



# *Lake Tahoe*

## Federal Advisory Committee

Final Meeting Minutes  
 Wednesday, April 6, 2011  
 USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit  
 35 College Drive, South Lake Tahoe  
 Emerald Bay Conference Room  
 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### **Attendees:**

- Bob Cook, Natalie Yanish, Bob Anderson, Ann Nichols, Steve Teshara, Peter Kraatz, Michelle Sweeney, Jim Lawrence, John Reuter, Andrew Strain, Mark Novak, Joanne Marchetta, Heather Bacon, Doug Martin

### **Designated Federal Official:**

- Jeff Marsolais

### **Agency Representatives:**

- Ted Thayer, TRPA; Steve Chilton, Lisa Heki, USFWS; Karin Edwards, Tricia York, CTC; Hannah Schembri, Lahontan; Katie Huff, USACE; Zach Hymanson, TSC; Jack Landy, USEPA; Arla Hains, Linda Lind, Brian Bartlett, Joey Keely, USFS; Woody Loftis, NRCS; Rob Gregg, NDSL; Eben Swain, Tahoe RCD; Jason Kuchnicki, NDEP; Myrnie Mayville USBR, Sarah Hussong Johnson, City of South Lake Tahoe; Marie Bledsoe.
- Jeff – we have an updated Upper Truckee River Restoration project proposal. We will give everyone a few minutes to read through.

### **Welcome, Introductions, Review of Agenda – Jeff**

### **LTFAC discussion on Preliminary Lake Tahoe SNPLMA Round 12 Package:**

- Jeff - currently we don't have the entire participation of LTFAC. We are counting heads for consensus. (More LTFAC members arrived constituting a quorum so Jeff began the meeting).
- Jeff - after we make a preliminary recommendation today, we go to a 30-day public comment period. During that time you will talk to your constituencies then come back and give us feedback. I know several of you wanted to have a dialogue yourselves on changing of funding of the proposals. We hope to make those changes today. Any questions from last meeting that

need to get addressed on process or where we are headed? As a starting point, I'm curious how many of you have proposal changes with changes in funding levels?

- Michelle, Peter, Ann, and Bob C. all raised their hands.
- Andrew – it would be helpful to get all information out so we can think about it.
- Jeff – this group needs to own the notion on how far we are willing to change the proposals. These projects have been refined since well before December. A group of ten LTFAC members (during TWG meetings) discussed many areas. I want you as a group to decide how far you want to go.
- Steve – if you want to add funding to a project, you need to say which project you want to subtract from.
- Jeff – between now and 2:30 we want to make sure we get all proposals out on the table. We will take a break at 2:30 then have public comment, and after that try to have a consensus.
- Jim – I know we are on a timeline. With the discussions of a federal government furlough, what happens with the next meeting?
- Jeff – we are anticipating April 19<sup>th</sup> is still a date we can hold. The 19<sup>th</sup> represents as late as we can go. We already asked BLM to move the SNPLMA Executives meeting back, they are okay with that but we are at the wall now.
- Jeff – is the group okay with the afternoon agenda?
- Michelle – I request 8-10 minutes of the group to review my proposal (flipchart). I want to start with three things before handing out my proposal. I heard some of the new members articulate criteria and actual projects to criteria. My criteria are threefold – 1) water quality, 2) forest fuels and 3) Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).
  - Water quality – fine sediment removed.
  - Forest Fuels – biomass, forest fuels removed.
  - AIS – reducing establishment potential of species we don't already have, and reducing biomass of species in the Basin.
- Michelle – (Handout.) I looked at project proposals within each of the categories – making first, second and third priorities. From there I combined all three areas - water quality, forest fuels and AIS and put in the middle bulls-eye. Other priorities go outside the circles. I attended two Tahoe Working Group (TWG) meetings. I am very involved with AIS and the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). I created a list from that prioritization. You see a gray bar through the center, anything above was a bulls-eye for me in the three categories. Having said that, there is no bad project, I have been asked to prioritize. On the far right hand side I gave you merit priority. On the top of the list is the Mobile Best Management Practices (BMP) project funded back up to full request. From my findings from research and information from the field – that project is the biggest bang for our buck. For Erosion Control Grants (ECG) – I am trying to get everyone under the same umbrella, the grants have agreed to accommodate a lot. My preference is to not mess with it. Give them \$10M to negotiate over the long term. Trust those in the process that it is important to get the biggest bang for the buck. AIS – from the spectrum of public opinion and expectations – the middle ground for funding needs is accurate at \$6M. The proposal from FWS is more than half of \$6M, I recommend going out and raising the other

