

MINUTES
Taylor Local Users Group
August 9, 2022 – Draft v.08-10-22 for TLUG Review

TLUG Attendees:

TLUG Representatives Present:

Don Sabrowski (Chair)
Roark Kiklevich (Wade Fishing)
Mark Schumacher (Whitewater Boating)
Ernie Cockrell (Taylor Placer; by Zoom)
Ryan Birdsey (Flatwater Recreation; by Zoom)
Andy Spann (Agricultural: by Zoom)

TLUG Representatives Absent:

Pete Dunda (Property Owners)

Others in person:

Beverly Richards- UGRWCD
Sue Uerling – UGRWCD
Keith Hegarty - Wilder on the Taylor Homeowner
Dustin Brown – Scenic River Tours
Bill Gallenbeck – Taylor Dam Outlet Operations
Dave Gochis - UCAR

By Zoom:

Erik Knight – BOR
John Bocchino – Riffle and Rise LLC
Jill Steele - UGRWCD
Steve Pope - UVWUA

I. Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Minutes: Chairman Sabrowski asked if there were any changes to the minutes. There were no corrections identified. **Mark Schumacher moved, and Roark Kiklevich seconded a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed.**

- II. UCAR WRF Hydro Model Forecast:** Dave Gochis provided an update from the University of Colorado Atmospheric Research (UCAR). For the April-July timeframe the WRF-Hydro model forecasts the total runoff to be approximately 72,000 acre-feet. They did notice that the Taylor River tributaries above the reservoir accounted for 61 percent of the total runoff, however, this was less than some years.

The summer runoff was less than normal, and this is likely due to soil moisture content which affected the runoff yield. In the timeframe for April-September the model is showing 83,900 acre-

feet of runoff which is about 12,000 acre-feet more than the Colorado River Basin Forecast Center, but he did state that the model is over-estimating in terms of summer runoff.

III. CBRFC Water Supply Update and USBR Model Forecast: Erik Knight presented the August 1 CBRFC forecast. This forecast showed that the runoff for the timeframe of April – July was 72,000 acre-feet which is 77% of average. The max fill for the reservoir was 80,923 acre-feet or an elevation of 9316.6. The end-of-year content is forecasted to be 69,300 acre-feet and this involves flows of 230 cfs the first two weeks in August, a decrease on August 16th to 200 cfs, and then a ramping down beginning after Labor Day to 100 cfs by the middle of September. The winter flow beginning in October will be 84 cfs if the end-of-year content is above 69,000 acre-feet, or 83 cfs if the content is above 68,000 acre-feet. Erik also stated that there is 80-85% chance that the reservoir will fill next year if regular conditions exist.

Question: Ernie Cockrell asked how the ramping down from 200 to 100 cfs will occur. Erik said it is scheduled to begin on September 7th and will be reduced in increments of 25 cfs per day to be completed by September 11th.

IV. Flow Recommendation Discussion Summary:

Mark Schumacher said he would like to see the releases remain at 230 cfs at least through Labor Day and he asked Erik to calculate. Andy Spann agreed that leaving the releases at 230 cfs would benefit the boaters, outfitters, and agricultural users. Based on the calculations for the release being reduced to 200 cfs beginning September 7th, there would be just above 68,000 acre-feet at the end of the year.

Mark suggested that the reduction in flows should begin on September 5th rather than the 7th. The calculation, based on this recommendation, puts the end of year content at 68,500 cfs. As with the original plan, the ramping down to 100 cfs will be completed in a 4-day timeframe. Andy Spann, Ernie Cockrell, Roark Kiklevich, and Ryan Birdsey all agreed with this recommendation.

Per group consensus, Erik Knight will provide the August 15th forecast as soon as it is available. The group would like Sonja to provide this information to them via email in order to decide if an additional meeting is necessary, or if changes need to be made.

V. Miscellaneous Updates and Next Meeting:

No miscellaneous updates were provided.

Next meeting set for September 8 at 10:00 am (hybrid meeting).

Meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM.

Attachments: August 1, 2022, Taylor River Forecast and Operations