



Tuolumne County Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes

For the Meeting on August 7, 2024

2024 Natural Resource Members (or assigned delegates)	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
Anaiah Kirk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Kathleen Haff	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Don Perkins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Pete Kampa		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Adam Mazurkiewicz		✓	✓	E	✓		E	E				
Dianna Beasley		✓	A	A	A		A	✓				
Dick Gaiser	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	A				
Chris Trott		✓	✓	E	✓		✓	✓				
Jim Maddox	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		E	✓				
Jim Phelan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E												

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Kirk called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M. and confirmed a quorum was present.
2. **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Anaiah Kirk, Vice-Chair Kathleen Haff, Dianna Beasley, Jim Phelan, Eric Hall, Pete Kampa, Chris Trott, Jim Maddox, Sean Hembree (staff)
3. **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.)* – None
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting held on May 1, 2024 Jim Phelan made a motion to approve the minutes. Jim Maddox seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
5. **CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE COMMENT REGARDING AB1255**
 - a. This bill would require water distributors to provide a 20% discount to all ratepayers with household incomes under 200% of federal poverty guidelines. Implications of the bill were discussed. Ultimately, the committee held a consensus that the time for comment was too short to have a full Board of Supervisors consideration and decided to take no action.

6. PARTNER AGENCIES UPDATES:

- a. USFS – SNF Public Affairs Officer, Ben Cossel is on fire assignment and unable to attend.
- b. CAL FIRE – Unit Forester, Gary Whitson was in attendance with nothing to report.

7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

- a. Staff reports and recommendations: CAO staff Sean Hembree gave an update on status of Drought Resilience Plan timeline with an expected report from DWR contracted Consultant (Stantec) to report at the November NRC meeting. Hembree gave an update on ongoing California Board of Forestry utility easement rule-making changes. The Board of Forestry has postponed any changes until January 2025 or later. Public comment period is also postponed. Hembree also noted a report by the California Water Boards that identified at-risk systems across the state including some in Tuolumne County.
- b. Chris Trott notified the committee of USDA funding for a Hazardous Fuels Transportation Grant. The grant includes transport of biomass and merchantable materials and the transportation of post-manufacturing residual materials for secondary utilization. Trott also noted that the California Water Boards are reaching out to small water projects and mutual water companies to encourage consolidation through the agency of their assigned consultant, GHD.
- c. Eric Hall (TUD staff) reported that the Phoenix Lake Emergency Action Plan tabletop exercise will be carried out with appropriate emergency response agencies
- d. Chair Kirk indicated an intention to introduce Committee agenda items in October to consider a Pinecrest day use study to consider ecological impact, egress safety, and other considerations related to high seasonal use of this area. Chair Kirk also indicated an interest in considering opportunities to expand trails and fuel breaks within the Stanislaus Forest.

8. DISCUSSION OF USDA PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR OLD GROWTH FOREST:

- a. Stanislaus National Forest Staff were unavailable for comment.
 - i. Sean Hembree (staff) summarized the SERAL Record of Decision rationale which addressed old growth management actions.
 - ii. Chris Trott reported that on a recent SNF report to Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions. Trott indicated that communication between SNF and USFS national directors had been ongoing to ensure that SERAL treatment prescriptions for old growth management would be sanctioned by the senior USFS leadership.

9. ADJOURNED: Chair Kirk adjourned the meeting at 10:58 A.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2024.