

**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

February 1st, 2023 @ 10:00 a.m.

AN Francisco Building

48 Yaney Ave, Sonora CA 95370

1. Call the meeting to order: Meeting called to order by Supervisor Kirk @ 10:00 am. (Quorum reached).
 - A. In attendance:
 - A. Committee members (quorum met)
 1. Jim Phelan (Committee Member) Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District
 2. Dick Gaiser (Committee Member) Agricultural Advisory Committee
 3. Jim Maddox (Committee Member) Fish and Wildlife
 4. Supervisor Kirk (Committee Board Member)
 5. Supervisor Brandon (Committee Board Member)
 - B. Staff Present
 1. Andre Rivera (CAO Staff)
 - C. Partners
 1. USFS Staff: Benjamin Cossel
 2. TUD Staff: Don Perkins; Ron Ringen
2. 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.
 - A. Public Comments – None.
3. Consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting held on November 2, 2022.
 - A. Jaron Brandon moved to approve. Dick Gaiser seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
 - B. Public Comment – None.
4. Partner Agencies
 - A. USFS Travel Management Plan Update
 1. Fresno hiring event was a success. Made 42 job offers for Stanislaus area. Total region 5 openings over 400. Overall hiring events are very successful with next one scheduled in Redding.
 2. Roads are inundated with snow. Unable to get to roads for maintenance and repair. Once snow melts off, road work can continue. It will take some time to repair damage from recent storms. There has been a request for federal funding sources for assistance with the damage.
 3. Forest service housing is an issue. Working with Columbia College to contract use of barracks for staff housing.
 - B. TUD Updates

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.

1. Main ditch canal was damaged during the storms. It has since been repaired. Was offline for 8-9 days. Falling trees are an issue for the ditch system. This was not included in planning and needs to be added to future planning as is fire safety tree work.
 2. TCWA mentioned as being reactivated and that is a good thing. Support is needed from TCWA concerning the southern portion of the Phoenix watershed.
 3. Phoenix Lake sediment issue in north pool area needs addressed to prevent wasted dredging work and other projects that are expensive.
 4. PG&E acquisition was mentioned as a sensitive negotiation and to allow the process to continue without any interference.
5. Committee Business
- A. Staff Reports and recommendations
Review of Tuolumne County of Tuolumne Board of Supervisors goals and priorities for 2023 to align with Natural Resources Committee (NRC) goals and priorities.
6. Discussion items
- A. Committee goals and priorities for 2023
 - A. Discussed and approved the following as NRC priorities for 2023:
 1. Farm Bill, support current language changes, advocate for county, work with partners more involved in Farm Bill appropriations to support county efforts.
 2. Academic pathways and partnerships; possibly with UC Merced to get more support in and for biomass products, career pathways, data and studies to support healthy forests. Bio brick, bio timber that is carbon neutral and wood waste by products are possible opportunities.
 3. Grazing as alternative land use to support healthy forests and environments.
 4. Motion to approve 2023 NRC goals and priorities by Jaron Brandon, second by Dick Gaiser, motion passed 5-0.
 - B. Climate Action Plan Emissions Letter
 1. Discussion of draft letters to legislature. John Buckley mentioned that letter could be seen as obstacle if not carefully worded and should be sent to non-funding related audience. It was decided that letter was still desired to highlight obvious issue and to raise awareness of the importance of forest health projects in reducing wildfire emissions significantly. Final draft letter to be brought back for next meeting for approval.
 2. Andre introduced wildfire emissions inventory for County of Tuolumne. Will reach out for collaborative input and suggestions to improve the data.
 - C. Discussion of Farm Bill
 1. Discussion of the Farm Bill focused on how NRC can support any added language or efforts to include more support that impacts the County of Tuolumne. Andre to speak to USDA contact to find out how the Farm Bill can support County of Tuolumne efforts.
 - D. Discussion of Columbia College
 1. Discussed how Columbia College degree/certificate programs can support NRC goals of having more qualified candidates for forest health related jobs. Jaron will draft resolution for full board approval. Jim Phelan moved to approve resolution to board. Seconded by Jim Maddox. Motion passed 5-0.
 - E. Drought Declaration
 1. Discussion was tabled until next meeting

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.

F. Discussion of Biomass Topics

1. In context of SB 495 and AB 2446, having presentations by industry experts was discussed. Presentations will be scheduled at an upcoming meeting.

7. Open Items

A. Open Carry-on County roads within public lands issue

1. County of Tuolumne ordinance on firearms on public roads was discussed.

B. Committee member applications

1. All reappointment applications are submitted, as well the vacant position has applications submitted. Will bring to next meeting to vote on bringing to the board for approval.

8. Meeting Adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

A. Items for next meeting

1. Emissions final draft letter to be approved
2. PM 2.5 levels
3. Drought Declarations
4. Farm Bill
5. Open Carry request

Next scheduled meeting March 1, 2023