



Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2021

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

Public Comments:

- Debbie Bryn commented that her neighbor has built a fence in the private right of way - there is not enough room for two-way traffic during an evacuation. Supervisor Fletcher advised her to contact Mike Lee at Yuba County Public Works
- Debbie Bryn also advised she received notification from State Farm that they have hired private firefighting services

Presentation by Ed Smith, Senior Forest Ecologist & Fire Manager, The Nevada Conservancy

Mr. Smith presented the Council a PowerPoint presentation on Prescribed Burning & Human Health Study; he highlighted the following:

- 2020 wildfire acreage in California nearly equal to total acreage burned since 1932
- Climate changes is influencing fire frequency and severity
- Fire suppressed forest v. ecologically management forest
- Health effects – smoke from wildfires different than smoke from prescribed burns
- If you are interested in participating in the study, please contact Stanford to enroll at:
- See slideshow attached as pdf in the accompanying email
<https://studypages.com/s/wildfires-and-health-406033/?ref=gallery>

Plumas NF (Feather River RD): Jason Vermillion

- Working on post North Complex Fire rehab work
- Hot Shot building broken into to – took equipment
- Update on new forestry masticator that was purchased through a grant from PG&E
- Update on hiring/staffing for the season
- Working on specific locations on prescribed fires and fuel breaks
- Start using incident management teams as tool to use for large landscape fires
- Moving forward on Healthy Forest Project
- Steven's Fund Grant – YWP&FSC received an additional \$500,000 funding

Tahoe NF (Yuba River RD): Gabe Foster

- Update on two citizen escaped burn piles
- Zach Stockdale is the new battalion chief for the area
- Update on staffing
- Wildland Conservation Board has recommended approval for a Wildlife Conversation Grant for the Trapper Project for \$3.5M

- Pendola and Camp Project – have a pre bid tour on May 4
- 876 acres of piles burned to date

Yuba County RCD: Gary Fildes

- Completed some grants for cleanup of orchards and trash with Sutter County RCD
- Preliminary discussions with Sutter County RCD on combining the two Districts into one due to the lack of staff and Board members
- Working with Colusa County RCD on a couple large grants on soil erosion/soil quality for orchards in the valley
- Progress on junk cleanup program – will be submitting a request to YWA next month for grant funding
- Still looking for additional Board members

Yuba Water Agency: Creighton Avila

- Working on the forest health grant
- Opening a new grant period – please check out our website for information

Steve Andrews advised the YWA is working on multiple film projects to provide significant public outreach on the efforts and problems that the county is facing as well as the Agency

Camptonville Community Partnership: Cathy LeBlanc/Allison Thompson

- Project is moving forward – we are excited that the Trapper will be available for biomass
- On schedule to break ground later this spring
- Waiting on Air Permit application for the Biomass Plant– this is a big step
- Introduced Charles Tyler as our Operator– 22 good-paying jobs will soon be available to folks in the foothills for anyone is interested on being on the crew
- Allison has been working on a video related to the project

Allison Thompson

- Earth Day is on April 22
- Moving forward with feed stock contracts – we have one in the works but still looking for others to participate in our biomass business center
- Here is the zoom link for the Yuba Forest Network quarterly meeting on May 7, 10:00-11:30 am. To be added to the email list to receive the meeting agenda and info about future meetings, people can email me at allison@yubariver.org. Agendas and meeting notes can also be found here: <https://yubariver.org/yuba-forest-network-quarterly-meetings/>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86469493656?pwd=eUZtT0pnekZoV1cwVTFseWZmbjl1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 864 6949 3656

Password: 756735

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,86469493656#,,,0#,,756735# US (San Jose)

YWP&FSC Reports

Outreach-Education Committee: Beverly Cameron

- Looking for photos for the 2022 calendar
- Towards the end of year hope to provide face to face education on prescribed burns
- Take Action Youth Film Project has been re-launched, last Friday an interest survey was sent out to get kids involved with public outreach, PSA-s and other potential projects – if you know any young people interested, please have them apply
- YWA purchased 200 sets of tow chain covers from the “No Spark Program” with a donation of \$2000 that will be disbursed to the five fire districts
- Did an article with Jake Abbott about the “No Spark Program” for the Appeal Democrat

Steve Andrews advised we received a mini grant of \$2000 from the Feather River Air Quality Management District for the 2022 calendars

Wildfire Mitigation Reviews and Volunteer Training: Gary Fildes

- Since the end of December, I have conducted 10 reviews with another scheduled for today at 1:00 pm. The reviews take approximately 2 hours.
- Still looking for more volunteer/trainees to help out – please contact me if you are interested or know anyone who might be interested in volunteering

Cathy LeBlanc advised that CCP and FSC have applied for a grant with PG&E for defensible space for special needs folks – hope to hear something by the end of the month

Board Report: Pam Cook

- Announced that after consideration, the Board has recommended Allison Thompson to assume the Executive Director position for the Fire Safe Council following the July 1st retirement of Steve Andrews. Following a motion by Cathy LeBlanc and seconded by Pam Cook, the Council voted unanimously to ratify the appointment of Allison Thomson as the next Executive Director.

Allison provided a brief background and thanked the Board for this exciting opportunity.

Steve Andrews noted that he will be working until the end of June and Allison will start sometime in June as well so we can work on the transition.

- Introduced new Board Member Stephen Heter

Executive Director Report: Steve Andrews

- CHY Company donated another \$2000 to purchase an additional 100 address signs for Yuba County residents
- Received a grant from Feather River Air Quality District for the 2022 Calendars
- Received a \$2000 donation from YWA for the No Spark Chain Covers
- Still working with California Fire Safe Council on a \$3000 grant for community outreach
- The Healthy Forest Project continues to march on, there have been a couple of issues with CEQA regarding the ring tail cats, one partner has put in a camera and feed stations – there have been sightings. Most of the landowner partners will have started work within the next two weeks.
- On June 5, the Alcouffe Center is hosting a Recology waste cleanup day from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. This event will also include green waste. Yuba County Public Works will be providing a chipper on site. We hope to host another green waste day up in Brownsville in mid-July.

Beverly Cameron thanked Steve Andrews for all his support and all he has done for the Firesafe Council.

Curtis Canfield, Web Administrator requested from Ed Smith and he gave verbal permission to use portions of and share photos and text for social media and website postings.

Chris Dallas, from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy announced the governor signed a \$536M wildfire prevention and resilience bill yesterday.

The next meeting has been scheduled for May 12, 2021.