

# MEETING MINUTES (TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY)

## TRUCKEE RIVER FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF DECEMBER 1, 2017

The following meeting minutes is a summary of the certified transcript for the Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee meeting held at 8:30 a.m., Friday, December 1, 2017.

**Those Present:** Committee Members: Janet Phillips, Chairman\*\*; Susan Lynn, Vice Chairman\*\*; Michael Cameron\*; Bill Bradley\*; Mike Brisbin; Candice Elder\*; Don Mahin; and Brian Bonnenfant; Also: Lauren Renda, Community Foundation of Western Nevada; John Enloe and Sonia Folsom, both with TMWA; and Sylvia Harrison, Esq., McDonald Carano Wilson, LLP; Members of the Public: Lisa Wallace, Truckee River Watershed Council; Mikey Hazelwood, The Nature Conservancy; Christi Cakiroglu, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful; Alicia Reban, Nevada Land Trust; Birgit Henson, NDEP; and Kara Steeland, TMWA.

\* Committee member arrived after roll call

\*\* Committee member left meeting before adjournment

**Agenda Item #1: Roll Call:** Roll call was taken. A quorum was noted.

**Agenda Item #2: Public comment:** There was no public comment.

**Agenda Item #3: Approval of the agenda (for possible action):** The agenda was unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item #4: Approve the August summary meeting minutes (for possible action):** The Meeting Minutes (Transcript Summary) for August 18, 2017 was unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item #5: Fund balance report:** Lauren reported that we have \$614,726.74 available for the next cycle.

**Agenda Item #6: Review 2018 meeting calendar (for possible action):** Janet stated that the Executive Committee met and put together the calendar, following the same series we've had in past years. She noted that it's important to have a quorum at the two proposal review meetings, February 23<sup>rd</sup> and August 17<sup>th</sup>. No action was taken.

**Agenda Item #7: Hear report and discussion on Truckee River Watershed Council projects, completed and in-progress (Lisa Wallace); update Farad burn site mud slide from The Nature Conservancy (Mickey Hazelwood) (for possible action):**

Lisa Wallace gave a slide presentation, which included describing her organization (TRWC), summarizing TRF funding and projects over the last decade, and talking about the Tributaries Assessment. She showed a map of their area of focus and the degradation in various areas and how they prioritized those, areas that the TRF has helped them in, and how they came up with 50 large-scale restoration projects. She talked about how they have had a meaningful relationship and 16 grants from the TRF since 2010, talked about match and leveraging that funding, and that they have made a significant 10% TMDL and sediment load reductions since then. She talked about the tributaries, level of impairment of roads in those areas, and where they'll be using our funds in 2018. She thanked the group for their support since 2010. There were questions and comments by the group.

Mickey Hazelwood gave a slide presentation, which included an update of a study they're doing on watershed health and risk assessment, and the concern that we may be at risk of unnaturally large and intense wildfires in this watershed, together with the impacts that come with those, and he showed slides and a video clip post-fire in other areas of the West in watersheds much like ours. He indicated that they're looking at the cost of forest-thinning to greatly reduce the risk of these type of fires. He talked about the Rio Grande Water Fund, a watershed investment program and the various groups that participate in it. He described the Landscape Conservation Forecasting (LCF) tool developed by The Nature Conservancy, state transition models, and community engagement, their group of community advisors, science review committee, and subject matter experts that they're working with, and how they're developing large-scale land management plans, described how for the first time they're combining their LCF modeling process with hydrologic and sediment transport modeling. He talked about the next steps if the study demonstrates a compelling case for investment in the watershed. He added that in January they should have some pretty good results coming out of the modeling process to review, and by April they should be finished with the LCF and hydrologic part of the modeling part of the study, and sometime late summer they'll wrap this up. This is one of very few projects like this where we're trying to get in front of an issue. There were questions and comments from the group.

No action was taken.

**Agenda Item #8: Hear report and discussion on One Truckee River (Christi Cakiroglu) (for possible action):** Christi Cakiroglu, Alicia Reban, and Birgit Henson gave the report and slide show. Christi began by describing how she and Alicia are the original pushers of this, and that Birgit has important information to share. She gave some history of this initiative and how it's a partnership of organizations that want to do some good things for the river in a much more constructive way than in the past. She talked about how with the seed money from the TRF they were able to create a planning effort, identified nine key issues, including social issues affecting water quality, over 100 actions items identified by 130

stakeholders, came up with four primary goals. The plan was unanimously adopted by Washoe County, City of Reno and City of Sparks in 2016.

