

# Sierra County Fire Safe & Watershed Council, INC.

Regular Board Meeting  
April 24, 2019 @ 10am  
Old Sierraville School– Sierraville

## Minutes

### 1. Meeting called to order at 10:10am

**Roll Call-** Dave Goicoechea, Patty Hall, Irv Christensen, Jeff Dowling, Jim Turner

**Absent:** Bill Nunes,

**Others in Attendance-** Quentin Youngblood, LeTina Vanetti, Ruby Burks, Sylvia Lopez, Sig Ostrom, Einen Grandi, Wade Boan, Danielle Bradfield, Mark Longshore, Laurie Oberholtzer, James Prince

### 2. Approval of Agenda

\*Director Hall motioned to approve the agenda. Director Goicoechea seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

### 3. Public Comments

\*Sylvia Lopez announced that she and Sig Ostrom attended the Nevada County “Wilder than Wild” video showing and they have decided to show the film June 1<sup>st</sup> to the public in Sierra City. She has invited some people from different agencies and county departments to join the panel for an open discussion following the movie and to ask questions. She is hoping that someone from the Fire Safe board will be able to join the panel.

### 4. Announcements

\*Laurie Oberholtzer announced that the Sierra County Land Trust received a SNC grant to work on the Packer Saddle project.

### 5. Community Fire Event

\*Victoria presented the idea to the board to have Sheriff Honea come as a guest speaker to talk about the Camp Fire. This would be a workshop to consist of the public representing fire departments, local OES, Sheriff’s office, USFS, CAL OES, CALFIRE to name a few. A roundtable conversation would then take place to discuss each individual community and strategic planning ideas for those communities. USFS is also working on simulation planning for possibly June to assist them in their own planning for a fire event. The Honea workshop would work well alongside the other types of planning conversations that are coming up.

Director Hall motioned to approve Victoria to work on this project. Director Turner seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

### 6. CWPP: Victoria said that she is still working to update the CWPP and has been discussing with Ruby new mapping to identify project areas that encompass residents adjacent to federal lands. This could be added to the CWPP to work with project submissions and projects identified within the county. The west side USFS district said they could produce a similar product to be added to the CWPP as well. Mark also said that on the west side they would like to work closer with the private landowners to bring more awareness and education to them. They have also been working

closely with SPI on that side of the county. A discussion then began over GIS mapping and the ability to map projects and work on the ground. CALFIRE has request info that the Council might have to be included on their mapping but the Council does not currently have the software or the expertise to make it happen. NRCS and USFS has a lot of this readily available but there is a lot of other work taking place that has not been mapped.

## 7. Council Member/ Committee Reports

**\*Trailer Program:** ARP submitted a bill and have been paid for their time and mileage. They are already back in full swing this year. They are invoicing an hourly rate and mileage according to the trailer runs they are making. The west side has a trailer too and once this is figured out, they will start utilizing the trailer. In terms of green tons there is not much (about ½ ton on a trailer) but there are a lot of loads coming to the plant. It was noted by a board member that without ARP's commitment to this program it would not be running at all or at least this well. It was also mentioned that the third trailer needs to be purchased and that as soon as Director Nunes is back we can see about making this happen. Director Turner and ARP are also going to initiate discussions with the County regarding the placement of bins at transfer stations to assist with fuels removal.

## 8. Agency Reports

**Cal-Fire:** Jeff said that he and Danielle have been working with the NorthStar Fire District and the Tahoe Donner Association. They found that they will need to work with the USFS to get some information to move forward with fuels reduction project submissions to CALFIRE. Jeff mentioned that a lot of the focus is on disadvantaged communities so Sierra County could benefit greatly from grant submissions to CALFIRE.

**USFS:** Director Goicoechea said that a few months back the Resource Conservation District voted to begin working on the Cottonwood Fire area in coordination with USFS and private landowners. They completed a resource management plan, fire control plans, etc. for this area and now they would like to revisit that plan and discuss how to move forward regarding projects within that area. The environmental assessment work is very far along and now they would like to review project opportunities. Quentin would like to put forth a project idea within the Smithneck Creek area and Antelope Valley that would also work with the allotments within that area such as the one that Einen Grandi utilizes. Einen would like to see some travel corridors using mechanical and manual treatments to help make this happen. Einen brought up not only the livestock aspect but the reduced ability to use the area for recreation and wildlife traffic. There is the potential to bring biomass to the Cogen facility as well. Quentin feels that there would be a lot of mastication involved to make this happen because of the type of fuels they would be addressing. He asked if the FSC would be interested in looking at grant funding opportunities. Danielle brought up that fuels reduction and forage go hand in hand and it would be good to look at state and federal partnerships along with the private landowners.

*Director Hall motioned to support and move forward on developing a project within the Smithneck Creek/ Antelope Valley corridor and pursue grant funding. Directors Goicoechea and Director Turner will head this effort. Director Christensen seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.*

Ruby brought up that the Council has received a \$90,000 grant called the Mountain Quail Road Fuels Reduction Project. This was an old submittal to the Stephen's Fund that was chosen for funding and will be similar to the work completed in the Loyalton Pines area. A cooperative agreement between the USFS and the Council will need to be signed in order to proceed. This should come out of the office around July and should run about 2 years. This falls within the

Sattley-Calpine WUI area and will directly benefit landowners in that area. Additionally, they are looking at supplemental funding from the RAC for this project. There is also the opportunity to use the trailer program and the availability of the CCC as a match. Ruby mentioned that just over 300 acres of the Sattley-Calpine WUI was funded so there will be a lot of work being completed in this area.

Mark updated that on the west side, they are in the planning session of the Trapper EA and should have this signed soon. Once this happens, they will be working with Blue Forest again. The Gold project has some timber sales finishing up by June. They will be looking at hauling some biomass down Packer Saddle soon. The Sierra City Fuels project is also moving along. The Yuba project has two timber sales, one is on the backburner for the time being, the other is being administered by the NFF and they will solicit soon. There are about 235 acres of fuels reduction that will be completed by the end of the summer. There is another 91 acres going out for solicitation in the next couple weeks. Under the SNC grant there are over 270 acres that should be addressed this summer but the USFS and the Sierra County BOS are working together on this right now. Also, Mark mentioned that James Prince is the new fuels tech on the west side.

**Sierra County:** Supervisor Roen did not have anything new to add other than he met with the new biologist for CDFW and she is very supportive of projects moving forward.

**9. Discussion/ Action regarding Executive Director's Report**

**\*SAM/ D&B:** Director Hall motioned to approve Victoria to work up to 8 hours to complete the Council's taxes and annual reporting. Director Christensen seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

**\*Bank Changeover:** The board approved by consensus to move the bank account over to Plumas Bank from Wells Fargo to make it easier to do the banking.

**\*Current Checking Account Balance:** \$3,944.38

**10. Meeting adjourned at 11:53pm. Next meeting will be May 9, 2019 at 10am at USFS.**