WTWG Meeting Minutes, Monday, April 4, 2011, at 1:00 PM

Attendees: Bob Barwin, Dave Brown, Stuart Crane, Melissa Downes, Ingrid Ekstrom, Bill Ferry, Chuck Garner, Teresa Hauser, Carron Helberg, Stan Isley, Jessica Kuchan (phone), Paul LaRiviere, Walter Larrick, Chris Lynch, Jason McCormick, Tom Ring, Traci Shallbetter (phone), Ron Van Gundy, Kurt Walker.

Previous Meeting Minutes

Walt asked for any corrections or comments on the previous minutes for February and March, with Melissa stating a correction to February's on 2011-25 comments for Starkovich referencing Taneum should be Teanaway. Also March's had a correction to the first sentence referring to March should have been April. The group had no other comments, but gave Jessica Kuchan the opportunity for Joe Mentor to comment on them. If no comments, they will be accepted as written.

Previous Proposals

2010-42 Roan: Bob Barwin started with explaining this, talking about First Creek water rights, provisions to hold back/change a portion of this winter stock water right as winter consumptive use water, matched with the summer time irrigation right to create a year-round mitigation water right. He explained how this was done, without using the exchange contract. This proposal accounts for 33 acre feet year round, the cows were sold, 8.3 acres are fallowed, and the water is to be used to mitigate for local flow impacts in the Swauk Basin. This proposal is back before the group because the numbers increased, but nothing else. The group gave this proposal a thumbs-up recommendation.

2011-03 Hamberlin & 2011-18 Staenberg: It is still pending and Tom will review, to come back later. The group discussed when info might be available and when this could come back for a decision on this proposal; or alternatively the proponent could put together a mitigation package to ensure no local flow impacts occur; and maybe the currently unknown flow data can be attained in the upcoming season. Spring Creek and other streams are in this category. Jessica asked to have it stay on the agenda for the next WTWG meeting.

2011-25 Starkovich: The group briefly discussed this as water budget neutral, and would discuss below in conjunction with the Teanaway other issues.

New Proposals

2011-31 Ragen: Jason McCormick explained this proposal. It has been in the trust in the past and this is a renewal of putting this water in the trust water program. The group gave this a thumbs-up recommendation.

2011-32 Person: Kurt from Ecology explained the numbers on the water budget neutrality, it is for a single family home, 500 sq ft. Melissa said it is in the hatched army green area, and the group gave it a thumbs-up recommendation.

2011-33 Land Lloyd Development: This is located off of Golf Course Road, nearly 200 acres, it is a Fowler Creek water right, fallowing land and was flood irrigated. The future project is for mitigation for about 35 homes, but for now it will just be putting water in the trust water program. The future mitigation proposal would be a new permit and the group wants to see that new proposal to review before it is issued. Stan asked if this is above KRD, and no KRD water is appurtenant to the property. That is correct. The group talked about the CU calculation and gave a thumbs-up recommendation.

Other Issues

Teanaway Water Banking – Bob talked about the spreadsheet he provided and explained the data. It shows the lower Teanaway stream flow impact after irrigation season, fall consumptive use estimate from current domestic well usage in the area. He explained the scope of each category. Bob thought about future impacts and wanted to know what the impacts are, was the reason for putting this together. He said this resulted in a small impact, but not zero either. The group talked about past years low flows. This analysis assumes 1/3 of the domestic use water is CU and wondered if the group felt this warrants a deeper look. Melissa added that the contract will still be used for mitigation, which focuses on the 6 week period between September 1st to October 15th. Paul asked how many parcels are without structures in the area he analyzed. Bob said a lot, more than 1,500. Paul and Tom talked about how we manage flows for fish, that they use the worst case flow scenario. Bob thought he would put this together and discuss it again and Tom feels it is important and we all have a lot invested in the past on this.

Stan talked about Starkovich, and he summarized Anna's research about the well impact to stream flows, and that when she gets back, Anna will issue her final hydrogeology report. Stan added that Starkovich's irrigation system includes an on-site pond. Possible mitigation could be to pump out of Teanaway and put in a pond and in the post irrigation season leakage would get back to the river to mitigate for non-irrigation use from the proposed well, as it is a very small quantity of water. Stan asked for comments, Paul already gave his thumbs up, Tom wanted to see what Anna puts out in her report and will review it, then get back to the group at the next meeting.

Walt set the next meeting for May 2, 2011 at 1:00 PM.

Walt adjourned the meeting at 2:00 PM.