



**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

May 16, 2024

Location: Twisp Public Building Meeting Room and Zoom

**Council Members Present:** George Schneider, Lorah Super, David Asia, Hans Smith, Andy Hover.

**Council Members Absent:** Mike Fort, Bill Tackman, Jacob Gates

**Others in Attendance:** Chris Allen (AESI), Susan Crampton, Wren Soperanez, Jeanne White (MC)

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrator

[Recording available here.](#)

**Common Abbreviations:**

DIP: Detailed Implementation Plan

ECY: Ecology

IG: Initiating Government

LDPP: Local Drought Preparedness Plan (Ecology Grant)

MWC: Methow Watershed Council

MWF: Methow Watershed Foundation

OCD: Okanogan Conservation District

OCWB- OCD Water Bank

**Non-Procedural Motions:**

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
	None			

- 1. Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Andy Hover at 5:07 PM. Administrator Lane confirmed attendance.
- 2. Agenda:** Mayor Smith moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Aisa seconded the motion. Motion approved.
- 3. Minutes:** Mayor Smith moved to approve the April 18, 2024; Minutes as presented. Councilmember Super seconded the motion. Motion was approved.
- 4. Report from the Chair:** Commissioner Hover gave no report.
- 5. MWF Report: Chair- Craig McDonald:** No report
- 6. Committee Reports:**  
**Outreach and Education Committee, Chair: Lane**  
Administrator Lane reported *the Outreach committee has a couple events coming up:*
  - *Farmers Market on May 18*

- “Methow Drought” with Washington Water Trust and Trout Unlimited on May 22 at the Winthrop Library.
- Outreach is also working on partnership with Methow Valley School district and Classroom in Bloom to provide supplemental programming with water quantity subject matter.

**Policy Committee, Chair: Super**

Councilmember Super will meet with new Project Coordinator Strieby. The policy committee will continue to be on break until more people/energy are available.

**Technical Committee, Chair: Schneider**

Councilmember Schneider reported the technical committee is working on the following while awaiting news on the LDPP grant work:

- Residential well solutions for wells at risk of going dry.
- Will have a discussion with Ecology re wells.
- Following up with irrigators/ Twisp Valley Power and Irrigation for potential pilot work.

Councilmember Asia is interested in participating on the Outreach and Technical committees.

**Water Banking, Chair: Tackman**

Councilmember Tackman reported the committee did not meet. A meeting is in the works for June, before the next MWC meeting. Councilmember Super reported no substantial updates for OCWB.

**7. Local Government Reports**

**Town of Winthrop-** Councilmember Jacob Gates was absent.

**Town of Twisp-** No Report

**Okanogan County-** Commissioner Hover reported that Commissioners met with DNR, which has funding available for potential irrigation/fire water connection. Councilmember Asia mentioned he talked with Jessie (Fuller) about the idea. He said they are not able to get off main roads with equipment and noted several potential locations on Twisp River that they could access. Councilmember Super talked to Eli (CD, Wildfire Protection Plan). He would like to be included when the Council knows what is needed.

**8. News From the Community:**

Commissioner Hover noted he is always asked about water by the public.

**9. Ecology Report:** None

**10. Presentation:** None

**11. Agenda Item 5.16.24-01: Public Comment**

Wren Soperanez provided the following public comment via email:

Community Actions that could help us all with "Drought"

Street Runoff Harvesting (Rain Gardens) Ex: Glover Street/Twisp Carlton Rd and any street in Twisp  
 Street runoff water is being combined with the city sewer water (Twisp) Designed to collect rainwater and **drain to** our local river(mighty Methow river) not only is the water being **contaminated** but the beings that depend on this sacred river will continue to struggle and so will we. There’re very simple and accessible solutions that can be **implemented**: "Street Rain Runoff Gardens" Not only would we ditch the drains that dump water into the river, we can **collect rainwater** by implementing street rainwater harvesting techniques. We can also ensure that there will be less maintenance to the roads that have to get repaired frequently due to potholes and such "caused by water not being harvested and sitting on streets' ', less solar radiation hitting the roads which causes the roads to crack and such. We could also have food for free for the local community and lower crime since there would be

more community members engaged in tending these beautiful rain gardens! There is multiple cities around the world that are doing these kind of practices after being in drought for multiple years and creates abundant, cool temp microclimates which collect water locally, hold water in the aquifer, provide amazing food for free (harvesting water) and create an amazing beautiful place for kids and adults to feast on food and hang under the shade, rather than exposed to the sun and the sun reflecting off the pavement.

