

**Lake Tahoe Basin**  
**Storm Water Quality Improvement Committee**  
**Charter**  
*2013 Update*

## **Background**

The Lake Tahoe Basin Executives (Tahoe Interagency Executives, or TIE) established an Executive Soil Erosion Control Working Group (Working Group) in order to facilitate the implementation of soil erosion control projects identified in the Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) and to respond to the priority placed on water quality and Lake clarity. The Working Group identified numerous challenges hindering the execution of water quality improvement projects. With TIE agreement, the Working Group placed a priority on the need to improve the design, delivery, and effectiveness of water quality projects. As a result, the Working Group recommended the formation of a Storm Water Quality Improvement Committee (SWQIC). The SWQIC is made up of higher level representatives from county, state and federal agencies representing all pertinent storm water regulatory, funding and implementing roles.

The initial SWQIC Charter was adopted on May 29, 2002. The purpose of the SWQIC was to build consensus on the approach used in the following:

- The planning of storm water quality improvement projects.
- The process used in developing and reviewing projects by implementing, funding, and regulatory agencies.
- The development of strategic tools which could be used for project planning and delivery.
- The resolution of ancillary design issues and procedural improvements affecting project implementation.

An update to the charter (recharter) of SWQIC was adopted July 2004 and rechartered again June 2007 to complete the core efforts outlined in the initial charter. Four additional items were added during the re-charter by the Working Group as the next set of priority activities for SWQIC. These activities were as follows:

- Define the interim qualitative tools and methodology to determine the overall net water quality benefit of a project, in conjunction with the development of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) discharge limits for sediment.
- Development of uniform Hydrology & Hydraulics procedures to create procedural consistency throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin.
- Work on the resolution of constraints and opportunities identified in the, *Identification of Potential Constraints and Recommendations Affecting*

*Implementation of the Urban Storm Water Component of the Environmental Improvement Program (Constraints Document).*

- *Implementation of the Formulating and Evaluating Alternatives for Water Quality Improvement Projects (FEA Document).*

Ancillary activities integrated into the work efforts involved project level TMDL implementation, Best Management Practices (BMP) performance measures, facilitation of adaptive management relating to scientific research, and program coordination to support EIP storm water priorities.

### **SWQIC Accomplishments to Date**

The SWQIC has worked to ensure that Basin priorities and directives for storm water are advanced and implemented. The SWQIC has provided a stabilizing influence in the Basin for all issues concerning storm water and water quality. Efforts targeted improvements to design approaches and streamlining the review/permit processes associated with implementation of projects. The SWQIC has accomplished the following to date:

- Built consensus and adopted procedures for storm water quality project delivery in the Basin (FEA Document);
- Built consensus and adopted a process to be used by Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) to review projects and solve conflicts, as outlined in the *Collaborative Storm Water Quality Project Delivery Interaction Protocol*;
- Provided assistance to projects when required, including resolving project conflicts and disputes, reconciling differences of opinion and approach (Constraints Document);
- Implemented the FEA process through sponsored training and workshops;
- Facilitated and sponsored hydrology and hydraulics studies for uniformity standards within the Basin. Sponsored recommendations workshop with Dr. David Goldman of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Work culminated in the uniform Hydrology and Hydraulics procedure recommendations;
- Facilitated implementation of the Pollutant Load Reduction Model (PLRM) water quality benefits model for future TMDL application;
- Developed a list of identified constraints that impede the delivery of EIP storm water projects. Utilized the constraints list to identify and develop solutions;
- Continuous refinement, comment and implementation of TMDL tools and use such as road-Rapid Assessment Methodology (RAM) and BMP-RAM.

### **Objectives of the 2013 Recharter**

Marking the ten year anniversary of the SWQIC a recharter is needed to ensure the focus of the group and to adjust the response of the group to the changing economic conditions. In

the past the SWQIC met on a regular basis to focus on the design, delivery, and effectiveness of water quality improvement projects. With the changing economic conditions, this recharter will enable the SWQIC to focus on holistic and programmatic actions, as opposed to only project implementation, to affect change in increasing the quality of storm water runoff.

Priority activities for the 2013 recharter will be:

- Coordinate efforts for urban storm water compliance with regulatory requirements.
- Continue refinement of storm water management, tracking, and reporting tools.
- Coordinate efforts on the Basin-wide Storm Water EIP Implementation Strategy including the identification of future funding sources.

