

Truckee River Basin Water Group

Meeting Notes for Wednesday, March 28th, 10:00 AM – noon

Location: U.S. Forest Service Truckee
10811 Stockrest Springs
Truckee, CA 96161

Chairperson: Richard Anderson, Nevada County Supervisor

Contact: Beth Christman, Truckee River Watershed Council, bchristman@truckeeriverwc.org,
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Time	Item
10:00	<p>Call to Order – Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Agenda Review <p>Outcomes: The Chair had a previous commitment, therefore the meeting was facilitated by the Convener (Beth Christman, TRWC).</p> <p>No items were added to the agenda</p>
10:10	<p>Standing Item: Committee Report Back</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical Review Team – 2/28/18 meeting• Fish Team – 2/22/18 meeting <p>Objective: Provide updates from Technical Review Team, Fish Team and any other ad hoc teams</p> <p>Outcomes: See attached TRT Report Back presentation. See attached Fish Team Report Back presentation.</p> <p>The TRT presentation generated the following discussion item:</p> <p>The group was reminded to communicate with their TRT representatives (and DWR) if they have specific reservoir or streamflow scheduling needs or concerns. These TRT representatives will be contacted first by DWR or DFW in the event of a necessary discussion or decision involving their interest category.</p> <p>The Fish Team presentation generated the following discussion item:</p>

	<p><u>Ramping discussion:</u> Scott Schoenfeld of the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) notified the group that the BOR is currently working to automate gate operations on dams in the Truckee River system (Prosser, Boca, Tahoe). Currently, gates are operated manually, limiting the number of times flows can be adjusted during an increase or decrease – resulting in larger changes in flows. Remote operations will allow for greater flexibility in ramping. The retrofits are expected to take place over the new few years.</p>
<p>10:30</p>	<p><u>Streamflow and reservoir updates</u> – Tom Scott, DWR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes from previous month • Streamflow and reservoir levels forecast <p>Objective: Provide latest information on predicted reservoir operations and model output</p> <p>Outcomes: See attached TRBWG operations presentation.</p> <p>Tom’s presentation generated the following discussion items:</p> <p><u>Boca Dam Safety of Dams project:</u> Scott Schoenfeld of the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) provided an update on the Boca Safety of Dams project. The project is still on track for 2019. The work on the dam will affect reservoir levels and flows in the Little Truckee River, starting April 2019.</p> <p><u>Boca Road Closure:</u> Scott from BOR reported that the Boca Dam road will most likely be closed most of the summer due to the high reservoir level.</p> <p><u>Prosser flow rates:</u> The modeled forecast for Prosser showed possible low flows from mid-April through May, due to storing water to fill the reservoir. This coincides with rainbow (& potentially LCT) spawning. DWR will explore opportunities with TROA parties to find out if it is possible to minimize low flows during the fill season.</p>
<p>11:00</p>	<p>Flow management for native fish – Lisa Heki, USFWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lahontan cutthroat trout recovery overview – Truckee River • Cui-ui management • Fish regimes • Implications for flows in California portion of Truckee <p>Objective: Informational item, discussion</p> <p>Lisa provided a broad overview and historical context for flow management for the Lower Truckee River. A few of the key points:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Here is a link to the Short Term Action Plan for LCT that explains and defines the flow regimes: https://www.fws.gov/lahontannfhc/documents/Truckee-Plan.pdf • The “fish flow regimes” were designed to mimic the natural hydrograph to promote entire ecosystem recovery – vs. managing for one specific species • Flow regimes are designed to augment the current water year conditions – for example if peak runoff will naturally happen early in a given year, the flow requests for fish will shift to align with that. The regimes are not designed to create an artificial hydrograph by tying peak flows to specific dates. • One of the benefits of the flow regimes is creation/maintenance of better instream habitat at lower flows • Managing for cottonwood recruitment has been extremely successful, by timing recession of hydrograph to sync up with cottonwood root growth, the lower river has developed robust cottonwood stands. The cottonwoods have positively affected the lower river geomorphology by creating narrower, deeper channels, and the trees provide shading. These changes have resulted in lower water temperatures at low flows, which is better for fish and other aquatic organisms. • Although a regime (1 – 6) is specified near the beginning of the year, in actuality operations are managed on a weekly basis.
11:50	<p>Standing item: Suggestions for future agenda topics</p> <p>Objective: Gather input from attendees for topics of interest</p> <p>Several topics were suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placer County update on Truckee River Access plan – target May meeting (proposed by Lindsay Romack) • Independence Lake Lahontan cutthroat trout recovery update (proposed by Tim Beals) • Detailed update from USFWS and PLPT in Nov/Dec (not during busy season); include update from Tim Loux on fish passage plans for the Lower River (proposed by Lisa Heki) • Note: Tim Beals again expressed concern about ongoing development in the Reno area, the group was unclear what a specific agenda item might be.
11:55	<p>Standing item: Action Item report back</p> <p>Objective: capture key decisions, discussion points, and action items to include in meeting summary</p>

	<p>Two items were captured:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide link to LCT short term action plan with information on fish flow regimes (provided above) • Determine how to efficiently transfer information from the TROA-MOA (Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation meetings centered around fish flows) to CA stakeholders. Note: This is an action item for DWR and TROA-MOA participants
12:00	Adjournment – Chair

2018 Meeting Dates

TRBWG

- January 24, 2018
- March 28, 2018
- April 25, 2018
- May 23, 2018
- June 27, 2018
- July 25, 2018
- August 22, 2018
- September 26, 2018
- November 28, 2018

*Note: no TRBWG meeting in February, October, or December

Technical Response Team

- February 28, 2018

Fish Team

- February 22, 2018
- April - TBD