

DEPARTMENT: Board of Supervisors

BY: Lyle Turpin
PHONE: 966-3222

RECOMMENDED ACTION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve the 2009 Tuolumne-Mariposa County Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Title II project funding recommendations. On August 10, 2009, the Tuolumne-Mariposa County RAC met to determine which of the submitted projects would receive Title II funding. Attached are the projects that were recommended to be funded, the final voting record, and notes from the August 10, 2009, meeting. The 2009 funding level for Title II projects for Mariposa County was \$46,856 and the RAC has recommended funding three projects that are completely within Mariposa County and two others that are in both Tuolumne and Mariposa County.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Do not approve the 2009 Tuolumne-Mariposa County RAC Title II project funding recommendations. The projects that affect Mariposa County will not receive Title II funding.

Financial Impact? () Yes (X) No	Current FY Cost: \$	Annual Recurring Cost: \$
Budgeted In Current FY? () Yes () No () Partially Funded		
Amount in Budget: \$ _____		List Attachments, number pages consecutively
Additional Funding Needed: \$ _____		Title II Project Funding Recommendations
Source:		Title II Project Final Voting Record
Internal Transfer _____		August 10, 2009, Meeting Notes
Unanticipated Revenue _____ 4/5's vote		
Transfer Between Funds _____ 4/5's vote		
Contingency _____ 4/5's vote		
() General () Other		

CLERK'S USE ONLY:

Res. No.: 09-549 Ord. No. _____
Vote - Ayes: 5 Noes: _____
Absent: _____
AW Approved
() Minute Order Attached () No Action Necessary

The foregoing instrument is a correct copy of the original on file in this office.

Date: _____
Attest: MARGIE WILLIAMS, Clerk of the Board
County of Mariposa, State of California

By: _____
Deputy

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Requested Action Recommended
 No Opinion
Comments:

CAO: *JTB*

2009 RAC Project Funding Recommendations

Available 2009 RAC Funding

Tuolumne County - **\$255,057**
Mariposa County - **\$46,856**
TOTAL \$301,913

Tuolumne County Project Funding Recommendations

08-01: Eagle Meadow Horse Camp Rd/Erosion Control	\$14,600
08-19: Crabtree Road (4N26) Restoration and Mtc	\$49,640
08-05: Trash Removal From Emigrant Wilderness	\$3,220
08-10: Mt. Elizabeth Drive Shaded Fuel Break	\$16,335
08-11: Lower Yankee Hill Shaded Fuel Break	\$42,900
08-23: Mi-Wok Illegal Dump Site Cleanup/Disposal	\$7,000
08-17: McCormick Meadow Restoration Project	\$10,000
08-32: Forestry Institute for Teachers	\$25,000
08-18: Forest & Riparian Education Tours	\$26,000
08-31: STF Youth Partnership - SOS	\$35,112

Mariposa County (\$46,856)

08-14: Merced River Canyon Noxious Weed Control	\$5,445
08-29: Jordan Creek Star-Thistle Burn	\$12,500
08-30: Jenkins Star-Thistle Burn	\$2,000

Tuolumne (T) & Mariposa (M) County

08-25: Wagner Ridge Fuel Break	\$32,911 (T = \$13,100; M = \$19,811)
08-12: Community Fire Protection/Water Source Project	<u>\$10,250</u> (T = \$3,750; M = \$6,500)
TOTAL	\$292,913

