



Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 12, 2023 | 6:30pm-8:00pm

- **Welcome/Agenda:** Allison welcomed attendees in-person and on Zoom.
- **Attendees: (28)** Chris McCandless, John Stone, Jon Messick, Beverly Cameron-Fildes, DJ Baker, Tim Mooney, Gary Fildes, Linda Jefford, Michelle Ellis, Levi Ellis, Gary Ellis, Teresa Royat, Charles Sharp, Jonathan Beth, Keith & Carol Chambers, Greg Stensler, Gabe Foster, Margaret Foster, Rosemary Jenkin, Karen Voorhees, Brenda Berens, Tiffany Tracy, Diego Camacho Molina, Dewaina Edens, Curtis Canfield, Sandie Marotti-Huckins, Allison Thomson
- **Public Comments:**
 - Linda Jeffords – Asked about Cal Trans work on Marysville Rd and if it would be continuing up to Texas Hill Rd. Cal Trans does not work on County Roads – perhaps contact Public Works?
 - Charles Sharp – Announced that Fire Protection District is in discussions with the Yuba Water Agency to conduct a Feasibility Study in which Fire Protection Tanks would be installed. The Yuba Water Agency will fund the study.
- **Special Presentation: Nora Cooper; Operations Center Manager, ALERTCalifornia Operations Center**
 - Nora Cooper spoke about what the ALERTCalifornia program is doing with regard to fire detection technology. [ALERTCalifornia.org](https://www.alertcalifornia.org)
 - ALERTCalifornia is a UC San Diego public program with a fire camera network of 1000 PTZ cameras with 360-degree views across California. Operation Center is based in Chico and funded by many sponsors such as Cal OES, UCSD and CalFire
 - ALERTCalifornia is branching out into other states and has become the largest camera network with 6000 cameras.
 - The system has a log-in for First Responders to access all features of the system.
 - The public also has access to the system at: ops.alertcalifornia.org/secure/camera by using the “Active Cameras” button.
 - People can see all cameras California by moving around the state on the map.
 - The Map Legend shows all accessibility features.
 - A visitor can make a camera set for the camera in their area.
 - Can toggle off-line cameras at: status.alertcalifornia.org
 - Cameras operate 24/7, keeping metrics on response times.
 - Raw AI is used for locating fire by pin location with lat/long, is reviewed by staff, then sent to first responders. It’s also focusing on filtering out false positives.
 - No estimated timeline for a phone App yet but you can access it by web browser.
- **Partner Reports:**
 - **USFS-Tahoe National Forest** – Gabe Foster/ Chris McCandless, YRRD District Fuels Specialist
 - Fire Update

- Big News: Helicopter 514 off Whitecloud qualified as a repel today. First time in a decade we have stood up a new repel crew.
- Type 1 Airship which is a tank type ship based in Truckee.
- Air Attack 17 is based in Grass valley.
- Initial Attack Fires: There were a round of small fires due to last week's lightning all kept to under 3/4 acres.
- All engines are staffed, All Hot Shot Crews active and Saddleback is fully staffed.
- Conducted 33 acres of under burn in North San Juan about 3 weeks ago. It is at patrol status as of now.
- Burn Ban is in affect now by the state.
- Forest Staffing is at Level 5.
- Still allowing campfire in the Tahoe National Forest as of now.
- Other Big News: The 275,000 acre North Yuba Forest Landscape Resiliency Project EIS was signed today in Downeyville.
- Ongoing Projects
 - Hazard Tree Removal continuing in campgrounds.
 - Trapper Streamflow Enhancement in Camptonville clearing continuing 600 acres completed.
 - Trapper Pack - going out for contract next month.
 - The New Bullard's Bar Project is moving forward. Waiting for release of grant funds from CalFire.
- **Natural Resources Conservation Service – Diego Camacho Molina**
 - EQIP Cost Share Forestry Applications done for the season/fiscal year. 3 out of 14 applications were approved. Hoping for a better ratio next year.
 - Conservation Stewardship Program is open (see website nracs.usda.gov for qualifications)
 - The forester from Ukiah will be covering while we look to hire a new forester.
- **CAL FIRE – Tiffany Tracy**
 - Peak Staffing
 - Burn Ban is on. Activity is picking up.
- **Board of Supervisors – Jon Messick**
 - Introduced Gary and Levi Ellis of Freedom Forest Management. They are longtime residents with a new mastication business in the area.
- **Yuba County Office of Emergency Services – John Stone**
 - High Frequency Training completed and will be online soon.
 - Continuing public messaging for heat safety, fire safety and prevention.
- **Oregon Peak – Gary Fildes**
 - Was staffed 7/1-7/9
 - Noted that it will only be staffed by CalFire's request during red flag warnings and severe heat.
 - Tiffany Tracy from CalFire added that the cameras on the tower are being monitored all the time and can be staffed at the request of the Battalion Chief to the Duty Chief.

