

Truckee River Basin Water Group Stakeholder Assessment

*Assessment Findings
Presentation*

*Truckee River Basin Water
Group (TRBWG)
March 22, 2017*



Presentation Overview

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- **Goals and Objectives**
- **Assessment Process Overview**
- **Assessment Findings**
- **Discussion for Clarification**
- **Next Steps**

Goals & Objectives

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- **Listen to the results of the stakeholder assessment**
- **Ask questions to clarify meaning and contribute ideas to promote mutual understanding**
- **Identify next steps in the process (Process Recommendations in April)**

Discussion Guidance

- **Listen actively and with an ear to understanding others' views**
- **Commit to learning (ask questions why? how?)**
- **Allow enough space for thoughts to be fully expressed**
- **Attempt to be as concise and succinct as possible**
- **Silence cell phones, please**


Assessment Process

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- **Invited 23 key stakeholder interests to participate in a phone interview**
- **Distributed on-line survey to approximately 60 email addresses**
- **Conducted 18 phone interviews**
Received 2 responses to on-line survey
- **Total of 35 individual participants**
- **Interviews completed in February 2017**

Assessment Participants

1. **Richard Anderson, TRBWG Chairperson**
2. **Beth Chrisman, John Eaton, Lisa Wallace, Truckee River Watershed Council**
3. **Tim Beals, Sierra County**
4. **Ryan Bell and Richard Courcier, Truckee River Rafting**
5. **Jeff Boyer, Federal Water Master (Retired)**
6. **Mike Geary, Brandon Burks, Dave Hunt, Squaw Valley PSD**
7. **Bill Copren, Sierra Valley Water Company**
8. **Laurie Hatton, California Department of Fish and Wildlife**
9. **Paul Larson, Tom Scott, Dave Willoughby, California Department of Water Resources**
10. **Charlie White, SOS Donner Lake**
11. **Tony Lashbrook, Drew Jack, Jeff Loux, David Tirman, Town of Truckee**
12. **Steven Poncelet, Truckee Donner PUD**
13. **Nadira Kabir and Dan Lahde, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation**
14. **Lisa Heki, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
15. **Ross Collins and Jim Schaffner, Boca Tournament Association**
16. **Gary and Lauren Ranz, Sierra County Ranch Owner**
17. **Chris Fichtel, The Nature Conservancy**
18. **Lauri Kemper, Alan Miller, Alanna Misico, Lahontan Water Board**
19. **Dave Lass, Trout Unlimited**
20. **Janice Brisco, Tahoe Lakefront Owners Association (survey response)**
21. **Kathleen Eagan, Former Chair of TRBWG (survey response)**



Part 1:
Interview Findings

Shared Purpose of TRBWG

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- **Bring together and unify California interests to serve as a conduit for recommendations to the Department of Water Resource to best represent California in TROA-related water management**
- **Provide a learning forum to cultivate mutual understanding of diverse local interests and to share information and coordinate on water-related topics in the Truckee River Basin**

Broad or Specific Focus

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- **TRBWG should stay focused on TROA implementation**
- **Caution against broadening the focus, especially in the immediate to intermediate term, noting that TROA is a “heavy lift” in early years of implementation**
- **TRBWG should remain open to more broadly sharing information and engaging in an educational forum about Truckee River Basin water-related topics including, but not limited to, TROA**

Reasons for Focus on TROA

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- TROA is complex
- Essential to focus on building understanding among diverse local interests about how the system works, what TROA does and doesn't do, what tools are available to California through TROA, and how California can use those tools to benefit diverse interests
- TROA focus is powerful and not duplicative
- Focus on clarifying local interests, balancing those interests, and resolving conflicts related to TROA
- Focus on building a strong working relationship with the state (primarily DWR but also DFW)

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“There is a way to solve problems if we understand each others’ interests.”

