

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.

AGENDA

Tuesday, September 13th, 2022

Zoom, 10:00AM – 12:00PM

This meeting will be held in person and via zoom.

Meeting Location:

Trinity County Resource Conservation District Conference Room

Address: 30 Horseshoe Ln, Weaverville, CA 96093

COVID Note: As this meeting is at TCRCD's place of work we will follow their COVID guidelines. Anyone that tests positive or has a recent COVID-19 exposure must follow guidelines listed under CalOSHA. Here is a link to the guidelines:

<https://covid19.ca.gov/workers-and-businesses/> Currently there is no masking requirement at their office.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<http://us02web.zoom.us/j/84335596514?pwd=Q2xQdzlWYlVCOUFuN2xaT2pCbEpSdz09>

Meeting ID: 843 3559 6514 Passcode: 728128

Or join by phone:

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1. 10:05-10:10 Introductions

In Attendance:

In person

- Nathan McCanne - WRTC
- Cindy Buxton - WRTC
- Josh Smith – WRTC
- Tracy McFadin - WRTC
- Maya Williams – TCRCD
- Amelia Fleitz – TCRCD
- Annyssa Interrante - TCRCD
- Charlie Curtin – Grizzly Corps (TCRCD)
- Miles Raymond – Grizzly Corps (TCRCD)

- Mike Dixon – TRRP
- Chad Abel – TRRP
- Jeremy Brown – Trinity County Board of Supervisors
- Liam Gogan – Trinity County Board of Supervisors
- Patrick Flynn – Trinity County Planning
- Eric Wiseman – USFS STNF Fisheries
- Galen Anderson – USFS STNF Hydrology
- Andrea McBroom – USFS SRNF Fisheries
- Bryan McFadin – NCRWQCB
- Chris Losi – Flowra
- Justin Garwood – CDFW
- Kyle De Juilio – Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program
- David Colbeck – TCDOT

2. 10:10-10:11 Additions/Changes

- No additions or changes were brought up by any member.

3. 10:20-10:50 Presentation: Big Flat Standing Wave Project - Jeremy Brown - Trinity County Supervisor District 4

- There is a current standing wave at Hawkins Bar and Lewiston, there are others throughout other watersheds. There have been a few created from removing existing dams. Colorado has done many. The only one currently in California is on the American River.
- Big Flat - there is potential to adjust a piece of steel (Tap Owner) to adjust the old bridge infrastructure to create the standing wave at certain heights.
- Received good feed back from the Board of the supervisors.
 - i. Received push back from rafting companies, local people, tribes, and the fishing guides.
 - ii. Contention was built on some misconceptions.
- Jeremy looks at it for its potential to boost local economies through increased tourism and recreation.
 - i. Other standing waves throughout the country have brought great tourism and had positive community impacts in other areas.
- Nor Rel Muk nation territory –
 - i. Potentially interested in getting involved to help educate the public about the Tribe’s presence and history.
- Potential ADA pathways and bank hardening in potential project locations.
- Lewiston White water park - just below the weir hole
- Construct the wave through pinching it with boulders.
- Big Flat will have many more challenges that the community did not support the event which puts Lewiston higher on the priority.
 - i. The proposal for the White-Water Park - above the big flat river access, require at least 2 ft of fall and can operate as low as 200 and 400 cfs, but can be engineered for the higher flows as well.

