

Water Transfer Working Group Meeting Minutes Monday, March 6, 2017, @ 1:00 PM

Attendees:

Dave Brown, Stuart Crane, Robert Granger, Dan Haller, Carron Helberg, Elayne Hovde, Trevor Hutton, Stan Isley, Jonathan Kohr, Larry Martin, Jason McCormick, Erin Moore, Tom Ring (phone), Craig and Nancy Schnebly, Chad Stuart, Kurt Walker.

- Approval of Minutes:

February 6, 2017 – the group approved the minutes.

Previous Business:

- 2017-27 Nassen and 2017-28 Morgan: Robert reported that there was significant amount of flow where these proposals are at. Jonathan said downstream looks good, may put in a pressure gauge in stream. WDFW will go in and look at the upstream portion between April and June. Kurt said he had looked at the area more comprehensively, and everyone was OK with this proposal. **Thumbs Up.**

New Business:

- 2017-35 thru 38 Schnebly: Dan Haller provided an overview of the proposal talking about changing the purpose of use of these 1871 and 1886 priority Schnebly water rights to instream flow and mitigation use, changing the place of use to instream flow in Coleman Creek and in the Yakima River downstream to the Columbia River, managing these rights as Trust water rights, and how each right would be treated. The county proposes to add these water rights to the Kittitas County Water Bank as additional sources of mitigation water supply for the number of connections previously reviewed and 'approved' by the WTWG. Larry explained that they are moving the senior rights. Stan said he supported the principle of putting water into the over the counter program, but there is no stream patrolman on Coleman Creek to ensure this water is not used by other junior-priority creek water diverters. Stan discussed Coleman Creek and that it makes him nervous, and talked about return flows that currently augment Coleman Creek flows. Kurt said that Ecology does take a technical look at this but this is a hard question and they try to not create a management problem. The Integrated Plan will add some possible solutions to some of these issues, by implementing aquifer storage and recovery projects. Tom asked if they will be told to turn off, the group talked about the flows over Parker that it would need to be tracked. Dan said it needs to be in the Trust water agreement and that back mitigation water rights acquired by the county would not be added into TWSA at Parker. Tom felt we need to see the numbers. Stan also would not add to Parker, Kurt wanted the methodology for the numbers – it is

attached to the Report of Exam. Jonathan said maybe a reduction of Schnebly points of diversion along Coleman Creek. With the changes, it is a **Thumbs Up**.

- 2017-39 YN Land Enterprises: Sampson Hatchery is for Coho and is presented to WTWG on an informational basis – not a transfer seeking a thumbs up recommendation. Hillis Letters for expedited processing, timeline is ROE by end of this month. Water source is a mix of surface water (11/01-3/31) and groundwater (year-round); two new 2012-priority water right permits. Reclamation supports WDFW and is on the former Holmes property, three new residences, and indoor use thru filters, should be no consumptive use for the fish hatchery. Water treated on site, bypass to Yakima River or wetlands, adding water in the fish bypass, 4-6 cfs for Hatchery, use of canal with Cascade Irrigation District. Larry said WTWG should not approve until agreement is in place. Construction in 2018, should have ROD late 2017 or early 2018. Group discussed the hydrologic investigation, volume of water after flip flop and no screening needed as it will already be screened. **No Action Requested**.
- 2017-40 Kelly: 1 water budget neutral well to serve 2 single domestic water uses in Tillman Creek Basin, mitigated by Burchak Water Bank. Exchange Contract use from 9/01-3/31. Tom had no concerns, Kurt asked if the math was OK (yes). There were no issues, the group gave it a **Thumbs Up**.

Next Meeting:

- April 3, 2017, Monday @ 1:00 PM, YFO Conference Room
- New Proposals in by COB Monday, March 27, 2017.

2017 Future Meeting Schedule:

- May 1; June 5; July 10; all on Monday @1:00 PM

Meeting was adjourned.