

# TRINITY RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

## *Mission Statement*

*To protect, enhance, restore and revitalize the watershed through collaborative efforts that leverage external resources, work toward common goals, educate and engage community stakeholders, address natural resource issues, and support healthy ecosystems for future generations.*

## Minutes

Tuesday March 9, 2021

Zoom, 10:00 – 11:02 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83465193436?pwd=OUNhU1RjS2JoaTlxM1ZZaFhmUWFZZz09>

Meeting ID: 834 6519 3436

Passcode: 306465

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### 1. Introductions

- i. 5 C's – Sandra Perez
- ii. TCRCO – Amelia Fleitz, Elizabeth Sandoval, and Cynthia Tarwater
- iii. Trinity County – David Colbeck
- iv. USFS – Eric Wiseman
- v. The Watershed Research and Training Center – Josh Smith, Cindy Buxton and Tracy McFadin
- vi. Weaverville Community Service District – Tim Kasper
- vii. Yurok Tribe – Kyle DeJulio

### 2. Additions/Changes

### 3. Letter of Trinity County Board of Supervisors: Appointment to this Council

- a. Support given to sign and submit the letter.

### 4. Program work/updates/news

- **5 C's (Sandra Perez)**
  - No major changes from the update from the last meeting. Mark is on a fuels burn today and is not able to participate in this meeting.
  - Good feedback is being received from updates on East Weaver Creek, landowners are interested in the piped extension of WCSD to go up there which they will have access to when they agree to forbear their water rights for up to 20 years which will start as soon as this summer.
  - Sydney Gulch - Lee Fong Park and at the USFS Compound are progressing slowly.
- BLM
- CDFW
- Down River Consulting
- Hoopa Tribe
- SAFE
- SPI
- TCCG

- TC Fish and Game Commission
- **TCRCD**
  - **Cynthia Tarwater (Roads)**
    - ◆ Submitted a grant proposal for OHV for operations work to match for funding to work in the USFS Headwaters Project in the top of the South Fork Trinity River Drainage.
    - ◆ BLM Lands in the buckhorn summing are with culvert upgrades along County Line Road South.
    - ◆ Gimmel area (outside Wildwood) there are scheduled upgrades, one decommissioning in Wilson creek, road improvement on Potato Creek Rd.
    - ◆ Philips Gulch in Grass Valley Greek road improvement.
    - ◆ Small road decommissioning project in WCF along Roundy Road along Browns Phase III will move forward this year.
    - ◆ Six Rivers NF –Ruth Fire and CWPP Roads funding, so much has burned since the August Complex so some of this work is on a hold.
    - ◆ David inquired if Cynthia will be improving Hayfork Creek Bridge on Wildwood Rd. Cynthia stated that she has done some work along USFS sections and look to continue to make improvements in that area.
  - **Amelia Fleitz (Watershed)**
    - ◆ Wildlife Conservation Board funding for the Weaver Creek Stream Flow Enhancement which is four prongs.
      - Noxious Weed Treatment Plan – is complete along BLM sections along West Weaver and Little Browns Creeks.
      - Fuels Treatment – Proposing to treat about 220 acres in Little Browns Creek on the first section of BLM as you turn onto Little Browns Creek Road. The EA for this will be available for scoping late March or early April.
      - Water Conservation – the West Weaver Creek Diversion upgrade planning is still in development. The upgrade looks to improve the WCSD’s diversion and pipe the diverted water to their existing piping which carries water to the Trinco Water Treatment Plan. Then decommission the Moon Lee Ditch such that there is no water flowing along the ditch as the excess water allocated to the Moon Lee Ditch association currently does not reach the end users. Finally, we are working on getting funding from an NRCS Equip grant to pipe the water off a tap at the Trinco Water Treatment Plan to the end users.
        - Tim inquired on when the funding would be available for the piping, he will be installing the tap on the line with discharge by the end of April. The ditch itself is not in a state where it can run efficiently at this point in time.
      - Little Browns Creek Rehabilitation – Mark Lancaster would have the most up to date information on the current planning stages.
    - ◆ Department of Conservation funding for the update to the Headwaters Assessment for the tributaries into Trinity Lake. This is one piece of a larger initiative to complete an assessment for all of the Central Valley Water Projects.
    - ◆ Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan is completed.
    - ◆ BLM will be planning a harvest in the Weaverville Community Forest, if there is interest in harvest for restoration program please reach out to the BLM. Kyle stated that DJ has encouraged projects in the area to include harvesting the rootball in the NEPA planning as the value for restoration is significantly higher with the rootball attached.
  - **Elizabeth Sandoval (Education and Outreach)**

