



AGENDA ITEM: 5

MEETING DATE: January 27, 2016

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Hardy Bullock, Director of Aviation & Community Service

SUBJECT: Truckee Meadows Restoration Project (Previously Truckee Wetlands Restoration Project)

OBJECTIVE: Inform the Board of Directors and District constituents of plans to modify existing property located near the rodeo grounds and Regional Park. In support of Strategy Area 3, specifically area(s) 3.1 Open Space Preservation, 3.2 Forest Management, and 3.4 Community Enhancement, staff recommends review of the attached 60% Design Drawings for restoration work on District Property. No action is requested at this time, the Board will have another opportunity to review 90% design drawings for the subject parcel. This report is informational only.

DISCUSSION: The Truckee River Watershed Council began work on the Truckee Wetlands Restoration Partnership in 2010. The Truckee Tahoe Airport District has been involved in project planning since its inception. The District owns the Ponderosa golf course which includes a pond and the “L” shaped parcel above the old Town of Truckee Corporation yard. Seven entities comprise the Truckee Wetlands Restoration Partnership:

- Town of Truckee
- Truckee Donner Public Utility District
- Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District
- Truckee Sanitation District
- Truckee Tahoe Airport District
- Truckee Donner Land Trust
- Truckee River Watershed Council

This partnership encompasses the meadows and drainage course on lands from the east of Palisades and Old Brockway intersection all the way to the Town of Truckee Corporation yard and ultimately the Truckee River. The long-standing problems with this watershed complex include:

- lack of a fully functioning wetland area
- disconnected hydrology
- significant destructive storm runoff
- significant erosion
- inappropriate land use

The ultimate goal of the partnership is to create a functioning watershed, correct legacy disturbances and inappropriate land use. As a major landowner within the partnership area it is a strategic goal of the District to enhance water quality. Many of the existing problems within District owned lands will ultimately need to be corrected. The partnership offers a way to connect multiple projects on various land ownerships while handling the planning and permitting process through a lead organization; this is the Truckee River Watershed Council. Two areas of significant work within the project area owned by the District include the pond area below the golf course and the legacy access road within the “L” shaped parcel above the Town corporation yard. Many discussions have taken place between Truckee Donner Recreation and Park District and the Truckee Tahoe Airport District regarding the modification to the existing irrigation pond. Map number one (1) depicts District ownership of that area. The area surrounding the pond has tremendous potential as a community asset and interpretive area. The “L” parcel is an open space area between two neighborhoods with a legacy access road in the middle. This road is the subject of anticipated improvement and erosion control measures. Both areas will need future attention from the District regardless of participation within the restoration partnership. The District paid \$15,000 in September of 2014 toward the design of the Truckee Wetlands Restoration Project; this was the District's pro rata share for design services thus far.

OVERVIEW OF PROJECT: The pond will have the current fence removed. An interpretive trail and partial board walk will be constructed. Signs and kiosks describing the restoration will be placed. Log weirs and stream/pond stabilization will occur. Areas of bare earth will be covered by grass, sod, and chips. Trees and wetland shrubs will be planted. Access gates to prevent vehicular access will be installed. Areas prone to erosion will be graded, stabilized, and surfaced.

FISCAL IMPACT: At the present time none. This informational update has no fiscal component however funding of the actual work will come in the form of a budget item to be reviewed by the Board prior to the commencement of work.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS: At present no additional public information is available. When the final design plans are completed the District may participate with other partners in a public outreach process. Additional opportunities to inform the public are available through our social media channels like Facebook and Instagram.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Map 1.
- 60% Design Drawings