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**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF  
NORTH TAHOE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL  
May 14, 2015**

Pursuant to notice given, the regular meeting of the North Tahoe Regional Advisory Council (NTRAC) was held on Thursday May 14, 2015 at the Tahoe City Public Utility District Board Room in Tahoe City, California.

**1. Call to Order**

JEWETT called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM. A quorum was established.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jewett, Rosenberg, McFadden, Lowy, and Drake Chillemi, Roeder, and Kupec. Hill arrived at 6:17 PM.

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Montgomery, Kastan, and Friedman

**2. MAC Member Introductions**

Everyone introduced himself or herself.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

KASTAN reported Item 9B has been tabled to a future agenda.

**Motion to approve the agenda as amended. DRAKE/ROSENBERG/UNANIMOUS**

**4. Approval of Minutes of April 9, 2015**

**LOWY/JEWETT/ Carried with abstentions from Chillemi, Roeder, and Kupec**

**5. Supervisor / Tahoe Field Representative Reports**

SUPERVISOR MONTGOMERY reported on the recent Board of Supervisors meeting held in Tahoe. Items heard included a report on FY 2013/14 Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) revenues and expenditures on the east side of the County. Of the approximately \$62 million collected, approximately \$59 million was spent, but it was a low snow year without high snow removal costs. JENNIFER MERCHANT explained that much expenditure in this area is not quantifiable because it involves staff time on County wide services, such as elections. A more in-depth report can be given. DRAKE feels that financial presentation would be useful.

MONTGOMERY reported on the Board meeting in Auburn last week. The Supervisors were asked to consider regulations regarding medical marijuana grows. Concerns include safety, water use, and smell. The Board decided to take a "wait and see" attitude because of pending state legislation that may address the issue.

Included on the next Board of Supervisors agenda is a hearing to approve the EIR for the SR 89/Fanny Bridge Community Revitalization Project.

CHILLEMI asked about the statewide plastic bag ban. MONTGOMERY said enough signatures have been gathered to put the item on the 2016 general ballot. Until the voters decide the issue, the ban is in abeyance.

**6. Community Reports**

MELINDA MAHLER, Placer County Sheriff's Department Community Services Officer, reported on an upcoming joint agency public meeting regarding the recent media reports that alcohol use is high in this area. The actual statistics indicate that although Truckee is indeed seeing an increase, the Tahoe Basin is seeing a

downward slide over the past several years. The town hall meeting is scheduled for June 17 at the North Tahoe High School at 6:00 PM.

JENNIFER MERCHANT reported a video link has been set up in the County's Tahoe City offices for people to watch and make real-time comment at Board of Supervisor's meetings.

## **7. NTRAC Member Reports**

JEWETT announced the "Made in Tahoe" festival taking place over Memorial Day weekend in Squaw Valley.

KUPEC announced the June 5 fundraising gala for the new Donner Memorial State Park Museum. Tickets are \$150 and include dinner and a private tour of the Museum. The public ribbon cutting and dedication is scheduled for June 6.

ROSENBERG announced the Boy Scouts are doing a Memorial Day commemoration at Trails End Cemetery on May 25 at 5:00 PM. She walked the Alpine Sierra project and found it to be interesting and well-planned. ROSENBERG announced the Tahoe City Rotary Dinner is scheduled for July 31.

## **8. Public Comment**

There were no comments on unagendized items.

## **9. Information Non-Action Items**

### **A. The State Route 89 / Fanny Bridge Project Community Revitalization Project – Peter Kraatz, Deputy Director, Placer County Department of Public Works**

PETER KRAATZ updated the group on the status of the project and showed the presentation he will be making to the Placer County Board of Supervisors next week. He discussed the location of the project, funding, and agencies involved, noting Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) is the lead agency. KRAATZ explained the seven alternatives that were studied and the many options considered. The preferred alternative is Alternative 1 with the addition of a third roundabout at the Tahoe City wye. The TTD Board has approved that alternative. The next steps are for the Board of Supervisors to consider approval of the final EIR and CEQA document and then the TRPA Governing Board will vote on the project. It was noted that the current SR 89 from the wye to the planned roundabout near McClintock Accountancy will change ownership from Caltrans to Placer County. Eventually it will be the responsibility of Placer County to mitigate impacts at the intersection of Granlibakken Road and SR 89 if traffic conditions worsen with this project. KRAATZ answered questions clarifying his presentation, including the approval timeline and potential impacts to businesses around the wye.

The topic was open to public comment.

JIM WILLIAMSON asked for clarification on the portion of the road that the County will eventually own. WILLIAMSON noted the tree planted by his father to replace the Big Tree. He will work with the County and Caltrans to make sure the tree is moved. KRAATZ said that with local control, that portion of the road could be closed for special events and make it a more walkable corridor.

