



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-FINAL

January 17, 2024

9:30 am to 11:30

Diamond Springs / El Dorado Firefighters Association Memorial Hall
3734 China Garden Road, Diamond Springs

1. Meeting Call to Order

9:34am

2. Roll Call: Sign In

In Person: Barentson, Ball, Boal, Brown, Cantelow, Connelly, Council, Dwyer, Johnston, Hess, Lory, Payne, Pimlott, Pullin, Willis, Zelinsky
Zoom: Penn

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Ken Pimlott

4. Approval of Agenda: 01/17/2024 **Board Action Item**

David Zelinsky wanted to change the order of his and Kris Payne's presentations. Kris said there was no need to change anything. Agenda approved as presented.

5. Consent Agenda: 11/15/2023 Board Meeting Minutes **Board Action Item**

Approved as presented - no opposition.

6. New Business

No new business

7. Old Business

- a. Community Wildfire Protection Plan – Tom Meyer (OWPR)
Tom will be on the agenda for the rest of the year for ongoing updates. They are very pleased with the new consultant- Jensen Hughes as they have 30+ years of experience with similar counties as ours. We will be meeting with them tomorrow to discuss minor changes and then we will finalize contract negotiations and initiate the contract process with the county. Anticipating a start date of March and we will hold a project kick off meeting with the established working group for the CWPP. The CWPP page is on our website and the consultant will create a website for tracking the contract status. There will be a series of workshops to engage the public and stakeholders.

8. Information Items:

- a. Chairman's Report & Communication – Ken Pimlott

Bruce Dickson brought to my attention that Elizabeth Atencio passed away on October 11, 2023, there was a memorial service on December 2nd.

Janet and I have been interviewing bookkeepers to help relieve Janet's workload. Our CPA doesn't provide this service.

Considering asking the Board to form a subcommittee to work on future EDCFSC visioning. Will bring this back to Board for more discussion at future meetings.

It's election season and a good reminder to review our policy regarding not supporting candidates and the process for bringing issues forward. The policy is on our website under the "About" tab under "Policy & Procedures", Article XX. Please feel free to bring forward any questions to the E-Board.

- b. Vice Chair Report – Hugh Council

I continue to meet with FPO's, OWPR, D-Space and Outreach groups. We will be conducting Field Maps and Defensible Space training in February and April respectively. Also, we will be doing a one-day workshop for Insurance and Real Estate folks at the end of February.

- c. Secretary Report – Karen Pullin

The insurance is caught up now after several months of discussions with them regarding our policy.

d. Treasurers Report: Janet Barentson – **Board Action Item**

Two reports were submitted one for November 2023 and one for December 2023. Adjustments were made to move money around in the December budget after discussions with the E-Board. The net to the bottom line is 0. I increased conference fees from 0 to \$250 to offset the conference the chair and I attended in October. I increased the rent budget by \$1200 for the Fireman's Memorial Hall because I didn't include it in our initial rent budget. Increased travel budget by \$610 to show the travel from the conference the chair and I attended. I reduced the insurance budget because I thought we paid the final bill. I will probably have to amend that. I reduced the administrative services budget by \$1,000 because there will be some savings on that line item. The net effect to bottom line is 0. We spent over \$50k in chipping & defensible space as contractors completed work. We have been spending money on the programs, but we still don't have the money from the CA FSC. I have been using Title III money due to lack of funds from CA FSC. We are not assigning defensible space jobs until we get the grant money. We already spent \$60k against that money. We will continue to promote the defensible space program; however, we will not process new applications until we receive funding from the pending grants. Tamara mentioned it is normal for non-profits to do a mid-year budget revision. Janet clarified that our budget is a split year from July 1st to June 30th.

Treasurer's report is approved as presented with budget amendments.

e. Partners Reports:

1. BLM – Jorge Pacheco

No Report

2. CAL FIRE – Megan Scheeline/Jeff Hoag

Burning all piles created over summer and fall.

Wildfire prevention grants closed this week.

We are working on our fire plan. We will have an updated schedule to be out in May.

We also will have a rep in the El Dorado CWPP working group so that both our fire plans are in sync.

3. EDC Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience – Tom Meyer

Jenna Patri is the new admin analyst. She will help with the defensible space program and public outreach.

Online mapping tools and data hub - we continue meeting with working groups and finalized updated boundaries for all FSC's.

Moving forward with adding Firewise maps to data hub. We are adding additional project data to the data hub.

Weber Creek is getting closer. The environmental review contract RFP is out to bid now and scheduled to close February 2nd, 2024. An evaluation committee will be put together to evaluate proposals and do interviews. A start date might be April or May this year.

Defensible space inspections have started this month for Texas Hill and will continue through March. Outingdale will have a community workshop March 5th at Pioneer Park Community Center. Inspections will start in April and into May this year.

Richie Galvin, Firewise community coordinator, worked with the communities to get their applications completed by the December 2023 deadline. Coloma Lotus is a new applicant. Omo Ranch was approved for Firewise.

