

"Public Safety from Wildland Fire through Evacuation, Education and Defensible Space"

Pollock Pines-Camino Fire Safe Council

Meeting Notes

July 26, 2014

Handouts

Fire Safe Council descriptions of board officers

Pollock Pines Fire Safe Council Mission and packet from previous PPFSC dated as early as January 2007.

Sly Park Hills Area Fire Safe Council packet – dated 2011

Communication And Inclusion Aides:

Sign in sheet to include email address

Large map to circle "homes" in attendance

Large graph on FSC Vision – Name of neighborhoods

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 by Heather Campbell. There were 40 people in attendance by the end of the meeting.
 - a. Before the meeting got underway, Jeanne Harper made an announcement about the Sand Fire and the food collection to be delivered to the Fairgrounds and the evacuees. Heather and Jeanne stated they were going to interview some of the evacuees to get relevant information for our community with regard to what seemed to work and what needs to be improved when people first know they have to leave their homes.
 - b. We voted to continue the Pollock Pines tradition of reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at the start of each meeting.
2. The guest speaker, Steve Willis, from the EDCFSC, did not speak until 10:35 after all of the voting for officers, etc. was done.
3. Business items - the following items were voted on by the whole body (entire audience):
 - a. Location of future meetings – Pollock Pines-Camino Community Center. Everyone who attends the meetings will be asked to contribute \$1 to offset the cost of rent for the room. Any overages will be used for administrative costs, such as printing, paper, or supplies.
 - b. Meetings will be held the third Wednesday of every month from 7 – 9 pm. The next meeting will be August 20.
 - c. The formal name for the committee/group will be the Pollock Pines-Camino Fire Safe Council. One member from Camino asked for a ruling on the inclusion of Camino. It was generally felt by those who spoke that the inclusion of Camino would aid in sharing information, and at the same time the group could still be flexible enough to allow individual, smaller neighborhoods from either community to perform the kinds of activities and projects particular to that neighborhood. The direct wildfire incident threats to the community of Pollock Pines also directly affect the community of Camino. Both communities are recognized in the Federal Register as a Community At Risk (CAR). This designation will help us compete for grants after the CWPP is completed. The fire break portion of the CWPP is expected to include the fire threats coming out of the American River Canyon, Randolph Canyon, and Weber Creek. Each of these potential fire events equally threatens Camino; therefore the FSC supports including

Camino in the FSC at this time. Our goal as a Fire Safe Council is to initially include Camino with the intent to help this community organize and form their own Fire Safe Council eventually. Kim Henry is resident of the Camino who volunteered to become a PPCFSC board member.

4. Board and Manager Nominations: The following seven Board Positions and candidates were nominated and approved by general consensus of the body.
 - a. Chair – Heather Campbell
 - b. Vice-Chair – Jeanne Harper
 - c. Secretary – Jay Chopp
 - d. Treasurer – Maureen Julian
 - e. Parliamentarian – Craig Jones
 - f. Community Organization Officer (to work with Vice-Chair) – Kim Henry
 - g. CWPP Officer – Dennis Cullen
5. Guest Speaker, Steve Willis, gave an accounting of what a fire safe council needs to do. Included were the following items:
 - a. There needs to be a common topography.
 - b. All legal action takes place around the insurance; damage and injury
 - i. Does the PPCFSC want to be a satellite – under the auspices and direction of the EDCFSC until such time as it can afford its own insurance? The vote was YES.
 - ii. The alternate is to become an affiliate, which means that the FSC becomes its own entity with its own 501 status and insurance. A couple of examples are Auburn Lake and Lakeview Estates in El Dorado Hills.
 - c. Our mission statement (above) looks good. Steve recommended that we read the EDCFSC mission statement, too. The group considered two versions of the Mission Statement:
 - i. Saving Lives from Wildland Fire through Evacuation, Education and Defensible Space; or
 - ii. Public Safety from Wildland Fire through Evacuation, Education and Defensible Space.
The majority approved “Public Safety from Wildland Fire through Evacuation, Education, and Defensible Space”.
 - d. The EDCFSC requires any FSC to appoint a member to also be on the EDCFSC board. Heather is already on the EDCFSC board, so no action is required at this time. The EDCFSC board elections occur annually; at that time, the PPCFSC can apply to have more representatives.
 - e. All events and projects need to be approved the EDCFSC because it goes back to the insurance.
 - f. Communication is critical! All FSCs need to get all information out to as many people as possible. Use all forms of communication including email, Facebook and other social media, fliers, phone calls, and US mail if it can be afforded.
 - i. We need to decide exactly how we will communicate with our constituents. What will be our formal method of communication?
 - g. There is Title III funding for FSC education as a reimbursement (for mailing costs, for example). The EDCFSC is working on getting that funding.
 - h. There are a few grant funds available – CCC, SRA, PG & E. A rapid response to RFPs is usually needs-based, so it is important to have all generic information available and ready to be used.
 - i. CWPP projects need to be very detailed.
 - j. EVERY resident needs to be cleaning up their own property and possibly even the property next door to be fully defensible. The FSC needs to find a way to reach out to those hard to reach folks who won't or can't keep their property fire safe.

