

WTWG Meeting Minutes for January 26, 2009, at 1:00 PM

Attendees:

Bob Barwin, Dave Brown, Stuart Crane, Melissa Downes, Ingrid Ekstrom, Bill Ferry, Chuck Garner, Ken Hasbrouck, Teresa Hauser, Carron Helberg, Stan Isley, Paul LaRiviere, Chris Lynch, Jim Milton, Kelly McCaffrey (phone), Tom Ring, Mark Schuppe, Jeff Schuster (phone), Jeff Slothower, Mark Teske, Ron Van Gundy, Sara Watkins, Dawn Wiedmeier

Dawn called the meeting to order and she went around the room with introductions.

Dawn asked for approval of the November and December 2008 minutes, with no comment, they stand as written.

MTA 2009-06: Jeff Slothower explained this as it came to the group, with a memo that represents a third technical review, it looks at Ecology's lag effect, and he explained that it is a benefit, a positive impact. Slothower thought this would cover the concerns raised in the previous presentation. Mark S. at Ecology thinks this is a good start to address the timing and had concerns about power coordination for Reclamation and fishery resources. Slothower said the lag time does go beyond the authorized use, but is not sure how long or how it impacts operations. Paul L stated there are pros and cons to this proposal. Tom Ring would like to go over the memo and would like time to get back with the group. Slothower said the conservancy group will be looking at this early February and asked that Tom email his concerns. Melissa asked about the hydraulic continuity issue. Ingrid added that the issue is how quick the hydraulic continuity is. Chris said the quicker it comes back, the less of an impact it is on operations. How much is ground water and surface water. Slothower said the previous memo explained it but not the timeline. Ingrid said they had not done a full analysis. Tom Ring asked if this is the same body of water. Stan said Ecology can not approve this if it is causing impairment and needs to look at this in greater detail. Stan talked about trust water and mitigation. Melissa asked Reclamation that if we have any concerns, and if not, that this proposal could be pending until Yakama Nation's review. Fish and wildlife responded positively. In other words, the group agrees that it is in a pending status, until the YN reviews it and sends an email to the group, and then the status will change from pending to a recommendation.

The next agenda item is The Box Checklist, or the Box Checklist Guidance. The group discussed the box criteria checklist line by line at great length. The following is a summary of the group's discussion on each item. Please note that some comments were suggested early on, but not adopted at the end. Please refer to the updated checklist for all the changes.

- 1) Validity: it is free of illegality (Bob B), should be "Water Use". (This was later removed altogether.) The third Q is really goes with the first. 1st one is gone, 2nd one is ok with Ecology but wanted to replace forfeited with relinquished.
- 2) TWSA Neutrality: spell out TWSA in title; 3rd Bullet, add Prosser, if applicable. CU is "equal or less". Q3 is the transfer water budget neutral at parker chg #1 by adding at parker. Finally, instead of spelling out TWSA, replace it with Water Budget.
- 3) Timing and Availability: Q1 refers to a temporary transfer, Q2 is for permanent transfers. Q1 should read "If a seasonal transfer, comment."

Put on the webpage a summary and roundtable link and have it put on the website. Jeff Schuster said to add to the page or make it easier to find. Jeff Slothower feels it is good for the group that an applicant could benefit. This checklist purpose was for the group's need and the applicant to use. The group decided to add an "I Don't Know" or "uncertain" column to the far left column.

4) Impairment: add back impairment of instream flow to title

5) Operational Considerations: Q2, Jeff Schuster - suggest on other users and fish, and make consistent with court and add "and other aquatic life". Q2 was previously moved in the previous version, and the group would like the question put back. Bob B said it used the term "bucketized the water", as it needed to go to Reclamation for the approval/input. Carron will take a look of the original checklist and CAG box should be honored.

6) Ground Water and surface water sources: Q1, Melissa said, For Transfers Between "surface water and ground water" Transfers for Ground water and surface water. CAG adopted the box in Feb 2001, and since the drought came along, and Bob Archey did, and 2003 Bob finalized. The 2003 CAG report is where it came from. Q2 should be moved with Q1, only Q3 in. Final choice, Q1 is out, Q2 is moved to 7 below, and Q3 is to stay.

7) Other Considerations: keep questions as a yes response, by changing. Not sure it can be phrased without a double negative. Add Q2 from 6.

Dawn suggested that once it is out for review, that the group could adopt or discuss the changes to the box checklist at the next meeting.

Bill Ferry continued with the next agenda item with an update about the Reclamation/Ecology Contract, with bill stating that Jay Manning has signed the contract. He will be in Boise on Wednesday, and he was hoping it would be signed tomorrow or Wednesday. He will let the group know when it gets signed.

The next Water Transfer Meeting is set for Monday, February 23 at 1:00 PM at the YFO Conference Room.

Dawn adjourned the meeting at 2:35 PM.