\$3M. I have a slight issue with the FWS write-up; the control program budget is split in two years. The green are numbers in the TWG process, orange are my changes in the TWG process. For the Tahoe Integrated Information Management System (TIIMS) project I am suggesting a name change (#15). For the Conservation Technical Assistance project – I would like it coordinated into #14 with a name change.

- Jeff – questions for Michelle?
- Jim – green is consistent with TWG numbers? For the Resource Inventories project I see \$139K?
- Michelle – that is not consistent, thank you for letting me know.
- Peter – on the fuels side, there is a minimum amount that should come forward every year. On any of your priorities, does your amount add up to the number we are looking for?
- Michelle – yes they should be at the numbers or above.
- Jeff – after we are done hearing about all the proposals, we can discuss how we package the proposals.
- Bob C. – I would like to voice my opinion. I am basically on board with everything presented (up until Michelle’s proposal). I wanted to talk about Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT). I have concerns about detection and eradication. Instead of eradicating fish, why can’t they transplant them? According to fishermen, they are gillnetted, gutted and thrown back into water. Can’t they go to needy families? Being chairman of Douglas County Wildlife Board, I asked Lisa to make a presentation. I need input for the future since we may vote on these projects again.
- Ann – this is the last round so it is important the money is spent wisely. There are concerns about Snow Creek. Peter said he would get it handled. It is polluted. I would like to see it fully funded. I talked to Susan about TIIMS. The proposal doesn’t show funds already spent. It is a nice website, helpful, but not user friendly. It shouldn’t cost this much money. The ownership is confusing. Some of the money is held up, who will get that? I’m concerned it is going the wrong direction. Those monies could be put in invasive species.
- Jeff – you are suggesting scaling back on TIIMS and LCT for AIS and Snow Creek?
- Ann – the fire group could help TIIMS.
- Peter –on the Stormwater Tools project that has EPA as a sponsor – the local government implementers wanted to weigh in with the committee. The Storm Water Quality Improvement Committee (SWQIC) met to talk about this project. The message from the implementing side is that we didn’t get support or nonsupport for the project. There was no consensus. Everyone agrees it is not about the merits of the project, but people against it feel it is premature. Implementing agencies like Placer County need the full \$10M to deliver projects. Those projects are a higher priority than funding this project. It could get alternative funding, but it is premature. The City of South Lake Tahoe is more open to funding Stormwater Tools. The main message is - SWQIC is not in consensus for this project, it is not about the merits. LTFAC says it should go forward, I feel like we need to focus on projects that complete phases or deliver projects on the ground. This one we could hold off.
- Jeff – more funding would be available for the Erosion Control Grants (ECG) \$10M.

