

Minutes of the Trinity Management Council (TMC) Meeting 4/29/03

Location: Victorian Inn, Weaverville

TMC members present: Mike Ryan, Chair, Bureau of Reclamation; Mary Ellen Mueller, Vice Chair, USFWS; Irma Lagomarsino, NOAA Fisheries; Bill Brock for Sharon Heywood, US Forest Service; Mike Orcutt, Hoopa Valley Tribe; Dave Hillemeier for Troy Fletcher, Yurok Tribe; Tim Ramirez, California Resources Agency; Ralph Modine, Trinity County Board of Supervisors

Others present: Doug Schleusner, Executive Director; Ed Solbos, Bob Sullivan, Noelyn Habana, Glenn Yoshioka, Rich Miller, Andreas Krause, and Daryl Peterson, Trinity River Restoration Program Office; Tom Stokely, Trinity Co. Planning/Secretary; Robert Franklin and George Kautsky, HVT Fisheries; Neil Manji, Harry Rectenwald and Steve Turek, Fish and Game; Tom Patton, BOR/CVP Operations; Richard Lorenz, river resident/TAMWG Member; Pat O'Connell and Nancy Tennyson, Salt Flat residents; Serge Birk, CVP Water Assn./TAMWG Member; Jerry Hauke, Douglas City resident; Curtis Anderson and Bill Mendenhall, DWR; Loren Everest, USFS; Pat Frost, TCRCD/TAMWG Member; Jim Monroe, USDOJ Solicitor; Randy Brown and Charlie Chamberlain, USFWS/Arcata; Arnold Whitridge, TAMWG Chair; Seth Naman, Yurok Tribal Fisheries; Jeff Phipps, CVP Power; Cassie Simons, Americorps Watershed Stewards; Tim Viel, NRCS/Wvvl

Introductions:

Chairman Mike Ryan convened the meeting at 9:10 am. Introductions were made. It was agreed that the TMC would approve the minutes after lunch so that members have a chance to review them.

Open Forum/Public Comments- Jerry Hauke made a statement regarding the bridges. He asked if the TMC members had seen the Salt Flat Bridge site? He encouraged them to see it. He said he's a member of the Lewiston Trails Group. He supports public access at the Salt Flat Bridge. He asked the TMC to direct staff to delay release of DEIR/EA to revise the proposed agency action to construct a public bridge, not a private bridge. He was critical of staff for proposing a private bridge.

Pat O'Connell, Salt Flat property owner and resident, made a statement in support of the TRRP. He said he is in support of needs of the river and the property owners. Salt Flat Property Owners and adjacent property owners who own the access road and bridge are unanimously opposed to public ownership of the bridge and access road.

Tom Stokely stated that the public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the DEIR/EA when it comes out in early May. There will be a 45 day review, with comments due in mid June. There will be public hearings before the Trinity County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors prior to certification of the EIR. All public comments will be responded to in the Final EIR/EA. There is full analysis of a fully public access road and bridge at Salt Flat, which is Alternative 2. Alternative 1 at Salt Flat would be a private bridge on public lands. The decision makers will be able to adopt a fully public bridge alternative if they so choose after reviewing all the information.

TAMWG Chair's Report by Arnold Whitridge

Arnold said it remains in the minds of most members as to the effectiveness of this diverse group. All members have approached the group with constructive good will. They don't operate by consensus, but they operate on strong majority.

2 issues:

Work in tributaries and watersheds- South Fork, etc. The TAMWG did agree to recommend that monitoring and restoration projects should be eligible in all tributary watersheds of the Trinity River as follows:

“TAMWG believes that a watershed approach should be taken to restore and manage the Trinity River. The TMC should determine that it is appropriate and proper for the Trinity River Restoration Program, through whatever funds are available, to fund appropriate monitoring and restoration work on the Trinity River and all tributary watersheds to contribute to the goals of Public Law 98-541. “

CVP water and power users have concerns about reimbursability issues and who pays for that kind of work. Whitridge stressed the support for a watershed approach. TAMWG doesn't recommend specific projects, just the concept. Projects must stand on their own merits.