Estimated Grant/Agreement FS Administrative Costs \$9,000

TOTAL \$301,913

Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) Group:	1st Round Vote 8/10/09			2nd Round Vote			3rd Round Vote		
PROJECT NUMBER:	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
FITS SEVERAL OR ALL LEGISLATIVE CATEGORIES									
**08-17: McCormick Meadow Restoration Project - \$10,000 ++	2	2	2	4	4	4			
08-18: Forest & Riparian Education Tours - \$26,000 ++	4	2	4	4	3	5			
08-20: Leland Watershed Improvement Project - \$26,000									
**08-31: STF Youth Partnership - SOS - \$35,112 ++	4	4	5						
08-32: Forestry Institute for Teachers - \$25,000 ++	4	1	5	4	3	5			
A) ROAD, TRAIL, INFRASTRUCTURE MTC									
**08-01: Eagle Meadow Horse Camp Rd/Erosion Control - \$14,600 ++	4	2	5	4	3	5			
08-04: Eagle Meadow Road/Erosion Improvement - \$80,000									
08-09: Mt. Elizabeth Drive Road Improvement - \$52,195									
**08-19: Crabtree Road (4N26) Restoration and Mtc - \$49,640 ++	4	4	3						
08-22: Mt. Wok OHV Trail Maintenance and Repair - \$16,100									
08-26: Spinning Wheel Sweet Toilet Replacement - \$28,000									
08-27: Bear Proof Garbage Cans - \$6,350									
08-28: Pines Campground Toilet Replacement - \$60,000									
d) WATERSHED RESTORATION & MAINTENANCE									
08-03: Brentwood Park Fuel Reduction - \$20,000	Project withdrawn 6/17/09								
*08-05: Trash Removal From Emigrant Wilderness - \$3,220	3	4	3						
08-06: Tuolumne Watershed Volunteer Stewardship - \$21,763									
08-07: Twain Harle Lake Shaded Fuel Break - \$37,900									
08-08: Public Education & Fire Prevention Program - \$20,653									
**08-10: Mt. Elizabeth Drive Shaded Fuel Break - \$16,335 ++	4	4	5						
**08-11: Lower Yankee Hill Shaded Fuel Break - \$42,900 ++	4	4	4						
**08-12: Community Fire Prot./Water Source Project - \$10,250 ++	4	3	3						
08-13: Senior & Disabled Defensible Space Project - \$24,570	2	3	0						
08-15: Tuol. County Stream Team Rec. Use Survey - \$11,000									

08-16: Community Chipping Project - \$14,575																			
08-21: SouthFork Hand Thin Fuel Reduction Project - \$59,356																			
**08-23: Mi-Wok Illegal Dump Site Cleanup/Disposal - \$7,000	3	4	3																
08-24: Crandall OHV Staging Area Toilet - \$16,000																			
**08-25: Wagner Ridge Fuel Break - \$32,911	2	0	0	1	2	4	4	3	4										
g) CONTROL OF NOXIOUS & EXOTIC WEEDS																			
08-02: Dodge Ridge Oxeye Daisy Eradication - \$31,100																			
08-14: Merced River Canyon Noxious Weed Control - \$5,445	4	4	5																
08-29: Jordan Creek Star-Thistle Burn - \$12,500	4	4	5																
08-30: Jenkins Star-Thistle Burn - \$2,000	4	4	5																

Italicizes Indicates Change in Requested Funds

Bold Indicates Funded Projects/Amount

Total RAC Initial Funding Requested = \$1,099,388

Total RAC Adjusted (Final) Funding Requested = \$889,754

Total Adjusted Funding for Projects Favorably Voted on = \$290,895

Total Funding Available = \$301,913 (Tuolumne County - \$255,057; Mariposa County - \$46,856)

Total Funding Approved = \$301,913

++ Non-FS project requiring \$1,000 per project grant administration cost = \$9,000

** 50% Watershed/Road Mtc. Requirement

**Tuolumne County Resource
Advisory Committee (RAC) Meeting
Meeting Notes**

**Monday, August 10, 2009
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Sonora City Fire Department
201 South Shepherd Street
Sonora, CA 95370**

RAC Members Present: Ginger Armstrong, Vicki Biggs, Sherri Brennan, Chris Conrad, Gil Fryer, Bob Hackamack, Jerry Jensen, Ken Kolp, Frank Oyung, Jim Phelan, Dick Pland, Joe Silva, Don Wilson

RAC Members Absent: Andy Anderson, Chris Trott

Forest Service Present: Ann Denton, Beth Martinez, Susan Skalski

Members of the Public/Visitors: Jo Kolp, Daniel Richardson, Jon Sturtevant, Lyle Turpin

WELCOME

Welcome & introductions: Ginger called the meeting to order. Those present introduced themselves.

OLD BUSINESS

New member update - Ann: Ann reported that paperwork for new members has left the WO and is now in the Secretary's office. There is still a large backlog of appointments to be made and it could take some time.

Forest Supervisor updates - Susan: Susan provided an update on the Knight Fire. Efforts are winding down and the fire is being turned back over to the Forest as of today.

