

**Draft Minutes
Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group
Victorian Inn, 1709 Main Street, Weaverville, CA**

Tuesday January 22, 2008

The meeting was open to the public.

Start of meeting: 10:10 AM.

Attending members:

Member:	Representative Seat:
Arnold Whitridge (Chairman)	Safe Alternatives for Forest Environment
Ed Duggan	Willow Creek Community Service District
Richard Lorenz	Trinity County Resident
Byron Leydecker	Friends of Trinity River
Tom Weseloh	California Trout, Inc
James Feider	City of Redding Electric Utility Department
James Spear	Natural Resources Conservation Service
Spreck Rosekrans ¹	Environmental Defense
Gary Diridoni ²	Bureau of Land Management
David Steinhauser ³	Six Rivers Outfitter and Guide Association
Pat Frost ⁴	Trinity County Resource Conservation District

¹ Attended via audio conferencing and signed off during discussion of Item 6.

² Alternate for Francis Berg.

³ Arrived during discussion of item 3.

⁴ Left meeting after discussion of item 5.

Members that did not attend:

Member:	Representative Seat:
Dana Hord	Big Bar Community Development Group
Dan Haycox ¹	Miners Alliance

¹ Stopped by before the meeting started to report that he a medical appointment to attend.

Designated Federal Officer: Randy Brown, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arcata, CA.

1. Adopt agenda and approval of minutes

Arnold Whitridge, chairman of the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG), called the meeting to order, noting that Spreck Rosekrans was attending by audio conferencing. It was noted that the agenda appeared to be in order.

Changes to December minutes.

Jim Feider requested to add a clarification to his comments recorded on page 9. Ed Duggan made a edit on page 2.

Jim Feider made a motion to accept the minutes with suggested changes.

The motion was seconded by Ed Duggan.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Open forum, public comment

No public comment was made at this time.

3. Designated Federal Officer topics

Randy Brown reported on the progress of TAMWG membership and assignments. He was looking at March 15 as the deadline for receiving nominations for TAMWG membership. They were going to advertise to potential interest groups that may want to have a representative serve on the TAMWG. He referred to a draft of the news release and the request for nominations (Attachment 1). He noted that current members that want to be continue to serve on the TAMWG do not have to resubmit the personal information if it has not changed.

Brown reported that the charter renewal process was moving "according to script."

4. Election of TAMWG Chair and Vice-chair for 2008

There was minimal discussion on the topic of Chairman and Vice-Chairman and nominations were made immediately.

Byron Leydecker nominated Arnold Whitridge to continue as Chairman.

Richard Lorenz seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Spear nominated Pat Frost for Vice Chairman.

Tom Weseloh seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. FY 2008 Budget update and allocation of additional \$3 million

Doug Schleusner, Executive Director of the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP) provided an update on the FY 2008 budget and a proposal on how to allocate an additional \$3 million dollars that has been made available to the TRRP. He passed out a handout that noted the steps required to obligate the funds and what the TRRP recommends how the additional funds may be allocated (Attachment 2). The TRRP proposed to allocate \$750,000 to channel projects (RIG), \$500,00 to monitoring and mapping (TMAG), \$500,000 to additional watershed restoration to be determined by the Trinity River Watershed Council, and \$1,250,000 to fund the “Remaining 8” and reduce the “bow wave” (accumulated impending costs due to under funding of the TRRP in prior years).

There were questions and requests about some details of spending proposal. Ed Solbos and Rod Wittler of the TRRP provided additional information on how the additional funds will help their programs. Tom Stokely, of Trinity County Planning Department, noted a meeting scheduled for tomorrow to devise further recommendations directly to reduce fine sediment reduction. Douglas Schluesner said that they expect there may be options for carry-over spending.

Mike Long, Chairman of the Trinity Management Council (TMC), noted that there were “no major concerns,” but that the TMC had not discussed the proposal.

Jim Feider asked if the Bureau has made a determination if funds for watershed activities from this \$3 million were reimbursable or not. Schleusner noted he thought it would be reimbursable.

Gary Diridoni of BLM noted that BLM needs to still sign off on some aspects of the projects. Diridoni noted that, as the fisheries and wildlife specialist at the BLM, he is assigned to a variety of tasks and is behind schedule on the Trinity River. Responding to a question, he estimated that additional staff support could cost an additional \$100,000 per year. There was discussion of the appropriateness of using the additional \$3 million for helping with additional staffing. Schleusner noted that whether or not funds should be spent for agency staffing is being discussed at a “management level” within the Department of Interior.

Tom Weseloh made a motion that the TAMWG Chairman draft a letter to the TMC stressing TAMWG support for the TRRP spending proposal for the \$3 million. The Chairman would communicate that TMC modifications should be consistent with the restoration fund guidelines and that the TAMWG supports the funding for 1) on the ground activities of the RIG, 2) reduction of the “bow wave,” and 3) watershed restoration activities. Weseloh also commended the TRRP staff for their work on the proposal.

Ed Duggan seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Pat Frost abstained as the Trinity County Resource Conservation District may be receiving funding from the proposal.

Tom Weseloh made a motion to prepare a letter of appreciation and commendation for the work of Ed Solbos as he is planning to retire on May 3, 2008.

Seconded by Rich Lorenz.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. FY 2009 Budget proposal

Doug Schleusner passed out two handouts. The first was a copy of his memo describing FY 2009 budget proposals and how to review the budget process (Attachment 3). The second was the proposed budget (Attachment 3a). He called attention to page 2 of the memo that asked for comments on the draft budget be sent back to him by February 8th. He noted that a revised budget be available for the TAMWG and TMC by the end of February.

