

Highway 168 Fire Safe Council Agenda

January 13, 2022, 6pm online only

Opening by President- Howard Hendrix

- Final vote to adopt new bylaws: unanimously approved.
- Election:
 - Howard nominates Ryan Stewart for President: 2nd from Sharlynn, unanimously approved.
 - Sharlynn nominates Meghan Breniman for VP: declined. Position remains open.
 - Ryan nominates Pat Gallegos for Board Member: Unanimous approval.

Treasurer's Report-Sharlynn Childers

- Presentation of financial standing.
- Peterson Road Project: waiting on weather to improve for contractor to get started.
- SCE Capacity Grant: all items purchased with about \$1,100 remaining. Final reports due by the end of the month.

Pat Gallegos-PG&E Grant updates

- Whispering Springs project is complete.
- Meadow Lakes will be next priority if PG&E extends more grant funds.

Vice President's Report- Ryan Stewart

- Shaver West: obtained grant term extension to Nov 2022. Next step is to clean up behind the community center on USFS ground and county septic treatment area.

- Jose Basin: working on approval of amendments to update treatments after the Creek Fire. Want to use some funds to clean up behind Pine Ridge School.
- Working on new grant opportunity for a fuel break on the East side of Blue Canyon: Lost Bluffs

Edison Forestry- Ryan Stewart

- Currently working with Cal Fire on a fuel break and pile burning on about 200 acres near Dinkey Creek. Still about 1000 acres remaining to prescribe burn.

Rick Flemming -Big Sandy Rancheria

- Currently have a 6 man crew and are looking to add on more projects.

Meghan Breniman- Resiliency Fund

- Obtained seeds from Cal Fire to plant seedlings behind fuel reductions projects

Other introductions/community updates

- None

Old Business

- None

New Business

- Formal approval of CA entity name change from “Highway 168 Fire Safe Council” to “Highway 168 Fire Safe Council”. Unanimously approved.

*Adjourn Meeting at 7:06

**Highway 168 Fire
Safe Council
Meeting Minutes,
March 10, 2022
6pm at Sierra Oaks
Senior Center**



Join us online:

Google Meet joining info:

Video call link: meet.google.com/wrp-sxqb-exc

Or dial: (US) +1 984-500-4426 PIN: 697 037 622#

Meeting called to order (6:04 pm) by President- Ryan Stewart

- Welcome and introduction
- Update on the Shaver West Fuel Break
- Peterson Rd Project, Sierra Nevada Tree service should be starting this project soon. Project consists of 5 land owners with an average size of 5 acres.
- Board Resolution for Lost Bluffs Fuel Break passed with all in favor and no one opposed.

Treasurer's Report-Sharlynn Childers

- Reviewed the financial statement and noted that we need to look into getting an advance on the Jose Basin project.

VP Election of Sean Osterberg, Motion by Pat Gallegos and Second by Sharlynn Childers

Director Pat Gallegos-

- PG&E Grant update, 40 to 50 acres project in the Meadow Lakes area connecting to Radio Lane.
- Green address signs, Free to residents of burned out properties, currently only 10 residents have signed up to receive a sign.

Sierra National Forest- Kim Sorini-Wilson, District Ranger

- Planting seedling in Jose Basin and Blue Canyon
- Hiring 75 employees with funds from Federal Disaster relief money.
- Working on three other future projects; Huntington Recovery, Bass Lake Scenic By-way, Bald Mountain.

- Endangered Species; Pacific Fisher in courts over the Limited Operating Period (March 1st to June 30th).

Edison Forestry- Patrick Hanson, Recreation and Land Use Specialist

- Arbor Day Event in Prather, April 30th 10am-2pm
- Permission has been granted to have all events return to the property this year from previously being canceled due to community health concerns of COVID-19.

Lt. Kathy Curtis-Fresno County Sheriff's Department

- Working on a new electronic zone messaging system to be more direct to notifying residents affected by an emergency. Hoping to be less blanketing of an area but more focused communication.

Shannon Morrison- Fresno County Library

- Library is open and has two activities starting with a community poetry competition and a walking activity based around the Lord of the Rings.