- ii. Could get 3-4 standing waves in that area. There is a bit of erosion and no good bank hardening towards the Big Flat River access- it is USFS lands. Projects would require easements and grant funding.
 - iii. Grant needs to see at least a 20-year lease - Parks and rec funding from 200,000 to 10M in funding - and improve the bank stabilization.
 - iv. Used to have a kayaking event in the past - that has fallen away. Trinity River Rafting is in support, Bigfoot Rafting is opposed, Straw House is interested, but have concerns about how construction will impact their benefit and if it will have economic benefit from kayakers to their business, - could build in a suspension bridge into their project.
- o Junction City Whitewater Park Project - doesn't show a map.
 - i. Junction City site - 2 ft of fall, and the proximity to the JC Campground and already part of the TRRP EIS. People from the presentation in Big Flat meeting want to bring it to Junction City - would be a minimal wave, until big flows. Incorporate into the existing statement
- o Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to approve \$35,000 for a standing wave feasibility study in the Big Flat Location. No money has been spent, they're hoping to find a grant that could cover this cost.
 - i. There will be a new Board of Supervisors next year, so this will not continue with Jeremy in that position to head this project.
 - 1. If it were to continue an agency would need to pick this project up and sponsor it.
- o Projects would likely be brick and mortar.
- o Question from Amelia: Has anyone mapped these proposed areas over the existing spawning distribution?
 - i. No one has looked at this - should be designed to increase fisheries habitat
 - 1. There would be components of fisheries restoration in final implementation.
 - 2. Only discussion has been with Mike Dixon and how the project could fit within the EIR
 - ii. Lewiston stretch - if there is concern for the amount of people up there in the Lewiston Stretch
 - 1. Potentially close off use to the public when there is spawning. - Fleitz
 - iii. Current standing wave is from previous infrastructure from an old weir
 - iv. Highest density of redds in that whole watershed and the concrete infrastructure limits the amount of salmon spawning habitat in that area. Could double the area in that habitat. Eric has been told that the weir is never coming out because it somehow stabilizes the dam infrastructure somehow. Could be pushed back to future development in that area.
 - v. Chad - probably want to analyze the sites and any additional sites.
 - vi. Do you have a proposal to support safety for the VFDs?
 - 1. Just looking to see if there is safety or if there is community support. Just preliminary, has not dug deep enough into it.
 - vii. Rocks are concreted in - to form the shoot.

1. There are ways to catch cement to not allow it into the waterway.
- viii. How does this fit within the Wild and Scenic Act and the designation for the Trinity River?
 1. There are some permitting issues and Section 7 - to fit within the permits. American White Water and Kokatat had this biggest concern
 2. Upper section of the river is identified for recreation down to Cedar Flat Creek where it becomes - Scenic
 3. <https://www.rivers.gov/rivers/trinity.php>
 - o County did not execute the contract - could get a grant to cover it
 - o Bend, OR - someone did die in the Bend Oregon - park - "no entity to take responsibility if something goes wrong" (No levers all rock work)
 - o Reno - Truckee - white water standing wave feature - big economic impact and pathways that go along down the river.
 - o Reach out to Jeremy Brown with any questions jbrown@trinitycounty.org

Links from Jeremy Brown's Presentation:

1. River Run Park, Denver Colorado

First Low-flow high quality surf wave in the US!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGL_41pjCE0&t=83s

River Run

<http://www.cpr.org/news/story/surfing-the-south-platte-a-lesson-in-river-renewal>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x0R2yXYjqRg>

2. Boise

First purpose-built park to focus on River Surfing. Voted as one of the top river wave surf sites in the world.

<https://www.facebook.com/202337576460825/videos/2032547840106447/>

<https://youtu.be/DIQzNE4uDk>

<http://riverbreak.com/news/events/boise-river-park-surfkayak-rally/>

<http://riverbreak.com/spots/boise-river-park-36th-street-wave/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7wk8bHaAyk>

4. 10:50-11:00 Updates on Upcoming Grants – Tracy McFadin

- o Quick Summary of Grants
 - i. Many opportunities out there, only the most relevant ones were shared
 - ii. Strategic Growth Council Regional climate collaboratives opportunity – Capacity building for under resourced OCT 7th
 - iii. North Coast Resource Partnership Opportunity ERWIM Round 2 of implementation funding. November 4th
 1. Has been a good source of funding in Trinity County
 - iv. Nov 18th Ca dept cons Working lands and repairing corridors – RCD has a grant to work with Travis Ranch only open to RCDs.
 - v. Small community's drought relief program – ends once pooling source is up or the end of 2023. WRTC currently has a project through this source.

