



Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council Meeting Minutes – June 9, 2021

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

Additions to the Agenda:

Oregon Peak Lookout Tower VIP Program by Gary Fildes will be added as a regular item to the agenda. Gretchen Flor with Yuba Sutter Domestic Animal Disaster Assistance will be reporting.

Public Comments:

- Steve Andrews announced there will be foothills BE PREPARED Fair on Friday, June 18 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Alcouffe Center.
- Marieke Furnee read a statement re NYWD and lack of water delivery.

Plumas NF (Feather River RD): Jason Vermillion

- Update on staffing and equipment
- Moving forward with fire suppression repair – finally got a contract in place for the North Complex
- Activities have been low in areas
- We have finally executed a contract on the Healthy Forest Grant with the Yuba Water Agency – we are ready to go and doing some great work
- Update on work with Mooretown Rancheria

Beverly Cameron Fildes requested some photos of the project work for the calendar.

JoAnna Lessard advised that she will have pre and post project photos as well from the Healthy Forest Project.

Yuba County Reports

Steve Andrews reported that Supervisor Fletcher has RCRC meetings on Wednesdays that conflicts with the Firesafe Council meetings. Supervisor Fletcher and I met with two National Resources Conservation Service folks. Andrew Lee addressed the Firesafe Council last year, he is a Forester for most of Northern California working out of Red Bluff. He joined us in Brownsville along with Brandon who works out of the Yuba City office to look at specifically at some treatments that the equip project may be able to help out. We also talked about other projects that may be available through NRCS – protentional could work for the Brownville Corridor and a buffer along both sides of Le Porte Road going through Brownsville – going to continue to explore that avenue. Also, discussion on potential treatments that would qualify for the equip grant.

Also, Supervisor Fletcher was not able to attend the waste collection event on June 5. It was advertised to start at 8:30 a.m. and at 6:30 a.m. people where already lined up. It was a huge success and obviously a great demand. The Firesafe Council had piggy backed on the event to offer green waste disposal. Yuba County crews were there with their chipper and personnel.

Teresa Royat questioned where the green waste disposal was advertised at – it was not on the original flyer that was sent out. She also inquired about height and dryness of the grass at the Alcouffe Center. Curtis Canfield advised that the facilities are maintained and have been mowed a couple of times.

Steve Andrews advised that we had monies for two green waste disposal days – but that money may be better spent on our Residential Chipping Program. To date we have chipped 29 residents, with 9 more waiting to be chipped.

Steve also advised the Yuba County OES has been very busy heading up the new program Zonehaven and to make sure that everyone is signed up for CodeRED.

Thanked Yuba County Public Works for sending out the chipper and crew for the June 5 event.

We have a new Sargent in the foothill area - Fernando Machua.

Yuba County RCD: Gary Fildes

- We cancelled our Board meeting for this Friday
- Received a grant for \$134,000 partnering with Sutter County RCD to cleanup junk cars in the orchards of Marysville
- In the process and will take at least 18 months to become a combined entity with Sutter County RCD
- Working on the foothill clean up grants – I am working on the budget and hopefully will submit grant this fall

Steve Andrews advised that the employee that the RCD was going to share with Sutter County RCD is no longer working, so RCD is still looking for additional help. FSC continues to support the Yuba County RCD with funding that we can and continue to partner with them in the future. We have had conversation with them regarding potentially sharing a position with a fellow through Sierra Corps. Our Board has not looked into this at this point, and they are still looking for Board members.

Gary Fildes advised that we are currently looking for more staff.

Report on Oregon Peak Lookout: Gary Fildes

- Eighteen volunteers went through the CalFire Training and paperwork
- Another training is scheduled for the June 24 at 5 or 6 p.m., location to be determined
- Coverage details
- Hoping after June 24 will be able to be fully staffed for the month of July
- Fire/smoke sightings
- Looking for additional volunteers

Steve Andrews thanked Gary and Beverly for jumping in and taking on the coordinator roll. He also thanked Curtis Canfield of his many years of service as the coordinator and appreciates all he does for the community and continues to do. Also thanked Greg Crompton for his 25 plus years of service at the lookout tower, VIP program and the Firesafe Council.

