



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

March 20, 2024

9:30 am to 12:00

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

1. Meeting Call to Order

9:33 am

2. Roll Call: Sign In

In Person: Barentson, Boal, Brown, Cantelow, Council, Fine, Gilcrest, Johnston, Lory, Payne, Pimlott, Pullin, Willis, Zelinsky - Zoom: Ball, Connelly, Hawk, Hess

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Pimlott

4. Approval of Agenda: 03/20/2024 **Board Action Item**

Approved - no opposition.

5. Consent Agenda: 02/21/2024 Board Meeting Minutes **Board Action Item**

Approved as presented.

6. New Business

- a. Strategic Planning Task Group - Evaluate current and future mission, organization, and scope – Ken Pimlott

Paul Penn will be leading this task group. Draft task group work plan is included in the board packet. Paul has reached out to the people that contacted him to be a

part of this group. He is hoping to report back by May or June on what the group has discussed.

7. Old Business

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

The Board of Supervisors scheduled to approve contract with Jensen Hughes on April 2. Kickoff meeting with the CWPP working group scheduled for April 25th. Ken encouraged associate FSCs to meet and gather project ideas ahead of the public workshops that will be scheduled at a future date. Tamara emphasized the importance of the CWPP and noted that all grants are asking if our proposals are included in a CWPP. Conversations related to the origination of the CWPP and how it works as well as the future of what this plan will do.

8. Information Items:

a. Chairman's Report & Communication – Ken Pimlott

Justin Taylor, Inside Out Photography, has made videos to advertise the EDCFSC. Three draft videos were presented at the meeting. The county is interested in videos as well. We've added money for future videos to the grant proposals.

b. Vice Chair Report – Hugh Council

February 27th was the field maps training. We had 13 people from CAL FIRE participate and assist. The assessors need to do their assessments and put them in field maps. The numbers are important to report to Carri so we can use this data in the future. Defensible space training is scheduled for April 19th & 20th at Diamond Springs Firefighter Hall. Over 30 people have signed up so far. The goal is to get at least two assessors in every FSC. Alice & Kit Veerkamp are doing a fire-resistant landscaping workshop after the April 17th FSC meeting from 1pm-3pm. The training and education committee has a meeting tomorrow to finalize their schedule by our April 19th & 20th classes. We plan to have a workshop for insurance folks and realtors after the defensible space ordinance is adopted by the county. I continue to attend regular working groups and other partner meetings.

c. Secretary Report – Karen Pullin

FSC renewals are due in June. At the end of April, FSC chairs will get forms to submit so I can get information to the insurance company. Reach out to me with any questions. There was also a reminder about the number of meetings FSCs are supposed to hold a year.

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

Large invoices have been billed to CAL FIRE. 180k has already come back to us. Going to submit an invoice to CA FSC for D-Space grant which expires in December. Linda Parks has accepted our offer to serve as our part-time bookkeeper. Currently processing an agreement with her. We will transfer Pat Turner's workload to her with the exception of income tax preparation. I will remain the primary point of contact for submitting invoices, answering questions and banking.

Treasurer's Report - Approved as presented with no opposition.

e. Partners Reports:

1. BLM – TBA

No report

2. CAL FIRE – Megan Scheeline/Jeff Hoag

No report

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

Weber Creek project environmental review consultant selected and finalizing scope of work. Once review is completed, assessments for defensible space and home hardening can begin on parcels that have been approved. County Emphasis Areas (CEA) - the last workshop was on March 5th in Outingdale which was very well attended with inspections April-May with EDH Fire conducting. Working with CAL FIRE on joint messaging of defensible space areas. Postcards will go out with the information and will direct the public to our website for more information. Once the defensible space ordinance is approved CAL FIRE will inspect properties in line with the county's ordinance.

Defensible space ordinance update: Three public workshops were conducted explaining the ordinance and updates. A thorough list of public comments has been taken to the defensible space working group for feedback. Ordinance updates with revisions will be brought to the Board of Supervisors in April or early May. BLM grant was revised, and an outline of the grant was noted with all the particulars of what it will cover. It is a 10M grant with a 5-year term. Submitted grant for coordinator position to CA FSC which will be awarded mid-April.

EDC Fire Chiefs Association – Tim Cordero

Doing annual training. Working with the County and CAL FIRE on inspections to help increase numbers. Noted they will be at the Placerville FSC event at midtown mall this Saturday.

4. EDC FPO Association – Lucas Shepard

No report

5. ENF – Jacobie Waters

Seasonal fire fighter training is happening now. 3900 acres of large piles were burned. Trying to contact homeowners adjacent to forest service land to eliminate fuel in WUI areas.

6. RCD – Courtney Jackson

Assisting FSCs on grant proposals. Hoping to start south county soon and projects on divide. Will support Placerville event this Saturday and will be attending the career fair at Markham School.

