



Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2020

5 -7 p.m. – Twispworks Conference Room, Twisp, WA

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

Others in Attendance: Margrit B (illegible), Eric Burr, Candis Graff (Ecology, by phone), Katie Haven, Alyssa Jumars (MC), Curtis Koger (RESI), Natalie Kuehler, Mary McCrea, Craig McDonald, Jason Paulsen (MC), Melanie Rowland (MVCC), Isabelle Spohn, Wyatt Southworth, Marcy Stamper (MVN), Lorah Super (MVCC), Jeanne White (MC),

Minutes recorded by: Sarah Lane, Administrative Assistant

Non-Procedural Motions

Motion #	Short Title	Yeas	Nays	Abstain
1.20-04A	Recommendation of members: Bill Tackman, Position #5, Lower Valley	5	0	3
1.20-04B	Recommendation of members: Ashley Thrasher Position #4 At Large	5	0	3
1.20-05A	Election of Officers - Vice Chair: Travis Thornton	7	0	1
1.20-05 B	Election of Officers – Chair: Ashley Thrasher	7	0	1

1. Call to order

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

2. Introductions

All present at 5:02 introduced themselves.

3. Agenda – Review and Approval

Greg asked to move Agenda item to the MWF Report. Agenda was adopted as amended.

4. Minutes – Review and Approval

Bill moved to approve the December Minutes as presented. Mike seconded. Minutes approved.

5. Report from the Chair

Ashley recognized Mary McCrea for the incredible amount of work she has done on behalf of the Foundation and Council. Now that she has stepped down from the Foundation, Ashley wanted to acknowledge her for that work. Greg also thanked Mary for her work and sharing her knowledge. Mary thanked the Council for their work as well, and she received a round of applause and thanks.

Ashley noted conflict of interest forms are due. Several members don't have photos or bios on the website. Please get these items to Sarah.

6. Ecology Report

Candis reported that she asked Trevor if he had anything for this meeting. Trevor is offering technical assistance reading the new ordinance if needed.



7. **MWF Report.**

Greg reported that the MWF has turned over financial management responsibilities to Sarah, with oversight from Mike. There is currently approximately \$7900 in the bank.

Greg looked over the Ecology streamflow grant materials, and thinks going for funding for Phase 2 of the Metering project would be a good fit. Greg recommends to the Council that be the focus of our grant application, so that we can finish the work started. Andy said right now the Colvilles have an EDT project and Yakamas are doing reach assessments. Andy thinks we may be able to overlay that data for efforts related to Ordinance 2019-11.

Greg said Sarah attended the Streamflow webinar, noting parameters of the grant. Greg said the MWF will be requesting a pre-application meeting in order to get the guidance on the application.

MWF is presenting an event featuring a film on the topic of instream flow, taking place January 21 at 7PM at the grange. He encourages members to attend. Greg thanked the Methow Conservancy for their support of the film series, as well as CFEG. The partnership is appreciated.

8. **Initiating Government Reports**

Town of Twisp-

No report

Town of Winthrop-

No report

Okanogan County-

Andy reported he informally asked about Colvilles about their EDT (Ecosystem Diagnostic Tool, habitat modeling) monitoring and got a positive response for information sharing. No response was given from the Yakamas regarding their reach assessments yet. The objective of the County meeting with the Yakamas would be to look for where to enhance streamflow and reduce temps in the Methow. Yakama reach assessments will go into program modeling to help them with project prioritization.

Bill asked about the new planning director. Andy said Jamie Ayling has been hired. He was planning director for the Town of Sunnyside and a planner in Yakima County, and has a good experience for the job.

9. **Sub-Committee Reports**

Technical Review Committee, Chair – Fort

An additional seven meters, the last for the pilot, have been ordered, with volunteers lined up to have them installed. Mike talked with Ron Hickson at Ecology about the data he was collecting. Ecology is collecting more info about the parcels for Kittitas and Dungeness projects than we are for our project. A long-term goal is to have one statistically viable number to apply to SFD well-served houses. Most studies Mike has looked at don't differentiate for house size and other attributes. Mike wants to know Ecology will accept the data we gather. Mike will provide handouts for the public film event.



Melanie asked if seasonal use is differentiated, and Mike said yes; data is downloaded in 5-minute increments. Outside flow is set as 5gpm, and leaks at .5gpm so that they can be identified.

