Tahoe Science Advisory Council

# NOTES | January 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** Thursday January 19, 2023

**Time:** 2:00 - 4:00 PM

**Location:** [Zoom](https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/94488382857)

# Agenda and Notes Location:

**Participants:** Adrian Harpold (UNR), Tamara Wall (DRI), Geoff Schladow (UCD), Steve Sadro (UCD), Max Moritz (UCSB/DANR), John Melack (UCSB), Pat Manley (PSW), Jonathan Long (PSW), Ramon Naranjo (USGS), Joe Domagalski (USGS), Paul Comba (NDEP), Ashley Conrad-Saydah (CNRA), Caitlin Meyer (Tahoe Fund), Julie Regan (TRPA), Jason Kuchnicki (NDEP), Mary Fiore-Wagner (Lahontan), Dana Michels (EPA), Melissa Thaw (Lahontan), Chris LaCasse (NDSL), Emma Williams (LTBMU), Whitney Brennan (CTC), Meredith Gosejohn (NDSL)

Robert Larsen (CNRA), Alison Toy (UCD)

# Welcome and Agenda Review (Pat)

# Jim Lawrence has left NDCNR, organization will be finding a replacement, Paul Comba is retiring thisyear.

# SNPLMA Project Selection – Update (Bob and Review Teams)

# Working to get final review meetings scheduled, planning for project selection by the end of next month

# Will be notifying project teams after that

# Great conversations between managers and review team members

# Establishing processes that can be used for future distribution of funds/funding opportunities

1. Communications (Pat/Bob) – looking at making greater investments in our communications and science delivery for greater accessibility and visibility.
   1. Monthly editorials
      1. Tahoe Daily Tribune column, offered out to the group, great opportunity for editorials.
      2. Is this of value to the group? Is this feasible?
         1. Ask the readership that it’s targeted for?
         2. Do we want to keep doing it? Is a different question than does the readership find this valuable? Is it a good use of time?
         3. Goal is to try and increase the Council profile and share some science topics. We have been having problems getting people to sign up.
         4. Suggest looking at matching the timing with the ending of projects (Jason)
         5. An editorial for the need for science with fire could be really timely, prepare the public for getting ready for this. EA for LTW is supposed to roll out this summer--and that would be a great opportunity for a timely editorial, although with caution to maintain objectivity between managers and researchers. (Jonathan L.)
         6. These things build over time, we can build a portfolio of stories.
         7. Do we ever submit to the CNRA newsletter? Small circulation but might be interesting. Statewide reach. (Ashley C.)
         8. Lives in an overall communication plan for the Council. What is the brand we are trying to build for the Council? Keep a consistent message and be proactive. Figure out a way to track response, with a call to action. Thinks this is wonderful. Getting out the message that Tahoe values science and uses the best available science. (Julie R.)
         9. It doesn’t have to be you, it can be anyone within your organization. It doesn’t have to be Tahoe specific. We would like to continue this (Bob L.)
      3. Sign-up to be redistributed (ACTION)
   2. Clarity story map
      1. Reynolds School of Journalism at UNR contracts place.
      2. Students will need to meet with PI to get appropriate content.
      3. When we will be contacted by the class? Early next month.
      4. Geoff is very interested in working with them.

# Internal communication

# <https://www.tahoesciencecouncil.org/live-documents> currently where communications are stored.

# Ideas for ways to improve internal communications.

# It would be helpful to have project management system. When will the internal review happen? Lots of things are popping up and it’s hard to see them coming? (Adrian H.)

# This agenda would be a live document. There are projects that are just finished. Things that are being reviewed. If you want people to look at it, it needs to be in the agenda every time. Can’t just put something on the website and expect us to look at it. (John M.)

# Good just to remind folks and the more that we can use the functionality the better. (Bob L.) Will attempt to remind folks to visit the website and begin updating documents again and keep a running update on projects.

# Annotated agenda is very helpful. It’s not just a report out, it’s a discussion. Hope to see this continue and have these put on the live-documents website (Dan S.). If others find this helpful let Bob know (ACTION)

# I would love to see a Gantt chart of TSAC activities. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gantt_chart> (Adrian H.)

