

Water Transfer Working Group Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 3, 2017, @ 1:00 PM

Attendees:

Dave Brown, Stuart Crane, Tyson Carlson, Mark Dunbar, Mike Frey, Dan Haller, Carron Helberg, Malcolm Hanks, Elayne Hovde, Stan Isley, Jonathan Kohr, Chris Lynch, Larry Martin, Tom Ring, Jeff Slothower, Kurt Walker, and an unknown phone caller.

- Approval of Minutes:

March 6, 2017 – the group approved the minutes, with a clarification to the 2017-35-38 proposals for Schnebly, the last sentence should read, “Jonathan spoke about possible reduction of the number of Schnebly points of diversion along Coleman Creek. Thumbs Up.” And a clarification on the 2017-39 proposal for the YN Land Enterprises, the sentence starting with “Reclamation supports... should be replaced with, “The Yakama Nation hatchery will be located on land previously owned by the Holmes and Reclamation supports the water right. There will be three new residences ...”

New Business:

- 2017-41 Parlova Miller LLC: This proposal is for 1 well to supply 2 residential uses, 350 gallons per day each, 500 square feet of lawn and garden irrigation each, using the Exchange Water Contract September 1st to March 31st, within a Green Zone near Lavender Lake southeast of Easton, mitigated by the Masterson Water Bank, with impacts to the Yakima River above the Teanaway River. Tom asked about the language in the proposal, the statement ... the existing well may capture ... should be will capture. Kurt said he will amend the proposal, the group was OK with this proposal. **Thumbs Up.**
- 2017-42 Bencich: This proposal is for one residential site at 350 gallons per day, 500 square feet of lawn and garden, using the Exchange Water Contract September 1st to March 31st, within a yellow zone, located north of Morgan Creek easterly and above Lake Cle Elum, mitigation with Trust water right, using Trailside Water Bank, proposed well will capture water that would otherwise discharge to Morgan Creek and Lake Cle Elum. It is steep terrain, and Jon commented that perhaps this Morgan Creek area show as green, not yellow, on the water bank suitability maps. Trailside Water Bank is the former Sapphire Skies/Northland Water Bank which includes 2 mitigating Trust water rights from Younger Ditch and one from a spring located about 1.5 miles west of Spex Arth Creek. Stan commented he has been tracking this water bank and thought both of the Younger Ditch water rights may now be used up, though this proposal states that the former Newton Trust right (Younger Ditch) is the mitigating water right for this proposal. Stan suggested the former Pasco Trust water right (from the spring) may be

the only Trailside Water Bank Trust water right that still has a balance of mitigation water available, and that Kurt should check to ensure the correct Trailside Water Bank Trust water right is debited for this proposed mitigation water use. Kurt looked at this and thinks that some of the rights were reduced to allow for others, but he will check into it. If this one is used up, they will use the other right within the Trailside Water Bank. Kurt will confirm, the group gave it a **Tentative Thumbs Up.**

- **2017-43, 45 and 46 Big Creek WR LLC:** These three proposals are all the same water bank, with Kurt explaining these are nearby parcels, it is a new water bank, all domestic use only with no lawn and garden. The three represent a total of 11 residential sites at 225 gallons per day, using the Exchange Water Contract September 2nd- March 31st, within green zones, located near the KRD Main Canal, two north (downstream) of the canal and the other nine south of the canal, along Big Creek, using the Big Creek Water Bank. Stan was concerned about the September 2nd to October 20th time period due to critical low flow in Big Creek. Stan talked about tapping into the winter stock water right associated with the Big Creek (former Griffith) water right. Tom asked if there comes a time there is not enough water, when it is to be curtailed, also the issue of the 1% of low flow ESA consultation required by the Exchange Contract, and if that threshold has been crossed. The group commented that the preference is to not use the Water Contract and use winter stock water to mitigate, it is simpler. Tom asked if these are permits or exempt wells. 2017-43 is a permit and 45 and 46 are WBN exempt wells. Tom also suggested these should have the disclaimer language that future regulation and curtailment of use is possible in the event impairment occurs to senior-priority water rights. The group concluded that this should come back next month. **Pending, come back next month.**

Larry Martin asked since the Green/Yellow/Red Zonal maps were first created, how often the maps have been updated. After a short discussion, Ecology said they have not been updated for quite some time, but agreed it was time to update them.

