

Water Transfer Working Group Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 4, 2013, 1:00 PM  
US Bureau of Reclamation YFO Conference Room

Attendees: Dave Brown, Stuart Crane, Bill Ferry (by phone), Chuck Garner, Carron Helberg, Stan Isley, Paul LaRiviere, Chris Lynch, Teresa Merriman, Sage Park, Tom Ring.

Chuck opened the meeting with the approval of the December 3, 2012 meeting minutes, which Stan confirmed he reviewed, and with no changes from the group the minutes were accepted. Chuck continued with the agenda to new proposals, as there were no previous proposals to discuss.

**2013-13 Childs** – Sage began by explaining this proposal represents one residential connection of 350 gallons per day indoor use and 150 square feet of outdoor use for lawn and garden, which results in 0.123 acre feet per year of total annual consumptive use. The requestor proposes to mitigate a portion of this consumptive use through the USBR/Ecology Exchange Contract to address the out-of-season consumptive use of 0.068 acre feet from September 16 through March 31. Stan commented he had discussed this with Kurt Walker, and that on page two of the proposal, the March 31st date should be April 30<sup>th</sup>, as the Teanaway irrigation season starts on May 1<sup>st</sup>. He also talked about the research he had done on how many past storage control dates had occurred in April (3 times since 1970). Bill asked the question per the exchange contract, the first fill and spill of the reservoirs is the end of the stored mitigation water supply from the previous year, and the exchange contract does not provide for storing the previous year's mitigation water past March 31st, so there would be no stored mitigation water to deliver from the reservoirs in April. Stan said in a drought year, the reservoirs would not be filling completely, so there would be no fill and spill of the mitigation water stored from the previous year, with Teresa saying the storage control date resets the clock. Paul said they have talked about lots of past local mitigation options in the Teanaway because it is so limited, and we have said no to proposals before, but if mitigation gets fish benefits, he prefers kind for kind. He is ok with this one as long as it stays within the guidelines, and Childs has agreed to contribute \$500.00 to the local mitigation account held by Kittitas Conservation Trust to fund an upstream Teanaway habitat improvement project. Tom added that none of these water budget neutral determinations equals accepting impairment, and if folks need to shut down due to drought conditions, they need to shut down. There is an attempt to work with large property owners to improve conditions around the streams. In terms of neutrality and the fact that it is coming from the Masterson water right, any unmitigated new water use would have to be curtailed. Dave, Stan and Tom talked about water metering and how other systems are configured. Bill commented that Reclamation will store water until the beginning of the subsequent water season or until the reservoirs are filled; at the time of first fill or April 1<sup>st</sup>, that ends the exchange contract storage season, but would like to talk about this further. Stan talked about the timing of the flow in April and how there would be no impairment to other water rights. Bill talked about the source of the new season's mitigation water beginning May 1<sup>st</sup> and asked why impairment is the test and where the mitigation would come from for April. Tom added that the solution is a math calculation and some issues on the exchange contract would still need to be worked out to ensure full mitigation for the proposed new use every year. Stan and Tom talked about how it would not affect TWSA at Parker on an annualized basis and how a ratio adjustment to the total

mitigation water debited from the Masterson water bank mitigation water right would be calculated, with Ecology continuing to talk about the implementation details. Bill was in agreement. The group gave this proposal a thumbs-up recommendation.

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM.

Chuck adjourned the meeting at 1:45 PM.