



Monthly Meeting Minutes
June 16, 2022 -7 p.m. – Via Zoom

Council Members Present: Mike Fort, Alyssa Jumars, Bill Tackman, Jean Bodeau, and Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

Others in Attendance: David Clement, Mark Easton (Twisp Town Council), Nate Fuchs, Craig McDonald (MWF), Craig Nelson (CD), Lorah Super (CD, MVCC)

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

Non-Procedural Motions

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
6.22-01	Approve Community Foundation Grant Outreach Budget	5	0	0

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mayor Soo Ing-Moody at 5:06 PM.

2. Roll Call of Council Members

3. Agenda – Additions or Changes

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. Minutes – Review and Approval

Councilmember Tackman moved to approve the May 19, 2022 MWC Minutes. Councilmember Fort seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Report from the Council Chair: Mayor Ing-Moody reported that the contact person at Ecology has left and there is no current contact available for the Confluence event.

6. MWF Report: Chair- Craig McDonald

MWF Chair McDonald reported that the MWF is working on a work process structure for budgeting funding for the critical path and to find bottlenecks. MWF members are also setting up meetings with other nonprofits to discuss best finance and grant practices.

7. Subcommittee Reports:

Technical Review Committee, Chair – Fort

Councilmember Fort reported the Metering grant will be finalized at the end of the month. He is working on Report #5 to complete grant obligations. Report #4 has a budget for future work, and he is trying to identify Ecology contacts. Councilmember Fort is hoping to have a meeting with Ecology regarding the closing out of the grant and future work.

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair- Knott

Report was deferred to agenda item.

Ad Hoc Reports

Water Banking Subcommittee, Chair Tackman/Jumars

Councilmember Tackman reported a productive meeting with Craig Nelson (Conservation District) attending.

Key points:

- CD is working on a water banking process diagram to put on the website to help answer public's questions.
- Funding expires soon. Nelson suggested the MWC write a letter of support for exceeding the funding. Question- Should the Water Banking Committee draft the letter?
- Potential to link Bonneville Environment Foundation funding to WB projects.

Craig Nelson reported:

- CD met with Ecology (Lorah Super, Nelson, Tyson Carlson; and Kelsey Bach and a half dozen Ecology folks) to review the grant application.
- Only one other applicant for the proviso funding to date.
- Deadline is Feb. 1, 2023, in order to meet review by funding deadline of June 30, 2023. CD would like to see funding deadline extended.
- CD intends to acquire a specific water right, develop a trust water right with Ecology, and finalize the acquire agreement with County as co-manager. Ecology looks carefully at due diligence performed to be sure the water right is adequate for banking
- Application to be submitted June 30, 2022, followed by 30-day notice and 60-day review.
- Key water resources people at Ecology retiring, creating challenges.
- CD reviewed draft water banking flow chart with Ecology. Lorah Super noted that there was mixed reaction to the mitigation side of using the banked water.
- Delays build case for funding extension.

Councilmember Tackman asked if the local water board (Okanogan Water Conservancy) will evaluate the rights. Nelson said that was likely the fastest route. Fees for the OWCB were included in the grant.

Councilmember Tackman asked if WRIA 48 and 49 are being considered separately in reference to the \$2 million funding. Nelson said Ecology looks at the funding for the Okanogan water bank in total, and they are looking for ways to deal with that. Mayor Ing-Moody noted that the \$2M is specifically earmarked for the Methow Valley as per the proviso.

Nelson said the other applicant is Chelan County, with an offer of funding. Nelson sees challenges with the \$2 million cap because of some jurisdictions working in multiple watersheds. He thinks a cap per watershed makes more sense.

Nelson said there is one water right in WRIA 49 they are looking at, and the acquisition is about \$700K. Acquisition of anything of any size is likely to be at least \$500K. He thinks it would be important to secure these rights while the program is available. Doing workshops in WRIs 48 and 49 regarding what water banking is, and what is available, would be helpful. Ecology is interested in participating in such outreach.

Councilmember Tackman asked what the County's role is in this water bank. Nelson said that if there is an Ag water right – Ag water transfer, the CD will manage it. If there is an Ag to non-Ag use, the County will manage it. The CD will manage the portfolio, and if the County wants to acquire water for other uses if available, it could apply for the water and mitigation certificate. County needs a water code developed before it can make water available.

