TRINITY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
December 12, 2008

Attendees: Mike Long, FWS, Chair
Brian Person, USBR, Vice-Chair
Gary Stacey, DFG
Dave Hillemeier, Yurok Tribe
George Kautsky, Hoopa Valley Tribe
Irma Lagomarsino, NOAA Fisheries
Dero Forslund, Trinity County
Doug Schleusner, Executive Director
Arnold Whitridge, TAMWG Chair

Other Attendees: Tom Wesloh, Danny Jordan, Mike Berry, Don Reck, Teresa Conner, Jennifer Faler, Damon Goodman, Vina Frye, Justin Alvarez, Paul Fujitani, Peggy Manza, Gil Saliba, Tim Hayden, Robert Franklin, Ed Duggan, Larry Hansen, Steve Nelson (Eagle Rock), Mike Hamman and Deanna Jackson

Introduction of Mr. Mike Hamman, incoming Executive Director, Mr. Dero Forslund, Trinity County representative and Ms. Susan Price, Alternate for Trinity County.

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Summary of Action Items:

- Simple chart/timeline

Validate Agenda:

Move TMC Roles and Responsibilities to the last item of the day. CVO will do their presentation right after lunch. George Kautsky would like to have the Fish Assessment update before the Channel Rehab Program – Next Steps agenda item. All were in agreement to change agenda items around.

TMC Minutes:

Gary Stacey made a motion to approve September 23, 2008 meeting minutes, second by Irma Lagomarsino. All in favor. Motion passes 7-0.

Open Forum (comments from the public) – Tom Weseloh congratulated Doug on his retirement and welcomed Mike Hamman. He was hoping to see some items on the agenda. More action items like a response to the hatchery letter and the support of TAMWG charter. He feels that the TMC needs to step it up and address these issues. Mike Long will address the status the TAMWG charter.

Report from TAMWG (Arnold Whitridge): Although TAMWG has not met, they are still concerned about the program and how it will succeed. He feels it cannot succeed without public support. So far the program has a pretty good record with the public thanks to Jennifer Faler, Ed Solbos and the Executive Director. Concerned about the IAP and why there was no notice as to why there is a delay. He feels that the public should be informed. The TMC needs to announce/disclose decisions that are made to the public.

A letter was sent out regarding TAMWG support. It was discussed between Mike and Brian and agreed upon that it would be best if the letter was sent by Doug. Gary Stacey shares Arnold's frustration and added that the process of getting a response back from the Secretary can take a long time. Gary also feels that complicated issues like the hatchery, needs to be resolved.

Arnold would like to have periodic updates and also would like to clarify that TAMWG does not blame the TMC for the charter issue. Tom Weseloh suggested a simple chart/timeline. This will be an action item for the next meeting.

Report from TMC Chair - Mike Long: He has not received a response to the Hatchery letter. Mike complimented Brian on the process for hiring the new Executive Director, Mike Hamman. The status of the TAMWG charter – it is moving around Washington and the package is close to the Secretary's office now.

Report from the Executive Director – Refer to the Director's Report (handout): Refer to the handout. It is different from previous Director's Report. Doug has valued the interaction with both TMC and TAMWG and would like to see the issues resolved. He suggested instead of meeting every 3 months, meet once a month with the agenda item being one issue so that it could be resolved. The FY2010 budget will be a challenge. The implications of the flow schedule will also prove to be a challenge. TRRP receives many calls from the public regarding the flows and the lake level. Suggests taking a look back at the Strategic Plan, pages 6 and 7 and reflect on accomplishments that have been made. The past seven years have been the highlight of his career.

Irma appreciates that Doug has put his thoughts on paper not only for the TMC, but for Mike Hamman as well. We are at a crossroads now and appreciates and honors Doug for everything he has contributed/done for the program.

Mike Long also thanked Doug and presented a plaque to him on behalf of the TMC.

IAP Status Report – TMC thanked the steering committee for all their work. In a G2G meeting with the HVT and Interior Agencies, there was concern about the IAP and asked that TMC not take final action on the IAP. Mike said that they will do a better a job in keeping others informed about these sorts of decisions/discussions.

Refer to the powerpoint presentation by Robert Franklin (representative of the IAP steering committee).

Tom Weseloh - The steering committee was surprised with the decision not to move forward with the IAP. They did not hear of any issues and thought they had done their job. They did what was asked of them. There was opportunity to raise any issues and they did not hear any. Feels that trust has been damaged by this.

It was acknowledged that the steering committee has done what was asked of them.

Tom Weseloh asked if there is anything expected of the steering committee by the March TMC meeting. He suggested dealing with the policy issues before not after. Gary Stacey agreed with Tom. This raised the issue to have more frequent meetings.

Agenda Item - Presentation by Central Valley Operations (CVO) Paul Fujitani and Peggy Manza (refer to powerpoint handout):

Paul gave an overview of the Central Valley project and features.

Peggy gave a presentation on Shasta-Trinity reservoirs regarding diversions, storage, contracts, etc.

Agenda Item – Integrated Habitat Assessment Update (powerpoint by Damon Goodman and Justin Alvarez) –

Damon stressed the importance of habitat assessment. There was a review of previous presentations.

Justin spoke of habitat evaluation and mapping of restoration sites. Additions this year include night dives and random sampling.

Robert Franklin also gave a presentation on physical and riparian components.

Channel Rehab Program Update (powerpoint presentation by Jennifer Faler):

Topics covered:

- 2008 Construction Summary
- Channel Rehabilitation Overview
    - Master EIR Update
    - Value Engineering Report
    - Schedule & Budget
- Channel Rehabilitation Discussion

Jennifer Faler requested guidance from the TMC regarding the scope of channel rehabilitation projects. In particular, it was pointed out that there are trade-offs between the size, and resultant expense, of projects and the amount of time/funding required to implement all projects identified in the ROD. The TMC recommended that projects be designed/implemented with the intent of maximizing the fishery/habitat benefits of each site, however the associated costs and potential schedule extension would need to be considered by the TRRP/TMC on a project-by-project basis.

Calendars/Next Meeting:

Should TMC pursue the idea of having a meeting before March? It was decided that there will be a meeting in January the day after the TMC retreat. It will be held at the same venue as the retreat. The topic will be budget.

February 2, 2009 (tentatively) in Weaverville.

March 18-19 (tentatively) in Weitchpec.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.