



Date: December 13, 2022

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

Author and title: Becky Bucar, Engineering Manager

Title: **Approval of the Donner Lake Interagency Partnership for Stewardship Charter**

Approved By: _____ Jen Callaway, Town Manager

Recommended Action: Authorize the Town Manager to execute the Donner Lake Interagency Partnership for Stewardship charter on behalf of the Town of Truckee as one of the Core Team members.

Discussion:

The Donner Lake Interagency Partnership for Stewardship (DIPS) is a coordinated stewardship plan to protect and enhance the long-term ecological and community health of Donner Lake through monitoring, management, and stewardship. Initiated by the Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) in the fall of 2020, the Core Team includes key Donner Lake stakeholders, including property owners and regulatory agencies, as follows:

- California State Parks
- Tahoe Donner Association
- Town of Truckee
- Truckee Donner Land Trust
- Truckee Donner Public Utility District
- Truckee Donner Recreation and Parks District
- Truckee Meadows Water Authority
- Truckee Sanitary District
- Truckee River Watershed Council

The Truckee River Watershed Council has developed a Charter (***Attachment 1***), the 2022 Stewardship Plan (***Attachment 2***), and associated 2021 State of the Lake (***Attachment 3***) with the input from the Core Team members. These documents are discussed further below.

2022 Stewardship Plan and 2021 State of the Lake

With input from the DIPS, TRWC has developed the 2022 Stewardship Plan for continued management and stewardship of Donner Lake and the associated 2021 State of Donner Lake data set. Both of these documents are meant to be dynamic tools to be updated periodically and to inform DIPS and others in decisions related to Donner Lake.

The purpose of the State of Donner Lake is to “understand Donner Lake’s complexity, establish a baseline of environmental, cultural and socio-economic health indicators, identify information gaps, and provide the scientific basis for stewardship planning.”

The Stewardship Plan establishes the purpose, goals, indicators and a series of potential actions to ensure long term health of the lake. The Stewardship Plan includes the following seven (7) goals, with indicators and action items for each goal:

- **Goal 1. Collaborative, Multi-Agency Structure:** Plan, fund and implement a multi-agency stewardship plan that encourages a commitment to common goals, balances competing and evolving interests and increases coordination between organizations.
- **Goal 2. Water Quality:** Protect water quality in and around Donner Lake for ecological, recreational, and water supply purposes.
- **Goal 3. Ecological Health:** Improve ecological health and resiliency to benefit nature and humanity by protecting, improving, and restoring aquatic, riparian and upland areas.
- **Goal 4. Cultural and Historic Resources:** Protect and preserve cultural and historic resources that represent and foster an appreciation for Donner Lake's rich history and diverse populations through cooperation, monitoring, education, research, and public awareness.
- **Goal 5. Recreational Use and Capacity:** Provide a range of high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities that are socially, economically, and ecologically sustainable for present and future generations through coordinated planning, facility improvements, conservation, and maintenance.
- **Goal 6. Transportation, Safety and Parking:** Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transportation systems, improving road safety, and expanding public transportation options without impacts to lake resources.
- **Goal 7. Economy and Development:** Support planned development and redevelopment of residential and commercial uses that are compatible with neighborhoods, environment, culture, and people.

The plan identifies 95 action items. However, many of the actions are cross-referenced under multiple goals so there are only 59 unique action items. Of those, 20 (34%) identify the Town as a potential lead (and in some cases sharing the lead role with other partners) and 13 (22%) identify the Town in a potential support role. In addition, approximately two thirds of the action items are in progress. A list of the action items in which the Town would be a potential lead or in a support role is provided in Tables 1 and 2 below. Whether or not the Town pursues any of the recommended action will need to be evaluated within the context of other Council priorities, the overall workplan, and budget.

The attached stewardship plan provides an initial draft and, as mentioned above, is planned to be updated periodically and preferably on an annual basis. It is anticipated that the next update will incorporate comments and suggestions received from the general public, stakeholders, and Core Team representatives. As such, the Town has an opportunity to request amendments and additions to the plan for consideration by the DIPS. One such amendment Town staff recommends is the elimination of the following action item:

7.3.5 Town 2040 General Plan – review for completeness with regard to Donner Lake

Staff recommends removing this action item because each individual Core Team member has had and continues to have an opportunity to comment on the General Plan. In addition, the DIPS has yet to review the document as a group and will unlikely do so before the General Plan's anticipated adoption in 2023.

Summary Table 1: Action Items on which Town is Identified as a Lead (with or without another partner).

Note: If Action items are cross referenced under other goals, only the first reference is listed below.

