

Draft 3 Minutes
TRINITY RIVER ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP
 September 15, 2015
 Weaverville Fire Hall, 125 Bremer, Weaverville, CA

Tuesday September 15, 2015 9:00 AM

Attending Members

Member	Representative Seat:
Elizabeth Hadley	Chair, Utility Companies
Tom Stokely	Vice-chair, Commercial Fishing Organizations
Gil Saliba	Environmental Organizations
Joe McCarthy	Local Landowners
Emelia Berol	Environmental Organizations
Richard Lorenz	Trinity County Residents
David Steinhauser	Whitewater Outfitters /Guides
Ed Duggan	Small business Owners

Members that did not attend

Member:	Representative Seat:
Paul Catanese	Local Landowners/Business owners
Kelli Gant	Trinity County Residents
Paul Hauser	Utility Companies
Sandy Denn	Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District
Darren Mierau	Environmental Organizations
Liam Gogan	Trinity River Fishing Guides

Designated Federal Officer: Joe Polos, Fish and Wildlife Service, Arcata, CA.

Other attendees: Dave Wellock, (resident); Teresa Connor (Ca Dept. of Water Resources); Vina Frye (USFWS); Paul Zedonis (Bureau of Reclamation); Robin Schrock and Brandt Gutermuth (TRRP); George Kautsky (Hoopa Valley Tribe); Wade Sinnen (Ca Dept. Fish and Wildlife).

Notes: Kim Mattson (ENW).

List of Motions Made during the Meeting

Ed Duggan made a motion to approve the agenda.

Rich Lorenz seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Emelia Berol made a motion to accept the June 2015 TAMWG minutes and the minutes from the August 2015 teleconference.

**Tom Stokely seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.**

**Ed Duggan made a motion to accept the minutes for the joint meeting of the
TAMWG with the Trinity Management Council (TMC).**

**Emelia Berol seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.**

**Tom Stokely made a motion to recommend to TMC that the ad-hoc TRRP
Efficiencies Subcommittee include the TAMWG chair and include public
participation.**

**Rich Lorenz seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.**

Action Items Designated during the Meeting

Action item: Elizabeth Hadley, Tom Stokely, Joe Polos, and Robin Schrock will come up with a list of documents for review by TAMWG members. They will present the list at the next conference call. These documents can then be sent out before the December meeting.

Meeting Minutes by Agenda Item

1. Welcome, Introductions, Approve Agenda and Minutes

Elizabeth Hadley, Chair, opened the meeting for the Trinity River Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG). She noted the Lessons Learned Meeting that is scheduled for tomorrow and the Trinity Management Council (TMC) meeting the next day.

Approval of Agenda

**Ed Duggan made a motion to approve the agenda.
Rich Lorenz seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.**

Approval of Minutes

**Emelia Berol made a motion to accept the June 2015 TAMWG minutes and the minutes from the August 2015 teleconference.
Tom Stokely seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.**

Ed Duggan made a motion to accept the minutes for the joint meeting of the TAMWG with the Trinity Management Council (TMC).

Emelia Berol seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comment

No comments.

3. Designated Federal Officer Items

Joe Polos designated Federal Officer, noted actions by the Trinity Management Council (TMC) on TAMWG recommendations. Three recommendations either were accepted or had already been addressed (definitions of TAMWG, requests for flow operations, and cold water storage). The TMC had not made the decision to follow the Brown Act regarding closed door meetings. Regarding the recommendation the shift of funding from channel work to watershed work, the TMC will consider it at their upcoming meeting.

He noted the TMC meeting scheduled for December 15 and 16 in Weaverville and the Lessons Learned Watershed meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

At this time, Elizabeth Hadley asked how the TAMWG members thought the joint meeting went. Ed Duggan thought this past joint meeting went over old business and did not focus on problems that existed between the two groups. Dave Steinhauser was pleased that they brought up issues over boat ramps and he liked the site tour. Rich Lorenz and Tom Stokely agreed with Duggan in that they did not achieve much at the meeting. Duggan suggested they return to the format of the meeting before this past meeting. Hadley noted, for that meeting, they had hired a facilitator and at a high cost.

Emelia Berol thought the tension between the TAMWG and TMC has been reduced, probably because there has been some turnover in the TMC. She thought the TAMWG has to wait a few more months for the TMC to get oriented. Gil Saliba thought it was a good idea for some to express concerns over issues. He thought the discussion over roles should have been more focused and discussion of goals of the Program was unnecessary as they are defined in the Record of Decision. Saliba noted that the watershed issue comes up every year and that there is resistance from the Tribes. He thought maybe they should focus on that in the next meeting and issues of legality and budget need to be resolved. Why they wouldn't fund the watershed analysis needs to be explained.

