



Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2020

Guest Presenter: Andrew Lee, Area Forester with Natural Resource Conservation Service

- Andrew works out of 17 northern California offices for NRCS. Our local office is in Yuba City at 1511 Butte House Rd Suite B, Yuba City and phone at 671-0850.
- NRCS provides Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) as local NRCS personnel will come to your property and give technical advice. NRCS also provides Financial Assistance. The most likely program to utilize is EQIP. NRCS will help develop a Conservation Plan, including aerial images and maps of the property and treatment prescriptions with the cost assistance dollars. There is no minimum acreage to qualify. Projects are competitive and are awarded three times during the year.

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 (see included flier)

Plumas NF (Feather River RD): Erik Apland

- Forest continues with prescribed burning operations
- PNF is recruiting On-Call firefighters. Flier was emailed separately to e-list
- Council received a Stevens Fund Grant for \$180K from the Forest Service
-

Tahoe NF (Yuba River Ranger District): Eric Rice

- TNF is also recruiting. Job opportunities are posted at USAJobs.gov
- Baker wildfire was 42 acres and burned extraordinarily hot for this season. Escaped burn piles, but no negligence involved. CHY has masticated road and two landings a couple days prior and this assisted the containment efforts.

Cal Fire – Pass-along from Rob Bartsch

- 8-10 acre wildfire – also from escaped pile burns from Sunday in the rain – Be cautious, have lines around the piles.
- Trees were removed near Oregon Peak Lookout and Washington Ridge crew helped burn debris.
- It is possible that each station will be manned with one engine in April
- Sean Griffis will continue serving as Lookout liaison (title?)

Yuba County Public Works – Steve Cameron

- Roadside clearing grant completed
- Using County mowing machine on Scotch Broom. Work on Frenchtown Rd, Baker Rd, and Marysville Rd is being done on Public Works budget. Completed work on Old Dobbins and Indiana Ranch Roads.

Yuba County Board of Supervisors: Pass-along from Randy Fletcher

- Randy is attending the RCRC meeting
- BOS acted on to declare a Health Emergency and State of Emergency related to coronavirus issue. Letter from Health Officer, Dr. Luu, and a list of recommendations was passed along and read at the meeting. These have been emailed to e-list
- Randy and Steve Andrews will meet with CA Fish & Wildlife Manager, Mario Klipp, next week to review potential treatments on the Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area and discuss how the Fire Safe Council might be able to assist. Randy and Debbie Byrne attended the recent Wildlife Conservation Board meeting in Sacramento.

Yuba County RCD – Gary Fides

- Working with Sutter RCD on a grant to clean up dump sites on private land
- Planning potential RCD program for Defensible Space Inspections in support of newly enacted Real Estate disclosure law
- RCD is still looking for a 5th Board member

Yuba Sutter Domestic Animal Disaster Assistance: Gretchen Cupp

- Yuba County OES has acquired a mobile small animal housing trailer for disaster use. The trailer contains 65 crates and is the only one of it's kind in northern California

Outreach-Education Committee – Beverly Cameron

- Beverly thanked those who supported the calendar project by submitting photos and awarded gifts to those whose photos were selected for publication
- Most calendar have been distributed
- Council will be participating in YES Earth Day on April 25th and Tractor Days on 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

Old Business: - Steve Andrews

- Planning and pre-operations tasks are moving forward on the CCI Forest Health Grant. It is anticipated that treatments on the ground will begin very shortly.
- The Fire Prevention Grant – unfortunately, our grant was not selected for funding in this cycle. We work on a resubmission and or alternative funding opportunities.
- The Data Platform / Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) update project is moving forward. Steve has been able to test drive the current platform and is extremely impressed. CCP will take the lead on 5 upcoming public meetings designed to solicit resident opinions on future fire safe projects.
- A project planning meeting is schedule for later this month

- 501C3 process is moving forward. The paperwork to establish our 501C3 has been mailed to the IRS and all required paperwork has been submitted to the CA Secretary of State. Pamela Cook has agreed to serve as a Board member and brings tremendous experience and enthusiasm to the board

Other Discussion Items

- Suggestion for a possible "No Burn Day" sign to be posted at the Cal Fire Stations? Continued problem with burning on "no burn days".

**Next Meeting – May 13, 2020
9:30 am – 12:00 pm**