Water Transfer Work Group Meeting Minutes  
May 7th, 2012

**Attendees:** Stuart Crane, Melissa Downes, Bill Ferry, Chuck Garner, Candy Graff, Teresa Hauser, Anna Hoselton, Stan Isley, Walt Larrick, Chris Lynch, Larry Martin, Jason McCormick and Ron Van Gundy. Tom Ring and Anne Watanabe participated telephonically.

**Approval of Minutes:** They were temporarily approved. Stan will review and will be reposted. It was decided that they would be checked and Michelle would let everyone know when they were reposted. Everyone was reminded to send in any changes that need to be made to mdestito@usbr.gov within the week and the changes will be made and reposted.

**New Proposals:**

**2012 - 26 – Scatter Creek/Suncadia** – Candy brought this to the group and explained that it is for one connection with a total of 0.414 acre-ft per year, 500 sq feet of lawn and garden irrigation, and 350 gpd for indoor use. They are not utilizing the well that this group has seen before. They are using Suncadia Trust water for mitigation. The hydrogeologist thought it would be around 4.5 gallons per minute per connection. The effect of the withdrawal would most likely be to Cle Elum Lake. Tom Ring wanted to know if it would be possible to post the hydrogeology memos in the WTWG website. Melissa thought it would be ok and she would pass it to the correct person to be posted.

The Group gave this a “Thumbs up Recommendation”

**2012 - 27 – Roan/Swauk Creek water bank** – Stan explained that the Roans have applied to Ecology to create the Swauk Creek water bank to utilize water previously placed in the State Trust Water Rights Program to mitigate for up to 145 new residences. In June 2011 and also April of 2012 they transferred two different water rights into the State Trust Water Program. These are the two sources that will be used for year-round mitigation water. The permanent transfers to trust have already occurred; this is a ‘general permit’ being issued off the mitigating trust water rights. There was a question on whether or not the water would always be in trust which was confirmed. Roan is applying for a permit for all customers up front (he is not the developer); the mitigation banker is applying because the developers did not. Then they will assign pieces of this ‘general permit’ for those who choose to buy mitigation credits from the bank by groundwater zone. It is broken into 8 new groundwater permits based on the presence of 8 different groundwater units available as sources of supply within the service area of the Swauk Creek water bank. It was broken into 8 units because the new permits will utilize 8 bodies of groundwater drawing from a common pool of mitigation water that has been placed into trust. Bill asked what the homeowners would get out of this. They will get an assignment of their part of the permit. They will have a new 2011 priority date with 1877 mitigation. This is TWSA neutral and locally positive because non consumptive water is being brought back in locally to the creeks. Melissa explained that The Roans also retain irrigation so there is
opportunity to curtail their continuing irrigation if needed for additional mitigation use. This is something that Ecology has never done before.

Tom said he wanted more documentation because of the 145 new residences and would like to know more. He is also concerned about subordination of the mitigation water rights if there is not enough water in First Creek. Chris said there are about 8 acres on the Reecer creek side that would be completely fallowed by the Roans. This would also eliminate the need for a screen at the Roan’s First Creek diversion that would be very costly. Tom agreed but was still concerned about the quantities. There is no data how often if ever the creek goes dry.

Tom did not want to give a Thumbs up on the info provided and would like to see more. There was a question on how they came up with 145 new residences. This would have been Suncadia/Roan and was initially 175 lots. The winter water was the determinable factor in determining and limiting the supportable lots. This may scale up, but there would be more water going into trusts. Melissa explained that this general permit concept is something new, but should eliminate the need to bring all of these individual assignments to the WTWG group for review, and that it is basically water for water. Bill Ferry had a few thoughts on how this could bring in Homeowners Associations, etc. This will all be spelled out in the draft report of examination to be posted soon on Ecology’s website. Melissa promised to send the link to the group when the draft ROE is posted to the web.

Tom suggested this not get a “Thumbs up”; he thought that they could brief the reports first, and then make a decision; but added that this does not need to be brought back to the group.

2012 - 28 – Cromarty/Washington Water Trust – Jason brought this to the group and explained that there was an existing OPL on this that was issued on August 11, 2011 that was for two years and they would like to add two years extending it to 2014. He also asked if in the future simple OPL extensions like this need to be brought to the WTWG. Stan thought it looked straight forward and did not think they needed to be brought to the group. Tom thought they could still be brought as they finish quickly.

The group gave this a Thumbs up Recommendation.

Other: 2012-25 - Paul did go up to check Hart Creek (naturally impassable) and gives the cabin owners a Thumbs up Recommendation and the group concurred.

Other: Melissa noted that she would hopefully be bringing her replacement to our next meeting as she has taken a new position.

Walt concluded the meeting, which ended at 1:50 P.M.

Next meeting will be June 4th, 2012 at 1:00 P.M.