- Linda – Sue Norman, Forest Service (FS) had a recommendation - take funding off the top of ECG like is done for Lake Tahoe Interagency Monitoring Program (LTIMP) and the Regional Stormwater Monitoring Program (RSWAMP), each received \$250K from ECG.
- Peter – we could take it on as a function of SWQIC.
- Bob A. – the Stormwater Tools project – is there a relationship to the new crediting program?
- Peter – it is in line with where Lahontan wants to see us. It can be delayed a little bit. Bob A. – does it delay Lahontan’s calendar?
- Peter – there are other projects in limbo that need that full \$10M. Stormwater Tools could find funding elsewhere. It fits in later.
- John R. – I heard some discussions about LTIMP and RSWAMP, I’m quite involved in both. I want to make it clear that once money gets into SWQIC, LTFAC has no control. It is a different mindset.
- Jim – this is a duplicate of other efforts of the license plate program. It’s complimentary. Washoe County has a program in place and believes it is critical to tie together. Are we asking to take it off the table?
- Peter – yes. It should be funded like LTIMP and RSWAMP.
- Jim – there is a match capacity of \$8.2M. TWG thought there was a ceiling to fit projects under that.
- Peter – \$8.8M right now. FS takes a chunk for administration. There is close to \$9M in projects to move forward and get completed.
- Jeff – any rounds that can’t get off the ground, the money is recycled into the ECG pot. Last year \$1M was added back.
- Michelle – I agree we should interfere, in my proposal they are separate. Both are important. It is important for ECGs to maintain integrity.
- Jeff – any other proposals before the agencies are asked questions?
- Linda – the Stormwater Tools project could be scaled to \$360K.
- Jeff – the order I would like to go is LCT first. Bob C. raised questions on eradicating. I want to make sure Steve Chilton speaks to the AIS. TIIMS – I would like TRPA and others to make sure they have a chance to respond. EPA should respond to the Stormwater Tools project dialogue.
- Peter – Handout – Peter read the letter from the Washoe Tribe supporting the LCT proposal.
- Lisa – I appreciate Bob Cook’s concern. I want to touch on the use of the word eradicate. We started the project with the States, Tribe, and TRPA. We want to understand the ecosystem. As we put LCT in, how might the ecosystem support a population? Obvious impacts come from non-natives. From the beginning, how big is the Lake Trout population, how does it use habitat etc. We need to know how many to stock to survive. Elimination and eradication comes from history, we have to eliminate to make space. We had a good niche for LCT going in. We do have to manage impacts. We worked with the community on balance. California Fisheries and Cal Fish and Game, we work with both agencies. We interview anglers and they support us. On balance, anglers have supported and helped us fish for Lake Trout. One angler has a necklace of tags. Round 12 is on heels of Round 11. In Lake Tahoe, we pursued a contract with a vessel capable of live capture so we can get a handle on information on natives and non-natives.

Sample and removal is critical for early stages of LCT. On outreach, we need to do a better job as we move to Lake Tahoe. Understanding the Ecosystem is very important. Round 11 started that extensively. Continued dialogue on my part will shift how the program is viewed. On lethal sampling of Lake Trout, we do give to the food bank (we have been for a couple years). We only take lethal samples to get a handle of what size the Lake Trout are. A draft outreach plan will be rolled out. It will include restoration of shoreline native fishery in large part. Schools are involved to release eggs; there is a native ceremony, and play with a LCT costume.