Other introductions/community updates

Don Dulketh- SCE Transmission Vegetation Management

- Currently using an Air Curtain Burner to eliminate material from the previous year.
- Residents wanting free chips for their home can contact him for more information.

Meghan Breniman- The Resilience Fund and Seedlings of Hope

- Currently getting ready for the spring planting of seedlings.
- 41,000 seedlings were planted in 2021.

Kelly Kucharski- Sierra Resource Conservation District

- 10 resident have been cleaned up and working to write grants to help the local community in their recovery

Old Business

New Business

*Adjourn Meeting (7:12 pm) motion by Gus Gustafson and second by Sean Osterberg



Highway 168 Fire Safe Council Agenda

May 12, 2022, 6pm at the Sierra Oak Senior Center and Online

Opening by President- Ryan Stewart

- Please see our website for information on current wildfire activity and burn day info.
- Governor Newsom has approved \$4.7 billion for forest management
- Joe Tyler has been named director of CalFire. New 2nd in command is Chris Anthony, an RPF out of Tahoe area.
- Science Days has resumed at Camp Edison

Sierra RCD- Kelly

- Introducing Chelsea Hutchinson: new liason for the Hwy 168 Fire Safe Council.
- Update on upcoming work days on Peterson and Cressman Road.

Vice President's Report- Sean Osterberg- no report

Treasurer's Report-Sharlynn Childers

- Presentation of financial standing.
- Peterson Road Project: one property complete and two more in progress.
- SCE Capacity Grant: Spent remaining \$1100 on branded hats, pens, etc to give away at events.

Pat Gallegos-PG&E Grant updates

- No word on last PG&E grant application.
- Need more grants for lower elevation clearing.

Edison Forestry- Patrick Hanson

- Edison has an option position for an assistant Forester.
- They planted 85,000 seedlings in the last year
- Burning south of Shaver Lake through the summer.
- Trying to facilitate bringing together people that serve the public (CalFire, Sherriff, fish and wildlife, etc).

Fresno Co. Sherriffs office - Kathy Curtis

- Getting ready for wildfire season
- Zone map for evacuation orders and warnings is now complete on their website.
- Be sure to register for alerts through eventbridge.

Fresno Co. Library – Shannon Morrison

- Working with Resiliency Fund to publish Creek Fire stories.

Question from Gus Gustafson: When is Fresno Co. starting their Peterson Road project? Ryan A: waiting to hear. County will send out Rights of Entries to homeowners.

Current Grant work update- Ryan Stewart

- Shaver West is complete.
- Jose Basin: meeting with property owner North of Auberry Rd to put in a fire line and clean up around Pine Ridge School.
- Waiting to hear on application for Lost Bluffs project.
- We were awarded a State Fire Marshall Grant to work on VMP on Edison and herbicide on the Blue Canyon 45 day projects.

Other introductions/community updates

- None

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

*Adjourn Meeting at 7:09



Highway 168 Fire Safe Council Agenda

August 11, 2022, 6pm at the Sierra Oak Senior Center and Online

All Board Members in attendance.

Opening remarks by President- Ryan Stewart

Treasurer's Report-Sharlynn Childers

- Presentation of financial standing.
- Peterson Road Project: Complete!
- Yosemite Sequoia RCD reached out: They have some grant funding available to help Fire Safe Councils in their region and want to know how they can help us.

Vice President's Report- Sean Osterberg

- Fresno County has sent out ROEs for their Auberry Rd, Peterson Rd Fuels Reduction work. They will also be removing hazard trees on the Beaverslide.

Edison Forestry- Patrick Hanson

- As a reminder: no OHV activities on Edison ground.
- The Sherriff Mountaineer's run is on 8/13.
- Edison Forestry is currently working on their VMP with goat grazing and utilizing the air curtain burner.

Pat Gallegos-PG&E Grant updates

- PG&E grant approved: project will be the 3rd phase of the Meadow Lakes Fuel Break, connecting the east side to the Radio Ln fuel break. Will be completed by Dec 2022.

Supervisor Magsig's office: Bret Rush

- Organized a meeting last night with 9 agencies to help get info to property owners on land clearing.

Sierra RCD- Chelsea Hutchison

- Completed 104 fire evaluations and treated 22 acres for property owners this summer.
- Working with SCE to deliver chips to the San Joaquin River Conservancy.
- Held a Fire Wise Program meeting.
- Creek Fire Recovery Fund received a \$500,000 grant to help with any unmet needs.

