

December 7, 2014

Following is a two meeting recap of what took place at the TRPA Governing Board meetings in October and November. Both meetings were relatively uneventful from a policy making standpoint, focusing largely on informational presentations.

**October 22, 2014**

Following a public hearing on the matter, and with the unanimous support of the Regional Plan Implementation Committee, the Board accepted staff's recommendation to adopt certain code amendments consolidating Tourist Accommodation Units (TAUs) to better incent the transfer of development off of sensitive lands. Action on the more complicated matter of how to allow for the equitable reservation of these bonus TAUs was delayed to allow for additional stakeholder input.

The balance of the meeting revolved around the review and discussion of the 2014 Quarterly Report which focused on the continuing implementation of the 2012 Regional Plan, the development and implementation of new funding strategies for the Environmental Improvement Program, building capacity in the Agency's monitoring and reporting systems and the ongoing data collection for the upcoming 2016 Threshold Evaluation Report.

**November 19, 2014**

The majority of this meeting examined science trends in the Tahoe Basin with presentations by Sudeep Chandra from UNR, who focused on the status of the nearshore and the impacts of climate change on native and nonnative species (some are suffering while others are benefiting), and Dr. Geoff Schalow from UC Davis who presented the State of the Lake Report for 2014. As reported elsewhere in the news, the decline in Lake clarity has been arrested and the concentration of phosphorous (a primary contributor to algal growth) has declined.

Maureen McCarthy, the Executive Director of the Tahoe Science Consortium, noted that the TSC is preparing a "close-out" report (available in 2016) on the Tahoe Basin projects financed by 7 years of funding from the Southern Nevada

Public Lands Management Act. She highlighted the results of a recent Climate Science Symposium designed to stimulate discussion among researchers studying climate impacts and ecological resiliency of systems within the Basin and across the Sierra Nevada region. As part of her presentation she identified a number of research challenges and gaps including quantifying the impacts of drought on lake clarity and the nearshore and modeling the impact of warmer temperatures on the distribution and viability of aquatic invasive species, forest health, vegetation composition and species diversity. She also stressed the importance of promoting cross-discipline data sharing in order to connect to a broader community of scientists thereby integrating Tahoe into a larger body of work.

Following these presentations, the Board recessed and reconvened at the Tahoe Science Center at Sierra Nevada College in Incline Village for a briefing and a tour. If you haven't visited the Center I would highly recommend you do so. There are some interesting displays and presentations about the origin and characteristics of the Lake and the efforts underway to ensure its long term health.

On another matter, TRPA has filed its answering brief with the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in connection with the Sierra Club's challenge of the District Court's decision granting the Agency Summary Judgment in the matter of the 2012 Regional Plan Update. Three Amicus briefs were also filed in support of TRPA – one by the States of California and Nevada, one by the local Basin jurisdictions and one by a consortium of community interests. The Sierra Club must file its reply by December 24, 2014 following which, the court will set a date for oral arguments.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this report, please don't hesitate to call.

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