



El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

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

Board Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2020

9:30 am to 11:30 Remote WebEx Business Meeting

1. Meeting Call to Order

2. Roll Call: Sign In

Jeff Tolson, Pat Dwyer, Bruce Dickson, Ernie Lory, Steve Willis, Kris Payne, Kay Campbell, Deborah Kruse, Joe Atencio, Tamara Johnston, David Zelinsky, Paul Gilchrest attending. Also attending: Linda Azevedo, Tim Kordes, John Hess, Sherry Hawk, Ken McKinstry, Chief Ken Earle, Supervisor Brian Veerkamp, Michael Connelly, Paul Penn

3. Approval of Agenda: 5/20/20 Board Action Item

Approved – by absence of objection

4. Consent Agenda: 4/15/20 Board Meeting Minutes Board Action Item

Approved – by absence of objection

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

Tim Kordes (Texas Hill) – Firewise documents submitted & waiting to hear back

6. Information Items:

a. Chairman's Report & Communication

-Usual Fire Chiefs and Fire Prevention Officers meeting cancelled – no updates

-Executive Board met: many compliance renewals in 2nd quarter: Website Domains, Dun & Bradstreet, Government Registrations, etc.

-Three EDC Vegetation Mgmt. Ordinance Webinars held: 1 webinar for Fire Safe Councils, 1 for Public and 1 for Quarterly Collaborators. All sessions were well attended. The complaint form will be available June 1st. Refer questions & people to County's website (FAQ, general information, resources). From Collaborator session, it was reported that PG&E is planning to treat 126,000 trees: 85,000 to be removed and remainder to be trimmed.

-Reminder about EDCFSC Defensible Space Programs for Senior/Vets/Low Income households: work applies to the first 30 feet around residences only. It was temporarily expanded and is now reset to the original 30 ft. requirement.

-Note to all FSC – review the website. It is important to keep your council's contact information updated

-If any Councils have extra CFSC Home Hardening and Defensible Space brochures, please return. Extra brochures were requested from CFSC.

b. Vice Chair Report – no report

7. Treasurer's Report: Maureen **Board Action Item**

a. Operations

80% through fiscal year; 81% of budget. Thin budget as there's only \$30,000 to manage \$3,000,000 in grants. 1% for Operations

b. Grant Funding Status (Projects Report)

- Change: see 12e for Project Opportunities
- Maureen unable to attend but says all are looking good.
- In contact with SMUD for Seniors & Vets (\$15,000)
- Women's Fund was awarded (not yet received)
- In the red on Logtown 10 Project, but under control

Approved – by absence of objection

8. Old Business

a. Nominations + Officer Transition Committee – Status

1. 2020-2021 Ballot submitted.
2. Board Changes.- Incumbents Maureen & Jim are on ballot. New blood welcomed and appreciated: Sherry Hawk, Michael Connelly, John Hess and Connell Persico. Chair and Vice Chair positions need volunteers
3. Officer election in June. Tamara will or has called members to consider the opportunity to be on the Board. Deborah spoke to the roster and to encourage volunteering for committees

b. 4291 Training June 15th.

Set up for 2 sessions: 3-5 pm and 6-8 pm. To be held in BOS hearing room. Look for updates as current protocols continue.

9. New Business

a. Strategic Goals 2020-2021

One goal is to bring all the scattered information and documents to a common EDCFSC site. Will probably use MS Office / Cloud for repository. The project will take an entire year to collect records from many local computers.

All FSC are encouraged to think of other strategic goals and share their ideas.

Kris Payne – use of website & social media to share important communication with community

10. Program Reports

a. Chipping – Jodi / Pat

1. Community Chipping Events review

-Chipping closed to all new applications. E Board made the difficult call as 90% of grant funding has been spent in half the expected timeframe. 110 jobs in the queue. Chipping Program offline. Per Jodi, there were 103 jobs completed in April and May's on track to complete 155. Pat reports that new funding is being chased. The level of activity has far exceeded the grant applications from 2 years ago. Based on history (20 jobs/month) but currently at much higher rate. Factors are the Insurance, EDC Vegetation Management Ordinance and Covid-19 stay at home protocols.

