



STAFF REPORT

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Laine Christman, Resource Economist
DATE: October 9, 2015
SUBJECT: Presentation, Discussion and Action Regarding the Bureau of Reclamation Drought Grant

SUMMARY

In September, TMWA received notification that its US Bureau of Reclamation proposal would be awarded funding. Part of the requirements of the award is that TMWA create a Drought Planning Task Force. The Task Force will hold meetings to discuss various management actions and potential impacts from those actions, in response to climate change in the region. The Task Force can be comprised of TMWA staff, government representatives, and other stakeholders within the TMWA service area. TMWA has asked for support of the Task Force from its Standing Action Committee. TMWA has also reached out to the county and cities' manager asking for a volunteer from each organization to participate. Participants must be willing and able to participate in Task Force meetings and provide additional outreach to their constituents. Approximately two meetings will be held per year over the two year planning period. Additional, smaller, informal meetings that include additional participants, constituents, and the public may be held as needed. Task Force membership and the first meeting date must be determined by the end of November.

DISCUSSION

Task Force Objective - To provide multi-stakeholder engagement in the drought planning process based on the most recent information on climate change in the Truckee Meadows region.

Overview - Drought affects us all in many ways. TMWA deploys different options to reduce the impacts from drought and ensure water supplies meet customer demand. However, TMWA relies heavily on its customers to effectively implement many of its demand management programs. Moreover, local agencies can do their part to ensure policy is geared toward water conservation and leverages TMWA's drought management programs with the goal of ensuring supply meets demand in both wet and dry years. Many customers have lived in the Truckee Meadows area for a long time and understand drought cycles and how drought impacts our lives and businesses. By working collaboratively on the process of water resource management, the Drought Planning Task Force will develop a consistent language that defines hydrologic drought conditions, identify vulnerabilities from drought, and hold discussions on the costs and benefits

various management actions (both by TMWA and local agencies) have to the residents and businesses within the Truckee Meadows.

Expectations of Task Force Members - In order to fulfill the requirements of the federal assistance program, the Task Force must hold formal meetings for the duration of the grant (i.e., over the next two years). The meetings will initially be oriented to inform Task Force participants on the details of the climate change analysis and framework of the project so they gain a familiarity with the project's scope and framework. Once results from the modeling process are available, an open dialogue will begin where participants will be asked to weigh in on conservation actions and potential policy actions other agencies could take in response to drought. Meetings could continue beyond the duration of the grant, should members of the Task Force feel the meetings are a productive use of time. Additional, smaller working groups will be established, when needed, to conduct targeted discussions on specific areas of drought, conservation, and implications of the management model. Very little additional time outside of the meetings will be required from Task Force members.

Expectations include:

- ✧ Attendance of Task Force meetings (approximately two per year). Such meetings will encompass the following:
 - listening to presentations on climate change modeling and scenario development.
 - listening to presentations on supply management under drought conditions.
 - participating in discussions regarding the latest research on climate change with respect to impacts and vulnerabilities to various stakeholders and agencies.
 - participating in discussions regarding conservation actions and potential policy taken to mitigate drought impacts.
 - conveying opinions and experience on drought and conservation
- ✧ participation in smaller, working groups. These meetings will:
 - apply to select participants and additional members of their stakeholder class or agency representatives.
 - focus on targeted discussions on how specific management actions and government policies might impact TMWA customers.
 - be held on an 'as needed' basis.

Tentative Schedule

Year 1 (2016)

1. Meeting at the beginning of the year to present climate change scenarios and supply management modeling framework to the Task Force participants.
2. Meeting in the Spring to present to the Task Force participants the current state of water supply, potential conservation actions, and any preliminary results of the project.
3. Additional working groups *may be* held in year 1 as needed (TBD).

Year 2 (2017)

1. Meeting at the beginning of the year to present the project results to the Task Force participants and hold a discussion of 1) optimal conservation actions and for implementation of those action, 2) potential policy other management agencies can take during a drought, and 3) impacts to customers.
2. Meeting in the Spring to present and discuss the Drought Contingency Planning report draft for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, as well as the future of the Drought Planning Task Force.
3. Additional working groups and public meetings will be held as needed (TBD).