

Tuolumne County
Administration Center
2 South Green Street
Sonora, California 95370
Phone (209) 533-5521
Fax (209) 533-6549

Heather Ryan
*Clerk of the Board
of Supervisors*

**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*

DRAFT MINUTES

**Fire Safety Advisory Committee – January 25, 2023, at 10:30 am
18440 Striker Court, Sonora CA 95370**

AGENDA

1. Meeting is called to order by Supervisor Campbell at 10:40 AM. Roll call taken. Quorum Established
 - a. Committee Members present
 - a. District 2 Supervisor -Ryan Campbell
 - b. Tuolumne County Fire - Chief Marc DiTullio
 - c. Tuolumne County Sheriff - Sheriff Bill Pooley
 - d. District 3 public representative Wesley Brinegar
 - e. District 2 public representative Dennis Randall
 - f. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians -Dillion Stone
 - g. Tuolumne Firesafe Council - Glen Gottschall
 - h. Tuolumne County Fire Chief's Association - Chief Gamez
 - i. City of Sonora – Melissa Eads
 - b. Committee Members absent
 - a. Supervisors Goldemberg – District 1 – excused
 - b. District 1 -Scott Fremd –excused
 - c. District 4- Eric Holly – Absent
 - d. Chicken Ranch Band of Me-Wuk Indians- Absent
 - e. District 5 – public representative (vacant)
 - c. Others present
 - a. Dore Bietz – OES Staff
 - b. Sean Hembree – OES Staff
 - c. Jeff Santos – County Fire
 - d. Public – Various
2. Public Comment
 - a. Public Comment
 - a. Columbia resident advocated for improved fire coverage in the Columbia area to improve fire response time and promote health and safety as a priority.

- b. Columbia resident advocated for improving traffic congestion in fire/evacuation events, referencing the Washington Fire as an example of the needed improvement.
- 3. Approval of minutes 11/21/2022:
 - a. Motion was made by Sherriff Pooley to approve without changes/corrections, 2nd by Wes Brinegar. Vote was taken all in favor, no nays, no abstentions. The motion was approved unanimously. No Public Comment.
- 4. Old Business
 - a. Risk Modeling Workgroup and Fire Insurance Updates (see handout)
 - i. Staff updated the committee and presented documents on the CAL FIRE State Fire Marshal Risk Modeling Advisory Workgroup. Pursuant to AB 642, the purpose is to provide the Fire Marshal and Insurance Commissioner with science-based solutions to address risk and risk modeling for wildfire damage at the parcel and community scale. Tuolumne County has a staff member assigned to represent local governments on the workgroup.
 - ii. Committee questions/comments:
 - a. The challenge our community members face in affordable insurance accessibility. It is important to provide accurate standards for risk, but will there be enforcement (teeth) to the study to protect properties that do risk mitigation?
 - b. Requested clarification of participating individuals/organizations. (See attached)
 - iii. Public comment: (none)
- 5. Reports/Presentation
 - a. Staff Report
 - a. Changes in Board of Supervisors Committees and Commissions Handbook, staggering of terms, applications or renewal process, workgroups.
 - i. The handbook will go before the board at the next meeting The report summarizes the intent and content pertinent to this committee. The function of the Handbook is to provide consistency throughout committees. The function of all Committees is to support the Board of Supervisors identified priorities and to vet/recommend policy. The Committee's function is not to provide operational direction.
 - ii. Content changes: items included pertinent procedural changes and member terms/responsibilities.
 - a. Membership terms will be staggered all district/community members will need to reapply before their term is expired.
 - b. Always need a Board Supervisor present to hold the meeting.
 - c. A member unexcused for three meetings may be asked to leave the committee. Agencies must make arrangements in advance and assign an alternate if they cannot attend a meeting. District public reps cannot assign an alternate.
 - b. Public comment
 - i. There should be an adhoc member added to the list of members. It was explained that there are 5 public representatives already in the membership.
- 6. New Business
 - a. Development and approval of 2023 Fire Safety Advisory Committee goals.
 - a. An overview of identified goals and actions was summarized by staff based on workgroup discussions. Goals are summarized under three areas:
 - i. Education and Outreach

