Water Transfer Work Group Meeting Minutes

February 6th, 2012 @ 1:00PM


Approval of Minutes: They were approved and 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 the updated minutes reposted.

Previous Proposal:

2011-11 – Hood/Suncadia: Was previously brought to the group last year and WTWG did not make any recommendation then because there were questions concerning whether this proposal needed consultation because the City of Roslyn transfers did or whether or not the Exchange Contract should be used. The proposed well is for 1 connection, 500 sq feet lawn and garden with no predicted adverse impacts to Domerie Creek Basin or the outlet of Lake Cle Elum. Stan thought it looks good. Paul had a question concerning the ESA consultation and who made the “no adverse impact call”. Bob Barwin and Bill Ferry had been working on it. Paul said he was fine with the proposal and liked the 350 gallons per day minimum use. Tom Ring wanted to know if any of this is in writing and wanted to see the documentation, otherwise thought it was ok. WTWG deferred its decision until next month, after having a chance to review the “no adverse impact” documentation.

2011 – 20 – Heightchew/Suncadia: This is a WBN request relying on Suncadia mitigation for 350 gallons per day and 500 sq feet of lawn and garden for one residence. The impacts will be to the Cle Elum River where there are bull trout in the area. They are asking for year round use but it is an area that has seasonal access (snowed in during winter). Stan asked about the local stream impact. Tom talked about “harmful change in stream flow” and that with one well this is probably not the case. Tom thought 350 gallons per day for one connection would not be a problem. Paul agreed that one application would not be a problem and as always use a case by case basis. The group recommended a “Thumbs Up”.

2012 – 15 – Berger/Suncadia: Kurt brought this to the group, explaining that the request is for a single domestic hookup for 500 sq feet of lawn and garden located off of Lake Cle Elum and Bell Creek. There have been ongoing conversations between State Fish and Wildlife and Ecology about the presence of Bull trout and their spawning habitat. Kurt said the he did not know of any specific comments on Bell Creek. Paul felt that there is habitat and flow impact. He felt that up above the shoreline is Critical habitat but there is no problem with this application and said they are continually monitoring year round for flow. Kurt said the nearest the parcel gets to the creek is 800 feet. Tom said when he was there in September there no water in Bell Creek at the culvert and was ok with this. The group gave this a “Thumbs Up” recommendation.

2012-16 – Dakota Heights/Suncadia: Kurt stated that this is for a 14 lot development located West of Thornton Creek with 500 sq ft per connection at 350 gallons per day. The impacts are to the Yakima River and intermittent drainages. Kurt did not think there were fish concerns. Paul said he has surveyed
the area and agrees they are small drainages not fish-critical streams. The group gave this a “Thumbs Up” recommendation.

2012-14 – Moore/Swiftwater: Traci brought this to the group and has discussed this particular well before. It’s a Group B water system that has been approved for a total of 8 connections and one hookup has already been approved by the group. This application is for 3 more. If all 8 applications are filed, that well will not be able to exceed 33 gallons per minute total withdrawal rate. The previous applicant was Oren Development. Tom asked what surface body would take the hit. Tracy said the flow is due north with impact that would be more to the glacier sediments than the upper reach of Spex Arth Creek. Melissa explained that the well would not pump more than 33 gallons per minute. For one connection, it was approved at 4 1/2 gallons per minute. The group gave this a “Thumbs Up” recommendation.

2012-17 Snowshoe LLC/Scatter Creek Resources LLC: Joe Rehberger explained that he was following up on 3 proposals that were approved last meeting. They have a trust water right agreement and approved permit that is being mitigated. They would like to amend their mitigation strategy for winter time mitigation where they had to come up with a storage plan. They want mitigation to be assigned through the exchange contract as it would be easier than through coming up with their own storage plan. It is NE of the city of Cle Elum where there are no fish impacts. Melissa further explained that is a private water storage reservoir that they were proposing to release water out of to meet the winter mitigation needs of several projects and this is the last one. She agreed that it has benefits to not have the warm on-site reservoir water released back into the system. Stan said that this is partly mitigated by a junior water right (Newton right) originally located on the Teanaway River and that there was a question on availability full season every year, but the group approved it as long as that water was used before end of July 31st. Paul said this is really a Class A domestic water system because there were going to be 190 connections to the well. The group gave this a “Thumbs Up” recommendation.

2012-18 – Harrell & Sons Farms: Larry explained that the Harrells have a large farm on Manastash Creek and they’re working with the Kittitas County Conservation District to change their irrigation system over to sprinklers. They are starting with their first project this spring. They would like to change their 9 surface water rights to just one consolidated place of use; nothing else changes. Once that is approved and their irrigation system upgrade is completed, they want to put the saved water into trust for instream flow use in Manastash Creek on a permanent basis. The Harrells have the only March water right that will be put back into the creek. Stan asked if they have overlapping KRD water rights on their junior-priority Manastash Creek acreage. Tom said yes and also Westside Irrigating Company water rights. Larry said there would not be any change to consumptive use. Tom wanted to know if one place of use was curtailed, what would happen now under the now combined place of use. Larry thought they would probably go over to KRD, but they have never been short of water since 1940. Harrell’s will have to put a farm plan in every year with Ecology and the Conservation District. Melissa stated that KRD is always supplemental. Larry explained that with the class 6 water right you have to have another water source. The group gave this a “Thumbs Up” recommendation.

The meeting ended at 1:50 with the remark that the September meeting has been changed to August 27th 2012.