We are applying for the Fire Risk Reduction Community list which is a designation through the California Board of Forestry, and it will give residents an opportunity to get an additional reduction on fire insurance. April 1st is the deadline for applications. Working with CAL FIRE and the county's planning and building department. We must go back to January 1, 2013, to review findings for PRC's 4290 and 4291 and complete a report for each of those. Working with the City of Placerville and South Lake Tahoe to submit applications on their own for the incorporated areas.

Met yesterday with county division of transportation to discuss projects and make sure they are involved, and Weber Creek is part of the discussion.

Defensible Space Ordinance – 1st reading on December 12th the Board of Supervisors elected to defer their decision and asked our office to conduct additional public workshops to educate homeowners on what the ordinance is and how it will impact them.

Workshops are tentatively scheduled for February 13th for Tahoe Basin from 6pm-8pm at Meyers Elementary School. The Westslope meeting is February 29th at Cameron Park CSD from 6pm-8pm. A flyer with information will go out on social media and newspapers, and county websites. Both workshops will have Zoom options.

Copies of the proposed ordinance are available on the OWPR website under the defensible space tab.

There was a discussion on evacuation routes and defensible space on private roadways.

It was recommended to watch Board of Supervisor's meeting which Captain Shepherd had attended and discussed the ordinance.

Encourage attending public workshops. The dates will be posted through social media.

El Dorado Amador Forest Forum - Ken will be speaking January 24th from 5pm-6pm Round Table Pizza on Missouri Flat.

It was noted that even with Firewise status it doesn't mean you are compliant with the defensible space ordinance.

Defensible Space Assessments are the same as the inspections.

OWPR has an insurance tab on their website for fire insurance updates.

4. EDC Fire Chiefs Association – Tim Cordero

No Report

5. EDC FPO Association – Lucas Shepard

No updates

6. ENF – Jacobie Waters/Nickie Johnny

No Report

7. RCD – Mark Egbert

Courtney Jackson is the new Outreach Coordinator and introduced herself on behalf of the RCD.

8. SMUD – Eric Brown

Ongoing fuel reduction on electric transmission corridors since 2019 from El Dorado Hills to Loon Lake. Three remaining parcels along that corridor left to finish. There are over 1,000 parcels that we created fuel breaks along that corridor.

We have been working for 3 ½ years on a FEMA/CAL OES grant for \$5.9M for additional fuel reduction along SMUD's hydro generation assets, Crystal Basin, American River Canyon and along the electric transmission corridor. SMUD executive approved a 5-year plan with a \$35M request to FEMA. The FEMA award is delayed so we initiated work on our own. We resubmitted the application on January 5th to widen that footprint. Most of that work, if we are funded by FEMA/OES, will start in Camino, and make our way east. We will wait because there is no deadline for that award.

A grant application was submitted to CAL FIRE for fuels reduction work in a similar area, which was supported by EDCFSC, RCD, USFS and others. We will wait to hear from CAL FIRE in the spring. If we are awarded the money, it will expand the footprint from Camino east. We have already completed fuels reduction along that corridor, and we would like before and after photos to show how wide the area is.

SMUD is considering applying for the Fire Reduction Community list.
Coordinating with El Dorado County.

9. PG&E – Mike Webb

No report

10. EDSO –Lt Morton

No report

11. BOR – Elizabeth Dyer

They are doing goat grazing in the upper part of north county.

9. Program Reports

a. Grants & Funding/Grants Committee– Tamara Johnston

Submitted four applications. Aim COCO liked concept paper for \$75K for defensible space & volunteer trainings which we should hear soon. Three separate CAL FIRE proposals were submitted for around \$1M each for defensible space, hazardous tree, and chipping.

Other CAL FIRE grants were submitted by other entities EID, USFS.

Camino FSC is working with RCD for a proposal for south of Hwy 50 project through forest health program.

Letters of support for Auburn Lake Trails FSC, EID, SMUD, RCD, El Dorado Amador Prescribed Burn Association were given to these agencies from EDCFSC.

Upcoming grant deadlines that I will be applying for: Women's fund deadline January 31st for \$8k, BLM has infrastructure grant due February 2nd for defensible space, CA FSC has a fuel reduction grant due March 15th.

If any of the FSC's are thinking about a project for EDCFSC to be a fiscal sponsor reach out to me if you need help.

Veterans Association has grants that Tamara will investigate.

David reported Eskaton will get home hardening from the Placerville FSC cannabis grant.

Serrano enforcing ember resistance for new homes in their community.

b. Assistance Programs – Jessica Isabel

- Chipping
- Year to date for 2023-We completed 777 jobs. 1,517 acres were cleared, and 131,932 cubic yards were chipped. We spent \$316,000 in 2023 for chipping.

