

## Water Transfer Working Group Meeting Minutes Monday, July 9, 2018 @ 2:15 PM

### Attendees:

In the room: Dave Brown, Tyson Carlson, Stuart Crane, Stan Isley, Chris Lynch, Tom Ring, Kurt Walker, Jonathan Kohr, Pat Deneen, Chad Bala, Patrick Deneen, Ellie Deneen, Kelsey Green, Justin Bezold, and Alexander Stejskal

On the phone: Larry Martin and an unknown caller.

- \*NOTE: Please note the new call in number is working, but that after being prompted to enter the participant's code, you should pause before keying it in. If there is no pause, the system will not recognize the first few digits.

### Previous Meeting Minutes:

- June 4, 2018 – There was some confusion regarding the draft meeting minutes posted on the website. The group will consider the June 2018 meeting minutes at the next (August 6<sup>th</sup>) WTWG meeting, after Tom R. has a chance to review them.

### Previous Business:

- **2018 – 17 (Lamon, G4-35997)**  
Kurt briefly discussed the follow up actions and distributed document. The group discussed the findings of the supplemental ESA Biological Assessment including the lack of flow and the lack of ESA-listed fish in lower Domerie Creek.
- **2018 – 18 (Mack Creek Ranch LLC)**  
The group responded to follow up questions from Jonathan K. and Justin B. related to the farm plan concept and water right processing.

### New Business:

- **2018-21 – Kemp (G4-35959).** Kurt Walker presented. The proposal is for one residential connection at 350 gpd used year round with 500 square feet of lawn and garden, in the Spex Arth Creek basin mitigated by Trailside Water Bank right (CS4-02223CTCLsb2@1). The applicant proposes to rely on the Sapphire Skies/Northland Resources storage-and-release (SAR) mitigation strategy to offset impacts to Spex Arth Creek and the Yakima River during the non-irrigation season. Tom R. requested more information (documentation) about Ecology's acceptance of the SAR mitigation. The group was directed to Ecology's permitting Unit or Section Manager regarding their additional questions related to the Sapphire Skies SAR facilities, operations, and reporting. Yakama Nation agreed to allow this proposal to go through with the understanding that Ecology would provide transparency and documentation related to the Sapphire Skies SAR operation. **Thumbs up.**
- **2018-18 – 22 Deneen (G4-35992).** Tyson Carlson presented. The proposal is for a 12-lot residential development in the Fowler Creek basin within the Upper Kittitas Rule area.

Tyson C. indicated that water use on 2-lots in the Palamino Field Development near Ellensburg would also be monitored. While these 2-lots are unrelated to G4-35992 or in basin mitigation, some insight may be gained by observing water use in the Lower Kittitas. Development in the Fowler Creek basin is currently limited due the prescriptive requirements in the USBR-Ecology Water Exchange Contract regarding impacts to waters containing ESA-listed fish. The overall objective of the Deneen pilot project is to accurately identify the consumptive use associated with these homes and fully offset streamflow impacts during the critical low flow period by measuring water flow into the homes and out the septic tank. The difference between inflow and outflow (the consumptive portion) will be mitigated with supplemental water delivered from an on-site cistern (20K gallons) to the project drain field. The cistern will be filled by trucking water from an existing Group A water system with capacity under existing water rights. Tyson C. and Pat D. described the advancements in membrane technology that makes more precise measurements of septic outflow and this study possible. The group discussed the on-site conditions, septic tank management, and optimism of the project generally. Ecology noted that all judgement regarding decisions or application of the collected data and interpreted results, including determining efficiencies for other projects or subbasins, will be withheld until the study is complete and the information is fully analyzed. Ecology and the Yakama Nation clarified that the results of the study would be representative of this project (low flow fixtures, no outdoor water use, careful monitoring of water use and septic tank management, etc.) and the site conditions (shallow groundwater, effective soil permeability, short flow path back to affected surface waters, etc.), and this mitigation strategy will not apply to other proposals that do not benefit from this project's favorable site conditions or meet this pilot project's design and monitoring criteria. **Thumbs up.**

Other business:

- **Kittitas County Over-The-Counter Mitigation Program (OTC) Update** – Erin Moore, presenter, unable to attend. The County's update will be moved to the next meeting.
- The group was informed that Ecology's new Permitting Unit Supervisor (Scott Turner) would be assuming the role of Ecology's lead representative to the WTWG starting next month. Submittals will continue to be sent directly to Trevor H., and Jolee R. will continue to provide support to Ecology's WTWG lead.