

MEMORANDUM

TO: UGRWCD Board Members
FROM: Taylor Local Users Group
DATE: April 9, 2020
SUBJECT: Taylor Local Users Group Meeting Minutes

A TLUG meeting was held on April 9, 2020 via teleconference. Attending the meeting were the following TLUG members:

Andy Spann, representative for irrigation users;
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
Roark Kiklevich, representative for wade fisherman
Julie Vlier, UGRWCD Board Member, TLUG Chair.

Also present: Erik Knight (BOR); Dave Kanzer (CRWCD); Dan Omasta (CTU); Ryan Unterreiner (CPW); Dustin Brown (Scenic River Tours); Sonja Chavez and Beverly Richards (UGRWCD).

Julie Vlier (Chair) called the meeting to order.

The meeting summary from the March 20, 2020 meeting was included in the meeting packet. Julie Vlier asked if there were any changes or comments on the summary. There being none, the summary was finalized.

Erik Knight with BOR gave the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center water supply and model forecasts. When the April 1 forecast came out for projected Taylor Park Reservoir inflows for April through July, we were at 79% of average. This was a drop in 4,000 acre-feet from March 15 and could indicate a downward trend once they have the April 15 information. This included information from January through March and could result in just under 78,000 acre-feet of runoff into Taylor Park Reservoir for 2020. The graph he provided to the group presented inflows, outflows and reservoir content. Based upon the April 1stth forecast, this resulted in approximately 97,750 acre-feet maximum reservoir content and 70,000 acre-feet by the end of October.

In October the upper basin received a good amount of precipitation based on historical amounts. This 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 and March. Currently the seasonal accumulation for the upper basin is 92% of average, which is an increase from March.

The preliminary operation plan for Taylor Reservoir was included in the handouts. The operation plan is based on an average year and is projected to result in 70,009 acre-feet of end of year storage. Julie Vlier asked when the high fish flows would go into effect. Erik said that based on an average year, flows of 445 cfs would occur for five days in late May and early June.

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 fish releases look fine and the other plans also look fine based on an average year. He thought that if dryer conditions occur, amendments can be made to the plan. He had no suggestions for changes.

Andy Spann said he also thought the release schedule looked good and he tends to lean more toward a conservative approach. Hopefully there will be a decent runoff based on an average year. He felt this was a good place to start and the group can stay on top of it and make adjustments if needed.

Pete Dunda said he has seen runoff beginning in Beaver Creek on his property. He agreed the projections look good for the property owners. Roark Kiklevich said the proposed plan looks fine for now and they can trim it down if needed. Ryan Birdsey said the plan looks just fine and he is waiting to see what the rest of April looks like in the Upper Valley. Mark Schumacher said the proposed operation plan is good for boaters and he appreciates all of the information Erik has provided.

Julie then asked for input from other attendees. There were no comments from other attendees.

Julie Vlier announced that Dave Gochis and Jeff Deems would be presenting information about hydrograph data in the Taylor River basin at the April 27 Upper Gunnison board meeting. Mike McBride from GCEA will also be discussing the Lease of Power Privilege (LOPP) for hydropower at Taylor Reservoir. She encouraged members to attend this meeting which will be via teleconference. Staff can provide the teleconference information to those interested.

The next TLUG meeting is scheduled for May 7 beginning at 10:00 a.m. More information about the meeting will be provided in the coming weeks.

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