- Defensible Space Services for Seniors, etc
Year to date for 2023-Out of 341 properties that were assessed 308 were cleared. We spent an average of \$1,112 per parcel. We spent \$336,856 for 2023. We served 88 vets 283 seniors, 100 low income and 18 disabled homeowners for 2023.
- Hazard Tree Removal
229 parcels have been assessed and 23 parcels were completed 633 trees were identified and 41 trees cut. We spent \$111,000.

Mason, Bruce, and Girard have been creating work packages to clear trees out in bulk.

Keep encouraging workdays for chipping.

c. Training – Hugh Council

I have sign-up sheets on the back table. One is for a Field Maps class put on by CAL FIRE on February 27th that is open to people that took the 2-day training last year which is required to take this class. It will give you access to CAL FIRE's web page so you can use the CAL FIRE form on an iPad or iPhone for your assessments and you can submit that, and they will then have it on record. That will give us the ability to get moved up on the list for grants. There is a sign-up sheet for the February 29th workshop for insurance companies and realtors. Ryan Nuttle with Farmers Insurance in Cameron Park will be getting the people together for the class from these two organizations. We are trying to get a representative from the CA Fair Plan as well. In April we will have a 2-day training class for anyone who wants to become assessors.

We will be putting together a list of what workshops will be offered after our monthly meetings. That list will be distributed to see what you are interested in after we finalize the list this month.

d. Outreach & Education –Alice Cantelow

Fire Flash will be out at the end of the month. Ernie had an idea to have a project open to kids like firesafe posters to display at the fair. If anyone would like to work with me let me know. CAL FIRE provided banners that will be available in February or March that we can spread around the county to help with advertising.

Let me know if you are interested in the banners. Possibly have chipping and defensible space posters as well for next fiscal year on July 1st.

e. Governance and New Council Formation & Orientation – Karen Pullin

The last new council was Rescue. Existing councils, if you have questions reach out to me.

10. Project Reports

- a. USFS SOFAR Project–David Zelinsky

Landscape vision group meeting on January 25th 1pm.

- b. EDC Resource Advisory Committee Mtg WRAP (Wildfire Risk Reduction and Asset Protection Project) – David Zelinsky

Wrap United Policy Holders has a Zoom meeting January 23rd at 1pm with the Insurance Commissioner.

- c. County Biomass Working Group – Kris Payne

Black Oak Mine School District received their grant. In discussions about use of 80-acre SPI property on Latrobe Road for biomass operation. Nothing new on SPI Camino property. Grizzly Flats will be bringing in a portable plant to take debris to turn into biomass cogeneration. Sierra Institute in Plumas County has a connection to this project because they have already done this.

11. Community Council Reports

Fort Jim, Sandridge and Rescue FSC have current maps on EDCFSC website under the “Associate Council” tab.

Mike Connelly-Auburn Lake Trails-This is the 19th consecutive year we have received Firewise USA community. We had a kickoff meeting for our chipper grant from CAL FIRE. On Monday, we had 800 goats arrive for fuel reduction. We will have a seminar tomorrow evening and Saturday morning for home hardening.

Alice Cantelow-Oak Hill- Winter workshop tonight wildfire prep 101. We will have a green waste day this Saturday.

Bob Hess- Coloma/Lotus-We have been working on Firewise with the help of other associate councils and this team of people has put together an online risk assessment. The next thing we are working on is the 3-year action plan with help from Richie Galvin. We also got a \$705,000 fuel reduction grant and started work last week. We have 45 road ambassadors who helped get ROEs signed and they are helping the people along the roads where fuel reduction is taking place. We also have a local community who wants to annex into our FSC.

Karen Pullin-Mosquito-We got our renewal for Firewise. We had our treatment plan walk through with RCD with our committee and they determined the area that’s going to be treated with our grant. We got all our ROEs out for our homeowners with the help of the road association.

David Zelinsky-Placerville-Our wildfire safety event will be on March 23 from 9am-3pm at Midtown Mall. On February 22nd at 6pm Dan Bolster from the El Dorado County Transportation Commission will put on a presentation on an evacuation study that will address the impact from fires and where the traffic will be on the roads. The meeting will be in a county building.

Tamara Johnston-Georgetown-There is work being done on approximately 400 acres of BLM land by Shoo Fly Rd in Kelsey for a fuel break that should be finished this winter. Finished an exit route on Traverse Creek Rd. We went through the bid process for a roadside fuel reduction on Marshall Road between Georgetown and Garden Valley which will start in a month. We got a \$5M forest health grant that will be 900-1000 acres and we will start with ROEs in chunks. We are restarting the Garden Valley planning process with a larger community meeting, possibly on March 20th. To present existing conditions and potential roads for fuel breaks and getting community buy in and agreement for participation. We are hoping it will be a test case for communities along the western slope.

12. Public Comment – *Time limit is 3 minutes per person.*

No comments

13. Good of the Order

12:04pm

a. Next EDCFSC Board Meeting – February 21, 2024