



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

February 21, 2024

9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Diamond Springs / El Dorado Firefighters Association Memorial Hall

3734 China Garden Road, Diamond Springs

1. Meeting Call to Order

9:30am

2. Roll Call: Sign In

In Person: Pimlott, Council, Barentson, Pullin, Boal, Ball, Brown, Connelly, Dwyer, Fine, Gilchrest, Johnston, Hess, Lory, Payne, Willis, Zelinsky. Zoom: Hawk, Wynia, Cantelow

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Ken Pimlott

4. Approval of Agenda: 02/21/2024 **Board Action Item**

Approved as presented.

5. Consent Agenda: 01/17/2024 Board Meeting Minutes **Board Action Item**

Approved as presented.

6. New Business

- a. Presentation – Greater Placerville Evacuation Study – Dan Bolster, Transportation Commission

Woody Delory, Executive Director, was present as well.

Dan Bolster's presentation explained that the evacuation study doesn't tell you where to go, it explains critical transportation infrastructure projects necessary to evacuate homeowners and for first responders to get in to fight fires.

This study will be used to apply for federal and state grants to make the improvements mentioned in this study.

b. Bookkeeping Services Proposal Board Action Item

Ken/Janet - We interviewed two vendors. Christina Cavanaugh charges \$58-78/hr for bookkeeping services. Linda Parks charges \$35/hr and she works with nonprofits around the county. She was very interested in working for EDCFSC. Ken recommends hiring Linda Parks for posting to QuickBooks (previously performed by Pat Turner), bookkeeping and check preparation. Pat Turner will continue to prepare annual taxes. Requires budget increase of \$5,500. Janet reported that almost \$600,00 will be available in administrative charges from grants through 2026 to use for operations. Current annual operating costs are approximately \$120,000.

David Zelinsky makes motion to hire bookkeeper 2nd from Karen. Approved to hire bookkeeper Linda Parks.

c. Letter of Support – El Dorado County D-Space Ordinance Board Action Item

Ken presented the Board with a request for letter of support for El Dorado County D-Space Ordinance update. Ken is abstaining from voting due to potential conflict of interest working with the county. Hugh has been representing EDCFSC in working with the county on the defensible space ordinance. He indicated this letter supports updates to the ordinance that has been in place since 1985. County chiefs also wrote a letter of support.

Discussion and comments were heard from associate councils regarding support for this letter. Word correction of “tenant” was made. David made a motion to approve the letter. Letter was approved with the following votes: 16 Aye 3 Abstain 1 Present with comments

7. Old Business

a. Community Wildfire Protection Plan – Tom Meyer (OWPR)

Worked with consultant to finalize scope of work on CWPP. It should be finalized in March to take it to the Board of Supervisors. We are working to identify a list of stakeholders in the CWPP working group to get things moving on the project.

8. Information Items:

a. Chairman’s Report & Communication – Ken Pimlott

Looking forward to putting a visioning committee together. Paul Penn has agreed to lead this committee and will reach out to people to be part of the committee. Let Paul know if you are interested.

b. Vice Chair Report – Hugh Council

This Tuesday there is a full class (30) for Field Maps with people who have taken defensible space training. CAL FIRE will be present as well. There could be more of these classes in the future. April 19 & 20 there will be a two-day defensible space training class with a sign-up sheet on the back table. The state of California is looking at adopting an urban wildland interface code. There will be a meeting today to discuss that.

c. Secretary Report – Karen Pullin

Nothing to report.

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

Treasurer's report approved as presented.

e. Partners Reports:

1. BLM – TBA

No report

2. CAL FIRE – Megan Scheeline/Jeff Hoag

Chief Hoag reported they are coordinating defensible space inspections in the county, and they will be sending letters letting people know when they will be in the area for inspections. We are hiring more personnel for technical assistance. The fire hazard severity zone map was approved by the Office of Administrative Law and will be in effect on April 1st.

Patrick McDaniel –Received 16 wildfire prevention and four health grant applications from Region Office to review.

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

Weber Creek CWPP – Reviewing four proposals to complete environmental review. Anticipate awarding contract in next two weeks.

The current year's defensible space CEAs are wrapping things up. Texas Hill inspections are in process and Outingdale will be April through May. We are hosting an informational workshop in Outingdale on March 5th at Pioneer Park community center from 6p-8p. OWPR defensible space working group identifying CEAs for the coming year. There will be coordinated messaging going out to people in those areas.

Coloma/Lotus is still waiting for Firewise approval.

There was a defensible space ordinance update workshop in Tahoe on February 13th and the next workshop is Thursday, February 29, 2024, at the Cameron Park CSD from 6pm-8pm. There is a dedicated page for the defensible space ordinance update on the OWPR website.

OWPR received notice from BLM in January that they will receive an initial

\$100,000 as part of a total \$10 million grant for defensible space and hazardous fuels reduction. Remaining funds will be contingent upon approval of the federal budget.

Firesafe coordinator grant application period opens tomorrow and closes mid-March. OWPR applying with intent of refilling position.

OWPR is working with County GIS to clean up FSC boundary maps.

4. EDC Fire Chiefs Association – Tim Cordero

Most of the fire districts perform defensible space inspections and will partner with CAL FIRE and OWPR to complete them. Several fire district members are involved with the defensible space ordinance update.

March 23rd we will be at the Placerville FSC event and there will be a sand table demo for the public.

Worked with CAL OES during recent storms to have seven additional engine companies staffed for response and clean up.

