



TO: Board of Directors
THRU: Mark Foree, General Manager
FROM: John Enloe, Director of Natural Resources
Janet Phillips, Chairman, Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee
Sylvia Harrison, Legal Counsel
DATE: April 20, 2016
SUBJECT: **Discussion and action on adoption of Resolution No. 240: A resolution to approve funding for the projects recommended by the Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee and an authorization for the Community Foundation to fund such projects from Fund proceeds**

Recommendation

The TRF Advisors recommend that the TMWA Board authorize by resolution the funding of the following projects to be funded out of the Truckee River Fund (TRF). This recommendation stems from a Fund advisors’ meeting held on February 26, 2016 where multiple grant proposals from the Winter request for proposal process were reviewed and discussed. In correspondence to the TRF Grant Priorities (see attachment), six projects are recommended for funding totaling \$203,184, out of eight project funding requests for \$584,184. Each of the project details are summarized below:

PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING

Project: Watershed Education Initiative (WEI)

Organization: Sierra Nevada Journeys (SNJ)

Amount Requested: \$ 33,041

Amount Recommended: \$ 33,041

Organizational Match: \$ 7,250 (Cash) \$ 10,440 (In-Kind)

Project Description

Through this funding, SNJ will serve 783 students in 29 classrooms throughout northern Nevada. Conducted over a four-week period, WEI includes three in-class lessons, one field-study experience, pre- and post-assessments, classroom extension lessons for teachers, family and community engagement, and citizen science. Curriculum developed and delivered by SNJ’s team

of credentialed teachers aligns to state and national standards and the North American Association for Environmental Education’s Guidelines for Excellence. SNJ is continually seeking ways to expand the program. Most recently, SNJ collaborated with the Nevada Museum of Art (NMA) to create a successful watershed-focused STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) program for local 6th grade students.

TMWA Benefit

This program satisfies the TRF Grant Priorities I, II and VI – *Aquatic Invasive Species, Watershed Improvements, and Stewardship and Environmental Awareness*. It instructs students to understand their impacts on the local watershed, learn about aquatic invasive species, and teaches them to become better stewards of the Truckee River. It also engages parents as part of the curriculum to engage in student learning, discuss the importance of protecting our water resources, and increase watershed awareness, as well as share knowledge in the community.

Project: Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring and Treatment #4

Organization: Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Amount Requested: \$ 21,002

Amount Recommended: \$ 21,002

Organizational Match: \$ 6,000 (Cash)

\$ 8,640 (In-Kind)

Project Description:

Staff will lead volunteers to known locales of noxious weeds, removing them with shovels and clippers as necessary. Staff and volunteers will also scout new sites and monitor as needed.

TMWA Benefit:

This project satisfies the TRF Grant Priorities I, II and VI – *Aquatic Invasive Species, Watershed Improvements and Stewardship and Environmental Awareness*. The project will focus on eradicating noxious weeds in the Mount Rose Wilderness, which is critical due to its immediate proximity to the Truckee River.

Project: Truckee River Cleanup Crew – Year 2

Organization: City of Reno

Amount Requested: \$ 47,787

Amount Recommended: \$ 47,787

Organizational Match: \$ 46,187 (Cash) \$ 22,782 (In-Kind)

Project Description:

This project intends to remove trash and debris from the banks of the Truckee River within Reno's city limits, focusing on public property along the Truckee River Path, including City, County and State property. This project will also improve these areas so that community members feel safe and comfortable when using the river areas. The project location will be the banks of the Truckee River within Reno's city limits, with specific emphasis along the Truckee River Path. The upper limit will be the White Fir subdivision; the lower limit will be just below Telegraph Road.

TMWA Benefit:

This project supports the Grant Priority III and VI – *Local Stormwater Improvements and Stewardship and Environmental Awareness*. Crew will remove trash, litter, illegal campsites and other refuse along the banks of the Truckee River and direct tributaries within Reno City limits, primarily upstream of TWMA's Glendale Water Treatment Plant. This will help protect the quality of the community's municipal water supply.