Fresno Co. Library – Shannon Morrison

- All 3 local branches are available to help with resources, including wifi.

Current Grant work update- Ryan Stewart

- Shaver West: looking at a few properties to clean-up with remaining funds.
- Jose Basin: Forest Service has been clearing road hazards and planting seedlings.
- Lost Bluff application was accepted. Layout is complete. Next step is to put out project for bid.
- Biomass market is very limited right now due to high diesel costs. Rio Bravo co-generation plant is shutting down at the end of September.

- Creek Fire Resiliency and Recovery Grant: State Fire Marshall Grant to work on VMP on Edison and herbicide on the Blue Canyon 45 day projects.

CALFIRE -Thorin Day

- Moving into the old Sierra Elementary site.
- Currently touching up fuel breaks that bumped up against the Creek Fire footprint.

Other introductions/community updates

- Shannon: Fresno Regional Workforce has a forestry program where they are training workers for forestry jobs.

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

Next Meeting: October 13, 2022 at 6 pm

*Adjourn Meeting at 7:01.



Highway 168 Fire Safe Council Meeting Minutes

Sept 8, 2022, 6pm Online

Ryan Stewart, Sharlynn Childers and Sean Osterberg in attendance.

Grant update from President- Ryan Stewart

- Shaver West: Will Winterstein pilling west of Shaver. Should use the rest of the budget and complete the grant.
- Jose Basin: Pine Ridge is complete. Waiting on paperwork for environmental clearance to start work on Messer's property. Wimmer accepted a new position, so trying to connect with new Forest Health Forester.
- Creek Fire Resiliency Grant: fully approved. Can request an advance and assemble bid package.
- Lost Bluff: updating the Board Resolution per Cal Fire request.
- Pat's PG&E grant for Meadow Lakes was approved and first half of payment received. Waiting on weather to start.

USDA Grant update-Sharlynn Childers

- New grant opportunity from USDA-Forest Service to complete hazard clearing on private ground or update a CWPP over 5 years old. Up to \$10M for a 5 year term.

- Regional rep for the grant suggested expanding the project to include a portion of Tollhouse, including Cold Springs Rancheria to match up with our CWPP.
- Board voted unanimously to wait until next award period (late 2022/early 2023) to apply for two grants: 1) to update the CWPP 2) a larger scale project encompassing Burrough Valley and Cold Springs Rancheria.

Vice President's Report- Sean Osterberg

Pat Gallegos-PG&E Grant updates

Next Meeting: Community Meeting October 13, 2022 at 6 pm

*Adjourn Meeting at 6:30.



Highway 168 Fire Safe Council Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2022, 6pm Online and Live at the Sierra Senior Center

Board members in attendance: Sharlynn Childers, Pat Gallegos and Gus Gustafson.

Officer's report- Sharlynn Childers

- Shaver West: West village portion is cut and piled. The fuel break is re-established from SCE Lands on the North side, down to the Musick Creek Tract.
- Jose Basin: 200-400- around Pine Ridge school is cut and piled. Piling has begun on the North side of Auberry Rd to the Alder Spring fuel break.
- Lost Bluff: fully approved, need to request an advance. The fuel break perimeter has been flagged and trees marked. Planning to send out the bid package in spring of 2023.
- Pat's PG&E grant for Meadow Lakes: delayed start due to weather conditions.

Sierra RCD-Chelsea Hutchins: SRCD is performing property inspections to help homeowners identify what they can do to make their properties more wildfire resistant.

Also, helping communities organize to become Fire Wise communities.

Guest Speaker- Richie Sayavong with the California Department of Insurance:

- Overview of how the department regulates insurance providers in CA.
- They are available to assist homeowners with understanding policies and filing insurance claims. Call 800-927-4357 or visit [insurance.ca.gov](https://www.insurance.ca.gov).

- Question: Can we expect lower insurance costs?
- Answer: They are working to regulate the costs, but wildfire risk is prevalent throughout the state.

Next Meeting: Community Meeting January 12, 2023 at 6 pm

*Adjourn Meeting at 7:00.