



West Truckee Meadows/Verdi Township Citizen Advisory Board

Minutes of the regular meeting of the West Truckee Meadows/Verdi Township Citizen Advisory Board held on March 16, 2026, at 5:30 P.M.

Verdi Community Library & Nature Study, 270 Bridge St, Verdi, NV 89439

1. CALL TO ORDER/ DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Present- Carly Borchard, Mac Rossi, Bob Laurie, Cameron Kramlich, Joel Martin, Veronica Gerhard

Absent- Barb Fenne

A quorum was established.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –

Veronica Gerhard informed the CAB Board that she will be a serving member on the Ward 5 NAB (Neighborhood Advisory Board).

Carly Borchard noted that Washoe County residents are encouraged to apply for the Ward 5 NAB, emphasizing that county employees are also eligible. She shared her own experience serving for about six years and explained that, while she previously had to request approval directly from the council, participation is supported because the council values county input.

Bob Laurie asked about the role of the NAB, including whether it reviews projects and how it engages with public input. In response, Carly Borchard explained that the NAB functions similarly to a CAB but is more formal and focused on City of Reno issues, particularly downtown. She noted that the group does review projects, coordinates public comment, and allows community members to view feedback before items go to the City Council. However, she added that, unlike the county, the city does not require developers to engage with the community or hold meetings prior to project consideration.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Mac Rossi motioned to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026, CAB meeting. Joel Martin seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY UPDATES –

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District

Derek Reid, Battalion Chief with Truckee Meadows Fire, shared that the department has created an informational flyer for meetings that includes incident statistics, safety tips, and updates. He reported a total of 86 incidents for the most recent reporting period, noting that medical calls make up the majority of responses and that paramedics are staffed on all engine companies. He also highlighted monthly safety tips, emphasizing the importance of regularly checking smoke detectors and replacing batteries annually while testing them monthly.

Cameron Kramlich asked for clarification on what a “rupture” incident means. Derek Reid explained that the term is vague and likely refers to situations such as gas or propane leaks rather than an actual rupture. He noted that these incidents often involve odors from propane, which can accumulate in low-lying areas, especially after a fill or during colder months. Reid added that the terminology could be improved, as true ruptures are typically more severe and would involve an explosion.

6. SWIFT EXIT: EVACUATION STUDY PLAN

There was no presenter for this item.

7. NIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT HUB & OTHER ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Joel Martin provided an update on efforts to install deer crossing signs, sharing that he has been actively working with multiple agencies to move the request forward. After being redirected several times, he is now working with NDOT staff and exploring options to secure funding for flashing signs, though budget constraints may limit progress. He noted the possibility of future public meetings where community support could help demonstrate the need and influence funding decisions.

Carly Borchard clarified that the project falls under NDOT jurisdiction due to the right-of-way, which is why the request was redirected from Washoe County. She explained that NDOT is conducting a site review to assess feasibility, including requirements like solar-powered flashing beacons. While funding is uncertain, the process is moving forward, and NDOT approval could allow the county to take further action.

Mac Rossi referenced recent NDOT-funded improvements along Interstate 80, pointing to the installation of sound walls near McCarran Boulevard and Keystone Avenue as an example of significant state investment in infrastructure.

Carly Borchard shared concerns about the recently installed NDOT sound walls along I-80, particularly the southern portion. She noted that while the project was funded through a federal grant, the placement raises issues, including potential icy road conditions and impacts to nearby areas like the cemetery. She added that these concerns have been raised by others as well, highlighting ongoing community unease with the project.

Joel Martin noted that the I-80 sound walls were originally planned to remain gray, but community feedback led to a change. NDOT is now testing different shades of tan paint to better blend the walls into the surrounding environment, with hopes of making them less visually intrusive.

A resident raised concerns about the increasing number of deer collisions since the last meeting, noting frequent sightings and recent losses. In response, Carly Borchard explained that she has proposed potential locations for deer crossing signage, including flashing signs at key entry points and additional reminders along the corridor, and hopes for broader public input through an engagement process. She also shared that NDOT feedback suggests wildlife fencing along the freeway may be redirecting deer to new crossing areas, contributing to more local encounters, even as freeway fatalities have decreased.

Casey McDonald shared details about an upcoming Regional Fire Services Study community information session on April 19 at the Northern Nevada Public Health Conference Room, encouraging attendance and noting it will cover the study process, timeline, and opportunities for

public input on regional fire and EMS services. In response, Carly Borchard said she had limited additional information but noted the study involves a contracted team and is part of a broader effort to evaluate fire services, based on her prior participation in related meetings.

Mac Rossi shared that he attended a recent two-day fire-related event and connected Casey McDonald with a few speakers he found particularly valuable, hoping they might present locally. In response, Casey noted that such a presentation had been planned for the meeting but was not able to take place, offering an apology.