Yuba Water Agency Report: JoAnna Lessard

- Update on the Watershed Resilience Program Grants, two new grants were funded – (1) a grant for the foothills roadside fuel reduction CEQA document to the Firesafe Council and (2) a grant to Loma Rica Fire Station for a 30,000-water storage tank

Steve Andrews wanted to recognize the efforts of JoAnna - she is leading the management of the Healthy Forest Grant. He also wanted to recognize that Creighton Avila was a Board member along with

Pam Cook, Sean Griffis, Art Craigmill and Stephen Heter – we have a great five-member Board of Directors.

Camptonville Community Partnership: Cathy LeBlanc/Allison Thomson

- Firesafe Council received a defensible space grant from PG&E of only \$20,000 to work on a handful of homes – we are working with single contractor and hope to have completed by the end of July
- Thank you to Yuba Water Agency for loaning us \$1.4 Million on the BioMass Business Center, the loan will help us pay for half of the inter-connection and security cost that PGE will be charging us
- Hoping to strike at the price in month of June, we are in the bio mass que the price 19.9 cents per kw. Once we have our power purchase contract in hand we can go forward with complete financing
- Allison Thomson has taken the lead on getting the feed stocks contracts, in order for financing to be completed Banks need to see five contracts signed
- CCP will be at the Foothill Prepared Fair on the June 16th, YWA has allowed us to share their booth
- Charles Tyler will be our man on ground when construction starts
- Working with Sierra Pacific Industries purchasing the property that the plant will be on

Allison Thomson

- Working on feed stock contracts and creative solutions

YWP&FSC Reports

Outreach-Education Committee: Beverly Cameron

- Partnering with Yuba Water Agency – been working with Alex to put together an informational flyer and distribution of the tow chain covers
- Looking for photos for the 2022 calendar
- Youth Take Action team has been busy practicing and scripting. On Monday, we did filming for a 50 second PSA. Hopefully we have a finished product to put on Facebook and website. We are looking at other projects
- Facebook page is continuing to grow. Curtis Canfield advised we have 761 members to date
- We will have booth at Foothill Prepared Fair at the June 16th event
- Still looking to recruit Wildfire Mitigation Advisors

Cathy LeBlanc noted that CCP is also a part of the Youth Take Action Group and also wanted to thank Candance Youngburg for all of her help on the Youth Take Action Film Project.

Curtis Canfield shared the video from Yuba County OES on the Foothill Prepared Fair.

Gretchen Flor with the Yuba Sutter Domestic Animal Disaster Assistance reported that she participated in a disbursed camping forum on how to prepare to take your pet camping. She presented the tow chain covers to the group and suggested they get your pet microchipped before you take them.

Executive Director Report: Steve Andrews

- Yuba Water Agency awarded the Firesafe Council a \$75,000 grant for the foothills roadside fuel reduction CEQA document
- Data platform interactive CWPP grant has termed out – it officially ended March 15 of this year. Sacramento River Watershed Program and 34North are continuing to work with us – due to Covid we fell behind. We having training scheduled today for primary users and additional training in the future as well for the public

Steve Andrews advised this will be his last Council meeting. Starting in July, Allison Thomson will be in the driver's seat. I am looking forward to participating in some fashion and thanked everyone for their support.

Teresa Royat indicated that she finally heard back from Johnnise at PG&E, she was having a hard time finding vegetation management people. Two days ago, I finally received the name of the manager. I am still working with people who have areas of concerns to provide PG&E with a list so we can do a drive through on the problem areas. Hopefully, next month I will have updated report as to status.

The next meeting has been scheduled for July 14, 2021.