



Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council Meeting Minutes – February 12, 2020

2020 Census Out Reach

- Cathy LaBlanc with Camptonville Community Partnership will be undertaking an outreach program to help folks submit their 2020 Census electronically throughout the community

Plumas NF (Feather River RD)

- Council has been granted a Stevens Fund Grant for \$180K from the Forest Service

Tahoe NF

- No one was able to attend today, but shared they burned 300 acres this last week and were pile burning in the Camptonville area

Cal Fire – Jim Mathias

- Introduced new Fire Chief Battalion Landon Haack
- The Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Grant was funded – 5375 acres of fuel reduction
- Fire Prevention Grant (Yuba Fuel Break Project) – first round of approvals – next week another review
- Experienced more than normal control burns escapes
- Reviewed the precipitation and snow pack values – normal to high fire potential for this time of the year

Yuba County Public Works – Steve Cameron

- Still working on the roadside clearing grant, it should be completed the end of April
- Work on taking 4 or 5 trees out at Rice's Crossing
- Continue to work with crews on Marysville Road to Bullards Bar to Highway 49
- Cal Fire offered to help with crews if available

Yuba County OES – Scott Bryant

- \$250K was allocated (Wildfire Prevention Grant for Wildfire Prevention Project) to the Council has been processed, went to the Board of Supervisors and passed unanimously. Ready to provide funding as soon as 501C3 is applied for, then funding can start
- Steve Andrews advised this is a one-time grant that will be administered by the County. The Council will be looking at specific projects, all funds are to be requested by June 30th of this year
- Greg Crompton asked if these funds can be used to cut down trees to increase the visibility at Oregon Creek Lookout. Cal Fire indicated the 4-5 trees are slated to come out this week or next.

Yuba County Board of Supervisors Chair Randy Fletcher

- Outstanding Job on calendars
- Met with Feather River Air Quality – assist with funds with next round of grants
- Throughout the Sierras, we are looking at a preempted State of Emergency, Toulme County put that in motion and I am sharing that up and down the sierras, have been in touch with seven other counties and we all have the same issues. Also will encourage RCRC take on as a much larger basis, then take to the Governor's Office to get more attention
- Planning on a rally at the State Capitol sometime in May invited everyone to attend and will invite the Governor to show up as well as OES
- Talk to Steve Sheer about being on the Council's Board

Yuba County Ag Department – Steven Sheer

- HR2389 Funds-been getting some money, last year we received \$15K, now there is approximately \$40K that will be available to the Council and work with to work with OES to work on the reimbursement process

Yuba County RCD – Gary Fides

- Now have four people on the Board
- Have our website up and running – YUBARCD.org
- Being fiscally responsible we show we have \$1100 and we still have \$1100
- Meeting with the Ag Department office on Friday at 9:30 am to discuss a program with Sutter County on weed abatement
- Trying to find a niche for organization
- Looking forward to Jeanene Upton's Assistance with Grant Coordination
- New California laws require homeowners to take fire-preventative measures and disclose to buyers what they've done and what the risks are going forward. Starting July 1, 2021, sellers will need to provide documentation to buyers stating that the property is in compliance with the defensible space laws mentioned above and/or any local vegetation management ordinances. The exact rules will depend in part on whether relevant local ordinances already exist
- Defensible Space advisory Training Program – Steve Andrews indicated hopefully this training will start next month in Yuba County

Forest Health and Watershed Coordinators – Allison Thompson

- CCP will be holding a community meeting on February 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Camptonville Community Center to update everyone on the Forest Biomass Business Center and hopefully there will be a video recording on Facebook
- Andrew finalized the two page information sheet on the North Yuba Forest Partnership
- Submitted the CFLRP Grant with the Forest Service, we should hear something on this in April, if this comes through it is up \$4 million grant per year for 10 years
- The North Yuba Forest Partnership will be requesting a letter of support from the Council to help with future grant(s) opportunities

Outreach-Education Committee – Beverly Cameron

- Calendar has gone out and been distributed - let me know if there are any other places where they need to be - I have about 250 left
- Suggested if anyone know of any realtors – to let her know where the calendar can be distributed
- Start making some headway on defensible space, if you know if any groups, I would be more than happy to meet with them and talk and defensible space.

- Encouraged folks to call Air Quality Control if it is a non-burn day or not. If you are concerned about fire danger to call 911
- There are now brochures on the wall at the Alcouffe Center that include home assessment check list, home harding and fire wise sites.
- Council will be participating in Tractor Days May 2 and 3

Camptonville Forest Biomass Business Center – Cathy LaBlanc

- Signing contracts for a \$4.999 million grant to help develop new admissions reductions (air and water) technology
- Looking for a Project Assistant – this is a new position, if interested please contact Cathy
- Got interconnection study back from PGE it appears it may under \$2 million v \$6 million
- Hopes to have the Power Purchase Agreement in hand before the end of year
- Part of Forest Task Force Meeting last Monday in Sacramento
- Invited everyone to attend their meeting on February 20 at 6:30 pm at the Community Center

Cal Fire – Jim Mathias

- Reported that The National Forest is initiating scoping for a proposal amendment to the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan that would expand opportunities for using naturally ignited wildfires on National Forest Systems land to achieve multiple resource benefits, including enhancing forest resilience; reducing the risk for large, damaging wildfire, stabilizing carbon storage, improving watershed health and function; and protecting public health and safety

Old Business: - Steve Andrews

- Great News - we were funded for the CCI Forest Health Grant 5375 acres is our plan for fuel reductions on ten different owners of the 5300 acres over 1000 is on the Plumas National Forest and the rest is on private land it a big project and we have already started, the landowners have already started to put together their CEQA Harvest Plan and meeting with contractors
- The Fire Prevention Grant - we are still waiting to hear on the grant as to status
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant through Yuba County RCRC – was not funded, however we did score quite well. This 600 acres application was included in the successful CCI Grant that was approved.
- 501C3 process, we have filed our article of incorporation with the state, we have that back and we have our number, then we need to file the 1023 form with IRS, but before we could file that form, we needed to form a Board, elect officers of the Board and provide meeting minutes and adopt bylaws. We had our first meeting on February 11, 2020. We have been working with an attorney to help us with the process. The goal is to have a five member board. Shawn Griffs was elected Chair, Art Craigmill was elected Secretary/Treasurer. Randy Fletcher he was elected as Vice Chair. The Board will providing guidance to the Council and making financial decisions and guidance to me to help lead the Council
- Cathy LaBlanc suggested a woman should be on the Board as well and should consider Karen Haden, Beverly Cameron or Pam Cook would be a good choice

- Steve met with Yuba County One Stop yesterday to see what employment services they offer. There is a potential to get help with finding employees for some of our upcoming work on our projects and possibly using the Alcouffe Center as a training center

USFS- Plumas NF – Jason Vermillion

- Looking at burn piles
- CCI Grant was awarded – there is tons of work to be done and glad be a part of this partnership
- Working on a grant with PGE
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Other Discussion Items

- The Forest Health Grant – Is the landowner required to go out to bid? Steve advised No
- Defensible Space Advisory Training is looking for volunteers – tentative date second or third Saturday in March

**Next Meeting – March 11, 2020
9:30 am – 12:00 pm**