

**Final Minutes**  
**TRINITY ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP**  
Tuesday, May 17, 2011  
Victorian Inn large conference room, Weaverville, CA

**Tuesday, May 17, 2011**

Start of meeting: 9:15 AM

Attending members:

Member:	Representative Seat:
Arnold Whitridge	Trinity County Resident
Bruce Nelson <sup>1</sup>	Willow Creek Community Services District
Gil Saliba	Redwood Regional Audubon Society
Kelli Gant	Trinity Lake Alliance
Dana Hord	Big Bar Community Development Group
Richard Lorenz	Trinity County Resident
Pat Frost	Trinity County Resource Conservation District
Elizabeth Hadley <sup>2</sup>	City of Redding Electric Utility Department
David Steinhauser	Six Rivers Outfitters and Guides Association

<sup>1</sup> Alternate for Ed Duggan.

<sup>2</sup> Left during discussion of Item 9.

Members that did not attend:

Member:	Representative Seat:
Sandy Denn	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Emelia Berol	Northcoast Environmental Center
Joe McCarthy	Commercial Fishing Guide
Jeffrey Sutton	Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority
Spreck Rosekrans	Environmental Defense

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

### **1. Welcome, Introductions, Adopt Agenda and Approval of April Minutes**

Chair Arnold Whitridge called the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) meeting to order. He commented on Byron Leydecker's recent death and that Byron had called him two weeks ago to tell him he may not be at this meeting and revealed that he had liver cancer. Whitridge noted Byron's calm demeanor during their conversation and said that it was "helpful."

**Rich Lorenz made a motion that the TAMWG send a letter to Byron Leydecker's family noting the value of Byron's work for the Trinity River.**

**The motion was seconded by Gil Saliba.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

Whitridge next addressed the bylaws and commented on several points that the TAMWG may want to address. One point was whether or how to address members that no longer attend meetings. He asked that members consider what issues they may wish to address with the bylaws.

The meeting minutes from April were next addressed; no changes were suggested.

**Kelli Gant made a motion to accept the April 2011 minutes.**

**Pat Frost seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

### **2. Open Forum and Public Comment**

There were no comments at this time.

### **3. TMC Chair report**

Brian Person, chair the Trinity Management Council (TMC), provided some information and updates. There was encouraging news on the water supply front. The Shasta Reservoir is filling and is four feet from the crest. It will be the second season in row with near perfect fill. The Trinity Reservoir dropped just a bit with the 11,400 cfs release. With the Record of Decision (ROD) changes in downstream flow from Lewiston Reservoir, the Bureau of Reclamation is designing for a larger electric generator at Lewiston with Trinity PUD. He described some of the proposed changes to the infrastructure there. Elizabeth Hadley noted that Redding Electric Utility Department would be purchasing the additional power from Trinity PUD.

Person commented that the TMC would be considering new officers. He noted his willingness to continue to serve as chair but that he was equally willing to rotate it to someone else. He said the "mega-letter" that addressed TAMWG concerns was finalized

and sent out. He noted the TMC is going to strive to be more responsive. Whitridge noted his desire is that the TMC discuss the issues the TAMWG brings up. Rich Lorenz noted that he wanted not just discussion but more decisions by the TMC. Gil Saliba noted that 90 % of the issues have been addressed and that the TMC should “move forward” and focus on remaining issues important to the TAMWG. Whitridge pointed out that a joint meeting between the TMC and the TAMWG is planned for June 29 and that no facilitator will be used. Person wanted to “plant a seed” of a suggestion of a memorial to Byron Leydecker that could be placed along the Trinity River somewhere.

#### **4. Observations During the Peak Releases**

Andreas Krause, of the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP), gave a digital slide presentation on the 11,000 cfs releases from Lewiston Dam. He noted that the actual releases that occurred are not yet entirely clear as the release readings from the dam did not agree with the in-stream gaging stations. The USGS using a special boat measured 12,000 cfs below the dam with “fair” accuracy which is supposed to be within 8 % of the true value. Krause noted no injuries occurred, but two infrastructure issues occurred. At Bucktail Bridge there was minor levee erosion and at Poker Bar Bridge there were reports of abutment toe scour. There were no inundations of houses or infrastructures. The Catanese driveway was flooded by day 3 but they were not cut off. Krause noted he encountered several landowner issues and that he “got yelled at” a lot. He noted general confusion and concerns over the need for high flows. There was significant erosion on four properties; four owners lost their water supplies. Krause noted that TRRP personnel responded typically within one hour of receiving calls from landowners. They have received requests to clear flood debris from yards and that many gardens were flooded. He felt the outreach was successful in the upper 40 miles of the river but more outreach is needed below the North Fork.

