

MEETING MINUTES
(TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY)

TRUCKEE RIVER FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2024

(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 16, 2024, via Zoom teleconference and in-person at.

Those Present:

Committee Members: Brian Bonnenfant, Chair; Jim Smitherman Vice Chair; Bill Bradley; Mike Brisbin; Peter Gower; Neoma Jardon; Don Mahin; Dave Stanley; Terri Svetich.
Also: Lauren Renda, Community Foundation of Western Nevada; Sonia Folsom, Nate Allen, John Enloe, TMWA; Jake Herzik, Council for TRF; Susan Merideth, TRF Minutes Recorder.
Members of the Public: Audrey Bergmann, Sierra NV Journeys; Lisa Wallace, TRWC; Ben Castro, R.I.S.E; Dan Johnson, Trout Unlimited; Derik Knak & Emily Baldwin, GBOS; Heather Giger, TNC.

- + Committee member arrived after roll call ++ Committee member left meeting before adjournment
* Asterisks (*) denote non-action items

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: Don Mahin motioned to approve the agenda for the February 16th meeting, and Dave Stanley seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #4: Approve the November 17, 2023 summary meeting minutes: Jim Smitherman motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes (Transcript Summary) for November 17, 2023 as written and Don Mahin seconded the motion. The summary meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #5: Fund balance report*:

The amount of the fund balance on 12/31/2023 was \$1,366,276.52, with an available amount to spend of \$735,146.

Agenda Item #6: Review grant proposals to Truckee River Fund and select projects to be recommended for funding:

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

#284, Truckee River Watershed Council: South Euer Valley Road Improvement Project, amount requested \$156,681.48.

Lisa Wallace, TRWC Director, was present to review the proposal and answer questions. The South Euer Valley Road Improvement Project is designed to reduce the sedimentation within the South Fork of Prosser Creek, a key tributary of the Truckee River. TRWC is requesting funding for road and drainage improvements along South Euer Valley Road within the Prosser Creek Basin that will reduce sedimentation by as much as 2 tons/year. The road segment proposed for improvement provides easement access to Euer Valley and has been identified as one of the highest priority areas contributing sedimentation into Prosser Creek. This project is part of a larger watershed improvement project including the Tahoe-Donner Association. With limited funds available from TRF, Lisa reduced TMWC's request by \$5,500,

Bill Bradley motioned to award a reduced amount of \$151,081.48, and Terri Svetich seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#285, Sierra Nevada Journeys: Watershed Education Initiative, amount requested \$35,933.

Audrey Bergmann, Advancement Manager with SNJ, was present to review their proposal and answer questions about the Watershed Education Initiative. This is an on-going project with a focus on getting kids outside and engaged in science and learning about their environment in a hands-on way. This year's request would fund 700 students in the Spring of 2024 at field sites along the Truckee River watershed, including Oxbow Nature Study Area, Galena Creek Regional Park, and the McCarran Ranch Preserve.

Bill Bradley motioned to award the total request of \$35,933, and Terri Svetich seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#286, Tahoe Rim Trail Association: Trailhead Ambassador Support to Protect Tahoe's Watershed, amount requested \$5,472.21.

The TRTA proposal requested funding to support their Trailhead Ambassador program, specifically to purchase and distribute dog waste bags in the Lake Tahoe Basin. No representative was present from the TRTA to address Committee questions, and since the

area of impact is outside of the Truckee River watershed, it is beyond the scope of TRF funding.

Brian Bonnenfant motioned to reject funding the proposal, Dave Stanley seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Committee. No funding was approved for this proposal.

#287, The Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equity: River Stewards, amount requested \$226,503.20.

Benjamin Castro, Executive Director of RISE, was present to review their proposal designed to decrease pollution in the areas within 100 feet on either side of the Truckee River by focusing on homeless encampments identified by the Reno Clean & Safe Team and other outreach service providers. The funding will be used to hire one Program Manager and 6 Part-Time Contractors from the homeless community, and expenses include salaries, fringe benefits, and program supplies. Contractors will be assigned to either a waste collection team and an outreach team dedicated to interfacing with the homeless in an effort to facilitate employment and shelter. Measurable outcomes from the initiative include waste collected (number of bags of trash) and employment statistics.

Bill Bradley motioned to award a reduced amount of \$201,593.45, and Terri Svetich seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#288, Great Basin Outdoor School: Youth Watershed Education and Protection Projects, amount requested \$9,279.60

Derik Knak (Development Coordinator) and Emily Baldwin (Director) from GBOS were present to discuss their proposal for funding to support Tahoe Truckee Snapshot Day event to be held the campus of Mountain View Montessori School on May 24, 2024 adjacent to White's Creek in Reno. This is a major tributary and component of the Truckee River watershed and measures of water quality will be captured by elementary-aged students at Spring & Summer Adventure Day Camps.

Bill Bradley motioned to award the total request of \$9,279.60, and Terri Svetich seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#289, Trout Unlimited: Lower Truckee Trout Habitat Project, amount requested \$49,477.47

Dan Johnson, Desert Terminal Lakes Coordinator for TU, reviewed their proposal to implement construction of in-stream habitat structures downstream of the I-80 bridge near Crystal Peak Park in Verdi, NV. The purpose of the proposed "j-hook" boulder structures is to reduce fine sediments and bank erosion as well as enhance native fish habitat.

