Welcome/Agenda: Allison Thomson welcomed both in-person and Zoom attendees to our first hybrid meeting, back at the Alcouffe Center in Oregon House. We are following CDC guidelines and masks are strongly recommended though not required. Those in the room introduced themselves, followed by Zoom attendees.

Public Comments: None

Partner Reports:

- **Cal Fire** – Jim Mathias shared that burn permits will be required starting Monday morning, and residents will have to call each day to make sure it’s a burn day. Cal Fire’s rehire academy is occurring through Friday to train seasonal employees; then local stations (Loma Rica, Dobbins, Smartsville etc) will be staffed starting late on Friday through the rest of fire season. Grass is turning brown at the low elevations, and the rain we’ve seen is too little too late. Lookout staffing will likely start whenever the burn ban goes into effect. Local Cal Fire staff have put in a hard push to support Yuba County with the Fire Prevention grant, which is still being reviewed.
  - Rani Issac asked if there are new fire hazard severity zone maps coming out. Jim answered that there will be new maps with more localized wind conditions that will raise some of our fire severity levels, but the timeline is not set.
  - Jim added that we are up fires this year, and as of April 10th have had 27 more fires and 8 more acres than this time last year.

- **CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife** – John Watkins shared that work along Marysville Road by Collins dam is paused while staffing is sorted out. Fuel breaks near Collins Lake and along Dry Creek Road are in the process of getting permits. They are working with the Great Basin Institute out of Reno, which will be dedicating 2 crews to their projects this summer.

- **Board of Supervisors** – Later in the meeting Randy Fletcher shared information from the CAO’s office – there is a candidate for a fire safety officer who will work with partner organizations.

- **Yuba County OES** – Oscar Marin shared that the Prepare Fair is coming up on May 19th and will have Zone Haven sign ups, giveaway items, answers to all questions, booths from various organizations and PG&E personnel. Reach out to Rachel Abbott, Yuba County P.I.O. if you’d like to reserve a table (#530-749-7560, cell: 530-370-4071). Also, OES’s grants program is working to support backup generators for water supply.

- **Oregon Peak Lookout Tower VIP Program** – Gary Fildes shared that Bill High will be the coordinator this year; Gary, Beverly, and Curtis were instrumental in coordinating the program during past years. There was a training last Saturday. The program is losing 5 long-term volunteers. Contact Gary (gfildes2001@yahoo.com) or Bill if interested in volunteering.
Pam Cook shared that there were about 45 people, about 8 new people at the training on Saturday. Staffing will start when burn days are ended. The Cal Fire administration explained the necessary paperwork to keep volunteers safe under Cal Fire workman’s comp. They would like to prioritize staffing the tower during the main fire times (afternoon).

Beverly shared that it’s encouraging seeing the community come together and work to get together enough volunteers. Most fires as of late have been from escaped burn piles.

- **Yuba County RCD** – Gary Fildes shared that a project to clean up junk vehicles is wrapping up. The RCD is looking for 2 more board members. They’d like to pursue grants and work with YWPFSC on fire mitigation. Debbie Aseltine Neilson shared that they’re developing a pamphlet inspired by the Butte County Fire Safe Council’s Forest Health publication, and have connected with the same designer. There is a habitat kit for monarchs available to help interested people plant helpful plants—Contact Gary (gfildes2001@yahoo.com) or Debbie (deborah.aseltine.neilson@gmail.com) if interested.

- **Sierra Pacific Industries** – Eric Sweet shared that 9 acres are completed of the Oregon Ridge fuelbreak, 42 acres of the Brownsville fuelbreak, and 54 acres of the Forest Health project. They’re collaborating with Butte Fire Safe Council on a fuelbreak/forest health project on the north side of La Porte Rd, mostly west of Strawberry Valley. SPI would like to extend into Yuba County. The south side of North Yuba in the Pendola area is another future target area that they’d like to address in the next 5 years.

- **CHY** – couldn’t come but still have a lot of masticators out on the Stevens Fund and Forest Health Project, as do Siller Brothers.

**YWP&FSC Reports:**

**Outreach & Education Committee** - Beverly Cameron Fildes

- 2 weeks ago Beverly, Allison, and Jannike attended the CFSC workshop in Paradise (Curtis attended virtually), which was a great networking and learning opportunity.
- Preparing for tabling at the YES Earth Day (April 23rd) and Prepare Fair (May 19th)
- Moving forward on a 2023 calendar; the 2022 calendar has been well received and almost entirely distributed. As you do home repairs and defensible space work, take pictures and send them in for the 2023 calendar (check [www.yubafiresafe.org](http://www.yubafiresafe.org) for a place to upload them or email to Beverly at luvadragonfly@yahoo.com)
- The “No spark” program is out of fire hose for tow chain covers, and seeking more. Approximately 150 tow chain covers have gone out since the first of the year. Fire partners have been seeing tow chain covers on their units and trailers.
- Need volunteers to obtain and cut fire hose for tow chain covers and distributing reflective address signs. Please keep encouraging people to request address signs, and we’re looking into adding blue dots to indicate water sources.
- Gary Fildes shared that the Wildfire Mitigation Reviews have been growing and reviewers conducted 15 since March 9th, and 11 more are already scheduled. They are an opportunity to talk about the RCD, YWPFSC, and more. Hoping to encourage people to find grant funding to treat beyond the defensible space zone with masticators. Looking for more volunteer mitigation reviewers—if someone is interested; training
involves a time commitment of several hours online training (watching Jack Cohen videos etc, presentations about plant flammability, S-190 course) and attending several guided reviews with a reviewer who is already trained. Congratulations to Ethel about the Lake Francis Estates Firewise Community designation.