## **Purpose**

### **Primary Functions**

One of the primary functions of the SWQIC is to identify and solve the challenges hindering the execution of water quality improvement projects, and to facilitate the design, delivery and effectiveness of storm water quality improvement efforts to achieve the Lake Tahoe clarity goals. Going forward, the SWQIC will be expanding its focus from individual Project delivery to a more holistic approach in increasing the effectiveness of respective Storm Water Programs in meeting the clarity goals for Lake Tahoe.

The SWQIC provides insight on long-term strategies in support of legislative mandates and funding directives. It has been found that there is value in having a standing committee to discuss problems, challenges, successes, lessons learned, etc. associated with EIP water quality projects.

Members of the SWQIC ensure Basin objectives related to water quality are being adequately addressed.

### **Role of a SWQIC Member**

It is intended that the SWQIC leverage the experiences, expertise, and insight of key individuals at organizations that fund, regulate and implement storm water quality improvement activities. SWQIC members in turn, provide support and guidance for those managing such projects at their individual agencies. Thus, individually, SWQIC members should:

- Understand the strategic implications and outcomes of initiatives being pursued through SWQIC sponsored outputs;
- Appreciate the significance of the SWQIC objectives and help balance conflicting priorities and resources while representing their agencies' interests;
- Be genuinely interested, and an active participant in the initiatives, discussion and be an advocate/supporter of the objectives being pursued;

- Check adherence of program activities and practices within the organization for standardization with the SWQIC context;
- Foster positive communication outside of the SWQIC regarding progress, guidelines and objectives; and,
- Report on SWQIC group progress to their respective agency executive management and/or department head in addition to their agency staff.

## Membership

The SWQIC will consist of the following stakeholder agencies. Stakeholder members will be identified by the member agency. Current members are listed as well:

### SWQIC Membership

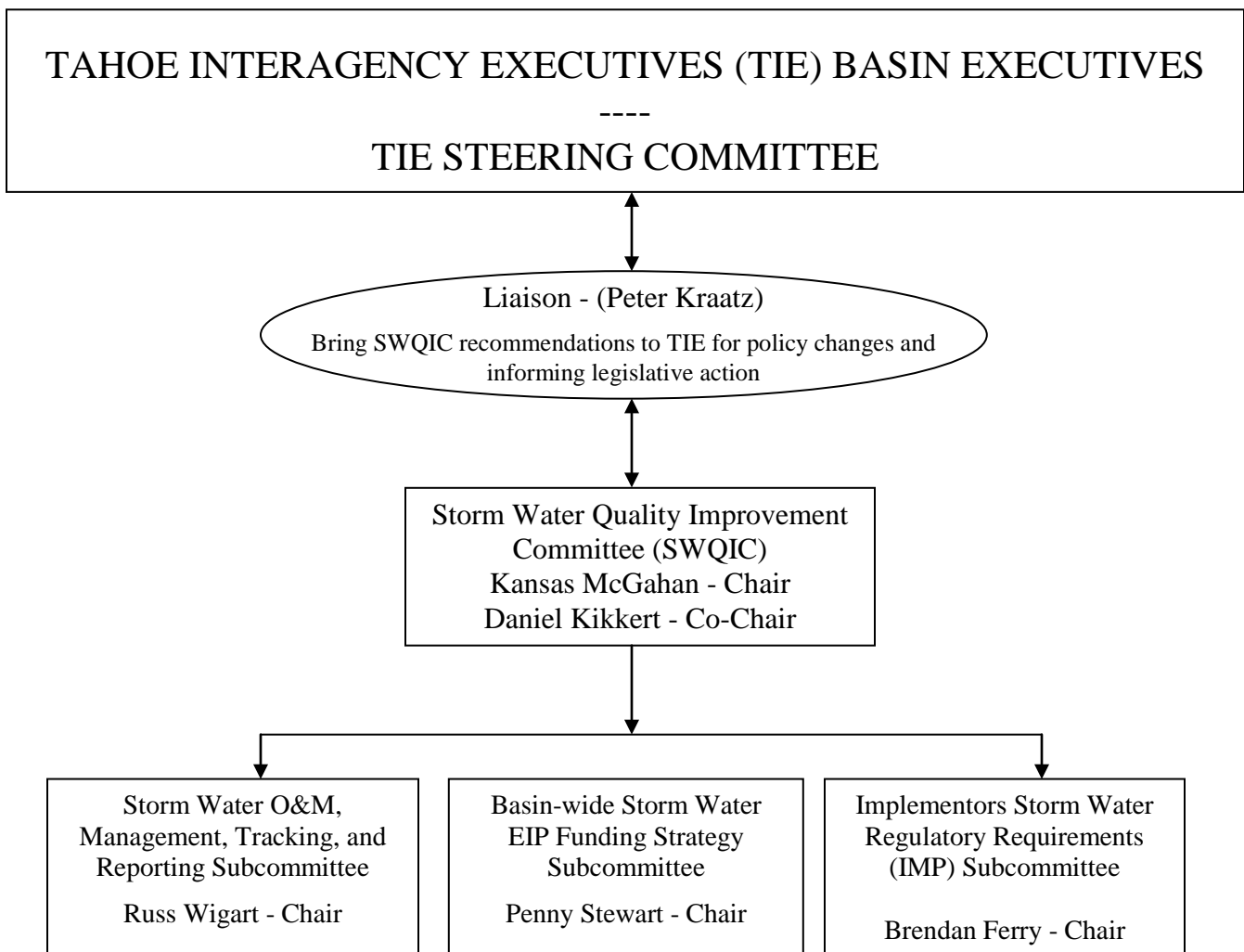
#### Recharter 2013

Agency	Name
California Tahoe Conservancy (CTC)	Penny Stewart
California Regional Water Quality Control Board - Lahontan	Robert Larsen
US Forest Service	Genevieve Villemaire / Barbara Shanley
Tahoe Regional Planning Agency	Brian Judge / Jeanne McNamara
State of Nevada Department of Transportation	Tyler Thew
Nevada Tahoe Conservation District	Karin Staggs
County of El Dorado - Transportation Division	Daniel Kikkert / Brendan Ferry
County of Placer Department of Public Works – Tahoe Design Division	Kansas McGahan
City of South Lake Tahoe Public Works Department	Sarah Hussong-Johnson / Eric Friedlander
Washoe County	Kris Klein
Douglas County	Erik Nilssen
State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Division of Program/Project Management	Leslie Waters
Nevada Division of State Lands – Nevada Tahoe Resource Team	Elizabeth Harrison /Emily Thornley
US Army Corps of Engineers	Charity Meakes
Tahoe Resource Conservation District	Kim Gorman / Andrea Parra
US Bureau of Reclamation	Myrnie Mayville
Tahoe Science Consortium	Maureen McCarthy
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection	Jason Kuchnicki / Ed Skudlarek
US EPA	Jack Landy
Lake Tahoe Basin Interagency Executives (TIE) Liaison	Peter Kraatz (Placer County)

## Structure

Endorsement of the SWQIC is necessary for integration of recommendations and protocols into the current practices and procedures utilized by the individual partner agencies. Integration and uniformity, to the extent feasible and appropriate, will afford overall improvement in storm water quality project delivery.

The proposed structure and interaction points of SWQIC are presented below. SWQIC will appoint one member as a liaison to both the TIE Basin executives as well as the TIE Steering Committee. This liaison to the TIE will present the challenges and policy recommendations for storm water quality improvements in the Tahoe Basin. These interaction points with the Lake Tahoe governing executives will assist the integration of SWQIC-endorsed protocols and recommendations.



## Meetings

### Meeting Schedule and Process

The SWQIC will meet monthly or as required to present and discuss relevant issues and progress of the SWQIC's objectives. Meetings are typically held in the morning, the third Wednesday of every month.

The SWQIC will elect a Chair and Co-Chair from the members to lead the efforts. The SWQIC will follow modified Roberts Rules of Order in the conduct of meetings, motions, discussion and voting.

The meeting agenda or notice of cancellation of meetings will be emailed to SWQIC members no later than the Monday preceding the meeting.

### Meeting Agenda

At each meeting, the SWQIC Chair and Co-Chair will create a forum to discuss common issues and relevant, timely storm water topics. SWQIC meeting dynamics have typically included individual involvement, presentations, open dialog, collaboration, creative problem solving and enthusiasm. Overall SWQIC objective status will be reported to members by the Chair/Co-chair using an agenda outline such as the following:

- A. Introductory Items such as:
  - Introductions.
  - Review Agenda.
  - Minutes from last meeting.
  - Review of actions arising from previous SWQIC meetings.
- B. Review Subcommittee work: workplan status will be reported to the SWQIC by the subcommittee chairperson such as:
  - Overall Status
    - 1) Scope status
    - 2) Deviations
    - 3) New issues arising since the last SWQIC meeting
    - 4) Outstanding issues, open points, project conflicts
    - 5) Milestone review
  - Formal acceptance/adoption of deliverables.
  - Future anticipated plans.
- C. Specific Requests for assistance of the SWQIC.

