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Notes from meeting re: Jesse Creek water district
Meeting date 08/27/2008
Agent: Monica Van Bussum

Today I met with the winter and summer watermasters for Jesse Creek. Harry Shanafelt has been the summer watermaster for 5 or 6 years by his count and has been a City of Salmon employee for 32 years; he currently serves as the Wastewater Superintendent. Paul Stokes has been the winter watermaster off and on for the last 10 years and has been a City of Salmon employee for 30 years; he currently serves as the Water Superintendent. The following is a write-up of notes I took during that meeting.

I asked the difference between the winter and summer watermaster. Paul jokingly said the winter watermaster gets paid less. As winter watermaster, Paul said he checks the City's meter off of their Jesse Creek point of diversion. I asked why a winter watermaster was hired. Paul said it was because the City believed Arrowhead was taking additional water for their pond. Harry said the summer watermaster has the typical responsibilities for most watermasters – open and close headgates, check diversion, etc.

I asked both Paul and Harry if the City of Salmon diversion and delivery system had changed during their time in Salmon. Both said it had always operated the same to their recollection.

I asked Paul and Harry about the naming of ditches and creeks in the area, specifically regarding the conflict about the paths of Jesse Creek and Farmers Ditch. Harry said Grant Davis, a previous City Superintendent had told him Farmers Ditch was manmade. Harry identified the north-running channel that goes to the Blackadar properties as Farmers Ditch. Paul agreed with Harry.

Both Paul and Harry said Jesse Creek has always run through the middle of town. Harry said if you walk what they know as Farmers Ditch (the north-running channel), it looks manmade – steep banks, etc. Harry has lived in town just below the Jesse Creek/Pollard Creek confluence for 54 years and said the channel that goes through town has always been known as Jesse Creek. Harry said his understanding of a natural channel is that, even if it sinks in low water, it would have to have a channel and Farmers Ditch has no channel after it sinks. He said Jesse Creek's channel runs to the river.

I asked Harry and Paul about the historic location of the Salmon City Water Company before the City bought it. Harry pointed it out on the topographic map I brought. The approximate location is T21N T21E Sec 1 north part of SENE.



State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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Phone: (208) 327-7900 FAX: (208) 327-7866

April 14, 1993

Paul Stokes
City of Salmon & Water
District 75A Watermaster
200 Main St.
Salmon, ID 83467

Scan to:

75-2
75-5
75-7
75-17D
75-19E
75-19G
75-21
75-22
75-26A
75-10075
75-10076
75-16

CECIL D. ANDRUS
GOVERNOR

R. KEITH HIGGINSON
DIRECTOR

75-18
75-114

Water rights: 75-19C
75-19B
75-17A
75-756

Re: Annual volumes for water rights held by City & Arrowhead Water District

Dear Paul:

George Austiguy asked me to contact you regarding your questions about annual volumes for water rights held by both Arrowhead and the City of Salmon. I believe you specifically asked about the season of use for the 6/1/1868 priority right (IDWR administrative water right no. 75-0019D) held by Arrowhead and when to begin accrual of the 12 acre-feet volume limitation given for this right. I believe you may have also inquired or discussed with George about the volume allowed for all the rights held by the City of Salmon, and when to begin accrual of volume for the City's rights.

In regard to the Arrowhead right no. 75-0019D, you should be aware that this right is still officially recorded as an irrigation use right limited to 12 acre-feet during the irrigation season. Arrowhead has however filed a transfer to change the nature of use and period of use for this right along with two other irrigation rights which they hold. While the Department acknowledges that Arrowhead has for some time used the 12 acre-foot right for domestic purposes over the entire year, I can not say with certainty how the transfer will actually be approved regarding the season of use. One option is that a portion of the 12 acre-foot decreed right with 1868 priority may be limited to the irrigation season, while a second portion of the right may be designated for the non-irrigation season with an advanced priority date. Another option may be to limit the entire 12 acre-feet to the irrigation season and require Arrowhead to file an application for permit for the non-irrigation season. Regardless of the outcome, I doubt that Arrowhead actually consumes more than 12 acre-feet per year for their existing level of development.

For the Arrowhead right, my recommendation to both you and Darrel Aldous is that accrual of the 12 acre-feet begin on April 15. The period from April 15 to October 15 is the irrigation season recommended by the Department for your region of the state (note: in 1992 the Department updated it's recommended irrigation season for this area from April 1 to October 31, to April 15 to October 15).

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In regard to the City's rights, you are no doubt aware that the city has a number of rights with different priority dates. Like Arrowhead's 12 acre-foot right, some of the City's early priority rights, including 75-0016, 75-0018, and 75-0019C have been converted from irrigation use to domestic or municipal use without the benefit of any recorded water right transfers. These rights do not have any recorded volume, but the actual volume would be limited to the historical beneficial use. Without further investigation, the Department can not at this time provide you with the actual annual volume under these rights.

Other City rights have been officially transferred from irrigation to municipal use, including 75-0017A, 75-0019B, and 75-0007. Under transfer number 3615 which was approved in June of 1992, these three rights are limited to a combined annual volume of 700 acre-feet between April 1 and October 31. Another city right, right number 75-0114 has also been changed from irrigation to municipal use under transfer no. 3999. This transfer was approved in December of 1992 with an annual volume of 70 acre-feet and a period of use from April 15 to October 15.

My final recommendation to both you and Darrel is to administer all of the city's decreed rights according to priority dates within the irrigation season. For practical purposes and to stay consistent with the Department, I would suggest considering the irrigation season as that period between April 15 and October 15. The non-irrigation season use by the City should be adequately covered by permit no. 75-7563 (a 5.0 cfs permit with 12/03/90 priority).

If you have further questions concerning this matter or have other questions about the Jesse Creek District, please contact me directly at 327-7864.

Sincerely,



Tim Luke
Hydrologist
Water Allocations

cc: Region

Enclosure: District 75-A water rights list