

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE**

David Goldemberg, *First District*
Kathleen Haff, *Fourth District*

Ryan Campbell, *Second District*

Anaiah Kirk, *Third District*
Jaron Brandon, *Fifth District*

MINUTES

Natural Resource Committee

January 4th, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.

AN Francisco Building

48 Yaney Ave, Sonora CA 95370

1. Call the meeting to order: Meeting called to order by Supervisor Haff @ 10:00 am. (Quorum reached).
 - A. In attendance:
 - A. Committee members (quorum met)
 1. Jim Phelan (Committee Member) Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District
 2. Dick Gaiser (Committee Member) Agricultural Advisory Committee
 3. Jim Maddox (Committee Member) Fish and Wildlife - Absent
 4. Supervisor Kirk (Committee Board Member)
 5. Supervisor Brandon (Committee Board Member)
 - B. Staff Present
 1. Sean Hembree (CAO Staff)
 2. Andre Rivera (CAO Staff)
 - C. Partners
 1. USFS Staff
 2. TUD Staff
2. Public Forum – The public may speak on any item not on the printed agenda. No action may be taken by the Committee. The amount of time allocated for the public forum is limited to 15 minutes.
 - A. Public Comments – None.
3. Consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting held on November 2, 2022.
 - A. Jim Phelan moved to approve. Dick Gaiser seconded. Motion passed.
 - B. Public Comment – None.
4. Partner Agencies
 - A. USFS Travel Management Plan Update
 1. Beth Martinez and Benjamin Cossel gave update on Travel Management Plan. There are 3 parts: Subpart A, B and C. Subpart A deals with economically and environmentally sustainable road system. This is pending due to staffing shortages, etc. Subpart B deals with roads and trails for motor use and is in litigation although minimization criteria have been updated for trails and roads in question. Also 3 decisions of reroutes completed. 86 roads in question. This subpart was commented as needing better fire planning and fire access. Beth mentioned fire break maintenance as difficult to keep up on. Subpart C deals with travel management restrictions and OHV's and OSV's. This is in current litigation per

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several plaintiffs. The issue is OSV access below 5,000 feet and in other areas deemed sensitive habitat areas. Sherri Brennan made comment that law enforcement is needed to assist in offroad vehicle destruction of sensitive areas, trash and confrontational attitudes. These closures of offroad vehicle use areas is better than the alternative. Anaiah agreed this is an issue. It was agreed that law enforcement and staffing shortages are the main issues with above issues. No one wants to work as enforcement of Travel Management Restrictions. TC Sherriff can apply for OHV funding to be able to assist as has in the past. Beth stated OHV funding not the issue and agreed to above issues of staffing shortages and law enforcement as likely ways to resolve. Jaron mentioned watershed and trash issues with possibility of seeking education pathways to hiring qualified people to assist in staffing shortages. Jaron also mentioned SPUC training programs as possible solution. Jim mentioned dispersed camping as problem which is causing pollution issues. Farm Bill was brought up as opportunity for funding. Andre to research Farm Bill and bring back next meeting. Sherri Brennan to meet with Anaiah and Jaron to discuss Farm Bill as well and bring back to next meeting. Andre to put drought declarations as discussion topic for next agenda as well.

B. TUD – No updates other than work crews are very busy due to weather systems.

5. Committee Business

A. Staff Reports and recommendations

1. Review of Committee Handbook rules and protocols:
Reviewed that committee exists to support Board of Supervisors goals and priorities which will be discussed Jan 9th and 10th. Andre to report back when completed. Annual committee goals and priorities to go to board for approval. We will discuss later today. Committee member term limits are to be staggered. We will discuss and approve later today. Anaiah requested to have rules attached to each agenda going forward.

6. Discussion items

A. Committee goals and priorities for 2023

A. Discussed the following as priorities:

1. Farm Bill, research and bring back to next meeting (Andre will research, Anaiah, Jaron and Sherri Brennan will discuss and bring back to next meeting.
2. PG&E water rights; this was discussed as an ongoing discussion between TUD and PG&E in terms of extensive time and resources spent and desire to move forward. Don Perkins is heading that discussion.
3. Academic pathways and partnerships; possibly with UC Merced to get more support in and for biomass products, careers, data and studies. Bio brick, bio timber that is carbon neutral was discussed. Andre to research Assembly Bills, biomass products and bring back any relevant information. Dore may have information.
4. This discussion and possible approval of goals/priorities for 2023 will continue at the next meeting.

B. Climate Action Plan

1. Discussion of draft letter was done. Anaiah elaborated that this letter will hopefully trigger more funding for forest health, and fire suppression projects that are much needed to assist in reducing emissions; landscape health was mentioned. Jaron agreed and suggested he wants to make some edits and/or additions to the letter. Letter will be brought back to next meeting. It was discussed that buy in from RCRC and or other organizations will be helpful; also, SPUC and other urban/regional partners could be more impactful if included in the process. Both Jaron and Anaiah will bring their own copies of the draft letter for discussion and approval at next meeting. It was mentioned that a one-page letter was preferred.

C. Discussion of re-appointments and approval of staggered term limits

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1. We discussed re-appointments and the application process. It was stressed that all members needed to reapply and be approved by the full board asap. Staggered term limits were discussed, suggested and voted on. Both Jim's will be 2-year terms with Dick Gaiser and the soon to be filled at large member at 4-year terms. The 2 Jim's will be switched to 4-year terms after 2 years to have our staggered 4-year term appointments. Move to approve by Dick Gaiser, seconded by Jim Phelan, motion passed

7. Open Items

A. Open Carry-on County roads within public lands issue

1. Staff discussed that county counsel needs more background/specific information in order to research and report back on for the committee. It was discussed that the issue is whether there is any ordinance prohibiting open carry firearms on county roads in public lands. Dore was mentioned as having more information. Andre will get with Dore to get more information and then relay to county counsel.

B. At Large Member application process to fill vacancy.

1. The vacancy was discussed, and members will reach out to potential applicant for this vacancy. Andre will follow up with members to get the ball rolling.

8. Meeting Adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

A. Items for next meeting

1. Farm Bill research, Andre will complete. Anaiah, Jaron and Beth Brennan will meet and discuss and bring back what comes from discussion.
2. Columbia College has new forestry certification program that Jaron will discuss.
3. Discussion and approval of goals/priorities for 2023 continued.
4. Fire emissions letter will be brought back with both Jaron and Anaiah to bring draft letters for discussion and approval.
5. Discussion of drought declarations
6. Biomass products and related Assembly Bills discussion, Andre to get with Dore to research further. This is in context of academic partnership with UC Merced (or other) to have pathway for more qualified career pathways, data and studies.
7. Staff report on Board of Supervisors workshop results of goals and priorities for 2023.