5. EDC FPO Association – Lucas Shepard

No report

6. ENF – TBA

No report – Ken indicated that Nicki Johnny moved on to a national management team. Brad Stewart will be representing ENF at our meetings.

7. RCD – Mark Egbert

No report

8. SMUD – Eric Brown

In January and February, we participated in El Dorado Ag in Classroom with arborists and fifth graders from Gold Trail School. American River watershed Fuels road work engaged 1500 parcels. Currently seeking approval from just a few remaining landowners.

9. PG&E – Mike Webb

No report – Ken indicated that he and Tom Meyer met with the PG&E Vegetation Management Program and Mike Webb. Mike is working to get PG&E included in collaboration with EDCFSC.

10. EDSO –Lt Morton

Sheriff OES now has the Perimeter software to assist with evacuation information including real time updates on evacuation orders, road closures, resource locations and other critical details. Lt Morton gave a presentation on the Perimeter website. RAVE is still the emergency alert and warning system. There will still be door to door contact by deputies during evacuations.

11. BOR – Elizabeth Dyer

Expressed gratitude to for today's meeting to help BOR understand who all the partners are. We are working with Mike Connelly on Auburn Lake Trails shaded fuel break. Wildfire services and CCC are on the job as well. We will be doing mastication, and we are working with AEU to get a permit for the burning that will be done. Thanked Patrick McDonald for all his assistance and knowledge. We are also working with Steve Willis and the CCC in Lake Hills on their shaded fuel break to clear the boundary.

9. Program Reports

a. Grants & Funding/Grants Committee– Tamara Johnston

January was a big reporting month for quarterly reports as well as submitting CAL FIRE grant applications.

A grant proposal was submitted to the Women's fund for \$8k for defensible space. We had a pending grant of \$75k for defensible space assistance that was declined. CA FSC grant is due March 15th for \$100,000. Partnering with associate fscs to do small projects for education and outreach for \$2-\$4k. If anyone is interested in this grant reach out to me. If you are thinking about a project talk with me first. Start early to meet with me for assistance.

b. Assistance Programs – Jessica Isabel

- Chipping

YTD 47 jobs completed, cleared 102 acres, chipped 7,751 cubic yards and \$22,817 was spent.

- Defensible Space Services for Seniors, etc.

YTD Cleared 6 parcels and spent \$7,751.10 which served 2 veterans, 6 seniors, 3 were disabled, and 2 were low income.

- Hazard Tree Removal

YTD Assessed 16 new parcels, completed 54 jobs, identified 51 new trees, cut 107 and spent \$124,345.

c. Training – Hugh Council

We have an education group meeting tomorrow in our conference room on Main Street. Elizabeth has arranged for a representative of the insurance commissioner's office to be there. We will work on setting dates for short quarterly workshops.

d. Outreach & Education –Alice Cantelow

Excited about the education grant with Tamara. Ken noted working with Justin Taylor to do videos for EDCFSC on the advantages of becoming a FSC.

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

No report

10. Project Reports

- a. USFS SOFAR Project–David Zelinsky

SOFAR Biomass project has a Zoom meeting Thursday, February 22 at 11am. They also have a panel on lessons learned from catastrophic fires on Zoom at 1pm.

Wednesday, March 13th at 1:30pm there is a Zoom meeting. No link yet.

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

United Policy Holders - There will be a Zoom meeting on Tuesday at 1pm.

County Biomass Working Group – Kris Payne

Greg Stanton, reported to me that the Black Oak Mine School District and Wisewood Energy are exploring PG&E's Micro-Grid Incentive Program (MIP) which provides up to \$18M in funding per project. The county is applying for a USDA rural business development grant next week to fund bio energy development.

David Zelinsky also mentioned he and Kris Payne will be attending a meeting at RCD tomorrow at 2pm with Team Rubicon, a volunteer veteran, disaster recovery team. Also, the Amador El Dorado Forest Forum has an in-person presentation from American Forests on California reforestation on Wednesday evening at 6pm.

11. Community Council Reports

Jeanine Stiles - Greenstone FSC- We have had interest in defensible space assessments since Farmers Insurance is cancelling a lot of policies. Greenstone had 4 more homes assessed. We are planning events for May and sent a newsletter out regarding 4291 and as a result we are getting people interested in the defensible space ordinance.

Kris Payne – Patterson Ranch FSC - Attended a meeting at RCD. Team Rubicon is going to have a project in the Sacramento area for 6 weeks and will have 50 volunteers from Massachusetts Maritime Academy there. It is scheduled for April 21st-May 18th.

Alice Cantelow - Oak Hill FSC – We had 2 winter workshops. Dan Bolster will present the greater Placerville Wildfire Evacuation study. Diamond Springs and Fort Jim will be there tonight. We also had a banner stolen.

Dorothy Fine - Camino FSC – I would like to thank the RCD for putting in an application for Fire Adapted 50 Phase 3. Forest Health Project ties in with OES and the Transportation Commission. We are hoping to get 11 miles cleared. We also received several letters of support from associate fscs and the EDCFSC. Thank you for all the assistance programs.

Ken Mckinstry- Gallagher Road FSC – We will have a project working on an evacuation route.

Julie Wynia - Omo Ranch FSC – Our green waste day will be the first weekend in May. We are also facilitating a 2nd water tank project between a private property owner and the fire district.

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

One public comment. Individual presented opposition to recent commercial cannabis permits and requested signatures on a petition. Provided notice regarding upcoming Board of Supervisor’s meeting March 7th at 1pm for anyone who wants to comment on these permits.

13. Good of the Order

12:09 pm

a. Next EDCFSC Board Meeting – March 20, 2024