



# Yosemite West Property & Homeowners, Inc.

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## YWPHI Board of Directors' Meeting April 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Ted Williams at 7:05pm.

Directors Present: Hilary Bagshaw, Gary Mazzone, Scott Renfro, Pamela Schulz, Ted Williams  
Directors Absent: Katrin Kuttner, Neil Pack

Officers and Guests Present: Adar Emken, Katie Weber, Bert Kroon

### 1. Bad day for YW water

A road slide on the way to the community broke the pipe supplying water from the well to the holding tanks at the top of the hill. The problem was discovered at 7:20am this morning. The community is living on the tanks for now. In summer, this would be just a few days of capacity; in winter, hopefully a few weeks. The tanks have already diminished to about 2/3 capacity. Ted will email the community this evening, and continue updates until repaired by Mariposa County Public Works

### 2. Status of YWDAC Meetings.

All meetings since December have been postponed or canceled. Turnover and staffing shortages in the public works department raises concerns that there's no support for continuing the committee meetings. Also raises questions about the status of a rate study, delaying rate increases but also limiting the budget now to do maintenance and make improvements.

### 3. Firewise Committee Update

- Rosemarie Smallcombe mentioned this weekend that there are 55 advisory committees in the county, and that they'd like to consolidate some of those.
- **Firewise Update (Adar)**
  - Firewise is renewed for 2023 after Adar updated the action plan consistent with the Cal Fire template. Some insurance companies provide discounts when presented with the certificate. We will make the certificate available to the

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- community.
- Mariposa County has made Firewise a priority, and Adar represented Yosemite West and presented about our Firewise experience at the annual Wawona homeowners meeting.
- **Chipping Day 2023 (Katie)**
  - See slidedeck: [April2023 Fire Update](#)
  - Four-day chipping crew will be \$1700 this year; last year, crew scheduling was difficult and ultimately happened in July
  - Ted will post the flyer and pink flagging tape in the shed by May 1.
  - Katie will handle registrations and on-site work the weekend of May 20.
  - Hillary volunteered to do a re-inspection Memorial Day weekend, which worked well last year.
  - Bert suggested delaying the actual chipping day to give people more time after the snow melts (still 5' of snow up on Henness circle); Pamela pointed out the water pipe break may also delay us if not quickly fixed.
  - [New update]: Chipping day postponed to June 20, with signups due June 7.
- **Forest Health Grant (Katie)**
  - Katie is coordinating with Melinda who said they'll restart in Wawona soon, but snow in YW makes our timing less clear. Katie is continuing to reiterate the requests for key previously-missed work for YW. But the grant will likely prioritize work on the YNP land (mostly along fire roads such as Eleven-mile road) that had previously been skipped due to the Earth Island Institute lawsuit in 2022.
  - Mariposa County RCD has a new home hardening program that we also want to tell people about. This would be a scheduled consultation on a more predictable timeline than the grant work. One opportunity is that scheduled visit could do some work on-the-spot such as installing fire-resistant vents/ember screens.
- **Burn-pile demonstrations in Wawona (Adar)**
  - Jen Andersen from YNP fire still working on the plan. Location could be either YW or Wawona, most likely Wawona. Goal is to teach homeowners safe and efficient burn pile practices.

#### **4. YWMD Sewer Leach Field Expansion**

After years of discussion about acquiring land to expand the leach field, the purchase has been negotiated. The Mariposa BoS acting as the YWMD board, should approve it soon, likely on the 4/25/2023 BoS meeting agenda. Then allocating funds to install the leach field sprayer system will be the next hurdle, and that may depend on approving YWMD utility rate increases via the rate study and prop 218 process.

#### **5. Treasurer Report**

Neil couldn't make today's call but is working on getting all the tax-related paperwork submitted on-time.

#### **6. USPS Mail Delivery**

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Our longstanding postperson Pierce retired. The subsequent Replacement post-carrier was replaced after service issues. Now we have a new postperson carrier (Katie) who understands the community better, and understands it is ok just for mail to sit in boxes until residents pick it up later. Hopefully, there won't be more mail sent by the USPS back return-to-sender.

