

Final Minutes
TRINITY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
 February 18-19, 2016
 Trinity River Restoration Program Office, Weaverville, CA

Thursday, February 18, 2016; 9:30 AM

Attending Members

Member	Representative Seat
Federico Barajas	Bureau of Reclamation, Chair
Wes Smith ¹	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adm. Fisheries, Vice-chair
Bruce Bingham	Fish and Wildlife Service
Mike Orcutt	Hoopa Valley Tribe
Terri Simon-Jackson	Forest Service
Dave Hillemeier	Yurok Tribe
Tony LaBanca ²	California Natural Resources Agency
Keith Groves	Trinity County
Brandt Gutermuth ^{3,4}	Trinity River Restoration Program, Executive Director
Tom Stokely ^{3,5}	Trinity Adaptive Management Work Group

¹ Alternate for Seth Naman; ² alternate Teresa Connor sat in on day 1 and LaBanca arrived after lunch on day 2, ³ non-voting members; ⁴ acting interim Executive Director; ⁵ Vice-chair TAMWG.

Others that attended: Caryn Hunt DeCarlo (Bureau of Reclamation); Bill Brock (Forest Service); D.J. Bandrowski, Kyle DeJulio (Yurok Tribe); Robert Stewart, Linsey Walker (TRRP); Shiloe Braxton (Trinity County RCD); Damion Ciotti, Joe Polos (Fish and Wildlife Service); George Kautsky (Hoopa Valley Tribe); Steve Cannata (Ca Dept Fish and Wildlife).

Attended by phone Day 1 and morning of Day 2: Tony LaBanca (Ca Dept of Fish and Wildlife).

Notes: Kim Mattson (ENW).

List of Motions made during the Meeting

Keith Groves made a motion to approve the agenda.

Teresa Connor seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Keith Groves made a motion to approve the December minutes.

Tony LaBanca seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Dave Hillemeier made a motion that the TMC write a letter to reclamation to consider Trinity storage while making CVP water management decisions,

ensure there is enough water in Trinity Reservoir to meet Trinity River temperature basin plan temp objectives, and to maximize end of year storage in Trinity Reservoir.

Keith Groves seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Keith Grove made a motion that the TMC change their flow and budget meeting to April 6th, have contracted notes taken, and change the meeting September location to Weitchpec and the December location to Weaverville.

Dave Hillemeier seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Action Items made during the Meeting

Brandt Gutermuth and TRRP will assemble an orientation package for Caryn Hunt DeCarlo and TMC members should provide information for DeCarlo to Gutermuth.

Federico Barajas will email to the TMC members the vacancy announcement and the position description for the Executive Director.

Federico Barajas will send out the position announcement for the Implementation Branch Chief.

Federico Barajas will put on the next TMC quarterly meeting agenda to have a report on construction effectiveness monitoring from the partner's staff.

Teresa Connor will share the DWR employee exit interview form with the TMC and Caryn Hunt DeCarlo.

Linsey Walker will send out Excel spreadsheets of the budget to TMC members and members will send edits to the budget back to Linsey Walker and cc Brandt Gutermuth, Damion Ciotti, and Caryn Hunt DeCarlo by March 18.

Brandt Gutermuth will provide to Federico Barajas the Bender memo on the Lewiston Dam temperature options.

Tom Stokely will send information to the Flow Workgroup regarding the NEPA authorizations for temperature control devices for Shasta Reservoir and Clear Creek.

George Kautsky will send to Federico Barajas a third, precursor memo to the 2012 memo on the Lewiston Dam temperature control options.

Damion Ciotti will ask the Flow Workgroup to redraft their memo on the Lewiston temperature control with more specific information in light of the new

documents to be provided by Gutermuth, Stokely, and Kautsky. They are requested to focus on desired condition (i.e., temperature objectives) and not on mechanisms (e.g., studies).

Joe Polos will work with Brandt Gutermuth to develop a draft orientation package for the Efficiencies Subcommittee.

Dave Hillemeier and Tom Stokely will draft a letter regarding Trinity Lake storage for review by TMC by March 2.

Dave Hillemeier will send two attachments to the guides' letter to Federico Barajas.

Regular Business

1. Introductions and Welcome

Federico Barajas, Chair of the Trinity Management Council (TMC) opened the meeting and went over the agenda.

Approval of Agenda

Keith Groves made a motion to approve the agenda.

Teresa Connor seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of the December Minutes

The minutes were approved on day 2.

Keith Groves made a motion to approve the December minutes.

Tony LaBanca seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

2. Open Forum and Comments from the Public

Tom Stokely described a protest by the California Water Impact Network (CWIN) to the State Water Board regarding the California WaterFix. The Bureau and DWR are seeking a change in the point of diversion of Sacramento for the twin tunnels. Part of the protest was a request to include terms of water temperatures objectives in the Trinity River and to include cold water storage in the Trinity Lake as part of the Bureau of Reclamation water use permits. Stokely said he would send an email of the 33-page protest and the TMC members should do a word search for the word "Trinity" to see the specific items relating to the Trinity River.

3. Report from TMC Chair

Federico Barajas announced a 120-day assignment of Caryn Hunt DeCarlo as Acting Executive Director for the Trinity River Restoration Program (TRRP). Hunt DeCarlo introduced herself as Bureau of Reclamation Desert Terminal Lakes Program Manager implementing conservation

work in three river basins in CA and Nevada. She coordinates the Program with multiple stakeholders including Tribes, CA and Nevada State agencies, FWS, BLM and USGS, non-profits, and universities/Desert Research Institute. Program work includes river restoration, fish hatchery improvements, water rights and land acquisitions, recreation, forest management, and fish, wildlife and water resources research. She worked for the Forest Service for a decade as an interdisciplinary team leader for recreation, watershed enhancement, and forest management projects. Barajas said Brandt Gutermuth and TRRP would be assembling an information packet for DeCarlo and asked TMC members to provide any information they would like her to have. Barajas asked the TMC members to introduce themselves for her benefit.