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Truckee River Basin Issues

- **Water quantity and quality and the relationship between the two (primarily flows)**
- **Reservoir Levels and In-Stream Conditions**
- **Fisheries Impacts (endangered native fish and non-native fish)**
- **Economic impacts to local recreation industry**
- **Property damage related to lake levels and reservoir releases**
- **Headwaters health and resiliency**
- **Development Pressure**
- **Relationship between TROA and SGMA (up and coming issue)**
- **Data collection and analysis to assess conditions and make informed decisions**
- **Access to TROA data and information**
- **Communications with the State and key players about operations**

Key Concerns Related to TROA Implementation

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- Because CA has limited tools under TROA, it is critical that CA fully maximize/optimize opportunities afforded by TROA; Have to be sophisticated and saavy to achieve goals
- Need a full understanding of what's going on and why-- both from an operational perspective (how does it work?) and a process perspective (transparency in the process/How are decisions made?)
- Make information more accessible and understandable
- Need to enhance communication and coordination between the State and local stakeholders

Key Questions:

What opportunities exist? What are the tools and how do we use them?

Vision for Successful TRBWG

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- **Fair, transparent and effective forum**
- **People are heard by the State**
- **Local interests can address own conflicts**
- **Develop shared understanding with Nevada stakeholders (to whatever extent possible)**

Barriers to a Successful TRBWG

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- **Lack of participation**
- **The effectiveness of the State of CA in working with the Water Master**
- **DWR commitment to follow the process that the TRBWG agrees upon and to prioritize the TRBWG**
- **Mutual trust among local stakeholders and between locals and the State (ability to address competing interests)**
- **Sustainability over time– sustaining interest, ensuring staff to manage forum**

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“The TRBWG does not have authority. It’s only power is its collective voice.”

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Organizational Model

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Single state model- The State takes the information from local interests and advocates for CA interests with other signatories

- **Water Master wants one voice (DWR)**
- **DWR wants one voice (TRBWG)**



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“The TRBWG’s success or failure rests heavily on our success or failure with DWR.”

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TRBWG Participants: Who should be involved?

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Regional Interests:

- **Town of Truckee**
- **Nevada County**
- **Placer County**
- **Sierra County**
- **Local water, sanitation and utilities districts**
- **Environmental organizations**
- **Recreational interests**
- **Representative property owners**
- **Diversity of group celebrated by many**

TRBWG Participants: Who should be involved?

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State Interests:

- **Department of Water Resources**
- **Department of Fish and Wildlife (clarify formal role in TROA)**

Some other state and federal agency interests and TROA signatories should be invited as speakers and guests, attending at least periodically for information sharing purposes and relationship building

Truckee River Basin Water Group Stakeholder Assessment

Assessment Recommendations Presentation

*Truckee River Basin Water
Group (TRBWG)
April 26, 2017*



Presentation Overview

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- **Assessment Findings (Structure and Decision-making)**
- **Assessment Recommendations**
- **Discussion**
- **Next Steps**

Presentation Goals

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- **Listen to the results and recommendations of the stakeholder assessment**
- **Ask questions to clarify meaning and contribute ideas to promote mutual understanding**
- **Seek consensus on next steps in the process**

Discussion Guidance

- **Listen actively and with an ear to understanding others' views**
- **Commit to learning (ask questions why? how?)**
- **Allow enough space for thoughts to be fully expressed**
- **Attempt to be as concise and succinct as possible**
- **Silence cell phones, please**

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Part 1 Continued: Stakeholder Assessment Findings (Structure and Decision-making)

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Summary Key Themes

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- **TRBWG should stay focused on TROA implementation especially in the immediate to intermediate term.**
- **It's of critical importance for the TRBWG to focus on building shared understanding among diverse local interests about how the system works, what the limited tools are under TROA, and how CA can optimize those tools/opportunities.**
- **In order for the TRBWG to be a robust forum for TROA related issues, local stakeholders *must* vet their interests through the TRBWG and the TRBWG needs to have a clear purpose, defined organizational structure and decision-making process to attract consistent, representative participation from local stakeholders.**
- **DWR is the designated authority representing CA under TROA. Therefore, the relationship between TRBWG and DWR is fundamental toward achieving local Truckee River Basin water management objectives.**

TRBWG Structure: How should it be organized?

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In order for the TRBWG to be a robust forum for TROA related issues, local stakeholders *must* vet their interests through the TRBWG

“TRBWG needs to be the conduit for local issues--It’s a political equity issue.”

TRBWG Structure: How should it be organized?