Schleusner also presented on his Executive Director's report at this time and passed out a handout summarizing TRRP activities since September (Attachment 4).

Tom Weseloh asked if Schleusner anticipates a revised memo following the upcoming TMC meeting and discussion of the proposed FY 2009 budget. He noted that if there were changes, he would like to review them before going on record for support of the proposed FY 2009 budget.

Jim Spear expressed concern that the \$3 million "windfall" shores up watershed restoration to \$500,000 in 2008 but the FY 2009 budget allows this to drop to \$100,000.

Jim Feider agreed that the watershed restoration dropping down to \$100,000 by FY 2009 is a little bit low, but on the other hand, it is deemed to be reimbursable and he would try to find a way to support it. He expressed concern that when he looks at the FY2009 budget compared to the full-program level of funding for watersheds (\$1.8 million), that money may be found and that would be the "outer limit of the exposure" from a reimbursability standpoint. As a result, he feels he needs a better understanding of the watershed programmatic perspective, how the money is being leveraged, and the prognosis for the multi-year budget in order to discuss this. He clarified a question from Leydecker that, dollars that show up on the TRRP budget are considered reimbursable, whereas spending in other agency budgets are not. Schleusner agreed with Feider on this definition of reimbursability. Schleusner noted that if activities get "too far into the watershed" and do not directly benefit the mainstem, spending may not be considered reimbursable—but he was not able to address this directly.

Tom Weseloh opined that sediment that enters flowing tributaries will eventually reach the mainstem. Feider commented that sediment that enters due to poor landuse practices should not have to be paid for by the Power Contractors of the CVP. He further noted that sediment which enters due to natural causes, and is within the dollar amounts under discussion here, the Power Contractors would not raise a fuss over it. Leydecker commented on the potential of increased sediment from logging in the watershed. Schleusner noted that the Watershed Council would be one way to deal with this. Whitridge lamented that while the ROD stated \$2 million should be spent on watershed issues, it did not give direction about reimbursability. He hoped that Feider may be able to help lead future discussions so that watershed work could continue. Feider suggested that an agenda item be created for next meeting about spending on watershed issues.

The discussion next turned to how the TAMWG might comment on the budget process and what sort of recommendation should be made. There was general consensus that \$100,000 was too low for watershed work. Schleusner asked that, if the \$100,000 were to be increased, they also suggest from where the additional funds should come. Some TAMWG members, including Weseloh and Leydecker, stated they do not support TAMWG cutting individual projects or reducing line items, as those should be staff decisions. TAMWG and TMC should provide policy guidance to staff on overall budgets but not tinker with project level budgets especially when there are any financial conflicts of interest from voting TAMWG or TMC members.

Jim Spear made a motion that the TAMWG recommend that the proposed FY2009 budget as proposed by TRRP is reasonable and appropriate with the exception of the concerns about lack of funding for watershed restoration. TAMWG recommended watershed restoration funding be increased to \$500,000 for FY2009.

Seconded by Ed Duggan.

Passed unanimously.

7. TAMWG recommendations to TMC

This item was addressed in the motions that were made during Items 5 and 6.

8. Executive Director's report Doug Schleusner

Discussed with Item 6.

9. Date and agenda topics for next meeting

The next meeting was tentatively set for March 10 and 11. Topics suggested for items included 1) hatchery production and interactions between hatchery and wild fish, 2) carryover of storage water, 3) flow scheduling, 4) overview of Watershed Program and Funding Sources and 5) clarification of funding of a reported \$56 million being via a settlement for Klamath River restoration and how much might be allocated to the Trinity.

Meeting was adjourned.

LIST OF MOTIONS

Jim Feider made a motion to accept the minutes with suggested changes.

The motion was seconded by Ed Duggan.

The motion passed unanimously.

Byron Leydecker nominated Arnold Whitridge to continue as Chairman.

Richard Lorenz seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Spear nominated Pat Frost for Vice Chairman.

Tom Weseloh seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Weseloh made a motion that the TAMWG Chairman draft a letter to the TMC stressing TAMWG support for the TRRP spending proposal for the \$3 million. The Chairman would communicate that TMC modifications should be consistent with the restoration fund guidelines and that the TAMWG supports the funding for 1) on the ground activities of the RIG, 2) reduction of the "bow wave," and 3) watershed restoration activities. Weseloh also commended the TRRP staff for their work on the proposal.

Ed Duggan seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

Pat Frost abstained as the Trinity County Resource Conservation District may be receiving funding from the proposal.

Tom Weseloh made a motion to prepare a letter of appreciation and commendation for the work of Ed Solbos as he is planning to retire on May 3, 2008.

Seconded by Rich Lorenz.

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Seconded by Ed Duggan.

Passed unanimously.

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: News Release from the US Fish and Wildlife for Nominations Requested for the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (Draft). January 30, 2008. Passed out by Randy Brown.

Attachment 2: Revised TRRP Staff Proposal for Additional Trinity River Funding made available in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008. 1/17/08. Passed out by Douglas Schluesner.

Attachment 3: Memo of January 3, 2008 on subject "FY2009 Draft Proposal and Review Guidelines." To Trinity Management Council (TMC) and Trinity Adaptive Management Group (TAMWG) from Douglas Schleusner, Executive Director of the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP).

Attachment 3a: TRRP Proposed Planning Budget FY2009.

Attachment 4: Memo of January 8, 2008 on subject "Director's Report; September 27, 2007—January 4, 2008. To TMC and TAMWG from Douglas Schleusner, Executive Director, TRRP.