It was suggested that next year, they meet in early spring before the budget is decided.

Elizabeth Hadley thought the tour was good and agreed there wasn't enough substance discussed and that the TMC is in a different position than where they were the year prior give all the new members.

4. Trinity Management Chair Update

This item was delayed until 11:30 AM when Seth Neman, Trinity Management Council (TMC) Chair, arrived.

Naman gave an update of TMC activities by summarizing his letter to the TAMWG that described the TMC response to the TAMWG recommendations (Attachment 4).

The TMC agreed with the TAMWG to update the definition of the TAMWG to be consistent with the language in the TAMWG charter.

The TMC did not adopt the Brown Act for closed door meetings.

The TMC did provide the operational forecasts by Reclamation. These were sent to Tom Stokely and Elizabeth Hadley.

The TMC had already passed a motion to BOR to pursue all options to preserve cold water pool during their March 2015 meeting.

He recognized the TAMWG's recommendation for this coming meeting—to shift funding from in channel work to watershed work. He noted that several TMC members feel that they are not spending enough for in-channel work currently. This feeling was based on a projection that increasing costs of channel work could extent the schedule out until the year 2030. He also stressed the need to define the causal linkage between the dam and watershed effects.

He reminded the TAMWG of the sediment workshop tomorrow. He hoped fishing guides may be able to attend and hear about changes in pool depths.

Rich Lorenz asked how the Program had the authority to avoid the State mandate to reduce water use by 30%. This could have resulted in reduced releases from the reservoirs and therefore more cold water storage. Naman responded that a 30% reduction of this year's allocation would have summed to about 100,000 more acre feet in the reservoir. He thought this would not have translated into much colder water. Also the authorization was not thought to pertain to water release for environmental purposes. Federico Barajas also noted that water users did have reductions in their water deliveries.

5. Executive Director and TRRP Update

Robin Schrock, Executive Director of the TRRP passed out a copy of a memo detailing her report (Attachment 1). She drew TAMWG's attention to the FY2016 Budget (Attachment 2). She noted the ongoing work is being funded at draft levels awaiting finalization of the Federal budget in Washington DC. She noted she would send updates based on an El Nino, extremely wet water year. She explained the budgeting of the four channel sites and funding to the Forest Service for watershed implementation. She went over several other line items and noted the TMC will be approving the budget in their upcoming meeting on September 17. Elizabeth Hadley noted the TMC has not yet accepted the TAMWG's recommendations on the budget and she would bring this up at the TMC meeting.

Schrock noted they set a minimum size for their newspaper ads and it will include the TRRP logo. They converted a student employee, Jeanne McSloy into a new Natural Resource Specialist who will be working on public input to environmental documents.

Joe Polos gave workgroup activities and updates (Attachment 5). He asked for TAMWG to get in requests soon about specific reports desired from workgroups to be presented at the TAMWG meeting in December. Polos mentioned that the Fish Workgroup is meeting next week to put together long-term reports from the Program. The Fish Production Model is holding a workshop in later this year in Arcata with plans for a model next spring. The Interdisciplinary Team is holding a meeting October 1st on performance metrics and the Decision Support System workshop to be held next spring. Watershed Workgroup worked on a causal linkage of watershed work to the Program.

Brant Gutermuth gave an update on the Implementation Work (Attachment 3). He first touched on the environmental permitting and compliance. They are completing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Bucktail site. They have received a number of comments on the boat ramp and this has initiated new designs and there will be an updated EA. The Lower Dutch Creek is “onboard” with the Forest Service and they are working on comments received from a scoping effort. Work is also ongoing on Deep Gulch with a plan to have an EA with the BLM by late spring 2016. They are working on the Biological Assessments to aid the Biological Opinions for threatened species. He noted ongoing work on the sediment permits and cultural resource reviews. Limekiln surveys are ongoing for historic mining work and there are also some pre-historic sites being surveyed. Dutch Creek and Lower Douglas City have river access issues—some residents do not want a boat ramp. The private ramp at Lower Junction City has been closed. He noted that the revegetation strategy is going well at Hocker Flat using a simpler irrigation system. A long-term permit is being finalized for the screw traps, redd counts and tagging.

