

Water Transfer Working Group  
Minutes for the 1:00 PM, September 9, 2013 Meeting

Attendees: Stuart Crane, Bill Ferry, Joel Freudenthal, Chuck Garner, Stan Isley, Jonathan Kohr, Jessica Kuchan (Telephonic), Stuart Luttrell, Teresa Merriman, Sage Park, Traci Shallbetter (Telephonic), Anne Watanabe (Telephonic), Nea Welch-Timmons.

Chuck opened the meeting with asking for the approval of the August meeting minutes. The group decided to defer approval of the August 5, 2013 meeting minutes until the October 7, 2013 WTWG meeting.

Chuck proceeded to the next agenda item of previous proposals:

**2012-23 – S4-35599 - Water Trust Program (Crushe)** - Sage and Anne Watanabe presented the proposal to use 1.25 cfs, 300 acre ft per year, of water from 4 component water rights, for instream flow use and for mitigation banking for new consumptive uses of groundwater in the Yakima River Basin. There has been a site visit and the permit is ready to issue. The question was raised if Ecology did any CU calculations? Response was yes and also DOE verified them. This is not a new water bank, but will become a new addition to the Yakima Mitigation Services Water Bank. There are still water users remaining on Thorp ditch. The Yakama Nation representative (Stuart) asked if water users are still using Thorp ditch, and if there are, are they taking excessive water, and how is that going to affect this request? Sage pointed out that there have been no protest letters and Scott Turner did a site visit and it is appropriate. Future ditch inspections will be required to ensure the remaining Thorp Ditch water users are not exceeding their diversion rights. Anne reminded the group that last March it was given a preliminary review by this group but was recommended to come back to the group with consumptive use quantities defined. It was approved by the group.

Chuck then continued with the new proposals:

**2013-61 – S4-35599 - Roan & New Suncadia (Horne Living Trust)** - Sage began by explaining that this is the first joint venture between these two Water Right Holders. The proposal is to provide mitigation water for the Horne single domestic water supply and 500 square feet of irrigation from Cooper Lake, using trust water from New Suncadia and the Roan/First Creek Water Users Association winter stock water right. It was asked, didn't WWT purchase the Roan winter water already? Also, are there any impacts to Lake Cle Elum? Sage responded that WWT purchased only a portion of the Roan winter stock water right. The Hornes' water use is only seasonal because they cannot get water in winter from Cooper Lake; it is frozen. The question was asked, how does this not affect the storage of water in Lake Cle Elum? Water used is not being replaced above the reservoir and would potentially affect the amount of water that can be stored in Lake Cle Elum for the next irrigation year. Wouldn't it also affect the instream flows at Parker? It was suggested that the mitigation water supplies full mitigation of the annual consumptive use by the Hornes, and in the winter there is no use by the Hornes. An extra 33% quantity of mitigation water is debited from the trust water bank to be added permanently to the target flows at Parker. Below the dam through the summer/winter there is nothing additional coming out of the reservoir. It was pointed out that a possible seasonal restriction should be made on the cabin authorizing use only during the irrigation season. Nothing currently is stopping the Hornes from making the cabin a year round water use/residence. The suggestion was made that maybe this use should rely on the Exchange Contract. The water user does not drink the water from the lake, they truck it in, so limit the season use and put something in writing; never have anything for honor system. Downstream

effect might be minor amount... Thinking long term. How would the loss be made up for the irrigation system? The irrigation season use has no potential for negative effect on water flows during the summer. Are there any fish flow issues with Cooper River? Some suggested it should be limited to summer use and go with contract. Cooper River is good in terms of flow, not lacking in flows and no legal issue regarding fish. The group gave this proposal a tentative thumbs up recommendation, contingent upon Sage getting Yakama Nation approval from Tom Ring for this proposal after the meeting.

**2013-62 – CG4-28570C - Frank Smith (Smith)** - Sage explained that this is just a change of place of use proposal. The change has gone through the Conservancy Board, at which time they approved the change. The landowner has changed from growing orchards of apples to cherries. There will be no increase in irrigated acreage or consumptive use. Thumbs Up!

**2013-63 – CG4-30371P- Sunnyside Dairy**

**2013-64 –CG4-30398P – Sunnyside Dairy**

Sage explained these proposals are for Sunnyside Dairy, LLC. The request is for changes to two different permits – adding three points of withdrawal (two new wells on the dairy site and one well at the winery) and changing place of use to include winery. There is no increase in consumptive use. “Had to do ACQ analysis.” Are there any metering records? A site visit has been completed. Question, why two more wells? Answer, wells on dairy are full of sand, and need to transfer 20 acre-feet of water from the dairy to the winery. Group would like to see metering records to evaluate. Sage will be sending hydrogeological report for this proposal to Stuart Crane and Tom Ring. Not increasing – amount not going up at all. Thumbs up for both proposals!