Casey McDonald shared brief updates following the last CAB meeting, noting ongoing outreach to the City of Reno to coordinate future CAB-related meetings. He also highlighted efforts to strengthen community engagement, including plans to hire a social media communications expert and increase investment in CAB outreach, with a focus on targeted advertising to HOAs and underserved communities. When asked about any upcoming board and commission vacancies, Casey replied that we would be announcing some in early April.

8. CAB MEMBER/COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS –

Carly Borchard discussed strategies to improve meeting attendance, noting she chose not to widely publicize the current meeting due to limited content but observed that prior outreach significantly increased turnout. She highlighted the effectiveness of using email lists and social media and suggested that attendance is strongest when meetings feature timely topics or high-profile speakers, encouraging a broader discussion on how best to promote future meetings.

Cameron Kramlich suggested increasing engagement by partnering with established local groups—such as PTAs, historical organizations, and community associations and inviting their leaders to present at meetings, noting this approach could be more effective than relying on social media alone.

In response, Carly Borchard agreed and expanded on the idea, proposing to align meeting speakers with local organizations and events such as businesses, the historical society, and groups like the VFW to both promote community activities and boost attendance by tapping into existing networks.

Veronica Gerhard offered to engage with the local PTA by attending a meeting to introduce the CAB as a resource and help build awareness, particularly around issues the school community is navigating. She noted timing challenges during busy periods but emphasized the value of outreach at key points in the school year. She also suggested improving meeting promotion through more targeted and specific messaging, especially on platforms like Nextdoor, rather than general meeting notices.

Casey McDonald said he does not oppose inviting local organizations to participate in CAB meetings but noted there may be internal concerns about staying within Washoe County's purview. He explained that for-profit businesses would likely not be allowed as presenters, though they could still use public comment time to briefly share information.

Carly Borchard explained that the Verdi Community Council was created in part to allow more open discussion outside of open meeting law constraints, which helped drive strong attendance and engagement. She suggested revisiting that model due to its success but noted it requires significant time and effort to manage alongside her full-time job.

Mac Rossi offered to assist with outreach to HOAs to help promote engagement. In response, Casey McDonald welcomed the support and provided an update that he is continuing coordination with RTC to bring them to a future meeting, noting they were unable to attend this time but have updates to share. He added that once confirmed, they will aim to advertise earlier and avoid last-minute topics.

Cameron Kramlich raised concerns about paying a tax for television service despite not receiving a signal, suggesting it could be worthwhile to invite the responsible entity to a meeting to provide clarification and address community questions.

Mac Rossi shared that he has been working closely with RTC during a recent staff transition and offered to help arrange a presentation on transportation topics for the group. He noted that RTC has been engaging with other communities and expressed willingness to coordinate a similar session locally.

Carly Borchard encouraged members to actively share local concerns, ideas, and potential topics from their networks such as PTA meetings to help shape future agendas. She emphasized the importance of collaboration in identifying speakers and issues, noting she regularly seeks input and welcomes suggestions via email to ensure meetings reflect community needs.

Veronica Gerhard suggested inviting the Forest Service to a future meeting to address community questions about land use, including where firearms are permitted, access to roads and areas like Dog Valley, and how to properly identify land ownership using available mapping tools.

Carly Borchard provided an update on the Stan Lucas–Orvison Ranch project, noting it was a controversial development that was ultimately approved after legal challenges. Following the owner's death in early 2025 and a recent extension request, the property is now expected to be sold, as it is held in a trust with no heirs. She shared that a small group is beginning to explore alternative possibilities for the land, including conservation, trails, or wildlife preservation, recognizing it as an issue of significant future interest to the community.

Bob Laurie explained that long-delayed development projects are often approved under outdated conditions, and when extensions are granted, there may be opportunities to apply new requirements that reflect current circumstances. He emphasized that with a potential new developer, project details could change significantly, making it important for the community to stay engaged and be prepared to provide input and push back when necessary.

9. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT –

Katherine Yriarte, a candidate for Washoe County Commission District 5, introduced herself and shared plans to host local meet-and-greet events, inviting suggestions for locations. While she initially intended to discuss her platform, she instead focused on supporting CAB engagement, offering ideas to boost participation through presentations and partnerships. She highlighted available county resources such as Neighborhood Watch training, Animal Services, and fire services, as well as connections to conservation groups, emphasizing the importance of building a strong, relevant meeting calendar to increase community involvement.

Carly Borchard suggested hosting outreach events at popular local spots like Chop 40 or Sasquatch, noting that weekends draw strong crowds. She recommended setting up a booth or casual meet-

and-greet, potentially during busy morning commute times to maximize visibility and community engagement.

Katherine Yriarte suggested inviting a railroad safety group affiliated with Union Pacific to present, noting they offer educational programs on rail safety and provide guidance on who to contact for related concerns, based on her experience seeing them present in another community.

Veronica Gerhard suggested inviting the Parks and Recreation Department to speak, noting heavy use of local parks like Crystal Peak and Mayberry. She said a presentation could help educate the community on park rules, reservations, seasonal closures, and fire-related restrictions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

DRAFT