

EPPOC Draft Minutes, version 2
Wednesday, December 6th, 2023, 9:30-11:30 am

This is the link to the Zoom video of this meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/7y1FmrxE70qQfTOaga8K4d8afqcMMC4sqxGiMJ3EbNKtFZNZ-IIISbShpMML7Mjt.9tt8Zsdvn4ejZHcX>

Passcode:

?yG3J7QZ

If you wish to watch, I recommend downloading the video to your computer rather than watching in a browser window.

- November 2023 minutes approved by consensus.
- Speaker for this month:

Presentations by each HOA about its successes and challenges for 2023 and plans for 2024 by its Manager, the Board President, or Board Officer.

(Steve explained that for the past fifteen years the December meeting included a luncheon and presentations by each of the HOAs about their challenges and successes from the previous year and plans for the upcoming. Meetings for the past decade were held at the community room at the Blagen Road firehouse but are now Zoom exclusive. The advantages of meeting by Zoom are that second home owners who live in the Bay Area and elsewhere can attend and also those from Public Works, CCWD, District 3 County Supervisor, and other standing monthly reports may attend without having to travel to Arnold.)

John Lyons, President of Mill Site Board sent his regrets that he is unable to attend.

Joan Remmart (sp?) from Love Creek reported that with Covid the Love Creek POA has lost some traction. Joan lives in Bay Area and has second home in Love Creek. Joan says that there is an effort to re-energize after Covid. Their goal for the next year is to increase membership on their association and grow participation. They did some brushing along the creek this past year.

Scott Deveraux was introduced by Eric as the new GM of Forest Meadows HOA. Scott explained that they have developed an active email communications system with membership. Board meetings are now open to Zoom for membership to

attend. This has made it possible for those who are not local or are working to attend. Almost all the meetings are now outside executive session. Scott is hosting monthly informal q&a sessions, putting together a 10 year plan, establishing new software that integrates everything that is happening in Forest Meadows.

Dorothy Hilts representing the Arnold Lilac Park HOA reported as current President of the HOA. Her family has owned the cabin since the 1950s. They replaced trim on a pump house and volunteers from their community reduced costs substantially through their volunteerism. They had successful 4th of July and Labor Day gatherings.

Kirt Boynton reported on behalf of Pinebrook HOA as the President of its Board of Directors. They are an all-volunteer Board with the only paid personnel being a summer beach monitor and the contractors. Volunteerism has decreased a bit so that they are needing to increase paid contractors for activities like landscaping and maintenance activities. Very social group with many community activities that are well attended. Financially doing well maintaining HOA rates. Working with PG&E on ungrounding their power lines.

- Eric invited Francisco de la Cruz to speak about an independent community group that has been formed called the CCWD Advisory Group that plans to work with CCWD on possible ways to decrease the recent rate increases. They are starting by visiting the various current CCWD capital improvement projects that this group understands them better than they do now. They have visited the Jenny Lind plant and will visit the proposed four-mile pipeline. They will probably also visit the recently completed projects here in the Highway 4 corridor. Francisco is asking that someone from our Highway 4 area consider joining this group so that we would be represented also. This group is attending CCWD meetings and also meeting on their own to discuss what they have learned and now to proceed. They want to ensure clean fresh drinkable water while looking at costs.
- Kirt Boynton spoke about a community effort here in the Highway 4 corridor. There is a developing walkie-talkie called GMRS (general mobile radio service). They are relatively inexpensive and licensing to use them is through the FCC and straightforward and also inexpensive at \$35 for ten years. This technology is being implemented in communities for purposes of safety and an effort is being made to do that in the Highway 4 corridor also to deal with wildfires and crippling snowstorms with power outages for multiple days. The cell phone networks are unreliable in these events. This program would allow for safety communications within neighborhoods when there are emergencies and power outages. Francisco asked Kirt if we had a CERT team in our Highway 4 corridor. Kirt said no but that

surrounding counties do have such programs. Here is a link to information about Community Emergency Response Teams:

https://community.fema.gov/PreparednessCommunity/s/about-cert?language=en_US

Francisco found that it took practice to use these well because folks started using them more broadly.

