



Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2020

5 -7 p.m. – Via Zoom

Council Members Present: Greg Knott, Dick Ewing, Mike Fort, Travis Thornton, Bill Tackman, Ashley Thrasher, Andy Hover

Others in Attendance: Lee Bernheisel (OWL), Jean Bodeau, H. Grant, Alyssa Jumars (MWF), Curtis Koger, Natalie Kuehler, Amy Martin, Jasmine Minbashian (MVCC), Melanie Rowland (MVCC), George Schneider, Sandra Strieby, Jaquelyn Wallace (TU), Jeanne White (MC)

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrative Assistant

Non-Procedural Motions

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
6.20-01	Motion to Approve Additional Expenditure of MWF Funds for Water 2066	5	1	0
6.20-02	Motion to Open the Methow Rule: Failed to Pass	3	3	1
6.20-03	Motion to Approve Covid Response Plan	6	0	0
6.20.04	Motion for the Watershed Council to participate in strategic planning session with the Methow Watershed Foundation.	5	0	0

PART I

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Ashley Thrasher at 5:02 P.M.

2. Introductions –

All Zoom participants introduced themselves.

3. Agenda – Review and Approval

Greg moved to approve the Agenda as presented. Dick seconded. Agenda was approved.

4. Minutes – Review and Approval

Dick moved to approve the March Minutes. Andy seconded. Minutes approved unanimously.

5. Report from the Chair

Ashley reminded Council to turn in their volunteer time sheets.

6. Ecology Report -not present

7. MWF Report



Greg reported that the organization is solvent but looking for funds. He Foundation has a new member, Craig McDonald.

8. Initiating Government Reports

Town of Twisp-

Not present

Town of Winthrop-

Not present

Okanogan County-

Covid 19 has put travel restrictions on the Yakama and Colville Tribes, so the County has not heard back from Tribes regarding potential meetings for water mitigation ideas. A meeting was held with Cody Desautel and Chuck Brushwood of Colville last week. How to get better participation, and government to government vs group participation were discussed.

Ordinance 2020-04 limiting subdivision was signed June 17, and there is a public hearing on August 3rd at 5PM, via Zoom. The ordinance will be in effect for one year.

9. Sub-Committee Reports

Technical Review Committee, Chair – Tackman/Fort

Mike reported 5 meters have been installed and 18-20 people are now on the waiting list.

Political Action Committee, Chair – Knott

No Report

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair – Knott

The new E-news will be posting articles on a topic of water management to change about each quarter. Currently the topic is drought. Greg is happy with the new format.

Water 2066 Update – Thrasher

The grant deadline has been extended to July 31, 2020. Ashley has been in contact with Tribes re: language to take the place of an interview in the report. Colville has not had a meeting to approve notes for their interview; once they are approved, they will be added to the Final Report as an amendment.

Agenda Item 16.18.01: Water 2066 Budget Item

Ashley outlined a billing issue with the Water 2066 contractor, resulting in a request for MWF to fund \$1244 of the contractor's final bill. Of that, \$1088 would be a new budget amount, due to previously budgeted MWF funds. Mike moved that MWF pay the additional \$1244, increasing the MWF budget for Water 2066 by \$1088. Dick seconded the motion. Motion passed 5 to 1 with no abstentions. Ashley noted lessons learned regarding clearer communication.

Resilient Methow – Lane

Sarah gave an update on the work being done to consolidate similar solutions to climate change related problems with water supply. She is including the top issues identified by Water 2066 along with new items identified at the Resilient Methow meeting. Dick asked to be connected with the Agriculture Subcommittee.

10. Agenda Item 6.18.02: Pending Motion Re: Rule Revision



Ashley reviewed the history of the motion to date and asked for further discussion. Mike asked for a vote on the motion. Travis said that after the discussion with Ecology, it seemed clear that rule revision would not be entertained by Ecology any time in the near future. He asked what is the benefit of this decision now.

Mike said the Council was charged with revision of 173-548, but doesn't have the clout to make it happen, and so he'd like to see it moved to the County level.

Greg asked how it would interact with the new ordinance, and said he thought the new ordinance would address it.

Andy said he thinks everyone will need to be at the table to address rule revision. We need to figure out how to have the Tribes participate. He thinks this will be an extensive process looking at WRIA 48 at an ecosystem level. He thinks Water 2066 was a first attempt to see what the community wants, and that there is more participation needed. Greg reminded that the Council agreed to participate in a CRM.

Ashley reported that Sage (Ecology) is committed and wants to move CRM forward. There is currently about \$5000 available to get started. Andy thinks the level of detail that could be discussed would not be a detriment. Dick said that the CRM may end with a recommendation to open the rule. Andy said we can address water, fish and forest objectives in the process, that it can be worked back from the goals with all participants. Ashley said, if it's not just water, the Council won't lead, but be a participant in the process.

Dick said he'd be in favor of tableting the motion indefinitely until its appropriate to use it. Andy said a motion today doesn't change the process for him- he wants to move forward and hopes the County also wants to proceed. Greg said at some point the Council should move forward with its obligations and close the loop.

Ashley said it appears to her that if we pass the motion, it doesn't have weight and nothing will change; it would be a formality to move forward. CRM may be a long process but may result in opening the rule, and thinks not passing the motion today might be best. The topic could be brought to special session.

Travis feels Ecology gave a strong word of caution on trying to open the rule without CRM. CRM may bring other solutions. Opening the rule also brings the process outside of the valley and could bring undesirable results. Travis thinks CRM should come first. Dick agreed with this.

Mike reminded the Council that its responsibility is codified in our approved plan, and thinks the Council is moving away from what it was charged with doing. He doesn't think the Council can do this work on its own and wants to move it to the County.

Ashley asked Dick for a formal motion to table the motion indefinitely. He made the motion. There was no second.



Ashley asked for further discussion. Andy said if the motion is made, the IGs will need to figure out what to do to open the rule, and Andy sees that as starting with CRM.

Ashley called the vote on the motion to Open the Methow Rule 173-548. Bill, Greg and Mike voted yes. Dick, Travis and Ashley voted no. Andy abstained. The motion failed.

11. Agenda Item 6.18-03: *Approval of Covid Response Plan*

Greg made a motion to approve the Covid Response Plan as drafted by Sandra Strieby. Mike seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

12. Agenda Item 6.18-04: *Advisory Opinion to the County Re: Metering on New Construction*

Ashley will connect with Bill to draft the letter for the next session.

13. Agenda Item 16.018.05: *Special Session Discussion*

Ashley described the idea for a joint meeting with MWF and MWC, and asked if such a meeting was needed. Dick moved we have two three-hour sessions. Greg seconded the motion. Greg and Travis were strongly in favor of this meeting. Greg noted the potential for contribution from Foundation members to the group. Bill disagreed with the need for the meeting, stating that the Foundation was formed just to handle the money.

Ashley called the question, and the motion passed with five votes. One person did not vote or abstain.

14. Agenda items for next meeting

Dick asked if the next meeting could be the first work session. It was agreed. Travis would like to move on CRM.

15. Public Comment

Lee Bernheisel: Thinks the Council should support general adjudication of the entire basin.

Melanie Rowland: Had a question for Andy about the legal extent of 173-548 regarding sudations and how it relates to 2020-04. Andy said nothing had been determined that that he could share.

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6.43 P.M.

Ashley Thrasher, Council Chair

Approved at the September 17, 2020 MW Council meeting.