

MEETING MINUTES (TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY)

TRUCKEE RIVER FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2026

(Meeting via Zoom 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, February 20, 2026, 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; Brian Bonnenfant, Bill Bradley, Mike Brisbin, Peter Gower, Neoma Jardon, Don Mahin.

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

Members of the Public: Daniel Moss & Chris Holman (City of Reno Partnership); Kaytlin Canner, Scott Hoffman, Landon Miller & Nathan Ullyot (City of Reno); Olivia Wolff & Chris Cutshaw (Friends of Nevada Wilderness); Emily Baldwin (Great Basin Outdoor School); Kristiana Almeida, Adrian Escobedo, Kristin Keane (League to Save Lake Tahoe); Audrey Bergmann & Stuart Golder (Sierra Nevada Journeys); Tiffanee Hutton (Truckee River Watershed Council).

+ 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: Brain Bonnenfant motioned to approve the agenda for the February 20th meeting, and Bill Bradley seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #4: Approve the November 21, 2025 summary meeting minutes: Bill Bradley motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes (Transcript Summary) for November 21, 2025 as written and Brian Bonnenfant seconded the motion. The summary meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #5: Fund balance report*:

The amount of the fund balance as of February 20, 2026 is \$349,395.19, minus \$30,000 in reserve and less funds previously awarded but not paid, for a total available balance of \$261,960.55

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:

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

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. With the Classrooms Unleashed program, SNJs will provide 700 students grades 2-5 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.

Mike Brisbin motioned to award the full request of \$31,543.13, and Bill Bradley seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#318, League to Save Lake Tahoe: Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Defense Team & Professionalized Eyes on the Lake Program, amount requested \$75,000

Adrian Escobedo, Kristiana Almeida and Kristin Keane from the League to Save Lake Tahoe were present to answer questions about their proposal.

This is a request for funding to improve the water quality and clarity of Lake Tahoe by strengthening our Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and Eyes on the Lake (EOL) Initiatives to reduce ecological threats to the Truckee River watershed, enhance early detection capacity, and increase public engagement in watershed protection. Funds would support the expansion of the AIS Defense Team, the elevation of the Eyes on The Lake Program to include marina staff, dive contractors, and aquatic service professionals, as well as the expansion of CD3 boat cleaning stations to address the growing threat of the golden mussel and other invasive species at high-risk sites.

While the AIS Defense Team developed in 2025 was focused on the north and south shores of Lake Tahoe, the funding requested in this proposal would expand the scope to cover Truckee River tributaries, and invasive species management is one of TRF's funding priorities.

With reduced funding, the League could still accomplish their goals with the support of funding from other contributors. Peter Gower motioned to consider funding a reduced amount of \$45,000 to cover staff and labor portion of their budget, and Bill Bradley seconded the motion. The motion to consider reduced funding was unanimously approved.

Mike Brisbin motioned to award a reduced amount of \$45,000, and Bill Bradley seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#319, City of Reno: Truckee River Watch: Proactive Protection for the Truckee River, amount requested \$60,000

Landon Miller, Nathan Ulliot, Kaytlin Canner and Scott Hoffman from the City of Reno were present to answer questions about their proposal for implementing mobile cameras to monitor activity along the Truckee River.

This funding would be used to rent and deploy mobile monitoring cameras seasonally, with two cameras during peak river use (April–September) and one camera during the off-season, to support proactive ranger response and reduce debris entering the Truckee River.

Mike Brisbin motioned to award the full request of \$60,000, and Bill Bradley seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#320, City of Reno: Update of the Truckee Meadows Field Guide for Construction Site BMPs, amount requested \$17,825

Daniel Moss and Chris Holman from the City of Reno were as present to review the City of Reno's proposal for funding to update Construction Site BMP brochures.

Daniel represents the Stormwater Permit Coordinating Committee, who is required under the Stormwater Management Plan to regularly update manuals and plans for the public. The BMP manual is out of stock and the material needs to be updated with a graphic designer. They plan to print 300 water-resistant copies of the updated brochure as well as making and digital copies available.

Terri noted that the brochure is long overdue for an update and suggested expanding the scope of the guidelines statewide, which could generate more funding partners. She also recommended getting outside input on the format and design of a revised brochure and gathering more background research before implementation.

The Committee declined funding the proposal at this time but recommended resubmitting in next funding cycle and try to generate more funding partners in the meantime.