- **Yuba County Resource Conservation District**– DJ Baker
 - Working on foundation policies.
 - Slogan: “Helping People Help the Soil”.
 - Looking for partnerships for future grant applications.
 - Getting out into the community. Partnering with Gold Country Fly Fisherman. Association to support the Yuba Fest in September which will be a Yuba River Clean-up event.

- **YWP&FSC Reports:**
 - **Outreach-Education Committee** – Beverly Cameron-Fildes
 - Making good contacts and connections at the Brownsville and Dobbins Farmers Markets.
 - Thanked Chris and Sean for used fire hose for Tow Chain Covers. This will fill a 250-pair order sponsored by the Yuba Water Agency. These covers will be branded with both YWPFSC and YWA logos, thanks to our volunteers.
 - Thank you to all winners of the 2023 Calendar Contest:
 - Lynn Griffin – Yuba County Scenic
 - Chris Haile – Wildlife Prevention
 - Arthur Rudnik – Preparedness
 - Debbie Asletine Neilson – Watershed Resilience
 - Kelsey Kay – Yuba Co. Scenic
 - Alex Boesch – Yuba County Watershed/Bullards Bar
 - VOLUNTEERS WE NEED HELP! Visit our website: yubafiresafe.org
 - Pictures wanted ASAP for 2024 calendar send them in by uploading to the form on our website: www.yubafiresafe.org

 - **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. Make your piles and apply now on our website: yubafiresafe.org
 - Hiring a 2nd chipping company to accomplish this much chipping in a short amount of time

 - Defensible Space Cost Share Program
 - Program ends 7/31. Please submit your applications asap.

 - Firewise USA Program
 - Meeting for a new potential site in Camptonville was a success. The community is moving forward by getting Mitigation Reviews and will work on their community plan.
 - We have 3 more potential sites. Setting up meetings with these communities.

 - Tool Trailer
 - 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
 - Requests keep coming in. New signs will be delivered at the end of the month.
 - Ordered new materials.

- **Executive Director Report** – Allison Thomson
 - Stevens Fund Fuelbreaks: The Brownsville-Oregon House grant agreement was finally signed, just in time for the hot, dry weather. When it is safe to do so, our landowner partners can get started on that next phase of fuelbreak.
 - Roadside Fuel Reduction Project, Dobbins/Oregon House: The June community meeting was canceled last minute due to the Scott Fire. The meeting will be rescheduled soon and announced through our email list and our Facebook group.
 - New public comment period open for Cal Fire’s Fire Hazard Severity Zone update. The original public comment period was this past winter and early spring. They then made some additional updates to the map based on those comments, so they’re opening a new public comment period. There were no new changes to Yuba County.
 - Forest Business Alliance workshops
 - Great sawmill workshop in June with great attendance and great feedback
 - More workshops coming up. See forestbusinessalliance.org for details
 - University of California Extension has a wildfire preparedness survey out, they’re asking all California residents to take the survey, they’re interested in learning about communities’ concerns about wildfire, to help them develop new wildfire-related programming. To take the online survey, please visit https://ucanr.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_50fnEXjGRj5sCyy

- **Additional Comments**
 - Supervisor Messick addressed PG&E downing trees and leaving in residents' yards. Chris McCandless said that by contract PG&E should be taking the wood. Listen to the discussion on YouTube video for more info.
 - Announced that the Lookout will be staffed by Oregon Peak Volunteers Friday 14th-Monday 17th.

The next council meeting will be August 9, 9:30am at the Alcouffe Center and on Zoom.