

MEETING MINUTES (TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY)

TRUCKEE RIVER FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2025

(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, March 7, 2025, via Zoom teleconference and in-person at.

Those Present:

Committee Members: Jim Smitherman, Chair; Terri Svetich, Vice Chair; Brian Bonnenfant, Mike Brisbin, Peter Gower, Neoma Jardon, Don Mahin, Dave Stanley.

Also: Lauren Renda, Community Foundation of Northern Nevada; Sonia Folsom, Kara Steeland, TMWA; Sarah Ferguson, Council for TRF; Susan Merideth, TRF Minutes Recorder.

Members of the Public: Heidi Anderson (Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation), Audrey Bergmann (Sierra Nevada Journeys), Benjamin Castro (RISE), Chris Cutshaw (Friends of Nevada Wilderness), Autumn Harry (River Justice), Beverly Harry (River Justice), Chris Holman (City of Reno), Iris Jehle-Peppard (One Truckee River), Daniel Moss (City of Reno Partnership), Michele Prestowitz (TRWC), Jon Simpson (City of Reno), Nate Ullyol (City of Reno), Derek Unak (Great Basin Outdoor School), Olivia Wolff (Friends of Nevada Wilderness).

+ 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: Terri Svetich motioned to approve the agenda for the March 7th meeting, and Neoma Jardon seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #4: Approve the November 15, 2024 summary meeting minutes: Peter Gower motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes (Transcript Summary) for November 15, 2024 as written and Neoma Jardon seconded the motion. The summary meeting minutes were unanimously approved. Jim Smitherman abstained because he was not present at the

Agenda Item #5: Fund balance report*:

The amount of the fund balance on March 7, 2025 is \$1,087,771.28, with an available amount to spend of \$307,647.73.

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:

#299, Sierra Nevada Journeys: Watershed Education Initiative, amount requested \$31,699

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, and this year's request would fund 700 students in the Spring of 2025 at field sites along the Truckee River watershed.

Brian Bonnenfant motioned to award a reduced amount of \$20,000, and Neoma Jardon seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#300, RISE: River Stewards, amount requested \$180,404.40

Benjamin Castro from the Reno Initiative for Shelter & Equality (RISE) was present to review the River Stewards proposal to recruit people living on the river to help in cleanup efforts and stewardship. The project is currently funding 5 stewards and 2,500 pounds of trash have been removed through the program thus far, and the proposed funding would be used to hire one program manager and 4 part-time independent contractors to decrease pollution in areas within 100 feet on either side of the Truckee River.

Since providing employment opportunities is more of a social service, the Committee chose to consider funding for the portion of the initiative focused on water quality via trash removal. Benjamin set a minimum request to accomplish this goal as \$99,000.

Brian Bonnenfant motioned to award a reduced amount of \$85,000, and Terri Svetich seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#301, Great Basin Outdoor School: Youth Watershed Education and Protection Projects, amount requested \$11,750.90

Derik Unak, the Development Coordinator from GBOS, was present to discuss their proposal for funding to support Tahoe Truckee Snapshot Day water sampling event to be held the campus of Mountain View Montessori School. This project provides critical

watershed education for elementary and middle school-aged students at Spring and Summer Adventure Day Camps, with full-funding covering 8 weeks of day camp programs. With reduced funding they could still accomplish their goals with fewer weeks for site days.

Brian Bonnenfant motioned to award a reduced amount of \$7,500, and Neoma Jardon seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#302, Indigenous Peoples Council on Biocolonialism: Restoring Truckee River's Ecological Health through Solid Waste Removal and Cottonwood Recruitment, amount requested \$106,931

Autumn Harry and Beverly Harry from the Healing Waters Institute were present to discuss their proposal to restore ecological health to the Truckee River with cottonwood recruitment initiated with active planting, solid waste removal, and work with partners to develop a draft ordinance to ban single-use plastic bags in Washoe County. While previous efforts have been focused on solid waste removal, they are now also working on restoring ecological health through cottonwood establishment. They have a significant volunteer base, but trash cleanup efforts are not sustainable in perpetuity, and changing the habitat structure along the river would have long-term effects once in place. Given the absence of a cash match required for downstream projects, the Committee chose to consider the upstream trash clean-up and coordination seminar components only, and Autumn proposed a reduced request of \$50,000 to accomplish these tasks.

