Attdees:


Chuck G gave a status report from the river operations meeting held this morning, stating he is cautiously optimistic about the forecast.

Walt asked for any comments on the minutes, the group approved the minutes.

Walt continued with the first agenda item of new proposals.

2010-10 thru 12 Suncadia – Joe Mentor started by explaining these proposals, which included Teanaway Creek, Swauk Creek, and others. He talked about the total acre feet of water to be transferred into the trust water program. He talked about mitigation, being water budget neutral at Parker, and future change applications. He talked about these temporary transfers, that they are under an Order Pendente Lite (OPL) that 2 of the 3 are ready and the other will be ready in a month or two. He is asking for approval. Mark S explained the suitability map for mitigation. Joe added that Suncadia has gotten 2-3/day without publicizing it; they are getting specifics, and putting info together helping everyone work through the process for getting water. Bill asked if these would be put thru the exchange contract, and Joe said yes. Traci made comments about getting water banking information out to the public and how the process works. Mark talked about the application process with Ecology and that the website explains this process. Joe Mentor talked about the types of requests and how the process has been on his end. Mark agreed our messaging could be better and they will work on this. Stan & Mark agreed that no water is going over Parker once this water is fully put to use for its mitigation use in the future. Joe talked about the use involves 580 homes with various uses, but it could serve as many as 4,000 homes, but it will probably be somewhere in between. Urban asked about the type of uses and what areas. Joe continued with explaining he brought these proposals as a general group of requests and could provide a periodic update as he goes along. Suncadia wants to start with the simple ones rather than the complex ones, and has about a dozen or so ready to go. He would like to work with the Kittitas County, Ecology and WTWG to do a parallel process with Ecology, mitigation and the county process, so he can streamline the process. Mark S said he would prefer to see the green areas, depicted on the mitigation suitability map, first to work out their process. Traci and Mark talked about the change in use from seasonal to year round use and how the process is currently. Bill said the full year use is a huge issue, and with the exchange contract, it will invoke all the provisions, in and out of the trust water program. Jeff Schuster asked if the proposals before the group now are a general proposal and then as each one is ready would come to the group. Joe said he is asking for general guidance and if they wanted him to submit them to Ecology in batches. Jim Milton asked if Joe is talking about a block of
water. Mark said it will be difficult to ensure no conflicts with existing rights. Tom Ring asked about the difference of the green versus yellow on the mitigation map. Stan and Joe talked about flow going over Parker in the next few years. Bill said for today this is a transfer proposal for water going into the water trust program. The next step is the process of coming back out of the trust program and those need to come back later for the group to review in batches. The group gave a thumbs-up recommendation for the water transfer into the trust only. Joe asked if the group would like a report. Melissa, Joe and Tom Ring wanted the batch with similar situations.

2010-13 TVFF - Jason McCormick explained that this is a modification for 2008-2022 for the date (from July 9 - September 15 to July 31 – September 15) it goes into instream flow. Also there was an error in the amount of water in the proposal. Melissa asked for the total annual CU for the claim and asked if Jason was going to court, he said yes for an OPL. Has it been fallowed? Yes. Stan commented on all three; need the annual quantity by monthly instream flow and said otherwise they all look right. Jason felt he could add more info to the proposal and show the monthly amount. The group gave this a thumbs-up recommendation.

2010-14 D. Crosetto - same claim but separate OPL, Jason had made modifications and passed the update out to the group. He talked about extending beyond 2010 to 2024. He asked “Can we create an instream flow right from August 1 to Sept 15 each year, with the provision that in four of the fourteen years the water could be used for irrigation if Reclamation and other parties are notified by July 1 to make a change in the upcoming year?” Stan, Mark and Chuck talked about target flows and having enough advance notice to inform Reclamation and everyone in time to reduce the target flows at Parker and Prosser to permit late season irrigation, but if the 30 acre-feet of water become not available in the system at anytime after date, then it ends. There is no guarantee it will be there or for how long. Is 30 days enough advance notice for Reclamation to adjust/reduce the Parker and Prosser target flows? Chuck said yes. Jason will provide an update for the web. The group gave a thumbs-up recommendation.

2010-15 Wadkins - Jason explained this proposal, this is a main stem, Yakima River water right donation, and talked about the CU calculation, but Melissa said she looks at the total quantity. Stan talked about the CU calc, and said it needs to be broken out monthly. Melissa and Mark explained that the evaluation process is different for a donation. Stan asked that Jason show his work for the review process. For today, the group is giving a no recommendation so Ecology can check on its process for a donation.

2010-16 Enochs – Stan talked about the Bruton Project and Mr. Enoch’s transfer from Taneum Creek, changing from Bruton ditch to a shallow well, and proposing the use of a shallow pond on his property as a Rereg reservoir, subject to the same flow limitation as was on Bruton ditch water source. Stan feels it is a straight forward transfer; there is no stock water right. The group gave a thumbs-up recommendation.

KID Discussion - Scott Revell talked about the 100,274 ac ft (CU and non CU) as per the CFO. He explained how it would be diverted, the work they are doing with Ecology and expects to bring this formally to the group at the next meeting.
The group agreed to hold the next meeting on Monday, March 8, 2010 at 1:00 PM.

Walt adjourned the meeting at 2:50 PM.