- Bob C. – the public needs to be informed, go to meetings.
- Ann – in the paper it said that minnow’s populations are down by half.
- Lisa – loss of native nongame species should be a concern. This program is not just about LCT but getting the ecosystem back in healthy balance. It helps clarity with a primarily native population.
- Steve C. – LCT are very important and worthwhile. Our congressionals put \$20M in LTRA just for LCT. They are looking at LCT as very important part of the EIP program. As a biologist, I see the importance to bring back native species. AIS – we recently sent out a Request for Proposal for guide service for control and monitoring work. We received good responses. We moved into a commercialized means of removing milfoil. Safety will be important with a lot of divers in the water. 2012 may expend the whole budget in one year. What will we do next year? Other funding sources include fees for launches and the FWS own mechanisms. Without SNPLMA, we are looking much deeper at FWS. Round 12 is for two additional years. Funding provides incentive for leveraging.
- Joanne – clarification – there was a statement made that we need \$6M per year. Can you help to clarify?
- Steve C. – TRPA is our fiscal agent, Ted can answer.
- Ted – we forecasted out budgets 2013 and beyond at \$3.5M. Other sources should cover us through Round 12. We are looking for additional funding.
- John R. – what was requested for control and eradication for this year doesn’t cover everything. It won’t remove all the weeds from the nearshore or Tahoe Keys. Don’t imply that. More money treats more acres. It will take a number of more years to completely remove those. I don’t hear objections to AIS, everyone is requesting the same amount (even Michelle). Be clear that weed removal (one year or two) will only be part of it. It Steve Chilton thinks the capacity to remove per year has gone up; I would support Michelle to spend all the funding in one year. Steve, please address any advantage to use of all the funding in one year.
- Jeff – there is no debate on funding of AIS but on the timeline.
- John R. - don’t let it linger over two years if it can be complete in one.
- Ted – yes, based on the input received, we could spend in one year. My preference is to have the flexibility to spend as the coordinating committee decides when we have more information on how this year went.
- Michelle – of course I would advocate it be the decision of those doing the field work. My reason to bring up the \$6M expectation is so no one thinks that if AIS is fully funded that the AIS will be gone. LTFAC needs to understand that there has been policy debate; it is time to reconvene that discussion. Understand that in the context of policy discussion we need to take in to account public expectation. The requested amount I am in full support with no timing expectation. The future role of LTFAC is to look at funding. I am in support of the current project and its timeline.

### Public Comment –

- Sarah Hussong Johnson– the City of South Lake Tahoe would like to comment on the Tahoe Working Group’s recommendation to fund the Lake Tahoe Storm Water Tools Improvement Proposal, in the amount of \$480,000, by reducing the \$10M Erosion Control Fund available to local jurisdictions. As a member of the SWQIC and an eligible jurisdiction to receive the Round 12 SNPLMA EC funding, the City does not support the reduction in Erosion Control program to pay for the proposal, at this time. The City generally supports the proposal, specifically the Lake Clarity Crediting tools improvement tasks 1-3, but feels that, if a funding decision needs to be made at this time, that the proposal should be funded from the general capital SNPLMA program or science-based funding program. If other funding is not available, the City may be willing to consider funding the proposal from the Erosion Control programmed dollars, during the proposal solicitation process in fall 2011. At this time, it is too early to determine how we would prioritize this proposal for funding, before we have a complete understanding of funding needs (and it is apparent that not all of the implementers see more value in funding the Stormwater Tools improvement project than in funding the improvements themselves).
- Jason Kushnicki - Nevada Division of Environmental Protection – on the SWQIC phone call the vast majority supported the Stormwater Tools proposal moving forward. A couple of committee members questioned it. People thought funding should come out of the larger SNPLMA pot not Erosion Control Grants (ECG). From an agency perspective, we support the proposal but are not in a position to fund tools to be developed. We felt that the benefits and value of this project are needed. It will kill the project to bump it into a larger pot, so take the reduction in the Erosion Control fund. It is not a large impact to spread across five jurisdictions. We want to target actions the best way possible, locations with the biggest bang for the buck. We need these tools to be transparent. We need the Pollutant Load Reduction Model (PLRM), BMP Rapid Assessment method (RAM), and Road RAM. These are tools to be used to prove the jurisdictions are maintaining their roads in adequate conditions. We need to report out how we are doing with funds generously given to us. It is critical to that mission. Example – Placer County has applied the PRLM to their stormwater management, showing the best areas to target. The results show which actions to implement and the more cost effective. It is a paradigm shift in water quality benefits. Road RAM enables jurisdictions to see what practices work. To move forward, the time is now. From extensive training to jurisdictions in 2009 and 2010, we asked them what improvements were needed to be accomplished. They came up with a list prioritization to PRLM. The bulk of funding is slated for that. We can’t rely on other funding sources. We are requesting money from the Corps. There is uncertainty of federal budgets at this time. We need to take the opportunity now.
- Jeff – there may be questions later.
- Jason –these proposals don’t compete well in science. This is not research. They are badly needed tools; I hope you see the value. The time is now; I suggest you not scale back. We will be requesting more money. From the feedback heard so far, it is not adequate enough money.
- Tricia – it has been brought to our attention there are lots of questions about TIIMS. Marie and I have a presentation or can answer questions. I spent time with Michelle answering her questions. CTC has been asked on behalf of the Environmental Improvement Program Working Group and the Tahoe Interagency Executive Steering Committee to take over TIIMS. If you choose to scale below \$400K, that is not viable.
- Ann – have you considered how to fund TIIMS in the future?

