

EPPOC Draft Minutes

Wednesday, December 3, 2025, 9:30-11:30 am

There is no meeting in January or July.

**Also note there will be a new Zoom login for the 2026 meeting,
please make a note of this now!**

- Zoom link to December meeting recording:
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/y8ChVyCp7A10jNRkjiK5yoFYhDpMhIfpwEbnIDeohD_Gbup0Ip6g2PniaHxG4z-q.-zhKgDfnfWxOe0tf
- Passcode: [!02B.#@#!](#)

I find it easier to watch the video of the meeting by downloading it to my computer than to stream it online. It's easier to stop and start and move back and forth to different times. Once you open the link above and enter the password, you'll see a link in the upper right corner to download the video to your computer. I suggest you give it a try.

We're trying a new format for the minutes. Zoom now provides an AI generated report for the meeting. Marlaine Cover made an excellent suggestion that we might try using that content. Let me know what you think please.

Election of 2026 EPPOC officers.

The meeting began with discussion about EPPOC elections for 2026. Eric Davis was elected to continue as EPPOC Chair, Laura Baughman as Treasurer, and Steve Lauterbach as Secretary.

Community Planning and Updates Meeting

In the past, at the December meeting we would always vote to distribute remaining funds in the treasury to worthy local causes. It was decided that instead funds would be kept and distributed throughout the year in 2026 to fund community events, holding funds until specific events are organized by Martha or Laura. The conversation ended with a brief personal update from Martin, who shared that he had recently undergone a successful hip replacement surgery.

Active Shooter Training Discussion

The group discussed active shooter training, with Sheriff Rachelle confirming that the sheriff's office offers presentations for county offices, places of worship, and businesses. Eric shared a personal story about mandatory polio vaccinations in 1956, highlighting their effectiveness in reducing polio cases by 99% within 24 months, and encouraged staying informed from multiple sources about vaccination information.

Community Updates and Project Discussions

The meeting covered several updates and discussions. Laura confirmed that the current funds total \$275.10, with no prepaid dues yet, and mentioned she would be writing a check for pizza for an upcoming event. Martha inquired about increasing dues, which Laura confirmed would rise from \$35 to \$40. iPhone provided an update on the Cold Case Task Force dinner, noting it was the most successful yet, grossing \$35,500 and bringing in an additional \$110,000 from donors. Martha discussed the Arnold Meadow purchase, noting that a private individual had made a cash offer, but no response had been received. The group also discussed the wagon trail project, the behavioral health building, and the DA's building, with Martha emphasizing the need for funds for the animal shelter. She concluded by

addressing concerns about the Murphys median and the need for community input on Caltrans projects, mentioning ongoing efforts to arrange a town hall with Caltrans to address public safety issues.

Ebbetts Pass Fire District Updates

Mike Johnson provided updates on the Ebbetts Pass Fire District, including progress on planning a new fire station near Forest Meadows, expected to break ground in 18-24 months. He announced the hiring of Amanda Ramirez to replace Cheryl Howard, who will retire in 2026, and the addition of Ryan McGill as a new firefighter, bringing staffing to 100%. Johnson also shared that the district has transitioned to open burn status, urging caution with pile burning, and mentioned the appointment of Battalion Chief Luke Stevens to replace Dennis Lang at CalFire. Additionally, plans for flu shot clinics at the fire station were discussed, with a target date of 2026 for implementation.

Winter Preparedness and Staffing Updates

The meeting covered updates from various departments, including CAL FIRE, law enforcement, and public works. Sheriff Rachelle mentioned new correctional officer hires. Monica discussed preparations for the upcoming snow season, emphasizing plow priorities and the need for early submission of road closure applications for special events. The group also addressed the importance of avoiding parking in roadways during plow season and the need for additional snowplow drivers.

Snow Plowing and Berm Maintenance

Monica discussed the importance of securing additional drivers for the district to improve road clearance during heavy snowstorms. She emphasized that property owners are responsible for maintaining berms created by county plows, as the County does not remove or maintain them. Monica clarified that private plowing companies often follow county vehicles to address berms, but heavy snowstorms may require multiple passes, which can be frustrating for homeowners. She encouraged folks to avoid parking in the county right-of-way to prevent damage from plows.