**Board Report** - Sean Griffis

- Waiting to hear about grant requests and Allison has been working hard to organize grant applications

**Executive Director** – Allison Thomson

- Fuels Projects –
  - Brownsville and Oregon Ridge fuelbreak projects are in progress and eventually a map will be shared. Approximately 270 acres completed out of ~700 acres.
  - Roadside PSA CEQA document for extended roadside clearing is in review and on track to be approved by June, in time for the Cal Fire prevention grant approval, which is likely to come through and will fund roadside clearing in the Dobbins Oregon House area.

- Residential Programs
  - New Cost Share Programs are continuing to gain steam, they provide 50% reimbursement cost share for home hardening and defensible space work, up to $2,000 for each. Several press releases occurred when news outlets picked it up from Facebook. There is an uptick in Wildfire Mitigation Reviews, which is the first step in cost share program eligibility.
  - Special Needs Defensible Space Program – still waiting to hear back from PG&E, to provide 100% assistance to low income, disabled, and elderly residents.
  - Reflective Address Signs have been doing well, and a new order of supplies is coming, after which we'll do another Facebook advertising post.

- Lake Francis Estates is now approved as Yuba County’s first Firewise Community. Congratulations! Hopefully we will have Ethel present on how the process went at a later point.

- We are always looking for volunteers, email programs@yubafiresafe.org to reach out and get involved.

- Jannike Allen, Project Coordinator, shared that we’re currently writing a grant proposal for the State Fire Assistance program through California Fire Safe Council, hoping to purchase tools and start a community fuel reduction workshop series, as well as fund several ongoing efforts like chipping and calendars.
Regular Board Meeting
Present: Board Members Sean Griffis, Pamela Cook, Creighton Avila; Executive Director Allison Thomson; Bookkeeper/HR Dewaina Edens; Curtis Canfield
Absent: Board Members Steve Andrews, Stephen Heter
Sean Griffis called the meeting to order at 11:18am
❖ Executive Directors report and budget –
  o Allison shared that Cal Fire emailed an unofficial counter offer to fund $1.5 million of the $3.68 million requested for roadside fuelbreaks. This would fund about a year of the planned work. There would still be 3 years to complete the work within the grant period.
  o Randy Fletcher asked about coordinating with the county for roadside fuel reduction; Allison explained that this project would reach further from the road than county work does.
  Allison has been in contact with some folks who would be interested in doing the work.
  Randy suggested contacting Yuba County One Stop Workforce Center for filling local employment gaps.
❖ Consider approval of minutes from the January 12, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.
  Under motion of Director Griffis, seconded by Director Cook, and carried, with Directors Andrews and Heter absent, the Board approved the minutes as written.
❖ 2022 Q1 Budget Update
  Discussion: Allison provided several documents and Dewaina Edens shared budget insights:
  o Some revenue is reimbursement for grant spending that has already occurred.
    ▪ Some vendors let us pay them after we get the reimbursement from the relevant grant.
  o The overview covers each project, not specific grants.
  o Allison and Dewaina meet every Wednesday to make sure the books stay in order.
  o So much work has been occurring and lots of money has been brought in through grants since Allison started.
  o Tow chain covers bring in donations, which are then sent to fire stations.
  o Each deposit is entered under its particular grant, but all goes into one pot.
  o QuickBooks has breakdown by project/ grant, and by class (program)
  • The provided documents included:
    o Current statement of financial position- as of March 31st.
    o Statement of Activity Q1 – revenue in and expenses out, January – March
    o Statement of Activity by key classes showing breakdown by program; only some programs are shown in the accompanying report; board can request specific things they want to see.
The spreadsheet shows actuals that Allison entered into Excel from QuickBooks, and is fulfilling the board’s request to have this information. Actuals are accurate, while projected values are harder to show precisely.

- Red values relate to the PSA being prepared, and roadside clearing is not actually in a hole. The calendar project does not yet have money secured.
- There is a distinction between secured and anticipated funds, as grants are reviewed and approved.

Allison looked for software programs that can link a spreadsheet to QuickBooks; the price for a workable software that would save time and provide the board with lots of information is provided. Allison and Dewaina have looked at it through a free trial. $299/month is normal nonprofit rate; they would bring it down to $239/month for us. They do require $1,000 one-time onboarding fee.

- Director Griffis said the money would be worth it if it saves money by reducing the hours/month Allison works on the budget.
- Dewaina pointed out that manual spreadsheets won’t cut it forever; as YWPSC grows budgeting software will be necessary. Getting the software would free up a lot of Allison’s time.
- Director Cook asked if Allison could reach out to other Fire Safe Councils and ask what they’re using; once we get that information she’s all for it.
- Director Griffis asked to check that the data could be downloaded to Excel if we ever went away from the software program.
- Allison said she spends a few days every month doing grant reporting, so this would help for that as well as reporting to the Board.
- Allison is envisioning that this get paid for through indirect funding from the Stevens Fund and other grants, and then working this cost in to future grant requests.

- Director Avila made a motion to have Allison do the research requested and report back next meeting, seconded by Director Cook, and carried with Directors Andrews and Heter absent. An update and chance for approval will be scheduled for next month.

Director Avila asked when the RCD needs assessment will be complete.

Director Cook expressed surprise that there weren’t more people here today. There have been more people in attendance on Zoom and in-person in the past.

❖ Adjourn
Director Cook moved to adjourn, seconded by Director Griffis, and the meeting adjourned at 12:11pm.