Political Action Committee, Chair – Greg

No

Outreach and Education Committee, Chair – Knott

No

Water 2066 Committee, Chair – Thrasher

WWT has been working on Interested Party meetings, and has connected with MVCC. Only the Yakamas remains to be met with. Draft set to be complete for Feb 5, and Ashley will share it when it comes out.

Agenda Item 1.20-02: There is an issue with the budget with the contractor. Additional scope was added without funding in having results from the 3rd community meeting, there were more than 10 people met with for stakeholder meetings, and there was additional work to tally the results of the online survey. WWT will be providing numbers for the out of scope work. Mike asked if WWT did work outside of scope without promise of payment. Ashley said that they did not have promise of payment, however, through the process of planning, additional work was added, and the Council did ask for some of the work (the additional interested parties and the 3rd meeting) that was performed without consideration of the cost. Mike, Greg and Andy all stressed the need for justified, itemized numbers from WWT in order to move forward with the issue. Andy said there may be potential funding sources to discuss with the County, once we know what we're looking at, since the project is important to the County.

Agenda Item 1.20-03: Discussion: MWC Response to County Ordinance 2019-11

Andy said that he should recuse himself for this discussion, and left the meeting. The public comment meeting is at the Winthrop Barn at 5:00 PM Jan 27.

Bill reported that he, Greg, and Travis had met they feel the MWC should prepare a response to the ordinance for the public meeting. Greg feels, however, that coming up with a response the Council can agree to before the meeting might not be feasible. Also, issues the Council may raise will not be resolved through the public meeting. Travis feels the Council mission is to study and advise, and because he believes the Council represents all constituencies that such a statement may not be unbiased. Bill asked: Should Council have a comment on the process of forming the ordinance? He feels the Council should have been consulted with during that process. Greg doesn't think a public meeting is the place to express that concern. He thinks our role in this should be to support a process that avoids litigation, to advocate for a solution, and not to represent any specific point of view.

Mike says if we are asking the Council to do work, what work is it? Greg said we'd be offering the opportunity for parties to discuss with the Council the issues. Lorah made a distinction between testifying and writing a letter, and urged the Council to prepare a letter. Bill thinks this won't be possible without a special meeting. Bill invited public comment for the Council on the ordinance. Travis said he thinks the County was responding to threats of litigation and that resulted in an emergency ordinance rather than an ordinance with public process. Travis asked if members of the Council could help with communication between the parties to help understand goals and purpose. Can the Council help with



facilitated negotiation? Bill said they thought Travis and Greg could be tapped to help with parameters and agreements for a discussion between MVCC and the County. Jeff thinks it would be wonderful if it worked, and it wouldn't hurt to make the offer.

Melanie asked what Travis is thinking of for common meeting points. Speaking for herself on the views of MVCC, Melanie thinks MVCC's concern is that the Comp Plan and zoning are taking too long to be revised, and current regulations are not good for the Methow. She said that MVCC concluded that in the absence of thoughtful planning, you look to the law. The ordinance helps the County comply with the law, and that in MVCC's view, that there is not water for that kind of development.

Travis said, current exempt wells and Methow rule are not in agreement, and that puts us in the position of needing to change things, and how do we do this in a cooperative way. The Council needs to understand the position of MVCC in light of supporting rule revision. Melanie says that this ordinance is a pause, it is a two-year timeline to look for what everyone can agree on. The ordinance really doesn't change this work.

Dick thinks that this rule changes who will be able to control the process. Melanie said that the pause was important now, because of impending development, and the length of the process, that it was needed now to ensure legal and available water. Travis took issue with the blanket moratorium on any lot division, even for example if a 1000-acre piece was to be divided into two. Travis gave a scenario where water used for one irrigator could be a larger portion of water that all potential lots, making the point that water for homes is not the largest use of water. If water protection is the issue, he feels this is not the tool.

Isabelle said she is coming at this issue as an involved citizen. Regarding the Comp Plan, she said the commissioners were directed to work on the it in August, she attends meetings, and says nothing is being done. Even a prioritization asked for by commissioners to the planning director, was not done. Not enough pressure is being put on the Commissioners to do the work.

