



El Dorado County Fire Safe Council

Website: edcfiresafe.org

P.O. Box 1011
Diamond Springs, CA 95619
Phone: (530) 647-1700
Email: board@edcfiresafe.org

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

Board Meeting Minutes

November 17, 2021

9:30 am to 11:30 Business Meeting

Diamond Springs / El Dorado Firefighters Association Memorial Hall

3734 China Garden Road, Diamond Springs

1. Meeting Call to Order: 9:32 am

As this is a hybrid meeting, all Board Action Items will be deemed approved unless there is an objection.
Flag salute led by Council

2. Roll Call: Sign In

Pimlott, Council, Julian, Pullin, Stewart, H Campbell, Johnston, Payne, Willis, Zelinsky attending in person. Atencio, K Campbell, Connelly, Gilchrest, Hawk attending via Zoom.
Brown and Lory excused.

3. Approval of Agenda: 11/17/2021 Board Action Item

Agenda approved without opposition

4. Consent Agenda: 10/20/2021 Board Meeting Minutes Board Action Item

H Campbell made corrections to 11(b) USFS SOFAR Project
Consent agenda approved without opposition

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

- None

6. Community Council Reports

- Zelinsky: Placerville FSC is hoping to begin a project to make each of the four evacuation quadrants into Firewise communities

7. Information Items:

a. Chairman's Report & Communication:

- No board meeting in December
- Will continue to meet in at the Diamond Springs Hall, working on upgrading infrastructure for hybrid meetings
- Grant opportunities coming forward, working on partnership with RCD, EDC and councils, hoping EDC will take on some of the workload
- Welcome Jason Schroder from BLM, looking forward to working with you
- Welcome to Greg from new Strawberry FSC

b. Vice Chair Report:

- Diamond Springs hall and department boards have been very supportive of EDCFSC using hall, will start holding E-Board meetings here also
- Plans to add cameras and monitors
- Were successful in \$175,000 grant for county fire safe coordinator, will be housed at RCD and working under Egbert, EDC is actual grantee
- Egbert got Texas Hill Estates FSC a grant for roadside clearance, will start work within next 30 days, just under \$50,000, have submitted for additional grants
- Thank you to Willis for sitting in at FPOs meeting, is also sitting in at Chiefs meeting

- c. Secretary Report:
 - Reminder for all councils about insurance, don't forget to make special event insurance requests
- d. Treasurers Report: Maureen **Board Action Item**
 - Computer supplies are over budget, budget wasn't made with hybrid meetings in mind, may continue to go up
 - Taxes will be ready to be filed in a couple of weeks
 - Received \$50,000 from PG&E for DS
 - Accountant's Quickbook and Julian's Quickbook programs are not "talking" to each other, working on resolution

Treasurer's report approved without opposition

- e. Partners Reports:
 1. Chiefs Meeting – ~~Mike Lienthal~~ Phillips
 - Chiefs have been fully engaged with county with Caldor Fire recovery issues
 - Chiefs and FPOs are participating actively with EDC for Wildfire Resilience Group
 - Will be looking at federal hazard mitigation grant
 - Chiefs and FPOs working with fire districts with revisions to camp fire ordinance provisions in each individual districts' code
 - Monitoring legislations: SB 63 and AB 9 were signed and go into effect January 1, 2022, SB 63 has a number of fire provisions in regards to responsibility areas-modifies fire severity zones, home hardening regulations, statewide DS reporting and good neighbor program
 - Board of Forestry Title 14 addresses existing roads and development on those roads
 - Attended pre-regulation workshop by insurance commissioner about fire modeling
 - Payne: BOS meeting had presentation from planning and development about ADUs, wonders if Chiefs or FPOs were included in county changes, county is proposing zoning changes, have not seen any proposed modifications to building standards that would lower safety regulations/DS for ADUs
 - H Campbell: Title 14 allowed length and width of roads, did EDC write formal letter with concerns? Doesn't know if EDC put in formal letter or was part of State Counties group
 - Hennike: regarding the Title 14 revisions, Deputy Director of Planning & Building, Robert Peters, attended the meetings and concurred with the position of the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC), but did not provide an independent letter.
 2. FPO Meeting – Ron Phillips
 - No report
 3. CAL FIRE – TBA
 - No report
 4. ENF Updates – Teresa Riesenhuber
 - No report
 5. EDC Vegetation Management – Kristine Oase-Guth
 - Hennike: Wilcox has retired, have hired a replacement, they are brand new to program
 - Only have one DS inspector so had to pare down program to one area in Rescue, contracted with EDH Fire to do inspections
 - Looking at revamping program, maybe not have all employees in house, looking at contracting with outside agencies
 - Have not done any enforcement in the last three years
 - Hawk: are complaints being followed up? time frame? every complaint has been contacted, does not know time frame, EDC keeps status log which is available to see