Firewise Community Meeting Updates

Martha discussed upcoming community events, including a Firewise town hall meeting on Thursday evening at 5 PM at the library, which will feature a panel discussion and pizza. She also mentioned a volunteer lunch on Monday and shared updates about Meadowmont, including the addition of Meadowview Court to their boundaries and the formation of a Firewise Committee. Vida raised a question about the timing of the Thursday meeting, expressing concern that it might not be ideal for weekend residents, to which Martha explained that the timing was influenced by scheduling conflicts earlier in the year.

Various activities

The group discussed a program promoting responsible recreation in Tuolumne County, including a potential road trip partnership with outdoor retailers to reach more visitors. Martha suggested setting up CCTV and distributing Firewise information to vacation rental owners. Paul announced that Jack Knight Hall would be open from noon to 3 PM daily from December 20th to January 4th, offering hot drinks and interpretation tables. Steve reported that Arnold Rimtrail has become its own 501c3 organization and is applying for a grant submitted to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy to mend current existing trails and making current informal trails part of the system.

Culvert Maintenance and Community Responsibilities

The meeting focused on addressing community issues and responsibilities related to culverts and drainage. Lake from Lakemont Pines inquired about the responsibility for maintaining culverts, and Monica from Public Works clarified that the county is responsible for culverts under county-maintained roads, while homeowners are responsible for those under private driveways. Monica encouraged

residents to use the online service request system to report issues, as it provides updates via email. also reminded the community to ensure that burning materials are dry and smoke-free to avoid disturbing neighbors.

Forest Meadows Operations Update

Scott, Forest Meadows Manager, provided an update on Forest Meadows, highlighting the implementation of a new software system that improved resident services and internal operations. He mentioned ongoing road projects, including challenges with water seepage and plans to coordinate with the new fire station mentioned by Chief Mike. Scott also shared positive feedback on the community's food and toy drives, which received a significant response. Eric inquired about the food drive's success, and Mark provided statistics on food insecurity in the county. The conversation ended with a suggestion to arrange a meeting between Scott and Lynn? to discuss evacuation drills at Forest Meadows.

HOA Updates and Community Initiatives

The meeting covered several updates and discussions. Scott agreed to set up a practice drill for Forest Meadows and potentially other HOAs in the Highway 4 corridor, coordinated through the county's Office of Emergency Services. Mary provided updates on Lilac Park HOA, including PG&E clearing efforts. She also mentioned ongoing drainage issues and the potential connection of the Mokelumne Coast to Crest Trail with the Arnold Rim Trail and other trails. Vida shared information about the Independence Hall Quilters' efforts to support people with food insecurity, including gift packages for children and elders. Laura added details about the Arnold Angels' wish list program and the Moose Club's upcoming children's Christmas party. Steve noted that Zoom meeting credentials need to be updated every 12 months, and a new login will be provided for 2026.

Next steps

- **Laura:** Send email to Rachelle to connect with instructors for active shooter workplace violence presentation for Moose Club.
- **Laura:** Write and send out membership invoices to replenish EPOC funds.
- **Martha:** Record Winter Wise meeting and distribute recording/handout to realty companies and rental owners for distribution to visitors/weekend homeowners.
- **Martin (iPhone):** Work on recruiting extra hire snowplow drivers from the district for Public Works.
- **Martin (iPhone):** Set up meeting with Scott (Forest Meadows) to plan and conduct a practice evacuation drill for Forest Meadows HOA, in coordination with County OES.
- **Scott (Forest Meadows):** Coordinate with Martin (iPhone) to schedule and participate in practice evacuation drill for Forest Meadows.
- **Mary (Lilac Park):** Use the online service request system to report drainage/ditch cleaning needs to Public Works.
- **Steve:** Distribute new Zoom login credentials for 2026 meetings to all participants.