

# Truckee River Basin Water Group

Meeting Notes for Wednesday, August 22, 2018 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

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

Chairperson: Richard Anderson, Nevada County Supervisor

Convener: Truckee River Watershed Council, Beth Christman,  
[bchristman@truckeeriverwc.org](mailto:bchristman@truckeeriverwc.org), 530-550-8760 x1#

Time	Item
10:00	<p>Call to Order – Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introductions</li> <li>• <a href="#">Agenda</a> Review</li> </ul> <p>Outcome: No changes to the agenda were proposed.</p>
10:05	<p>Standing Item: Committee Report Back</p> <p>Objective: Provide updates from Technical Review Team, Fish Team and any other ad hoc teams</p> <p>Outcome: No committees met last month.</p>
10:05	<p><a href="#">Streamflow and reservoir updates</a> – Tom Scott, DWR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes from previous month</li> <li>• Streamflow and reservoir levels forecast</li> <li>• Questions and discussion on projected operations</li> </ul> <p>Objective: Provide latest information on predicted reservoir operations and model output</p> <p>Outcome: See attached presentation.</p> <p>Two points of discussion arose: <a href="#">Stampede releases</a>. Dave Lass (Trout Unlimited) asked about an abrupt draw down on the Little Truckee River downstream of Stampede Reservoir in early August. Scott Schoenfeld of the Bureau of Reclamation informed the group that the cause of the draw down was a power line trip on the line coming in to the dam. The Bureau could not respond immediately as the trip occurred at night, and there is a two-hour response time. Dave observed dead fish as a result of the abrupt flow decrease.</p> <p>There was a discussion of how this could be prevented in the future. Notification of the TRBWG (via the convener) would help get information out, but for any unplanned event, would not necessarily facilitate a fish rescue.</p>

	<p>CDFW response time, if a fish rescue were deemed possible, is likely a minimum of two hours.</p> <p>The Bureau could upgrade the generator and the transfer switch at Stampede, however power trips are infrequent events. Scott will investigate the possibility of an upgrade.</p> <p><u>Forecasted vs. actual operations.</u> Lisa Wallace (TRWC) asked if there was a way to compare the forecast to actual operations. The question is slightly complicated, and will be taken up with the planning team to identify what analyses would be the most useful.</p>
10:50	<p><u><a href="#">Basis for the 2018 California Guidelines for TROA (Basis) – TRBWG member presentation</a></u> by Chris Fichtel, The Nature Conservancy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TNC’s mission and link to TRBWG</li> <li>• Parts (1-4) of Basis relevant to TNC’s objectives</li> <li>• Specific flow and/or reservoir level requests, including timing</li> <li>• Alignment and conflict with other TRBWG members’ objectives</li> </ul> <p>Objective: Gain mutual understanding of each member groups preferred flows and/or reservoir levels. First in a series of presentations (see July 2018 meeting materials for background).</p> <p>Outcome: See attached presentation.</p> <p>Two potential conflicts with TNC (and partner) flow requests for Lahontan cutthroat trout management arose:  <u>Instream flow in Independence Creek and Little Truckee River.</u> Dave Lass (TU) mentioned an analysis that TU completed a few years ago investigating opportunities to increase flows in the Little Truckee River downstream of the Independence Creek confluence. Summer flows can be very low in this reach due to the Sierra Valley diversion on the Little Truckee River. Increasing releases out of Independence by even a small amount could benefit this reach. However, Dave acknowledged that this is a secondary priority for the near term, given the reservoir level needs for the LCT population.</p> <p><u>Flooding from high releases.</u> Paul Larsen (DWR) mentioned that high flows such as those that are used for kokanee management can cause flooding on Henness Pass road. DWR has been working with the U.S. Forest Service to determine if some grading could alleviate the flooding issues.</p>

<p>11:05</p>	<p>DWR personnel changes – Amardeep Singh, DWR &amp; Richard Anderson, Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recent staffing changes at DWR</li> <li>• Updates on hiring (if any)</li> <li>• Thank you to Paul Larson and Dave Willoughby for service</li> </ul> <p>Objective: Informational item, acknowledge contributions of DWR staff to TRBWG</p> <p>Outcome: See attached <a href="#">letter from Paul Larson to the TRBWG</a></p> <p>Amardeep Singh, Branch Chief for the North Central Region Office, Regional Planning and Coordination Branch, provided an update on the hiring of Paul Larson’s replacement for the position of Section Chief for the California – Nevada &amp; Watershed Assessment Section of the Branch. The hiring process is underway. The position may be filled in approximately a month.</p> <p>Once the Section Chief is hired, Dave Willoughby’s position will be backfilled.</p> <p>The TRBWG Chair thanked Paul and Dave for their work to support the TRBWG.</p>
<p>11:15</p>	<p>Standing item: Suggestions for future agenda topics</p> <p>Objective: Gather input from attendees for topics of interest</p> <p>Outcomes: the following agenda topics were suggested.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder presentations – recreation will present in September and November. The planning team will work with recreation stakeholders on scheduling and structure of presentations. Thus far, Boca Tournament Association volunteered to present in September. Lower River Rafting volunteered to present in November.</li> <li>• Federal Highway Administration – the FHA is tentatively scheduled to present on the Fanny Bridge replacement project in September.</li> <li>• Forecast vs. actual analysis – the planning team will discuss the best way to present the requested data.</li> </ul>
<p>11:25</p>	<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>Scott Schoenfeld (Bureau) will investigate improving the generator at Stampede for greater reliability.</p> <p>While not action items, some updates were provided by the Bureau:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stampede Dam construction – the project will be completed Oct. 15, 2018.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boca Dam - the road across Boca dam is open. Construction of the Safety of Dams project is still scheduled for 2019, which will require holding Boca at a lower reservoir level (approximately 17,000 AF).</li> </ul>
11:30	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 23, 2018