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The General Managers Advisory Committee Meeting on a Dog Park held a meeting at the **893 Southwood Boulevard (IVGID Admin Building)** starting at **4:00 p.m.** on Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

A. Roll call of the committee members (4:00 - 4:05)

Committee Members: Simi Balter (absent), Myles Riner, Judith Miller, Michelle Lintzner (absent), Janet Pahl, Laura Roney (via Zoom), Indra Winquest, IVGID District General Manager and Shelia Leijon, Director of Parks and Recreation. Administrative Support Staff: Susan Herron. Guest: Retired biologist Richard Thall

Rules of Engagement: All committee members shall be respectful of one another and treat each other with kindness. No one member shall talk over another member. All ideas are welcome however, they may not be discussed in depth or in detail depending upon time and/or merit and that determination is solely held with the General Manager. All committee members are equal participants.

B. Presentation by retired Biologist Richard Thall (4:10 – 4:30)

Mr. Thall distributed a document entitled DRI Monitoring Sites: Third and Incline Watersheds Lake Tahoe, NV 2003-2004 (attached) and proceeded to go over the handout and its impact on the proposed dog site. Mr. Thall asked about the water treatment plant at Burnt Cedar beach. District General Manager Winquest said it is monitored and treated. Mr. Thall then asked about why do we have a wastewater treatment plant? Dr. Riner responded to treat the water before it goes out of the basin. District General Manager Winquest said that all the effluent is pumped out of the basin by mandate. Mr. Thall said that Clear Lake got polluted. The waste water is taken out of the basin area and Lake Tahoe is a very pristine lake. Lakes age so because of its size it will take thousands and thousands of years to age. It is important to take all this waste material out of the water. You can see the pump house off 28 where the wastewater is pumped over the hill. District General Manager Winquest said it goes to the wetlands. Mr. Thall said that it is the fecal matter that people are concerned about and asked what is in that waste matter. We all take in various types of foods and it is broken down into

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several new materials. The end result is that when it becomes fecal matter it is the lining from the small intestines and a lot of it is bacteria. While we have the fecal matter, we also have bacteria and when we think about that – there are two chemicals that are released; nitrates and phosphate which is much higher in dogs and thus the yellow spots where they have defecated. What is in the fecal matter that is so bad – three types of bacteria which Mr. Thall named and those cause concern. E-coli is found in the intestine and then found in the fecal matter – has various effects which can stay in the soil for several months. Because of watering, they remain for a longer period of time. Salmonella is normally associated with chicken and it is a matter that is found in fecal matter. Guardia is an organism which is associated with streams and can be in soil. Staphylococcus is a bacteria that we don't hear too much about except in a hospital; very resistant to antibiotics. Another one that he thought about was Cryptosporidium and it will remain in the environment a lot longer. Mr. Thall then asked about round worms in dogs? They will be found in the fecal matter. About 40% of the people, he recalls, are infected with round worms. There is a variety of worms that all have a cycle that they go through and they have intermediate hosts which can be a dog or a human and it replicates and goes around and around with the usual maladies. Ms. Roney said that she is a retired clinical microbiologist and she spent a lot of time around these bacterias and she isn't seeing the relevance or outbreaks. Mr. Thall said that we haven't any outbreaks and discussed how it is transmitted. Ms. Roney said there hasn't been a break out. Mr. Thall said he was asked to speak about this items. Dr. Riner said he sees both sides of this issue and his concern is that we haven't had an outbreak but it hasn't been reported. It doesn't get report, tested in the labs, but it still happens. He knows that there are people who have had Guardia and dogs as well. The issue is that if dogs go into the creeks and then people get it. Fatal for infants and people with poor immune systems and they get reported. If you have ever had it, you don't want to have it twice. It is true that we haven't had an outbreak of these things with tens of thousands of people who have gotten sick and the issue is whether the contamination is such that it is an issue. Not a horrible issue and not something that has been an emergency. We don't know how much of an issue there is. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said that she found a study that was done in 2015, samples travel from shoes and she thinks it is worth exploring because when we are building a dog park in a stream environment zone so we need to be