Bill said his concern with the ordinance was that it was a reaction without consultation. Jeanne asked if it was possible to resolve the Methow Rule without addressing planning and zoning. Travis said that now that the ordinance has created a position, if the Comp Plan changes, it's now subject to that precedent. Natalie thinks that the only way to move forward with these issues now is rule revision. Greg said rule revision is a final outcome.

Greg said conversations such as this are very helpful to the process. Most involved parties are in the room now. Melanie thinks that pausing subdivisions that are going to use water that is not legally available is the best option to prevent unlawful use.

Andy rejoined the meeting. Greg stated that the Council will not be providing comment other than as individuals.

Andy said water is being used as the tool for growth, for control of growth. Water 2066 is trying to get at the crux of things, to define our goals for water, which will be difficult. Andy said it will be zoning ordinance that will define what the valley will look like. He sees people putting everything into their land. Corporate farming makes the money, making small farming difficult. What are peoples' options?



We're going to have to figure out as a community what we're willing to allow and what we value; options for people, such as the ability to lease land. Read though GMA for this County: Andy said it supports rural lifestyle.

Will 2066 encompass enough people? Greg doesn't know if Water 2066 will get us to rule revision. Continuing and nurturing the discussion with interested parties will be a role for Council. Greg said these conversations need to be honest. Andy said many people just say, you're doing it wrong. It is better to have people lay out what they want. Ashley asked if we are to the point where we are going to move the Council toward this work. Melanie said, what's the goal and how soon can things happen. Andy is looking for "sideboards" to such a discussion, and specific details. Bill says he thinks advisory groups provided much of this information. Andy says he has seen this information. Ashley asked if Andy would be willing to meet with Greg, Travis, and MVCC. Andy said yes, and Jasmine also agreed.

Isabelle thinks the public will be losing out if a meeting like this takes place without being a public meeting. Lorah said she also has concerns, as MVCC is not the only group out there.

Andy reminded all that the Comp Plan is being worked on the through the Planning Commission, which will make a recommendation to the Commission. Lorah said we can talk about everything, but if it comes to rule change, more parties will need to be involved. Greg said that the intent is to get parties talking, and any decision making that comes out of it will be public process. Isabelle said that the lower valley is the only area that has invited the planning commission to meet with them. Isabelle advocated for such a meeting as being discussed to be a public meeting. Andy said they are trying to integrate all of the points of view. Andy said that such a meeting will be public.

Agenda Item 1.20-04: Action: Election and Recommendation of Members:

Ashley and Bill are the member position up for re-election. Greg moved that Bill be nominated to serve for Position #5, Lower Methow. Mike seconded the motion. Ashley called for further nominations three times. None were offered. Bill Tackman was approved, with Bill, Jeff and Andy abstaining.

Dick moved that Ashley be nominated to serve for Position #4, At Large. Jeff seconded the motion. Ashley called for further nominations three times. None were offered. Ashley Thrasher was approved, with Ashley, Jeff and Andy abstaining.

Ashley requested that the initiating governments representatives (Okanogan County, Winthrop and Twisp) bring the recommendation of the Council for the member positions to respective councils for approval.

Agenda Item 1.20-04: Action: Election of Officers: Ashley asked if there were nominations for Vice Chair. Nominations were received for Travis and Bill. Bill said he would not accept the nomination. Greg seconded the nomination for Travis. Travis accepted the nomination. Travis is approved as Vice Chair unanimously with Travis abstaining.

Mike nominated Ashley for Chair. Greg seconded the nomination for Ashley. Ashley accepted the nomination. Ashley was approved as Chair unanimously with Ashley abstaining.

10. Agenda items for next meeting

WWT request with numbers and justification



Water transfer bill

11. Public Comment

Mary McCrea said that Ecology has filed a bill for the trust water right program to tighten the use of the program and make more transparent. This is house bill 2603, sponsored by Rep Springer.

A group has been working on a bill to prohibit water transfers from any water out of basin. Lorah and Mary are meeting with Reps. Steele and Goehner on draft legislation. Mary will share once it is complete, and is expected to make it to the floor. Rep Blake has offered to sponsor it and is the chair of the committee it would go to. Mary would love to have Council support the bill.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 P.M.

Ashley Thrasher, Council Chair

Approved at the February 20, 2019 Council meeting.