Whitridge suggested that the TMC make a finding that watersheds and tributaries should be eligible for funding including those downstream of the North Fork.

The 2nd issue is the 50,000 af for Humboldt County provided under the 1955 Trinity River Act, a 1959 contract between Reclamation and the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and 1959 state water permit conditions. The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors has written a letter to the Interior Secretary to requesting use of the 50,000 af for fishery purposes, in particular to avoid a fish kill in the Lower Klamath this year. It is separate from the 50,000 af that Judge Wanger has possibly allocated to the river later this summer. Whitridge said that the TAMWG wants the dialogue to occur between Humboldt Co. and the Department of Interior (DOI) on this issue.

Whitridge distributed the Humboldt County letter.

Mike Ryan said he's seen the letter. He knows that DOI is preparing a response to the county and has asked that the TMC be given a copy of that response.

Orcutt asked more about the reimbursability issue. Arnold said it needs to be explored further and funding for this type of work needs to be carefully considered. He thought that the Michael Finnegan (BOR Regional Business Manager) letter of 2000 or 1999 said that the costs of implementing the Trinity River Restoration Program are non-reimbursable pursuant to the 1955 Trinity River Act (All costs of fish and wildlife are non-reimbursable).

Serge Birk clarified that this related to procurement of funding through the CVPIA Restoration Funds and reimbursable funds. They have supported tributary work all along and it should include some tribs and maybe even the South Fork. For the water users to not oppose this would be contingent upon whether it is reimbursable or not. Water users support this work if it isn't reimbursable.

Dave Hillemeier asked if this included the lower Klamath River. Arnold said they are silent on that issue and didn't deal with it because it has complications. For now, it's the Trinity River down to the

confluence of the Klamath (at Weitchpec). The TAMWG couldn't come to agreement on the Lower Klamath.

Irma asked if the position of TAMWG was consensus on this issue? Arnold- yes.

Whitridge said TAMWG is also unanimous on the 50,000 af issue.

Orcutt asked when the response to Humboldt County will be done? Ryan said he doesn't know. In 1995, there was a response to a similar request and it will be reviewed, and a lot of the groundwork has been laid. His recommendation has been made to the higher ups.

2003 Flow Schedule

Doug said he was pleased at the way this has developed over the past 7 days. He wished there was more time to discuss it, but he wanted to express his appreciation to how the TAMWG discussed it and made recommendations, how Daryl Peterson and his staff and others reviewed it, as well as the TMC's response. It's a positive reflection on the way this organization is structured.

He stated that the program will have a science advisory board soon to they should help deal with this kind of situation.

Jim Monroe of DOI Solicitor's Office gave a legal presentation on the elements of Judge Wanger's 12/9/02 opinion as follows:

The ROD wasn't lawful

There was an improperly narrow purpose and need

There was an inadequate range of alternatives

The lead agencies should have looked at an alternative that minimized the amount of water in river by using other tools through an Integrated Management Alternative

The USFWS Biological Opinion (BO) resulted in major modifications to CVP w/o a jeopardy opinion and the effects of implementing the BO were not properly disclosed

The Reasonable and Prudent Measures (RPM's) in the BO's were not adequately defined for analysis in the NMFS BO that improperly made implementation of the ROD a condition of compliance- circular in nature. NMFS doesn't have that authority to direct BOR to do what it has the authority to do.

There was an inadequate analysis of the power implications

Judge Wanger gave 120 days to complete the SEIS and he limited flows to dry or critically dry year flows.

Monroe reported that the Hoopa Valley Tribe (HVT) requested modification of Judge Wanger's order. The result is a 7/9/04 deadline for the SEIS to be completed, along with new BO's. The new NEPA document must address the original deficiencies and RPM's for BO's must be described in the draft NEPA document, as well as full evaluation of an Integrated Management Alternative and other alternatives.

Judge Wanger allowed (during the interim period during preparation of the SEIS), 369,000 af critically dry years, 453,000 af in dry and other wetter years, as well as another 50,000 af to avoid potential fish kills in the lower Trinity and Klamath in late summer, pending other actions in the Northern Federal District Court regarding the Klamath Project. Judge Wanger also allowed all non-flow actions to proceed. Mike Orcutt pointed out that Reclamation had the flexibility to manage the schedule of water as allowed by Judge Wanger.

