Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2026 –9 am

Greater Valley CCC Facility (14993 Camage Ave, Sonora)

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 0900 by President Sanchez.

Board Members Present Gary Sanchez (President), Chuck Sloan (Vice President), Chrystal Aceves (Treasurer), Dore Bietz (Recording Secretary) DIRECTORS: Karen Caldwell, Jerry McGowan, Joe Milani STAFF: Albert Alt (Executive Director). Roll call was conducted and board members, staff, partners, and members of the public introduced themselves.

Introductions included: Cal Trans District 10 Rep Michael Casas, TFSC Project Managers, Scott Fremd, Stephen Johnson and Alec Lane, Jami Wolf, Rose Day, Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services Lt. Rob Speer, Mathew Anderson, Jake Wozynski and Dave Salzer.

Standing Reports: Presidents Report, Treasurers Report and Executive Directors Report were all provided in writing and posted online and included in agenda packet.

Presidents Report: Indicated report was in package. Spoke about Fire Safety Advisory Committee decided to decrease meetings to quarterly basis and subjects covered regarding recent activations.

Treasurers Report: Aceves Treasurer gave report and mentioned additional item that was not in the packet from Groveland for $185.76 that is pending reimbursement.

Executive Directors Report: Highlights included submitted grant for California Fire Safe. Project updates on defensible space (project managers present) accounted for reserve at the end. 15-20 properties for the defensible space project. Did apply for Cal Fire Defensible space grant and awaiting notification.

Committee/Meeting updates:

- Tuolumne County Fire Safety Advisory Committee – Gary gave update during President's report.
- SWIFT – no update
- YSS Update – Jerry McGowan was not present but Jamie Wolf spoke about SERAL 3.0 under NEPA, getting ready to start some maintenance and biomass, did grant funding for mitigation hub, discussion on how we can update the
- Firewise - Caldwell provided update on Firewise. Willow Springs is now #26 in our county. Karen provided an updated list. Will be doing a Firewise presentation in Apple Valley Estates for David Goldemberg. Spoke about Insurance industry and movement with defensible space regulation changes.

Partner updates:

- Cal Trans Michael updated on desire to collaborate within Cal Trans right of way for fuels reduction, prescribed fire. Wants to support any projects that TFSC has that would correlate with CAL TRANS right of way.
- TCSH OES – Discussed Governor's proclamation for El Nino. Karen Caldwell asked about Genasys, Lt. Speer offered for future meeting to present.
- Rose Day offered larger space at Motherlode Job Training at 197 Mono Way Suite B, free to community organizations. Board of Forestry and Fire Protection site visit this week and invited all to attend.

Future Meeting – October meeting recommended change due to COCO Mtg conflicts. Joe Milani motioned to move to October 28 at 9:00 am, Seconded by Dore. All in favor, no abstentions,

Board meetings are recorded and transcribed

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2026 –9 am

Greater Valley CCC Facility (14993 Camage Ave, Sonora)

Business/Action items:

A. Minutes from August 2026 – motion to approve by Crystal, seconded by Joe. All in favor.

B. Executive Director evaluation process – Jerry spoke about conversations with Chuck. Template was made and draft process developed. Forms will be sent to Board by 9/29. Submit forms to Chuck who will then combine scores and average them out. Karen brought up concern about Executive committee doing the actual sit down but there is not verbiage. Karen motion to approve the process with clarification that the President presents the Evaluation to the Executive Director. Jerry McGowan

C. Committee and assignments – discussion of all the meetings that may or should be attended by a member of the Tuolumne Fire Safe Council. Board packet has preliminary list pulled by Karen of county meetings. Al suggested that we table to next meeting. Dore volunteered to bring back with a full list of meetings with description and times they meet so that Directors can volunteer to attend or Board can designate representatives.

Information items:

A. Annual Operating Budget – draft provided in the board packet. Fiscal year January 1 through December 31. Based on calendar year with 6-month example presented with placeholders for future budget items. The Board may establish reserve targets for each identified exposure based on organizational risk, available unrestricted funds, and the anticipated cost of the underlying obligation. Gary asked about what the Board thought after recommending addition of line items. Recommended that we bring back to take a next look at for an annual budget. Discussion of insurance coverages will be added as a separate agenda item. This item is informational only for discussion. No Action needed or taken at this time.

