



Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2020

Public Comments:

- Randy Fletcher thanked Steve Andrews for all his support and if you have any ideas to bring them forward.
- Rob Bartsch expressed his concerns about the brush issues along 270 Road east of Collins.
- Steve advised if anyone sees any issues to either call or email him so can get it on the list of potential projects

Plumas NF (Feather River RD): Jason Vermillion

- Working on multiple grants, including YWP&FSC's Stevens Fund Grant and the Yuba Water Agency CCI Forest Health Grant Full fire staffing.

Tahoe NF (Yuba River Ranger District): Eric Rice/Gabe Foster

- Update on equipment and crew staffing. Covid made process difficult, but has been accomplished.
- Focusing on work to be done in the Garden Valley area
- Trapper EA was just released for public comment.
- Helping out with data platform on future projects
- Need volunteers for Pike Peak Lookout, contact Eric Rice if interested
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Cal Fire –Jim Mathis/Rob Bartsch

- Preparation for the "worst fire season ever". Actually, large (1000 hour) fuels are extremely dry.
- Will have peak staffing on June 22
- Crew and equipment update
- VMA Grants submitted by Fire Districts have been reviewed and the unit has recommended for approval. Now at State level.
- 9-person Cal Fire hand crew and 20-person may be available for work on Yuba County projects.
- First of the Fire Hawk helicopters in service at Vina Station.

Rural Fire District – Sean Griffs reported that Smartsville Fire District is in desperate need of volunteers

Art Craigmill reported that Dobbins Fire District now has 15 EMT on staff and actively training.

Yuba County RCD – Gary Fides

- Budget and staff needed yearly to operate – looking for a way to fund the RCD
- Working on grant for Defensible Space Inspections in support of the new Real Estate disclosure law
- Applying for a grant with the Yuba Water Agency to cleanup up properties in the foothill communities.
- Cathy LaBlanc offered a letter of support if needed
- Steve advised that Jeanene Upton would be able to provide 4 hrs of time per week and looking at getting some bookkeeping help as well for the RCD.

Yuba Water Agency – Alex Bosch

- Willie Whittlesey will be taking over as General Manager on July 1, 2020
- Supporting the North Yuba Forest Partnership
- Going out with Steve to look at some of the work in the foothills as a result of the \$4.5 million Cal Fire Grant, then will be writing an article - should be ready in a couple of weeks

Steve advised that we have still not received confirmation that our 501C3 status has been approved. The Water Agency has granted us monies to bring Jeanene on sooner, rather than later.

Camptonville Community Partnership – Cathy LaBlanc

- Update on the Bio Energy Plant
- Meeting with Yuba Water Agency how on to proceed with ownership model structure
- Working with Design Group to come up with a pic list of everything we will need for the plant
- Working with PGE and YWP&FSC on application for Special Needs defensible space grant
- Working with Steve Andrews and SACRIVER.ORG to come up with CWPP community meetings and also got an overview of the data platform
- Working on setting up meetings or Zoom conference with the 5 Fire District to update on our community wildfire protection plan

Allison Thompson

- Working on feed stock supply contracts with timber companies and contractors to secure financing.
- Update on a new group we are launching called “Yuba Forest Network” will be holding a kick off meeting the end of June. The group will serve as a central networking group for large projects

Outreach-Education Committee – Beverly Cameron

- Thanked Wyatt for all his work on the Facebook page. Now 413 members.
- Would like to get the tow chain covers to the Fire Departments for distribution
- Suggested everyone watch Wild than Wilder on San Francisco PPS Station on July 17
- Inquired if we were going to do calendars this year, Steve advised no. Hopefully next year.
- Please send pictures to put on Facebook
- Looking at youth groups for the No Spark Program

Board Report – Sean Griffs

- Welcomed Jeanene Upton
- Reported on the 501C3 Status

Steve Andrews advised we have scheduled the next Board Meeting for on June 16th via zoom.

Executive Director Report – Steve Andrews

- Welcomed Jeanene Upton as the Council's new Administrative Assistant
- Update on 501C3 process – hopefully we will hear some good news soon. **AS A NOTE: After the meeting we received word that our 501C3 application was approved on June 2nd. Now waiting for written confirmation. YAY!**
- Update on Council's new website
- Bookkeeping and Accounting help for the Council soon
- Residential Chipping Program being designed for implementation soon
- Reflective Address Sign Program also in the works
- Update on CCI Forest Health Grant- signed agreement with Cal Fire, effective May 1. Yuba Water Agency has hired a Consultant to prepare the CEQA documents.
- Firewise USA Grant – not able to hold public meetings at this time
- Hope to start training for the Wildfire Mitigation Advisor Training soon.
- Discussion on Red Flag Warning Flags – need to get a notification procedure in place and distribute the flags.
- Welcomed Pam Cook as new Board member

Next meeting has been scheduled for July 8, 2020. To be determined if via Zoom or at the Alcouffe Center.