Minutes
Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 12, 2022, from 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Recording available: https://youtu.be/pKstH2H1tdq

Public Comments:
Keith Chambers: A major subdivision is planned and has broken ground in the Grass Valley area at the foot of the Nevada County Air Park aka Grass Valley Air Attack Base, which is an extremely valuable asset to many foothill communities. There is concern that new residents could file noise complaints against the air park, as many homes are located within the airport’s flight path. The developer and real estate community has been asked by Nevada County to voluntarily release disclosure statements to potential buyers, but there are no requirements on disclosure. YWPSC should keep an eye on this project and ensure the Air Attack Base remains as a valuable asset to our communities. More information is available: https://www.cityofgrassvalley.com/post/specific-plans click on “Loma Rica Specific Plan” and “Phase 1 – Creeks Neighborhood Subdivision Map”

Special Presentation: Yuba Foothills Broadband Update – Ian Scott gave a great presentation on the status of broadband in the Yuba Foothills. Broadband is still in the planning phases, but Brownsville, Dobbins, Smartsville, and Camptonville are being prioritized.

Please go to http://calspeed.org from a laptop or desktop computer (not cell phone) to test your internet speeds – this internet speed data is sent to the county and the state to help show the need for broadband investment in our area.

Information about the Affordable Connectivity Program is available here: https://acpbenefit.org/how-to-apply

See meeting recording for the entire presentation and slides attached to these minutes.
Contact Ian Scott with any questions: iscott@co.yuba.ca.us (530) 812-7732

Partner Reports:
- **USFS - Plumas NF: Erik Apland**
  - December precipitation put us out of the burn window in some areas, but upcoming dry weather makes more burning hopeful
  - Mooretown Rancheria is working and burning piles in the Challenge area
  - The federal Infrastructure Bill shows promise for our local Forests to increase organizational capacity and infrastructure, details TBD. There will also be a new Wildland Firefighter job series and a significant pay raise for federal wildland firefighters – likely 5-6 months to plan out that process.
- **Cal Fire**
  - Not present – operations meeting today
- **CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife: John Watkins**
  - Emailed report: Started the fuel reduction project along Marysville Road near Collins Lake on the Daugherty Hill Wildlife Area
• **CA Dept of Insurance: Rani Isaac**
  - CA Dept of Insurance conducted a 2.5 hour mitigation hearing in December on wildfire regulations, recording available here: https://www.cadقود@io/2023/12/mitigation-hearing-recordings. 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. Regulations should be finalized within next 6 months or so.
  - Lisa Strange may be more appropriate contact going forward, but Rani is happy to continue to participate as a public citizen and lend insight as appropriate.

• **Yuba County OES: John Stone**
  - Emergency Declaration due to snow storms in Camptonville area – YWA and PG&E supplied generators, 30 cords of wood were delivered to residents. Want to discuss areas that need timber stand improvement and issues getting access to/for people during both snowstorms and wildfire, looking for local and USFS contacts in Camptonville.

• **Beale Air Force Base: Tony Velasquez**
  - Air Force started their Wildland Fire Branch about 9 years ago with the main objectives of fuels mitigation and prescribed fire on military installations.
  - Have been set up at Beale for about 3 years, last year was most active year: 12 prescribed fires for over 3,200 acres, largest fire at 2,200 acres (largest prescribed fire in Northern California last year), and 7 acres of mastication around housing
  - Have brought in local cooperating fire departments to help with prescribed fires on base.
  - 2022 outlook: 10 prescribed fires at 5,100 acres, 300 of those acres will be a prescribed fire school bringing in local fire departments
  - Looking to make Beale housing community a Firewise Community

• **Oregon Peak Lookout Tower VIP Program: Gary Fildes**
  - Volunteer thank you celebration in February

• **Yuba County RCD: Gary Fildes**
  - The RCD has hired a consultant who is in the process of conducting a needs assessment for the RCD.

