

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes July 30, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. at the Greater Valley CCC Facility.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mike Olenchalk, Acting President, Karen Caldwell, Secretary, and Stephen Johnson, Treasurer.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Chrystal Aceves, Chuck Sloan, Jerry McGowan

OTHERS PRESENT: Tricia Peller, Grant Specialist, Randy Aceves, Ridgewood Firewise, Jerry Usrey, Project Manager, Alec Lane, Project Manager, Jim Phelan, Director TCRCO, Gary Whitson, CAL FIRE, Maria Benech, LWVML, Brenda McHenry, LWVML, Leslie Klay, LWVML

Minutes: Minutes for January & March

Motion to approve both –Sloan. 2nd-McGowan Approved unanimously.

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

Presidents Update: (Mike Olenchalk): Apple Valley had a lot of storm damage. Reached out to TMC Fuels Reduction to get hand crews to finish Apple Valley. Planning to finish last 10 acres in fall.

The issue of CEQA for defensible space projects is a Statewide CAL FIRE issue. Roberta MacEntire, Fire Safe Sonoma 707-888-8490. Adam is planning to do CEQA for communities (zones) across the County.

Recommend that RCD's/BOS's contact Governor/legislators on this issue.

Gary Witson, CAL Fire noted that they are expecting to hear about new grant selections at end of the month. Issues:

- all of their CEQA must go through archeology (must be professional archeologists, shortage
- Statewide CAL FIRE is getting audited hard on grants. Financial focus.

Defensible Space Assessment training was put on by CAL FIRE to train others to conduct 4291 assessments on residential properties. Questions still unanswered: Who do the work for? Who holds liability? Must have property owner permission. Invitation only? Gary is on hold until more answers come through. The Council could provide this service. Counsel sent Karen and Chuck through the training. Also included was Randy Aceves (Ridgewood Firewise) and Gary Sanchez.

Use VIP-Volunteer in Prevention?

**Does the FSC want to provide assessment services to residents? Decision for down the road.

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NEW BUSINESS

Guest Presentation: League of Women Voters, Motherlode Chapter (LWVML)
Brenda McHenry, President of the Motherlode Chapter explained that the LWV is a political organization and non-partisan organization. The can lobby. Formed in 1920 before women had the right to vote. In 1976 the League opened its membership to men. It is a national organization with State and Local organizations/Chapters.

Maria Benech provided information about the League and its positions on Wildfire at the National Level and the local chapter level. The LWVML identifies interest areas to study each year. Depending on the topic this will evolve into a study and position paper. Many members in our local Chapter are interested in Wildfire risks and mitigations. A study group (Fire Interest Group) was formed and they have been working with Karen Caldwell.

Proposal to partner with the TFSC for education and prevention actions

- Volunteers
- Outreach-marketing
- Events/Activities

Decision: TFSC welcomes the LWVML partner relationship

- LWVML will attend the FSC Public Collaboration Meetings. Karen will send schedule to Maria. DONE
- It will be an informal partnership
- Karen will add Maria to FSC mailing lists DONE
- Good partnership opportunity: advocacy, education, etc.

UPDATE OF PROJECTS:

171 Mt. Boy, Alec Lane: 58 ½ acres. 42 are treated. Did Boundary amendment to CEQA boundary – 80 acres DONE (much of it is inaccessible, untreatable)
Wes willing to return if we have advance in hand – winter project. Wes is fully paid now.

174 Big Hill Maintenance: Jerry U.

- In limbo
- Modified boundaries, new CEQA under way
- Units are marked
- At least Oct/Nov or later before can start
- March 1-Sept 30, spotted owl LOP(Limited Operating Period) = no operations

175 Big Hill, Jerry Usrey: LOP for owl still in effect. Slowing everything down.
Most owners are supporting.

176 Summerville High: Tribe crew signed off for crew working around water tank. Tribe crew working with GVCC's. Waiting for advance for contractor.

179 Defensible Space: TUCARE doing defensible space for seniors /handicap

180 Groveland Maint.: Alec Lane will be project manager.

181 Silver Spur PGE: Stephen Johnson, all is well.

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Note: Karen to do resolution for Defensible Space, Groveland Maint., and Big Hill re. authorized person agreement.

Holiday Luncheon will be Wednesday December 11. Mike will check on ML Job training facility.

Need to purchase scanner to digitize project files for storage. Chuck Sloan is willing to do the scanning if someone works with him. Karen and Tricia will go thru files to narrow down what needs to be kept. **Motion made to allow Chuck to purchase a scanner not to exceed \$350. Approved.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS/ACTIVITIES.

Community Resources Fair, August 14m 3-6pm

Adjournment: 11:43 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 27, Collaboration/Public Meeting, 0900.