TRINITY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
April 1-2, 2009
Weitchpec, CA

APRIL 1, 2009

Attendees: Brian Person, USBR, Chair
Mike Long, FWS, Vice-Chair
Gary Stacey, DFG
Dave Hillemeier, Yurok Tribe
Mike Orcutt, Hoopa Valley Tribe
Irma Lagomarsino, NOAA Fisheries
Roger Jaegel, Trinity County
Bill Brock, USFS
Mike Hamman, TRRP Executive Director
Arnold Whitridge, TAMWG Chair

Other Attendees: Tom Weseloh, Robert Franklin, Ed Duggan, Don Reck, George Kautsky, Teresa Conner, Mike Berry, Larry Hansen, Joe Polos, Gil Saliba, Tim Hayden, Randy Brown, Danny Jordan, Deanna Jackson

Meeting called to order at 9:40 a.m.

Summary of Motions:

April 1, 2009

- Bill Brock made a motion to adopt the February 2, 2009 minutes, second by Roger Jaegel. Motion passed 6 yes and 2 abstentions. Mike Orcutt and Irma Lagomarsino abstained as they were not present at the meeting

- Roger Jaegel motioned that the TMC review and comment on the summary from the retreat developed by CDR and send comments concerning sensitive personnel or privacy matters to Mike Hamman by April 16, 2009 before general distribution. Motion was seconded by Gary Stacey. Motion passed 8-0.

- Motion made by Roger Jaegel, second by Irma Lagomarsino that the TMC recommends that the IAP steering committee reconvene to address the next steps for the IAP Items II through VI. Unanimous vote – motion passes

April 2, 2009

- Motion by Gary Stacey that TMC approve the FY 2010 budget with the following caveats; that TMAG activities have study plans approved by the Executive Director and in the event that less than the $1M ARRA funding is received, the B Team will reconvene and review the budget. Second by Bill Brock. All in favor – motion passes 7 yes and 1 abstention by Hoopa Valley Tribe.

- Motion by Mike Long that TMC endorses the "TRRP Proposed Five-Year Budget Development Process" document as a first step in developing a 5-year budget development process. We encourage further development of the process including incorporation of recommended changes offered today. Roger Jaegel seconded the motion. All in favor – motion passes 8-0.

- Motion made by Dave Hillemeier that TMC recommends that the Flow Schedule Workgroup's proposed hydrograph for a "Dry" water year be implemented by the Bureau of Reclamation and request that a Trinity operations group further investigate options to optimize conditions for Trinity River fisheries. Mike Long seconded the motion. All if favor – motion passes 7-1 (Trinity County opposed).

- Motion by Dave Hillemeier for TMC to write a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation to request how they plan to comply with WRO 90-05 for Trinity operations. Roger Jeagel seconded the motion. All in favor – motion passes unanimously (8-0).

Thank you to Dave Hillemeier and the Yurok Tribe for providing lunch and the meeting place.

Sharing of Good News (as suggested at TMC retreat):

Brian: Welcomed the newly appointed TAMWG membership and the reappointed chair. Announced that the Commissioner of Reclamation designee is Mike Connor. Optimistic on the progress of the Program and reports that the Regional Director is engaged in Program issues as well.

Gary: Possibility of layoffs at the Department of Fish and Game has been rescinded.

Irma: NOAA received $170M in stimulus funding for habitat restoration projects.

Mike Long: This will be his last TMC meeting. He has accepted a position in the Sacramento Office. His replacement on the TMC is unknown at this time.

Validate Agenda: No changes

Approval of TMC Minutes for December 12, 2008, January 16, 2009 and February 2, 2009:

December 12, 2008 – Mike Orcutt comment - Content for timeframes for channel rehab program update was lost in the meeting minutes and it was suggested that the details be re-inserted.

January 16, 2009 – Comment by Mike Orcutt on Page 2 should be stricken. It was mentioned that this be considered a workshop and not a TMC meeting.

