



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

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

Allison Thomson welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced that we are looking to perhaps change the meeting format and look forward to everyone's input.

Additions to the Agenda:

Jason Vermillion requested a short presentation at the end of the meeting.

Public Comments:

- Jeanene Upton noted a correction to the June 9 meeting minutes – from Gretchen Flor to Gretchen Cupp
- Steve Andrews recognized the passing of Hal Stocker

Plumas NF (Feather River RD): Jason Vermillion

- Welcomed Allison Thomson
- Recognized Hal Stocker
- Showing critical low fuel moisture
- Fire Restrictions – no campfires in any area
- May see the entire Plumas Forest National Park shut down due to fire danger
- Update on Fires in the Plumas
- Still working on fuel reduction projects
- Update on North Complex Fire Salvage Sales
- Possible escape route in the Ranch Area near Challenge Project

Tahoe NF (Yuba River RD): Gabe Foster

- Eric Rice is back as Division 3 Chief
- Fuel moisture is critical
- Update on staffing and equipment
- Alaska Peak Timber Sale almost ready to go out to bid
- Working With Mooretown Crews on hand cut piles
- Trapper fuels areas looking to start prepping lay out in Sept/Oct
- North Yuba Forest Partnership – still working on getting out the public scoping notice

Cal Fire: Sean Griffis

- Update and staffing and Equipment
- Update on current fire situation

Yuba County Reports

Allison Thomson thanked Yuba County OES for the fire preparedness event on June 18

Yuba County RCD: Allison Thomson for Gary Fildes

- Still working on a grant request with YWA for clean up on non-vegetative debris on approximately six properties that have been identified

Oregon Peak Lookout Tower – Beverly Cameron for Gary Fildes

- We have approximately 38 people who are cleared and certified, we are almost fully staffed
- Thanked Cal Fire for the training

Camptonville Community Partnership: Cathy LeBlanc/Allison Thomson

- We are very close to receiving our power purchase agreement
- Update on inter-connection fees and construction costs
- Working on securing feedstock contracts
- Working to secure ownership of SPI property

Allison Thomson

- Working on securing feedstock contracts, none have been finalized yet – but getting closer
- Waiting to hear back on Cal Fire Forest Health Grant that would help subsidize the feedstock

YWP&FSC Reports**Outreach-Education Committee: Beverly Cameron**

- On the verge of filming another Yuba Youth Take Action PSA
- We have had 3 different Agencies interested in our Tow Chain Covers Project and how to get their program started
- Had an article on the front page of the Camptonville Courier on fire safety and will continue to provide monthly articles for the education outreach
- Attended the preparedness event on June 18
- Working on the 2022 calendar – still looking for photos and starting outline

Cathy LeBlanc wanted to thank Kandace Youngberg for all her work as a coordinator in the Yuba Youth Take Action Group as well as additional funding from Yuba Sutter Behavioral Health.

Curtis Canfield inquired if the Council could provide a table at Harvest Festival on September 11. Cathy LeBlanc advised there is also the Camptonville Fire Department's Annual Picnic on September 11, maybe we could have a table there as well.

Cathy LeBlanc inquired where she could get more pamphlets from the Yuba Sutter Domestic Animal Assistance Program. Gretchen Cupp advised she should email president@ysdada.org.

Board Report: Sean Griffis

- Welcomed Allison Thomson as new Executive Director
- The Council is working on having Allison and Jeanene become employees of the Council v. independent contractors
- Thanked Steve Andrews for his years of service to the Council
- Looking at maybe working on a trash clean up at the Yuba Goldfields

Executive Director Report: Allison Thomson

- Roadside clearing work on Willow Glenn Road from Marysville Road to Frenchtown Road will be starting in a couple of weeks

- Stevens Fund Grant – we have two projects under this program from the Plumas National Forest. Fuel breaks in Brownsville and Oregon Ridge with a mixture of different landowners. Planning to get started this fall
- Grant from YWA for CEQA Environmental Documents (Project Specific Analysis under the CalVTP) for roadside fuel reduction projects - hope to have the PSA completed by end of November
- Talked with Yuba County Public Works yesterday– looks like they have had interests from some concerned citizens about installing some signs along Marysville Road – “Check your trailer chains”. They offered make those signs and use our logo at no cost. Charles Tyler of CCP suggested one these signs be installed coming into Brownsville
- The Tow Chain Cover Project has brought in enough donations to make another \$500 donation to each of the 5 local fire departments last week
- Wildfire Mitigation Review Program – they have 4 full trained advisors, with 1 in training. Since last month’s meeting, they have completed 6 more visits with 30 reviews for this year. We are still in need of more advisors and properties to inspect
- Looking to develop more Firewise USA Sites in the communities
- Reflective Address Safety Signs – to date, we have provided 283 address signs to Yuba County residents. This program is proving to be successful
- Residential Chipping Program – since starting the program in September of last year, we have provided chipping services to 29 residents in the foothill communities. We currently have 11 new applicants that are waiting for chipping to occur
- We have received a third \$2000 donation from The CHY Company for another 100 signs

The Yuba-Bear Burn Cooperative (YBBC) is now accepting applications for prescribed fire burn plans for properties in the Yuba and Bear River watersheds. Through our California Fire Safe Council grant, we are able to provide \$1200 stipends to support 12 projects. The online application form is [linked here](#). Please share with landowners and other community members who may be interested. For more information contact Jamie Ervin: jamie@sierraforestlegacy.org

Burn plans are written documents that outline a prescription for a prescribed fire including the weather conditions under which the burn will be conducted, number of personnel and duties of each, and the type, amount and placement of equipment needed to safely conduct the burn.

The YBBC Steering Committee will be accepting applications on a rolling basis and will begin reviewing after August 15th 2021. Successful applicants will be reimbursed up to \$1,200 upon completion of the burn plan.

As the Yuba Watershed Protection & Fire Safe Council transitions to new leadership, we'd like to take the opportunity to assess the current effectiveness of our monthly general council meetings and make adjustments to the format or content as necessary. Please take this 5-minute survey to share your thoughts about our meetings, whether they're perfect as is or you have suggestions for improvements. Link to Survey: <https://forms.gle/5iKlsMXrgTubZYdE6>

Jason Vermillion of the Plumas National Forest presented Steve Andrews with a plaque/personalized pen holder for his years of service with Yuba Watershed Protection & Firesafe Council 2007-2021.

The next meeting has been scheduled for August 11, 2021.