



# *Lake Tahoe*

## Federal Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes  
 Monday, December 14, 2009  
 USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit  
 Emerald Bay Conference Room  
 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### Attendees:

- John Pang, Michelle Sweeny, Jim Thomas, Greg McKay, Michael Berg, Steve Teshara, Jim Lawrence, Patrick Wright, Lon Rusk, Bob Anderson and Peter Kraatz via conference call.

### Designated Federal Official (DFO)

- Terri Marceron  
Chairman
- Andrew Strain

### Other representatives:

- Woody Loftis, NRCS; Jeannie Stafford, Steve Chilton, USFWS; Tim Rowe, USGS; Sudeep Chandra, UNR; Jeanne McNamara, Ted Thayer, Paul Nielsen, TRPA; Jonathan Long, PSW, Elwood Miller, Duane Whitelaw; TFFT; Jack Landy, EPA; Harold Singer, Lahontan; Jeff Stada, John Reuter, Marion Whitman, Geoff Schladow, UC Davis; Myrnie Mayville, BOR; Chip Morrow, City of SLT; Tim Rowe, USGS; Linda Lind, Arla Hains, Sue Norman, USFS

### Welcome, Introductions, Review of Agenda & Approval of Previous Minutes - Andrew:

- Andrew requested Arla to start the roll-call and went through the agenda.
- The minutes from 10/14/09 were distributed and action will be taken at our next meeting.

### Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management – Ted Thayer, TRPA

PowerPoint Presentation – Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Program 2010 Work Plan – Briefing to the Lake Tahoe Federal Advisory Committee. (Posted on the LTBMU website under LTFAC).

Ted – today's presentation will cover the AIS program; strategy, 2010 workplan, and new LTRA language.

*LTFAC question and answer*

- Lon – during the inspection program when the general public was surveyed – were they aware of AIS?
- Ted – we have seen an increase of people being better prepared when they come to the ramps but most did not know about AIS until they came to the ramp.
- Lon – at infected lakes are they educating boaters?
- Ted – yes, but we need to augment that education.
- Michael – with the monitoring efforts can we quantify how much AIS are out there?
- Ted – the status and trend monitoring was just finished. The underwater survey of the lake includes Glenbrook to Emerald Bay.
- Jim L. – some high priority projects and programs are not funded. Is the AIS working group to identify priorities if other funds become available?
- Ted – there are possible funds from several areas. We are looking at funding warm water fish removal from other funding sources.
- Patrick – for FY11 is there a prioritized list of projects?
- Ted – it looks the same as FY10. Since some projects are not currently funded, we are looking at funds that are not targeted for specific areas.
- Jim L. – is it better to try to find funding across the board or concentrate on the most important?
- Michelle – the coordinating committee is using the criteria Ted shared.
- Ted – specific projects are more appropriate to where dollars are coming from.
- Patrick – we need to know the priority. Within these priorities there must be a ranking.
- Sudeep – the coordination committee has nested priorities within those priorities.
- Steve T. – we need to convince congressionals that there is a good decision making process in place. We want them to have confidence in us. We need a quick and easy way to show the prioritization
- Ted – **Action item:** I can do that (come up with a prioritized list).
- Steve T. – that would give us more flexibility to respond to new problems. The boater needs all the information.
- Steve C. – we need to explain that their problem is our problem
- Jeannie – when they first found Quagga and/ or Zebra mussels at Lake Mead, they installed signs which communicated that you are entering an infested area.

**Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team Update** – Elwood Miller, Operations Section Chief for Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team and former Executive Director of NV Fire Safe Council; Duane Whitelaw, Chief of North Tahoe Fire also Chief of the Multi-Agency Coordinating Group.

PowerPoint presentation – Doing the Right Thing, the Right Way for the Right Reason to Protect: 1. Life, 2. Property, and 3. Natural Resources. (Posted on the LTBMU website under LTFAC).

- Elwood – through the fuel break program, projects are funded on priority. The division level project managers sit down together and give and take on projects with highest priority.
- Duane – we are learning there are priorities for work identified in each wildfire protection program. There are a lot of politics but we are struggling through it.

*LTFAC question and answer*

- Michelle – have you considered a shift in strategy? There was a flurry of activity that hit a wall. The vouchers don't work. Within the next ten years, what is your strategy after getting the "low-hanging fruit"?
- Duane – we are starting to issue citations to homeowners that won't work on defensible space. Word is getting out about possible fines and fees to the court.
- Michelle – in my neighborhood I am impressed with the amount of work done. But there is a split between full time and part time homeowners. Block parties won't reach part-time homeowners.
- John P. – there are assignments for the team to get to the second homeowners through social networks, etc.
- Myrnie – what about private parcels with no buildings?
- Duane – each individual entity has its own program. Placer County passed an ordinance that vacant parcels be treated as well as those near a structure. But we are focusing on developed parcels; odds are greater that fire could start there.

