

## Water Transfer Working Group Meeting Minutes

### Monday, August 28, 2017, @ 1:00 PM

#### Attendees:

Dave Brown, Stan Isley, Chad Stuart, Chris Lynch, Kurt Walker, Stuart Crane, Tom Ring, Jonathan Kohr, and...

On the phone: No one.

[NOTE: The call-in number on the meeting agenda was activated and available, and will remain available through the April 2, 2018 WTWG meeting.]

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

- Approval of Minutes:

August 2, 2017 – The group accepted the draft meeting minutes posted on the website.

#### Previous Business:

- None.

#### New Business:

- 2017-72 Whelan: Ecology (Kurt Walker) presented this proposal, a water budget neutral well decision. The proposal is for one well to supply 1 domestic use and 500 ft<sup>2</sup> 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. The new domestic use is located near the east bank of Cle Elum Reservoir, north of Morgan Creek, with pumping impacts to Cle Elum Reservoir. The group foresees no fish concerns. This proposal requires use of the Exchange Storage Water Contract from September 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. Stan noted there was a minor typographical error on the outdoor use calculations, and that the indicated 19.11 in/yr should correctly be 18.11 in/yr of crop irrigation water requirement for pasture/turf near Cle Elum. That would change the outdoor consumptive use to 0.020 ac-ft/yr, but the indicated total consumptive use would remain correct, as indicated, at 0.138 ac-ft/yr. **Thumbs Up.**
- 2017-73 Bennett: Kurt presented this proposal to the group, a water budget neutral well decision. This proposal is for one well (proposed) for 1 domestic use, with no (0 ft<sup>2</sup>) outdoor irrigation, using the Exchange Storage Water Contract September 16<sup>th</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup>, mitigated by the Bourne Water Bank (a former Teanaway River irrigation water right) with a June 30, 1886 priority date. The place of use is along the west side of the Teanaway River Road, with Mack Creek running through the place of use. [NOTE: Stan mentioned that the map incorrectly labels this creek as Musser Creek, but the Washington State Board of Geographic Names, last year, adopted the name correction

to Mack Creek for this creek. The real Musser Creek discharges into the Teanaway River's left bank about a mile upstream of Mack Creek's confluence with the Teanaway River.] Pumping impacts are predicted to capture water that would otherwise to the Teanaway River, and may capture water that would otherwise discharge to Mack Creek. Jon noted that this proposal would affect flows in lower Mack Creek, and that fish habitat improvements are currently being considered for lower Mack Creek. Dave asked if the proponents could enter an agreement with the upstream Mack Creek Ranch to pump Teanaway River water to augment Mack Creek flows to mitigate for these pumping impacts and flow reductions to lower Mack Creek. Tom said he could not agree to this proposal today if it includes fish impacts. Tom asked Kurt if well construction and casing requirements through underlying lacustrine deposits could shift all pumping impacts to the Teanaway River only (not Mack Creek). Jon asked if Ecology would defer its decision on this proposal until the next WTWG meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, which would allow Jon to inspect lower Mack Creek and determine its fish and habitat value. Kurt agreed to defer Ecology's decision until October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and said he would call both Jon and Tom in a couple of weeks to discuss this proposal further, prior to the next WTWG meeting. This proposal would require payment of \$500.00 to the Teanaway local mitigation fund. **No decision; deferred until October 2, 2017 WTWG meeting.**

#### Next Meeting:

- October 2, 2017, Monday @ 1:00 PM, YFO Conference Room.
- New Proposals in to Ecology (Trevor Hutton) by COB Monday, September 25, 2017.
- **IMPORTANT DISCUSSION:** Kurt and Chad mentioned they want the group to have a broad discussion on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, with Trevor Hutton (Water Resources Section Manager in Ecology's Union Gap office) in attendance, 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 & 2018 Future Meeting Schedule:

- 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.