



## **Incline Village/Crystal Bay Citizen Advisory Board**

**Minutes of the regular meeting of the Incline Village/Crystal Bay Citizen Advisory Board held on October 14, 2024, at 5:30 P.M. Incline Village Library (845 Alder Ave. Incline Village, NV 89451)**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

PRESENT – Roxanna Dunn, Chris Wood, Denise Davis, Kevin Lyons, Mark Sasway

ABSENT – Diane Becker, Carla Werner

### **2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was recited

### **3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rhonda Tycer noted that the Washoe County Chief Financial Officer claimed that Washoe County subsidizes Incline Village and Crystal Bay. However, Marsha Berkbigler disputed this, explaining that in 2020, IVCB received only about 8 cents in services for every 10 cents paid in taxes. In 2022, IVCB contributed over \$23 million in taxes, resulting in them paying \$2.3 million beyond the services received. County Manager Eric Brown stated that \$1.957 million was allocated for Incline Village in 2022. Tycer emphasized the need for transparency regarding the financial relationship and suggested that the county provide a detailed breakdown of payments and services. She proposed inviting the Commissioner or Chief Financial Officer to discuss this further.

### **4. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMISSIONER HILL**

There were no announcements from Chair Hill

### **5. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES**

#### Incline Village Sherriff's Office

Captain Amelia Galicia provided updates from the Washoe County Sheriff's Office (WCSO). She noted that statistics for the third quarter are not yet available, as they have not been finalized. She highlighted that a specific area in Incline Village, the Northwood-Southwood loop along State Route 28, has been identified as having an increase in DUI-related crashes and arrests. Patrols and deputies will focus enforcement efforts here to reduce traffic fatalities and incidents. Regarding the e-bike program initiated over the summer, Captain Galicia stated that it is progressing well. Deputies are patrolling pathways when staffing and weather allow, which has been positively received by the community. The program includes educational efforts to inform riders about safe practices and legal regulations. However, there are currently not enough e-bikes or trained deputies for full deployment, but efforts are ongoing to increase training and certification.

Chris Wood thanked Captain Galicia for her report on e-bikes and raised concern about underage individuals riding e-bikes on the roads. He questioned the legality of this practice, particularly if they start on pathways but then venture onto streets, noting that e-bikes do not have license plates. Wood asked if minors without licenses are allowed to ride on the road and expressed his confusion about the regulations governing such situations. He provided an example of observing a young person riding uphill on State Route 28 and inquired whether the shoulder of the road is considered a pathway. Captain Galicia responded that e-bikes are allowed on roadways, like bicycles, and do not require a driver's license. She clarified that the shoulder of State Route 28 is permissible for riding. However, riders must follow road rules, including signaling and yielding to traffic. Captain Galicia noted that enforcement depends on visibility or reports from the public regarding any unsafe behavior.

Roxanna Dunn expressed concern about young children in Incline Village who lack experience riding bikes, as for many, their first time on a bike is riding an e-bike going 35 mph on challenging terrain. She highlighted the dangers of this situation and mentioned efforts to set up training for the children, having reached out to the Lake Tahoe Bicycle Coalition for assistance. Dunn asked for suggestions on who could provide this training, noting that children riding e-bikes may not understand the rules of the road since they do not have driver's licenses. Captain Amelia Galicia responded that there are school resource officers at Incline High School who are trained to patrol and educate students about e-bike safety. She suggested Dunn should contact the principal of the middle school to collaborate with local bike shops for training. They discussed the importance of teaching basic road rules, such as signaling and obeying traffic signals, to improve safety for young riders. Roxanna Dunn then inquired about the nature of encounters between law enforcement and bicyclists, specifically whether these interactions typically lead to tickets or warnings. Captain Amelia Galicia explained that tickets are rare, primarily due to limited enforcement laws regarding pathway use. Citations tend to occur only when cyclists violate road rules. Most stops are educational, helping individuals understand the rules. Captain Amelia Galicia emphasized that bike rental shops should educate customers about e-bike rules, especially since many renters are inexperienced travelers. While she believes this responsibility exists, she noted that there are no enforceable laws to ensure compliance. Roxanna Dunn inquired whether officers provide feedback to rental shops about frequent violations, to which Galicia agreed that establishing a feedback loop with the providers would be beneficial for improving safety and awareness.