Action item: Brandt Gutermuth and TRRP staff will assemble an orientation package for Caryn Hunt DeCarlo and TMC members should provide information for Hunt DeCarlo to Gutermuth.

Barajas explained that there will be a vacancy announcement for the permanent Executive Director in the next few weeks. Barajas invited one or two TMC members to participate on the selection panel for the Executive Director.

Dave Hillemeier said that Yurok Tribe would want to be on the selection panel and he thought that all TMC members may want to participate. Barajas said that he was seeking input from the TMC, but as it was a Reclamation position, he did not want all TMC members to participate on the selection panel. This prompted a discussion about whether or not the entire TMC should make the selection. Dave Hillemeier suggested they delay the selection until the Fixer Document was completed. Mike Orcutt cited collaboration and the importance of the position as rationale for all TMC participating on the selection panel. Wes Smith and Bruce Bingham suggested informal meetings among the TMC and the candidates. Keith Groves stated that he was not interested in actually making the selection decision but was interested in participating in the discussion. Teresa Connor stated she did not want to delay the selection and TMC input was important, but it should be a Reclamation decision. Terri Simon-Jackson agreed with Connor. Bingham made a case against having all TMC members participating in agency position selection. He cited the complications about performance reviews, personnel management, and that the TMC has not worked well regarding these sorts of decisions. Hillemeier reiterated that he thought it was important for TMC to participate in the three positions of Executive Director, Science Coordinator, and Implementation Chief.

Barajas summarized he would welcome input on what characteristics the Executive Director should have and asked TMC to email their ideas to him. He said a TMC subcommittee would serve as part of the panel and the candidates could be brought to meet with the TMC. Mike Orcutt asked what was broken with the past processes for selection. Barajas said the HR office is very concerned about outside selection for an agency position. Barajas' own observation was that the last process used for selection could be improved upon. Barajas said he would share the vacancy announcement before it goes out. Simon-Jackson asked that also the existing position description be sent out.

Action item: Federico Barajas will email to the TMC members the vacancy announcement and the position description for the Executive Director.

Tom Stokely said the TAMWG would also like to sit on the TMC selection subcommittee.

Regarding the position for Implementation Branch Chief, Teresa Connor said, she was not advocating for a panel for the Implementation Chief, but if TMC members were on the panel, the State would like to be on the panel. Mike Orcutt and Dave Hillemeier both stated their respective organizations would like to be on the panel. There was discussion about the

engineering skills of the potential hires. Barajas said the position may not be limited to an engineer. Wes Smith agreed that someone with multiple skills such as outreach was important. Teresa Connor said at least an engineering background was important. Barajas said he was open to holding presentations by the top candidates for Implementation Chief. The presentations should be limited to a single TMC member from each member's organization. Personnel documents should be kept confidential.

Action item: Federico Barajas will send out the position announcement for the Implementation Branch Chief.

As the Science Coordinator is a Fish and Wildlife position and Bruce Bingham explained their process and noted he also will be seeking TMC input. He hoped to get three good finalists that could meet with the TMC and he anticipated to complete the hiring process by early May to mid-May. His preference would be to have one TMC representative to participate in the entire hiring process and the three finalists could make presentations so others would have a chance to participate in the discussions. Mike Orcutt asked said this process may preclude choosing people with unique skill sets. Barajas said they could identify those skill sets and they could forward these to Bingham to include as part of the position announcement.

Barajas continued his TMC report and moved on to the current conditions update. He reported that Trinity Lake is at 31% of capacity (768K acre-feet) versus 45% last year. Inflow is good but snowmelt is occurring earlier this year. He noted that Robert Stewart would also give more details tomorrow.

Barajas next gave an update on the USFS meeting on Lower Dutch Creek and specific challenges. They have identified a path forward to meet the unique Forest Service environmental documents and they hope to have the project ready for 2017. Terri Simon-Jackson emphasized that the Forest Service was not holding up the project but that the design had been changed requiring it to be scoped a second time. She suggested they do a combined NEPA on the next projects that are located contiguous to each other and these will need full designs before going for public review. She also reminded the TMC that the Forest Service is regularly litigated and they need to have a readily implementable project (i.e., 100% design) with alternatives for public review. Dave Hillemeier said it may be good to have staff at the next meeting to give an idea of where they will be going over the next years.

Barajas gave an update on the Fixer Document. The document was distributed to the TMC in December. The next step is to share it with Regional Directors (Reclamation, FWS, and NMFS) and schedule a meeting with the directors of the Federal agencies where the Tribes can present their proposal.

The Lower Klamath River Long-term Plan EIS process is currently in the gathering of information stage regarding the fall flows of last year. Anyone with information is asked to send it to Paul Zedonis. Next steps are the cooperating agencies to sign a memorandum of understanding. They are seeking a consultant to help with the process. The EIS public draft is expected by fall, with a final document and ROD by late winter or early spring.

4. Vice-Chair Updates

Wes Smith gave an update on NOAA staffing. The Arcata Regional Office now has three Branch Leaders. Justin Ly is the Branch Chief for the North Coast Branch area and he will be coming to the TMC meetings. The Assistant Area Regional Administrator, Lisa Van Atta will be located in Santa Rosa.

5. Report from TAMWG

Tom Stokely, TAMWG Vice-chair passed out a letter that summarized the TAMWG meeting of February 18. Elizabeth Hadley and Tom Stokely were re-elected in the current positions of Chair and Vice-chair, respectively. The TAMWG recommends that the TMC recommend to the Bureau that a cold-water-carryover-storage of 600,000 acre-feet be maintained in Trinity Reservoir at 9/16/16 according to the Biological Opinion of 2000. Dave Wellock opined during public comment that the Bucktail Bridge did not need to be replaced.

