

# MEETING MINUTES (TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY)

## TRUCKEE RIVER FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF AUGUST 22, 2025

(Meeting via teleconference and In-Person)

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, August 22, 2025, via Zoom teleconference and in-person at The Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, 50 Washington St, Ste 300, Reno, NV.

### **Those Present:**

*Committee Members:* Jim Smitherman, Chair; Terri Svetich, Vice Chair; Bill Bradley, Mike Brisbin, Peter Gower, Neoma Jardon, Dave Stanley.

*Also:* Lauren Sgandurra, Community Foundation of Northern Nevada; Sonia Folsom, Kara Steeland, TMWA; Jake Herzig, Council for TRF; Susan Merideth, TRF Minutes Recorder.

*Members of the Public:* Sean Hill, Sierra Nevada Journeys; Tiffanee Hutton and Michele Prestowitz, Truckee River Watershed Council; Darcy Phillips, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful; Lyndsey Langsdale, Reno Food Systems; Oliva Wolff and Shaaron Netherton, Friends of Nevada Wilderness; Iris Jehle-Peppard, One Truckee River; David Solaro, Washoe County-Regional Parks & Open Space.

<sup>+</sup> Committee member arrived after roll call

<sup>++</sup> 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:** Bill Bradley motioned to approve the agenda for the August 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, and Terri Svetich seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

**Agenda Item #4: Approve the May Summary Meeting Minutes:** Terri Svetich motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes (Transcript Summary) for May 16, 2025 as written and Dave Stanley seconded the motion and the Minutes were unanimously approved by the Committee. Peter Gower abstained from the vote since he was absent from the meeting.

**Agenda Item #5: Fund balance report:** The amount of the fund balance as of August 22, 2025 is \$345,000, including \$225,000 reserved for the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 funding cycles plus \$120,000 from returned grant funding. A total of \$308,039.45 was approved for Fall funding, leaving \$36,960 carryover for the Spring 2026 funding cycle.

**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:

**#308, Sierra Nevada Journeys:** Watershed Education Initiative, amount requested \$31,543.13

Sean Hill with Sierra Nevada Journeys (SNJ) was present to discuss their proposal for the continuation of watershed education program from previous years. SNJ is requesting funding for their Classrooms Unleashed program, that will provide 700 students in the Reno area with watershed education. This will include one classroom lesson, one field day at a site with access to the local watershed, and additional teacher resources and extension lessons. The long-term goal of this initiative is to engage middle school students in STEM education.

Terri highlighted the value of the project and is interested in feedback from the students who have participated in the program, to which Sean noted that alumni are encouraged to share their stories. Neoma asked about the funding breakdown between teachers and students, and a majority of their costs are for educators. Jim pointed out that SNJ consistently meets its project goals.

**#310, Truckee River Watershed Council:** Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project, amount requested \$75,000

Michele Prestowitz and Tiffanee Hutton were present to discuss Truckee River Watershed Council's (TRWC) request for additional funding for their Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project. This request is to fill a critical funding gap needed to complete Phase 2 (65% design plans) for the Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project, with funding mostly being used for engineering designers. Completion of the 65% designs will also position TRWC to leverage additional funding opportunities from other sources to complete final (100%) design plans and implementation.

**#311, KTMB: Keeping Truckee Meadows Beautiful, amount requested \$74,635.32**

Darcy Phillips was present to discuss KTMB's proposal for funding to remove litter, green waste, invasives, and hazardous waste from the watershed while also putting in trees and native plants to improve the health of the Truckee River corridor. While using volunteer labor to complete this work, KTMB will also be educating participants about the health of the watershed through service-learning projects. This is a continuation of KTMB's Great Community Clean-Up and Truckee River Clean-Up efforts from previous years.

Neoma asked about filling gaps from budget cuts to Truckee Meadows Parks & Rec, and about 75% of their funding will be used to pay staff.

**#312, League to Save Lake Tahoe: Lake Tahoe AIS Prevention and Eyes on the Lake Citizen Science Project, amount requested \$35,000**

This proposal is focused on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) from Lake Tahoe into the Truckee River system by expanding CD3 boat self-cleaning stations and strengthening our Eyes on the Lake citizen science program. These dual initiatives would reduce ecological threats to the Truckee River watershed, enhance early detection capacity, and increase public engagement in watershed protection.

Terri noted the importance of addressing issue of invasive species in the Truckee River; however, Jim pointed out that most occurrences of AIS are in South Lake Tahoe. Lauren has requested more information from the League to Save Lake Tahoe (LSTL) regarding the area of focus, but as of today's meeting has not received a response. She also mentioned budget inconsistencies.

With no one from the LSTL present to address these questions, the Committee will ask them to re-submit the proposal, clarifying questions regarding scope and budget.