Q. Tamara asked if EDCFSC would consider cost sharing to make funding last longer? A. Pat responded that it has been considered. Nevada Co. was modeled that way. It would be an accounting nightmare which makes relying 100% on grant funding preferred.

383 jobs in 2018
922 jobs in 2019
2020 on track to be similar to 2019

Looking for funding. Upon sending notice to Stakeholders:

Cal Fire called immediately, started looking for extra money. However, no funds were found.

Rebecca Darrah with PG&E called to ensure EDCFSC had applied. That action was confirmed.

Supervisor Veerkamp called.

Mark Egbert with RCD called.

Ryan Aeby from BLM, Motherlode Office, called and will send paperwork for EDCFSC to become Good Neighbor Partner. They have \$10,000.

David Zelinsky reminded of the nearing deadline for ED Community TOT funds. Ernie Lory has applied for Senior/Vets.

Kris Payne wondered the average cost for the Chipping Program. Pat answered the averages are: 278 cu. yds. per job (material prior to chipping); 4 hours of chipping required per job; \$390 per job.

Sherry Hawk: Shout out to Jodi for help & support for Gold Ridge Forest's planned chipping event. Many people participating.

b. Dumpster Program 2020

Pat – hold on free dumpster program. 4 communities scheduled a clean-up day and were included in the budget, but many communities have cancelled due to Covid-19. The current model for dumpsters is financed by \$2000 of Title III money: Each FSC will pay \$150/dumpster in advance. EDCFSC will match that \$150. EDD will discount their usual rate. Gold Ridge Forest and Auburn Lake Trails considering.

c. Senior, Veterans & Low Income Assistance – Ernie

Have 10 applications that need evaluations performed. Either after or before the sessions for 4291 Training on June 15th, he will talk to his group to coordinate. Vet/Senior assistance. Veteran funds are still available.

d. ENF Updates – Teresa (unable to join)

11. Project Reports

a. Current Grant Projects (Projects Report)

Mosquito wrapping up

Weber Creek (no update)

Patterson Ranch – Kris Payne: 1 week until completed

b. Countywide CWPP – Pat

Barry & Deer Creek contractors are finishing up with Aukum-Fairplay, Oak Hill, Texas Hill, Pleasant Valley, Grizzly Flats, Omo Ranch and Placerville. Schedule is behind estimate. Next up are Volcanoville, Georgetown Divide, Pollock Pines – Camino, Rancho del Sol, Gold Ridge Forest, Mosquito and Sierra Springs. Video conferencing is working well. Sim table being used in these remote meetings.

c. USFS SOFAR Project – Heather (unable to join)

David Zelinski attended. SOFAR hiatus until September. Pat noted that Lester's photos show Heather & David working on Caples Creek Cleanup efforts. Forest Service Gen Green raking debris from the base of large legacy trees and doing prescribed burns.

- d. USFS SOFAR Project Chili Bar – Tamara
Work on ShooFly Rd has begun. Mark Egbert applied for \$1M in BLM grant for 2000 acres deemed as first priority. CEQA getting done. David Zelinsky asked if Chili Bar project overlaps Garden Valley enforcement area. No.
- e. Community Reports
Steve: All projects are important. Small community projects are critical.

Cameron Park: Paul Gilchrest reports working with Cal Fire, Fire District and BLM to reduce fuels in the Pine Hill Preserve. Greater than 50 acres are complete and at conclusion 90 acres will have been treated. This affects 20,000 homes. The funding was a quarter million dollar grant from CSD and Cal Fire, working on BLM property.

Oak Hill: Linda Azevedo offers that they are encouraging streets to organize and they are seeing progress. Sent out self-addressed stamped envelopes to contact list. 60 new subscribers added in 1 week.