• **Camptonville Community Partnership: Cathy LeBlanc**
  - Camptonville was hit hard with the last storm, still many people without power, landlines, or internet. Thank you to the County for bringing in generators, food, and other supplies. Talking with the County about having greater infrastructure on the Camptonville end of the foothills.
  - FBBC is continuing forward: COVID and supply chain issues have increased the overall project cost; moving forward with land acquisition from SPI

• **Sierra Pacific Industries: Ryan McKillop**
  - Getting going on mastication work in Brownsville on the Stevens Fund fuelbreak, 2 masticators working now

• **The CHY Company: Madison Thomson**
  - Emailed report: not much new to report, have been rained and snowed out for the past month, hoping to get back out soon

• **Sierra Nevada Conservancy: Chris Dallas**
  - SNC released guidelines last week for new Wildfire Recovery and Forest Resilience Grant Program (general fund money rather than bond money) – similar to SNC healthy forest programs. First round applications are due January 31. A second round will be sometime after June 2022. It is a semi-directed grant program – discuss any project ideas with Chris and he can provide the application form.
  - YWA is organizing an SNC grant-writing workshop(s). Contact JoAnna Lessard (jlessard@yubawater.org) if you’re interested in joining a workshop.
YWP&FSC Reports:

- **Outreach-Education Committee: Beverly Cameron-Fildes**
  - Looking for ways other than meeting in person to outreach to the community about wildfire mitigation, specifically need to focus on groups who haven’t yet embraced doing defensible space and home hardening.
  - Need more volunteers from different communities to help out the Outreach-Education Committee. Please contact volunteer@yubafiresafe.org to volunteer!
  - Calendars are out! Pick yours up at locations across the foothills – find a list at www.yubafiresafe.org
  - Please start sending in photos for next year’s calendar
  - Still cranking out tow chain covers and address signs.

- **Wildfire Mitigation Reviews: Gary Fildes**
  - Pretty quiet due to the recent weather
  - Two scheduled, but weather in Pendola area has made it challenging to access – hoping to conduct those visits soon

- **Board Report: Sean Griffis**
  - Board meeting later today, will have more
  - University of California is hiring three positions for a fire coordinator and fire advisors in Placer, Lassen/Modoc, and Sonoma – not quite in our area, but good people to tie in with.

- **Executive Director Report: Allison Thomson**
  - YWPFSC is applying for a Cal Fire Fire Prevention Grant that will cover a first phase of roadside vegetation clearing in the Dobbins/Oregon House area within 150’ of County roads and 30’ of CSA and private roads. Thanks to YWA and the Yuba IRWM team for helping us prepare the application.
  - We are talking with YWA about a system for keeping the CWPP updated regularly through the data platform. Do you use the CWPP for your work beyond simply grant applications? Send in your comments on how the CWPP could be most useful to your work: allison@yubafiresafe.org and utilize the data platform: https://yubacounty.opennrm.org/
  - New Project Coordinator will be on board soon to help with various YWPFSC projects
  - Home Hardening and Defensible Space Cost Share Programs are planned to launch in February
  - Due to changing COVID conditions, we are still staying with virtual meetings at least for February.
Regular Board Meeting

Present: Board Members Sean Griffis, Pam Cook, Steve Andrews; Executive Director Allison Thomson; Bookkeeper/HR Dewaina Edens; Curtis Canfield
Absent: Creighton Avila, Stephen Heter

Meeting called to order at 11:38 am

1. Consider approval of minutes from the October 13, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.
   Upon motion of Director Andrews, seconded by Director Cook, and carried, with Directors Avila and Heter absent, the Board approved the minutes as written.

2. Consider approval of additional employee benefits
   Discussion: The Board discussed various options for additional employee benefits, including the current proposal of personal time off. Director Andrews offered to check into health insurance as an additional benefit.
   Upon motion of Director Andrews, seconded by Director Cook, and carried, with Directors Avila and Heter absent, the Board approved the additional employee benefits of paid time off at the rate of one hour per every 20 hours worked and three month probationary period.

3. Consider approval of 2022 YWPFSCL Budget
   Discussion: ED will provide the Board with quarterly budget reports. No changes to current 2022 budget.
   Upon motion of Director Andrews, seconded by Director Cook, and carried, with Directors Avila and Heter absent, the Board approved the 2022 Budget as written, with quarterly updates to be presented to the Board.

4. Project Coordinator Hiring Update
   ED reported that interviews for the Project Coordinator position have occurred and an offer will be made in the coming weeks. The Board provided input on key job requirements to consider when making the final hiring decision.

