

# 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.*

## Meeting Notes

Tuesday April 25, 2017

TCRCD Conference Room, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

In attendance: Galen Anderson (USFS), Sandra Perez and Mark Lancaster(5Cs), Cindy Buxton and Josh Smith (WRTC); Donna Rupp, Cynthia Tarwater, and Tracy McFadin (TCRCD), Samantha Chilcote (consultant), Deidre Brower (Down River Consulting), Andy Hill (CDFW), James Lee (TRRP/Hoopa), Nick Davids and Kyle DeJulio (Yurok Tribal Fisheries Dept.), Bobby Chadwick (Trinity County BOS), Bob Morris (SAFE), Jerry and Deanna Payne (Junction City stakeholders), Kristi Bevard (Lewiston stakeholder), Karla Lane (South Fork Trinity River stakeholder) and Kenneth Baldwin, RPF (Douglas City stakeholder).

1. Introductions.

2. Final review of Bylaws and vote to approve by laws – Donna

Group discussion on draft that had been circulated and comments/edits received through email prior to meeting.

Josh Smith moved to pass the bylaws, Kyle seconded the motion. All current voting members agreed (5Cs, WRTC, TCRCD, SC, CDFW, Yurok & TRRP) no nays. Motion passed.

3. Presentation/Discussion on possible Trinity County grading ordinance – Mark Lancaster

Mark Lancaster presented the history of land use and grading ordinance in the County. He said the last time one was proposed before the board of supervisors was about 10 years ago. In the past only about 10% of the grading that was being done on private property created problems. He believes that now it is closer to 1/3. A moratorium now would harm people who want to put in driveways and follow the rules. There are some rules under the Forest Practices Act and some regarding construction of buildings. He proposes a Certified Grading Program where people are trained by a video program.

Discussion by group of what can be done and current impacts from sloppy practices. Discussion on fees, compliance, citations and enforcement. The State Water Resources Control Board may impose ruling on Trinity County if county cannot come up with our own solution.

Discussion of requiring a business license in County and how that would help solve part of this problem as well.

Discussion of timeline to get an ordinance in place – best case scenario would be one year.

The 5Cs are applying for funding to get the project rolling and have been making progress.

Discussion of how current political will is different from what it was 10 years ago. Kristi mentioned that she has access to an ordinance from N. Carolina and suggested that we don't have to

re-invent the wheel. Everyone agreed that education is essential. There is support across many groups in the County for an ordinance to be adopted.

Discussion of adopting an emergency ordinance based on draft 5Cs is working on.

4. Discussion of the letter in support of grading ordinance that was sent out with meeting materials. The letter specifically supports the effort by Trinity County to secure funding to develop and enact a grading ordinance as outlined in the proposal developed by the Northwest CA Resource Conservation & Development Council's 5C Program.

Samantha made a motion to accept the letter as it stands, Cindy seconded. All in favor – all voting members. No nays. Passed.

The topic will be kept on the agenda for the September meeting to discuss progress over next several months.

5. USFS S. Fork Priority Watersheds – Galen Anderson

David Schmerge has more information on the program, but couldn't make the meeting. Basically, the USFS is trying to get subwatersheds in the South Fork removed from 404 listing as impaired for sediment. They want to do work in subwatersheds that are most likely to lead to success and then move on to others. This report will make recommendations on which subwatersheds to work on first.

Cynthia and Kenneth contributed that analysis and road work has been done on several of these subwatersheds and wanted to be able to contribute information to David for his report. Multiple EAs for this area overlap with this analysis and will be useful to incorporate. Josh has also sent David information. Galen did not know if all of that information has been used in the current draft report David has written.

Galen will find out from David the timeline he is working under so people can give him more feedback on his report.

6. Other topics – Bob mentioned that the film and discussion held in late February on Climate adaptation was informative and would like to see a proactive MOU between CDFW, TRRP and CalTrans on beaver relocation rather than killing when they build by roads. Group agreed to add to September agenda.

7. Program work/updates/news

- Yurok – Working with Hoopa on Mill Creek site.
- Hoopa - Mill Creek site. They are holding a Fish Fair on Friday. Council members should consider participating in future.
- 5Cs – Winter work on private road inventory; having a hard time contacting private owners because of cell phones and no landlines; may put press release in paper. Working on project designs; working on a North Coast Resource Partnership planning project assessing the market value of Trinity River water. This topic could be future presentation for TRWC. Mark has written a paper on the interaction of forest management practices and hydrology/increase water yield.
- Watershed Center – Working with Barker Valley property owners on road work/inventory; a streamflow monitoring day is planned for May 4, and will add stream temp gages too.

Looking for volunteers to help with monitoring efforts. The Wine Gala is coming up and tickets are available – this is fundraiser for their youth programs. Josh is working on the large wood placement project on the South Fork.

- USFS – Public comment on Timber Salvage.
- NRCS – Not present.
- CDFW – They are re-visiting the fish passage assessment data points. This year Trinity River is seeing record small salmon returns.
- TCRCO – West Weaver Creek Rehab. Project is moving along with permitting and construction bid going out soon. Bob requested that information on the project be sent to the Weaverville Community Forest steering committee since part of the project lies within the boundaries of the WCF. Roads proposal went to OHV for work in the South Fork watershed. Road upgrades on USFS land planned. Also doing private road work in Upper Democrat Gulch area. One grower at the end of the road improved roads on his property to meet water quality board requirements, but the truck delivering his gravel tore up the road going up to the property. Home owners in the area not happy.
- TRRP – Please add Mike Dixon to email list. Restoration flows will be going up to 11,000cfs for an “extremely wet” year determination. Gravel injection is taking place near Lewiston. There was a public walk at Bucktail site in March and it was well attended. The Hamilton ponds continue to trap sediment from Grass Valley Creek, but are getting full. They have not been dredged recently because they now act as a lamprey nursery – unintended consequence. Seen as a success story – would make good news story. James asked about the RCD trailer at Lowden and if it is available. Trailer belongs to RCD. Donna and James will discuss offline. The watershed work group will be making their recommendations to the TMC (Special June 14 meeting) for funding watershed proposals that the work group reviewed and ranked. Should be posted on trrp.net soon.
- BLM – not present
- Member asked if SPI provided input to watershed council; Donna noted that they are invited to all meetings.
- Kenneth Baldwin – He is working with BLM on several projects. They are working in the Reading and Indian Creek areas and working on an oak restoration project. There is also an elk habitat restoration project coming up.
- Down River Consulting – Mentioned that the Roads workshop held last year was very informative and that maybe something similar should be considered for grading.

Other

Next Meeting: Tuesday September 26, 2017, 10 am TCRCO conference room