Gutermuth next described the Implementation portion. The Upper Douglas City site was implemented this year by Falcon Builders. They were able to get out of the channel before the Boat Dance Flows. The side channel at Indian Creek has received woody debris that will create reduce flows for rearing juveniles. He explained plans to access across the river at Limekiln were dropped once spawning was noted in the area. They were also challenged by findings of nesting birds including Yellow-breasted chats that slowed down revegetation work. The recent Boat Dance flows were another challenge, but they were able to finish work before the recent pulse, fall flows. Pole plantings of vegetation will still be occurring by hand.

Tom Stokely asked if they can award mainstem work before they complete the environmental documents. Gutermuth said no, but they can use placeholders of the detailed work in the contracts and this has been done for contracts to the Tribes.

Rich Lorenz congratulated Gutermuth on his new position. He asked Gutermuth to help keep access open for locals who would like to fish along the river. Gutermuth noted the private boat ramp near the area called Round House. The TRRP follows federal guidelines which restrict access by vehicles. In the case of private lands, access may be gated if the landowners so choose. Gutermuth noted the need for a comprehensive review of access points. Robin Schrock commented that they built a nice path along the river at Lower Junction City. Ed Duggan thought the parking is limited at some places. He also noted fishing guides pay a fee for public access at boat ramps but he suspected the funds were not being used for access for ramps. Dave Steinhauser asked about mining and prehistoric sites and reports on surveys. Gutermuth said the BLM manager uses a more comprehensive law to do surveys. They are funding a dig at the Limekiln Site and will be reporting on it soon. He noted a general report and a site specific report available on the TRRP website.

After Gutermuth finished, Schrock continued her presentation and noted activities on public outreach including conservation camp, public notices and automated telephone calls on supplemental flows, and lists of publications and reports. She wrapped up her report by noting the upcoming SAB Science Symposium scheduled for March 31 and April 1, 2016.

6. TMC—Current Issues

Elizabeth Hadley reviewed that this was a standing item where TAMWG members can bring up issues for the TMC.

Regarding the TMC agenda for September 17, Joe Polos explained the rationale about the TRRP Efficiency Subcommittee that was being formed. This was to look at the construction schedule

and to look at other sources of funding that may be available for the Program. There was concern over the construction schedule as being too long after hearing that it could last out to the year 2030. Robin Schrock gave some background on that projection. She had used current information based on projected costs such as Chapman Ranch at \$12 million. At current funding levels, these would require that channel work could continue out to 2030 to complete. The subcommittee was being formed to see if the channel work could be completed sooner than 2030.

Tom Stokely noted the ad-hoc committee would be meeting behind closed doors and may not include TAMWG members.

Tom Stokely made a motion to recommend to TMC that the ad-hoc TRRP Efficiencies Subcommittee include the TAMWG chair and include public participation.

Rich Lorenz seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Joe Polos noted that it would be important for the TAMWG Chair to coordinate information regarding the subcommittee participation with the TAMWG members and to include the Federal Register notices.

Before breaking for lunch, the TAMWG moved to the presentation in Item 8. However, Seth Naman arrived during the presentation of Item 8 and TAMWG took up Item 4 and then returned to Item 8. After that, they resumed the agenda schedule.

Lunch

7. Flow Management (WY2015 CVP water management update, BOR long-term flow plan update, fall flow plan for WY15)

Paul Zedonis with Northern California Area Office of Reclamation gave a Power Point presentation on four topics per the request by the TAMWG. Zedonis noted these topics were: CVP water supply, flow and water temperatures, fall flow action, and the long-term plan to protect salmon in the Lower Klamath River.

Zedonis showed data that Trinity Reservoir is at 624 thousand acre feet (as of September 11); that is 41% of the 15-year average. He showed a graph of Trinity River water temperatures and flows from Lewiston Reservoir for this year, and that Lewiston releases had cooled the river. He pointed out that water temperatures over 2015 were pretty good at Lewiston (10 to 12 C) despite the low pool volume. The temperatures at Douglas City was mostly kept below 16 C and the recent fall releases showed the river cooling down to 13 C.

Regarding the fall flow action, Zedonis noted that the drought conditions had resulted in low tributary flows. The BOR had completed an EA and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the releases of emergency fall flows for 2015 of up to 88 TAF. The Westlands Water District filed suit to stop the releases but these were denied. The BOR increased flows to 1100 cubic feet per second (cfs) between August 21 and September 8. At that time, they did a one-day “preventative” pulse of 3200 cfs based on low levels of ich present in the monitored fish. Flows have now dropped back down to 1100 cfs and the BOR plans to ramp flows down to 450 cfs by September 18. Severe outbreaks of ich have not occurred and it is hoped that an emergency release will not be needed.

