

TAHOE SCIENCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

AGENDA | November 2023 COUNCIL MEETING

Date: Thursday November 16, 2023

Time: 10:00 AM – 12PM

Location: [Zoom](#)

Documents: <https://www.tahoesciencecouncil.org/live-documents>

Council Members: Sudeep Chandra (UNR), Adrian Harpold (UNR), Tamara Wall (DRI), Alex Forrest (UCD), Steve Sadro (UCD), Max Moritz (UCSB/DANR), John Melack (UCSB), Pat Manley (PSW), Jonathan Long (PSW), Ramon Naranjo (USGS), Jason Kuchnicki (NDEP), Laura Patten (League), Jim Lawrence (NRDC), Mary Fiore-Wagner (Lahontan), Melissa Thaw (Lahontan), Ashley Conrad-Saydah (CNRRRA), Chris Fritsen.

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

Next Meeting: Proposed - January 18, 2024

1. Work Group Updates: Led by Monica Arienzo
 - a. Really off and running.
 - b. Core group has specific assignments for helping to develop deliverables
2. Two other working groups: Biodiversity and forest health identified as high priority thresholds
 - a. Biodiversity is a real topic of conversation
 - b. Need more capacity to get things motivated, a broader charter to support this threshold update
 - c. Help supports our new Science to Action plan
 - d. What is the scope of biodiversity interest? Comprehensive, both terrestrial and aquatic.
 - e. Forest Health
 - i. Includes fires, beetles, forested landscape, intermix of all forest types and inclusion to include meadows, stands etc.
 - ii. The linkages between the terrestrial and aquatic systems
 - f. Proposing to establish working groups, right now ad hoc, based on the conference and TIE, looking to moving forward in greater organizational standard.
 - g. Use a template from the microplastics working group to take first steps in establishing new working groups.
 - h. There is also a conversation about a working group for AIS surrounding mudsnails. The working groups have a lot of utility bringing together scientists and agencies.
 - i. Could be useful to list membership of working groups somewhere on the website. (ACTION)
 - j. Make sure to be reaching out and requesting participants via email beyond the website. (ACTION)
 - k. Formalize a way to contact people that is mutually beneficial, how do we give reasons to get people to participate?
 - i. The way for the AIS mudsnails, ask agencies if there are people they want to put on the committee. That was a good way to capture through us (members of the council).
 - ii. Compensation for people's time will be important moving forward.
 - iii. Like the idea of going to each institution.
 - iv. Knowing what you want to focus on will help narrow down the conversations
 - v. Have opportunity to think strategically about what we see the need to be. May decide internally about a working group that's good work towards. Some may be an internal working group.
 - vi. Lahontan has given us funds to do monitoring on the lake, that's not a working group, that's an activity. TSAC is doing a variety of things. Not just us deciding what to do, this a

dynamic we are still working through, the S2A may guide what we do, but a part of our charter is assisting Agency needs and with funding, it may be something else.

- vii. Work groups identify state of knowledge and practices, then resources brought to bear, and people need to be appropriately compensated. Council needs to support the working group in doing that work.

3. Debrief the Science to Action Conference

a. Thoughts and feedback from this event? Where do we go from here?

- i. There was a large appetite to have a dialogue between scientists and managers.
- ii. Summarize notes for the conference, that document would be a living document, we all have our own impression, use this as an opportunity to document what we took away from that meeting.
- iii. The feedback from the planning group, how can scientists serve managers, integration of science into management very validating for the council.
- iv. First cut to add comments into the summarizing document, will be to the leaders of the panels. Think about how we pair some of these questions coming out of this Council discussion.
- v. Suggest rather than a living document, a survey to help organize responses by individual. NWRA who did a lot of the logistical support, sent out a survey that received a response from 3 people out of 90.
 - 1. Be thoughtful about how you frame the survey to get people to engage.
- vi. The community building and trust building, can't happen without in-person things like this.
- vii. Cultural burning conversation... (Max Mortiz)
- viii. The community engagement, Tahoe really lends to a sense of identity, what it means to people. It is worth thinking about doing this once a year. Place-based framework.
- ix. Really appreciated the conference, it was meaningful to make the organic connections again. There was outgrowth of the conference that are already being worked through. Stress the importance of being people together again.
- x. Great energy, the sessions were very productive, the value was in the conversation in between the sessions. Conversations on Friday were great, the right people were facilitating the panels and led the conversation well.
- xi. The plastics session was interesting because of the large conversation of global plastic tangent. What possible solutions to manage this issue? It was tough to pinpoint what the agencies can do. The periphyton discussion was awkward in regards to thresholds. Found the discussion to be unclear, lost an opportunity to improve upon our communication.
- xii. These opportunities to bring scientists and managers together are really rare, there is a huge value in that for the Tahoe Basin and good for early career people. Have these meetings on a regular basis, might get people who aren't involved in the basin but get them involved down the line. This is an opportunity that we can leverage.
- xiii. Thought it was useful to have these discussions and takeaways. Thinking about next steps from these conversations. Building on the conversations are really valuable. The discussions and questions were hopeful, but want to still build on the momentum, the working groups are a start.
- xiv. It wasn't a science conference, it was intended to make managers comfortable with elevating the science. Be careful with using the term science, science and management planning/partnership conference, would be more appropriate. Every other year have this conference. Think that we are going to follow-up with one an actual science meeting. Talk about specific science topics and science needs and if Managers want to come that's great, but scientists need an opportunity to meet and talk about science. Some discussions ended up being more about perspective, not about the science. Hopefully

