



# El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

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"Public and Private Partners Working Together to Protect People, Homes, and Natural Resources"

## Board Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2022

9:30 am to 11:30 Business Meeting

Diamond Springs / El Dorado Firefighters Association Memorial Hall

3734 China Garden Road, Diamond Springs

### 1. Meeting Call to Order

9:31am

### 2. Roll Call: Sign In

In person: Atencio, Barentson, Cantelow, Connelly, Council, Dwyer, Fine, Johnston, Lory, Payne, Penn, Pimlott, Pullin, Willis, Zelinsky

Zoom: Ball, Hawk, Kruse, Wirt

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

Ken Pimlott

### 4. Approval of Agenda: 11/16/2022 Board Action Item

Approved without opposition

### 5. Consent Agenda: 10/19/2022 Board Meeting Minutes Board Action Item

Approved without opposition

### 6. New Business

#### a. Presentation – UC Cooperative Extension – Prescribed Burn Association

- Kestrel Grevatt - The PBA is helping the homeowners with the most cost-effective way to burn but they also don't take on landowners' liability. The association is a guide for the homeowners to know when and where they can burn. The PBA also instructs the homeowners to have low intensity burning on their property. PBA has funded several burn workshops throughout the county and have them coming up from November to spring, 2023. They will be purchasing more equipment to help landowners for things such as chipping. Goal is to empower private landowners for burning in ecological ways and provide them with the equipment to do so. They emphasize identifying low complexity 1'-3' fires that will achieve fuel reduction objectives. PBA has been working with landowners who have already done a lot of work on their property are they are teaching them how to use tools effectively to optimize their burning. If you have a certified burn box, you qualify for liability claim fund. Kestrel addressed the fact that air quality from a prescribed burn has smoke that is less damaging than wildfire burning. The smoke from wildfires creates more particulate matter in the air for poor air quality. The more people that know how to burn properly helps to reduce the bad air quality. Agency burning can burn bigger burns and they take on liability. Landowner takes on liability when they burn. PBA has no minimum acreage to burn, and their pile burning is generally 4'-10' diameter and 5'-10' tall. The PBA is working with Amador County to get funding for a website and will possibly have one in the next few months. Watch duty is a good app for burn information. People can also check with the forest service and CALFIRE for air quality information. PBA has a mailing list and a Facebook page.

## 7. Information Items:

- a. Chairman's Report & Communication:
  - Defer to Hugh
  - b. Vice Chair Report
- As of October, CALFIRE and the State Fire Marshall has a defensible space training course including home hardening which is a 3-day course. Amended 24-hour course to 16 hours. Needs to get State Fire Marshall's approval. Four of the six hours is doing actual inspection of a house. Five hours is hands on, and 11 hours is classroom training. Course will be a certificate course. The course will include assessors providing information on evacuations for animals and access for fire service to homes. FSC's will be funded by EDCFSC to do training. This is another way to educate the community to be firewise. The course is expected to start in early spring 2023. The three instructors for program will consist of: CALFIRE, County Fire Prevention Officers Association and FSC.
  - c. Secretary Report:
    - Equipment loan form will be revised, and it will be in the storage room to fill out. All handouts are stored in the storage room as well. Kris Payne mentioned that the new address is 515 Main Street in Placerville. Included in the space is a break room/conference room and mail is received there as well. Also getting a high-end copy machine.
    - d. Treasurers Report: Janet Barentson **Board Action Item**
  - *Initiated annual audit of 21-22 fiscal year. Working with Pat to get all contracts. Will be done by end of year. Budget vs. actual page in the Treasurer Report has changes on it. Working with David Z. to make changes happen. Amazon Smile makes a 5% donation to EDCFSC when you shop on their site. So, think of us when doing your Christmas shopping. For the Title 3 grant projects – if any FSC's can't spend their money by the end of March 2023, we need to reallocate money. Reach out to Janet for more information. FSC's indicate on form \$5,000 or \$200 amounts so its posted in correct place. Treasurer's Report approved- no opposition.*
    - e. Partners Reports:
      1. BLM – Jason Schroeder  
No report
      2. CAL FIRE – Megan Scheeline
  - Megan thanked Hugh for getting message out about training for assessors. No official date for wildfire prevention grant. Forest health grants December 15, 2022, to February 28, 2023, and aims to increase forest health and resiliency through fire hazard reduction as well as water and air quality improvement. Maps of hazard which is based on terrain and historic fire weather. There will be a public meeting on December 15, 2022, at Station 85 and will accept comments which will be passed on to the State Fire Marshall. The information will go out to all 58 counties. The meeting will have a script and a video to explain maps of fire hazard severity zones and risks. The maps will be online to accept public comments. Eldorado county administrative offices will be well represented. Meeting will not be broadcasted. The public can do online comments. This is an official State meeting so questions can't be answered but questions can be answered outside of the meeting. Another rollout next year by CALFIRE for county will be things that don't meet definition of State responsibility. It won't impact CCI grant application.
    3. EDC Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience – TBA
  - New analyst to replace Juliet on board early next month. GIS mapping at County Surveyor's office has staff changes. Continue to think about map request and work with Steve and not the county office. Map information will be available on web-based application.

