

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes January 30, 2024

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

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

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Joe Milani, Chrystal Aceves, Jerry McGowan

OTHERS PRESENT: Diane Bennett, TFSC Executive Coordinator, Scott Fremd, Project Manager, Gary Whitson, CAL FIRE, Randy Aceves, Jerry Usrey, Project Manager, Alec Lane, Project Manager, Taylor Martens (for Zack Abernathy), Adam Frese, Lee Smith, Gary Sanchez

Minutes: Motion made to approve Nov 23, 2023 meeting minutes. Seconded. Vote: 6 yea, 0 nay. Motion approved.

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

Presidents Update: (Mike Olenchalk)

- Apple Valley Project – work was done outside the CEQA boundary. Issue not yet resolved with CAL FIRE. Working with CAL FIRE Grants folks to develop a mitigation. Estimated \$21,000 value. FSC cannot pay that amount since we are primarily grant funded. David has been removed as Project Manager.
- David Schweitzer has resigned from the Council
- Eileen Carlen has resigned from the Council due to health. She would like to return at a later time.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ Elections:

Motion made for Olenchalk, Caldwell and Johnson to remain as Executive Committee of the Board of Directors. Second made. **Carried – 4 yea, 0 nay**

Motion made for Olenchalk, Caldwell, Johnson, Milani, Trott, to serve on 2024 Board of Directors. Seconded, **Carried – 4 yea, 0 nay**

- Bylaws Update needs. Karen to send copy to all for review/comments. Personalize, add logo. **Decision: Small Group to develop proposed Bylaw updates. Chrystal, and, Karen (lead).**
- Outreach/Recruitment Committee to increase membership. Form small group: Job Descriptions, Interviews, roles & responsibilities, marketing, etc. **Decision: Joe, Karen, Scott**

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- Fund Raising Committee proposal: Karen requested help, need to develop mechanism. No Action

- Executive Coordinator Update
 - Conflict of Interest Forms were distributed for signature.
 - 2024 CAL FIRE Prevention Grant Applications submittals. Late Summer/early fall awards, 2025 starts.
 - CWPP for Tuolumne County Phase 2
 - Dragoon Fuels Reduction
 - Tuolumne City Fuels Reduction
 - Belleview/Kewin Mill Fuels Reduction
 - New Member Orientation Package contents should include: duties (need to develop), Bylaws, Organization History, contact list, past agenda/minutes, financial information, last 5 years grant list (current & proposed). Not currently fully developed.

OLD BUSINESS

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

CWPP Discussion: Concerns were shared

- Need to define Risk Numbers
- Outdoor Schools need to be added
- Maps make it look like there is not much information on fuels within WUI's (Wildland Urban Interface) along Hwy 108. Doesn't consider fuels in WUI areas such as homes/landscaping, etc.
- Suggestion: have separate area/discussion on WUI's
- Fire Behavior Analysis has no input re. ember cast, wind cast
- Initial Attach fire suppression activity is not factored into behavior and risk analysis = bad assumption
- Insurance industry will misinterpret
- RAWs data, Historical fire spread data needs consideration.
- Modeling in general, overpredicts. Doesn't consider suppression in worst case scenario
- The Fire Behavior modeling should be eliminated
- Treatment prioritization should consider topography, fire history and vegetation

UPDATE OF PROJECTS:

- 171 Mountain Boy Mine: 58 acres. High Sierra Management has the contract, mastication and handwork. Will send Karen pictures.

- 175 Big Hill Fuels Maintenance R/W letter out to 66 parcels. Starting to received back. LOP for Great Grey Owl is March to September 1. Originally restricted to small area, but the owl is back on site. Working on how to mitigate. 1 Parcel = no permission, will flag and avoid. Will be setting up a public meeting. Can use Outdoor School or Belleview as location.

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176 Summerville High Fuel Reduction – Doing Great. Show piece for public.

Add to Project list: #179 Defensible Space for Seniors/Disabled
#180 Groveland Maintenance Area

CALENDAR OF EVENTS/ACTIVITIES.

Firewise Annual Residential Leaders Mtg, Feb/10, 9-12noon. Volunteer Fair, Apr 4, 4-7pm.
Wildfire Preparedness Townhall, April/6. Home & Garden, Apr/20-21,

Adjournment: 1138 a.m. Next Meeting is February 27, 2024, 0900.

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