

MINUTES

Taylor Local Users Group

July 8, 2022

TLUG Attendees:

TLUG Representatives:

Don Sabrowski (Chair)
Roark Kiklevich (Wade Fishing)
Mark Schumacher (Whitewater)
Ernie Cockrell (Taylor Placer)
Ryan Birdsey (Flatwater Recreation; by Zoom)
ABSENT – Pete Dunda (Property Owners) and Andy Spann (Agricultural)

Others in person:

Doug Forshagen – Crystal Creek Homeowner's Association
Dustin Brown – Scenic River Rafting
Bill Gallenbeck – Taylor Dam Outlet Operations
Sue Uerling – UGRWCD

By Zoom:

Sonja Chavez – UGRWCD
Erik Knight - BOR
Raquel Flinker – Colorado River District
Ryan Christianson – BOR
John Bocchino – Riffle and Rise

Erik Knight presented the July 1 CBRFC forecasted inflow which was 73,000 AF.

Sonja relayed information from Dave Gochis WRF Hydro Model forecast which was 78,000 AF.

Question around WRF Hydro forecast being at 78,000 AF which is 5,000 AF above Reclamation forecast of 73,000 AF and whether we could possibly see this additional amount in July.

- Erik response was that he would be surprised if we can generate an additional 5,000 AF in July.

Flow Recommendation Discussions:

Ernie Cockrell: End of year storage content is a big part of stipulation. He wonders if we could go below the end of year target storage content by 1500 AF to 68,050 in order to provide some additional flows through August. According to his calculations, this is the difference between not having the 5-day flushing flow (which was very beneficial) and having the flush (300 cfs dry year – 445 cfs for five days = 1500 AF). Allows us to take a little more water for the benefit of the rafting community and he'd be o.k. with a slightly lower winter flow (84 cfs versus 85 cfs).

Mark Schumacher asked for 250 cfs through August 15. If we did this, Erik indicated that our October 31 end of year storage content would be 69,000 AF. This would require a winter flow of 84 cfs.

Ryan Birdsey agreed we need to keep tabs on the changing forecast and glad people are willing to work with each other. Thought it would be good to look at starting to slowly reduce flows through late August and September.

Group agreed that it would be necessary to meet again after the July 15th forecast is released because of how much we've seen the forecast fall below expectations.

Citizen Comments: Doug Forshagen's concern was to keep winter flows as high as possible for benefit of fishery.

FINAL RELEASE RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Reduce flows immediately to 250 cfs and maintain until our July 25th meeting.**
- **The hope is to extend the 250 cfs release through August 15th for the boaters but this decision will depend upon the forecast we receive at our July 25th meeting.**

Gage below Taylor has been reading between 275 and 285 cfs at the outlet for the past week or so. Not sure what's going on. *Post Meeting Note:* Erik called USGS and they said that this is somewhat typically at the current flow release and didn't think that they would correct, but they will send a technician out to check.

Erik suggested that Dan Brauch (CPW) be prepared to talk about how a potential 100 cfs flow release might impact the fishery beginning in September.

Spring Creek Reservoir Update: Dan Brauch indicated that they had to wait for storage to drop back down below sensor (when it does the storage is 10 feet of storage) so now talking to contractor about when they can get in to replace gate on outlet structure. Likely to be August before they get in but certainly plan to finish this summer. Likely not going to do much storage recovery until 2023 runoff. There is a bubbler in place to measure storage in Spring Creek.

UGRWCD Post Meeting Note: Will need to consult with Four Parties on the proposal to go below the October 31, end of year storage objective.

Next meeting date set for: July 25th at 9am.

Meeting adjourned at:

DRAFT