

# **STAFF REPORT**

TO:	Board of Directors	
THRU:	Mark Foree, General Manager	
FROM:	John Enloe, Director of Natural Resources	
	Janet Phillips, Chairman, Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee	
	Sylvia Harrison, Legal Counsel	
DATE:	September 21, 2016	
SUBJECT:	Discussion and action on adoption of Resolution No. 244: A resolution to approve funding for the projects recommended by the Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee and an authorization for the Community Foundation to fund such projects from Fund proceeds	

#### **Recommendation**

The TRF Advisors recommend that the TMWA Board authorize by resolution the funding of the following projects to be funded out of the Truckee River Fund (TRF). This recommendation stems from a Fund advisors' meeting held on August 19, 2016 where multiple grant proposals from the summer request for proposal process were reviewed and discussed. Corresponding to the TRF Grant Priorities (see attachment), six projects are recommended for funding totaling \$392,605 out of eight project funding requests for \$476,666. Each of the project details are summarized below. In addition, staff has provided a project update report summarizing the status of ongoing projects and those that have been recently completed.

### PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING

Project #176: 2017 Spring Invasive Weed Pull & Fall Truckee River Cleanup

Organization: Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB)

Amount Requested: \$ 60,625 Amount Recommended: \$ 60,625

Organizational Match: \$15,000 (Cash) \$104,300 (In-Kind)

#### **Project Description:**

During KTMB's Spring Great Community Cleanup volunteers remove invasive weeds at several hot spots along the Truckee River and its tributaries, as identified by weed experts at Nevada

Land Trust and members of the TMWCG. Local park staff report that weed removal is often the most challenging aspect of their job. With current staff reductions, the incorporation of weed removal prior to weed seeding in the spring is vital and aligns perfectly with the timing of KTMB's Great Community Cleanup.

River and tributary sites are identified by park staff and project partners as areas in need of litter pickup and trash removal, tree wrapping, weed pulling, mulch spreading (to prevent soil erosion), graffiti removal and storm drain stenciling.

## TMWA Benefit:

This program satisfies the TRF Grant Priorities V, VI, VII, and VIII – *Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses, Stewardship and Environmental Awareness, Meet Multiple Objectives, and Leverage Stakeholder Assets and Participation.* KTMB educates and informs residents and visitors about the importance of maintaining a healthy river; how noxious weeds negatively affect native plant communities, habitats, and watershed; how litter and pollution are harmful to human health, wildlife, the local environment and economy; and collaborate to create a cleaner community while saving precious taxpayer dollars that would otherwise be spent on cleanup.

Project #177: Donner Creek Bank Stabilization Downstream of Railroad Culvert Final Design

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**Organization:** Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC)

Amount Requested: \$ 90,000 Amount Recommended: \$ 90,000

Organizational Match: \$260,000 (Cash) \$600 (In-Kind)

#### **Project Description:**

Just downstream of an existing railroad culvert, the right bank of Donner Creek and hillslope above show severe erosion. This is likely caused by the railroad culvert directing high velocity flows at the soft soils of the bank. The project will create final designs to re-profile the bank and stabilize the area with a combination of large wood, rock, erosion control fabric, revegetation with native, drought tolerant grasses and sedges and riparian plantings. This will stabilize a severely eroding stream bank, thus largely eliminating one of the largest sources of fine sediment to the downstream-most portion of Donner Creek. Additionally, it will enhance riparian habitat and, depending on design, improve in-stream habitat.

#### Final Design

Based on the findings of the Donner Basin Assessment and the associated project concept, the final project design will include access, stockpile, and staging locations; grading quantity estimates; revegetation plan; erosion prevention plan; and materials, equipment, and cost estimates. Restoration design will include estimates of sediment reduction and wetland gains.

## **TMWA Benefit:**

This program satisfies the TRF Grant Priorities II, III, and VII – *Watershed Improvements, Local Stormwater Improvements, and Meet Multiple Objectives.* The purpose is to reduce erosion and mitigate stormwater runoff in an urbanized reach of Donner Creek, thus reducing sedimentation and improving water quality in the Truckee River, a 303(d) listed watershed, with an approved TMDL for sedimentation.

