

## Trinity River Adaptive Management Working Group

Notes from August 25, 2015 meeting (conference call) 10am - noon

### Attendees:

TAMWG: Tom Stokely, Ed Duggan, Justin Day, Gil Saliba, Paul Catanese, Darren Mierau, Emelia Berol, Rich Lorenz, Julie Catanese, Sandy Denn

Others: Robin Schrock (BOR), Joe Polos (FWS), Vina Frye (FWS), Kristi Bevard (TAMWG Alternate for T. Stokely), Holly Long (San Luis -Delta Mendota WA)

### 1. FY2016 Proposed Budget:

Schrock directed TAMWG members to the budget document that has been emails to them. She said that the FY16 budget was provisional since the FY16 federal budget has not been approved. P. Catanese asked about when the budget would be approved and Robin said that was unclear; as the federal budget has to be passed by Congress and signed by the President.

Schrock said that there is an overall shortfall of \$500,000 in the budget but that this is preliminary as she is still working on updating budget line items. She began answering specific questions as she moved through the various components of the FY16 budget.

- a. **Admin** - Stokely asked why the outreach budget was reduced from FY15's level; Schrock stated that one of the TRRP staff would be taking over some of the tasks that were done under this project.
- b. **Science** - Schrock stated that the big difference in the FY16 budget is extending the fish production model from the NF Trinity to the confluence with the Klamath River. Duggan asked why the SAB had not been billing the Program. Schrock said that they bill for when they do things for the Program and it also depends on what support their agency provides them as SAB members. Additionally, there were some delays last year in getting a couple of the agreements through the contracting process.
- c. **Implementation** - J. Catanese asked what the Geophysical Support project was for. Schrock responded that under this contract all of the sediment transport monitoring, LIDAR, aerial photography, channel rehabilitation site surveys, etc. are conducted. This is a multi-year contract that was recently established. Schrock said she would be the TAMWG a more detailed list of what tasks were accomplished under the contract. Stokely asked why there was no funding allocated to the Bucktail #1 site. Schrock stated that this project was funded with FY15 funds but construction was delayed because BLM asked for some additional NEPA analyses that delayed the construction

of this site. Duggan asked about the level of funding for watershed work, is going to be \$1.1m. Schrock explained that there was \$500k proposed for the watershed restoration grant program and that \$600k proposed to go into the USFS agreement for them to continue road decommissioning related activities.

## 2. TAMWG Budget Discussion

- a. Day suggested that the TMAWG recommend the 20/30/50 split among the three components of the program as has been done in the past. Berol proposed that more funds be moved into the watershed component of the implementation budget. She as well as Stokely expressed concerns over the effectiveness of mainstem restoration projects compared to watershed work. Mierau said he would like to see a prioritized list of watershed projects before additional funds were provided. Schrock stated that when they asked the Watershed Council for a prioritized list they did not receive one but the USFS has a list of project for their lands. Day said that his agency is focused on getting CVPIA related mainstem project completed and was not interested in diverting funds away from mainstem projects. Stokely stated that watershed work was part of the ROD and consistent with CVPIA. J. Catanese said that she thought more funding should go to watershed restoration. Berol suggested that \$1-2m should be moved from the construction and gravel work to the watershed task. Lorenz was not in support of this because he wants to see mainstem construction completed so we can see if it works. Stokely and Berol said that they did not want to wait until the mainstem work was done because watershed work has been chronically underfunded. Mierau said that without a list of watershed project he is not supportive of putting additional funds for watershed work and he agrees with Lorenz to continue with the mainstem restoration work.

- b. The following motion was made by Emelia Berol and seconded by Paul Catanese:

*TAWMG recommends to the TMC that for the 2016 budget, an additional \$1-2 million be transferred from mainstem work to watershed restoration work.*

The motion passed with yes votes from: Saliba, Duggan, P. Catanese, Berol, J. Catanese, Denn, and Stokely. Mierau, Lorenz, and Day voted no. Stokely asked the minority if they wanted to write a minority opinion to be included in the TAMWG letter to the TMC and they declined.