



El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

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

Board of Directors Meeting
April 28, 2015, 9:30 am
USFS Headquarters, 100 Forni Road, Placerville
Minutes

1. Meeting Call to Order: 9:34 am, Pat Dwyer, Chairperson
2. Roll Call & Sign In: Pat Dwyer, Ken Hasse, Ernie Lory, Steve Willis, Bruce Dickson, Heather Campbell, Jim Stewart present. Members absent: Bill Brandt, Dylan Thomas, Ray Griffiths and Richard Krek.
3. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was modified to include item 7.f. Home Show After Action Report, item 11.h. EDCFSC logo, shirts, hats, etc., and item 11.i. BOS appendix M – project description and template. Bruce Dickson moved that the minutes be approved as amended, Ernie Lory second. Motion passed unanimously.
4. Consent Agenda: Ernie Lory moved that both the March Board and General Meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Ken Hasse second. Motion passed unanimously.
5. Public Comment :
 - a. Kathy Smith – Kathy is concerned about the Forest Service's plan for the restoration of the King Fire area. The vast majority of respondents to the USFS's request for public comment supported less clearing. She's asking us to push for Alternative 4, which provides for the maximum amount of clearing. Chairman Dwyer indicated that we support her request and offered to prepare a letter to Randy Moore, with a cc: to Laurence Crabtree. Jim Stewart moved that we do so, and Ernie Lory second. Ken Hasse abstained, asserting that this may have the appearance of lobbying, which is prohibited when using Federal funds. It was agreed that Chairman Dwyer would draft a letter and send it to the board for approval.
 - b. Cecil Ringgenberg – Cecil again referenced the King Fire Declaration of Emergency (see March 24, 2015 minutes) and reiterated his frustration that the Forest Service has no plans to thin the forest around private property. He spoke with supervisor Ranalli who suggested a letter from the BOS to the Forest Service directing action. Apparently such an action was successful in New Mexico. He requested our support for this effort, but

this is clearly beyond our purview. Additionally, Heather Campbell is familiar with the New Mexico situation and stated that scenario varied significantly from what Cecil is attempting to accomplish.

6. Special Presentation: Chairman Dwyer explained that Jodi Martin, the new Clerk of the Board, was unable to attend today's meeting because she was called for jury duty. He then presented Christine Swenson with a plaque and thanked her for her service over the last year and a half.
7. Information Items:
 - a. Correspondence – Gold Ridge Forest property owners sent a letter saying they are declining to participate in the green waste program this year because it is too restrictive.
 - b. SMUD Award – SMUD has donated \$15,000 to our cause, \$1,000 of which has been transferred to Pollock Pines FSC for their Community Wildfire Awareness Day May 2, 2015. SMUD has additionally offered an on-going commitment of \$5,000 per year for three years.
 - c. PG&E Grant Offer – PG&E has offered \$75,000 for shovel-ready projects that can be completed by September 30, 2015. Chairman Dwyer's suggestion was that we use it for Wentworth Springs Road. He also cited some other projects that could use any additional funding that may come our way: the Chipper Program (\$30,000), Lakehills (\$48,000) to clear around PG&E transformers, and Logtown 10 (\$67,000). One of the requirements for PG&E funding is that PG&E must have assets within 1,000 feet of the proposed work.
 - d. PG&E Fire Season Kickoff – We were invited to attend PG&E's internal Fire Season Kickoff meeting. Steve Willis represented EDCFSC on a panel including Joanne Drummond, Sheryl Miller, and Bob Bartholomew. Steve indicated it was a very interesting meeting, and one of the highlights was a discussion on PG&E's new LiDAR capability, which is a remote sensing technology that uses radar. With LiDAR, they will be able to tell which trees need trimming before ever arriving on the site. It can also be used to identify if insulation is failing, if transformers are failing, and many other applications.
 - e. Seniors Spaghetti Feed – The FOS Spaghetti Feed was very successful again this year, making approximately \$5,000 which will be used as an emergency fund for seniors. Thanks to Ernie Lory for getting us organized and Steve and Peg Willis, Pat Dwyer and Dave Crespo (SMUD) for volunteering.
 - f. Home Show After Action Report – While the Home Show received good support from the fire agencies, it was not well attended by the public. Chairman Dwyer intends to send a thank-you note to CAL FIRE, USFS and County Fire for their support. Steve Hupner suggested, for future events, having a computer system available so that we could show aerial photos of individual's properties, to provide an off-the-cuff analysis of what actions they might take to make their property more fire safe.