Action/Policy	Lead	Support	Cost H=High M=Med L=Low	Timing	Status
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2.3.6 Stormwater monitoring – Continue and increase to prioritize management actions and improvements to meet minimum standards	Town		L	Ongoing	In progress
2.3.7 Mandatory Watercraft Self-Inspection program – Continue and monitor to protect natural resources, water quality, and commercial viability (see also Goal 3. Ecological Health and Goal 7. Community Health)	Town	TDRPD, TDA	L	Ongoing	In progress
2.3.8 Trash pick-ups – Continue contracted work to protect water quality, improve user experience, and maintain economic viability of area (see also Goal 5. Recreation and Goal 7. Community Health)	Town	Clean Tahoe	L	Summer 2021 and ongoing	In progress
2.3.9 Keep Truckee Green – Continue and increase Truckee Litter Corps days, “Grab-a-Bag” program with businesses, and add Adopt-A-Street program (see also Goal 5. Recreation and Goal 7. Community Health)	Keep Truckee Green, Town	Clean Tahoe, local businesses	L	Summer 2020 and annually	In progress
2.3.11 Parking Enforcement – Continue enforcement of parking restrictions along DPR/north shore of lake to improve pedestrian and cycling safety, manage overcrowding, and reduce erosion (see also Goal 5. Recreation and Goal 6. Transportation)	Truckee PD	TTF	M	Ongoing	In progress
2.3.12 East end parking improvements – Continue to explore options to improve circulation, manage overuse, improve safety, and reduce erosion (see also Goal 3. Ecology, Goal 5. Recreation, and Goal 6. Transportation)	Town	TDA, State Parks	M	2021 and ongoing	In progress
2.3.13 Public and private pier construction permitting – Consider updating Town Code to support best practices for permitting and managing piers	Town	State Lands Commission	L	Ongoing	In progress
2.3.14 Stormwater Management Retrofits in Town right-of-way – Identify, prioritize, and complete work, including small-scale BMPs and energy dissipation devices to settling basins or infiltration features	Town	TRWC	M	2030	Recommended
2.3.17 South Shore Drive Hillslope Erosion Treatment – Design, complete and monitor to reduce erosion	Town, TRWC	DIPS	M	2030	Recommended
2.3.20 Watercraft Inspection Program – Consider building more robust program including gating the public launch to protect natural resources, water quality, and commercial viability (see also Goal 3. Ecological Health and Goal 7. Community Health)	Town	TDRPD, TDA	H	Ongoing	Recommended
2.3.21 Bank stabilization and foot trail improvements at public piers – Design and complete in coordination with ongoing maintenance and upgrades of 2-3 piers/year (see also Goal 3. Ecology and Goal 5. Recreation)	TDRPD, Town	TRWC, State Parks	L	Annually	Recommended
2.3.22 West end parking improvements – Identify and complete to improve circulation, manage overuse, improve safety, and reduce erosion (see also Goal 3. Ecology, Goal 5. Recreation, and Goal 6. Transportation)	Town, TDRPD	DIPS	M	2025	Recommended
3.3.13 Management of informal trails to east end beach – Monitor and develop management actions to protect natural resources and reduce erosion, particular from the Truckee River Legacy Trail and new development	State Parks, Town		L	2023	Recommended
5.3.4 Year-round alternative transportation – Continue and increase opportunities including, peak period shuttles, micro-transit, bike share, etc. (see also Goal 6. Transportation)	Town	DIPS	L	2022	In progress

5.3.5 Peak period shuttles – Continue and increase to minimize traffic and improve access to recreation, employment, and services (see also Goal 6. Transportation)	TDA, Town	TART, DSA, Sugarbowl	M	Summer 2021 and ongoing	In progress
5.3.6 Public transit – Continue and increase to minimize traffic and improve access to recreation, employment, and services including increased frequency in winter and later in the evening in late spring and summer (see also Goal 6. Transportation)	Town	TART	M	2022 and ongoing	In progress
5.3.18 Large event coordination – Continue and increase coordination to dispatch incidents monitor activity, manage operations	Town	TDRPD, State Parks, Truckee Fire, Truckee PD	L	Ongoing	In progress
5.3.23 User interviews – Design and conduct to determine key issues at Donner Lake, e.g. boating conflict, bike safety, trash/waste, parking etc. (see also Goal 6. Transportation and Goal 7. Economy)	Town, TDRPD, TRWC	State Parks	L	2023	Recommended
5.3.24 Peak period assessment/monitoring – Design and conduct to track key issues, including number of users, volume of trash and waste, frequency of trash pick-ups, parking, traffic, boating, noise, etc. (see also Goal 6. Transportation)	Town, State Parks, TDRPD, TDA	TRWC	M	Summer 2023	Recommended
5.3.29 Non-Motorized Boating – Assess current availability of non-motorized boating sites and make recommendations needed	Town, TDRPD, State Parks		M	2030	Recommended

Summary Table 2: Action Items on which Town is Identified as a Support (includes DIPS support).

Note: If Action items are cross referenced under other goals, only the first reference is listed below.

