

Truckee River Management Plan
Core Planning Team
May 21, 2015

Start time: 10:02 a.m.

List of participants:

- *Randy Pahl, NDEP Water Quality*
- *Sheila Leslie, Washoe County*
- *Bodie Monroe, Recreation*
- *Gabrielle Enfield, Washoe County*
- *Lt. Amy Newman, Reno Police Department*
- *Christi Cakiroglu, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful*
- *Lynda Nelson, Nevada Land Trust*
- *Alicia Reban, Nevada Land Trust*
- *Barbara Rice, National Park Service*
- *Alex Hoeft, Nevada Land Trust/National Park Service (Environmental Steward)*
- *Paul Miller, Truckee Meadows Water Authority*
- *Sgt. Scott Shaw, Reno Police Department*
- *Lt. Albert Snover, Reno Police Department*
- *Birgit Widegren, NDEP Water Quality*
- *Tracy Turner, Community Foundation liaison*
- *Jennifer Fonda, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful*
- *Susan Lynn, Truckee River Fund*

Welcome, Alicia

- Participants shared personal insights on the Truckee River: fly fishing, part of a thriving community, biking, hiking the tributaries, recreational experiences, values of river to be restored, water supply, bolster treatment, manage corridor.
- Barbara introduction, NPS RTCA program explanation: community assistance programs (one of 43 NPS community assistance programs)

Genesis of this particular effort (10:20), Alicia

- Acknowledgement of previous work done. Gather lessons learned from those previous organizations, bring those together and infuse with new energy, direction and goals.
- Core staffing: Christi, Lynda, Alicia, Alex.
- Nevada Land Trust's dedication to the river; initial goal to help implement regional open space plan (primarily Truckee River). Local and state wide bond initiatives; \$10 million earmarked for Truckee River – *how could that money be leveraged and spent wisely?* People were brought together to build matrices on how to make money go far. Stepped away after initial round, Lynda (then a park planner with Washoe County) stepped in and carried that group forward. Independently we have this history. Christi has become the voice of the river through the

downtown corridor; engaged in outreach and with stakeholders; has taken on important work in terms of bringing people together and starting conversations.

- As a member of the board for the community foundation, there was a meeting and the topic was 'what are the key environmental issues facing our region?' River was brought up, disturbing facts of life along the river. So let's keep talking. We have an overall commitment to the health of the river. One river, one vision. We want to keep the whole river in our minds, but that's a daunting task (additional jurisdictions, additional issues). The downtown corridor is phase one of this overall effort. Overall planning *and* action.
- (Susan Lynn) We've seen what problems are and invited Christi to a meeting and want to take action with the Truckee River Fund; want to administer this project and have funding. I will serve as someone with lessons from the past.
- (Christi) 2012, KTMB was given large anonymous donation to clean up river. Board of Trustees wants to focus on prevention rather than clean-ups all the time. That was the genesis. There are so many passionate stakeholders, but not one comprehensive plan. That's why we're here. Be aware that KTMB has taken initiatives to focus on education program, Watershed Warriors education, Adopt-A-Spot along the river – new initiatives.
- (Alicia) Include all sectors; go beyond water quality and recreation and social issues; we want to be very broad in our approach. A river seems like such a magic thing; it's such a treasure. It links us as a people. A river has so many things to say.... A river is the soul of the desert.

ONE Truckee RIVER VISION & Truckee River Management Plan Major Goals (10:44),
Lynda/Barbara

(Barbara) Is something missing from the One Truckee River Initiative VISION? Does this statement represent what everyone else sees? Any immediate reactions?

- Alicia: Together we are the core team. You've all been asked here because of the things you know. All critical to this idea.
- Birgit: Multiple jurisdictions and stakeholders. It does need to be phased, but ensuring that we capture the entire watershed, just reaching out to those stakeholders and make sure they know what's going on.
- Lynda: We know there's not a watershed management plan for the TR. If there were, cities would be able to apply for funding. Can we have a portion of this plan serve as a watershed plan? Also, short term goals we want to accomplish right away. Obviously long term efforts. What is the low hanging fruit that we can accomplish right now? When we received the phase one plan, City of Reno received a grant to hire a river clean-up crew. That could be a low-hanging fruit. Be cognizant of that. This won't be a plan to sit on a shelf and never be implemented. Both short and long term plans. Sustainable budgeting; City of Reno could adopt the plan and be able to budget. We want everyone to embrace, plan and budget river-wide. We do need to expand our reach. Some of the funding we're applying for (Truckee River Fund, National Park Service, Northern Nevada Water Planning Commission, REI). The idea behind REI grant was to put on a river forum (September?) where we broaden our stakeholder group. The core group is this group, but there are more. We need their buy-in and goals and objectives. Stakeholder interviews, etc. Eventually the idea is to have a contractor write

