**NDOR Advisory Board Meeting Minutes 6/29/2023**

**Thunderbird Lodge New Washoe City, NV**

**9:30 am**

**1. Call to order**: by Lieutenant Governor Anthony at 9:46 am

**2. Roll call:**

In attendance: Anthony, Settelmeyer, Scolari, Hall, Potts, Jenne, Mergell, Gabor, Berry, Fields, Pasternak

Virtual attendance: Baca

Missing: Lathouris

**3. Public comment**: None

**4. Review and approve agenda:**

Settelmeyer moves to approve, Jenne seconds. Motion carries and agenda is approved.

**5. Advisory Board Welcome:**

Thanks to Thunderbird Lodge for the facility and tour. Thanks to Bob Mergell for help with meeting preparation. Thanks to Matthew Weintraub for his work as interim Administrator. Welcome to Denise Beronio as the new Administrator.

**6. Review and approval of previous meeting minutes**:

Settelmeyer moves to approve, Potts seconds, motion carries for March 2022 meeting minutes. Berry moves to approve, Potts seconds. Motion carries and minutes are approved for March 2023 meeting minutes.

**7. Presentation on the Tahoe Regional Trails Strategy**:

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) gives overview of the first regional trails strategy that was completed in May for dirt trails in the Tahoe Basin. Creates a shared vision among all land management agencies. Worked with 10 partners to prioritize trail projects for the next 15 years, including a GIS inventory of existing trails, new trails, maintenance required, improvements to trails, and trails to decommission. Cost predictions are included and recommendations for consistent signage and wayfinding. Identified barriers to trail access. Five major goals identified. Highlights of three trail projects in Nevada, out of a total 33 projects.

Questions: Gabor: What is the intent on removing boulders for ADA access, in terms of maintaining OHV restriction on certain trails. TRPA: Cove East trailhead serves as an example. There are bollards there alongside an ADA ramp.

Gabor: Avoid high-capacity trail heads in neighborhoods? TRPA: Priority to keep trailheads out of neighborhoods with new infrastructure, and wayfinding can help with existing neighborhood trailheads.

Anthony: Has this been approved and has become official? TRPA: Final draft finished in May. It is not an official signed plan, it is something we ask of partners, but it is not a requirement. They decided to make it a strategy that can be living and updated rather than an official plan.

Jenne: Is the inventory on the website? TRPA: Tahoetrailsplan.org has the inventory and the plan as well. They are happy to share the GIS map.

Berry: Thank you to TRPA for the undertaking.

Pasternak: With ADA accessibility, has that been vetted with groups with disabilities in terms of many short trails vs. less longer trails? TRPA: Achieve Tahoe sat on the committee and helped direct this. They wanted to ensure accessibility of information on ADA trails in particular.

Fields: Thanks to TRPA. National Outdoor Recreation Conference will be in Stateline soon, Fields encourages TRPA to submit this for the conference.

**8. Presentation on the interface of recreation and tourism in North Lake Tahoe**:

Travel North Tahoe Nevada presenting: Visitor data is presented (17 million visitor days annually). Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit gets second largest forest visitation in nation. $4.5 billion in direct tourism spending. Highlight four pillars from the Tahoe Destination Stewardship Plan: Support tourism and recreation, stewardship priorities, engage tourism and outdoor rec operators in taking care of Tahoe, improve infrastructure to manage visitor experience.

**9. Update on the Tahoe Destination Stewardship Plan**:

TRPA presenting: Rush of visitors and new residents from COVID-19 pandemic. March of 2020, land managers started convening to address those immediate challenges. Outdoor recreation globally accounts for 10% of jobs. Participants are rising (26% of participants were new in 2021). There has been job and tourism loss in gaming industry in Tahoe. Tourism has risen overall, with more outdoor recreation. Plan started in February 2021 with 17 partner organizations. Stakeholder engagement included nearly 4,000 residents and visitors. The plan asks how tourism can be less extractive, and instead contribute to local quality of life. Many visitors to Tahoe claim sustainable tourism and care for Tahoe is important to them. Environment care is the top priority. The plan is action oriented, with 32 actions established. The plan was finalized and launched in June 2023 and a governance structure established formally.

Questions: Anthony asks about lake clarity. TRPA: This has been one of the clearest years for the lake since monitoring started in 1968 because of several factors.

