



Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council Meeting Minutes – December 9, 2020

Public Comments:

- None

Plumas NF (Feather River RD): Eric Apland

- Update on staffing and Fire Engines/Equipment
- Fuels work in holding pattern until it rains – then next before we get into prescribed burnings
- Planning work on north complex and getting roads open

Tahoe NF (Yuba River RD): Eric Rice

- Update on staffing resources and supporting Southern California
- Fuels work: Pendola, Oak Valley, Highway 49; Still staffed for fire but temps have been layed off
- On hold until we get some rain - project wise

Cal Fire: Jim Mathis

- Update on weather forecast
- Reported on acres burned in 2020 (1 million more acres than previous year in CA; only 137 more acres in NYP unit than previous year)35 acres)
- Update on staffing and equipment through December 28,2020
- Information on “Zone Haven Program” – providing government agencies and community members with trusted solutions that increase and promote public safety and preparedness. More information is available at www.zonehaven.com

Yuba Data Platform Project: Amye Osti with 34 North

- 34 North has been working with Sacramento River Watershed Program for 5 years on similar data platform projects, including Butte County and Yuba County
- The url for the data platform is www.yubacounty.opennrm.org
- Public outreach in mid-January for potential projects to be included in CWPP

Outreach-Education Committee – Beverly Cameron

- The youth film project has been put on hold due to COVID-19
- Thanked Curtis, Jeanene and Steve for their involvement in keeping valuable information on our Facebook page
- Get another reminder out there about our Residential Reflective Safety Address Sign Program
- The 2021 Calendars should be ready in January – will order 1200 calendars

Guest Presentation: Dan Macon, County Director, Livestock and Natural Resources Advisor for Placer, Nevada, Sutter and Yuba Counties

Mr. Macon provided an overview of the struggles that commercial livestock ranchers have when it comes to evacuating their herds during a fire. There are three areas that need to be addressed; 1. Before, 2. During and 3. After a fire situation. Working with large-scale commercial ranches/herds is completely different than picking up a couple of horses and farm animals.

Other areas that were discussed were:

- Working with local fire agencies
- Communication with local/out of area ranchers
- Fuel break systems to protect rancher's property, water sources, and keep roads passable
- Road clearing work for alternate evacuation routes
- Contact information needed for ranchers

Eric Rice suggested a meeting with the Forest Service and Range Managers.

Jim Mathis indicated we need look at fuel reduction grazing projects and yearly maintenance as well as have the ability to contact ranchers to move livestock quickly.

Briana Haberman, Operations Manager, Yuba County OES encouraged ranchers to partner with OES, animal care services, Sheriff's Department and Sheriff's Posse to bring his concerns to the table. We have not made a lot of progress with large animal/herd evacuations as we have with domestic animals.

Mr. Macon suggested we need to look at providing training for handling large groups of animals during evacuation situations.

Steve Andrews encouraged the local ranchers to join the firesafe council – we look forward to working with you and will schedule a meeting to discuss your concerns.

Yuba County OES: Briana Haberman

- Received federal declaration for the North Complex and Willow Fires
- Busy with COVID and Public Power Shut Offs
- Briana is serving as the interim OES manager
- Update on Zonehaven – and tools to use for personal planning
- Feasibility Study on real-time inundation mapping that will work with Zonehaven
- The State decided to go with Everbridge to alert residents of critical situations. The County will be staying with Code Red
- Held a kick off meeting on November 17 on our local hazard mitigation plan. The next meeting will be in March and is open to the public

Steve Andrews thanked OES for getting information out to the public, especially via Facebook

Yuba County RCD – Gary Fildes

- Received grant money – we finally purchased a laptop
- Update on Cal Recycle Grant
- Update of Dept of Conservation Grant – to help foothill property owner's clean up their property, working with contractor to determine cost
- Developing a program to conduct defensible space inspections (AB38 Requirement)
- RCD has two openings for new board members – let me know if anyone is interested

Yuba Water Agency Report: Alex Boesch

- Update on the Yuba Project in the north river yuba watershed including 800 acres of biomass chipping and 2,500 acres of mastication
- North Yuba Forest Partnership received \$1.13 million from USFS's FireShed Funds to plan forest health and wildfire resilience treatments in the North Yuba River watershed
- New video series on the website highlighting each one of the partners later this month

Camptonville Community Partnership: Cathy LeBlanc

- Completed PG&E Residential Defensible Space Grant – we completed 14 residences
- Applied for grant with North Central Counties Consortium (High Road Training Grant) will allow us to offer training at the biomass facility
- Working on finance – expect to close all those financing loopholes by the end of the year
- Update on Power Purchase Agreement - Once finance is complete, we will be able to secure the agreement
- Hoping to break ground the first quarter in 2021

YWP&FSC Reports**Administrative Assistant Report: Jeanene Upton**

- Applied for a \$3000 grant with the California Fire Safe Council for media toolkit
- Asked Curtis to put another push for the Reflective Address Signs on Facebook

Executive Director Report: Steve Andrews

- Update on Healthy Forest Project. Biomass chipping operations still on going on one of our partner landowners
- Our CEQA document has been completed. It is a project specific analysis (PSA) and amendment to the CalVTP project EIR.
- Mastication, pre-commercial thinning, and herbicide work will be starting soon
- Update on the Yuba County wildfire prevention grant
- Completed work that YWP&FSC provided cost-share funds for work within CSA-2 along Regent Way. Work was done by John Behrend and supervised by Yuba County Public Works
- Entered into a contract with local contractor for work along Regent Way on the Richards Ranch as well as along Wild Acres Rd.
- Entered into a contract to provide for chipping services of properly cut and stacked vegetation on private residences.

Other discussion items:

- Gary Fildes asked Curtis to include information regarding Defensible Space Assessment Advisors on Facebook
- Pamala Cook is sporting a new jacket for being a look out volunteer
- Chris Dallas from Sierra Nevada Conservancy advised that they have opportunity for grant writing training, if interested please send him an email at chris.dallas@sierranevada.ca.gov

The next meeting has been scheduled for January 13, 2021.