



## Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 14, 2023 | 9:30am-11:00am

- **Welcome/Agenda:** Allison welcomed attendees in-person and on Zoom.
  - Note: The internet during the meeting was struggling to stay connected, therefore the video recording is not available.
- **Attendees: (26)** Ed & Denise Taber, Marieke Furnee, Patrick Straight, Tiffany Tracy, Charles Sharp, Keith & Carol Chambers, Teresa Royat, Chris McCandless, Jason Schroeder, John Stone, Joe King, Beverly Cameron-Fildes, Randy Northrup, Dennis McFarland, Martin Carrion van Rijn, Gretchen Cupp, Ben Raynal, Sean Griffis, Debbie Aseltine Neilson, Diego Camacho Molina, Dewaina Edens, Curtis Canfield, Sandie Marotti-Huckins, Allison Thomson
- **Public Comments:**
  - Cathy LeBlanc Camptonville gave kudos to the Sleighville Creek Road Association and the chipping program for work done on June 9<sup>th</sup> and June 10<sup>th</sup>.
  - Marieke Furnee shared concerns with the upcoming Roadside Fuel Reduction Project and the use of pesticide for treatment.
    - Allison noted there will be a community meeting for the Dobbins/Oregon House residents within the project treatment zone tomorrow night 6/15 at 6pm at the Alcouffe Center.
    - Also clarified that the Marysville Rd work going on currently is Yuba County Public Works
  - Thresa Royat – Expressed concern with fire hydrants creating a mud mess. Proposing that maybe Yuba Water Agency along with the county or an entity that has \$ to clean up and pave the area. This would make it easier for fire departments to utilize the area. She just wants it to be clean and safe. Curtis informed that the Alcouffe center owns the hydrant, and the volunteer fire department has made plans to replace the t-valve to reduce the leaking water.
  - Keith Chambers wanted to open a discussion about campgrounds and what agencies are doing about campground management in terms of campfires. The 2021 River Fire allegedly started at a campsite and became a fast-moving dangerous fire up the canyon. There are many local campgrounds in similar settings – what is being done to patrol them for campfires or other activity?
    - Possibly open discussions with campgrounds and county to ensure proper management and staffing. Make sure we are doing what we need to do to mitigate fire danger.
- **Special Presentation: Building and Maintaining a Fire Resilient Landscape** – *Martin Carrion van Rijn, Landscape Symphonies; President, Association of Professional Landscape Designers CA Chapter: [See attached documents](#)*
  - Martin spoke about key points from speakers at the Slow Burn symposium that was created to educate members of the APLD on what it means to design, build and maintain a fire resilient landscape. See attachments:

- Jerry McAdams with MC Fire LLC: How to collaborate with fire Authorities
  - Cheryl Miller, registered Landscape architect: Fire related design and best practices
  - Jodie Cook Explaining the relationship between moisture in the soil, water capture/Harvesting & Native Landscapes and how that affects fire resiliency.
  - Greg Ruben: Fire Resilient Native Plant Landscape gardens, principals, benefits. Realized a study with the Navy where he found out that most native plants, when provided with a little moisture, become very hydrated very quickly and therefore much more fire resilient than any other non-native plants.
  - Mike Evans/Tree of Life Nursery – Fuel Modification requirements, planting design, plant combinations for zones of fire threat.
  - Emmerson Funes/Gottlieb Native Garden - Native garden maintenance and how it affects fire resiliency.
  - Greg Ruben – Afterburn studies
- Key Topics:
  - Home Hardening and how it relates to landscaping
  - Home Ignition Zones: The first five feet around a home are very important to design with non-combustible materials. The zones beyond involve key spacing and material characteristics.
  - Mulch: Mulch should be matched to the plant (resemble its native ecosystem) to maintain plant health. Gorilla hair (shredded redwood bark) can be a good mulch for California native plants used in landscaping, if installed and maintained correctly to minimize flammability.
  - Decks and Fences: The thickness of wood/decking thicker the better for a slower burn. Fences that touch houses should be made of metal.
- Landscaping can both create a healthy environment and reduce fire risk but can go too far toward one or the other. It is important to find a balance between landscaping for habitat and ecology, and reduced fire risk.
- **Partner Reports:**
  - **USFS-Tahoe National Forest** – Chris McCandless, YRRD District Fuels Specialist
    - The North Yuba watershed is one of 10 identified critical landscapes
    - Still conducting prescribed burns during appropriate windows
      - Red Ant – 120 acres, rain impacted for now
      - Bear Trap – 30 acres, looking to burn next week.
    - Ongoing Projects
      - Hazzard Tree Removal continuing
      - Trapper Streamflow Enhancement in Camptonville clearing continuing
      - Trapper Pack - going out for bid next month
      - Jay Bird – more info to come
    - Fire update
      - 500 lightning strikes throughout the storms
      - All locations are fully staffed
      - Saddleback is still under snow and will open later
  - **Bureau of Land Management** – Jason Schroeder
    - Gerald Martinez the BLM Fire Management Officer is retiring at the end of the month. I will be the primary contact for BLM in his absence.