Regarding this year's flows, Monroe said Reclamation should be allowed to modify the schedule if desired. Wanger didn't dictate the schedule, just the total amount of water. However, the program should use a flow schedule that mimics the original flow schedule that is within the envelope of the law and the ROD.

For instance, shifting the dry year flow schedule to wet year timing would be allowable. The physical effects of implementing a dry year schedule are identified in the original document, as are the timing of a wet year flow. If you start going into the spaces in between, you run into problems.

In response to a question by Mike Orcutt, Monroe said that Safety of Dams (SOD) releases are not fishery releases, they are for dams safety. Dam Safety releases would be independent of the fishery restoration program.

Mary Ellen Mueller asked if there were a SOD release, would that be in addition to the fishery releases by Judge Wanger? Monroe- it is independent of the fish flows, but he hasn't checked with the USDOJ attorney specifically on that.

Mike Ryan said flood control and SOD releases have not been tallied against fishery release purposes. Monroe said they are unanticipated and difficult to predict.

Tim Ramirez asked if we think there is going to be a SOD, could we get together to discuss options to include ancillary benefits of SOD releases for fish and not violate Judge Wanger's order?

Mike Ryan said yes but they'd need to check with CVP operations persons. Reclamation does its best to forecast, but it's not perfect.

Bill Mendenhall of DWR asked if the base flow is 300 cfs and SOD flows go higher, only the 300 cfs still counts against the fishery allocation? Ryan- yes.

Mike Orcutt asked if the government would appeal Judge Wanger's decision? Monroe said he doesn't know, but a recommendation made by DOI on 4/23/03 to USDOJ.

Water Year Type Discussion- Mike Ryan reported on details of dry year flow in ROD is 453,000 af. It ramps up in late April from 300 cfs, to 4500 cfs for 5 days, then a gradual ramp down to summer flows of 450 cfs on June 28.

It was reported that TAMWG and others looked at it and said for the Trinity basin that the only place it's a dry year for Trinity is in Judge Wanger's decision. It's now a wet year, previously predicted as a normal year. Let's look at modifying the schedule to benefit the fish, especially in light of last year's fish kill. There are fewer breeding pairs in the river, let's do what's best to give the best chance to the surviving progeny of those surviving fish.

Ryan reported that reservoir systems are near capacity at Shasta and Trinity (Shasta is 1' below full). Flood control operations are of paramount importance because they can lead to loss of human life and must be watched closely. 30 days ago the predictions were nothing like what we've seen. It's an "awesome April" for Sierra Cascade region. BOR has limited discretion.

Tom Patton of CVP operations (CVOCO) explained that the water situation has changed. 30,000 cfs is going out of Shasta, thus the inflow/outflow are the same.

Bypasses in Sac system are spilling into farmlands. Under these circumstances, they don't normally export Trinity water to the Sac River. He doesn't see any opportunity to divert water to the Sacramento R. in the near future. It's so wet that it's not an option.

Trinity inflow is high compared to the 4/1/03 forecast. We expect an additional 100,000 af of inflow compared to the 4/1/03 forecast. Trinity will fill this year. The No. 1 priority is safety of the system. There is much uncertainty regarding timing of runoff- will it be 100 degrees soon and have all the snow melt at once? The No. 1 concern is to not have to exceed 6,000 cfs releases into Trinity, plus tributary flows. That may even limit ability to release 6,000 cfs. They also want to avoid an uncontrolled spill during May and June. Reclamation is trying to maximize all uses of water. Regardless of the flow schedule, carryover storage at Trinity and Shasta are looking very good this year.

Curtis Anderson said they are working with the Hoopa Valley Tribe to put the California Data Exchange Center station at Douglas City on line to help with information needs.

Robert Franklin asked what would trigger a SOD release? Patton said they will look at flow schedule and determine from there. It's hard to say. Every day they get 5 day runoff forecast. Once a month they get total volume of snowpack and seasonal runoff. There are many possibilities and much uncertainty.

