

# TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

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## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes March 26, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 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, Chuck Sloan

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Diane Bennett, TFSC Executive Coordinator, Randy Aceves, Jerry Usrey, Project Manager, Alec Lane, Project Manager, Adam Frese, Gary Sanchez, Jim Phelan, Director TCRCD, Rick Lind, TUD Consultant

**Minutes:** Minutes for January meeting not available. Approve at next meeting.

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

**Presidents Update:** (Mike Olenchalk)

The Defensible Space Grant expires on March 15, 2029. Need to resolve CEQA ASAP. CEQA to be completed by November 27, 2024. (One year within the execution date.)

Do we need a policy on how to handle request for support letters from Industry, Agencies, Private Businesses, other Non-Profits? Agreement that we needed an operational procedure for this. **Decision: Develop/approve at next BOD meeting. Karen to prepare draft.. Three questions: 1. Does it align with the Mission of the TFSC? 2. Does it align with the CWPP? 3. Is the entity a “for Profit business?**

**Mike made a motion to provide a support letter to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Fire Risk Reduction Community for Foothill Horizons Outdoor School. Karen seconded. 5 yea, 0 nay.**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Guest Presentation: Rick Lind, consultant for TUD (Tuolumne Utility District) with Erick Hall (TUD Operations Manager). TUD is doing studies to obtain a Grant from USFS Wildfire Defense Plan Grant. They have 17 miles of raw water ditches. A slide presentation was shown. They are developing a Wildfire Risk Mitigation Plan and Development of Wildfire Protection Draft Points Plan



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TUD Presentation to Tuolumne Fire Safety Adv Comm 042424 Draft v5 FINAL (1).zip

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- Executive Committee report from 2/19/24 – Olenchalk
  - Mike called to help him figure out how things work re. grant management and what is not working
    - Project Manager role in invoicing, progress reports and fund accounting
    - Treasurer role – writes checks and reconciliation of accounts. Not accounting or CFO
    - How we fund pre-work
    - Advances – roles and responsibilities
    - Our Bylaws are unclear. Is our mission still accurate? Not very effective in the educational stuff and community outreach
    - Record Keeping. Where are files stored, who is responsible? Do we need to do a mass scan for old files?
    - **Decision: Diane to develop a list of what should be kept in project files.**
    - **Decision: Chuck to organize digitization of files**
    - Need file account/system to store files and provide access to those who need it.
- 2024/25 Goals & Objectives – Olenchalk. Mike collected the forms he had asked BOD members to complete.
- Executive Coordinator Update – Bennett
  - Diane presented a Grant Development talk at the Annual Firewise Community Meeting.
  - She will be drafting “Procurement” operation and procedure guidelines for July meeting. Intent is to make clearer, easier, not harder.
  - Karen and Diane met with Sonora Area Foundation about possibility for funding for CWPP implementation, including education, community support, collaboration events.
- Branding: Vests and hats – Johnson (6 yea, 0 nay)
  - **Decision to purchase 6 large and 6 medium safety vests with TFSC brand**
  - **Decision to pay for one time TFSC hat design. Creative Ink & Thread out of Tuolumne. Then you can go select your hat style and they will add the logo.**
- Defensible Space and Hardening Assessor Training. Joe Milanni, Karen Caldwell, Chuck Sloan, Randy Aceves (Ridgewood Firewise) and Gary Sanchez attended. Gary Whitson would like to discuss with TFSC about how he would like to utilize and set up the program. New CAL FIRE initiative.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Karen: New TFSC Brochure is done/printed and ready to hand out. We currently have 450 followers on our TFSC Facebook page. Chrystal is developing new TFSC stationary/enveloped with new logo.

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- Website content management – Karen proposed she take on the role of Content Management. Agreed by all.
- Public TFSC meetings – Karen noted that our bylaws state we will follow Roberts Rules of Order for all public meeting. Includes public posting/notices. Discussion resulted in a desire to modify the bylaws to relax the requirement. Too much process. Need decision making process. Like having open discussions.

## **UPDATE OF PROJECTS:**

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

171 Mt. Boy, Alec Lane: Project work is done. Equipment has been moved out. Pulling flagging. Invoiced...last 2 invoices going in on April 1.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS/ACTIVITIES.**

Volunteer Fair, Apr 4, 4-7pm. Wildfire Preparedness Townhall, April/6. Home & Garden, Apr/20-21,

Adjournment: 12:04 p.m.

Next Meeting is May 28, 2024, 0900.