- ◆ Working on increasing the following on our Trinity River social media, website and youtube. We are always open to addressing new topics and sharing pieces of history, so if you would like to contribute please reach out to Elizabeth.
  - ◆ We are updating the Trinity River Watershed Poster which is nearing its final drive.
  - ◆ 4-5 Trinity River Watershed Educational sign – 3-4 will be put up at the dam for historical Trinity River historic water uses, dam creation, restoration, and recreation, one will be designated for the Moon Lee Ditch historical uses and water conservation to be installed at the Young Family Ranch.
  - ◆ BLM and TCRCDC are developing collaborative signage along the Trinity River and we are looking for input and ideas to include on such signage.
- **Trinity County – David Colbeck**
    - Looking at storm repair from 2018/2019 and the August Complex. A lot of the funding is tied up in FEMA, looking to treat many areas within and outside the Trinity River Watershed.
    - Deadwood Creek – project with Five Counties project as a culvert repair project.
    - Oregon St at Sydney Gulch culvert may be slated for repair this year, looking to be retrofitted later this summer.
    - Looking longterm for a potential bridge over East Weaver Creek and Garden Gulch planning funding is being allocated with CalTrans.
    - Lorenz bridge is in environmental review at the moment.
    - Wetlands with NRCS – the county is working to step up as the landowner and manage the wetlands with NRCS.
    - TRRP Projects related to Sky Ranch Road and transportation and mining tailing.
    - Grading issues across the basin – if you see grading issues on private parcels please forward information to David, for him to address where people are grading outside of the permit.
      - ◆ Cindy inquired if people with grading permits have a similar sign to the building permits? David stated that the current ordinance did not require this, he would like to implement signage but has not yet.
    - Cannabis Program – trying to get a transition plan together to embrace the new cannabis ordinance and the new EIR. Cannabis issues can be sent to David. The planning department has lost key staffing members; David is working to propose with a number of different groups to process the licenses to process the environmental review of the sites. If the county is able to enter in MLUs to provide staff, expertise, and review of the environmental documents.
    - Josh Smith stated TRRP purchased lidar for the South Fork – the county maybe interested in the data for some of the FEMA work.
  - TRRP
  - **USFS – Eric Wiseman**
    - No fisheries technicians for this summer. Added funding to the Watershed Research and Training Center contract to provide the tech support this summer to include water temperature monitoring, stream condition inventories, and likely fire support.
    - August Phase I – Upper and Middle SF Watersheds, project area is about 15,000 acres and treatment acres is about 3,500 – 4,000 with a salvage, roadside hazard treatment, and campground restoration. This project focuses on treating high severity burn areas; around Forest Glen which is significantly altered, all the campgrounds were basically flattened. A lot of wood and sand and fine sediment has entered the River and is filling the pools, hopefully will only last a year or so before it routes out downstream. Project Areas – 1) Forest Glen/Rattle Snake and Little Rattle Snake Creek, 2) Red Mountain area on Smokey Creek, and 3) Prospect Creek, Texas Chow Creek, and Dark Canyon. Hope to implement this summer. Scoping meeting last week was recorded if anyone is interested and there is another scoping meeting this Friday.

Link for the recorded meeting: [https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_NGU2ODg0MTQtZmE4NC00YWU2LThhYjEtZDEzMGFhMDC2NGMw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ed5b36e7-01ee-4ebc-867e-e03cfa0d4697%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22db7127e2-95dc-4d9a-b98a-6125b5fb1e42%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3a%22true%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NGU2ODg0MTQtZmE4NC00YWU2LThhYjEtZDEzMGFhMDC2NGMw%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22ed5b36e7-01ee-4ebc-867e-e03cfa0d4697%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22db7127e2-95dc-4d9a-b98a-6125b5fb1e42%22%2c%22IsBroadcastMeeting%22%3a%22true%7d) Link for the meeting on Friday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 11am : <https://tinyurl.com/augustfirerestoration>