- **2017-44 K. Johnson:** One residential site at 350 gallons per day, 500 square feet of lawn and garden, use of the Water Contract from September 1st – March 31st, within a yellow zone, located between Spex Arth and Tillman Creeks, mitigated by the Swiftwater Ranch Water Bank. The group was OK with this proposal. **Thumbs Up.**
- **2017-47 Lohman:** One residential site at 350 gallons per day, 500 square feet of lawn and garden, use of the Water Contract from September 1st – March 31st, within a yellow zone, located west of Spex Arth Creek and south of the Yakima River, Masterson Water

Bank mitigation, pumping impacts to the Yakima River. The group was OK with this proposal. **Thumbs Up.**

- **2017-48 Ecology Main Stem Green Zone Approvals:** Kurt explained this is the first time for this kind of update. These are the approvals that were not brought to the group since they are all on the main stem of the Yakima River, they are all in a green zone, water budget neutral, and are uncomplicated in nature. This is the first of the periodic summary reports that Ecology promised to give semi-annually to WTWG for these main stem green-zone approvals. Since 4/02/2016, Ecology has approved use of several wells for 6 domestic supplies and 5,500 ft² of irrigation, 0.919 af/yr of CU water mitigated by the New Suncadia, SwiftWater Ranch, and Masterson Water Banks, with pumping impacts to the Yakima River, and appropriate use of the Exchange Water Contract. The group discussed looking up the balances of water banks on Ecology's Tracking Water Bank Performance webpage. The group gave a **Thumbs Up.**
- **2017-49 Canyon River Ranch:** Red's Fly Shop is all domestic indoor use only, no irrigation, with 32 total proposed residential units, 20 connections currently, with 12 available connections at 250 gallons per day as year round use, mitigated by the S.C. Aggregate Water Bank. The outside irrigation use is from an existing permit-exempt well(s) and will stay under 5,000 gallons-per day commercial use. The group was OK with this proposal. **Thumbs Up.**
- **2017-50 Borton & Sons Inc.:** This proposal is coming to WTWG ahead of the conservancy board decision. Change from seasonal to year round use, adding a purpose of use, change in place of use and adding a point of withdrawal, to accommodate a proposed Borton fruit packing and storage facility. The group discussed the type of water use, return flow impacts, and other sources of water like domestic water supply from the City of Union Gap. Stan commented this is not a surface water right change, but there are impacts to Ahtanum creek flows, and prompted the group to desire a future discussion on groundwater. The group was glad it was presented and did give it a tentative **Thumbs Up.**

Tom commented that he thought this group was not limiting ourselves to just surface water right changes, since we have reviewed some ground water changes which involved or affected surface waters. A change like 2017-50 is one the group should consider discussing, however we don't want to see everything Ecology gets either. Kurt would like to spend less time on single domestic water transfers and discuss proposals that are clearly in the WTWG box, changes/transfers in points of diversion, stream impacts. Stan added we're looking for efficiencies in our transfer review process and we want to review what is important to review,

but not absolutely every groundwater transfer, in other words to strike a balance. We may need to discuss further which if any transfer proposals WTWG might not need or want to review. Tom added the 2017-50 proposal is affecting stream flow in a positive direction.

Next Meeting:

- May 1, 2017, Monday @ 1:00 PM, YFO Conference Room
- New Proposals in by COB Monday, April 24, 2017.

2017 Future Meeting Schedule:

- June 5; July 10; August 7; August 28; October 2; November 6; December 4; January 8 2018; February 5 2018; March 5 2018, all on Monday @1:00 PM

Meeting was adjourned.