

EPPOC Minutes
Wednesday, December 4th, 2024, 9:30-11:30 am

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

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/NetO348Vju1HZnLsjsIILtpc-Y88pVY9ew_3AMbo7QLauu812bHDxmthBwBepO5u.teewMhxR5tzsmjih

Passcode: 1!Bo2usN

It is often easier to download the video to one's computer than to stream it online. Start to play on Zoom, and you'll see a link in the upper right to download the video to your computer.

- Introductions
- Approval of November 2024, minutes
- **Concept of Calaveras County converting the old golf course along Highway 4 as a public park – presented by Colleen Dienger**
Excellent discussion of the concept of Calaveras County acquiring the old golf course, which is currently listed for sale. Martin is in favor of this purchase so that it becomes public land. From 2:15 to 26:00 in the Zoom.
- **Topic and Speaker for this month: Ebbetts Radio Safety Network with Marlaine Cover, Kirt Boynton, and Ken Sanders**
From 26:30 to 40:45 in the Zoom
Marlaine Cover and Ken Sanders did an excellent presentation about the Ebbetts Safety Radio Network (ERSN), a group of local citizens who have joined together to purchase and learn how to use GMRS (walkie talkie) radios to be able to communicate with each other when the power is out and Verizon is overwhelmed or otherwise disabled. The group are a delightful group of citizens who have bought very reasonably priced radios, bought the \$35 license from the FCC, and learned how to use their radios through the help of Marlaine and Ken and others.
If you are interested in learning more, please start with the ESRN website:
<https://ersn.net/gmrs>
Please scroll through the options in the menu on the left. Then send an email to ERSNnets@gmail.com and you will be added to this group. Marlaine and Ken and others will help you learn about the radios and the communication channels. Super friendly group by super friendly leadership.
Supervisor Martin asked about arranging a workshop to learn about GMRS radios and how the Ebbetts Safety Radio Network uses them. Marlaine explained that we have had several workshops at the Pinebrook community building, and she is happy to arrange more.
Those who are interested in attending a free workshop that will be held in Sonora, please visit this link:
<https://tcnrw.com/events-calendar/?event=3909>
- **Proposal to consider placing a biomass plant in the Highway 4 Corridor, introduced by Steve Lauterbach**

From 41:20 to 1:01:00 in the Zoom

Excellent discussion of proposed biomass plant that included Greg Stengel, the CEO of the company proposing the plant, and RJ, the owner of the Arnold Greenway Forest Products yard in Arnold (where the lumber yard used to be). This plant would accept the biomass from projects scheduled to remove significant biomass from our surrounding forests. Greg and RJ had an excellent discussion of the technical details which include the fact that the biomass still needs to be processed before the biomass plant can use it. They also talked about the way that biomass can be used to create energy.

Steve suggested that it would be very useful if the plant could also accept biomass from us private property owners. Currently the cost for bringing the biomass that we create when thinning our property for fire safety can be challenging, so Steve made the point that if this biomass project could include the elimination or substantial reduction of that cost, it could encourage property owners to do these projects and thereby increase our fire safety. Since the biomass needs to be processed before the plant can use it, the proposal could forge a collaboration with the existing local biomass processors.

This topic will be on the agenda at the February 2025 meeting also.

- Reports:

- EPPOC Treasurer's Report – Laura Baughman \$203.10 in treasury
- EPPOC Chairperson's Report – Eric Davis – Eric brought up the point that per the ByLaws we elect the EPPOC officers for the following year at the December meeting. Eric offers to be Chair, Steve Secretary and Laura Treasurer for 2025. Hearing no objections or additional nominations, these three will serve in 2025.
- District 3 Board of Supervisors – Martin Huberty – Short term rental ordinance should come out in January 2025.
- Calaveras County Public Works – Monica Remus – Public Works preparing for winter. They have had meetings with our utility partners to coordinate with them to make sure the roads are kept open during the snow season. Monica says that Martin has done an excellent job creating the Berm Buddy program. Martin said that public works is going to fix the pothole on the way to the Avery Transfer station and the middle school soon.
- Ebbetts Pass Fire District – Pete requested that the public get their wood stove flues cleaned and needles off roofs.
- CHP–Resident Deputy Joshua Wilkenson, Commander Tim McCollister – no report
- Sheriff's Department – no report
- CalFire – Dennis Lange – no report
- CCWD –Michael Minkler says they are working to make sure the sewers are clean and ready for the winter. He would also like to speak with us about the upcoming re-licensing at some time in the future.
- County Office of Emergency Services – Bajit Singh – no report
- Calaveras Public Health – Evita Olson – no report
- CalWaste – Jillian Goss
- FOCAS – Kim deArrillaga & Christine Albertine
- Friends of the Calaveras Library, Arnold Branch – Martha Rubin
- California Big Trees State Park – Heather Reith – Park Rangers will be patrolling the snow parks, CBTSP is now doing pile burning, having finished the prescribed burn in the South Grove. There is an old growth Sugar Pine Forest on the railroad grade road that goes to the South Grove and Heather hopes to develop a forest path in. Parkway is now closed for the winter to vehicular traffic, will reopen in May.

- Calaveras Big Trees Association – Vida Kenk – Camping available on the loop 1-11 first-come first serve, reservations not being taken online in the Winter. Folks can use the Parkway on bikes, foot, skis, but Heather reminds us that there is no patrolling by the Park staff so use caution. The Visitor Center is open 10-4, closed on Christmas Day. Consult the White Board at the Visitor Center Plaza for daily activities. Saturday 11am guided hikes continue. If there is snow, it will be on snowshoes. CBTA has snowshoes it loans for free. Warming Hall will be available again this year in Jack Knight Hall in the week between Christmas and New Year, Dec 26th through Jan 1st from noon to 3pm. Free hot beverages provided by CBTA. Please be sure to **stay on the trail** because young Sequoias are sprouting now that the prescribed burn has been completed.
 - Calaveras Council of Governments – no current representative
 - Great Arnold Business Association – Karen Strand – no GABA events coming up soon, but Karen’s thanks everyone for attending the recent GABA dinner
 - Arnold Rim Trail Association– Steve Lauterbach – Excellent news that Karin Weller has accepted the Arnold Rim Trail Association’s invitation to join the Steering Committee. She is an exceptional passionate advocate of the Arnold Rim Trail. She often patrols the trail as a docent both on foot and by mountain bike and helps trail users with their questions. She also guides out of town visitors who are unfamiliar with the trail system.
- Brief reports by EPPOC HOA Representatives/Board Officers/or Managers about challenges and successes for 2024 and plans for 2025.
 - Open Forum: What’s on your mind that is not on the agenda?
Martha brought up the issue of dogs off-leash biting others. We reviewed the Calaveras statute on dogs that dogs are required to be on leash but may be off leash if under voice command of the owner. This means the owner must be present and if the dog is aggressively advancing on someone else and the owner calls the dog, but the dog continues to advance, then the dog is not under voice command and is in violation of the statute.
 - Adjournment: 11:30 am (approximately)