

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, September 8, 2021 @ 10:00 am.

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 Haff for Supervisor Kirk (Committee Chair)
 5. Supervisor Goldemberg (Committee Member)
 - ii. Staff Present
 1. Dore Bietz (CAO Staff)
 2. Liz Peterson (CAO Staff)
 3. Traci Williams (CAO Staff)
 - iii. Public Members
 1. Sherri Brennan
 2. Randy Hanvelt
 3. Thomas Hobby
 4. Jason Kuiken
 5. Chris Trott
 6. Ron Ringen
2. Public Comment:

None
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. Jason Kuiken, USFS Stanislaus National Forest Coordinator
 - i. reported out on the passing of Allen Johnson a wonderful friend mentor, collaborator,

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and colleague, there is a tentative memorial scheduled for September 26, 2021, more details to follow. Working to really honor Alan, it really is a tremendous loss for our County.

- ii. Stanislaus National Forest is closed to visitors, permittees, contractors, etc. can still perform some work but with fuel conditions, there are limitations on the type of work allowed. Hoping that closure does not extend too long, it is in relation to the dryness condition of fuels, and limited resources. Hoping to open as soon as possible. Wildland fire, working collaboratively with Cal-Fire, local fire districts, etc., does our best to suppress every start on the landscape. It is exceptionally, exceptionally dry out there.
- iii. SERAL project update, continue to move as quickly as possible, aimed at reducing the future risk, proactive project, larger NEPA project, and next steps.

B. MSA update: Liz Peterson, CAO Senior Administrative Analyst

- i. MSA update on Rim Reforestation, grant funding adding in acreage planting in Spring 2022. Cedar Ridge beginning September 17, 2021. Provided maps and spreadsheet on the update, a digital version will be provided. Chris Trott via zoom requested an update on Granite Thin, timber harvest issued Spring 2021, appeal – reissued project only received one bid, too high, gave YSS pricing options, there are tight timelines on the grant. There is about \$2,000,000.00 remain CCI left over expiring Spring 2022.

Public Comment:

Randy Hanvelt: Commented on the black salvage, how it's being addressed. What are we doing for resources, shifting to black salvage, pushing for additional resources. YSS Leadership Team, reason the bid is so high (over the grant limit) because of the overwhelming amount of salvage and the mill is not giving higher prices, looking into shavings plants which doesn't give as much value for the wood. There are a lot of issues.

John Buckley: As a member of the YSS Leadership team he praised Liz for being so effective and professional dealing with these issues that are not easy to deal with, in this situations would love to see thinning done, on the other hand because there is so much salvage coming from the Caldor Fire, the interest is low because there is too much. The other factor is the green trees not cut this year adds more value to the logs if they don't burn this year.

5. Committee Business

A. Staff Reports/recommendations

- i. Nothing to report.

B. Committee member reports

- i. Prescribed burning association and workshop..... several entities involved Tuolumne County Fire & Cal UC Cooperative (check) continuing to work with USFS for prescribed burns. It is necessary for all of Tuolumne County. Sherri Brennan- California Cattleman's Association is really pushing prescribed burns as a beneficial tool.

AI: Invite Susie Koker to discuss prescribed burns, October meeting.

6. Discussion items

A. Sherri Brennan introduced Thomas Hobby of Yosemite Clean Energy

- i. Provided a presentation on how to turn bio mass into a valuable resource. Dual bed gasification technology takes wood and converts it into something useful, zero emission fuels from trees. Requested recommendation to BOS for a letter of support for a California Energy Commissions grant of \$2 million dollars to locate project in Tuolumne County.

Committee members submitted questions on the project.

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ii. Comments from the public included:

- Don Perkins asked are the economics feasible? Also spoke on the HUD Grant doing an assessment for what was economically viable in the region, what would be competing? Asked for clarification on how this project would not compete with CRC projects?
- Chris Trott asked is curious about renewable hydrogen, how specifically are you going to get the products you make to market? What I hear is it will all be transported out of County.
- Jim Phelan commented is it more like propane or natural gas? It actually has a higher BTU than typical natural gas, it's like having high octane natural gas.
- Can the biomass from local fires be consumed in this plant? It ties back into the control burning.

- i. Recommended that the BOS consider a letter of support motioned by Jim Phelan motioned, seconded by Jim Maddox, role call vote, motioned passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 am.

Next Meeting set for (October 13, 2021):