- k. One gentleman suggested that we work with the Sheriff to declare our area in a state of emergency and open up the land so that it can be managed properly.
- l. Every quarter there is a round table meeting of all of the district fire safe councils. Included is private industry, PG & E, SMUD, fire agencies, Sierra Pacific Industries, etc. PPCFSC should plan to attend.
- m. We need to focus on ALL of the goals of the EDCFSC and then complete them one at a time in order to get them completed well. This process will potentially take about a year.
- n. All EDCFSC meetings are open to the public; Heather will be informed.
- o. Steve shared the “Ember Beware” brochure out of Nevada and indicated why embers are such a critical concern in all fires. The copy was left with Heather.

6. Updates:

- a. There has been no response yet to the CalTrans letter sent by Heather a month ago.
- b. Ways to get our evacuation message out to the public:
 - i. Heather had a booth at the 4th of July event at the PPCCC. The craft booths and the FSC booth were located at the Community Center, which was not well attended by the public during the day. However, the evening activities there were very popular. Next year, if we sponsor a PPCFSC booth, Heather recommends changing the hours to start after 4 pm and end by 7 pm.
 - ii. A suggestion was made to put up Heather’s booth at the PPCCC Taco Night.
 - iii. Neighborhood fliers: Heather had 10 teams passing out fliers from door to door in the Forebay area and has a few more fliers that can still be passed out.
 - iv. Sierra Pines Mobile Home Park: Lisa Butler is the contact person for that mobile home park.
- c. Chipping Program delay – when there is more money, there will be more chipping available. It will be free.
 - i. There are dumpsters available, up to six a year.
 - ii. A community can do a clean-up day and have two continual green waste containers available, up to six....or
 - iii. Can have them located at various locations within the FSC boundary, again up to six per year.
 - iv. The community needs to maintain the dumpsters.

7. National Night Out – Dee and Don Clowser volunteered to put up and be present at Heather’s FSC booth since Heather will not be in town.

8. For the good of the whole –

- a. Tom Schulz spoke about the importance of sustainability within our new council. Craig Jones and Tom gave kudos to both EID and OES for taking care of some of the issues in Sly Park Hills development.
- b. Dennis Cullen gave an update on the Sand Fire, having been involved since the fire started at 4:30 PM the day before. He stated that within 15 minutes of the first sifting of fire, the first evacuation calls were coming in. The EOC and OES were involved within the first half hour. Within 45 minutes there were 50 engines involved. The message being given to everyone that called in was, “If you are uncomfortable staying, leave! Otherwise you can wait for the reverse 911 call or other form of communication.”

9. The EDCFSC Associate Council Application was completed by Heather during the meeting. The application includes the following:
- a. the name of our council: PPCFSC;
 - b. Officers: seven in all;
 - c. number of active members: 40-50;
 - d. meeting schedule and location: third Wednesday evening of each month at the Community Center;
 - e. association status: satellite;
 - f. financial information: N/A at this time;
 - g. fundraising activities: to be determined; and
 - h. proposed projects: to be determined; however, expected focus on evacuation, fuels reduction, public education to increase awareness, parcel defensible space, and shaded fuel treatments through CWPP.

EDCFSC board member in attendance, Steve Willis, will deliver the Associate Council Application to the EDCFSC to be voted on at the August 26 board meeting. No objections or concerns are anticipated.

Respectfully submitted,
Jay Chopp and Jeanne Harper
August 20, 2014