The flows are still too high to assess the success of the high flows on the river geomorphology. He noted that the Sawmill pool did not clear of the injected gravel as hoped. He showed several aerial photos of restoration sites under the high flows.

Krause, responding to TAMWG questions, said he was very pleased with how the release went, but they won't be able to make close examinations until August. He noted they will try to address public concerns and better understand them by holding open houses to meet with the public. He agreed that a newspaper article explaining the process would be a big help. Jennifer Faler noted that a new “fishery flow line” has been established to replace the 100-year FEMA flood line and this is intended to help direct locations of new housing and to avoid potential flooding. Nina Hemphill noted that they saw fish using side channels during high flows. Bruce Nelson offered to help host a down river meeting as the community of Willow Creek had lots of questions. A member of the public asked who made the decision to go from 11,000 to 12,000 cfs, how accurate the instream gages are, and expressed his concern that the data are not accurate enough and this can result in excessively high releases. Krause explained that no decision was made but instead difficulty in “fine tuning” of the release gates caused the increased release. He also noted that whether the flows reached as high as 12,000 cfs is not certain yet. Krause agreed that high flows can erode or aggrade the bed at the gaging station, and that this can alter the rating table used to calculate flow based

on river stage. He explained that's why the USGS was using their boat with GPS to take measures and that this did establish that the in-stream flow gage was out of calibration.

Krause noted that this release did not have the added flow of high tributary flows and that this release was for 3 days and not 5. He noted that they were successful in their designs intended to reduce the water levels under high flows at Indian Creek.

##### **5. Temperature Issues, Minimum Pool Criteria, and February 23 Letter to TMC from Paul Fujitani**

Rod Wittler of the TRRP made a digital slide presentation on the Bureau of Reclamation operations of flows at Trinity Reservoir. He reviewed the State Water Resources Control Board's Water Right Order (WRO) 90-5 which Reclamation must comply with in the operation of the Trinity River Division. He noted temperature targets in the Trinity River that come from WRO 90-5 and from the Record of Decision (ROD). For example, from July 1 to September 15 water temperatures should be 60 F or less at Douglas City to provide for holding water for spring chinook. From September 15 to 30 temperatures need to be 56 F for spawning and egg survival.

Wittler described the process for annual temperature forecasting used by Reclamation and mentioned models used to predict river temperatures. He noted that Reclamation websites provide daily data sets describing releases and storages at various dams they manage. He noted that this year, Trinity Reservoir is predicted to have 2 million acre feet of water at the end of September and he compared that to comparable storage of 900,000 acre feet in 2009. He showed graphs demonstrating that the models predict temperatures fairly well in the river and that they can generally meet temperature objectives. He explained how the use of the auxiliary outlets in Trinity Dam can reduce water temperatures, but only for a limited time. It was noted that earlier in the day Andreas Krause had said that the auxiliary outlet was stuck shut and wasn't able to be used for the high flow.

Wittler said a temperature task group exists and it holds conferences by phone to discuss management of releases. He noted that the temperature work group wants to begin thinking about a multi-year drought and wants to be able to predict outcomes from various actions. He noted the difficulty in predicting outcomes. One important question is "How low can the reservoir go and still have the releases meet the temperature requirements at Douglas City?" Kelli Gant asked when they would answer this question. Wittler could not give a date and noted that they are struggling with how this would be answered.

Tom Stokely of California Water Impact Network presented digital slides on some of the legal constraints relating to temperature management, problems with achieving temperature objectives, and other facts about river temperature. He noted that there exists a disagreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and other regulatory agencies as to whether the Reclamation needs to comply with California's temperature objectives for the Trinity River. He noted that Trinity Reservoir releases are normally 44 to 45 F and these low temperatures help to maintain cool river temperatures. But the release waters can rise to 60 F when the reservoir drops. He cited that the ROD and National Marine Fisheries Services determined that the minimum pool in Trinity Reservoir should be no lower than 600,000 acre feet. Another important factor in maintaining low temperatures is the physical shape of Lewiston Reservoir (just downstream of Trinity Reservoir). He said they need to export summer

releases from Lewiston to the Sacramento of approximately 1,350 cfs in order to keep water temperatures low because of the shallow depths and the seven mile length of Lewiston Reservoir enhances warming of the water. Stokely found Reclamation's analysis deficient for the Trinity by listing several flaws in logic in a recent Reclamation environmental document (South Delta Improvement Project) that concluded no substantial effects to Trinity fish from increased pumping in the south Delta. Stokely wrapped up his presentation with warnings of potential problems of warm flows on fish kills, the interaction with future global warming, and the ever present threat of multi-year droughts.