- Tricia – the EIP working group has a short term strategy on how we can get these resources out to people. I was asked about the cloud system. It is just a hardware structure for saving data. It was suggested we subscribe to the program, we haven't vetted it yet. There are no funds to work on this until Round 12. We are trying to strategize with Marie volunteering her time.
- Jeff – please give FHWA an opportunity to respond.
- Hannah – for the Mobile BMP proposal - thanks on behalf of the support from the jurisdictions. Thanks Michelle too on your presentation. We ask the proposal not be scaled.
- Katie –I can help answer any questions on the Stormwater Tools proposal.

### Close public comment

### Continued Discussion on the Preliminary Lake Tahoe SNPLMA Round 12 Package:

- Jeff – we need a process check on where we are. The carry over item was a dialogue on possible scaling of proposals. We had discussion and some questions came up. FWS gave their perspective. There was discussion of TIIMS to make sure everyone understands. Stormwater Tools may or may not need additional funding. Some questions arose on un-funding and working outside SNPLMA to fund. Do we modify the list? How wide are we willing to go, re-tool the entire list? Once we get the list, we need to get consensus. Let's map to stay on task.
- Steve T. – it is better to put a proposal on the table to see how close we are. If there are issues on the projects, ask people to provide additional information at that point. Thank you Jeff and everyone for this additional opportunity for discussion for LTFAC. The last meeting was truncated and this meeting accomplished our needs. I agree with Ann that the Snow Creek project is a priority, I suggested it go into the ECG, Peter said they could take it on. I appreciate Bob Cook's questions and Lisa's answers on LCT. With more education, people will be more understanding. I want to highlight the significance of the letter from the Tribe. They are not often vocal, but an important player. They don't ask for much, I would like to help them. I appreciate Michelle's work. I wish we would have had it in the TWG process. It is tough to deal with this big of a change at this point in the process. All the agencies and people have provided a lot of help and a huge amount of give and take. I want to honor all the time given to the process. Peter's information on the SWQIC, it makes sense to keep it as it is. Local jurisdictions and other partnerships developed how to work things out, I rely on the process knowing additional money gets kicked back in. We should get dialogue going here, and then see where we are at with going with the proposals as they are today. We should take a consensus.
- Ann – for the TIIMS proposal, there is no design document on what they are doing with \$400K. CTC doesn't have money. It all seems vague. They have spent a lot of money already.
- Joanne – I want everyone on the committee to understand the TIIMS role. It is about accountability. No higher priority from the congressionals then to be able to show we are accountable for the money we spend. That will become the platform for all the EIP reporting. We are headed in the right direction. I am not going to justify needing funding historically. Point is we have invested that amount in developing a platform for very important reporting. In addition to EIP reporting, TIIMS serves needs as real time data source for all our defensible space tracking. Fire districts use it for fire events, and can identify where there has been fuels work. TIIMS will become the platform for stormwater reporting tools. There is no other source for reporting Basin accountability for accomplishment. If we walk away from TIIMS now, we will be squandering a huge investment. We need to expand the partnership for TIIMS. TRPA had to

fund TIIMS for a higher level. Paying out of the general fund. We are asking partners for an infusion of dollars from a wider number of sources. It is an operational issue of where that person sit - TRPA or CTC. That doesn't mean any agency is walking away.

