

MINUTES
Taylor Local Users Group
August 8th, 2024

TLUG Attendees:

TLUG Chair: Don Sabrowski

TLUG Representatives Present:

Roark Kiklevich (Wade Fishing Interests)

Ernest Cockrell (Taylor Placer via Zoom)

Ryan Birdsey (Flatwater Recreation Interests)

Mark Schumacher (Boating Interests)

Andy Spann (Irrigation Interests via Zoom)

David Fisher (Property Owners via Zoom)

Other Attendees:

Sonja Chavez (UGRWCD)

Beverly Richards (UGRWCD)

Alana Nichols (UGRWCD)

By Zoom:

Erik Knight (BOR)

Peter Dunda (Taylor River Resident)

Sue Uerling (UGRWCD)

Ed Warner (BOR)

Doug Forshagen (Crystal Creek Homeowner)

I. Introductions:

Chairman Don Sabrowski called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The June 21, 2024, TLUG minutes were presented for review. Ernie Cockrell pointed out several corrections and clarifications, which were discussed. Mark Schumacher moved to approve the June 21, 2024, minutes with the requested changes, and Ernie Cockrell seconded the motion. The motion carried. The revised June 21, 2024, TLUG minutes will be emailed along with the draft minutes from the August 8, 2024, TLUG meeting.

The meeting then moved on to review and approve the minutes for the July 10, 2024, TLUG meeting. No changes were requested. Mark Schumacher made a motion and Roark Kiklevich seconded approval of the July 10, 2024, TLUG minutes. The motion carried.

II. CBRFC Water Supply Update and USBR Model Forecast:

Erik Knight of the Bureau of Reclamation provided an update on the current Taylor Park Reservoir operations. He began by reviewing the April through July runoff period, which has now concluded. The total April through July runoff volume into the reservoir was 105,240 acre-feet, which is 112% of average. Initially, the forecast for July predicted an inflow of 110,000 acre-feet; however, the actual inflow came in 5,000 acre-feet lower than anticipated.

The inflow volume for August is forecasted at 9,000 acre-feet, a reduction of 500 acre-feet from the mid-July forecast model. The forecasted inflow for September is 7,000 acre-feet. Erik also noted that significant rainfall is expected across the basin over the next five days, including up to half an inch of rain in the Taylor Park Basin tomorrow, August 9, 2024. Additionally, there is a projection of around 0.2 to 0.3 inches of rain each day over the weekend. These rainfall events are not included in the current model operations and inflow projections, so any potential increases in inflows resulting from this rain will be monitored and could alter the current forecasts.

Current inflows have been averaging around 140 cfs but recently increased to over 180 cfs. The Taylor Park Reservoir reached a maximum fill of 102,529 acre-feet, and the reservoir content is projected to remain above 70,000 acre-feet at the end of October. There was also a discussion during the four parties meeting about a potential release adjustment from 350 cfs to 325 cfs in mid-August. The timing of this release change is yet to be determined and remains open for discussion. If implemented, the reduction to 325 cfs would continue through the end of September, with an end-of-October content projection of 70,489 acre-feet. It was emphasized that these projections do not account for potential inflow increases from the anticipated rainfall.

Erik asked if there were any questions regarding the operations summary.

Don asked Erik about the four parties' suggestion to reduce flows from 350 to 325 cfs, inquiring whether this recommendation was based solely on the numbers or if there was further discussion involved.

Erik responded that the suggestion arose because the projected reservoir content at the end of October was 1,000 acre-feet below the target of 70,000 acre-feet. This shortfall prompted a discussion on the potential need to reduce releases later in the season.

Sonja clarified that the four parties referred the issue back to the Taylor Local Users Group (TLUG), indicating that while adjustments might be needed, the decision on specific adjustments should be left to TLUG.

III. Recommended Releases:

Mark Schumacher recommended maintaining the current Taylor Park release rate as modeled by Erik and adjusting in September. He is comfortable with the 325 cfs release rate now and until the end of August. If the forecast significantly changes, he suggested keeping September at 325 cfs if feasible.

Roark Kiklevich proposed holding the release rate higher in August and reducing it to 300 cfs in September. He expressed concerns about water temperatures and noted that a reduction of 25 cfs now may not make a significant difference. If necessary, the rate can be adjusted further in September.

Ernie Cockrell highlighted that the situation is tight, even with room available in September. He questioned the impact on minimum storage objectives if the release rate is reduced by 25 cfs now and another 25 cfs after Labor Day. He is in favor of dropping to 300 cfs in September.

Erik Knight ran the model, which indicated that reducing the release rate would increase the end-of-year content to 71,900 acre-feet.

Ryan Birdsey suggested dropping the release rate to 325 cfs now and revisiting it in September.

Andy Spann supported dropping to 325 cfs now, given that ditches are not active, and running 300 cfs after Labor Day if possible. He suggested revisiting the situation in September depending on August's rainfall.

Davis Fisher supported Andy and Mark's suggestion of dropping to 325 cfs now and adjusting in September.

Chair Don Sabrowski asked for a motion to reduce the release rate to 325 cfs now and to re-evaluate the Taylor Park Reservoir operations in the September meeting for further adjustments. Andy moved, and Mark seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ryan requested that Erik and Sonja send out an updated report if there are significant changes in August. Erik and Sonja agreed.

IV. Miscellaneous Matters

Sonja announced that a demonstration of the new gap weather radar system will be held on August 15th at noon in the UGRWCD parking lot. The event will include a presentation by meteorologists and a demonstration of the radar's capabilities. She invited all TLUG members to attend, mentioning that lunch and refreshments will be provided. The radar system, funded by a nonprofit, is part of a pilot test area in the basin, which will improve local forecasting and could increase cloud seeding accuracy. The basin will receive the data at no cost due to a memorandum of understanding with the organization.

V. Next Meeting:

The next TLUG meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 9th at 8:30 a.m.

The August 8, 2024, TLUG meeting was adjourned by Chairman Sabrowski at 10:43 a.m.