

**MINUTES**  
**Taylor Local Users Group**  
**September 9th, 2024**

**TLUG Attendees:**

TLUG Chair: Don Sabrowski

TLUG Representatives Present:

Mark Schumacher (Boating Interests via Zoom)

Roark Kiklevich (Wade Fishing)

Ernie Cockrell (Taylor Placer via Zoom)

Ryan Birdsey (Flatwater Recreation via Zoom)

Others in Person:

Dustin Brown (Scenic River Tours)

Beverly Richards (UGRWCD)

Sonja Chavez (UGRWCD)

By Zoom:

Erik Knight (BOR)

David Gochis (ASO)

Doug Forshagen (Property Owner)

Raquel Flinker (CRWCD)

Bryan Moore (USGS)

Jay Whitacre (Irwin Guides)

**I. Introductions & Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Don Sabrowski called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The minutes from the August 8, 2024, TLUG meeting were presented for review. No changes were requested. Ernie Cockrell made a motion and Mark Schumacher seconded approval of the August 8, 2024, Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

**II. CBRFC Water Supply Update and USBR Model Forecast**

Erik Knight of the Bureau of Reclamation reported that the forecasted inflow volume for April through July 2024 inflow was 105,000 acre-feet, which is 112 percent of average. Erik noted that the August inflow into the reservoir was 10,000 acre-feet which was an increase of 1,000 acre-feet from the August 1 forecast. The inflows for September are forecasted to be 7,000 acre-feet.

Erik discussed the graph included which shows the historic exceedances compared to other years. He pointed out that the inflows showed a good increase in August which was due to rain events that were received in the month.

The operations plan shows that the flows out of the reservoir are currently right around 305 to 310 cfs. These flows were adjusted a bit by USGS which is why they are lower than what was discussed in the previous TLUG meeting. The plan continues these flows throughout the month of September. Based on the plan, the end of year content will be 72,791 acre-feet which is an increase of 1,000 acre-feet from the last operations plan presented at the August meeting. Beginning in October the flows will then be ramped down to reach the 85 cfs target and these will be maintained throughout the winter.

Ryan Birdsey asked Erik about the maximum release that can be made out of the reservoir and Erik said that they can make releases up to 1,500 cfs. There were no other questions from the TLUG members or the public.

### **III. ASO Flight and Data Report- Dave Gochis, Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO)**

Dave Gochis of ASO Inc. said that their forecast for August was close to the amount given by Erik Knight. They forecasted 8,000 acre-feet of inflow for the month and the actual amount showed an increase of 1,000 acre-feet. They are also forecasting 7,000 acre-feet inflows for the month of September. Dave noted that they have also been tracking soil moisture and streamflow. Streamflow is a bit higher than this time last year and soil moisture varies as some areas show dryer conditions and others showed wetter conditions than last year. Soil moisture information is provided from the SNOLITE stations that ASO tracks.

### **IV. Preliminary TLUG Draft Operational Release Recommendations**

Mark Schumacher said he was fine with the proposed operations plan for the rest of the year. He said that he wanted to clarify his statement from the last meeting that storing extra water was wasting water, he meant that it was a waste if there was a user who could still use the water. He noted that he was okay with storing extra water at the end of the year if we can maintain the 300 cfs outflows through the rest of the season as boaters have still been able to get on the river at this flow.

Ernie Cockrell said the operation plan looks good and that he agreed with Mark's statement. He also said the group and Erik Knight did a good job managing the water this year. He also wanted to make sure that the group would still receive forecasts from Erik Knight through the end of October.

Roark Kiklevich said he also agreed with the other members' comments, and he wanted to commend the increase in accuracy of forecasting which has made the job easier.

Ryan Birdsey also said the operations plan looked good, and that the reservoir is looking good. He is glad they are able to carry over the extra 2,000+ acre-feet of water through the winter.

Don Sabrowski noted that the members are unanimous in agreement about the proposed operations plan. He also said he likes the way the numbers were presented and appreciates the forecast tools that Dave Gochis and Erik Knight have brought to the group.

Ryan Birdsey asked for the ramp down schedule for October. Erik Knight said the plan is to maintain 310 cfs releases through September and then begin reducing flows by 25 cfs every other day beginning on September 30<sup>th</sup> to reach 85 cfs by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Ernie Cockrell said he appreciates the slower ramp down rate.

## **V. Miscellaneous Matters**

Sonja Chavez said the Colorado River District will be having their annual water seminar on September 20, 2024, in Grand Junction. She encouraged members who wanted to attend to let the District know so we can make reservations. She also said that District staff are attending and those who would like could carpool with them. Raquel Flinker said that the price of admission also includes breakfast and lunch.

Sonja said that they are currently trying to find an electrician to do the final hookup to the doppler radar system at the Big Mesa site. They may now have found someone and will continue to let us know the progress. Once the system is functional, there will be stakeholder workgroups convened to discuss the timing and formats needed for the data by different users. She and others met with Senator Bennet about this issue last week to request his support for federal government purchase of private radar data. He directed her to follow-up with his Southwest Director, John Whitney.

They still have not heard about the grant application to the Bureau of Reclamation for airborne snow flights. They are hoping to hear from them soon.

CWCB is wanting to include a third remote generator into the Cloudseeding Program this year. Benefits would be to the Ohio Creek watershed. This may need an amendment to the existing permit which will also require stakeholder outreach.

Sonja noted that Dan Brauch is still in the basin but has moved from the area biologist to more of a statewide position. When they have a replacement for him, she will get him/her integrated into the TLUG group.

Sonja said that the CPW is looking at increasing monitoring efforts for Aquatic Nuisance Species but will need financial help from diverse stakeholder groups. The District will be including \$20,000 in their draft budget to possibly help in this effort.

Ryan Birdsey said he heard a rumor that Bill Gallenbeck was retiring from the dam tender's position. Sonja said she would contact Steve Pope with the UVWUA to find out their plan to replace him. Ryan wants the TLUG to be sure to express their appreciation to Bill.

## **VI. Adjournment**

This meeting will be the final TLUG meeting for the year.

The September 9, 2024 TLUG meeting was adjourned by Chairman Sabrowski at 8:48 a.m.