

# MEETING MINUTES (TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY)

## TRUCKEE RIVER FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 21, 2021

(Meeting via Zoom and teleconference)

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, May 21, 2021, via Zoom and teleconference.

**Those Present:** Committee Members: Janet Phillips, Chair; Brian Bonnenfant, Vice Chair; Don Mahin; Mike Brisbin; Michael Cameron; Candice Elder; Terri Svetich; and Jim Smitherman. Also: Lauren Renda, Community Foundation of Western Nevada; Sonia Folsom with TMWA; Sarah Ferguson, Esq. with McDonald Carano; Members of the Public: Iris Jehle-Peppard with One Truckee River.

\* 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 at this time.

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

**Agenda Item #4: Approve the February summary meeting minutes (for possible action):** The Meeting Minutes (Transcript Summary) for February 19, 2021 was unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item #5: Review completed projects:**

- a. **#210 Truckee River Watershed Council:** Truckee River Water Quality Monitoring Program, \$25,000 (Mike): Mike Brisbin reported that the project was satisfactorily completed as planned, all the funds were used as planned. He described that the project included 23 sites with chemical and physical analysis four times a year, and five sites for biological monitoring. There were over a hundred volunteers, two Snapshot Days, two team leader training days. They coordinated with the Truckee River Basin water group, and they compiled the

annual water quality monitoring report. A letter will be sent thanking them for completing their project and stating that we'd like to see their results posted on the Truckee River Information Gateway (TRIG), so that other parties will have access to that data.

- b. **#216 Truckee River Watershed Council:** McIver Dairy Meadow Restoration Project, \$161,000 (Michael): Michael Cameron reported that the project went off as planned and on budget. Our contribution was highly leveraged, and there were other funds. He described the project as being an old dairy that had an area that was once a functioning wetland that had been filled in over the years, so it was removing fill and restoring hydrologic function. All the metrics proposed in their grant were met.
- c. **#220 Washoe County Parks & Open Space:** Weed Treatment and Revegetation Project Along Truckee River, \$45,000 (Mike): Mike Brisbin reported that they completed the activities in the proposal, that \$404.45 which was unspent stayed in the Truckee River Fund. The project was successful, notwithstanding some challenges, such as work days missing due to heavy smoke from fires, last-minute political events, and drought conditions. They completed weed inventories for 330 acres, collected GIS information and logged weed species and entered it into a spatial database. They did chemical weed treatments for 117 acres, manual removal of weeds from 26.8 acres, and planted seeds on 12.3 acres, a massive amount of work. The project is considered done.
- d. **#223 Sierra Nevada Journeys:** Watershed Education Initiative, \$37,200 (Michael): Michael Cameron reported that this project was from before the pandemic, and so they were still doing their in-person watershed education. They met all their metrics, it was their usual programming, and it was successfully completed.
- e. **#226 Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation:** Truckee Meadows Nature Study Area: First Year Operational, \$101,526 (Brian): Brian Bonnenfant reported that this nature study area is on top of the old Rosewood Lakes Golf Course on the west side of Veterans Parkway. They used the money to staff operations, remove an invasive species from over 90 acres, plant over 1,000 native species, and improve over two miles of trail. They engaged with 500 community members. The goals were largely met, with the exception of opening the nature study area to the public due to the pandemic, but they do plan on opening in the spring, and they have a 30-year lease on the property, which will preserve wetlands and provide educational opportunities to students. The first year operations were a large success.

- f. **#234 Friends of Nevada Wilderness:** Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-Seeding #8, \$28,549 (\$763.14 returned to Fund) (Brian): Brian Bonnenfant reported that because of the pandemic, they could not employ the historical amount of volunteers. But they did successfully use grant funds through creative staffing and by adding reseeding efforts, the first this group has gone down the road of reseeding in addition to eradication. Even with limited staff, all weed pulling events and reseeding efforts were successfully accomplished, and they met their goals. The lack of volunteers allowed the staff to train themselves with the reseeding efforts before they can share those methods with volunteers this year.
  
- g. **#236 Sierra Nevada Journeys:** Watershed Education Initiative for the Urban Truckee River Corridor, \$32,041 (Michael): Michael Cameron reported that this project was successfully completed during the pandemic. When they had written the grant, they left open in their goals that they might be able to do the program in-person, on-site next to the river, which didn't materialize due to the pandemic. So they moved to an on-line platform, which enabled them to access many more students, a trade-off to having more impact per student than the hands-on program would have had. They had success with their online platform, and they met their goals.

**Agenda Item #6: Consider reconvening in person meetings at our next meeting (for possible action):** After consideration by the group, a motion to meet in person for the August meeting passed unanimously. There will also be an option to call in or join by Zoom.

**Agenda Item #7: Committee and staff comments:** Michael commented that John Enloe had indicated that we'll probably get a slightly smaller allocation for the coming year than in prior years. Lauren will send out to the group the recently finalized Fund statement. Sonia added that at yesterday's meeting the Board approved \$700,000 as the funding amount for Truckee River Fund for fiscal year 2022.

Janet commented on a big article in the Tahoe Weekly publication about dog waste in the Tahoe Basin and how damaging it is to the environment and why it is bad for our watershed, adding that that information could be listed and used for an awareness campaign here, too. Terri provided the link for the article, and Lauren will resend it by email so that people can access it.

Brian commented that next Thursday at noon OTR and Nevada Land Trust are doing a ribbon cutting for the river signage at Mayberry Park, which will be followed by a bike ride.

**Agenda Item #8: Next meeting: August 20, 2021 at 8:30am (for possible action):** The next meeting is set for August 20, 2021 at 8:30am. No action was taken.

**Agenda Item #9: Public comment (limited to no more than three minutes per speaker):**

Sonia commented that everyone in the group received a meeting invite for their water year review presentation at 10:30 this morning. Anyone interested but unable to attend, she can send them the recording of the meeting.

Janet commented that Beverly Harry asked her why there are no tribal members on this committee. She remembered that John Mosley was on the committee at one time, and before him there might have been someone else. Candice added that anyone interested would have to apply.

Janet commented that we decided not to have a field trip this year. She suggested we could do a little bike tour of the downtown river section. There were comments regarding a possible date and time, starting place, others to invite, and Janet will put an itinerary together.

**Agenda Item #10: Adjournment (for possible action):** The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 a.m. No action was taken.