

# Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Working Group Meeting Notes

September 24th, 2009

USFS Tahoe Basin Management Unit South Lake Tahoe, CA

2009 Meeting Dates

December 3, 2009

## 1. Introductions-All

## 2. Asian Clam Update- Marion Wittmann

- **Emerald Bay**

- i. Clams have remained in the same spot which is a 70m x 100m area near Eagle Point
- ii. The populations are sparse

- **Fallen Leaf**

- i. UC Davis team did not find any clams
- ii. Phil Catarino and one other person found large dead clam shells at Fallen Leaf

- **Autonomous Underwater Vehicle**

- i. High resolution images taken
- ii. Transects at depth along the south shore
- iii. Found a new population at Glenbrook
- iv. Data being put into a Google Earth map
- v. Must ground truth the findings
- vi. The project is working well
- vii. They will finish the ground truth in the next month
- viii. Temperature, conductivity, and chlorophyll samples were also taken
- ix. They are thinking that the clams are down to 300ft

- **Bottom Barriers**

- i. Quantifying nutrient release due to the anoxic environment
- ii. Quantifying and identifying the bacteria, nitrogen and phosphorus
- iii. The project is looking good, there is high clam mortality
- iv. There are six 10ft x 10ft plots
- v. They are located at Lakeside and Marla Bay

**ACTION:** There is a target date of February to complete a report on the Asian Clam Pilot Project in Tahoe

- **Other Notes Regarding Asian Clams:**

- i. It is important to have a separate meeting regarding Fallen Leaf Lake
- ii. The funding is from two separate sources
- iii. They are studying the ecology of clams, and the sediment effects on clams

## 3. Education and Outreach – Nicole Cartwright

- i. Wanted to develop a different type of campaign
- ii. Will focus on all invasive species as a whole

- iii. Will ramp up the campaign in April/May before inspections
- iv. Commercials, billboards, and prints will all have a unified look and message
- v. They still incorporated the national message: “Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers-Clean, Drain, Dry”
- vi. There are currently radio commercials in our local community
- vii. Lots of tabling has been done to outreach
- viii. Watercraft inspectors are also a large source of education

#### **4. Non-motorized subcommittee- Kim Boyd**

- i. Looking into the Basin wide issue
- ii. Identifying land ownership and access points
- iii. Next step: develop a plan, probably an amendment to the watercraft inspection plan
- iv. **ACTION: Contact Kim Boyd if you would like to be a part of this subcommittee**
- v. Non-motorized signs have been produced and will be put in high kayak traffic areas
- vi. Working towards education, inspection, and decontamination
- vii. Non-motorize includes fisherman and float boats

#### **5. Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed- Kim Boyd**

- i. 54 bottom barriers put into Emerald Bay
- ii. 1<sup>st</sup> time they found curlyleaf pondweed
- iii. Need to return to the Ski Run population and identify other populations such as Timber Cove, Sunnyside, and Lakeside
- iv. Rita: Lakeside has 20 barriers
- v. M. Witt: Is there a way to assess the bottom barrier impacts?
  - i. Milfoil populations senesce in Autumn
  - ii. If bottom barriers are still down and the root structures are still present, how are we accommodating for this?
- vi. K. Boyd: We should monitor and account for this in the winter
- vi. Rita: Most of the surveys have been surface (visual observation)
- vi. Eric: Ace Diving did visual surveys and hand removal
- vi. M. Witt: Some elodea also mixed in with the population and since we are already out on the lake for asian clams, we should look at the effectiveness of the barriers on the plants
- vi. From year to year (even over the growing season) the populations have reduced
- vi. The hand pulled area was a large treatment over two years, but then nothing was done for two more years. Now the population has come back.
- vi. Need photo documentation
- vi. Diver time is limited and very labor intensive
- vi. There needs to be a follow up to all of the actions we have taken
- vi. Need to think about the cost