Project #178: Donner Creek Concept DesignsOrganization: Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC)Amount Requested: \$ 40,000Organizational Match: \$ 640,000 (Cash)\$ 9,000 (In-Kind)

### **Project Description:**

The goal of the Donner Creek Concept Designs project is to complete 60% designs for three restoration projects that will improve water quality and habitat along Donner Creek, and decrease sedimentation reaching the Truckee River. TMDL Monitoring completed by the Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) concludes that this reach of Donner Creek is in the top three sedimentation dischargers within the Town of Truckee to the Truckee River. The three projects support implementation of the Middle Truckee River TMDL through environmental restoration of river banks and wetlands, and improved instream habitat.

### **TMWA Benefit:**

This program satisfies the TRF Grant Priorities II, III, VI, VI and VIII – *Watershed Improvements, Local Stormwater Improvements, Stewardship and Environmental Awareness, Multiple Objectives, and Leverage Stakeholder Assets, and Participation.* The purpose is to reduce erosion, mitigate stormwater runoff in multiple urbanized reaches of Donner Creek, and engage a valuable stakeholder in order to reduce sedimentation and improve water quality in the Truckee River, a 303(d) listed watershed with an approved TMDL (Lahontan Water Board, 2008).

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Project #179: Watershed Education Initiative (WEI)

Organization: Sierra Nevada Journeys (SNJ)

Amount Requested: \$ 28,446	Amount Recommended: \$ 28,446
<b>Organizational Match</b> : \$ 6,250 (Cash)	\$ 9,000 (In-Kind)

### **Project Description:**

Through this funding, SNJ will serve 675 students in 25 classrooms throughout northern Nevada. Conducted over a four-week period, WEI includes three in-class lessons, one field-study experience, pre- and post-assessments, classroom extension lessons for teachers, family and community engagement, and citizen science. Curriculum developed and delivered by SNJ's team of credentialed teachers aligns to state and national standards and the North American Association for Environmental Education's Guidelines for Excellence.

## TMWA Benefit:

This program satisfies the TRF Grant Priority VI – *Stewardship and Environmental Awareness*. WEI is an education program that addresses water, water quality and watershed protection for K-8th grade students, directly aligning with grant priority VI. Students gain first-hand experience with the Truckee River, explore human impacts on their water source, and obtain skills and knowledge to help protect the watershed. WEI advances this priority effectively because of whom it serves and how. Elementary childhood is a critical time during which a person's role as an environmental steward is developed. Studies show that adults with environmental awareness had at least one transcendent experience in nature when they were children, fostering their interest in environmental protection. The need to increase access to these experiences is strong.

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Project #180: One Truckee River Phase I Implementation: AmeriCorps Support, Watershed Survey & Watershed Education

Organization: Nevada Land Trust

Amount Requested: \$ 98,534	Amount Recommended: \$ 98,534
Organizational Match: \$ 14,604 (Cash)	\$ 12,000 (In-Kind)

### **Project Description:**

This funding will support KTMB and NLT in their continued leadership of the One Truckee River initiative through the adoption of Phase I Action Plans, and provide two AmeriCorps volunteers to (1) complete a comprehensive GIS inventory of the Truckee River corridor and (2) complete a Community Watershed Survey; provide management support for two additional AmeriCorps volunteers, who will (3) complete and implement Watershed Warriors curricula for K-12, and (4) a Community Watershed Education Plan.

## **TMWA Benefit:**

This program satisfies the TRF Grant Priorities I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, and VIII – Aquatic Invasive Species, Watershed Improvements, Local Stormwater Improvements, Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation Projects, Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses, Stewardship and Environmental Awareness, Meet Multiple Objectives, and Leverage Stakeholder Assets and Participation. The One Truckee River's approach in addressing all TRF grant priorities and working in collaboration with local agencies will ensure not just TMWA, but the community, benefit from prevention/control of aquatic species, reduced erosion, mitigation of stormwater run-off, improved water quality, re-forestation and re-vegetation, rehabilitation of tributaries, and education programs such as the Watershed Warriors Curricula.

