

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Taylor Local Users Group  
**DATE:** March 20, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Taylor Local Users Group Meeting Minutes

A TLUG meeting was held on March 20, 2020 via teleconference. Attending the meeting were the following TLUG members:

Pete Dunda, representative for property owners  
Ernie Cockrell, representative for Taylor Placer  
Mark Schumacher, representative for whitewater recreation interests  
Ryan Birdsey, representative for flat water recreational interests  
Julie Vlier, UGRWCD Board Member, TLUG Chair

Also present: Erik Knight (BOR); Dave Kanzer (CRWCD); Dan Omasta (CTU); John Bocchino (ELEVEN); Sonja Chavez and Beverly Richards (UGRWCD).

Julie Vlier (Chair) called the meeting to order. Julie began by acknowledging the two-year reappointments of Mark Schumacher and Ryan Birdsey to the TLUG, representing whitewater and flatwater recreation interests, respectively.

Erik Knight with BOR gave the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center water supply and model forecasts. When the March 1 forecast came out for projected Taylor Park Reservoir inflows, we were at 83% of average. This included information from January through March and could result in just under 100,000 acre-feet of runoff into Taylor Park Reservoir for 2020. The graph he provided to the group, which shows inflows, outflows and reservoir content, resulted in 99,400 acre-feet maximum reservoir content and 71,000 acre-feet by the end of October.

Even though 2019 was a wet water year, dry conditions in the summer and fall depleted soil moisture. In October the upper basin received a good amount of precipitation based on historical amounts. The graph showed that the average accumulation amount for November through February declined overall, 81% in November, 116% in December, 72% in January, and 86% in February. Currently the seasonal accumulation for the upper basin is 88% of average.

The preliminary operation plan for Taylor Reservoir was included in the handouts. The mid-month forecast will reflect updated snowpack conditions

and at that time USBR will provide an updated preliminary draft operations plan. The operation plan is based on an average year and is projected to result in 71,379 acre-feet of end of year storage.

At this point Julie Vlier requested feedback from TLUG members on the preliminary 2020 forecast and water needs. Ernie Cockrell for Taylor Placer said the he thought the projections looked good and he had no suggestions for changes.

Mark Schmacher said he has no proposed changes based on the March 1<sup>st</sup> forecast. Ryan Birdsey said this will be his first year representing in an average year so has been gathering information about the flows and elevations, which he said looks good to him. Pete Dunda said the projections look good for the property owners as they were concerned with possible flooding flows.

Julie then asked for input from other attendees. Sonja Chavez read a communication she had received from Dan Brauch as he was unable to attend. He said that typically they base spring releases on Kokanee releases. At this point he is not requesting an increase in flows but will keep the group apprised as they get close to ice-off in Blue Mesa.

Julie Vlier said that by the April meeting we will have more data. This meeting will be held on April 9, 2020 and will also be via teleconference. She also said she would like to have Dove Gochis or Jeff Deems at this meeting so they can provide other forecasting data. Sonja said she will contact them to invite them to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.