

Highway 168 Fire Safe Council Meeting, September 9, 2021

Sierra Senior Center

Board Members Present: Howard Hendrix, Laurel Hendrix, Warren Colbert, Gus Gustafson, Ryan Stewart and Sharlynn Childers

Called to order at 6:15 pm

President's Report, Howard Hendrix: Submitted an application to the CA State Fire Safe Council for a Resilience Brilliance Award. Award Ceremony will be held in Sacramento in early October.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report, Sharlynn Childers:

- Sharing of financial standing. After completing invoicing of Shaver West Grant and Jose Basin Grant, moved some indirect costs that had not previously been charged to the grants into the general fund. The checking account currently has a balance over \$30,000.
- Applied for 2 CA State Fire Safe Council grants: #1, a PGE grant for \$100,000 to help property owners in Auberry and Tollhouse clear their state responsibility areas. #2 SCE grant for \$25,000 for capacity building including: an event booth, video and print education materials for homeowners, social media development and equipment to hold hybrid in-person/online meetings.

Vice President's Report, Ryan Stewart: Currently ramping up for work on Shaver West and Jose Basin Grants, planning to start this fall.

SCE Update, Ryan Stewart:

- Edison has about 2M board feet of logging left to complete this season.
- They also have about 120,000 seedlings started, Sierra High has about 15,000 and the Resiliency Fund is growing about 20,000 at Intermountain Nursery. Sign up for the Seedling of Hope project at <https://museumofthesierra.org/resiliencyfund/seedlings-of-hope/>

Fresno County, Bret Rush: Fresno County was awarded a CalFire Hazard Fuels Reduction CCI Grant of \$4.07 million. The funds will be used for Road Hazard clearance on the Auberry Ridge and surrounding areas.

CalFire: Jerry Sharp, Forester and Matt Dunham, Battalion Chief:

- Dunham:
 - Introduction of Thorin Day has been named as the new Battalion Chief of Fuels Reduction. He will over see all fuels reduction projects and contractors working on them.
 - Prep work was done south of Shaver Lake and north/east of Blue Canyon.
 - Some private property near the Dinkey Creek Work center may perform a TREX burn.
 - Anticipating a dry fall and early winter.
- Sharp: Work has begun to reestablish the Cressman Road fuel break: 200ft on each side of the road all the way around the loop.

PG&E Grant, Pat Gallegos: PG&E is cooperating with delay in work due to fire danger of masticating.

Fresno Co. Library, Shannon Morrison: They have to opportunity to host a webinar on homeowner's insurance. Howard suggested topics such as: coverages and riders, gauging depreciation, united policy holders, delays, issues with holdbacks. Shannon will touch back with possible dates/times.

SRCD, Blair Duncan and Kelly Kucharski: September 24-26 there will be a workday on lower Cressman. This will include chipping and other clean up on 6 properties.

Old Business:

- Revision of By-laws: Sharlynn: motion to assign committee to suggest amendments; second by Ryan; motion carried. Sharlynn volunteered to chair the committee, Howard, Ryan, Pat and Warren volunteered to participate. Due: November meeting.
- Warren: reminder that we need to establish a budget for the formally approved program of reflective address signs in Creek Fire footprint.

New Business:

- Sharlynn: Will the Board approve use of surplus funds towards Post Creek Recovery Grant/Peterson Rd Project. Ryan: Review available funds after a reserve of 1 year has been established.
- Howard: A Board election will be held in January.

Next meeting: November 4th at 6 pm, at the High Sierra Ranger District office.