

Truckee River Basin Water Group

Meeting Notes for Wednesday, June 26th, 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 – Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introductions • Agenda Review <p>Outcome: No changes to the agenda were proposed.</p>
10:05	<p><i>Basis for the 2018 California Guidelines for TROA (Basis)</i> – TRBWG member presentations – Public Water Utilities: Steven Poncelet, TDPUD and Dave Hunt, SVPSD</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. Sixth in a series of presentations (see July 2018 meeting materials for background).</p> <p>Outcome: Truckee Donner Public Utilities District (TDPUD): TDPUD is a publicly owned utility and the largest water purveyor in the Martis Valley Groundwater Basin. TDPUD’s link to the TRBWG is related to groundwater management, as certain aspects of groundwater use are regulated under TROA. Streamflows and reservoir levels do not impact TDPUD’s operations.</p> <p>Steven’s presentation focused on the current status of the Martis Valley Groundwater Management Plan (MVGMP). The MVGMP was completed in 2013 by a stakeholder group, and led by the TDPUD, Northstar Community Services District (NCS), and the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA). Substantial scientific studies were completed to develop the plan. The studies completed for the MVGMP determined that “sustainable yield” for the basin is 22KAF/year (range: 10KAF – 50KAF). Current use is 7,500 AF/year. Total aquifer storage is estimated at 1-2 million acre-feet.</p>

	<p>In 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) was passed in the State of California. SGMA required the formation of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency and the development of a Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Martis aquifer. The local agencies submitted existing materials as an “alternative submittal”.</p> <p>In 2019, with input from the local water purveyors, the Martis groundwater basin was reclassified by DWR under SGMA to a lower priority and the development of a GSP is no longer needed.</p> <p>NCSO is the other significant user of the Martis Valley aquifer. Mike Staudenmayer of NCSO explained that NCSO is much smaller than the PUD, and gets 50% of their water from on-site springs, and 50% from groundwater, whereas TDPUD 100% on groundwater. NCSO is actively involved in the MVGMP.</p> <p>Squaw Valley Public Services District (SVPSD): The SVPSD is responsible for water, sewage, garbage, and fire for Olympic Valley and the highway 89 corridor north to Cabin Creek.</p> <p>Link to the TRBWG: As with the TDPUD, reservoir operations and streamflows do not impact SVPSD’s operation. Much of SVPSD’s operations are exempt from groundwater regulations under TROA. Wells drilled within 500 feet of a stream in the Truckee basin are regulated under TROA, however, this regulation does not apply to Squaw Creek. SVPSD has filed for surface water rights in the Truckee River, which would fall under TROA.</p> <p>Dave talked about the problems with redundancy in the SVPSD system. Right now (and with new wells) have “well-field” redundancy in that if a well shuts down other ones can be activated within the valley. However, there is no out of basin redundancy. SVPSD has done studies to identify potential emergency sources, which identified the possibility of an inter-tie with the Martis aquifer. The cost is extremely high. The water rights applications for the Truckee River are another option, however these may not prove to be useful if obtained as the SVPSD is not currently set up to treat and purvey surface water.</p> <p>The Olympic Valley aquifer has been extensively studied, with a big focus on groundwater pumping and stream flow. There is some connection between groundwater and surface water, and the aquifer is fairly dynamic.</p>
10:45	<p>Standing Item: Committee Report Back</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish Team Report Back, Beth Christman <p>Objective: Provide updates from Technical Response Team, Fish Team and any other ad hoc teams</p> <p>Outcome: See attached presentation.</p>

11:05	<p>Streamflow and reservoir updates – Jesus Esparza, DWR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes from May forecast • Streamflow and reservoir levels forecast • Questions and discussion on projected operations <p>Objective: Provide latest information on projected reservoir operations and model output Outcome: See attached presentation</p> <p>Tim Beals from Sierra County raised the issue of recent Independence Creek releases breaking out of the channel and causing damage to County roads. DWR acknowledged they were aware of the problem, and had inspected the site during the high flows. DWR was not sure why the releases happened the way they did this spring, and will talk to TMWA and the TROA Administrator to gain a better understanding. Tim had also called TMWA when the flooding was happening. Beth noted that Independence Creek is currently the only stream with a California preferred “maximum” flow in the Basis for the California Guidelines document, and that flow rate had been provided by Sierra County as a threshold for previous flood events.</p>
11:50	<p>Standing item: Suggestions for future agenda topics</p> <p>Objective: Gather input from attendees for topics of interest</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fleisch diversion? Who controls the operations of this and how can information be obtained about scheduling? The diversion affects flows for rafting. (Note: TMWA operates the Fleisch diversion). • Another update from USFWS on Pyramid Lake LCT and cui-ui (tentatively scheduled for fall 2019)
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>
12:00	Adjournment – Chair

2019 Meeting Dates

TRBWG

- January 23, 2019
- March 27, 2019
- April 24, 2019
- May 22, 2019
- June 26, 2019
- July 24, 2019

Technical Response Team

- TBD

Fish Team

- June 11, 2019

- August 28, 2019
- September 25, 2019
- November 27, 2019

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