

EPPOC Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 6th, 2025, 9:30-11:30 am

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/uthy2v9UHW76cCuq2zMx8-MyFI2UIkt8Q2J60KgZZv1N45gC8SqcMGyQkx8M1yev.bivtEOy_K99cme3Q?from=hub

Passcode: t9#+=+TRh

Above are the link and passcode to watch the video of the meeting. 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 do that.

- . Introductions

- . Speakers this month:

Aaron Smith, Sierra Pacific Industries – Aaron gave a robust overview of SPI forest management. SPI is a fourth-generation family-owned business and Aaron manages two of SPI's eleven units. The two units encompass ~220,000 acres. He talked about forest restoration and fire prevention. Aaron showed pictures of the shaded fuel breaks that SPI has created between Love Creek and Blue Lake Springs and around Big Trees Village. He showed examples of different canopies and what a fuel break accomplishes. In these two units SPI has created 91 miles of fuel break to modify fire behavior in the forest. Recently Aaron is pleased about the cooperation between private and public agencies and entities drafting memos of understanding as they collaborate to promote fire safety for the greater good. He highlighted an agreement between SPI and the Forest Service to work together on forest management. Aaron emphasized how passionate he is about healthy forest management, both on SPI lands and supporting other adjacent lands that are both publicly and privately owned. He gave examples of how replanting across California fires is falling behind. SPI produced six million seedlings this year and is building out that capacity to provide millions of more seedlings to be available to Forest Service and BLM. Fire Chief Johnson commented on what wonderful partners SPI has been working with Ebbetts Pass Fire District on opening roads that fire department can use and also on how helpful the harvesting of trees that SPI has done on preventing climax fires. Also for SPI's help in dedicating heavy equipment in fighting the Butte Fire. Aaron's talk is from 02:25 to 29:30. **I cannot do justice to Aaron's talk by transcribing minutes, please watch the video.**

Haley Graham, Health Education Program Manager, Calaveras County Public Health. Her comprehensive wonderful presentation about all the programs that the County has available begins at 30:00 to 50:00. She used a PowerPoint that is also attached to the email. She talked about a number of programs offered by the County including these programs: family support, vaccine, mentorship, medical emergency preparedness, health and safety, STI testing, injury prevention, early literacy and early library, mental health, new baby support, oral health, strengthening families, child care provider support and coalition, substance use prevention including free naloxone, Narcan administration education, tobacco and vaping prevention, communicable disease, preventing child abuse, physical education and nutrition, and teen link. They have a mobile van that they do outreach with many of these programs. The different folks to contact for these programs are listed at 53:16 in the video, and also on this link of the Haley's slide presentation for those with a Canva account or who wish to set one up:

https://www.canva.com/design/DAGiClgtmSI/mU_QETMfepllz230SwjHQ/view?utm_content=DAGiClgtm

Haley's was a rich presentation, and as with Aaron's please do watch the video.

- Reports:
 - EPPOC Treasurer's Report – Laura Baughman - \$375.10 in treasury, everyone has paid.
 - EPPOC Chairperson's Report – Eric Davis
 - District 3 Board of Supervisors – Martin Huberty – Short term rental statute is being fine-tuned before presentation the Board for approval, the Friends of the Arnold Meadow project is moving forward. HermitFest is coming up September 6th in Bear Valley.
 - Calaveras County Public Works – Monica Remus
 - Ebbetts Pass Fire District – Chief Mike Johnson – Measure B on the upcoming ballot is not a new tax, it is approval of the current tax structure. Requires a simple majority. Looking to purchase land near Forest Meadows to build a new firehouse to replace the current firehouse #3.
 - CHP–Resident Deputy Joshua Wilkenson, Commander Tim McCollister – no report
 - Sheriff's Department – no report
 - CalFire – Dennis Lange – no report
 - Friends of the Calaveras Library, Arnold Branch – Martha Rubin – Book sale is Saturday/Sunday Labor Day Weekend 9am to 4pm, raised \$4,000 in last book sale. Voter drop-box at the Library. Martha will be working with Diane and Michael on Senior Technology Workshops.
 - Announcement of winter-wise event Nov 1st – Martha Rubin – Martha announced that she and Chief Johnson will be hosting the second annual winter-wise meeting at Independence Hall on November 1st. Martha has a talk show on Calaveras TV and she encourages folks to watch and if anyone has something of community interest to contact her.
 - CCWD –Kelly Gerkensmeyer, Jeffrey Robertson- Kelly talked about the activities at CCWD to bolster and maintain their services. They are also working on their masterplan. Kelly introduced the new District 3 CCWD Director Jeffrey Robertson. Jeffrey was a diplomat in the foreign service, a salmon fisherman in Alaska, and a general contractor. I suggest you watch Jeffrey's introduction from 01:11:00 to 01:13:00.
 - County Office of Emergency Services – Bajit Singh
 - Calaveras Public Health – Haley Graham
 - CalWaste – Jillian Goss – no report
 - FOAM Friends of the Arnold Meadow – Colleen Dienger – Martin says making progress.
 - FOCAS – Kim deArrillaga & Christine Albertine – no report.
 - California Big Trees State Park – Heather Reith – sections of the North Grove trail are closed to upgrade trail accessibility. Governor Newsom and his family attended the Park recently.
 - Calaveras Big Trees Association – Paul Prescott – STEAM - Science Technology Engineering Arts and Science event occurred recently with Governor's visit. Also a seminar on July 26th who curates the John Muir archive at University of the Pacific. One can check out a state park pass from the Library, used 200 times in July. Details are in the document attached to the email with all the activities. All the programs are made possible from the funds that Calaveras Big Trees Association obtains from the Visitor Center and the Snack Shack.
 - Calaveras Council of Governments – no current representative

- Great Arnold Business Association – Karen Strand – Karen reported that GABA is going to have a cruise in February, pancake breakfast at White Pines Park those going to Logging Museum Jamboree can have breakfast. Jim Carlon Memorial Mixer will be in November, venue to be determined. GABA always looking for volunteers.
 - Arnold Rim Trail Association– Steve Lauterbach
- Open Forum: What’s on your mind that is not on the agenda? (Please limit comments to three minutes)
- Adjournment: 11:30 am (approximately)