## **6. INCLINE VILLAGE GENERAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (IVGID)**

Sarah Vidra from the Incline Village General Improvement District presented water quality in the Crystal Bay and Incline Village watersheds. Key takeaways included encouraging the community to drink tap water instead of bottled water and emphasizing the importance of protecting Lake Tahoe as a drinking water source. She discussed the annual Consumer Confidence Report, which ensures public water systems meet safety standards. Vidra highlighted that their water from Lake Tahoe has no contaminants exceeding EPA limits. The presentation included details on the treatment process, noting that their water is so clean it doesn't require filtration. Vidra addressed the issue of microplastics, revealing that tap water contains significantly fewer microplastic particles than bottled water. She urged the community to reduce plastic waste through participation in cleanups,

using refill stations, and opting for reusable containers. The overarching message was that individual actions impact water quality, and protecting the watershed is vital for maintaining clean drinking water.

Kevin Lyons asked about the definition of microplastics and what science they use to determine this. Vidra responded by explaining that a microplastic is anything between 5 milliliters and one nanometer. The samples are then ran through a mesh sieve starting at 500-300 nanometers. This is then followed by treatment with Raman spectroscopy. The report is also available on the TahoeH2O website.

Chris Wood asked about the process of identifying microplastics in Lake Tahoe's water. Vidra explained that suspected plastic samples were confirmed using Raman spectroscopy, a method conducted by the Tahoe Environmental Research Center (TERC). The sampling involved collecting water from specific depths at Burnt Cedar. They also addressed concerns about microplastic accumulation in the lake. Vidra mentioned that the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association plans to conduct further sampling in 2025, while California members are developing standardized sampling methodologies for microplastics. Wood referenced a 2023 article in Nature that listed Lake Tahoe among freshwater lakes with high microplastic concentrations. Vidra clarified that the study referenced was limited to one location and time, making it difficult to generalize across the entire lake. She emphasized the need for consistent sampling methodologies to ensure accurate comparisons in future studies. Overall, she conveyed that the water utility is not currently concerned about microplastic levels based on their data.

Roxanne Dunn posed three questions to Sarah Vidra regarding environmental concerns in Lake Tahoe. First, she asked about the impact of algae blooms and chemical treatments at Tahoe Keys, referencing a previous report. Second, she inquired about the potential for microplastics from cell phone towers to enter the lake. Finally, Roxanne sought information on changes in lake temperature over time. In response, Sarah provided an overview of a three-year study at Tahoe Keys aimed at managing aquatic invasive plants, noting that both chemical and non-chemical treatments showed promising results. She explained that algae blooms are natural but can be harmful, highlighting a story about the presence of some harmful blooms in South Lake but that was an adjacent pond and not the lake directly. Regarding the cell towers, she acknowledged concerns about plastics but couldn't confirm specific details about their impact. On temperature changes, Sarah indicated that while seasonal variability exists, there hasn't been a significant long-term change in lake temperature according to data from the Tahoe Environmental Research Center.

Denise Davis inquired about the purpose of microplastic studies being conducted. Sarah explained that the studies aim to assess the current state of Lake Tahoe regarding microplastics, serving as a baseline for understanding contaminants of concern. The goal is to gather data to inform treatment processes and provide constituents with knowledge about potential risks. Sarah emphasized that as new contaminants are identified, having comprehensive data will help guide future decisions and actions related to water treatment. Currently, the focus is on capturing knowledge about the existing situation with microplastics.

Chris Wood asked about the aspect of Lake Tahoe's water quality that allows for reduced filtration. Sarah explained that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has specific criteria for avoiding filtration, based on turbidity and microbial levels. For Lake Tahoe, turbidity must not exceed 5 NTU (nephelometric turbidity units), and fecal coliform levels must stay below 20 colonies per 20 milliliters over six months. Since the water meets these standards, it is not filtered at the Burnt Cedar facility, meaning the raw water is only treated with ultraviolet light and ozone before reaching consumers. Sarah added that daily monitoring of the raw water intake occurs, and this data is compiled annually in a report available on the Tahoe H2O website, managed by the Tahoe Water Suppliers Association.

