

# MEETING MINUTES (TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY)

## TRUCKEE RIVER FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2023

(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 17, 2023, via Zoom teleconference and in-person at.

**Those Present:** Committee Members: Brian Bonnenfant, Chair; Jim Smitherman Vice Chair; Michael Cameron; Don Mahin; Dave Stanley; Terri Svetich. Also: Lauren Renda, Community Foundation of Western Nevada; Sonia Folsom, TMWA; Sarah Ferguson, Council for TRF; Susan Merideth, TRF Minutes Recorder. Members of the Public: Sue Jacox, Great Basin Outdoor School; Lisa Wallace, Truckee River Watershed Council; Audrey Bergman & Sean Hill, Sierra Nevada Journeys; Domi Feller, Nevada Tahoe Conservation District; Beverly Harry, Autumn Harry & Brian Beffort, Healing Waters Institute; Chris Cutshaw & Nora Richter, Friends of Nevada Wilderness; Todd Gilens & David Hadel, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation; Pam Marrone, Invasive Species 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 summary meeting minutes (for possible action):** The Meeting Minutes (Transcript Summary) for November 18, 2022 were unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item #5: Fund balance report\*:**

The amount of the fund sits at \$523,187.17, with an available amount to spend of \$359,110. A similar level of funding is expected for 2024.

**Agenda Item #6: review grant proposals to Truckee River Fund and select projects to be recommended for funding (for possible action):**

The following grant proposals were considered and voted on by the group and approved, rejected/declined, or action taken as follows:

#270, Great Basin Outdoor School: Youth Watershed Education and Protection Projects, amount requested \$13,211

Sue Jacox was present to review the services GBOS offers, including day and overnight camps and restoration projects and answer questions. The proposed budget covered educator compensation for 3 types of events: Truckee Rive Snapshot, Spring & Summer day camps on the Truckee River and Lake Tahoe overnight science camps. With limited funds available and since TRF does not typically fund projects at Lake Tahoe, the Committee suggested cutting the overnight camps from the proposal and funding the remaining amount requested. The \$2,800 for overnight science camps at Lake Tahoe was taken out of the request, and a reduced amount of \$10,411 was unanimously approved.

#271, Sierra Nevada Journeys: Watershed Education Initiative, amount requested \$32,891.

SNJ offers experiential education programs to connect kids to natural areas, and their Watershed Education Initiative is specifically focused on the Truckee River watershed. Sean Hill and Audrey Bergman were present to provide input and answer questions. With limited funding available, the Committee encouraged SNJ to look for partnership or integration opportunities with other entities focused on watershed education and outreach, such as the Indigenous Peoples Council (#275). The total request of \$32,891 was unanimously approved

#272, Truckee River Watershed Council: Coldstream Canyon – Cold Creek Streambank Stabilization, amount requested \$126,000.

The Coldstream Canyon Streambank Stabilization construction project is designed to directly reduce sedimentation in the Truckee River. Lisa Wallace was present to review the proposal and answer questions. She offered to drop \$6,600 for Project Management & Supplies from their proposal, leaving \$119,400 for Construction/Restoration expenses. Mike Cameron abstained from the vote because of his relationship with TRWC, and a reduced amount of \$119,400 was unanimously approved.

#273, US Fish & Wildlife Service: Lower Truckee River Carp Management, amount requested \$24,240.

No representative was present to answer questions or discuss the project. The project area is the Truckee River below Glendale and appears to be outside of TRF's typical scope. No funding was approved for this proposal.

#274, Nevada Tahoe Conservation District: Lower Rosewood Creek Aquatic Organism Passage, amount requested \$217,00.

Domi Fellers was present to answer questions. The project aims to remove and replace two fish barriers to facilitate LCT movement and expand habitat in the Tahoe/Incline Village area. Since this location is outside the scope of TRF, funding was not approved.

#275, Indigenous Peoples Council On Biocolonialism for Healing Waters Institute: River Justice, amount requested \$95,718.

Beverly Harry, Autumn Harry and Brian Beffort from the Healing Waters Institute were present to review the proposal. The project is designed to remove waste accumulating at the terminal end of the Truckee River system. They have already successfully removed hundreds of cubic yards of debris from the river and are looking to expand efforts on cleanup downstream. Beverly highlighted the educational benefit of this project to native people specifically, a group currently underrepresented in other the proposed educational projects. After discussion, it was agreed to remove meeting expenses from the proposal, and a reduced amount of \$89,101 was unanimously approved.

#276, Friends of NV Wilderness: Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-seeding 2023, amount requested \$26,343.

The goal of the 2023 Mount Rose Wilderness Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-Seeding project is to remove noxious weeds from the Hunter Creek watershed and reseed treated areas with native seeds to protect the water quality of the Truckee River and its watershed. Chris Cutshaw and Nora Richter were present to provide input and answer questions. The full amount requested of \$26,343 was unanimously approved.

#277, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation: Confluence: Stream Science, Handwriting and Urban Curbs, amount requested \$33,300.

