

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program Technical Work Group (TWG) Meeting Summary

Dates: June 10, 2026

Start Time: 8:47am (Mountain Daylight Time)

End Time: 5:03pm (Mountain Daylight Time)

Location: Virtual

Designated Federal Officer: Kathy Callister

Note: Meeting Summary was produced by AI and subject to errors.

Welcome and Administrative

The meeting opened with Seth Shanahan (Chairperson) confirming process norms for all-day virtual format, asking participants to reserve the chat for key items, and emphasizing that the primary objective for the day was to reach a budget recommendation for Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Workgroup (AMWG). He and Jeremy Hammen (Reclamation) reviewed roster changes and logistics (including Designated Federal Officer [DFO] coverage by Kathleen Callister [DFO]), while acknowledging the need for flexibility to allocate adequate time to the budget work.

Roll was taken and a quorum was established (16 members). Seth reviewed upcoming dates—Next TWG on November 5, 2026 and the Knowledge Workshop on September 22–24, 2026—and flagged several informational updates to cover during the day: Ad Hoc membership, action items/motions form, monitoring trip planning, basin hydrology and operations, and Post-2026/Temperature Control Device updates.

Ad Hoc Group Membership and Updates; Review Action Items, Motions, and Votes Form

Administrative review captured recent membership and alternate changes across agencies (e.g., new appointments, vacancies, and interim coverage) and confirmed quorum for conducting business. The chair led a structured review of Ad Hoc group tasks (e.g., Socioeconomic Ad Hoc Group (SEAHG), Smallmouth Bass Ad Hoc Group (SBAHG) and clarified ongoing vs. new action items to ensure continuity into Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) planning.

Participants requested improved reporting on Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) metrics and a clearer mechanism to track motions and votes, so that amendments to FY27 budget guidance can be documented and accessible ahead of AMWG's August meeting.

Upcoming Monitoring and Research Trips

The schedule materials summarized planned trips for the rest of FY26. Mark Anderson noted issues with volunteers last year. The program will pay closer attention to volunteer background check requirements and fulfillment of FY26 volunteer needs, with planning challenges noted for future years under budget uncertainty.

These trips directly support the program's ability to preserve long-term datasets and maintain decision-quality information for LTEMP goals—an emphasis echoed in Budget Ad Hoc Group's (BAHG) recommendation to prioritize field data collection, water quality, and invasive species monitoring in FY27 despite fiscal pressure.

Basin Hydrology and Operations Update

Jeremy Hammen provided the Hydrology and Operations update. The hydrology presentation showed below-average Upper Colorado SWE and forecasted unregulated inflows across major reservoirs (e.g., Lake Powell most-probable WY2026 inflow around 3.40 maf (35%) as of June 3), with tables detailing April–July forecasts and changes from May. Forecast ranking and ensemble outputs provided context for the June 24 Month Summary, underpinning operational planning assumptions.

Temperature projections for Glen Canyon Dam releases and observed river temperatures (USGS preliminary) were reviewed, with River Mile 15 forecasts reaching the three-day trigger (for Smallmouth Bass Cool Mix Flows) of greater than 15.5 degrees C by mid-June. These updates are tied directly to the group's budget and monitoring priorities, as warmer conditions amplify risks related to nonnative species dynamics and entrainment.

Post-2026 and Temperature Control Device (TCD) Update

Members received a brief update on Post-2026 operations negotiations, noting the absence of consensus among the seven Basin states and continued drafting of a 10-year framework. The conversation touched on pending legislation for a selective water withdrawal system and DOE-funded feasibility work related to TCD concepts, alongside questions about authorization requirements and Reclamation's priorities under multiple legal mandates. Bill Stewart (Reclamation) noted Reclamation can only do appraisal level work on a potential TCD. A project this size would require congressional authorization to move forward past the appraisal level.

TWG Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson Election: Hammen, Jeremy J (Reclamation)

During the election segment, Jeremy Hammen facilitated nominations and the group affirmed Seth Shanahan (State of Nevada) as Chairperson and Michelle Garrison (State of Colorado) as Vice-Chairperson for FY2027. The motion carried without noted objection in the record.

Report Out and Recommendation from the Budget Ad Hoc Group for the Fiscal Year 2027 Work Plan and Budget: Michelle Garrison (BAHG Chair)

Michelle Garrison (Colorado) walked through the process, funding context, and survey-based prioritization used to develop FY27 BAHG guidance. Highlights included statutory and appropriations background, the FY26 reduction (~15% vs. FY25), and two “walkdown” scenarios (5% and 10% reductions from FY26), while noting the President’s Budget and the reality that final appropriations would be set by Congress. Michelle explained the FY26 Colorado River Compliance Activities Budget (Table 1) which includes the typical splits of the Initial Units category. This category includes GCDAMP and the two recovery programs (San Juan and Upper Colorado River Recovery Programs). Typically 51% goes to GCDAMP and 49% goes to the two RIPs. Of the GCDAMP portion, 80% goes to the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) and 20% goes to Reclamation. This explanation set expectations for how FY27 recommendations would inform, but not fix, final agency budget challenges.

Table 1. Proposed FY2026 Colorado River Compliance Activities Budget from the President’s Proposed Budget for FY2026 released in spring of 2026.

