Tahoe Science Advisory Council

# AGENDA | July 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

**Date:** Thursday July 20, 2023

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Location:** [Zoom](https://ucdavis.zoom.us/j/91214585651)

**Council Members:** Monica Arienzo (DRI), John Melack (UCSB), Pat Manley (PSW), Jonathan Long (PSW), Ramon Naranjo (USGS), Joe Domagalski (USGS)

Robert Larsen (CNRA), Alison Toy (UCD), Caelan McGee (Facilitator)

Stakeholders: Jennifer Carr (NDEP), Mary Fiore-Wagner (Lahontan), Melissa Thaw (Lahontan), Dana Michels (EPA), Laura Patten (KTB), Dan Segan (TRPA), Jason Vasques (CTC), Julie Regan (TRPA), Danilo Dragoni (NDEP)

# Meeting Goals:

* Agree on a process to develop fund acquisition and management protocols
* Review a draft program for October Science to Action Conference
* Seek general support for an interim work plan for 2023-2024
* Identify one new Science Council Chair

1. Welcome and Agenda Review
2. Strategic Retreat follow-up
   1. Identify a discrete process for
      1. Funds acquisition and receipt
         1. Any type of funds no matter the source (internal and external)
            1. Funding should be categorized (John M.) as sources are fundamentally different.
         2. The co-chairs and program officer are the ones that should start this process
            1. This would be the start of a subcommittee, not just the co-chairs, need broader council representation. Comfortable being only Council representation if that is the direction the group would prefer to go. (Pat M.)
      2. Funds management/oversight
      3. Roles for Council Members
3. Work Plan: Review of a draft page work plan for 2023-2024 (attached at end of notes)
   1. Goals, objectives, and timeline
      1. There are projects happening right now, the Council will be the touchstone for science
      2. Science and research is well-connected with agencies
      3. Project management/guidance for Council with emerging issues that pop-up, how to respond to questions and concerns from agencies. What does this look like? Is this the right structure? (Robert L.)
      4. Having a structure to work with is important. Main issue is the TSAC capacity and how we bring in other people to participate. (John M.)
      5. Figure where the capacity exists and where the gaps are on particular issues.
      6. What is the capacity of adding more scientists to specific groups? Smaller is generally better, water quality working group is functioning the best with a combo of Council members and agencies. Is the representation of working groups adequate and is it a capacity issue and how do we address that?
      7. We want broader community engagement in working groups. (Pat M.)
      8. Wondering if expertise doesn’t fit under the umbrellas outlined, could be related to availability, there might be multi-level engagement (core, “friends” who come to meetings and check out the products coming out)
      9. Social science was a lack previously, if it’s not represented, bring in those specialties are critical (Jennifer C.)
      10. Lot of overlap between working groups, TIE representing management and Council representing science.
      11. Derek Kanaukis would be a good choice for social science (Robert L.)
      12. High concentrations of microplastics for example, a quick group to form and see what’s happening. Lots of discussion more generally from the paper comparing concentrations of Tahoe to other lake. Assess what we know, what we don’t know, what are scientists concerns, what are the next steps for Tahoe? Kicking off at the end of August. (Monica A.)
      13. Some of the agencies met with Sudeep and discussed workshop around microplastics, is it tied to that? This workshop would be focused on the state of science and then management concerns and how do we answer that and what are the priorities and where should we be investing funds. What I would like to get out of it is along the longs of ecotoxicology. When it comes to understanding health affects, the data are not good, that is a gap in our knowledge. Many technologies in place are removing microplastics. A big community issue, concerns about realistic expectations. More questions than answers. It would be useful to have this information posted on the Council website as materials are developed, establishing parameters for what the Council is doing.
      14. Any information about drinking water, affects on biota, and more. Sampling protocol is not trivial. (John M.)
      15. Work offline before the September meeting, what are the groups, who are the initial members of the group, initial charter for all groups, all can be fluid.
          1. Like the idea of a template charter so that there is a starting place for all groups
          2. Charter has to be very explicit, time is money, can’t do everything pro bono, can’t do things without knowing what they’re getting into up front.
          3. What is the outcome of these groups, not just time, white paper, report, use of time for grad students or other early career people. Get specific and predictable, easier for getting funds.
   2. Review and improve project management concepts
   3. Seek general agreement on working groups
4. Science to Action Conference – opportunity to network and focus on linkages
   1. Review draft program (attached at bottom)
      1. May be reevaluating transportation, managers highlight the state of the topics, opportunities to engage early career scientists. Facilitators/note-takers for all sessions.
      2. Identify panel members, how to populate, and what purpose does that serve to fly people in, seems like we want lessons learned from other places.
         1. Some of the greatest success comes from new perspective
         2. Future goals, where do we think we should be going in the face of changing climate, if someone is doing work on that topic and put it in the context of Tahoe challenges
         3. Nuanced for each panel
         4. Time management: each panelist presentation, do panelists have a discussion, questions, audience participation, conclusion… structure is critical. Want to have dialogue, cannot predict engagement but allow the space for it.
      3. What level of engagement with the Washoe Tribe? Jane Freeman and Rhiannon Jones will be having a discussion. Chairman Smokey is active in the federal summit, it might be a good conversation to have. He might be interested in actively participating.
      4. Who is the audience? A lot of agency staff and managers, scientists in the area, community members, etc. 2 scientists and 2 managers on panel. Whoever is in the room and wants to engage.
      5. How is it being marketed? Leaning on NWRA for distribution, they have put on every science conference in Tahoe, so relying on their expertise. Asking all Council members to distribute invitation.
      6. The synthesis of what happens in the panels would be helpful, sign up before the end of July. Instruction/guide for panelists with key prep questions. Middle of August for a deadline.
   2. Outline Science Council member roles
      1. Lead panels
      2. Will receive lots of admin support
   3. Seeking sponsorships, reach out to Bob. Consider reaching out to the executive council coming from Bob.
   4. Look to see if extension folks are interested in participating? Tahoe Water Suppliers.
   5. Need an explicit invitation email to Council members and stakeholders. Need a broad Save the Date invitation.
   6. Consider sponsorship in exchange for fees, as agencies will be problematic until the next fiscal year. $85 for all days of the conference, day 1 $35, day 2 $60.
5. Co-Chairs
   1. Dr. Chandra term as chair expires August 2023
   2. Seeking nominations and volunteers to serve as co-chair
      1. Received a nomination for John Melack who has been with the Council since its inception. For those who don’t know:
         1. Some years ago, actually a few decades ago, I proposed and developed a new school in Santa Barbara called the brand School of Environmental Science and Management, which now has a faculty that includes economist, scientists, data scientists, natural scientists, that life scientists, and so I've seen that the need for integrating among all these different groups and we educate professional master's students as well as PhD students. So I have also been following me really important link between academic training and working for agencies, NGOs, corporations, etc. So that's another dimension of my experience. I think it's maybe more relevant than it was when this Council started where the council was focused much more explicitly on only not only but it was focused on aquatic ecology and maybe some watershed questions.
      2. If there is any interest, reach out to Bob.
      3. Send out a note to all Council members to check and make sure that everyone is good with the direction of the endorsement of John M.