this plan. Finish phase one this year. Other funding agencies: Washoe County State Question One Fund, Flood Project, John Ben Snow Trust. We don't want to walk away when the planning is done. We want to continue these efforts, follow-up. Other organizations have money for restoration. We want to leverage money and put it to use. A lot of moving parts.

- Alicia: A lot of the funding has focused on phase one. We don't want to lose sight of the whole, this is just where we're starting.
- Lynda: What are some of the goals of this group? To have a sustainable clean, thriving river community (environmental and social). The key word is sustainable. What goals do we need to achieve that effort?
- Jennifer: Bring back the river ranger position. Full-time budgeted river ranger → strategy.
Goal: **To have a river corridor to be proud of; presence of enforcement.**
 - Would have to be multi-jurisdictional.
- Sheila Leslie: From Social Services, **getting mentally ill into treatment; substance-abuse and homeless into care; addressing the ones who don't want the help** (Jennifer).
- Lynda: A lot of people living on the river don't want to be in shelters. Questions is, how do we do that?
- Susan Lynn: Managing the urban vegetation versus the natural river. Issue with flood control. Big controversy – remove all vegetation? That impacts water quality. **Balance the natural environment with the management of the social environment.**
- Birgit: Is the vision of the group to create a plan for the corridor only? Is it more inclusive than the corridor? Relationship of corridor to watershed at large. This effort is multi-jurisdictional
 - Lynda: There are people in core group who want to see immediacy. In long term how are all watersheds affected? How is what we're trying to address being affected by watershed? Putting together library of what's been done, what's out there and not re-create the wheel. Tributary analysis. Pick up on what is not being done.
 - Barbara: In order to address water quality, you'd have to look at the entire watershed and call out existing strategies. Birgit: The geographic scope of what you're talking about isn't clear. **Clarify and define scope/expand reach**
 - Lynda: Our scope may be different because we're doing this in phases. It could change. Different emphases; different issues with different phases. We want it to be a collaborative effort.
 - Barbara: Assume we will be tackling some of those bigger picture issues that'll be cross-cutting.
 - Lynda: Is it best to try to tackle some of these issues in phases 1-3 rather than reconvening. Phase one might have different issues from two and three. Is it impossible to tackle those at the same time? Do we need to be very clear and only focus on specific phase and specific problems.
 - Barbara: Need context watershed-wide. The contractor, with everyone's help, would pull from previous projects.
 - Lynda: Money is also important. We currently have \$70,000. That's a limiting factor.
 - Christi: Some of this is kind of nebulous. There does need to be context, but we just need to focus on phase one. Current funding is for phase one.

- Alicia: **By focusing on phase one we can create a template and apply to the rest of the river.**
- Randy: This is phase one being focused on. Keep in mind down the road bring in the watershed. Watershed is important to quality of Truckee River. Keep that in mind.
 - Barbara: Everyone with expert knowledge can help move phase one quickly.
 - Tracy: Other efforts going on in phase one area, so other people will need to be involved in this initiative.
 - Lynda: Everyone here should reach out to stakeholders that they know to invite to river forum.
- Susan: **Involve businesses along river** (waste management and RGJ and Aces and mental health institute).
 - Barbara: We'll talk about outreach and engagement.
- Amy: **Ecosystem for all.**
 - Christi: That would tie into vegetation.
 - Amy: **Ease access and maintenance of paths and trails. Also, how do you connect people back to the river?** How do you get people involved along the river? Special events tend to push out certain tendencies in certain areas. Comfort level based on aesthetics (do I have access to trails that I want to do?). How do we keep that ecosystem and reconnect people to the river?
 - Lynda: We want a diverse group of stakeholders. You can't just talk about improving water quality. How are we going to connect people back to the river? How can we improve public safety? How can we increase recreational activity? Increase trails? That element isn't as prevalent. Some of the goals we will look at will include safety, recreation, restoration. That's why we have this diverse group.
 - Barbara: Homeless community is a part of the community. It is a stakeholder group that has needs. Be inclusive.
 - Albert: Stakeholders have legal legitimacy.
 - Barbara: Recognize legal framework and legitimacy.
 - Alicia: **Engage homeless and homeless youth.** Also, are there social impacts? Are there environmental issues?
 - Tracy: We don't want to talk problems identified in phase one and move them to phase two.