Project #181: Webber Lake Little Truckee River Headwaters Management

Organization: Truckee Donner Land Trust

Amount Requested: \$ 75,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$ 75,000

Organizational Match: \$18,750 (Cash)

### **Project Description:**

The Webber Lake property, which constitutes the headwaters of the Little Truckee River, consists of approximately 3,200 acres of lake, meadow, and conifer forest habitat. In December, 2012, the Land Trust was successful in acquiring the property. The property has astounding resource values including Webber Lake, a 220-acre natural lake that is the headwater lake of the Little Truckee River: the riparian system – a largely intact ecosystem that provides clean source water to the Little Truckee River, Lacey Meadow, a 1,500-acre meadow system, and Upper Lacey Meadow, a 400-acre meadow system. The Little Truckee River, which flows east off of the Sierra into Nevada, is a significant contributor of water for the cities of Reno and Sparks.

### **TMWA Benefit:**

This program satisfies the TRF Grant Priorities II and VII – *Watershed Improvements and Meet Multiple Objectives*. This timber management will launch a multi-year program, addressing areas of disease and overstock and aid in prevention of catastrophic wildfires which will aid in source water protection and reducing the amount of sediment entering waterways due to erosion which affects water quality.

## TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY (TMWA)

## **RESOLUTION NO. 244**

## A RESOLUTION APPROVING PROJECTS FOR FUNDING UNDER THE TRUCKEE RIVER FUND

- WHEREAS, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority and the Community Foundation of Western Nevada (the "Community Foundation"), a Nevada non-profit corporation, have entered into an agreement creating The Truckee River Fund (the "Fund") to foster projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River, or its watershed;
- **WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Fund Agreement, an Advisory Committee has solicited proposals from prospective beneficiaries of the Fund;
- WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee has recommended projects for funding, as listed on Exhibit A, attached hereto;
- WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee has the responsibility of securing preliminary approval for projects from the TMWA Board, which may disapprove projects for any reason, or may approve projects by resolution, subject to Community Foundation Board approval;
- **WHEREAS**, the Community Foundation has advised the Advisory Committee that the projects' applicants are eligible beneficiaries of the Fund;
- **WHEREAS**, the Board has reviewed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and has found that the projects as listed on Exhibit A are consistent with the purposes of the Fund and merits funding;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority:

The projects set forth on **Exhibit A** are approved for funding under the Truckee River Fund in the amount set forth in such Exhibit, subject to final authorization by the Community Foundation Board, and subject to the provisions of the Fund Agreement, including without limitation the requirements set forth in Article VC.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority,

Upon motion of \_\_\_\_\_\_, seconded by \_\_\_\_\_\_, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted on September 21, 2016 by the following vote of the Board:

Approved September 21, 2016

Geno Martini, Chairman

STATE OF NEVADA, ) : ss. COUNTY OF WASHOE. )

On this 21<sup>st</sup> of September, 2016, Geno Martini, Chairman of the Board of Truckee Meadows Water Authority, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, and acknowledged that he executed the above instrument freely and voluntarily and for the purposes therein mentioned.

Notary Public

## EXHIBIT A

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## **Truckee River Fund Project Updates**

Project #128: Big Chief Corridor Implementation

**Organization:** Truckee River Watershed Council

Funding Date: August 2013 Grant Amount: \$150,000

**Project Update:** Construction of the three access trails has been delayed until 2016 due to not receiving bids during the 2015 bid solicitation period. They are implementing the plan in 2016. Construction documents are completed; with minor revisions anticipated due to the change in schedule; permitting is 100% completed. The project went to bid in May 2016, a contractor was selected, and construction is scheduled to be completed by October 2016.

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Project #129: Weed Treatments and Restoration on Truckee River and Tributaries

Organization: Nevada Land Trust

Funding Date: August 2013Grant Amount: \$65,050

**Project Completed:** Met expectations and stated goals. NLT successfully completed the treatment of 30 noxious weed sites (98% success rate) within City of Reno, Washoe County and Truckee River Flood Project parks and open space parcels. They mapped and monitored over 1000 acres. In 2015, only 15 sites needed to be treated and over 60 acres were successfully restored. However, NLT was unable to book the contractor providing goats to graze in spring 2016 and restoration was confined in 2015 due to the drought.

