

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** UGRWCD Board Members  
**FROM:** Taylor Local Users Group  
**DATE:** August 6, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Taylor Local Users Group Meeting Minutes

A TLUG meeting was held on August 6, 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 fishermen  
Don Sabrowski, UGRWCD Board Member, TLUG Chair

Also present: Erik Knight (BOR); Tom Fowlds (BOR); Ryan Christianson (BOR); Sonja Chavez and Beverly Richards (UGRWCD).

Don Sabrowski (Chair) called the meeting to order.

The meeting summary from July 8, 2020 was included with the meeting information. Don Sabrowski asked if there were any changes or comments on the summary. Mark Schumacher said he would like to change the wording in his statement about the proposed operations plan to read... *he fears that we will have two dry years in a row*. The meeting summary was approved with this change.

Erik Knight with BOR gave the Colorado Basin River Forecast Center water supply and model forecasts. He provided information about why we are in the situation we are in now. Beginning in January and February snowpack was at less than average or 86%. The in-flow numbers dropped by 4,000 cfs per month for March and April. Through June the precipitation and snowpack amounts continued to drop, they were at 79% on April 1, 74% on May 1, 70% on June 1 and 65% on July 1. As of August 1, there has been 62,400 acre-feet of runoff which is 63% of average.

Erik then showed the operations plan. He has made no changes to the plan since the meeting held in early July. With the plan as it stands, the end of

season storage will be 68,500 acre-feet which is slightly below the end of season target of 69,000 acre-feet. He also said some monitoring work has been going on at the reservoir and they found that the elevation sensor was not reading correctly. They adjusted this sensor which resulted in a lower elevation of 2/10 of a foot or 380 acre-feet drop.

At this time the Chair asked for comments from the TLUG users. Ernie Cockrell asked Erik what his suggestions would be in order to meet the 69,000 acre-feet target. Erik said this would involve adjusting releases by 25 cfs for a 10-day period which would amount to 500 acre-feet of content.

Mark Schumacher questioned the average inflows for September of 108 and 113 which is an increase from August. He suggested we reduce the outflow by 25 cfs for the last 15 days of September which would result in flows of 127 cfs. This will allow a little more for fall irrigations and boaters for the first part of September. He asked Erik how confident he was that such an adjustment would result in meeting the target end of season storage.

Erik said it was difficult to be confident in these situations with how dry everything has been. The forecast models do not take this into account as they use a 30-year average for the modeling. He said there will likely not be a huge volume change for August-October due to the fact that flows are already low.

Ernie Cockrell said we were limited in what can be done because flows are already low. He suggested we reduce flows to 240 cfs now and remain that way for the next 40 day which will result in more than the 500 cfs. Mark said that every bit makes a difference at this point and he would like to put the water to the benefit of the users. He said he would consider dropping the outflows to 200 cfs early in September if necessary.

Don Sabrowski asked if there was a noticeable increase due to the rains we received a couple of week ago. Erik said that on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> there was a jump of over 200 cfs. Don said this was good because it is supposed to continue to be dry for the next couple of weeks in August.

Andy Spann said he agreed with both Mark and Ernie. He suggested there be a meeting held at the end of August or September to continue the discussion. More water in the river for agriculture is a good and they may have to sacrifice more in September. It may be more beneficial to adjust in early September rather than waiting until the middle of the month.

Ernie agreed with the suggestion to meet again in August but suggested it should occur closer to when the mid-August forecast is released. Roark Kiklevich said that based on water temperatures the more flows through early September would be better for the fishery.

It was the consensus of the group to hold another meeting after the August 15<sup>th</sup> forecast to see if there are any changes to the forecast and then determine what adjustments should be made.

The next TLUG meeting is scheduled for August 19, 2020, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Roark Kiklevich will not be able to attend but Sonja Chavez will contact Dan Brauch to see if he can attend to represent the fisheries. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss additional adjustments to the operations plan to meet end of year reservoir elevation targets, based on the August 15 forecast.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:32 p.m.