- vi. Wildlife Conservation Board – Continuously open grant application. Discuss with WCB staff then they will ask you to turn in a pre-proposal. Several funding sources. More flexible application process.
 - vii. USFS – Federal Bipartisan Infrastructure law - Aquatic landscape restoration opportunity. Lots of Federal funding coming up that is applicable to work being done in Trinity County.
 - viii. CA Grants portal and Grants.gov are good places to look for general grants.
 - ix. Feel free reach out to Tracy to discuss these or other opportunities
tracy@thewatershedcenter.com
5. 11:00-12:00 Round Robin Updates
- o Shasta-Trinity NF
 - i. Galen - look to purchase some fuel reduction equipment out of the FLAT Fire Sediment, wrapping up the McFarland Settlement, Deputy Regional Forester visited last month, getting the West Side of the forest recognized more that the region. The Forest Supervisor was up for the Clean-Up on Weaver Bally Rd later this week. Monument fire the downed wood off of the 16 Rd
 - ii. Eric - Last month with the Yurok Tribe just upstream of Forest Glenn - tipped in 17 dead trees into the SF of the Trinity near the Scott Flat Campground. Working with the Yurok Tribe and the WRTC - flying in ~230 new trees into the Hyampom Sections - all have been harvested and staged. They all have their whole trees with their root wads, they have been crispy and brittle - the root wads and bowl will likely make it for a while. Eric will be out there for the implementation.
 - o WRTC
 - i. Josh
 1. Heliwood Project - flying the end of September and the yarder operator to yarder tip the remaining trees. Work to get some safety outreach, don't want to have too many people in the area.
 2. Storage and Forbearance project on Browns and Tule Creeks- installed 6 tanks and 5 were actively forbearing.
 3. Indian Valley Meadow Restoration - now a smaller project called corral gulch - in the USFS NEPA Project - Stage 0 project - restore the groundwater in a small trib - proof of concept project
 4. Salt Creek groundwater restoration project with potential to raise the groundwater level for many acres and provide more water for the stream downstream, at 65% design with Mike Love and Associates
 5. Upper Trinity Watershed Assessment - WRTC on wet meadow restoration - consultants working on the modeling - and future projects.
 6. Klamath Meadows Partnership - with Meadow Restoration across all of North Western California at this point - Bay area to the Oregon Border and pass Lassen Peak, they would like more participants.
 7. Trust for Public Lands - SPI sections to work on environmental compliance to remove the zones and stream crossing removal and meadow restoration in those areas

8. Riparian Planning work - in Hayfork Valley - Oak St and River View rd - mostly just working on water.
 9. East Fork Tule Creek Fish Passage project - design completed and a reduced diversion. Working on a 1707 due to the reduce of take on that area. Need to work on what will be left in stream for the 1600 permit and need to work with the landowner on the reduction.
- ii. Cindy Buxton
1. Barker Valley Roads - waiting for GEO Server to go finish their survey to identify the sediment sources and moving forward with the environmental compliance to implement the work. Heavy in cannabis in barker valley - cannabis funds going to support the project, and a pilot project that if there are success then other watersheds may benefit from this process.
 2. Hayfork Creek Fish Ladder on Wildwood Road - old fish ladder falling apart - lamprey used to go up and over it but due to the sharp edges they have not been able to. Waiting to hear back from the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative on funding and have been working with initial funding from CalTrout and snorkeled above and below. Looking at potential other lamprey spawning or rearing habitat. Finished primary physical survey of the fish ladder.
 3. Streamflow - many are sub 1 cfs of flow in their tribs - wrapping up early October or early November
 4. Spawning - to see what is to come for Hyampom and other areas and upper reaches of the South Fork Trinity River
- o Trinity County Resource Conservation District
- i. Amelia Fleitz
1. Two new Grizzly Corp Fellow and a new Watershed Coordinator, Annyssa. Annyssa will be taking over on the Upper Trinity Assessment that Nicole left off on. Funding was extended on the assessment.
 - a. Also will be working on the Travis Ranch project with Stillwater sciences, Timberland resource consultants, Shane Green, William Rich and Associates are doing Archeological. Consists of Riparian corridor protection and fire protection, road inventory and improvement.
 2. Waiting on RAC funds. Successful Trinity River clean up in the spring with another one later this year.
 3. Successfully deployed HOBO loggers for the USFS
 4. Continued flow monitoring in Upper Trinity Area and West Weaver Creek
 5. Looking for funding to implement BDAs within Northern Trinity Area
 - 6.
- ii. Annyssa Interrante – Introduced herself as the new TCRCD Watershed Coordinator.
- iii. Maya Williams