Councilmember Tackman asked about pricing for mitigation water. Nelson said that has not been determined, though likely the CD will establish a per unit cost based on acquisition costs. Costs that are higher for more difficult sales could be offset by easier sales. Funding through the grant covers grant administration, water acquisition, and establishing the water bank.

Mayor Ing-Moody asked if the MWC could review the flowchart. Nelson said he would see about sending a draft. Mayor Ing-Moody also asked if there will be a separate water banking board. Nelson said the water bank will be managed by the CD and County. Lorah Super added that regarding retiming projects, and how they would fit; the CD is starting to understand that water would be re-timed first and then put in the bank. That is likely the “cleanest” way to do it based on the lack of year-round water. This project is new to this process. She said it would be good to have Tyson Carlson present on this process.

Mayor Ing-Moody asked, regarding the \$2M earmarked for WRIA 48, is there additional funding available? Nelson thinks Ecology is not clear on this. Ing-Moody thinks that funding from the total should also be available for the Methow, in addition to the earmark, and is willing to help to get clarification on this.

Councilmember Bodeau asked if other counties re-time water prior to banking. Bodeau thinks it would be cumbersome to the seller. Super said that may apply to bigger project such as that in the feasibility study, to find water eligible for that process. Aspect employees can help with outreach after June 30.

Mayor Ing-Moody would like the MWC to provide a letter of support for extending funding timing. Also, having Ecology available to answer questions for the community is key. Ing-Moody asked if there is a contact. Nelson said he thought it might be Heather Simmons taking over Trevor’s position.

Councilmember Tackman asked about the intent for the letter of support, and said he, Craig and Sarah will work on a draft to present back to Council for action.

CRM Subcommittee – No report

Resilient Methow Report – Lane reported that the MWC Resilient Methow committee has been invited to act as an “ambassador” to the HUB.

8. Initiating Government Reports

Town of Winthrop- No report

Okanogan County- No Report

Town of Twisp- Mayor Ing-Moody reported that the Town of Twisp has not yet heard back on the MAR feasibility application. Housing needs are becoming urgent, with at least 50-60 new hook-ups needed with growth. Estimates are closer to over 100 units to be built in the near future. There is still undeveloped property in the current town boundaries so greater potential exists.

9. Ecology Report: No report

10. Presentation: No presentation

11. Agenda Item 6.16.22-01: Public Comment

No Public comment received.

12. Agenda Item 6.16.22-02: DISCUSS: Finalize Plans for “Confluence” event

Lane gave an update on the final plans for the Confluence event. About 12 other organizations are expected! Councilmember Tackman agreed to help with printing.

13. Agenda Item 6.16.22-03: REVIEW and APPROVE Give Methow Focus for 2022

Councilmember Bodeau presented data on past campaigns, and reviewed the draft language for 2022. Framing “water budget” needs work. The funds would unrestricted. Councilmembers should send comments to Lane or Bodeau. There will not be another opportunity to review before application due date. The language was approved with some refinements to be emailed around before submitting. Mayor Ing-Moody said a motion was not required.

14. Agenda Item 6.6.22-04: DISCUSS and APPROVE: CF Outreach Budget and Draft Presentation Schedule

Lane presented the revised CF budget for outreach and asked for approval of the budget. Councilmember Bodeau made a motion to approve the CF budget as presented. Councilmember Fort seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Lane detailed topics considered for presentations including water budget, the metering program, new hydrographic modeling, water law and water banking. Councilmember Jumars asked if some topics could have multiple sessions. Mayor Ing-Moody is in favor of that for complicated topics. Councilmember Tackman said it would be good to have specific questions for lawyers in advance. Councilmember Bodeau said this was a good working list and specifics can be developed. Mayor Ing-Moody asked MWC members to contribute ideas over the summer. The Outreach Committee will provide more details as they are developed.

15. Agenda Item 6.16.22-05: Summer Schedule

Mayor Ing-Moody proposed the MWC taking a summer break as has customarily been done due to lack of quorum. Committees will keep up with their work. The Council agreed to the break.

16. Agenda Item 6.16.22-05: Next Steps

- a. Committees keep working
- b. WB Committee drafts letter for extending funding proviso
- c. More presentation details will be developed and presented

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

Mayor Ing-Moody, Council Chair

Approved at the September 15, 2022 Methow Watershed Council meeting