## **6. Tahoe Keys and Aquatic Weeds/Warm Water Fish**

- i. Lars will have the Keys site fully delineated by the end of this month
- ii. Sudeep, Forest Service, UC Davis, and the Fish and Wildlife Service worked together on non-native fish
- iii. Tagged ~22 fish and released them back into the Keys
- iv. There were some issues with the sensors due to the plants in the water
- v. Quite a few homeowners came out to observe the project, there was lots of curiosity and support which is different than in past years
- vi. Suggested surveys of homeowners being taken in the Keys
- vii. N. Cartwright went to many homeowner meetings and they want to help
- viii. TahoeRCD can take on the task of taking a survey and work with Sudeep, Lars, and Marion
- ix. Nice to know that they are willing to contribute fees to the project (there is lots of money being spent on mowing which is only making the problem worse)
- x. Warmwater fish are very desirable for fishing
- xi. We need to keep emphasizing the ecological ties of the native vs. non-native fish
- xii. Surveys can be used to inform the public

## **7. Watercraft Inspections- Nicole Cartwright**

- i. Majority of the inspectors will no longer be inspecting this year
- ii. Gone through 50,000 bands
- iii. 9,500 inspections which does not include private marinas (probably 25% of the inspections)
- iv. 1,100 decontaminations which includes bleach decons
- v. 60-70 decontaminations were hot water
- vi. 11 boats with mussels found (2 were not Dreissana genus)
- vii. Season was great overall
- viii. As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, the winter season starts: IVGID will do reservations, unsure if the Keys will have hours, public launches open from 6am-4pm until April 30<sup>th</sup> (Cave Rock and Lake Forest)

## **8. AIS Management Plan- Steve Chilton**

- i. Signed by Governor Schwarzenegger
- ii. Will be taken to Maryland to be recognized nationally and will get 35,000-40,000 in funding as well as be eligible for other grant funding
- iii. Can access the plan on the TRPA website
- iv. Plan provides structure
- v. The program has been in effect in ~14 months
- vi. The plan was created in around 8 months, which is faster than most plans
- vii. We are seeing significant funding that is becoming available
- viii. Must be ready to use the funding and have a comprehensive plan
- ix. Move recommendations to the AIS coordinating committee

- x. Brainstorm ideas for prioritization in plan (this list was sent out by Kim Boyd to the LTAISWG in late September to prioritize) Ted Thayer noted that a prioritization will help us allocate resources appropriately and included in no particular order:
  - i. New (old) invasive species – crayfish population increase
  - ii. Veliger study in Tahoe H2O
  - iii. Evaluation of boat inspection
  - iv. Evaluation of AIS removal projects
  - v. Quagga/Zebra Early Detection Monitoring
  - vi. Weed Removal-Focusing on source populations
  - vii. Weed Removal –Focusing on satellite populations
  - viii. Clams- evaluate the scale up
  - ix. Warn water fish
    - x. Taylor/Tallac AIS restoration (education component), weeds, fish, frogs, clams
    - xi. Education/Outreach
    - xii. Watercraft Inspection Program
    - xiii. Non-motorized watercraft Program
    - xiv. AIS Rapid Response Plan
    - xv. Tahoe Keys Project
    - xvi. AIS Baseline Surveys Basinwide
    - xvii. Feasibility of Entry Points Study
    - xviii. Aquatic Weed Control

### **9. Feasibility Study for Entry Point Inspection Stations**

- i. This is in response to Senator Feinstein’s request
- ii. What would it cost to control AIS in the Basin?
- iii. Entry Point Inspection Station Feasibility Study is important
- iv. May cost around \$250,000
- v. Funding sources could fund up to 40 million in Spring 2010 which could include construction of 7 stations and staffing
- vi. Within 5 years, we could have 2-3 entry point stations
- vii. Off site inspections would allow:
  - a. More room for inspections/decontaminations
  - b. More centralized management and organization (no disconnect between private and public launches)
  - c. Pressure is taken off the lake

### **10. Ending Notes:**

- i. When and how often should the working group meet?
- ii. Group as a whole could possibly meet every other month in winter 2010
- iii. Subcommittees could meet more often
- iv. How formal do we want the Working Group to be? What is the role in relation to the Coordinating Committee?
- v. Subcommittees include:

- a. Asian Clam
- b. Non-motorized
- c. Education and Outreach
- d. Tahoe Keys
- e. Motorized

**ACTION:** Contact Kim if you would like to be on a subcommittee email list