Mike Ryan said that when the TMC makes a recommendation, it will immediately be referred to CVP operations persons. He thinks in next few days BOR needs to increase releases from Trinity for flood control/SOD purposes.

Patton, inflows may go to 10,000 cfs. If they don't make enough room in the reservoir now, they will have to release that full amount later. 3600 cfs is the maximum they can release to the Sacramento R. and 6,000 is maximum to release down the river.

Mike Ryan said Doug's office will be the focal point for comments on flows.

There was a general discussion on this year's water allocations. South of delta has gone up 5% each month. Mike Ryan noted that delta conveyance is the issue, not the volume of water available in the reservoirs.

Ralph Modine asked Tom Patton if expanding Reclamation's ability to increase releases above 6,000 cfs through raising bridges and other infrastructure such as the little yellow house would allow greater operational flexibility for him and other CVP operators during wet periods like these.

Patton responded that the bridges and other infrastructure improvements would definitely improve operational flexibility.

Brock asked if fishery flow could determine the need for future SOD spills, Patton responded yes.

Brock asked if it's likely to be a wet spring? Patton said yes and there is a possibility of a warm rain and the need for SOD releases.

Summer Pulse Flows- Doug said that the TAMWG differentiated between them and spring fishery flows.

Mary Ellen Mueller said that Judge Wanger asked for a science based approach to use Trinity water to avert a fish kill on the lower Klamath such as last year's. The USFWS had little time to respond to Judge Wanger's request for information. With a ½ day's notice, the folks in Arcata and Weaverville came up

with something that would help the fish w/o harming the resources. There wasn't time to include a broader array of specialists. They felt to share it with others such as the TMC before the judge had seen it might have been improper, but in hindsight, she apologized and wished that they had consulted with others.

Judge Wanger picked an amount of water but no particular schedule. She's not sure it's an issue with all the water now available. She asked persons to contact her or Charlie Chamberlain about it later.

Whitridge said that TAMWG was dismayed to find out that a dry year release would occur in a wet year without much discussion. The TAMWG wasn't interested in blame or punishment and understood that it was a combination of factors. An adaptive program should be able to review and adapt. The TAMWG recommended that humans consider the flow schedule this year. This has happened and the request of the TAMWG has been granted. He can't say that a specific decision will please all TAMWG members, but it's been examined and discussed.

Whitridge said it would be nice to have a more timely process in the future to consider fishery flows to be reviewed and considered earlier on. Some TAMWG members would like to participate in that process. In case the 50,000 af pulse flows occur later this year, a similar collaborative examination of options is desirable.

Irma asked for an explanation of this year's water situation. Ryan explained that under the ROD, the April 1 forecast with a 90% exceedance forecast. One of the issues raised during the SEIS is the 90% exceedance forecast is so conservative that it shortchanges the river many times.

Patton said it's a wet year now. Ryan- the ROD does not allow changing the water year type later on beyond April 1.

Daryl Peterson gave a PowerPoint presentation on this year's flow options. Daryl thanked staff from CDFG, DWR, USFWS and the Yurok Tribe who helped with this analysis.

4/22/03- TAMWG met, on 4/24/03, the group met and made recommendations.

Some limitations are that Rush Creek may erode significantly, decreased progeny of 2002 fall chinook run. Limit of 6,000 cfs dam releases.

Use objectives in ROD/TRFE, but can't achieve everything.

Objectives are:

- Long term habitat improvement
- Chinook smolt growth and survival
- Avoid negative impacts to amphibian reproduction
- Prevent riparian hardwood regeneration
- Calibrate models

The group came up with a proposal that they call the "Wet year bench", which is the wet year flow, but capped at 2,000 cfs. It provides optimal temperatures. The dry year hydrograph tails off so fast that it can't provide optimal temperatures into July.

The Wet Year Bench maintains a 2000 cfs bench for optimizing chinook growth and survival. The low water volume precludes implementing higher flows for geomorphic objectives. It reduces potential mortality of yellow legged frog egg masses, but it doesn't allow model calibration.

The water allocated isn't enough to achieve wet year objectives geomorphically. The technical team recommends that the wet year bench schedule to best achieve desired objectives this year, but will not achieve geomorphic objectives..

