Minutes
Council Meeting
Wednesday, December 8, 2021, from 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Recording available: https://youtu.be/rxs3GWMeQ60

Public Comments:
Rani Isaac: CA Dept of Insurance conducted a 2.5 hour mitigation hearing on wildfire regulations, recording available here: Recording of Mitigation in Rating Plans and Wildfire Risk Models Prenotice Public Discussions. Learn about wildfire scoring that insurers will be required to provide to homeowners in the WUI. Also shared by CDI: Report: Wildfire & Water Supply in California

Partner Reports:
• USFS-Tahoe NF: Eric Rice
  o YRRD is pretty quiet, catching up on burning the backlog of hand piles in Sierra County on the Yuba Project and Nevada County on Burlington Ridge
  o Yuba County: contract fuels reduction work in Pendola area, then working into burn scar in the new year; have been experimenting with hardwood culturing as a treatment for Pendola burn scar
  o Beverly requested photos from Pendola area projects for the calendar and other outreach
• Cal Fire
  o Sean Griffis passed along info that Cal Fire Fire Prevention grants are coming out, Yuba County hasn't received much funding through that program in many years, so Chief Mathias is encouraging all to have projects ready for this grant opportunity
  o Rx fire in Nevada nad Placer County, nothing planned for Yuba County
  o Keeping one engine per station until January 3 in case a window arises for burning
• CDFW: Mario Klip/John Watkins
  o Shared a map of a current project: building a fuel break in Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area, reducing brush and small trees along either side of about 1 mile of Marysville Road
  o SB 85 and 170 recently gave funding to state agencies that are landowners, Daugherty Hill is one of many projects across the state
  o Goal is to increase the amount of grazing area and reducing fuels. Have trouble finding crews to complete the work; although Cal Fire has traditionally been their go-to, Cal Fire crews have had significantly reduced availability recently. CCC crews have had similar issues. Now currently contracting out of state crews.
  o Yuba Narrows unit near Smartsville will be aggressively grazed for the first time in a while in order to reduce fine fuels
• Yuba County OES: John Stone
  o Now have an admin staff person, and hope to add a manager in the new year
• Yuba County Public Works: Dan Peterson
  o Looking into Cal Fire Fire Prevention grant, will connect about potential roadside clearing project with YWPFSF
• Yuba Water Agency: JoAnna Lessard/Creighton Avila
  o Yuba IRWM is organizing a grant writing workshop with Sierra Nevada Conservancy for
sometime next quarter; contact JoAnna to get on the list

- **Oregon Peak Lookout Tower VIP Program: Gary Fildes**
  - Shut down for the season; will have a thank you dinner sometime in February

- **Yuba County RCD: Gary Fildes**
  - No update since last month

- **Camptonville Community Partnership: Cathy LeBlanc**
  - Jesse Golden has been helping a group in Pendola work on starting up a Firewise USA Site
  - FBBC: working on THP, TCP, and land ownership; selected EPC contractor, IAC from the Midwest; received Power Purchase Agreement; working out financing details; plan to break ground early spring 2022; still looking for businesses interested in co-locating at the biomass facility site
  - Completed Special Needs Defensible Space contracts with PG&E and YWPFSC; YWPFSC funding enabled 5 more homes to be completed this year for a total of 9

- **Sierra Pacific Industries: Ryan McKillop**
  - Mastication project for Brownsville FB, Oregon Ridge FB, and YWA Healthy Forest Projects hoping to start next week
  - Interested in collaborating on upcoming grant applications

- **The CHY Company: Madison Thomson**
  - 4 masticators working on various projects right now on YWA Healthy Forest Project and Stevens Fund Oregon Ridge Fuelbreak

- **Siller Brothers: Nick Knipe**
  - Finishing up burning piles in Feather Falls, then focusing next on mastication on YWA Healthy Forest Project and Oregon Ridge Fuelbreak in Yuba County
  - Interested in collaborating on and contributing to future projects and grant applications

**YWP&FSC Reports:**

- **Outreach-Education Committee: Beverly Cameron-Fildes**
  - Calendar is at the printers! Will be ready by the end of December. Everyone, please take and send in photos early in the season – we are already planning for the 2023 calendar. Photos of on-the-ground projects, wildlife, prescribed burning, etc. are all great and much appreciated.
  - Still looking for volunteers for Education and Outreach Committee to help table at activities and events
  - Tow chain cover requests have slowed down a bit for the season; we need to continue to stress the need cover tow chains and have a fire extinguisher in vehicles
  - Holidays are a great time to gift preparedness tools, supplies, and offers to help create defensible space and help keep the foothills safe

- **Wildfire Mitigation Reviews: Gary Fildes**
  - Program is going great
  - Have conducted 40 to date, 4 since Thanksgiving (3 in Pendola and 1 in Oregon House)
  - Having issues with form submissions; we’ll get it worked out

- **Board Report: Sean Griffis**
  - Interested in looking at Fire Prevention grant
  - Suggested adding Tony Velasquez from Beale AFB Vegetation Management Program to these meetings. They are working on several thousand acres of Rx fire this spring and summer, and have equipment they’d be able to bring out if we’re doing a small controlled burn and need Type 6 equipment and a masticator, they’d be more than happy to participate.
Executive Director Report: Allison Thomson

- We are hiring for a part-time Project Coordinator, applications are due Dec 17 and interviews in early January.
- We were awarded a $75,000 grant to start a defensible space cost share program that will work in tandem with the new home hardening cost share program.
- We’re doing one final holiday gifting push for address signs: received
- Chipping applications have slowed down a bit for the season
- Looking at holding a community meeting to explain and answer questions about the Firewise USA process in the new year.
- UC Extension will be hiring a new Forestry Advisor soon
Regular Board Meeting

Present: Sean Griffis
Absent: Pam Cook, Creighton Avila, Stephen Heter, Steve Andrews

No board meeting held due to lack of attendance.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2022 @ 9:30 - 11:30 am
P.O. Box 966 • Marysville, CA 95901 • yubafiresafe.org • Yuba Fire Safe Council