- a. Increase preparedness education – what is a go bag, knowing egress routes, signing up for emergency alert notification system, what are the resources available
 - b. Increase education campaign to visitors – support increase getting information to visitors, billboards, QR codes, info to lodging, vbos, etc.
 - c. Improve education and outreach on Hazardous Vegetation Ordinance, Fire adapted and Firewise communities – mass distribution of information to all residents and property owners. Support educational events.
 - d. Increase understanding of fire services within Tuolumne County - Noted the importance of outreach to the community regarding identified challenges; county/fire agencies are aware but there is value to making community members aware of understanding challenges and actions planned. This has been a missing component and the committee would like to highlight at each meeting at least one or two fire agencies/departments.
- ii. Governance
- a. Support staff recommendations to address Board of Forestry recommendation under Subdivision Program for identified communities.
 - 1. Review Draft ordinance when side street parking narrows the road to a smaller width than the standards in 14 CCR § 1273.01, during red flag warnings or conditions of high fire danger, limit street parking so a wider pathway is available to support rapid evacuation.
 - b. Support staff recommendation of changes needed within County ordinances as a result of new Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations to qualify as a Fire Risk Reduction Community.
 - 1. Support recommendation to Board of Supervisors
 - c. Support defining fire insurance legislative platform language for the Board of Supervisors
 - 1. Support recommendation to Board of Supervisors
 - d. Support staff recommendations amending Tuolumne County Ordinance Code Chapter 10.14 to include additional Emergency Access Roads.
 - 1. Review recommend amended language to include additional identified roads
- iii. Emergency Planning
- a. Support Board of Forestry recommendations of identified communities by supporting community-wide evacuation drills.
 - 1. Support staff planned events throughout county.
 - b. Support emergency alerts training and exercises with the public, research and support other layers (FM Alert)
 - c. Strengthen evacuation planning methods or options
 - 1. Support staff recommendations
 - d. Research additional Emergency Access Roads and make recommendations
 - 1. Support staff recommendations

Public comment:

- b. Why doesn't the county alert the community that there are ongoing practices/drills – use volunteers (example: Love Tuolumne County) They can do this with hundreds at one event.

7. Member Reports & Discussion – Fire Safety Advisory Committee goals and priority working groups:

- a. Communication and Education Outreach workgroup updates: (Supervisor Campbell, Wesley Brinegar, OES staff , adding Tuolumne Firesafe)
 - b. Governance Workgroup updates (Supervisor Goldemberg, Chief DiTullio, Chief New, Eric Holly, OES Staff)
 - c. Emergency Planning workgroup updates: (Supervisor Goldemberg, Sheriff Bill Pooley, Chief New, Chief Gamez, OES Staff)
 - d. Public comment: none
8. Member Reports & Discussion – general updates/reports from committee members
- a. Tuolumne Fire (Santos): Inspections for short-term rentals and plan reviews are ongoing
 - b. Chiefs Association Gamez standards of coverage under review. Also, county-wide peer support group AP based program are under consideration
 - c. FSC (Gottschall) CWPP update is under development. Thanks were extended to Tuolumne County for its financial contribution. A contractor to develop the plan has been chosen (Jenson Hughes).
 - d. Wes Brinegar (hydrants) are packed in with snow from recent storms and recommended discussing plowing logistics with public works.
 - a. Campbell stated Public works may not know of problem areas – MiWuk had an adopt a hydrant program to dig them out
 - b. GIS is working to geolocate all hydrants
 - c. Cedar Ridge Fire House entrances has similar snow access issue
9. Next Meeting and Adjournment
- a. Meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.
 - b. **Next Regular Fire Safety Advisory Committee Meeting – February 22nd @ 10:30 am STRIKER COURT**