Colorado River Compliance Activities	
Consumptive Use Studies	\$ 880,000
Initial Units	\$ 20,667,000
Water Quality Studies	\$ 1,170,000
Total	\$ 22,717,000

Michelle summarized the survey design and results (Department of Interior (DOI) and non-DOI participants). Survey participants scored project elements for their importance to LTEMP goals, sufficiency of data for management, and decision relevance. The BAHG recommended continuing to modify the FY27 workplan using Strategy 2 (Endangered Species Act [ESA] prioritization) and Strategy 3 (preserving staff expertise), and—given 2026’s unprecedented low storage and elevated temperatures—prioritizing high-value data collection (temperature, water quality, entrainment, invasive species, sediment, food base). The BAHG acknowledged there are significant tradeoffs as the program struggles to continue to move forward. The BAHG advised Reclamation to prioritized use of the Experimental Management Fund (4.C) for monitoring and risk analysis for humpback chub *Gila cypha* relative to entrainment/establishment of smallmouth bass *Micropterus dolomieu* and other nonnative fishes—even if experimental flows are not implemented in FY27.

Development of Budget Recommendation to the Adaptive Management Work Group: TWG Members

TWG deliberations centered on how to translate BAHG process outputs and GCMRC scenarios into actionable guidance for FY27. Discussion acknowledged three competing priorities—field monitoring, ESA-relevant work, and program support/expertise—and the reality that no single plan at the contemplated reduction levels could fully meet even two of these priorities across resources.

Participants also discussed compliance framing and budget governance. One participant asked to what extent the program is a compliance vehicle for Reclamation and whether there is any room left for research and monitoring for GCPA activities. A number of participants recommended the BAHG move forward with the FY27 budget and thereafter dive into the upcoming triannual (FY28-30) workplan. Mark Anderson (GCMRC) explained that if the hiring freeze were to end, critical positions would be filled (for example: Logistics, GIS/Data Management, SCADA expert) and the budget would require reshuffling. Jeremy Hammen reiterated Reclamation's obligation to comply with the Grand Canyon Protection Act to the best extent possible within received budgets, while acknowledging the TWG/BAHG advisory role and the need to keep ESA compliance intact. The group recognized overhead constraints (United States Geological Survey rates) and asked for clearer future visualization of budget lines to improve shared understanding.

Trout Ad Hoc Group Outcomes Discussion and Potential Action: TWG Members

Was not able to discuss this topic due to time restraints.

Nonnative Fish Discussion: TWG Members

Was not able to discuss this topic due to time restraints.

Discussion of Emerging Issues; Items in Consideration Before Next TWG; Request for Next Meeting Agenda Items

This brief segment captured quick updates and flagged items needing attention before November 5, including continued refinement of FY27 guidance, clarity on ESA vs. GCPA compliance prioritization, and follow-ups on LTEMP metrics reporting. Members encouraged succinct agenda requests for the next TWG to keep time focused on implementation-critical updates.

Public Comment

Seth Shanahan invited members of the public to identify themselves in chat earlier for tracking and timing. Lynn Hamilton expressed her appreciation on working through the process and the program continuing to prioritize protecting the Grand Canyon.

Adjourn

The virtual meeting concluded after completing the budget guidance discussion and administrative items per the published agenda; adjournment followed the public comment opportunity.

Participants

TWG Members, Alternates, and Leadership

Bill Persons (TU)	Marc Wicke (SRP)
Colleen Cunningham (State of New Mexico)	Matt O'Neill (Reclamation)
Danielle Collins (State of Nevada)	Mel Fegler (State of Wyoming)
David Brown (Grand Canyon River Guides)	Michelle Garrison (State of Colorado)
David Rogowski (AZGFD)	Nicki Gibney (NPS-GLCA)
David Ward (USFWS)	Christina Noftsker (State of New Mexico)
Ellsworth, Craig (WAPA)	Rob Billerbeck (NPS-GRCA)
Emily Young (State of Arizona)	Ryan Mann (AZGFD)
Erik Standfield (Navajo Nation)	Scott McGettigan (State of Utah)
Jeremy Hammen (Reclamation)	Seth Shanahan (TWG Chair)
Jerry Wilhite (WAPA)	Shana Rapoport (State of California)
Joe Duncan (State of Wyoming)	Sinjin Eberle (American Rivers)
Kelly Burke (Southwest Wildlands)	Taryn Preston (NPS-GLCA)
Larry Stevens (Southwest Wildlands)	Ted Rampton (UMPA)
Leslie James (CREDA)	

Other GCDAMP Members and Interested Persons

Amanda Nicodemus
Amanda Podmore
Mark Anderson (GCMRC)
Andrew Peters
Jeff Arnold (NPS-GLCA)
Rodney Bailey (WAPA)
Lucas Bair (GCMRC)
Katherine Behn (GCMRC)
Mathew Boggie (FWS)
Reece Carpenter (Reclamation)
Dave Foster
Craig Dengel
Emily Brandt
Eric Balken
Helen Fairley (GCMRC)
Rex Graham
Paul Grams (GCMRC)
Brian Healy (GCMRC)
Shaula Hedwall (FWS)
Jen Pelz
Jim Strogon (Trout Unlimited)

John Fennell (AZGFD)
Julie Carter (AZGFD)
Matt Kaplinski (GCMRC)
Ted Kennedy (GCMRC)
Brandon Loomis
Lynn Hamilton
Megan Kramer (State of Colorado)
Zachary Nelson (Reclamation)
Jess Newton (FWS)
Emily Palmquist (GCMRC)
Mike Pillow (FWS)
Cassandra Reed (NPS)
Pilar Rinker (FWS)
Ron Kegerries (SWCA)
Joel Sankey (GCMRC)
Shannon Lencioni
Kurt Shollenberger (NPS-GRCA)
Bill Stewart (Reclamation)
Warren Turkett (State of Nevada)
Heather Whitlaw (FWS)