**Forest Management on the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit – Dave Fournier, USFS**

PowerPoint presentation – Forest Ecosystem Health and Hazardous Fuels Reduction. (Posted on the LTBMU website under LTFAC).

- Dave – today's presentation will go over:
  - Forest Ecosystem Health and Hazardous Fuels
  - Planning and Contracting
  - Treatment Methods
  - Costs: Operational, Transport, and Markets
  - Biomass on the LTBMU
  - Status of LTBMU Projects

*LTFAC question and answer*

- Paul – is the LTBMU looking at carbon?

- Dave – this past year our Washington office came out with a much more comprehensive climate/ carbon direction. What’s the output from National Forests? We don’t have all the pieces to address it right now. The state of California is really trying to get a grasp on it. In upcoming projects you will see something about carbon.
- Terri – it will not be site specific. They will add together all the forests in California.
- Greg – what’s the status of the Incline project?
- Dave - NFMA stage, preNEPA. We start scoping in less than one year under a Categorical Exclusion (CE).
- Greg – 2011 implementation?
- Dave – yes.
- Dave – all the projects (page 10 of PowerPoint) have some funding. The Aspen project is funded two ways – by project and phase.
- Terri – Aspen is funded through two sources of SNPLMA funds – under a specific fuels project (i.e. -Incline, Spooner) and as an Aspen project located outside of fuels projects.

#### **Environmental Improvement Program Update – Jeanne McNamara, TRPA**

PowerPoint presentation – Lake Tahoe EIP - Conservation. Clearly. (Posted on the LTBMU website under LTFAC).

- In her presentation Jeanne discussed:
  - EIP Update - Capital Funding Targets
  - EIP Update - Process
  - Focus Areas for the Next Phase of the EIP
  - EIP Financial Strategy
  - Five-year List Update
  - Performance Measure Project
  - EIP Database Project

#### *LTFAC question and answer*

- Steve T. – can you breakout residential private and commercial private?
- Jeanne – **Action item:** I think we can do it in early January.
- Michael – can a limited number of projects qualify as EIP?
- Paul – it is set by the five-year list.
- John P. – can we get a list of the performance measures?
- Jeanne – **Action item:** yes.
- Jim L. – Harmon gave a presentation on the regional plan. Does the regional plan include three alternatives for EIP?

- Paul – only one EIP is proposed with three different alternatives. There are three types of funding mechanisms.
- Andrew – can you give us more information on the performance measures?
- Jeannie – there are 20 performance measures. There are tons of fine sediment being removed; acres of wildlife habitat being treated, and recreation facilities provided. This is a project designed to standardize how we track. For example, when we count one acre, we all count it the same way.
- Andrew – who is going to get the private sector to participate? It would be helpful to construct measures that lead to indicators.
- Paul – on the private side I reached out to you and Steve T. with data sheets. For Recreation and Scenic we will be looking to the private sector also.
- Andrew – replace indicators?
- Paul – no, complement them. We will use in concert.
- Steve T. – we need to get into this in more detail. It would be helpful if you identify what you need. A workshop would help you get that information.
- Jack – adopt performance measures that would involve public review.
- Paul – we are getting review through the Tahoe Interagency Executive Steering Committee.
- Linda – elaborate on a “manageable set” of performance measures being developed under a TRPA contract. The number of measures will be drastically reduced to reduce the burden of reporting.
- Paul – we need infrastructure for counting EIP accomplishments. What is important and manageable to help our partners?
- Jonathan – looking at fuel treatments – acres treated or risk reduction of wildfire?
- Terri – add the condition class to show the risk change (besides acres treated)

#### **Review -**

- Andrew – this has been a terrific set of presentations to brief and prepare LTFAC for going into Round 11. Round 11 nominations will soon pass to the TWG. They will take the deliberations from PCT. At this point LTFAC will take a break from meeting. TWG will come back to the LTFAC in about a month. PCT has already been looking at the capital project list. The science themes are already submitted. The TREX conference call happened on November 30. PCT will transmit their work to the TWG the week of January 11.

#### **Next Meeting Logistics -**

- TWG meeting - Tuesday, January 12th at 1:30.
- LTFAC will meet Tuesday, February 23 on the north shore from 9 a.m-2 pm at the Chateau or fire district. (Lunch is possible).

#### **Round Robin -**

- Bob Anderson – it is hard to participate on the phone without all the handouts. (Note: three presenters brought their presentations and handouts directly to the meeting).
- Steve T. – good presentations today. We need to bring the delegation out to see these presentations. Take a proactive approach
- Michelle – what is the status of a 3-year term for LTFAC?
- Terri – with the change in administration an exception up to three years may be allowed. I have asked the question but have not heard anything.
- Steve T. – in the LTRA – LTFAC was added in a strong role. This body has a future. Consistency is important.

**Adjourned**

Minutes certified by LTFAC Chairman Andrew Strain

Andrew Strain      2.25.10

Signature

Date