

Memorandum

To: Files 29-2009A & 29-14005 (29-10199 decreed)

CC:

From: Steve Clelland

Date: 12/18/2013

Re: file review notes

Stanger's purchased the Holbrook property on 3/18/2010. Previous owner Holbrook had placed the farm into the CRP during the years 1987 thru 2009. A map from CRP shows the location and acres placed in the program:

H = 46.6 ac., I = 3.7 ac., J = 10.2 ac., K = 26.5 ac., L = 3.1 ac., & M = 9.4 ac. for a total of 99.5 acres of cropped land.

Prior to the CRP set-aside the land was irrigated via surface water from Eighteenmile Creek and a ground water well system. Notes in the license backfile for 29-2009 indicate the upstream dam, known as Holbrook Dam, had washed out around 1944 and perhaps again in early 1960's. The well was drilled about this time – 1961 according to the well driller's report.

It is unclear what type of system and irrigation was in place at this farm during the years between 1961 and 1987. When the CRP was approved Holbrook apparently sold off and removed the pumping system from the well. Mr. Holbrook passed away at age 98 years February 2008 and left no information of documentation of how the farm was irrigated or operated during those years.

There is no clear way to determine the flow of the well but it is clear it must have been used to produce crops sufficiently documented thru the CRP to qualify for that program. It is also unclear how the surface water was applied with the dam breached but there are many ditches across the farm as well as irrigation pipelines. It is possible the water was pumped from the stream. A strong basis for this recommendation is due to the CRP and its effects to the farming of the property.

Note: the domestic water right may have some issues with the POD(s). It was decreed with two locations and GIS points; neither of which are accurate. I suspect there is one well near the home. I have contacted the claimants via email regarding this issue.

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