

## 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

Wednesday, December 8, 2021 @ 10:00 a.m.

#### Board of Supervisors Chambers

2 South Green Street, Sonora

1. Call the meeting to order: Meeting called to order by Supervisor Goldemberg at 10:01am. (quorum reached).
  - A. In attendance:
    - i. Committee members present (quorum met)
      1. Jim Maddox (Committee Member) Fish & Game Preservation Fund Advisory
      2. Jim Phelan (Committee Member) Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District
      3. Dick Gaiser (Committee Member) Agricultural Advisory Committee
      4. Supervisor Goldemberg (Committee Member)
    - ii. Staff Present
      1. Dore Bietz (CAO Staff)
    - iii. Partners
      1. Michael Jow – USFS
      2. Andy Murphy – County Fire Assistant Chief
      3. Adam Freese – TCU Forester Cal Fire
    - iv. Public
      1. Jeb Brooks -
      2. Brian Waylen - SPI
2. Public Comment:
  - A. Dick Gaiser – wants to consider a different meeting time other than during mid-morning.
3. Consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting held on October 13, 2021.
  - A. Jim Maddox moved to approve. Dick Gaiser seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
4. Partner Agencies
  - USFS Report Out– Michael Jow, Resource Management Officer with the Stanislaus National Forest (STF) reported the following:
    - Prescribed fire burn training in Spring in Groveland area
    - NDR Solicitation out beginning of January to do fuels break on National Forest and BLM land
    - SERAL Project was scheduled to be published in Federal Register this Friday and will start comment period. January 5<sup>th</sup> they will have public meeting @ 5:30 pm
    - Waiting on final appropriations bill and how to implement funding on infrastructure.

In accordance with Government Section 54954.3(a), the public may comment on any item on the agenda. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance (i.e. auxiliary aids or services) in order to participate in this public meeting, please contact the County Administrator's Office, (209-533-5511). Notification 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting will enable staff to make reasonable accommodations to ensure accessibility to this public meeting.

- Committees asked about staffing for downed trees in forest along roads. Michael explained they have identified some of the positions considered for funding requests. Committee members expressed concern for lack of attention to and need to prioritize staffing for.
- Committee members also asked about travel management plan that was supposed to be updated. Jim Phelan asked if there was any money for that? Michael would follow up on question. Supervisor Goldemberg asked if we could follow up and get a better update on.
- Follow up from Beth and questions from last meeting Question from Supervisor Kirk regarding how decisions are made to implement campfire restrictions and if there is any opportunity to adjust that for pack stations and other businesses in the forest. Would like to have that conversation if there's any opportunity for local discretion for the sake of our businesses.
  - i. In a nutshell, locally, we have a variety of weather / fuel conditions we monitor (National Fire Danger Rating System indices and fuel moisture conditions), along with a three-zone system for restrictions based on high, moderate and low risk. In general, the zones are elevation based with the high-risk areas being low elevation and the low risk areas being the high country / wilderness. When certain conditions are met - and fire restrictions are put into place at a Forest level, we have flexibility with the systems in place (the three zones). Historically, there have been many years when we've gone into restrictions in the high-risk zone first, followed by the moderate risk zone as conditions changed – and, have not needed to implement restrictions at the higher elevations (low fire risk zone).
  - ii. The nuance of the last couple of years has been fire restrictions being put into place at a Regional level, taking into account fire activity across the Region, predicted weather across the Region, and fire- fighting resources available across the nation should a new local start take place. It is when Regional restrictions are implemented that we do lose some of the local flexibility. The Regional Leadership Team certainly recognize that 'once-size does not fit all conditions' and that there has been an impact to permittees and visitors alike over the last couple of years. The leadership team on the Stanislaus has had one conversation (local, after the second year of Regional campfire restrictions) regarding the situation. We'll continue the dialogue over winter with the intent of sharing any creative solutions / or thoughts upward to the Region in the coming months, before we are into fire season again.
- Prescribed Burn Association – Sean Hembree gave update on new Motherlode Prescribed Burn Association. The new PBA here is a new grassroot organization supported by UC Extension Susan Kocher who is acting as interim coordinator. Officially organized August 2021. Held a walking tour at Columbia College, a collaborative webinar with other organizations. Initial goal was to identify a steering committee Calpba.org has a list. Planning to have three burns this fall/winter. Have one completed so far in Long Barn this last weekend. Completed about 2 acres. Looking for opportunities for interaction and collaboration.
  - Public questions:
    - Is association targeting private landowners?
      - Sean answered with looking at any and all. From large landowners to those next to Wildland Urban Interface.
    - What about getting burn boss status?
      - Looking at new regs that allow for experienced versus Burn boss is not necessary
    - Was Cal Fire present? Yes....a burn plan was completed and Cal Fire presence Committee member Jim Maddox brought up concern to change open space use designation to allow for prescribed burn....should discuss with Community Development.

In accordance with Government Section 54954.3(a), the public may comment on any item on the agenda. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance (i.e. auxiliary aids or services) in order to participate in this public meeting, please contact the County Administrator's Office, (209-533-5511). Notification 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting will enable staff to make reasonable accommodations to ensure accessibility to this public meeting.

## 5. Committee Business

### A. Staff Reports and recommendations:

#### i. OES reported out on

1. SWIFT Coordinator vacant position
2. FSAC – three workgroups 1) outreach and Education 2) Governance and 3) Emergency Planning. Governance is working on vegetation ordinance and tonight @ 6pm having the first of several public meetings
3. Board of Forestry a new draft of the 2021 Minimum Fire Safe Regulations was released by the Board of Forestry: [https://www.rcrcnet.org/sites/default/files/useruploads/Documents/Barbed\\_Wire/December\\_03\\_2021/rpc-2-d-draft-state-minimum-fire-safe-regulations-revisions-nov-22\\_ada.pdf](https://www.rcrcnet.org/sites/default/files/useruploads/Documents/Barbed_Wire/December_03_2021/rpc-2-d-draft-state-minimum-fire-safe-regulations-revisions-nov-22_ada.pdf) (posted on the RCRC website). This was discussed at Board Meeting's Resource Protection Committee on December 7<sup>th</sup>
4. Bring your own brigade video
5. Committee make up, meeting time, January meeting.

### B. Committee member reports:

## 6. Discussion items

- Bureau of Land Management seeking input on Statewide WUI Fuels Treatments – discussion of BLM's proposed areas for fuels reduction treatments within Tuolumne County and approval of recommendation to BOS to submit comments prior to Dec 29, 2021 deadline.
    - Staff explained
    - Adam asked that the following areas be considered
      - tiptop on priest grade
      - Yankee hill is overgrown
      - SWIFT map BLM lands
      - Mountain Eaton – Tuolumne
      - Bald Mountain
- Committee Comments/Questions  
Paper cabin  
Hog mountain area
- Jim Phelan made motion, Jim Maddox seconded to recommend Board of Supervisors submit comment letter on BLM priority project areas within Tuolumne County. All in favor. Motion passed.

## 7. Meeting Adjourned at 11:17am.