6. RCD – Mark Egbert.

- Sierra Nevada Conservancy has grant for vegetation management which RCD is implementing, hope to start soon
- Received additional funds for Omo Ranch FSC and Aukum-Fairplay FSCs to do archaeological component for CEQA
- Placerville FSC and Texas Hill FSC submitted for a wildfire prevention grant and were unsuccessful, submitted to other agencies and received \$225,000 for further development of project, project area is 9,000 acres, needs to be refined
- RCD is incident commander for emergency fire recovery team for Caldor Fire, \$1.25 million grant to RCD from CAL FIRE mainly for Grizzly Flat area, have also identified five other areas
- Who's going to remove burned structures from Strawberry area? threatens watershed, county is doing phase one, homeowners have to submit requests, cabins on USFS land have to be taken care of by USFS, CAL FIRE grant does not address hazardous waste removal, does include hazard tree removal and reduced fuel loads
- Hawk: how much was received for Caldor Fire cleanup? Egbert doesn't know as there are many different funding sources
- Who is going to remove downed material? Material was left from project that was done five years ago but never removed, this is a USFS issue if material is on USFS land
- Initiating conversations with USFS and have submitted concept paper to address hazard trees and future fuel load in forest zone, focusing on recreational cabin zones and addressing Sierra at Tahoe
- CA FSC coordinator grant award has been posted and ready for review, will be getting resolution ready for EDC so they are ready to go when EDC approves, need to identify work committee and set up schedule, currently funds are for 18 months, Supervisor Parlin said CAL FIRE may provide additional funding to extending time
- Zelinsky: what are coordinators duties? have draft description, needs to be vetted and refined
- Johnston: volunteered to help
- Will be at Amador El Dorado forest forum tonight, tonight will be focused on biomass utilization

BLM-Jason Schroeder

- Introduced Lee Helgeson, there have been lots of personnel changes
- No large-scale projects in EDC right now
- Working on second stage of Shoo Fly project
- Working on Pine Hill Preserve DS program
- CA BLM is working on large-scale fuels reduction identification and hope to start work in the next six months
- Expect to ramp up work next year
- Contact Helgeson for application to have DS work done 200' into neighboring BLM land

8. **Old Business**

None

9. **New Business**

a. Award Contracts for Chipping Contractors **Board Action Item**

- Godzilla's Affordable Tree Service, Foothill Tree Service and Dave's Tree Works are existing contractors, Highground Tree Service will be a new contractor out of Placerville
- There were five proposals, committee selected four, need to be ratified by the Board

Motion by Zelinsky to approve contracts with the Godzilla, Foothill, Dave's and Highground. Second by Payne. Motion carried.