**#313, Reno Food System: Cultivating Watershed Resilience at the Urban-Agricultural Interface, amount requested \$46,000**

Lyndsey Langsdale from Reno Food Systems was present to discuss their first proposal submitted to the TRF. The funding would be used to rehabilitate a degraded flood irrigated 15-acre pasture that flows into Alum Creek and the Truckee River, through native grass seeding, regenerative grazing and watershed protection practices that reduce erosion, nutrient runoff and wildfire risk. This project includes hands-on education, workforce training and partnerships with UNR's Desert Farming Initiative, Cooperative Extension, FFA and 4-H. Over 500 volunteers and community members are expected to engage in stewardship activities, with most of the funding being used for personnel costs.

Peter noted the proposal clearly defined applications and measurable outcomes. Bill would like to see baseline data on what is currently in the Truckee River relative to post-treatment measurements for comparison, which Lyndsey said could be done.

**#314, Friends of Nevada Wilderness:** Mount Rose Re-Seeding 2025, amount requested \$5,000

Olivia Wolff with Friends of Nevada Wilderness was present to answer questions regarding their proposal for reseeding efforts in the Mount Rose Wilderness. This funding will be used to reseed areas where musk thistle has been removed with native seeds to protect the water quality of the Truckee River and its watershed. They will host two volunteer projects in the late fall to spread the seeds.

**#315, One Truckee River:** Watershed Protection Benefit Project, amount requested \$73,861

Iris Jehle-Peppard from One Truckee River (OTR) was present to discuss OTR's proposal for funding to be used for wages, contract services, and outreach and promotion to continue OTR's work conducted through its Executive Director and consultants under contract to lead OTR's efforts to do coalition building, fund development and River-Friendly Living efforts focused upstream of the Vista Blvd USGS gauge.

Neoma and Jim noted OTR consistently meets their stated goals and project outcomes and the Watershed Protection Project provides an observable benefit to river health. Terri asked about their mission of collation building and ongoing participation by the agencies. Iris responded that since the management plan was developed, agency representatives meet bi-annually as well as in smaller working groups to move implementation forward. She has found that work is most effective when an OTR prioritized action item aligns with an institution's priority.

Terri Svetich motioned to approve funding for the following projects at the full amount requested. Mike Brisbin seconded the motion, and a total funding allocation of \$306,039.45 was unanimously approved by the Committee.

- **#308, Sierra Nevada Journeys, \$31,543.13:** Watershed Education Initiative
  - Project Advisor: Jim Smitherman
- **#310, Truckee River Watershed Council, \$75,000:** Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project
  - Project Advisor: Mike Brisbin
- **#311, KTMB, \$74,635.32:** Keeping Truckee Meadows Beautiful
  - Project Advisor: Peter Gower
- **#313, Reno Food System, \$46,000:** Cultivating Watershed Resilience at the Urban-Agricultural Interface
  - Project Advisor: Bill Bradley
- **#314, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, \$5,000:** Mount Rose Re-Seeding 2025
  - Project Advisor: Brian Bonnefant
- **#315, One Truckee River, \$73,861:** Watershed Protection Benefit Project
  - Project Advisor: Terri Svetich

The Committee is requesting that the League to Save Lake Tahoe resubmit their proposal Lake Tahoe AIS Prevention and Eyes on the Lake Citizen Science Project.

**Agenda Item #7: Review and approve TRF #316 Washoe County – Regional Parks & Open Space:** Mayberry Park Watershed Protection and Public Restroom Project, amount requested \$250,000

Funding for the Mayberry Park Watershed Protection and Public Restroom Project has already been set aside by the TMWA Board, and it needs final approval by TRF. Funding will be used to begin the work of design, permit, and install a permanent, ADA-accessible, water-efficient public restroom facility at Mayberry Park along the Truckee River. This project will provide critical sanitation infrastructure to protect water quality, support public health, and enhance equitable access for the park's growing number of visitors. Washoe County will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the restrooms.

Bill Bradley motioned to approve the full amount requested of \$250,000, and Mike Brisbin seconded the motion. The motion to approve full funding was passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item #8: Discuss Lake Park as possible Fall fieldtrip.**

Terri motioned to arrange a TRF Committee field trip to Lake Park (possibly in October) and Peter Gower seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item #8: Committee and staff comments**

Bill requested to add 2 items to the next meeting agenda:

1. Review of how decisions are made regarding suitability of projects
2. Evaluation of the performance of Truckee River Fund

Jim also requested an evaluation of in-kind match valuations and federal standards be added to the November meeting agenda.

Mike attended the TMWA picnic and reported that it was an excellent event with great food.

**Agenda Item #10: Upcoming Meetings: Friday, November 21, 2025 at 8:30am**

Jim Smitherman motioned to hold the meeting on Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> 2025 at 8:30am at The Community Foundation of Northern Nevada and by teleconference. Terri Svetich seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Agenda Item #11: Public comment:** Iris Jehle-Peppard requested time at a future TRF committee meeting for a presentation by OTR on their coordinated vegetation management work. Jim requested that OTR be added to the November meeting agenda as well.

**Agenda Item #12: Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 am.