

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes September 26, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 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, David Sweitzer, Chris Trott, Joe Milani

OTHERS PRESENT: Diane Bennett, TFSC Executive Coordinator, Jerry McGowan, new Project Manager, Scott Fremd, Daniel Portela, Craig Konklin, CAL FIRE Standard Captain, Cameron Jones, CAL FIRE, Bill Barteau, CAL FIRE Battalion 5.

Minutes: Motion made to approve July 25, 2023 meeting minutes. Seconded. Vote: 8 yea, 0 nay. Motion approved.

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

Presidents Update: (Glenn Gottschall)

- Sue Forbes has resigned from the Board.
- Chuck Sloan serves on the Tuolumne County Fire Advisory Board as a representative for District 4.
- New Project Managers were introduced. Jerry McGowan (former USFS Stanislaus Natl. Forest Fire Mgmt. Officer and Me Wuk Fire Chief) and Scott Fremd (former CAL FIRE :TC unit 1989-2017). They will join current Project Managers, Jerry Usrey and Alec Lane.

NEW BUSINESS

- Diane: Council received 2 CAL FIRE grants from the last application round
 - Statewide \$113 million was awarded, \$432,146,423 was requested.
 - Total TCU \$ for 7 funded projects was \$4,512,583
 - 3 Tuolumne County projects funded
 - Defensible Space for Seniors and Disables in Tuolumne County
 - \$879.285 (FSC)
 - Groveland Hwy 120 Area Fuel Breaks Maintenance
 - \$357.285 (FSC)
 - TUD: \$168.086
 - Of the 7 TCU projects funded – largest was Calaveras RCD, \$2,348,773
- Karen identified need to implement fund raising activities and recruitment for BOD members. **Decision to take this up after the CWPP is finished.**

OLD BUSINESS

CWPP Update - Karen Document scheduled for completion January 31, 2024.

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UPDATE OF PROJECTS:

- 162 UC Davis received \$500,000 research grant. FSC will help with local stakeholder meetings, etc.
- 166,167,168 Delete. Now included in County stewardship work.
- 169 Big Hill Cedar Ridge Areas SFBs Completion and Maintenance - Extension request due Aug. 30. May need some new mapping.
- 171 Mountain Boy Mine (CCI) 58 acres. CEQA done. Mt. Boy to Rocky Top Road. Hope to start in October. Mostly mastication and handwork, old growth manzanita. Alec is project manager.
- 172 Apple Valley (CCI) 80 acres. Lop & scat. GVCC piled, CAL FIRE will burn about 100 piles
- 174 Sunshine (CCI) Jamestown/Rawhide Road, 31 acres. Contractor done 10-12 acres. Dense brush. 19 archeological/historic sites to avoid, lots of flagging. Should be done by end of the year.
- 175 Big Hill Fuels Maintenance - CEQA refresh done. Working on right of entries. Jerry Usrey is the project manager. Mostly mastication. 334 acres. = maintenance project.
- 176 Summerville High Fuel Reduction – Waiting for 2nd advance. Been approved, waiting for check.
- 177 CFF Firewise Grant - Final Report has been submitted. (9/15/23) close

MISCELLANEOUS:

Diane is watching the State Legislature. Proposing prevailing wages for any public funded projects, January 21, 2026. Applies to contracts over \$100,000. Gov. Newsom has vetoed in the past. We should build into our new projects/contracts so we get ahead of this, especially for hand crews.

There is a continuing need to market the Tuolumne Fire Safe Council. Agreement, but no actions identified at this time.

Chuck needs photos from Project Managers.

Next round for CAL FIRE CCI grants expected in October. Board brainstormed future project areas ideas. See attached. Executive Committee will consider and make determination on project to move for next round. These will be presented to the BOD at November meeting.

- ✓ Karen to type and email to Board members with opportunity to add/delete/edit.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS/ACTIVITIES.

Holiday Luncheon, December 5, 1130 @ Camp Silver Spur

Adjournment: 10:55 a.m. Next Meeting is August 29, 2023, 0900.

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board of Directors

Brainstorm Project Ideas 2023-2024

September 26, 2023

Brain Storm ideas

- Wards Drainage – Morningstar Drive to Bald Mountain – Sonora Creek (I didn't get this right??? East Bald Mtn Road area? Can someone send me a better description please...thx, Karen)
- Turnback Creek – maintenance and expansion
- Dragoon Gulch to Mt. Brow Road (Sonora City partnership)
- Buchanan Road
- Mount Havala, 120 acres
- Summerville Elementary, 10 acres
- Big Hill/Kewin Mill Road (included Belleview Elementary)
- Cedar Ridge Egress via Old Oak Ranch Road
- Large Scale Maintenance Project (bundle into one proposal)
- Merrill Road, Big Oak Flat/Groveland
- Tanaya School District
- County Schools Project (large group of schools)
- CWPP Phase 2 (virtual home, collaborative infrastructure development and implementation planning)
- Home Hardening in South County areas
- Jones Hill (Crooks property)
- Blue Zone project (Glenn's proposal)
- Wards Ferry Road
- Firewise Program expansion and implementation activities
- Tuolumne Fire Safe Council Growth and Development Planning and Improvements (Education and Firewise Program Build, Human Resources/succession planning, facility & equipment investments, financial sustainability, communication and marketing capacities). Consultant costs for Plan and Initial investment funding needs. (Sorry, I added this after the meeting...interested in your thoughts on this. Karen)

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Considerations

- Proposed State Legislation-prevailing wages for any public funded projects (contracts over \$100,000. Newsom vetoed in past) We should build into new contracts so we get ahead of this, especially for hand crews.
- Linear fuel breaks are marginally effective in today's mega fire behavior. Need to move towards larger area treatments.
- Need massive public education investment to change public perceptions and behaviors
- Internal WUI projects are needed. Focus around housing/commercial development areas that reduces risk. Look for connections/partnerships, etc. Good PR and education opportunities.