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- **Remain informal but more structured (do not create another layer of government or establish a legal agreement)**
- **Clear decision-making protocols, ground rules, procedures**
- **Articulate purpose, charge of group (robust advisory role)**
- **Define “side-boards” and respective roles of DWR and TRBWG**
- **Consistent participation of individuals representing diversity of California interests**
- **Balanced representation of interests**
- **Open to the public**
- **Consider a committee structure (i.e., plenary and technical committee)**
- **Essential to document proceedings and to make information available and accessible**
- **Professional, independent consultant or facilitator to provide organizational support and build collaborative capacity**

TRBWG Structure: How should decisions be made?

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- **Consensus-seeking: achieve consensus wherever possible within the constraints of TROA**
- **Memorialize differences and communicate those to the State (underscores importance of documentation)**
- **While there may not be a resolution to all questions/issues, engaging in the conversation is important and valuable**

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Part 2: Stakeholder Assessment Recommendations

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Framework for Recommendations

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Purpose of TRBWG Collaboration

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- **Share information or solicit feedback**
- **Conduct fact-finding**
- **Define or clarify a problem or document issues**
- **Provide feedback to a decision maker on proposed action**
- **Develop a range of options or criteria to promote good decisions for the decision maker**
- **Develop consensus advice to a decision making body**
- **Reach agreements**

Collaborative Process Necessary Conditions

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- **Controversial decision needs to be made**
- **Interests of stakeholders are interdependent**
- **Number of affected groups is limited and spokespersons are identifiable**
- **Process will not unduly delay decision**
- **Resources are available**
- **Willingness to commit to the process**
- **Decision maker to the extent legally possible, is willing to use the group's recommendations as basis of proposed decision**

Collaborative Process Necessary Conditions

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- **Likely that a group can be convened with:**
 - **Balanced representation**
 - **Adequate representation of all affected parties**
 - **Willingness to negotiate in good faith towards a decision**
 - **Ability to reach consensus within a reasonable time frame.**

Collaborative Process Characteristics

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- **Participation is inclusive**
- **Participation reflects the diversity of the perspectives and demographics**
- **Explicit links to formal decision making process**
- **Distinct forums for different levels of participation**
- **Forum promotes dialogue**
- **Outcomes linked to participation**

Common Collaborative Process Phases

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- **Phase 1: Assess the situation**
- **Phase 2: Build the foundation**
- **Phase 3: Explore alternatives**
- **Phase 4: Seek agreement**
- **Phase 5: Help implement the agreement**

