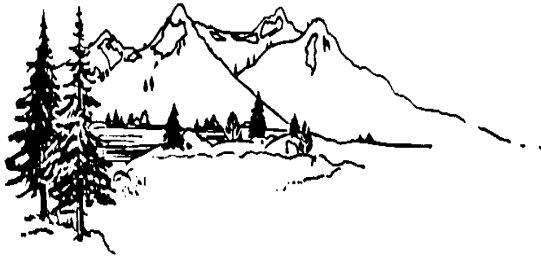


**TRINITY COUNTY FISH AND
GAME
ADVISORY COMMISSION**

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MEETING MINUTES

September 9, 2020

TRINITY COUNTY LIBRARY WEAVERVILLE

Chairman James Lee (At Large)- present

Vice Chairman Samantha Chilcote (Wildlife)- present, note taker

County Supervisor

Supervisor Keith Groves - Present via phone

Restoration

Mike Dixon – Present via phone
Vacant

Recreation

Vacant
Vacant

Fisheries

Kyle De Julio -absent
Vacant

At Large

Richard Cole - Present
Charles Holthaus - Present

Wildlife

Vacant

Secretary Vacant

Public: Andy Johnson- in person, Liam Gogan – in person, Tom Stokely (evening program presenter) – via phone, Trent Tuthill- via phone

This meeting was recorded.

The TCFG assists in developing Fisheries and Wildlife Policy recommendations for the Board of Supervisors. The TCFG interacts and coordinates with federal, state and local agencies and other organizations involved in fish and wildlife conservation, restoration, enhancement and management programs.

Meeting Called to Order 7:04 pm

I. Approve the Minutes from July 8, 2020. Motion to approve the Minutes from July 8th, 2020 - Commissioner Chilcote, Second – Commissioner Cole, Abstain – Supervisor Groves, Motion carried anonymously

7:10 II. Public Comment - None

Action Item: Add Sporty to meeting agenda email list and any other who traditionally get it (Pete Finney, etc)

7:20 II. Evening Program – Receive a presentation from Tom Stokely, Threats to the Trinity River

- a. Personal background; Bought property in Barker Valley, Hayfork in 1979, moved to raw land and build house in 1981, served as District 3 planning commissioner 1985-86, worked for the Trinity Co Planning Dept 1986-2008 working on the TRRP. Now on BOD for C-WIN, works with Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association, works with Save California Salmon and other stakeholders on water issues, especially related to the Trinity River
- b. Trinity River largest trib to Klamath, also trib to Clear Creek and Sacramento River, Congress Act authorized Trinity River Division of CVP,
 - numerous laws require Trinity River fishery to be protected (CWA, Trinity ROD 2000) despite protections, fisheries has been in severe decline for several decades.
 - Trinity goes through 4 power plants on the way to the Sacramento River, produces 4x the energy per acre foot that Shasta Dam does because greater elevation change,
 - more water is contracted than is actually exists (paper water),
 - Westlands former lobbyist David Berhardt is now Secretary of Interior.
- c. Threats:
 1. running out of cold water for fish, potential that Trinity cannot pass the probable maximum flood (no adequate spillway),
 - can maybe pass 35k cfs so BoR keeps the lake low to offset threat of flood, higher threat than Orville for failure, glory hole can pass 24000 cfs but once the water gets that high not much storage capacity left and the dam max release 15000 cfs, as a result BoR keeps the lake lower than they would if there was a mechanism for higher releases,
 - lower lake level (especially when combined with multi-year droughts) causes less cold water pool reserve which can cause fill kills,
 - for example in 1977 Trinity River ran out of cold water, Stokely has reports fish kills from CDFG, threat continues of multi-year drought on cold water pool