Dave Hillemeier suggested they discuss a motion tomorrow when this item is discussed again.

Being ahead of schedule, the TMC took up Item 8 before lunch.

Lunch

Information/Decision Items

6. Efficiencies Subcommittee Report

Dave Hillemeier referred to the notes he had prepared from the September and October Efficiencies Subcommittee meetings and he walked the TMC through recommended tasks for the TMC to consider.

Hillemeier went through the tasks from the October meeting first. Task 1 was to develop a plan that outlines timelines for construction projects, including design, permitting, the composition of the project, and estimated costs. Task 2 was that the TMC should consider the “go big” direction for designs. Task 3 was for TMC to explore external funding. Task 4 was to conduct exit interviews of leaving staff to improve longevity of staff.

The TMC discussed each of these recommended tasks. Wes Smith said the Design Team did Task 1 and developed an extensive plan. Hillemeier agreed that they should take a look at that. Brandt Gutermuth agreed that the plan of Task 1 was needed. Barajas also agreed by noting that they should not be discussing changes to the construction schedule for the 2016 project at this late stage. Bruce Bingham said a comprehensive report that looks at past projects and at how they worked would help in future planning. Barajas said that they did not have such a report, and they should explore the possibility of hitting a “pause button” on the Design Team to put such a report together. Bingham suggested they also include a third or independent party to help with evaluations. Keith Groves asked why this sort of monitoring and reporting is not already part of the design—logging projects are required to fill out a report documenting the number of logs taken, as an example. D.J. Bandrowski said that each construction project since 2008 has had a post-construction report including an as-built description. He acknowledged that they were not monitoring whether or not they met the objectives of the project. Bingham thought the results of these reports should be brought to the TMC. Gutermuth said that Aaron Martin is getting a group together and Gutermuth has asked Robert Stewart to work with Martin’s group to put together an effectiveness monitoring report. Barajas suggested they put this on the agenda for the next quarterly TMC meeting June 1-2.

Action item: Federico Barajas will put on the next TMC quarterly meeting agenda to have a report on construction effectiveness monitoring from the partner’s staff.

Regarding Task 2, Keith Grove said he understood the concept of allowing the scientists to “think large,” but in a practical sense they need to be aware of the dollars available. Teresa Connor agreed with Grove and suggested a cost-benefit assessment be included in the design

development. Hillemeier agreed a cost-benefit analysis would be useful and he had already made it a task during the September meeting. Smith said the Design Team does this already in an informal way during the design phase. Connor noted however, the Chapman Ranch has a high cost associated with it.

Regarding Task 3, Hillemeier listed Prop 1 and Central Valley Restoration Fund as two possible sources of external funding. For these external sources, they need to have fully designed and ready to go projects. Barajas said he saw the benefits of this.

Regarding Task 4, Hillemeier said exit interviews could explore reasons for leaving. Barajas said these could be conducted separate from the HR office. Keith Groves thought an Executive Director would want to conduct these interviews. Barajas suggested if they could think of a couple of questions they could use these could be forwarded to Caryn Hunt DeCarlo (chunttdecarlo@USBR.gov). Teresa Connor said they have such a form and she could share this.

Action item: Teresa Connor will share the DWR employee exit interview form with the TMC and Caryn Hunt DeCarlo.

Hillemeier next moved to the tasks from the September meeting. Task 1 was to develop a map of landowner constraints relative to habitat benefits including number of projects aborted due to landowner issues, number of sites on federal lands, offsets for fair market values, the number of projects that are shovel ready, and timelines for projects. Task 2 was to estimate the costs of wood placement. Task 3 was to examine whether or not closure of the well program was a public concern. Task 4 was a cost benefit analyses for projects.

Regarding Task 1, Barajas said he may have a staff member to investigate the projects constraints due to landowner issues. Mike Orcutt asked if non-federal employees can perform the purchase negotiations for lands. Barajas said it depends on the site and the source of funding, but it is possible and they should look at it. They discussed outreach and a possible vision statement to be formulated after they investigate the sub-bullets of Task 1.

Hillemeier went over the last four tasks from the September meeting. Task 5 was to revisit annual bird monitoring. Task 6 asked about flexibility in the 1:1 riparian recruitment. Task 7 was to consider a programmatic NEPA for Forest Service sites. Task 8 was to seek outside funding.

Teresa Connor said that Tony LaBanca could work with Brandt Gutermuth on Task 5. Regarding Task 6, Brandt Gutermuth said James Lee would be addressing this tomorrow. Task 7 programmatic NEPA Simon-Jackson said that NEPA projects need to be “fresh” (i.e., 5 years) or else needs to be redone with new costs. Also, if the projects are not implemented promptly, new listed species can arise such as the fisher. Task 8 outside funding was already discussed.

Barajas summarized the next steps: 1) convene a meeting to review gathered information from the TRRP office regarding ownership constraints along with the information from the gravel workgroup; 2) reach out to non-program partners for land acquisition; and 3) have a subcommittee explore outside funding.

7. Report from the TRRP

Brandt Gutermuth went over his memo that constituted the TRRP report. He touched on outreach and that they have initiated renewal of a 5-year contract with the Trinity RCD to help with outreach. Given the speed with which the Program intends to move forward and the intent to have the Decision Support System (DSS) coordinator on-site for the March Science symposium, the IDT has tentatively recommended that Tyrell DeWeber (and Oregon State

University group) be contracted to help with initiating the DSS. Validation of Tyrell's availability and suitability to complete the work as well as contracting needs and for the position are ongoing. . Public comments have been received for the Bucktail Channel rehabilitation project.