#321, Friends of NV Wilderness: Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring, Treatment, and Re-seeding 2026, amount requested \$28,813

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 2026 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 are requesting funding for personnel and travel-related expenses and for the purchase of seeds. They plan to host 6 removal projects, 2 reseeding projects and continue to monitor known weed sites.

Mike Brisibin motioned to award the full request of \$28,813, and Bill Bradley seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#322, Green Vibe World: Rock–McCarran Truckee River Stewardship (North and South Banks): Monthly Community Clean-Ups + Source Water Education, amount requested \$13,500

Green Vibe World submitted a proposal for funding to support six monthly community clean-up and source-water education events (April–September 2026) on both the north and south banks of the Truckee River between Rock Blvd and McCarran Blvd in Reno/Sparks. Funding would be used to cover safe field operations, youth and volunteer supervision, disposal, supplies, and project coordination to reduce trash entering the Truckee River corridor and increase stewardship behaviors among residents.

While the Committee supports clean-up efforts, there is concern about potential duplication of efforts and questions about coordination with other groups. The Committee decided not to fund the proposal at this time.

#323, Great Basin Outdoor School: Truckee River Youth Watershed Education and Protection, amount requested \$11,301.09

Emily Baldwin, Executive Director GBOS, was present to answer questions about their proposal to support planning and implementation of Snapshot Day.

Snapshot Day is an annual water quality event in May in which student citizen scientists learn about our watershed through hands-on sampling and testing at White’s Creek, a tributary of the Truckee River and share data to inform future restoration and protection projects. Funding would also support critical watershed education and projects at the River School Farm on the Truckee River for local youth during nine weeks of spring, summer, and fall break Adventure Day Camp and at Galena Creek for school field trips in May and September.

Mike Brisibin motioned to award the full request of \$11,301.09, and Bill Bradley seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

#324, Honor the Earth: Reducing Pollution Along the Truckee River through Public Awareness Initiatives, amount requested \$69,651.62

The proposal is aimed at addressing restorative ecological health needs and development of an Anti-Pollution Campaign comprised of public awareness initiatives with a clean community system that allows the public to be educated and to change human behavior.

During the spring and fall of 2026, 8 sites along the Truckee River will be identified for clean-up. The Committee is concerned about the potential for duplicating efforts and that the scope of the proposal is too large with too many goals. They are also uncertain about exactly where clean-up would be focused. They also noted the cash-match piece is uncertain, and that the funding requested would primarily be used to support staff time.

The Committee encourages the Tribe's participation in Truckee River stewardship but decided not to fund the proposal at this time.

#325, Truckee River Watershed Council: Lower Cold Creek Floodplain Restoration, amount requested \$66,250

Tiffanee Hutton from the Truckee River Watershed Council was present to answer questions.

Funding would be used to complete additional bank stabilization measures as part of the Lower Cold Creek Floodplain Restoration, expanding project benefits and improving long-term stability.

Mike Brisibin motioned to award the full request of \$66,250, and Bill Bradley seconded the motion. The motion for funding was unanimously approved.

Project advisors for the approved proposals were assigned as follows:

#317, Jim Smitherman	#319, Bill Bradley	#323, Jim Smitherman
#318, Bill Bradley	#321, Brain Bonnenfant	#325, Mike Brisbin

Closing remarks

A total of \$242,907.22 was allocated in grants for spring 2026.

Agenda Item #7: Discuss possible fieldtrip opportunities:

The Committee is planning a fieldtrip this Fall to Coldstream Canyon, with potential stop-offs to visit the Trout Unlimited in-stream habitat structures downstream of the I-80 bridge near Crystal Peak Park and TNC's Independence Lake fuel's management area.

Agenda Item #8: Committee and staff comments *

Neoma would like TRF's policies on funding personnel expenses to be clarified, and this will be an agenda topic for discussion at the March 30th Committee Meeting.

The 25th Anniversary TMWA Picnic at the Verdi Hydroelectric Power Plant is scheduled for Saturday, June 6, 2026 from 3 to 7pm.

Sonia Folsom is leaving TMWA on March 6th. She commended the Committee on their work, and the Committee thanked Sonia for her work on behalf of TMWA and TRF.

Agenda Item #9: Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Monday, March 30, 2026 at 8:30am
- b. Friday, May 29, 2026 at 8:30am.

Agenda Item #10: Public comment: There was no public comment.

Agenda Item #11: Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:35am.