

Sierra County Fire Safe & Watershed Council, INC.

Regular Board Meeting
February 7, 2018 @ 10am
USFS – Sierraville

MINUTES

Called to order at 10:04am

Roll Call: Full board minus Patty Hall

Agenda Approval: Dave motioned to approve the agenda. Jim seconded. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Announcements: Dave announced that there is a SNC meeting at 12:30 today and the RCD meeting following at 2pm.

Calfire: Jeff mentioned that there is a first round of funding through climate funding but there is stiff competition. There will be another second round of funding through the fire prevention grant as well. Paul also brought that there is SB5 coming around as well.

USFS: Quentin mentioned that the Greenhouse Gas Grant, they are working on a package to submit to this grant that include about 350 acres combo of mastication, hand piling and machine piling.

County: Bill asked about Title III. Paul thinks about \$46,000. Dave brought up the fact that the FSC extends into areas that the RCD does not. He feels that it's important that Shane has good feedback on these areas that include NRCS, USFS and FSA interests from the FSC as well since it has combined interests to include the private land owners as well. Shane said that there's mid to late March there will be farm bill language that will be going out to interested parties for feedback so that they can refine the language to benefit those it will affect. He wants to make sure that it includes protecting resources since it doesn't go into enough of that. Jeff said that the equip funding used to be very easy to get and now it's difficult to deal with causing people to not want to engage in this type of funding. Paul suggested that the chair craft a letter to LaMalfa thanking him for his assistance. Dave said they should do a joint letter from RCD and FSC.

Fuels Mitigation: We have about \$46,000 in Title III and Bill mentioned that we had talked about leveraging that funding to use it towards paying someone to go out and get grants for the FSC. Rod was introduced to the group. He is with High Sierra Forestry out of Nevada. Paul and Bill drove out to meet with him and then he was invited to attend the next meeting to discuss the possibility of using his services. It was also mentioned that we could use Danielle Bradfield as well. Rod said that he feels that this is a great way to get significant work done. It would be worth the money to hire a professional to write this to get grants that go a long ways towards obtaining funding. Danielle agrees as well. Jeff said that they should review the current projects in the CWPP and prioritize which ones they should start with. He suggested a planning grant that sets how they move forward. Paul mentioned a project to piggyback on the more recent chipping project that took place. Victoria asked if we could include an update on the CWPP to include current relevant projects to now. It was said that the planning grants would be to also

work on this to update the CWPP since when it was updated will be asked when applying for grants. Paul feels that this conversation should be had at the SNC meeting since their grants should include planning grants that help with admin funding as well.

Rod brought up that in his experience the best fuels management has been within communities because the homeowners are willing to do defensible space management but have issues getting rid of the slash and other burnable materials. The You Call, We Call program that took trailers to participating residents where the homeowner put fuels into the trailer and then the fire department comes and hauls away the trailer. This way the vegetation can be removed while getting the homeowners to do defensible space maintenance. He believes that this is a program that the FSC could adopt and for minimal funding could get off the ground. It could also increase the awareness of defensible space and increase the visibility of the FSC. Paul asked if there would be some buy in from CALFIRE. He believes that the County may be able to participate in some way. Jeff said that with the SRA fee went away he is not sure if there what the funding source will be for future grants. Irv had concerns over where to put trailers or dumpsters on the west side. Paul said they have been working on a solution to this that would work for everyone. Additionally, the cogen plant will accept green waste without it being chipped reducing the costs to the program. The suggestion was to purchase 2 trailers to start with a pilot project to start on the east side of the county.

Director Goicoechea motioned to approve, within a \$20,000 cost target, moving forward with the process to purchase the dump trailer and work with Quentin and Rod to move forward using the Title III funding to include working on a service agreement and contract that the board can review as soon as possible. Director Christensen seconded the motion. Director Turner abstained, all others were in favor. Motion approved.

Quentin suggested that the board pursue with Dan Martynn at NRCS the possibility to utilize equip funding in conjunction with this project.

Financials: A report was passed out regarding the tax status and current financials. By email vote, 3 hours to finalize the state status was authorized to Victoria but won't be enough. Bill brought up that the insurance is coming up as well that could be around \$800.

Dave motioned to pay the back fees and Irv seconded.

Bill would like to see Victoria notify the progress on these things on a regular basis.

Dave motioned to approve 8 additional hours for Victoria to work on the CA form 3500 and to keep the board apprised. Irv seconded.

The plan is to spend the money in the general fund to bring the insurance current and pay the back fees and to pay the approved 11 hours that Victoria was authorized to work. Going forward, the board will seek and secure grant funding that will contain admin funding so that they can pay the back invoices for Victoria as well. Dave motioned. Irv seconded.

Tracy mentioned developing a MOU between the sheriff's office, CHP, USFS and to work with the extension to developing the plan. (tracy will provide language for this) Dave motioned to have Tracy bring back this to the board. Irv seconded.

Meeting to be set in the future based on when Rod gets some figures set.