February 2, 2009 – Bill Brock made a motion to adopt the minutes, second by Roger Jeagel. Motion passed 6 yes and 2 abstentions. Mike Orcutt and Irma Lagomarsino abstained as they were not present at the meeting.

The Chair suggested that the TMC members look over the minutes for December 12th and January 16th as "homework" and the Chair will bring back the minutes the next morning for discussion and approval.

Open Forum (comments from the public) – Comment from Danny Jordan, HVT, regarding the December 12, 2008 meeting. They had raised the issue on the IAP being approved without addressing HVT concerns and the discussion was terminated, without the issues being resolved. A suggestion by Roger Jeagel that TMC needs to better document actions items.

Report from TAMWG (Arnold Whitridge): The new TAMWG held its first meeting on March 18-19, 2009. They have 16 members. Arnold will continue to be the Chair with Tim Veil, Natural Resource Conservation Service, as the Vice-Chair. TAMWG developed recommendations for the TMC (refer to the letter to TMC dated March 30, 2009):

- Flow Schedule – Recommends approval of the dry-year alternative #1 release schedule (assuming that the water year will be designated "dry")
- Water Management – TAMWG is worried about the temperature of Trinity River water. Recommends that the TMC write a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the low lake levels and how to address WRO 90-05.
- TRRP Budget – Recommends approval of the proposed budget with some changes and conditions.
- Hatchery Management – Recommends that the TMC aggressively pursue a response to the hatchery-management inquiry it sent to the Bureau of Reclamation in June of 2008.

TAMWG would like to see more feedback from the TMC. Irma asked if these issues raised by TAMWG be put on the agendas. Brian concurred that TMC has been deficient on responses to TAMWG. There will be a discussion later in the day regarding the "Action Tracker".

Roger Jaegel stated that Trinity County is very concerned about the low lake levels and the Trinity Dam operations this year and that Reclamation doesn't plan for multi-year operations.

Report from TMC Chair (Brian Person):

- Organizational and Functional Refinement – There is a draft. The draft has not been seen by the Regional Directors yet. Brian will provide a copy of the draft to the TMC (handed out the following day).
- The need for Regional Procurement Team to attend TMC meeting – We do have a commitment from them to attend the June TMC meeting. Discussion to include Cooperative and Grant agreements and how to manage these funds.
- "Action Tracker" for both TAMWG and TMC. Mike Hamman will cover this topic.

- Funding and the ARRA (stimulus) money – Reclamation is aggressively seeking this. There is an embargo on this and cannot discuss the details at this time.
- G2G Meetings – Both Regional Directors are fully engaged in these.

Mike Orcutt asked if the Organizational and Functional Refinement is the same as the Mission Alignment topic covered in the September 2008 TMC meeting and cautions that it was not well received then.

It was stated again that this is just a draft and has not been seen by the Regional Directors for their editorial review. Finalization is subject to their review and the G2G outcomes.

Report from the Executive Director – Refer to the Director's Report handout:

Mike Hamman gave a report that focus on the Executive Director's agenda over the past quarter, his first, with a focus on meeting with Program partners and developing priorities for the coming year. Following are the highlights.

Short-term and mid-term objectives:

- Work on communications in order to be more effective on how we work together.
- Schedule visits with CA Fish and Game and DWR, Forest Service, and the Yurok and Hoopa Valley tribes, TMC members that he hasn't yet formally met with.
- Facilitated team building at the technical staff level needs to occur to continue to build on positive change.
- Proceed with Program re-organization. Focus on filling staff positions while keeping up with the existing workload – challenging next six months for Program staff.
- Office expansion/remodel in order to provide quality space for new personnel and program partner staff working in Weaverville area– 2010 budget issue.
- Focus on flow scheduling and facilitating water/temperature management with CVO and others– full report tomorrow.
- Establishing an effective budgeting process is the ED's top priority and will be discussed in detail later on the agenda.
- Sediment control and monitoring is one of the five key aspects of the Program requiring additional focus on the watershed improvement program.
- Create an environment for a robust and creative science program that involves Program partners as well as others working on river restoration efforts.
- Master EA/EIR document is within 30 days of going out for comment.

