El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

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

General (Stakeholders) Meeting
March 25, 2014, 11:00 am
USFS Headquarters, 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA
"Draft Minutes"

1. Meeting Call to Order: 11:19 am, Pat Dwyer, Chairperson

2. Public Comment: Pat Dwyer gave a brief overview of the Council's activities, including the $200,000 grant we've been awarded, public outreach and education efforts and progress on the Georgetown and Lakehills CWPPs. Ken Hasse described the Logtown 10 project, which is providing a 200–300 foot wide fuel break along Monitor Rd. This project ends March 31st, and due to contractor and weather issues resulting in a late start, won't accomplish all that was hoped for. Steve Willis then talked about the Lake Hills Shaded Fuel Break project near the Folsom Lake Recreation Area. The Bureau of Reclamation is the sponsor and the California Conservation Corps is doing the work.   Work on this project stopped March first due to environmental issues (nesting season).   This is only phase 1 of a 7 phase effort. Steve Hupner reviewed two upcoming projects in the Grizzly Flats area, GF 9 and GF 12. GF 9 is funded with $62,000 from the USFS and consists of clearing 50 feet on either side the primary evacuation route.   A grant for GF 12 was recently awarded at just under $100,000 by the California Fire Safe Council Clearing House and will consist of 70 acres of fuel reduction on the southern end of the community where it abuts the National forest. Part of the work-in-kind for this project will be accomplished by Cal-Fire inmate crews.   Steve explained how partnering with the Cal-Fire inmate program allowed them to actually get this grant.

3. Agency Updates:
    a. PG&E – Jeff Mussel described a safety video about working around power lines that PG&E has prepared. EDCFSC may try to add it to their website.   He asked that we bring to their attention any issues regarding power lines. They're acutely aware of the increased fire risk this year and are going above and beyond usual to eliminate potential fire risks. He mentioned the potential of partnering with us, wherein their efforts could count as work-in-kind.   Brandon Covert, a PG&E contractor, went on to report that they are ramping up their tree-trimming this year, again due to drought and increased fire risk. He explained that though they trim the trees, they don't remove them so perhaps our chipping program could complement their efforts.

b. SMUD – Dave Crespo discussed the Iowa Hill fire fuel reduction effort. He also mentioned the low income housing firewood ministry within El Dorado County, which provides firewood to low income families. Their volunteers may be a source of labor to remove downed trees. He also mentioned a future project at Sly Park. SMUD too has a video – the importance of fuels reduction. Erica Manuel is their Community Outreach Coordinator and indicated she looks forward to working with us.

c. USFS – Jim Dwight from El Dorado National Forest said that they're currently working on hiring fire crews and strategizing future projects which could complement the CWPPS. He expressed an interest in knowing about all of our CWPPs, both current and proposed. He also told us about the horrible beetle kill that Colorado has been experiencing for 15 years, and which is just really getting started here.

d. CAL Fire – Darrin McFarland said that they will be hiring 35 firefighters on April 1st. We discussed defensible space inspections. He doesn't want to duplicate our efforts, but our inspectors really don't have any pull when it comes to getting people to clean up their property, so we need to work with Cal Fire on that issue. He said that he'd forward our concerns to Chief Webb.

4. Announcements: Chairman Dwyer stated that he hopes to expand the number of stakeholders during this next quarter.

5. Good of the Order: Meeting adjourned at 12:24.