Stokely finished by noting a set of positive actions to help maintain Trinity River temperatures: 1) that the program institute higher carry over storage (900,000 acre feet) in Trinity Reservoir, 2) that the program consider "banking" of Trinity ROD flows from one year to the next, 3) that Reclamation reduce Delta water exports and reduce the level of promised water delivery in contracts, 4) that the State Water Resources Control Board incorporate specific temperature requirements in the Bureau's Trinity River/ Central Valley Project water rights, and 5) that Reclamation consider structural to Lewiston Reservoir to reduce warming.

## **6. Acting Executive Director's Report**

Jennifer Faler, Acting Executive Director of the TRRP, presented an update on the program and passed out a two page report listing recent activities (Attachment 1). She noted this will be her last report as a new Executive Director has been hired. She touched on activities in three elements of the program: the budget, science monitoring, and implementation. She mentioned a new budget process per a TAMWG recommendation. Greater independent review is being used in the Science programs. She noted the successful 11,000 cfs release and plans for new in-channel projects. She noted that there has been minimal progress on the Phase 1 review and Phase 2 planning.

**Break for lunch.**

## **7. 2012 TRRP Work Plan and Budget**

Jennifer Faler passed out a handout describing activities towards development of the 2013 budget (Attachment 2). She commented on and described the general items under the three areas of the program: administration, implementation, and analysis.

Faler next passed out a handout on the FY 2012 proposed budget (Attachment 3). The 2011 approved budget is \$15 million; the 2012 proposed budget is \$15.6 million. The 2012 allocations are 18.6 % administration, 48.0 % implementation, and 33.4 % science. Faler next went over details of the implementation budget. There was some discussion about the increased costs for riparian monitoring and high costs for woody debris placements. Faler had also noted her desire to keep TRRP staff salaries flat, but the TMC wanted her to keep cost of living increases. Elizabeth Hadley commended Faler for her attempts to control costs.

Ernie Clarke next described elements of the science budgets. He noted costs for expert reviews, the science symposium, and an ESSA proposal to address how monitoring and

feedback would be developed for the program. He next gave a digital slide presentation on how the budget was developed for the science and monitoring projects and passed out a hard copy (Attachment 4) and a list of the chosen science projects (Attachment 4a). He described the process of using the prioritizations from the fiscal year 2012 science work plan to develop the budget allocations. He listed four ways to fulfill the science needs: investigation plans, market research, existing contracts, and staff efforts. He went over the review of projects and listed the chosen projects noting that those above the green line were going to be funded while those below would not. Rich Lorenz noted that outmigrant juvenile monitoring was the most expensive of the projects to be funded and he asked Clarke what this project is gaining for the program. Clarke deferred that he did not want to defend a particular project. Faler pointed out that the science review expressed support for this project and even wanted it expanded. Arnold Whitridge noted the need to have information on smolt production and the need to know the influence of hatchery component. Tom Stokely noted that five years ago the science advisory board had seriously questioned the outmigrant project. Stokely and Larry Hanson both cited the need for coded wire tag work, scale analysis, and coho cohort analysis (these projects were listed below the green line and therefore were not likely to be funded).

This initiated a discussion of how priorities are set. Clarke noted the Platt River program in Nebraska “drives” its assessments via a set of ten main questions about ecological function and science is designed to address how the individual restoration project affect these functions. He thought this sort of approach would be useful to the TRRP as it would avoid “discipline specific” approaches. Gil Saliba noted the problem with the TRRP as being weak in assessments. He noted that overall assessments were the way specific questions are developed and answers delivered.

There was discussion about the TAMWG support for the budget as proposed. Elizabeth Hadley proposed the program preserve the 20:30:50 budget allocation and agreed that this proposed budget was very close. Gil Saliba thought that dictating that the program follow a numeric the split of 20:30:50 may be “too confining,” especially for this year, given that some levels of implementation have not been able to go forward due to the federal budget hold ups and because program assessments are still not yet available. There were questions about why Reclamation doesn’t fund coded wire tagging at the hatchery since many other hatchery programs do this. There was a general feeling that the restoration program should not have to pay for this sort of monitoring.

**Kelli Gant made a motion to recommend approval of the 2012 budget while attempting to maintain the 20:30:50 split as close as possible both as proposed and in actual spending.**

**Rich Lorenz seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

The discussion next moved to whether the science program should be assessing more of the effectiveness of the implementation and less of general questions. Whitridge suggested that the TAMWG suggest assessments they think are valid (e.g., are deep holes being filled in)

and ask the program scientists to either follow up on it or provide a written response why the suggestion is not valid.