4. EDC Fire Chiefs Association – Ron Phillips

- Agencies to work closer together for wildfire preparedness. FPO presented 2021 fire loss in El Dorado County. El Dorado County has less than 200,000 residents. There was a total of 161 residential and commercial fires. Caldor fire is not included as that data is separate. \$14m in structure loss in 2021, 7 fire sprinkler saves 4 residential, and 3 commercial buildings.

5. EDC FPO Association – Ron Phillips

- FPO is working on adoption of 2022 state fire code which is going to the Board of Supervisors in December 2022 for approval. The new fire code will be effective January 2023 in El Dorado County. Emergency vehicle access 15' above driveways and road clearance is 10-foot clearance for driveways in new homes. Title 14 waiting to hear when board of forestry is to report changes. May reduce number of new regulations based on public feedback. Got clarification from state fire marshal ember resistant zone changes in effect mid-year 2023 after public comment and feedback. Governor vetoed bills for eliminating propane tanks. It was determined most common cause of structure fire is from humans and number one place fires start is in the kitchen.

6. ENF Updates – Jacobie Waters

- No report

7. RCD – Maia and Holly

- Maia and Holly reporting not mark. Maia – Thanked the board for their support for the application of capacity building grant and also thanked FSC's who contributed information. Angel Ball was an immense driver and resource for this grant. Thank you goes out to Alice and Lester for getting the grant in at 11<sup>th</sup> hour. Survey from NRCS they offer cost sharing assistance for fire mitigation work for people that participated and who are interested in participating. There are surveys to fill out she will send website and QR code for that. Work surrounding firewise communities does not require a fire professional assessment, but it should for insurance purposes. Insurance Commissioner instating a 3-step approach in homes in wuwui and maintain hope that firewise communities will help with insurance down the line. Maia is reviewing applications for firewise community renewal coordinator. RCD conference will focus on El Dorado County and RCD wants to highlight the work they've done together. Placerville northeast is a recognized firewise community David Z. Holly-Georgetown has a fuel break working on Spanish Flat to Texas Canyon. There will be a community meeting from Coloma/Lotus. South County Road has recon in Omo Ranch area.

8. SMUD – Eric Brown

- No report

9. PG&E – Mike Webb

- No report

10. EDSO – Sgt Bare

- No report

8. Committee Reports

a. Grants & Funding– Pat Dwyer/Jessica Isabel

- Maia had a \$20,000 grant that was submitted by Alice. CALFIRE grant released in near future to be done online. FSC's - if you anticipate any grants in 2023 cycle let us know in advance with fiscal sponsor request. Royal Equestrian Estates and Camino that submitted grants then pulled back for discussion. Also, Rancho Del Sol and Mosquito has 3 potential CALFIRE grants. Need by end of November 2022. All councils need to seek E-board approval before we seek grant. Once we get CALFIRE grant announcement and handbook, we will have training with potential grant applicant. Community Wildfire Defense Program-Sandridge has a \$9,000 grant proposal

submitted. Community Foundation grant for \$5,000 for defensible space-Ernie will talk with Pat. National Forest Foundation grant is due January 23<sup>rd</sup> which is a one-to-one match. Encouraging grant applications in \$30,000 range. Wrights Lake and Strawberry look like potential applicants because they are within forest lands. Finalizing agreements with RCD with getting contract for BLM or SMUD in process of getting contracts signed by sub-parties. Steven's Authority added a couple communities with forest service for \$161million-working with RCD to sort out. Meeting called by Oak Hill FSC regarding Martinez Creek area. BLM and Diamond Springs Fire and FSC was there but no FSC grant because it's not part of CWPP. Defensible Space Program closed out with PG&E with 95 properties it served. Reopened Defensible Space Program with Title III money and we have about 30 more slots left before it closes

b. Governance Committee – Karen Pullin

No report

## 9. Program Reports

a. Chipping – Pat Dwyer/Jessica Isabel

- 42 jobs out of 80 were completed in October. We also expanded the program to 2 visits a year and have no results from that change yet. Need to advertise beyond webpage. Hazardous tree grant has CALFIRE grant for tree removal for almost \$1.3 million. There will be a meeting with a forester/arborist on how to evaluate with homeowners. There was a pre-bid conference on what to change in RFP and should get feedback by end of November and will go out shortly thereafter. Quarterly reports were also submitted.