**Tahoe Science Advisory Council**

**2023-2024 Work Plan**

v.7.6.2023

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Program/Project** | **Objectives** | **Project Lead** | **Target Date** |
|  | | | |
| **Organizational Structure + Function** | | | |
| Fund Allocation Protocols | Establish clear protocols for developing and reviewing RFPs, selecting proposals, and managing funds | Program Officer + Chairs | 09.30.2023 |
| Establish and/or codify Council Working Groups | ID Working Groups (see below)  Develop charters and simple work plans for each | Program Officer + Chairs | 09.30.2023 |
| Create 2024-2025 Work Plan | Update work plan in synch with S2A Framework | Program Officer + Chairs | 06.30.2023 |
| **Science to Action (S2A)** | | | |
| Finalize S2A Plan | Complete and endorse S2A Plan | Program Officer + Project Team | 08.31.2023 |
| S2A Conference | Organize and convene the Science to Action Conference – October 11-13, 2023, South Lake Tahoe, CA | Program Officer + conference planning committee | 10.11.2023-10.13.2023 |
| S2A semi-annual Report | Use information from S2A Conference Proceedings to generate first S2A Report | Program Officer + Chairs + Consultant + TSAC S2A Report working group | 03.31.2024 |
| **S2A: New/ongoing projects** | | | |
| Lake Tahoe and water quality   * Particles * Zooplankton * Nearshore * Microplastics * Stormwater | * Engage in SNPLMA-funded projects at 3 intervals (see below) * Stay abreast of relevant work | Working Groups, facilitator, Program Officer | Ongoing |
| Basin ecosystems and watershed   * Tahoe Environmental Observation Network Fire * Hardwood mapping * Forest/Fuels * Biodiversity |  |  |
| Social and economic systems   * Transportation * Sustainable Recreation |
| **S2A: Applying and integrating knowledge** | | | |
| Engage on emerging issues | Maintain dialogue between managers and scientists | Working groups | Ongoing |
| Peer Review | Lead formal review of specific reports/findings and summarize reviewer perspectives | Peer Review committee, Program Officer | Ongoing |
| Council consultation | Respond to specific questions with expert advice summarizing the state of the knowledge | Working groups, outside support, program officer | Ongoing |
| **Communication and Outreach** | | | |
| Project findings | Prepare material outlining key results and implications of individual projects that is accessible to lay audiences | Project leads, working groups, program officer | Ongoing |
| Communication Plan | Develop a comprehensive outreach plan that defines Council outreach activities and establishes templates/format for communication products | Consultant | Initiate by 10/31/23 |

