



Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 | 9:30am

- **Welcome/Agenda:** Allison welcomed attendees in-person and on Zoom.
- **Attendees:** Chris McCandless, John Stone, Beverly Cameron-Fildes, DJ Baker, Gary Fildes, Justin Hartman, Jason Vermillion, Creighton Avila, Pam Cook, Joe King, Oscar Marin, Chris Dallas, Cathy LeBlanc, Charles Sharp, Patrick Straight, Virginia Fujioka, Sean Griffiths, Carol Ferras, Rani Isaac, Tracey Munon, Curtis Canfield, Sandie Marotti-Huckins, Allison Thomson
- **Public Comments:**
 - Charles Sharp – Oct 14th Dobbins OH Volunteers Mini carnival @ fire station
 - Roni – there is now an escape route from Beacon Ln (up Rices Crossing) it will help Ranger Trail.
- There is no special presentation today to leave time for the Board Meeting and a discussion of the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program (RFFCP) assessment. Partners are welcome to join.
- **Partner Reports:**
 - **Plumas National Forest** - Jason Vermillion
 - Analyzing and planning moving towards firesafe conditions for forests
 - Busy summer tending to incidents
 - Transitioning into prescribed fire season. Focused on high elevations like La Porte.
 - Yuba CCI grant work covered many acres in the Plumas National Forest.
 - Piles on Oregon Hill Rd are part of a timber Sale and will be chipped.
 - **USFS-Tahoe National Forest** – Chris McCandless, YRRD District Fuels Specialist
 - Transitioned to prescribed burns focused up high Yuba Pass, 09 Rd
 - 1000 acres Little Truckee Summit
 - Also working on high elevation hand piles
 - French Meadows prescribed fires
 - 600/1300acres done in Trapper Stream Flow Camptonville (hand cut, pile and mastication)
 - Trapper PAC (Protected Activity Center) – bids out and to be selected by end of month
 - Hot Shots are committed to prescribed burns at this point
 - **Bureau of Land Management** – Jorge Pacheco* Welcome! Jason Schroeder moved to a new position in Sacramento. Jorge is our new BLM representative until Jason’s vacancy is filled.
 - **CAL FIRE** – Justin Hartman
 - Still at Peak Staffing

- No down staffing news
- Burn Ban will lift Friday. Permits will be required. Remember to always check to see if it's a burn day.
- **Yuba County Office of Emergency Services** – John Stone
 - Plumas Lake Picnic in Park Sat 14th @ 4:00
 - Oct 19th Prepare Fair – Floods: 3:30-6:30 Marysville; www.bepreparedyuba.org
 - Public Works Wrapped up roadside abatement on Moonshine Rd
- **Yuba Water Agency** – Creighton Avila
 - Nothing to report
- **Oregon Peak Lookout Tower VIP Program** – Gary
 - The lookout has not been staffed since August lightning event, and with the burn ban lifting this week, likely won't be staffed again until next year's fire season.
- **Yuba County Resource Conservation District** – DJ Baker
 - New Board Member Cody Hess
 - Leads on developing Monarch Butterfly habitat. Planting a native plant that supports the butterfly.
 - Yuba Fest made good contacts for future projects for fish protection.
 - Working on Fuel Reduction Grant for outside the defensible space area. Will benefit small acreage landowners.
- **Camptonville Community Partnership** – Cathy LeBlanc
 - Forest Biomass Business Center
 - Planning on 3 co-located businesses (pellet mill, sawmill, and biomass plant)
 - Just received funding from a USDA Grant for the Sawmill
 - Received additional funding (\$2 million) from SNC for equipment for the biomass plant.
 - Anticipated date of operation: March 2026
 - New ED Tracy Munson hired. She has been there for a month and will be taking over for Cathy after she retires later this year.
- **Sierra Nevada Conservancy** – Chris Dallas
 - December 8 Quarterly Board Meeting will be in Yuba County; field tour Dec 7th will visit the CCP bioenergy project site.
 - Fundraiser for Cancer Awareness October 28
<https://supportsierranevada.org/ways-to-give/donate-now---general-donation-form-cal-fire->
- **Sierra Pacific Industries** – Joe King
 - Accomplished a lot of fuel reduction in the spring. Will be starting mastication on those projects in the coming weeks.
 - Pulling together Archeology reports for upcoming fuel reduction projects.
- **YWP&FSC Reports:**

- **Outreach-Education Committee** – Beverly Cameron-Fildes
 - Food & Water Festival: we were planning to attend, but passed last minute due to weather
 - Dobbins/OH BBQ festival this Saturday. Looking for more volunteers to help with Outreach events and support.
 - 2024 calendar is in the works. Highlighting this year, the words, terms and acronyms that we use for the community to understand. Please take pictures of your mitigation efforts throughout the year to show the community.

- **Mitigation Review Report** – Gary Fildes
 - Please schedule your review. Very valuable program.

- **Firewise/Programs Report** – Sandie Marotti-Huckins
 - Our Chipper Program ends November 15
 - Address Signs – Keep ordering - Made another dozen this past month.
 - Firewise – We have a new Norther California rep from Cal Fire who is really helping us understand better the requirements. We are also working on a mapping program that the communities will be able to use.
 - We are working on a “Giving Tuesday” funding drive.

- **Board Report** – Sean Griffis
 - Welcome to Patrick our newest member.
 - Looking for more Board members. May be creating a new board position for Associate Directors.
 - Thank you Beverly, Sandie, and Allison for all of their hard work.

- **Executive Director Report** – Allison Thomson
 - Roadside Fuel Reduction Project:
 - A community meeting was held in September, but only 4 people showed up. With that low turnout, we won’t plan on holding another community meeting likely until next year. In the meantime, feel free to reach out with questions or come to a council meeting.
 - Request for Proposals (RFP) is being released on October 16, bid tour will be October 30, and bids will be due November 13.
 - CWPP Update:
 - Project team has been meeting and will have an RFP ready in the next month or so.
 - Community meetings are targeted for next spring; CCP is helping to coordinate.
 - Any partners interested in serving on the Technical Advisory Committee, please reach out to Allison or DJ, as the RCD will be helping coordinate.
 - Grants:
 - BLM grant to support our outreach efforts was not funded.
 - Recently submitted a grant proposal to YWA to support our cost share, chipping, and tool trailer programs.
 - We were recently notified by Sierra Nevada Conservancy that they are considering the Fire Safe Council for RFFCP Round 3 funding for capacity

building and/or project development. This is not a guarantee of funding but is an exciting opportunity. More information to come.

- Year End Review this year is cancelled due to last year's high effort and low turnout. We will still hold a meeting at the scheduled time, November 8 in the evening, but we won't be serving food.
- There will be no meeting in December
- Keep an eye out this winter for a survey about next year's council meeting schedule and zoom hybrid option – we're looking for your feedback so please fill out that survey when it comes out or reach out directly.

**Next meeting will be November 8 in the evening, for a special film screening.
Stay tuned for timing and details.**