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Project #134 & #144: Reducing Non-Point Source Pollution to the Highland Canal

Organization: City of Reno

Funding Date: August 2013/2014 Grant Amount: \$729,000

**Project Update:** Project design drawings have been completed and approved by TMWA and project permits for encroachment of Nevada Department of Transportation and UPRR right-of-way have been approved. TMWA, the City of Reno, and Washoe County have finalized and signed an Interlocal Agreement (ILA) delineating the project responsibilities for each agency. The City of Reno plans to bid the project within the next few weeks. This project will greatly reduce poor quality stormwater from entering the Highland Canal directly upstream of the Chalk Bluff WTP.

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Project #142: Truckee Wetlands Restoration Project – Phase 3, 4 & 5 - Design

Organization: Truckee River Watershed Council

Funding Date: March 2014 Grant Amount: \$50,000

**Project Update:** Data collection is 20% complete. Installed groundwater and surface flow monitoring equipment & obtained topography for base maps; coordinated 30 % design preparation. The project is located in the Town of Truckee beginning near the Cottonwood Restaurant/Hilltop area terminating at the Truckee River.

Project #147: Optimizing Restoration Investments in the Truckee Watershed

**Organization:** The Nature Conservancy

Funding Date: August 2014 Grant Amount: \$50,000

**Project Update:** TNC has produced restoration activity portfolio maps demonstrating the most effective restoration areas for generating the most return on investment in terms of water quality and yield benefits. The final report will be published shortly.

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Project #154: Invasive Weed Pull and River Cleanup

Organization: Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB)

Funding Date: August 2014 Grant Amount: \$46,000

**Project Completed:** All goals and expectations were met. The project included two cleanup days (Spring and Fall 2015); more than 1000 volunteers (targeted a minimum of 700 volunteers); they did not stencil as many storm drains as planned, due to trouble in recruiting volunteers and volunteers not showing up.

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Project #156: Truckee River Corridor Management PlanOrganization: Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB) & Nevada Land TrustFunding Date: February 2015Grant Amount: \$90,000

**Project Update:** This project has been completed and met all goals it set out to accomplish: Identify core stakeholder group (The Core Group has met six times, hosted a River forum and held multiple issue meetings); and drafted and completed the One Truckee River Management Plan, the One Truckee River Funding and Administrative Issues Tech Memo, and the One Truckee River Social Issues Tech Memo.

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Project #157: Truckee River Cleanup Crew

Organization: City of Reno

Funding Date: February 2015

**Grant Amount:** \$104,235

**Project Completed:** The Truckee River Cleanup Crew made good success in the first six months of the program; the number of homeless camps and the amounts of debris collected declined. Removed over 378 bags of trash, multiple shopping carts, needles, tires and miscellaneous debris. Intermittent camps continue and with the lack of an overflow shelter for the homeless, agencies have not been able to remove campers along the river. A new overflow shelter opened in late June, so enforcement can begin again. However, not all goals and expectations were met nor all activities were completed; hiring a crew leader took 5 months, but now is a permanent city position; problems still exist as crews are not allowed to clear camps. After a river cleanup, the public expect the river to stay clean, but more public education and knowledge is needed to stay at the forefront in the media. Working in conjunction with the One Truckee River, they are trying to achieve awareness. The City of Reno did not expend all funds and have returned it to the TRF.

Project #162: Rosewood and Third Creeks Invasive Weed Removal

Organization: Nevada Tahoe Conservation District (NTCD)

Funding Date: August 2015Grant Amount: \$7,350

**Project Update:** NTCD removed weeds over the entire project area, but new teasel growth has occurred; Incline Village Parks & Recreation staff attended the Lake Tahoe Basin Weed Coordinating Group invasive weed training on June 14, 2016; invasive weeds flyers were distributed to all Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) residents; NTCD trained staff and collected GPS data locations of all known invasive weeds.

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Project #163: Truckee River Watershed AIS Prevention and Control

**Organization:** Tahoe Resource Conservation District (Tahoe RCD)

Funding Date: November 2015Grant Amount: \$112,000

**Project Update:** Tahoe RCD is working with the Town of Truckee to establish long-term watercraft inspection station infrastructure. Working in partnership with the Town of Truckee and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, they were awarded Department of Boating and Waterways – Quagga Mussel Fee Grant program to continue implementation and construction of a semi-permanent Truckee-Tahoe Watercraft Inspection Station. They are in the final phase of completing the Master Agreement with UC Davis to conduct effectiveness monitoring for the aquatic invasive plant removal planned in this project and are planning to work with the California Conservation Corps to install and remove plant barriers.