Alicia talked about how they completed the baseline amenities mapping, that they worked with NDEP to complete the community knowledge survey, they have teacher resource and photo guides with the help of AmeriCorps, a couple new life jacket stations. She talked about the mile markers every tenth of a mile to aid with public safety and rescue efforts. They participated in AB 379, which gives communities the option of creating a special park district, that having a single linear park may solve a lot of issues identified by the One Truckee River process. She mentioned that there's lots of fund-raising to do, talked about the signage and wayfinding plan grant from TRF that will be underway shortly. They've received information on several models that other communities have used successfully. They're working to bring on the One Truckee River coordinator. She described other things being looked at, such as housing.

Janet Phillips needed to leave the meeting, and Susan Lynn began presiding over the meeting.

Birgit talked about what NDEP and some other partners are doing. She brought in a colleague at NDEP and they were able to get a watershed planning component put in as the main strategy of the One Truckee River plan. Becoming a partner and working through that process gave them an avenue for other things going on with the state to participate actively. She talked about the money they've leveraged toward this effort, and other money requests. They have a lot of information they're sorting through, and moving forward with getting projects in the plan approved by the EPA, which opens up more federal funding for more projects. The traction gained through this project was critical for them to move forward with bigger, much more important planning processes.

There were questions, comments and discussion. No action was taken.

**Agenda Item #9: Hear reports on projects completed in the last year: #135 Nevada Department of Wildlife New Zealand mud snail and aquatic invasive species outreach for the Truckee River (Bill Bradley); #137 Nevada Land Trust Alum Creek Water Quality Improvement (Bill Bradley); #141 Tahoe Resource Conservation District Truckee River Eurasian Watermilfoil Survey & Removal (Mike B.); #160 Truckee River Watershed Council Johnson Canyon Westside Restoration (Candice); #162 Nevada Conservation District Rosewood & Third Creeks Invasive Weed Removal (Jerry/Janet/Lauren?); #169 City of Reno Truckee River Cleanup Crew Year2 (Susan); #173 Tahoe Fund Take Care - Truckee River (Susan); #176 Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful 2017 Spring Invasive Weed Pull & Fall Cleanup (Susan); #178 Truckee River Watershed Council Donner Creek Concept Design (Don); #181 Truckee Donner Land Trust Webber Lake Little Truckee Headwaters Management (Michael); #184 Sierra Nevada Journeys Watershed Education Initiative (Janet):**

Regarding #135 Nevada Department of Wildlife New Zealand mud snail and aquatic invasive species outreach for the Truckee River (Bill Bradley), Bill reported that this was placement of signs along the river back in 2014 and 2015, and unfortunately there was no river at that time. All but \$8,000 of the original grant was given back to the organization. Each of the communities decided to do it themselves. He got the impression that the effort tailed off because of lack of people using the river. He'll follow up on whether or not that project needs to be revisited, with the river being much more vibrant now. The money would be available to regrant if they came back in with another proposal.

Regarding #137 Nevada Land Trust Alum Creek Water Quality Improvement (Bill Bradley), Bill reported that one branch of Alum Creek was discovered to be highly impacted by the development of Caughlin Ranch and overuse of fertilizer; they have now adopted nonphosphorus fertilizer. The other branch was attributable to a land management and stormwater problem, and recommendations were made which have now been carried out.

Regarding #141 Tahoe Resource Conservation District Truckee River Eurasian Watermilfoil Survey & Removal (Mike B.), Mike reported that they had originally asked for \$110,000, that we had asked what they could cut out, and it was brought back down to \$59,000. He stated that in the future it would be helpful to get a follow-up proposal so we know exactly what they're going to do. He described that the project was a three-mile stretch of the river, that their drone videos had too much surface reflection on the water to be useful, that the 40 volunteers weren't able to hand-pull milfoil in over 1,000 of the 1,800 total linear feet, that the more effective part was scuba divers with dredges near the dam and then just downstream of that the half an acre that they put bottom barriers on. It was effective at wiping out most of the milfoil. Another part was public outreach. They completed the activities specified in the proposal, and the grantee deemed their project a success, and it was successful. He indicated that he'd like to see them come back with another proposal to assess the entire Truckee River mapping, to assess how big is the problem.

