

LATE MATERIAL

MEETING DATE October 16, 2014

ITEM # Item #23

October 2, 2014

Following is a two meeting recap of what took place at the TRPA Governing Board meetings in August and September.

August 27, 2014

Most of the activity in August took place at the committee level.

The sole item on the Local Government Committee agenda was a discussion of urban bear strategies. This agenda topic was the outgrowth of a request by Carson City resident Fred Voltz who asked to have an audience with representatives from the local Basin governments. A consortium of advocates for more aggressive forms of trash control at Tahoe testified before the Committee and although they made a compelling case for a regional approach to resolving the issue, Committee members pushed back on the idea of having the TRPA be the primary enforcement tool since the Agency has neither the resources nor the personnel to enforce a more stringent ordinance addressing the control and containerization of trash. At the conclusion of the meeting it was decided to continue the discussion using TRPA as a facilitator.

Later in the afternoon, the Regional Plan Implementation Committee met to discuss the City of South Lake Tahoe's draft Tahoe Valley Area Plan and Memorandum of Understanding. This plan consists of roughly 337 acres of land located at the intersection of US Highway 50 and State Route 89, commonly known as the "South Y". Like all area plans, this plan defines land use regulations and establishes guidelines for planning decisions presenting principles, goals, policies and implementation strategies to encourage redevelopment, create a vibrant walkable pedestrian-oriented community, provide access to open spaces and recreation opportunities while realizing specific environmental improvements. As part of this Area Plan, the City will be requesting an amendment to TRPA's 1987 Bailey Land Capability Map since certain Stream

Environment Zone (SEZ) boundaries within the Tahoe Valley Area Plan were not accurately defined.

The next item to be considered by the Committee was the possible modification to the way commodities are disbursed to accelerate the restoration of SEZs within the Basin. Barriers to the restoration of stream environment zones and other sensitive lands by private parties under the current incentive program include 1) an insufficient pool of Tourist Accommodation Units (TAUs) to offer as incentives for restoration, and 2) the inability to reserve Bonus TAUs and Bonus Commercial Floor Area at the time a sensitive piece of land is restored. The Committee spent a considerable amount of time discussing ways of giving private parties some assurance, if they undertook a restoration project, that Bonus Units would be available for transfer at the end of the process. Options include being able to reserve Bonus Units for a certain length of time before a property is restored but not indefinitely; limiting the number of units that can be reserved by any one person or entity; and providing for a way to reclaim Bonus Units that have been reserved for a project that 1) cannot be permitted within a reasonable length of time or 2) that is not being diligently pursued.

On the day following the Governing Board meeting, a small group of Governing Board members and members from the Board of the League to Save Lake Tahoe toured Emerald Bay to review the work being done by the Agency and its partners to control and, if possible, eradicate a number of aquatic invasive species specifically, Milfoil and Asian Clams through hand harvesting and the use of bottom barriers. The proliferation of Asian Clams in other areas of the Lake especially lakeward of Ski Run Marina, was particularly alarming to the League. As a result, during our monthly conference calls, we are now focusing on further ways to collaborate in an effort to raise awareness and funding for both prevention and control.

September 24, 2014

The TRPA presents awards each year to projects in the Basin that exemplify best practices. These **Best in the Basin** awards are given to recipients in four categories. This year three award winners were recognized in the category of Building (new construction and remodels), four were recognized in the category of water quality and restoration, four in the category of public environmental

improvement project and one in the area of sustainability. These awards are reflective of a collaborative approach to improving the manmade environment at the Lake. The cooperative relationships that have been forged in this era of increased collaboration are positioning TRPA and its partners to realize more substantial long term gains.

In other business, the Governing Board approved a new charter for the Advisory Planning Commission (APC) which expands its role beyond its baseline responsibilities as outlined in the Bi-State Compact by affording it the opportunity to develop and offer recommendations on any matter assigned to it by Agency staff or the Governing Board. These advisory recommendations will be “grounded in sound science and technical principles that integrate environmental, economic and social planning considerations”, offering “solutions that have broad stakeholder support”.

After processing input from Governing Board members, Agency staff and community stakeholders, John Marshall, TRPA’s Chief Legal Counsel, received the results of his formal evaluation. On a scale of one to five his overall rating was 4.2 in the following competencies – Communication, Efficiency and Effectiveness, Self-Knowledge, Composure, Problem-Solving and Solution Seeking, and Relationship and Partnership Building. In summary, apart from the need to improve his communication with his internal constituents and share his expertise in more informal settings, John is viewed by the internal and external members of his rating group as having a very positive influence on the Agency and the legal work under his purview. His strengths lay in his ability to clearly and precisely articulate his point of view, distilling complex legal issues into easily understood concepts. He is perceived as polite and respectful in his communications, regardless of the identity or nature of the person being addressed. Additionally, he is an adept problem-solver who can bring the proper resources to bear in pursuit of a solution and his assertiveness and calm demeanor instill confidence in the Agency’s ability to successfully defend its decisions.

Under the Public Hearing part of the agenda, we received a briefing and opened public comment on the Heavenly Mountain Resort Epic Discovery Project draft environmental documents. As part of its proposal, Heavenly is applying to expand its year-round recreational opportunities within the undeveloped portions of the

ski area (primarily near the top of the gondola) in accordance with Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement act of 2011. This will require an amendment to the Heavenly Master Plan which, as adopted in 2007, did not include the type or extent of activities outlined in the current Epic Discovery proposal. Three action alternatives will be considered which contain an assortment of activities ranging from passive (observation and interpretation) to active (canopy touring and mountain biking). Of the people testifying, the overwhelming majority were very supportive of Heavenly's effort to increase its offerings during the summer and shoulder seasons to strengthen Tahoe's appeal as a year-round destination. The public comment period on the Draft EIR/EIS/EIS will conclude on October 27, 2014.

Per usual, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to e-mail or call.

Shelly