8. Lewiston Penstock Discussion

This item was discussed before lunch. Keith Groves described some of the ideas regarding the Lewiston Penstock and ways to reduce Trinity River temperatures. Trinity PUD looked at a 69-foot-deep penstock but it was deemed not economically feasible. But it may be fundable as a means to maintain cool water temperatures in the Trinity River. Groves was requesting TRRP to do a scientific study of the temperature effect of the modification that would help with preparation of a grant.

Dave Hillemeier said there was a report on things that could be done to the reservoir to lower water temperatures. This was now ready for a feasibility study. Brandt Gutermuth said that Damion Ciotti may speak to this in his Science Coordinator report. Barajas said they could have the discussion with the workgroup update.

9. 2017 Funding Discussion

Federico Barajas said in order to be more transparent, that this year they are presenting the budget earlier in the year. He emphasized it is a draft that is open for modifications. He passed out a 4-page detail of the budget and projected it up on the screen for discussion. He noted that the 2017 budget is \$15 million which is only \$130K less than the last year. This is notable since there have been agency-wide budget cuts. The main breakdown of the budget was administration \$3.1 million, Rehabilitation \$7.6 million, and Science \$4.3 million (21%, 51%, and 29%).

Barajas walked the TMC through the Administration portion of the budget. He also introduced Linsey Walker as his budget assistant to whom TMC members should send changes to the budget (Lwalker@USBR.gov 530-229-5202). Barajas said he was looking for input from the partners to ensure funding allocation and breakdown is consistency with funding agreements between partner agencies and Reclamation. In some cases, the initial draft budget has placeholders under program administration that will require further breakdown based on applicable tasks. Each partner agency is to review pertinent sections of the budget and provide feedback to Linsey.

Brandt Gutermuth next walked the TMC through the 2017 Implementation portion of the budget and touched on some line items. Staff salaries and benefits for Implementation were \$905K. Other major categories of the Implementation budget were planning (\$1.8 million), realty (\$100K), design and support (\$567K), construction (\$3.6 million), and watersheds (\$500K). Planning includes compliance, monitoring, and geophysical support services. Realty is for temporary use of private property. Design and support services are Hoopa Valley Tribe and Yurok design services. Keith Grove commented that the \$200K for wood seemed large, and would be equivalent to 200 logging trucks. Gutermuth said wood has become an integral and large cost component and that attached root wads increase wood transportation costs.

Damion Ciotti went through the 2017 Science budget. Personnel salaries and benefits were \$1.2 million. SAB participation was \$96K. Monitoring and evaluation was composed of number of tasks and was \$2.8 million. Other tasks were \$65K.

Ciotti next went over the priority list for 2017 science monitoring tasks. The order showed the projects that would be funded with the \$2.8 million. Stream gaging and effectiveness monitoring were the highest priorities. George Kautsky pointed out that the fish monitoring was focused

entirely on fall Chinook and spring Chinook coded wire tags was not on the list. Marking spring Chinook would allow separation of the smolts at the traps.

Barajas suggested they take the budget for consideration and then have a one-day special session for both the funding and flow recommendations. He noted it was important to have TMC approve the budget in June. It makes sense to have the flow meeting after April 1 or during the first week of April and combine it with a budget meeting. He asked members to send edits of the budget to Linsey Walker, and to cc Brandt Gutermuth, Damion Ciotti, and Caryn Hunt DeCarlo by March 18. Linsey Walker will send out Excel spreadsheets of the budget to the TMC members.

Action item: Linsey Walker will send out Excel spreadsheets of the budget to TMC members and members will send edits to the budget back to Linsey Walker and cc Brandt Gutermuth, Damion Ciotti, and Caryn Hunt DeCarlo by March 18.

10. Public Forum

No comments.

Adjourn for the day 4:45 PM

Friday, February 19, 2016, 9:00 AM

TMC Chair Federico Barajas opened the meeting and continued with the agenda schedule.

Information/Decision Items

11. Open Forum

No comments.

12. Science Update

Damion Ciotti walked the TMC through the written summary of the workgroup activities.

Some of the highlights were as follows. The Flow Workgroup was considering a more variable hydrograph for this spring. They are concerned over the elevated water temperatures in the mainstem Trinity River at the confluence with the North Fork measured last fall. They are interested in the status of the Lewiston Temperature Control Feasibility Study. Ciotti passed out a memo from the Flow Workgroup to the TMC recommending a feasibility study.

The Flow Workgroup memo to Damion Ciotti regarding a feasibility study of the Lewiston Dam generated a long discussion on the memo and on the process of communications and decision making.

Regarding the memo itself, Federico Barajas said that a feasibility study is not the next step as this is a major process that is both lengthy and expensive and it required Congressional approval. He thought the next step should be an "appraisal" study or perhaps it could be part of ongoing climate change watershed study. Terri Simon-Jackson asked about the process of the memo being presented to the TMC and asked if the Science Coordinator was seeking a decision by the TMC. Ciotti said he needed to confer with the Flow Workgroup first. Mike Orcutt asked about an appraisal analysis and what it entails. Barajas said it would look at options available to

develop a scope of what they want to advance forward. It should include any other concepts that were not part of the 2012 Bender memo. He suggested their letter not identify the mechanism of study and to let the Bureau suggest the appropriate means of study. Barajas asked Brandt Gutermuth to provide the Bender 2012 memo. Tom Stokely clarified that there are two memos: the 2102 technical USBR memo that discussed temperature and the Bender memo which discussed carryover storage. He recommended both memos be included in the letter to Reclamation. Stokely noted in the Flow Workgroup memo to Ciotti, there was a request to send a letter to the North Coast Water Resources Control Board (NCRWCB) and that the TMC is only allowed to send letters to Department of Interior. Stokely further noted that the NCRWCB required NEPA analyses of temperature control devices on the Shasta Reservoir and Clear Creek. Tom Stokely said he would send a memo to the Flow Workgroup with the sources for these authorizations he had mentioned. George Kautsky said he also had a third memo that he will send to Barajas that may be a precursor to the 2012 memo so Barajas had a complete paper trail.

