

**MINUTES**  
**Taylor Local Users Group**  
**July 10, 2025, 8:30 a.m.**

**TLUG Attendees:**

TLUG Representatives Present:

Don Sabrowski, TLUG Chair  
Ernest Cockrell (Taylor Placer via Zoom)  
Roark Kiklevich (Wade Fishing Interests)  
Mark Schumacher (Boating Interests)  
Andy Spann (Irrigation Interests)  
Ryan Birdsey (Flatwater Recreation Interests Via Zoom)

TLUG Representatives Absent:

David Fisher (Property Owners Interests)

Other Attendees:

Beverly Richards (UGRWCD)  
Sonja Chavez (UGRWCD)

Attendees Via Zoom:

Ernest D. Cockrell (Taylor Placer)  
Dustin Brown (Scenic River Tours)  
Pete Dunda (Taylor River Homeowner)  
Conor Felletter (USBR)  
David Gochis (Airborne Snow Observatory)  
Erik Knight (formerly with US Bureau of Reclamation)  
Lisa Bickford (Gunnison County Emergency Management)  
Ryan White (Gunnison County Emergency Management)

**I. Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Don Sabrowski called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. The minutes from the June 6<sup>th</sup> TLUG meeting were presented for review. Andy Spann motioned and Roark Kiklevich seconded approval of the June 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried.

Sonja Chavez reported on the Four Parties meeting, including the Upper Gunnison District, Colorado River District, Uncompahgre Valley Water Users, and the US Bureau of Reclamation. The group received forecasts and operational release information and accepted the proposed operations plan.

**II. Upper Gunnison Basin May Water Supply Report - Beverly Richards**

Beverly presented a water supply report for the basin. Her report highlighted drought conditions in Gunnison County and the lack of precipitation over the past thirty days. She also discussed the potential for monsoon rains and provided data on total precipitation amounts, soil moisture levels, and noted that current streamflows throughout the basin are well below the historical average for this time of the year.

Beverly reported on talks with CWCB and North American Weather Consultants about installing a remote cloudseeding generator in Ohio Creek to cover a previously uncovered area. Sonja said the District has been having discussions with a gap weather radar company about the possible installation of a system in the Upper Gunnison basin. They have run analysis on several areas in the basin that would provide excellent coverage in all areas except the Taylor Basin. The District will continue working with them to refine this information and find a suitable location for the radar system.

### **III. CBRFC Water Supply Update and USBR Model Forecast – Conor Felletter, USBR**

Conor presented data from the July 1st CBRFC forecast. The April to July runoff forecast for Taylor Park Reservoir has increased by 2,000 acre-feet from the June forecast. Based on this forecast, the forecasted runoff for this period is 62,000 acre-feet, which is 66% of average. He outlined the proposed operations plan, which includes maintaining a 300 cfs release until August 1<sup>st</sup>, ramping down to 275 cfs on August 8<sup>th</sup>, down to 225 cfs on September 1<sup>st</sup> and to 200 cfs by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Based upon the current operational release plan, the October 31<sup>st</sup> content would be 65,152 acre-feet of storage, which would provide a buffer of 3,000 acre-feet above the minimum storage level outlined in the decree for a dry year that water users could work with the remainder of the season. This amount also increase the winter flow rate to 80 cfs rather than 77 cfs originally anticipated.

### **IV. WRF-Hydro Model Forecast Reports (ASO, Inc.)**

David Gochis of Airborne Snow Observatories, Inc., presented the WRF model forecast created after their most recent ASO survey conducted on May 20 and 21, 2025. David noted that cooler temperatures, precipitation and even some significant snowfall at the higher elevations resulted in model forecasted runoff in the amount of 84,000 acre feet which is 20,000 acre feet higher than the CBRFC's forecast. David said that ASO's ongoing monitoring of snowpack using Sentinel satellite imagery shows that there is still significant snow coverage in the higher elevations of the Taylor Basin, which will continue to contribute to runoff once the sun comes out and temperatures rise. He surmised that we may not have yet hit peak runoff.

Roark Kiklevich commented that he has driven up past Taylor Reservoir and up to Crested Butte and he did not observe much snowpack left, even at higher elevations.

David said that ASO will be preparing weekly reports on the snowpack and runoff and will be happy to share those with the TLUG representatives. He also agreed to provide a new shot of satellite snowpack on the mountains in the absence of cloud cover.

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

Don Sabrowski asked the TLUG representatives for their preliminary recommendations for releases, and the responses were as follows:

Mark Schumacher – He noted that the rafting companies are struggling a little bit on the Upper Taylor but that the Gunnison River was fine. However, in order to conserve some water for use later, he recommended that releases should go to 250 cfs on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 275 cfs on June 15<sup>th</sup> and 300 cfs on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Dustin Brown of Scenic River Tours agreed.

Andy Spann – He felt the irrigators were in pretty good shape right now and agreed that it would benefit them to go to 300 cfs by July 1<sup>st</sup>. He was in support of Mark Schumacher's suggestion. Chairman Sabrowski added that at Wilder, they have a full ditch thanks in part to the Spring Creek inflows.

Roark Kiklevich – He felt it is important to be as conservative as possible right now, so he was in favor of Mark Schumacher's suggestion as a good place to start.

Ernie Cockrell – He appreciated that Mark and Andy were willing to cut back some on the releases for now and said he would support Mark's recommendation.

David Fisher – He agreed with the others and said he thinks it is a good idea to maintain some storage for later in the season.

## **VI. Miscellaneous Matters**

Giulio Del Piccolo of Colorado Parks and Wildlife reported that he did not have the opportunity to find out the status of storage at Spring Creek. He will check with his staff and send an email to Sonja Chavez with their response

Taylor Dam Operator Rory Birdsey was asked if the gate and transducer issues at Taylor Park Reservoir had been fixed. He reported that they have received the part and will be installing it soon. In the meantime, he is still manually adjusting the releases and he said this has been going pretty smoothly. He agreed to notify the group if there will be any significant changes in the flow when they install the new part.

## **VII. Citizens Comments**

There were no Citizens' Comments

## **VIII. Next Meeting and Adjournment**

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. Chairman Sabrowski adjourned the June 6th, 2025 TLUG Meeting at 10:10 a.m.

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