



## **Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council Meeting Minutes – February 10, 2021**

This meeting was held via Zoom Video Conference and Audio Teleconference only.

### **Public Comments:**

Johanna Lassard, Project Manager, with Yuba Water Agency reported at the next Board meeting on February 16 there will be an update on Forest Resilience, including all the good work the Fire Safe Council is doing. Also, Camptonville Community Partnership will be giving an update at the next Yuba IRWM/RWVG meeting that will be held on Wednesday, February 17 from 9:00 – 11:00 am. Please let her know if you are interested in attending.

### **Plumas NF (Feather River RD): Jason Vermillion**

- Update on North Complex Fire – has been our biggest priority
- Working on fire suppression repairs, did not get all of the resources we needed
- Moving forward with salvage areas that took the brunt of the fire and making areas safe for the public
- Efforts to get salvage logging done and getting hazard trees down for public safety
- If you have any questions – please email me.
- Other items: Project are tied up under the snow
- Healthy Forest Grant work implemented and expect a lot of work to be completed this coming field season in the Challenge area

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

- Thanked Jason for the update
- Helping support FEMA operations as relates to COVID – helping out with vaccines
- Update on temporary hiring – fire and non-fire personnel
- For the District we have about 700 acres of hand piles burnt
- Have not forgot about getting a video for Randy Fletcher's on burn piles
- Will be on detail as Assistant Forest Fire Management position at the SO– Graham Rice will be taking my place and will be attending these meetings

#### **Gabe Foster**

- 55 acres of pile burning on Camptonville and Marysville Roads
- Trapper EA was signed – lot of work going on to determine funding – Trapper missed the deadline for 901 exemption, working on grant to pay for CEQA documentation
- Applying for a lot of other grants through state funding for forest health
- Are applying to Yuba Water Agency \$6 million dollar Forest Resilience Bond that will also help fund Trapper work

- North Yuba Forest Partnership work and scoping notice

#### **Cal Fire: Jim Mathias**

- Reported on 2020 Fire Season – there were 8100 fires in California = 1.5 million acres burned within the SRA (State Responsibility Area) and 4.2 million acres burned in all responsibility areas. 10,949 structures were destroyed
- In Nevada, Placer and Yuba Counties – there were 341 vegetation fires, 2393 acres burned , Willow Fire in Yuba County was 1,311 acres
- Looking at weather for next summer – could be potential drought situation. We are in La Nina Winter Year
- Update on Equipment and Personnel
- Grant funding – we don't know what to expect this year – we are waiting to see what is available
- Updating 2021 Fire Plan
- Remodeling of Dobbins and Loma Rica Stations – once done we may have staff and an engine to assist with fuel reduction work, burning piles, whatever is needed
- Re-upped our Fire Protection Agreement with Loma Rica this year – good for another three years

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

- Last week I was on 93Q Radio talking about insurance, fire and forest management – it was hard to cover everything in 15 minutes. Each land/homeowner needs to take responsibility for home hardening to protect their property against fire danger
- Gary Fildes performed a Wildfire Mitigation advisory visit on my home – there were 7 items that I need to improve. I encourage everyone who has a home in Yuba County to call Gary and have a field inspection
- I continue to meet with insurance companies to talk about what our options are – it is a complicated issue
- Asked Creighton Avila to report on the firehose scenario the Water Agency is working on.

#### **Yuba County RCD: Gary Fildes**

- Update on Cal Recycle Grant – we visited six properties three weeks ago for property clean up, we have not received a cost yet back from the contractor
- Developing a program to conduct defensible space inspections (AB38 Requirement)
- Still looking for additional Board members

Steve Andrews advised that Creighton Avila has experience with RCD's in El Dorado County and would be a good contact.

#### **Yuba County Reports**

##### **Yuba County Sheriff's Department: Brandon Spears**

Sargent Spears provided a draft overview of Zonehaven, he detailed evacuation routes, traffic control and how Code Red tie in together.

##### **Camptonville Community Partnership: Cathy LeBlanc/Allison Thompson**

- Reported on the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Survey and encouraged everyone to participate at [bit.ly/yubasurvey](http://bit.ly/yubasurvey)
- Introduced Charles Tyler as their new Facilities Coordinator for the biomass facility
- Hope to break ground this spring

- Cost of connection – PGE indicated that it will cost \$2.6 million to connect to PGE – we are looking a couple of funding options – hopefully a possible loan with Yuba Water Agency

#### **Allison Thompson**

- Moving forward with feed stock contracts – we have one the works but still looking for others to participate
- Forest Biomass Center – we have submitted a Forest Wood Innovations Grant - let me know if you are interested in locating your business to the BioMass Center – I have starting an email list for upcoming workshops. We should find out in May if we are a grant recipient.
- Yuba Forest Network Stakeholders had meeting last Friday, Cal Fire provided a prestation on their South Yuba Rim Fuel Break Project. You can find the meeting notes and meeting at [yubaforestnetwork.org](http://yubaforestnetwork.org)
- SYRCL is applying for a grant on behalf of the North Yuba Partnership to cover the CEQA cost for the Trapper Project
- Request letter of support from Steve Andrews

**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 \$70M in grant funds with \$20M available for shovel-ready projects soon.

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

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

- The 2021 calendars are out now at 20 locations. She thanked Eric Rice for the burn pile pictures, looking for pictures for next year’s calendar.
- Participated in wildfire mitigation advisory visits

Gary Fields reported that he is still looking for training advisors for the wildfire mitigation inspections. Last week, we performed three visits and six inspections last month. I would like to see a place for donations on the website if possible. If you know anyone who is interested in becoming and advisors to contact him.

##### **Financial Report: Dewaina Edens**

Ms. Edens presented an overview of the Council’s financial report. She highlighted the following:

- Overview & Management Report 2020
- Profit and Loss Reports for: Sacramento River Watershed Program, Wildfire Prevention Grant, Yuba Foothill Firewise USA Site Development and Capacity Building Grant

##### **Board Report – Sean Griffs**

- Introduced and welcomed Dewaina Edens, she is providing accounting services for the Council
- Working on getting an additional Board member
- All of projects are on the move and proceeding

##### **Executive Director Report: Steve Andrews**

- Have a contract with John Behrend to do two different road site clearing projects that are almost completed
- Also have another contract in place with john Behrend for our Residential Chipping Program – they have done one landowner so far; we have five landowners to be chipped to date. Jeanene will handing the coordination between the landowner and John Behrend. We hope the program will service the needs for a lot of people.

- Healthy Forest Project is ongoing – right now Chy Company is working with two contractors and three masticator s, Ingersoll' s are getting ready to start masticating, Sierra Pacific will be starting soon on some bio massing work as well, as well as couple of other smaller landowner partners. We have most of the agreements in place, including one with Yuba Water who is the grantee and doing the fiscal management of this project and landowner partners. Our CEQA has been completed, working with new personnel at CALfire – looks like in April or May work will begin
- Looking at getting as many people trained for advisor training to assist Gary with wildfire mitigation inspections
- Working on a couple of potential projects working with contractors for home hardening cost share work, hoping to develop a list of 3 – 4 contractors to assist homeowners with the work
- Trying to get some funding, we received a proposal for a CEQA document for roadside treatment for 150' of each side of county roads and 30' of each side of private roads. This document will probably be a project specific analysis tied directly to CALFire EIR which makes it significant cheaper than Mitigated Negative Declaration, we are still looking at \$70,0000. This would give us a CEQA document whenever money was available, we could come with a list of priority roads to treat – either county or private. We would have shovel ready projects ready to go

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