Core Planning Team Roles/Frequency of Meeting, (Barbara)

- *What are our core values as a team?* Be open, honest, respect all positions and interests, be open to new ideas, speak in turn, remember we all have the same goal (One River), positive and forward moving, don't meet just to meet, action, implementable, realistic, doable, be able to understand the issues, seek to understand, solution-seeking, sustainable funding, be fearless in this safe place, avoid jargon.
- *What is our role as a team?* Share creativity, come up with new ideas, build support (within agency and other stakeholders and community), technical assistance, education within team, connections to other stakeholders and interested parties, sustainable funding and multiple parties for funding, resource development, stay committed (if you can't be your agency's rep, find someone to stay consistent; or have a backup).

- How often will this team meet? Group to decide frequency of meeting. All meetings will have clear proposed outcomes. Meet face to face and by teleconference.
- Team coordination: Coordinate via shared platform (website (team resource tab) or Drop Box/Google Docs? Community Foundation puts information on website.

Core Planning Team: (Barbara)

Who's missing at this meeting? Who can we bring on board?

- Overall: Lead Administrative Entities for One River: Christi(KTMB) and Lynda(NLT)
- We need perspective/interests represented, but not advocacy group participation on team "to advocate."
- In order to participate, "we agree with overall project vision, goals, and core values and roles of the team..."
- Healthy communities
- Representatives of tribes
- Tracy: Businesses along river, people who live along river (homeless interests).
 - Sheila Leslie will talk with Social Services to talk about how to bring someone aboard the core team.
 - Albert: Identify someone who's taken themselves out of environment but who has lived there. *Tracy knows someone who fills that role.*
 - Reno Bike Project, EDAWN, Northern Nevada Mental Health Institute, outdoor retailers (Patagonia)
- Gabrielle: City of Sparks
- Bodie: Nevada Department of Wildlife; US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Alicia: Educators (university, K-12)
- Tracy: Jeff Mann, City of Reno part of coordination process
- Sheriff's Office, Waste Management, Tahoe Pyramid Bike Way
- Historic Preservation Protection; cultural resources
- RSVVA

Community Outreach and Engagement (11:34), (Barbara, Lynda, Christi)

- River forum – why? (Lynda) To broaden awareness about the qualities of the river, put it in a positive light. Interest in learning about the Truckee River, to give some background. To then highlight some of the goals that we have identified and then try to work with those broader stakeholders and try to brainstorm solutions. Broaden the think tank.
- Future support and commitment. Build consensus. It's not just a public awareness campaign, that's why goals are very important. The engagement is much more involved.
- Sustained investment, commitment, and resources. It's important to build solidity and commitment.
- Strategies to test with bigger group.

- Website, social media – how to engage community, and at what stage?

Follow-up Actions (11:43):

- Draft clear vision statement, and plan goals and send out for review and final input.
- Confirm planning team, core values, roles and responsibilities
- Confirm who will be added to the planning team
- Confirm that everyone will continue to participate in the team
- Develop and complete scope within the next few months. This is the basis for the Request for Proposal?
 - Scope of plan is what we want to cover in the plan. Important to get input from the Planning Team.
 - What is this group's recommendation for steps to move forward?
- In one month meet to facilitate this group's input into creating a scope.
 - Four weeks from now, another face-to-face meeting. Doodle Poll – weeks of June 15- June 26.

NEXT MEETING:

- Roles, values, vision, goals – **distribute by email**. Possible conference calls follow up if response low.
- Scope of work (will only cover phase one, but ideally a template for other phases) – have general framework of plan elements and key questions, define plan elements. Post meeting: create small groups. *Lynda circulate sample of scope of work. Compile information and distribute before next meeting. Make list of priorities beforehand. Lynda provides major chapters of scope (stewardship and protection, social issues, fundraising, etc.), group can narrow down.*
- Planning for forum
- Sample corridor management plans – **provide by email**

Plus/Delta:

+open

+positive

+coffee and mini muffins

+good space

-keep getting things done; let's do something

-no jargon

End: *12:00 p.m.*