1. Salmon Festival - October 1st - 22nd annual event
 2. Trinity River Cleanup - Fall - October 22nd Lewiston down to Junction City
 3. Planning a Riparian Planting event – October 29th -
- TRRP
 - i. Mike Dixon
 1. Elevated flows to prevent fish kills in the lower river, almost 100% ick. Was proposed to decrease Trinity River as Klamath Flows increased, but due to the illness Trinity River was kept up. Base flows will come back on September 21st. Too many dead fish. Hard decision for the agencies as there is not a lot of water in the reservoirs.
 2. Oregon Gulch Restoration Project - moving forward with this and leveraging funding, hoping to start in the stream portion next summer and to finish in the fall of 2023 or carry into the next fall. Planning to restore a few dozen acres of habitat 500,000 cubic yards of rock will be shipped out. Largest project TRRP has undertaken. Hoping to finish by Fall of 2023
 3. Working with the USFS and BLM for a programmatic watershed assessment to keep cutting the green tape undertaking and provide programmatic support for instream or upland work for entities doing work within the Trinity River Watershed.
 4. Trinity River Division of the Central Valley Project - looking at alterations for Trinity and Lewiston Dams - storage and flow regimes. There was scoping, but it was not well targeted to capture the Trinity River Watershed, there should be additional scoping and Mike will keep the Council posted as it moves forward.
 5. Grants - Tributary Restoration Funding - being administered by the NFWF - four projects were funded and there is some residual funds and some funds set out for future years, additional funding may come out later this year.
 - ii. Chad Abel
 1. Gravel Augmentation - work on it to restore sediments that are otherwise held back from the dam and the reaches that are held in the upper reaches of the river. 5 augmentation sites currently, but the lowest one is in Lowden ranch and mostly in Lewiston just below the dam. Last year we did augmentation below the dam, we are proposing 8-9 sites in the EA and hope to have it out for comment this fall.
 - Trinity County
 - i. Patrick Flynn
 1. Oregon Gulch - happy to see that moving forward. There is a box culvert where Oregon Gulch connects to the Trinity River that has high priority from NMFS. Yurok Tribe has been working secure funding to do the planning and design for the culvert replacement. DOT was inquiring about the project.