**Approach and activities by project/program**

Science Delivery Programs

* Structure: Working groups which include 2+ scientists (at least one Council member), resource managers, and other partners in implementation.
  + Working Groups:
    - Lake Tahoe and Water Quality
    - Basin ecosystems and watersheds
    - Social, cultural, and economic systems
    - Governance and Communication – budget, governance, organizational and structure and function for the Science Council (chairs, PO, plus at least one partner and/or Council member)
* Activities:
  + Working group members guide RFP development, review, and selection
  + “3-touch” approach to guiding work within program areas:
    - Initial meeting with working group and project team to evaluate project goals, timeline and proposed methodology
    - Interim check in approximately ½ to 2/3 through project cycle to evaluate progress and evaluate any challenges to completion
    - Final meeting to evaluate findings, lessons learned and any remaining questions or next steps
  + Develop brief after action report with progress, activities, key findings, next steps
* Each working group will have:
  + A working group chair or lead
  + Facilitator or project support person to assist with scheduling, agenda development, task tracking and note taking
  + Templates for agendas, notetaking and after-action report
* All meetings for working groups will be scheduled as the groups are established, target date of 08.31.23

Science to Action Conference and Report

* Conference planning will be led by Program Officer, consultant facilitator, and conference planning committee which includes the Tahoe Fund and the League to Save Lake Tahoe
* TSAC members will develop a process to synthesize findings from the conference into a S2A report
* TSAC members will be sought for participation on panels for conference sessions, recruiting additional panel members, and to contribute to facilitated question and answer sessions

**Tahoe Science Advisory Council**

**Science to Action (S2A) Conference, Oct 11-13**

Lisa Maloff University Center, South Lake Tahoe, CA

**Conference Program**

v. 07/2/23

**Goals:**

* Describe the status of ecological and social systems
* Highlight key management challenges and research questions
* Strengthen networks among researchers, managers and partners in community and ecosystem health

**Program At-A-Glance**  
Wednesday, October 11

3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. – Registration check in open

5:00-7:00 – Keynote Address and reception

Thursday, October 12

7:30 Registration check in opens

8:30 Meeting halls open with refreshments

9:00 Plenary session: Conference purpose, goals and schedule

9:45 Break

10:00 Concurrent sessions: Water, Land, People

* + - * Microplastics and trash management
      * Stormwater management
      * Terrestrial Biodiversity

11:30 Break and Lunch onsite

1:00 Concurrent: Water, Land, People

* Lake clarity and water quality
* Transportation
* Meadows and watershed restoration

2:30 Break

3:00 Concurrent: Water Land, People

* Nearshore water quality and invasive species
* Destination stewardship
* Forest health and wildfires