## Proposed Subcommittee Workplans

The SWQIC determined, through experience during the initial charter and recharter, that accomplishing the SWQIC's overall work efforts through subcommittees was optimal and efficient for the SWQIC as a whole. The SWQIC has formed the following subcommittees based on current objectives. Additional subcommittees may be added or eliminated as the need arises.

- **Storm Water O&M, Management, Tracking, and Reporting Subcommittee**
- **Basin-wide Storm Water EIP Funding Strategy Subcommittee**
- **Implementors Storm Water Regulatory Requirements (IMP) Subcommittee**

The SWQIC worked to gain collective agency consensus for the subcommittee workplans and proposed products for this recharter. The workplans were developed to be consistent with the purpose of the SWQIC and primary areas of focus.

### **Storm Water O&M, Management, Tracking, and Reporting Subcommittee**

For the planning and implementation of past and future Projects in the Tahoe Basin, the jurisdictions have utilized the FEA process. In addition, as part of meeting the goals of the Lake Tahoe TMDL the jurisdictions will be required to track and report the overall effectiveness of their respective storm water programs. Progress has been made in developing storm water management, tracking and reporting tools which will be used to assist the Agencies with understanding the individual Project and overall Program effectiveness. The purpose of this subcommittee will be to provide advice and direction on available tracking and reporting tools in addition to the management and delivery of future projects.

The work items identified for the Storm Water O&M, Management, Tracking, and Reporting Subcommittee include, but are not limited to:

- Evaluate and make recommendations on existing reporting and tracking tools.
- Revisit and bring forth recommendations on updating the FEA Processes and Reporting requirements.
- Facilitate discussions to assess and recommend Operations & Maintenance (O & M) management decisions and methodologies that result in fine sediment load reduction for all basin jurisdictions.

### **Basin-wide Storm Water EIP Funding Strategy Subcommittee**

The EIP is a cooperative effort to protect the natural and recreational resources of the Lake Tahoe Region. The EIP represents a blueprint for achieving water quality standards through the meeting of environmental goals or thresholds. The EIP was recently updated to build on the accomplishments of the previous 10 years and to refocus efforts on meeting the environmental thresholds. The update included the development of the EIP Implementation Framework, which puts into place a management system to focus on better coordination of securing funding, prioritizing projects, and reporting on accomplishments and progress. The purpose of this subcommittee will be to provide advice and direction relative to storm water EIP implementation in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The work items identified for the Basin-wide Storm Water EIP Funding Strategy Subcommittee include, but are not limited to:

- Defining/Refining EIP Storm Water Program Priorities.



- Identify Long Term Funding Sources / Funding Strategies.
- Report on public-private partnerships for EIP Storm Water efforts in the Basin.
- Coordinate reporting of new EIP Performance Measures.

### **Implementors Storm Water Regulatory Requirements (IMP) Subcommittee**

With the adoption of the TMDL in August 2011, local California jurisdictions within the Lake Tahoe Basin are required to take measures to decrease pollutant loading from urbanized areas. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) has a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Nevada Urban Storm Water Jurisdictions in order to implement the TMDL. The adopted Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Basin Permit and the Caltrans statewide regional permit will require jurisdictions to implement pollutant controls to decrease fine sediment particle inputs and to monitor storm water in selected catchments to verify that load reduction requirements are being met.

The Implementors Storm Water Regulatory Requirements Subcommittee will work towards coordinating efforts on both the California and Nevada sides of the basin to meet these requirements.

The work items identified for the Implementors Storm Water Regulatory Requirements (IMP) Subcommittee include, but are not limited to:

- Report on jurisdictional efforts to decrease pollutant loads from urbanized and non-urbanized areas.
- Report on the Implementors Data Collection / Storm Water Monitoring Efforts.

## **Closing**

This request is for TIE Basin executives to approve the recharter for the SWQIC pursuant to the discussion contained herein, for a period of three additional years.