- Jeff – no one debates the need for a database for everything TIIMS can do. Ongoing maintenance, that is a very active dialogue now. The FS was having dialogue for us holding the TIIMS platform to keep it moving. We need broad commitment across the agencies. We haven't ironed out the details. I see no lack of commitment.
- Andrew – this is helpful to hear. I have had previous concern. I have been in enough places to hear up the ladder, they want accountability from us. It needs to be an objective. I suggest we are the front end and recommend to the public and LTFAC to use the TWG recommendation, recognizing it will go through public comment. A lot of good thrashing happened there at TWG. I believe we should get the list out the door and start the process. We are late to the table and need to catch up. We need to get money into circulation as quick as possible and to show accomplishments on the ground. LTRA is going nowhere; it is seen as an earmark. I suggest to our delegation to spend their political capital. In years past we owned the list and advocated for it. With the authority goes the responsibility. We need to help ourselves – half the titles need to be revised. Those above will just look at the titles and ask questions like who is William Kent? Whenever the list goes out the door, we need to make it a list that stands on its own and people know what we are going for. We talk code to each other; the public doesn't know the acronyms.
- Jim – regarding TIIMS, we need to have a program up and running and accountability. If we can't demonstrate accountability we won't be able to go forward. I understand Ann's concerns. We need to get it up and running and long-term funding. The \$400K doesn't match the tasks here. We need to identify the task and what we are getting. TWG tried to hit a target amount to make things fit. We need to understand that.
- Michelle – to the TIIMS questions – absolutely no one would debate accountability is essential. The proposal doesn't show accountability. I appreciate the years of efforts into TIIMS. I respect those in discussion, that we have to trust that this time they know what they are talking about. The project continues to raise red flags. From discussion with Tricia, there still is no addressing of where a project (like Jason spoke of) leaves off and accountability kicks. It can be a platform for reporting but be light on hardware. It can account for the cost in project financing. Per my conversation with Tricia - \$220K. I am happy to continue to look into this; make it lighter on its feet in infrastructure. The issue of where the discussion should happen in the SNPLMA process, I have strong feelings on the way the process was designed. Responding to Andrew and Steve T. – I fully respect the heavy lifting in TWG. LTFAC was created for a purpose and reason. The process is designed too late for LTFAC to bring in concerns. You have a party and invite people to watch and not allow debate. That's a process flag. I appreciate people coming back today.
- Jeff – Steve T. and Andrew are proposing a way to move forward. I feel we have a responsibility to go as a group. We have to have a consensus eventually. We all know that. If you use a block and propose something different, that's the party and you have been invited. Instead of starting with a list upside down that hasn't been debated; start with consensus on a list from the TWG, as a place to start. Someone that blocks that opportunity can give an option.
- Steve T. – at no time, whatever work TWG did, did we ever look at a significant change from what was vetted during months of work. Never have we wholesale recast the list.
- John R. – Michelle spoke up. I'm not sure we need consensus to work from the list. There is nothing wrong with asking people if they will support the list. It may be productive to ask and focus in on which projects people absolutely can't support.