b. Defensible Space – Ernie Lory/Jessica Isabel

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c. Outreach & Education –Alice Cantelow

- Website development if anyone would like to help design contact Alice. There will be an article about chipping in newsletter.

d. New Council Formation & Orientation – Karen Pullin

- I will be meeting with Marci from Riverwood HOA to discuss the setup of a FSC.

## 10. Community Council Reports

- Janet Barentson-Aukum/Fairplay had second green waste day with 20 truckloads of waste. John Hess from the FSC makes reflective address signs and signed up 13 people to get the signs. Also, had 16 defensible space assessment sign ups.
- Tamara Johnston- Georgetown Divide-Had a fire community meeting on November 13th in Georgetown and 75 people showed up with representatives from CALFIRE, Forest Service and OES in attendance. The county is moving from Code Red to RAVE system. If you signed up for Code Red through their app you will not be moved automatically over to RAVE. If you signed up on their website, you will get moved over automatically to RAVE.
- Sherry Hawk-Gold Ridge Forest-The grant through USDA and RCD has boots on the ground with 12.4 acres done. The Stevens Authority and RCD is working on property south of Gold Ridge. They are working on outside area then the inside and will be doing 165 acres total.
- Michelle Wirt-Omo Ranch-November 19th they have a FSC meeting at Indian Diggings School, and afterward there will be a potluck and prepare meeting. They will address kitchen fires and preparedness for winter fire dangers.
- Elizabeth Standeven-Sandridge-October 30<sup>th</sup> they had a chili social with a good attendance and a representative from RCD. They addressed the large animal

rescue and got connected with new members in community. Sandridge is in the process of applying for a firewise community and will have it done by the end of week.

- Ernie Lory-Grizzly Flats – Heads up that the people with personal emails and phone numbers online have been getting spam after the Caldor fire.
- Mike Connelly-Auburn Lake Trails- A 12-acre shaded fuel break was completed in October.
- David Zelinsky-Placerville-The 3rd Saturday of March, the Placerville FSC is renting the Mid-Town Mall for an outreach meeting.
- Deborah Kruse-Coloma-Lotus-\$7,500 CALFIRE grant. RCD there people living on different road segments they were able to write out Right of Entry agreements. Border revision for another community bordering them. Riverwood HOA should join them because they are close by the Coloma/Lotus area.

## 11. Old Business

- a. Title 3 Expenditures
  - Covered in Treasurer Report

## 12. Project Reports

- a. USFS SOFAR Project– Tamara Johnston/David Zelinsky
  - Tamara working on Georgetown fuel break phase 2.
- b. EDC Resource Advisory Committee Mtg WRAP (Wildfire Risk Reduction and Asset
  - Resource Advisory Committee short on openings contact Jennifer at Forest Service. Echo Summit meadow restoration project is being worked on.
- c. Protection Project) – David Zelinsky
  - Biomass-Bringing fiberboard to plants to process for Consumnes River drainage.
- d. County Biomass Working Group – Kris Payne
  - Greg Stanton is the point person for biomass \$500,000 for SMUD project submitted last month. Black Oak Mine Unified School District resubmitted CALFIRE app. Biomass for county looking for additional funding. TRPA will consider application for Tahoe refuge heat and power. Waiting for more information on sale of El Dorado mill-looking at biomass and energy production

## 13. Public Comment –Time limit is 3 minutes per person.

- *Maia – email is available online. California Fire Safe Council is working on GIS tracking systems and is asking coordinators to provide information on FSC. If you have generic contact information on your FSC give to Maia. Personal information won't be shared. Ken mentioned to look at EDCFSC website under the Associate Councils tab for their information. Maia won't put personal email out on California FSC due to spam Ernie mentioned.*

## 14. Good of the Order

11:56a

- a. No Meeting in December
- b. Next EDCFSC Board Meeting – January 18, 2023