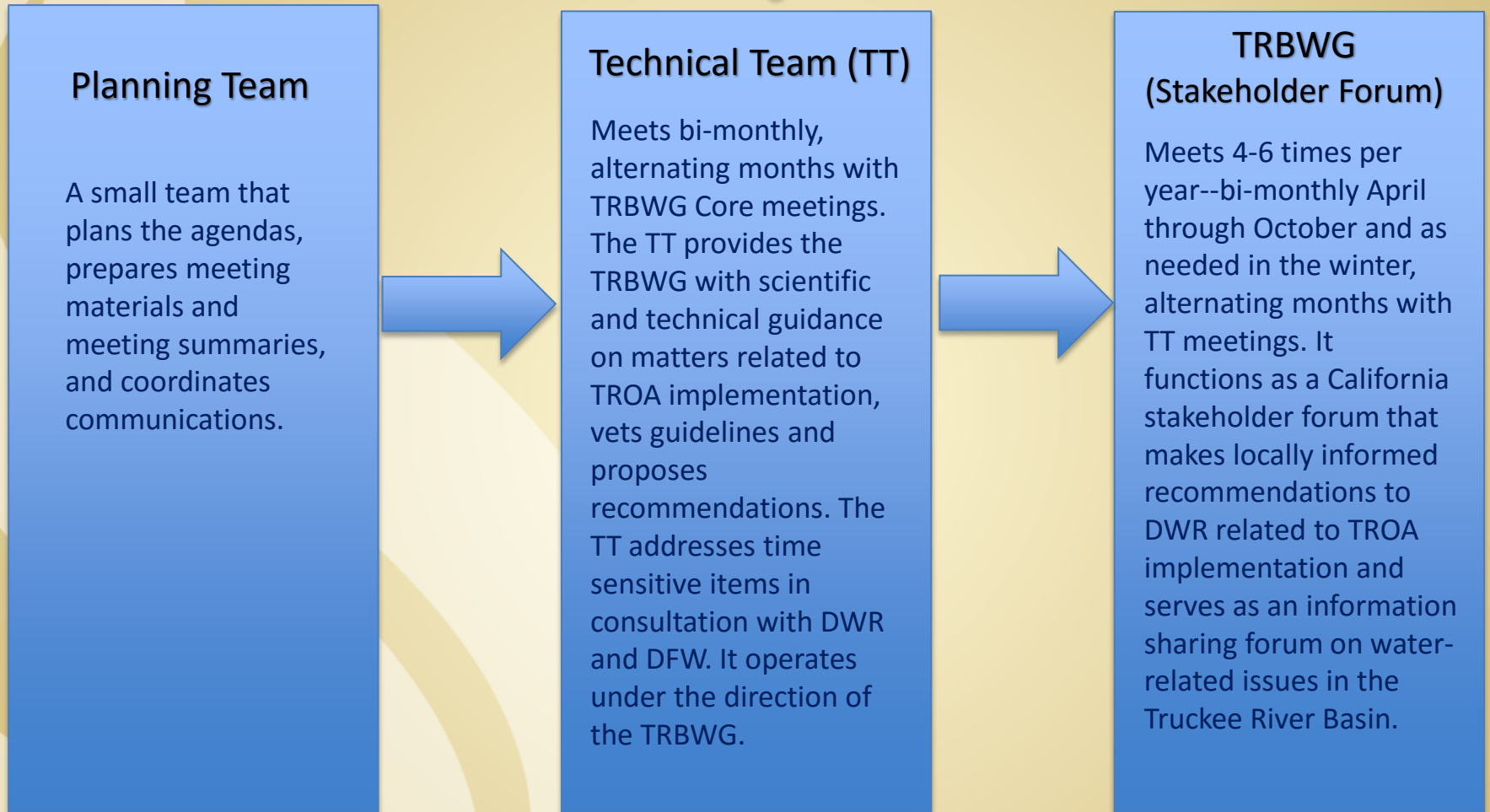
Note: In the case of the TRBWG Phases 3-5 are iterative and on-going.

Recommendations

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- **Develop a Charter that serves as the group's guiding or governance document (not a legal agreement)**
- **Define the purpose and goals of the TRBWG including the problem definition (i.e., what do we mean by TROA implementation?)**
- ***Structure* the TRBWG to function nimbly and effectively to serve the purpose/goals of the group**

Proposed TRBWG *Structure*



The TRBWG may elect to form topical working groups (e.g., Fish Team) that report their activities to the TRBWG.

Recommendations (Continued)

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- **Establish TRBWG membership to ensure balanced representation and consistent stakeholder participation that includes primary and alternate representatives of all *key* stakeholder interests (each entity selects its own primary and alternate members)**
- **Conduct outreach attempting to secure the involvement of all key interests**
- **Make TRBWG meetings open to the public**

Criteria for *Key* Stakeholders

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- **Those who are directly impacted by a decision**
- **Those representing resources that are directly impacted by a decision**
- **Those who have implementation responsibility**

Recommendations (continued)

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- Define internal roles and responsibilities of TRBWG participants
- Define TRBWG's relationship to external decision-makers and clarify communication protocols and strategies with external decision-makers and other external parties
- Describe the TRBWG's *decision-making process and voting protocols*

Decision-Making Process and Voting Protocols

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- **Establish consensus as the fundamental principle**
- **Assure a mutually-held working definition of consensus**
- **Develop a process when 100% consensus cannot be reached, including a back-up voting structure (75% supermajority required with “minority opinion” memorialized)**

Recommendations (continued)

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- **Define process/meeting agreements (ground rules)**
- **Prepare meeting summaries that document discussion highlights, agreements, disagreements, and action items**
- **Ensure adequate resources and support to effectively adopt recommendations (capacity to administer the program)**

Next Steps

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- **Develop draft Charter for TRBWG and Charges for the Planning, Technical Team, and any Working Group(s) for TRBWG review and comment before May TRBWG meeting**
- **Discuss and refine draft Charter (and Charges) at May TRBWG meeting**
- **In June, finalize Charter (and Charges)**

Thank you!

**Tania Carlone
Senior Mediator/Facilitator
Center for Collaborative Policy
916.200.5149
tcarlone@ccp.csus.edu**