# Basin report (Bob)

# Initially brought up by Ashley and Jim. The idea of having a council-led report on basin conditions that is more holistic than a Lake report that will incorporate other watershed elements, communities, economies, transportation, all the data collected as well as difference science project. How can the Council help formulate this and start putting it together?

# Call for proposals as part of SNPLMA, UNR put together a proposal to fit that need. Bob to distribute proposal to the subcommittee later today. (ACTION)

# Council members and stakeholders will go over proposal as part of a subcommittee to get things moving forward and figure out path forward and present information that is most useful to everyone. There are resources available through SNPLMA to make this happen.

# Make this as an agenda item at next meeting (Pat M.) (ACTION)

1. Management Coordination (Bob) Update the group to have this as a regular item on our agenda, highlight areas with active projects or management engagement. We might be able to put these on the website and keep people updated.
   1. TRPA thresholds (Dan/Monica)
      1. Presently there are three different groups helping TRPA, Monica Arienzo is the Council lead. Progress is sporadic, makes it difficult to achieve consistent progress.
      2. Does this project ever end? (Geoff S.) It’s a little of both. It will never end as confounding issues like regional plan was never updated holistically updated. Board made a concerted effort to update everything. Prioritize these subject matters. New science is constantly entering the picture and we want to be adaptive, so it will never end. If we can do this in a strategic manner, we will be more successful. (Julie R.)
      3. Incorporating best available climate science to understand the thresholds and modify as needed has been really challenging, therefore it takes such a long time and is consistently iterative. We do have a schedule so it might just be a matter of sharing that out. (Ashley C.)
      4. We did identified water quality clean-up, forest health, we have 10 threshold thresholds standards categories being addressed systematically. This was part of the creation of the Council, really looking at what the 1980s system and bringing it into the 21st century to be a more adaptive system. Governing board has a schedule and a retreat, strategic planning session in April will be looking ahead at what research needs to be done. Talking about updating the recreation threshold and the Council research will be foundational to any particular update to that threshold area and the work is funded through SNPLMA and is just underway. (Julie R.)
      5. Expectations for engagement over the next couple of years? There are two parts to this discussion.
         1. Initial discussion: What the standards should be? Looking at the realm of four categories of thresholds: Watersheds and Water Quality, Forest Health, Air Quality, and Biodiversity. Council has working groups engaged on three topics, early part of engagement as what should be the threshold standards that come out of that.
         2. What do we do withing the EIP to measure progress towards those standards? What do we need to measure to better understand the system we’re trying to adopt. (Dan S.)
      6. Importantly, with leadership changeover within several Basin agencies and in NV, and a reduced CA budget, we are taking a beat to flesh out collective cross-agency goals that we can pursue. Should have more to share in coming months. (Ashley C.)
      7. Also doing an update on the watershed and water quality to the TIE steering committee on February 2. (Dan S.)
      8. No specific suggestions for improving engagement with folks, more hours in a day. (Dan S.)

# TMDL management system (Jason/Melissa)

# This concept date back to around 2010-2012 after the TMDL was adopted. Lahontan and NDEP put together a formal adaptive management system. There is a regular review of new information, findings, and recommendations memorandum. The document is circulated broadly for feedback. It may be more useful to have formal engagement with the Council. (Bob L.).

# The TMDL is a long-term plan. Desired a formal continuous improvement and adaptive management process to be able to adjust the changing conditions over the estimated 5-yr timeframe for implementation. Developed a TMDL management system. The process is comprised of five elements that include tracking, assessing and reporting progress, and a formalized method to develop adopt, and implement programmatic adjustments in response to new science, technical information as well as potential challenges, constraints, or even opportunities. Solicit stakeholders for ideas of improvements to program operations to be more efficient and effective or identify needs and upcoming priorities. Have had a lot of engagement through annual stakeholder solicitation, findings or recommendations is a synthesis of what information was available over the past year. Thank you to Alan Heyvaert for engaging. (Jason K.)