Gold Ridge Forest: Sherry Hawk reports that they are sending post cards, reaching out to seniors and vets, submitting surveys and plan a GoTo Meeting tonight (5/20). Good communications. Stressing VMO and roadside clearing. Getting people involved with emails. Local chatter is positive.

Sierra Springs – Kay Campbell reports sending 4291 self eval to residents and requested they complete and return. A defensible space video was also offered, and they are getting lots of responses.

12. Committee Reports

- a. New Council Formation & Orientation – Karen (unable to join)
- b. Community Outreach & Public Speaking – Heather (unable to join)
Resources are listed on website. Displays can be used by local councils.
- c. Marketing & Communications – Kristine (unable to join)
Improved presence on social media
- d. Defensible Space – Ernie
Reminder for everyone who signed up about his 6/15 meeting & coordination
- e. Grants & Funding (Opportunities) – Pat
2020 Senior / Vet / Low Income:
 - Women's Fund \$8000 awarded
 - Foundation Mini Grant \$3410 awarded
 - Foundation \$3500 submitted
 - SMUD \$15,000 pending
 - PG&E \$75,000 submittedChipping Funds:
 - CFSC \$200,000 will apply
 - FEMA \$500,000, due 5/29, will apply
 - PG&E \$100,000 submitted
 - Forest Service Theresa looking
 - EDC Air Quality \$1,065,000 submittedFuels Management
 - BLM Fuels Mgmt. \$990,000 submitted
 - Eldorado National Forest \$180,000 Grizzly Flat & \$250,000 Sierra Springs
 - EDC Title III funds. Inquiry into CAO office

Pat: best near-term funds are \$10,000 from BLM and PGE's \$100,000. That puts opening the Chipping Program at maybe July / August. Amounts will support about 2 months before closing program again. Estimate early next year for other funding. CFSC has \$1.3 million for entire state (estimated 7-10 awards). FEMA application may have success. Other grant awards less likely.

Tamara Johnston: Ask for donations. Request "Pay It Forward" for those who have benefitted from the Chipping Program. Idea to be considered

Ernie Lory: status of Grizzly Flat project. That update should come from Theresa, Forest Service.

Brian Veerkamp: So far has 8 or 10 volunteers to be on grant committee coordinated with County / EDCFSC. He will reach out to Steve and Pat. Prioritized project area needed for this CCI submittal. Thanked all the FSC volunteers and their efforts.

Steve Willis: Covid-19 affecting CCI – May 13 Reuters article spoke about Gov. Newsome increasing firefighting funding. Rethinking evacuation process. MT County & Water article talked about the State promising \$110 million for vegetation management and defensible space. However, with Covid-19 expenses, Governor is scheduled to speak and all may change.

13. Good of the Order

- a. Kris Payne – Burn permits are required after May 1st. Obtaining burn permits is a simple, on-line process. Takes 3 minutes for video and forms. Today's an approved burn day and with the recent rains, the timing is right.
- b. Tim Kordes – Texas Hill FSC report: Installed bulletin board for the community, newsletters will start distribution soon, May 2 community social was cancelled, August 20 is next schedule meeting, with guest speaker
- c. GIS Mapping – referral from Paul Watkins did not develop, Deer Creek declined and now we're chasing new avenues.
- d. David Zelinsky – CFSC & Sierra Club have home hardening webinar. Southern OR/Northern CA have worry about firefighting resources due to Covid-19 constraints. May have to rely on local resources.
- e. Chief Earl – fire season is here. There have been multiple fires due to escaped burn piles. Has been in State & Federal discussions about firefighting response. They plan smaller base camps and more of them. They will still pull in resources as needed, despite Covid-19. Sleeping trailers, food lines will be difficult, but not impossible. In response to worry about people burning because chipping is not available, Chief says to stress having water supply and attendant. Either burning or leaving dry piles of potential fuel is bad situation!
- f. Next EDCFSC Board Meeting – June 17, 2020 – hope for in person meeting. May need to keep numbers restricted.

14. Adjourn 11:15 am

Minutes by Peggy Willis