

Sierra County Fire Safe & Watershed Council, INC.

Regular Board Meeting

May 2, 2018 @ 10am

USFS – Sierraville

Minutes

1. Meeting called to order at 10:04am

Roll Call- Bill Nunes, Jim Turner, Patty Hall, Irv Christensen

Absent: Dave Goicoechea

Others in Attendance- Victoria Fisher, Quentin Youngblood, Paul Roen, Ruby Burks, Rod Rummel, Steve Mueller, Kevin Lee, Shane Starr

2. Approval of Agenda

Director Hall motioned to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Christensen. All were in favor. Motion passed.

3. Public Comments

*None

4. Announcements

*Supervisor Roen said that the Secured Rural Schools (SRS) funding was approved for 2 years and should be coming soon. It was mentioned that if we start using the current Title III funding for projects that we could advocate more funding to be allocated out of the SRS. Victoria brought up that we really need to start updating the CWPP and could use the Title III funding to do this. Ruby agreed that it would worth it to start working on this and that it would be a review and update to bring it current. It was expressed that we should also use this funding to leverage the ability to write and submit grants as well as the county wide dump trailer project.

Motion #1: Director Christensen motioned to authorize Victoria 20 hours to work on the update of the CWPP and to make contact with the fire departments and USFS (Eric Rice and Ruby Burks) to get this done. Director Turner seconded this motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Side Note: Quentin mentioned that it would be good to reconnect with the Humboldt-Toiyabe USFS as well.

*Rod Rummel announced that the recent grant submitted to fund the dump trailer purchases was not funded. There has been discussion to fund this out of Title III funding since we have the money there to move it forward. An estimate was handed out to the board to review. Director Nunes asked the board how they would like to operate the project. Director Turner said that if we could get some kind of notification out to residents and know where the trailers were going to be then American Renewable Power (ARP) could work on helping with moving the trailer and dumping it at the cogen in Loyalton. Rod said the way the program is designed is to have the trailer stationed a determined amount of days on a consistent basis (like Monday through Friday and to be removed Friday) so that every 7 days you would get a load or two loads out of the trailer. Director Christensen asked if we were looking to have two trailers instead of just one and if there would be a schedule for when it would be on each side of the county. Supervisor Roen

said that he is looking at the possibility of funding some transportation costs through different avenues and should know more soon. One thought for areas where parking is tight is to see about residents who would be willing to host the trailer until it can be removed to be dumped. Rod said that residents in other projects he has initiated write a sentence or two to describe where to put the trailer or some other form of communication to say where to locate it. Rod said it would be best to educate and get the word out there first in order to get communities involved. Supervisor Roen said that this can be used to the benefit of the Council by using it as leverage to obtain more Title III funding. Rod said that when the local fire departments are involved the success rate goes up too. Director Nunes asked how long it would take to get the trailers. Rod said a couple weeks. There was discussion that this project should be outlined first and fire departments on board and then buy the dump trailers. It was also discussed to start by region within Sierra County and document interest as it's expressed so that plans can be made to serve those areas once enough interest is gained and the kinks are worked out.

Motion #2: Director Christensen motioned to authorize Rod to spend up to \$17,000 for two dump trailers, as proposed, to be spent out of Title III, for Victoria to contact the Loyaltan Fire Department and work with Rod on this project and Director Nunes to work with Calpine-Sattley and Sierraville fire departments. Director Hall seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Motion #3: Director Christensen motioned to modified the first motion to add that the 20 hours of Title III funding authorized to Victoria will include any work on the dump trailer project and if the hours look to exceed this Victoria will contact the board immediately. Director Hall seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed.

*Director Turner introduced his attendees from ARP, Steve Mueller and Kevin Lee. Director Turner reported that the cogen is now up and running and about a week or so out to be running full loads. Employee training is taking place now too. In all, there are around 22 employees, some part time. Kevin mentioned that without Director Turner's persistence they would not be where they are at now. Steve said that they had USFS out there yesterday and the turnout was really great. The purpose of this plant is to utilize tier 1 and tier 2 material. The cogen plant will be responsible for up to 2 million tons of material a year. Steve also reported that there are more frequent fly-overs happening to determine tree mortality which affects what areas are designated into tiers.

5. Council Member/ Committee Reports

*None.

6. Agency Reports

Cal-Fire

*None.

USFS:

*Ruby reported that the Yuba River Ranger District has a new District Ranger, Lon Henderson. She will send Victoria his contact information so that she can add him to the list. The spring prescribed fire is happening now and based on training, resources and weather should be able to get burning done this spring. There are 2 timber sales at Castle and Saddle NW being advertised. There will be veg/fuels reduction projects ongoing through the operational season on the district with continued operations including the following projects: Lira and Trela sales, Transition Plantations Fuels project. New operations include the Dingo timber sale, Saddle timber sale and

the Sattley-Calpine WUI mastication project. Fire suppression organizations are onboard and will have all of their temporary staff back on starting May 14th. She will also be working with the FSC to do community outreach and work on future projects.

Sierra County:

*n/a

7. Discussion/ Action Regarding Sierra County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) Projects

*n/a

8. Discussion/ Action regarding Executive Director's Report

*Victoria reported that the status on the state side is waiting for a determination but otherwise the Council is in good standing.

9. Meeting adjourned at am. Next meeting will be June 6, 2018 at 11:24am at USFS.