Water Transfer Working Group
Minutes for the 1:00 PM, February 3, 2014

Attendees: Stuart Crane, Bill Ferry, Chuck Garner, Anna Hoselton, Stan Isley, Paul LaRiviere, Larry Martin, Teresa Merriman, Sage Park, Scott Revell, Tom Ring, Tom Tebb, Scott Turner, Candis Graff, Ron Van Gundy, Anne Watanabe (Telephonically), Nea Welch-Timmons.

Chuck opened the meeting at 1:05 PM, asking for the approval of the January 6, 2014 meeting minutes. The group approved the January meeting minutes.

Tom Tebb from Ecology wants the 2005 State drought response procedures forwarded to him. WTWG meetings may need to be more often, preparing for a potential of drought. "4 million dollar emergency drought account". Paul LaRiviere asked if this funding was in the drought account now? Tom T. replied that the legislature will need to appropriate funds this session to the drought account. We will be working with the State, WDFW, Yakama Nation and Reclamation. $300,000.00 in account long term stable funding. Prepare for drought, need education outreach to Irrigation Districts....Ramping up, short term transfers – Court & WTWG convening on a 1-2 week basis as in 2005... Need drought declaration by Governor. Should likely notify Judge Gavin – regarding schedule, it could be very tight. AG's office contact – Steve North.

Chuck proceeded to the next agenda item of new proposals:

2014-19 – CS4-01832sb9 (Carlson) - Larry Martin, representing Ron and Toni Carlson, presented the proposal to add 2 downstream points of diversion (POD) to this existing Wilson-Naneum Creek water right for the use 600 AF/y for irrigation and stock water and 5.0 acre-feet/year (afy) of water for winter stock water. Carlson received his initial OPL approval from the Acquavella Court on April 11, 2013, for adding these 2 POD's on a temporary basis, adding the Adams and Keister-Bull Ditches as additional POD. Carlsons seek permanent approval to use the three ditches. It was approved by the group.

2014-20 - G4-35665 WWT/Masterson Water Bank (Murray & Yacht) – Sage Park presented this proposal for Jason McCormick; for use of 0.414 acre-feet/year (afy) of mitigation water from the Washington Water Trust/Masterson Water Bank. The request is for one residential connection at 350 gallons per day used continuously year round. Requestor proposes to irrigate 500 sq ft of lawn and garden. The subject parcel is located north of the Teanaway River, in the lower Teanaway River Valley. This is assigned to the Bureau of Reclamation – DOE Exchange Contract from 9/16 to 10/31 to mitigate for impacts along the Yakima River. The group gave the proposal a thumbs up.

2014-21 – G4-35650 – Swiftwater Ranch LLC Water Bank (Moshier and Campbell) - Sage Park presented this proposal for Traci Shallbetter, to use 0.414 acre-feet per year (afy) of mitigation water from the Swiftwater Ranch LLC Water Bank for a single residential connection at 350 gpd used continuously year round and 500 ft^2 of seasonal irrigation of lawn and garden (this is a well that has not been drilled yet). This proposal may result in impacts to the unnamed creek located NW of Price Creek or Lake Keechelus. This proposal is assigned to the Bureau of Reclamation – DOE Exchange Contract from 9/16 to 3/31 to mitigate for out-of-irrigation-season

impacts to the Yakima River. The subject parcel is located near the east bank of Keechelus Lake. Thumbs Up.

2014-22 – G4-35664 – Clennon Trust Water Bank (Willette) - Sage Park presented this proposal to use 0.635 acre-feet per year (afy) of the Clennon Trust Water Right to mitigate for a groundwater well supply for a single indoor domestic connection year-round and irrigation of 4,000 ft^2 of lawn and garden. This proposal will utilize the USBR-Ecology Exchange Contract from 9/16 to 3/31 to mitigate for possible impacts to the Yakima River which is located approximately 4,500 feet to the south of the Willette property. The Willette property is located in the main stem Yakima River Valley roughly 2 miles east of the city of Cle Elum. Proposal was given the Thumbs up.

2014-23 – G4-35643 – Reecer Golf Course Water Bank (SC Aggregate) - Sage Park presented this proposal, which is a request to authorize a 'general permit' for in-house domestic supply only (i.e., no irrigation) for 1,200 domestic water connections, mitigated by water from the SC Aggregate Reecer Creek Golf Course Water Bank. The proposed place of use would be in the lower Kittitas Valley surrounding the City of Ellensburg. The group had a wide-ranging discussion of the pros and cons of this proposal, and the need to ensure no impairment of existing water rights in the tributary streams within the place of use. Recommended to have this proposal be returned to the WTWG for further discussion.

2014-24 – CG4-25323C@1 – Robert R. Fergus (ADH Home Ranches) - Sage Park presented this proposal to change the place of use and season of use of the Robert R. Fergus water right, located south of Mabton, which the Yakima County Water Conservancy Board tentatively determined is valid for 1,280 gpm, 460 af/yr, for irrigation of 140 acres. The applicant is seeking to change the place of use to add irrigated acres; changing the irrigated crop from cherries to grapes and increasing place of use from 140 acres to 305 acres without increasing the annual quantity of water use. The applicant is also requesting the April 1 to October 31 season of use be extended to run from February 15 to November 30. Bill Ferry stated that there was no mitigation for this correct? Yes, that's correct. Stan Isley noted this well was originally permitted in 1977, during the 1977 drought era. The group suggested the Old Indian Treaty Boundary should be looked at to address whether this well is located within the Yakama Reservation. Tom Ring asked if it was a primary water right. Sage stated that it is a valid right – not an emergency drought water right, it's a primary 1977 ground water right. Tom Ring suggested this does not meet WTWG criteria and it's not inside the 'box' and said he cannot give this proposal a thumbs up because the YN does not believe in water spreading. The group made no recommendation for this proposal.

The next meeting is set for March 3, 2014 at 1:00 PM.

Chuck adjourned the meeting at 2:28 PM.