

Town of Twisp- Soo reported meeting with stakeholders a couple of weeks ago about erosion issues in town. WDFW, Ecology, DOT and the Town of Twisp were present. No steps to address the problems were defined yet. Property owners are worried about losing property to the river. Some guidance was given. The Twisp Park trail erosion was also discussed. Right behind the trail, there is a sewer pipe, creating concern for future erosion next spring. Twisp is working to address this with Okanogan County hazard mitigation and the Army Corps. There is agreement that the sewer pipe is in jeopardy. The highway is also at risk.

Phil asked if the Red Shirt Mill is a part of this discussion. Soo stated that it is out of town limits but will add it to the discussion.

Town of Winthrop- Bill reported the town is replacing pipes in Horizon Flats through the Hamel property. He has also been dealing with Town Council regarding nightly rental ERU's. Some are rated 50-100% higher, resulting in complaints. They are working on figuring how to rate them and will need to re-do ERU's for nightly rentals.

Okanogan County- Andy reported that he has mostly been working on a watershed group for WRIA 49. Many people are applying for positions. The first meeting should be the first weekend in October, according to Perry.

The grant is getting put together.

Mike asked if the meeting would be chaired by Ecology. Vanessa said no – 203's are led by Ecology and this is a 202 group. Greg asked if Craig Nelson would Chair. Andy said no. Vanessa said Ecology would be an advisor. Greg offered assistance to the new group. Andy said other help has been offered too. Andy said he thought it would take place October 4 and will ask Perry to communicate with Vanessa.

10. Sub-Committee Reports

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

Nothing new to report.

Political Action Committee, Chair – Tackman

Note: 6091 is now 9094.

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair – Tackman

Give Methow starts October 1.

Regarding speakers, Mary's partner will present on the monitoring program. Greg said maybe a USGS person could present on sedimentation from the fires. Greg offered to contact Konrad.

Soo asked where we sit on protecting the reserve. No action has happened according to Mike and Greg. Greg reminded Soo that Mary is drafting legislation. Soo assumed we hadn't dropped the idea of the reserve, Greg and Soo agreed follow up on the reserve idea is needed and will bring the subject back to the next meeting.

Andy noted the BAER Team will be here in 3-4 days and will be doing 14 days of assessment, looking at culverts and bridges to upsize. Bill Tackman reported firefighters were also doing assessments. This will be a good topic for public outreach.

Soo wants to talk with Andy at a future time about the whole drainage and potential concerns. Andy stated that the diking districts don't have much funding and now with fires and lots of snow, it is an issue of concern.

Bill Tackman is planning to reach out to the Forest Service for information and assistance regarding McFarland. Noted the UCSRB – snow to flow tool- has a program to see how the hydrograph responds to tree removal. That program can be used to understand the potential impacts to Twisp drainage.

Matt Ely and Chris Konrad (USGS) have a program (MMS) that can do that for us too.

Greg noted we could use help from USGS.

Kent noted how hot the core burns matters for prediction. Greg believes the BAER data can overlay the USGS program. Greg will call Konrad to generate a synthetic hydrograph for Twisp and Lost Rivers. Bill T. will also look into this.

Water 2066 Committee, Chair – Thrasher

Agenda item 9-18-02: Water 2066 October planning meeting (structure, date, participants.)

The group discussed possible dates for a planning meeting and settled on October 11.

The group discussed who should participate. Ashley said Lisa recommended the Foundation and Council members all be there. She said we could reach out to a few groups who would want their voices heard in the early stages, after “putting the sideboards on.” Kent noted the importance of input after framework. Natalie noted it is different to invite folks who have been active participants. Travis said he had been part of something similar in Colorado. That group wanted people to participate as individuals, not with their organizational badges.

Natalie asked who will lead the process. Andy stated a desire to have the County “put on the sideboards” and have people participate with that guidance.

Greg asked how to integrate governments into the process. Defining their role before inviting individuals seems smart. How are we going to talk about it?

Mike states: Lisa could have public comment sections during the meeting for input.

Ashley would like members of public to commit to the day.

Mike doesn't mind if people wander in and out.

Greg asked: who are we offending if we don't invite them? Give people a reminder to leave the badge at the door. This is a way to get fresh eyes on the topic. Bill T. also agrees to the idea of a public meeting.

Agenda Item 9-18-03 Mike made a motion that the meeting should be open to the public. Andy seconded the motion. Ashley asked for clarification: Are we happy with people coming in and out? Andy asked if the public are participants.

Mike modified the motion to: The meeting should be open to the public and Lisa will invite public participation and comment as she sees fit. The motion was approved.

Greg said he would meet with Lisa to go over the details.

Andy said he wouldn't be able to make a decision about the framework at the meeting, he will need to bring it back to County first.

Greg asked, regarding scope, will it be land use too, or strictly water? He said, as Melanie Rowland recently stated, it's hard to separate. Bill T. stated that we shouldn't set the framework; let Lisa guide the group.

11. Agenda items for next meeting

Soo will lead a discussion about possible legislation to protect reserve. Vanessa noted that due to CPI, the Methow may not need to be protected the same way Chelan was. Soo added that if there is any discussion about opening the reserve, the Council needs time to discuss. Soo wants to present so the discussion can be opened.

Andy noted that the reserve was put in place as an article in 1976 to prevent running out of water in the lower reach due to over allocation. Greg wants to be able to have a discussion about changing the rule without putting water in jeopardy.

12. Public Comment

Natalie: Water Conservancy Board met RE: Lundgren and their attorney requested a site visit by the Board, not open to the public, which happened last week. Report will be out soon. RE: Burkholder, public comment period has closed. She will request comments. Ecology did not comment RE: Methow Rule for Burkholder. WCB is still the venue for Lundgren. It will complete a proposed recommendation and forward to Ecology.

Andy: General question for Vanessa: Is there an Ecology policy stating if someone uses a water right for a Group A system, does the entire property have to be used under Group A system? Vanessa replied that the place of use defines a Group A project.

Lee: Noted a point Council might not be aware of: OCPI has been used. Under Gregoire, PUD's were allowed to be used for public water. In MVID decision, Ecology expanded seasonal use to year round through OCPI. Current politics of Ecology play a role. Twisp was granted a lot of water, at last look, more than was needed. Dick E. asked how much water? Where is the water they've been granted? The right has not been perfected.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Greg Knott, Council Chairman *Approved at*

the November 15, 2018 Council Meeting.