

Wood River Water Collaborative Meeting Minutes
10/24/18

Groundwater Model Run Proposal (Mark Davidson and Sarah Lien)

- The Nature Conservancy has been working on water transactions to produce wet water downstream
- Mark has discussed these transactions with different interested parties including the South Valley GWD, Big Wood Canal Company, NGOs, and individuals
- IDWR has indicated that a groundwater model run is necessary for them to process the water right applications
- Want to look at the response of Silver Creek at Sportsman's gauge in response to recharge proposed in this document; still need to determine where the best recharge locations are
- The groundwater model is calibrated to Sportsman's gauge
- Table 1 and 2 are quantity estimates that demonstrate opportunity for wet water downstream
- One goal of the model run is to gain information on where recharge efforts should be focused, to provide a realistic expectation on how using recharge can be most effective
- Using transactions that are potentially real can help determine realistic returns
- Want to use the model to demonstrate hydrologic connection between recharge sites, well heads, and Silver Creek; this is necessary for IDWR to consider these transactions
- A potential next step is for IDWR to have the MTAC consider this proposal at their next meeting
- Dave Shaw (hydrologist for South Valley GWD) recommended deferring to IDWR on best recharge locations
- This project would run water through the District 45 canal, into recharge pits, into springs that feed Silver Creek, and downstream
- It does not result in a reduction in water use, but there will be more water delivered downstream

- Need to look at whether or not this proposal can make a difference at Sportsman's gauge and when

- The model is still being updated to include transient information; not sure when that will be completed

- There was a question about the capacity of the District 45 canal to deliver additional water
 - o John Wright and Justin Stevenson indicated that it currently runs only half of its historical capacity, so that would not be a problem
- Question about impact to Silver Creek if water is run in canal in March
 - o The District 45 system has approximately 30% ditch loss half way down and more lower in the system
- The Little Wood water right in the proposal is potentially expected to have return flows 2-3 months later so it would be available later in the season and support flows in the Little Wood River

- The Big Wood water right has a contribution of Camas Creek, and this water right is senior to Magic; BWCC is willing to consent to this project to help support changes in flow and to see what happens when water is put into the system early
- The average delivery dates are per Kevin's records
- Other water right transactions are possible, such as following, other short-term agreements, and these could transition into long-term agreements

The group decided that it would support this model run proposal to IDWR. IDWR has indicated that they will perform two free model runs for the Collaborative. Mark and Sarah will submit this proposal to Sean Vincent at IDWR to see what the next steps are.

BOR Grant for Silver Creek and Measuring Devices (Mark Davidson)

- The BOR grant originally for the Hwy 93 project and measuring devices has evolved to focus solely on measuring devices
- There will be 7 measuring devices installed in the Bellevue triangle, in addition to ones that Kevin has already worked with landowners to install in the southern part of the system
- Some will be on the District 45 system, and some will be below
- These will be installed this fall if possible; if not, then next spring

Highway 93 Project Update (Mark Davidson and Greg Loomis)

- The project has been focused on redoing the culvert from the wetland back into Silver Creek
- The Silver Creek Alliance is paying for a wetland delineation, which is needed
 - o Chris Johnson offered that the NRCS may be able to perform the wetland delineation
- Will need bank reconstruction and wetland mitigation in order for water to move through
- Simplot wants to increase the size of the culvert; may be able to do through the Army Corps permitting process
- Army Corps doesn't want a solution that requires ongoing maintenance and changes
- Brockway did a hydrologic analysis of the culvert, but it didn't specify what would be accomplished by resizing the culvert
- Question of whether or not it would be advantageous to push for a Notice of Violation on illegal diversion of water at this location
- There is a question of whether the ditch was created with a maintenance agreement; Army Corps has identified it as a natural watercourse

Mark is looking into hiring a consultant, Jim Gregory of Lost River Fish Ecology, to help move this process forward.

There are two potential topics for upcoming meetings:

1. Presentation by Rob VanKirk of the Henry's Fork Foundation on predictive modeling tools
2. Discussion of recharge water right applications below Magic by Idaho Dept. of Water Resources

Next Meeting: Dec. 19th 10am – 12; presentation by Rob VanKirk