



**STAFF REPORT (Draft)**

**TO:** Chairman and Board Members  
**THRU:** Mark Foree, General Manager  
**FROM:** Ron Penrose P.E., TMWA Project Manager and River Fund Facilitator  
Janet Phillips, Chairman, Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee  
Sylvia Harrison, Legal Counsel  
**DATE:** September 8, 2014  
**SUBJECT:** **Presentation of proposed projects and discussion and action on Resolution No. 208: 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. This recommendation stems from a Fund advisors' meeting held on August 22, 2014 where thirteen grant proposals from the Fall RFP process were reviewed and discussed.

**PROJECTS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING**

**Project:** Reducing Non-Point Source Pollution to TMWA's Highland Canal

**Organization:** City of Reno Public Works

**Amount Requested:** \$ 329,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$ 329,000

**Organizational Match:** \$ 250,000 (Cash) \$20,000 (In-Kind)

**Project Description**

This project consists of the construction of a storm water collection and conveyance system to intercept storm water drainage in the vicinity of Mesa Park Road, prevent it from entering TMWA's Highland Canal, and re-routing the storm water to the Truckee River. The project is a collaborative partnership where TMWA is providing the design and procurement of major permits, and the City of Reno is managing construction.

**TMWA Benefit**

Completion of the project will eliminate a source of storm water pollution from entering TMWA's Chalk Bluff Water Treatment Facility.

----

**Project:** Sierra Nevada Journeys Watershed Education Initiative

**Organization:** Sierra Nevada Journeys

**Amount Requested:** \$23,900

**Amount Recommended:** \$23,900

**Organizational Match:** \$3,938 (Cash); \$6,840 (In-Kind)

**Project Description:**

This grant supports continued enhancement and implementation of Washoe County School District curriculum which is focused on water science and water quality/watershed protection with emphasis on the Truckee River. The program is broken into a classroom component which focuses on the water cycle and sources of pollution which can affect the Truckee River, and a field component where students conduct water quality tests at field sites on the Truckee River. Students are also encouraged to participate in special events such as the annual Truckee River Clean-up Day.

**TMWA Benefit:**

This program increases public awareness of the critical water quality issues affecting water resources, the importance of protecting our water resources, and those programs in-place to protect our critical water resources.

---

**Project:** Truckee River Graffiti and Trash Removal

**Organization:** Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway

**Amount Requested:** \$4,660

**Amount Recommended:** \$4,660

**Organizational Match:** \$1,570 (In-Kind)

**Project Description:**

This project entails the removal of graffiti (on boulders) along the Truckee River adjacent to the Sierra-Nevada County line.

**TMWA Benefit:**

Provides stewardship of the Truckee River and sends a message that graffiti and trash will not be tolerated along the Truckee River corridor. Area to be treated will be adjacent to Tahoe-Pyramid bikeway.

---

**Project:** Optimizing Restoration Investments in the Truckee River Watershed

**Organization:** The Nature Conservancy

**Amount Requested:** \$58,075

**Amount Recommended:** \$50,000

**Organizational Match:** \$58,075 (Cash)

**Project Description:**

This project is a two year study to prioritize watershed restoration and conservation investments (projects) by identifying where restoration and protection activities will yield the greatest benefits for both people and the environment. The study will utilize advanced watershed modeling tools.

**TMWA Benefit:**

Upon completion of the project, TMWA will benefit by having a tool which can be used to more effectively evaluate watershed improvement projects. This will prove helpful in evaluating and prioritizing projects and programs proposed to the Truckee River Fund.

---

**Project:** Donner Basin Watershed Assessment

**Organization:** Truckee River Watershed Council

**Amount Requested:** \$75,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$70,000

**Organizational Match:** \$25,000 (Cash)

**Project Description**

This project entails a full-scale assessment of the Donner Basin Watershed including the upper watershed draining into Donner Lake and the lower watershed below the dam and to the confluence of the Truckee River. The assessment will include a disturbance inventory report, existing conditions report, and a restoration and protection opportunities report. A prioritized list of projects will be identified and categorized relative to beneficial impact to streams, meadows and wetlands.

**TMWA Benefit**

TMWA and the TRF will benefit from this analysis as it will provide a master plan for watershed restoration improvements within the Donner Lake watershed. The TRF has funded a number of projects in the watershed but this effort will provide a long term plan for future projects. TMWA owns half of Donner Lake capacity which is a drought resource. Data developed from this assessment will be used in the global assessment of the watershed being conducted by the The Nature Conservancy.

