

# **THRESHOLD UPDATE INITIATIVE STAKEHOLDER'S WORKING GROUP MEETING SUMMARY**

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

TRPA offices, 128 Market Street, Stateline, Nevada & Via Zoom



*Threshold Update*

## **Meeting Summary**

Meeting Recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-XgGqT1Mvtw>

## **AGENDA ITEM**

### **I. WELCOME, AGENDA REVIEW**

Members present: Jennifer Carr, Susan Chandler, Bob Larsen (alternate), Laura Patten (alternate), James Settelmeyer, Steve Teshara

Members absent: Monica Arienzo, Ashley Conrad-Saydah, Jesse Patterson, Jason Drew

Staff present: John Hester, Katherine Huston, John Marshall, Kat McIntyre, Dan Segan, Dennis M. Zabaglo

Public present: Helen Neff

### **II. DISPOSITION OF AUGUST MEETING SUMMARY**

Draft summary link:

[https://www.trpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/TUISWG\\_22.08.10\\_MeetingSummary\\_draft.pdf](https://www.trpa.gov/wp-content/uploads/TUISWG_22.08.10_MeetingSummary_draft.pdf)

Working Group direction:

- Summary looks generally correct
- Need to distribute meeting summary more quickly in the future.

### **III. DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS REFERRED FROM THE ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION (APC)**

Presentation: Staff provided an overview of questions raised during the October 2023 APC meeting. The questions focused primarily on the proposed Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) thresholds. Those questions were:

- What happens to other goals, policies, values, things that we care about in action plans, etc. that do not meet the criteria to become a threshold standard?

Working Group discussion and direction:

- What happens to items, goals, values (e.g., microplastics, NZ mudsnails, etc.) for which we cannot yet set a threshold standard?
  - We need to be able to clearly answer questions from the public regarding what becomes a threshold standard and what doesn't.
  - To answer questions from the public and others we need a clear process for updating threshold standards, that includes reviewing and embracing new research and information, technological changes, and policy direction, and clearly identifies when a goal or value moves from an action plan or a policy in the regional plan to a threshold standard.
  - The committee suggested a two-part approach
    - First, subject-matter experts, with the support of TRPA, maintain the list (or checklist/gap analysis) that tracks when and if something is ready to be a threshold standard.
    - Second, a framework for regularly reviewing what is included in the threshold standards, that includes revisiting the above lists at regular intervals
  - Checklist contents
    - Identify the problem - Have we defined the problem we would like to solve?
    - Quantify the problem - Have we quantified the extent of the problem?
    - Define what the solution looks like – Have we quantified what the solution looks like?
    - Viable way to achieve the solution – Is there a viable management pathway to deliver the solution we desire?
  - Framework for Regular review
    - 1- Review every time a change is made to the regional plan, code, action plans, etc.
    - 2- Review in response to new information presented by subject matter experts (EIP working groups)
    - 3- Review all threshold standards at least every four years as part of the threshold evaluation process.
- How do we set the date for threshold standard attainment?

- Working group suggested not establishing dates for threshold standard attainment where there is not a formal plan to achieve the standard by that date
- Working group suggested that in the absence of such a plan it is appropriate to adopt a threshold standard without a specified attainment date.
- Tahoe Keys threshold standard
  - Ask the AIS coordinating committee to consider the following modifications to the proposed threshold standard.
    - Clearly define the baseline year
    - Assess standard based on a multi-year rolling average of abundance to avoid the influence of environmental variability (e.g., shallow waters, warmer temperatures, etc.).
    - Consider adding “by a minimum” to the target to clarify that a greater reduction in abundance would be consistent with the threshold standard.
    - Potential standard language – “Reduce average AIS plant abundance in the Tahoe Keys by a minimum of 75% from the XXXX baseline year”

## IX. Adjournment – 3:52pm