Susan shared that this would be the first time she would be present with the Tuolumne County RAC as they vote for projects. Susan would like to see a diverse selection of projects chosen. When she speaks of diversity, she is speaking in terms of both project type and funding. Economically, times are tough for many. RAC funds may be the only possible funding for some projects while other projects may be able to compete for other types of grants, etc. Please keep this in mind

General discussion and questions and answers:

Q: How much money do we have to allocate today?

A: Tuolumne County - \$255,057; Mariposa - \$46,856.

Q: Do we have to allocate all of the money today or will it carry over?

A: The funds can be carried over. They must be spent or obligated no later than September 30, 2012, when the legislation expires. Monies not spent or obligated at that time will be returned to the Treasury.

Agenda Review

New Information/Project Updates

08-14: Merced River Canyon Noxious Weed Control: Beth passed out the reply Cathi Bose, project proponent, provided to RAC in response to the questions RAC formulated at the last meeting regarding the project.

08-05: Trash Removal From Emigrant Wilderness: Beth passed out updated information regarding the trash removal project. The new request for funding is \$3,220.

08-15: Tuolumne County Stream Team - Recreation Use Survey: Beth passed out the modified budget request for this project. Funds requested from RAC are still \$11,000.

08-19: Crabtree Road (4N26) Restoration & Maintenance: Gil provided an update (handout) regarding the leveraging contributions from the Twain Harte Horsemen proposal for the Crabtree road project. The funding request for RAC remains the same.

08-1: Eagle Meadow Horse Camp Rd/Erosion Control: Ann shared that she received an e-mail from Scott Lewis regarding the value of volunteer contributions for the project. Scott used a figure of \$35 per hour to value the contributions. Ann felt that \$35 per hour was high and, using a figure of \$20 per hour, estimates the value of the contributions to be about \$2,000 for contributed labor and \$1,000 for donated equipment.

Prior to the dot vote, RAC identified the projects located entirely or partially in Mariposa County:

08-12: Community Fire Protection/Water Source Project - \$20,940

08-14: Merced River Canyon Noxious Weed Control - \$5,445

08-25: Wagner Ridge Fuel Break - \$58,500

08-29: Jordan Creek Star-Thistle Burn - \$12,500

08-30: Jenkins Star-Thistle Burn - \$2,000

Lyle Turpin provided the project priorities on behalf of Mariposa County.

- 08-30: Jenkins Star-Thistle Burn
- 08-29: Jordan Creek Star-Thistle Burn
- 08-14: Merced River Canyon Noxious Weed Control
- 08-12: Community Fire Protection/Water Source Project
- 08-25: Wagner Ridge Fuel Break (70 acres Mariposa County)

Lyle: asked a question regarding project 08-12. What is the split of project dollars between each County? Mariposa County is \$13,000 and Tuolumne County is about \$7,500.

Mariposa County is bringing \$46,856 in funding for projects this year. If RAC funds the Mariposa portion of the first four projects as listed in order of priority, there would be approximately \$13,911 left.

Ann reminded RAC that for each non-Forest Service project approved where a grant or agreement was needed, an additional \$1,000 per project would be needed for grant/agreement preparation and administration.

It was suggested that RAC vote for Mariposa County projects first. The following comments were offered.

Comment: if we vote for Mariposa County projects first, are we considering the projects globally? Voting for Mariposa County projects first may limit other projects from being considered later when funding has already been allocated. RAC may or may not want to spend all of the Mariposa funds this year. And in some years, there may be a desire to spend more in Mariposa County than their share of the funds.

Dick offered that project 08-25 falls in both counties. If we vote favorably for the Mariposa County portion of this project first, how do we not vote for the Tuolumne County piece? If Tuolumne County does not support this project, then it would not make sense to fund the Mariposa piece. Would this project then be back on the table for consideration among all projects not yet funded?

A question was raised regarding the status of NEPA for project 08-25. NEPA is not yet complete according to the project proposal. It is underway but a decision has not yet been signed.

The following motion was presented to RAC: RAC will vote on projects solely within Mariposa County to begin with (08-30, 08-29, and 08-14). The motion was seconded.

Before beginning to vote on projects, Ginger asked other members of the public present whether they wanted to address RAC regarding any projects.