10. **Program Reports**

a. Chipping – Jodi / Pat

- Will open as soon as contracts are signed

b. Defensible Space - Ernie

- Lory, Dwyer and Martin met, will open program in the spring, have a short amount of time to spend money

11. Project Reports

- a. Countywide CWPP – Pat
 - Still going through process, will be completed by March
- b. USFS SOFAR Project – Heather
 - Nothing new
 - There is now a biomass sub-group and a landscape sub-group
 - Payne: EDC Community Economic and Development committee also has biomass group, suggested adding biomass to monthly agenda
- c. USFS SOFAR Project Chili Bar – Tamara
 - No report
- d. Other: EDC Resource Advisory Committee Mtg WRAP (Wildfire Risk Reduction and Asset Protection Project)
 - Sent E-Board notes from last meeting
 - E-Board is unable to take political action so was unable to sign onto letter for Department of Insurance, E-Board declined due to political policy, some confusion between partisan vs. executive action (advocacy)
 - Johnson wants to see this advocacy vs political stance issue be on future agenda
 - WRAP meets again December 1, will be voting on one \$6,000 project
 - Gilchrest: contacted several biomass vendors, it was affordable and got construction grade wood

12. Committee Reports

- a. New Council Formation & Orientation – Karen
 1. Strawberry FSC Formation **Board Action Item**
 - Greg Ball from Strawberry FSC in attendance: have wonderful community, blessed to still be standing after Caldor Fire, had been looking at ways to be fire safe prior to fire, met with H Campbell six days before fire started, combination of part time and full time residents, starting FSC with neighborhood of 50 acres/100 residences, will be expanding with interest, could add another 50 acres, will not excluding anyone
 - Have submitted all forms

Motion by Payne to approve Strawberry FSC application. Second by H Campbell. Motion carried.
- b. Community Outreach & Public Speaking – Heather
 - Who has ember house?
 - Alice Cantelow did two public displays for home hardening/ember awareness, display board and sandbox
- c. Marketing & Communications – Open.
 - No Report
- d. Defensible Space – Ernie
 - Covered under 10(b)
- e. Governance Committee – Karen
 - No Report
- f. Grants & Funding (Opportunities) – Pat Lubetkin
 - Lubetkin: discussed HMG program, needs to be in collaboration between EDC, RCD and EDCFSC, is a three year grant but funds would take a while to receive, would include many of the CWPP projects, first part would be risk assessment for focus areas, December 1 is deadline for “notice of interest” still trying to determine who would be the entity to submit NOI
 - Have submitted proposals to CALOES for FEMA grants, still waiting on determinations for submissions from several years ago
 - Considering future grant requests
 - Asking FSCs to submit grant proposals to grants committee sooner in the process, not waiting until the last minute
 - Looking at doing grant trainings for FSCs
 - Discussed western slope projects – hazard tree removal, DS, home hardening, prioritized areas and group where possible so local FSCs are not competing with each other
 - Schnell: is a grant writer, brought up HMP opportunity last year, grant was accepted but is slow process, also chipping grant was accepted but again, slow process until funded, could do proposal this year for \$3-5 million in projects from CWPP and continue to submit every year, only

have five work weeks before NOI is due, requires matching funds, need to show implementation capacity

13. Good of the Order

- a. Next EDCFSC Board Meeting – January 19, 2022
 - Parlin: very excited about \$175,000 grant for coordinator, Schnell will be kept on for SNC grants and EDC will be applying for a grant for roadside VM, have resource at Sierra Nevada Conservancy, concerned that EDC does not have resources to support residents to come into compliance for VMO-continuing to look for funds, discussed hazard tree removal grant through another agency, where is EDC fire resilience committee formation that was approved in September?-CAO to work with small group to see if it would work, haven't received update yet
 - Zelinsky: sent E-Board contact info for director of Butte County FSC, suggests connecting with them for fire recovery issues
 - Payne: Zelinsky received El Dorado County Veterans Service and Support Award during Veteran's Day Memorial service
 - Tayaba-Tribal Fire Director: doing a lot of work in community, runs wildland fire crew, has been contacted by Gilchrest for elders that need DS work, peak staffing is 21, off season staffing is 14-20

Motion to adjourn at 12:13 by Stewart. Second by H. Campbell. Motion carried.