

Water Transfer Working Group Meeting Minutes Monday, November 5, 2018, @ 1:00 PM

Attendees:

In the room: Doug Call, Dave Brown, Paul Dempsey, Erin Moore, Samantha Cox, Stuart Crane, Scott Turner, Jolee Ramos, and Chris Kossik

On the phone: Meghan O'Brien, Mark Crowley, and Peter Dykstra

Approval of Minutes:

October 2018 – The group approved the draft meeting minutes posted on the website.

Previous Business:

- **2019-03 – Wooden Shoe (CS4-01180sb12@2 (KIT-18-02)).** Scott Turner presented. The revised proposal included numbers added to Parker/Prosser target flows as requested by USBR. The subject proposal figures are in the top row of the revised table. USBR was satisfied with the numbers. Ecology refined the POU down to the retained portion (1.3 acres). Yakama Nation requested confirmation of KRD/West Side rights on the property and Ecology confirmed. *Ecology also confirmed the water placed in TWRP is the mitigation as stated, in response to WDFW's question. **** Thumbs up.**

New Business:

- **2019-04 – Allison (G4-35974).** Scott Turner presented. The proposal is a permit for one residential connection at 250 gpd used year round. There is no outdoor irrigation. The Exchange Contract won't be used because it is below the potentially-affected irrigation districts and downstream of any winter target flows maintained by Reclamation. Hydrogeology review suggests impacts to the Yakima River and possibly to Badger Creek. *WDFW notes ESA listed steelhead have been documented in the lower reach and their indications and discussions state no flow and degraded (little to no) habitat." ****Thumbs up.**
- **2019-05 – Thayer (G4-35949).** Chris Kossik presented. The proposal is for one residential connection at 275 gpd used year round and 500 square feet of lawn and garden irrigation, mitigated by Kittitas County's Amerivest right (CS4-01968sb11a(Bb)). The Exchange Contract won't be used because it is below the irrigation districts and winter target flows. Hydrogeology review shows the impacts would hit the Yakima River, but no severe pumping interference or adverse impacts to existing users are expected. *WDFW noted they don't have ESA listed species presence in Shushuskin Canyon documented and also that there is potential return flow at the lower end downstream of the KRD canal. ****Thumbs up.**
- **2019-06 – Accurate Development (G4-35990).** Chris Kossik presented. The proposal is for two residential connections with 275 gpd used year round and 500 square feet of lawn and garden irrigation each. The proposal is mitigated by Kittitas County's Roth right (CS4-01676sb5d@2b(B)). The Exchange Contract will be used from August 1 through March 31.
 - * Jonathan Kohr submitted comments and questions on behalf of WDFW prior to the meeting via email.
 - ** Yakama Nation thumbs up are given on the presumption that the proposal calculations are correct.

Hydrogeology review suggests impacts will hit the Yakima River, but no severe pumping interference or impairment to existing users is expected. *WDFW notes, “Staff have reviewed Thornton Creek up-and-downstream of the KRD crossing and have not identified or documented any ESA listed species. Nor have we found water in either reach, especially in the area of the proposed WBN.” **** Thumbs up.**

- **2019-07 – Hancock (G4-35997).** Chris Kossik presented. The proposal is for one residential connection at 275 gpd used year round with 500 square feet of lawn and garden irrigation, mitigated by Kittitas County’s Roth right (CS4-01676sb5d@2b(B)). The Exchange Contract will be used from August 1 to March 31. Impacts are expected to hit the Yakima River and possibly Nelson Creek, but no severe pumping interference or impairment to existing users is expected. *WDFW notes:

“It appears that impacts will be to Nelson Creek from this WBN. An old water right downstream that we know of is likely abandoned due to non-use for quite some time now. There are likely (but not documented) ESA-listed steelhead near the mouth but too many barriers at I-90 and Iron Horse trail and degraded habitat. Future efforts may change our assessments in the future...”