## **7. YWPHI Summer Newsletter**

Planning to make a summer mailing (July/August) to solicit YWPHI membership, publicize the 9/3/2023 annual community meeting, and other updates. Thank you to Gary Mazzone for again volunteering to send the mailing. Please think about what we want to include in this year's newsletter. We may also want to purchase an updated mailing list since we haven't done that since 2021.

## **8. Snow update**

Yosemite Park Way melting out pretty quickly. Bert has zero to 3.5' of snow still. But 5' of snow up on Henness circle. Some minor damage to railings, etc. but haven't seen any major structural house damage. Some roofs have damage due to ice tearing off sections, such as around vent stack pipes.

## **9. News from Wawona homeowners meeting on 4/15/2023 (Adar)**

Adar attended and presented at the annual Wawona homeowners meeting. Here's some notes from the time she was there.

- Teri Austin, Deputy Superintendent YNP:
  - At least \$15M damage to the park that they've seen and high country hasn't yet been seen. Delays in road openings — at least July. The Yosemite Valley will be really tourist crowded in the early season since everything else will be closed. Mariposa Grove road was undercut, so that'll be pedestrian only. Glacier Point Rd will likely open but have delays due to road construction being uncompleted from last year.
  - Anticipating flooding in the valley, including Memorial Day weekend. If it floods too much or harms waste system, etc., they may have to close the valley. They're also understaffed at the moment.
  - No reservations for park entry this year, so they expect it to be crowded.
  - New welcome center opens this summer. The old visitor center will become an education center.
- Ted: Yosemite High Sierra backpacking reservations are canceled for this season due to snow and road closures.
- Heidi Edgecomb, Ranger Operations supervisor in Wawona.
  - Burn piles. Call Mariposa county burn line and local information line.
  - Three road closures between Wawona and YW with temporary traffic lights. People have been running the lights, causing issues. Please be careful with the lights to avoid accidents and other issues.

- Clear culverts on your property. Wawona owners are authorized to clear 100' from their structures, including on park land. There's a park letter that can be used to coordinate with NPS, asking Yosemite Fire to sign the letter for their property.
- Emergencies: If you call 911, there's 7 lines and they answer in El Portal. You should always try 911 in an emergency even if you don't appear to have service as the system is supposed to use the nearest cell tower even if you don't have that carrier. You can also try texting 911.
- Kyle Pina, Assistant Fire captain Wawona.
  - Full staffed for the fire season.
  - Prescribed burn planned south of Wawona Hotel April 19-20, 2023. New junior ranger wildland fire program launching this year in the valley.
- Rosemarie Smallcombe, Mariposa supervisor District 1.
  - County is producing a prioritized list of damaged roads that need repair ordered by most damaged.
  - County BoS has commissioned a study on short-term rentals, with at least 4 community meetings this summer, including one meeting somewhere in Yosemite.
  - Properties that sustained damage can make FEMA requests.
  - Created a new advisory committee on code compliance since it's difficult to get people to comply with county codes without enforcement.
- Jeremy Herber from Recology.
  - New staff, taking over for Mariposa County. Said they have 6 drivers for the whole county, sometimes with a 2-hour drive before first pickup.
  - Issues with snowplows piling snow around dumpsters preventing pickup.
  - Notify Recology of dumpster overflow problems
- Melinda Barrett Mariposa RCD.
  - Grant work starting again in Wawona, including work on private lots May through July.
  - Home hardening program offered to help owners understand risks/deficiencies specific to their property.
  - Katie may try to recruit a few YW volunteers to try out the MCRCD pilot website for vegetation management and biomass removal
  - Melinda also mentioned a PG&E contact for vegetation management if we ever needed that.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
 Scott Renfro  
 (with edits by Ted Williams)

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**Schedule of next meetings:**

YWPHI BoD meetings are on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each January, April, July, and Sunday pre-Labor day:

- July 11, 2023 virtual at 7pm
- September 3, 2023 in-person following YWPHI annual membership meeting
- January 9, 2024 virtual at 7pm
- April 9, 2024 virtual at 7pm

YWDAC meetings are on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each March, June, September, and December:

- June 8, 2023 at 2pm
- September 14, 2023 at 2pm
- December 14, 2023 at 2pm
- March 14, 2024 at 2pm

YWDAC meetings were virtual during the pandemic, but new County policy has reverted to requiring them to be in-person at ADA compliant facility. Ongoing hybrid-meeting virtual accessibility challenges.