WTWG Minutes for April 4, 2005, Monday 1:30PM

Bob Barwin
Dave Brown
Dar Crammond
Jim Davis
Richard Evans
Kale Gullet
Carron Helberg
Quentin Kreuter
Joe Mentor
Tom Monroe
Bill Pope
Tom Ring
Ron Van Gundy
Allison Bond
Tom Cowan
Stuart Crane
Rick Dieker
Stephan Fanciullo
Ken Hasbrouck
Stan Isley
Clay Landry (by Phone)
Jim Milton
Lisa Pelly (by Phone)
Kate Puckett
Don Schramm

Meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM by Bob Barwin and Dar Crammond. DC asked for comments or corrections on the previous minutes. Kate Puckett asked to have the last sentence in the second paragraph (Quentin stated that large transfers are critical in this transfer process) stricken from the record, with no other comments, the minutes were accepted.

The group discussed the court hearings schedule since Larry Martin was not in attendance. The next water day is Thursday, April 14, 2005, followed by April 28th, and they will continue to be held on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month. The group discussed the timing of the notice deadline. In order to make the deadline, the filing needs to be in by the 10th and 28th in order to make the 16th and 1st deadlines. For example, the filing would have to be in by April 11th (as the 10th is on Sunday) in order for the notice to get printed in time.

The group discussed the reinstatement of the “sign-off sheet” that was used in the 2001 drought water year. Tom Ring said he initially brought up this issue. TR felt it was needed as it provides a level of protection for the Yakama Nation. Ron Van Gundy felt it was more formal than we needed to be. DC stated you could drive a Mac truck through it, as it makes no promises. The group stated that documentation is good. Kate Puckett suggested the disclaimer be added to the blank form. DC concurred, suggesting to add it as boiler plate language to the one-page form. Tom Ring’s goal is to have the one-pager signed in advance of the transfer meetings, especially those proposals that fit into the box. The group agreed to add it to the one-page form. Carron Helberg will put the form together and Bob Barwin will post it on the website when agreed upon and completed.

The group continued with the next agenda item by discussing the previously submitted transfers that have been revised and resubmitted. Transfer 2005-15 for the City of Yakima was first. The group discussed how the October water would be handled. As a technical note, Quentin Kreuter noted that October water is not in TWSA and that
October prorationing is separate. The group discussed the change in point of diversion. This transfer was recommended.

Transfer 2005-11 for John E. Conner was discussed by Lisa Pelly via the telephone. Bob Barwin noted that transfers 2005-09 and -10 for John and Tom Conner should be finished by Ecology soon. Lisa Pelly stated it is a 30 year transfer through 2034. The group discussed temporary verses long-term transfer with respect to the CU calculation. Stan Isley explained the Conner calculation in detail. Bob Barwin noted that transfers 2005-09 and -10 for John and Tom Conner should be finished by Ecology soon. Lisa Pelly stated it is a 30 year transfer through 2034. The group discussed temporary verses long-term transfer with respect to the CU calculation. Stan Isley explained the Conner calculation in detail. Bob Barwin said he still owes the group a discussion on this but this transfer does not inflate the CU. After discussing everything from WIG + 5 to WIG, Bob Barwin stated that WIG + 1 sounded like the consensus of the group. Lisa Pelly said she wanted to present the temporary portion of this transfer by April 14th, the group gave the thumbs up with WIG + 1 for the temporary and Bob Barwin would work on the long term transfer to be discussed at a later time. Stephan Fanciullo felt the temporary transfer should define the quantity for each reach. The final recommendation from the group is for WIG + 1 and the quantity explanation to be included in the document for this transfer. The temporary transfer was recommended.

The group moved onto the new proposals. Transfer 2005-18 for SMID to the various camps was next. Jim Davis explained the transfer. The group commented the total listed in the transfer should be 18.8 acre feet instead of 15.8 acre feet. Tom Ring stated he could not do this transfer. DC stated it is an impairment of other water rights. Jim Davis explained it was a reduction of CU by conservation. The group discussed this transfer at great length. Some in the group felt it was not “in the box” and did not meet the basic criteria, established by CAG (Yakima River Basin Conservation Advisory Group) for 2001, and the basis of this work group. Others in the group felt if you show a before and after with tangible results on a particular project, that this group has the expertise to review it. The group concluded that the best way to accomplish a transfer is with fallowed ground. JD will go back to his clients and discuss this further.

Transfer 2005-19 for SVID to Roza ID was discussed and are all fallowed lands. This transfer includes an additional 2,490 acres. Dar said he would like a map showing all the lands transferred to date, or at least the legal descriptions. SVID said they will have one more round of transfers and they will be done. This transfer was recommended.

Transfer 2005-20 for Suncadia to KRD is the final transfer on the agenda. Joe Mentor explained the transfer of the Pautzke water right. Reclamation discussed the installed stream gages; calculating the acre feet bi-weekly and the need to increase the frequency to a weekly process; that April 1-15 is out and August and beyond if KRD goes off; the return flow is going to be non-existent and effects TWSA; and the long-term effects. Ken Hasbrouck said KRD is not sure they will get to August. DC saw a potential problem with the point of diversion changing from Mill Ditch, which serves three reservoirs, to Easton, which serves two reservoirs. It is water budget neutral but has operational concerns and don’t count on it. The group was fine with the 800 acre feet but the 50% water efficiency of KRD was not in agreement. JM will go back to his client for further discussions.
Bob Barwin reminded the group about the survey the Archey’s are doing and if the participants could respond. The group noted it is tough to do this at this moment as everyone is very busy, but would try.

Tom Cowan commented that if there are any other inquiries concerning SVID to Roza transfers, to refer them to him.

Clay Landry joined the group via the telephone.

Bob Barwin updated the group on the reverse auction results. There were 475 invitations, with 19 responses from 14 people on 33 different water rights. Ecology is actively pursuing two bids, with a couple more possible acquisitions. Some of the bids did not meet the bid criteria. Bob will follow up with a report.

The group adjourned at 4:10 PM