Jon S. from the Sierra Club was present as a prospective RAC member. He stated that he was attending the RAC meeting today to learn about RAC and the processes used by RAC to fund projects. Jon stated that he just returned from a backpacking trip in the Emigrant Wilderness. He recommends and strongly supports that RAC vote favorably to fund project 08-05. There is a lot of garbage that could be removed from the wilderness by the Backcountry horsemen and other volunteers.

NEW BUSINESS

Vote on projects solely within Mariposa County

Based on the motion made earlier, RAC proceeded to take a formal vote on the three projects that are completely within Mariposa County.

A formal vote was taken on the projects 08-30, 08-29, and 08-14. See attached Voting Record.

08-30: Jenkins Star Thistle Burn - Favorable vote at \$2,000 funding level.

08-29: Jordan Creek Star Thistle Burn - Favorable vote at \$12,500 funding level.

08-14: Merced River Noxious Weed Control - Favorable vote at \$5,445 funding level.

After funding these projects at the levels indicated above, Mariposa County has \$26,911 left to allocate.

Discuss "Dot" Process – Beth and Ginger

Ginger and Beth provided the dot vote rules. Every RAC member (including replacement members) can dot vote. Each member will receive 7 dots. Members can only use one dot per project. Dots cannot be traded or sold.

Dot "Vote"/Dialogue & Lobby As Desired -- Group

The following projects received 10 or more dots:

08-18: Forest & Riparian Education Tours - \$32,285

08-32: Forestry Institute for Teachers - \$50,000

08-01: Eagle Meadow Horse Camp Rd/Erosion Control - \$16,600

Based on the funding request level, the above projects total \$98,885.

The following projects received 6-9 dots:

08-17: McCormick Meadow Restoration Project - \$19,330

- 08-19: Crabtree Road (4N26) Restoration and Maintenance - \$49,640
- 08-05: Trash Removal From Emigrant Wilderness - \$3,220
- 08-12: Community Fire Protection/Water Source Project - \$20,500
- 08-25: Wagner Ridge Fuel Break - \$58,500

Based on the funding request level, the above projects total \$151,630.

The following projects received 5 dots:

- 08-11: Lower Yankee Hill Shaded Fuel Break - \$42,900
- 08-13: Senior & Disabled Defensible Space Project - \$24,570

Based on the funding request level, the above projects total \$67,470.

The following projects received 4 dots:

- 08-10: Mt. Elizabeth Drive Shaded Fuel Break - \$16,335
- 08-31: STF Youth Partnership - SOS - \$58,072

Based on the funding request level, the above projects total \$74,407.

The following projects received 3 dots:

- 08-08: Public Education & Fire Prevention Program - \$20,653
- 08-27: Bear Proof Garbage Cans - \$6,350
- 08-23: Mi-Wok Illegal Dump Site Cleanup/Disposal - \$7,000
- 08-15: Tuol. County Stream Team Rec.Use Survey - \$11,000

Based on the funding request level, the above projects total \$45,003.

The following projects received 0-2 dots:

- 08-20: Leland Watershed Improvement Project - \$30,000
- 08-04: Eagle Meadow Road/Erosion Improvement - \$80,000
- 08-09: Mt. Elizabeth Drive Road Improvement - \$52,195
- 08-22: Mi-Wok OHV Trail Maintenance and Repair - \$16,100
- 08-26: Spinning Wheel Sweet Toilet Replacement - \$28,000
- 08-28: Pines Campground Toilet Replacement - \$60,000
- 08-16: Community Chipping Project - \$14,575
- 08-21: SouthFork Hand Thin Fuel Reduction Project - \$59,356
- 08-24: Crandall OHV Staging Area Toilet - \$16,000
- 08-07: Twain Harte Lake Shaded Fuel Break - \$37,900
- 08-06: Tuolumne Watershed Volunteer Stewardship - \$21,763

08-02: Dodge Ridge Oxeye Daisy Eradication - \$31,100

Based on the funding request level, the above projects total \$446,989.

RAC proceeded to take a formal vote on the projects receiving 10 or more dots:

08-18: Forest & Riparian Education Tours - \$32,285

08-32: Forestry Institute for Teachers - \$50,000

08-01: Eagle Meadow Horse Camp Rd/Erosion Control - \$16,600

Based on the initial funding request levels, the above projects total \$98,885. No project passed on the first formal vote.

The following discussion and lobbying took place regarding these projects.

Gil shared that project 08-01 included some stump grinding followed by blading and rocking of the road. The project funding request is \$16,600 with approximately \$3,000 in contributed labor and equipment.

Ginger asked what it would take for group B to vote favorably for some of the education projects such as 08-18 (TuCARE tours), 08-31 (FIT) and 08-32 (SOS).

Frank shared that RAC has funded the tours for years. It is a big buck item. He would rather fund education and teachers (FIT), but that is also a big buck project.

Dick offered that he supports project 08-18. TuCARE has a proven track record, reaching many, many participants & students in the course of each school year.

Jim offered that he could support 08-32 if it was only a one year request. He understands that the \$50,000 is a two year request.

Ken offered favorable comments and support for each of the three projects being discussed. Regarding 08-18, Ken is a TuCARE member. TuCARE has a proven record with hundreds/thousands of students coming to the Forest every year. With regard to 08-31 (SOS), Ken attended end of season graduation a couple of weeks ago. He is very supportive of this student employment project and very proud of the program. The students accomplish a great deal of needed work in 6 weeks. The students don't get the job without a good application and a good interview. With regard to project 08-30 (FIT), Ken believes about 30 teachers went through the program last year. These teachers will now go back to the classroom and share their new learning and understanding with many, many students.

Joe offered his support for project 08-18, the TuCARE tours. The tours have been very successful. As educational budget cuts hit the classrooms, it will be the field trips that go first. Bringing students to the Forest for field trips will become a larger need/request. Granted funds often help with the high cost of busing. TuCARE has been recognized for their efforts over the years.

With regard to the FIT project, Joe offered that the Tuolumne County FIT program has the highest demand/attendance of all four FIT programs in the state. For next year, the Shasta-Trinity program has been cancelled. Teachers from many CA counties come to the Tuolumne County program. The program is incredibly balanced offering differing views but respectful of all. In addition, the program requires that the follow up classroom teaching meet state educational standards.

Frank stated that he could support FIT at \$25,000, their funding request for one year. Regarding 08-18, the TuCARE tours, Frank would support this project if it were reduced to \$26,000.

Susan asked if anyone had any idea if any of these entities have asked for economic stimulus funding for their projects. RAC members responded that TuCARE and FIT do not meet the criteria for such funding.

Sherri offered comments, wearing her County Board of Education hat. Field trips are the first thing to go with when educational budget cuts take place. We know that field trips are the best way for kids to learn. She is supportive of the TuCARE tours.

Jim offered support for project 08-01. Twain Harte Horsemen do a lot of work in the Emigrant and they stage efforts out of the Eagle Meadow area. While the horsemen use and maintain the site, the public is using it as well.

Frank countered that he has a problem spending \$2,000 for stump removal and \$16,600 in total on a road that will only benefit a few people.

Chris asked Frank what it would take to get a supportive vote on some of these projects. Frank responded that he could support some of the projects at reduced funding levels hoping that some smaller, but important projects might get funded as well.

A second formal vote was taken on the projects receiving 10 or more dots. See attached Voting Record.

08-18: Forest & Riparian Education Tours - Favorable vote at \$26,000 funding level.

08-32: Forestry Institute for Teachers - Favorable vote at \$25,000 funding level.

08-01: Eagle Meadow Horse Camp Rd/Erosion Control - Favorable vote at \$14,600 funding level.

After funding these projects at the levels indicated above (plus \$1,000 per non-FS project for grant/agreement administration), Tuolumne County has \$186,457 left to allocate.

RAC then moved on to discuss the group of projects receiving 6-9 dots.

- 08-17: McCormick Meadow Restoration Project - \$19,330
- 08-19: Crabtree Road (4N26) Restoration and Maintenance - \$49,640
- 08-05: Trash Removal From Emigrant Wilderness - \$3,220
- 08-12: Community Fire Protection/Water Source Project - \$20,940
- 08-25: Wagner Ridge Fuel Break - \$58,500

A formal vote was taken on project 08-19. See attached Voting Record.

08-19: Crabtree Road (4N26) Restoration and Maintenance - Favorable vote at \$49,640 funding level.

After funding this project at the level indicated above (plus the \$1,000 per project for grant administration), Tuolumne County has \$135,817 left to allocate.

Sherri offered her support for project 08-05 but went on to state that dumping at the lower elevations is so much worse in terms of volume of trash. The high elevation of the Emigrant is pristine and a nice place to visit. But it is difficult to get folks to clean up the lower elevations, with poison oak and rattle snakes. Although project 08-23 received fewer dots, she would like RAC to consider funding 08-23 if they are going to fund 08-05.

Gil offered that the Backcountry Horsemen provide all the labor for the Emigrant piece. Ann stated that volunteers and the Forest Service contribute all the labor for the lower elevation clean ups. The \$7,000 RAC request all goes to cover dumping fees or for rental of heavy equipment to assist with large item removal.

Gil made a motion that RAC vote on both projects (08-05 & 08-23) at this time. The motion was seconded and there was consensus from RAC to take a formal vote on project 08-23 along with 08-05 even though 08-23 had fewer dots.

A formal vote was taken on the projects 08-05 and 08-23. See attached Voting Record.

- 08-05: Trash Removal From Emigrant Wilderness - Favorable vote at \$3,220 funding level.
- 08-23: Mi-Wok Illegal Dump Site Cleanup/Disposal - Favorable vote at \$7,000 funding level.

After funding these projects at the levels indicated above, Tuolumne County has \$125,597 left to allocate.

RAC proceeded to discuss projects 08-12 & 08-25.

Frank stated that he would like to see the Wagner Ridge Fuel Break project fully funded. Lyle offered that in his mind, project 08-25 was a higher priority than project 08-12. Project 08-12 can be phased in over time.

Bob stated that he does not think it is necessary for RAC to fund all the fuels projects at full funding levels. There are other funding sources for this type of project - that's why he asked the earlier question regarding whether or not funding can be carried over from year to year. If a fire/fuels project is partially funded by RAC, the RAC funding can be used as leverage when other grants are being applied for.

08-12: Dick stated that if a project is a good project, we ought to fund it. Jim stated that in general, he agreed. But, as far as he knows, the details of how many homeowners and water systems will be upgraded/plumbed for use is still an unknown. He likes the idea of a phase-in approach to project 08-12.

Frank stated that project 08-12 is definitely a pilot project. Homeowners have not been tied down yet and the Fire Safe council is still working with folks. Each site has to be evaluated on its own merit. Frank agreed that less money could be used to give the project a try this first year.

Lyle proposed that project 08-12 be funded at half the requested amount for this year. Half funding is \$10,250.

A formal vote was taken on project 08-12. See attached Voting Record.

08-12: Community Fire Protection/Water Source Development - Favorable vote at \$10,250 funding level. (Mariposa County - \$6,500; Tuolumne County - \$3,750).

After funding these projects at the levels indicated above (and splitting the \$1,000 grant administration fee at a ratio of 60/40 between Mariposa and Tuolumne Counties), Tuolumne County has \$121,447 left to allocate and Mariposa County has \$19,811 left for allocation.

A formal vote was then taken on project 08-25 at full funding (see attached Voting Record). The project vote was not favorable.

A second formal vote was then taken on project 08-25 with the funding request reduced to 62% (see attached Voting Record). The project vote was still not favorable.

The question was asked - what would it take for RAC to support and approve project 08-25?

Bob stated that he would support the project if the Tuolumne County portion of the project was funded at the 50% level and additional funds were sought through other fire/fuels grant opportunities.

A third formal vote was then taken on project 08-25 with the funding request reduced to a total of \$32,911 (see attached Voting Record).

08-25: Wagner Ridge Fuel Break - Favorable vote at \$32,911 funding level (\$19,811 from Mariposa County and \$13,100 from Tuolumne County).

After funding these projects at the levels indicated above, Mariposa County has allocated all of its available funding. Tuolumne County has \$108,347 left to allocate.

RAC then went on to consider the last project receiving 6-9 dots:

08-17: McCormick Meadow Restoration Project - \$19,330

Project 08-17 is roughly a 5 acre meadow restoration project.

Q: Who is paying for the specialist work?

A: The Me-Wuk tribe has specialists on staff that will be doing the work.

Vicki offered that the project can be completed in phases. She also shared that an educational movie will be part of the project - documenting the project from start to finish. If RAC funding is approved, Tuolumne-Mariposa RAC will show up in the credits.

A formal vote was then taken on project 08-17 at full funding (see attached Voting Record). The project vote was not favorable.

Ginger asked what it would take from RAC members to fund the project. Reducing the funding request to approximately 50% (\$10,000) was suggested.

A second formal vote was taken on project 08-17 (see attached Voting Record).

08-17: McCormick Meadow Restoration Project - Favorable vote at \$10,000 funding level.

After funding this project at the level indicated above (plus \$1,000 grant administrative costs), Tuolumne County has \$97,347 left to allocate.

RAC then moved on to consider projects that had received 5 dots.

08-11: Lower Yankee Hill Shaded Fuel Break - \$42,900

08-13: Senior & Disabled Defensible Space Project - \$24,570

A formal vote was taken on project 08-11 at full funding (see attached Voting Record).

08-11: Lower Yankee Hill Shaded Fuel Break - Favorable vote at \$42,900 funding level.

After funding this project at the level indicated above (plus \$1,000 grant administrative costs), Tuolumne County has \$53,447 left to allocate.

With regard to Project 08-13, at this point, there is not a good feel for how many homes might be involved. The proposal indicated that fuel reduction on 30 homes/properties was the target. RAC members expressed concern regarding allowing property owners to self-certify that they are seniors, with low income/disabilities. After further discussion, a proposal was made to vote for the project at half the funding request and to require some definition of low income/disability certification.

A formal vote was taken on project 08-13 at approximately the 50% funding level of \$12,250 (see attached Voting Record). The vote did not pass.

RAC then moved on to consider projects that had received 4 dots.

08-10: Mt. Elizabeth Drive Shaded Fuel Break - \$16,335

08-31: STF Youth Partnership - SOS - \$58,072

With regard to project 08-10, the only way out of Cedar Ridge at this time is Kewin Mill Road. Twelve landowners between Cedar Ridge and Mt. Elizabeth have been working together to grant public access (there is no public easement across this section of road - so they are not required to provide access). The Women's Auxiliary group and volunteer fire department have worked tirelessly to make road improvements and get buy-in from landowners. Emergency access has been granted and a gate installed to protect the road in the winter time. This project complements the road efforts and will ensure that alternative ingress/egress from Cedar Ridge is available when the need arises.

A formal vote was taken on project 08-10 at full funding (see attached Voting Record).

08-10: Mt. Elizabeth Drive Shaded Fuel Break - Favorable vote at \$16,335 funding level.

After funding this project at the level indicated above (plus \$1,000 grant administrative costs), Tuolumne County has \$36,112 left to allocate.

A formal vote was taken on project 08-31, with the funding level to be the remaining Tuolumne County funds (\$35,112 plus \$1,000 grant administration). (See attached Voting Record).

08-31: STF Youth Partnership - Favorable vote at approximately \$35,112 funding level.

After funding this project at the level indicated above (plus \$1,000 grant administrative costs), Tuolumne County has allocated all of their funds.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No additional public comments were received.

MEETING WRAP UP

RAC set their next meeting date for Monday, January 25, 2010 from 12:00 - 3:00. The rest of the 2010 meeting calendar will be set at that time, including spring time field trips or monitoring visits.

Projects that received a favorable vote today will be presented to the respective County Board of Supervisors between now and September 30, 2009. RAC asked Lyle Turpin to represent RAC at the Mariposa County BOS covering Mariposa projects, and Dick Pland will take the Tuolumne County projects to the Tuolumne County BOS. Beth will provide a summary list of the funded projects to Lyle and Dick within the next couple of weeks. Following BOS review, Ginger will send e-mails notifying project proponents that they were or were not funded, including information about the need to complete the long forms and grants/agreement paperwork if funded.

Ann reminded RAC that at some point in the next couple of years, RAC will need to select two years' worth of projects to get all funds approved and obligated prior to September 30, 2012. We can expect funding for both counties to go down 10% next year.

Susan asked how RAC publicized the projects that were granted funding. Once the project list is approved by the County Boards of Supervisors, she would like a news release prepared to share efforts with the general public.

The meeting was adjourned about 12: 10 p.m., by Chairperson Ginger Armstrong.

/s/ Ginger Armstrong

Ginger Armstrong, Chairperson

/s/ Ann L. Denton

Ann Denton, DFO