Regarding #160 Truckee River Watershed Council Johnson Canyon Westside Restoration (Candice), Candice described the project and the goals, passed around the plan set that she brought. She reported that the funding was used for the activities specified, that not all activities specified were completed due to our funding it at \$25,000 of the \$92,000 requested, that the grantee deemed their project a success, and that they met expectations and their stated goals.

Regarding #162 Nevada Conservation District Rosewood & Third Creeks Invasive Weed Removal (Jerry/Janet/Lauren?), Susan stated that Janet's report indicates that not all weeds were eradicated; but they met most, but not all, of their expectations; and they completed the activities specified.

Regarding #169 City of Reno Truckee River Cleanup Crew Year2 (Susan), Susan reported that they completed year number two, that they will probably not be coming back for further funding, that they lost a lot of their volunteer crew, so it went to their paid staff to continue

activities. They achieved what they intended. She doesn't know what level they feel satisfied but will have a further report on Monday, so it isn't signed off on yet.

Regarding #173 Tahoe Fund Take Care - Truckee River (Susan), Susan reported that it is still pending, but most of it is done, and she'll have a report Monday afternoon.

Regarding #176 Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful 2017 Spring Invasive Weed Pull & Fall Cleanup (Susan), Susan reported that it has been completed, they by far and away exceeded their expectations and goals in all elements, they spent their money as planned and will probably be back for next year.

Regarding #178 Truckee River Watershed Council Donner Creek Concept Design (Don), Don reported that they completed their 60% design for the projects along Donner Creek between Donner Lake and Truckee. They feel they're successful because CalTrans is facilitating future funding for the final design and project implementation and that that funding is in process

Regarding #181 Truckee Donner Land Trust Webber Lake Little Truckee Headwaters Management (Michael), Michael reported that they were proposing to thin 34 to 40 acres with a risk of a crown fire, which was successful. They focused in on the highest area of risk and wound up thinning a slightly different area around the lake than they originally intended. Michael and Lauren will follow up on a question they have regarding the match amount. Sylvia suggested adding an agenda for a future meeting to address how to make sure those matches are coming in.

Regarding #184 Sierra Nevada Journeys Watershed Education Initiative (Janet), Susan stated that Janet's report indicates that they completed and exceeded their expectations in all three goals, success and meeting the activities specified.

**Agenda Item #10: Review need for quarterly reports on small grants (for possible action):** Lauren described some situations for how this agenda item came to be. There was discussion by the group, with input from Sylvia, and it was decided that no changes are necessary to the way the reports are currently handled. No action was taken.

**Agenda Item #11: Discuss possible revisions to Request for Proposals ("RFP"), including but not limited to: Identifying any special topics that should be considered for next RFP; including zoning, development, and land use plans that might affect certain proposals (for possible action):** Susan stated she needed to leave the meeting but noted three items that she had written down for possible discussion: one, should we require a follow-up to proposals after the final report on monitoring the success of the project; two, how much money do we want to spend on milfoil; and, three, how to deal with matches that are met or not met. Bill Bradley presided over the rest of the meeting.

Regarding zoning, development, and land use plans that might affect certain proposals, the group had a discussion. A motion was unanimously approved to add wording in the RFP regarding if there's any known or foreseeable changes or updates with regards to zoning, land use, or land development.

Regarding the other topics mentioned, they will be put on as future agenda items.

**Agenda Item #12: Committee and staff comments:** Mike commented that this is the first meeting ever where all the reports that were due were reported. Sylvia added that she really appreciated hearing all of the reports, that going back to the accountability standard it's nice to have all the reports prepared and presented.

**Agenda Item #13: Next meeting: January 19, 2018 (for possible action):** It was noted that the next meeting is Friday, February 23, 2018. No action was taken.

**Agenda Item #14: Public comment (limited to no more than three minutes per speaker):** There were no public comments.

**Agenda Item #15: Adjournment (for possible action):** The meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m. No action was taken.