Minutes
Council Meeting
Wednesday, November 10, 2021, from 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Recording Available: https://youtu.be/-7I-ab9IznE

27 Participants: Jason Vermillion, Gabe Foster, Landon Haack, John Stone, Eric Sweet, Ryan McKillop, Mike Lee, Art Craigmill, Curtis Canfield, Pam Cook, Rani Isaac, Steve Andrews, Randy Fletcher, Beverly Cameron-Fildes, Gary Fildes, Chris Dallas, Cathy LeBlanc, Eric Rice, Gretchen Cupp, Denise Tabor, Dan Peterson, JoAnna Lessard, Mary Beth Bykowsky, Steven Heter, Durriya Syed, Allison Thomson, 1 call-in

Big thanks to Pam Cook for taking minutes for us!

Public Comments:
- Randy Fletcher – looking for an air curtain burner; once BBB Funds are released - we will look for additional monies
- Cathy LeBlanc adds that FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant will have funds out soon as well
- Jamie Ervin - coordinates the Yuba-Bear Burn Cooperative - this group supports private land burns and helps landowners w/ prescribed burns - Jamie wants to host a workshop re: prescribed burns with lower complexity burns. Randy asks for a map - Jamie clarifies that this grant covers all that is in the Yuba Watershed. Cathy is very interested in setting up a workshop in the Camptonville area

Special Presentation: Homeowner’s Insurance & Updates from the CA Department of Insurance
Lisa Strange (Northern CA Outreach Manager) and Sally Westlake (Associate Insurance Compliance Officer)
View video recording (presentation starts at 00:09:30) - https://youtu.be/-7I-ab9IznE

Lisa and Sally gave a great presentation on the current state of homeowners insurance as it pertains to wildfire risk, as well as recent updates from the CA Department of Insurance. See recording for details.

Current list of insurance companies offering discounts for hardened homes: http://www.insurance.ca.gov/01-consumers/105-type/95-guides/03-res/Insurers-Currently-Offering-Discounts.cfm

AB 38 will require realtors to disclose fire hazard info to potential buyers. CA Dept of Insurance actively supported AB 38, but the bill did not require them to implement provisions of the bill. For questions regarding AB 38 implementation:
John Morgan
CAL FIRE, Defensible Space Program Manager
John.Morgan@fire.ca.gov

Contact the CA Department of Insurance: 1-800-927-4357 www.insurance.ca.gov

Rani mentioned the there is a new expansion in the Fair Plans for Ag Space
Partner Reports:

- **Yuba Water Agency: JoAnna Lessard**
  - 11/17 is the Yuba Integrated water Meeting - email her for info
  - The last round of grants is closed - she mentioned a new tree project program and internships for restoration projects 5 year project
  - NYFP Partnership is in implementation - the Yuba Project includes the Trapper/Pendola and extensive fire reduction.

- **Oregon Peak Lookout: Gary Fildes**
  - Oregon Peak was “first report” on 4 or 5 fires - and has been closed for 2 weeks
  - 36 fire mitigation reviews were completed in Oregon House - none in Strawberry Valley

- **Yuba County RCD: Gary Fildes**
  - Continuing consolidation efforts with Yuba - there is a meeting Friday at 10am and Sutter RCD has gotten a few grants

- **USFS, Plumas National Forest, Feather River Ranger District: Jason Vermillion**
  - Update on staffing and equipment
  - Happy about the 15 inches of rain - layoffs will happen soon but will have enough staff for emergencies
  - Post-North Complex and Dixie Fires - looking for salvage mills for all of the burned timber.
  - Cathy LeBlanc mentions Jonathan Kusel at the Sierra Institute is using/repurposing burned wood for building - Cathy will send contact info
  - Moving forward with fire suppression repair – have contract in place