Action item: Brandt Gutermuth will provide to Federico Barajas the Bender memo on the Lewiston Dam temperature options.

Action item: Tom Stokely will send information to the Flow Workgroup regarding the NEPA authorizations for temperature control devices for Shasta Reservoir and Clear Creek.

Action item: George Kautsky will send to Federico Barajas a third, precursor memo to the 2012 memo on the Lewiston Dam temperature control options.

Dave Hillemeier suggested the Flow Workgroup review these documents and redraft their memo with more specific information. Simon-Jackson said it was important to clearly state what the desired conditions are and not focus on the mechanism as this would provide some flexibility. Stokely said the desired condition was clear, to meet the temperature requirement of the NCRWCB. Barajas said that should be clarified in the memo. Stokely said he has a paper on this issue and would like to make a presentation to the TMC at their next meeting.

Action item: Damion Ciotti will ask the Flow Workgroup to redraft their memo on the Lewiston temperature control with more specific information in light of the new documents to be provided by Gutermuth, Stokely, and Kautsky. They are requested to focus on desired condition (i.e., temperature objectives) and not on mechanisms (e.g., studies).

Regarding the process, Simon-Jackson commented that in the Forest Service, who is regularly litigated and whose papers can be part of a legal record, Ciotti's memo would at least be marked as a "draft" or they would have it presented verbally. This initiated a discussion on "process and decision making." Bruce Bingham agreed with Simon-Jackson and added that this sort of process may need to be reviewed as part of the adaptive management process. Joe Polos said this sort of more informal communication has been the operating procedure used and acknowledged that perhaps he did not understand these concerns by the newer members. Bingham suggested that a documentation of how the TMC operates may need to be prepared and this may require a special meeting. He also suggested that a simple orientation packet for new members was needed with links to foundation documents. George Kautsky said a memo on workgroup processes was developed and is available and there are established rules for communication. Barajas thought the Efficiencies Subcommittee could address improvement in the process. Joe Polos said he could work with Brandt Gutermuth to work on an orientation package that could be forwarded to the Efficiencies Subcommittee. Tony LaBanca via phone

asked Dave Hillemeier if this sort of efficiencies is in their task, but it was mostly focused on implementation. Barajas said the TMC seems to be in general consensus that this is within the mission of the Subcommittee.

Action item: Joe Polos will work with Brandt Gutermuth to develop a draft orientation package for the Efficiencies Subcommittee.

Damion Ciotti continued his Science presentation of workgroup activities. The Fish Workgroup main focus was on fish responses and performance measures. The Gravel Augmentation Workgroup will be reviewing the River Corridor strategy. The Wildlife and Riparian Workgroup wanted to alert the TMC that the yellow-legged frog and pond turtle are being considered for ESA listing. The Interdisciplinary Team has taken up the DSS and the Science workplan. The Design Team worked on site designs and on an effectiveness assessment. The Watershed Workgroup will be assessing watershed proposals.

Ciotti gave an update on the upcoming Science Symposium scheduled for 2 ½ days starting March 29. The focus will be the Decision Support System (DSS). Bruce Bingham asked if this meeting will require decisions by the TMC. Joe Polos said the meeting is informational and will help the technical people to “get on the same page.” Barajas asked each TMC members if they would have at least one staff member attending the symposium; they all acknowledged they would.

13. Implementation Update

Brandt Gutermuth gave the Implementation update which was also part of his written memo he prepared for the TMC. He showed aerial photos of the Bucktail and Deep Gulch/Sheridan sites with the planned construction items. These sites are planned for 2016. At Bucktail, he noted a 5-acre piece of private property whose owners are not willing to sell nor are they interested in participating with the TRRP in the project. In response, Brandt said the design has dropped plans for a side channel and an associated wood jam but this would not affect the over-all project objectives. There was a discussion about these changes and why they are discussing changes to the projects at this late stage. It was noted that design changes occurred as late as November 2015. Barajas opined that they should be discussing 2017 projects now and not 2016 projects and he expressed his desire to find a strategy to “get there” (i.e., advance the schedule). Terri Simon-Jackson asked how the late design changes affected the NEPA for the BLM. Brandt said there was enough flexibility in the wording and the environmental impacts were not changed so it did not need to be re-scoped to the public.

Gutermuth presented the design for Deep Gulch and Sheridan and commented on some of the details of addressing landowner issues of access and spoil sites. He described how they are combining the Deep Gulch and Sheridan projects to solve these issues.

Gutermuth, responding to questions, clarified that these are the only construction sites for this year and Lower Dutch is planned next year. He noted the tight timeline to get the NEPA document for Deep Gulch/Sheridan, particularly since it is planned to be a combined site assessment. Deep Gulch/Sheridan is not yet permitted and the environmental review still needs to be completed. Mike Orcutt asked when the cost estimate for Bucktail will be available. Barajas said the cost estimate will not be made public.

At this point, Barajas asked to break in order to take the telephone call in by presenters from the CVP (Item 14). The TMC also addressed Item 15 before returning to this item.

Mike Orcutt again asked about funding and the use of the \$3.3 million budgeted for projects. Barajas explained the government does an assessment to determine whether or not they will be

able to complete phases 2 and 3 of Bucktail. They need to get contractor's estimates for these phases and these are negotiated. Then they will be able to see how much funds may be left over. They will know the cost estimate by the first part of April.

