
Chuck called the meeting to order and started with the approval of the previous meeting minutes. The group accepted them as written.

New Proposals:

2010-32, Dillon/Clark: Melissa started by explaining that this proposal represents 2.5 acres out of a total of 3.5 acres of confirmed irrigation right, and is a change in point of diversion. Melissa asked Jim Milton if he had anything new to add and he said he did not. Dave Brown stated this was confirmed under the Mifflin water right claim (Cowiche Creek subbasin). Tom Ring commented that 0.7 cfs was a lot of water. Melissa said that was an error in the write-up for the proposal, as it should be 0.07 cfs and Stan agreed. The group gave this proposal a thumbs-up recommendation.

2010-33, The Ranch on Swauk Creek LLC: Jeff Slothower began by explaining this transfer proposal was before this group a couple of years ago as a change from irrigation use to municipal/community domestic use and irrigation. The current proposal is to use the water for construction purposes associated with the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project in the 2010 and 2011 irrigation seasons. There are 2.22 acre-feet per year of consumptive use per acre under this water right and it is on the docket for May’s water day hearing. This proposal calls for the entire water right to be diverted into the Burke-Hartman Ditch, with the contractor pumping only the 44 af/yr of consumptive use water out of the ditch, and with the remainder of the diverted water then continuing down the ditch and returning to Swauk Creek. The construction is just getting started and the 19.8 acres will be fallowed for the 2010 and 2011 irrigation seasons. Steve Boessow with Fish and Wildlife said he talked with Paul LaRiviere about pumping the water into trucks from the Yakima River instead of Swauk Creek, and asked if that would be possible. Jeff responded by stating the transportation distance from the Yakima River is significant, with Steve adding that the fish flows in Swauk Creek would be enhanced if the water came out of the Yakima River. The group talked about the conveyance water and that the water being withdrawn from the ditch would be screened at the ditch headworks. Jeff said he can talk to Pat Deneen on how to get the water back into the creek more quickly, below the contractor’s pumping location. Tom Ring asked about the period of use, that it was stated correctly on the proposal as irrigation season only, and he commented on the consumptive use calculation. Jeff said that the diversion quantity is the full water right but the intent is to pump and use only the consumptive use portion from the ditch and he will make that change to clarify the proposed Order Pendente Lite. The group gave a thumbs-up recommendation, based on the change/clarification to the OPL.

The next meeting is set for Monday, June 7, 2010, at 1:00 PM at the Yakima Field Office Conference Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM