

Water Transfer Working Group Meeting Minutes Monday, January 7, 2019, @ 1:00 PM

Attendees:

In the room: Chuck Garner, Jon Kohr, Stan Isley, Dave Brown, Larry Martin, Jolee Ramos, Trevor Hutton, Chris Kossik, Stuart Crane, Scott Turner, Jessica Kuchan

On the phone: Peter Dykstra, Kerrie Mathews, Tom Ring, Mark Crowley, Erin Moore, Samantha Cox

- Approval of Minutes:

December 2018 – WDFW had minor corrections to the minutes as noted below. The group approved the draft meeting minutes posted on the website with those corrections.

- Correction to 2019-12. Instead of “no hydraulic project approvals” in the drainage, the language should read “no known hydraulic project approvals”.
- Correction to 2019-13. Instead of “approximately 17 barriers” the language should read “there are a number of barriers”.

Previous Business:

- **Kittitas County OTC Amendment 2018.** WDFW and Yakama Nation expressed concern for approvals in areas where the red and yellow zones meet. WDFW is compiling their concerns and will distribute the document to the group. Yakama Nation expressed they understood the previous permit approval area to match what existed through the OTC program, and expressed concern about leapfrogging approvals now for WBNs to match the areas approved for permits. Ecology noted that the maps change based on Ecology’s evolving understanding of the area hydrogeology. The group requested a map showing which parcels actually require a permit and which ones do not. Kittitas County will distribute that to the group. WDFW, Yakama Nation, and other interested parties will meet with the County for further discussion. The group will continue discussion of the requested amendments at the February meeting.
- **2019-13 – Cardwell (G4-36008).** Yakama Nation requested that language regarding the possibility of future curtailment of this water use in favor of other senior-priority water rights be included in the decision and Ecology noted the language is included with all WBN determinations.

New Business:

- 2019-15 – Jelenek (G4-36025). Chris Kossik presented. The proposal is for two residential connections, each at 350 gpd, used year round with 500 square feet each of lawn and garden irrigation, mitigated by Swiftwater Ranch’s right (CS4-02255(A)CTCL@2). The exchange contract will be used to address out of season impacts (9/1-3/31). Pumping impacts are expected to hit the Yakima River. **Thumbs up.**

- 2019-16 – Roan (G4-35766). Chris Kossik presented. The proposal is for one residential connection at 350 gpd used year round with 500 square feet of lawn and garden irrigation, mitigated by Roan’s First Creek right (CS4-00648(AA)sb4-b). The Exchange Contract won’t be used. There are no other surface water rights associated with the property. The mitigating water right’s benefit is down First Creek in the Swauk Creek subbasin, not down Reecer Creek where this proposed well is located. Ecology believes the use can be adequately mitigated. Yakama Nation expressed concern with language that water would be “available without serious injury to existing water rights” noted in the technical memo regarding the hydrogeology of the area to be penetrated by the proposed new well, when the legal standard is impairment. **Thumbs up.**

Other business:

- The group discussed red and yellow zone applications in general, and noted the distinction in applications in the upper as opposed to the lower county. Ecology will continue to bring red and yellow zone applications to the group on a case by case basis.