The Wet Year Bench was fully evaluated in the EIS and ROD. It would consist of flows from May 9 to July 9 at 2,000 cfs, then ramping down on July 22 to 450 cfs. This would allow an estimated 80% of the chinook outmigration population of smolts past Willow Creek would have for optimal temperatures there. The Trinity River Flow Evaluation (TRFE) was the basis for this.

If the majority of yellow-legged frogs lay eggs after the peak flows, then there would be minimal impacts to the frogs.

Orcutt asked how Judge Wanger's request to give what's best for the fish compares to this report vs. the aversion of a fish kill report? Jim Monroe said in the litigation there were allegations that the Trinity somehow contributed to the fish kill. Judge Wanger was critical that the Trinity ROD didn't consider the potential of lower Klamath lethal conditions. He wanted more information and that was it.

Orcutt suggested that the TMC exercise as much discretion as possible in protection of the fish. The TMC made a recommendation to release additional water to abate the fish kill last year, under Judge Wanger's latitude to release additional water for the fish last year. Monroe pointed out that the additional water was "too much of a conundrum" for Reclamation to release last year.

Serge Birk said this is driven by biological concerns, but there's a disconnect between spring smolts and the later summer potential for a fish kill. Serge questioned if this spring peak should be shifted to later in the summer.

Daryl said they want to avoid "designer hydrographs" of changing the timing of peak flows. This particular schedule is based on where fish are and where they are going. This hydrograph is our best bet and is fully evaluated in the EIS. Regarding the pulse flow, it was not to change conditions in the lower Klamath. We don't want the Trinity River bailing out the Klamath.

The recommendations by the technical teams were made to avoid another fish kill to get Trinity River fish out of the lower Klamath by trying to cue fish to move out of the system with available water. Doesn't know if we will avoid a fish kill in lower Klamath- we can't change conditions in lower Klamath- it would take a lot of water to decrease temperatures.

Daryl suggested a longer process for next year's flow schedule. What are compelling needs for each year?

Jeff Phipps asked if the group asked if there would be discussions in a biological monitoring plan to determine benefits to support the hypotheses? Daryl said they will make small modifications in monitoring to account for this flow. A lot of the monitoring is already set up for it. Since they followed the ROD implementation plan, it's already set up.

Andreas Krause asked if the technical team looked at weather and temperatures? Daryl said they looked at it in a general way. Also asked if they considered geomorphic piggybacking of flows with tributary flows?

Daryl said that 55.4 F degrees at Weitchpec is the upper limit of optimal temps. The Wet Year Bench will meet that. We are not relying on unique events to meet temperature objectives.

Glenn Yoshioka said that the wet year bench is also the bench for extremely wet year. It therefore addresses this kind of weather.

Break at 11 am. The TMC reconvened at 11:15 am.

Ralph Modine and Tim Ramirez supported the wet year bench. MEM thanked all the participants in the revised flow/adaptive mgmt and the TAMWG.

Brock had questions about real time feedback, but he realizes that it can merge into the designer hydrograph, but he's pleased to support it.

Orcutt said that he thinks the TMC meetings need to be scheduled for mgmt input into flow regimes because his observation is that there was no real consultation or coordination. He was "informed" of the dry year schedule, not consulted. Then he was informed of the TAMWG recommendation. He has concerns with wet year objectives and coordination with potential spills for geomorphic purposes. It's the best we can do w/best available science. He encouraged continued adaptive mgmt. with the various co-managers.

Doug Schleusner said if SOD releases are likely to occur, his staff will be the point of contact. He's not sure of how much time and operational constraints there are to effectively coordinate such releases.

Dave Hillemeier said the situation is difficult- a wet water year w/dry year flows. It's the same thing on the Klamath in that there are inadequate flows there. He'd like to encourage potential to get geomorphic flows if there are SOD releases up to 6,000 cfs, but he thinks the recommendation is good and they did a really good job.

Mike Ryan said if there is flexibility to increase flows to get geomorphic flows, it's desirable.

