



Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2019

4-6 p.m. – River Bank Building, Twisp, WA

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

Others in Attendance: Vanessa Brinkhuis (Ecology, WR), Trevor Hutton (Ecology WR), Natalie Kuehler, Paula Macrow, Mary McCrea, Craig McDonald (by phone), Jennifer Molesworth, Jason Paulsen (Methow Conservancy), Chris Riggio, Melanie Rowland (MVCC), George Schneider, Mark Schuppe (Ecology WR), Marcy Stamper, Lorah Super (MVCC), and Jeanne White (Methow Conservancy).

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrative Assistant

Non-Procedural Motions

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
01-19-01A	2019 MWC Elections – Ashley Thrasher, Chairperson	7	0	0
01-19-01B	2019 MWC Elections – Gregg Knott, Vice Chairperson	7	0	0
01-19-01C	2019 MWC Elections – Dick Ewing, Position #3	6	0	1
01-19-01D	2019 MWC Elections – Travis Thornton, Position #4	6	0	1

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Greg Knott at 4:10 p.m.

2. Introductions

All in attendance introduced themselves.

3. Agenda – Review and Approval

Greg changed the metering grant report to be included in the technical report. Andy moved to approve the agenda, Ashley seconded. The agenda was adopted by unanimous consent of all members present.

4. Minutes – Review and Approval

Bill Tackman offered a correction to the minutes. Ashley moved to approve the minutes and Mike seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved by unanimous consent of all members present.

5. Report from the Chair

Greg and others will head to the Grange for the 6:30 Closed Basin Meeting directly after the Council meeting.

6. Ecology Report

Vanessa reported on the status of three grants and the sub basin hydrological reports.

- Wolf Creek has been amended for time. Mark Schuppe is the project manager.
- The metering grant is now active
- Water 2066 is in application phase, hoped to finalize soon.

Thompson, Beaver and Wolf Creek reports are out. Gold and Cow Creeks have finished drafts, and will be released when approved.

Mark Schuppe is the new Water Master. His job focuses on compliance. He plans to spend some time in Beaver Creek, and will be doing compliance checks for interruptible water rights if we are low minimum instream flows based on the Pateros gauge. Andy and Mike questioned the use of this location, reporting that John Kirke and John Frieda had reported differences on other sub-basin meters, suggesting Pateros is not reflective of all sub-basin flows.

Andy asked if curtailment letters will be sent to tell people they need to be checking the flow conditions. It is the responsibility of the junior right holder to be aware of conditions and check updates.

7. Grant Administrator Report

George provided a written report, and summarized the following: December 28th key stakeholder meeting took place. The goal was so move past the impasse over Arletta's concern that the project will impair their water right. Approximately 200 Acre/ft/yr was confirmed as operational spill. New information was that some of the spill was picked up by Wes Hover who is operating under Arletta's right.

The draft principles out for comment are:

1. The operation of the pilot or permanent project won't lower Paterson Lake. Early season transfers of water or late season when flows are met, or picking up of spill Wes doesn't use will ensure this.
2. Operation will not impair rights of existing users. Use of Twin Lakes as potential reservoir.
3. Wolf Creek Reclamation District understands it will require a permanent reduction in their water right.

Arletta needs to be assured that these items will protect their right, with an agreement, more work on the tech side with Aspect and TLAC, it would be able to move forward. Another meeting should take place at the end of February.

8. MWF Report

Mary reported that she and Sarah are working on last year's MWF report and the new application for the MWC pamphlet.

Moccasin Lake Foundation grant will be submitted.

Pamphlet work moves forward. Mary Sharman is willing to work on the design.

9. Initiating Government Reports

Town of Twisp-

No Report, absent

Town of Winthrop-

No Report, absent

Okanogan County-

WRIA 49 Watershed Planning effort is moving forward. Work continues on a grant in EAGL. At a recent public health meeting, a discussion on looking into including cisterns for use for potable water systems in regard to size, health issues etc., took place. County is working on mitigation strategies for closed basins both internally and with Ecology. Much science and legal work needs to be done.

Greg asked if the County is looking into rooftop collection, and Andy replied that that is not a permissible option as rainwater is hydrologically connected to closed surface water.

Mike asked if Ecology was airing the meetings. They are not. An RFQ has gone out for a facilitator.

10. Sub-Committee Reports

Technical Review Committee, Chair – Fort

Ecology has approved the grant. Database should be up by February. Sarah will check if the Aspect manual is on the website. Database info will be added to website. The committee is discussing what kind and how many meters to use. Currently 710 g/p/d is used for buildout projections. Outreach meetings are being planned for Methow, Twisp and Mazama. Andy and Mary are requested to be at meetings. George asked who is currently on the committee: Greg, Natalie, Mike, Bill Tackman, and Andy.

Political Action Committee, Chair – Knott

No report

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair – Knott

Greg reported that a series of Community information meetings are in the works. He is still waiting for a reply from Konrad on updated presentation, and waiting to see if BAER is still a go.