Link provided by Wren: Rainwater Harvesting Video <https://youtu.be/iIYoU2PTPLk?si=FOHWI-CDHI1iCFcx>

Infiltration Basins/Terraces, Krater Gardens, Spring Tapping, Pond Building, Planting Native Forests Ex: Parks, Fields near river, riparian areas and grasslands.

Goals are to create more protection to soil, water, and beings from Sun and Wind Exposure. Hold more water and infiltrate in the local aquifer rather than leaving the valley. (Slow, Spread, Sink) Create abundant microclimates that enhance soil fertility/life, help create lower temperature zones, enables the resident to hold more water locally therefore recharging the aquifer and wells. Help create home to our local wildlife therefore bringing a balance to the circle of life which can help mitigate disease and weeds and enhance the resident or growers' production by having biodiversity in their plants and wildlife (pollinators, deer, etc.)

By doing such implementations you are also creating a fire prepared zone for yourself, family, and community. When beavers create these native ecosystems, they create fire resilient zones. There's research that supports this and finds that riparian zone areas have a 90% chance of not burning. I could go on and on, but I first want to hear yalls concerns and how we can address them ASAP!

Link provided by Wren: Water Cycle Death Spiral [https://youtu.be/TvHco\\_GL4Mo?si=M1IAQnWNT-B3rh2p](https://youtu.be/TvHco_GL4Mo?si=M1IAQnWNT-B3rh2p)  
Water Cycle Video [https://youtu.be/TqOaE0cD\\_us?si=nlvBDh-OLsAEZWLC](https://youtu.be/TqOaE0cD_us?si=nlvBDh-OLsAEZWLC)

I would also love to add Grey Water Harvesting! I have mentioned this technique to multiple neighbors and friends here in the valley and lots of people have been wanting to make the switch to grey water harvesting, to help with drought. Let us be an example to the neighborhood communities, we can be that town that is known for being one with nature and reversing drought! I recently spoke to one of the Okanogan County Public Works staff members and he told me "I always wonder why we aren't catching our rainwater and Grey Water if we are in a drought, just doesn't make sense to me." Soperanez also added in person comment regarding the value of public process for the Glover Street water main.

## **12. Agenda Item 5.16.24-02: Discussion: Current Strategic Plan Review**

Commissioner Hover led the discussion on the current Strategic Plan Work Plan. MWC is working on drought, outreach and water banking, but hasn't really addressed housing.

The state of water law at the time of the Methow Rule development was discussed. Groundwater law was not addressed in the Methow Rule. Also, various businesses and unincorporated areas like Carlton and Methow, according to Methow Rule, are subject to instream flow. Councilmember Schneider believes that changing some uses may have been possible in 2009 when the DIP was completed but would not be allowed now. Commissioner Hover said the Methow is stuck with what it has unless efforts to change are made.

Councilmember Schneider asked about Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) process. Commissioner Hover thinks the Council could start by discussing growth pressure, water use priorities. Noted the [Kittitas Integrated Plan](#) as a model for equalizing water cost and making water available.

Several ideas were posed for next steps for the Council:

- Prioritizing mitigation water uses
- New CRM process
- White paper "State of the Methow" including the legal and hydrologic framework of water availability and areas of concern
- Update watershed plan

Councilmember Super said that some issues that would have been addressed in CRM have been settled in court. Super noted conflict around comprehensive planning, unwillingness of some to participate. Thinks a group bigger than MWC could address these through studies, research, reports, consensus. Councilmember Asia suggested starting with a smaller group before beginning a larger process to work on "buy in." Super

noted climate change effects are changing things quickly. Hover wants to focus on near term work. Mayor Smith sees the need for more education regarding legal and judicial water rules. Councilmember Schneider sees a need for a white paper to summarize the issues and legislation. Super supports this. Mayor Smith thinks the level of complications would make this difficult; lots of data and potential for bias.

Councilmember Super believes the vulnerabilities identified by the LDPP will help with planning. Commissioner Hover wants the MWC's work to stay in its capacity.

**13. Agenda Item 5.16.24-03: Open Council Position One**

No applications were received. Mayor Smith asked if it was possible to change the geographic constraints. This would have to be a change of Bylaws.

**14. Agenda Item 5.16.24-04: Election of Chair**

No nominations were made for the position of Chair. Continued to next meeting.

**15. Agenda Item 5.16.24-05: Strategic Planning Scheduling**

**16. Agenda Item 5.16.24-06: Next Steps**

- Bylaws change re position locations
- Reschedule June meeting to June 27.

**17. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM.

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Commissioner Andy Hover, Council Vice Chair

May 16, 2024