Brian Bonnenfant motioned to award a reduced amount of \$40,000, and Neoma Jardon seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#303, Friends of NV Wilderness: Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-seeding 2025, amount requested \$27,000

Chris Cutshaw and Olivia Wolff from the Friends of Nevada Wilderness were present to review their proposal and answer questions from the Committee.

The goal of the 2025 Mount Rose Wilderness Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-Seeding project is to continue efforts to remove noxious weeds (tall white top and 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 to host 6 removal projects, 2 reseeded projects and monitoring of known weed sites. With reduced funding they would remove native seed costs from the current budget.

Brian Bonnenfant motioned to award a reduced amount of \$24,700, and Neoma Jardon seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#304, City of Reno: Invasive Weed Control and Vegetation Management in a Truckee Meadows Urban Tributary, amount requested \$15,120

Daniel Moss from the City of Reno was present to discuss a proposal for weed control and vegetation management along an urban tributary to Chalk Creek. The project provides public education opportunities and a model to facilitate discussions on routine vegetation management alternatives. The funds would be used to hire professional landscaper managers, herbicide applicators, land managers, and environmental educators to implement the project, and partially pay for materials and equipment related to herbicide application, mechanical brush removal, a temporary irrigation system, seed mixes and potted shrubs, erosion control, and educational signage.

Brian Bonnenfant motioned to award a reduced amount of \$13,000, and Neoma Jardon seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#305, City of Reno: Strengthening Stewardship for the Truckee River, amount requested \$311,212.49

Nathan Ullyol and Chris Holman from the City of Reno were present to answer questions about the City of Reno's stewardship proposal. This program fills a critical gap in Truckee River protection by combining on-the-ground enforcement with long-term strategy and coordination by providing salaries and benefits for one full-time River Ranger and one full-time River Coordinator position.

Neoma was in favor of supporting the River Ranger component, which is valuable for preventing trash build up along the river, as opposed to the River Coordinator position, and with limiting funding available, Nathan proposed a reduced request of 60% of a Ranger position.

Brian Bonnenfant motioned to award a reduced amount of \$50,000, and Neoma Jardon seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#306, Truckee River Watershed Council: Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project, amount requested \$175,341.04.

Michele Prestowitz from TRWC was present to discuss TRWC's proposal to complete phase 2 of designs and update the technical surveys to advance the Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project (Independence AOP). With limited funds available from TRF, Michele reduced TMWC's request to \$150,000, and Brian proposed the Committee consider \$75,000.

Brian Bonnenfant motioned to award a reduced amount of \$55,000, and Neoma Jardon seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#307, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation: Rosewood Nature Study Area: Unique and Interactive Interpretive Signage Fabrication, amount requested \$28,460

Heidi Anderson from Truckee Meadows Park Foundation was present to discuss TMPF's proposal to Fabricate 10 interpretive signs at the Rosewood Nature Study Area that will educate the public about the connectedness of nature, local flora and fauna, and watershed and wetland health and quality.

Brian Bonnenfant motioned to award a reduced amount of \$12,500, and Neoma Jardon seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

Project advisors for the approved proposals were assigned as follows:

#299, Jim Smitherman	#302, Dave Stanley	#305, Neoma Jardon
#300, Neoma Jardon	#303, Brain Bonnenfant	#306, Peter Gower
#301, Jim Smitherman	#304, Neoma Jardon	#307, Brain Bonnenfant

Closing remarks

A total of \$307,700 was allocated in grants for spring 2025.

Agenda Item #7: Review completed projects*:

Agenda item moved to next Committee Meeting: May 16, 2025.

Agenda Item #8: Committee and staff comments *

None.

Agenda Item #9: Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Spring 2025 – fieldtrip (TBD)
- b. Friday May 16, 2025 at 8:30am.

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

Agenda Item #11: Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:52am.