5. Adjourn: 12:35 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2022 @ 9:30 – 11:30 am
P.O. Box 966 • Marysville, CA 95901 • yubafiresafe.org • Facebook Yuba Fire Safe Council
Broadband Key Terms

- **Middle Mile**: Broadband fiber optic lines originating from internet service provider’s network
- **Download Speed**: The first number in “X/X” (Speed per second) Example: 25/3 Megabytes per second (Mbps)
- **Upload Speed**: The second number in “X/X” (Speed per second)
- **Federal Broadband Standard**: 25/3 Mbps
- **ISP**: Acronym for Internet Service Provider
What Does Speed Mean?

FCC's Household Broadband Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Light Use (Basic functions: email, browsing, basic video, VoIP, Internet radio)</th>
<th>Moderate Use (Basic functions plus one high-demand application: streaming HD video, multiparty video conf., telecommuting, online gaming)</th>
<th>High Use (Basic functions plus more than one high-demand application running at the same time)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 user on 1 device</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>Basic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 devices at a time</td>
<td>Basic</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 devices at a time</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 devices at a time</td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>Advanced</td>
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Basic Service = 3 to 8 Mbps
Medium Service = 12 to 25 Mbps
**Advanced Service** = More than 25 Mbps
Common Broadband Issues

- **Broadband is Expensive:** Depending on deployment type, Middle Mile broadband can cost (per mile, 2020 US Dollars):
  - Aerial Fiber Deployment: $21,614-$66,460
  - Underground Fiber Deployment: $98,760-$392,000

- **Broadband Deployment Unclear:** Data from the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) is reported by the ISPs, less reliable than if collected by subscriber household.

- **Data Needed:** ISPs are not required to share the locations of their Middle Mile infrastructure.
Broadband Progress

- Rural County Representatives of California Partnerships:
  - MOU with Golden State Finance Authority: Broadband Strategic Plan Grant – Conceptual Network Designs
  - JPA with Golden State Connect Authority: Broadband Demonstration Projects

- Applied for Emergency Connectivity Fund: Laptops and Hotspots to Yuba County Library
  - Expand access for students who lack accessible devices and service at home
Broadband Middle Mile CPUC Rulemaking R-20-09-001
- Caltrans planning a middle mile fiber network along Highways 70, 20, and 65
- This infrastructure will help expand broadband access

Completed Broadband Master Plan with Valley Vision
- Approved by Yuba County Board of Supervisors on October 26th
  - Approved Residential Goal of 25/3 Mbps
  - Approved Business Goal of 100/20 Mbps
Broadband in Yuba County

- **Broadband Availability:**
  - At least 32.1% of households are unserved at 6/1 Mbps
  - 34.5% of households are unserved at 10/1 Mbps
  - 47.9% are unserved at 25/3 Mbps
  - As CPUC data is reported by ISPs, these estimates are likely higher than reported.
  - Validating broadband availability will require household outreach and the use of tools such as CalSPEED.

- **Federal Broadband Standard:** 25/3 Mbps
According to CPUC data, only 20-40% of households north of Highway 20 have a reliable 6/1 Mbps connection.
On the Horizon

- **Request for Broadband Partnerships:** Partnerships with ISPs for shovel-ready broadband projects
  - **Project Priorities:** Brownsville, Dobbins, Smartsville, and Camptonville vicinities

- **Broadband Resources Website:** Through consultation with local broadband providers, aggregate available resources for residents in need of access

- **Broadband Strategic Plan:** Conceptual network designs to address unmet broadband needs

- **Monitor State and Federal Grants:** Await grant opportunities for the expansion of broadband networks
CalSPEED: CalSPEED is an application released by the California Public Utility Commission that reports your home or business internet speed and may assist with bringing faster and more reliable broadband coverage to your area.

- Try it today on your desktop or laptop:
  http://calspeed.org/

CalSPEED will assist the County in determining that areas without broadband service are eligible for federal and state grant investment.
Questions?

- Ian Scott, Project Manager of Broadband at Yuba County
  Email: iscott@co.yuba.ca.us  Phone: (530) 812-7732
- Point of contact for all Inquiries/Permits/Projects
- Enroll for Affordable Connectivity Program to receive:
  - Up to a $30/month discount on broadband service
  - A one-time discount of up to $100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer with copayment of $10-$50
  - https://acpbenefit.org/how-to-apply/
- Evacuation Information:
  https://www.yuba.org/emergency/evacuation.php