

## Water Transfer Working Group

WTWG Minutes for February 26, 2007

Stuart Crane, Rick Dieker, Melissa Downes, Stephen Fanciullo, Bill Ferry, Chuck Garner, Eric Hartwig, Carron Helberg, Paul LaRiviere, Chris Lynch, Larry Martin, Jim Milton, Tom Ring, Mark Schuppe, Tom Tebb, Scott Turner, Ron Van Gundy

Chuck Garner called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM, with Tom Tebb beginning with the work group processes while others were still coming in. TT started with changes in presentation and information like maps. Ecology is trying to include maps with each proposal. In addition, TT talked about the timing of future meetings, for example, holding the monthly meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, so it would help with scheduling conflicts. However, TT also wants it to be flexible so the group can meet more often and/or as needed. The group generally agreed to hold future meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 1:00 PM and to schedule other meetings or change meetings as needed. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 26, 2007 at 1:00 PM at the Yakima Field Office.

Chuck Garner continued with the new proposals beginning with 2007-03 for Taylor Ranches, LLC. Ron Van Gundy said it seems like a huge water right for only 9 acres. Melissa Downes said it is in the CFO at that amount dated October 25, 2001, and it is a huge water duty. Larry Martin said must be lots of conveyance loss. MD added it is converting from rill to center pivot and it is the same as previous ones last summer. This one is on a 30-day extension. Some of the non-consumptive use will be put in the trust. The group discussed pumps and how much they will divert at the new diversion. MD discussed it, and identified this proposal as consumptive and non-consumptive use. RVG said it speaks of stockwater. Tom Ring said for the most part it is a good thing. LM feels they may have strings on the funding. TT asked the group if they felt this was a thumb's up and added it is what it is. TR said this is the type we want to see and the group gave it the thumbs up.

CG continued with the next new proposals, 2007-04 thru 2007-27, as a group. This is for Ahtanum ID and a handout was passed out. Scott Turner explained the handout lists each proposal with the changes for each. It is for Subbasin 23 (Ahtanum Creek) with the Report of the Court in 2002, with the supplemental report not out yet, maybe in spring. They were recognized in the 1925 adjudication and the court, but the current points of diversions are not legal. This is an attempt to align the paperwork with the court recommendations and with reality. Public notices have been done. Ahtanum ID is for management purposes only, no stored water right and no rights with ID – they are with each landowner. There are more, not confirmed, but are exemptions, roughly 17 more. ST is asking the group to chew on these for 30 days and will come back in March. Bill Ferry said it sounds like existing points of diversions, can you discuss what is downstream or upstream. ST said these are all downstream. Paul LaRiviere said some of these said they were upstream changes. LM asked if all the POD's are existing diversions. ST said yes, all are existing – no new ones. The group continued to discuss

the points of diversions and how they serve each landowner. TR said that the box says it must be a valid water right. If in question, the advice by the group includes this, it is our operating criteria, and why the urgency of doing it now. ST said to get the correct POD's clarified. TT said Ecology's attempt to try and finish this project, as they have been working on this for some time, but could work on language for the next meeting. PL added that he would prefer that individual diversion to be separately screened, but needs to go out and look. TT said that Ecology could put in a caveat language. The group continued discussing the need for others input (example Perry Harvester), season of use, and ground water rights. TR added the group is not being asked to opine on the ground water rights and ST said it was in there for general information. TT asked TR what the tribe's feedback would be about this. Email to Tom Ring in order to get their opinion, with draft language and then have a discussion outside this group. The group agreed with this. PL will also have comments back with language. TT summarized that everyone would come back in 30 days (next WTWG meeting) with comments and language.

The group continued with the next agenda item with BF giving an update on the status of the MOU between Ecology and Reclamation. It has been on Bill McDonald's desk since Christmas. We are waiting for his signature. Reclamation would like to report to the court that this agreement has been signed.

The group continued with TT discussing Melissa Downes position change. He said a letter is going out to explain the change in her responsibilities. This will get Ecology involved earlier in the process with the conservancy boards, so the 30-45 day deadline will not be such a bottleneck.

CG adjourned the meeting at 2:15 PM