



SUMMARY: Joint Fact Finding Meeting

Held June 22, 2016

In Brief

The JFF discussed final data needs and approach to 2016 surveys which include boating use, buoy counts, scenic analysis and noise monitoring. Geoff Shadlow and Sudeep Chandra joined the Committee and provided input into the latest research on fish abundance, fish habitat mapping and climate change. The group discussed relevant research and studies related to boating impacts, and developing a web page to compile and share data relevant to policy development for the Shoreline Plan.

Action Items

Date	Responsible	Item
7/6	Geoff	Send Donner Lake Study to Rebecca
7/6	Dennis	Contact El Dorado County for buoy data
7/6	Dennis	Compile Tahoe Keepers data related to non-motorized boating and send to Rebecca
7/6	Jesse/Dennis	Coordinate with Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association to collect boat use data
7/6	Penny	Coordinate with Water Trails and staff to get non-motorized data
7/6	Dan	Send Fish Habitat Map and Study to Rebecca who will forward to group
7/6	Dennis	Send Tahoe Keepers Data to Rebecca
7/6	Brandy	Work with Seana to set up location on Shoreline website for data sharing
7/6	Sudeep	Send latest reports of fish population studies and boating impacts to Rebecca
7/6	Jan	Collect research related to boating trends and send to Rebecca
7/6	Rebecca	Coordinate with Jim Walsh and Marina Association to collect concessionaire boating data
7/6	Rebecca	Coordinate with Jesse to involve League in surveys
7/6	Rebecca/Adam	Finalize scenic photo inventory approach

Next Meeting: **August 3, 9:30-12:00**

Discussion Summary

Follow Up on Action Items from Meeting 1

Adam and Ken reported back on the emissions and noise data gathering approach. TRPA will update the emissions model with the appropriate fleet mix for Lake Tahoe. TRPA staff will repeat noise surveys this year using the same location and protocol as previous years.

Final Approach to Summer Data Gathering

Boat Use Survey-TRPA staff will repeat the 2014 boat use survey this summer which looks at occupancy of moorings at select sites around the lake.

AIS Data-TRPA will continue to collect key boating information from AIS stations: engine horsepower, type and boat mooring.

Concessions-Concessions information was collected by TRPA in 2014 and the group agreed that additional data could be collected this year from Marina concessions. Rebecca agreed to work with Jim Walsh and the Marina Association to collect additional data.

Buoy Survey-California State Lands will contract with Spatial Informatics Group (SIG) to conduct the buoy survey in California, which will include GPS mapping. TRPA will survey buoys on the Nevada side of the Lake with assistance from NDOW using the same protocol. Jesse emphasized the importance of collecting all buoy data including small buoys used for jet skis (personal watercraft). Jennifer Cannon is coordinating the protocol and will integrate this feedback.

Scenic-TRPA staff will be collecting photos for the scenic analysis. Some suggested the possibility of high resolution video to provide greater continuity in the analysis. Adam and Rebecca will identify methodology and the locations, which will be representative of different shoreline conditions and structures. Jesse and the League staff are interested in assisting TRPA with these as well as other surveys.

Fish Habitat and Access Facilities

The primary focus of this element will be to identify the best available science and its findings. TRPA is updating its Threshold Evaluation report which includes an updated fish habitat map prepared by SIG. The previous map constrained the entire parcel even if only a portion contained sensitive habitat. The planning team would like consensus from the JFF Committee as to whether or not to use this map for the Shoreline Plan as best available science.

Sudeep Chandra shared that the latest science does not show a direct relationship between habitat and fish abundance. Fish populations have been in decline since 1989 while habitat has remained largely intact. In scientific research, fish habitat is no longer a driver to indicate abundance although identifying variables to increase populations is challenging. Also, of note, building structures in Lake Tahoe has largely been static, and fish populations have decreased. A 2011 report cites a 58% decrease in fish spawning (even though habitat is stable). Regardless of the latest science that fish habitat is not a driver for

abundance; TRPA is required to evaluate environmental impacts to fish habitat, the established environmental threshold.

Of important note, Sudeep Chandra says that the fish studies of the 80s and 90s conducted for the purposes of shoreline planning are still accurate and can inform the shoreline plan.

The group will review the draft fish report, map and the latest studies on fish populations and agreed to revisit this issue at a future meeting.

Boating Impacts

TRPA staff have compiled a number of studies related to boating impacts and are looking to the Committee for additional resources to inform policy decisions. The group recommended incorporating findings from a number of studies related to water quality, AIS, and carrying capacity. Concessionaire data would be useful to track boating use and trends, and fueling locations. Jan recommended that we contact the Marina Association for help with this. The group agreed to forward any relevant research to Rebecca and Brandy who will compile the reports and place them in an accessible location on the Shoreline Plan or TRPA website for everyone to access. Some of the studies mentioned, include:

- Glen Miller, U of Nevada, fuel fossil residues from boating
- Tim Row, USGS, under contract with TRPA
- Geoff Schladow has a few studies on shallow water and sediments
- Whitman (2015) on invasive species (Dennis will share)
- Penny will investigate non-motorized boating data with the water trail
- Carrying capacity: BOR Walrus approach to managing boating density and Lake George in NY

Prior to the next meeting, the planning team will prepare a more refined set of joint fact finding questions related to the literature.

Future Lake Levels

The Shoreline Steering Committee is seeking a recommendation from the JFF Committee on implications of policy changes related to low lake level scenarios. The Committee recommended we plan for a range of elevations rather than a fixed low water level. The Bureau of Reclamation's Truckee Basin Study contains useful information on this topic. Geoff recommended another report from UC Davis which he will share with the group. The Committee decided to revisit this topic at the next JFF meeting.

Participants

Lahontan RWQCB: Mary Fiore-Wagner

CTC: Penny Stewart

California State Lands: Jason Ramos

League to Save Lake Tahoe: Jesse Patterson

Tahoe Lakefront Owners' Association: Jan Brisco

TRPA: Kenneth Kasman, Brandy McMahan, Jennifer Cannon, Dennis Zablagó, Dan Segán

Consultants

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