Orcutt asked Tom Patton about limit of science in inflow projections? Patton said it's getting better, but weather models aren't that good, plus snowpack, it's an accumulation of uncertainty. They have different hydrographs

Orcutt would like to see more balance and certainty for the fish, similar to what CVP contractors now receive.

MEM made a motion to support this year's hydrograph, as presented based on a finding that the TMC still supports the ROD flows as the best available science, and supports advance collaboration of flow regimes for purposes other than the fishery purposes through continued coordination with co managers for this year's flow schedule.

Bill Brock seconded the motion.

The vote was 8-0 vote in favor of the motion.

Tim Ramirez thanked the unanimous support of the TAMWG and the agency staff who worked on this issue. He thanked them for listening to concerns.

Lunch break at 11:35, meeting resumed at 1:15 pm.

Mike Ryan said he called Chet Bowling and gave him a heads up on the vote. On May 9, Lewiston Dam releases to 2,000 cfs through to July 9, then ramp down to 450 cfs by late July.

The current storm is accumulating water in Shasta, Trinity and Whiskeytown more than previously thought. Reclamation is in a flood control mode in those reservoirs. Lewiston Dam flows will increase at midnight to 1,000 cfs, then on Thursday they will go to 2,500 cfs. The operators are worried about going into an uncontrolled release mode.

Orcutt said it's important to notify the public ASAP. Doug said he had a call from the Trinity Journal at lunch. He will call the Redding Record Searchlight. He will send out the revised flow schedule tomorrow. They have a communications plan in place right now. Mike Ryan asked Doug Schleusner to talk to CVP operations and public relations persons. Mike Ryan said it's better to err on the side of caution.

Minutes of 1/9/03 TMC meeting- Motion by Ralph Modine, second by Mary Ellen Mueller to approve as amended below:

First page, second bullet, change KMC to KFMC

Last Page, paragraph that starts with "Mike Orcutt", change to read that "Orcutt would like to identify the \$941,000 in state funding separately from the funds we have direct control of."

Executive Director's Report- Doug gave an overview of the written Executive Director's report (see attached document).

Please give Doug feedback on the Draft Strategic Plan before the end of June.

Tim Ramirez asked what/who strategic plan is for? Doug- it's the bridge between the ROD and other documents and what it is that we're trying to achieve over the next 3-5 years.

Tim wants to know who is supposed to do what under the ROD and Adaptive Mgmt Program? As an example, Daryl's presentation that shows who works on what and is inclusive of all TMC member agencies.

There was a general discussion of makeup of Science Advisory Board (SAB). Ryan would like to see some continuity from past principals involved in TRFE, but not completely persons involved.

Dave Hillemeier said objectivity of SAB is important.. He expressed concern about a TRFE person on the SAB.

Orcutt said he supported implementing the structure in the manner that it was designed, but it's good to have persons who are conversant in the TRFE.

Ralph Modine said having at least one person with an institutional memory on the group is important.

Tim Ramirez has a problem with the specificity of the ROD. It's very rigid and he believes that some continuity is necessary. It's overly rigid. For instance, why is the SAB limited to 5? It's inflexible. CALFED doesn't ask scientists to make funding decisions, so it allows some persons involved who are doing work/research. He supports continuity on the SAB. It's very federalized and frustrating for the State. They are sometimes informed, it's not a really collaborative effort. We need continuity to live through different administrations.

Irma Lagomarsino said that SAB members need to be objective in their views. We need to rely on their credibility but she can live with one person who has some history with the project.

Doug said he has heard that some continuity would be OK with the TMC for the SAB.

Mike Ryan said we need to have credibility of independent judgment. If we lose credibility, we might not get it back.

Draft Bylaws-

Doug said that he would like to have the TMC review them and come up with agreement on a draft that can be routed through the various agency internal processes.

Doug gave an overview of where we've been and where we are going.

The group went line by line through the draft bylaws and made suggested changes on the computer that was projected on the wall. A revised version of the bylaws will be sent to TMC members for further consideration and review. Eventually each agency will have to internally review the document and obtain approval of the respective agency.

Jim Monroe pointed out that the TMC has no legal requirement to meet in public, but all notes and actions are releasable under FOIA. That is different from an executive session that isn't subject to FOIA.

6/26/03 is next meeting in Weaverville

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.