2. Sites Reservoir – proponents of the dam claim not a threat to Trinity River but there are several shortcomings to environmental impact analysis as
 - report by a hydrologist (Kamman) hired by Tom Stokely, Kamman found the dam proponents didn't account for a. Trinity in modelling, b. the Trinity ROD, c. changed the timing of diversion from fall to spring and winter in drier years would cause heating in Lewiston Lake, and d. decreases in winter flows as well as e. the proposed 5000 cfs min flow in Sacramento which is still not sufficient for that fishery
 - In December 2019, Humboldt BoS asked Trinity River not be used to fill Sites Reservoir, TCFGAC asked Trinity BoS to take action but they tabled the matter,
 - there is an upcoming (2021) Recirculated Draft EIS/EIR and water rights application for the Sites Reservoir that public can file comments and protests against, contact Tom Stokely for more information
3. Trump Water Plan impacts Trinity Lake cold pool,
 - current admin issues new Biological Opinion increasing water delivery to Central Valley,
 - Tom Stokely hired hydrologist and their analysis found they overestimated storage in Trinity River, significantly underestimating impacts to Trinity Lake during dry period of up to 350,000 af.
4. Westlands permanent water contract:
 - Trinity BoS entered into validation lawsuit against Westlands and thrown out on technicality, but
 - Delta water groups filed as well and won against the validation. Trinity is appealing but basically won the case anyway.
5. Delta Tunnels Project: send water from Sacramento around Delta to the South,
 - evidentiary hearing,
 - comment period is 2022
 - proceeding with process even though the project lost many backers and economic support but not expected to be successful
6. Temperature plan for the Sacramento River represents another opportunity for Trinity County to get involved through the SWRCB
7. Recently Trinity River runs are plummeting relative to runs in the Shasta River, in 2014 to 2019 Trinity River natural spawners fell at or below Shasta natural spawners, ROD did call for a watershed restoration program as well and TRRP has been expanding that program to its credit but funding is still inadequate vs the Shasta has a lot more watershed restoration projects which the Trinity hasn't, currently about \$250,000-500000 per year vs estimated \$3 million which ROD called for
 - Commissioner Dixon says Scott or Salmon River would be a better comparison, see the same decline is those rivers

- Chairman Lee says there is no fishing on the Shasta River and Trinity would have higher numbers of salmon if there was no fishing too
- 8. Need minimum cold water pool in the lake, which other projects are threatening
- d. Q and A:
 - a. Commissioner Cole: what's the best way to get assurance on the cold water pool,
 - when the draft EIR for Sites comes out next year comment and file water right protests, Sites filing for surplus water but they will have a hard time showing a surplus
 - Supervisor Groves: This is not the role of the Commission, wasting time on this issue when other people are dealing with it when there are other issues that the Commission can be dealing with
 - Keith Groves said he thought approximately 1.5 million acre feet cold water pool is appropriate. Stokely agreed and said his hydrologist calculated 1.25 maf to 1.6 MAF is protective of the downstream fishery
 - **Action Item:** Commissioner Cole will monitor comment deadlines and keep the Commission informed
 - b. Liam Gogan: Do the Scott and Salmon Rivers have restoration programs on them too?
 - Chairman Lee: Yes they do have small program.
 - Liam Gogan: Thinks that the Shasta River is a good comparison to the Trinity River. They are both tribs to Klamath River.
 - Chairman Lee: The Shasta River also does not have a hatchery program too so it's not a great comparison.
 - Tom Stokely: Shasta River does have restoration program funded through individual grants to various statewide programs for riparian planting, eliminating tailwater, erosion control, water purchases, etc., he does not know what the budget is.

8:00 III. On Going Reports

- a. Restoration: Commissioner Dixon:
 - 1. WRTC low flow project on Brown's Creek behind due to partner entities,
 - 2. Yuroks will be implementing the first stage 0 water project in the state of CA, big regulatory hurdle to get there, suggest presentation from Yurok for November meeting,
 - 3. TRRP suspended due to closure order (fire), have until October 15th
- b. Trinity County Big Game Update, Deer Management Plan –Chairman Lee,
 - 1. archery season come and gone, 100F during most of archery season, firearm season starts week after next,
 - 2. Chairman Lee has not had any progress with the state Big Game Coordinator,
- c. Trinity River update: Commissioner Holthaus,