Bill Bradley motioned to award the total request of \$49,477.47 pending permit approval, and Terri Svetich seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#290, Friends of NV Wilderness: Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-seeding 2024, amount requested \$26,951

Chris Cutshaw, Stewardship Manager for Friends of Nevada Wilderness, reviewed their proposal and answered questions from the Committee. The goal of the 2024 Mount Rose Wilderness Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-Seeding project is to continue efforts to remove noxious weeds (musk thistle) from the Hunter Creek watershed and reseed treated areas with native seeds to protect the water quality of the Truckee River and its watershed. They plan 5 removal projects and 2 reseeding projects in 2024, as well as continued monitoring of known weed sites. This volunteer-driven effort provides the opportunity to educate volunteers on site as to the significance of invasive species and the importance of removing them from the watershed.

Bill Bradley motioned to award the total request of \$26,951, and Terri Svetich seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#291, The Nature Conservancy – Nevada Chapter: Independence Lake Forest Resilience Project, amount requested \$183,610

Heather Giger, Land & Stewardship Strategy Director for the TNC, was present by Zoom to review the proposal and answer questions. The funding requested would be used to implement mechanical forest thinning treatments on The Nature Conservancy's Independence Lake Preserve in an effort to increase forest health and resiliency while reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires that remove vegetation, increase soil erosion, and threaten water quality in the Truckee River and surrounding watershed.

Bill Bradley motioned to award a reduced amount of \$173,610 and Terri Svetich seconded the motion. As a TNC employee, TRF Committee Member Peter Gower recused himself from the vote. The motion for funding was unanimously approved by the remaining voting Members.

#292, Indigenous Peoples Council On Biocolonialism for Healing Waters Institute: River Justice, amount requested \$97,220

Beverly Harry and Autumn Harry, Directors from the Healing Waters Institute, were present to review their proposal for funding to remove waste accumulating at the terminal end of the Truckee River system, pollution originating from illegal dumping and homeless encampments. The proposal is a continuation of River Justice initiative that was funded during the 2023 TRF funding cycle, with 2024 priorities including cleanup of the area east of Sparks, continuing community education and the addition of a documentary deliverable highlighting the successes in cleanup efforts to date. Since the focus of the proposal is downstream from Sparks, at least 25% cash match is required to consider the proposal. Autumn was asked to provide TRF with a revised budget with 25% cash match funding

specified. Brian pointed out that Waste Management should also be a responsible party since their activities contribute to stream conditions in this area.

Bill Bradley motioned to fund a reduced amount of \$87,220, derived from subtracting a proposed vehicle purchase (\$15,000) from the budget and adding vehicle maintenance costs (+\$5,000) in its place. Terri Svetich seconded the motion and the reduced amount was unanimously approved.

Project advisors for the approved proposals were assigned as follows:

#284, Bill Bradley	#288, Dave Stanley	#291, Peter Gower
#285, Jim Smitherman	#289, Mike Brisbin	#292, Dave Stanley
#287, Neoma Jardon	#290, Brian Bonnenfant	

Closing remarks

- 1) A total of \$735,146 was allocated in grants for 2024.
- 2) Brain thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting.

Agenda Item #7: Review completed projects*:

- a. **TRF#257 Truckee River Watershed Council:** Prosser Basin Sediment Reduction Plan, \$44,000 (Mike):

Mike Brisbin will report at a later date.

- b. **TRF#259 Truckee River Watershed Council:** Donner Creek Confluence & Boca Unit Restoration, \$55,700 (Bill):

Bill Bradley reported that remodeling and sediment reduction goals have been achieved.

- c. **#265 KTMB:** 2023 Great Community Cleanup, Truckee River Cleanup, Adopt-A-River Program, & Adult and Community Education Program, \$81,460 (Jim)

Jim Smitherman reported that KTMB met or exceeded all its goals.

- d. **#276 Friends of Nevada Wilderness:** Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-Seeding 2023, \$26,343 (Brian)

Brian Bonnenfant reported on noxious weed monitoring with Friends of Nevada Wilderness, who exceed their goals and activities, including holding 7 weed-pulling events, spreading seed over 32.4 acres, removing 31,269 musk thistles,

and creating a short film with the help of 80 volunteers contributing a total of 450 hours of their time.

- e. **#280 Sierra Nevada Journeys:** Watershed Education Initiative, \$35,933 (Jim)

Jim Smitherman reported that SNJ exceeded its goals in providing education to 700 students with respect to the urban Truckee River Corridor, and he is pleased with their effort.

Agenda Item #8: Review 2024 meeting calendar *

March 20, 2024	TMWA Board for approval
May 17, 2024	TRF Committee Meeting
June 14, 2024	Open proposal RFPs distributed (close date July 26th)
August 16, 2024	TRF Committee Meeting
November 15, 2024	TRF Committee Meeting

Agenda Item #9: Committee and staff comments *

None.

Agenda Item #10: Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Thursday, April 11, 2024 – Advisory Committee Fieldtrip to Pyramid Lake Fisheries
- b. The next meeting is set for Friday, May 17, 2024 at 8:30 am.

Brian Bonnenfant motioned to hold the next TRF Committee Meeting in-person at Community Foundation of Northern Nevada and by Zoom teleconference on May 17th, 2024 at 8:30 am. Bill Bradley seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #11: Public comment: There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #11: Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:51am.