

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 – SPECIAL Meeting

May 4, 2022 @ 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 Kirk at 10:02 am. (quorum reached).
 - A. In attendance:
 - i. Committee members present (quorum met)
 1. Jim Phelan (Committee Member) Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District
 2. Dick Geiser (Committee Member) Agricultural Advisory Committee
 3. Supervisor Kirk (Committee Member)
 4. Supervisor Haff (Committee Member)
 - ii. Staff Present
 1. Dore Bietz (CAO Staff)
 - iii. Partners
 1. Sean Hembree – Prescribed Burn Association
 2. Benjamin Cossel – USFS Stanislaus National Forest
 - iv. Public - various
2. Public Comment:
 - A. Jim Phelan – anti bear hunting was shot down at Fish and Game
 - B. Supervisor Haff reminded folks about Golden State Natural Resources meeting next week Monday May 9th @ 6:30 pm about a proposed forest and wildfire resilience project in Tuolumne County.
 - C. John Buckley spoke of another project that is in the works called Yosemite Clean Energy.
3. Consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting held on March 2, 2022.
 - A. Jim Phelan moved to approve. Dick Geiser seconded. All in favor. Motion passed
4. Partner Agencies
 - A. Prescribed Burn Association – Sean Hembree spoke of updates since last year giving background on development of a Motherlode Prescribed Burn Association that covers Tuolumne and Calaveras County. They have applied for grants and received funding for some prescribed burns. Secured funding for a part time Conservation Specialist that will interface with landowners with a second part time with fire background that will help landowners write a burn plan and training. Great support from Cal Fire and local Air Quality Control.
 - i. Supervisor Kirk spoke about CSAC connections and possible future funding that appears to be coming for prescribed burn associations.
 - B. USFS – Benjamin Cossel the new Public Affairs Officer, spoke about lack of staff in the Stanislaus

in general across the board due to difficulty in hiring. As far as Fire staff Stanislaus will be at 60% of capacity. Still working on objections to second record of decision on SERAL. Updated that Sarah LaPlante will be taking a position with R9 and Andy Welch who would be acting is on detail, so they are in the process of filling positions. Huge transition as employees who have been teleworking and will be coming back to work in the office in June. Also reported out on Jason Kuiken is on a 6 month detail and Beth Martinez is the acting Forest Supervisor. Stanislaus was one of the forests chosen for 56 million funding for Landscape projects including SERAL. This is targeting 245,000 acres within the forest.

- i. John Buckley spoke about YSS project interface in conjunction with what the forest service is doing.
- ii. John Buckley suggested County send a note of thank you from Board.

5. Committee Business

A. Staff Reports and recommendations:

- i. California Extreme Heat Plan <https://resources.ca.gov/Newsroom/Page-Content/News-List/Final-Extreme-Heat-Action-Plan>
 1. Climate Action Plan invite from CDD. The Draft CAP document is available for public review from May 2 to June 15, 2022. Visit <https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1332/Climate-Action-Plan> for the document.
 2. Would like to invite to meeting on May 19th. Staff will send invite.
- ii. White House Executive Order to Strengthen America's Forest, Boost Wildfire Resilience and Combat Global Reforestation <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/22/fact-sheet-president-biden-signs-executive-order-to-strengthen-americas-forests-boost-wildfire-resilience-and-combat-global-deforestation/>
- iii. Legislative update <https://www.rcrcnet.org/legislative-update-164>

B. Committee member reports

- i. Jim Phelan attended PBA workgroup and found it interesting to see what the natural resources department has out at the college. Also attended the fuels reduction meeting that Tuolumne County held.
- ii. Jim Maddox, through Jim Phelan spoke about deer telemetry study approved in Fish and Game and park service.
- iii. Supervisor Kirk and board attended CSAC and Natural Resource Committee. Supervisor Kirk spoke about requests for natural resources funding. Spoke about cannabis cultivation at the state level and impacts to natural resources, water and also about yesterday's board agenda item. Supervisor spoke about shift from Fire being the number one issue to water.
 1. Staff spoke about need to continue discussion of combining of Natural Resources and Water Policy as it relates to watershed and forest health and that indication is funding will come down with regards to water.

6. Discussion items

- A. Supervisor Kirk spoke about Board of Supervisors Action items. The process is taking longer than. Would we like to put on the agenda some priorities for Natural Resources?
 - i. Supervisor Haff would like to be proactive and with tree mortality suggests we bring forth recommendations to the full Board of Supervisors.
 - ii. Chris Trott spoke about current conditions and by the end of this season we will see more bark beetle and tree mortality as a result of drought.
 - iii. Supervisor asked if staff can speak to Supervisor Campbell and lay out steps to be proactive.
 - iv. Committee members asked about action items, Supervisor Kirk asked staff to email the action items.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 10:55 am.