

# MEETING MINUTES (TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY)

## TRUCKEE RIVER FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2022

(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, February 18, 2022, via Zoom and teleconference.

**Those Present:** Committee Members: Janet Phillips, Chair; Brian Bonnenfant, Vice Chair; Don Mahin; Mike Brisbin; Bill Bradley; Terri Svetich; and Jim Smitherman\*. Also: Lauren Renda, Community Foundation of Western Nevada; John Enloe, Sonia Folsom and Kara Steeland, all with TMWA; Sarah Ferguson, Esq. with McDonald Carano; Members of the Public: Kim Rigdon with Western Regional Water Commission; Sean Hill and Alyssa Wagner, both with Sierra Nevada Journeys; Dan Joannes and Kevin Starr, both with Truckee Donner Land Trust; Michele Prestowitz with Truckee River Watershed Council; Chris Cutshaw and Nora Richter, both with Friends of Nevada Wilderness; Mickey Hazelwood with The Nature Conservancy; and Matt Millar with National Forest Foundation.

\* 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 November 2021 summary meeting minutes (for possible action):** The Meeting Minutes (Transcript Summary) for November 19, 2021 was unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item #5: Fund balance report:** Lauren stated that based on an interim report, but that the numbers should be very close, the amount of the fund sits at \$1,377,528.64, with an available amount to spend of \$153,952.61. She explained that the million three is the actual fund balance and includes returned funds, an invested amount, and some financials in

reserve, whereas the 153 number is based on what we receive from TMWA each year and takes into account what was already granted out for the fall 2021 grant cycle.

**Agenda Item #6: Hear presentation from Kim Rigdon of Western Regional Water Commission on work and priorities of the organization:** Kim Rigdon introduced herself as the very new Water Resources Program Manager for the WRWC, provided her educational and work background. She described the history and makeup of the WRWC. She explained that the Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission is a technical advisory board to the WRWC that consists of 12 voting members and is responsible for the development of and regular updates to the Comprehensive Regional Water Management Plan, that the planning areas they focus on are drinking water, water conservation, wastewater and effluent management, stormwater and flood control, and described how it works, how it is funded, and that they make a variety of planning and funding recommendations for the Western Regional Board, and really guides and directs what our priorities are each year. She stated that as far as coordination with the Truckee River Fund, they primarily focus on collaboration with TMWA and the partners on projects that affect or impact the Truckee River. In answering questions, she noted that the best avenue to bring projects forward is to coordinate with Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission members, including John Enloe or Mickey Hazelwood, so that they could bring them forward as ideas for projects by October, November timeframe.

Janet noted that Jim Smitherman is present.

**Agenda Item #7: Review grant proposals to Truckee River Fund and select projects to be recommended for funding (for possible action):** Janet stated to the grant applicants that since we don't have enough money to fund everybody, and because the projects are all really great projects, that it would be great if they can think of any ways to reduce or postpone their requests, or anything else that would help us out. The following grant proposals were then considered at length and voted on by the group and approved, rejected/declined, or action taken as follows:

#258, Sierra Nevada Journeys: Watershed Education Initiative for the Urban Truckee River Corridor, amount requested \$30,055. The full amount requested of \$30,055 was unanimously approved. Sean Hill and Alyssa Wagner were present to provide input and answer questions.

#259, Truckee River Watershed Council: Donner Creek Confluence and Boca Unit Restoration, amount requested \$55,700. The full amount requested of \$55,700 was unanimously approved. Michele Prestowitz was present to provide input and answer questions.

#260, National Forest Foundation: Carson District Forest Ambassador Project, amount requested \$96,680.50. The applicant withdrew so they could sharpen and refine the application regarding the geology and the budget. The Committee asked the applicant to

please come back later. Matt Millar was present to provide input and answer questions. Kara Steeland from TMWA provided additional input.

#261, Friends of Nevada Wilderness: Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-seeding #10, amount requested \$25,575. The overhead amount of \$2,325 was taken out of the request. The reduced amount of \$23,250 was unanimously approved. Chris Cutshaw and Nora Richter were present to provide input and answer questions.

#262, Truckee Donner Land Trust: Caltrout Truckee River Access Improvement and Bank Stabilization, amount requested \$31,500. The overhead amount of \$5,000 was taken out of the request. The reduced amount of \$26,500 was unanimously approved. Dan Joannes and Kevin Starr were present to provide input and answer questions. Michele Prestowitz provided input.

Janet thanked the Committee members for really studying the material and always being prepared for these meetings.

Project advisors for the approved proposals were assigned as follows: #258, Michael Cameron; #259, Bill Bradley; #261, Brian Bonnenfant; and #262, Mike Brisbin.

**Agenda Item #8: Review completed projects:**

- a. #249 Great Basin Outdoor School: Lower Truckee River Snapshot Day, Spring & Summer Day Camp Watershed Education Initiative, \$15,925.36 (Jim):  
Jim Smitherman stated that both projects were affected by the pandemic and having to respond to that, but they did complete their proposal. The Snapshot Day project's goal was five sample sites and 20 volunteers, and they had to reduce that by one site, and only seven volunteers participated because they wanted to keep their volunteers to some kind of unit that had been traveling together already, so to limit any new exposures to the virus. Regarding the Day Camp project, they exceeded their goal of 210 students by one student, and they said that they far exceeded their goal of 35 volunteer hours. They were able to extend 45 scholarships to students who had less resources and probably and probably would not have been able to have participated at all. So they successfully completed the projects with at least mostly exceeded goals.

**Agenda Item #9: Discussion of Candice Elder's resignation and vacancy on TRF**

**Advisory Committee:** Janet stated that Candice Elder has informed us that she's going to resign; Candace's seat is appointed by the City of Sparks. There was discussion regarding possible qualified candidates and the process for applying.

**Agenda Item #10: Discuss the desirability/allowability of funding long-term projects:** Janet suggested deferring this item to the next meeting because we're way past time and that this is something Michael Cameron wanted to talk about.

**Agenda Item #11: Committee and staff comments:**

Brian commented that he had sent the report to Lauren, and could close it out, regarding project #248, Friends of Nevada Wilderness: Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-seeding #9. He stated that they removed 20,000, and their goal was only 10,000. They reseeded 25, and their goal was 10,000 acres. And they had 358 volunteer hours, and their goal was 252. And we granted them treatment #10 today.

Terri commented that she has the paperwork for closing out #222 for Great Basin Institute and is just relating it to the concern about education, that Great Basin is doing a lot of good education, and she will be ready to close this one out at the May meeting.

Janet asked everyone to be thinking about having a field trip this year to places that we've funded, and we'll take that up at our next meeting.

Bill commended Janet on the tremendous gift her organization received and the great work she has done. Janet stated that it was a \$1.8 million grant to their endowment, which is a complete game changer for the trail.

**Agenda Item #12: Next meeting: May 20, 2022 at 8:30am (for possible action):** The next meeting is set for May 20, 2022 at 8:30am. Janet noted that she won't be here for that meeting, but Co-Chair Brian Bonnenfant will preside. No action was taken.

**Agenda Item #13: Public comment (limited to no more than three minutes per speaker):** There was no public comment.

**Agenda Item #14: Adjournment (for possible action):** The meeting was adjourned at 10:53am. No action was taken.