



## Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions Collaborative General Membership Meeting Summary January 18, 2019

### **FOLLOW-UP ITEMS:**

1. For the next agenda, add USFS presentation on timber sales, broad plans for prescribed fire and an overview of how YSS is adding to FS work rather than overlapping with what the FS is already planning to do.
2. Provide update on the status of all current grants.
3. Invite media to visit some project sites for purpose of authoring article on SNC & WCB projects and visiting first MSA project.
4. Organize a field trip to see the SNC and WCB projects and a field trip to revisit various planting method areas within the Rim.
5. Agendize a discussion about 30+” tree diameter felling.
6. Sup. Kuiken to provide presentations on priorities and weighting of priorities.

### **MEETING GOALS:**

- Discuss potential projects for funding
- Receive updates on ongoing activities
- Hear presentation on USFS large landscape planning effort

### **SUMMARY:**

#### **Meeting Opening, Welcome, Pledge and Introductions:**

Chair Graveline led the pledge and then asked for self-introductions. Mr. Walt Kruse recommended, in the future, presenters provide project descriptions a week prior to the meeting when they are to be considered so they can be distributed to members in advance.

#### **CAL FIRE:**

Chair Graveline said a lot of time has gone into getting the proposed projects ready for presentation. VC Koepele said he participated in a presentation on the CA Carbon Investment Program grant through Cal Fire. The amount from auction proceeds has been increased for forest health projects.

VC Koepele said last year, TRT on behalf of YSS and the county, applied for \$14M with a suite of actions almost entirely on federal land and \$5M was received. He reminded the group they discussed, and came to agreement on, which projects from the suite to proceed with utilizing the awarded funding. The new grant cycle requires projects on non-federal land. The Tuolumne County proposal includes State Responsibility Areas (SRA). The proposals can be up to \$10M and must be completed by 2022. CAL FIRE is willing to consider some piece of planning if there is a likelihood it will lead to implementation and implementation funding is reasonably attainable.

Ms. Liz Peterson said the issue with the first proposal was there were no SRA lands, only federal land. CAL FIRE wants to see how the projects tie together in some cohesive way. They prefer projects that are CEQA compliant. An applicant also must show how much carbon the projects sequester on their own. TC received \$1.5M for fire prevention work. They have applied for \$2.5M more.

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Mr. Jason Kuiken said \$9M was not funded through the funded CAL FIRE grant. Looney and Two Mile were funded by the USFS. The USFS will continue to try to identify funding for the remaining projects. He said this new proposal builds on the projects funded last year as fire does not recognize responsibility boundaries. The state has jurisdictional authority where they share boundaries with federal land. Part of the request includes funding for NEPA for fire safe projects.

Mr. John Buckley noted the FS has a program of work and he wants to be sure funds acquired through YSS/Tuolumne County/TRT efforts is additional work paid for with the additional funding. He said he wants to assure the grants are adding value rather than pulling FS staff from already programmed work.

Mr. Steve Brink noted describing what the USFS has planned and how this work can be enhanced by projects within the proposal would strengthen the proposal.

Mr. Marti Gmelin described the Stanislaus National Forest's proposed projects. He mentioned projects from the last proposal that were not funded can be part of this proposal. This includes additional Granite Planting as part of Rim reforestation. The planting approach will be the "clumpy/groupy" method. It will cost about \$2000 an acre for a 5-year cycle to include everything from site prep and seedling production, planting, and subsequent cultivating. Also, there is a continuation of prescribed burning area called Phase 2 Strawberry Burn. This area has been logged. NEPA is done, but not CEQA.

Another project is in the '87 Complex Thin which is north of the Tuolumne River. This aligns with tribal work in Roeggie Ranch and the Hunter Creek area. NEPA and CEQA are completed as this in the Rim footprint. This was in the original proposal and not funded.

The Strawberry Phase 2 project was also in the original proposal. Funds are being requested to treat an additional 1,000 acres.

The Beardsley Ridge project is 12,000 acres and they are asking for funding for NEPA planning (CE) and treat of 3,000 acres. This project would add additional protection to the Strawberry and Pinecrest areas.

Planning dollars are also being requested for the Mt. Provo/Mt. Lewis project. This project borders Ponderosa Hills and the Mi-Wuk area. A contractor will do the NEPA. They will prioritize the northern slopes that face south.

In the Lower South Fork of the Stanislaus, which includes Cedar Ridge, the TUD flume, and the Sierra Outdoor School, the request would be for planning dollars for a 3,000-acre CE.

The 108 Fire Safe Council proposes a project to provide maintenance for existing fuelbreaks and about 500 acres of maintenance on the ground above Big Hill Road on North Bald Mountain. Big Hill has a great fuelbreak, but tree mortality has necessitated that additional work to be done. On Mountain Boy Road, a new fuelbreak needs to be installed. The council has landowner agreements on most of the private property in first two projects.

The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians has a project that includes about 700+ acres by Murphys Ranch. Some work has been done. The Tribe is asking for funds for two 40-acre

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blocks of land with heavy brush hand work and some mastication. This is situated where there is also SPI land, USFS, and private land. The tribe also wants to do 120 acres of prescribed burn in the Murphys Ranch area and scattered tree plantations.

Finally, SPI is requesting funds to create a fuel break on 870 acres of land through a tree plantation. The request would be for biomass chipping and hauling of material to a power plant.