# Urban Source Category

# New findings relate to urban implementation performance, urban implementers have fulfilled their load reduction goals. On track to meet clarity challenge set by the TMDL.

# Previous recommendations relate to the need to assess Stormwater treatment BMP performance in the context of a changing climate (Jason K.)

# Non-Urban Source Category

# New Findings presented from Wildfire Smoke Impacts to WQ project.

# Overall TMDL

# Findings and recommendations for past couple of rounds related to those from DSA process and the Lake Clarity modeling phase 1 effort.

# Would be beneficial to have more participation from the science community to make sure that our productions appropriately reflect findings and recommendations from Council Projects to be included in existing documentation. And further opportunity when document is sent out for review. (Jason K.)

# An opportunity to tee up areas of future research needs. Be better prepare when entering into contracts for projects that we want to further explore and fill in information on data gaps. (Mary FW.)

# Could the findings and recommendations memo be circulated to the peer review subcommittee? (Ramon N.)

# What’s the calendar schedule of these arrows tied to? (John M.) Performance report and lake clarity tracer report trickle in now. Then compile to that synthesis for the August Federal Summit. Stakeholder review in November, out for everyone by the end of the year. (Jason K.)

# Working with the water quality group is something that we haven't done in the past. This is an opportunity to send this out to that group, and really get some, some more detailed feedback from a broader group.

# We’re all using different metrics for the clarity challenge. What’s really happening is that we handed up enough credits to meet the clarity challenges but if we look at the data we aren’t at that challenge. (Geoff)

# If something presents itself as better, that is the way we should go. And that's the beauty of this management system process is that it is a formal adaptive management and continuous improvement process so we're able to adjust if there happens to be something of a silver bullet out there. We can certainly entertain and make that adjustment.

# We are on target to achieve the load reductions that are expected but the clarity is not on tract (Jason K.)

# Peer review (Bob) - Three different efforts underway

# Vehicles Miles Traveled – Institute for transportation studies and UNR. Projects brought before the TRPA governing board and so questions asked regarding how analyses were done. TRPA currently developing a charge to provide feedback on project level analyses. (Bob L.)

# More to come on that. An on-going opportunity for the Council to be engaged in peer review (Julie R.)

# Support to TRPA and Lahontan as the aquatic weeds testing methods was applied in the Tahoe Keys. We had a group that looked at the environmental document, and then reached out to some external experts to review portions of the proposed monitoring plan. This spring we’ll convene a group to review collected data and findings.

# Chris LaCasse division of state lands, license plate program, grant program for opportunities for scientists to provide proposals. Jonathan Long and John Melack stepped up and provided support and review for proposals that were submitted this year. Looking to have framework set to provide regular support for NDSL. (Bob L.)

# Thank you for the continued support to John M. and Steve S. for a new algae monitoring program (Dan S.

1. Integrated Science to Action Status

# Path to completion (Bob)

# Hoping to have something to share by the beginning of March. We have an outline, sharing the structure of the document and getting some buy-in from the group would be nice. People have different opinions of what exactly an integrate plan looks like. Had meetings with uplands ecosystem group and their management partners, aquatic with their management partners, each produced document with short set of priorities. Take those documents to create an integrated framework and explain the need for this plan. That will be at the core of the document.

# Communications (Adrian/Tamara)

# Organizing around the following:

# Data collection and data availability

# Systems understanding

# Synthesis, science translation and delivery

# We are organizing under data collection and availability

# 2023 Science Conference (Bob)

# Resources through SNPLMA to make this happen.

# 10 people meeting tomorrow as part of a subcommittee to tease out the venues and dates.

# Will start making decisions and have substantive conversations about what the program and agenda look like. Current dates looking at September 25-26 or October 2-3. Stay tuned for more of an update.