Gutermuth noted a few more items on compliance. Regarding moving the spring hydrograph earlier, they are working with the water board on this for the permits. They are working on the biological assessments (BAs) and are sharing information with NMFS. The plan is that the BAs will be durable.

Tom Stokely asked about the plans for gravel. Gutermuth said the flow would peak earlier so the gravel additions will occur earlier. The amounts have not been determined, but a normal year includes addition of approximately 2,000 cubic yards. These decisions will occur along with the decisions on flow.

They are working on a new Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion on the Program. There are ongoing informal consultations between Reclamation and NOAA on proposed actions including the extent of the watershed which should be included. Flows will be covered under Reclamation's fall flow EIS..

Dave Hillemeier noted that the scope should not be limited to the mouth of the Trinity as the ROD references work all the way to the ocean. Tom Stokely read out loud the language from page 15 of the ROD.

14. Water Year 2016

Pablo Arroyave, Deputy Regional Director, and Ron Milligan, Central Valley Operations Manager, joined via phone and gave updates on the water year. Arroyave cited water levels in the reservoirs and that noted the low water levels in many of the reservoirs. Milligan talked about forecasts. He noted their efforts to coordinate with DWR on water operations but one issue is uncertainty between the 90% and 50% exceedance levels. Milligan said runoff looks better this year, but total recovery will be difficult. Shasta is in a lot better shape than last year based on volume and temperature but it will still limit the capabilities on the Sacramento River. They may need to limit releases to maintain cold water. A major issue is the winter run Chinook. If they get close to the 50% levels of fill, they will have considerably better options. For Trinity, it is harder to get to total recovery based on the size of the reservoir and the need to meet spring releases. They may be able to achieve 100K acre feet of increased storage by September at the 50% level. Milligan said that there is not a "whole lot" of water shipped over in the 90% or 50% exceedance forecasts—Reclamation may be relying more on Shasta Reservoir.

Dave Hillemeier asked if they have a forecast for Trinity with the snow pack, and if Milligan could quantify amounts of water shipped to the Sacramento. Milligan said they are using the February 1 forecast numbers which include the first snow coarse surveys, but they need to see how this "plays out" on March 1st. He thought there may be precipitation coming in March. Using "rough" acre-foot numbers, Milligan said May through August, may have 220K acre feet of diversions in the 90% exceedance s and close to that in the 50%. The 50% has storage of about 819K acre feet.

Tom Stokely asked when they will be posting their forecast on their website. Milligan said they haven't been doing that given their competing activities. He thought maybe next week, but it may not be that detailed. He would be willing to provide more details to the TMC than what they see on the CVP website. The website may not have the tunnel flows to the Sacramento. Once they've clean the estimates up they can send a PDF to Barajas.

Stokely asked about carryover storage. Milligan said that given the forecasts, will they not need to rely on Trinity water. Milligan thought they will not be relying on “those numbers they gave to the Board.” 3.8 million acre-feet at Shasta will allow use of “blending” and use of cold water. So they are keeping river releases as low as possible. They should be ending up with a much healthier carryover storage. Folsom also gives some flexibility given what they understand the snow pack to be. They should not need to rely on Trinity as much.

Stokely asked about the temperature curtain installation at Whiskeytown and temperatures. Milligan said earlier in the season Whiskeytown is cooler than Keswick and this gets closer in the summer. This depends on what happens in the reservoir. He is interested in what does happen and he does expect to see some improvement. It would not be as cold as Shasta at the heart of the summer. He hopes to see some improvement in Clear Creek with the curtain.

Keith Grove asked for the top number for Trinity Lake. Milligan said for September they predict 770K acre-feet and a peak at 1.03 million by June or about 45%. In 50s they may reach 1.2 million.

Mike Orcutt asked if current forecast projection included fall supplement flows and Humboldt County 50K acre feet. Barajas answered this and said it was premature to determine if fall flows would be needed this year. Milligan said they understand the need to model fall flows and they did factor in some late fall flows to get at the 770K. If they stayed with 450 only, they would have a higher storage.

George Kautsky clarified the projected export from Trinity Reservoir. Milligan expanded on this and indicated that Trinity Diversions to Sacramento Basin from February to September will be 300K under the 90% exceedance forecast and 310K for the 50% exceedance forecast. Stokely noted these were lower than historic and asked if it would be enough to keep water cool in Whiskeytown. Milligan said they are lower numbers but they have not “run” the numbers and it could be a bit higher if temperatures rise.

15. Current Conditions

Robert Stewart gave a Powerpoint presentation on current water conditions and flow recommendations. He showed the CVP water supply report that showed currently 796 acre-feet in Trinity which was 50% of the 15-year average. Inflow and precipitation however were at average values. The drought monitor says the region is still in moderate drought. The snow pack is slightly above average except for one site (lower elevation Red Rock), but these levels have been decreasing with the recent warmer weather. NOAA has predicted this month temperatures will be higher than normal and precipitation will be normal to slightly above normal. The inflow forecast to Trinity is trending for a normal or wet year at the 50% exceedance. Streamflow at Coffee Creek shows recent increased flows above the long-term gage average and is thought to be due to snowmelt now occurring. Based on this, the Flow Workgroup is considering pushing the hydrograph earlier in the year to match the conditions in the watershed.

Keith Grove commented that the snow pack may be less this year since the lower elevation sites such as Red Rock already show low snow levels.

Lunch

16. 2015 Salmon and Steelhead Returns

Steve Cannata of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife gave a Powerpoint presentation on 2015 fish returns. He noted that there have been some concerns over low run sizes in the

Trinity River recently. The short message of his presentation was that other rivers (Rogue, Klamath, and Sacramento) have also experienced low returns in recent years.

