

Water Transfer Work Group Meeting Minutes

March 5th, 2012 @ 1:00PM

Attendees: Dave Brown, Stuart Crane, Melissa Downes, Chuck Garner, Teresa Hauser, Stan Isley, Paul LaRiviere, Walt Larrick, Chris Lynch, Larry Martin, Jason McCormick, Tom Ring, Ron Van Gundy, Anne Watanabe.

Approval of Minutes: They were approved and everyone was reminded to send in any changes that need to be made to mdestito@usbr.gov within the week and the changes will be made and the minutes reposted.

Previous Proposal:

2011-11 – Hood/Suncadia: Melissa clarified a few points from last meeting. This proposal was on the coat tails of Roslyn. The biological assessment for Roslyn noted that there was no ESA species present in Domerie Creek, therefore for this request the protocol is satisfied in the Bureau-Ecology Storage contract and they did not need to do a consultation. Walt asked if there were fish issues and Paul did not object. The group gave this a “Thumbs up Recommendation”.

New Proposals:

2012-19 – WWT/Teaway Valley Family: Jason explained this is a donation of 150.63 acre-feet of water saved from an irrigation efficiencies program project (IEGP). They have not used water since 2004 when the center pivot was installed. He explained the attached spreadsheet of their water rights. Stan asked about the corner leased water and the late season leased water. The water in this proposal does not include any of the non-consumptive that has already been protected. Melissa asked about the quantity and if the water is above and beyond what is in the lease and Jason confirmed that is was. Paul asked if they had considered trying to modify their IEGP contract to show that they are going to put water instream. He explained that they are trying to get points (credits) in the federal programs for instream flow. Stan brought up that the calculations are a little off and need to be corrected. Tom said he would like to see where the primary reach is and Jason said he would make note of it. Tom asked if there are any Parker implications and Jason responded that this water is primary reach water only and would not carry past Parker.

The group gave this a “Thumbs up Recommendation”.

2012-20 – WWT/Eckman: Jason explained this is a 15 year lease of 18.3 acres totaling 73.2 acre feet on a Teaway subbasin water right that was previously in the state trust water program through 2009. It was not used or in trust in 2010-2011. Now they want to lease the water and put it back in trust for instream flow use. Melissa wanted to know if it was set for a hearing and Jason said they had until the 18th to get it on the court docket. Tom was asking about the primary reach and secondary reach and requested that information be put on and added to other transfer proposals in the future.

The group gave this a “Thumbs up Recommendation”.

2012-22 – WWT/Masterson: Jason explained this is an amendment of an existing OPL dated Aug 11, 2011. They would like to amend it to include Laura Masterson. It will include 1 additional acre for a total of 155 acres fallowed under this water right for the purposes of a 2011-2015 instream flow lease. This is a five year lease that was previously approved. The Estate may request a division of the water right from the court. Tom wanted primary and secondary information added.

The group gave this a “Thumbs up Recommendation”.

2012-21 - R&R Heights Land Company: Anne explained that this application is to bring mitigation water to 10 Residential Units and 1 acre of outdoor irrigation. The total consumptive use will be 2.84 acre feet per year. Ann had previously brought to the group the application to bring the mitigation water into the trust program for banking. There is an existing agreement with the Department of Ecology for the water that is in the bank. The site location is just past Roslyn before you hit Ronald. There was a question on the one acre of total irrigation; each unit will receive 1/10 of the acre; the location has not been determined.

The group gave this a “Thumbs up Recommendation”.

2012-23 - Crushe LLC: Anne explained Crushe LLC is a partial owner of the water rights, owning about 50% of the irrigated lands. They want to take their portion of the water rights, fallow the irrigated acreage, and put the water in Ecology’s trust water program for water banking use. It will be about 300 acre feet total water, including both consumptive and non consumptive water portions. The consumptive portion is yet to be determined. This is outside the boundaries of the area defined in the upper Kittitas County ground water rule that requires mitigation for new uses. The future place of use will be where mitigation banking is required and will go through the Bureau Contract. Anne explained she was bringing this proposal to the group today for a preliminary discussion only, and that she will bring this back to the group in the future for a decision, with quantities defined, etc. Tom thought it should come back with consumptive and non-consumptive quantities and primary and secondary reaches defined. Paul asked if the area would be fallowed, Anne said it would, and the technical analysis is being done. It is owned by Red Hot Properties LLC. They don’t have dual, overlapping water rights, and this is their only source of water.

Other: Melissa stated that their Kittitas Water Exchange website has been updated with current storage contract accounting. The spreadsheet has all the water budget neutral water requests that have been approved with the quantities and the water bank debits associated with them. The total is 228.9 acre-feet credited to the contract to date – with 1000 acre-feet being the storage limit in the Reclamation-Ecology storage contract. Out of the 228.9 acre-feet total, 185 acre-feet are associated with the City of Roslyn, leaving approximately 44 acre-feet of storage associated with water budget neutral-type determinations, of which 26 acre-feet are associated with WSDOT temporary uses. The link is http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/cro/wb_trac.html

The meeting ended at 1:50 with the remark that the September meeting has been changed to August 27th 2012.