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aware of contamination. This study was almost 10 years and she hopes that we have made progress since then. Happen whether we have a dog park or not. Ms. Roney agreed. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said that might ways to mitigate it, and to have this information ahead of time is really valuable. Mr. Thall said all the effects we get is regular sickness. And then there is the instance where dogs get bacteria on the beds, etc. Ms. Roney said she thinks he is trying to solve something that doesn't need solving. Dr. Riner said we have some tests that were done on the water with no negative outcomes. District General Manager Winquest said our Public Works Department frequently tests. And we have had times when people call and say they have an illness. In 2018/2019, we called the Washoe County Health Department and they did their own test. Asked us a lot of questions about watering and collected the trash and because of the frequency of watering and trash pick up, they believed that we have best practices in place for public health. Being preventive, if you have proper mitigations in place and we are looking at upgrading some of storm drain runoff, etc., what else would you recommend that we do? Mr. Thall said he doesn't know. He is going to go back and look at the data and his concern is that the fish have a right to come back and we need to help them come back like they were 150 years ago. He looks at the overall aspects. Dr. Riner said about mitigation – is the covering of the dog park able to facilitate and minimize the contamination, drainage, watering frequency, but keeping the dogs out of the creek is probably as much of any issue of erosion and contamination which you can mitigate to direct the dogs away from the creeks to get wet like a splash pad. Another mitigation is picking up the waste of the dog with some sort of mechanism to clean up what the dog owners miss. Additionally, it is probably a good idea to try and keep dogs that are sick out of the dog park because sick dogs usually have a reason for being sick. Mr. Thall said he saw something about bringing a sick dog to work which transmits to the people and gets people sick. Dr. Riner said there is a big public education effort that needs to happen. Mr. Thall said that people he has seen people who are walking their dogs and they pick up their dog waste. Ms. Pahl said at our dog park she definitely notifies people that their dogs has emitted waste. Mr. Thall asked if there are signs up? Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said yes about picking up your waste. Mr. Thall said about bacteria? Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said no but that is something we can do. How we build it is very important. Dr. Riner said that we have to take into account the

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weather and we will need to manage that better so as to not have damage. Ms. Miller said that the upper field is pretty well drained. District General Manager Winquest agreed. Dr. Riner said the erosion waddles are falling apart and beat up. District General Manager Winquest said that waddles only do so much and are designed for construction. The point is to design well. Mr. Thall asked if you could change the angles of the streams. District General Manager Winquest said that USACE did that when they last did some work on the creeks. Ms. Roney said what she sees as the big problem is the people from the hotel who don't pick up after their dogs and that education to the people at the hotel would be recommended and having more places for dog waste bags. District General Manager Winquest said we would build in surveillance cameras on this project. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said that she has been told that winter is a worse time for dog waste than the summer – is that true? Mr. Thall said he would say so because of water flow. Ms. Roney said during cold weather it freezes and then it melts. Last winter it was tough because it was hard to see the dog waste. Mr. Thall said in 1965 they stopped building because of all the stuff that wound up in the lake. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon thanked Mr. Thall for coming to this meeting and sharing this information.

C. Updates from General Manager Winquest (4:30 – 5:00)

District General Manager Winquest said that there a few in the community that have similar concerns about a dog park. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon said it is important to validate that opinion and think about it. District General Manager Winquest said hire a designer to work through a good design. District General Manager Winquest then went over the steps to get this project over the finish line. The highlights are as follows:

1. Have our Parks Department put together an outline on maintenance.
2. Formulate replacement schedule for assets of the dog park.
3. Need a preliminary design to come up with an approximate budget. We put \$1 million dollars in the General Fund as a placeholder and some of those funds will need to be used for design.
4. Utilize the Incline Tahoe Foundation to fundraise.

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5. Once the committee is ready to hand over a design at upper Village Green, then we would move to the Board to authorize a detailed design.
6. Then we would hire a design consultant and have this committee involved if you wanted to. Go through the design process and check-ins with the Board.

Dr. Riner said that there are number of items that have to be decided upon, there is research that we need to do. He has talked to 5 people who design water features and in general there are 2 types of water pads which Dr. Riner outlined for the committee. \$30,000 to \$80,000 were the cost estimates depending on a host of variables. All were in agreement on fresh water. We are going to have to divide up the areas of research. District General Manager Winquest said if we can find someone who has designed a dog park and get them on a Zoom call and get their ideas. Can Staff investigate that? District General Manager Winquest said you have worked up a preliminary design and that you want a water feature. Ms. Miller asked if we could migrate into the disc golf area? District General Manager Winquest said that the SEZ boundaries will dictate how far you can go. Dr. Riner said that Staff felt it is was very important to have two access roads. He was out there today and there is a broken old berm that needs to rebuilt and the path needs to be rerouted and then have some trees with an expansion of 10' to 20' and the reason is no further is because of the SEZ. The committee brought Ms. Pahl and Ms. Miller up to date on what was proposed at last meeting.

D. Discussion and refinement of preliminary conceptual design (5:00 – 5:15)

District General Manager Winquest said when you bring in a design consultant they will be able to tell you if your choices are prudent and suggested that we need to research the splash pad with TRPA. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon to send the draft site plan to Public Works to see if they can produce a rough design. The committee then discussed several items that they would like to have worked on. District General Manager Winquest said regarding the survey, he thinks that there has to be a cost attributed to it. Dr. Riner said we need to remember that we

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conceivably we could have someone within the community who wants to donate. The committee then discussed what they need to do. Director of Parks and Recreation Leijon is going to contact South Lake Tahoe to see who their designer/construction firm was.