---

**Project:** Eyes of the Lake/Truckee River Watershed Volunteer Invasive Species Monitoring

**Organization:** League to Save Lake Tahoe

**Amount Requested:** \$18,000

**Amount Recommended:** \$18,000

**Organizational Match:** \$11,400 (Cash)

\$2,750 (In-kind)

**Project Description**

This project is an expansion of an existing program at Tahoe where volunteers will be recruited and trained to monitor aquatic invasive species presence in the Truckee River from Tahoe City to Truckee. The monitoring effort will lead to more focused removal of aquatic invasive species in the area. This program will be coordinated with other similar projects including a Eurasian Milfoil removal project by the Great Basin Institute and a more global survey to be conducted by the Tahoe Resource Conservation District.

**TMWA Benefit**

Eurasian Milfoil and other aquatic invasive species are present in the Truckee River and have become a nuisance for TMWA at its water plant intakes. This work will be beneficial to TMWA operations and provides direct water quality benefits to TMWA.

---

**Project:** Truckee River Native and Non-Native Aquatic Plant and Trash Survey

**Organization:** Tahoe Resource Conservation District

**Amount Requested:** \$57,895.60

**Amount Recommended:** \$49,000

**Organizational Match:** \$15,000 (In-Kind)

**Project Description**

This project entails the preparation of a base line map delineating aquatic invasive species (and trash) infestations along the Truckee River corridor. The map will cover the entire corridor of the Truckee River system from Tahoe City to Pyramid Lake and will also include tributaries to Donner Lake, Prosser Reservoir, and Boca Reservoir. This work will measure the extent of Eurasian Milfoil and other AIS infestations but will also identify native vegetation important for maintaining the natural biology of the river system. The final but dynamic map will allow for implementation of control and removal strategies along the entire river corridor. This work will be coordinated with other organizations such as the Great Basin Institute and League to Save Lake Tahoe.

**TMWA Benefit**

Completion of the project will allow targeted implementation of removal programs for Eurasian Milfoil and other invasive species along the Truckee River corridor. This is a necessary component of TMWA's raw water quality protection program.

---

**Project:** Virginia Lake Water Quality Improvement Project Monitoring and Public Education

**Organization:** City of Reno Public Works

**Amount Requested:** \$18,820

**Amount Recommended:** \$18,820

**Organizational Match:** \$32,000 (Cash)    \$48,301 (In-Kind)

**Project Description**

The purpose of this grant is to support pre and post project water quality monitoring and public outreach as the City of Reno removes the Virginia Lake Island. Virginia Lake is currently experiencing severe water quality problems stemming from the presence of blue-green algae.

The situation is also being exacerbated by the current drought. It is believed by City of Reno staff that the algae growth is due to large increases in nutrient loading coming from nesting birds on the island. The City's project includes the imminent removal of the island to be followed by other improvements to increase circulation and aeration of the lake.

**TMWA Benefit**

Virginia Lake drains to the Truckee River. Completion of this project will have a direct water quality benefit to the Truckee River system. TMWA benefits from this project from an overall water quality perspective.

---

**Project:** Mount Rose Noxious Weed Monitoring and Treatment #3

**Organization:** Friends of Nevada Wilderness

**Amount Requested:** \$15,807

**Amount Recommended:** \$15,807

**Organizational Match:** \$12,800 (Cash)      \$3,700 (In-Kind)

**Project Description**

This project entails the removal of invasive and noxious weeds from 50 acres of the Hunter Creek watershed. The effort will be focused in the Hunter Creek drainage and in the Belli Front area south of the Truckee River near Verdi.

**TMWA Benefit**

The Hunter Creek watershed is a critical watershed upstream of TMWA's water plant intakes. It has recently been impacted by wildfire which jeopardizes raw water quality and increases the potential for growth of noxious and invasive weeds. This work is part of an ongoing effort to maintain the watershed.

---

**Project:** Watershed Youth Education and River Clean-up 2015

**Organization:** Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful

**Amount Requested:** \$57,050

**Amount Recommended:** \$46,000

**Organizational Match:** \$23,800 (Cash)      \$92,740 (In-Kind)

**Project Description**

This project includes two clean-up days of the Truckee River, one in the Spring of 2015 and the other in the Fall 2015. Work includes trash pick-up, removal of invasive weeds and stenciling of storm drains. Concurrently, KTMB will develop supplemental curriculum for use in Washoe County schools. It is expected that 700 volunteer community members will participate, that 200 storm drains will be stenciled, and that approximately 35-40 tons of trash and weeds will be removed.

**TMWA Benefit**

TMWA receives a direct water quality benefit from this program, especially in regards to raw water quality entering the Glendale Water Treatment Facility.

**TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY**  
**(TMWA)**

**RESOLUTION NO. 208**

**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.

**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 September 17, 2014 by the following vote of the Board:

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_

Nays: \_\_\_\_\_

Abstain: \_\_\_\_\_ Absent: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved September 17, 2014

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mike Carrigan, Chairman

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

On this 17<sup>th</sup> of September, 2014, Mike Carrigan, 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