

Truckee River Basin Water Group

Meeting Notes for Wednesday, July 22nd, 2020 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Location: On-line/phone Meeting only

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
10:10	<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>
10:10	<p>Streamflow and reservoir updates – Jesus Esparza, DWR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes from previous forecast • Streamflow and reservoir levels forecast • Questions and discussion on projected operations <p>Objective: Provide latest information on projected reservoir operations and model output, increase TRBWG member knowledge about TROA</p> <p>Outcomes: See attached presentation.</p> <p>A few questions were asked during the presentation: Will moving Joint Program Fish Credit Water (JPFCW) from Boca to Tahoe have a positive benefit for river rafting in the upper Truckee? The main benefit of moving the water is to reduce losses from evaporation – water in Boca evaporates at a higher rate than Tahoe.</p> <p>Referring back to the request by Trout Unlimited for reduced flows in the Truckee River during late September (see June meeting notes), is it looking likely to attain the flow reduction needed for construction? Yes, DWR has been in communication with Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), who controls the releases from Donner Lake, which would affect flows in the construction area. The presentation shows high flows out of Donner during the</p>

	<p>construction window (September 22- 25), however TMWA has verbally agreed to shift that release until October, or later.</p>
<p>10:50</p>	<p>Review of Basis for California Guidelines – Beth Christman, TRWC/DWR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contents of California Guidelines • Review of member preference table • How to provide input <p>Objective: Provide opportunity for TRBWG members to suggest updates or changes to the existing Basis for California Guidelines (last revised 2018). The Basis document is located: https://www.truckeeriverwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Basis-for-the-TROA-California-Guidelines-2018-Update-1.pdf</p> <p>Outcomes: See attached presentation and member preference table.</p> <p>Department of Water Resources staff added a few additional clarifications on the process for revision of the “Basis” document: Jim Eto reminded TRBWG membership that California does not typically control much water, so meeting flow targets/reservoir levels in the guidelines often relies on other TROA parties moving their water to meet the guidelines.</p> <p>Specific suggestions for revisions to the flow or reservoir level tables are encouraged, Jim suggested comparing actual on-the-ground conditions to what is specified in the “Basis” document.</p> <p>Some questions about JPFCW came up during this discussion. Jesus clarified that DWR is able to model different uses of JPFCW and provide that information to help assess the potential pros and cons of using water in specific ways.</p> <p>What is the benefit of keeping JPFCW in the system longer vs. using it? Is it “use it or lose it”? By keeping water in the system longer, California is effectively using it and has the opportunity to “re-use” it. For example, California can move water from Boca to Stampede and then back down again to provide instream flows. Once California releases JPFCW water below Boca, it converts to fish water for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, and we no longer have control over it. This is called a “direct release” vs. when California moves water around. We can lose water through spill (when reservoirs get too high) or evaporation (which is negligible).</p>
<p>11:20</p>	<p>Standing item: Suggestions for future agenda topics</p> <p>Objective: Gather input from attendees for topics of interest</p> <p>Outcome: No additional items were proposed. We have several items proposed at past meetings that we will include on future agendas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soliciting member input for updates to the “Basis for California Guidelines”

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member presentation, Trout Unlimited (staff and chapter) • Truckee Meadows Water Authority – power plant operations on lower river, is there a way to know when they will operate? Effects on recreation and on fisheries in the upper river.
11:25	<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: Members should review the Basis for California Guidelines closely</p>
Noon	Adjournment – Chair

2020 Meeting Dates

TRBWG – monthly*

- January 22, 2020
- March 25, 2020 - cancelled
- April 22, 2020
- May 27, 2020
- June 24, 2020
- July 22, 2020
- September 23, 2020
- November 18, 2020

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

Technical Response Team

- TBD

Fish Team

- TBD