Steve said that this kind of activity is exactly what EPPOC is designed for and he invited Kirt to provide regular reports at the EPPOC meeting. Kirt will prepare a report for our February meeting. Steve thanked Kirt for this worthwhile project.

- Reports:

- EPPOC Treasurer's Report – Laura Baughman
 - We have \$310.00 in the EPPOC bank. Eric is deferring consideration of to whom to give donations to the February meeting.
 - Laura will be sending out requests for the \$35 annual dues.
- EPPOC Chairperson's Report – Eric Davis
 - Eric defers his Chair's report until February
- District 3 Board of Supervisors – Martin Huberty
 - Martin would like to work with whomever volunteers to work with Francisco's group from District 3.
 - Martin thanks the Sheriff's office for its work on the missing person in the Interface.
 - Martin met with new owners of the Bear Valley ski operation. Martin is very excited about this group since they specialty is ski operation managers.
 - Martin thanks Heather for the tour that the State Park gave to Martin of the North Grove burn and the planning South Grove burn.
 - Martin is working with the DA's Office regarding a short-term rental statute.
 - Many of Martin's calls from constituents about power outages. PG&E did a town hall in San Andreas about power outages that was excellent but not well known so it was only attended by several citizens.
 - Martin is working on his Berm Buddy program. He has been given \$5,000 for the program and he is working on details.
 - Martin likes to meet with neighborhoods in small groups. He finds it is better than large town hall meetings. Martin does not participate in social media, but he welcomes constituents to call him or email him.
mhuberty@co.calaveras.ca.us
 - In 2021 visitors brought in \$216,000,000 into Calaveras County. \$246,000,000 in 2022. Martin believes that the pandemic brought more

people who appreciated Calaveras and are returning. In 2023 there is a 24% increase over 2023.

- Calaveras County Public Works – Monica Remus
 - Monica explained that the PG&E underlining of power lines has ended for the season because of temperatures and that the restoration of the roadways with asphalt over-layment is also halted because of the cold temperatures. This work will resume in the Spring.
 - Monica asks that anyone who has questions about the County maintained roads to please contact her directly by email or phone.
MLRemus@co.calaveras.ca.us
 - Heather Reith congratulated Monica for the excellent online tool that Public Works has to file a service request:
https://iframe.publicstuff.com/#?client_id=1000177
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- Ebbetts Pass Fire District – EPFD B415 said that there is no new report.
- CalFire – Dennis Lange,
Chief Lange reports that burn control are removed for the winter. He asks folks to call the burn line to make sure it's a burn day, and also cautions folks not to allow fire to escape their property lines.
- Sheriff's Department & CHP – Joshua Wilkinson (CHP)- no report.
- CCWD –Bertha Underhill & Michael Minkler – CCWD's Kelly Gerkenmeyer gave the report this month.
 - Working on a second clarifier at the wastewater treatment facility in Arnold which is needed to be able to do maintenance. That is under environmental review, and it has met approval for first round of grant funding application.
 - Installing blue fiberglass poles at the meters so they can be located once it stalls.
 - PG&E works with CCWD to locate CCWD underground lines.
 - CCWD is arranging
- County Office of Emergency Services – Bajjit Singh – no report
- Calaveras Public Health – Evita Olson
 - This summer Public Health conducted a survey of Calaveras residents and will be releasing full report in 2024.
 - Public Health Office is offering free flu shots on Mondays. Also ordered

Covid vaccines for those who are under or uninsured. This is because some residents have been going to CVS and learned they would be charged \$300. These folks are eligible for the County Covid vaccinations.