8. Program Reports:

- a. Chipper, Dumpster – Ken Hasse reported that the chipper program is on hold, awaiting additional funding from USFS. There are currently approximately 40 requests in line, and we are not accepting any new requests until funding is received. The program is currently \$20,000 in the red, with a \$10,000 backlog. Jodi Martin will be instructed to send emails to those whose requests are being held, letting them know that they can either wait until we receive funding, or take action on their own. Chairman Dwyer reported that we have served 5 communities with green waste containers, and that the reported match labor/funding well exceeds our requirements. There are two communities desiring green waste containers, but they are currently on hold until we receive additional funds from USFS.
- b. Senior Assistance – Ernie Lory reported that there are eight active projects, one of which is being done by Holy Trinity Church.
- c. GF Fuel Reduction Projects – Steve Hupner reported that for GF 9, Ph. II, they used the CCC for roadside fuel treatment. They had to end early due to a snowstorm, but the crew was back out yesterday to finish up. Due to some earlier savings, there may be some remaining funds, and if so, CCC will be asked to come and do some additional work to spend all of the funding. GF 12 will be ready as soon as the CEQA document is complete. They intend to use Growlersburg crews for this project. Steve indicated he'd send a draft of the mastication contract to Chairman Dwyer for approval prior to going out for bid. GF 12 is waiting for \$75,000 in funding from USFS.

9. Treasurer's Report:

- a. Financial Reports - Ken Hasse reported that we have \$171,754 in the master account. Due to the requirements placed on the SRA funds, he'll have to set up a new sub-account for that money, as it must be in an interest bearing account. Setting up that account, however, requires a \$10,000 minimum balance, so that amount will be moved from our Title III money into the new account, leaving the Title III balance at \$86,576 (after the transfer/loan). Year-to-date we've spent 19% from our overhead budget. Ken reported that the audit of FY 2013/2014 is in progress. Initial documents were sent a month ago, but more documents are needed. The auditor has requested a meeting with Ken, Chairman Dwyer and Steve Willis prior to the end of next week.
- b. Funding Status – Still awaiting funding from the Clearinghouse.

10. Governance Committee Report:

- a. Nominating Committee – Bruce Dickson volunteered to be on the nominating committee.
- b. Candidate search – Steve Willis has the list of incumbent candidate and three potentials, along with a list of potential agencies.

11. New Business:

- a. Ratify “Authority to Sign” Resolutions for SRA Grants CWPP and PP-1 – Chairman Dwyer had signed the aforementioned resolutions after sending an email and receiving seven approvals and three non-responses. Jim Stewart moved that we ratify the signature, and Steve Willis second the motion to ratify. Approval was unanimous and the ratification passed.
- b. Appoint Nominating Committee – taken care of earlier.
- c. 2015 Event Schedule Education and Outreach –
 - i. Community Wildfire Preparedness Day, May 2 – This event, in Pollock Pines, is scheduled for this Saturday. Heather Campbell has worked hard for this event, and has great displays that other council FSCs are welcome to use. She encouraged everyone to come check it out. She also reported that she’s received \$2,600 in donations, and is very happy with the participations she’s received. The event is from 11:00am until 3:00pm.
 - ii. Logtown School Poster Contest – Chairman Dwyer reported that the poster contest has been cancelled as it received no support from the schools.
 - iii. Availability of printed material, give away items – Tom Tinsley, CAL FIRE, has been very accommodating in providing brochures, etc. He asked that we let him know which items are the most popular, and they’ll buy more of those.
- d. SRA Grant Status –
 - i. Weber Creek – The kick-off meeting for the Pollock Pines Weber Creek project will be on May 11th at 11:30 at the Sportsman Hall.
 - ii. CWCWPP – The first meeting for the County Wide CWPP will be held May 18th, 9:00 am at the Diamond Springs Fire Station 49.
- e. USFS Grant Submission – Chairman Dwyer submitted a \$150,000 grant request for the Chipping and Dumpster program.
- f. WUI Grants – not discussed
- g. Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Opportunity – Chairman Dwyer reminded everyone to be thinking about application submissions for the \$25M in grant money being offered by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. In this particular case, they will be accepting submissions both for planning efforts as well as construction efforts.
- h. Logos, Shirts, Hats, etc. – Ernie Lory suggested we come up with our own “brand”, and that we purchase items for giveaways.
- i. BOS Appendix M – Steve Willis will update appendix M to include a standardized format to be included in each CWPP.

12. Board Member/Associate Reports –

- a. Bruce Dickson asked for clarification on the method used to determine which neighborhoods CAL FIRE plans on inspecting. Tom Tinsley responded that the Battalion Chiefs make those decisions based on personal knowledge of the fire risk within their areas. Bruce also announced a fund raiser to be held at the Pleasant Valley Grange on May 3rd.

- b. Ernie Lory stated that GFFSC wants to send a letter, in cooperation with the EDCFSC, to Supervisor Shiva addressing the proposed hazardous vegetation abatement ordinance. Ernie was willing to actually help draft the ordinance, but the discussion that followed revealed that it is probably better to just offer our support and let the BOS come up with the actual verbiage. Chairman Dwyer said he would send a letter indicating our support of the concept. Ernie also reported that their Table-Top Drill went very well; everyone except AT&T participated. He also mentioned their annual Barbeque scheduled for July 18th.
- c. Ken Hasse reported that Logtown is working on a small fuel break project, part of LT 9, and almost all but the environmental report has been submitted to CCC. It covers about twenty acres.
- d. Steve Willis said Lakehills will be holding a Firewise event on May 17th. Their shaded fuel break project is complete, and included 34 ½ acres.

13. Good of the order: Meeting adjourned at 12:29 pm.

Jodi Martin, Clerk to the Board
Approved May 26, 2015