- a. Jeremy represented a landowner and hopes to have more communication with the agencies and the departments working on the recommendations and have lobbied Supervisors Groves on the project. Owner of Eagle Rock should get some collaboration with the project. - David said he has talked to him in the past, and it is a County culvert and not on his property. Jeremy - concerned with endangered species near his permitted mine. Mike also added that Yurok Tribe was funded by the TRRP and that TRRP and NOAA Fisheries can work to discuss the endangered species concern, if there is a fact that other species can be impacted that they can develop a safe harbor agreement with him as part of the project.
 - b. Stage 0 that happened upstream the grading project - It is a CDFW violation on eagle rock. They graded a braided stream channel downstream of their permitted mine. The property is co-owned between Eagle Rock and one of their employees, the community complained to CDFW and two months ago there was a meeting with County and CDFW staff. A violation has been issued. CDFW is handling that, both criminal and civil for 1600 were issued. A remediation needs to be produced by the landowners and approved by CDFW. Graded over 20 acres of land. And they are mulching it, it is tailings. Maybe opportunity for something nice to happen out there. It is a typical 1600 violation. One-acre pond was built of part of that project. Could stage 0 concepts be applied to that project, for us to comment on how to restore that area and the water quality coming out of the stock pond.
2. Lead agency for cannabis site cleanup for the WRTC - has not heard much about that lately.
 3. Public Trust Lands - that is at the Planning department for the agricultural reserve or for conservation easement.
 4. Island Mountain Area - landowner wants to put into a land preserve. - Eel River Canyon Preserve
 5. Delta Conveyance - Draft EIR - out for public scoping - proposes a three-tunnel system to transport water from the Sacramento River to the San Juaquin - has implications for the Trinity River and the water that is supported. Comment period closes at the end of October.
 6. Planning Department Operational Update –
 - a. Interim Deputy Director – Ed Presley – previous director of OES in place and added a few more planners.
 - b. New assistant Mitchell Wexler
 - c. Cannabis Director – Sean Connell
 - d. Patrick and Skylar as Planners

- ii. David Colbeck (DOT)
 1. Dealing with the backlog of fire and flood from 2017 - Six Rivers Complex and the Campbell Fire with the BAER Reporting is just starting to roll out now.
 2. Good Neighbor Authority Agreement - working on the county roads on both forests for Six Rivers and the Shasta-Trinity NF.
 3. New Environmental compliance specialist added.
 - a. Sandra inquires - request for the Oregon St crossing - need the encroachment project for that project.
- o 5 Counties Salmonid
 - i. Sandra Perez
 1. Hanson Ditch - Weaverville Community Service District with DWR funds - started work this week.
 2. East Weaver Dam Phase I - estimated to start roughly September 26th
 3. Deadwood Mine - Grading completed, erosion control and planted scheduled for later this fall
 4. Deadwood County Road upgrades - under improvement and should be completed this fall.
 5. Sidney Gulch - 65% design for the USFS compound currently under review, part of the delay is addressing the gasoline contamination from a buried fuel tank, delayed seeking funding for the mitigation.
 6. Sidney Gulch- site 2 at Lee Fong park to improve habitat at that stretch - completed a 90% design and have been some flood plain related issues that they are working on due to incorrect FEMA mapping.
- o Yurok Tribe
 - i. Kyle De Juilio
 1. Working with our partners on Heliwood Phase 2 on South Fork Trinity River.
 2. Juvenile Out Migration Monitoring complete for this year, pulled out in August.
 3. Monitoring adults for disease in the lower river and in the Klamath, looking at location for refugia.
 4. Looking at other water management refugia
 5. Planning project for Weaver Creek - working with the Nor Rel Muk Wintu to further the planning.
- o Six Rivers NF
 - i. Andy McBroom
 1. BAER from the fisheries response is looking good. Salyer Heights water source burned down and Cedar Creek burned pretty good. Cedar where there are a lot of Coho etc. BAER on fisheries looked reassuring.
 - a. Are they proposing any beaver dam analogues for erosion control? Sharber already has active beavers. Only one spot where they could go in.

1. If anyone has events or information sent to all TRWC members, email them to nathan@thewatershedcenter.com and he will forward it to the group.

- o TCRC

- i. Maya - made announcement for the Science on Tap which are generally the 4th Wednesday of every month.6-7pm at Trinity County Brewery
- ii. Amelia - Summer Dives will be discussed at the Trinity County Fish and Game Commission Meeting tomorrow night.

6. Next Meeting: December 13th, 2022 10:00AM – 12:00PM

Meeting Adjourned 12:05PM