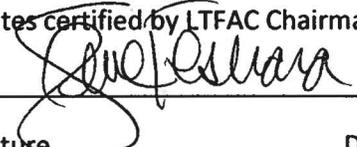
- Jeff – what is the starting point? The proposal on the table?
- Mark – TIIMS has been a very important focus to show congressionals what we are doing. It is a misperception that the fire districts could fund, that is not the case. Subscription may be a good approach. I support Steve Teshara’s idea; check in where we are at.
- Bob C. – having been a fireman and commissioner working with a fire crew team, I know the importance of TIIMS, it is valuable to fire service. I’m on board with forming a consensus. Should show hands.
- Ann – on TIIMS - my computer expert said to outsource, he would not spend \$10K on this. The project should be data entry strictly, leave it at that.
- Jeff – Andrew mentioned name changes, and debating over poorly designed deliverables in TIIMS. One step between this group and public comment would be direction to rename projects and refine proposals. TIIMS as a place to start – I’m saying TIIMS is really important for us. The proposal doesn’t mention deliverables and why to spend the money now. We can tell them to sharpen their pencil as we go to the public scoping piece. We have taken the step to address the concerns, they are not met and constituents are still telling us they don’t know what we are spending on. We can also debate the dollars again after the public comment period.
- Joanne –I would be supportive of sharpening pencils, dollars to deliverables. We need to make sure we are getting value. I too have shared the concerns about past spending.
- Steve T. – as a starting point let’s take a consensus on the list as is with the understanding that agency people hear our concerns and will sharpen the proposals. If anyone still sees anything unsatisfactory, come back after public comment. I propose to seek consensus on the 3/21/11 TWG recommendation.
- John – explain what this consensus gauge vote will mean if someone votes on number 6 or 7?
- Jeff – if there is a consensus, it is posted to the website, it will go to our constituency and congressionals. After 30 days – we will come back and look at issues that we have talked to the public about. In the event that someone says they will block they have to propose an alternate way to proceed. We will need to discuss and consense on that process. On needing more information, depending on what it is, we will try to answer quickly or revisit on April 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Steve T. restated his proposal to seek consensus on the 3/21/11 TWG recommendation.
  - 1) Yes and I support it - 1
  - 2) Acceptable and I support it - 7
  - 3) Can live with it and I support it - 5
  - 4) Willing to step aside and I support it - 1
  - 5) Willing to step aside – do not support it – won’t block it - 0
  - 6) Blocking, don’t support it (must give an option instead) - 1
  - 7) Need more information – 0
- Michelle – (for her vote on option #6 above) I would like us to discuss further seven project funding amounts in question for me. One is ECG to the full \$10M with acknowledgement that Snow Creek would go into that.
- Jeff – how do you propose discussion?
- Michelle – my top priority is erosion control. I would like to discuss taking that amount and subtracting the Stormwater Tools. I want to clarify I am not suggesting Snow Creek does not go into ECG pot. I agree with TWG on Snow Creek. For the Stormwater Tools amount, reducing the ECG is what I want to discuss.
- Jeff – you are proposing subtle tweaks, instead of Stormwater Tools \$480K coming directly out of ECG, it doesn’t get funded at all and goes into the grant process?

- Michelle – a scaled Stormwater Tools project takes out task 4 - \$360K, I'm advocating for that. I don't want \$360 to come out of \$10M, I want that pot solid.
- Jeff – propose Stormwater Tools at \$360 from some other project?
- Steve T. – we should take a consensus on that.
- Linda – the money gets recycled in that program.
- Steve T. – I made that point, it is guaranteed money to come back. We have an active group – SWQIC - let them debate it, don't micromanage them.
- Michelle – I did hear that SWQIC had trouble sorting it out. We put it in their domain, they came back that it is important but at odds about this.
- Jeff – the Stormwater Tools project didn't get time to give enough explanation. Is SWQIC going to think this is important? Is it going to make it into the process? Get Peter and others to weigh in. We are talking about \$360K on a project where in EC we recycled \$1M. It is sitting with \$8.6M in projects with probable matches.
- Peter – I respect where you are coming from, hitting issues SWQIC grabbed with. No one mentioned the project not needing to go forward. They want it to compete against projects going on the ground. People want to see this go forward but there is no guarantee. It does help leverage future projects. I like the list as stated, let's move forward. We have capacity to move this project forward in the ECG program.
- John R. – if \$10M goes into the ECG program, LTFAC loses all control. It is up to SWQIC. LTFAC is abdicating its vote. Hearing that this is important, don't put it in the pot where we lose control.
- Jim – I understand trying to protect \$10M. From the Nevada perspective, everybody on the Nevada side agrees with us, they all say they need it. Move the project forward. It is one category that gets funding back. When spreading among five jurisdictions, it is only \$100K each. They can find additional money. Keep funding as is with TWG recommendation.
- Joanne – local jurisdictions are required to report under TMDL restrictions. To defer to a future source of funding, we need to take something else off the table. The balance is in this prioritization. I haven't heard a proposal that I'm willing to support to unfund something else. Out of the public process we may gain additional information. We can evaluate later where we need to scale. Stormwater Tools needs to be a part of the SNPLMA Round 12 preliminary package.
- Jeff – the LTFAC could have SWQIC weigh in at the comment period. When we come back the question is answered. As a start, I'm not sure if that gets Michelle any closer to the issues causing your objections, we have provided more information. Maybe we should take a consensus on re-leveling projects.
- Steve T. – I suggest seeking consensus on Michelle's alternative given her blocking vote.
- Michelle – I appreciate the further discussion. Two things caused my block – adding Stormwater Tools and the Mobile BMPs into the EC funding pot. That program (ECG) needs as much money as it requests.
- Jeff – fund \$480K in the ECG, therefore reducing it. The Mobile BMP project is a different story, counties can apply if there is a money match into erosion control. Something worth spending money on can be brought forward. It is not a direct offset like the Stormwater Tools project. The Mobile BMP project is different.
- Linda – I had long discussions with BLM – we know how to package that project for taking sediment off the roads. It is a focus of that component. A big concern is depreciation of equipment. As cost share – BLM will not come back to us for depreciated value.

