

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

September 6, 2022 @ 10:00 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Chambers - 2 South Green Street, Sonora

1. Call the meeting to order: Meeting called to order by Supervisor Kirk at 10:02 am. (Quorum reached).
 - A. In attendance:
 - i. Committee members (quorum met)
 1. Jim Phelan (Committee Member) Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District
 2. Dick Gaiser (Committee Member) Agricultural Advisory Committee absent
 3. Jim Maddox (Committee Member) Fish and Wildlife
 4. Supervisor Kirk (Committee Member)
 5. Supervisor Haff (Committee Member)
 - ii. Staff Present
 1. Dore Bietz (CAO Staff)
 2. Tracey McKnight (CAO Staff)
 - iii. Partners
 1. TUD
 2. CA Fish and Game Wildlife Biologist
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 August 3, 2022.
 - A. Jim Maddox moved to approve with the minutes. Jim Phelan seconded. Motion passed.
 - B. Public Comment – none
4. Partner Agencies
 - A. USFS – USFS not present but staff updated that Jason Kuiken will be back on forest Oct 1.
 - B. TUD – water updates then presentation on Wildfire Defense Application. Scope of grant application to USFS. Grant due Oct 7. Looking for letter of support.
 - i. Public Comment - John Buckley spoke of several items related to the existing CWPP and asked if the committee can look at the current projects that the USFS has recently completed within the SERAL project area and outside of. TUD emphasized for a small water district, infrastructure with multiple areas and want.
 - ii. Staff stated that in because this was not on agenda for action, staff will present to Fire Safety Advisory Committee Sept 28th agenda for approval of recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The Board will have on the agenda for October 4th, 2022.
 - C. Mark Abraham – CA Fish and Game Wildlife Biologist is representative for Tuolumne County,

introduced himself and his duties.

5. Committee Business

A. Staff Reports and recommendations:

- i. OES updates
- ii. Committee member reports – none

6. Discussion items

A. Livestock fencing on public lands – Committee members discussed livestock fencing issue on public lands.

- i. Public comment – John Buckley expressed support of Dick Gaiser's efforts and explained that permittees have concerns with fencing, a few out there are difficult who believe private land owners impacted by cattle grazing do not have any rights. The issue is complex and there are impacts from limited USFS staffing that does not know when cattle are overgrazing. Most permittees do a conscious job in addressing should cattle get out of fencing.

B. Consolidation of Natural Resources and Water policy Committee – Supervisor Haff explained that the BOS has been talking and considering realigning committees and commissions. There are several possibilities, and nothing decided. What they would like to know from the committee, how do you feel about combining anything related to natural resources into one or what should it look like?

i. Committee members

- 1. asked would the number of representatives increase?
- 2. asked about Fire as a natural resources, would they be combined?

ii. Public comment

- 1. Ron Ringen asked about Water Policy Advisory Committee status and its original intent as a founding member. Asked about Water Agency Committee and isn't doing anything. Ron suggested that the Water Policy committee stand down if Water Agency is not doing anything either.
- 2. John Buckley suggested that whoever is the Supervisor for water they should be attending or is the rep to the IRWN to enable that person have a better understanding of water issues, grants, etc. Not sure water should be separated so that natural resources can focus on natural resources. Water should have a dedicated person(s).
- 3. Staff reminded committee that Fire Safety addresses not only fuels reduction related to natural resources but other Fire Safety, emergency planning, governance issues, vegetation management on private lands, etc.
- 4. Barbara Balen encouraged that Board and all committees continue to utilize TUD and other organizations related to water within the county.

Supervisor Haff offered that we are considering all sorts of options and that we want committees to weigh in. Supervisor Kirk reminded committee and guests that we are working towards the higher-level goals outlined in Board's priorities so that we can focus efforts and make positive decisions.

7. Meeting Adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

A. Items for next meeting

- i. Loaded carry on public roads - research