Cannata showed a table of fish returns (run size) to the Trinity River last year. Spring Chinook 2015 run size above Junction City was 4,435. Coho 2015 run-size above Willow Creek were 4,636. Fall Chinook 2015 run size above Willow Creek 10,377. Pacific Marine Fisheries Council estimated 119,800 fall Chinook run size to the Klamath Basin, while 77,700 were estimated as the actual return. Fall Chinook natural area spawners (natural plus hatchery fish that do not spawn in the hatchery) were estimated to be 39,200 for the Klamath Basin—this did not meet the floor of 40,700 natural area spawners. Pre-season forecasts match actual fall Chinook run sizes to the Klamath Basin in 10 of the last 17 years. Long-term data since 1977 show high variation in run size returns above Willow Creek Weir with lows of 10,000 and highs of 150,000. Cannata showed that the age composition of Chinook ranges from 2 to 5 year old fish with most 3 years old. Brood year (year the parental stock returned) escapement for year 2009 was very good as was 2004 and Cannata said they would like to know why. Regarding the hatchery component of the fall Chinook return, the hatchery returns has been less than half of the total run size.

Cannata compared fall Chinook run size of the Trinity River to the Rogue. Over the longer term, this value has been variable, but the Trinity has averaged about half the run size of the Rogue, but this proportion was about 1/3 in 2015.

In the Trinity, naturally produced fall Chinook in 2015 was 35%; naturally produced coho was less than 20%; steelhead has been increasing and was 60% last year.

There was a discussion about the source of the fish return goals. George Kautsky said the 1983 EIS was one source. He noted that the coho goals are now close to being achieved because they stopped fisheries and the goals were supposed to be met with fisheries occurring. Keith Groves noted that the steelhead fisheries goals are 40,000 fish but the fishing seems good now and similar to what he recalls as a youth—so, where did this high goal come from. Joe Polos said there is the EIS and there is also a memo from Fish and Game written by Charlie Fullerton with numbers that were supposed to be historic returns. These were used for goals but there seems to be no formal documentation of how these numbers were derived.

17. Riparian Vegetation Update

James Lee of the Hoopa Valley Fisheries gave a Powerpoint update on the riparian vegetation. He noted several ways that riparian vegetation is important. He noted that the regulatory goal is no net loss of riparian habitat as measured ten years after site construction. To assess degree of achievement, they must be able to map habitat before and after project construction. This is hampered by poor quantitative definitions of riparian habitat. The TRRP monitors the survival of planted vegetation at construction sites. Over the long-term they monitor area coverage of cover types and produce updates to their vegetation maps each five years.

George Kautsky asked if they shouldn't look at the entire river to see changes in riparian condition from the entire effects of the Program. Bruce Bingham opined that you have to look at both site-specific successes along with restoring function.

Lee continued his presentation and said they find that annual survival (especially in recent drought years) is low due to the harsh conditions. They irrigate and overplant (e.g., 800 stems/acre) and use browse protection. Six of the eight revegetated sites are meeting the proposed goal of 200 stems/acre by year 3.

Hocker Flat is the only site that has reached the 10-year window. During construction, the TRRP has removed about 8 acres at Hocker Flat. Riparian vegetation along the river has totaled about 900 acres throughout the channel rehabilitation period and systemic mapping indicates no net loss is occurring—although gains are not evident. Other sites appear to be on track in meeting the regulatory requirement.

Riparian-obligate birds are another good indicator of habitat and monitoring of 16 species indicates stable populations over time.

The Riparian Monitoring Mitigation Plan revisions include a change from plant survival to surface function and a change in the mapping rules. A white paper by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife support these changes. They are seeking formal approval of the plan with regulatory agencies this spring.

18. Discuss TMC Letters

Federico Barajas noted the copies of two letters in the TMC member's packets. The first was a memo regarding 2016 diversions to the Sacramento River where the Flow Workgroup pointed out that diversions during last winter through the Carr Tunnel appeared to be proportionally more than the releases from Shasta Reservoir. That is, Trinity Lake sustained a small decrease from 10/1/14 to 1/14/16 while Shasta levels increased during this same period. The TMC discussed sending a letter to Reclamation regarding the letter. Dave Hillemeier volunteered to draft a letter and Tom Stokely volunteered to help. A final letter would be sent out the TMC for approval before Barajas signs it. A draft would be ready by March 2.

Dave Hillemeier made a motion that the TMC write a letter to reclamation to consider Trinity storage while making CVP water management decisions, ensure there is enough water in Trinity Reservoir to meet Trinity River temperature basin plan temp objectives, and to maximize end of year storage in Trinity Reservoir.

Keith Groves seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

Action item: Dave Hillemeier and Tom Stokely will draft a letter regarding Trinity Lake storage for review by TMC by March 2.

A second letter had been drafted from the TMC to the fishing guides seeking their perspectives of tributary conditions and impediments to fish passage over the upper 40 miles of the Trinity River. Tom Stokely noted that TAMWG did not reference the upper 40 miles of river in their recommendation and he suggested they drop this reference. Keith Groves thought the 40 miles was sufficient. Dave Hillemeier will send the two other attachments for the letter to Barajas.

Action item: Dave Hillemeier will send two attachments to the guides' letter to Federico Barajas.

19. TMC 2016 Meeting Schedule

Federico Barajas suggested the TMC change their scheduled March meeting to the first week of April. Terri Simon-Jackson also suggested switching the meeting locations of September and December (to Weaverville in December and Weitchpec in September).

Barajas reiterated that this year, they are considering implementing the spring hydrograph earlier this year about the 16th of April, making it important to make approval decisions as early as possible.

Robert Stewart said the date of the April 1 forecast can be as late as April 11. By April 4 they should know the water year type. They can draft two letters depending on the water year type and send out the appropriate letter by the 11th.

The sense of the group was to meet the week of the April 4th and April 6th was chosen for Weaverville 9:30 A.M. It will cover both flow and budget.