- County has tobacco free signs that can be provided to any public facing space by calling the Public Health Office.
 - Narcan and the training to use is available. For this and any of the programs call the Health Department front office at 209-754-7460.
- California Big Trees State Park – Heather Reith
 - The main road in the Park to the South Grove is closed for the season right at the entrance gate.
 - 39 acre burn in North Grove successfully completed. Goal is to accomplish 50% mortality in the cedars and White Firs. South Grove had to be postponed because they received too much rain.
 - Calaveras Big Trees Association – Vida Kenk
 - Vida recommends that folks bring
 - Campsites 1 to 11 in the North Grove will be open in this season.
 - Check social media or the website for the Park before visiting.
 - California Naturalist Program starts in the Spring of 2024.
 - Docent training will occur in the Spring of 2024- dates TBD
 - All profits for
 - See Vida’s full report at the bottom of these minutes.
 - Calaveras Council of Governments – Tim Muetterties is no longer able to attend because of an ongoing schedule conflict.
 - Great Arnold Business Association – Linda Sapien - no report
 - Arnold Rim Trail Association– Steve Lauterbach
 - Steve reported that the recently completed 0.9 miles of new trail built this summer by the California Conservation Corp has quickly become a favorite of mountain bikers, equestrians, and hikers alike because of its excellent design. The Trail Manager Evan Watson to whom Arnold Rim Trail Association reports the Calaveras District of the Stanislaus National Forest is responsible for this superb design. He spent several days flagging the details of this new trail and then working with the CCC to ensure its execution.
 - Election of EPPOC Officers for 2024 – Eric Davis, Laura Baughman, and Steve Lauterbach will continue in their roles of Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary respectively.

- Open Forum: What's on your mind that is not on the agenda?

Ken Sanders gave an excellent introduction to his involvement in the communications community here in the Highway 4 corridor across different organizations including Search and Rescue and the volunteer ham radio operators. Ken is a wonderful resource in these organizations with deep expertise. He approves of the program that Kirk Boynton discussed and the devices they are recommending. (Please watch his content starting from 01:09:30 to 01:17:56 in the Zoom video.)

Supervisor Martin showed slides from the PG&E townhouse meeting that included the statistics about power outages in our community and the reasons. You may watch his excellent discussion of this topic from 01:22:09 to 01:26:40.

- Adjournment: 11:05am

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Steve Lauterbach
EPPOC Secretary

Attachment: Vida's excellent full report about Calaveras Big Trees State Park and the Calaveras Big Trees Association:

EPPOC CBTA Dec 2023 Report

Suggest to your visitors that they always check the CalTrans site for chain control before coming so their car is prepared. Check the forecast before you come and/or park social media as we will post pictures of snowfall and snow levels. Mornings will be icy as winter comes so wear grippy shoes and/or Yak-Traks. On arrival, check the whiteboard in the VC plaza for events of the day.

As Heather Reith said, Smith Parkway was closed to vehicles as of Dec. 1, but you can still walk on it. Sledding, cross-county skiing, and snow play will be available on the closed park-way road when we get snow.

North Grove Guided Hike at 11:30 on Saturdays; snowshoe guided hike if snow.

Dry camping in North Grove until we get reliably above freezing temperatures (spring). After first snowfall only campsites 1-11 in the North Grove will be available.

Possible Warming Hut alternative 10am-4pm only the few days after Christmas (Dec 26, 27, 28 and 29th) in Jack Knight Hall, depending on the weather. Check our social media and/or website as things may change.

Over 50 of the 290 California state parks now have PORTS programs. Last year, Calaveras Big Trees was #2 for PORTS programs across the whole state. Over 4,000 students and adults participated or will participate through mid-December in learning about Giant Sequoia Ecology, Fire Ecology, and/or Animal Adaptations through webinars or personal virtual programs. Heather Reith added that the #1 PORTS program was Chrystal Cove and Columbia was #3. The January-May programs will be available to book in early January; they fill up fast, often within the first hour. No in-person field trips until mid-March due to high likelihood of snow/icy conditions this time of year.

California Naturalist registration starting on Jan. 1. Flyer was attached to Nov. EPPOC meeting minutes. Many thanks to Sue Hoffmann, CBTA Executive Officer, for designing our announcements.

Plans for Docent training in the spring, probably in March. Dates not yet set, since the weather can vary so much,

During this less demanding time, planning being done by the state staff for the coming year. Hiring process is underway for state DPR staff Interpreter I and also an Interpreter II position at this park for the coming year.

Next year, the 50-year anniversary of founding CBTA will be celebrated.

Please check the whiteboard in the VC plaza area when you come to the park. Do your holiday shopping by buying unique interesting gifts at the VC store, including creations by local artists and an extensive selection of books about the natural and cultural history of our area. As much as possible, we buy from American producers. All store profits stay at the park and support the interpretive programs here.

Written by Vida Kenk, CBTA Vice-president.