- **USFS, Tahoe National Forest, Yuba River Ranger District: Gabe Foster and Eric Rice**
  - Layoffs will begin while keeping enough staff/engines and Hot shots for forest safety
  - They have shifted from suppression to burning overnight
  - Gabe reports they have completed 400 ac so far farther south - Yuba is too wet and they have completed 5 ac so far

- **CAL FIRE: Landon Haack**
  - Landon Haack is looking for a contractor to be lead and has a meeting scheduled on 11/17 - they are looking for burn windows.
  - They are working from Smartsville to N. Columbia/Malacoff
  - Still at peak staffing through 12/27 this includes AirTac Resources
  - Folks should call before burning to check status
  - Starting Pile burns in the Reader Ranch Area - now it is all too wet
  - In spring, wildlife area will be targeted
  - Beverly Cameron-Fildes requested some photos of the project work for the calendar

- **CDFW: Mario Klip**
  - Not present, Landon reports they are working on dozer lines on the Yuba Narrows

- **Yuba County Office of Emergency Services: John Stone**
  - No longer worried about fire now there is water

- **Yuba County Community Development and Services Agency: Mike Lee**
  - Fire Prevention Officer Grant was successful for 18 months and will send out a recruitment again
  - Roadside clearing continues; the measure K portion to roadside clearing fuels reduction to hire staff and a chipper needs CAO approval

- **Camptonville Community Partnership: Cathy LeBlanc**
  - Cathy Reports that all special needs defensible space jobs are completed - they had funds for 9 jobs
  - Cathy is part of the PGE committee to discuss/plan underground electric service delivery and
Sierra Pacific Industries: Ryan McKillop and Eric Sweet
   o Will soon be moving mastication equipment in to Brownsville airport area to start work on Stevens Fund-funded Brownsville Fuelbreak - 300-500 acres are targeted
   o Would like Fire Safe Council project signs to post - Allison will check

YWP&FSC Reports:
   • Outreach-Education Committee: Beverly Cameron-Fildes
     o Thank you to Eric Rice and Foothill Fire Dept for providing a lot of hose for tow chain covers. They have been flying off the shelves recently. Looking at providing these to larger trucks in the Yuba-Sutter area.
     o Still not providing in-person presentations to local groups, but continuing to share fire safe information via social media and website. Thank you Curtis for moderating!
     o Wrapping up the 2022 calendar, which should be ready for distribution starting in mid-December.
     o Please join the Outreach-Education Committee! Getting the messaging out about wildfire preparedness and resilience is extremely important, and we can use your help. Contact volunteer@yubafiresafe.org to join.
   • Board Report: Allison Thomson for Sean Griffis
     o We are looking into moving Council Meetings to a hybrid in-person & Zoom format, potentially as soon as January. Stay tuned for more information.
   • Executive Director Report: Allison Thomson
     o Address Sign and Residential Chipper Programs are moving along, although more slowly than usual
     o We are hiring for a Project Coordinator position to fill the former Admin Assistant duties plus additional residential project-related tasks. Job description is on website. Applications due December 17.
     o Submitted grant proposal (by invitation, following concept paper approval in October) to Coalitions and Collaboratives Action, Implementation and Mitigation Grant Program, for a Defensible Space Cost Share Program and funding for additional coordinator capacity. If awarded, program will start in February.
     o Be sure to use these council meetings as a forum to discuss projects and grants we are all planning to ensure we don’t duplicate efforts or create competition and to increase opportunities to collaborate. YWPFSC is planning to apply for a Cal Fire Fire Prevention Grant for roadside clearing during the next grant round (January). SNC will have funding available in January as well – talk to Chris Dallas for more information.
     o Implementation of the Brownsville and Oregon Ridge Fuelbreaks is starting this month.
     o Please send Allison any business contacts you have who can perform defensible space, roadside clearing, residential chipping, or home hardening work – we are putting together a list for YWPFSC projects and a list to share with homeowners who are looking to get work done on their properties.

Thank you for attending! No Board Meeting this month
The next meeting has been scheduled for December 8, 2021.