

Water Transfer Working Group Minutes for May 4, 2009 at 1:00 PM

Attendees: Dave Brown, Stuart Crane, Melissa Downes, Bill Ferry, Chuck Garner, Carron Helberg, Margo Hines, Stan Isley, Paul LaRiviere, Chris Lynch, Larry Martin, Kelly McCaffrey (phone), Jason McCormick, Joe Mentor, Jim Milton, Tim Reiersen, Tom Ring, Mark Schuppe, Ron Van Gundy, Dawn Wiedmeier.

Dawn opened the meeting by asking for approval of the previous meeting minutes for March 30, 2009. Stan had some edits to incorporate and he will forward them to Carron to update and have posted on Ecology's website. The group accepted the minutes as revised by Stan.

2009-12 WDFW. Jason from Washington Water Trust explained this transfer which is on Cowiche Creek with a partial donation of 24 acres. Stan noted a small typo in the consumptive use calculation, pasture should be clover, but the total of 37.27 is correct at the bottom of the first page. Stan would like to have the proposal clarified to show Jason's work, making it easier to check the figures for accuracy. The primary reach is based on consumptive use and return flow. The secondary reach is based just on consumptive use. The group recommended this proposal as long as the corrections that Stan talked about are made.

2009-13 Schober. Jason continued with the next transfer. It is a 3-year donation and fallowing 3.34 acres. Jason explained the history of this transfer, concluding that it has not had beneficial use since 2005. Stan would like to have the proposal clarified to show Jason's work, making it easier to check the figures for accuracy. The group recommended this proposal as long as the corrections that Stan talked about are made.

2009-14 Holmes. Jason continued with this proposal. It is the same as the previous proposal, a 3-year donation and fallowing 2.34 acres. Stan would like to have the proposal clarified to show Jason's work, making it easier to check the figures for accuracy. The group recommended this proposal as long as the corrections that Stan talked about are made.

2009-15 Badda. Jason continued by explaining this proposal, noting that the priority should be 1889 instead of 1902. Paul asked if it is the same period of use. Jason said yes, and fallowing 12 acres. It is a three year lease for water years 2009-2011 for the entire season. It is a water right served by the 3M Ditch, which is the last partial barrier to fish passage on the lower Teanaway River. Stan would like to have the proposal clarified to show Jason's work, making it easier to check the figures for accuracy. The group recommended this proposal as long as the corrections that Stan talked about are made.

2009-11 Masterson. Kelly explained the Masterson proposal and that it is for 235 acres just this year, full season, and is proposed to be transferred to instream flow use in the trust program. Stan reviewed the calculations for the month of September and discovered it is for the entire month. The season of use ends on Sept 15th. Jason explained his justification for using the whole month. Stan added that the Washington Irrigation Guide (WIG) does not account for a daily use and September's consumptive use is probably higher in the first part of the month than it is in the last half of the month. Stan explained

the WIG, and agreed with the logic, but felt he needed to calculate it out. Stan felt that the 2nd half would be inaccurate, as it has never been used because the water right's irrigation season ends September 15th, but is happy with a portion of the September monthly consumptive use up to the 15th. Joe Mentor said he has used the Blaney-Criddle formula. Jason added that the crop would still use stored water out of the soil profile. Stan noted that the changes in the calculations need updating. Paul said he believes it has dual diversions. Kelly said yes, and in 2005 that is how it was protected. Kelly knows the Mundy water right was changed by Ecology, but Masterson was not. A Pendente Lite was filed in court instead. It is not a move upstream as they had the right to divert at the upper diversion. Paul said he would help with the Pendente Lite. The primary reach total is right, but the monthly needs to be adjusted. Stan agrees, and Kelly will adjust the September numbers, and that 450 would change to 415. The group recommends this proposal once the numbers are corrected.

2009-16 Suncadia/Watts Bros Farms. Joe Mentor explained this proposal and the rights were approved for transfer in 2002 for use within the City of Cle Elum growth area. The consumptive use numbers are part of the examination and it is temporary for the 2009 irrigation season. He is seeking court approval for the temporary transfer and is looking for possible use in 2010. Watts Bros plans to transfer at the end of season. Tim Reiersen continued by explaining the details. The period of use is April 1 to Oct 15th. Chuck asked that the April water is gone, right? Joe said the instantaneous can be used at anytime. Watts will use their other water right at the first part of the season, and use this water right later in the season, with no use in April. Joe does not want to wait until June and is asking the court to hear it at the May 14th water-day hearing. Tom Ring commented that he needs to separate out the consumptive Qi below Parker. Based on the Washington Irrigation Guide, a more accurate calculation is needed. Stan added that the fallowed consumptive use amount needs to match the new consumptive use, no impairment. Joe will send an email tomorrow. Paul commented it goes over Parker and Prosser. Joes will coordinate with Chris and Stan on the instream flow additions from the Watts transfer. Joe will get back with the group on this proposal.

2009-17 Suncadia-First Creek. Joe Mentor continued with this proposal explaining this is the Lamb water right, purchased and anticipated a change in use within Suncadia, and it has been in trust under a Pendente Lite order since 2005. Suncadia is not at full build out and is not ready yet to use this water right on site, but Joe explained the water right, stock water, fish screen and it is in a remote location. It retires the stock water right in the winter. It has a change in point of diversion during the winter. Joe is working with Bob Barwin to agree on a plan for development, and has made some progress. Tom Ring asked about wells. Joe said they could improve without the wells, as the ground water is deep there. His goal is to close the head gate in the winter. Paul L. would like any update from Darrell at Ecology. This will come back at a later date.

Other Issues. The State of Washington passed the water banking bill. Joe Mentor talked about Substitute Bill number 5583, and about the major aspects of the bill.

The next meeting will be June 15th, 2009 at 1:00 PM.

Chuck adjourned the meeting at 2:20 PM.