Project: Trout Creek Pocket Park & Restoration Initiative

Organization: Mountain Area Preservation Foundation (MAP)

Amount Requested: \$ 25,000

Amount Recommended: \$ 25,000

Organizational Match: \$168,750 (Cash)

\$ 5,500 (In-Kind)

Project Description

The purpose of the Trout Creek Pocket Park Restoration Project is to revitalize and enhance this park in Truckee's Historic Downtown while protecting Truckee's natural resources, specifically Trout Creek, an important tributary of the Truckee River. The project will heighten awareness about the importance of protecting our water quality, wise water use and the use of sustainable building practices, educate youth, adults and visitors alike about the flora and fauna of Trout Creek, invigorate the downtown with a place to meet, relax or hold events, and create a hub for alternative transportation as many trails will begin and terminate at the park's location. MAP started working on the project in 2007-2008 by securing initial grant funds of \$93,500 for an environmental site assessment, design, planning and permitting through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Grant. At the close of 2013, MAP finalized all of the CEQA site assessments, planning and permitting tasks for the project and from 2014 to present, MAP has been working to secure grants, donations, and in-kind services in order to bring the project to fruition in the summer of 2016.

TMWA Benefit

This project satisfies the TRF Grant Priorities II through VI – *Watershed Improvements, Local Stormwater Improvement, Re-Vegetation Projects, Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Stewardship and Environmental Awareness*. The project meets multiple objectives. Specifically, it will implement a water infiltration system to filter the water before it enters back into the creek channel; remove noxious weeds along the creek bank and re-vegetate the area with native and drought tolerant plants to help with soil stabilization and erosion; is part of a multi-phased restoration project to re-channelize Trout Creek near the Union Pacific Railroad; and includes an interpretive kiosk at the Trout Creek Pocket Park to educate youth and adults about the restoration efforts for Trout Creek.

Project: Johnson Canyon Westside Restoration – Construction Implementation

Organization: Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC)

Amount Requested: \$ 67,000

Amount Recommended: \$ 67,000

Organizational Match: \$ 79,000 (Cash) \$ 6,000 (In-Kind)

Project Description:

The watershed assessment describes the geomorphic and hydrologic processes in the watershed and how *human actions* have interrupted these functions. From that scientific and technical basis, the assessment identified areas of erosion and impacted function within the watershed. Preliminary restoration actions and project concepts were derived from the assessment, including benefits and gains, impacts to the drainage network, sediment production, relative cost, and project sequencing. *The road network is the single largest erosion trigger for sediment yield and hydrologic modification.* Within the western portion of the watershed, the assessment identifies over a dozen high priority sites. These sites are located on property owned by the Truckee Donner Land Trust (TDLT) and US Forest Service (USFS). TRWC is partnering with these organizations to complete the restoration.

TMWA Benefit:

This project supports TRFs Grant Priorities II and VIII – *Watershed Improvements and Leverage Stakeholder Assets and Participation*. This project will reduce sedimentation by eliminating erosion sources in Johnson Canyon and TRWC will partner with the Truckee Donner Land Trust and US Forest Service to complete the restoration.

Project: Take Care – Truckee River

Organization: Tahoe Fund on behalf of the Lake Tahoe Outreach Committee

Amount Requested: \$ 9,354

Amount Recommended: \$ 9,354

Organizational Match: \$ 6,465 (In-Kind)

Project Description:

The project includes the creative development and installation of new Take Care signs that address irresponsible recreation on and along the Truckee River from the mouth of the Tahoe City Dam to the end of the bike path at Squaw Valley. The project will include multiple headlines, two illustrations, eight sign posts and 13 total installed signs. Additionally, the artwork that is developed will be made available at no cost to anyone who wishes to use the messages in their Truckee River Watershed outreach efforts. The project also includes a Truckee River Volunteer Clean-Up Day in July, at the height of rafting season.

TMWA Benefit:

This initiative advances TRFs Grant Priority VI – *Stewardship and Environmental Awareness*: Support to the Clean-Up programs and the development and implementation of educational programs relative to water, water quality and watershed protection. Through the new Take Care signs, we will make recreational users of the Truckee River aware of the sensitivity of the watershed, the importance of limiting negative impacts (litter, bank erosion, pollution into the River, etc.) and its role as a source of drinking water downstream.

