



## **Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2021**

### **Public Comments:**

- None

### **Tahoe NF (Yuba River RD): Eric Rice/Gabe Foster**

- Update on staffing – have laid off seasonal fire fighters
- Fuels work: main focus has been burning piles Yuba Pass in Sierra County (160 acres done and 150 more to do), work also on Garden Valley/Camptonville. They are behind on pile burning due to supporting Southern California during fire season
- Mastication work in Pendola Area
- Trapper EA was signed – working towards implementation

Beverly Cameron Fildes requested a couple of pictures of the piles burning for next year's calendar.

Randy Fletcher requested a short video of 2 stacks of piles to be burned 1) Covered with a tarp and 1) without a tarp next to each other. The wet pile produces so much more smoke than the dry pile. He would like to share the video on Feather River Air Quality website, with the Board of Supervisors and the public in the foothills.

### **Cal Fire: Rob Barsh/ Landon Haack**

- Went out of fire Season on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December
- Update on staffing. WA Ridge down to two crews
- Looking at weather for next summer – could be potential drought situation
- Working on Reader Ranch VMP burn plans
- South Yuba Rim Concept and Presentation in February
- Working on Battalion Ignition Plan - need to narrow down three priority projects

### **Yuba County Reports**

- None

### **Board of Supervisors: Randy Fletcher**

- RCRC rep for Yuba County
- Legislative issues; water issues, potential taxes, forest fire fees, forest management support for communities, insurance issues
- Focusing on hiring a Fire Marshall to work out in the field with the public to concentrate on fire issues. Hoping to have someone on board in April or May.

- Looking to bring broadband to the foothill communities to assist with emergency communication and education

#### **Yuba County RCD – Gary Fildes**

- Update on Cal Recycle Grant – visiting properties next week to assess clean up
- Received resignation letter from Board Member Doug Neilson
- 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
- Working with Sutter County RCD to clean up along the river

#### **Camptonville Community Partnership: Allison Thompson**

- Applied for a grant for the business campus – this would support site planning and permitting as well as funding for discussion development workshops
- Update on Forest Service Wood Innovations Grant – let Allison know if you are interested in locating your business to the BioMass Center – Allison is starting an email list for upcoming workshops
- Zoom call on February 5 at 10:00 a.m. for the Yuba Forest Network Stakeholders Meeting.
- Requested support letters on the on the Forest Service Wood Innovations Grant due the end of this week

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy:** **Chris Dallas** advised that the Governor’s proposed budget this year included \$1 Billion for Forest Health. He also commented on grant development and CEQA/NEPA projects. SNC will have \$70MM in grant funds with \$20MM available for shovel-ready projects soon.

#### **YWP&FSC Reports**

##### **Outreach-Education Committee – Beverly Cameron**

- Thanked everyone who contributed pictures to the 2021 calendar – they should be out by the end of January. We are hoping we will have a calendar for 2022 as well. If anyone as ideas for distribution ideas to let her know.
- FireWise Advisory Training – putting together folders for distribution
- Youth film project – still stalled due to COVID
- Working on getting an article to Camptonville Courier each month
- Marian Lucero passed away a couple of weeks ago
- Inquired if all the address signs had been picked up at the Loma Rica Fire Station

Steve Andrews thanked Beverly for all of her work on the calendar.

##### **Board Report – Sean Griffis**

- Introduced Creighton Avila as our new Board Member, we are looking forward to having him on the Board
- Accepted Randy Fletcher’s registration
- Looking for additional Board Members – if anyone is interested please send your resume to Steve Andrews

##### **Administrative Assistant Report: Jeanene Upton**

- YWP&FSCs was awarded a \$3000 grant from the California Fire Safe Council for media toolkit

- To date we have received 5 applications for the Residential Chipper Program, Steve will provide more details in his report

**Executive Director Report: Steve Andrews**

- Update on Yuba County Wildfire Prevention Grant – cost sharing road clearing on Regent Way has been completed.
- CSA road work is funded by residents and work is over-seen by Yuba County Public Works
- Fuel reduction work on Regent Way on the Richards Ranch is nearly complete.
- Work on Wild Acres to be completed by the end of the week – two key landowners allowed for this work to be done. This makes more feasible a northerly evacuation route for CSA2 residents.
- Working with Yuba County Public Works to identify other potential roads that need work
- Update on Residential Reflective Address Sign Program – close to 50 signs have gone out
- Update on Residential Chipping Program – we have a contractor. To date we have received 5 applications. We will need to inspect the piles before the contractor is sent out
- Healthy Forest Project- work continues on the project
- CWPP Update – Data platform grant, a survey is being developed to help us move forward with identification and planning of projects

**Other discussion items:**

- Gary Fildes reported on the Wildfire Mitigation advisor training and home visits. Jeanene sent out an email newsletter and within 1 hour, received 2 inquiries. He also advised that he would like to start another training session. Let me know anyone is interested – we can do training online.

**The next meeting has been scheduled for February 10, 2021.**