Yakama Nation noted that curtailment could occur if there is a water shortage. ****Thumbs up, with provision.**

- **2019-08 – Metz (G4-35998).** Chris Kossik presented. The proposal is for one residential connection at 275 gpd used year round with 500 square feet of lawn and garden irrigation, mitigated by Kittitas County’s Roth right (CS4-01676sb5d@2b(B)). The Exchange Contract will be used from August 1 to March 31. Impacts are expected to hit the Yakima River, but no severe pumping interference or impairment to existing users is expected. *WDFW notes their concern would be for hits to the Peterson or Spex Arth Creeks and they would take issue with direct hits to Peterson Creek. Yakama Nation added they share the same concern. ****Thumbs up.**
- **2019-09 – Malcolm (G4-36007).** Chris Kossik presented. The proposal is for one residential connection at 275 gpd used year round with 500 square feet of lawn and garden irrigation, mitigated by Kittitas County’s Roth right (CS4-01676sb5d@2b(B)). The Exchange Contract will be used from August 1 to March 31. Impacts are expected to hit the Yakima River and possibly the unnamed tributary west of Tillman Creek, but no severe pumping interference or impairment to existing users is expected. *WDFW notes that the parcel is upstream of the KRD canal and they have not found water upstream. The WBN will likely have impacts to the unnamed creek, which has 3 cfs allotted to Tillman Creek from it. ****Thumbs up.**
- **2019-10 – Kittitas County (Papineau) (CS4-00535sb9).** Erin Moore presented. Kittitas County acquired the water right for their back mitigation program, and there is no forward mitigation anticipated from the transfer. The source of the water is Spring Creek. The CFO awarded 2.175 cfs to the right; 0.88 cfs is recommended in the transfer. The CFO awarded an annual quantity of 706.061 with 181.41 ac-ft/yr recommended in the transfer. The water will be managed in accordance with the County’s existing trust water right agreement with Ecology. Yakama Nation and WDFW thumbs up are given on the presumption that the proposal calculations are correct. **Thumbs up, with provision.**

* Jonathan Kohr submitted comments and questions on behalf of WDFW prior to the meeting via email.

** Yakama Nation thumbs up are given on the presumption that the proposal calculations are correct.

- **2019-11 – Smith (G4-35986).** Scott Turner presented. The proposal is for one residential connection at 275 gpd used year round with 500 square feet of lawn and garden irrigation. The Exchange Contract will be used from August 1 through March 31. The applicant is connecting to an existing well with an existing water system with DOH approval. The withdrawal will likely capture groundwater that otherwise would discharge to the lower Cle Elum River and the Yakima River. *WDFW notes that previous reviews show little impact to ESA-listed species if they are present. ****Thumbs up.**

Other business:

- **Proposed WTWG meetings dates for 2019.** The proposed meetings dates for 2019 were agreed to, with the provision that they may change as needed. Those dates are: January 7, February 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3, July 1, August 5, August 26 (for September), October 7, November 4, and December 2, all at 1pm.
- **A question was posed regarding CU requirements related to domestic use.**
- **A question was posed regarding what does and does not come to WTWG.**

NOTE: In February 2018, Ecology proposed streamlined processing for WBN permits. The group gave their thumbs up to the proposal. The memo also referenced the group's previous agreement for streamlined processing of WBN determinations. The memo can be found at the February 2018 memorandum [link](#). It is Ecology's understanding that anything beyond the scope described in the memo should be brought to the group.

NOTE: After the meeting, Stan provided feedback on the calculations. All calculations checked out. The only change Stan offered was that the storage exchange contract usage period for the 2019-11 Smith proposal should be 8/01-3/31 (not 9/01-3/31), and this will therefore increase the amount of water assigned to the contract for the Smith proposal.

* Jonathan Kohr submitted comments and questions on behalf of WDFW prior to the meeting via email.

** Yakama Nation thumbs up are given on the presumption that the proposal calculations are correct.