B. Council and Collaborator meetings – Dore gave quick overview of Board direction. Committee of Dore, Karen and Eileen met several times to discuss and develop draft documents. Dore discussed proposal and looking for guidance from Board. Al spoke of the COCO grant which would allow for a paid organizer. Subcommittee will reach out to current partners with ask for feedback on Council Collaborators' meeting proposal and then bring back with a draft agenda, location and flyer for Board approval.

   Direction on the following:

   - Meeting frequency – quarterly to start
   - Set location or rotate - rotate
   - When to schedule first meeting – January, May, July, October
   - What do you want us to cover? - Multiple subjects
   - Who will coordinate/organize/facilitate – staff and Board member

C. COCO deliverables update - The County Coordinator Program Extension Scope of Work establishes 15 deliverables focused on countywide wildfire resilience coordination, stakeholder engagement, community outreach, CWPP development and planning, workforce development, education, project prioritization, and coordination with CAL FIRE, County partners, and other wildfire resilience organizations. The purpose of this item is to discuss updates, approaches for some deliverables and completion of deliverables. Detail information in packet.

Board meetings are recorded and transcribed

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 22, 2026 –9 am
Greater Valley CCC Facility (14993 Camage Ave, Sonora)

D. Business Meetings – Discussion and consideration of conducting regular Board of Directors business meetings monthly via Zoom. The discussion will provide an opportunity for the Board to consider the benefits, logistics, and appropriateness of conducting regular business meetings through a virtual format, in concert with the addition of Council meetings. Dore suggested that we also consider changing meeting days to not conflict with Board of Supervisors meetings (Tuesdays). Staff suggested we might align change to coincide with new year. Tabled for discussion to next meeting.

E. California Fire Foundation grant discussion - In previous Board meetings, the Board discussed the California Fire Foundations Prop 4 grants. The Prop 4 grant has four priorities, two aligned with the Council's mission, Public Education and Outreach and Fuels Management. Directors Bietz and Caldwell volunteered to draft a recommendation for submission of a Public Education and Outreach grant. Details of recommendation are provided in packet. Dore walked through the concepts and asked the Board for Direction to provide direction to develop a budget and draft a grant application once the grant program opens. Board unanimously agreed to direct sub-committee to develop a budget and bring back the draft application once grant opened and prior to submittal for approval.

F. Audit RFP update - Staff provided an update on the Independent Audit Services RFP process, including the status of the solicitation, proposal timeline, and next steps toward selection of an independent audit firm. The RFP was issued August 28, 2026, with proposals due September 25, 2026. Discussion of process for Board members designated to review (Gary or was it Crystal?, Chuck, Dore) and meeting deadlines. Discussion on whether we should look at moving to fiscal year from calendar year.

G. Updates on Wood Wise and BLM permit process - At the August 25, 2026 Board meeting, the Board considered authorization to secure a BLM land use permit associated with Wise Woodworks. Wise Woodworks operates a facility on BLM managed property that provides green waste disposal services to Tuolumne County residents. Staff updated the Board on the discussions with Wise Woodworks regarding the permit process.

H. Holiday party - Discussion and consideration of holding an annual holiday party for Board members, staff, and volunteers. The discussion will provide an opportunity to consider the purpose, format, timing, and potential costs associated with the event. Board members asked the President to ask Karen for a proposal that covers the budget, with details of what the costs will be, who will be invited, licensed caterer or at an existing (with preface that if we are using TFSC funds we must following auditable standards).

Adjournment: Jerry motioned to adjourn at 1:32pm Seconded by Dore Bietz. All in favor.

Executive Session (if necessary): Immediately following Board Meeting

Board meetings are recorded and transcribed

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2026 –9 am

Greater Valley CCC Facility (14993 Camage Ave, Sonora)

Board meetings are recorded and transcribed

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2026 –9 am

Greater Valley CCC Facility (14993 Camage Ave, Sonora)

Board meetings are recorded and transcribed