1. Sept 2nd count 345 at JC, about 20 fish per week, no coho, 58 steelhead, 3 brown trout, relocating WC weir due to change in land ownership,
2. Supervisor Groves: What's going on with electrofishing for brown trout?
 - Chairman Lee: No electrofishing but Hoopa was authorized to remove at the weir and give to elders for food but cannot waste the fish
- d. Department of Fish & Wildlife Report- No report
- e. NRA Collaboration Committee Report - Commissioner Dixen, meeting Friday
 - Chairman Lee: pulled the dock out at Fairview on 5th of July when there was a couple more weeks left but they did clear the Scotch-broom long the sidewalk,
 - Commissioner Dixen will bring that up at NRA meeting
- f. Pacific Fisheries Management Council – Commissioners DeJulio and Cole,
 1. **Action Item:** Commissioner Cole will update us on timelines
- g. Grant Program : Chairman Lee
 1. Commissioner Chilcote: still trying to clarify how to return check from cancelled Ruth Lake Fishing Derby in Southern Trinity, Angie Bitchel at Auditors office might know, Chairman Lee suggests we have them write a letter for the 2021 Fishing Derby and try to rollover the funds
 2. **Action Item:** Commissioner Chilcote will see if Caityn Canale can submit a letter for the 2021 Fishing Derby and keep the check
- h. Correspondence Ad Hoc – Chairman Lee, Vice Chairman Chilcote and Commissioner Cole- nothing to report

8:25 IV. Business

- a. Beaver Letter – Commissioner DeJulio, Tabled
- b. Steelhead derby update – Derby Sub-committee (DeJulio, Holthaus, Chilcote), has yet to meet
- c. Discuss replacement for the Secretary position and the transition to the new person – Chairman Lee,
 1. Tina's replacement showing little interest, Supervisor Groves will ask her to consider, nice to have county employee, need to advertise on FB
 2. **Action Item:** Chairman Lee will advertise on FB (Trinity County Jobs, etc)
- d. Brown Trout Policy Statement Letter – DeJulio and Cole, no update, new perspectives possible in the Commission at the next meeting

8:45 V. New Business

- a. Liam Gogan
 1. Commissioner Chilcote Motion: Discuss the letter the interest of by Liam Gogan to be a Commissioner on the TCFGAC, second: Commissioner Cole
 2. Commissioner Cole: What is your main interest?
 1. Liam Gogan: Fishing, been on TAMWAG, guide, on Guide's Association, has a lot of insight, 30,000+ on the water, owned DC store for 30+ years, thinks hunting season should be later and we would likely benefit from a doe hunt, reduce fire risk

2. Chairman Lee reads Letter of Interest from Liam
3. Supervisor Groves think he will be an asset to the Commissioner, can deal with ramification of 2 Supervisors in Jan
4. Commissioner Dixen: Already have a fair bit of representation of fishing and Trinity River on the Commission as well as Southern Trinity
5. Motion: Commissioner Cole: accept his application to the Commissioner and make recommendation to BoS, Second: Commissioner Chilcote
6. **Action Item:** Commissioner Cole will draft letter and Chairman Lee will follow through with Emma and get on next agenda for next BoS

Correspondence - <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/>

8:50 VI. Staff Reports - None

- **Financial Report**
- **Fines and Fees**

8:55 VII. Approval of Claims- Secretary Fee for July 8, 2020 - \$150

- a. Motion by Commissioner Cole to Pay the Secretary fee for July 8, Second: Commissioner Chilcote

Next Meeting - November 11, 2020

- a. Commissioner Charlie has been seeing a lot of parasites in his fish, wants the next evening program to be a speaker to address this,
- b. Liam Gogan: there's a water temperature that fish stop biting at, it reached that before the springer season this year,
- c. Commissioner Holthaus caught 5 fish and 2 had the parasite, 40%,
- d. Fish and Game told him it was the tapioca disease
- e. **Action Item:** Commissioner Holthaus will pursue and set up evening program on parasites for next meeting

Adjournment 9:37 pm