

MINUTES

Sierra County Fire Safe & Watershed Council

8/25/2022 @10:10am | *Meeting called to order by D.Bradfield*

In Attendance

Paul Cueto, Sharon Dobija, Patty Hall, Jim Turner, Irv Christensen, Jeff Dowling

Approval of Minutes/Agenda

Approval of July Board Meeting Minutes, motion to approve made by Paul Cueto, second by Jeff Dowling.
Motion to approve August Meeting Agenda was made by Paul Cueto, second by Jeff Dowling.

Board

No public comment was received.

The Board recognized the written resignation of Executive Director Don Russel.

The Board discussed the need for an interim Executive Director related to current grant oversight. Paul Cueto volunteered to fill this interim position, motion to accept made by Jim Turner, second made by Jeff Dowling.

The Board discussed Board member roles, responsibilities, and Board training needs. The Board collectively expressed the need and interest in increased knowledge of the By Laws, Board composition, and ethics for non-profits. Outreach Coordinator Al Petrie discussed two formal Board training contractors that may be able to provide this service.

Tax filings continue to be updated by the Board accountant.

The Board discussed the topic of allowing for-profit wildfire resiliency entities to present at FSC Board meetings. The Board determined that such entities provide a component of wildfire resilience education to the residents of Sierra County and overall was supportive of such presentations.

Agency Reports

Sarah Murdock of Cal OES discussed that winds are expected to pick up and residents should be prepared for Public Safety Power Shutoffs/evacuations. Ms. Murdock also described how OES was in the process of applying for FEMA funds to update the local Hazard Mitigation Plan. She requested a letter of support from Fire Safe Sierra County to accompany the application. Motion to approve this letter of support was made by Sharon Dobija, second made by Paul Cueto.

Fire Safe Sierra County Project Updates:

Sierraville mastication is on hold pending suitable grinding weather.

Federal non-Fed lands funding is available for the Indian Valley fuel reduction project upon 150 acres of private lands in Sierra County.

Sierra County:

The Greene Acres project continues with preparatory work including resource surveys. NEPA decision expected 12/31/22.

The Yuba 49 project received an extension through Dec 2024.

County Coordinator grant: CWPP updates are looming and Danielle will reach out to parties involved to come up with an updated list of projects for the existing 2014 CWPP. All fuel reduction projects listed in the current Program of Work will go into the CWPP.

Evacuation Grant: Work continues to gather all GIS files needed to pass off to Sheriff Fisher as part of evacuation route identification in relation to Zone Haven.

Sierra Valley RCD:

Smithneck Project: Mastication continues within the Bear Creek portion of the project.

Tahoe National Forest, Sierraville Ranger District:

Rachel Hutchison, District Ranger, discussed an extension of the Smithneck project that will be submitted as a preproposal to the SNC. Ms. Hutchison also mentioned Dan Patterson is the new fuels specialist for the District.

Rita Clipperton, fuels specialist for the Yuba River Ranger District, indicated that they have received bids for the Trapper mastication project and anticipates a start date before winter. She indicates that the NFF Will continue layout to the north of the current project area.

Plumas National Forest:

The Beckwourth Ranger District fuels specialist indicated that a portion of the BRD overlaps into Sierra County along Haskell Peak. Though the BRD timber shop is experiencing significant vacancies, preparation of a 3000 acre project near Poker Flat continues as part of a larger "Community Protection Project". The NEPA for this project will be an EA (Environmental Assessment), and anticipated for signature spring of 2023.

Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District: Greg Lawson indicates that funding through NV Energy is available and currently underway for NV Energy infrastructure, some of which is located within Sierra County.

Kevin Lawson, NV Energy, was in attendance and works as the Fire Mgmt Officer for the company. He described that he has Greg Lawson and 7 others working in a similar capacity to design and administer fuels reduction projects around NV Energy infrastructure, each funded through NV Energy.

Firewise Communities:

Paul Cueto of Sierraville Firewise Community indicated that the community end of summer recap is scheduled for September 13th at 5:30pm.

Budget

No budget update was provided.

Committee Reports

Not applicable.

Announcements

Sierra County made clear that the rumor of the County closing the dump sites is false.

Next Meeting

September 29, 2022 @ Sierra City Community Hall @ 10am.

Motion to adjourn was made at 11:40am and passed unanimously.