

SIERRA COUNTY FIRE SAFE & WATERSHED COUNCIL

Board Chair	Board Member	Board Secretary	Board Member	Board Member	Board Treasurer
Paul Cueto	Jim Turner	Sharon Dobija	Patricia Hall	Jeff Dowling	Paul Cueto

Minutes of Board Meeting of September 29, 2022

Sierra City Community Hall, Castagna Alley, Sierra City

1. **Roll Call:** Members present were Jeff Dowling, Paul Cueto and Sharon Dobija; absent were members Jim Turner and Patricia Hall. Attending in place of FSSC Coordinator Danielle Bradfield was Al Petri. Sign up sheet of audience is attached.

II. Approval of Agenda & August Minutes: Moved by Member Dowling, Seconded by Member Dobija. Unanimous

III. Public Comment: None

IV. Announcements: None

V. Discussion/Action Items:

a: Board Nominations:

i. Board Chair: Paul Cueto:

ii. Board Treasurer: Paul Cueto: Member Dobija moved to nominate Paul Cueto as Board Chair and Treasurer; seconded by Member Dowling. Unanimous

iii. Board Secretary: Sharon Dobija: Member Dowling moved to nominate Sharon Dobija as Board Secretary; seconded by Member Cueto. Unanimous

b & c: Board Resolutions: Add Paul Cueto as signatory on Fire Safe Sierra County bank account. Remove prior board members Irv Christensen, Don Russel and Dave Goicheccia as signatories on Fire Safe Sierra County bank account. It was moved by Member Dobija and seconded by Member Dowling to add Paul Cueto as signatory to the bank account as well as remove prior members (as stated above) from the account. Unanimous.

d. Fire Safe Sierra County Social Media presence: Al Petri informed the Board that FSSC will soon have a public presence on Facebook for education and outreach purposes and will interface with Firewise communities. Must be attached to a personal

account and how to implement that is being researched. We need to set out parameters to be used. Board discussed what information would or could be on the FB page.

e. Project Updates:

i. Fire Safe Sierra County:

- Sierraville WUI Mastication: to begin next week
- Indian Valley Non-Fed Lands Project delayed until 2023
- Smithneck Phase 2 near Antelope Valley: invited for full proposal to SNC
- Community Wildfire Defense Grant: County Coordinator to prepare application for funding for remaining fuel reduction units existing in CWPP.
- CalFire Grant: areas within Downieville and Sierra City and Sattley are planned for grant application cycle, fall of 2022

ii. Sierra County: No County representation available for discussion

iii. Sierra Valley RCD: Smithneck Project: work continues

iv. v. vi & vii: Sierraville and Yuba Ranger Districts representatives were in the audience and spoke briefly to projects in their respective districts. There was not a CalFire representative present.

General Discussion encompassing the above projects and related issues:

Smithneck is completed at Bear Valley Side

Sierraville WUI will start when equipment is moved on site

Indian Valley delayed until 2023 Reapproved for next year per USFS Rep. NEPA has been done and the project is on track.

Jeff gave an explanation as to the acronym “WUI” for purposes of educating audience members

Discussion about Indian Valley: it is a Non Fed Lands funded project per USFS Rep, (meaning its private property)

CalFire grant projects appear to be more efficient when doing smaller projects throughout communities as opposed to one large project encompassing multiple communities. Proposal for Funding will be soon or first part of October. Fuel Breaks around the Downieville & Sierra City communities are proposed.

Green Acre residents asked about projects for Green Acres and a discussion of the current project proposals was given by USFS Rep. as well as the North Yuba Project which will encompass Green Acres.

Jeff reported that in a discussion with the current CalFire Forester, it is believed that more funding is possible to under-served communities such as Sierra City and Downieville on the West side. There are ample opportunities to get very large funded projects. It is recognized that the West side is more susceptible to fire and that fire usually starts west to east; concentration should be to clear the forests.

State of California is showing more interest in biomass facilities coming on line

SPI is most likely not needing or wanting more trees as clearing projects move forward as they have so many from the large fires from last year.

f. Firewire Communities: It was reported that Sheriff Fisher's office has completed Zone Haven and magnets are available which are helpful in times of stress and evacuations

Sharon Dobija, Interim Secretary to SCFSC