

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, July 14, 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 Kirk at 10:02am. (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) TC Resources Conservation
3. Dick Gaiser (Committee Member) Agricultural Advisory Committee
4. Supervisor Kirk (Committee Chair)
5. Supervisor Goldemberg (Committee Member)

- ii. Staff Present

1. Dore Bietz (CAO Staff)

- iii. Public

1. Sara Husby CSERC
2. Barbara Balen
3. Don Perkins, TUD Interim General Manager
4. Ron Ringen

2. Public Comment:

Don Perkins from TUD, Interim General Manager for TUD, prior to that operations manager. Excited about his new role. Updated committee on projects and excited about being a part of the team. End of Spill June 7th.

No other public comment.

3. Consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting held on June 9, 2021.

- a. Jim Phelan made a motion to approve, seconded by Dick Gaiser motion passed unanimously.

4. Partner Agencies

- a. USFS – A representative was not able to attend but staff read an email from USFS regarding the Motorized Vehicle Use Maps and subpart B travel management process question asked on the

following: Along Eagle Meadow Road & in the Long Valley area, there are two efforts that may have observed in the field:

- Very recently - temporary barricading / closure of some dispersed campsites to deal with significant tree mortality / hazard trees. 3 locations in particular – Eagle Meadow Horse Camp, the Niagara Creek area, and in the vicinity of the Niagara OHV facilities. These barricades are temporary in nature, allowing for safe dropping of the hazard trees. Two of three areas are now complete, with barricades removed – although there might be additional tree clean-up work. Much of this work is being done through partners, so it will take time.
- In 2015, the Summit District completed the NEPA process / issued a decision for the Long Valley OHV Restoration Project (off of Eagle Meadow Road). This project included various restoration activities related to: 1) unauthorized user created routes; 2) unauthorized expansion of authorized OHV dispersed campsites; and, 3) unauthorized, user created dispersed campsites. The project was implemented through a State of CA Dept. of Parks & Rec OHV Restoration Grant during the period of January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2018. As is typical with such projects, ongoing monitoring and maintenance of efforts may be needed at times. In checking with the Summit staff, there has been an occasional need to replace / move / add rock barriers to secure boundaries of designated routes and associated camp sites to keep OHV use in the appropriate places – but, there have been no additional closures.

Committee members suggested we ask USFS to have a representative attend Natural Resources committee regularly to give a report out and answer any questions. Staff will follow up with request to include the following:

- Supervisor Kirk asked if we can ask USFS about the public lands access and specifically trash issue at Pinecrest.
- Dick Gaiser asked about live fallen timber that could be removed while it is still of value
- Jim Phelan stated it could involve road access issues to get the timber out.

5. Committee Business

a. Staff Reports/recommendations

- i. CAO/OES staff reported out on other committees that might have overlap interest including the Fire Safety Advisory Committee and the Operational Area Committee meeting on Drought.
- ii. Supervisor Goldemberg reported out on Fire severity currently being experienced and that there is a correlation with fuels management.

6. Discussion items

a. Combining Natural Resources committee with Water policy Committee

- i. Staff gave background to agenda item and intent of BOS to make things easier or more efficient.
 1. Staff recommended options like having a joint meeting or having a representative from water attend natural resources committee.
- ii. Comments from committee members included:
 - Jim Phelan – expressed concern over policy issues and having the right players
 - Dick Gaiser – stated he wasn't aware the background
 - Jim Maddox sees our strength is natural resources and Water policy is about policy
 - Supervisor Goldemberg and Supervisor Kirk both expressed intent of the board to make committees efficient and effective and that all committees are being looked at.
- iii. Comments from the public included:
 - Ron Ringen gave history on water agency and discussed intent and what happened to it. Ron was not in favor of combining
 - Barbara Balen talked about water agency history and the ability for partnerships. Gave examples of how we can work together and connectivity of water to natural

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.

- resources
 - Sara spoke on CSERC and they believe the committees should be kept separate. Expertise from both committees is needed.
 - Don Perkins agree that it should be separate, and purposes are too important for one to take a back seat to the other. Spoke about intent to get water rights in Tuolumne County.
- i. Consensus of the committee members is that we keep them separate. Wait until Water Policy has a chance to regroup and then ask them to attend future NRC meeting to update.
- b. Discussion of membership makeup
 - i. Staff expressed that if we keep NRC as is, we need to revisit membership as there is a need to make a few changes such as TCEDA doesn't have a representative.
 - 1. Committee members expressed confusion over YSS language and history of at large position.
 - 2. Staff suggested that any recommendation for committee membership change will need to be approved by the board.
 - a. Committee members discussed omitting the TCEDA and possibly crating that slot for a YSS representative also possibly increasing at large to two spots
 - b. Sarah is going to check with YSS and see about membership interest
 - ii. Agenda item tabled until next meeting after YSS response.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:16am.

Next Meeting set for (August 11, 2021):