There were questions about whether the increase release was Humboldt County water. It was not entirely clear if it was or not. Tom Stokely opined that it was Humboldt County water.

David Steinhauser asked about receiving advanced notice for changes in flows. Zedonis agreed that advanced notice needs to be improved.

Regarding development of a long-term plan for fish protection, the BOR have held public scoping meetings in Arcata, Weaverville, Klamath Falls, and Sacramento. They are currently preparing a scoping report. The next steps are to draft an Environmental Impact Statement. They are hoping for a Record of Decision by 2016 to be ready for next year's fall flows.

Tom Stokely expressed concern that the scoping meetings were more of a scoping "hearing" where there was no opportunity for public comment. Zedonis agreed but noted the process was on a fast track. The public was only prevented from voicing their opinions in public; they were allowed to provide comments in writing.

Rich Lorenz commented that given the dry year, the TAMWG needs to look at using high flow opportunities this winter to do restoration flows so that they can save water for the later fall period. Zedonis acknowledged that, if there is another dry year, there will be problems. Lorenz asked why not use the water in an adaptive management mode. He asked that this be an agenda item for the next meeting. Teresa Connor pointed out that they really won't know how much water will be available until the April forecasts. Robin Schrock explained that the timing of the spring releases are based on fish needs and that the releases amounts are based on water years. She thought moving the spring flows to winter may affect fish needs. Lorenz suggested the Flow Workgroup present the pros and cons about modifying the flows. Tom Stokely thought that perhaps "piggy-backing" flows with winter flows from tributaries may be a good idea as some of the geomorphic work is not getting done.

8. Klamath Salmonid Run Size Projection Procedures

As they were ahead of schedule, this item was taken up after Item 6 (before lunch). It has halted mid-way to take up Item 4 and was resumed after Item 4 was finished.

Joe Polos gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled "Klamath Basin Fall-Run Chinook Salmon Stock Projections." He noted that fall Chinook are the only species with a comprehensive management plan. Coho harvest impacts are managed under ESA but there are discussions about ways to target harvests of hatchery coho.

Klamath Basin Fall Chinook are managed to allow 33% brood escapement but must provide a minimum escapement of 40,700 adults in all years. Harvests are split 50:50 between tribal and all others (in-river and recreational and commercial ocean). Monitoring of harvests, spawning escapement and hatchery returns are compiled into the Megatable that summarizes annual age-specific estimates. The in-river data are then used to estimate ocean stock sizes for the following year and these are used to set seasons.

Polos showed a page from the Megatable which summarizes hatchery returns, natural spawners, and harvests. This produces the total in-river run by age class. He showed graphs of sibling regression (age two fish in river used to predict age three fish in the ocean). These data are used to come up with harvest numbers.

The majority of Klamath fish range in the ocean from Fort Brag to Coos Bay. In the Lower Klamath, there is a mixed fishery of Klamath and Trinity Fish.

Polos noted Pacific Fisheries Management Council Management Documents provide comprehensive reviews of previous year's fisheries and abundances and adoptions of current year seasons.

Polos showed graphs of pre-season predictions versus post season estimates. There was substantial variation in post-season predictions for 3-year old fish (up to 3-fold difference between prediction and post season estimates). There was about half that variation for 4-year old fish in post-season versus pre-season predictions. But Polos noted that there was no systematic bias for higher or lower predictions than estimates.

Polos showed graphs of predictions versus post-season estimates and these showed both over-estimates and underestimates. Wade Sinnen noted the problems with trying to predict ocean survival. He noted they have tried to include ocean temperatures, copepod numbers, and other variables but these could not improve the models.

Polos next presented on the Fall Flow Triggers. He reviewed that projected returns with stream flow was used. Current thinking is based on disease levels in combined with high returns. Last year was projected to be a lower than average run (110,000) but the run turned out to be about 160,000 fish. This was combined with an observed spike in ich in gills of fish. They released 64 thousand acre feet and there was no fish kill. Polos said the metric for augmented flows should be congregations of fish in confined areas. Ich episodes can be caused by earlier run times, low flow, high water temperatures, and low rates of in-river fisheries.

Gil Saliba asked if they revise the estimates during the season. Polos said they have attempted to do real time corrections but it has not been fruitful. They have limitations in their ability to collect data.