**2013-65 – G4-35613 - Suncadia (Korthuis)**

**2013-66 – G4-35618 – Suncadia (Creager)**

**2013-73 – G4-35625 – Suncadia (Loomis)**

Sage explained these proposals are for Korthuis, Creager, and Loomis, each requesting approval for a new well, on the NE side of a topographic high between Spex Arth Creek to the East and the Peterson/Fowler Creek drainage to the West, approximately 5 miles southwest of Cle Elum. These wells would provide water for a continuous multiple (4 hookups for Korthuis) or single (Creager and Loomis) indoor domestic water connections of 350 gpd per home year round and irrigation of 500 sq. feet of lawn and noncommercial garden for each home. Consumptive use for the project totals 0.118 afy per home. Mitigation is provided by the Suncadia trust water right and this use will rely on the Bureau of Reclamation - DOE exchange storage contract. No flow impacts on any rivers, lakes, or tributaries. Hydrogeological reports are available for these proposals. All three are close to the green area and all are fully mitigated. All members gave these three proposals thumbs up recommendations.

**2013-67 - G4-35621 – WWT-Masterson (LT Ventures LLC)** - Sage explained this proposal is a request for a well, in the Teanaway River/Yakima River area, 3.5 miles west of Cle Elum. Land owner is requesting continuous water for two indoor domestic homes at 350 gpd use and seasonal irrigation of a total of 1000 sq. feet of lawn and garden. Mitigation is provided by the Masterson trust water right and this use will rely on the Bureau of Reclamation – DOE exchange storage contract for mitigation for the entire winter. A question was that past proposals have used the Exchange Contract to provide mitigation in the Yakima River below the mouth of the Teanaway River only to the end of October, and never have mitigated for winter (i.e., November

1-March 31) loss of flows in the Yakima River below the Teanaway River confluence. Sage will call and talk to Bill F. about this. \$1000 (\$500 each for two homes) will be placed into an account to be used for one or more upstream or headwater corridor local Teanaway subbasin mitigation projects. All members gave it thumbs up recommendation.

**2013-68 – G4-35586 – SwiftWater Ranch LLC (Rattray)**

**2013-69 – G4-35585 – SwiftWater Ranch LLC (Rattray)** - Sage explained these adjacent proposals are for a location south of the lower Teanaway River that is about 5 miles east of Cle Elum, each a request by the Rattrays for a well for a continuous single indoor domestic water supply of 350 gpd year around and irrigation of 500 sq. ft. of lawn and/or noncommercial garden for each of these two parcels. The proposal is mitigated by the Swiftwater Ranch LLC trust water right and relies on the Bureau of Reclamation – DOE Exchange contract for out-of-season flow impacts along the Yakima River below the Teanaway River confluence. \$1000 (\$500 per proposal) will be placed into an account to be used for one or more upstream or headwater corridor projects to provide local mitigation in the Teanaway River. Question was proposals state September 16 – March 31 mitigation period for Exchange Contract use; shouldn't it be September 16 – October 31? Committee gave them a Thumbs Up!

**2013-70 - G4-35620 - SwiftWater Ranch LLC (Weaver)** - Sage explained this proposal is for Weaver, who wants to put in a well for two residential water connections at 350 gpd used continuously year round and for irrigation of 1000 sq. ft. (500 sq. ft each residence) of lawn and/or noncommercial garden. This proposal will utilize the USBR – DOE Exchange Contract for mitigation from September 1-March 31 and will contribute \$500 to the local Teanaway River flow mitigation project. Tom R. said the legal description in the project description says this project is in the SE of the SE of Section 34, but it looks like it's in the SW of the SW on the map, unless he's reading the lines wrong. Tom would not approve this project from a land use perspective, but we are not here for that purpose. WTWG only reviews proposals from a water use perspective. However, the YN is not signing off on this proposal as an appropriate land use. Stan I. commented it looks good to him, from a water use perspective. Sage said will double check the legal description to make sure it is correct. Committee gave it a Thumbs Up.

**2013-71 - G4-35624- Yakima Mitigation Services (Weis)** – Sage & Anne asked if this proposal could be moved to the top as it was the only one that Anne was active in, and it would go faster. The group agreed. Sage and Anne went on to explain the proposal is for continuous multiple domestic use for two homes and no seasonal irrigation - 0 sq feet of lawn and garden, which is located on the east side of the southern half of Lake Cle Elum. Mitigation water is provided by the Yakima Mitigation Services subbasin number 5 trust water right. The proposal will rely on the BOR – DOE storage contract from September 1-March 31. Thumbs up.

**2013-72 - G4-35631 Masterson Ranch (Redmond/Hay Baron)** - Sage explained this proposal is for Redmond/Hay Baron requesting approval for a well for a single domestic use and no lawn and garden irrigation. They will be relying on the Masterson Ranch water right (Tidwell right portion) for mitigation water and the USBR-Ecology Exchange Contract. Flow impacts to the Teanaway River. The season of use of the Exchange Contract is listed as September 15 – March 31, should it not be changed to end October 31? This is the same issue as discussed for WTWG 2013-67. In addressing the out of season local flow impacts to the Teanaway River, \$500 will be placed into an account to be used for one or more upstream or headwater corridor projects to provide local Teanaway River mitigation. The group gave this proposal a thumbs up.

Group agreed that the “season of use” question for the Exchange Contract should be discussed further.

The next meeting is set for October 7, 2013 at 1:00 PM.

Chuck adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM.