

EPPOC Draft Minutes  
Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 9:30-11:30 am

• See links to the video and audio of this meeting are at the bottom of these minutes.

- Approval of October 2025 minutes- approved as written

**November meeting speaker: Captain Tim Sturm, Calaveras Cold Case Task Force Team Leader,**

Calaveras County Sheriff's Office – Captain Sturm has been with the Sheriff's Office for twenty-seven years. Captain Sturm and others in the Department started a cold case task force in 2020. They learned that modern DNA testing might be able to identify some of these remains that previously could not be done. Their initial focus was the remains of the Wilseyville killings, that has been extended to other cold cases including homicides. There are one thousand specimens all labeled from the Wilseyville crypt. Specimens are sent to private sector genealogy investigators who can match the unknown DNA with relatives who have recorded their DNA in public records. He gave several examples of specific cases.

**His presentation is *excellent!* I highly recommend watching it from 02:00 to 14:55 in the first video.**

The Calaveras Cold Case Task Force website is: <https://www.calaverascoldcase.org>

The Task Force is supported by donations.

- Monthly Reports:
  - EPPOC Treasurer's Report – Laura Baughman - \$275.10 in treasury. Motion by Steve to raise dues to \$40/month starting in 2026. Seconded by Eric. Passed unanimously.
  - EPPOC Chairperson's Report – Eric Davis – No report
  - District 3 Board of Supervisors – Martin Huberty
  - Calaveras County Public Works – Monica Remus - Monica sent an email that should could not attend the meeting and that Public Works is making excellent progress on preparing for the winter.
  - Ebbetts Pass Fire District – Chief Mike Johnson – Chief Johnson was very pleased with the November 1<sup>st</sup> Firewise Festival at the Fairgrounds. Chief Johnson reports that progress is being made on building a third firehouse near the entrance to Forest Meadows. District prepping for winter. In the process of hiring an EMT/Fire fighter. Recruiting for new Secretary to follow Cheryl Howard who has been with the Department since 1990. She has done an incredible job for thirty-four years. Martha Rubin announced that Winter Wise is going to happen again this year on December 4<sup>th</sup>, this time in the evening. Motion not to exceed \$200 donation to the Winterwise program passed unanimously.  
All the Firewise communities who participated in the Calaveras wide Firewise Festival are interested in forming a group to share information.  
Both Martha and Chief Mike mentioned the importance of really focusing on the five foot perimeter around the cabin raked to mineral earth. No ground cover, no shrubbery, no furniture, no wooden fences within five feet of the home.
  - CHP–Resident Deputy Joshua Wilkenson, Commander Tim McCollister
  - Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Whiting – Sheriff Whiting complimented Martha for the November 1<sup>st</sup> County Wide Firewise Festival. The Sheriff's Department is hosting an FBI course. Calaveras County Board approved a \$35k grant to purchase as narcotic detection device that is faster for analysis and safer for the officers.
  - CalFire – Dennis Lange
  - Calaveras Office of Emergency Services – Eric Holt & Bajit Singh
  - Friends of the Calaveras Library, Arnold Branch – Martha Rubin reported that Paula is now staffing the Arnold Library. Library activities may be viewed at:

- <https://www.friendsofcclibrary.org/arnold-library>
- CCWD –Kelly Gerkensmeyer, Jeffrey Robertson
  - Calaveras Public Health – Evita Olson
  - CalWaste – Jillian Goss
  - FOAM Friends of the Arnold Meadow – Colleen Dienger
  - FOCAS – Kim deArrillaga & Christine Albertine
  - California Big Trees State Park – Heather Reith – Heather reported that some burning was done, a total of 2.7 acres. Conditions turned to unfavorable for burning so more burning we have to wait until 2026.
  - Calaveras Big Trees Association – Paul Prescott, Debbie McGee – Paul
  - Calaveras Council of Governments – no current representative
  - Great Arnold Business Association – Karen Strand
  - Arnold Rim Trail Association– Steve Lauterbach – ARTA is applying for a \$500k grant to bring non-system trails into the system, re-route sections of the system trails that are unsustainable, create a new paper brochure, and introduce many other safety features and enhancements.
- Open Forum: What’s on your mind that is not on the agenda? Doug Fabris who lives in Blue Lake Springs reported that Arnold sign near the CalFire Station appears to be damaged. Laura is going to report this to Public Works.
- Adjournment: 11:30 am (approximately)

For some reason that I do not understand, the Zoom recording of the meeting was interrupted three times and three separate links were created. I find it easier to watch the video of the meeting by downloading it to my computer first 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.

First segment:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/7nPd\\_DuTR6yVnnG7HIFCWgsoOH69GPdnYbvm0i5Dm3D4eT4EB9QRn64eS8qApvgS.9l-HjFos4gL3BhOu?startTime=1762364109000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/7nPd_DuTR6yVnnG7HIFCWgsoOH69GPdnYbvm0i5Dm3D4eT4EB9QRn64eS8qApvgS.9l-HjFos4gL3BhOu?startTime=1762364109000)

Passcode: Z9ZS=+3+

Second segment:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/7nPd\\_DuTR6yVnnG7HIFCWgsoOH69GPdnYbvm0i5Dm3D4eT4EB9QRn64eS8qApvgS.9l-HjFos4gL3BhOu?startTime=1762365188000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/7nPd_DuTR6yVnnG7HIFCWgsoOH69GPdnYbvm0i5Dm3D4eT4EB9QRn64eS8qApvgS.9l-HjFos4gL3BhOu?startTime=1762365188000)

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Third segment:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/7nPd\\_DuTR6yVnnG7HIFCWgsoOH69GPdnYbvm0i5Dm3D4eT4EB9QRn64eS8qApvgS.9l-HjFos4gL3BhOu?startTime=1762365861000](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/7nPd_DuTR6yVnnG7HIFCWgsoOH69GPdnYbvm0i5Dm3D4eT4EB9QRn64eS8qApvgS.9l-HjFos4gL3BhOu?startTime=1762365861000)

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