The *Confluence* project, supported by the Reno Arts & Culture Commission, is an interactive art installation using texts on sidewalks to engage the public about how water shapes land, how ecologists study streams as living systems, and how we understand the places we live, and funding from TRF was requested for installation costs. Todd Gilans and David Hall from the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation were present to review the proposal and answer questions. It was determined that this project is outside the scope of TRF grants, and funding was not approved.

#278, Invasive Species Foundation: Truckee River Asian Clam, New Zealand mud snail, Zebra and Quagga Eradication Project, amount requested \$82,350.

The Invasive Species Foundation requested funding to test the efficacy of the bacteria Zequanox® in eradicating invasive Asian clams and New Zealand mud snails in the Truckee River, and Pam Marrone was present to review the proposal. The Committee expressed concern about adding a novel organism to the river ecosystem, although the bacteria is naturally occurring and has been found to be benign. Since this project is experimental in nature as opposed to need-based and with limited funds available, the project was not funded at this time.

#279, US Fish & Wildlife Service: Truckee River Water Temperature Monitoring, amount requested \$14,315.

The primary project goal is to extend and expand the river wide Truckee temperature monitoring program, and USFWS requested funding for supplies and labor associated with the monitoring. The full amount requested of \$14,315 was unanimously approved.

Project advisors for the approved proposals were assigned as follows:

GBOS = #270, Dave Stanley; #271, Don Mahin; #272, Terri Svetich; #275, Dave Stanley; #276, Brian Bonnenfant; #279, Don Mahin

#### Closing notes

Brain thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting. With \$331,397 in grants allocated for 2023, there is a \$20,000 buffer remaining in the fund.

Jim Smitherman will be attending the March 15<sup>th</sup> TMWA Board of Directors Meeting as a representative of TRF in place of Brian who is unable to attend.

#### **Agenda Item #7: Review completed projects\*:**

- a. **TRF#252 Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation: Dog Waste Awareness Campaign, \$60,775 (Jim):**

Jim Smitherman reported that the Campaign accomplished all its goals, including PSAs (in English & Spanish) on dog waste issues that is being broadcast in partnership with the Nevada Broadcaster's Association. Furthermore, social media posts have exceeded their goals and >350,000 bags for dog waste have been distributed.

- b. **#253 One Truckee River: River-Friendly Landscaping Program Expansion, \$48,000 (Terri)**

Terri Svetich discussed the accomplishments of the Landscaping Program. They have been partnering with TMWA and the Storm Water Committee to provide classes on how to create rain gardens and guidance on how to incorporate low impact development strategies, and they have been successfully promoting the low impact development concept.

- c. **#254 One Truckee River:** Broadhead Park Restoration Project: Phase 1, \$69,724 (Don)

Don Mahin reported that the development of a 30% Design for the restoration project has been completed. One Truckee River will be finishing up the Design and Implementation Phases with funding from other sources.

- d. **#255 KTMB:** 2022 Great Community Cleanup, Truckee River Cleanup, Adopt-A-River Program, & Adult and Community Education Program, \$82,880 (Jim)

Jim Smitherman discussed three KTMB projects and their progress. The Great Community Cleanup exceeded their goals with > 900 volunteers (114 youth volunteers) and 36 tons of trash collected. The Truckee River Cleanup hosted 579 volunteers (80 youth volunteers) who stenciled 300 storm drains. The Adopt-A-River Program exceeded its goals of documenting waste levels and performed 58 cleanups with >1,000 volunteers who removed ~13 tons of material.

- e. **#261 Friends of Nevada Wilderness:** Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-Seeding #10, \$23,250 (Brian)

Brian Bonnenfant reported on noxious weed monitoring. Friends of Nevada Wilderness exceed their goals and held 8 weed-pulling events, spread seed over 32.4 acres, removed 27,000 musk thistle, and had 80 volunteers participating with over 450 volunteer hours recorded.

- f. **#267 Sierra Nevada Journeys:** Watershed Education Initiative, \$30,542 (Michael)

Michael Cameron reported that SNJ has met their goals in providing education for the urban Truckee River Corridor.

**Agenda Item #8: Review meeting calendar:** No action taken.

March 15, 2023	TMWA Board for approval
May 19, 2023	TRF Committee Meeting
June 16, 2023	Open proposal RFPs distributed (close date July 28 <sup>th</sup> )
August 18, 2023	TRF Committee Meeting
November 17, 2023	TRF Committee Meeting

**Agenda Item #9: Committee and staff comments:**

Future agendas will be revised to include in-person meeting instructions.

This was Mike Cameron's last meeting serving on the TRF Committee and the members thanked him for his years of service, and Mike thanked the Committee for the opportunity.

A celebration of life for Janet Phillips is being planned and details will be provided as they become available.

**Agenda Item #10: Next meeting: May 19, 2023 at 8:30am; consideration for in-person meeting:** The next meeting is set for May 19, 2023 at 8:30am.

**Agenda Item #11: Public comment (limited to no more than three minutes per speaker):** There was no public comment.

**Agenda Item #11: Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 am.