

Water Transfer Working Group Meeting
1:00 PM, Monday, August 27, 2012

Chuck Garner, Tom Ring, Bill Ferry, Carron Helberg, Teresa Hauser Merriman, Larry Martin, Kurt Walker, Sage Park, Ron Van Gundy, Stan Isley, Jason McCormick, Dave Brown, Paul LaRiviere, Stuart Crane (?)

Chuck Garner brought the meeting to order. He announced that the Acting Yakima Field Office Manager is Sid Ottem, but due to conflict of interest; he could not lead the meeting, because he still works on adjudication matters. The minutes from the July 30, 2012 WTWG meeting did not get done, so we will push them off until the next meeting. There are no previous proposals so Chuck moved on to the first new proposal.

2012-38 – The first new proposal was explained by Jason McCormick, to place 15 acres, 0.3 cfs, 60 acre feet of Wenas Creek water into the state trust water program, for a period from 2012, or as soon as we can get it into trust, through 2021. This proposal involves two different priority date water rights, 1879 and 1870. The attached map is a 2009 aerial photo with greenery showing that it had been irrigated in the past. It has not been irrigated in the last couple of years, and is currently being held by the WSU foundation on a life tendency agreement with the owner, Mrs. Stephens. Tom Ring asked about the target flows at Prosser and how will it get out of Wenas Creek. The group discussed the flow in the Wenas, Larry Martin asked how many diverters are there downstream, and Stan talked about his experience as water master in the Wenas subbasin 20 years ago. The group discussed the irrigation season water availability for these two water rights. Jason felt he has a better understanding and would do some more research into water use and water availability for these two rights over the past several years. Tom Ring and Larry Martin liked donating it to the water trust, at least in Wenas Creek in which it does no harm, and then it shows it is protectable. The group agreed it should wait to make a decision on this proposal until Jason does some more investigation into water availability and brings it back to the group at a later time.

2012-39 through 2012-42 -- These four proposals were explained by Kurt Walker of Ecology as a group. **2012-39** for Rosenburg, impact to the Yakima River only, assign to the Exchange Contract, and Paul asked about this being in the burn area. Paul and Tom had looked at this one, the 1,000 square feet of irrigation is good and the group gave it a thumbs-up recommendation. **2012-40** for Kuhn includes 500 square feet of irrigation, the geology and impacts are similar, north of Cle Elum, and **2012-41** for Marsh includes 1,000 square feet of irrigation and both will use the Exchange Contract. Stan noted that the proposals need to show their calculations in splitting the consumptive use by season. The group gave both of these a thumbs-up recommendation. 2012-42 for Purdin is just east of Lake Cle Elum, this will be assigned to the Exchange Contract, and it looks good to Stan. The group gave it a thumbs-up recommendation.

The next Water Transfer Working Group meeting will be on October 1, 2012 at 1:00 PM

Chuck adjourned the meeting at 1:30 PM.