
Chuck opened the meeting with asking for the approval of the June meeting minutes. The only addition to the June minutes was an update on Proposals 2013-26, 2013-29, and 2013-31 from last month’s meeting. Sage reported that the state legislature provided funding for the mitigation project in the Teanaway and the WDNR has approved the project also. Sage asked Bill Ferry if he was comfortable approving these three proposals as long as TWSA is met? Tom Ring said that “it is not on the finish line, but he will let them through.” With that, the three previous proposals were given a Thumbs up.

Chuck proceeded to the next agenda item of new proposals.

2013-36 - Washington Water Trust (Estate of Richard R. Matson) - Jason M. began by explaining that WWT and the North Yakima Conservation District have been working with the Matsons on this proposal to obtain approval got a new single point of diversion from the Naches River at a point downstream of the original Nile Ditch diversion point from the Naches River. This new pumped diversion point on the Naches River would serve property currently irrigated from two sources, the Nile Ditch and a diversion from Nile Creek, replacing those two diversions. WWT will seek temporary court OPL approval for this diversion point change until Ecology permanently approves the diversion change for this project. This downstream diversion change will provide higher instream flows in the Naches River from the Nile Ditch to the new pumpsite and will also augment Nile Creek instream flows. Paul D. (and speaking for Larry M.) referenced that no water will be taken or received from Nile Creek. Stan I. questioned if the irrigators continue to use all of their irrigation water rights and do not fallow any acreage, will WWT create a primary-reach-only trust water right to protect the water instream from the historic diversion points downstream to the new diversion point? Jason M. said that the change of diversion is required under the permanent diversion forbearance agreement and that WWT had not planned to create any primary reach trust water right in this instance. Scott T. explained that it would not actually protect the water instream by changing the point of diversion downstream. Jon K. asked if there were any upstream or downstream water users on Nile Creek. Stan I. pointed out that a downstream point of diversion change does protect the water down to the new diversion point, according to its place in the priority schedule of rights. Stan said that since this proposal’s flow-augmented reach of stream would be fairly short and no other users are likely to take the water en route to the new diversion point, he would not object to WWT simply changing the point of diversion downstream without creating the primary-reach trust water right. Stan said he and Charlie Roe discussed a similar type of downstream diversion move a few years ago, and in that case, Stan urged Charlie to protect the water in the Trust program from the original diversion downstream to the new diversion. Stan said he normally supports putting the water in the trust program. Jason M. went on to say that he could modify his transfer proposal to add a purpose of use to create the primary-reach trust water right, which would require an ACQ review, if need be. Paul D. said it should refer to the forbearance agreement. Tom R. said to do a “Blind ACQ Analysis and report back – put it in Trust”. Jason agreed. The group gave a thumbs-up on this proposal.
2013-37 - G4-35615 – Suncadia (Modarelli) – Sage explained this proposal is asking for approval for landowner (Modarelli) to rely on mitigation water from the Suncadia Trust Water right and the federal/state storage contract with the Bureau of Reclamation, for a hookup from one existing well for a year-round single domestic water supply and irrigation of 500 square feet. It is an eight connection well and this is the last connection on the system. Chuck G. pointed out that we approved the other seven…This proposal is in regards to property 3 miles SW of Cle Elum and Stan said it looks good to him. The group gave a thumbs-up on this proposal.

2013-38 – G4-35457 - Suncadia (Forcier) - Sage explained this proposal is requesting well water for a year-round single domestic supply and 500 square feet of irrigation that will be mitigated by the Suncadia Trust Water Right and will utilize the Bureau of Reclamation Exchange Contract. It’s located south of the KRD main canal and easterly of Tillman Creek. This proposal would result in flow impacts to Tillman Creek and or the main stem of the Yakima River west and north of the Forcier parcel. There were questions about the Tillman Creek mitigation project. Jon K. informed group that the mitigation is still in the works. Sage assured group that though it’s still in the works, everyone has reviewed the Tillman Creek mitigation project and signed off on it. Sage also pointed out that the drains to the NE also do not at all affect Tillman Creek. Tom R. noted that the pond drains into the creek, but as long as the mitigation is in place, he is good with it. Bill F. asked if all the interested parties who have been working on this support the Tillman Creek mitigation project. Sage responded yes. The group gave a thumbs up on this proposal.

2013-39 – G4-35516 - Suncadia (Henkes) - Sage explained this proposal is for Henkes WBN request for a year-round single domestic water supply and irrigation of 500 square feet from a well, relying on Suncadia Trust Water Right for mitigation and on the federal/state exchange contract. It’s located 6.5 miles east of Cle Elum in the upper Nelson Creek drainage. The flow impacts will be on Nelson Creek and/or the Yakima River. Stan asked about the place of use right on the bank of the Yakima River. Tom R. pointed out that from his perspective, it’s Water Budget Neutral, so he is okay with this transfer proposal from a strictly water rights perspective; but just to make it perfectly clear, the Yakama Tribe reserves the right to challenge this in the future from land use and other perspectives, because none of the houses should be there. The group gave it a Thumbs Up!

The next meeting is set for August 5, 2013.

Chuck adjourned the meeting at 2:45 PM.