

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 28, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 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: Chuck Sloan

OTHERS PRESENT: Diane Bennett, Executive Coordinator, Alec Lane, Project Manager, Gary Whitson (CALFIRE), Joseph Darby, guest

Minutes: Minutes from January 31, 2023, deferred to next meeting. No quorum.

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

Presidents Update:

- Found a new member for the Board from South County. Roni Lynn Borrego is the PAO for the Groveland Community Service District. She will be effective at our next meeting.
- CWPP Steering Group met. Timeline is very tight for finishing this document.
- CCI Grants. Thank you to Diane, Mike and Adam for all their hard work
- CA Fire Safe Council sent notice of upcoming advocacy event in Sacramento. Visit with Legislators. Mike & Glenn will go. Capital Walk, April 18.
 - Send Glenn CWPP talking points - Karen
 - Diane will prepare brief on need for renewal of legislation re. authorizing advances
 - Stephan indicated that delays in payments is a problem.

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

CWPP: Karen

- Tuolumne County redirected some funding to the Council to make up the shortage in the Contract. Good continuity with connecting the County. Emphasize.

Update from Executive Coordinator

- Applications for CAL FIRE Prevention Grants submitted. Diane distributed a handout of projects.
- Completed the insert for the Union Democrat – Great job Diane!
- Upcoming Home and Garden Show – need help.

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Project Signs: Most project managers are purchasing as part of their project costs.
Recommendation that Mike Olenchak include project signs into the process document.

Suggestion was made the BOD do field project tours as a group. We need to be more in touch with what is happening on the ground.

Guest Joseph Darby. Joseph was interested in reducing fuels around a mobile home park off Wigwam Road. Board recommended he gather more information on land ownership and park ownership to see if there is some interest/support. Encouraged to come back if more assistance is needed.

UPDATE OF PROJECTS: Stephen and Alen reported on status.

- #171 Mountain Boy Mine: CEQA almost done. Waiting on botany. Almost all landowners are on board. Had mini IDT (interdisciplinary team) in the wood: specialists were supportive on addition of 6 acre chunk. Decision of NEPA adequacy.
- #176 Summerville High Fuel Reduction: Moving on Phase 1. Phase 2 is the school. Great support from the school.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS/ACTIVITIES.

Many events are upcoming in next 2 months: Volunteer Fair, Home & Garden Show, Wildfire Preparedness Town Hall, Wildfire Preparation Week, Motherlode Parade.

Diane and Karen requested volunteer help from Board members. Stephen, Mike and Chuck volunteered to help as much as they could. Karen also getting some help from some Firewise volunteers. Thank you.

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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