

EPPOC Draft Minutes  
Wednesday, February 6th, 2025, 9:30-11:30 am

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/dNhB9f0POonouHkpN\\_9wb3DWHrDCaq6dtx36vgfA7KSU6eU\\_55FNFq7pkeaCmoVO.VmXpQdlJH9SJc4xS](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/dNhB9f0POonouHkpN_9wb3DWHrDCaq6dtx36vgfA7KSU6eU_55FNFq7pkeaCmoVO.VmXpQdlJH9SJc4xS)

Passcode: %^45zwY7

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.

**Those items highlighted in yellow are requesting your feedback or participation.**

1) First speakers at this February meeting: Gianna O'Day and Katie Evans spoke about the Calaveras River Watershed Resiliency Plan, a presentation by Woodard & Curran. Gianna O'Day, an engineer for the Stockton East Water District and Project Manager for the Watershed Plan, and Katie presented an excellent slide presentation of a pilot program to develop a water shed management plan that takes into account climate risks and vulnerabilities. Michale Minkler explained that the reason this is being brought before EPPOC is because Big Trees Creek and San Antonio Creek, which are in our back yard in the Highway 4 corridor, are including as tributaries in this plan. (Presentation from 28:50 to 55:40 in the video.)

**The Calaveras Resiliency Plan is seeking public input on what issues we are concerned about in our watershed. It is important that we citizens provide feedback because it will help direct the project grant funding once the Plan is completed. Please go to this link and register to provide feedback:**

<https://calaveraswatershed.konveio.com>

**They are asking for feedback by February 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

2) The second speaker for today was Greg Stangl of Phoenix Energy on their proposal to place a biomass plant in the Arnold area perhaps placed at a CCWD wastewater treatment plant. They have Phoenix Energy specializes in biomass plants in the 3-to-5-megawatt range. Their mission is to have plants that use only the wood from the surrounding area. Plants create fourteen jobs and they provide energy security. They provide power to CCWD and can use CCWD treated wastewater for biomass plant cooling. There are different types of biomass energy production. This plant uses gasification. They bake the wood at high temperature in absence of oxygen which creates hydrogen and creates charcoal. This biochar is used at farms and for water filtration. The hydrogen gas is used to create electricity. Again, they take forestry fuels from the local area that are collected for fire safety and other reasons. Greg is proposing to build a plant in the Arnold area maybe co-locating with a CCWD facility. This is an excellent discussion about biomass reduction and providing local energy to local areas. Right now we are having to truck biosolids from our area to the Bay Area for disposal whereas this project could manage the biosolids locally. Michael made the point that this project can help fund the maintenance of the fuel breaks that are grant created but without funding for ongoing clearing. He says this kind of project can be helpful with that effort to keep the fuel breaks maintained so they continue to function as fuel breaks. Steve asked if the Arnold Green Waste & Forest Products company could work with this project to provide fuels that would mitigate the costs to the citizenry which could encourage them the clear lots for fire safety. Greg Stangl and RJ, the owner of Arnold Green Waste agreed to speak after the

meeting to see if this could be possible. RJ would need to process the green waste in a way that can be utilized by a gasification plant that is proposed. This is a content rich worthwhile discussion, please watch from 56:00 in the video to 1:29:00.

- Reports:

- EPPOC Treasurer's Report – Laura Baughman \$225.10 in treasury. All invoices sent out in January.
- EPPOC Chairperson's Report –
- District 3 Board of Supervisors –
- Calaveras County Public Works – Monica Remus – No large projects being done except some tree work. Sandbags are only available when OES has an emergency warning in place and the availability of the bags is determined by the OES Director.
- Ebbetts Pass Fire District – Chief Johnson reported that Fire Station 3 in Hathaway Pines is now staffed with three person and that it has already proved to be an excellent addition. Sent an engine down to the LA fire as part of their mutual aid agreement. Martha reported that May 3<sup>rd</sup> is going to be the FireWise fire preparedness event at Independence Hall. She is collaborating with Chief Johnson.
- CHP–Resident Deputy Joshua Wilkenson, Commander Tim McCollister – no report
- Sheriff's Department – no report
- CalFire – Dennis Lange – Chief Lange was able to send ten engines to LA to that unprecedented fire there. They now have fifteen engines due to increased funding from the State. Chief Lange asks that everyone get their piles burned now in open season before the May closure.
- CCWD – Bertha announced that she is getting married and will be moving out of District 3 and therefore need to vacate her seat. She explained that this is an excellent time to identify a resident of District 3 (Murphys to Sky High) to be considered by the CCWD Board who might be interested in serving the remainder. Announcement will be made April 9<sup>th</sup> that the position will be vacated. On April 10<sup>th</sup> the need to fill the position will be posted by the CCWD Board asking for letters of intent by those wishing to fill the seat. Interviews will be conducted starting May 10<sup>th</sup> and the Board will announce the name of appointee on May 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Kelly reported that there is a year in review report on their website for 2024. It includes a history of CCWD and showcases some of the 2024 projects starting at 1:20:50 into this video  
<https://youtu.be/T7vXSXErfjQ?si=vZqtI4Z8K2aT04Un>
- County Office of Emergency Services – Bajit Singh – no report
- Calaveras Public Health – Evita Olson – no report
- CalWaste – Jillian Goss – no report.
- FOCAS – Kim deArrillaga & Christine Albertine
- Friends of the Calaveras Library, Arnold Branch – Martha Rubin plans that story time is every Wednesday morning at 10:30 for children and grandchildren. Crafts are put out for adults on Wednesdays and for children on Fridays from 2:30pm to 4pm. Junior Rangers program for children is on March 12<sup>th</sup>. (The second Wednesday of the month.) Book Club is The Girl with Seven Names. You can learn more about this on the Arnold Library Facebook page.
- California Big Trees State Park – Heather Reith – Heather was not able to attend the meeting but sent a note that they are doing winter maintenance and pile burning.

- Calaveras Big Trees Association – Paul Prescott reported that CBTA is working to distribute Sue Hoffman’s workload. Campgrounds 1 through 11 are dry camping first come first serve. No online reservations available this time of year.  
Vida reported that Heather was not able to attend today’s EPPOC meeting because she is attending a celebration for Environmental Scientist Richard Rappaport who passed his environmental science certification. Natural Resources has removed brush along the highway and burned it for fire safety and resiliency. Warming Hall in Jack Knight Hall event over the new year holiday was very successful. Summer of 2024 there were 334 programs presented with 6,368 participants. There were 47,969 informal contacts with Park visitors. Docent training starts in March for those who wish to become CBTA docents. Call the Park Visitor’s Center for details. Book club meets March 10<sup>th</sup> 1:30pm and will discuss the book Camels Over the Sierra Nevada by a local author.
  - Calaveras Council of Governments – no current representative
  - Great Arnold Business Association – Karen Strand – Spring Fling 19<sup>th</sup> hole April 12<sup>th</sup> get-together will be open to everyone, not just those in business. Will be arranging ribbon cuttings for several businesses. Designing a website to feature information about Arnold businesses. Membership in GABA is \$50 helps to pay for website and other infrastructure needs.
  - Arnold Rim Trail Association– Steve Lauterbach – We’ll have a full list of activities for 2025 including guided nature walks, guided sunset hikes. All these activities are available at <https://arnoldrimtrail.org/events/>
- Adjournment: 11:30 am (approximately)