7. SMUD – Eric Brown

Sponsoring Ag in the classroom. The last two events were at Blodgett with 90 5th graders at the two events and we shared with kids what we do. Fuels reduction on electric transmission corridor north along Hwy 50. Working outside easement and working with homeowners with herbicide treatment. 1500 landowners have signed up. USFS Region 5 forester visit planned at Crystal Basin. Working with BLM on June 6. Working with region 6 N. California, Oregon and WA to help them succeed with fuel reduction. Sent information to the chair and vice chair of EDCFSC with a plan with emerging activities with several government agencies.

8. PG&E – Mike Webb

Ken on behalf of Mike - Engaged with PG&E fuels program and upper management to identify cooperative projects.

9. EDSO –SGT Schlage

At OES we are still working on the hazard mitigation plan for the June deadline. Perimeter is up and running working on social media push to get information out there. The state is pushing RAVE to be primary source of evacuation information. RAVE is adding new technology relating to cell phones to the program to make evacuation easier in the future. On May 18th there will be an exercise off Crystal Blvd and then a town hall meeting at Union Mine High School.

10. BOR – Elizabeth Dyer

No report

9. Program Reports

a. Grants & Funding/Grants Committee– Tamara Johnston

Getting California FSC proposal completed. Includes projects from 12 associate FSCs. Women’s Fund declined our D-Space grant proposal. Coordinating with Team Rubicon to do defensible space to provide pro bono work for our defensible space program which would open more opportunities for residents to get help. Scheduled to work between April 19th -May 21st. The team will be staying at the Somerset Grange while they are working around Grizzly Flats and Somerset.

b. Assistance Programs – Jessica Isabel

- Chipping-YTD
57 completed jobs, 124 acres cleared which is about 8,924 cubic yards chipped and \$27,106 spent ytd.
- Defensible Space Services for Seniors, etc
This program has 60 pending jobs until we get more funding, but we are still taking applications.
- Hazard Tree Removal-YTD
- 38 parcels assessed, 84 jobs completed, 98 new trees identified, cut 179 trees, \$212,119 spent ytd.

If you are planning community chipping events, please contact me with a date. Make sure you have a place for the chipper. Have applications filled out before you start. It’s advised to plan one month before the event starts.

Green waste days – It’s advised to contact me for the chipping contractor because you will get a better rate and I’ll arrange it within your budget. Green waste days were explained to councils.

c. Training – Hugh Council

No additional information

d. Outreach & Education –Alice Cantelow

Kit Veerkamp, retired landscape architect, is helping with the workshop after next month’s board meeting. We will be at the Placerville FSC event Saturday, and we need more help. Had about 15 responses by FSCs regarding the demo house which shows home hardening. This house would be available to FSCs to use for their events. We are hoping to get grant money to build the house. Home and Garden event needs volunteers to organize the event along with the Kids Expo as I can’t do it this year. Reminded everyone of all the materials in our storage room.

Hugh noted that the landscape workshop coming after the April meeting is good to attend because the information will help with defensible space assessments.

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

No report

10. Project Reports

- a. USFS SOFAR Project–David Zelinsky
South Fork American River had National Forest meeting. April 25th at 11 am biomass Zoom meeting then 1pm landscape vision meeting.
- b. EDC Resource Advisory Committee Mtg WRAP (Wildfire Risk Reduction and Asset Protection Project) – David Zelinsky

Resource Advisory committee hasn't met for about a year because the US Secretary of Agriculture must sign piece of paper to authorize nominees on the committee and that hasn't been signed. Paul Gilchrest noted Congressman McClintock and US State Senators can help. United policy holders are pushing the 0-5 feet landscape within structures.

- c. County Biomass Working Group – Kris Payne
Greg Stanton working on behalf of El Dorado County reported the USDA Rural Business Development grant application was submitted last month. If awarded the grant will fund a contract with Eco Strat to conduct a Bio economy development opportunity zone evaluation of El Dorado County. We should know if our county gets the grant by mid-summer. Mote hydro project is still viable - freight rail line needs upgrading. The Grizzly flats project should happen. Controversy on social media regarding biomass projects. Ernie had noted Grizzly Flats doesn't want a sawmill in their community. Kris noted it's portable not permanent.

11. Community Council Reports

Tamara Johnston-Georgetown FSC–Garden Valley fuel treatment projects planning meeting is tonight from 6:30pm-8pm at Marshal Grange to talk about potential projects for Garden Valley area.

David Zelinsky-Placerville FSC–Noted his FSC will be at the Placerville event at the midtown mall this Saturday.

Alice Cantelow-Oak Hill FSC-We had our Annual Community Day thanked Gary Boal and Bob Hess for radio people. OES was there to talk about Perimeter. Sierra Wildlife also came. Noted successes of what they presented.

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

Kris noted there will be a meeting Monday at 7:30am at Placerville Denny's Taxpayers Association of El Dorado County will also be on Zoom. Mary Beth Bykowski, analyst and outreach person, from CA Dept. of Insurance will speak on insurance.

Ken Rogers-Logtown FSC–working with OES & CERA on getting evacuation routes.

13. Good of the Order

11:34am

- a. Next EDCFSC Board Meeting – April 17, 2024