5:00-6:30 Poster walk and reception: Early Career Scientists

Friday October 13

7:30 Registration check in opens

9:00 Plenary: Summary of key themes from the 9 concurrent sessions

10:30 Break

10:45 Plenary: Science/management integration

12:00 Adjourn

**Program Agenda**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **#** | **Time** | **Topic + Objective** | | | | | **Format + Speaker** | | |
| **Wednesday October 11** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | 5:00- 7:00 | Keynote Address – Science delivery | | | | | Speaker TBD | | |
| **Thursday October 12** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | 8:30 | Meeting halls open with refreshments | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 9:00 | Welcome, goals and program for 1st S2A Conference!   * History of partnership among researchers and managers in Tahoe * Overview of current priorities and opportunities * Review of conference schedule and program | | | | | Julie Regan, Director TRPA  Erick Walker, Supervisor USDA Forest Service  Dr. Patricia Manley, Chair TSAC  TBD, Chair TSAC  Agenda Review: TSAC Program Officer Bob Larsen | | |
| 4 | 9:45 | Break | | | | | | | |
| 5 | 10:00 | Concurrent sessions 1-3: | | | | | Panel:  Researcher 1  Researcher 2  Manager 1  Manager 2  Recorder-Reporter  Context and overview: 5 min  State of systems and communities + challenges and opportunities: 55 minutes  Facilitated Q+A: 30 minutes | | |
| Session 1:  Microplastics and Trash Management  **Monica Arienzo**  League/TRPA | Session 2:  Stormwater Management  **Alan Haevert**  Water Boards/NDEP | | Session 3:  Terrestrial Habitat and Biodiversity  **Pat Manley**  USDA FS, CTC, | |
| 6 | 11:30 | Break | | | | | | | |
| 7 | 12:00 | Lunch onsite | | | | | | | |
| 8 | 1:00 | Concurrent sessions 4-6: | | | | | | | |
| Session 4:  Lake Clarity and Water Quality  **Geoff Schladow** | Session 5:  Transportation  **Nick Haven**  Susan Handy – UC Davis transpo studies | | | Session 6: Watershed Restoration – Mayala Wata  Ramon Naranjo  CTC – Whitney Brennan  **Rhiana Jones - Washoe** | | Panel:  Researcher 1  Researcher 2  Manager 1  Manager 2  Recorder-Reporter  Context and overview: 5 min  State of systems and communities + challenges and opportunities: 55 minutes  Facilitated Q+A: 30 minutes | | | |
| 9 | 2:30 | Break | | | | | | | |
| 10 | 3:00 | Concurrent sessions 7-9: | | | | | | | |
| Session 7:  Nearshore Water Quality and Aquatic Weeds  **Sudeep Chandra**  Steve Sadro | Session 8:  Destination Stewardship  Derek Kaunickis  **League** | | | Session 9:  Forest Health and Wildfires  **Max Moritz** | | | Panel:  Researcher 1  Researcher 2  Manager 1  Manager 2  Recorder-Reporter  Context and overview: 5 min  State of systems and communities + challenges and opportunities: 55 minutes  Facilitated Q+A: 30 minutes | | | |
| 11 | 4:30 | Break | | | | | | | |
| 12 | 5:00-6:30 | Reception and Poster walk: Early Career Scientists | | Preparation for Friday Sessions:  Recorder/reporters prepare presentations | | | Posters in Duke Gallery  Each poster station has a drink or beverage for reception  Recorder/Reporters + Facilitator meet to prepare 20-minute presentations and slides | | |
| **Friday October 13** | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | 8:30 | Meeting halls open with refreshments | | | | | | | |
| 14 | 9:00 | Plenary Session:  Summary of key themes and questions from concurrent sessions   * Land * Water * People | | | | | For each Land, Water, People:  Summary of themes by 3 recorder/reporters: 20 minutes  Edits/Additions from audience: 10 minutes | | |
| 15 | 10:30 | Break | | | | | | | |
| 16 | 10:45 | Plenary Session:  Opportunities for collaboration and science delivery in the near term | | | | | Observations from TIE and TSAC chairs: 40 minutes  Facilitated Q+A: 35 minutes | | |
| 17 | 12:00 | Closing comments and adjourn | | | | | Program Officer | | |

**Conference materials**

* Facilitation Plan
* Save-the-date text + Program At-a-glance
* Participant Agenda
* Approach Keynote speakers
* Instructions for notetakers/reporters
* Logistics checklist
* List of facilitators/support staff needed
* Template Agenda for breakout sessions
* Conference Packet
  + Name tag
  + Program
  + List of attendants

Recorder/Reporter

* Caelan
* Allison Toy
* Victoria Ortiz
* Heather Segale
* Kim Caringer
* RCD – Molly Hurt
* CTC – Erin Ernst