- We attempted a 100 acre understory prescribed burn last week in Nevada County in the Inimim Forest but got rained out, we might try again next week if we get an RX window.
  - We did receive Yuba Fire Safe Councils Grant Application and will be reviewing those applications next week.
  - If anyone has any needs or concerns from the BLM fire program please reach out at 916-350-1443 or jschroeder@blm.gov.
- **National Resources Conservation Service** – Diego Camacho Molina
  - EQIP Cost Share Forestry Applications done for the season/fiscal year.
  - Apply before the end of October for next round of funding.
  - Forester is leaving the office. Things will be slower.
- **CAL FIRE** – Tiffany Tracy
  - Peak Staffing
  - Hiring 148 seasonal firefighters
  - Nevada, Yuba, Placer Brun Permits are still open. Being evaluated week by week
  - 2320 Battalion Chief from the Prevention Unit will notify us when Lookout will open, after burn permits close.
- **Yuba County Office of Emergency Services** – John Stone
  - John is taking on new Fire Prevention Officer responsibilities, including liaison with Fire Safe Council and working with Firewise Communities
- **Yuba County RCD** – Debbie Aseltine Neilson, DJ Baker
  - RCD hired a new Executive Director, DJ Baker. His main focus will be Fire Resilience and Forrest Health. DJ grew up in Loma Rica and is very familiar with Yuba County. He was a volunteer at the Loma Rica Fire Department and also worked for CAL Fire before owning a construction business. DJ then went back to school and earned a degree from UCD in Wildlife and Fish Conservation Biology.
- **Camptonville Community Partnership** – Cathy LeBlanc
  - Forest Biomass Business Center / bioenergy facility – Working with new firm, Engeman and they have named the project Engeman Camptonville \_\_Green Energy \_\_
  - Received a design and engineering grant for Potential co-located business USFS grant for Sawmill, other co located possibility a pellet manufacturing facility
  - Received Grant from SNC June 1 \$2 mill Piece of equipment, brings total to \$9mill in grants by Camptonville community Partnership
  - Fire and Ice event on Saturday 6/17 at the Volunteer Fire Department. Come pick up “Go Bags”
- **Sierra Pacific Industries** – Ben Raynal
  - Mastication projects wrapping up in Yuba Co
- **The CHY Company** – Madison Thomson
  - Mastication on Yuba Foothills Healthy Forest Project going on in Brownsville area
- **YWP&FSC Reports:**
  - **Outreach-Education Committee** – Beverly Cameron-Fildes

- Wildfire Mitigation Reviews: completed 25 so far this spring, 9 left. The Cost Share Program seems to be motivating residents to get these done.
  - Need Hose for Tow Chain Covers
  - We are attending Farmers Markets in Brownsville and Dobbins 2<sup>nd</sup> Fri/Sat each month
  - VOLUNTEERS WE NEED HELP!
  - Pictures wanted ASAP for 2024 calendar send them in by downloading on our website
  - Camptonville Plant Sale was great
  - Photo prizes from 2023 calendar will be awarded at July meeting
- **Firewise/Programs Report** – Sandie Marotti-Huckins
    - Chipping
      - The council has received a new PG&E grant for approx. \$45,000 for chipping to be completed by November 15, 2023. The goal is 60 properties. We need a picture taken before and after from the same vantage point.
      - Hire a 2<sup>nd</sup> chipping company, Michael’s Tree Service. Will begin next week.
      - All Camptonville chipping has been done.
    - Defensible Space Cost Share Program
      - Sending out my first check to a participant this week.
      - Please make sure you fill out the Interest form.
      - If you don’t have your Mitigation Review, contact me, I have copies.
    - Firewise USA Program
      - Meeting for a new potential site in Camptonville June 25<sup>th</sup>
      - Another potential site in Oregon House on Sunnyside Lane
    - Tool Trailer
      - Made its maiden voyage to OH this week.
      - Very well organized and stocked.
      - Looking for a Volunteer to help run this program, including towing and supervising the trailer during workdays
    - Reflective Address Signs
      - Completed over 20 signs, being delivered next week. Will contact people who ordered.
      - Keep requests coming in
  - **Board Report** – Sean Griffis
    - Looking for more board members
    - Use Windex for the Address signs to peel off #'s
    - Has hose for our Tow Chain Cover Program
  - **Executive Director Report** – Allison Thomson
    - Stevens Fund Fuelbreaks:
      - Brownsville and Oregon Ridge Fuelbreaks:
        - Current acreage completed:
          - 160 acres (Brownsville)

- 386 acres (Oregon Ridge)
    - 546 acres total out of the 700 acres planned (78% complete)
  - Brownsville-Oregon House fuelbreak – I’ve signed the grant agreement, awaiting the fully executed agreement from the USFS before we can get started on implementation.
- Roadside Fuel Reduction Project, Dobbins/Oregon House:
  - A second round of letters requesting Right of Entry agreements has been sent out. We’re holding a community meeting tomorrow evening here at the Alcouffe Center at 6:00pm to answer questions.
  - So far, we’ve received about a third of the access agreements returned.
  - Implementation of the demonstration area will start soon. We’re hoping to get more sign-ups from landowners once they see the demonstration area.
- Pending Grant Applications:
  - CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention: cost share and special needs assistance for defensible space, chipping program, and volunteer workdays utilizing our new tool trailer
  - BLM Fuels grant: funding to support and expand our outreach program
- Announcements:
  - UC Extension is asking all California residents and natural resource professionals to complete their Statewide Wildfire Preparedness Survey: [https://ucanr.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_50fnEXjGRj5sCyy](https://ucanr.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_50fnEXjGRj5sCyy)
    - This survey will help UC Extension advisors learn more about the concerns of the communities they serve and will enhance their ability to partner with residents, landowners, agencies, academics, and other UCCE colleagues to reduce California's vulnerability to wildfires.
  - Forest Business Alliance workshops: visit [www.forestbusinessalliance.org/workshops](http://www.forestbusinessalliance.org/workshops) for more information on upcoming workshops to support local forest-based businesses

**The next council meeting will be July 12 6:30pm at the Alcouffe Center and on Zoom.**