

**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

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 @ 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 10:04am. (quorum reached).
 - A. In attendance:
 - i. Committee members present (quorum met)
 1. Jim Maddox (Committee Member) Fish & Game Preservation Fund Advisory
 2. Dick Geiser (Committee Member) Agricultural Advisory Committee
 3. Supervisor Kirk (Committee Chair)
 4. Supervisor Goldemberg (Committee Member)
 - ii. Staff Present
 1. Liz Peterson (CAO Staff)
 2. Jason Terry (CAO Staff)
 3. Cole Przybyla (IBA)
2. Public Comment: None
3. Consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting held on October 13, 2021.
 - A. Supervisor Goldemberg moved to approve with the correction of "vacant" instead of "vice" in b. and removing "Kaitlyn from CSERC talked about stopping" from c. Jim Maddox seconded. Motion passed 4-0.
4. Partner Agencies
 - USFS Report Out– Michael Jow, Resource Management Officer with the Stanislaus National Forest (STF) reported the following:
 - Short-term personnel changes:
 - Sarah LaPlante is on 3-month detail back east. Andy Welsh is filing in as MiWuk/Summit District Ranger. Dawn Coultrap will fill in as Deputy.
 - Rim Fire Restoration:
 - Hoping to burn Jawbone area/deer enhancement area next week (approximately 300-400 acres)
 - Preparing for planning next season. Only 30-40% survival for this year's planting but looking to interplant 3,000 acres. NDRC will be done in 2023 after herbicide release in spring 2023.
 - Working with County/TRT on site prep/planting under the WCB grant

In accordance with Government Section 54954.3(a), the public may comment on any item on the agenda. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance (i.e. auxiliary aids or services) in order to participate in this public meeting, please contact the County Administrator's Office, (209-533-5511). Notification 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting will enable staff to make reasonable accommodations to ensure accessibility to this public meeting.

- In the process of wrapping up Ackerson Meadow design and permitting with Yosemite National Park. Will be seeking funding opportunities to implement.
- Will be issuing a contract for the NDRC fuel breaks on STF/BLM in December. Also working with CAL FIRE to complete the fuel breaks on private property.
- SERAL:
 - On track for a December 3 notice period for the Draft EIS with a 45-day comment period
 - Hoping to have a final document with a draft decision in Spring 2022. Hoping for a decision that authorizes a portion of the fuel breaks to begin in the spring.
 - No decision yet on the Emergency Situational Determination (ESD). Wanting to see comments on DEIS first before the chief will consider authorizing a decision on the ESD.
 - Question from Dick Gaiser on the potential for any funding from the Federal Infrastructure Bill coming to the STF.
 - It is anticipated STF will see an increase in funding for fuel reduction work but might be in the form of increased USFS appropriations, not necessarily as a part of the Infrastructure Bill
 - Dick asked about status of Prather-Medusa project
 - Hoping to put a project out next year as both a timber sale as well as a stewardship project. Concerned about mills' capacity for green logs with all the salvage timber throughout the state.

**Jim Phelan joined the meeting at 10:40am

5. Committee Business

- A. Staff Reports and recommendations: none
- B. Committee member reports: none
 - Question from Supervisor Kirk regarding how decisions are made to implement campfire restrictions and if there is any opportunity to adjust that for pack stations and other businesses in the forest. Would like to have that conversation if there's any opportunity for local discretion for the sake of our businesses.
 - Fire restrictions come from the region because of region-wide forest closure mainly due to a lack of resources to respond to an incident should it arise locally.

6. Discussion items

- Woody Feedstock Supply Presentation – Biomass to business to promote vegetation management, community fire resilience, forest restoration and local economic development.
 - Cole Przybyla provided a presentation on what a proposed program might entail to help provide woody feedstock reliability to natural resources manufacturing companies. OPR has provided funding to develop a pilot program to develop a material "brokerage." OPR's funding will also develop an organizational study to determine how to implement a program and the best mechanisms for the organization to run it. Also working with Amazon Web Services and CalPoly on a web tool for this program. Cole will keep the NRC updated on progress/status. Cole is looking for letters of support, potentially from the NRC.
 - Supervisor Kirk requested an agenda item be added to next month's meeting for the NRC to consider writing a letter of support for the project.
 - The group expressed concern that we need to be working together as we all seek funding and the importance of working cohesively.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:16am.