



Tuolumne County Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes

For the Meeting on March 5, 2025

2025 Natural Resource Members (or assigned delegates)	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
Anaiah Kirk		✓	✓									
Mike Holland		✓	✓									
Don Perkins		✓	✓									
Pete Kampa		✓	✓									
Joy Meller		E	✓									
Dianna Beasley		✓	✓									
Dick Gaiser		✓	✓									
Chris Trott		E	✓									
Jim Maddox		✓	✓									
Jim Phelan		E	✓									
Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E												

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Kirk called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and confirmed a quorum was present.
- 2. MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Kirk, Vice Chair Holland, Don Perkins, Pete Kampa, Joy Meller, Laura Hiler on Behalf of Tuolumne Me-Wuk, Dick Gaiser, Chris Trott, Jim Maddox, Jim Phelan and Sean Hembree, Caitlin Henry (staff)
- 3. 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.)*

None
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
In consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting held on February 5, Jim Maddox made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Pete Kampa. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- 5. PRESCRIBED GRAZING FOR WILDFIRE RESILIENCE REPORT BY LESLIE ROCHE, PH.D., U.C. DAVIS/U.C.C.E. AND DISCUSSION OF LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES**
The presentation was given: Question and answer session followed.
- 6. PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES:**

- a. CAL FIRE: Unit Forester, Gary Whitson made note of Governor Newsom's recent Proclamation Suspending CEQA for wildfire reduction projects. Whitson noted related concerns and need for clarification, such as: what if the proclamation is rescinded mid-project? Who does the standard apply to? How will environmental management practice accountability be maintained and enforced?
- b. Stanislaus National Forest Supervisor Jason Kuiken summarized actions within the Stanislaus National Forest. Kuiken also shared staffing adaptations within the region to accommodate Federal funding cuts to the USFS budgets

7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

- a. Staff Reports and Recommendations:
 - i. MSA Administrative Analyst, Caitlin Henry, shared an update on recent and planned fuel treatment reforestation work.
 - ii. Sean Hembree, reported on:
 - 1. Pinecrest overuse actions update
 - 2. SNC Board Meeting in Calaveras County, March 6
 - 3. Biomass JPA proposal workshop, March 24
 - 4. USFS Withdrawal of Old Growth Forest Proposal
 - 5. Sustainable Rural Schools status
 - 6. H.R. - 471 Fix Our Forests Act
- b. Committee Member Reports:
 - i. Jim Phelan reported that the Stanislaus National Forest had invited public comment for recommended utilization of OHV funding.
 - ii. Pete Kampa reported that the Community Service District Association (CSDA) will convene later this month to address water infrastructure and fire protection. He recommended a report back to this Committee after they convene. The CSDA event will:
 - 1. Facilitate shared understanding of the key issues, challenges, and opportunities.
 - 2. Promote situational awareness of what respective organizations are doing from a policy, advocacy, and public affairs standpoint.
 - 3. Identify any key opportunities or needs for collaboration or partnership.

8. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 by Chair Kirk. The next meeting will be held on April 2, 2025