Keith Grove made a motion that the TMC change their flow and budget meeting to April 6th, have contracted notes taken, and change the meeting September location to Weitchpec and the December location to Weaverville.

Dave Hillemeier seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

20. Open Forum

No comments.

21. TMC Chair Meeting Summary of Action Items

Federico Barajas reviewed his list of action items:

TRRP will assemble an orientation package for Caryn Hunt DeCarlo and TMC members should provide information for DeCarlo to Barajas.

Barajas will send out a position description for the Executive Director and vacancy announcement for the Executive Director and the Implementation Chief

Barajas will meet with Mike Orcutt, Dave Hillemeier, and Teresa Connor regarding interviews for Implementation Chief (he said he would do this right after this meeting).

Barajas will ask Design Team to assemble a report on past projects and they have worked (to help with future planning)

Linsey Walker will send Excel file of the budget to TMC members and members will send edits back to Linsey Walker by March 18.

Brandt Gutermuth will provide the 2012 Bender memo about carryover storage and the Lewiston temperature management intermediate technical memo to Federico Barajas (and Keith Groves will provide a document on the Trinity PUD retrofit). Barajas will forward these to the Flow Workgroup.

Damion Ciotti will have the Flow Workgroup review the memos on temperature and Lewiston Dam retrofits and re-draft their original memo on the Lewiston Feasibility Study and add more specific information and focus on desired conditions (e.g., temperature objectives) and not on mechanisms (e.g., studies).

Joe Polos will work with Brandt Gutermuth on an orientation package that will be forwarded to the Efficiencies Subcommittee.

Water supply notes from Milligan will be forwarded by Barajas.

Dave Hillemeier with help from Tom Stokely will draft a letter on water storage by March 2.

Dave Hillemeier will send attachments for the guide's letter to Federico Barajas.

Barajas noted several potential agenda items for the June quarterly meeting.

- Tom Stokely to present on temperature
- Discuss process and authorities for adaptive management
- Debriefing from the DSS symposium
- Presentation from the Design Team on past/future lessons learned and effectiveness monitoring

Adjourn 3:50 PM

TRINITY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Trinity River Restoration Program Office

Weaverville, CA

Agenda for February 18-19, 2016

Call in number: 866-618-5350, passcode 2295361

Thursday, February 18, 2016

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic, Purpose and/or Decision to be Made</u>	<u>Discussion Leader</u>
	<i>Regular Business:</i>	
9:30	Introductions:	Federico Barajas, Chair
	▪ Welcome ▪ Approval of Agenda ▪ Approval of December minutes	
9:45	Open Forum: Comments from the public	
10:00	Report from TMC Chair	Federico Barajas
	▪ TRRP Staffing Updates ▪ Current conditions update ▪ USFS Meeting Report ▪ Fixer Document Update ▪ Lower Klamath River Long-Term Plan EIS Update	
10:45	Vice-Chair updates	Seth Naman, Vice-Chair
	▪ NOAA staffing updates	
11:30	Report from TAMWG	Tom Stokely
12:00	Lunch	
	<i>Information / Decision Items:</i>	
1:15	Efficiency Subcommittee Report	Dave Hillemeier
	▪ Themes discussed during meetings & Recommendations ▪ Next Steps	
2:15	Report from TRRP	Brandt Gutermuth
	▪ Outreach Discussion ▪ DSS Funding Update ▪ Public Events	
2:30	Lewiston Penstock Discussion	Keith Groves
2:45	Break	
3:15	2017 Funding Discussion	TRRP Staff
	▪ President's Budget ▪ Initial TRRP Program Budget • Science • Restoration • Administration ▪ Key Milestones	
4:30	Public forum	
4:45	Adjourn	

Information / Decision Items:**Friday, February 19, 2016**

<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic, Purpose, and/or Decision to be Made</u>	<u>Discussion Leader</u>
9:00	Open Forum	
9:15	Science Update	Damion Ciotti
	▪ Work groups ▪ Flow Workgroup Memo ▪ March 29-31 Science Symposium ▪ Draft Agenda	
10:00	Implementation Update	Brandt Gutermuth
	▪ Compliance Update ▪ 2016 Rehabilitation projects update ▪ Design Team Updates	
10:45	Break	
11:00	Water Year 2016	Pablo Arroyave/Ron Milligan
	▪ CVP Operations Overview	
11:30	Current Conditions	Robert Stewart
	▪ Preliminary Flow recommendation ▪ Flow recommendation meeting in March	
12:00	Lunch	
1:30	2015 Salmon and Steelhead returns	Steve Cannata
2:00	Riparian vegetation Update	James Lee
2:30	Discuss TMC Letters	All
	▪ Consider Drafting Memo to Reclamation re:2016 Sac Riv. Diversions ▪ Approve Letter to the guides regarding tributaries	
2:45	TMC 2016 Meeting Schedule	All
	▪ Confirm Locations ▪ March and June agenda items	
3:00	Open Forum	
3:15	TMC Chair Meeting Summary of Action Items	
3:30	Adjourn	

2016 Meeting Schedule

January 28	teleconference 10 am – 12 pm
February 18-19	Quarterly TMC meeting begins 9 am, Weaverville, CA
March 29	Flow meeting, Weaverville, CA
April 21	teleconference 10 am – 12 pm
May 19	teleconference 10 am – 12 pm
June 1-2	Quarterly meeting, Eureka, CA
July 21	teleconference 10 am – 12 pm
August 18	teleconference 10 am – 12 pm
September 28-29	Quarterly meeting, Weaverville, CA
October 20	teleconference 10 am – 12 pm
November 17	teleconference 10 am – 12 pm
December 14-15	Quarterly meeting, Weitchpec, CA