

Truckee River Basin Water Group

Meeting Notes for Wednesday, March 27th, 2019 10:00 AM – Noon

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

Chairperson: Richard Anderson, Nevada County Supervisor

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

Time	Item
10:00	<p>Call to Order – Convener, for Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Agenda Review <p>Outcome: No changes to the agenda were proposed.</p>
10:05	<p>Standing Item: Committee Report Back</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No committees met since the last meeting <p>Objective: Provide updates from Technical Response Team, Fish Team and any other ad hoc teams</p> <p>Outcome: No committees met, but there were two related updates.</p> <p>1. TRT February meeting: The Technical Response Team meeting scheduled for February was cancelled. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the use of Joint Program Fish Credit Water (JPFCW), however due to extremely wet conditions, the JPFCW was projected to spill before the TRT could develop recommendations for use. DWR and TRWC staff decided that scheduling a TRT meeting for a general conversation on JPFCW would be valuable, but that the meeting could be postponed until May when travel would be easier.</p> <p>2. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Fanny Bridge replacement: Beth received a response from the FHWA on the comment letter submitted by TRWC to the FHWA on concerns raised by the TRT regarding the dewatering plan for construction of the Fanny Bridge replacement. Subsequently, Beth received an e-mail from the FHWA stating that the Fanny Bridge replacement had been removed from the Highway 89 project. Scott Schoenfeld (US Bureau of Reclamation) clarified that the Fanny Bridge replacement is temporarily removed from the project and if funding is secured may still occur. However, no work will take place in 2019. The future potential construction date is unknown.</p>
10:05	<p>Streamflow and reservoir updates, Joint Program Fish Credit Water – Tom Scott, DWR</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of Joint Program Fish Credit Water – how can it be used, what is it, what is the current status • Changes from January forecast • Streamflow and reservoir levels forecast • Questions and discussion on projected operations <p>Objective: Provide latest information on predicted reservoir operations and model output</p> <p>Outcome: See attached presentation.</p> <p>During the presentation, Scott Schoenfeld (US Bureau of Reclamation) was able to provide two updates: Boca Dam construction: the Boca Dam Safety of Dams project is moving forward. This will result in closing the road across the dam for two years (2019 and 2020). The dirt road access to the west side of Boca Reservoir from Prosser Lake will be improved (but not paved). Stampede power outages: A power outage on Liberty Energy lines caused the gates at Stampede reservoir to reduce the release from the reservoir to 45 cfs for about a day in February. This has happened in the past, and previously caused some fish stranding. No impacts were observed during this current outage. Scott said the Bureau is working on a backup so that this will not happen in the future. Especially in the winter months, it is very difficult to get Bureau personnel to the dam to manually adjust the gates.</p>
11:05	<p><i>Basis for the 2018 California Guidelines for TROA</i> (Basis) – TRBWG member presentations – Rafting: Lower River (Mike Miltner, Truckee River Outfitters), and Upper River (Ryan Bell, Truckee River Rafting)</p> <p>Each member will present on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organization’s mission and link to TRBWG • Parts (1-4) of Basis relevant to organization’s objectives • Specific flow and/or reservoir level requests, including timing • Alignment and conflict with other TRBWG members’ objectives <p>Objective: Gain mutual understanding of each member groups preferred flows and/or reservoir levels. Fourth in a series of presentations (see July 2018 meeting materials for background).</p> <p>Outcome: Upper river rafting: Ryan Bell gave an overview of rafting on the upper reach of the Truckee River (Lake Tahoe to River Ranch). The rafting season is limited, with July and August being the prime months. The two permitted commercial rafting businesses typically shut down immediately after Labor Day.</p>

	<p>Preferred flows for this reach are 275 – 375 cfs for the length of the season. 500 cfs is the maximum, above this flow there are problems with clearance on the private bridges across the river. Rafting at flows as low as 90 cfs is possible, but is extremely challenging. It is very difficult for the commercial companies to accommodate “on and off” flows, so even flow rates throughout the summer are preferred.</p> <p>Aaron Rudnick (Tahoe Sierra Recreation) agreed with the flows and additionally described the trash removal and portable toilets that the rafting companies supply for the upper reach of the river.</p> <p>Lower river rafting: Mike Miltner gave an overview of the lower river rafting. Four companies operate on the reach of the river from Boca to Floriston, providing guided trips for this more technical reach of the river. The season begins approximately mid-June, with July and August the peak months. As with the upper river, demand decreases abruptly after Labor Day.</p> <p>Preferred flow rate for this reach is 700 cfs. They can operate between 450 – 1,200 cfs, but there are safety issues at both the low and high ends of this range. 500 is the minimum preferred flow.</p> <p>The Member Preference table was updated with content from the presentations.</p>
11:45	<p>Standing item: Suggestions for future agenda topics</p> <p>Objective: Gather input from attendees for topics of interest</p> <p>Outcome: Beth will work with members to schedule April presentations.</p>
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>Outcome: No action items were identified.</p>
12:00	Adjournment – Convener, for Chair

2019 Meeting Dates

TRBWG

- January 23, 2019
- March 27, 2019
- April 24, 2019
- May 22, 2019
- June 26, 2019
- July 24, 2019
- August 28, 2019
- September 25, 2019
- November 27, 2019

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

Technical Response Team

- TBD – May

Fish Team

- TBD