- Jeff – three of the five units were cleaved off by TWG and scaled down. A proposal for two has a difference of \$800K. In the worst case scenario - \$ 1.2M goes against ECG. Not to say the counties will be successful.
- Michelle – adding the Snow Creek project - \$940K, \$800K out of the Mobile BMPs project, and \$360K for the Stormwater Tools project, totals \$ 2.1M. Taking these project’s funding out of the LTFAC discussion and putting into the SWQIC - I heard public comment that SWQIC is having a problem with the Stormwater Tools project. I am responding to the public comment. We can revisit the consensus. I would like it to be clear we have had public comment where SWQIC is pushing back. We are putting a lot in their pot. There are already saying “were not sure”. Hearing the parties here are okay with that is reassuring. I heard that public comment didn’t want it to be disregarded. For \$2.1M, I am saying we are over capacity. The numbers can add up to more than they can deal with. With the process we will give them a month to discuss.
- Peter – I hear everything Michelle is saying. Being affiliated with SWQIC, you could have similar discussion with forest fuels. You scaled back a lot there. I do believe in this 30-day vetting period. I will be asking my constituents for feedback. For the Snow Creek project, I am very confident we won’t have to use FS dollars to push that along. It is possible to get another grant. There is a fall back FS grant.
- Steve T. – we don’t need consensus if Michelle changes her vote.
- Jeff – we will talk to SWQIC on those projects and bring back more information. We will work on realistic projections on ECG.
- After discussion, Michelle changed from six to a five on the consensus gauge.
- Jeff – the consensus is going forward with a list with caveats. **Action items:** We will work with individuals on renaming projects. On TIIMS, sharpen our pencil in the next couple of days.
- Linda – I need all the scaling that we are recommending for the website.
- Jeff – we need a consensus on the Round 12 science themes.
- Steve T. – I move for \$3.75M based on discussions with TSC.
  - 1) Yes and I support it - 2
  - 2) Acceptable and I support it - 10
  - 3) Can live with it and I support it - 2
  - 4) Willing to step aside and I support it - 0
  - 5) Willing to step aside – do not support it – won’t block it - 0
  - 6) Blocking, don’t support it (must give an option instead) - 0
  - 7) Need more information – 0
- Jeff – we have consensus on the science themes. This will go to the public comment period. Any questions between now and then come see me. As a larger group, we will be discussing a chairperson.

**Adjourned.**

Minutes certified by LTFAC Chairman Steve Teshara

 11/2/11

Signature

Date