There was a discussion about RIG and out-year budgets and completion dates. Given the complexity, size and cost of current sites, there is no physical way that all 47 sites can be completed by 2012 as envisioned in the ROD. However, by streamlining permitting and contracting and utilizing the designs already underway, the Program can complete construction of all the sites provided recurring funding in the range of $7M is devoted to RIG to provide for completion by 2014. Completed sites should also be revisited if additional and compliance work is warranted. Older sites could use some "tweaking" based on new information and how they are functioning.

The “Action Tracker” is in draft form (please refer to handout). It will be used to track TAMWG recommendations and TMC action items and motions. TAMWG portion will be the TMC Chair’s responsibility and the TMC portion will be the Executive Director’s responsibility.

Agenda Items:

Review of TMC Retreat and Recommendations –

- Improve relationships
- Conduct and process of TMC meetings
- Common sense
- Duration of meetings – Agenda driven
- Efficient and well run meetings
- TMC representatives should come prepared
- Agendas should be standardized
- Communicate between meetings
- Utilization of conference calls
- Notification of G2G meetings – general discussions
- Time management
- Discussion primarily by TMC members – audience members who have a member on the TMC should prepare in advance

Discussion occurred regarding the draft summary of the retreat and if they would be distributed to those not a part of the retreat. Brian mentioned that Chris Moore and Jennifer Graham, CDR, sent out the summary asking for comments, received little, and then finalized the summary. It was suggested to distribute them and that the follow-up is going to be extremely important.

Roger Jaegel motioned that the TMC review and comment on the summary from the retreat developed by CDR and send comments concerning sensitive personnel or privacy matters to Mike Hamman by April 16, 2009 before general distribution. Motion was seconded by Gary Stacey. Motion passed 8-0.

Mike Orcutt had comments on the TRRP Situation Assessment (refer to the handout provided by Mike). Missing a major element and some issues have gone back at least 4 years. Concerns of the IAP and trust relationships. Roger mentioned that it seems TMC is not as comfortable with the scientific part of the program. Mike Long mentioned that TMC should forget the past negativity and look forward. Learn from mistakes and not dwell on them. Dave Hillemeier mentioned that it might be worthwhile to go over the CDR summary/minutes every other meeting. Kind of a “report card” and make it a standard agenda item.

Budget Development Process (Handout) -

Thank you to all that participated in this process. At the February 2, 2009 meeting it was requested from members present that it was the Executive Director’s role to put together a proposed budget process.

The FY2009 budget was utilized as the starting point due to time constraints to get the FY2010 budget out for review by April 1st and finalized by May. The IAP Steering Committee was not able to convene on the prioritization motion made at the February TMC meeting due to schedules. Questions came up about the IAP and where it stands. Joe Polos to give an IAP update next on the agenda. The TMC suggested that the Steering Committee should proceed with the domain prioritization part of the IAP.

A question was asked regarding the G2G process and the time necessary for issues to be addressed. Currently it takes working with the Regional Directors' calendars and is dependent on G2G meeting scheduling.

5-Year Budget Process (Flowchart) –

Discussion ensued regarding the five-year budget proposal and the flowchart handout. The TMC decided to make the flowchart and write up clearer.

Questions were asked as how this process includes RIG and program administration. Answer is that the DOI Team in main box incorporates program administration and RIG. Need to modify the flowchart to reflect that. Motion to approve Budget process was tabled. By show of hands, all agreed to continue with this on tomorrow's agenda. Mike Hamman will revise the 2011-2015 budget process document to reflect the discussion and bring back for next day discussion.

Integrated Assessment Plan (IAP) Update (presentation & handout by Joe Polos) –

Discussion proceeded on the IAP and the cross-domain prioritization. Concerns were expressed that there is not enough funding in order to have all the authors involved and that the IAP keeps running into roadblocks. Need to keep the process moving forward. There is still some sensitivity regarding the priorities and what is not being addressed in the IAP and may need a facilitator at future meetings to help resolve issues. Will look into funding and where we are at with Mr. Haberfeld and ESSA contracts.