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Project #164: Cemetery Drain Water Quality, Erosion Control and Drainage Project

Organization: City of Reno

Funding Date: August 2015 Grant Amount: \$77,500

**Project Update:** The project will consist of construction of bank stabilization, grade control and sediment retention features to reduce sediment and debris discharge; reducing sediment and debris discharged into the Truckee River – thereby improving water quality. The project bid was awarded to Reno Tahoe Construction (RTC) Inc.

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Project #165: Truckee River Cleanup/Invasive Weed Pull 2016

Organization: Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB)

Funding Date: August 2015Grant Amount: \$48,325

**Project Update:** KTMB hosted four community talks in April and May. Recruited 343 volunteers (targeted a minimum of 150 volunteers) participated in the Great Community Cleanup on April 30<sup>th</sup>; 293 yards of weeds were removed and 57 tons of trash, plus 572 tires were removed. Recruited 134 youth (targeted a minimum of 100 youth) for weed pull sites at the Great Community Cleanup. Post Great Community Cleanup survey was sent to all volunteers; 41 responded to the survey. 81% felt more aware of the problems invasive weeds cause. 73% learned how to identify invasive weeds and 95% agree invasive weeds are a big problem in Washoe County. Additional weed pull sites were identified for future cleanups and completed mapping of invasive weed zones.

**Project #166:** Virginia Lake Water Quality Improvements

**Organization:** City of Reno

Funding Date: August 2015Grant Amount: \$100,000

**Project Completed:** Since the completion of construction, water quality sampling and monitoring conducted have shown that the improvement in water quality has met and exceeded original expectations. Future technical data and reports developed from the City's ongoing water quality sampling and monitoring program for Virginia Lake will also be available through the City's web site.

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Project #167: Watershed Education Initiative (WEI)

Organization: Sierra Nevada Journeys (SNJ)

Funding Date: February 2016Grant Amount: \$33,041

**Project Completed:** All expectations were met. The program continues to grow, and SNJ is working to include undergrad and graduate students as volunteers and paid internships. Some goals were met; fewer parents were reached (715 of 783) and SNJ is working on improving their involvement and learning what they do with the information.

- 100% of students gain first-hand experience with the local watershed through a fieldstudy on the Truckee River or one of its tributaries.
- 80% of students can define what happens to rain water, and associated non-point source pollutants after they enter a storm drain.
- 70% of students can use knowledge of storm drains to describe how individuals and communities can protect watersheds.
- 80% of students can correctly identify, label, and diagram the Truckee River Watershed.
- 95% of students participating in "Hands in the River" curriculum complete a Truckee River issue case study on invasive species in the watershed.

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Project #168: Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring and Treatment

Organization: Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Funding Date: February 2016Grant Amount: \$33,041

**Project Update:** Friends of Nevada Wilderness completed eight volunteer weed pulling events as well as four weed monitoring projects in 2016. A total of 70 volunteers joined and pulled over 20,000 thistles over a 50 acre area. They successfully monitored three locations as possible weed sites and led to the discovery of two new Musk Thistle locations.

Project #170: Trout Creek Pocket Park

Organization: Mountain Area Preservation Foundation

Funding Date: February 2016

Grant Amount: \$21,002

**Project Update:** Completed Phase 1, best management practices for watershed improvements have been installed at the project site. The final two phases will be completed by Fall 2016; constructed and installed Stormwater drainages and removal of noxious weeds, planting of native and drought tolerant plan species.

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Project #173: Take Care – Truckee River

Organization: The Tahoe Fund on behalf of the Lake Tahoe Outreach Committee

Funding Date: February 2016Grant Amount: \$9,354

**Project Update:** Meetings were held with Truckee River stakeholders and developed key messages for the new Take Care signs. A contract has been signed with the illustrator and artwork has been initiated and is in the first revision stage. The committee has been working with member organizations to coordinate a Truckee River Cleanup day. With their one month extension, they will finalize the artwork, install and print signs and finalize volunteer cleanup day on the Truckee River.