TRUCKEE RIVER FUND GRANT PRIORITIES

Based upon the aforementioned discussion, TMWA recommends that the Advisors give preference to well-prepared and thought out grant requests for projects and programs that mitigate substantial threats to water quality and the watershed, particularly those threats upstream or nearby treatment and hydroelectric plant intakes:

- I. **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the main stream Truckee River, Lake Tahoe, other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.
- II. **Watershed Improvements:** Projects that reduce erosion or sediment, suspended solids, or TDS discharges to the River. Projects or programs that are located within 303d (impaired waters) sections of the River should be considered, both in California and Nevada. Innovative techniques should be encouraged.
- III. **Local Stormwater Improvements:** Projects that are well designed which mitigate storm water run-off due to urbanization of the local watershed. Priority should be given to those improvement projects in close proximity to TMWA's water supply intakes and canals and which will improve the reliability and protect the quality of the community's municipal water supply.
- IV. **Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation Projects:** Projects to restore forest and upland areas damaged by fire and historical logging operations, and to improve resiliency in drought situations. Projects/programs in this category should be given a high priority due to urbanization of the watershed and increased susceptibility of the urban and suburban watershed to wildfire.
- V. **Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses:** Practical projects to support water quality improvement in Gray Creek, Bronco Creek, Mogul Creek, Chalk Creek, Steamboat Creek and the North Truckee Drain.
- VI. **Stewardship and Environmental Awareness:** Support to Clean-Up programs and the development and implementation of educational programs relative to water, water quality and watershed protection.
- VII. **Meet Multiple Objectives:** Projects/Programs should identify opportunities to meet multiple water quality and watershed objectives as outlined above with preference given to those achieving multiple benefits.
- VIII. **Leverage Stakeholder Assets and Participation:** Projects/Program selection should include an assessment of various stakeholder interests in all aspects of river water quality, watershed protection, source water protection and species enhancement thereby leveraging available funds and other assets.

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY
(TMWA)

RESOLUTION NO. 240

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING PROJECTS
FOR FUNDING UNDER THE TRUCKEE RIVER FUND**

WHEREAS, the Truckee Meadows Water Authority and the Community Foundation of Western Nevada (the "Community Foundation"), a Nevada non-profit corporation, have entered into an agreement creating The Truckee River Fund (the "Fund") to foster projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River, or its watershed;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Fund Agreement, an Advisory Committee has solicited proposals from prospective beneficiaries of the Fund;

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee has recommended projects for funding, as listed on Exhibit A, attached hereto;

WHEREAS, the Advisory Committee has the responsibility of securing preliminary approval for projects from the TMWA Board, which may disapprove projects for any reason, or may approve projects by resolution, subject to Community Foundation Board approval;

WHEREAS, the Community Foundation has advised the Advisory Committee that the projects' applicants are eligible beneficiaries of the Fund;

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and has found that the projects as listed on Exhibit A are consistent with the purposes of the Fund and merits funding;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority:

The projects set forth on **Exhibit A** are approved for funding under the Truckee River Fund in the amount set forth in such Exhibit, subject to final authorization by the Community Foundation Board, and subject to the provisions of the Fund Agreement, including without limitation the requirements set forth in Article VC.

Truckee Meadows Water Authority
Resolution 240 (continued)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Truckee Meadows Water Authority,

Upon motion of _____, seconded by _____, the foregoing Resolution was passed and adopted on April 20, 2016 by the following vote of the Board:

Ayes: _____

Nays: _____

Abstain: _____ Absent: _____

Approved April 20, 2016

Geno Martini, Chairman

STATE OF NEVADA,)
 : ss.
COUNTY OF WASHOE.)

On this 20th of April, 2016, Geno Martini, Chairman of the Board of Truckee Meadows Water Authority, personally appeared before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, and acknowledged that he executed the above instrument freely and voluntarily and for the purposes therein mentioned.

Notary Public

Truckee Meadows Water Authority
Resolution 240 (continued)

EXHIBIT A

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Truckee Meadows Water Authority
Resolution 240 (continued)

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Truckee Meadows Water Authority
Resolution 240 (continued)

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Truckee Meadows Water Authority
Resolution 240 (continued)

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