

Submitted by Shelly Aldean

The following is a recap of the TRPA Governing Board meeting that took place on August 28, 2013.

Several days prior to the meeting it was decided, in consultation with TRPA and Douglas County staff, to pull the item dealing with the adoption of the Douglas County Area Plan and associated documents due to concerns expressed by certain member of the Governing Board about the wording of the findings. Since the Douglas County plan will be the first approved under the updated RPU it was decided that additional time to rework the findings was warranted in order to make the plan as legally defensible as possible.

At the request of Washoe County's representative on the Governing Board, one of two pier projects that had been placed on the Consent Calendar was pulled and heard under the public hearing portion of the agenda. This was an application to replace an existing non-conforming pier and boathouse with a multiple-use pier serving two lakefront parcels. Although applications of this kind are permissible under TRPA's Partial Shorezone Permitting Program, a couple of nearby property owners objected to the proposed length of the dock. Although the applicant insisted that the additional length was necessary to ensure its use during periods of low water, after considerable discussion, action on the application was postponed with the hope that, in the interim, the parties could negotiate a reasonable compromise. In an effort to meet scenic thresholds, TRPA provides applicants with incentives to convert single use docks into multiple use piers as long as the right to develop a pier on one or more of the lake front parcels served by the "new" dock is forfeited. One such incentive is added length. However, the limits on these incentives are not well defined. As a result, the Board directed staff to develop more specific criteria to use when considering future applications of this nature in order to lessen the subjectivity of the evaluation process.

In other business, the Board reviewed and provided staff with direction on eight programmatic mitigation matters which will now be refined and presented as draft policies for consideration at a future meeting. These measures address five topic areas – construction best practices for air quality and noise; region-wide traffic noise reduction; noise policy for mixed-use development; greenhouse gas emissions reduction; and affordable and moderate income housing. When the Final EIS and Regional Plan Update were adopted, the Governing Board committed to implementing the aforementioned measures by the end 2013. To ensure that these measures are not duplicative but complementary to existing local and state requirements, a technical working group was formed to review the draft gap analysis and develop an implementation approach for the Board's consideration.

At lunch, a meeting of the Public Outreach & Environmental Education Committee was held to review the Agency's outreach programs past and present; to discuss the Agency's ongoing customer service efforts and its basin-wide stewardship messaging and Lake Friendly Business campaigns. In the immediate future, outreach will focus on implementation of the updated Regional Plan, the Environmental Improvement Program, the Agency's newsletter "Tahoe In Depth" and the continued refinement of its newly redesigned website.

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me by email or phone.

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