TRINITY RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM

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MEMORANDUM

TO: TRINITY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

FROM: DOUG SCHLEUSNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CC: TRINITY ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY REPORT, JANUARY 09, 2003 TO APRIL 29, 2003

DATE: APRIL 29, 2003

1. Summary: During the past quarter, the Trinity River Restoration Program staff has focused on five major areas: 1) preparation of requisitions and statements of work for financial assistance agreements for selected FY2003 proposals; 2) preparation for the first meeting of the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG), 3) environmental analysis, planning, and design for the Salt Flat and Biggers Road bridges, 4) development of a draft strategic plan for the program, 5) development of an integrated monitoring and design process for the Hocker Flat channel restoration site, and 6) preparation for the 2003 Trinity River flow releases.
2. General Program Administration:
 - Budget: The final omnibus appropriations bill for FY 2003 was signed by the President on February 20, 2003. Although field allocations for both Reclamation and the USFWS have not been finalized, there is a general sense that the estimate of available funds made early in the fiscal year is still valid. Funding agreements, including statements of work and technical evaluations, were initiated in early March, and are in various stages of completion at Reclamation's acquisition and contracting offices (Northern California Area and Mid-Pacific Region). The objective is to have signed agreements beginning in May 2003. Modifications will be submitted for deferred projects, if appropriate, once the final field allocations are known.
 - Staffing: Lori Kleifgen, with a background in information systems and modeling, was hired from the National Park Service in Santa Fe, NM, to fill the Geographic Information System (GIS)/Data Management Specialist position, and reported for duty on March 9, 2003. The Grants and Agreements Specialist position was advertised in late March, and closed on April 18. A referral of qualified applicants should be available by May 2.
3. Advisory Committee: On February 20-21, 2003, the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group (TAMWG) met for the first time. Seventeen of the nineteen members were present. The Designated Federal Official, Mary Ellen Mueller, chaired the first day's

agenda which focused primarily on orientation and background material presented by Restoration Program staff. The second day was devoted to procedural matters, including election of officers. Arnold Whitridge was elected chairperson, and Serge Birk was elected as vice chairperson.

The second meeting was held April 22-23 in Weaverville, with agenda topics including adaptive management, the program's draft strategic plan, an update on the 2003 Trinity River releases, and initial discussion of draft bylaws. Several sub-committees were established to interact with the Executive Director and TMC in development of the FY 2004 budget and other topics. The group also heard presentations from members of the public on desire for public access at the Salt Flat bridge site and a proposal to acquire land and tailing piles as a gravel source at Gold Bar. The major action item involved a request by the TAMWG to the TMC to consider alternatives to the current dry year flow schedule that would "optimize" benefits of available water this year. This recommendation will be considered on April 29.

4. Status of SEIS: In response to additional information submitted by the co-lead agencies and tribe, Judge Wanger agreed in late February to extend his original completion date for the SEIS from December 2003 to July 2004. The judge denied a request by the Hoopa Valley Tribe to lift the dry water year cap and allow normal or wet year releases.
5. Rehabilitation and Implementation Branch:
 - Trinity River Bridges – The public review draft of the EA/EIR will be available in early May, 2003, with the comment period closing in mid-June. Subject to completion of the environmental documents and obtaining the necessary permits, this year's funding will lead to the award of a single construction contract in late September for the Salt Flat and Biggers Road bridges, allowing traffic by March 2004. The construction contract for the other two bridges at Bucktail and Poker Bar is planned for in FY2004. All four bridges are scheduled to be open for traffic by February 2005.
 - Channel Rehabilitation Sites – Design activities for the Hocker Flat channel rehabilitation project are proceeding. Engineering drawings are being prepared by the California Department of Water Resources. Design elements include berm removal, side channel development, flood plain revegetation, and wildlife habitat restoration. A proposed action for the site has been developed and environmental studies are well underway. Subject to completion of the environmental documents and obtaining the necessary permits, construction is scheduled for the fall of 2003.
6. Monitoring and Analysis Branch:
 - Financial Assistance Agreements for FY2003 Restoration Program Annual Work plan. – Eight grants and/or agreements over \$100,000 and 14 grants and/or agreements less than \$100,000 are in various stages of completion. Statements of work have been refined, SF-424 application forms requested from proponents, and technical evaluations initiated after the final appropriation bill was signed in late February.