Action/Policy	Lead	Support	Cost H=High M=Med L=Low	Timing	Status
1.3.1 DIPS charter – Develop and ratify	TRWC	DIPS	L	Dec-22	In progress
1.3.2 State of Donner Lake – Compile and analyze data including physical/chemical/biological and social/community monitoring	TRWC	DIPS	L	June 2021 and annually	2021 Complete
1.3.3 Stewardship Plan – Develop, update and prioritize goals, action plan, and funding strategy	TRWC	DIPS	L	September 2022 and annually	In progress
1.3.4 DIPS communications – Develop strategy and protocol including considering future “Donner Day” conference to bring stakeholders together and share progress with the community	TRWC	DIPS	L	2023	Recommended
2.3.1 Nearshore water quality monitoring program – Develop and conduct, and coordinate with other monitoring efforts to monitor the long-term health of the lake	TRWC	DIPS	M	2021 and annually	In progress
2.3.2 Offshore water quality monitoring program – Develop and conduct, and coordinate with other monitoring efforts to monitor the long-term health of the lake	TRWC	DIPS	H	2021 and annually	In progress

2.3.15 Stormwater Management Retrofits needed to address inputs from I-80 – Identify, prioritize, and complete work, including small-scale BMPS and energy dissipation devices to settling basins or infiltration features	Caltrans	Town	H	2035	Recommended
2.3.18 Gregory Creek Bank Protection Retrofit – Design, complete and monitor projects mostly on private residential property to stabilize streambank and reduce erosion (see also Goal 3. Ecological Health)	HOA	Town, TRWC, DIPS	M-H	2030	Recommended
2.3.19 Summit Creek bank stabilization – Design, complete and monitor projects mostly on private residential property to stabilize streambank and reduce erosion (see also Goal 3. Ecological Health)	HOA	Town, TRWC, DIPS	M-H	2030	Recommended
4.3.5 Docent/Ambassador program – Continue and coordinate with other docent/ambassador programs to increase knowledge and understanding of unique historic value of the region (see also Goal 5. Recreation)	TTF, Take Care Tahoe	VTT, Town, Nevada County, Sierra State Parks Foundation, DIPS	M	Ongoing	In progress
5.3.27 Docent/Ambassador program – Continue and coordinate with other docent/ambassador programs to increase knowledge and understanding of unique historic value of the region (see also Goal 5. Recreation)	TTF, Take Care Tahoe	VTT, Town, Sierra State Parks Foundation, DIPS	M	Ongoing	In progress
5.3.22 Dog waste stations – Increase number, particularly at East End Beach	State Parks	Town	L	Summer 2023	Recommended

DIPS Charter

While the DIPS Charter is non-binding, it provides a framework within which the group will operate, including the following:

- The Core Team, which acts as the governing body of DIPS, will provide overall strategic direction, resources, education, engagement, and program development. The Core Team acknowledges it is committed to the long term monitoring, management and stewardship of Donner Lake and its environs through programs, actions, and recommendations
- TRWC will serve as the facilitator and secretary of DIPS.
- Signatories and other stakeholders are not bound to any specific action as a result of the Charter and “participants recognize that each is first bound to their jurisdiction, agency, or entity, and operates within their respective entity's constraints and opportunities.”
- Decisions will be made through a “modified consensus model” which strives to find common ground.
- Signatories are encouraged to participate with time and funding but nothing in the Charter requires signatories to contribute funding.

Staff has been working with the DIPS group for over two years to develop the Stewardship Plan and believes a collaborative effort with the Core Team members will ultimately result in improved monitoring, management, and meaningful actions to protect and enhance Donner Lake. It is important to note that this is in alignment with current Council priorities and is anticipated to be in alignment with future Council priorities. The actions identified above, on which the Town is identified as a lead agency or a supporting agency, would be evaluated in developing the Town’s FY 2023/24-FY 2024/25 work plan, particularly for those items that are of a short-term nature. Some of the action items should be considered long term and therefore may not fall within the upcoming two-year workplan development.

With this in mind, staff recommends that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to execute the DIPS Charter.

Priority:

<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Enhanced Communication	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> Climate and Greenhouse Gas Reduction	<input type="checkbox"/> Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure Investment	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency and Wildfire Preparedness	<input type="checkbox"/> Core Service

Fiscal Impact: To date, staff has spent approximately 50-60 hours on the DIPS efforts. It is anticipated that this level of effort will be required moving forward, although more staff time will be required if specific projects or expanded programs are pursued.

Public Communication: Beyond the standard agenda posting and numerous meetings with the Core Team, DIPS held two stakeholder workshops with local partners and regulatory agencies and an Open House on December 7, which gave the public a chance to learn more about the Stewardship Plan.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: DIPS Charter

Attachment 2: 2022 Stewardship Plan

Attachment 3: 2021 State of the Lake