

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

Attendees:

In the room: Jonathan Kohr, Chuck Garner, Chris Kossik, Erin Moore, Samantha Cox, Jolee Ramos, Scott Turner, Debi Freudenthal, Damon Roberts, Dave Brown, Tyson Carlson, Ingrid Ekstrom, Kurt Walker, Tom Hastings, Kerrie Mathews; Stan Isley, Trevor Hutton; Danielle Squeochs; Larry Martin; Stuart Crane

On the phone: None

Approval of Minutes:

- July 1, 2019 – The group approved the draft meeting minutes posted to the website with correction to the file numbers listed on page 3, line 11. Final minutes with the correction will be posted to the website.
- August 5, 2019 – The group approved the draft meeting minutes with minor changes proposed by Stan Isley. Updated, final minutes will be posted to the website.

Previous Business:

- None

New Business:

- **2020-01 – WSDOT (CS4-00366CTCLsb9@2).** Debi Freudenthal presented. WSDOT is permanently transferring 113 consumptive acre-feet of water to the Trust Water Rights Program (TWRP) for instream flow and mitigation use. The right has been temporarily donated to the TWRP for the last ten years for the same amount and purposes. A tentative determination of the extent and validity was done at that time. The previous diversions under the right have been removed. WSDOT has used the water for I-90 construction project mitigation using temporary diversions from Keechelus Lake during the ten-year period the right was in the TWRP. WSDOT intends to use the water to mitigate for additional construction and rest area mitigation needs they have identified. The group briefly discussed the other projects that will be mitigated by this transfer and future WSDOT needs. Ecology noted applications using this water for mitigation will be brought to the group. The group questioned if any of the consumptive water was still being used for the Nile landslide project. WSDOT confirmed they didn't use any water for that temporary use this year, and will close out their temporary uses and remove the Keechelus Lake diversion. USBR staff clarified in an email after the meeting that the Yakima Field Office's previous concerns raised when the project was brought to the group in 2017 have been addressed and resolved. **Thumbs up.**

- **2020-02 – Miller (G4-36043)**
- **2020-03 – Metz (G4-36048)**
- **2020-04 – Stokke (G4-36049)**
- **2020-05 – Call (G4-36051)**
- **2020-06 – Elward (G4-36055)**

These proposals were presented together. WDFW noted that some of these areas are adjacent to irrigated parcels and wanted to know what steps were being taken to make sure no irrigation beyond what is authorized was occurring under these rights. Kittitas County noted they are closely monitoring the metering submissions. Stan Isley noted that in the hydrogeology review section of the project descriptions, Ecology used the phrase “impacts are not expected to be severe” and noted the word “severe” is subjective. Ecology noted that in the future, reviews will note in approvals that there may be impacts, but impacts are not expected to rise to the level of impairment.

Thumbs up to all.

- **2020-07 – Snoqualmie Pass Utility District (G4-36034).** Tyson Carlson presented. He provided a brief overview of the district and their service area and infrastructure. Currently, they collect and convey sewer water to lagoons near the Hyak area and after primary treatment, the sewage goes to a spray field. The District is making efforts to avoid using the spray field by transferring to a membrane bio reactor with effluent discharge to Coal Creek near Hyak. The proposed water right requests up to four wells on the Kittitas side of the service area to satisfy the District’s need of 246 ac-ft/yr for the near future. The right would be mitigated by foreign return flow, all sources originating from King County. The impacts would be to Coal Creek and lower Gold Creek. The District has the ability to store and release 40 ac-ft/yr through the use of the existing lagoons, which would allow them to supplement up to 0.9 cfs for up to 30 days in the late season. The water right would be provisioned to allocate consumptive use backed by meter records. The District plans to prioritize the current water use from its existing certificates from the South Fork Snoqualmie River drainage (WRIA 7). The Group discussed the District’s plans to remain within their allotment. The District recently underwent a well consolidation and an extent and validity review was done as part of that. The Yakama Nation questioned if foreign return flow from outside the Yakima River Basin was appropriate for the group’s vote and given that it was more in line with an interbasin transfer declined to weigh in. **The group is not giving a recommendation.**
- **Kittitas County Biannual Over-The-Counter (OTC) Program Update.** Erin Moore presented. They have issued 49 certificates through their OTC program, mostly through the Reecer Creek water bank. They are under projected amounts in most areas. The group discussed the maps provided and some points of clarification. Kittitas County staff noted where the certificates may be issued but not being used yet and which were still pending Ecology’s processes.
- **2019 Lower Kittitas County Permit Exempt Update.** Trevor Hutton presented. The request is for an expansion to the green zone specifically for Lower Kittitas County, including areas outside the margin of the Kittitas Reclamation District Canal as shown in the map provided. If approved, Kittitas County will then request that these areas be

approved for the OTC Program. Ecology is comfortable turning those areas green. The Group requested the GIS layer. Ecology will distribute that to the Group. The Group discussed the boundaries of red and green areas. The group discussed the suitability of the Manastash area turning green. Stan Isley noted the same “severe impact” phrasing in the narrative regarding the green zone expansion and Ecology noted they would incorporate the earlier adjustment in language to their analyses. **The Group requested additional time to review the map and GIS information.**

Other business:

- None