

# Truckee River Basin Water Group

## Meeting Notes for Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 10:00 AM – Noon

**Location:** Truckee Donner Public Utility District, Board Room (and on-line)  
11570 Donner Pass Road  
Truckee, CA 96161

**Chairperson:** Hardy Bullock, Nevada County Supervisor

**Convener:** Truckee River Watershed Council, Beth Christman,  
[bchristman@truckeeriverwc.org](mailto:bchristman@truckeeriverwc.org), 530-550-8760, x1 # and Eben Swain,  
[eswain@truckeeriverwc.org](mailto:eswain@truckeeriverwc.org), 530-550-8760 x7 #

Time	Item
10:00	Call to Order – Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions</li><li>• Agenda Review</li></ul>
10:10	Standing Item: Committee Report Back <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No committees met since last meeting</li></ul> <p>Objective: Provide updates from Technical Response Team, Fish Team and any other ad hoc teams</p>
10:10	Streamflow and reservoir updates – Tom Scott, DWR <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Changes from previous forecast</li><li>• Streamflow and reservoir levels forecast</li><li>• Questions and discussion on projected operations</li></ul> <p>Objective: Provide latest information on projected reservoir operations and model output, increase TRBWG member knowledge about TROA</p> <p>Outcome: <a href="#">See attached presentation.</a></p> <p>DWR noted that the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) was in the midst of completing their periodic safety inspections on the dams, which occur every eight years. To complete the inspections the Bureau temporarily shuts off flow out of each dam. DWR raised the question of how to best ramp up releases out of Stampede to manage Boca Reservoir level. It is generally desirable to keep Boca at 5,000 AF of storage (to help with fish passage upstream into the Little Truckee River) but to maintain that level after the safety inspection, a large amount of water would need to be sent downstream immediately after Stampede Dam is re-opened. DWR asked CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife if it would be better to spread out the release, which would maintain smoother flows in the Little Truckee River, but would cause a temporary decrease in Boca Reservoir levels below 5,000 AF in storage.</p>

	<p>Additionally, maintaining 125 cfs releases from Stampede would cause us to run out of Joint Program Fish Credit Water (JPFCW) in Stampede before January 10<sup>th</sup>. Would it be better to maintain flows at 75 cfs once Stampede releases begin after the Bureau's inspection? Tom (DWR) and Mitch (DFW) agreed to discuss the matter after the meeting to make a decision.</p> <p>DWR and the Bureau also noted that the Truckee canal would be shut for maintenance for almost a year (<b>Tom – please add the start and end dates the canal is/will be shut off</b>), which affects some of the flexibility in operations and limits options for TROA parties to move their water among reservoirs.</p> <p>A question came up regarding Tahoe releases. It appeared that the Watermaster was releasing too much water out of Tahoe too early (so that not enough was left later in the year) and was this different than previous years? Operations for Tahoe releases were not different than in previous years. There may have been a small effect on Tahoe operations due to the Safety of Dams project on Boca which required Boca to fill completely in 2022 to test the recent dam repairs. The requirement to fill Boca meant that water had to come from releases out of other reservoirs in order to make Floriston rates and/or meet other downstream demands.</p>
10:50	<p>DWR climate change planning – Lindsay Correa, DWR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update from DWR climate change planning staff</li> </ul> <p>Objective: Informational item.</p> <p>Outcome: <a href="#">See attached presentation.</a></p> <p>Could the improved forecasting tools Lindsay referred to (“FIRO”) somehow be used to help the U.S. Army Corps approve the proposed updates for flood control limitations on dam operations once the TROA parties submit the proposed updates?</p> <p>FIRO is being used to develop the proposed changes, so the information will be included in the request.</p>
11:30	<p>Annual TRBWG Charter, Convener, Chair, Membership review</p> <p>Objective: The TRBWG Charter states that the Chair, Convener, and Membership will be confirmed, selected, or updated annually at the last meeting of the year.</p>

	<p>Relevant documents can be found at:  <a href="https://www.truckeeriverwc.org/truckee-river-basin-water-group/">https://www.truckeeriverwc.org/truckee-river-basin-water-group/</a> under Resources. Members should review prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Outcome: No changes proposed to existing Charter, Convener, Chair, or Membership.</p> <p>Would it be possible to have an August meeting? The reason we typically don't meet in August is that not much is happening. There can be exceptions, however. Tom Scott (DWR) is willing to provide information to any member regarding stream flows and reservoir updates, so TRBWG participants can always reach out to Tom directly between meetings. During the July meeting, we can evaluate if there is a need for an August meeting.</p>
11:55	<p>Standing item: Suggestions for future agenda topics &amp; announcements</p> <p>Objective: Gather input from attendees for topics of interest</p> <p>Outcome:  Two agenda topics were proposed for the January meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TRWC – restoration project update/potential flow requests</li> <li>• DWR annual water use report for Tahoe/Truckee basins (Note: this item was proposed after the meeting officially ended)</li> </ul> </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: DWR and DFW will decide what direction to provide the Watermaster regarding flows out of Stampede.</p>
12:00	Adjournment – Chair

**2023 Meeting Dates:**

TRBWG – monthly\*

- January 25, 2023
- March 22, 2023
- April 26, 2023
- May 24, 2023
- June 28, 2023
- July 26, 2022
- September 27, 2023
- November 15, 2023

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

Technical Response Team

- TBD

Fish Team

- TBD