# Postscript – the subcommittee agreed on Oct 1-3 at Lake Tahoe Community College. More soon.

1. 2023 Council meeting dates: 3/16, 5/18, 7/20 , 9/21 , 11/16 – 10AM-1PM
   1. Unless anyone has any serious concerns or issues, we are happy to revisit, otherwise sticking with 3rd Thursdays. Bob will send out Save the Dates for everyone’s calendars (ACTION)
2. Council strategic planning session March 16, 2023 (Bob)

# 10-11AM quick meeting for Council business

# Lunch

# 12-4PM with a social hour to follow – Strategic planning meeting. Venue would be the TERC building on the Nevada campus. That would be the default of where we meet. Any issues with timing and date and location? (Bob L.)

# Hybrid opportunities? (John M.) Probably due to weather, we will have to have that option.

# The degree to be flexible to be date is definitely on the table to accommodate as many people as possible. If we need to push back the date, we would love to see as many people participating as possible. Good time for us to take stock of where we are and create a vision as to where we are going. (Pat M.)

# There is going to be some initial upfront work required by the facilitator, so look for that. Looking forward to conversations. (Bob L.)

# Let’s get this date set (Adrian H.)

# Putting a meeting at the end or start of the federal fiscal year often introduces bureaucratic challenges, but I don't know if one is better than the other. (Jonathon L.)

# Bob to send out a Save the Date in the coming weeks. (ACTION)

# Consider a round robin at future meetings based on conversations with others as to where everyone is at. (Bob L.) Suggests opening with that at the meeting (Steve S.) with a time limit (Adrian H.)

# Would love more thoughts and suggestions for meeting structure (Bob L.)

**Communications**

Monthly editorials – participation was limited last year. Is there interest and Council ability to submit monthly columns to the Tahoe Daily Tribune this year?

Clarity story map – the work order with UNR has been processed and the project will start late this month. The UNR students will need access to clarity project leads to guide content development.

Internal communication – the Council’s website has a location for living documents: <https://www.tahoesciencecouncil.org/live-documents>

This site is available for project teams to coordinate document production, commenting, and other communication needs.

Basin report – there are five individuals who have agreed to support this work. We are waiting for a full proposal from UNR to proceed.

# Management Coordination

TRPA thresholds – the three subcommittees (forest, water quality, biodiversity) continue to coordinate with TRPA on threshold update efforts. With subcommittee guidance, TRPA has drafted thresholds for both forest health and watersheds/water quality. TRPA is waiting for requested support regarding available data for forest threshold evaluation. There has been less progress on the biodiversity topic.

TMDL management system – Lahontan and NDEP perform an annual assessment of the TMDL program and seek Council engagement on the process. The core of the adaptive management effort is a “Findings and Recommendations” document. How can the Council provide helpful review of this product during the review period?

Peer review – there are three peer review efforts underway. The first is a review of the project-level VMT assessment prepared for TRPA. The second will be an assessment of a report drafted for the Tahoe Keys Control Methods Test. The last effort is a proposal review for the Nevada Division of State Lands.

# Integrated Science to Action

The project team has met with both upland and aquatic scientists and managers and has drafted an Integrated S2A outline. The team proposes the document be structured around three science program needs: 1. Data collection; 2. System understanding (models and research); and 3. Science delivery. The identified upland and aquatic needs will fit into the proposed framework. The team needs support in drafting various portions of the document.

# 2023 Science Conference

There are 10 individuals who are interested in helping guide conference planning. We are tentatively considering a 2-day event in late summer/early fall. While not set in stone, September 25-26 or October 2-3 are suggested dates as the Monday-Tuesday timeframe offers good venue availability while allowing visitors to leverage the previous weekend.

# 2023 Council meeting dates

The listed dates are consistent with the Council’s 2022 schedule, i.e. meeting the third Thursday of the month, every-other-month.

# Council strategic planning session

We proposed to leverage the March meeting date to hold an extended discussion of the Council’s purpose, structure, and future. We would spend an hour on Council business before devoting the afternoon to the planning session. We have secured a facilitator (Zephyr Collaborations) who will conduct individual interviews in advance and are hoping everyone can attend in person. Venue suggestions welcome!