- Streamflow gaging –The stream gaging technical workgroup is continuing to meet and discuss data collection methods, data quality and gage maintenance issues.
- Science Advisory Board – Additional suggestions were received from the TMC and TAMWG in March, and a letter soliciting applications for the five positions has been mailed to over 75 individuals, along with publication of a news release. The review and selection process is scheduled for June. A suggestion under consideration is to have at least one of the positions filled by one of the scientists originally involved in the Flow Evaluation Study to provide continuity.
- Annual flow recommendations – On March 6, the USFWS asked Restoration Program staff to participate in developing flow recommendations in response to Judge Wanger’s request. The Program’s Monitoring and Analysis Branch Chief, Physical Scientist (hydraulic engineer), and Fishery Biologist assisted in this effort, which focused on late summer pulse flow options. The TMAG also coordinated the analysis of optimized 2003 flows requested by the TAMWG on April 23.
- Wildlife habitat enhancement – Cooperative projects to enhance floodplain and adjacent uplands are being developed with representatives of USFWS, TCRCD, BLM, and private interests.
- Fisheries technical working group – This group began meeting on a regular basis in March to help coordinate field activities and provide advice on restoration site design.
- Channel restoration planning – Planning for sites below Canyon Creek continues, with environmental site limits (ESLs) now delineated to begin environmental clearance surveys.
- Information Management – An information framework (file structure) has been created facilitate file storage and retrieval for TRRP projects.
- FY 2004 RFP process – Basic ideas for improvement of the RFP process to be used in the FY 2004 call letter include: clearer distinction between on-going monitoring and new projects open to competitive proposals; potential for multi-year funding agreements; and a shift to a study design approach rather independent tasks.

7. Key Contacts and Meetings:

- January 15-16, 2003 – Hocker Flat rehab site design meeting and field trip
- January 17 – Coordination meeting with FWS and HVT on out-migrant monitoring and rotary traps
- January 24 – Coordination with CalTrans engineers and planners
- January 28 – Presentation by Branch Chiefs to the Sierra Trinity Abandoned Mine Lands Agency Group, Sacramento
- February 5 – Presentation by Executive Director at Water Resource Managers of Shasta County (WRMS) meeting
- February 6 – Presentation by Greg Pasternak (UC Davis) to TRRP staff on spawning gravel design model
- February 7 – Hocker Flat design team meeting
- February 13-14 – Presentation by Executive Director and Mary Ellen Mueller at Seattle, WA public utilities adaptive management workshop
- February 20-21 – first TAMWG meeting, Weaverville
- March 5 – Poker Bar bridge; homeowners association meeting

- March 7-8 – TRRP staff meets with USFWS to assist in flow schedule recommendations
- March 12 – Field office operations trip to Willows, Red Bluff
- March 14 – Meeting with North Coast Water Quality Control Board (NCWQCB) at Santa Rosa regarding future potential projects requiring permits
- March 15 – Attendance of TRRP staff at American Fisheries Society (AFS) meeting on Klamath fish kill, Arcata, HSU
- March 18-19 – TRRP strategic planning session
- March 20 – Coordination meeting with Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region GIS staff
- April 7 – Fish biologists technical working group meeting
- April 17 - Coordination meeting with Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region acquisition and contracting staff
- April 22-23 – TAMWG meeting, Weaverville
- April 28 – 2003 Trinity River fishery releases begin

8. Upcoming Events:

- May 2-6 – Peak Trinity River flows of 4,500 cfs
- May 13-15 – Presentation by Executive Director at DOI Conference on the Environment, Phoenix, AZ
- May 19 – Initial B-Team meeting for FY 2004 budget
- May 30 – Science Advisory Board applications due
- June 6 – Follow-up B-Team meeting (others as necessary)
- June 14 – Bridge construction EA/EIR public comment period closes
- June 19 – TAMWG budget meeting
- June 26 – TMC budget meeting (goal of approved budget by June 30)