Elizabeth Hadley suggested that the TAMG review the internal budget more frequently.

## **8. Designated Federal Officer Topics**

Randy Brown, the Designated Federal Officer, commented that the Fish and Wildlife Service budget is still uncertain and that rumors are that they may be facing a 10 % budget cut this year. He noted that this could impact their travel to meetings. He next moved to the TAMWG bylaws, for which he proposed revisions. The TAMWG focused their discussion on the voting rules and the exact language for passing motions (a specific number versus majority of those members present). It was decided that Section 503 and 504 (and 400) would be changed to affirmative votes require a “majority of current members.”

**Elizabeth Hadley made a motion that the bylaws requirement for passing affirmative votes be changed from “eight members” to “a majority of current members.”**

**Pat Frost seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

Brown next reminded the TAMWG that the window for nominations for new TAMWG members will be opening in June and closing in about 45 days.

Brown closed his comments with a note of his sadness over the passing of Byron Leydecker. On a positive note, he passed around a newspaper article in the Eureka Times Standard describing Leydecker’s valuable contributions to the Trinity River restoration.

## **9. Goals and Suggestions for Joint TAMWG-TMC Meeting June 29th**

Arnold Whitridge asked for comments or suggestions about what issues should be discussed during the upcoming joint meeting between the TAMWG and TMC. Whitridge said he was planning to say they are explicitly focusing on the future and past complaints shouldn’t be the major focus.. They discussed about how TAMWG members can have some influence at workgroup meetings by attending as members of the public (i.e., they cannot present themselves as official representatives of TAMWG). Gil Saliba mentioned the “mega letter” from the TMC that responded to many of the TAMWG complaints and he suggested they prioritize their issues. He suggested watershed and hatchery assessment are two important issues and he suggested the TAMWG ask that TMC seek a quarterly report on progress on the hatchery. Saliba also mentioned the need for the TMC to develop a policy statement on the reservoir. Kelli Gant recognized that it is likely that the TMC are very busy and that it would be more effective for the TAMWG to deliver a prepared policy statement and ask the TMC to simply sign it. Rich Lorenz noted he did want to bring up past issues and asked that the topic of conflict of interest be brought up at the joint meeting. Saliba thought the TMC should provide guidance on priorities for Ernie Clarke as he develops the prioritized list for science projects.

Whitridge suggested that they would try to decide on about five major topics. Saliba thought they should try to stick to a time schedule and not to devolve into a gripe session over the past ten years. He noted the need to keep the TMC chair's "feet to the fire" in order to provide meaningful answers.

Jennifer Faler asked about the location of the meeting. One suggestion was Trinity Lake and another was Straw House as places with views of water. Whitridge thought a new location would provide a new context.

#### **10. Tentative Date and Agenda Topics for Next Regular Meeting**

It was decided that there was not a need to pick topics until after the joint meeting with the TMC. September would be a likely time for the next meeting.

## **LIST OF MOTIONS**

**Rich Lorenz made a motion that the TAMWG send a letter to Byron Leydecker's family noting the value of Byron's work for the Trinity River.**

**The motion was seconded by Gil Saliba.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Kelli Gant made a motion to accept the May 2011 minutes.**

**Pat Frost seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Elizabeth Hadley made a motion to recommend approval of the 2012 budget while attempting to maintain the 20:30:50 split as close as possible both as proposed and in actual spending.**

**Rich Lorenz seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

**Kelli Gant made a motion that the bylaws requirement for passing affirmative votes be changed from "eight members" to "a majority of current members."**

**Pat Frost seconded the motion.**

**The motion passed unanimously.**

## **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS**

Attachment 1: TRRP Memo to TAMWG from Jennifer Faler regarding the Director's Report. Handed out by Jennifer Faler.

Attachment 2: Trinity River Restoration Program Fiscal Year Budget Descriptions by Program Activity May 2011. Handed out by Jennifer Faler.

Attachment 3: FY2012 TRRP Proposed Budget and Work Plan. Handed out by Jennifer Faler.

Attachment 4: Fiscal Year 2012 Science Work Plan. Handed out by Ernie Clarke.

Attachment 4a: Fiscal Year 2012 Science Work Plan (Science project priority list). Handed out by Ernie Clarke.

Other documents:

Letter from TAMWG to the TMC dated May 25, 2011 regarding approval of budget and other issues.