- With a small department, Eric will need to rely on partners to help keep the projects moving forward. Manzanita Dam Removal with 5Cs is not on the program of work yet, but Eric is working to add it along with the Indian Valley Project. Eric values the partners and will be looking to rely on the partners moving forward.
- Any discussion on if Bill Brock's position at the SO will be filled? Has not been discussed. Forest Supervisor? No new supervisor news.
- August Phase II will have more restoration component to it. Cynthia have pictures of pre and post August Complex Fire in the South Fork area, and if anyone sees culverts that need to be addressed please let Cynthia know. The small tributaries have high energy transport channels which have put a lot of sand into the system during a mild winter without any significant storms.
- **The Watershed Research and Training Center**
  - Josh
    - ◆ Thule Creek – trickle fill for a major irrigation scheme and have a lease signed for this summer to keep water in the stream. Working to monitor a bit better and show people how the system works after this season. And looking for a fish passage upgrade at the same location.
    - ◆ Browns Creek storage of forbearance – 1 tank system installed and several more in the works. Hoping to get the system working and others installed.
    - ◆ Riparian Restoration along Hayfork Creek – WSP members working with TCRCO to do many plantings and maintain them on the County lands. Starting to develop new private projects on private lands.
    - ◆ Stage Zero in Indian Valley - planning on private land and have some plans from Paul Powers for the cut and fill to start working on NEPA.
    - ◆ Salt Creek – Where Salt Creek comes into Hayfork Creek at the older mill site in Hayfork, looking at a ground water recharge restoration project and Geoserve is doing a ground water modeling and Mike Love & Associates are working on a hydrolic model 30% designs on the project.
    - ◆ Large wood – with the Yurok tribe looking through the winter. Looking to use Blue Ridge Logging to yard very large trees for habitat improvement.
  - Cindy
    - ◆ Developing the monitoring project at the watershed center, last year there was a good amount of flow monitoring last year set up with Waterboard's Input. We are planning to set up sites and work plan for flow monitoring this summer. Finished the first year on Thule Creek and even with a low flow the trickle fill system was able to leave a significant amount of water still in stream while still able to operate the ranching operation.
    - ◆ Steelhead redd surveys have started, Browns Creek there are a handful a completed redd that has been worked twice and a test red. On the east fork that look like potentially lamprey redds, if anyone has advice for identification of lamprey redds please share that with Cindy.
- **Weaverville Community Service District (Tim Kasper)**
  - Available for questions, no report at this time.

▪ **Yurok Tribe (Kyle DeJulio)**

- Juvenile emergence is well under way and installing screw traps at Willow Creek for Trinity River outmigration and above the confluence with the Trinity River on the Klamath River. The traps are being monitored by Yurok and USFWS.
- Prep for Chapman Phase B is starting and creating access for construction at a later date.
- Oregon Gulch Project EA is out for public comment, proposal was not funded the first time, plan to resubmit for FRPG funds and hope to implement this year.
- Working with partners on an EA to reallocate ROD water on the winter and spring time frames with flow triggers, hope to be out for public comment this fall.
- A lot of synthesis reports will be put out shortly, for juveniles, adult, temperature (87 years), and a habitat. Take 20+ years of data to synthesize and inform management for the future.
- Indian Creek Phase II – looking for funding in this larger valley section, it goes subsurface in the summer time and is impaired in similar ways. Indian Creek Phase I is completed and looking for a storm to produce anything above 30cfs and did find redds in the project site.
- NorWelMuk Wintu for a project along Weaver Creek below the confluence of East and West Weaver to the Industrial Park. It will be a complex project with many landowner types.
  - ◆ The County is interested as a NRCS easement will come into play and the Weaverville Community Forest Steering Committee would also be interested.
- Preparing for Klamath Dam removal, prep work will start in the Fall 2022 with dam removal initiated in early 2023. Continuing seed collection now for when dam removal is under way.
- Looking into juvenile rearing habitat improvements in the Sacramento River Valley too.

➤ Meeting adjourned at 11:02 pm

5. Next Meeting: September 14, 2021 at 10am