Broad discussion on the IAP. Mike Orcutt questioned weather the IAP was just a TMC level document or a Secretarial level document. Danny Jordan mentioned the hatchery and numeric goals issue. HVT had given white papers stating their concerns. TMC members discussed moving forward with the subset of items on the summary page.

Motion made by Roger, second by Irma that the TMC recommends that the IAP steering committee reconvene to address the next steps for the IAP Items II through VI. Unanimous vote – motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

APRIL 2, 2009

Attendees: Brian Person, USBR, Chair
Mike Long, FWS, Vice-Chair
Gary Stacey, DFG
Dave Hillemeier, Yurok Tribe
Mike Orcutt, Hoopa Valley Tribe
Irma Lagomarsino, NOAA Fisheries
Roger Jeagel, Trinity County
Bill Brock, USFS
Mike Hamman, TRRP Executive Director
Arnold Whitridge, TAMWG Chair

Other Attendees: Sherri Miller, Priscilla Davee, Jennifer Faler, Tom Weseloh, Robert Franklin, Ed Duggan, Don Reck, George Kautsky, Teresa Conner, Mike Berry, Larry Hansen, Joe Polos, Gil Saliba, Tim Hayden, Randy Brown, Danny Jordan, Deanna Jackson, Andreas Krause, Rod Wittler, Mike Belchik

Meeting called to order at 9:10 a.m.

Approval of December 12, 2008 and January 16, 2009 minutes was called for by the Chair. Insert more information under "Channel Rehab Program Update" (Dave Hillemeier will send Deanna the information). Insert "discussion curtailed due to time constraints" under "IAP Status report".

Approval of December 12, 2008 minutes – All in favor. Forest Service and Hoopa Valley Tribe abstained as they were not in attendance.

Minor edits to the January 16, 2009 minutes. Agreed that this meeting was considered a workshop. All in favor. Trinity County and Forest Service abstained as they were not in attendance.

The Draft Description of Organizational and Functional Refinements was handed out and stated that this is just a draft. The Regional Directors have not seen this yet.

Mike Hamman handed out a more detailed out-year budget process document. Roger stated that he likes using a 5-year budget process and made a motion to approve the budget development process as presented. No second on that motion. Will take another look at this after lunch.

FY 2009 budget update and FY 2010 presentation –

Thank you to all on the DOI Team and the B Team that helped put this together. The prior years budget was used as a guideline. Initial first cut done by the DOI team. There was a full BTeam meeting on March 16th, followed with a presentation to TAMWG. Comments received from the TAMWG were taken into account at the B Team meeting held on March 25th where the final draft 2010 budget was developed for presentation to the TMC.

Refer to the summary page of the handout.

- There is a new funding item under "CALFED" for $1M inserting into the 2009 budget. Brian mentioned that this was a surprise to all and had just learned of it. First time CALFED has provided funding to TRRP. Still trying to figure out where/why TRRP received this from CALFED.

- Fish and Wildlife Service funding – this is the first year that the total allocation and the administrative overhead on the FWS funds was shown along with the detail for the FWS Trinity work.

- B Team suggested showing the extra column using the $16.4M (what the full program funding should be). Would like to present this in future budgeting cycles. This should be more meaningful to TMC than the internal Reclamation determination of "unconstrained" budget.

- Office operations – extra space for new staff, partner staff, etc. to include 5 new workstations, larger conference room.

- Facilitation – IAP steering committee

- Independent Review Committees – do not foresee a large effort in RFP reviews in 2010 but if there is, can shift spending accordingly.

Office operations reflect office expansion. What would be done if the funds are not available? Mike Hamman said that adjustments could be made within the TRRP office to accommodate new staff for the short-term.

Arnold mentioned that TAMWG is discouraged about the RFP process and that it is hard for the stakeholders to see why. Mike Long shares the concern for the RFP process, but stated that there is just not enough time to do it before FY 2011. Brian suggested an outline of the RFP process be demonstrated by the June TMC meeting (An item for the "Action Tracker").

