

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes January 31, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Greater Valley CCC Facility.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Glenn Gottschall, President, Mike Olenchalk, Vice President, Karen Caldwell, Secretary, and Stephen Johnson, Treasurer.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: David Sweitzer, Chuck Sloan, Chris Trott

OTHERS PRESENT: Diane Bennett, Executive Coordinator, Alec Lane, Gary Whitson (CALFIRE), Rebecca Gorman & Darrell Slocum (Sonora Area Foundation), David Goldemberg (TCBOS)

Minutes: Motion made to approve October 25, 2022 meeting minutes. Seconded. Vote: 5 yeas, 1 nay. Motion approved.

Financial Report: Reconciliation summary was submitted by the Treasurer to Board members.

Presidents Update: None

Special Presentation: Darrel Slocum & Rebecca Gorman, of the Sonora Area Foundation (SAF), presented the Elaine Symons Baker Community Impact Award to the Tuolumne Fire Safe Council (TFSC) which included a \$25,000 check. TFSC is honored and provided Darrel and Rebecca with t-shirts.

NEW BUSINESS

- CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) Update: Contract awarded to Jensen Hughes Inc. Plan must be at Final Draft stage by December 31, 2023. Handouts were provided (attached).
- CAL FIRE Prevention Grants, RFP out. Proposals due March 15.
 1. Defensible Space for Seniors and Disabled
 2. Kewin Mill/Belleview
 3. Smith Station/Hwy 120 (combined Smith Station with Tenaya - Hwy 120)

CWPP Phase 2 was dropped. Alternative funding was found through USFS/County.

Research project was dropped at this time.

Additional discussion: Gary Witson recommended we send a letter to CALFIRE related to Grant timing. CEQA timing affects ability to meet field time windows for implementation. Current direction is that CEQA must be done in the first year. If timing is cutting close, let Gary know. Provide an explanation/justification. **Action:** Diane to draft letter.

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Mike and Diane meeting with Gary at 1pm (after this meeting).
Use Gary as point of contact when we have grant ideas/concepts or needs. (not the BATT chiefs)

Gary:

- ✓ New change: CEQA must be completed in year 1.
- ✓ New change: no more paper applications. Goes through portal now. Mapping is electronically entered.
- ✓ Make sure project boundaries are accurate. Must not do any work outside of the mapped boundary lines. It can affect reimbursement. The PDF map defines the project boundary. Goes into CAL Mapper. They are watching this very closely.
- ✓ Bumblebees: Relatively short protocol so minimum effect on project work.

OLD BUSINESS

- Election of Board Members and Officers. Motion to approve all Board Members and Officers to continue in 2023. Seconded. Vote: Unanimous yea's.
- GVCCC Update: Dan's last day was Friday. Kylie is Acting. Advertisement is out. They are increasing the pay scale for crew members.
- Firewise Update:
 - Annual Meeting of Firewise Leaders was held January 14.
 - Handouts provided: Firewise Funds Update and Firewise Program 2022 Accomplishments.

Adjournment: 1230.

Next Meeting (Public Collaboration) is Feb. 28, 2023.

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Project Updates:

- #149 Big Hill/Old Oak Ranch Roads (FS Stevens) – A. Smith * **completed**
- #156 TUD Main Canal Fuelbreak (TUD/FS Stevens) – Trott * **completed**
- #162 T.C. Fuel Density Guidelines for Private Landowners –(unfunded) Konklin **Gave presentation to PGE on fuel density project. About 45 minutes.**
- #166-Big Hill/Old Oak Ranch Roads Phase 2 (Stevens) - ?
- #167-Middle Big Hill Phase 2 (Stevens) – TBD
- #168-Mt. Elizabeth South Perimeter - (Stevens)-Forbes/Trott
- #169-Big Hill Cedar Ridge Areas SFBs Completion and Maintenance (USFS Cooperative Forestry)-TBD
- #171 Mountain Boy Mine (CCI) – Lane/Bennett (needs CEQA)
 - Meeting being set up with Chris Hatler, CALIRE will attend if FSC takes lead to set it up. Landowner permissions still needed. Can work on Federal land as long as environmental documents are in place. Adam doing CEQA surveys. Hoping to have field work done in May.**
- #172 Apple Valley (CCI) – Sweitzer **CEQA in Sacramento. Almost done.**
- #173 CWPP (CCI) – Bennett, Caldwell
- #174 Sunshine Hill – Schweitzer **CEQA going well. Lots of mining debris and sites. Submit in 2 weeks.**
- #175 Big Hill Fuels Maintenance
- #176 Summerville High Fuel Reduction – Johnson **Started today. The school is very excited about the project. Strong support. Hand crew work and mastication.**
- #177 CFF Firewise Grant – Karen

* Project work completed. Financial accounting still pending.

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