1. February Konrad - Predictive Hydrograph Modeling
2. March – John Crandall – Water and Fish, How do increased sediments affect fish
3. April – Bureau of Reclamation – Sediment 101, flashy hydrograph effects
4. BAER?

Water 2066 Committee, Chair – Thrasher

The RFP was sent to five additional people. Four responses have come in. RFP closes February 15. The committee will make a recommendation at the February 28 Council meeting. Anticipating eight total proposals. Sarah is completing EAGL.

Agenda Item 01-19-01 – Action: Elections of 2018 Officers and Members:

Nominations were opened for Council Position #3 – Mid Methow. Dick Ewing accepted Greg Knott's nomination to continue in that position. There were no other nominations. *Travis Thornton made a motion to elect Dick Ewing for MWC Position #3 -Mid Methow. Mike Fort seconded, and the motion carried, with Andy Hover abstaining.*

Nominations were opened for Council Position #4 – At Large. Travis Thornton accepted Dick Ewing's nomination to continue in that position. There were no other nominations. *Dick Ewing made a motion to elect Travis Thornton for MWC Position #4 – At Large. Mike Fort seconded, and the motion carried, with Andy Hover abstaining.*

Greg Knott was the only nomination for the position of Vice Chairperson. *Ashley Thrasher made a motion to elect Greg Knott as the MWC Vice Chairperson. Mike Fort seconded, and the motion carried.*

Ashley Thrasher was the only nomination for the position of Chairperson. *Greg Knott made a motion to elect Ashley Thrasher as the MWC Chairperson. Mike Fort seconded, and the motion carried.*

Sarah Lane will send the election results for positions 3 and 4 to the initiating governments for approval.

Agenda Item 01-19-02: Closed Basin Discussion

This discussion was framed as an opportunity for Council members and the public present to ask and answer questions in advance of the public meeting tonight.

Paula Macrow asked about meeting format, and Greg went over the agenda for the public meeting (Presentation, followed by questions and answer session.) Greg and George will review written questions from the audience for theme, and present questions on theme to allow for time to answer as

many questions as possible. Trevor Hutton (Ecology), Travis, Andy and Natalie will be on the panel to answer.

Paula asked if Texas Creek will be in the analysis. Trevor said that Ecology is in the process of further evaluation of the tributaries where they approach the Methow River Aquifer. They are looking at them based on priority. All basins were reviewed in 1991, and this is a re-check.

Paula wants to know more about upper bedrock and alluvial fan relationship. In Texas Creek, the alluvial fan is the Town of Carlton. How is water “separated”? Will wells be usable?

Disk asked does the County make decisions on wells, or does Ecology? Trevor responded that the December letter laid out the major change, that Ecology won't process requests to drill in restricted areas. In those basins, the well must already be approved, then drilled, then Ecology reviews it. New wells are not allowed now.

Andy said that site plan analysis and locations are available with the County app. If site is within the shape file, a well will not be approved until the mitigation strategy is in place. The County will do site analysis for prospective buyers with current owner permission. If a site is on the line, Ecology will review the site plan for the County. For reaches that are not reviewed or finalized yet, Ecology will assist.

Greg offered to send shape files to Paula. Trevor noted that the shape files only show if you are in or out.

Paula asked about a claim that was attached to a homestead parcel that was subsequently divided. Can that well still be used? Andy asked if that claim was for domestic use. The claim has to show use to be valid. It could then have point of diversion changed to a well. If all parcels are tied to the original claim, then claim can then be shared by parcels. Ecology would ask if the claimed use was still valid and used through time. Natalie thought this procedure would not work, that changing the type of use would invalidate the claim.

Andy addressed rebuilding a burned home in a closed basin. With a well with established prior use, a building permit would be issued to rebuild using existing well. Greg asked about time frame for doing so. Trevor asked if an exempt well can expire. This has not been legally tested.

Andy addressed the possibility of future zoning changes. Right now, we are one well one parcel. If clustering was allowed that would have to change. Currently there is a 2-acre minimum for well and septic. Natalie noted the well does not have to be on your parcel.

Travis asked what changed in December to create the change. Trevor stated that Hirst in 2016, and the County Water Adequacy process had Ecology analyzing the how the Methow Rule was being implemented. Ecology needs to make decisions to protect current rights and current owners so prospective owners are being left without options. Discussion followed that impairment of previous right holders and lack of certainty drives changes, as well as current assumptions of 710 gpd.

Getting data on flows, actual use, and Water 2066 will all play a role in addressing these issues, according to Trevor.

11. Agenda items for next meeting

- Impressions from Grange Meeting
- Dave Hilton/Cisterns
- Presentation on Database

12. Public Comment

Several members of the public thanked the Council and DOE for the helpful Closed Basin discussion.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Ashley Thrasher, Council Chair

Approved at the February 28, 2019 Council meeting.