IIMS – Mike Long is concerned that this needs to be brought to a close or refocused. It was mentioned that a status check is needed and this should be an agenda item for the June TMC meeting. Will invite Andreas Krause to the June meeting to present an update.

Area of interest in combining purchasing requirements such as the coded-wire tagging. Mike Orcutt suggested discussing this later. Arnold asked if the coded-wire tagging could be paid from elsewhere in the Reclamation budget such as A40.

Some discussion on the ARRA (stimulus) funding. Not able to go into detail regarding the stimulus funding. Should hear something between now and April 15th, but no later than May.

Motion made by Gary Stacey to approve the budget as presented. Bill Brock seconded the motion. TAMWG will not accept the budget as presented. Mike Long said that it would be hard to accept the budget when details are not known.

After further discussion on ARRA funding, it was decided to amend the motion made by Gary.

Motion by Gary that TMC approve the FY 2010 budget with the following caveats; that TMAG activities have study plans approved by the Executive Director and in the event that less than the $1M ARRA funding is received, the B Team will reconvene and review the budget. Second by Bill Brock. All in favor – motion passes 7 yes and 1 abstention by Hoopa Valley Tribe.

Discussion on refined five-year budget process.

Motion by Mike Long that TMC endorses the "TRRP Proposed Five-Year Budget Development Process" document as a first step in developing a 5-year budget development process. We encourage further development of the process including incorporation of recommended changes offered today. Roger Jeagel seconded the motion. All in favor – motion passes 8-0.

2009 Flow Schedule (presentation by Andreas Krause and Rod Wittler) –

Refer to slide presentation by Andreas Krause regarding the March 2009 water forecast, description of Workgroup alternative, description of baseflow flow alternative and 2009 temperature analysis process.

Refer to the slide presentation handout by Rod Wittler regarding the 2009 Temperature analysis process, objectives, reservoir elevations and the 2009 modeling. There was discussion of the use of the auxiliary outlet works.

Summary:

- Pros of the Workgroup recommendation:
  - Helps habitat monitoring
  - Recommended by Flow Workgroup and TAMWG
- Cons of the Workgroup recommendation:
  - Modeled temperatures exceed criteria under "extreme' meteorology without using auxiliary outlet.
- Pros of the Baseflow alternative:
  - Helps habitat monitoring
  - Better probability of meeting temp criteria in "extreme" meteorology
  - Riparian germination at higher surfaces
- Cons of the Baseflow monitoring:
  - FULL IMPACTS NOT ANALYZED
  - Drying of spring run redds
  - Temperature rise on October 1
  - Increased bank rehab construction costs
  - Likely no gravel augmentation

There was a discussion regarding reservoir levels, carryover storage and basin of origin protection matters when operating the Trinity/Lewiston facilities.

Motion made by Dave Hillemeier that TMC recommends that the Flow Schedule Workgroup's proposed hydrograph for a “Dry” water year be implemented by the Bureau of Reclamation and request that a Trinity operations group further investigate options to optimize conditions for Trinity River fisheries. Mike Long seconded the motion. All if favor – motion passes 7-1 (Trinity County opposed).

Open Forum –

Tom Weseloh, TAMWG, suggested that there be a standing agenda item for TAMWG matters/recommendations; that the Executive Director should have budgetary discretion; and that WRO 90-05 as it relates to trinity operations needs to be addressed.

Danny Jordan, Hoopa Valley Tribe, handed out comments on the CPAR report and the testimony for the Oversight Hearing regarding California Drought.

Ed Duggan suggested that the TMC consider all recommendations mentioned in the letter from TAMWG.

Motion by Dave Hillemeier for TMC to write a letter to the Bureau of Reclamation to request how they plan to comply with WRO 90-05 for Trinity operations. Roger Jeagel seconded the motion. All in favor – motion passes unanimously (8-0).

Executive Director to draft letter for Chair review**.**

Calendars/Next Meeting:

Please hold the dates listed on the Agenda.

June 17-18, Weaverville
September 16-17, Arcata
December 16-17, Redding

Meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.