Roxanna Dunn asked if Sarah Vidra, in the interest of protecting the watershed, could speak to carwash and other chemicals effects on the watershed as well as what small actions they can do to protect it. Sarah clarified the importance of always washing cars at commercial car washes, which have systems in place to manage runoff, rather than washing them at home where chemicals can easily reach creeks and lakes. Regarding chemicals like herbicides, she advised using the minimal amount necessary to achieve desired results and suggested opting for natural cleaners and avoiding single-use plastics. She highlighted the significance of being mindful of small, accidental littering, such as dropping receipts or not picking up pet waste, as these actions can negatively impact the watershed. Sarah concluded by reminding everyone that what affects the watershed ultimately affects Lake Tahoe, which is crucial for community drinking water.

Denise Davis asked Sarah for a reminder of the depth of their intake. Sarah answered that the intake is located 30 feet deep and 670 feet out in "quiet water," in the Burnt Cedar area, which is less affected by wave action. Denise also raised concerns about microplastics, particularly from red paint used to mark bus stops, which breaks down and can enter the lake. Community members are encouraged to communicate with local authorities about the environmental impact of such materials. Changes to standard practices may take time, but it's acknowledged as a significant issue that needs ongoing attention.

Mark Sasway asked Sarah about the potential impact on water supply management if the EPA were to face challenges or reduce its role. He inquired how local agencies would respond to ensure water safety. Sarah explained that while the EPA provides only federal oversight. State and local agencies, including skilled professionals in the Public Works department, would step in to maintain safety standards. She expressed confidence in the local water management system's ability to ensure safe water despite any federal issues.

Andrew Wyman asked about the impact of microplastics on human health, seeking clarity on their effects. Sarah explained that there is currently insufficient research to provide definitive answers on the human health implications of microplastics. The ongoing studies have yet to yield relevant information, and it was emphasized that the topic remains under investigation. The discussion highlighted a broader concern about the lack of understanding regarding microplastics' effects on humans, animals, and plants, questioning the rationale behind efforts to eliminate them without clear evidence.

Rhonda Tycer raised a concern about microplastics, noting that a significant source might be airborne plastics from urban areas, particularly from clothes dryers. She suggested that many microplastics in the basin could originate from these urban centers, emphasizing the need for coordination with surrounding urban centers to understand the extent of this issue. Sarah acknowledged that atmospheric deposition is indeed a source of microplastics, referencing a study by the Desert Research Institute on microplastics from dryer vents. Additionally, it was mentioned that car tires are a major contributor to microplastics and reducing vehicle use could help mitigate both greenhouse gas emissions and microplastic pollution.

## **7. NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB**

Alexandra Wilson provided an update on upcoming meetings related to neighborhood development in Washoe County, which can be accessed online through the planning department's Neighborhood Development Hub. She noted that there were no meetings affecting the Incline Village or Crystal Bay areas. However, she mentioned four upcoming meetings on other Commission Districts in the County.

## **8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETINGS OF January 22, 2024, February 26, 2024, March 25, 2024, AND May 22, 2024**

Chris Wood motioned to approve the minutes for January 22, 2024, February 26, 2024, March 25, 2024, and May 22, 2024, CAB meetings. Mark Sasway seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

## **9. BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/REQUESTS/DISCUSSION**

Denis Davis announced a community forum meeting on Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Roxanna Dunn reminded residents that voting is coming up. She also announced the quilting club is having a quilt expo on Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Kevin Lyons addressed discrepancies in statements made by Washoe County District 1 Commissioner Alexis Hill, and Marsh Berkbigler<sup>1</sup> regarding the finances of Incline Village. He indicated that some of these statements were not accurate and mentioned that the City of Incline Village will issue a clarifying announcement to address these inaccuracies. Roxanna brought up an earlier conversation about bringing someone from the County to do a financial report on this matter and confirmed that Kevin was a part of a prior analysis effort. The analysis breaks down how taxes paid by Incline residents are allocated.

## **10. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

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<sup>1</sup> Berkbigler is challenging Alexis Hill for the position of District One Commissioner in the November 5 election.

Alexandra Wilson announced that there will be a "Facts and Snacks" event at the Incline Library on Wednesday, October 16th, at 2 PM. Deputy Andrew McDonald will be speaking about elections in preparation for early voting.

Denise Davis announced that there will be a live debate on Question 3, concerning ranked choice voting, hosted by Channel 4 News in Reno. The debate is scheduled for October 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM and will be available to watch on TV or their website, with later access provided for those who miss it live. Denise encouraged attendance, noting that representatives from both sides of the issue will be present to provide information.

**11. ADJOURNMENT-** The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.