

Tuolumne County
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Heather Ryan
*Clerk of the Board
of Supervisors*

**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*

DRAFT MINUTES

**Fire Safety Advisory Committee – June 28th, 2023, at 10:30 am
Board Chambers, 2 South Green Street, Sonora CA 95370**

1. Meeting is called to order by Supervisor Goldemberg at 10:34 AM. Roll call taken. Quorum Established
 - a. Committee Members present
 - a. District 1 Supervisor – Supervisor Goldemberg
 - b. District 2 Supervisor – Ryan Campbell
 - c. Tuolumne County Fire – Jeff Santos
 - d. Tuolumne County Sheriff – Bobbie Nikafork
 - e. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians – Interim Chief Louie Millis
 - f. Tuolumne Fire Safe Council – Karen Caldwell
 - g. City of Sonora – Chief New
 - h. District 1 Rep – Scott Fremd
 - i. District 3 Rep – Wesley Brinegar
 - j. District 4 Rep – Chuck Sloan
 - b. Committee Members absent
 - a. District 2 – vacant
 - b. District 5 – vacant
 - c. Chicken Ranch Band of Me Wuk
 - d. Tuolumne County Fire Chief’s Association
 - c. Others present
 - a. Dore Bietz – OES Staff
 - b. Sean Hembree – OES Staff
 - c. Public – Various
2. Public Comment
 - a. Public Comment – None

3. Approval of minutes 5/24/2023:
 - a. Motion was made by Chief New 2nd by Supervisor Campbell to approve with corrections. All in favor, no nays, no abstentions. The motion was approved unanimously.
No Public Comment.

4. Old Business
 - a. Welcome of new members. District 4 Rep – Chuck Sloan and Interim Fire Chief Louie Millis Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
No Public Comment. None

5. Reports/Presentation
 - a. Fire Services Presentations
 1. Tuolumne Rancheria – interim Chief Millis introduced himself and his experience. Spoke on the history of the Rancheria Fire and current equipment and or staffing. Looking forward to working with everyone and as he gets his feet wet, will be able to discuss more at a future meeting.
 2. Twain Harte Fire /Strawberry – postponed until July meeting

 - b. Committee comments:
 - c. Public Comment – none

 - d. Staff Report – FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Home Hardening Award This grant award in the amount of \$20,000,000 will provide ignition-resistant home retrofits to eligible homeowners within the Mira Monte and Ponderosa Hills Communities. The project will provide up to \$40,000 per home. The eligible amount will be an income dependent on a sliding scale. The grant term will be 3 years. This project will be 100% funded through FEMA and Cal OES with no cost share from Tuolumne County. This represents a significant wildfire-adapted improvement for one of the County’s most vulnerable areas.
Committee comments – commendation to OES staff for the successful award.
Public comments – None

6. New Business
 - a. Review Draft Hazardous Vegetation Management Ordinance Educational Materials. Staff presented some options for education to property owners. The plan is for an education campaign transitioning to an enforcement phase. There will also be a transition in public communication from the Office of Emergency Services to County Fire. Three draft versions of the hazardous ordinance summary were provided for review and comment.
Committee Comments
Scott Fremd – commented enforcement expectation needs to be disclosed as part of education. Including clarification of access and entry of inspectors onto the properties.
Karen Caldwell – a common complaint for 4291 inspection is that they are not being enforced, hopeful that there will be capacity for enforcement.
Wesley Brinegar – recommended a change in the slop requirement to make it more accessible with less technical jargon.
Supervisor Campbell – recommend addressing edits in the outreach work group.

Chuck – reiterated the importance of education in all settings from initial outreach to inspectors.

Consensus was given that collaboration is key especially between CAL FIRE 4291 public resource code inspectors and County Fire Hazardous Vegetation Ordinance inspectors. But that allocation of staff time is where it gets problematic.

Public comments – member of the public made offer of help to create/edit brochure. Supervisor Goldemberg stated that sample language could be given to the Committee Outreach and Education working group for consideration.

7. Working group updates:
 - a. Communication and Education Outreach workgroup
 - i. Planning meeting for next week – Chuck volunteered to join education workgroup
 - b. Governance workgroup – ordinance changes
 - i. Red flag and parking on narrow streets
 - ii. Increase number of fire access identified roadways.
 - c. Emergency Planning workgroup - none
Public comments - none

8. Member Reports & Discussion – general updates/reports from committee members
Public comments: Inquiry was made about permitting for short-term rentals.

Karen Caldwell – gave a report on the status of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) The plan was last updated in 2004. Tuolumne Fire Safe Council is leading a collaborative effort to update the plan and expand it to include all of Tuolumne County. Goals and Objectives as well as treatment units have been developed and approved by the Steering Committee. On June 12-15th Stakeholder meetings with the Contractor (Jenson Hughes) have been conducted and a survey of priority project location were conducted. Further Public workshops are planned for July 21st and 22nd locations pending. A draft of the Plan will be available in the fall with the final draft to be submitted by the end of 2023. Karen also welcomed welcome input from Tuolumne Band of Me Wuk Indians CWPP (also under development). She would like to acknowledge the tribal plan and tier it within the County-wide plan.

Supervisor Campbell acknowledged the Crystal Falls Wildfire Preparedness Workshop which occurred on *** Tuolumne County OES, Fire, Sherriff, Animal Control, Ambulance and Public Health Staff facilitated the event. Approximately 40 area neighbors participated in a wildfire scenario simulation. The simulation was conducted in three phases, with presentations and discussion in between. There was a section on importance of preparedness, what goes in a go-bag, evacuation warning and orders, where to get information and what to do. It was recorded by Access Tuolumne so will be available later for viewing.

Public BLM/Yosemite declared start of fire season

9. Next Meeting and Adjournment
 - a. Meeting Adjourned 11:35
 - b. Next Regular Fire Safety Advisory Committee Meeting – July 26th @ 10:30 am**