

Water Transfer Working Group Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 3, 2020, @ 1:00 PM

Attendees:

In the room: Danielle Squeochs, Dave Brown, Stuart Crane, Chuck Garner, Jonathan Kohr, Jolee Ramos, Chris Kossik, Scott Turner, David Reavell, Dan Haller, Ingrid Ekstrom, Nathan Draper, Larry Martin
On the phone: Erin Moore, Urban Eberhart

Approval of Minutes:

- December 2, 2019 – The group approved the draft meeting minutes posted on the website.

New Business:

- **2020-19 – Wilson (G4-36080).** Chris Kossik presented. The proposal is for one residential connection with 500 square feet of lawn and garden irrigation, mitigated by Kittitas County's Roth right (CS4-01676sb5d@2b(B)), originally diverted from the Teanaway River. The exchange contract will be used to address out of season impacts (8/1-3/31). Pumping impacts are expected to Thornton Creek and the Yakima River, but are not expected to impair existing rights. WDFW briefly mentioned their work related to Thornton Creek. **Thumbs up.**
- **2020-20 – Kurz (G4-36081).** Chris Kossik presented. The proposal is for one residential connection 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 to address out of season impacts (8/1-3/31). Pumping impacts are expected to Yakima River, but are not expected to impair existing rights. WDFW noted they have sampled in the area, but no future studies are planned at this time. **Thumbs up.**
- **2020-21 – Jones (G4-36083).** Chris Kossik presented. The proposal is for one residential connection with 500 square feet of lawn and garden irrigation, mitigated by Suncadia's Teanaway River right (CS4-02255(A)CTCL). The exchange contract will be used to address out of season impacts (9/1-3/31). Pumping impacts are expected to Nelson Creek and the Yakima River, but are not expected to impair existing rights. WDFW noted there are barriers and blockages near the mouth. There may be *O. mykiss* in the lower portion. **Thumbs up.**
- **2020-22 – Tallman (G4-36085) \ 2020-23 – Tallman (G4-36086).** Chris Kossik presented these two proposals together. These proposals are for one residential connection each with 500 square feet of lawn and garden irrigation each, mitigated by Suncadia's Teanaway River right (CS4-02255(A)CTCL). The exchange contract will be used to address out of season impacts (9/1-3/31). Pumping impacts are expected to the unnamed creek west of Tillman Creek and the Yakima River, but are not expected to impair existing rights. **Thumbs up.**

Previous Business:

- **2020-15 / 2020-16 / 2020-17 – Selah Moxee Irrigation District (CS4-84594-J / CS4-84595-J / S4-33241).** Dan Haller and Ingrid Ekstrom of Aspect Consulting (Aspect) presented these three proposals together. They outlined the challenges and compliance issues Selah Moxee Irrigation District (the District) is trying to address with these changes. The District and Aspect have created a permitting compliance strategy and water banking plan and are addressing them simultaneously through these actions. Aspect outlined the District's existing water rights and changes to irrigated lands within the District that make water available for transfer to the Trust Water Rights Program. They plan to front load ROEs and provide them to Ecology. In the ROEs, they intend to create provisions that will address periodic audits of the District's consumptive use and reporting to preserve the water balance. The District is also discussing staggered long-term lease arrangements. To address the upstream transfer, they have proposed reductions in diversion authorization during fish critical times, where they would not exceed the historically diverted rate. They also briefly discussed their banking plan with discrete permitting actions no more than quarterly. They currently have one potential customer from the proposed bank and have been in discussion with others. The next steps in the project are the public notice, SEPA, and draft ROE comment periods. Portions of the permitting actions are within the scope of the WTWG group and some are not. Given that, Aspect and the District are asking for comments, not a thumbs up.

The group raised a variety of questions, which garnered discussion and led Aspect and the District to clarify:

- Benton County is their only customer at this point.
- They are keeping a big cushion of water for the District's uses to allow for crop changes and because they don't want to short District members.
- The only intervening user between the Pomona and Hubbard diversions is the Taylor Ditch.
- The District will not reduce their acreage by the amount fallowed. It will be moved to other locations.
- They believe the project is compliant with state law.

The Yakama Nation noted they appreciated the fish window consideration within the proposal, but if asked, would be unable to give a thumbs up because there is not acre for acre fallowing. Representatives suggested that more detail about the consumptive use audits going forward would be helpful. It could be essential to determining adequacy.

WDFW echoed the Yakama Nation, but also noted that there is opportunity to do good with the water and that it may fit within the scope of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan.

Other business:

- None