LYDIA ALTICK asked for clarification on the bike trail re-alignment through the wye area. KRAATZ and TCPUD General Manager CINDY GUSTAFSON described the new route.

CINDY GUSTAFSON reported the TCPUD Board unanimously supports the alternative selected. TCPUD has experienced the need for emergency ingress and egress on the west shore, particularly during the Washoe fire when people were evacuating. Secondary access, as provided for in Alternative 1, is necessary for public health and safety.

RON TREABESS, the North Shore Representative on the TTD Board said he voted for Alternative 1. During the entire planning process, TTD considered the many public comments and concerns.

**B. Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) Audit and Communications Strategy – Jerry Gamez, Placer County Director of Administrative Services**

This item was tabled.

**C. North Lake Tahoe Resort Association (NLTRA) Tourism Master Plan – Ron Treabess, Director of Partnerships and Planning, NLTRA**

SANDY EVANS HALL, NLTRA CEO, introduced the Master Plan update project, saying it has been underway since 2012. She discussed the results of studies done to inform the process that indicated there are approximately 1 million visitors to North Lake Tahoe each year. They spend approximately \$5 million and generate about \$12 million in Transient Occupancy Tax. A new plan that will help allocate the TOT earmarked for the Tahoe area is needed to address trends, needs, and visitor expectations. EVANS HALL showed statistics on who our visitors are, where they come from, and how long they stay in the area. TOT collections are spent on marketing the area and improvements to transit and infrastructure. The five focus areas the plan addresses are resources, transportation, visitor information, visitor facilities, and marketing and sales. EVANS HALL discussed the ideas and suggestions from public meetings that are being considered for each focus area. The public process for input will continue through spring. The Plan will be worked on through the summer then presented to the NLTRA Board and Placer County Board of Supervisors for approval in the fall of 2015. More information and an on-line survey can be found at [nttourism.org](http://nttourism.org).

The Council asked questions about how projects are funded and transit needs.

**D. Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) Current Projects – Cindy Gustafson, General Manager, TCPUD**

General Manager CINDY GUSTAFSON updated the group on how TCPUD is responding to the drought and statewide mandates for reductions in urban potable water use. TCPUD is considered an urban provider because it has more than 3000 connections. As such, monthly reports are required to show what the District is doing to enforce the mandates. TCPUD must show a 20% reduction in water or face fines of up to \$10,000 per day. GUSTAFSON presented the TCPUD Conservation Ordinance with conservation tiers of 12% - 37% for heavy water users. Most of the heavy use has to do with outdoor irrigation during the summer months. The Ordinance establishes fines of up to \$500 per day or water shut-off for non-compliance. The reduction is from the customer's 2013 use. There is an on-line calculator for customers to see how much they must cut back each month, as well as tips on how to do that. GUSTAFSON explained some of the rebate programs offered by TCPUD for low-water use appliances.

GUSTAFSON reported on the Capital Projects TCPUD is addressing over the next 5 years. She said 51% of the District's revenue goes into capital replacement and parks projects. She discussed the proposed West Lake Tahoe Regional Water Treatment Plant.

The Council asked questions about the presentation. ROEDER noted that as water use is reduced, revenues must be reduced, too. GUSTAFSON said the District expects a reduction of approximately \$25,000, which will impact infrastructure projects. However, many of those projects are grant funded. JEWETT noted a recent media report that TCPUD is among the highest water users in the state. GUSTAFSON explained that was based on per capita use from census numbers of full time residents, the District was required to cut back by 36%. However based on historical information presented to the State Water Board and the realization that much of the water use is by 2<sup>nd</sup> homeowners and visitors, the restriction was reduced to 20%.

KUPEC asked about peer-to-peer reporting when it is noticed that neighbors are using too much water or not adhering to restrictions. GUSTAFSON said there is a complaint form on the TCPUD Water Conservation portion of the website. She noted those private water districts are not subject to the same mandate as public agencies.

MCFADDEN asked about water for fires. GUSTAFSON said that water use would be documented and an exemption will be issued. ROSENBERG asked if North Tahoe PUD is considered an urban water provider. She asked for a presentation from them.

DRAKE asked about the difference in minerals between surface and ground water. In response to a question about meters, GUSTAFSON said the state mandate is for meters to be installed by 2020. All customers in TCPUD are already on meters and a 42% reduction in water use District-wide has been seen since meters were installed.

**10. Future Agenda Items**

- NTPUD report on drought response
- TOT audit (tabled from this meeting)
- Stanford Chalet Project
- Fire prevention and evacuation plans

**11. Date and Time of Next Meeting – June 11, 2015 at the North Tahoe Event Center, 8318 North Lake Blvd., Kings Beach, California**

**12. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Friedman, Recording Secretary