Wade Sinnen noted that Pacific Marine Fisheries Council has lower in-river targets than the TRRP as it is oriented toward harvests. He also noted that there are much lower infections downriver than upriver and this suggests that reinfection does not occur. For example, they found very low levels of ich at the hatchery. So if fish can get beyond the congregation zones, they can likely shed the ich parasites.

9. TRRP Goals, Objectives, and Definitions of Completion

Elizabeth Hadley expressed her concern of having this conversation without some of the members that had raised this issue being present. She suggested they delay this discussion until December. The group discussed whether they could develop goals. It was pointed out that many of the goals are incorporated in federal law. The only goal they could address may be the escapement numbers which may have been hastily developed in a memo from Charlie Fullerton. Emelia Berol suggested they review the original laws and amendments which are the basis for the Program. She read from the 1996 amendment that stated the success of the program should be measured by escapement and also by the degree that dependent tribal, commercial and sport fisheries can participate in enhanced harvest.

Hadley summarized that they need to get the past laws for review along with information on the escapement numbers. Berol asked that Bill Trush be invited to participate. Rich Lorenz suggested they have a lengthy meeting. He said, as a businessman, he would like to see more numeric goals with timelines. Hadley suggested that she, Tom Stokely, Joe Polos, and Robin Schrock get together and come up with a list of documents that can be reviewed. Wade Sinned noted that the Program is meeting many goals such as coho and spring Chinook, but perhaps not for steelhead or fall Chinook. They are also meeting harvest quotas pretty well. Goals should be based on the

carry capacity of the system. Robin Schrock said the Program is not judged nationally on fish returns, but also amounts of restoration done as acres of riparian, numbers of wood, amounts of fine sediment reduced, and tons of gravel injected. Most national programs work on a 50-year recovery schedule. Gil Saliba expressed they need a better way to translate successes of the program to the public. David Steinhauser said to downsize the numeric goals may be premature.

Action item: Elizabeth Hadley, Tom Stokely, Joe Polos, and Robin Schrock will come up with a list of documents for review by TAMWG members. They will present the list at the next conference call. These documents can then be sent out before the December meeting.

10. Public Comment

Dave Wellock said he gets the feeling the TAMWG wants the public to attend the TAMWG meetings more for a “facial count” but they don’t want to get comments on the program. He noted he has 70 years on the river and knows the system before the dams were built. He wanted more opportunity to talk. He wanted more discussion about effects on downstream properties with landowner before projects are undertaken.

Before adjourning, Elizabeth Hadley suggested their next conference call on November 5 and the next meeting for December 10-11.

Adjourn for the day 3:00 PM

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

Attachment 1: Executive Director's Report, September 15, 2015, handed out by Robin Schrock.

Attachment 2: Draft TRRP Budget, handed out by Robin Schrock.

Attachment 3: Environmental Compliance Implementation ppt Brant Gutermuth

Attachment 4: Letter from TMC to TAMWG handed out by Seth Naman.

Attachment 5: Draft Technical Workgroup Summary

Other Documents:

1. Email from TMC Chair to TAMWG. BLM Boat Ramp at Lower Junction City Site
2. Letter to TAMWG from TMC August 17, 2015

Trinity River Adaptive Management Working Group

DRAFT AGENDA

Meeting of September 15-16, 2015

NOTE: Times Subject to Change

In-Person Location: Weaverville Fire Hall (125 Bremer Street, Weaverville, CA 96093)

Tuesday, September 15, 2015		
Time	Agenda Item	Presenter
9:00 AM	Welcome, Introductions, Approve Agenda & Minutes	TAMWG
9:15 AM	Public Comment <i>Note: In accordance with traditional meeting practices, TAMWG will not act on any public comment item during its current business meeting</i>	
9:30 AM	Designated Federal Officer Items	Joe Polos
9:45 AM	TMC Chair Update	Seth Naman
10:15 AM	Executive Director and TRRP staff update	Robin Schrock
11:00 AM	TMC – current issues	TAMWG
11:45 AM	Lunch	
1:00 PM	Flow Management (WY2015 CVP water management update, BOR long-term fall flow plan update, fall flow plan for WY15)	BOR - TBD
2:00 PM	Klamath Salmonid Run Size Projection Procedures	TBD
3:30 PM	TRRP Goals, objectives, and definition of completion	TAMWG
4:45 PM	Public Comment	
5:00 PM	Adjourn	

Wednesday September 16, 2015		
Time	Agenda Item	Presenter
9:30 AM	TRRP Lessons Learned Workshop – Sediment Management	
	Presentation agenda undergoing revision	TBD
3:30 PM	Adjourn	