

Water Transfer Working Group Meeting Minutes Monday, August 7, 2017, @ 1:00 PM

Attendees:

Dave Brown, Stan Isley, Chad Stuart, Chris Lynch, Paul Dempsey, Kurt Walker, Justin Bezold, and...

On the phone were Jessica Kuchan, Tom Ring, Jonathan Kohr, and Urban Eberhart.

[NOTE: the designated call-in number didn't work, wasn't activated, so we scrambled to conference call with the four participants who e-mailed Kurt Walker that they couldn't call in to the meeting. Effective with the next WTWG meeting on August 28th, and through the April 2nd, 2018 WTWG meeting, the call-in number on the meeting agenda WILL be activated and available.

That call-in number is: (303) 445-3914, password 1245.]

- Approval of Minutes:

July 10, 2017 – the July meeting was cancelled, thus there were no meeting minutes to review.

Previous Business:

- None.

New Business:

- 2017-68 Steinberg: Ecology (Kurt Walker) presented this proposal, a water budget neutral well decision. The proposal is for one well (existing) to supply 1 domestic use and 500 ft² of lawn and garden irrigation, mitigated by the New Suncadia Water Bank's former Walker water right from the Teanaway River Subbasin with a June 30, 1883 priority date. Stan mentioned that the 1883-priority Teanaway River water rights are firm rights that were not curtailed during the 2015 drought. The new domestic use is located in the Thornton Creek area south of the Yakima River, with pumping impacts to the Yakima River and Thornton Creek. Jon confirmed there are no fish concerns in Thornton Creek. This proposal requires use of the Exchange Storage Water Contract from September 16th through March 31st. **Thumbs Up.**
- 2017-69 Hassel: Kurt presented this proposal to the group, a water budget neutral well decision. This proposal is for one well for 1 domestic use, irrigating 500 ft² of lawn and garden, using the Exchange Storage Water Contract September 1st to October 31st, mitigated by the New Suncadia Water Bank's former Walker water right from the Teanaway River Subbasin with a June 30, 1883 priority date. The place of use is immediately west of the town of Ronald, with pumping impacts to the Cle Elum River.

Dave asked why they do not instead hook up to the existing Ronald domestic water supply system – perhaps because Ronald has no additional service capacity. No local fish concerns... The group discussed whether the Exchange Contract use period for 2017-69, 2017-70, and 2017-71 should start on September 1st or September 16th (the day after the Teanaway Subbasin irrigation season ends), with the decision to start the Contract use period on September 1st. **Thumbs Up.**

- **2017-70 McCallum:** Kurt presented this proposal to the group, a water budget neutral well decision. This proposal is for one well for 1 domestic use, irrigating 500 ft² of lawn and garden, using the Exchange Storage Water Contract September 1st to March 31st, mitigated by the New Suncadia Water Bank's former Walker June 30, 1883-priority water right from the Teanaway River. The place of use is along the east side of Cle Elum Reservoir south of Morgan Creek, with pumping impacts to Cle Elum Reservoir. No local fish concerns... **Thumbs Up.**
- **2017-71 Holt:** Kurt presented this proposal to the group, a water budget neutral decision. This proposal is for one well for 1 domestic use, irrigating 500 ft² of lawn and garden, using the Exchange Storage Water Contract September 16th to March 31st, mitigated by the New Suncadia Water Bank's former Walker June 30, 1883-priority water right from the Teanaway River. The place of use is along the east side of Cle Elum Reservoir near Morgan Creek, with pumping impacts to Cle Elum Reservoir and Morgan Creek. The group noted that the Contract use should start September 1st (not Sept. 16th). No local fish concerns... **Thumbs up, with the corrected Contract use period (Sept. 1st start) and corrected Contract water quantity (0.072 af/yr).**

Next Meeting:

- August 28, 2017, Monday @ 1:00 PM, YFO Conference Room (a week early because of the Labor Day Holiday)
- New Proposals in to Ecology (Trevor Hutton) by COB Monday, August 21, 2017.
- Paul mentioned he may want to discuss a High Valley Ranch transfer in the Swauk Creek Subbasin.
- **IMPORTANT DISCUSSION:** Kurt mentioned he wants the group to have a broad discussion on August 28th about WTWG's future – an introspective review of WTWG and its review of water transfer proposals. For example: What is the desired future role for WTWG? Should individual water budget neutral (WBN) well proposals continue to be reviewed by WTWG? Does WTWG want to continue to offer preliminary vetting, advice, and suggestions, to proponents of speculative transfers before they are formal proposals? Is WTWG still operating 'within the box' or expanding its scope of review? Should WTWG continue to meet monthly? Is the WTWG review process valuable, and

should WTWG continue to operate? Kurt is looking for efficiencies, and suggestions for streamlining the WTWG review process.

2017 Future Meeting Schedule:

- August 28; October 2; November 6; December 4, 2017; January 8, 2018; February 5; March 5; April 2; May 7; June 4; and July 7, 2018, all on Monday @1:00 PM.

Meeting was adjourned.