Projects on federal land will go through the MSA. The USFS will propose as much of the Complex Thin that would get the project \$10M. The application is due January 29<sup>th</sup>. The carbon calculations piece is the challenge element to get done in time.

**Agreement:** There was unanimous agreement by members present to support the county in moving forward with this CAL FIRE proposal.

As an update, it was noted the HUD financed fuelbreaks have preliminary work done. They are currently working on the Good Neighbor Authority and CEQA/NEPA. The completion date is 2022.

### **Watershed Coordinator Grant:**

VC Koepele said the desire is to apply for a LIDAR analysis and planning on non-federal ground. This grant would also support developing a watershed plan and improve forest management and restoration. VC Koepele said the goal is to do a companion planning effort with the USFS so the entire county would be included in a plan. The grant would enable hiring a consultant that has expertise in planning and using LIDAR.

Ms. Peterson add 33% of the LIDAR from the CAL FIRE grant was completed before the winter weather set in. The company who was awarded the contract stipulated the county owns the data.

**Agreement:** There was unanimous agreement by members present to support the TRT proposal for a watershed coordinator grant.

### **Other:**

VC Koepele said the wildlife subcommittee identified some projects for a CA Dept. Of Fish and Wildlife grant with a primary location of the Jawbone Ridge. The projects would focus on migratory deer and habitat and other wildlife benefits. It is a \$3.5M proposal with wildlife restoration work to include fuel reduction, reforestation planting, mastication, and thinning,

Mr. Kuiken said the USFS is bringing staff back, despite the government shutdown, for certain projects such as Arnold/Avery, salvage at Donnell Fire, CAL FIRE grant development, and bidding for HUD work for biomass.

### **Next YSS General Meeting:**

The next regularly scheduled YSS General Membership meeting will be Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.

## MEETING ATTENDANCE

### Members

Name	Organization	Attendance
Jerry Jensen	American Forest Resource Council	Present

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Jerry Fouts	American Motorcyclist Association, District 36	
Dave Pickett	AMA36/Alternate	
Jeff Redoutey	Blue Mountain Minerals	
Steve Brink	CA Forestry Association	Present
Walt Kruse	Central Sierra Audubon Society	Present
Linda Millsbaugh	CSAS/Alternate	
John Buckley	Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center	Present
Julia Stephens	CSERC/Alternate	
	Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians	
Chris Trott	CT Bioenergy Consulting	
Jody Trott	CTBC/Alternate	
Scott Gelfand	Friends of Berkeley Tuolumne Camp	
Phil Coffin	FBTC/Alternate	
Jim Dambacher	Dambacher Construction/Landowner	
Karl Dambacher	DC/Alternate	
Dwight Follien	Groveland Trail Heads	
Dusty Vaughn	GTH/Alternate	
Michael Damaso	Merced Dirt Riders/ Stanislaus Trail Bike Association/4x4 in Motion	
Dave Evans	Natural Resources Conservation Service	
Alisha Lomeli	Pacific Gas & Electric	
Rick Carter	Pacific Ultra Power Chinese Station	Present
Dennis Serpa	PUPCS/Alternate	
Stuart Crook	Permitee/Landowner	
Bob Brennan	PL/Alternate	
Michael Vroman	San Francisco PUC-Hetch Hetchy	
Peter Dean	PUC/HH Alternate	
Brian Wayland	Sierra Pacific Industries	Present
Jeb Brooks	SPI Alternate	Present
Dore Bietz	Tuolumne Band Me-Wuk Tribal Council	
	TBM-WTC/Alternate	
Sherri Brennan	Tuolumne County	
John Gray	TC/Alternate	
Mike Albrecht	Tuolumne County Alliance for Resources & Environment	
Vicki Albrecht	TuCARE/Alternate	
Shaun Crook	Tuolumne County Farm Bureau	
Sasha Farkas	TCFB/Alternate	
Lindsay Mattos	Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District	
Jim Phelan	Tuolumne County Sportsmen	Present
Keith Martin	Sierra Club – Tuolumne Group	
Kevin Rice	SCTG/Alternate	Present
John Amodio	Tuolumne River Trust	

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Patrick Koepele	TRT/Alternate	Present
Seth Connolly	TRT/Alternate	Present
Jim Maddox	Yosemite Deer Herd Advisory Council	Present

### LIASON MEMBERS

Bill Haigh	Bureau of Land Management	
Nathan Graveline	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Present
Joe Meyer	NPS, Yosemite National Park	
Rob Grasso	NPSYNP/Alternate	
Michael Pickard	Sierra Nevada Conservancy	
Randi Jorgensen	SNC/Alternate	
Allen Johnson	South West Inter Face Team	Present
David Evans	USDA	
Jason Kuiken	USFS Stanislaus NF	Present
Scott Tangenberg	USFS/Alternate	Present
Ann Denton	USFS/Alternate	
Marty Gmelin	USFS/Alternate	Present
Maria Benech	USFS/Alternate	

### COLLABORATIVE STAFF

Carolyn Lott	Carlton Consulting	Present
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### OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

Name	Organization
Heidi Beswick	CSERC
Adam Frese	CAL FIRE
Alex Herrera	Americorps NCCC
Lauren Kor	"
Lisa Evans	"
Max Stecher	TRT
Ellyse Varone	TRT