**10. Division Updates**:

Denise Beronio: Introduction as the new NDOR Administrator.

New NDOR marketing and branding strategies to create awareness for NDOR. Created an event booth and new social media channels @nvoutdoorrec. A new website will hopefully be launched in August as well. NDOR is continuing other work with state and other partners.

NDOR has been working on strategic plan and have been visiting counties. Looking for outreach opportunities and funding opportunities. We have revamped the strategic plan based on feedback to create the abbreviated business plan. These will fluctuate and serve as working documents, which will be voted on today. The business plan includes how NDOR works internally.

Matthew Weintraub: Managing a dozen different projects and staff supervision. NDOR will be providing some funding for the Tahoe Destination Stewardship plan implementation.

Statewide Economic impact analysis: Just about ready to go out for RFP to get better data at local levels. Hope to put dollar amounts on the value of outdoor tourism, access, infrastructure. That should take 7-9 months after purchasing process.

Elisabeth Johnson: NORI grant presented previously is in the review stage. We got 46 applications with $2.6 million in asks with $600,000 to hand out. There is great need for outdoor infrastructure. We got at least one application from every county, with Washoe having the largest asks. We should notify around July 15 and start with agreements.

Berry asks how the decisions on grant fund distribution will be determined. Johnson: Because it is for now one-time funding, NDOR staff is scoring with a grading matrix from the grant manual and making funding decisions. There is structure for potential future funds to have a Technical Advisory Committee review applications.

Berry asks for applications and awarded grantees to be sent out to the Advisory Board.

Beronio: There were advertising challenges for the grant, but we still have garnered great interest in a short amount of time.

Johnson: There is a deadline to spend this money, so launch happened in just 6 months.

Scolari asks for the applications to mesh with destination development projects as well.

Weintraub: We are planning to be able to hold up impact and accomplishments in the next legislative session regarding this.

Johnson: We have gotten Boulder City ready to start ordering supplies and doing RFPs for the dark sky friendly municipal lighting as well.

Kendal Scott: AB 164 passed and was approved, tasking NDOR with convening a working group to study and present options for incorporating outdoor education into PreK-12 schools. NDOR has started putting together background context information in preparation for convening that group as well as planning for identifying all members and scheduling first meetings.

AB 128 was also passed and approved, allocating $250,00 each year for the next two fiscal years for the Nevada Outdoor Education and Recreation Grant program. NDOR has plans to roll out the first grant round beginning August 1, with applications closing October 6. The NDOR Advisory Board will be reviewing those applications this fall during the December meeting.

Ahead of the grant program roll out NDOR has been meeting with school districts to introduce the program and prepare them for potential grant eligible projects.

NDOR has developed some materials for booth and tabling events developed specifically for parents and children that discusses the benefits of spending time outdoors and encourages time spend outdoors through an interactive coloring page.

Mergell: AB 128- does it dictate when money has to be spent? Scott: The original legislation dictates that we retain funding year to year, and the bill did not specifically dictate when money has to be spent, aside from $250,000 available each year.

Berry: Many NGOs exist in Nevada doing programming, are you working with them to support their programming? Scott: Yes, we invite those stakeholders to engage in quarterly virtual meetings and have kept that group updated on the grant process.

Berry: Would love to see multiyear funding opportunities, as those are often the hardest to come by for environmental education organizations. Would also love to have the application sent to the board to share out.

Beronio: NDOR video presentation that will be launched on channels tomorrow. Please share and tag us! Thanks to Travel Nevada for footage.

**11. Presentation on the NDOR 2 Year Action Plan**:

Mergell: Motion to approve. Potts seconds and asks how it ties into NDCNR larger plan. Settelmeyer says it does. Motion carries.

**12. Call for agenda items and date for next meeting**:

October 12 in Ely, NV

Gabor proposes for Oct or Dec overview of USFS and BLM recreation plans.

The solar eclipse will be Oct 14 in the morning, Ely will be getting busy approaching the weekend. Look at a room now.

December meeting in Las Vegas centered around National Finals Rodeo, with state park Ice Age Fossils also hopefully open (by Oct).

**13. Public comment**: None

**14. Adjournment:** Berry motions for adjournment, Jenne seconds. Motion carries at 11:30 am.