have something more scientifically friendly, while allowing our NGO and agencies to still participate.

- xv. What is the Council's role? Should the Council be organizing a science conference? It's an interesting balance.
- xvi. For science to advance you need to advance the management. WE know what we need to do from a science perspective. It's really important to engage with managers. Needed more participation from the management unit. It has taken 25 years to get where we wanted to be.
- xvii. Agree with Sudeep, in every other focused year swing from science conduct to science delivery is important, because that's our role. We can't be good advisors without being firmly rooted in the science. Maybe next meeting put some time what do we want next year to look like?
- xviii. The enthusiasm displayed by the Council and the participants speaks to the success of the conference.

4. Finalizing the Science to Action Plan

- a. An opportunity to take another look at the S2A plan, tried to give lots of lead time and reminders. A 10-page document, a focused hour should be sufficient. This is a need not an ask. The sooner folks can take a look at it the better. Shooting by January meeting to have everyone weigh in. This is our goal as a Council. The version going to TIE waiting for this conversation, if people have issues with us sharing this version? We want to share the version as soon as possible. Are there particular topics that people want to bring up and discuss now?
- b. This is an important document and we should agree to it as it represents our voice. Can you live with the document says?
- c. From the TIE perspective, a bridge between science and community.
- d. Any Council member would be happy to discuss this document if more perspective is needed.
- e. What is the thought for the next Science to Action plan? All the social science, the user needs, etc. Think of a cycle of this. Thinking of expectations moving forward. Other groups think of it as a 5 year life cycle and then tee off plans related to it. Think about what you want in the next year or two. If you want the document to serve that role.
- f. It's more of a living document. Here's our perspective on the needs and opportunities at this moment. An every other year update might be feasible, something that is potentially addressed at our conference.
- g. By design it is general, if there are tasks we would like to undertake... 11:14am

5. **Update: Tahoe Interagency Executive Steering Committee (TIE)** – reference in Council's MOU as a key partner to the Council.

- a. Summary of key themes
 - i. Discussed the conference and the direction of the Council. We have two seats.
 - ii. It is important the Council participates with TIE, are there ways to improve collaboration.
 - iii. We used to have high level engagement with the NRDC and CNRA, this is a way of reestablishing the connection.
 - iv. How can improve the working relationship between TSAC and TIE. TIE brought up the funding questions. Still don't grasp the EIP working groups, TIE, and how they interact with us. A little document that explains how this relationship works would be useful.
 - v. Maybe TRPA has a document used for briefing?
 - vi. There's misunderstanding of how science works. Science is an evolving process, but there is still a level of information needed.
- b. Proposal: joint session with TIE and TSAC in 2024?
 - i. A way of opening up dialogue.
 - ii. Making is a positive experience and some connecting time. A clear need to strengthen that bond.

- iii. There is a document that outlines the working groups, would be worthwhile to recirculate (ACTION)
- iv. The degree to which our working group is the same as TIE, they see it the same way. The intention is an opportunity for integration. 11:35am

6. Status of State of the Basin Report

- a. Incorporate other lakes in the basin, make sure everything is trans...
- b. Making everything scalable is a challenge. For the first time out make sure it's organic. Make this a document that is used and useful. Something that can be duplicated on a semi-regular basis. Next executive meeting set up for Dec 6 or 7.
- c. Outreach – sent out emails to agencies for perspectives, what would make the document useful, what are the expectations. Getting meetings set-up. Goals to get interviews done by the end of the year, ideally mid-Dec. Moving forward, after agencies will reach out to key stakeholders in the basin. Get a shared folder going for useful information. Got a lot of good information from TERC, TSAC, TRPA, etc. Know I'm missing something. Long-term goal is to have it wrapped up by April.
- d. Anything that we would read, please send that out. (ACTION) There is a lot of information and putting it into something that is useful.
- e. Assuming this will be peer-reviewed, does your April date include a review? Through the executive committee, it will come back to Science Council for review.
- f. There is a work order on the live document, it will be revised according to the schedule.
- g. If you have random thoughts, feel free to shoot Jim an email. If you have resources we should be looking at, send them over. Jlawrence@unr.edu (ACTION)

7. Science to Council plan for 2024