E. Set next meeting date/time (5:15 – 5:25)

Thursday, June 15 at 4 p.m.

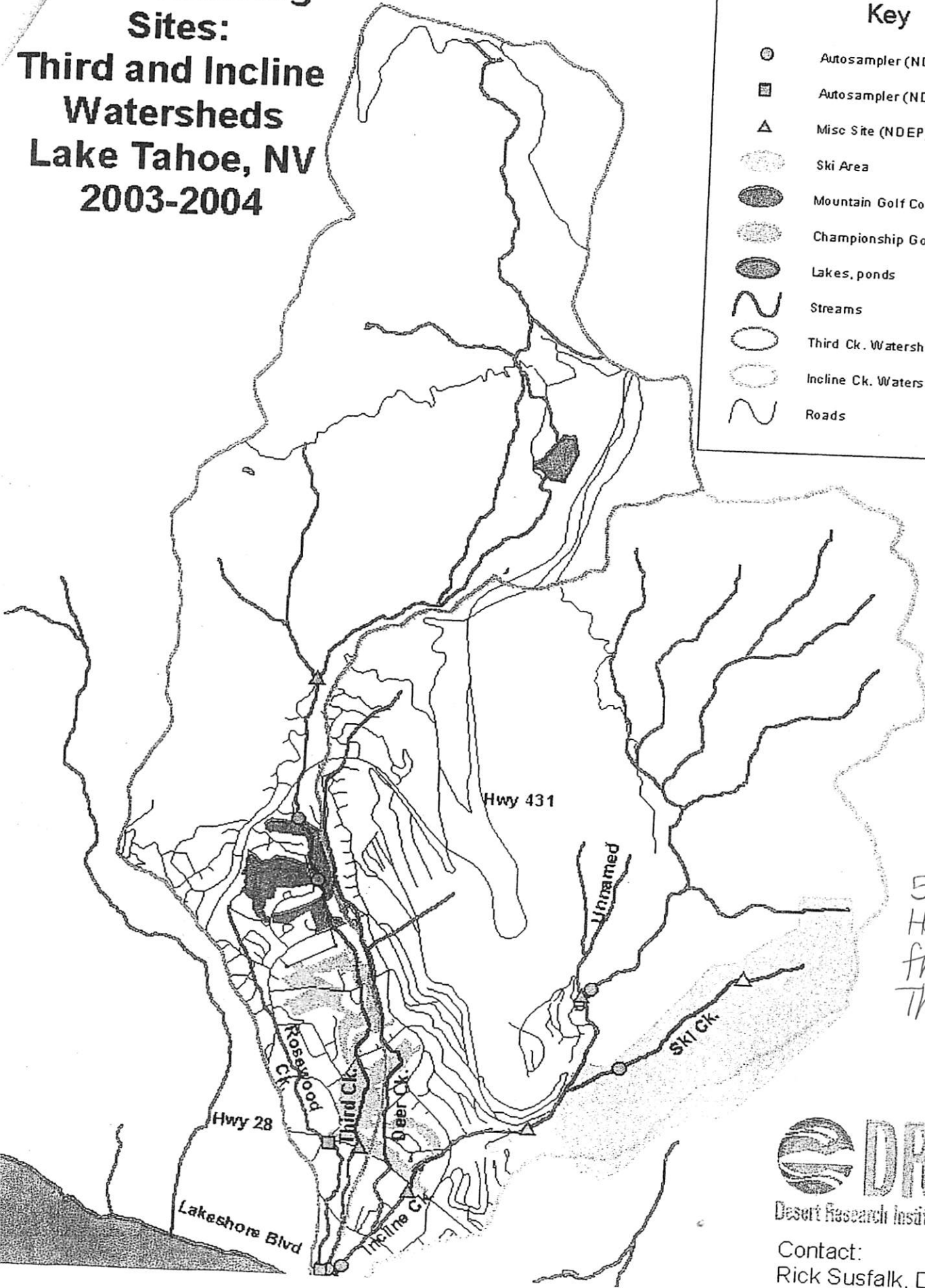
F. Adjournment (5:30)

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

DRI Monitoring Sites: Third and Incline Watersheds Lake Tahoe, NV 2003-2004

Key

- ⊙ Autosampler (NDEP)
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- △ Misc Site (NDEP)
- ⊙ (stippled) Ski Area
- ⊙ (solid) Mountain Golf Course
- ⊙ (dotted) Championship Golf Course
- ⊙ (horizontal lines) Lakes, ponds
- (thin) Streams
- (dashed) Third Ck. Watershed Boundary
- (dotted) Incline Ck. Watershed Boundary
- (solid) Roads



5/31/2023
Handout
from Mr.
Thall



Contact:
Rick Susfalk, DRI